

# The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned  
community newspaper  
Est. 1902

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

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## Farmers heave a sigh of relief – here comes the rain

# Hundreds of land owners face huge rates increases

Michael Sinclair-Jones

HUNDREDS of Toodyay land owners will pay up to 50 per cent more in rates this year, and dozens more face rate rises of up to 75 per cent under a new Toodyay Shire Council rating system approved last month.

Shire rates revenue is planned to rise two per cent overall – twice Perth's annual Consumer Price Index – but new differential rates on 1500 popular rural 'lifestyle' blocks will require many land owners – including retirees – to pay much more annually.

Three properties will pay rates increases of more than 75 per cent, while 49 will pay rates increases greater than 50 per cent and 305 others will see their rates increase by more than 20 per cent.

In reply to a question from *The Toodyay Herald* at last month's ordinary council meeting, Shire President David Dow said rural owners with "mansions" on residential blocks would be required to pay higher rates.

His response followed a council decision two weeks earlier to reclassify hundreds of 'life-style' properties on rural subdivisions from Unimproved Value (UV) to Gross Rental Value (GRV) for rating purposes.

"The proposed rate increase is modest and much less than was contemplated in the Strategic Community Plan," Shire CEO Stan Scott reported to the earlier special council meeting, which was attended by only two ratepayers.

"This is reflective of changed economic circumstances.

"There are several properties where the change from UV to GRV will result in a substantial increase in rates.

"While it could be argued that these properties have been getting a very good deal for a long time, there will still be

considerable angst associated with the changes."

Mr Scott's recommendation to adopt the new rates was moved by Deputy President Therese Chitty, seconded by Cr Paula Greenway and carried 7-0, with Cr Sally Craddock absent from the meeting.

*Continued Page 5.*

## Shire forced to tighten belt as road funds cut

TOODYAY will lose tens of thousands of dollars in roadworks money this year under a \$10 million cut in State road funding.

WA Transport Minister Rita Saffioti said the cuts were needed after a State Government bid to scrap local government concessions worth \$10 million on motor vehicle licences was blocked in Parliament by Opposition parties last month.

Ms Saffioti said local government councils that had budgeted to pay for motor vehicle licences this year would now be expected to spend that money on roads instead.

Toodyay Shire President David Dow said the cut came as no surprise.

"It reduces our road funding by \$53,685," he said.

"Our draft budget has been framed in the knowledge that funding from the State Government will be constrained by their need to reduce inherited debt.

"As our budget has not been finalised we will make whatever adjustments are necessary to accommodate the reduction in funding for roads.

"This may mean we reduce our road program accordingly or more likely apply council funds to the shortfall and reduce our proposed small budget surplus to a wafer-thin surplus.

"We must hope there are no budget shocks, no further reductions in State funding and no significant contingencies in the next year."

*Continued Page 3.*

Nunile farmer Frank Panizza's photo (above) of his new wheat crop captures the welcome arrival of late winter rains, while Julimar resident Lou Kidd's image (below) of morning dew on a fresh dryandra bloom in Dawn Atwell Reserve heralds the onset of another spectacular local Spring wildflower season.



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# The Toodyay Herald

The Toodyay Herald is a free monthly newspaper published and owned by a not-for-profit incorporated association - The Toodyay Herald Inc. Contributions via email or on flash drive are preferred. There is no charge for articles that appear in the paper.

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

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

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

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

## MEMBERSHIP

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

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## THANK YOU

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

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# Ol' Blind Joe

## You little pearler

### Stirling Hamilton

I'VE GOT a friend over in Scotland called Rose to whom once in a while I send photos of horses, ridden or accompanied by a woman, and I'd just posted a couple yesterday.

The next moment I heard a Monty Pythonesque, coconut-clapping, clippity-clop of a certain beast and sure enough this lovely lady had ridden her horse down my driveway and was just having a look at country.

I wandered out for a chat and took some photos while savouring the extraordinary synchronicity of the moment.

"Life is made up of a few moments all strung together like pearls," wrote Cherokee author, film-maker and philosopher Joyce Sequichie Hilfer.

"Each moment is a pearl, and it is up to us to pick the ones with the highest lustre.

"If we do not have time to do great things, take a few gentle moments and do small things in a great way."

One of the loveliest aspects of living out here is that along with finding open-hearted people everywhere you go, you've got no traffic lights to interrupt your journey.

Sadly, most of the places I've lived have become victims of their own simple charms.

Hippies founded these gems against the odds - San Francisco, Noosa, Nimbin and Byron Bay all sparkled in their heyday as they embraced with a besotted heart both the itinerant traveller and nature herself.

But in the eighties I saw the price of Byron Bay properties double in one year as hip Sydneysiders flashed their money, snorted cocaine and basked in their new status.

Where I lived on Wilsons Creek was a planning department nightmare but despite a lack of electricity it was our little slice of heaven.

They filmed several scenes for the 1986 Australian movie *Crocodile Dundee* next door to us, and lead actor Paul Hogan bought a huge place downriver as well as the Byron pub and turned it into a multi-million-dollar yuppie paradise.

Nowadays, you couldn't buy enough land there to build a dunny for under a million dollars.

I truly hope that Toodyay can retain her old worldly charms and resist the worst pressures of commercialisation lurking behind the scenes.

Otherwise, we may end up watching the disappearance of our simple little pleasures, following one another softly, like pearls slipping off a string.

Toodyay is unquestionably a niche marketing bonanza with fabled local colonial bushranger Moondyne Joe, our close proximity to Perth and recognition among flatlanders.

Sensitive crafting of this image which is already seeded in the public's mind seems to make long-term sense even if we're not sure yet where it will lead us.

My sincerest hope is that we focus on the authenticity of our history rather than the

opaque objectives of various funding bodies.

When I was on Toodyay's Moondyne Festival Committee way back in the dim, dark and distant past, I don't remember any concerns about funding sources.

You did what you could with what you had and muddled on through, yet we always landed on our feet.

Well nowadays my feet want to hit the frog and toad as soon as I hear terms like 'business plans' and 'performance reviews'.

These funding bodies come with more strings than a marionette and in recent years these stuck-up prima donnas have decided that we can't have a cleavage competition any more because it doesn't fit their corporate image.

Bah, humbug - these puritanical worshippers at the altar of Mammon deserve not a seat at our table.

Moondyne Joe was the quintessential bushranger who never hurt another man and simply kept escaping and embarrassing the colonial authorities.

Back in the eighties, Japanese visitors were the bread and butter of east coast tourism.

Big study done.

Result - Japanese say: "All bullshit, they just take us shopping, where is some bloke light a fire and cook some damper, we go there."

It's not rocket science.

Folks will walk an extra mile for the real deal and we need to make it worth their while.

In all the years I did the Moondyne Festival, the most awestruck crowd I remember was one watching Lambo being hand-shorn in front of the Vic Hotel.

Fortunately, the health and safety nut jobs were down the road hassling the temperance ladies over the sharp corners of their cardboard signs.

There is a yearning across the globe for a return to simpler times and I can envisage Toodyay as a rejuvenation hub for jaded flatlanders needing a recharge.

Meanwhile, I've been watching big trees dancing on the breeze and note the lovely patch of blue sky above surrounded by a dark grey doughnut of impending wetness which bodes well for the Avon Descent, pastures, crops and dams.

A wandering minstrel just emerged from the mist and whispered to me that some fine music will be had at the Freemasons Hotel from seven 'til eleven on the Saturday evening after the last canoeists paddle wearily to their overnight camp.

Who remembers the old days out at Cobblers Pool on the Saturday night with a hundred parties raging, bonfires galore and doughnuts aplenty while the poor bloody canoeists tried to sleep?

Ah, the memories - I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now.

"True beauty is measured by the number of pearls within you, not those around your neck." - from *Rise Up and Salute the Sun: The Writings of Suzy Kassem*, US author (1975-).

## FEEDBACK

## Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

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

## The Toodyay Herald

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

August - September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Sep 1	2

# They go wherever the wind blows

Ieva Tomsons

KIWIS have been crossing 'the ditch' to the 'big island' since the late 1800s and many have come to roost in Morangup.

The prospect of making a better living, recessions in New Zealand in the '60s and '70s and global financial crisis accelerated the rate of migration until recently when the economic fortunes of the two countries reversed the tide across the Tasman Sea.

Morangup windmill and pump specialists Kay and Tim Henry thought they'd try their luck in Australia in 1978 and crossed the desert crammed into a sedan with their kids aged three, five and nine.

"We thought we'd stay for a year, make a bloody fortune and go home," laughs Tim.

An advertised position for a carpenter at Graylands Mental Hospital drew a long line of applicants which Tim assumed were patients lining up for medication.

Bypassing the queue, Tim headed straight for the office only to be sent packing – back to the end of the line.

After 10 days of fruitless searching for a job, the family headed north to Geraldton where Tim secured a job on Koolan Island which he thought was "just off the coast".

"I thought I'd be home for the weekend," said Tim who was shocked to learn Koolan was 1700km away in the Kimberleys.

"There was no FIFO in those days," said Kay who remained in town with the kids while Tim worked seven months straight before getting a permanent position at a mineral sands plant.

A broken-down windmill at their rental property was the start of Tim's fascination with mills.

"He was up there all the time, studying the bloomin' thing," said Kay.

Although the family stayed in Geraldton for eight years, they were already on the lookout to buy land in the Perth Hills.

In 1981 they paid \$19,000 for sixteen and a half acres (6.7ha) in the first of three Morangup subdivisions, known then as Rolling Green.

"Rolling Green," scoffs Tim "more like Rolling Brown or Rolling Rocks."

"It was scrub bush, some trees and dryandra," recalls Kay.

In 1986 they erected a massive shed that Tim had prefabricated in Geraldton and progressively modified to accommodate the family for the next 20 years.

Building a 'proper' house went onto the back-burner as the couple found their niche in windmill installation and repair.

They bought their first broken-down mill for \$50 in Dowerin in 1988 but couldn't find



Kay and Tim fooling around on the first mill they built on their home block in Morangup's Rolling Green estate in 1988. Photo: Corey Chapman.

anyone who would install it for a reasonable price so they put it up themselves.

It's still going strong and provides water for their extensive garden.

By 1990 the business had taken off and as the kids grew up Kay became Tim's permanent offsider on jobs that took them throughout the state.

Working many metres above the ground in often hot and remote locations is not for the faint-hearted and die-hard pastoralists couldn't believe that Kay was there to do the job.

"At first, one wouldn't even acknowledge me," said Kay who compares mill installation to having her own giant Meccano set.

Tim enjoys the challenge of installing big mills with his personal best being a 17-foot (5m) fan mounted on a 60-foot (18m) tower in Kulin.

Despite the inherent dangers of windmill

construction, the Henrys have never fallen off or been sliced by a fan blade and both advise that one of the major hazards is falling tools.

"Never stand under a windmill when someone is working up above," said Kay.

As solar pumps replaced windmills, the Henrys adapted and Tim secured government contracts to maintain the watering points along the Canning Stock Route.

Tim and Kay are in many ways quintessential Kiwi expats – hard workers who are willing to have a go at whatever comes their way.

As permanent residents for nearly 40 years, they have long since given up calling a thong a 'jandal' or an esky a 'chilly bin' but they still call New Zealand 'home' – well, sort of.

"I'm leaving home to go home for a holiday," said Kay who at 72 still scales a windmill with ease.

## Advertising in the Herald costs less

AFTER deciding reluctantly last month to increase our advertising charges because of higher production costs, we are now delighted to discover that we can knock 10 per cent off those prices thanks to a recent inquiry to the Australian Tax Office.

This is because *The Toodyay Herald* newspaper is owned by a not-for-profit incorporated association with an annual turnover of less than \$150,000, which makes it GST-exempt.

The ATO has confirmed that our growing number of advertising clients don't have to pay an extra 10 per cent GST to promote their products and services in *The Herald*.

This saving is in addition to our regular 25 per cent discount for Toodyay's many not-for-profit community organisations, which we offer in recognition and support for their valued role in our community.

### Six times cheaper

ADVERTISING in *The Toodyay Herald* is six times cheaper than in other local newspapers and your ad remains current for a whole month instead of only a week or less when published elsewhere.

In addition, *Herald* readership has risen at least 60 per cent in the past four years, which means your advert is far more widely read than in other local publications which have much smaller local distributions.

Our performance contrasts with Roy Morgan Research which shows that readership of other papers such as *The West Australian*, *The Weekend West* and *The Sunday Times* has fallen 28.8 per cent in the past three years.

Advertising in other local newspapers sends your money to giant media companies owned by multi-national corporations and major financial institutions that compete to make higher profits for their shareholders.

Advertising in the not-for-profit *Herald* keeps your dollars in Toodyay where it is reinvested locally to help keep you better informed about everything that goes on in your local community.

Our new GST-free prices are on Page 2.

## Road funds cut

*Continued from Page 1.*

LOCAL WA Nationals MP Shane Love said direct road grants to local government councils had been slashed by 42 per cent.

"The McGowan Government has once again shown its contempt for regional WA by making short-sighted and damaging cuts to vital road infrastructure funding," he said.

"Local governments will either have to increase rates or reduce their road maintenance programs."

Mr Love repeated his party's call for a 20-fold increase in the State's decades-old 25c a tonne fee charged to major iron ore miners BHP and Rio Tinto to enable the WA Government to reduce State debt and help fund vital WA infrastructure projects.

Meanwhile, Main Roads WA says it will start geotechnical studies on Toodyay Road between the townsites and Dryandra Road to "identify material for potential road construction".

Excavators, backhoes, hard rock drills and dozers will be used to excavate and sample underlying rock and soil for testing," a Main Roads WA spokesperson said.

The agency is currently seeking State Government funds to upgrade a 35km stretch between Toodyay and Dryandra Road.



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# The Toodyay Herald

## Green at last

THE LAND has at last turned green and banished any fears that this year's winter rains might never come.

The mighty Avon River is again flowing fast, just in time – as always – for the annual whitewater river race that means so much to local traders struggling to weather tough financial times.

Relieved farmers are nevertheless casting a wary eye forward because they know that late-developing crops still have to run the double gauntlet of cruel spring frosts and a hot dry summer that may come too soon.

Weather is never predictable, but local records suggest that declining rainfall may alter the course of how we adapt to living in the Avon Valley.

For the present we can rejoice in the proliferation of this season's early wildflowers – blooming everywhere on reserves and bush blocks with the promise of more spectacular displays to come.

This is Toodyay – jewel of the Avon Valley and traditional home of the Ballardong people, who have seen nature reveal its bounty on these green slopes and lush valleys for tens of thousands of years.

Take a moment to dip your fingers in the flowing waters, breathe the crisp morning air and – as Stirling Hamilton writes in his excellent Ol' Blind Joe column on Page 2 this month – treat each moment as a pearl to be picked.

## How to explain?

OUR HAPLESS shire council appears to have foisted yet another public relations disaster upon itself, this time with only two months to go until the next elections.

Shire rates are set to rise astronomically for hundreds of residents on Toodyay's popular rural 'lifestyle' bush blocks.

Yet there have been no public meetings or council forums to explain why.

Shire CEO Stan Scott warned councillors last month that the "substantial" increases would cause "considerable angst".

However, his suggestion that "these properties have been getting a very good deal for a long time" will be cold comfort to those ratepayers facing huge increases.

Instead of being prepared with well-reasoned public arguments to support its case, our shire appears to have been blindsided by an inability to see beyond the myopic bubble inside which it operates.

Openness, transparency and public accountability are the hallmarks of all democratic public institutions.

Those who ignore it do so at their own peril.

Michael Sinclair-Jones  
Editor

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

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The way we were – this 1931 photograph donated by Les Harders shows his father Harry Harders with Alf Younger and Les Flynn working on construction of the Stirling Terrace building now occupied by Tony Maddox Real Estate. Inset: The completed building, which was first occupied by The Toodyay Herald newspaper. From Newcastle Gaol collection.

## LETTERS

### Herald disappoints

AFTER reading last month's edition of *The Toodyay Herald*, I needed to write and let the paper know how disappointed I am with its reporting regarding the Toodyay Shire Council.

It seems that the only reports on the shire are of a negative nature.

I am sure that the shire councillors would agree that they have made some regrettable decisions, which would be the case with most shires.

I would like to see *The Toodyay Herald* publish some positive articles regarding the shire.

For example, the commencement of eight new Butterfly Cottages aged-care units that should be completed in June 2018.

The completion of the community depot known as the Toodyay Junction which houses many varied community groups.

Funding for the upgrade of Anzac Memorial Park which will be completed in time for the 2018 celebrations (with the loss of no trees).

Lobbying to help save the AvonLink. Continuing lobbying of the State Government for the Toodyay bypass.

The financial help to local groups to the value of \$50,000 as per 2016/17 budget.

I know that a local real estate office distributes copies of *The Toodyay Herald* to customers that are looking to relocate to our wonderful town.

I think it would be nice that they can read that the shire is trying to better our community.

I also would like to know why our local dentist Michael McGuinness was not acknowledged in *The Toodyay Herald* for his AM when he was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia in the 2016 Queen's Birthday honours list?

Out of the 21,000 dentists in Australia, Michael and another dentist from Queensland received this prestigious award.

We should be so proud and privileged to have such a wonderful dentist in our town.

I feel it was very remiss of the *Herald* not to report on this wonderful achievement. It should have been a front-page article.

On a positive note, thank you for the great story on Josephine Broderick in the last edition.

Great to read about wonderful people like Mrs Broderick, who I have known all my life, who have contributed to making our town the fantastic place that it is.

Serena Syred  
Bejoording

*Ed: All but one of the above items was covered in 'Our Shire News, which the Toodyay Shire Council discontinued in June. The Herald published additional news stories that included \$110,000 in shire funding for Anzac Memorial Park (August 2016), shire lobbying for a new heavy-haulage route (November 2016), Butterfly Cottages construction (February and March (2017), AvonLink Supporters Group (June 2017) and a Page 3 picture story on Toodyay dental*

surgeon Michael McGuinness listing his achievements over a long and distinguished career to win a national medal (December 2013). The *Herald* is staffed by volunteers who rely on community members to provide news – we were not told about last October's Queen's Birthday award until several months later, by which time it was no longer news.

### Why no shire centre pages?

IT IS disappointing that the Shire of Toodyay seems to have stopped providing readers of *The Toodyay Herald* with information about its activities.

Where have the regular Shire of Toodyay centre pages gone?

Many local government authorities convey general information about their activities to ratepayers through local newspapers.

It is surprising that this doesn't seem to be the case any more in the Shire of Toodyay. Why?

Is the shire concerned about the *Herald's* coverage of shire business and council meetings?

If so, this seems very short-sighted. Openness, transparency and accountability are essential to good governance.

As a part-time Toodyay resident for the past 10 years, I look forward to every issue of *The Toodyay Herald* – particularly under the present editorship.

Not only does it inform us about local activities but most importantly it shines a fearless light on local issues.

The hallmarks of good journalism are truth and accuracy, independence, fairness and impartiality, and accountability.

From my observations, these are the high standards that *The Toodyay Herald* aims for.

The facts about each issue are hunted out, verified, and weighed up to reach a balanced evidence-based conclusion which is presented to the reader.

This is a difficult task in a local community particularly where local politics are concerned.

As I'm sure many councillors would attest, those whom we elect to local government work hard and face many challenging issues.

It is understandable that some resent criticism, even if well-founded.

Nevertheless, the people of Toodyay need an independent voice like *The Toodyay Herald* to help us understand the major issues affecting the community.

Jenny Gregory  
Dumbarton

### Mural just doesn't cut it

I AM DISAPPOINTED with the design shown of Toodyay's first public mural.

Part of this, admittedly, is due to my personal antipathy to the naive school of art it follows but mostly it is because of the 'white Anglo male' attitude it seems to perpetuate.

Is the mural supposed to indicate that the broad cross-section of our community is actively engaged in keeping our town beautiful? To show that litter is everyone's responsibility? If so, it fails.

Where are Toodyay's elderly depicted?

One bloke of indeterminate years with a hat and beard hardly seems representative.

Where are Toodyay's women depicted? One young person in a skirt doesn't cut it.

Other ethnicities? I'm sure we have them. The disabled? Likewise.

Then there are the failures of logic. Someone crawling around hedges and verges bagging rubbish in a skirt, or in white pants? Highly unlikely and not to be encouraged I would have thought.

Health and safety-wise the preponderance of short sleeves and scarcity of hats/gloves in the background figures is also a concern.

Before we spend \$10,000 of Toodyay's scarce resources on this, can we please rethink the design to ensure it reflects our current vibrant, inclusive, safety-conscious community and not the divisive, discriminatory prejudices and practices of a, thankfully, bygone era?

We are better than this.

Marion Pathey-Johns  
Toodyay

### Cullalla caper

I ENJOYED reading Ron Waters' account of the Cullalla Train robbery in the May edition of *The Toodyay Herald*.

I would add that the money stolen was destined for Midland rail station officers, permanent way gangs, coal stage workers and engine crews.

I was a Midland Railway worker and the robbery at Cullalla resulted in the pay master being demoted and the guard reprimanded because the rule was that one or the other was to stay in the brake van at all times.

I think that the Midland Railway bosses might have been aware that this may have been a common practice at Cullalla.

The Midland Railway terminated at Walkaway where there were two station masters, one from Midland Railway and one WA Government Railway station master.

Colin George  
Morangup

More Letters next page.

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# Hundreds to pay huge increases

Continued from Page 1.

EIGHT farmers will pay rates increases of more than 20 per cent and 73 will have rate increases of more than 10 per cent.

Eleven other farmers will see their rates fall by more than 20 per cent and a further 44 will have their rates bills cut by more than 10 per cent.

Farms are rated only on their unimproved value as agricultural land.

Rural residential properties previously rated UV will now be rated like town properties for their potential annual rental value based on dwelling age, size and construction materials, number of bedrooms and bathrooms and other features such as swimming pools and outbuildings.

Mr Scott's report said 554 former UV properties reclassified as GRV Rural Residential will pay lower rates this year, but he did not say by how much.

A further 236 properties in that category will remain on minimum rates, which this year will be \$1290 – \$25 (two per cent) more than last year.

The shire has until August 31 to finalise its budget and is required by law to advertise the new rates in a public notice published in a newspaper to give ratepayers 21 days in which to lodge submissions.

## Vote deadline nears

RATEPAYERS and other local residents – including tenants – have until 5pm Friday September 1 to check if they are enrolled to vote at their correct address for this year's Toodyay Shire Council elections.

Unlike in previous years, elections for five seats on the nine-member council will be by postal ballot, with voting papers mailed to people's addresses in reply-paid envelopes.

The election is on Saturday October 21.

People not enrolled at their correct address will not receive a ballot paper and will not be able to vote.

Voters can check their status online at [elections.wa.gov.au](http://elections.wa.gov.au), click on 'enrol', and 'check your enrolment'.

Postal voting aims to encourage greater voter participation in Toodyay Shire Council elections, which resulted in only a 29.8 per cent turn-out in 2015 when local electors had to vote 'in-person' at a polling station.

Voting in WA local government council elections is not compulsory.



Toodyay shire rangers and RSPCA inspectors lead a rescue operation to save the remnants of hundreds of starving sheep in a bare paddock on Racecourse Road after the discovery of "unnatural piles of bodies around the property".

# Local farmer fined \$50,000 for mass cruelty to sheep was repeat offender

Michael Sinclair-Jones

A TOODYAY farmer fined \$50,000 last month for mass cruelty to sheep was a repeat offender, the RSPCA has revealed.

Clinton Wheatley was previously convicted in Geraldton for cruelty to sheep 17 years ago, an RSPCA spokesman said.

There is no official tally of the number of sheep that starved to death in the latest incident but a statement of facts to the Perth Magistrate's Court noted "unnatural piles of bodies around the property".

Mr Wheatley pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay a total of \$20,000 in costs, taking his total penalty to \$70,000.

He was also given a four-year conditional probation order to reduce his flock and have it undergo monthly assessments by an animal husbandry expert.

The case was reported to the RSPCA animal cruelty hotline on 1300 278 3589 after a large number of sheep dead or dying were seen in a bare paddock (pictured above) north of Racecourse Road in March 2014.

A vet who attended said some were in such bad condition that they could not be saved.

The sheep were so starved that they had started to break down muscle tissue after being deprived of adequate food for a

prolonged period, the vet said.

RSPCA inspectors mounted a rescue operation, and a farmer from West Toodyay use his fire truck to help them water and feed the surviving sheep.

The RSPCA said the sheep were directly across the road from another paddock owned by Mr Wheatley where there was sufficient feed to have kept them alive.

The case made national news and was reported by some overseas news services.

Mr Wheatley told *The Herald* later that he had pleaded guilty to animal cruelty only because of a "technicality under the Act".

"I'm a bit cranky about it," he said.

"The law says you have to cater for the whole flock, and there was feed just over the hill on the other side of the paddock but only the leaders went to it – the tail didn't go."

Mr Wheatley – who lives in the Swan Valley – claimed the RSPCA had "overstated" the case against him and that only eight of his flock of 300 sheep had died after being put down by RSPCA inspectors.

He said the rest were moved to a paddock across Racecourse Road, shorn and sold.

"Other farmers need to be very careful about the nutritional regulations defined in the Act," Mr Wheatley said.

He said the fact that he had a previous

conviction for cruelty to sheep was "history" and had nothing to do with the latest case.

## Two Toodyay businesses win Wheatbelt awards

LOCAL BUTCHER The Meat Hook Toodyay has won this year's Excellence in Innovation Award at a Wheatbelt Business Network awards night in Bindoon.

The Stirling Terrace business operates a traditional butchery with local produce and freshly made goods sourced from Avon Valley farms.

"This is a team effort – thank you to Dave and Sam for their hard work, and thank you to all our customers for your support," co-owner Anthea Brown said.

The Space Place astronomy centre and Cartref Park Country Gardens in Julimar won an award for best business with 5-10 employees.

Another Stirling Terrace business – Toodyay Growers Market, Tea for Toodyay – was also among the 13 awards night finalists.

Continued from previous page.

## LETTERS

### Not so fast on public mural

PLEASE LET'S slow down choosing a picture for Toodyay's first public mural in Charcoal Lane (last month's *Herald*) and not make a hasty decision.

I acknowledge the work of the Toodyay Tidy Towns Committee and many others who have strived for years to achieve so much for Toodyay.

They have promoted the concept for a community art space in the form of a mural and successfully started fund raising.

The mural project is a very exciting concept in line with a Shire of Toodyay corporate business plan that includes "activities to support the preservation and development of Toodyay's heritage culture, in order to enrich community identity, and to improve the visitor's experience of Toodyay and its people".

Public art – particularly in country towns – is growing throughout Australia and Toodyay has an amazing history that can be translated in a public mural art project.

Silo paintings like those on the Toodyay-Northam Road are also being supported by government and private partnerships in NSW, Victoria, SA and Tasmania.

Public art is regarded as hugely nourishing for residents and a boon for tourism.

It is insightful, brave and forward-thinking that the Shire of Toodyay, Tidy Towns Committee and many others have embraced the idea of our first public mural.

However, I believe the concept design revealed in last month's *Herald* is not ideal for the town's heritage precinct, in which it will sit.

It's a great wall space crying out for a mural but I suggest we first build a solid foundation for community art by asking the shire to draft a local arts policy before deciding on any murals.

Such a policy needs to establish short and long-term goals for all public art.

It can include murals, sculptures, interactive street arts, landscaping and other art forms to reflect our heritage, history, culture and achievements.

Our forebears have handed on a heritage to hold with care.

We can tell a great story through public art that defines our town.

It may delay completion of Toodyay's first public mural but will establish clear guidelines for future decisions.

I urge everyone to become involved by writing to the shire before the August 11 deadline and ask that we slow this project down and go back to the drawing board.

Other inspirational public murals in WA and throughout Australia can be seen at [form.net.au](http://form.net.au).

Margaret Sommerville  
Toodyay

**IN MOORE WITH LOVE**

Congratulations to the **Toodyay Men's Shed** who recently marked the long awaited beginning of works on their very own shed with a turning of the sod ceremony. This has been made possible thanks to Lotterywest funds of \$199,504, cooperation from the Shire of Toodyay and the hard work and determination of shed members. Across the country, the network of Men's Sheds have proven to be vitally important for wellbeing and mental health, providing a venue where men can get together and work on projects with purpose. In fact the whole community benefits!

It was a great honour to join the **Morangup Progress Association** for their Christmas in July event recently. The MPA served up a fantastic meal and it was a pleasure to catch up with the Morangup locals there.

If you have an opinion on **Vocational Education** in schools, your feedback would be appreciated before August 7. Whether you are a parent or a representative from industry, please help to shape this sector for the future. Go to: <http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/parliament/commit.nsf/WCurrentCommitteesByName>

Nominations for the 2017 **WA Youth Awards** are open until 31 August. These awards recognize those aged 12 to 25 years who make a positive contribution to our communities. More information: <https://www.yacwa.org.au/major-events/wa-youth-awards-2017/>

**Shane Love** MLC  
Member for Moore

**THE NATIONALS**

**Darren West**

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# \$100-a-day drug habits feed local crime

## Police Beat

With Sgt Warren Conder  
Toodyay Police Station



LAST month saw an increase in burglaries and thefts in Toodyay, and two domestic assaults.

One person was charged and police inquiries are continuing into the other matters.

Sgt Conder said drug addiction often led to local crimes of this nature.

"Toodyay is no different to any other town in this state or country," he said.

"Drugs are everywhere.

"About 70 per cent of people who use cannabis or methamphetamines (ice or crystal meth) are 'recreational users' who others would never guess use drugs.

"They are everyday people with steady jobs – it could be you or your neighbour and nobody else would know.

"But another 30 per cent are often heavily addicted and use crime to pay for their costly drug habit."

Sgt Conder said drug users who became addicts soon found themselves needing to spend up to \$100 a day to feed their cravings – and some daily drug users needed even more.

"Their life, structure and family networks rapidly disappear," he said.

"Their marriages break down, they lose their friends, families and jobs, and their children always suffer.

"This usually happens over a short period of time.

"It's more a medical problem but because addicted drug users can become violent or desperate to get money to buy more drugs, that's when police become involved from a law enforcement perspective."

Sgt Conder urged Toodyay people in the grip of drug addiction to seek help through their doctor or contact support agencies that can be reached by phone or online.

He said most drugs entered the town by road or train from Perth, Northam, Midland or WA's north.

"Drugs are everywhere – Toodyay, Goomalling, Northam – everywhere," Sgt Conder said.

"We know that because we see the effect in our everyday work.

"Some of Toodyay's 3500 residents know about it but do nothing.

"It's a community health issue that needs more local support to help make our community safer for everyone, including those suffering from drug addiction."



Rest break at Sukhbaatar in Northern Mongolia, near the border with Russian Siberia.

### Warm weather caution

THE ONSET of warmer weather has prompted Toodyay police to urge local residents to take extra care with their personal property as more visitors come to town to enjoy Spring in the Avon Valley.

"Please don't leave your car unlocked and don't leave handbags, wallets and keys unattended on the front seat or in the supermarket trolley when shopping – it's only inviting trouble," Sgt Conder said.

"It's also a good idea to have adequate lighting around your home at night.

"Don't be afraid to invest in a couple of video surveillance cameras – they're cheap, act as a deterrent and can provide police with valuable evidence if you get robbed.

"Also, please call police if you see anything suspicious – it's always better to be safe than sorry."

### Livestock near-miss

FARMERS are again urged to check fences and gates after two near-misses with livestock on local roads last month.

"I almost hit a big cream-coloured cow on the Bindi Bindi Road in Bejoording last month after coming around a corner at 110km/h," Sgt Conder said.

"Two days earlier closer to town, I came across six sheep on the road.

"This is a timely reminder to farmers to check their fences and livestock.

"I understand how difficult this can be, particularly if kangaroos or emus damage fences around paddocks.

"However, livestock owners are ultimately responsible and may be liable for any accident caused by stray farm animals on public roads.

"It's seen in law as a negligent act that can land you in court for causing damage, injury or death."

Sgt Conder said anyone encountering livestock on public roads should report it immediately to a shire ranger on 9574 9370, which diverts to a mobile phone after hours.

"Stray livestock are particularly dangerous for motorbikes, which we see a lot of in this town," Sgt Conder said.

"We also get lots of visitors from the city who don't know how to drive in the country and don't expect to suddenly see livestock on the road in front of them.

"Keeping our local farm animals secure will help reduce the chance of serious accidents on our roads."



Sgt Conder meets a local family at Karkhoroum, Mongolia's original capital.

### Dirt-bike Mongolia

RIDING 2758km in nine days on a 125cc Yamaha dirt bike in 40C heat might not be everybody's idea of a fun trip but that's exactly what Sgt Conder did on his holidays recently to help raise money for sick kids.

And to make it even more challenging, the police charity ride was through remote outback Mongolia where participants – 12 riders and two support crews – slept in tents.

"We rode 240km on one particular day on goat tracks, over steep mountain passes and across swollen river crossings in some of the roughest terrain I have ever experienced," Sgt Conder said.

"All our riders were pushed to the limit with rocks and holes everywhere, roaming livestock and extreme heat.

"I've been riding bikes for more than 40 years and can honestly say this particular ride put my skills to the test.

"Most of all I really felt the pain – day after day of dirt bike riding really hurts."

The big policeman who normally rides a powerful Yamaha 1100 motorcycle in Toodyay said the much smaller dirt bike seemed tiny at first but soon turned out to be ideal for the rough terrain.

The Mongolian ride was part of a police Bright Blue Sick Children project to help raise awareness and funds for children suffering burns in the landlocked Third World country between China and Russia.

Sgt Conder said about 25 per cent of all children in Mongolia suffered burns that required medical intervention – an alarming rate of injury in a country where fire is commonly used for cooking and heating.

The ride was coordinated by WA Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan and raised a total of \$60,000 to enable international surgical-aid charity organisation Interplast to visit Mongolia for eight days this month to treat up to 250 children, some requiring surgical skin grafts.

Sgt Conder, who personally raised \$2860, said he wished to thank the Toodyay Lions Club, Toodyay Op Shop and "some wonderful community members who helped me on the way".

Next year, Sgt Conder plans to return to his regular annual police Wall 2 Wall motorcycle ride from Perth to Canberra to raise funds for kids with cancer.

## Phishers and scammers still trawling the net

Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association  
Desraé Clarke

AUSTRALIAN banks, National, Bendigo and the Commonwealth are currently targets of a phishing campaign.

Deceptive messages have been sent to bank clients by email, SMS and social media platforms requesting sensitive personal information such as online banking or credit card details or other information to be used for identity theft or fraud.

Several different forms of deceptive messages have been received by National and Bendigo Bank clients such as SMS messages stating that the bank client's account was locked with a link provided to a site where the client's details could be verified.

The Commonwealth Bank clients were asked to verify their login details and personal verification questions for an update.

Your bank or financial institution will never send a message with a link asking you to confirm or verify personal banking information.

To learn more about phishing contact scamwatch.gov.au where you can also report the experience to Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Visit facebook.com/staysmartonline or staysmartonline.gov.au or send an email to StaySmartOnline@ag.gov.au.

Toodyay Police can be contacted on 9574 9995 and Crimestoppers, 1800 333 000.

## No computer lasts forever

Computer Safety  
Phil Hart

COMPUTERS are like cars. They all need looking after, and they all wear out.

As a rule of thumb, desktop computers for the home tend to last about five years and desktop computers for business can be expected to run for about three years.

For laptops, it is three years for personal use, and two years for business use.

Tablets and smartphones tend to last for as long as the battery is capable of storing power, and that is much more unpredictable.

They also tend to get dropped and sat on, which can break them immediately.

If your computer does not last as long, then you are unlucky. I know of one computer which ran for 15 years in a shop.

There are a few things that you can do that sometimes prolong the life of your computer.

Switching off your computer slightly reduces the aging that goes on inside it. It also saves electricity.

Remove old files and folders that you no longer need, or archive them to a CD or DVD.

Defragment your hard drive periodically.

Use your anti-virus program or similar to remove old and stale files created by Windows, Internet Explorer and Microsoft Edge.

Make sure that your hard drive has at least 25 per cent free space at all times.

When it comes to buying a replacement device, things will probably have changed from the previous time you bought anything like it.

The web browser may be different. The same goes for your email client, Office apps, and Windows itself.

These changes are unavoidable as software from 10 years ago is often unable to run on today's computers.

Just when you have got used to using your old computer, you have to start learning all over again.

Deciding what replacement computer to buy can be a challenge. Seek expert advice on this.

Failing all else, talk to your favourite retail outlet.

There is no reliable way of predicting which brands will last longer than other brands.

If your computer fails within the first 12 months, you can expect it to be covered by warranty.

Transferring all your important files to your new computer also needs to be thought about and done.

You will feel a great sigh of relief once you have got your new computer working properly.

# TOODYAY

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## EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Flat, wide firebreaks save firies' lives

## Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

### Julimar

Alison Wroth

EACH month for the past two years I have been trying to provide readers with information on fire concerns from my own perspective as a non-firefighter and farmer as well as the Julimar Brigade's point of view.

It all depended on the weather and the time of year as to what I came up with.

Preaching about spraying weeds around the home and keeping firebreaks in order were common discussion points.

I have decided to take a back seat and a bit of a rest and let someone who knows a bit more about fire prevention to take the wheel.

### Firebreaks

EVERY year, around rates time, the Shire of Toodyay kindly sends us brochures about firebreaks.

What's the story? What are they and what benefits do they provide? Why do we need them?

A 'firebreak' suggests that it's a place where a fire will stop but that doesn't fit when we learn that the fire has 'crossed the road'.

Surely this means that a three-metre-wide patch of earth is not going to be a 'break' for a fire.

And the answer is 'yes' and 'no'. Let's head back to the beginning and see where that leads us.

Firstly, fire fighters need to have one priority – safety.

They need to: safely approach a fire; fight the fire from a safe vantage point; safely get on and off their fire appliances; have a safe place to go to and, have a safe area from which to light an authorised backburn.

It's dangerous enough out there so we need to provide some extra safety nets for them to do their jobs.

So, on approaching the fire, a firebreak can be a fire access and egress.

It needs to be 3m wide because the larger fire trucks are 2.5m wide; it needs to be 4m high because fire trucks are now being produced that are up to 3.2m high.

Years ago, in Julimar Forest, the 'firebreaks' were so poor that the Julimar 2.4 fire truck lost its radio communications because the overhanging branches were so low that they swept the aerial off the roof, and the mirrors were slammed against the side of the vehicle so the driver couldn't see anything behind it. There was nowhere safe to go.



New captain Wade Robson with Runaway Bride Karen Dore. Photo: Lou Kidd.

Luckily, no fire fighters were trapped or hurt because of it – that time.

Unless the fire is moving so rapidly that it would be insane to be in front of it, firebreaks can be used as a safe vantage point to fight the fire.

The front of the fire moves at twice the speed of the flanks or sides of the fire; it moves four times the speed of the rear of the fire so fire fighters usually attack the fire from the rear, moving up the sides and pinching off the burning bits.

Firebreaks can be used to help or machinery



Eddy Porter (left) and Geoff Ebdon pull their Christmas in July cracker. Photo: Lou Kidd.

is brought in to create breaks from which to attack the fire.

Getting on and off the appliance is another factor; that's why the minimum width is 3m for a 2.5m-wide truck.

Fire fighters climb off the appliance in all sorts of conditions from clear to smoky to pitch black, except for the ever-present flashing blue and red lights, and they need to safely put their feet on the ground.

This doesn't always happen. Newly made breaks may not have been made smooth with upturned rocks etc making footing treacherous.

If you have a nice, smooth firebreak, you are contributing to the safety of the fire fighters.

Now, what about the safe place to go to? While the 'break' may not be ideal, any place where there's no material to burn is welcome when the flames are heading towards firies – the firebreak is a way out.

### Backburns

THE FIREBREAK can also be a safe area from which to light a backburn.

Backburns are highly dangerous and need to be authorised from the top of the 'food chain' – the incident controller who is the only person who knows exactly what's going on based on information supplied from the ground up.

Lighting a backburn is creating a new fire so a thorough knowledge of the area, the prevailing conditions and the distribution of resources (mainly fire fighters) must be taken into account.

Everyone needs to know that a backburn is being done and to get out of the way. The incident controller can pass this information on down the chain of command.

Firebreaks are used to guide the backburn and well-maintained breaks on landowners' properties can be the spot from which to light up.

There are other considerations, mainly financial, that need to be taken into account on this subject.

A poorly maintained firebreak could lead to a fine from the shire plus the cost of having it brought up to scratch by the shire.

A poorly maintained firebreak may void home insurance and, if the fire crosses to a neighbour's property via such a break, the neighbour's insurance company may try to get the costs back from the first person.

But, you know what? Firebreaks come down to lives.

They're not just for fire fighters ingress and egress, they're for the householders' too.

If you want to know more about your 'now-not-so-common' firebreak, or after looking at your own breaks decide to get in touch with a contractor, visit the Julimar Fire Shed and those in charge will help you.

### Christmas in July

THIS year's celebration was the best one ever – laughter and good spirits all round.

Thank you Karen, the Runaway Bride, and

her helpers for a mighty effort.

Christmas 360 lifted the atmosphere by providing us with a 2.5m decorated Christmas tree so a heartfelt thanks to Sean Byron and staff who made the occasion really special.

Red Robin Hospitality's excellent meal was the icing on the cake for our themed Night of Stars. Many thanks Gary, Mark and staff.

The fire shed is always open on Friday evenings at 5.30pm with supper and drinks on hand. Come on down and meet our newly elected Captain Wade Robson and his crew.

Our thoughts are with Rocket who has just had back surgery so with luck, we will see both you and Rocket at the fire pit very soon.

# The Badger gets confused

## Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

### Bejoording

From the desk of The Badger

IN OUR June column I erroneously reported on our AGM.

It never happened. I was supposed to be reporting on the community group's AGM.

Silly me, I must have needed this holiday I am currently enjoying overseas.

So, with much embarrassment I now report on our true AGM which took place on the July 18.

Special visitors were Craig Stewart Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Community Emergency Services Manager Rob Koch who both spoke at the meeting which Craig Stewart chaired.

The key business of the evening was the election of the leadership team and the results were: captain, Barry Grey; first lieutenant, Mark Glossop; second lieutenant, Brian Rigby and, secretary/treasurer/chair, Richard Hazelwood.

Our next regular meeting is at 6pm, at the shed, on Tuesday August 15.

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

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

Please leave a message if we're not there.



# Shed to become a station at new wheatbins site

## Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

### Coondle-Nunile

Max J Heath

HELLO there from the Coondle-Nunile brigade where things are going well.

Friday evenings around the fire are most convivial with a lot of tall tales told.

We have some interesting things going on at the moment.

It appears that our shed has reached its use-by date which apparently is 25 years.

So, the powers that be have seen fit that it's time for a shift.

It has been proposed that we shift to an area down near the wheat bin and it seems we will be a fire station instead of a fire shed.

If it goes ahead it will be a far more extensive building than what we have now with training-come-meeting room etc.

Some of our members have concerns about secure parking and mobile phone reception. We will have to wait and see what goes.

Early in July most of the brigade boarded

a bus to go to the Panda Chinese Restaurant in Northam for a Christmas in July.

It was a great night with Panda staff joining in our celebrations.

Many thanks to Wayne Weaver for driving us across and home safely.

The monthly meeting continues to be well supported even though it is damned cold. It seems as if everyone wants to go home early and the meeting is over and done with very quickly.

Mark Middleton has still kept everyone up to date with his monthly training sessions with a regular attendance.

Now, have you thought about your fire breaks yet? It is now time to do your planning and do something about it.

One might think that due to a dry season one has plenty of time but thinking this way will lead to the job being done too late for proper protection of your property. So, for everyone's sake, do it now.

Well that's about all for now from Coondle-Nunile.



## Christmas in July! BOOK NOW

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EMERGENCY SERVICES



On standby at the Toodyay St John Toodyay Ambulance Sub Centre.

# Ambos meet challenge of another hectic year

**St John Ambulance Toodyay Sub Centre**  
Charles Wroth, Chairman

MY REPORT to the July 18 AGM confirmed that the past year was even busier than the previous year with 761 callouts and 84,331km travelled.

The breakdown for call-outs revealed that 70 were for cardiac, 497 for medical, 157 for trauma and 37 for other reasons.

The important statistic to remember is that even though many of these jobs were done well outside our boundaries we were still able to attend 100 per cent of call-outs in our region.

That is a figure that most Wheatbelt sub-centres would envy.

All this would not be possible if it wasn't for the commitment and dedication of our volunteers.

All people who make themselves available to attend all these call-outs is much appreciated.

Family support is also a major factor in our volunteers' lives; without their support we wouldn't be able to do this job with such dedication.

Also, a special thank you must go to our phone co-ordinators who do a fantastic job dispatching the crews and notifying State Communications.

This year we continued with our concerted effort in first aid and Automatic External Defibrillator training.

With a total of 535 people participating in these courses and the whole of Toodyay District High School receiving first-aid training, this goal was very successful.

We also participated in the School Inclusive Program. So, a big thank you to all who assisted in this very worthy training.

After making a great start last year on the Morangup Sub-Branch building, work has unfortunately come to a grinding halt with frustrating delays caused by red tape.

Hopefully all the boxes will be ticked soon and work can recommence on the much-needed project.

This will be a huge relief to everybody and especially the Morangup community.

We continue to update our training equipment as required and the servicing of our ambulance fleet is ongoing.

This coming year we hope to start on a building maintenance program.

In June, we were saddened to hear of the resignation of our Community Paramedic (CP), Patrick O'Dal, who has given us so much support, guidance and assistance

to everyone particularly the Volunteer Development Officers.

Although Patrick's departure has left a huge hole in our organisation I believe we have a more than capable replacement in Tim Dunlop.

Tim's position is temporary at this stage, but the enthusiasm he has shown toward the CP role is to be commended.

I believe we would benefit greatly if Tim is appointed as the permanent CP.

Our financial position is very strong but we will need substantial funds to complete the Morangup project and to carry out building maintenance here in Toodyay.

Once again, social functions have proved to be popular, with Sundowners being well attended and the quiz night being a huge success.

The community also appreciated the Open Day.

I believe our generosity in the community is something of which we can all be proud.

We provide First Aid Posts at very reduced rates, support the school end-of-year award presentations and have recently become involved in sponsoring a student for the RSL's Sandakan Scholarship.

I take this opportunity to thank our vice-chairman Kim who has assisted me so much and has done a huge amount of work towards the Morangup project.

I would also like to thank committee members for their service over the past year and also welcome any new committee members.

Thanks to all who assisted with this year's catering — whether it be by providing food or by assisting on the day — our sub-centre has earned a great reputation by providing first-class food during our courses.

We were able to attract 10 new volunteers this year, but unfortunately three have left because they were unable to fully commit to our service.

As previously stated, it takes a lot of dedication and commitment to training to become an ambulance officer.

Our community should be very proud of the service that we will continue to provide.

This year we installed an EFTPOS machine which has greatly assisted people making payments and purchasing first-aid kits

In closing, I would like to thank everybody who assists in making this sub-centre one of the best in the state.

Finally, a big thanks to our administration Support Officer, Carolynne who continues to give up so much of her own time to make the office run smoothly and professionally.

# Big council presence at ratepayer meeting

**Toodyay Progress Association**  
Larry Graham, Chair

ANOTHER well-attended public meeting was held in Toodyay last month to report back to ratepayers and residents on current progress association activity.

We were very pleased to welcome in the audience Shire President David Dow, Shire CEO Stan Scott and all but two other councillors from the eight-member council.

This was opportune because the shire representatives present were able to hear a first-hand explanation of how the association is not where it wanted to be at this juncture and the reasons why.

From the association's inception, council responses to our queries have dictated how matters are dealt with.

If the presence of such a large council contingent at last month's meeting was intended to be intimidatory, it failed.

The association prefers instead to think it signals the start of a constructive new stage in the relationship between the two bodies.

However, it is important to note that the relationship between the two groups should never be a cosy one.

Oversight is never comfortable for either party, and though having a more comfortable and personable relationship with councillors and staff might make things more pleasant, it could also blur the boundaries between the two bodies.

Recent developments reported to last month's meeting included:

- a Freedom of Information (FoI) query on hundreds of thousands of dollars spent by the council on legal costs has so far produced nothing except a Perth parking receipt for \$10. The association appealed this to the council which produced nothing additional, so we appealed to the State FoI Commissioner, who ruled that it should be dealt with as a formal complaint and is proceeding accordingly;
- association research showed that an independent valuation of \$530,000 obtained for last year's council plan to sell Mrs O'Reilly's Cottage was provided to the council before the valuer was told of the cottage's heritage standing; and,

- when Shire CEO Stan Scott took responsibility for providing incorrect information to council on the unlawful rating issue and said that council had now put processes in place to ensure it does not recur — he was congratulated and told that had that answer been provided when the association first raised the matter, it probably would have ended there.

The association also pointed out that all around the world, small country towns dependent on mining and agriculture are dying, and that detailed and competent planning is crucial for Toodyay's future.

However, the worst time for any elected representative body to decide on long-term planning is immediately before an election.

The association has previously submitted to the council that it should wait until after this year's October local government council elections before proceeding further.

This is because a majority of council seats will fall vacant and any newly elected councillors should be able to start afresh.

## More people voting

IN MOST cases, postal ballots in other country shires have led to more people voting.

This year's switch to a postal ballot should mean that local residents and ratepayers can expect a significantly higher standard of election campaigning than in previous years.

The association encourages re-contesting councillors and other candidates to campaign on a positive note.

We encourage public discussion to:

- restart and refocus the mass policy and planning overhaul in a way that ensures the town's future;
- return rates to pre-2013 levels;
- regularly add new funds for a public swimming pool to an existing reserve fund and,
- reduce councillor payments to pre-2013 levels.

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

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

**Toodyay Festivals Inc**  
CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

**Applications Closing Date August 17, 2017**

## A fantastic opportunity exists in Toodyay for people who thrive on challenges and enjoy working with people and don't mind hard work.

Toodyay Festival Incorporation are calling for expressions of interest for the working committee. Toodyay Festival Inc. has supported Toodyay events since 2009 with insurance, financial governance, mentoring and other.

### Main duties will include:

- Support of Toodyay iconic Festivals
- Information Dissemination
- Committee Support and Liaison
- Grant Application
- Financial Governance
- Insurance and Risk Management
- Conversant with all aspects of Administration and Event Procedures.

This is a voluntary organisation and a working committee, we need people who have the ability to accept responsibility and use creativity and innovation both as a member of a team and working autonomously as required.

For more information please email, Rosemary - [madacsi248@bigpond.com](mailto:madacsi248@bigpond.com)

Lifting community ideas to the next level

**NDIS**  
Q & A drop in session

The Department of Communities (formerly Disability Services Commission) invites you to the **Bridgeley Community Centre** on **Thursday 3 August 2017** anytime between **10am - 12pm**, where you can meet the WA NDIS team and ask questions about eligibility, planning and supports.

**Bridgeley Community Centre** (auditorium)  
91 - 93 Wellington Street  
Northam

### To register:

Eventbrite: [www.ndis-qa-northam.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.ndis-qa-northam.eventbrite.com.au)  
or email: [WANDIS@dsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:WANDIS@dsc.wa.gov.au)  
or phone: 1800 996 214

# Rubber stamping no longer par for course



Geoff Appleby

A SMALL minority of readers have complained about negativity in this column so I am happy to report that last month's Toodyay Shire Council meeting – for the most part – showed promising signs of improvement.

Three ratepayers made public submissions opposing council plans to approve a new 60-metre Telstra mobile phone tower in Marri Road, Julimar.

The planned tower is part of the Federal Government's mobile black spot program to improve communications in country areas.

The ratepayers' arguments were rational, well-informed with scientific research and included concern that the new tower could have a detrimental effect on a nearby restaurant, winery and mead producer.

**Bees bumbled:** The restaurant owner claimed radiation from the mobile phone tower could disrupt the flight paths of his honey bees, causing them to become lost and unable to return to their hives.

North Ward Cr Eric Twine declared a financial interest and left the chamber for the ensuing debate after saying that Telstra planned to build the tower on his land.

Shire Deputy President Therese Chitty moved that the tower be built.

Cr Brian Rayner seconded it before saying that councillors had not been given information about the effect on bees.

Cr Craddock opposed the tower's location and suggested other sites could be used.

Cr Welburn also opposed the tower because of detrimental visual impact on a local business, while Cr Judy Dow hedged her bets and sat on the fence, saying she had yet to decide which way to vote.

Cr Chitty spoke in favour, citing poor mobile coverage in the area and suggested

there was nowhere else for the tower to go.

However, she conceded that "in 20 years' time, we could look back and think again".

Shire President David Dow closed the debate by speaking strongly in favour of allowing the tower to be built.

He warned other councillors that if they voted it down, their decision would most likely be appealed and overturned by the State Administrative Tribunal – costing the shire more money to defend its decision.

However, he lost the vote 4-2 with only Cr Chitty supporting him, Cr Paula Greenway absent and Cr Twine out of the chamber.

President Dow then told councillors they had to publicly record a good reason to overturn shire planner Graeme Bissett's recommendation to approve the tower.

CEO Stan Scott said he could draft a suitable statement from his notes of the debate.

How much more constructive – and potentially cheaper – it would have been for the shire to ask Telstra if the tower could be placed on one of the other six sites in its planning application to the council.

**RSL bins:** The next item was an application from the Toodyay RSL to move into the shire's former Parks and Gardens Depot in Clinton Street opposite Anzac Memorial Park.

The RSL had liaised with Arts Toodyay about sharing the premises.

Mr Bissett recommended approval and that the RSL pays \$1000 a year in operating costs.

The item was debated at length with all councillors contributing mainly positive comments.

However, Cr Judy Dow said the RSL should be made to pay an additional \$250 a year for rubbish collection.

Cr Chitty opposed this and said even \$1000 a year was too much.

Cr Welburn agreed with Cr Chitty and said other community groups at The Junction shire facility in West Toodyay didn't have to pay for rubbish collection.

The \$250 increase was viewed by some councillors as too much but Cr Judy Dow

got her way and – with husband David's supporting vote – the extra annual cost was carried 4-3, with Crs Chitty, Welburn and Craddock voting against her amendment.

The amended motion was carried 6-1 with Cr Rayner opposed, though he did not speak against the motion after being ruled him out of order for questioning 'peppercorn' rents.

He then declared a proximity interest in the next item and left the chamber.

It was about a West Toodyay neighbour's plan to build a house in Harders Chitty Road and retain a converted shed for guest accommodation, which was passed 6-0.

**Wake-up call:** The highlight of last month's meeting was when several councillors showed promising signs they are at last starting to play closer attention to the shire's monthly list of payments.

Instead of the usual rubber stamp which is over in a flash, several councillors actually held up proceedings to ask pertinent questions about particular payments.

This is not to say they have not been questioned before but it's mostly a rare event, with some councillors seeming to flick through the list as if for the first time just moments before they vote to approve.

Your humble Bat would like to think the

change may be a result of his occasional call for greater financial scrutiny but it could also be councillors were emboldened by a question from Cr Welburn, who knows his way around a balance sheet and has previously questioned shire accounts.

**CEO stumped:** He queried a June 15 'final' payment of \$16,225 to an earthmoving company, followed by another payment of \$15,768.50 to the same contractor on June 29 for what looked like the same job.

Mr Scott was stumped for an answer and agreed to 'take the question on notice' and report back to Cr Welburn, hopefully at the next council meeting so visitors in the public gallery can also hear the response.

Cr Rayner questioned \$16,830 paid to an architect for drawings to support a funding application for Toodyay's planned new Recreational Precinct, while Crs Twine and Welburn sought clarification on several other payments – well done councillors.

However, there was no June monthly state of accounts in the published agenda, and councillors – but not visitors in the public gallery – got them only just before the meeting started.

Councillors wisely agreed to postpone a vote until the next council meeting so that everyone can see what they are voting on.

## NOTICE

### Annual General Meeting

will be held on Wednesday September 20 2017  
at 7pm at Toodyay Café & Curry Club  
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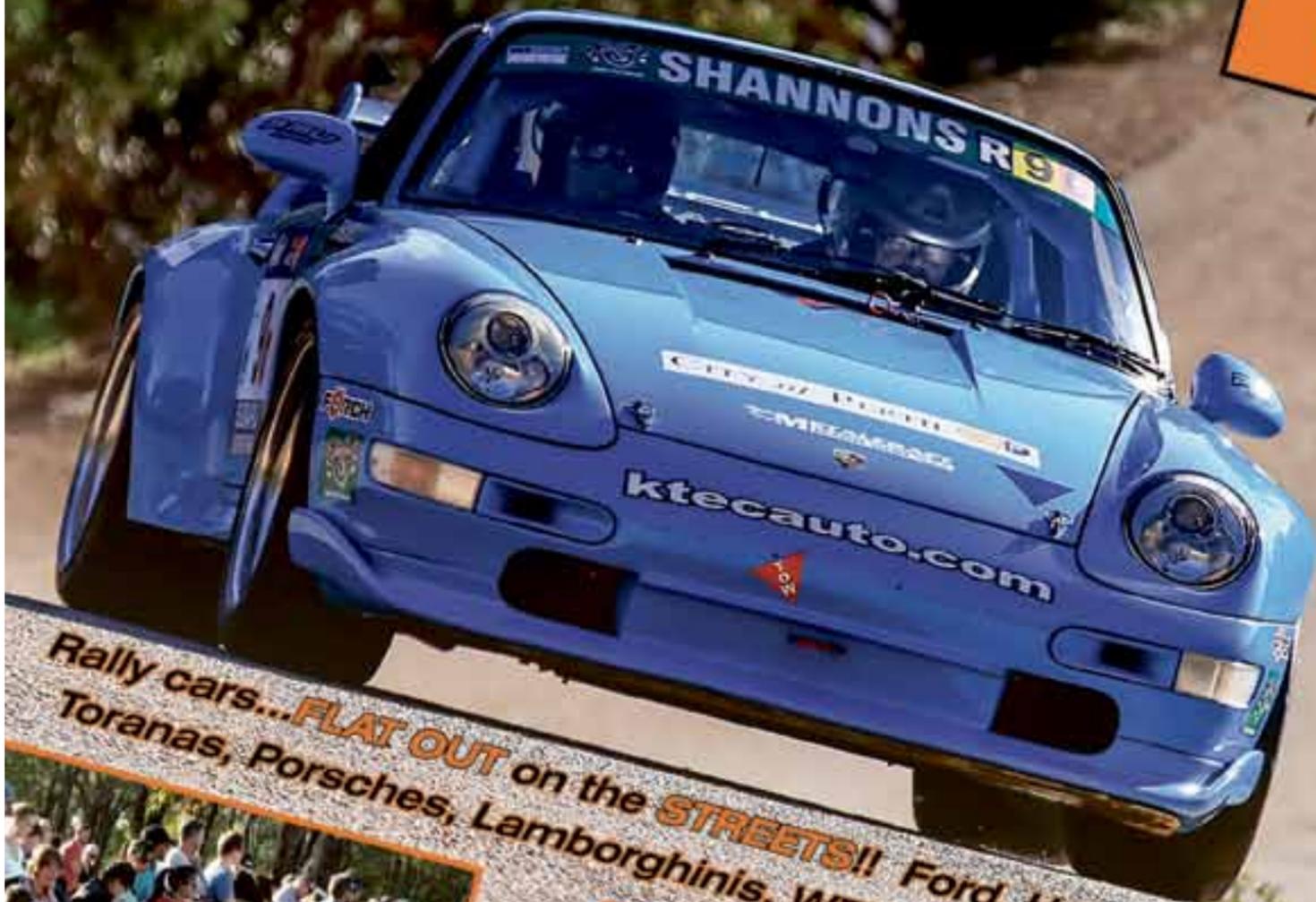
# TOODYAY COMES

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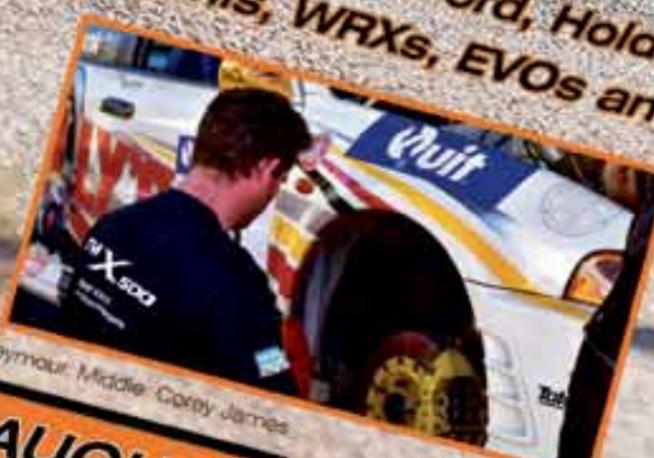
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Actions starts on the stages at 9.00am. Visit the crews in the Toodyay Service Park from 9.15am until early afternoon...

[www.targawest.com.au](http://www.targawest.com.au)



# Remixed cake recipe aims for fewer flops

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

ANYONE who has won the Mrs Phyl Wood Memorial Prize Schedule Cake previously, or has entered this famous boiled fruit cake class at the show and failed miserably knows how difficult it is to win but how satisfying it is to take off that first prize on the day.

Well, we have changed the recipe to give you all a sporting chance.

After last month's workshop, it was suggested after the cake had been made with a slight alteration, that the reason so many of the cakes were not up to show quality was due to the amount of fruit in the recipe making it too heavy.

This often leads to sinking in the middle if undercooked and a range of other faults which disqualify more than a third of all cakes entered.

Check the recipe carefully when you enter the class this year; if we receive too many complaints, or the cakes don't work with the new recipe we will revert to the original recipe given to us all those years ago by stalwart Cookery Steward, Mrs Joan Cook – my grandmother.

I am entering this class again, are you? Our first Exhibitors Workshop on July 8, was attended by 31 keen people who were interested to listen to the four judges and to discuss how they could improve their show entries.

The experience and skills that these judges had and imparted to us was wonderful. Anyone who attended benefited and had a very enjoyable day.

Thanks must go to president Kevin Hutchings and all my committee members who supported this idea from the start and all those who promoted the event.

Also, thank you to Mary who ran the raffle and organised the prizes as well as making sandwiches for me.

Ina Prior, one of our Fruit and Vegetable stewards, kept the food hot and the urns boiling throughout the day – thank you so much Ina; the day wouldn't have run so smoothly without you two.

Finally, thanks to Imre who made some lovely hot scones and muffins at 4am; the judge said they would have taken out first prize.

The judges received thank you bags with gifts from all our sponsors: a sourdough loaf from the bakery, Toodyay Visitors Centre brochures, Christmas decorations from Christmas 360 and a bottle of red wine in each bag.

All the judges did a splendid job, insisting that they would gladly come back again for another workshop.

With any luck, there will be a bigger crowd for them next year.

The Show Schedule, displaying our new brand colours and for the first time our logo on the cover, is being printed.

Keep a look out for a copy as only a few hundred will be printed but if you can't find one it can be downloaded from our website [toodyayagsociety.com.au](http://toodyayagsociety.com.au) along with Alpaca, General and Equestrian entry forms.

If you are following the Horses in Action side of the show, queries can be answered by Ring Mistress Merridith Lamb at [merri@minsonpark.com.au](mailto:merri@minsonpark.com.au).

Everybody that I speak to seems to be knitting a square as a show entry or to contribute to the rug which we will donate. This just warms my heart so keep on knitting.

As mentioned in last month's *Herald*, we are selling semi-mature trees for half price both prior to the show and at auction on the day. For further information about varieties ring Imre Ungvary on 0418 949 962.

CSBP and the Toodyay Op Shop have come on board as our new major sponsors of the show.

Many thanks CSBP and the Toodyay Op Shop. Your sponsorship helps us continue to deliver a well organised, educational and entertainment-filled community show.

Keep thinking about those entries, especially all the children at school as the Children's Section has been totally changed and wonderful classes have been added.



## We need a secretary

ARE YOU good at admin? Please think about helping us with ours.

The Toodyay Agricultural Society is into its 164th year and the committee members and volunteers believe we organise one of the best-run country shows in the state.

We require a secretary with skills to support our volunteer work.

The role will involve: distributing the agenda for our general meetings, monthly minute taking and distribution to members, assisting the president, executive and committee members in the lead up to our show day in October, and possibly liaising with external bodies and local community groups via correspondence and mobile phone.

Ideally we are looking for someone with good PC skills and access to the internet.

If you are organised, self-motivated and can spare a few hours every week to support us, then we would like to hear from you.

An honorarium is available for discussion.

For an informal chat or for more information about the position of secretary then please contact Tracey Salmond on 9574 5360 or Alison Wroth 0437 099 960.

Remember our website and *Facebook* page.



RAS Rural Ambassador 2017 Jess Shilcock.

## Rural Ambassador Jess talks up local youth

**RAS Rural Ambassador Award 2017**  
Alison Wroth, Local Rural Ambassador Coordinator

YORK Agricultural Society hosted this year's Royal Agricultural Society Rural Ambassador Award in their recreation centre on a very windy and rainy – thank heavens – day.

Our entrant in the July 1 competition was Jess Shilcock, a 30-year-old local who is a school teacher at Northam Senior High School where she works with at-risk and low-literacy students in the alternative programs department.

Her main interests are theatre, photography and graphic design, to mention a few.

Jess was the perfect choice for Rural Ambassador as she speaks with passion and enthusiasm about promoting youth involvement, raising awareness of youth problems in Toodyay and helping to build self-confidence and a sense of belonging for local young people.

Jess is such a lovely girl and we were all so proud of her on the day as she was judged against the other entrants from York, Northam, and Beverley.

Judging time took longer than expected

but Jess was very happy with how she had spoken to the three judges, even though she was still shaking with nerves holding her glass of water.

When it came to the interview and two-minute speech Jess came into her own and spoke about, did not read about, youth in the local community for the full two minutes.

Her speech was so full of enthusiasm for her kids and job that it was really uplifting to hear her talk.

In the end the York entrant, a female agronomist, won the day and will represent the Central Group in the state competition on August 18-19.

Jess is still a winner in our eyes and she did both the society, her family and the community that she represents proud.

We deeply appreciate the time and effort that she put into getting prepared for this competition, so please congratulate Jess if you see her at the showgrounds on Saturday October 7.

You will see Jess wearing her Toodyay Agricultural Society 2017 Rural Ambassador sash at the show's official opening in the morning and at the awards presentation in the afternoon shaking hands with all the trophy winners.



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# Fields turn green amid late season concern



Spreading urea (nitrogenous fertiliser) on a fresh canola crop at Nunile just before it 'bolts' and starts to flower. Photo: Frank Panizza.

**Toodyay Agricultural Alliance**  
Frank Panizza

THE RETURN to a more typical winter rainfall pattern has transformed the rural landscape around Toodyay.

Green paddocks have replaced struggling crops and bare pasture paddocks.

Pastures are recovering but livestock is keeping new growth well down.

Farmers have also reported that red-legged earth mite, a common winter pasture pest,

is very active since hatching with the first good rains in June, which is putting further pressure on pasture growth.

Many producers are still hand feeding livestock and expect to do so for some time. West Toodyay farmer Tyrone Murray commented that "supplementary feeding is continuing throughout the shire, especially to ewes with lambs at foot".

He added "there is a noticeable increase in the amount of twin lambs this year so keeping feed up to ewes is important for the survival of both twins".

Mr Murray believed that the number of twin lambs is a result of the good spring finish last year and the early green feed this year from summer rains in January and February.

Cattle producer and Liberty Charolais stud cattle owner Kevin Yost of Culham, said that they are in a similar position.

Mr Yost who farms with his wife Robyn and daughters Morgan and Jessica stated: "We are still feeding our cattle as pastures alone have not yet been able to support stock on them."

However, Mr Yost expects hand feeding

on his property to slow down quickly as his forage barley crop is now ready for cattle.

Confidence in the cattle industry remains high and Mr Yost expects that demand for bulls at their twice-yearly bull sale will remain firm well into the future.

Grain producers have been very busy over the past month with spraying and top-up fertiliser applications to crops.

Producers are happy with the turnaround in the season but remain cautious.

Canola is several weeks late compared with an average year and producers are concerned that canola crops may be subject to heat stress during flowering in September.

Other crops are faring better with most cereals now well-established and growing well.

It is evident that hay and feed grain prices have increased due to the dry season, however, wheat barley and canola prices have also risen substantially over the past six weeks.

The rise in non-feed grain prices are a result of overseas production concerns and a likely reduction in the Australian crop from the record production set in 2016.

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Jeff Roberts turns the first sod at the new site.  
Photo: Gary Walton.

## Jeff turns the sod at new Men's Shed site

### Toodyay Men's Shed

TOODYAY Men's Shed reached a milestone last month when chairman Jeff Roberts turned the first sod at the site of new premises to be built at the former shire works depot site near the town's railway station.

The ceremony – cut short by pouring rain and bitterly cold wind – was celebrated under umbrellas by about 50 people who welcomed the start of construction of a project almost eight years in the making.

It has taken some time to procure the right piece of land and raise funds to undertake such a development.

Work on building a retaining wall began the next day.

Mr Roberts welcomed Toodyay Men's Shed members, their families and friends, and guests including local WA Nationals MP Shane Love, Toodyay Shire President David Dow, councillors, Shire CEO Stan Scott and council staff.

Also present were many other eminent community members who have supported the Toodyay Men's Shed in its endeavours.

Mr Roberts thanked Dr Phil Lawton for generously accommodating the local Men's Shed and its equipment in the interim on his Toodyay Road property.

When completed, the new Toodyay Men's Shed will stand as a testament to Blokes Supporting Blokes.

It will provide a venue for men to meet in a non-threatening and familiar environment to enrich their lives and those of their families and the community at large.

Mr Roberts said he hoped the new Toodyay Men's Shed would be completed by the end of this year or early 2018.



The Toodyay Herald offers the best exposure for tradies to the Avon & Hills, circulation of 4250 copies each month and growing

advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

## Help us mark Vietnam Veterans Day

### Toodyay RSL Sub Branch Bruce Guthrie

THIS month our main event is the Vietnam Veterans Day on Saturday August 18 at the Toodyay War Memorial at 1100 hours.

The Toodyay RSL Sub Branch will conduct the annual service in Anzac Memorial Park and we invite all RSL members, veterans, family, friends and community members to attend.

We traditionally enjoy fellowship and storytelling after the ceremony. Please also join us then.

Our current community project is the 2018 Sandakan Scholarship Tour. Details were published in the large centrefold advertising feature in last month's *Herald*.

The consideration period is now open and applications close September 22.

Please call Peter, 0448 492 935, or Lou, 9574 4310, to have a chat about the scholarship and receive answers to your questions.

This scholarship provides a Year 8 or Year 9 Toodyay resident student with the opportunity of a trip of a lifetime.

It is certainly worth submitting your application and gaining the experience of preparing your application and of the selection process.

You have to be in it to win it folks.

We had some big news last month. The Toodyay RSL Sub-Branch Committee is extremely delighted to advise that its expression of interest for the front half of the Old Gardeners' Depot site, incorporating the old gardeners shed in Clinton Street opposite the War Memorial, has been successful.

The Toodyay Shire Council has voted to grant the sub-branch exclusive use of the site for its new headquarters.

The sub-branch will provide some shared use with Arts Toodyay. This is a terrific outcome for the sub-branch as it moves towards the centenary of its charter in October 2019.

Please note the following dates of future events in your diary.

The AGM at 2pm on September September 9 in the Lesser Hall.

RSL annual street stall on September 15 outside IGA. Please prepare plants, cakes,

biscuits, etc for sale.

October 6 RSL raffle outside IGA supporting prostate cancer research.

Morning tea at 9.30am on October 11 in the Lesser Hall for Australian Defence Force motorbike riders raising funds for research into prostate cancer.

The morning tea will be held in conjunction with Toodyay Men's Shed, Wheatbelt Men's Health and other relevant presenters.

Well, we are busy as usual and look forward to an exciting month or two ahead.

We wish all members, veterans and aged in our community – good health. Keep moving to stay warm and healthy.

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# AUCTION

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Left to right: Peter Kaszanski, Bridget Moore, Nolene Kaszanski, Lester Snooke, Pip Snooke and Geoff Hutchinson.

## Bolgart parents cheer kids on at Music Fest

### Bolgart News

Serena Syred and Noelene Kaszanski

LOCAL mechanic Richard Walker celebrated his 40th birthday at the Bolgart Hotel on July 15 where a large crowd enjoyed a lovely meal and great company.

Also on the same night Rachel Clarke, daughter of Murray and Brenda, celebrated her 21st birthday on the farm with family and friends.

The Bolgart P&C has done a great job spreading new sand on all the playgrounds. Thank you to Lester Snooke for attending and for the use of his bobcat.

The Bolgart Primary School students travelled to Wongan Hills to sing in the Victoria Plains Small Schools Association (VPSSA) Music Fest.

This involves schools from Bolgart, Calingiri, Yerecoin, Cadoux, Sacred Heart Goomalling and Goomalling.

It was great to see a large contingent of parents cheering our kids on.

The students travelled to Yerecoin for the VPSSA Cross Country event.

Congratulations to all who competed. It was a great day of competition and fair sportsmanship among all students.

### Golf News

A GOOD field attended The Bolgart 4BBB on July 8.

The winners on the day were Brett Watson and Della. Runners up were Phil Syred and Colin Guthrie.

Thanks to Rural Property Professionals, Kevin, Merle and Darren Manuel, who sponsored the event.

On July 9, 39 men competed in the Ludeman Cup.

Glenn 'LL' McGill won the day with Beau Mete runner up.

On July 20, 10 ladies competed in the 27-hole event, the Syred Cup at Bolgart.

The winner was Joy Hamilton. Gross winner was Jenni Knowles with runner-up net, Vivienne Camerer.

# Kathy lived for wildlife

Kathy Snook 4.9.1955 – 11.7.17

levaTomsons

WILDLIFE carer Kathy Snook recently passed away in a house fire at the family's Morangup home.

Kathy was a no-nonsense woman who spent 28 years rehabilitating injured animals and birds.

Starting as a Conservation and Land Management volunteer in 1992, Kathy built up her knowledge of wildlife which she handed on to school groups and visitors at regional zoos and Yanchep National Park where she first came in contact with koalas.

As one of the few accredited koala carers in the state, she hand-reared many for WA's captive breeding program.

One of her charges, Tilly, didn't bond with other koalas and remained with Kathy and husband Owen for 20 years.

Visitors to the Snook household in summer were amazed at the sight of Tilly, legs akimbo, stretched out on the kitchen table enjoying the air conditioning.

"Kathy believed that the only thing wrong with animals was their owners," said Owen.

One of her main complaints about well-meaning wildlife rescuers who brought injured birds for rehabilitation was that they had often tried to feed it bread and milk.

According to Owen, Kathy's favourite retort to such uninformed rescuers was: "You gave it milk? – Have you ever seen a pigeon with tits?"



Kathy with pet koala Tilly.

"I'd often joke that I'd get better fed if I grew some fur or feathers," said Owen who has been overwhelmed by support from the local community.

For the past year of their 27-year marriage Owen has been caring for Kathy who was terminally ill.

Kathy is survived by Owen, daughter Beth, son Eben and step-son Owen.

## Badger on the prowl

### Bejoording Community Group News

From the desk of The Badger

LAST month I wrote about allotments in the UK, and my journey around Old Blighty continues for another month.

One of the inevitable aspects of travel is the urge to constantly compare life where you are with life back home.

So for this column from overseas I'll do just that. But not the usual boring comparisons of housing costs and prices, they're just swings and roundabouts anyway.

Following on from my allotment story I'll stick with all things green and colourful for a moment.

Last week I went to the Royal Horticultural Society Flower Show at Tatton Park, a stately home in the north-west.

Some say it's second only to the Chelsea Flower Show. What an amazing event and location.

The climate and rich fertile soil throughout much of England sustains beautiful forests, grand old oak trees that are monuments in themselves, an array of flowers and vegetables that are quite breathtaking, and green – rarely seen in WA. All were in abundance at Tatton Park.

WA has its own beauty and horticultural treasures so this is not a comparison of best and worst, just the differences.

Then there's a comparison where we do win hands down in the Wheatbelt, and throughout WA.

Traffic density is horrendous in the UK, even in the smallest country villages, or remote areas of Devon, on motorways, and

worst of all the cities. With that comes the endless search for a parking space.

It's not just the volume of vehicles either, it's the arrogance of drivers constantly pushing for advantage on the road, or doing their best not to be the one who gives way on the endless miles of single-lane country roads. This is something conveniently edited out of episodes of *Doc Martin* or *Midsomer Murders*.

Finally let me end on one note of comparison where England does have a winning score.

There is still nothing quite as delightful as a real old world English country pub. The wooden beams and low ceilings, the smell of floorboards that have soaked up beer for a few hundred years, the old tables and chairs, the array of beers and ciders, the ancient buildings, and always a congenial host with more opinions than an opposition politician.

There's only one more column from England to come then it's back to Bejoording tittle tattle.

Your monthly reminder. We meet every Wednesday evening (except in January) at the Bejoording Community Centre which shares premises with the local volunteer bush fire brigade in Bejoording Road. Come along from 6pm, and leave when it suits you.

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

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

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

Hope to see you soon.

## Easts make a move west

### Isabel McHutchinson

HARRY and Wilma East settled in Morangup in 1999 when they moved up from Swan View.

They had purchased a block of land in McKnoe Drive in the 80s to enable them to expand their beekeeping business but it was not till the 90s that they built the house and permanently moved to Morangup.

Wilma has been very involved in the local community giving her time to the Morangup Progress Association and Morangup Library plus time supporting people in the community.

Harry and Wilma are now on the next part of their journey and moving down to the big smoke to be closer to family and medical facilities.

We wish them both all the best and look forward to their visits back to Morangup as Harry remains a part of the Toodyay SES and will continue to help out as needed.

We may still get our lovely honey as Harry will continue with his bees as a hobby.



Wilma and Harry East.

The Easts plan to maintain lots of social contact with our community to which we all look forward.

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# Stan rushes to Midland for massive mini-rail makeover

**Toodyay Miniature Railway**  
June Eastwood

ANYONE who has not been to the mini railway for some time is in for a huge surprise.

With the fantastic help of the Men in Green and warden James Scully's crew from Wooroloo Prison Farm, we have been completely transformed.

We had envisioned a small improvement but when the tradesmen arrived and surveyed the area they said: "We can do much better." And do much better they have.

Stan had to make three rushed trips to Midland for extra bricks as they laid more and more perfect paving.

Having Bronco's greenstone and Rob's sand, away they went; they even brought their own large boulders to make new stone walls.

Drains were installed and a wonderful retaining wall edging the ditch emerged as a green Toodyay Stone-studded masterpiece with a great concrete spoon drain.

Flower beds emerged everywhere as the men dug, planted and mulched, using plants the shire supplied from their own nursery.

A plumber among the crew worked to lay

water piping to the new areas.

Two fancy grey sculpted posts mark the beginning of a sweeping paved walk down onto the station platform and a second entrance has a paved ramp with a mix of genuine old sleepers and paved steps.

Vern's little ramp for staff was also paved.

The DC wagon and Miss Tricia were given shining new coats of paint and the crew brought spray gear so that even the undercarriages could be sprayed black.

The rain we have so badly wanted has hindered us on some days causing frustrating delays and wet workers but on the plus side, it will help establish the new plants.

The railway is not only a fun place to visit but an outstanding addition to the Toodyay landscape.

We are not finished yet, so keep watching for more improvements.

At the recent AGM all office bearers were returned unopposed.

It does not necessarily prove we are doing a fantastic job – it sadly proves no one else wants to be lumbered with office duties.

The little girl who recently visited and forgot to take her painted pet rock with her is asked to ring 9574 4462 or call in when the railway is operating.



Toodyay CWA president Judith Walton (rear right) with Beryl, Trang and Alison from Bayswater CWA.

# Local artists secure a new home in 'the green shed'

**Arts Toodyay**  
Clive Eger

THE ARTS Toodyay AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday August 15 at the current club rooms at the Old Police Station on Duke Street.

All members are invited to come along and take part in this important meeting.

All committee positions will become vacant at the AGM and members are strongly encouraged to put their hands up to take on a job on the committee.

You may recall some despairing news late last year when we heard that Arts Toodyay's tenure of our home on Duke Street was coming to an end.

But the good news is that we won't become homeless artists.

We will soon be moving to a new location around the corner in the former Shire Parks and Gardens depot on Clinton Street, otherwise known as 'the green shed'.

This news comes after months of

negotiations started last year by past president Margaret Sommerville and currently being managed by members Angus Anderson and John Zawada.

We will be co-located in the building with the Toodyay RSL and both organisations are looking forward to a mutually beneficial association.

The building is ideally situated close to Anzac Memorial Park and the historical precinct and offers great spaces for meetings, workshops and exhibitions.

Meanwhile preparations are being made for our annual VINO art exhibition at Coorinja Winery.

This will be the ninth year that this exhibition has been held at the winery over the spring long weekend and it is always an exciting display of local artistic talent.

The Toodyay Picnic Races will held on the same weekend so it will be a great time to invite friends up from Perth to enjoy the spring weather and exciting activities in Toodyay.



# Opening on hold as turners chisel away at red tape

**Avon Woodturners**  
Max J Heath

HI FROM our new home in Toodyay Junction.

We have recently hit a few problems at the shed as we have found out that we have to get a building surveyor to decide on egresses and a couple of other things so that we can receive a Certificate of Construction Compliance.

The fact that this was necessary was never mentioned at any of the meetings prior to moving in and was it definitely not budgeted for.

Because of the problems we are having, we have had to postpone the opening of our premises until further notice and so a lot of woodturning members and the state association have had to be informed.

More work for the overworked secretary.

Anyway, matters are progressing; we have sorted out more wood and one of these days we will be able to do some turning.

As a part of our commitment to RoadWise

we need to attend four events and it has been decided that on August 27 we will attend the Taste of Chittering event at Bindoon, the Toodyay Farmers Market in September followed by the Toodyay Show to complete our obligations for our grant.

We have at our shed a very good Laguna lathe on loan from the supplier Allan Gregory from the Eastern States and this will be taken down to be used at the Wood and Craft Show at Claremont Showgrounds on August 4, 5 and 6.

This show is well worth a visit as it includes all sorts of wood crafts and for the ladies there are sewing demos and quilt displays etc.

Well, that time of year has arrived again and (possibly) on August 29 we will be having our Annual General Meeting, with a lunch at the secretary's place.

If you are interested in taking on the secretary's job, I will certainly give it up.

That seems to be it from the turners for this month and we ask you to remember our RoadWise motto – please don't drive tired.

# Viv opens the book on 90th birthday party

**CWA**  
Elizabeth Mansom

AT OUR craft day in mid-July, Viv showed us the beginning of an album she is compiling of our 90th anniversary celebrations.

Included with the many photos will be cards which she will try to place near photos of members attending from that particular branch.

Some branches also brought presents and a very striking one was received from our city sister branch Bayswater.

This beautiful piece of craftwork, which we can use as either a table centre or a wall hanging, is even more meaningful as this year Bayswater and Toodyay have been sister branches for 30 years.

Next month we will report on the State Conference in Fremantle which is being held as the Herald goes to press.

Two Toodyay members have been asked to be proxies for branches unable to send delegates, which is always a vote of confidence.

Christmas boxes for troops (and, very importantly, the dogs) stationed overseas were also discussed as we need to get

organised to avoid a last-minute rush to meet the closing date.

A date to look forward to is August 25 when York branch will hold a function featuring a speaker on women's wills.

Several of us have been paying frequent visits to the Op Shop to hunt for outfits for the annual fashion parade to on Saturday, September 30.

Proceeds from entry and raffles will go to Toodyay CWA and those from sale of the clothes will go to the Op Shop which, of course, returns everything to Toodyay.

Mark the date on your calendar and come along and share afternoon tea, fun and fellowship.

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 the lane down the side of the hall.

Until August 25 bookings will be taken by Glenys Clabaugh on 9574 5110 or 0427 478 325.

From August 25 to October 10 hall bookings will be taken by Desrae Clarke on 9574 5574.

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# St John Ambulance

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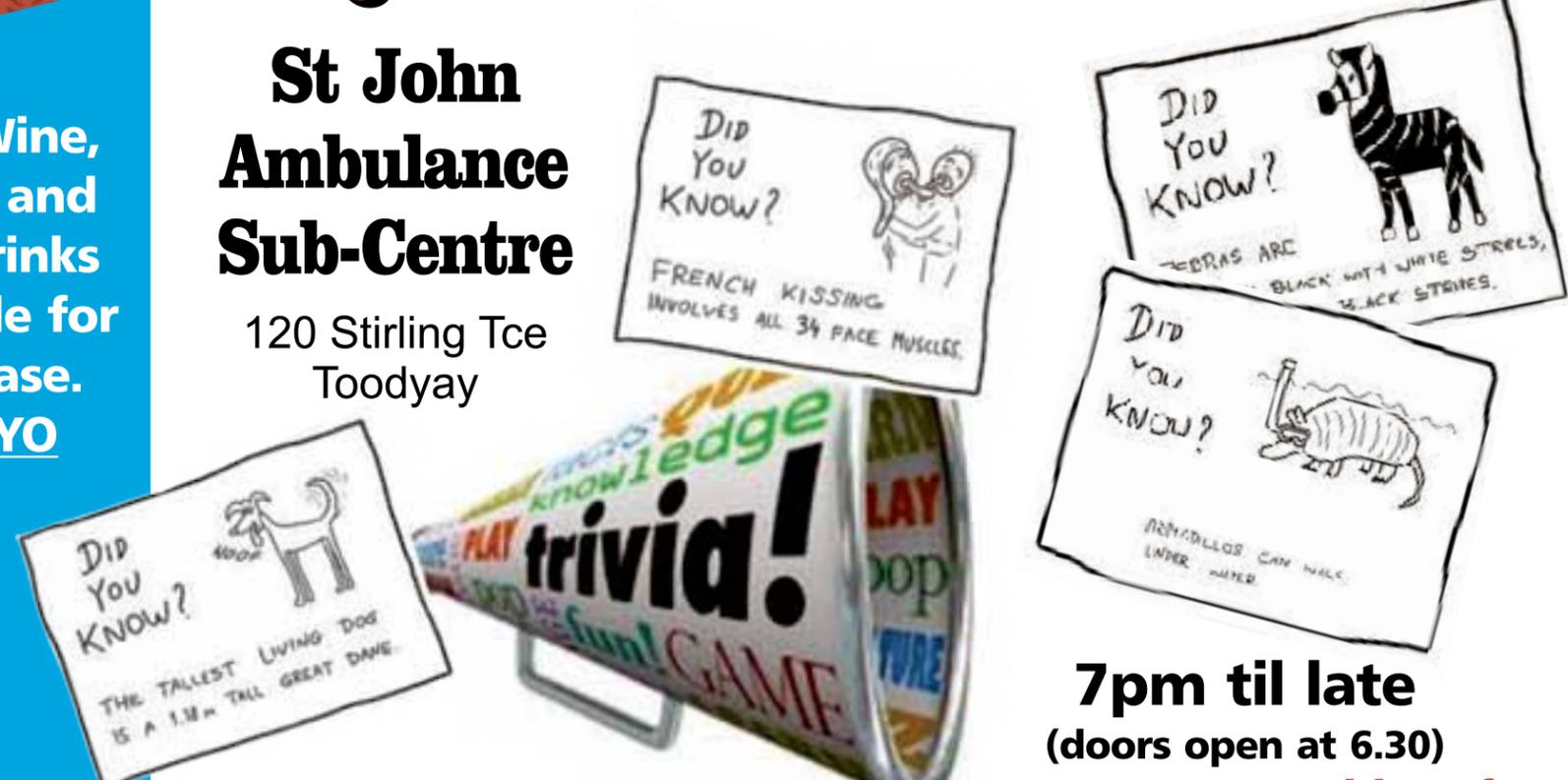


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# St John Ambulance

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Email: [sjatoodyay@bigpond.com](mailto:sjatoodyay@bigpond.com)

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