

The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned
community newspaper
Est. 1902

5000 copies circulating in Toodyay, West Toodyay, Goomalling,
Bolgart, Calingiri, Morangup, Coondle, Waddington, Culham,
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Litter victory drives concept design for Toodyay's first public mural



Toodyay Tidy Towns' concept design for a \$10,000 public mural approved by the Toodyay Shire Council will be open to public comment before a final decision is made.

LITTER COLLECTION will feature as the main theme for Toodyay's first large-scale public mural, to be painted on the side of a new public toilet block facing Charcoal Lane near Duke Street.

The Toodyay Shire Council last month approved a concept design (above) submitted by Toodyay Tidy Towns Committee Chair Greg Warburton.

It follows Toodyay's 2015 win as national

tidy towns champion and the town's hosting last year of the 2016 national titles.

The Toodyay Tidy Towns Committee "felt there needed to be something to mark the occasion," Mr Warburton wrote in a report to last month's shire council meeting.

He said discussions with Shire CEO Stan Scott, many committee meetings and an art collaboration workshop had culminated in a "concept design" for the \$10,000 mural.

The shire has already contributed \$1500 to the project and been asked to provide a further \$1500 from its 2017-18 budget, which was being finalised at a special council meeting this month.

Another \$6500 will be sought through fundraising and grants from elsewhere, and \$500 has been donated in materials.

Mr Scott cited the shire's corporate business plan which includes "activities to

support the preservation and development of Toodyay's heritage, culture and art in order to enrich community identity, develop community cohesion and improve visitors' experience to the shire".

Councillors voted 6-2 (Cr Sally Craddock and Cr Brian Rayner against) to approve the concept design and seek community input before making a final decision on the mural. *Bat in the Belfry, Page 5.*

Thousands more dollars lost as shire settles second Wroth case in secrecy

Michael Sinclair-Jones

A SECOND long-running legal battle between the Shire of Toodyay and former shire president Charlie Wroth – this time over an alleged business debt – has been settled behind closed doors for less than half the \$14,300 claimed by the shire.

And as in a previous court case against Mr Wroth and former shire CEO Graham Merrick, the shire appears to have spent far more of ratepayers' money on legal costs than it recovered.

Councillors voted 8-0 on June 1 to accept Shire CEO Stan Scott's recommendation that "the council settle the action against Warragenny Pty Ltd by accepting the defendant's offer of \$5500".

The shire sued Mr Wroth's private company in the Perth Magistrate's Court last year, claiming it paid Warragenny for gravel that was not delivered during recovery operations after Toodyay's devastating 2009 bush fire which destroyed 37 homes.

Mr Wroth – an award-winning Julimar farmer who also chairs Toodyay's St John Ambulance volunteer service and was widely hailed at the time as a community hero for leading the shire's local emergency response to the fire – denied the shire's allegations.

The council held a special meeting at short notice at the unusual time of 9am on a Thursday and went behind closed doors for more than 40 minutes to discuss Mr Scott's recommendation to end the court action.

There were no visitors in the public gallery, and the decision was revealed publicly only when minutes of the special council meeting appeared on the shire website five days later.

There was no public announcement in the

shire's new *Toodyay Community Newsletter*.

The shire's case against Mr Wroth's company was handled by Perth law firm Civic Legal, which was paid \$8759.30 in legal costs in April and a further \$5127.38 on May 16, costing the shire an apparent loss of more than \$8000 in those two months alone.

This is in addition to previous shire costs of at least \$571,000 paid to Civic Legal to sue Mr Wroth and Mr Merrick over another matter that ended in January with repayments estimated from shire accounts to total only \$60,000 – a further loss of more than \$500,000 of ratepayers' money.

Flag flies for local indigenous heritage



The Aboriginal flag flies at Shire of Toodyay council chambers in Fiennes Street.

TOODYAY is flying the Aboriginal flag and local police are wearing shirts decorated with indigenous art to mark NAIDOC Week from July 2-9.

NAIDOC means National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee, with events held throughout Australia each year in the first week of July to celebrate indigenous history, culture and achievements.

Students at Toodyay District High School will also take part in NAIDOC events after school holidays end on Monday July 17.

Northam's Police and Community Youth

Centre celebrated NAIDOC week with an indigenous art program of sand art, music and painting.

WA Police engaged Aboriginal artists to create artwork for specially made uniforms for use during and after NAIDOC Week and to decorate selected police vehicles.

"Every day, police officers throughout the state do tremendous things in support of Aboriginal people," Acting WA Police Commissioner Gary Dreibrigs said.

"It's fantastic to see this great artwork actually on police uniforms and cars as a symbol of reconciliation and trust."

Toodyay Shire President David Dow said respect for the recent passing of local Aboriginal elder Pamela Walsh had delayed meetings to discuss NAIDOC Week and as a result little activity had been planned.

However, the Aboriginal flag would be flown at the shire office in Fiennes Street, Toodyay Visitors Centre in Piesse Street and Old Gaol Museum in Clinton Street, he said.

The shire had also met local indigenous representatives at a Reconciliation Week lunch last month to discuss ways to foster strong relationships with indigenous people. *More Page 12, Police Beat Page 6.*

The Toodyay Herald –winner
2016 Wheatbelt Business
Excellence Awards
this month



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The Toodyay Herald

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

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

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

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

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Ol' Blind Joe

Trumped by Truth

Stirling Hamilton

GIRD your loins illustrious overlords, Ol' Blind Joe is off his leash, pissed off and on the prowl.

I intend to tear apart every man's pronouncements, inspect their truthfulness and respond in no uncertain manner.

Starting with the Shire of Toodyay, let's play cards ladies and gentlemen and have a look at the hands we've been dealt in this here lovely wonderland in which we live.

Yeah, well fair enough councillors, you've got all the power and you're certainly able to make our lives a misery with all your rates, rules and regulations, which gives you a full house of Kings and Queens.

A word of warning though – before you touch that pot in the middle of the table, I'd just remind you that the Truth is an Ace, and I've got four of them.

When Shire CEO Stan Scott reportedly told a meeting of Morangup residents (*June Letters*) that councillors cannot wait to read *The Toodyay Herald* to "have a good laugh about the lies they had written about us", my first thought was of US President Donald Trump.

I mean, those two guys could have gone to school together – it's just that one of them made it higher up the food chain than the other, but their modus operandi seems similar.

Why, just this morning the Trumpy Monkey posted a bizarre video of himself beating up a CNN TV reporter in a display of presidential churlishness unseen since Daffy Duck was in power.

Gravitas

TOODYAY Shire President David Dow may not ever be able to match his US counterpart for gravitas – his eyebrows just don't cut the mustard – but they're on the same page concerning scrutiny of their actions in the press.

Our shire has decided to hide its light under a bushel just like former shire CEO Graham Merrick did when he took exception to the *Herald* for telling the truth, and then hid everything the council was doing in another newspaper and refused to speak to us.

Vindictiveness is the privilege of power, and this is why those who hold power choose to speak only to journalism puppies that wag their tails.

Our leaders possess all the trappings of power but in my view lack the ability to fulfil its promise because they are afraid of mirrors.

The singular responsibility of any self-respecting newspaper is to expose the truth of matters concerning the community it serves.

Power has never liked truth seekers poking around, possibly finding and airing dirty secrets which have been deftly hidden from full view.

Well, I shall speak truth to power and,

perhaps and perchance, I might even shake the very foundations of its castle.

I accuse the shire of prevarication, which is to speak or act in an evasive way, and of pontificating, which is to express one's opinions in a pompous and dogmatic way.

I've been to enough council meetings to attest to the veracity of that statement and I stand behind it.

This stuff with journalism is going on all over the world, and truth is under assault everywhere.

Through the use of US-backed sanctions, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain are attempting to force neighbouring Qatar to shut down its world-class independent TV broadcaster, *Al Jazeera*.

Qatar is just an ocean of sand parked on a lake of oil and gas, and imports everything else it needs for its people.

Al Jazeera is a professional media organisation and its journalists being Arabs themselves gives them better access to the players in the Middle East.

Irony

I LOVE the irony that the Saudis are accusing Qatar of backing terrorism when they themselves have been the biggest player in that game of death and destabilisation.

Of the 19 aircraft hijackers who flew passenger jets into New York's World Trade Centre towers on 11 September 2001, 15 were Saudi, one was Lebanese and one was Egyptian.

Meanwhile, any pesky journalists who ask too many questions in Russia and China get short shrift and are likely to have to listen to Leadbelly as the curtain falls.

And in the US now, if you don't like what someone prints you can simply complain that it's all just 'fake news'.

What on earth does that even mean?

Can anyone remember a time when the news out of the US was real, as in without fear or favour?

Fearless journalism gets slapped down every time it speaks up, and is told to sit quietly outside while a bunch of Stone Age politicians determine our future.

We're all just a bunch of sophisticated monkeys sitting around a fire.

To know the truth we need to know how the guy sitting opposite us sees the flames.

Truth is the most significant thing in our lives – well OK, apart from breathing and hearts beating.

I remember some passage which said: "The truth is so simple a child could understand it".

To be able to speak the truth to so many people is a precious blessing.

"I am the fellow citizen of every being that thinks; my country is Truth" – from the *'Marseillaise of Peace'* by French writer, poet and politician Alphonse de Lamartine (1790-1869).

FEEDBACK

Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

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

The Toodyay Herald

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 July - August 2017

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July	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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Josephine Broderick – a hard life, well-lived

Ieva Tomsons

WHEN Josephine Broderick packed her trunk to accompany husband Joe to Australia she included her wooden washboard – a sign of the hard work that lay ahead.

Josephine (83), the fourth of 10 children, left school at 14 in County Westmeath, Ireland, and was working in her village shop when Joe arrived to work for hunt enthusiast British aristocrat Sir Charles Gairdner.

Joe was 29 when he married 17-year-old Josephine and ran the estate for Sir Charles who had been appointed for his first term as Governor of Western Australia.

Joe had the manager's title but at two pounds ten a week (\$3.50) Josephine had to turn her hand to raising turkeys and other livestock to supplement their income.

"That's how they were, the aristocrats or whatever you want to call them," laughs Josephine.

Sir Charles decided on a second term as WA Governor, sold the estate in Ireland and asked Joe to come to Toodyay to work on Ernest (later Sir Ernest) Lee-Steere's farm.

Josephine had no say in leaving her large Irish Catholic family in 1954, had no idea where she was going or that she would be separated from Joe during the six weeks at sea with toddlers Joe (3) and Anne (2).

Disembarking at Fremantle on a 40-degree day, the family was summoned from stateroom class to be met by Sir Charles and a press contingent and whisked away for afternoon tea at Government House with Lady Gairdner and her lady-in-waiting.

The auspicious start to Josephine's introduction to Australia soon melted into the distance as she and the kids were bundled into the back of Ernest Lee-Steere's Pontiac for the hot, dusty trip to Hawthornden five kilometres north of Toodyay.

"In those days I couldn't even pronounce Toodyay," recalls Josephine who was left in a sweltering small house to try to cool the



Josephine Broderick enjoys a sunny day in her Toodyay garden.

children down as Joe rode off with the boss to inspect the farm.

It was a complete shock to the system coming from a European winter and when 13-year-old Renny Lee-Steere appeared with his face covered in red splotches Josephine didn't know what to make of it.

"He'd been in a mulberry tree," laughs Josephine.

Renny's mother Jessica (later Lady Jessica) Lee-Steere poked her head in the door, declared that the rough fibre beds were made up and she was off.

The heatwave continued for 10 days.

Josephine learned how to manage a kerosene fridge, wood stove and how to cool the red-hot water for the children's baths.

"That's how it was. Women were slaves in those days," said Josephine matter of factly.

The washing board certainly got a work-out over the next five years prior to the arrival of a washing machine.

It was lucky that the first of the Brodericks' four Australian-born boys Martin, Shane and Robert and Ernest hadn't been born earlier otherwise Josephine would have been hard

pressed to keep up with all the nappies.

Even with the labour-saving machine the demands of the big house at Hawthornden dictated when washing could and could not be done.

The generator-driven buildings were interdependent and the needs of the Lee-Steere household determined the amount of electricity available to the workers' cottages.

"It was lights out when the family went to bed and you could barely see anything when they turned on all the lights for a party.

"I had one of those little Sacred Heart spirit lamps, and it was all I could see by at night when the generator was turned off," said Josephine.

After nearly 20 years working for the Lee-Steeres, Joe went into partnership with Albie North and eventually ended up with 2500 acres (1011ha) of his own – Glen Erin on the Dewars Pool Road.

14 workers to feed

WITH 5000 sheep it was up to Josephine to cook and wash for up to 14 workers.

"There were plenty of times when 16 pairs of jeans were hanging out to dry at shearing time."

Joe's main career as a race horse trainer was booming in the '80s and Josephine looked after the jockeys and was often enlisted to help Joe with his breeding program.

"One time I had three children in bed with measles and Joe rushed in to get me to come and hold the mare for the stallion to service," laughs Josephine.

Josephine was interviewed in 2003 as part of the Toodyay Historical Society's oral history program.

The booklet provides detailed chapters of Josephine's life – it's a good read and captures the spirit and resilience of a woman who "takes each day as it comes".

The society's copy can be viewed at Donegan's Cottage in the Toodyay Showgrounds on Thursday's 1-3pm.

Authorities investigate illegal snare after kangaroo trapped on farm

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched into the death of a kangaroo caught in an illegal snare that was set next to a local wildlife reserve.

The maximum penalty for cruelty to animals in WA is a \$50,000 fine or five years' jail.

Toodyay Naturalists' Club President Brian Foley found the dead animal on Saturday June 10 in a place where roos cross under a fence to enter adjoining farmland.

"The snare consisted of a wire loop attached to the fence on the farm side.

"The kangaroo obviously suffered a horrific death as it struggled to the point that a section of the fence was pulled from

its supports and damaged," Mr Foley said.

"The earth around it was scoured showing the animal's struggles were in vain."

The incident is being investigated by the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife after being reported to Toodyay shire rangers and the RSPCA.

Mr Foley urged people who may know anything about the illegal snare to contact the department or call him on 9574 5448.

"Kangaroos are a protected species under Australian law," Mr Foley said.

"Anyone who finds a snare should take photos, remove the snare and report it to shire rangers or the Department of Parks and Wildlife.



The body of a trapped kangaroo on a local farm after the protected animal was caught in an illegal snare attached by wire to a fence next to a wildlife reserve, an act punishable by a fine of up to \$50,000 or five years' jail.

Toodyay goes postal to elect five shire councillors in October

TOODYAY will join at least 82 other WA local government councils and go postal for the next shire elections, due in October.

Councillors voted 6-2 last month to spend an extra \$10,000 for the WA Electoral Commission to run Toodyay's shire council elections on Saturday October 21.

This means voters will no longer have to travel to the Toodyay shire office in Fiennes Street or the Morangup community centre in Wallaby Way to vote 'in person' at a ballot box on election day.

Instead, they will receive ballot papers in a reply-paid envelope delivered to their homes or post office boxes, and have about three weeks to return their votes by post.

The envelopes will also contain information about each candidate and instructions on how to cast a vote.

The WA Electoral Commission says a State-run postal ballot – which will cost Toodyay about \$25,000 – generally attracts a higher turn-out than 'in-person' voting.

Shire CEO Stan Scott recommended the change, saying voter turn-out among the shire's 3256 electors at the 2015 election was only 29.8 per cent.

The WA Local Government Department says voters – including those who own, rent or lease local properties, or own land in the shire but live elsewhere – have until Friday September 1 to check to see if they are enrolled at their correct address to receive a voting package in the mail.

Shire Deputy President Therese Chitty said

she hoped Toodyay would lead the way in the Avon Valley with a higher voter turn-out because "we want more people to vote".

For the second time in two years, a majority of seats on the nine-member council will be up for election.

Nominations for candidates open on Thursday September 7 and close a week later on Thursday September 14.

Councillors are elected for four-year terms, with roughly half the Toodyay council going to the polls every two years.

Five vacancies were filled two years ago, but a further fifth vacancy was created this year by the resignation of former East Ward councillor Kate Wood, who was elected in 2015 but moved to the Mid-West in May.

Four other councillors whose seats fall vacant this year are Shire President David Dow (Central Ward), Deputy President Therese Chitty (East Ward), Cr Paula Greenway (West Ward) and Cr Brian Rayner (North Ward).

In the East Ward where two seats fall vacant, the candidate with the most votes will win a four-year term, and the second place-getter will serve two years – the remainder of former councillor Wood's four-year term.

If only two East Ward candidates nominate, both will be automatically elected and lots drawn to see who serves the shorter term.

Toodyay's shire president and deputy are chosen in a secret ballot by a majority of councillors every two years at the first council meeting after the shire elections.



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The Toodyay Herald

On the nose

A FINAL sorry chapter has closed on our local shire council's ill-fated attempts to use the civil courts to sue two former civic leaders for alleged financial wrongdoing.

One might hope the good news is that important lessons were learned so that such a costly fiasco will never happen again.

The bad news is that we poor ratepayers have been left to carry the can.

More than half a million dollars was squandered on what some saw as partly a pursuit of personal vendettas, and now somebody is going to have to pay for it.

Councillors are meeting this month to set a budget for the new financial year, and higher rates are expected to top the agenda.

This will be a particularly bitter pill to swallow for those who would have preferred the hundreds of thousands of dollars wasted on lawyers' fees to have been spent instead on a town swimming pool, or at least a water playground for families to enjoy in hot summer months.

Instead, we have a shire council that seems hell-bent on pretending that nothing happened and that everything is going along swimmingly, pardon the pun.

There have been no explanations or apologies, only a smiling public façade that appears to conceal an underlying resentment that anyone should dare to keep asking inconvenient questions.

At least that's the way it seems from where *The Toodyay Herald* stands.

It's understandable that some people may feel upset that the town's reputation is being tarnished by startling revelations that most ordinary people would prefer weren't splashed across our front pages.

We feel the same.

But no amount of concern about defending 'hard-working councillors' and gripes about the perceived unfairness of constantly negative news can conceal the fact that this council is on the nose.

Most of the damage has been done behind closed doors by a small group of people who seem to think that public accountability is a nuisance to be avoided at all costs.

Shooting the messenger is a knee-jerk reaction that can only lead to more pain.

The ones who deserve our sympathy and support are the hard-working council staff and workers who have to bear the brunt of disgruntled community expectations.

Without them, there would be no functioning local government and we think they do a pretty good job in what must often be trying circumstances.

All hail to them.

*Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor*

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

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The way we were – The late Wally Chitty's handwriting in blue biro on the back of this photo reads: October 1933. The Perth whippet club came to Toodyay to race their dogs here. Photo at Newcastle Hotel (later Toodyay Tavern). Local owner Wowser James in whites with his champion bitch "Gay Aggie". From Newcastle Gaol collection.

LETTERS

Bottomless legal pit

I AM impressed that *The Toodyay Herald* is investigating the amount our shire spends on legal costs.

I had a planning issue once, a simple subdivision, or so I thought.

The shire imposed many conditions, such as sealed roads and structure plans, costing around \$80,000.

I asked shire officers to renegotiate the conditions and perhaps obtain some help from the shire?

Well, the answer I got was simple – there is no funding in the budget for the roads or structure plan and if I want to take this planning issue further I will have to take it to the State Administrative Tribunal.

I certainly was not going to spend my hard-earned money on lawyers and equally expensive consultants to sort out a simple local planning issue.

But, ever since, I cannot help but wonder about the seemingly bottomless pit of money for legal costs to which the shire has access.

*Annette Muller
Toodyay*

Why suddenly axe park trees?

THE DAY after last month's Toodyay Farmers Market, our shire council removed three trees in Stirling Park which were considered dangerous and termite-affected.

There were no barricades around the trees on market day and, as is normal, sellers set up and visitors walked under the trees.

Did the trees become dangerous overnight?

I for one did not see any public statement or note in the shire's first new *Toodyay Community Newsletter* advising residents that this action was imminent and the reasons why.

The newsletter refers twice to the shire's "Communications Framework" – presumably this is the way forward in shire and resident communications.

As an aside, I noticed in the April edition of *The Toodyay Herald* an interview with departing councillor Kate Wood who in reflecting on her time on council said "while communications may have been a little poor, there has been a concerted effort to address that issue".

Kate also referred to last year's community uproar about shire plans to cut down two trees in Anzac Memorial Park.

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

I disagree.

It is my understanding that our council has not rescinded its July 2016 decision and thus – with certain conditions – the two threatened Anzac trees are still on death row.

Back to the Stirling Park trees.

I wonder if all council staff are aware of the shire's register of heritage trees prepared about 15 years ago.

If our council insists that amenity is applied to town planning matters, I wonder why

amenity values do not seem also to apply to trees in the townscape.

Amenity is defined as desirable, pleasant, agreeable and attractive.

Amenity of a locality means any quality, condition or factor that makes, or contributes to making the locality harmonious, pleasant or enjoyable.

I encourage our council to adopt a policy to assess all trees in the townscape older than five years for amenity value.

This should allow for trees to be fully assessed to current standards before any quick, expedient and under-informed decisions remove that amenity from our town.

Use of communications, research and barricades will at least give our trees breathing space.

I encourage our council to immediately replace the Stirling Park trees with advanced, fast-growing evergreen and deciduous trees to restore the lost amenity as quickly as possible.

I also urge our council to provide \$15,000 from this month's 2017-18 budget to provide the mechanism to buy deciduous trees now to replant in July.

Many Toodyay residents are practising horticulturalists with experience in commercial and municipal landscaping.

They can assist with selection, cultivation techniques and placement of new trees to minimise the time needed to recreate a usable amenity.

I am very disappointed with the tree removal.

It is now appropriate to correct the loss at Stirling Park and for our council to include trees and landscapes in the townscape in all amenity evaluations.

*Bruce Guthrie
West Toodyay*

Photo Page 12.

As if nobody would notice

I AM DISTRESSED once more by the indifference of the shire to our greatest asset, the natural environment.

Particularly worrying is the latest destruction in Stirling Park of a peaceful shady setting where many local and tourist-oriented outdoor events such as the Sunday Farmers Market, the International Food festival and the Fibre Festival are held.

The sight of three huge tree root balls upended there early one afternoon last month sickened me.

By the end of the day not a trace was left.

These three beautiful trees embraced the park, providing a wonderful backdrop for the stalls plus some much-needed shade in the summer.

How could they be so brutally removed?

Does the shire think it will not be noticed if it's all done in a day?

This frenzied chain sawing seems to occur mainly in the cooler months.

By the time summer comes we are all searching desperately for some protective shade, for parking, walking or just escaping the burning sun.

Instead there is now a barren, increasingly

concrete urban landscape.

This is not what our visitors come to see.

Not enough consideration is given to the amenity that trees provide.

It should be the number one factor, to be given absolute priority, in any assessment for action of this kind.

It takes a long time for a tree to grow and spread its shade and beauty for us to enjoy, not to mention all the environmental benefits that are now critical for our wider world.

Apparently in this latest, in my view, 'criminal' action, termites were having a good time.

There are many other solutions to termite feasting that the shire can and should employ and they need to update their methods and thinking.

*Margot Watkins
Toodyay*

Photo Page 12.

Clearing by stealth

AS ONE of the many local residents who love living in the Shire of Toodyay surrounded by farms, wildlife and bush it is disturbing to see landowners pushing old dead trees up against healthy living ones and then setting them alight which ultimately kills the healthy tree.

I am not against landowners cleaning up their own properties and minimising the fuel load to help lessen the impact that a fire will have on their properties – I do it myself – but when it is obvious that they are clearing by burning then it is unacceptable.

I urge everyone to be aware that clearing by burning is happening.

Landowners are not allowed to clear without a permit so clearing by burning is a way to side-step regulations that are put in place to protect bushland and old-growth trees from ad hoc clearing.

In the area where I live in Morangup, Wandooos are under stress and I have heard reports of them dying in large numbers.

The last thing they need is a landowner who will burn and kill healthy trees to gain more land or remove a tree that stops the air seeder from going in a straight line.

If you are aware that this is happening in your area, then maybe a call to the WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and – more importantly – the pollution watch team on 1300 784 782 will stop that activity from happening again.

*Brian Dale
Morangup*

No news not good news

MAY I say that I was extremely disappointed to find no information from the shire in the centre pages of last month's *Toodyay Herald*.

How are we to be kept informed about the things that are happening here?

The *Herald* is a terrific newspaper and should be supported by the shire as well as the residents and all local businesses and groups.

*Wendy Lewer
Toodyay*

Closer scrutiny, pay freeze a positive



IT IS pleasing to see more Toodyay shire councillors paying closer attention to monthly financial reports, as shown by questions from Cr Rob Welburn and Cr Eric Twine at last month's council meeting.

Cr Twine in particular seems at last to be finding his voice after 18 months' relative silence at council meetings, and we commend him for it.

The meeting started with public 'questions on notice', which might be better termed 'questions without answers' because the council seems to have learned the art of how to evade a straight answer from Question Time in Canberra's Federal Parliament.

Toilet mural: We are to have a mural on the shire's new Charcoal Lane public toilets.

Concept drawings were tabled and after prolonged and slightly confusing discussion it was agreed to proceed with the project.

However, Cr Sally Craddock is to be congratulated for persuading other councillors that the shire should seek public comment before endorsing a final design, which she said should relate to and express Toodyay's identity.

Morangup upgrade: Morangup Hall will be upgraded, and permission was granted for a Morangup cabinet maker to operate from premises in McKnoe Drive for a six months' trial as long as he doesn't annoy neighbours by making too much noise.

Showground camping: Overflow parking for up to 10 caravans will be allowed on a former hockey pitch at the Toodyay Showgrounds for up to three nights on busy weekends when the town's two main caravan parks are full.

Unpowered sites will be available behind the showground pavilion on the former playing field which was moved in 2013 because part of it covers an Aboriginal burial ground which is now cordoned off.

About 100 people are buried in unmarked graves at the site, which was officially recognised in 1916 and reaffirmed as an Aboriginal burial ground in 1953 before being used as the town's hockey pitch.

Dunny doors: The shire's new local health law got another outing and slowly grinds on as councillors resolve time-consuming issues such as dunny doors next to kitchens and rainwater flowing onto pavements and neighbouring properties.

The next step is to call for public submissions, including by making the new health law available for ratepayers to inspect at the shire office and in local public libraries, and by advertising it in a newspaper circulating generally throughout the district, as required by law.

Going postal: Toodyay is to switch to postal voting for the next local shire council elections in October.

The motion was carried 6-2 with Cr Paula Greenway and Cr Craddock opposed.

Cr Craddock said her problem with postal voting was that everybody is sent ballot papers and candidate profiles but that didn't mean that all voters were as "engaged and informed" as if they voted "in person" at a council ballot box.

She suggested a postal ballot would encourage 'donkey' voting, and that the extra \$10,000 cost of a postal ballot run by the State Electoral Commission instead of the shire would be better spent on educating people to become more informed about and engaged in local government.

Cr Welburn put up the best argument for postal voting by pointing out that many Toodyay electors live out of town or in Perth – postal voting meant they wouldn't have to make a long, sometimes inconvenient trip to vote or forego their franchise.

Postal voting would also make it easier for elderly or infirm local people to vote.

Unlike in State and Federal elections, voting in WA local government elections is not compulsory.

Pay freeze: Also on a positive note,

councillors seem to have heeded community concerns about their pay levels and ruled out further increases this year.

They didn't go as far as to cut their payments but it's a good start anyway.

The shire's recently launched *Toodyay Community Newsletter* appears to support President David Dow and his councillor wife Judy being paid a total of \$65,000 a year for what are supposed to be part-voluntary jobs.

The newsletter implies we should be grateful our councillors awarded themselves only 80 per cent of the maximum payments allowed.

Maximum and minimum council pay scales are set by the State Salaries and Allowances

Tribunal, which says fees, expenses and allowances "are not intended to be full time salaries for council members – there is a recognised element of voluntary community service in the role of council members".

The Tribunal sets a minimum annual meeting allowance of \$7612 for all councillors like ours, and an additional annual allowance of \$1015 for presidents.

Applying this to Toodyay would mean that all our councillors would get \$634 a month and the president an extra \$85.

This would save ratepayers about \$46,000 a year in payments to the shire president and his wife, and nearly \$91,000 overall when applied annually to all nine councillors.

These savings don't include other allowances paid to all councillors for phone, internet, travel and other expenses.

Our bush fire brigade, St. John Ambulance and State Emergency Service volunteers don't get paid yet these men and women put themselves in danger's way because of a fundamental commitment to their local community.

Unless there is a justifiable reason to pay themselves at the higher level, surely community-minded councillors would think towards the lower end of the scale.

Volunteers are unpaid not because they are worthless but because they are priceless.

It used to be this way with councillors.

Historic 1870 cottage to become beauty spot



Connor's Cottage in Piesse Street.

THE TOODYAY Shire Council has approved plans to turn historic Connor's Cottage into a beauty parlour.

The shire-owned building in Piesse Street

near Charcoal Lane will be offered for lease to Toodyay beautician Clare Love, who currently operates a business in a quiet Duke Street cul-de-sac near the railway line.

Councillors went behind closed doors last month to vote 8-0 to offer the 1870-built cottage to Mrs Love on a commercial year-to-year lease.

The deal has to go through "legal formalities and formal endorsement".

The council said that if Shire CEO Stan Scott was unable to negotiate a satisfactory lease with Mrs Love, the cottage would be offered instead to national low-cost farm chemicals supplier 4Farmers Australia, which is based in Perth.

Connor's Cottage occupies a prime business location next to the Toodyay Visitors Centre, across from the Toodyay Post Office and local IGA supermarket.

It was built for former Irish convict Daniel Connor (1831-1898) who also owned nearby Connors Mill and became one of the colony's wealthiest men.

Both buildings are listed in the shire's municipal heritage register.

Connor's Cottage was used about 20 years ago as a café and restaurant, and before that was a bakery before being used more recently by the shire for temporary staff accommodation.

Mrs Love, who offers facials, nails, make-up, tinting and waxing, said she planned to move her beauty therapy business to the new premises.

A time for ratepayers to be worried, very worried

Toodyay Progress Association
Larry Graham, Chair

THE TIME when our council considers budgets and rates is upon us and if recent years are anything to go by, ratepayers should be worried, very worried.

The WA Government website that provides audited information about all councils tells us (in round figures) that since 2012-2013:

- Shire of Toodyay rate increases have averaged 8 per cent;
- the rate income to the council has increased from \$4.6 to \$5.9 million;
- the population of Toodyay has fallen marginally;
- the number of shire employees has increased markedly from 46 to 56 and employee costs have risen from \$2.9 to \$4 million;
- expenditure has increased from \$9 to \$13 million and,
- councillor costs have increased from \$82,456 to \$166,618.

This very ugly picture gets worse when last year's budgetary marvels are included, however we decided that it is best to stick to the official published and audited data available at mycouncil.wa.gov.au.

The Toodyay Progress Association says those figures make it clear that there is no justification for any rate increases this year.

Furthermore, until the council completes its extensive review of the town plan, strategic plan and most policies, there should be no rate increases.

It is difficult to see why a council would need more money when it has yet to determine what it is going to do and how it is going to operate in the future.

All levels of government are now reassessing their revenue capabilities and local governments should do the same, then as councils learn to live within their means,

automatic rate increases should become a thing of the past.

Poor budgetary processes and the Shire of Toodyay 2013-2023 Strategic Community Plan have driven rate growth in our town because that strategic plan requires "a rate increase of at least 5 per cent on top of inflation" to be spent on infrastructure.

The government website tells us that since 2012-2013 those rate increases have contributed an additional \$1,332,956 to the council's coffers but our research tells us that legal fees (\$571,037) and councillor expenses (\$575,181) have eaten up all but \$186,738 of those rate increases.

If asked, I doubt any ratepayers would endorse that expenditure but ratepayers are not asked and we must rely on elected councillors to act in our best interest.

The Toodyay Progress Association is not convinced this has been the case to date.

However, if the five per cent infrastructure rate charge and unwarranted rate increases are to continue, they should be purpose-driven.

The purpose for increasing rates should be clearly identified (eg a swimming pool or similar) and the proceeds should be quarantined in a reserve fund and not used for any other purpose.

If any future council decides not to proceed with that nominated purpose, then those rates should be refunded with interest.

The Toodyay Progress Association invites our members and the wider public to attend our next meeting on Wednesday July 12 at 7pm in the Community Resource Centre on Stirling Terrace next to the Toodyay medical centre.

We are a not-for-profit apolitical public advocacy group which will not be running or endorsing candidates in council elections.

We would love to hear from you and can be contacted at toodyaypa@gmail.com.

IN MOORE WITH LOVE

Recent news from the McGowan Labor Government indicates staggering increases to household charges to the tune of \$440 a year. According to the Premier, everyone needs to share the budget burden and the government has indicated a hike in charges for electricity, water, vehicle licence charges, motor injury insurance, driver's licence fees and the emergency services levy.

It's a slap in the face when the Premier has refused to take up The Nationals' policy of negotiating an increase to the 25 cent special lease rental fee paid by BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto. These increases to fees will raise just \$59.5 million in revenue per year. The Nationals' policy of increasing BHP and Rio's outdated rental fee would see \$7.2 billion added to the State's bottom line.

Road safety

The Wheatbelt portion of Toodyay Road has an appalling safety record. In the past nine years to 31 December 2016, this 27 kilometre section of Toodyay Road (east of the Dryandra Rd junction) has seen 88 crashes resulting in five fatalities and 22 hospitalisations. The Transport Minister recently announced \$44 million funding for regional roads that have a high instance of fatalities. I have written to the Minister and asked her to prioritise Toodyay Road.

Shane Love MLA
Member for Moore

THE NATIONALS



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Emails, FB, texts breach violence restraining orders

Police Beat

With Acting Sgt Geoff Butler
Toodyay Police Station



THREE breaches of violence restraining orders last month have prompted Toodyay police to warn potential offenders to respect the law or face heavy fines or jail.

“Domestic violence is a big local issue,” Acting Sgt Geoff Butler said, pointing to a stack of files at Toodyay Police Station.

“The cause is usually a relationship breakdown – sometimes because of drink or drugs – and one or both sides goes to court to obtain a violence restraining order against the other.

“Parents in child custody disputes sometimes seek violence restraining orders to prevent access to kids.

“Most court orders are issued against men, and the most common breach is by electronic means such as Facebook, email or text messages.

“Two of the three recent cases were fathers trying to get in touch with their children.

“People in this situation need to be aware that any kind of contact can be a breach.”

Acting Sgt Butler said the maximum penalty was a fine of up to \$6000, two years’ jail, or both.

In an earlier case known to Toodyay police, a man was jailed for nearly a year for three consecutive breaches of a violence restraining order.

“The first time he was fined \$750, the second time he received a six months’ suspended jail sentence and the third time – for another breach just two days later – he was jailed for 11 months,” Acting Sgt Butler said.

Cruising out of control

OWNERS of older cars with early forms of cruise control are advised to exercise caution in wet weather.

This follows a crash in Julimar Road last month when the driver lost control of an early model sedan in wet weather after it



Acting Sgt Geoff Butler wears a new police uniform shirt designed by Aboriginal artists to help Toodyay celebrate NAIDOC Week from July 3-9 (see stories Pages 1 & 12).

aquaplaned on a pool of water and skidded off the road.

The shaken driver was not injured but the car was damaged.

“It was fitted with an older form of cruise control that attempts to maintain speed by accelerating when the drive wheels lose traction,” Acting Sgt Butler said.

“New vehicles are fitted with inbuilt safety devices to prevent the likelihood of this occurring.

“All motorists need to be careful in the wet – particularly if road surfaces are oily after a dry spell.”

School holiday care

MOTORISTS are also being urged to take extra care during school holidays, which run from Monday July 3 to Sunday July 16.

Parents are also encouraged to keep track of their children so that they stay out of trouble away from the classroom.

Town security upgrade

NEW VIDEO cameras with high-definition sensors and number plate recognition are being installed at key points around town.

The replacement cameras, which have been bought by the Shire of Toodyay, are positioned to monitor all vehicles entering and leaving town as well as the length of Stirling Terrace and public car parks in Charcoal Lane and at Toodyay Railway Station.

The video cameras send live images to a large multi-display screen at Toodyay Police Station and also record archive footage with a time and date stamp to track vehicles and people of interest to police.

Apart from providing higher resolution

security, the new cameras are also fitted with number plate recognition to identify all vehicles that enter or leave town from any direction.

More traffic stops

TOODYAY police are joining a big traffic enforcement push over the next couple of months.

“We will continue to target drink and drug drivers and also be checking vehicles for mechanical defects,” Acting Sgt Butler said.

“Roadside stops for breath tests will include vehicle registration and driver’s licence checks, broken lights, bald tyres, noisy exhausts, cracked windscreens and anything else that might make a vehicle unsafe to drive.

“We will also do cursory checks for vehicles that may be carrying illegal drugs.

“Most vehicles around town are pretty good mechanically but one or two are a problem.

“A vehicle defect won’t necessarily lead to a penalty but we will offer advice on what needs to be done so the owner can fix it before it becomes a serious problem.

“And if people want to spend a few hours drinking at the pub – that’s fine, as long as they get a lift home or walk.

“Those who try to get back behind the wheel run an increasingly high risk of a big fine, demerit points, possible loss of their driver’s licence and even jail.”

Computer meltdown

LOCAL businesses and other computer users are encouraged to check that their software is always up-to-date and equipped with the latest anti-virus protection following a spate of costly cyber attacks around the world.

Acting Sgt Butler said recent ‘ransomware’ attacks on companies such as chocolate-maker Cadburys in Australia meant that computer security was important at all levels.

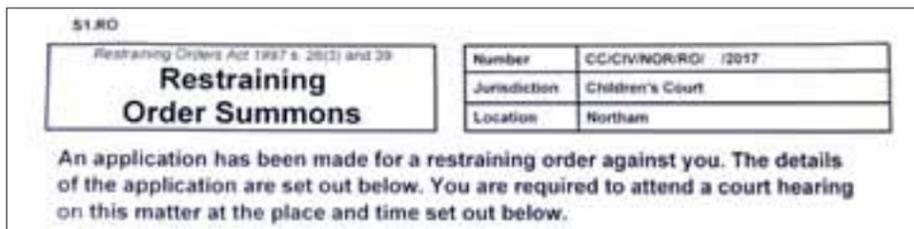
‘Ransomware’ is a kind of malicious software that blocks access to the victim’s data and threatens to publish or delete it until a ransom is paid.

The offending software is often disguised as a legitimate file that a computer user is tricked into downloading or opening when it arrives as an email attachment.

“It corrupts everything,” Acting Sgt Butler said.

“You basically have to strip everything out of your computer or throw it away.

“The best protection is to keep your Windows or other software up to date and check that your anti-virus protection is also up to date.”



Extract from court-ordered violence restraining order at Toodyay Police Station



New high-definition video camera (left) mounted in Stirling Terrace.

TOODYAY

MRB 2339

Tyre Service

New 4X4, Truck,
Motorbikes &
Tractor

Repairs
Exhausts
Balancing
Suspensions
Wheel Alignment

Lot 20
Stirling Tce

9574 4499

tyres1@inet.net.au

Phishing can land you in very deep water

Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association
Desraé Clarke

PHISHING is a word used in the computer world meaning ‘the fraudulent practice of contact purporting to represent reputable institutions in order to induce individuals to reveal sensitive and private personal information for the scammer’s gain’.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Scamwatch is urging people to stay alert to phishing scammers pretending to represent banks, government departments, such as Centrelink (Department of Human Services), the Australian Taxation Office and other institutions.

Approaches used by scammers may be that there has been a technical error and all your information has been lost, or there is a

request to participate in a survey with a prize offered.

Personal sensitive information may be requested such as birth dates, taxation file and credit card numbers, passwords, bank details, postal address etc.

Do not give this information out indiscriminately.

The ACCC has received more than 11,000 reports of this type of scam with practically \$260,000 lost by the community.

If you have given personal information to a scammer report the oversight to the institution concerned immediately.

To learn more about phishing contact scamwatch.gov.au where you can also report the experience to ACCC.

Call 000 for emergencies only. Toodyay Police can be contacted on 9574 9995 and Crimestoppers, 1800 333 000.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Annie's back with all new safety gear

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Julimar
Alison Wroth

IN JUNE our AGM was held after the general meeting on one of the coldest nights on record with everyone struggling to get a seat within the heater's air flow.

Run by Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Craig Stewart, the AGM went according to plan with the brigade accepting all nominations and the new officers accepting their positions.

With our retiring captain Peter Sapwell moving on, literally, the newly elected captain for the Julimar Brigade is Wade Robson, ably supported by his lieutenants, listed in no particular order, Vicki Wesley, Grant Scobie, Simon Holding and Corri Murcott.

Congratulations and thanks to everybody who nominated for positions which can prove time consuming and at times very stressful.

Our position of chairman will be competently filled by Charlie Wroth with the vice-presidency taken by Karen Dore.

Our secretary, who needs more back-pats than anyone will be Wendy Potter who put up her hand when everyone else was looking at the ground. Well done Wendy, you will do a wonderful job.

Corri Murcott has taken on treasurer from Nalini and Teagan is going to continue in catering.

Bruce Guthrie will do a fine job looking after all the equipment but we are still searching for someone to fill the house coordinator's position that Peggy and Jan have so capably filled over the years.

All in all, it looks as if the committee is well prepared to meet everything head on and have



Annie our intrepid and faithful 2.4 Rural Tanker, has just been returned to us after being upgraded to better protect our crews.

the brigade well equipped for the coming fire season.

Community Emergency Services Manager Rob Koch thanked Peter and Peggy Sapwell for the time and effort they have given the brigade and wished them the best of luck for

their future in Margaret River.

The Christmas in July will be held on Saturday July 22 and we are to wear our best evening gear or come along as our favourite Hollywood star.

The menu catered by Red Robin Hospitality

will be delightful and the Christmas crackers and tree have been sponsored by Christmas 360.

I am sure this will be a night to remember, so mark the date in the calendar and we will see you there at the fire shed.

We were advised by our captain that our intrepid and faithful 2.4 Annie has been returned to us with many updates. We now have a crew protection system, a new diesel auxiliary pump and a new water tank, to name but a few of the upgrades.

We are all thankful to have Annie back in the shed and I'm sure that all crews will have a great time familiarising themselves with the new bits and pieces.

Please feel free to come down and meet all members of the Julimar brigade, auxiliaries and fire fighters, around the firepit on Friday nights to have a drink and some supper and maybe think about becoming a member of our brigade.

Support your local brigade as we always support you.

If you have any questions, call Wade Robson on 9574 4021.

Computer ate my homework

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

YOU MIGHT store important things on your computer – wedding photos, solicitors' letters, business accounts and other things that matter to you.

While computers are generally fairly reliable they all fail at some point, potentially destroying everything on it.

While the loss of family photos can be heart-breaking, losing business accounts could get you into trouble with the taxation office which could lead to bankruptcy.

The answer is to make at least one copy of everything that is important. This is also known as 'taking a backup'.

No single backup regime suits everybody so any backup regime that you establish must match your needs.

Plan a backup regime that works for you. It might only once a week. It might be every day.

Decide what you want to backup. Things such as wedding photos need only be backed up once. Your accounts might need to be backed up every month or every quarter.

Windows 7 and Windows 10 both include a backup app. Your antivirus software might also include a backup facility.

If you want to backup to the cloud, there are Microsoft's OneDrive, Dropbox, and Google Drive.

Backing up to the cloud requires a good internet connection.

You can also backup locally to a USB flash drive (or thumb drive), an external hard disk drive, a CD or DVD. Thumb drives, however, can be unreliable.

I always make a backup copy of my accounts onto a new CD immediately before I submit my Business Activity Statements.

It's important to get into the habit of doing backups.

You might never need to restore your things from a backup, but if you do lose everything and you have no backup, you will certainly be very upset.

If your computer dies, you will be very happy to have a backup facility.

Happy surfing.

Eight years on and still dealing with it

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Toodyay Central

Mick McKeown and John Hansen

AT THE end of this year it will be eight years since the 2009 Toodyay bushfire which destroyed 38 homes in just four hours, severely damaged another 70 homes and businesses, and damaged more than 100 local properties.

Some of us are still dealing with the aftermath of the fire and even now re-building homes and lives damaged by the fire.

For others, the memories of the fire have dimmed or perhaps they are new to the district.

Recent bushfire seasons have been kind to us and it's easy to become complacent.

It can be comforting to hope it won't happen again, or in the event that it does, that it won't

happen to our family.

The danger is that with each year that passes, the fuel load increases and the probability of another large fire increases as well.

When a bush fire occurs, how prepared will your family be? How fire safe is your property? You might be surprised.

A Bushfire Ready Group is now forming within the part of Toodyay Central Brigade's area that bore the brunt of the 2009 fire.

A Bushfire Ready Group is a community group headed by a local resident with knowledge and experience of bush fires, who has received additional training through the Department of Fire Emergency Services (DFES).

DFES also supplies resources and information to assist group members to prepare for the next fire season.

The area covered by the new group is, Acacia Close, Adenanthus Road, Broadgrounds Place, Drummond Drive, Fargo Way, Harvester Drive, Hatfield Road, Hemiandra Place, Hibbertia Place, Hovea Way, Pindi Place, Racecourse Road, Sandplain Road, Sesselis Road, Smokebush Way, Stirlingia Drive and Wandoo Circle.

Past experience tells us that those who are well-prepared and informed fare much better when a fire goes through their area.

To help protect you and yours when, not if, the next bushfire happens, register for an information session or request further details on Bushfire Ready Groups by contacting John Hansen via email 2jbushfireready@gmail.com.

If you are interested in finding out more about our brigade, or if you would like to join us, please get in touch with our captain, Mick McKeown 0439 998 808 or our secretary Karen Hansen, 0408 683 790.

Paramedic Pat sets off for full-time city duties

St John Ambulance
Toodyay Sub-Centre

Carolynne Haigh

WE RECENTLY learned that our Community Paramedic (CP), Patrick O'Dal, will be moving on.

Patrick came to the area in May 2015 and has been a wonderful asset to us all.

As a CP he was responsible for us and six other St John sub-centres, assisting with training and attending call-outs when extra help was needed.

Patrick is now going back to being a full-time paramedic and we would like to wish him every success.

Due to the huge success of last year's quiz night we will be holding another one on Saturday August 12.

So, start getting your tables together, eight people per table, \$10 per person. More information will be available soon.

Have you recently paid your membership online?

A reminder to those that have to please use a reference – either your membership number or name.

Without this information your payment can't be allocated to your membership and therefore you may find yourself with no ambulance cover.

You may not be aware that any money you pay to St John Toodyay and Districts, whether for first-aid kits, first-aid courses or memberships, stays with our local ambulance sub-centre.

We offer regular first-aid courses, sell kits and also restock first-aid kits. If you need any of these, contact Carolynne on 9574 2390 or 0428 957 600.

Please support your local ambulance sub-centre when you are considering anything first aid. We now have EFTPOS facilities to make payment easier for you.

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Builder, Engineer, Boilermaker or Welder.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Morangup volunteer firies elect Keiko their Sushi Queen

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Morangup
Sue Maddrell**

A NUMBER of Morangup vollies went up to the Freedom of Entry to witness Steve Gamble receive his National Medal for 15 years' service. A great achievement.

Wayne Johnson also received his 10-year service medallion. Great work guys.

Steve has recently had a knee replacement and is recovering well after a small setback.

Great that he has had it done in the winter months. Keep that physio going Steve, the fire season will soon be upon us.

There were a couple of call-outs for the Morangup brigade in June and we hear our newly appointed second lieutenant has some revision training in mind over the next few months.

The brigade has done a couple of burns for locals this past month.

When you are doing a burn, even if it's just a pile of rubbish, don't forget to make sure the area around is clear and do not leave your property or go to bed until the fire has been extinguished.

For our annual get-together the brigade, along with the Toodyay SES, went out to Alicia Estate Winery and Restaurant in Julimar.

Trying to negotiate the entrance to the venue in a large bus on a dark and rainy night provided excitement for the group, however the beautiful meal that followed compensated us fully for braving the wintry conditions.

Everyone enjoyed their meal, a smorgasbord of delicious European cuisine.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of three awards, the first to Keiko Allen, the Sushi Queen of Morangup, for making a variety of sushi for the monthly meetings.

The second award was presented to



Keiko Allen receives her award for providing firies with Sushi. Photo Brian Allen.

Rookie of the Year Don Bridger and finally Peter Harms was recognised as the Crash Bandicoot. Peter lost his glasses in a fire and also had a small altercation with the fire shed door in the 1.4.

Thank you to Kim Hoskings of Toodyay SES for making his bus available.

The brigade has a meeting on the third Saturday of each month at 5.30pm followed by a barbecue.

All are welcome, as are new members. Once new members have done the initial paperwork they then need to do basic training before going onto the fire ground.



Perigord truffle worth \$136.

Mia sniffs out more truffles

TRUFFLE grower Alain Fabregues has found more of the prized fungi on his Toodyay farm.

On June 24 Mia, a specially trained Kelpie-cross, located seven Perigord truffles under six oak host trees.

Unripe truffles are harder to detect but Mia easily found the ripe truffles 22cm underground.

In mid-May Alain found two unripe 70g truffles, the first of this year's crop and the first consecutive discovery since he started his 1300-tree trufferie in 2005.

It's been a long haul for the former chef who has battled water shortages, mice and river snails in his quest to grow truffles in an untried area.

This year's February flood soaked the 400 river-front oaks that he has concentrated on for the past 12 months.

"I can now say with certainty that water has been the problem," said Alain.

Valued at about \$2000 a kilo, the latest 66g ripe truffle wasn't destined for sale and was used to make toast.

Not just any old toast but tastou, a regional favourite in Alain's home province of Bordeaux.

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Foxes and furs celebrate a happy 90 years in Toodyay

CWA

Elizabeth Mansom

TOODYAY CWA always attends the annual WA Week lunch held by Tammin branch as we know it will be an enjoyable day with an interesting and informative speaker.

This year was no exception. CherryDell Riupassa, founder/director of Joseph's Coat, spoke about her WA-based charity that collects new clothing and school items for those in need in Australia and overseas. Check out their website jci.org.au.

After much anticipation and preparation we celebrated our 90th anniversary on June 22.

Representatives from 21 branches attended. Sixteen former members of Toodyay branch were present as were representatives of 14 Toodyay businesses or organisations.



The Four Presidents at the 90th birthday. Glenys Clabaugh as Mrs Craven Griffiths State President 1927, Mavis Rowles as Mrs Ada Piesse Toodyay President 1927, Judith Walton Toodyay President 2017 and Heather Allen State President 2017.

Mrs Allen informed us that four new branches have recently started up, one having already 40 members

It seems the CWA has got with the times and now recruits via *Facebook*.

During a speech that very clearly conveyed his great love for Toodyay, Mr Dow drew our attention to the fact that CWA is second only to the RSL as an Australian organisation.

The Toodyay Community Singers, lead by Trish Young, sang the CWA Creed and followed up with some old favourites.

Eleanor Frith composed words and music of a song especially for the 90th anniversary of Toodyay branch and sang it to us. Thanks Eleanor, for a really special birthday present.

Our own Evelyn made the birthday cake which was beautifully iced by Annette Syred, who made no charge as she wanted to acknowledge the contribution CWA makes to the community. Thank you, Annette and Evelyn.

The State President, our Branch President Judith Walton and Mavis Rowles, who has been a member of Toodyay Branch for 63 years, cut Ev's scrumptious cake.

A little earlier Mavis had assumed the role of Ada Piesse, the first President of Toodyay Branch, in a re-enactment of the inaugural meeting in 1927.

With cloche hats, pearls, furs and formality, we were all transported back 90 years.

Then 'the book' arrived, very hot off the press, as it was still at the printers in Northam at 12.30.

Local historian Beth Frayne researched and produced a 30-page booklet covering the 90 years of the Toodyay CWA.

The idea was broached only on May 22 so a mighty effort indeed. Beth, you have our admiration and thanks.

A copy will be placed in the Toodyay Library for all to share.

A very tired, footsore group of ladies collapsed at 3pm, cuppas in hand, trusting that all those who had kept Toodyay CWA alive and functioning during the past 90 years would be happy with our efforts

York Branch held a Friendship Day on June 26, and seven of us went over to hear two interesting guest speakers

The overall message from Karen Hansen of the Cancer Council was to know what is normal for your body and if something changes, get it checked out.

Terry Melrose from Regional Men's Health described how to get men to take care of their health, likening it to servicing a vehicle – regular checkups for both.

Maxine and Glenys won a prize each in the raffle and a good time was had by all.

The next big date for us is July 24-26 when the State Conference will be held in Fremantle.

Judith, our president and secretary Desrae will attend and ensure our voice is heard.

Other members will go along as observers and to take part in the wider CWA family get-together that only happens once a year at State Conference.

CWA meets at 1pm on the fourth Thursday of the month in the CWA Hall in Stirling Terrace, Toodyay

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

Bookings are being taken by Glenys Clabaugh on 9574 5110 or 0427 478 325



Mavis Rowles (as Mrs Ada Piesse, first Toodyay Branch President) Judith Walton, present Branch President and Heather Allen, State President Cut the 90th birthday cake.

Including ourselves, more than 80 people filled our hall with good humour and best wishes

The State President of CWA Heather Allen and her husband Peter were seated at the VIP table along with Shire President David Dow and wife Cr Judy Dow.



Some of the Toodyay CWA members at the 90th birthday party.

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Historian tracks Bolgart railway heritage

Toodyay Historical Society
Robyn Taylor, President

THE EXPRESSION 'traces of the past' is not only evocative but very apt when it describes the remnants of old railways, their embankments, bridges, spur lines, crossings and landings.

Folk who have lived in Toodyay for much of their lives can recall the old Bolgart railway extension that went through town, past Duidgee Park, and crossed a very substantial wooden bridge over the Avon to make its way up the Toodyay Valley.

The valley was blessed with springs of fresh water that fed into the Toodyay Brook, and as early as 1831 it was recognised as prime agricultural and pastoral country.

A railway extension was vital for farmers and orchardists who needed to get stock and produce to market and the Newcastle to Bolgart line was completed in 1909.

Member Jenny Edgecombe has undertaken considerable research into this railway, not only through looking up old records and poring over photographs, but also by car and foot.

Once she and husband Joe got their 'eye in' and knew what to look for, the hidden traces began to reveal themselves.

Although it was a cold wintry afternoon for our June excursion, we had a good turn up as Jenny led us on a fascinating tour of discovery.

We began in the middle of town with some history about the first railway station, more or less behind the medical centre, and how the extension inconveniently cut the town in half.

Then it was off to the showgrounds where we looked down at the remnants of the once



Toodyay Historical Society members enjoy afternoon tea at Culham Church. Photo Linda Rooney.

substantial railway bridge that crossed the Avon River.

Tracing the route of the Bolgart line by car, we stopped at points along the Toodyay-Bindi Bindi Road.

One of the highlights was finding what Jenny believes must be the location of Lock Yunn's homestead and the landing at Coondle that was named after him.

Charles Soong Lock Yunn (1871-1939) was a prominent citizen in the Chinese

community and in 1913 he established a highly successful market garden with fruit and vegetables called the Evergreen Garden Orchard. His produce was railed to Perth and the goldfields.

This enjoyable excursion ended with afternoon tea in the Culham Church yard.

A joyous and fun-filled birthday party took place on June 22 when the Toodyay CWA celebrated its 90th birthday. Those ladies certainly know how to have a good time.

We wish the CWA every success in the years ahead and many more milestone birthdays to celebrate. See CWA story on Page 9.

At the time of writing we have our fingers crossed for member Alison Crompton and her recently published book *The Road to Toodyay* which is an entrant for the Margaret Medcalf Award, an annual award for excellence in referencing and research.

Our next general meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday July 19 at Drummond House,

108b Stirling Terrace Toodyay.

Our featured speaker will be Wayne Clarke talking about the River Training Scheme which operated along the Avon from 1958 to 1972 and was intended to be the solution to recurrent flooding along the river.

At 7pm on Saturday July 29 Jenny will present a picture night in the CWA Hall. Come along and enjoy an evening of Toodyay nostalgia.

Visitors are very welcome to join us. Please bring a plate of something for supper.

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 6566.

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

Membership is fantastic value at \$10 a year.

New plaques for old Anzacs

Toodyay RSL Sub Branch
Bruce Guthrie

TOODYAY RSL Sub Branch will be progressively replacing 12 original plaques in the memorial rose garden at Anzac Park.

An application by the sub branch for a Saluting Their Service – Community Commemorative Grant was successful.

We were notified in a letter from Minister for Veterans Affairs Dan Tehan that our grant would be \$2940.

We thank the Mr Tehan and the department for this generous grant.

Our next general meeting will be at 1pm on Saturday July 8 in the Memorial Hall.

We have decided to start earlier so members have a chance for fellowship and discussion after the meeting.

In the past the meeting has concluded and members have left.

At the WA State RSL Congress on July 15 Toodyay will be represented by president Peter and secretary Max.

A full notice paper will ensure lively discussion on ways to improve the way RSL operates in WA.

Vietnam Veterans Day will be on Friday August 18 at 11am at the War Memorial Anzac Park.

Our new welfare officer Geoff Brown can be contacted on 0458 411 648 for support and assistance.

Our members enjoy helping our veterans and elderly in our community.

We hope all members and families can stay warm, healthy and enjoy the great winter sunshine.

Advertorial

Get rid of pests and weeds – safely

2017 has been a difficult year for controlling pests and weeds. The unusual January and February rains are a distant memory but they have certainly had an impact on weeds, pests and rodents this year.

We have many clients in Toodyay and surrounding areas and since April have noticed an increase in complaints about mice and rats.

Phone calls and emails started to head our way with questions about pet-friendly rodent baiting – more than ever before.

International telemarketers aside, the most common phone call we get is: "I've got mice and rats and a dog mate. Will the baits kill my dog?" The answer isn't simple, but I'll try and break it down.

All poisons are toxic to a degree, that's what they are made to do, obviously.

However, the amount your pet must eat to be fatal is dramatically different between baiting products.

Over-the-counter products such as Ratsak is one of the most toxic for your pets and small children if ingested.

Ratsak Brodifacoum suggests ingesting 104 grams could be fatal to a 20kg animal. Bromadiolone-based baits suggests 4kg be ingested to be fatal to a 20kg animal.

Difenacoum-based baits suggests 20kg be ingested to be fatal to a 20kg animal.

So, as you can see, sometimes paying a licensed professional who can access safer products has its benefits.

Professional services are not for everyone, because like everything in life, you pay a little more for quality products and safety.

That being said, it may be much cheaper than you think – we offer cost-effective, pet-friendlier baiting options that will give you a much longer-lasting result for your hard-earned dollar.

Many of our products have limited to no secondary poisoning effects and can be placed in fully lockable pet and child-proof stations.

With more than 21 years' experience in the weed control industry we specialise in helping clients deal with all kinds of weed spraying and pasture management – from one to 30 acres, we have you covered.

We have the equipment and knowledge to help you correctly manage your property and protect it against weed infestation. We can provide a free onsite walk over, quote and advice on working within your budget.

Whether you need help with Paterson's Curse, Cape Weed or Cape Tulip in the back paddock or simply need a plan on where to start with your weeds, consider talking to us first.

We also treat garden beds for Couch Grass selectively and safely, all types of lawns for Bindii and flat weeds, plus commercial sites, horse arenas and firebreaks.

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We have serviced Perth and surrounds for the past 16 years. We offer free advice and services for all pests including all things termite related, all weeds and service all areas.

Check out our videos online at envirapest.com.au or call 1300 368 472 anytime.

PUBLIC MEETING

The next meeting of the

Toodyay Progress Association Inc

will be held on

Wednesday 12th July 2017, 7pm

at the

Toodyay Community Centre

(Next to the Doctor's Surgery)

All Shire residents are invited to attend.

Agenda

Chairman's report on TPA activity since previous meeting.

Current issues and future directions.

Any other business.

If any resident would like to include a particular matter for discussion, please email the Secretary: gandha@iinet.net.au

New members welcome

Small steps promise big things for NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week
Robert Miles

NAIDOC Week is for everyone. It stands for National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee, and NAIDOC Week runs from July 2-9.

NAIDOC Week celebrates all that is great about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture – cultural unity, diversity, spirituality, connectivity, identity, opportunity and survival.

It's a week that invites other Australians to take a breath and absorb the cultural experiences that Aboriginal and Torres Strait people have to offer.

Let your senses be stimulated through a range of cultural expressions, including language, song, dance, music, story-telling, visual arts and performance.

In WA, NAIDOC Week coincides fortuitously with the first week of the school holidays and is celebrated in many settings across the state.

I know for sure that government agencies and the corporate sector – including the mining industry – will be acknowledging

and celebrating the week in their own ways.

Lots of local communities will definitely be celebrating the week, as will many public and private schools across the state when they get back from their break.

For the local community of Toodyay, NAIDOC Week is an unfolding story that is

yet to be fully realised.

I know for sure that our shire is working towards a more inclusive relationship with local Aboriginal people about matters of reconciliation and cultural respect.

Hopefully a well-planned event for next year will be the case, although the Toodyay

District High School will run a week-long program of NAIDOC activities when students return from their school break.

Small steps.

Please remember that NAIDOC Week is for everyone to enjoy – it's part of our cultural fabric.

It's high rotation as turners set to open at Junction

Avon Woodturners
Max J Heath

WELL THIS time it really is 'hi' from Toodyay Junction.

Everything is going well although we're very busy with our new premises.

We were given a large amount of Sheoak recently and this had to be slabbed and sealed to prevent too much splitting.

The task took a full morning with many hands on deck to complete the job.

Dust extraction is our next problem.

We have an extractor but need to run tubing and collection points to all our machines.

A couple of years ago we lost an esteemed member Roger Streetfield in an accident.

It was decided to name a bench in his honour at the new premises – another job to complete before our opening on Sunday August 6.

To fulfil our RoadWise funding obligations we need to demonstrate woodturning at a few events outside our premises and plan to do so at the Toodyay Agricultural Show and markets in Toodyay and Bindoon.

We have even travelled as far as Koorda for their show to meet the obligation to RoadWise.

Another problem we have come up against

is that we believe that all our equipment has to be inspected and tagged as being safety compliant.

Although safety is our main priority, we do wonder where all this bureaucratic stuff will end.

The generosity of this town never ceases and the woodturners would like to thank all who supported our last raffle.

We would also like to thank Charles Ferguson for donating the wood.

The raffle raised \$696 and we congratulate Danni Grundy on her win.

That's all from the woodturners this month and, as RoadWise says, don't drive tired.



Stirling Park trees axed because of termites

The scene last month at Stirling Park near Newcastle Bridge the day after the Shire of Toodyay removed three trees that were deemed unsafe because of termite infestation.

The previous day at the monthly Toodyay Farmers Market residents were unaware that the trees, which stood near a popular nursery stall, would be axed. *Letters Page 4.*

Toodyay girls get guiding hand from Northam troop leaders

Northam Girl Guides
Sasha Wasley

WITH the reopening of the Northam unit in Term 3, local girls will once again have the chance to become Girl Guides.

Due to lack of volunteer leaders, Northam Girl Guides closed in 2014. Now, with two local women stepping forward to volunteer, girls will again experience the fun and adventure of guiding.

"We are thrilled to reopen Northam so girls in the local area can enjoy the benefits of Girl Guides," said State Commissioner Linda Elezovich.

"There is growing evidence that girls who take part in guiding have more

confidence, resilience, and better mental health.

"The two new leaders will be mentored and trained and both have a wonderful enthusiasm for their new challenge," Ms Elezovich said.

From Tuesday July 18, Northam Girl Guides will meet from 4.30-6pm at the Guide Hall 46 Burnside Avenue on Tuesday afternoons.

Girl Guides is an inclusive organisation and Northam Guides welcomes girls aged seven to 17.

If you are interested in signing your daughter up or helping as a volunteer, contact Inger on 9479 9800 or email membersupport@girlguideswa.org.au.

Quiz night, wood raffle raise chaplaincy funds

Toodyay YouthCARE Council
Vivienne Freeman, Secretary

SIXTY-THREE people attended our recent quiz night in support of our school chaplain Doug McGhee who is employed at the school for five days a week.

Together with our wood raffle on June 2 and the proceeds from the quiz night, a total of \$1,777.65 was raised.

The wood raffle was won by Neville, black ticket D 36.

This year our theme for the quiz night was Toodyay the Festival Town and those attending were invited to come up with a limerick for this.

Trish Bodle was voted the winner with a clever contribution.

Our very able MC for the event was Vicki Baldwin.

Once again, the winning table donated the \$160 prize back to the chaplaincy fund and the RoadWise prize of \$200 was also donated back to chaplaincy. Thank you to both groups.

Our thanks to the many sponsors who again did not hesitate to come on board with their donations and we ask that in return we all support the following local businesses whenever possible.

Toodyay Hair Salon, The Cola Café, Amy's Café, Trees Café Bolgart, Toodyay Liquor Store, Toodyay Traders, Toodyay Garden Centre, Makit Hardware, RoadWise, Toodyay Post Office, Graham Freeman, Sweethearts Café, Toodyay Tyre and Exhaust, Toodyay Barber Shop, Meat Hook Toodyay, The Lolly Shop, beautician Clare Love, Wild Goose Café Gidgegannup and Toodyay Chemist.

At our last monthly YouthCARE council meeting, we were presented with a cheque for \$7500 from our local Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank towards our chaplaincy program. Thank you for your continued support of this worthwhile endeavour.

We would like to acknowledge and say thank you to our departing school principal, Grant Brown for his encouragement of chaplaincy. We wish him well.

We welcome our new principal David Ball and look forward to working together in our school's best interests.

Our Toodyay YouthCARE Council comprises members from our local Anglican, Baptist, Catholic and United Churches.

We welcome Gretta Sauta representing the local Catholic Church.

A reminder that there will be a Big Breakfast Club at the beginning of Term 3 on Monday July 24.

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Dry feed prices go through the roof

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza

THE WELCOME rains that fell in Toodyay in late June have been a godsend for all farmers in our shire.

Though rainfall so far is still well below average for winter, the rains were a reprieve for many.

Unfortunately, the rain did not penetrate far into the Wheatbelt and especially those areas in the north that have very little rain, missed out again.

Many crops in Midlands and further north have not germinated and have very little chance of making an economic return for growers.

Farmers in the Toodyay are faring a lot better and most crops have now established well.

Canola has been a problem this year with many paddocks having a very patchy germination.

The patchy establishment has led to headaches for growers who have to juggle post-emergent spraying programs when the crop has many growth stages in the same paddock.

Pastures have been severely hit by the very dry autumn and dry start to winter.

An industry professional was recently quoted as describing pastures in some areas as "cigarette ash".

The poor pastures have inevitably led to a rapid increase in demand for hay and feed stocks.

Show judges offer tips on how to win

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Alison Wroth, Chief Steward

THE EXHIBITORS' workshop on Saturday July 8 is for anybody in the community, and beyond, interested in entering a country show.

It's a chance to get tips and advice on exhibiting from the four show judges present.

Sections that will be on display are Floriculture, Cookery, Home Produce and Hobby Crafts.

Questions about Needlework and Fruit and Vegetables can also be asked as a couple of the judges can judge both.

Morning tea will be provided and the doors open at the Youth Hall at 9am for a 9.30am start.

Please bring paper and pens or any previous exhibit if you want to know how it was judged.

I am still on the lookout for anyone interested in becoming an Art Steward for the Friday and Saturday of show week.

The role incorporates receiving paintings and artwork from entrants, hanging artwork and assisting the judge on the Friday.

If anyone is keen on art or would like more information, please contact me and I will try to answer any query on 0437 099 960.

We are going to be auctioning semi-mature trees in pots for half of their normal retail price this year both prior to the show and during our auction on show day.

The trees are in the care of Imre Ungvary and there are a variety of them such as Ficus, Jacaranda, Flowering Plums, Elms – to name a few.

If you are interested in purchasing any of these trees now or at the auction and you have a query on variety or price, please contact Imre Ungvary on 0418 949 962.

Our sincere thanks must go to the sponsors and donors of prize money who have once again supported us when we really need it.

So far large businesses such as Austral, Christmas 360, Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Dunnings and the Shire of Toodyay have sponsored us. They understand that the Toodyay Agricultural Show is a historical one and worth supporting.

Without businesses like them or individuals donating a few dollars, small country shows such as Toodyay's would have a battle surviving but with your kind sponsorship we can continue to deliver a well-organised and entertainment-filled show each year.

There is even talk of a Toodyay Agricultural Show ball for next year's 165th show – now doesn't that make you just want to get up and dance?

Keep thinking about your entries and visit our website toodyayagsociety.com.au if you have any questions.



Michael Morgan in his weighbridge office with outstanding orders on the notice board.

Prices have risen accordingly, with oats and lupins increasing in price by as much as 40 per cent in the past six weeks.

Hay is in high demand as well but prices have not risen as much as oats.

A large oat crop state wide in 2016 had prices depressed over the summer period, however the recent spike in demand for oats as stock feed has seen prices recover closer to the long-term average.

The current high demand for stockfeed has kept Toodyay-based stockfeed manufacturer Morgan Feed Supplies very busy.

Morgan Feed Supplies manager, Michael Morgan, stated; "We have been flat out over the last month and the plant has been running 24 hours a day for four weeks now."

Mr Morgan said that demand for stockfeed has come from everywhere in the state.

"Areas to the north and east of us have been the heaviest buyers. Areas from Geraldton across to Kalannie down to Merredin have all been buying," he said.

Firm prices for sheep and cattle have given farmers confidence that buying feed and keeping stock is still worthwhile.

However, if dry conditions continue, selling will become widespread with some easing in prices likely.

A timely reminder to all livestock owners that poor pastures put livestock under stress. Supplementary feeding of stock is essential until pastures improve.

Industry professionals urge that a range of feed be offered to stock, not just grain.

Grain and hay and/or straw or formulated pellets are considered to be the best alternatives.

It's official – foxes eat a lot of lamb

ALL LOCAL farmers know that foxes are partial to lamb, but just how much no one could say.

Last month Murdoch University Associate Professor Trish Fleming released results from a study of 540 fox carcasses that showed sheep make up two-thirds of the fox diet.

The foxes were collected from 13 Wheatbelt locations during a community-based feral animal control program in 2010.

By analysing the stomach contents and skulls of the foxes the study found that juvenile foxes eat as much sheep as an adult and they also consume numerous native species including Brushtail Possums.

"This information reinforces the need for co-ordinated pest animal control to boost the productivity of livestock farmers and protect native animals," Professor Fleming said.

Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management (NRM) reports that this year's co-ordinated shoot in autumn removed nearly 2500 foxes, 150 feral cats and 590 rabbits from the environment.

The group hopes more local farmers will participate in the next co-ordinated shoot and hot-baiting program scheduled around October this year.

For further information contact the Wheatbelt NRM on 9670 3113.

Advertorial

Join the Club for good old-fashioned fun

ONE OF Toodyay's best kept secrets is opening its doors on Saturday July 8 from 2pm.

The Toodyay Club Inc has been part of the Toodyay community since 1905 when it was located in the building which was once Sophia's restaurant and before that Vince's Pizza House in Stirling Terrace.

The Club moved to the new building, behind the Toodyay Bowling Club, in 1977.

On the Open Day, everyone is invited to visit and see what The Club is all about.

There will be hot roast rolls and a middy for \$7.50, and music from 3pm with Reminiss and Rod Bryson.

There's a great outdoor area for the kids to run around, so bring the family for an enjoyable afternoon of dancing and good old-fashioned family fun.

The Toodyay Club is what every country town club should be – a meeting place, with cheap bar prices, pool and snooker tables, meals every Friday night. It is also available for hire.

At just \$44 per year, membership is great value. Bar prices are cheap and the bottle shop has a great selection of take-away beer, wines and spirits at very competitive prices.

Dinner is available every Friday night for just \$12 and may be fish and chips, roast lamb, beef or chicken or perhaps, lasagne – the menu varies every week.

Raffles are run every Friday night with special raffles for Mother's Day and Father's Day with great prizes.

A pool competition is held every Tuesday night and the TV gives members the chance to watch the football and other sports. There's plenty of parking.

The Club is available for hire for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries or other special events. In-house or outside catering can be arranged.

Every year there's a Melbourne Cup lunch, and Anzac Day is also celebrated at The Club.

Future functions planned include karaoke nights, quiz nights and barbecues.

The Toodyay Club is open every day, except Christmas Day and Good Friday, from 11am until 8pm.

We hope to see you at the Open Day on Saturday July 8, when you can become a member and start to enjoy the benefits provided by The Toodyay Club Inc.

For further information please phone Deb on 9574 2207.

TOCI Toodyay Club Inc
The Place to Be

OPEN DAY

Saturday July 8, at 2pm

Reminiss

Live Music from 3pm Reminiss with Rod Bryson

Hot Roast Rolls and a Middy - \$7.50

Come along for an enjoyable afternoon of music, dancing and good old-fashioned fun for all the family.

Friday July 21, 6pm

Christmas in July

Roast Turkey, Ham and all the Trimmings and Christmas Pudding

\$20 per head – Bookings Essential

Phone Deborah on 9574 2207 or email: toodyayclub@bigpond.com

Make a note in your Diary

Transwa's AvonLink Service

From 3 July 2017, AvonLink train services will revert to 10 services per week from Monday to Friday (the MerredinLink will revert to six services a week).

With access to power points and free WiFi, the AvonLink is still one of the most comfortable and passenger-friendly train services in Australia. For more information, and to book your journey visit transwa.wa.gov.au or call 1300 662 205.



The new AvonLink timetable From Northam

	Mon-Fri
	AV02
Northam	6.30am
Toodyay	6.50am
Midland	7.50am

From Midland

	Mon-Fri
	AV01
Midland	5.50pm
Toodyay	6.43pm
Northam	7.10pm

The new MerredinLink timetable From East Perth

	Mon/Wed/Fri
	M01
East Perth	8.55am
Midland	9.12am
Toodyay	10.07am
Northam	10.27am
Merredin	12.10pm

From Merredin

	Mon	Wed	Fri
	M02	M04	M06
Merredin	1.10pm	1.10pm	1.05pm
Northam	2.46pm	2.54pm	2.41pm
Toodyay	3.06pm	3.14pm	3.01pm
Midland	4.00pm	4.10pm	3.55pm
East Perth	4.20pm	4.30pm	4.20pm

The Transwa SmartCommuter Card offers frequent travellers a 35% discount off standard fares. Terms and conditions apply.

*Prospector services operate between East Perth and Kalgoorlie. For full timetables visit our website.



Unique quilts attract keen interest



Memory quilt.

Ragbag Quilters Group Kerry Gregory

THE RAGBAG Quilters staged another impressive quilt display in June as part of the Toodyay Fibre Festival.

Hundreds of people visited the display and some returned later in the afternoon when

the crowd had diminished to get a better view of the Japanese quilts, huge red and white Amish quilt from America and a very poignant Memory Quilt which depicted, in patchwork, photos from the life of the 92-year-old mother for whom it was made.

All members are to be commended for this splendid exhibition.

The Ragbags also conducted a small stall and raffle with proceeds donated to St Stephen's Anglican Church Hall to assist with their kitchen upgrade.

The Ragbag Quilting Group meets every first and third Wednesday of the month in the St Stephen's Anglican Church Hall from 10 am to 2:30 pm.

The group collaboratively produces quilts for donation to charity. New members are invited to join us, bring some handwork, your knitting or simply call in and share a cuppa.

For more information, contact Kerry on 9574 4470.



Japanese quilt.

Arts workshops weave a sense of belonging

Arts Toodyay Clive Eggar

THE ARTS Toodyay Inc AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday August 15 at the clubrooms in Duke Street.

A different date was originally advertised but it was changed to allow the maximum number of members to attend.

All members are encouraged to attend and to nominate to play an active role on the committee.

The old adage "by giving you shall receive" is so appropriate when one reflects on how rewarding it is to be an active participant in the running of a community organisation such as Arts Toodyay.

Now that we are in the green season, it won't be long before the annual Arts Toodyay VINO art exhibition is upon us once again.

Held annually over the September long weekend at Coorinja Winery VINO is always a huge event and each year it attracts more exhibitors from in around the Avon Valley.

This year will be the ninth VINO exhibition and there is already talk from artists around town about their preparations and which works they plan to exhibit.

Meanwhile the members of Arts Toodyay enjoy workshops exploring new ideas.

The topic of the most recent workshop was 'basketry' involving a variety of novel and unusual materials to create decorative and functional works and have a lot of fun along the way.

More workshops are being planned so everyone interested in any form of artistic pursuit is encouraged to join us at Arts Toodyay.

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the clubrooms in the Old Police Station on Duke Street at 7.30pm and you are always welcome to come along and meet the members.

The craft of convivial conversation

The Crooked Needle Heather Wright

CRAFT? What craft? After attending today, I wondered if we really were a craft group.

Three ladies came with only their handbag, others came ready to be conscientious but still didn't take anything out to do, while the dedicated members carried on regardless.

I do like the fact that I can feel completely comfortable either being industrious (rarely) or just coming for the wonderful company.

Our talented Robyn won the Fibre Festival competition. She came to craft beaming and although she is also a spinner, we'll claim her for this accolade.

Well done to the girls who manned our store and made articles to sell.

Great to see Linda return from tripping around (with just her handbag) but she is off again soon to her homeland and a cruise down the Danube, Gadabout.

Glynise has been missing in action and Debra and her husband are having a well-deserved break in North Queensland.

One or two members have been on the 'feeling poorly' list and we hope they are recovering and will be back with us soon.

Last week some of the girls started crocheting very spiffy bags, ably guided by our guru Gail. The ones I have seen look really interesting.

We offer our condolences to both Annette and Sue on the loss of loved family members. It's never easy and we hope your craft friends can be of comfort.

Pizza day went off really well.

Thank you to Gail standing in for our food organiser who was indisposed.

We are going to have quiche for our next 'eat at craft day'. Thank you to the ladies who are making quiche for our enjoyment.

We need to make mention of our telecommunications officer Megan who received a certificate of acknowledgement for 100 donations of plasma.

A wonderful effort as she has to travel to Perth to donate.

It's people like Megan who make our world a better place. Thank you, Megan.

So with half the year gone and the shortest day finished, we now have five months to get ourselves organised for Christmas. Don't leave it too late.

THE ORIGINAL URBAN COWBOY

Dinner & Show at the



wildgoose

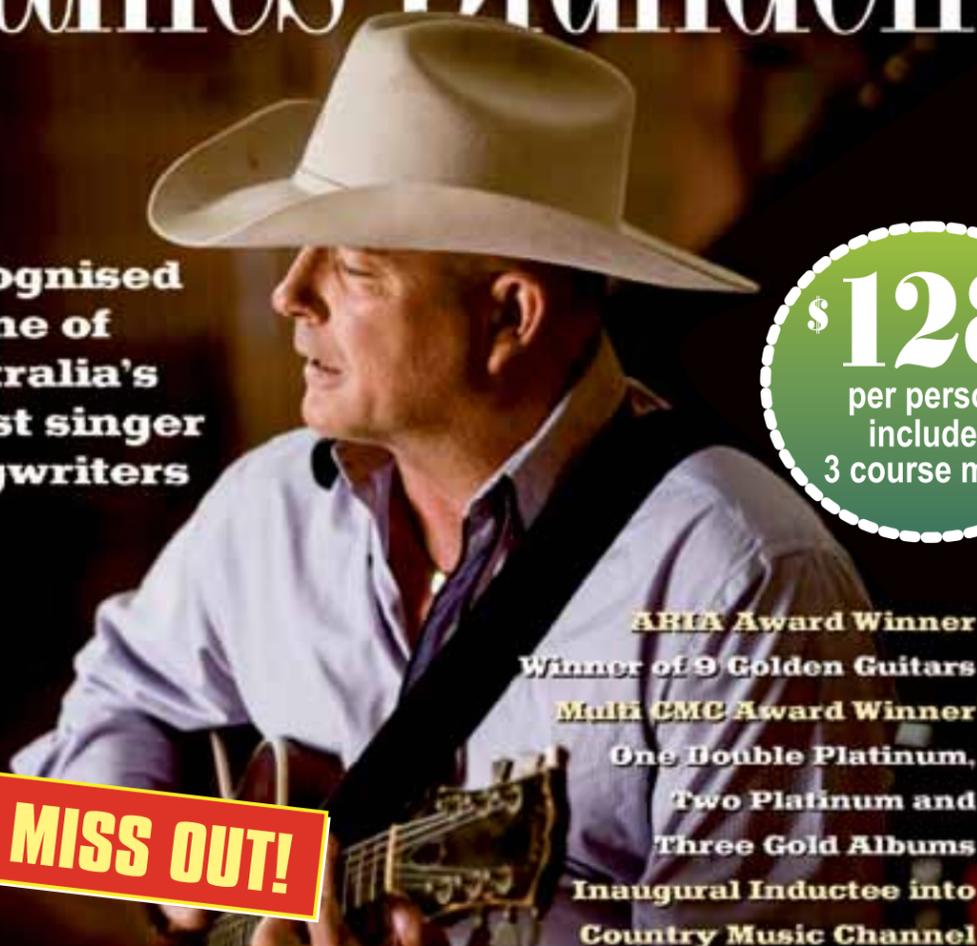
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songwriters

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Winner of 9 Golden Guitars
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Two Platinum and
Three Gold Albums
Inaugural Inductee into
Country Music Channel

DON'T MISS OUT!



Limited tickets available call (08) 9574 6255 to book now!





Beauty and the Beast cast with Shane Love and Mia Davies (back row).

Junior Geckos learn tricks of treading the boards

Toodyay Theatre Group

WHAT do you get when you cross a childcare lecturer, a drama teacher and a dedicated and extremely hard-working crew?

Magic, and creative madness. *Beauty and the Beast* had only five adult cast members and 18 fantastic young people aged 10 to 17 from Toodyay and Northam.

After 11 weeks of demanding work at rehearsals the cast and crew presented an amazing performance that took the audience's breath away.

We would like to thank Wheatbelt MP Shane Love and Mia Davies MLA for coming along to support the youth from their districts and for taking the time to meet and have photos with everyone after the show.

Congratulations must go to everyone involved, especially to Danni Grundy as a first-time director and Jessica Shilcock as producer.

We have two new ventures coming up this month that we'd like to share with you.

Junior Gecko Ensembles. We have formed a partnership with the Barking Gecko Theatre Company and will be running Junior Gecko Ensemble classes next term.

These classes are for 8 to 12 year olds who wish to build on their acting and stage skills and are not to be missed by all our future stars in town. Enrolments are now open.

The Junior Gecko Ensemble is the perfect

place for participants to have fun and lose themselves in the joy of drama while also refining social, emotional and creative skills.

Ensemble members enjoy extending themselves as they learn more about the craft of acting, developing character, playmaking and script interpretation.

According to the Barking Gecko Theatre Company, by the end of the term participants will have developed their ability to improvise and will have an increased confidence and range in their imaginative, vocal and physical expression.

For more information and enrolments visit barkinggecko.com.au or please call Jess on 0439 661 045, but be quick as places are limited.

Auditions. Our next production is about to begin; directed by Tanya Stuart, *Go Bananas* is a crazy comedy about the wackiest airline.

For anyone of any age who would like to be involved in this outrageous play, auditions will be held at the Toodyay Memorial Hall on Tuesday July 18 from 6-8pm.

If you can't make it to audition or simply wish for more information, please contact Tanya on 0409 181 404.

If you have any enquiries about the Toodyay Theatre Group, please feel free to get in touch with us via [facebook.com/ToodyayTheatreGroup](https://www.facebook.com/ToodyayTheatreGroup), by letter to PO Box 402 Toodyay WA 6566 or through one of our members.

Road to Sandakan starts with student research

Sandakan Scholarship Bruce Guthrie

THE TOODYAY RSL in conjunction with the Borneo Exhibition and Education Group WA Inc is again conducting The Sandakan Scholarship.

We endeavour to send two Toodyay students to Borneo each year and we were very disappointed last year that we did not have an applicant to send on tour.

We anticipate that students start this year's research around July 17. Entry and application forms are to be in and completed by September 22.

Students who are successful then proceed to the oral presentation in November. Winners will be announced at school end-of-year presentations in early December.

The Sandakan Scholarship aims to help educate the youth of Toodyay about the courage and sacrifice made by four sons of Toodyay who lost their lives during the infamous Death Marches of Sandakan during World War 2.

They were Reg Ferguson and Bert, Tom and Gordon Dorizzi.

Approximately 2500 Allied Prisoners of War were marched to their death in Borneo and only six survived, escaping with the aid of the local indigenous people.

The students who are successful will tour Borneo in April 2018.

Places they are likely to visit are Sandakan, where it all began, and the memorial which was built on the site of the Prisoner of War Camp.

While in Sandakan they will visit the world famous Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre.

They will also visit: Ranau which was the final destination of the death marches; Kota Kinabalu the capital of Sabah; Kuching the capital of Sarawak and, Labuan Island where the Commonwealth war graves for Borneo are located.

On the tour, they will be accompanied by Malaysian students; they will visit education facilities and learn about the culture and customs of Borneo.

More information including research material listing and scholarship application and criteria are available by calling the scholarship convenor Lou Kidd on 9574 4310 or Peter 9574 2721.

Life-long knitter takes a spin

Toodyay Spinners Ange Sturman and Lois Leeder

OUR AGM, for both Spinners and Felters, will take place on Wednesday August 2 at 10 am in Parker's Cottage.

This month Lois Leeder tells her story. "I have always been a knitter. I knitted my first jumper in high school and have been knitting ever since.

"While visiting Narrogin I saw some women spinning and thought I'd like to try that so I bought my wheel in the early 90s.

"After retiring to Toodyay in 1994 I joined Toodyay Spinners in 1996.

"Though I didn't know anybody, the ladies

were very welcoming and guided me in the art of spinning and helped me understand wool and its qualities.

"Long-lasting friendships were formed very quickly.

"Taking part in two "back-to-back" (from fleece to jumper) challenges was very rewarding.

"Meeting people at spin-ins and Moodyne Festivals is most memorable and young people, both boys and girls, are very interested in this old craft.

"I have been lucky enough to be successful at the Toodyay Agricultural Show with some of my knitted and crocheted articles."

Our members had a lot of items on display and for sale at the Fibre Festival this year. Robyn Warren entered a felted dress as part of the fashion show and won first prize.

Our Spinning Group meets every Wednesday from 9am to noon, and every third Saturday of the month (also from 9am to noon) at Parker's Cottage in the showgrounds.

The Felting Group now meets on the second Monday of each month from noon to 3pm also at Parkers Cottage.

Felting group contact is Jenny Cornwall 9574 5978.

For further information on Toodyay Spinners please contact secretary Heather Jones on 0407 287 002 or president Judy Mackie on 9574 4421.

Advertisement

Barking Gecko ventures to Toodyay

IN TERM 3 Barking Gecko Theatre Company will be launching its first ever Junior Gecko Ensemble in association with Toodyay Theatre Group. Since establishing the Gecko Ensemble Program in 2015, Barking Gecko has grown from one location to four locations across the Perth metropolitan area as well as establishing its first regional ensemble in Broome in 2016.

Many people across the state have recognised the importance of quality, creative learning programs such as Barking Gecko's Ensemble program.

It is important to the theatre company that it is ensuring children from regional and city communities get the chance to take part.

Employing local artists and community minded individuals is vital in having the Gecko Ensemble Program blossom in communities in WA.

Toodyay local Jess Shilcock will be proudly representing Barking Gecko as the company's Junior Gecko Ensemble Teaching Artist.

Jess wears many hats in the town of Toodyay and exemplifies the values and philosophy of Barking Gecko.

Embodying the roles of educator and actor in the Toodyay community, Jess has been an active member of the Toodyay Theatre Group for 15 years and currently teaches at Northam District High School.

Jess's role in Toodyay Theatre Group is not limited to acting as she has taken an active role in sound, lighting, costume and set design for some time now.

This term Jess and the Toodyay Junior Gecko Ensemble will be exploring the theme of Ghosts, Spirits and the Supernatural ahead of a new show that will premiere in 2018.

In a historically rich town such as Toodyay this topic is sure to get the Geckos of Toodyay's minds ticking.

Barking Gecko provides creative spaces for young people to learn skills and explore ideas through the Gecko Ensemble Program. The weekly sessions take place in a joyful, safe and supportive environment, where young people are encouraged to take creative risks.

Gecko Ensembles Weekly Drama Classes for children aged 8 -12

Fun today. Skills for life.

"If I could describe my experience in one word
it would be quite simple - fun!"
- Junior Gecko

Perth's favourite drama program for children is coming to Toodyay from Term 3, 2017. Gecko Ensembles help kids develop reading, speaking and listening skills in a safe and fun environment with expert guidance from our teaching artists.

Gecko Ensembles run every week of the school term and build toward a showing for friends and family at the end of term.

book online at barkinggecko.com.au
or call 08 6212 9399

First class 18 July at
Toodyay Town Hall

Bg TC BARKING GECKO THEATRE COMPANY



Herald advertising price increase

AS FROM July 1, 2017 advertising rates in *The Toodyay Herald* will increase by 6 per cent.

All current contracts will be honoured, so if you have booked your advertising until December 2017, the new price won't apply to you until you renew your booking.

The current advertising rates have not been increased for two years, and the committee made this decision reluctantly.

Since 2015, there have been three increases in the cost of printing the *Herald*.

The Toodyay Herald leases premises at 92b Stirling Terrace and we are responsible for the rent and other outgoings, as well as stationery, postage and minor repairs.

Advertising revenue is our only source of income, so we have few options when costs go up and revenue is not matching those increases.

We try to retain a ratio of 50 per cent advertising to 50 per cent news and other stories. This ensures that we raise the revenue to cover our costs and, by not swamping the pages with advertising, keep the paper interesting for our readers.

Everyone depends on everyone else - if advertisers book more advertising, we have more room for community articles, and if the community supports our advertisers, the businesses continue to support *The Herald*.