

# The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned  
community newspaper  
Est. 1902

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

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## State puts shire on notice of inquiry risk



A storm like this one in Coondle late last year blacked out large parts of Toodyay for several hours last month. Photo: Jane Taylor.

### Violent electrical storm cuts phones and power, wrecks internet connections

LARGE areas of Toodyay lost power and mobile phone and internet services for several hours after a severe electrical storm

swept through the shire last month.

Lightning destroyed at least one power pole and damaged home internet equipment.

Although only 9.8mm of rain was recorded in the Toodyay townsite, other areas received 14mm or more in an hour.

### Councillors in three-week stand-off with CEO over release of official warning

Michael Sinclair-Jones

THE STATE Government has warned the Shire of Toodyay to change how it operates or risk an official inquiry.

The warning says there is insufficient information "to date" to support an inquiry but asks the shire to provide further information "to determine whether further action may be warranted".

This follows a call by the Toodyay Progress Association for an official inquiry into several matters of concern, including the loss of more than \$570,000 of ratepayers' money in a failed bid to sue former shire CEO Graham Merrick and former shire president Charlie Wroth for \$151,000.

An inquiry earlier this month resulted in the sacking of the Perth City Council and the appointment of an administrator.

The WA Local Government Department wrote to Toodyay Progress Association Chair Larry Graham last month saying it "believes there remains sufficient justification to continue to monitor the operations and affairs of the shire."

"To this end, the shire has been requested to revisit specific areas of policy, review certain procedures and improve its level of compliance," the department said.

"The department has advised the shire that it intends to assess the shire's responses in that regard to determine whether any further action may be warranted."

It listed "policies, processes, procedures and compliance" as areas of concern and gave the shire until March 6 to respond.

The warning letter was received at the shire office on February 1 and triggered a three-week stand-off between Shire CEO Stan Scott and the council.

Shire President Brian Rayner and Deputy President Therese Chitty knew nothing about the official warning until a meeting five days later with Mr Graham, who read them a similar letter received by the association.

It is understood that when President Rayner later questioned Mr Scott, he was told it was an "administrative" matter for the CEO alone to deal with under local government law.

Mr Scott is understood also to dispute some of the concerns raised in the letter.

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## Pool funds setback but 2nd bid still open

A BID FOR up to \$2 million in State funds to build a new public swimming pool in Toodyay has been rejected.

However, the Shire of Toodyay is still awaiting the outcome of a separate \$4.8 million Federal funding bid for a pool plus other new sports and recreation facilities.

The Federal funding bid is the shire administration's fourth attempt in three years to convince Canberra to help finance what was originally a much bigger project.

The lack of State funds has reduced the shire's current funding options to a "worst case scenario" after last November's rushed council decision to slash the original \$23 million project due to cost "errors".

Without State support, project running costs are budgeted to increase by nearly 20 per cent to \$465,000 a year, according to shire documents published last year.

The shire's failure to secure State funds for the 2018-19 financial year was revealed at last month's council meeting when Dewars Pool resident Brian Foley used public question time to ask what had happened about pool funding.

Shire CEO Stan Scott said Toodyay's bid to finance a pool from the State Community Sport and Recreation Facility Fund had not been successful.

The results were announced on February 26 – the day before the council meeting.

Mr Scott said 85 per cent of State funds had gone to metropolitan projects.

The outcome of the shire's separate bid for \$4.8 million from the Commonwealth



Architect's drawing of planned new aquatic centre near Toodyay District High School.

Building Better Regions Fund was expected to be known by June this year.

The shire rushed late last year to halve the cost and size of its planned \$23 million sport and recreation project to \$12 million after Mr Scott revealed that the original costings he recommended to the council – as exposed in the December *Herald* – were "inaccurate and understated".

He reported in December that a smaller Federal grant would attract less scrutiny in the "very competitive" funding program.

"Evidence of previous (funding) rounds suggests that you need close to a perfect score to obtain funding," Mr Scott said.

"While the program may fund up to 50 per cent of a project, the perfect score on the criterion is a maximum of 40 per cent Commonwealth contribution."

The \$4.8 million sought for Toodyay represents 39.7 per cent of the \$12.1 million cost of the shire's scaled-down project.

It includes a 25m swimming pool near the school, a new rectangular pitch for hockey, soccer and rugby, new courts for netball,

basketball and tennis, and changerooms.

Football and cricket will remain at the traditional Toodyay Showgrounds site.

### Craddock resigns, West Ward postal ballot set for May 25

HUNDREDS of Toodyay voters will go back to the polls on May 25 after the surprise resignation of veteran West Ward shire councillor Sally Craddock last month.

The Toodyay Shire Council voted 7-0 for the WA Electoral Commission to run a postal ballot in the shire's biggest electorate, which includes Morangup, Julimar, parts of Hoddys Well and Moondyne.

West Ward's 1047 electors who were registered to vote in last October's shire elections are represented by three councillors.

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The Toodyay Herald – winner 2016 Wheatbelt Business Excellence Awards

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# COUNTRY REALTY

# The Toodyay Herald

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

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

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

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

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 and Ieva Tomsons

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Editor: Michael Sinclair-Jones  
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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.

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# OI' Blind Joe

## Mongrel times

OI' Blind Joe  
 Stirling Hamilton

WELL, GEE willickers, it's The Year of the Dog in Chinese mythology and it just happens to be the sign I was born under, so I went outside, visited the nearest tree and felt quite pleased with myself.

Dogs are funny buggers and I understand them completely because when hurt or abused, they will head off and curl up under a bush and come out again when they're good and ready.

I've been parked up for quite a while now myself but I thought it was time to rejoin the pack and take up a position at the back.

Wolves aren't stupid - several alpha males lead the pack and a couple of others will cover the rear of the column until the journey is finished.

Our pack was heading to Canada because those American nut jobs have lost their cotton-picking minds.

In the evening I wandered off and lay down next to a fire with two old windbags talking across from me.

One was on about how there was a deliberate dumbing down of society through a lack of funding for education.

The other reckoned that anti-intellectualism has been going on for centuries and the first ones to cop a bullet in any conflict are the educated and principled.

An advanced intellect with deductive reasoning is much more difficult to intimidate and subjugate, he said.

He then started disparaging women, saying they could find a five cent piece in the corner of a round room.

He reckoned he'd rather face down a gorilla than an irate woman because the wounds an ape inflicts will eventually heal but a woman's cutting remarks never will.

They both laughed, then glanced around nervously to ensure none were within earshot.

Then they turned to politics and one guy asked: how does a guy who speaks at a fourth-grade level become a billionaire in charge of the largest nuclear arsenal in the world.

See man, said the other, his daddy gave him a quarter billion dollars, then he declared bankruptcy six times and screwed over so many people in business and real estate deals.

The trappings of wealth and power are exactly that - the chains of bondage of the soul, so to speak.

Such people are still stuck in that stage of human development where their minds are solely possessed by the thought "that's my tricycle".

Next, it was that this whole guns debate is a bloody joke, and who on earth needs an assault weapon apart from a soldier in extremis.

These politicians saying we shouldn't talk about this right now are just waiting for their cheques to clear first.

The other guy reckoned that after last month's Florida mass shooting of schoolkids, the young were fierce in their determination to force lawmakers to address the issue.

One girl presented a speech more visceral than anything our overlords have ever delivered, and he was so proud of her determination.

It was like the late US singer Tom Petty's lyrics "I will stand my ground and I won't back down, then I'm coming for you".

The hippies are sitting under their trees now but are not forgotten for their displays of courage in the face of venomous opposition in former times.

Fire and fury in the belly, fearless and free but it seems once people get caught up in cycles of debt and bondage, their courage fades.

There was far less fear back then before the wealthy withdrew their money from the market and let fascism (a political philosophy, movement, or regime that exalts nation and often race) off its leash again.

Now that's a dog I wouldn't want in my backyard but the mongrels are breeding like rabbits and infiltrating the neighbourhood.

They've even got their own parties headed by imbeciles across Europe and Australia.

They prefer us to consume their daily diet of electronically delivered piles of garbage, like when they let loose fruit-loops such as WA Liberal Senator like Michaelia Cash, dashing our hopes of ever having a reasonable discussion.

What are we gonna do man?

We've got a half-baked fruit cake in the Whitehouse, the planet is playing silly buggers and nobody seems able to address it.

I reckon we keep our heads down for now but I have great hope for this coming generation.

When they rise we gotta be there to back them up like this old wolf does for his pack.

What about writing letters and signing petitions and stuff - is it worth it?

You gotta think that if it didn't influence events, why are governments so hell-bent on shutting down channels of dissent such as Get Up and even gunning for the internet itself, as if watching our every keystroke wasn't enough.

With our thoughts, we create the world, which is why governments and business are ideologically opposed to it because they don't want folks thinking for themselves.

*What a distressing contrast there is between the radiant intelligence of the child and the feeble mentality of the average adult - Sigmund Freud (Austrian neurologist and founder of psychoanalysis, 1856-1938).*

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
April 1	2	3	4	5	6	7

# Metters stove, tent were refugee couple's lifeline

Ieva Tomsons

VERONICA (91) and Frank (96) Woch's journey to Toodyay is a story of endurance and survival.

Weronika and Franciszek as they were once known were two of hundreds of thousands of Eastern Europeans who were forced to work in factories and farms for Nazi Germany in World War 2.

Veronica was a 16-year-old-schoolgirl in northern Belarus when she was rounded up by authorities in 1943 and transported to Germany to work on several large farms.

Frank had been removed from his farm in Western Poland a year earlier and sent to work with 3000 forced labourers in Rhumspringe central Germany at a factory that made heavy water (deuterium oxide) for the fledgling Nazi nuclear industry.

It was a brutal world in which workers were shot for stealing food or breaking harsh rules.

Veronica remembers her weeping mother saying "It was good that I would be going to a farm – at least there would be something to eat".

At the end of the war, Veronica and Frank joined 11 million homeless and stateless people for processing in refugee camps before being shipped out to other countries.

The couple married at a camp in Dudestat, Germany in 1945 and the first of their four daughters, Elisabeth, was born in 1947.

"I was pregnant with Dana (in 1949) when we took a train to Naples to get on a ship to Australia," said Veronica.

"We didn't know much about Australia – they showed us films and we knew it was a British colony," Frank said.

"They were roasting snakes in the pictures ... I liked the look of the country."

Their ship, the Anna Salle, was sabotaged at Port Said in Egypt and nine days later they boarded the Skaugum to resume their journey through the Suez Canal to Australia while Frank worked in the ship's kitchen.

The Wochs arrived in Fremantle at the height of summer in January 1950 and were put straight on a train to the state's biggest refugee reception centre in Northam\* where they lived in a tent for six weeks before being transferred to Bruce Rock.

"It was so hot – the Sahara I thought – and I cried," said Veronica, who was six months



Veronica and Frank Woch in their yard with the Metters stove they brought from Bruce Rock.

pregnant at the time.

All incoming refugees were bonded to the Australian Government for two years and had to go wherever they were assigned.

The Wochs ended up pitching a tent at the Bruce Rock Showgrounds and Frank went to work for the next 20 months on building a local school, hospital and nurses quarters.

The Woch's second daughter, Dana, was born in Bruce Rock and they acquired a Metters stove which was a big deal for the new migrants.

Frank developed a great love for footy, which led later to him working the scoreboard in Toodyay for many years.

The trusty stove and tent pitched up in Toodyay in October 1951, and Frank continued working as a labourer for Esslemont builders.

He worked throughout the state over the next five and a half years on new public buildings, including the Toodyay school.

The family were still living in their tent at the end of Arthur Street in Toodyay when

third daughter Teresa was born but they had scraped together £15 (\$30) -to buy the riverfront block, which the shire initially released without a title.

By 1952 Frank had made a start on building the house in which the Wochs still live.

A willy-willy the previous year had blown away their tent, leaving only the Metters stove standing so every spare hour Frank and Veronica had went into building the family home.

Construction was staggered due to their lack of funds and a scarcity of building materials after the war.

"The co-op had no nails and I waited six months to get the roof iron – you had to buy a whole tonne," recalled Frank who would walk to a saw mill across the railway line and lug home timber roof beams one at a time.

Fourth daughter Claire was the first of the Woch's children to be born under a permanent roof in 1954 – there were blankets on the windows but it was home.

"The neighbours were very kind – they helped us plenty, plenty, plenty," said Veronica.

Frank did some labouring work at Extracts tannin factory in 1957-1958 but still did carpentry jobs on the side.

Then Albert Lloyd asked Frank to build him some bee hives and Frank decided to become an apiarist, trading his labour for bees.

His family in Poland kept bees that stayed permanently on the farm but Frank quickly realised that Australian bees had to be moved to blossom sites and he needed a truck.

Frank started in 1957 with 30 hives and increased the number to 300 to become one of Toodyay's 13 professional apiarists, collecting honey from red gum, jarrah, parrot bush (dryandra) and Patterson's Curse for the next 35 years.

Their neat little house in Arthur Street stands as a testament to a couple of hard-working migrants who survived war and oppression to put down their roots on the banks of The Avon River in the heart of Toodyay.

\*The Northam Army Camp Heritage Association wants migrants' oral histories. Contact: northamarmycamp.org.au.

## Independent auditor to investigate shire legal costs

THE TOODYAY Shire Council has ordered an independent inquiry into the cost of suing former shire CEO Graham Merrick for alleged financial wrongdoing after the shire provided "inaccurate and misleading" information to an official Freedom of Information request last year.

The audit follows questions raised by the Toodyay Progress Association over a claimed \$36,000 discrepancy in shire accounts when the council spent at least \$570,000 over a period of four years in a failed attempt to recover \$151,000 from Mr Merrick in the WA Supreme Court.

The shire agreed to settle the case with Mr Merrick for an undisclosed sum that was thought to be about \$20,000.

There was no admission of liability. Mr Merrick's legal and settlement costs

were paid by local government insurance but the shire had to pay all its own bills.

The Toodyay Progress Association filed a formal Freedom of Information request to the shire last April calling for the release of all costs relating to the failed legal action against Mr Merrick.

Shire CEO Stan Scott responded by sending the association a photocopy of a Perth car parking receipt for \$10.

Former shire president David Dow – who lost his seat in last October's council elections – refused to answer ratepayers' questions in council, saying a confidential deed of settlement between the shire and Mr Merrick barred the shire from revealing its legal costs, a claim disputed by Mr Graham under local government law.

However, after receiving a "preliminary

view" from the State Information Commissioner urging far greater disclosure, the shire agreed to release substantially more documents, including what the shire described at the time as "inaccurate and misleading" costs.

Councillors voted 7-0 last month to address the Toodyay Progress Association's concerns by authorising Mr Scott to arrange an independent audit "of the accounts to do with the Merrick matter".

The recommendation – which was drafted by Mr Scott and moved by Cr Paula Greenway – said the audit should cover "reconciling this expenditure, council satisfying itself that the appropriate approvals were granted for this expenditure and council satisfying itself that no incorrect payments were made".

Cr Ben Bell proposed an amendment that the audit report be made a public document so that ratepayers could also see the report when it was received and presented to the next available ordinary council meeting.

Cr Greenway objected to the amendment but it was seconded by Deputy President Therese Chitty and carried 5-2 with Cr Greenway and Cr Judy Dow voting against.

However, the amendment vote was recorded incorrectly as 7-0 in unconfirmed minutes signed by Mr Scott and published on the shire website two days later, and Cr Bell's successful amendment that the audit result be made public was omitted.

The minutes can be corrected and confirmed at the next council meeting at 4pm on Tuesday March 27.



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# The Toodyay Herald

## Circuit-breaker

SALLY Craddock's resignation from the Toodyay Shire Council last month means a third new councillor will be elected to fill her vacant seat in May.

Two other newcomers won election last year on a platform of change, and another fresh face on the council is an opportunity to continue that trend.

The fact that change is needed is evident from the continuing dysfunction that seems to assail our shire at every turn.

Former Cr Craddock was often frustrated by apathy, ignorance and sometimes downright rudeness while advocating her views in the council chamber.

The balance has shifted a little since last October's shire elections, but an 'old guard' continues to hold sway over attempts to make the council more open, transparent and accountable to ratepayers.

Perhaps that will change in May.

The coming West Ward by-election also creates an opportunity for more than 600 voters in Morangup to elect their own local representative to the council.

More than half of the West Ward's 1047 electors who were registered to vote in last October's shire elections live in Morangup.

A map published on the opposite page shows the high density of Morangup voters who live 30km west of Toodyay in three adjoining subdivisions— Rolling Green, Regal Hill and Gidgegannup Springs.

That they deserve their own vote on the Toodyay Shire Council is beyond doubt.

The last councillor from Morangup was Debbie Larkin, whose four-year stint in the council chamber ended in October 2011.

It's time a Morangup voice was again heard in council.

## A woman of principle

IT CAME as no surprise to some when former Cr Sally Craddock announced her resignation from the Toodyay Shire Council last month – but it is still a cause for regret.

Sally served 15 years in two stints as a West Ward councillor and brought to the chamber a steadying presence of dignity, respect and high principle.

She was not always treated well but never had an unkind word to say about others.

Protecting and preserving Toodyay's unique environment and heritage was her mantra, and our shire is the better for that. Thank you Sally.

## Meredith goes

WE ALSO farewell former *Herald* Assistant Editor Meredith Neilsen, who played a vital role in the transition of this publication from a local newsletter into a high-circulation regional newspaper.

She helped weather turbulent times and tough conditions, sometimes not finishing work until 3am after an 18-hour day.

Meredith's dedication and commitment to the Toodyay community should not go unrecognised, and we hope you will join us in wishing her well.

Michael Sinclair-Jones  
Editor

## FAMILY LAW

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The way we were – “The first load of wool from Fred Chitty November 1924, with Fred Chitty and “Nock” Kimberley of Clackline in the photo. Kimberley, a dairyman and contractor, was starting to go through the Salt Valley-Nannamoolan Siding, the only loop line between Toodyay and Clackline, and the only place a railway truck could be ordered and filled over a couple of days.”  
From Newcastle Gaol collection.

## LETTERS

### Regretful resignation

IT WAS with great sadness that I regretfully resigned as a shire councillor.

The decision was extremely hard to make, but ultimately could only go one way.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the people of the Shire of Toodyay in this way.

Thank you.

Sally Craddock  
Toodyay

### Frustrated builder

WITH THE onset of autumn and the Toodyay festival season about to begin, it is worth noting that the town and the shire generally are looking in top shape at the moment.

This is no doubt due to the unstinting efforts by the shire's outside staff who obviously take pride in their work.

As the shire work crews are – by and large – locals, their work reflects the pride we all have in our town and our shire.

Unfortunately, that ethos does not seem to be replicated by some in the hallowed halls at shire headquarters.

As I recently personally found out, there is a degree of 'bloody-mindedness' and unhelpfulness signalled by some departments.

Anyone who has recently moved to the shire and tried to build will no doubt have come across this.

Unfortunately, because buildings are mostly completed by professional builders, this poor reputation is not contained within shire boundaries, and I am certain that local owner-builders will have experienced far, far more problems than the professionals.

I know there are building rules – as in every facet of life nowadays – but instead of being a petty 'jobsworth' at the expense of common sense, a bit more of “unfortunately you can't do it that way but how about if you do it this way, etc.” wouldn't go amiss.

Shire staff, from the top to the bottom, need to realise that they are there to help the ratepayer/customer who, at the end of the day, are the shire's employers.

So how about we all start singing from the same hymn sheet and help make our shire the top dog of the Avon Valley again?

Allan Henshaw  
Toodyay

### Let's talk rubbish – seriously

WE AS a community, and as citizens of the country and – dare I say, the planet – need to be engaging in serious conversations about recycling the rubbish we produce.

In recent times we've been made aware that a great deal of the contents of our yellow recycle bins have been shipped off to China.

But China has recently put a stop to that.

In some shires, residents have been advised that there's now no use putting out their recycle bins for kerbside collection because there's nowhere for the contents to go but landfill.

The Chinese obviously have methods of recycling rubbish on an industrial scale.

Can people in a small community like Toodyay put their heads together, learn from the pros and recycle our own rubbish on a smaller scale?

Is there an opportunity for a small 'employment-offering' micro-community industry within this escalating problem area?

If so, who should or could drive it – the community, shire, State Government or, business entrepreneurs?

Let's not continue to brush this problem under the carpet because as we're all well aware, it's not going away.

Talk to your shire or your local MP if, like me, you believe that we – as the creators of the problem – need to face it head-on.

Barb Dadd  
Toodyay

### Feisty eaglet takes off

A JUVENILE Wedge-tailed eaglet that the *Herald* photographed being satellite tagged early last November has left her nest and is venturing further afield.

She was given the Noongar name Baakininy which means 'biting' due to her feisty reaction during the tagging process – a good sign for her survival in the wild.

Since her maiden flight on November 30, Baakininy has increased her range from about one to four square kilometres which is consistent with data received for other juvenile eagles.

Maps plotting her progress appear to show a concentration of points along the western edge of John Ffarington's Morangup bush block which suggests the eaglet's parents may be teaching her to hunt kangaroos that graze in local open paddocks.

I expect Baakininy will leave her Hills nest site when she becomes independent in late April or May, after which following her story will become really interesting.

We look forward to keeping *Herald* readers posted on this feisty eaglet's journey.

Simon Cherriman  
Parkerville

### What's a Toodyay Helmet?

ALL MILLINERS and seamstresses put your thinking caps on as we need to solve the mystery of the Toodyay Helmet.

It is a forgotten colonial item attributed to Toodyay which has just recently come to light.

The following information is taken from the judge's notes of a sitting of the Supreme Court, Criminal Court dated Monday, 3 February 1873.

“Edward Dunne sworn: I am a farmer of

Ingham about 40 miles beyond Champion Bay, when at the time of the incident was a miner living at Yanganooka, about four miles north of Northampton.

“My son, Francis Edward Dunne, was at this time aged three years and nine months old, that was the last time I saw him alive.”

Dunne continues with a physical and dress description of his boy – he had light hair, he was plump and fair, active and tall for his age.

He was dressed in a blue serge outer dress, white flannel petticoats and a shirt and a little Toodyay Helmet, made of straw; no shoes or boots.

Enough said – the description of the Toodyay Helmet stopped me in my tracks.

For somebody to describe a hat in that manner meant that it, the Toodyay Helmet, must have been widely known to the populace of that period – at least in WA.

Just consider, here we have a garment, if it can be classed as such, that carries the Toodyay name.

Does anybody have any knowledge of a Toodyay Helmet, whether it be a family tradition, a photograph, a drawing, or better still, a surviving example?

If so, please contact Dr Robyn Taylor, President of the Toodyay Historical Society on 9574 2578.

Milton A Baxter  
Toodyay

The Toodyay Herald invites you to have your say in our letters page. Please email us at [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, grammar and punctuation.

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# Craddock resigns, by-election May 25

Continued from Page 1.

WEST Ward Cr Paula Greenway was re-elected last year for a further four years, while Cr Rob Welburn and former Cr Craddock were both elected in 2015.

The by-election will fill the remainder of former Cr Craddock's four-year term, which expires in October 2019.

Ms Craddock said it had been an honour and a privilege to serve the people of the Shire of Toodyay.

She said it had been an extremely hard decision to make but believed for personal reasons that it was the right thing to do.

"I want to thank everyone who voted for me over the past 15 years for their support," she said (see Letters Page 4).

The vacancy leaves the council with only eight councillors for its next three meetings, with Shire President Brian Rayner holding a casting vote in a 4-4 deadlock.

Nominations for the West Ward vacancy will be called and advertised.

Cr Greenway defeated two other candidates to win last year's single West Ward vacancy.

She was returned with 214 votes, while Morangup candidate Craig Brook ran second with 158 votes and Andrew Walker polled 82.

More than half of last year's registered West Ward voters live in Morangup (see map, right), where a proposed open-cut bauxite mine and increasingly heavy truck traffic on Toodyay Road have become issues of major local concern in recent years.

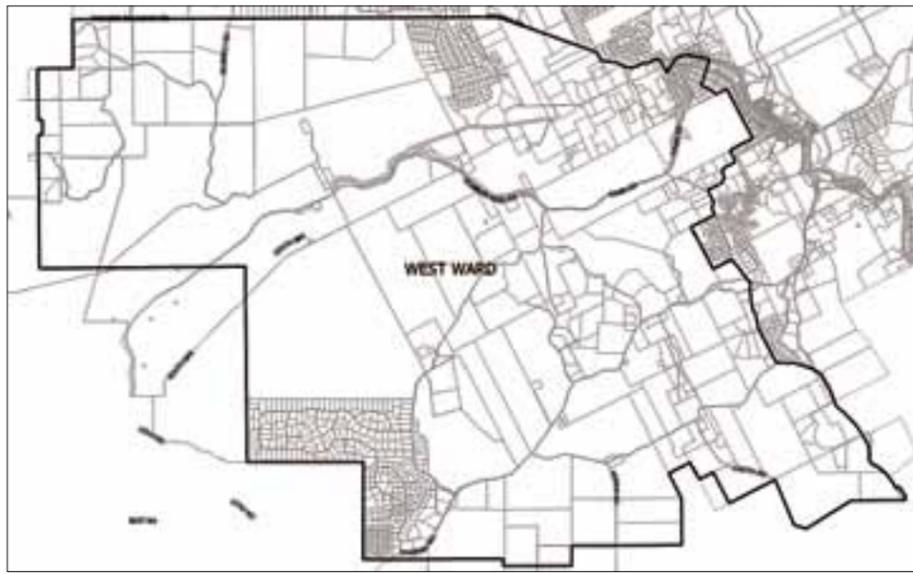
In Hoddys Well, voters have been fighting plans for a massive new landfill site for millions of tonnes of metropolitan rubbish.

Moondyne is a mainly rural area north of the Avon River between Julimar and Chittering.

The rest of the electorate includes most of the more densely-populated Julimar rural subdivision and parts of West Toodyay.

The shire switched last year from running its own 'in-person' voting on election day in polling stations at the council chamber and in Morangup to a 26-day postal ballot run by the WA Electoral Commission in Perth.

It resulted in a 50 per cent turn-out across the shire that easily beat last year's state-wide average of 34 per cent and ended Toodyay's previous low voting trend that ranked among WA's worst for voter participation.



Shire of Toodyay West Ward, showing Morangup properties (bottom) and Julimar (top centre).

## RSL well on way to securing new home in shire's former gardening depot

**Toodyay RSL**  
Bruce Guthrie

A DRAFT lease agreement between Shire of Toodyay and RSLWA to allow the Toodyay sub-branch to use the shire's former gardening depot in Clinton Street has been prepared and is under review by RSLWA.

This is fantastic progress on a project that started well back in 2017.

During this period many hours of members' time was volunteered and in conjunction with the shire, the site was cleaned up to provide a more-or-less 'blank canvas' to enable clear planning for the whole lease site.

We also acknowledge and thank the shire for additional landscape work at Anzac Memorial Park.

The whole area has undergone an amazing transformation and upgrade in readiness for this year's Anzac Day commemorations.

Members are currently preparing 12 new concrete plinths so 12 replacement plaques

can be installed in the memorial rose garden.

We recently honoured the passing of fellow serviceman Bruce Murray, and members attended a funeral service at his home.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Jeanette and family - may you Rest in Peace Bruce.

April is a very busy month for the RSL Toodyay sub-branch including the following:

Ordinary general meeting at 1300 on April 14 at the Memorial Hall. All are welcome to attend and, RSL street stall on April 20 and 21 outside IGA.

On Anzac Day April 25: Dawn Service at 0550 for 0600 at Anzac Memorial Park;

Gunfire Breakfast at 0630 at historical precinct in Clinton Street;

Street march form-up at 1030 outside Memorial Hall, proceed to Anzac Park.

Main service at 1100 and fellowship afterwards at the Toodyay Club.

We wish our members who are unwell and/or in hospital a speedy recovery.

Advertorial

## New system a first for WA

IN A FIRST for WA, a Toodyay resident in Dumbarton has embraced the latest technology in waste water treatment and recycling.

Using plants, sand and gravel the householder can now safely treat and re-use her own domestic wastewater.

This alternative to traditional septic tanks helps keep our river systems and natural environment healthy and complies with all local government and health department regulations.

The system - Rootzone - is the first reed bed waste water treatment and recycling system to be approved for domestic use in WA.

Dr Ross Mars, one of WA's leading permaculture teachers, says that the system is a game-changer for those who want to be able to treat and re-use water.

"Unlike septic tank systems, this system cleans the wastewater by natural biological processes and pumps the treated effluent to drip-line irrigation in gardens. All of the household wastewater is recycled and used.

"When good water is becoming scarce, even more so in our drying climate, being able to capture everything from toilets, laundry and bathrooms and use it safely to maintain garden amenity is beneficial to people, the land and to the surrounding environment," Dr Mars said.

A number of recent studies across various localities around Australia has shown that up to 40 per cent of traditional septic tanks have failed and have impacted upon their surrounding environments leaching untreated waste water and contaminants into the waterways and environment.

The team from Water Installations in Mundaring, the approved installers of Rootzone systems, say that this system can be fully installed in one day.

Field technician with Water Installations, Kai Shanks, said "the system not only treats water to a very high standard but is also aesthetically pleasing".

For more information on alternative methods of treating and re-using your waste water contact Water Installations.



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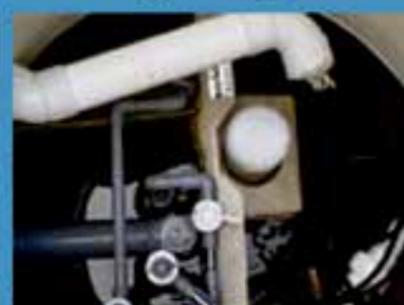
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# No more warnings as 'door closes' on unlicensed, unsecured guns

## Police Beat

With Sgt Warren Conder

Toodyay Police Station



THE DOOR has now closed on local gun owners for unlicensed, missing or unsecured firearms.

"There'll be no more warnings or cautions – their time is up," Toodyay police chief Sgt Warren Conder said.

"The Wheatbelt suffers a high number of firearms thefts because criminals know that rural gun owners often get complacent.

"Police are sick of seeing innocent victims being traumatised by having stolen guns pointed at them in shop robberies."

Sgt Conder said more than 900 local residents were registered as firearms owners in the Toodyay police district.

After months of warnings, local police had launched a crackdown with unannounced inspections on properties to look for unlicensed guns and ammunition.

"Offenders will be hit with a \$421 infringement notice and required to pay a \$54 licence renewal fee," Sgt Conder said.

"If guns are not secured properly or missing, or a firearms cabinet is left open or there is some other breach, offenders may face court and have their guns destroyed.

"It's no good having a proper firearms cabinet if the keys are left in it or can be seen nearby, it's not secured properly, it's left unlocked or the guns are left elsewhere, such as in an unattended vehicle.

"A gun should be treated the same as a million dollars in cash – you wouldn't leave it lying around a house or in a shed or car."

Sgt Conder said some people locked their firearms securely in gun cabinets in farm sheds but this was pointless if oxy cutters, angle grinders or other heavy cutting equipment was stored nearby.

Others kept their guns and ammunition illegally in bedroom wardrobes, laundry cupboards or under beds, or left them overnight in vehicles.

"For the safety of the entire community this has to end," Sgt Conder said.

### More drug drivers stopped

AS FIRST reported in this column last month, drug drivers are continuing to at least match if not exceed drink drivers in police random traffic checks on local roads.

Police stopped more than 314 motorists – including three drug drivers and three drink drivers – in the first three weeks of February.



Police are frustrated that 'cone pieces' used by cannabis smokers are easy to obtain in WA.

The drug drivers tested positive for methamphetamine (also called meth or ice) and cannabis.

One motorist was charged with dangerous driving and 23 were fined for speeding, including a truck driver who was recorded doing 99km/h in a 90km/h zone on Toodyay Road near Coorinja Winery.

Five other motorists were caught the same day in the same place doing 10 to 20km/h more than the 90km/h speed limit.

"Our saliva test kits are designed to detect cannabis and meth," Sgt Conder said.

"However, if a test shows negative but we continue to suspect a motorist may be affected by drugs, we are allowed by law to require that person to leave their vehicle and be conveyed in a police car to the nearest hospital for further testing.

"The test can be used to detect other illegal drugs such as ecstasy or heroin, which is not uncommon in Toodyay.

"Meth can be smoked in a pipe but most users inject it, so we look for needles and other drug paraphernalia in vehicles, handbags, etc. when stopping suspected drug drivers.

"Other forms of amphetamine include Dexedrine, which is prescribed medically for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder but

also used illegally as a party drug (stimulant pills called 'dexies') or by truck drivers to stay awake.

"Cannabis is often smoked in small pipes called 'cone pieces' so we look for those too.

"It's not illegal to buy or own a pipe but it's illegal to possess one with traces of illegal drug residue on it.

"It frustrates me that these pipes are freely available to buy in WA but that's the law, and we have to work within the law.

"However, we are planning this month to use search warrants to raid at least two local properties for suspected drug dealing.

"If anyone sees activity that suggests illegal drugs are being sold, they should call Toodyay police on 9574 9555 or Crime Stoppers WA on 1800 333 000.



## Social media – is it a friend or dangerous foe?

### Computer Safety

Phil Hart

SOCIAL media is a fact of life these days.

Social media includes *Facebook, Skype, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, LinkedIn* and *YouTube*.

Like all technology, it can be both beneficial and dangerous.

There is the inevitable loss of privacy, not only to the people with whom you interact, but also to the companies that run social media web sites.

If you accidentally put private information into a public area on social media, the result can range from just a minor nuisance to a life-changing problem.

It pays to think twice before sharing your personal information.

The benefits of social media should never be underestimated.

For people who are physically isolated, it can provide much-needed contact with other people.

Free learning opportunities are available for a wide range of interests including free online conferences and one-to-one tuition.

It is possible to overdose on social media.

Some people need to detox, cutting themselves off completely, sometimes for a set time such as a month or sometimes forever.

It has been estimated that one-in-five children use their mobile devices to access social media when you would expect them to be sleeping.

The impact on their sleep and the negative consequences for their school work can be significant.

The British Broadcasting Corporation is running a series of articles on social media and mental health at [ow.ly/zCoO30hGssL](http://ow.ly/zCoO30hGssL).

It can be beneficial to have a plan for how much time you want to spend on social media, and then sticking to that plan.

Some people are lucky; they can limit their use of social media by choice and so avoid the risk of overdosing.

You might be one of them.

Happy surfing.



Bag of cannabis and 'cone piece' seized during a random police traffic check in Toodyay.

## Western Union pays out on huge scam

### Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association

Desraé Clarke

BETWEEN January 2004 and January 2017 many people throughout the world lost money to a scammer when using Western Union; this included victims of dating and romance scammers.

US\$586 million was lost world-wide and Western Union has agreed to pay a penalty to the United States Department of Justice to provide a financial return to eligible persons who were tricked by this scam.

More information about this case is available at [ftc.gov/wu](http://ftc.gov/wu).

As this is a US-based action, the Australian

Competition and Consumer Commission is unable to help Australian claimants who are advised to contact Western Union to file a refund application.

The original closing date to make a claim was February 12 but the closing date has now been extended to May 31.

To reply by post, download the claims form and post to: United States vs the Western Union Company, PO Box 404028, Louisville KY 40233 – 4028.

Remember the closing date – May 31.

Check [scamwatch.gov.au](http://scamwatch.gov.au) for further information.

Call 000 for emergencies only. To contact WAScamNet ring 1300 30 40 54, Toodyay Police 9574 9555 and Crimestoppers, 1800 333 000.

# TOODYAY

MRB 2339

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# Question time gagged, standing orders trashed



Geoff Appleby

TOODYAY Shire President Brian Rayner said in January that he and his council were “not very good”.

Little seemed to have changed judging by last month’s council meeting, which could be seen as reminiscent of days leading up to the Fall of Rome.

Immediately after the meeting, Cr Ben Bell posted on Facebook: “Have you ever wanted to join the circus???”

He was referring to a vacancy caused by last month’s resignation of former Cr Sally Craddock after 15 years’ service, and Cr Bell’s comment effectively summed up the current situation.

It is rumoured that at least one other councillor may be about to follow Sally’s lead, and I would urge anyone contemplating it to do so without delay.

That would enable by-elections for all vacancies on May 26 – the date of the West Ward postal ballot – instead of wasting more ratepayers’ money on separate polls.

The Comedy of Errors began when public question time was shut down by President Rayner in the middle of a series of questions by Toodyay Progress Association Chair Larry Graham about council compliance with State law and shire policies.

As regular readers will know, our council wasted more than half a million dollars in a botched attempt to sue former shire CEO Graham Merrick and former shire president Charlie Wroth over a period of about four years – and still refuses to explain to ratepayers how their money got wasted.

Some people – including it appears most councillors – seem to think this is ancient history to be swept under the carpet, buried and forgotten as if it never occurred.

**Butterfly blow:** The result is that the shire is now running on a near-deficit budget

and, for instance, was unable last month to commit to spending \$250,000 to help build five new subsidised units for elderly people at the new Butterfly Cottages development in Anzac Terrace.

Two elderly Butterfly Cottages representatives waiting patiently for good news in the public gallery found their hopes dashed – at least for now.

Mr Graham had several more questions to ask but was told that Question Time was over because the “maximum time of 15 minutes had expired”.

The shire’s website wrongly claims that “a maximum of 15 minutes is allowed for public question time”.

However, State Government regulations and the council’s own standing orders state: “The minimum time to be allocated for the asking of and responding to questions raised by members of the public is 15 minutes.”

Although this was pointed out to Shire CEO Stan Scott last year, he failed at the meeting to provide advice on correct local government procedure, which surely is what he is paid to do.

So much for lofty council values to “be transparent in our actions and accountable to the community”.

**Naughty corner:** The dysfunction continued into ‘Announcements by the Presiding Member (without discussion)’ which triggered a heated exchange between President Rayner and Cr Bell, who was warned he would have to leave the chamber if President Rayner stood up from his seat.

It involved Cr Bell’s Facebook claim last August (before his October election) that Federal Minister and local MP Christian Porter had told him that the Toodyay Shire Council had refused a \$2 million Federal grant to build a new town swimming pool.

President Rayner used his announcement – incorrectly according to standing orders (no pun intended) – to demand that Cr Bell produce “documentation” to prove it.

Cr Bell said he had no documents because it was an informal conversation he’d had with Mr Porter six months ago and accused President Rayner of ‘blind-siding’ him.

“You could have asked me four weeks ago, but you didn’t,” Cr Bell said.

“Then two minutes before this meeting you

want documentation.

“I didn’t know I have to provide documentation for every discussion I’ve ever had with anyone.”

President Rayner twice more demanded that Cr Bell produce documents as the pair kept arguing.

Then in a moment of high drama that had everyone in the room transfixed, President Rayner suddenly rose to his feet as if to eject Cr Bell from the chamber.

However, Cr Bell showed no signs of budging and hit straight back by calling President Rayner’s remarks “not surprising because of the way this council operates”.

The stand-off fizzled out when President Rayner again repeated that the shire had not refused a \$2 million grant and sat down to announce the next agenda item, leaving an unrepentant Cr Bell to continue the fight next morning on Facebook.

**Cocky pit:** The main part of the agenda contained several new planning and development items.

A licence to extract gravel from a new Chitty Road pit was granted (pending a Federal Government assessment of whether it affects black cockatoo nesting sites), two more Telstra telecommunication towers – one at Culham the other at Morangup – were approved and councillors backed a WA Local Government Association bid for third-party appeal rights against decisions made by State development assessment panels.

Butterfly Cottages Association Chairman Jeff Roberts and committee member Di Roberts were in the gallery to hear councillors agree to waive rates totalling \$1312 for two years on the association’s Clinton Street property.

**Merrick audit:** Councillors then voted to approve an independent audit of shire accounts relating to the costly Merrick/Wroth legal case, which ended last year in financial disaster for ratepayers.

A review is needed because the shire has admitted publicly – after years of evasion and attacking others for having the audacity to ask questions – that it has no idea of the true cost of this unprecedented legal folly.

To add insult to injury, a public Freedom

of Information request last year led to CEO Stan Scott’s startling revelation that the shire’s own financial records of the case – for which he is directly answerable to the council – were “inaccurate and misleading”.

The new independent audit will include not only a reconciliation of costs but also whether “appropriate approvals” for the spending were properly authorised.

True to form, our councillors then argued about whether to specify that the audit result should be made public, as sought by the Toodyay Progress Association in a submission at the start of the meeting.

Mr Scott’s recommendation – which was moved by Cr Paula Greenway – made no mention of public release, and some councillors said it wasn’t necessary to add anything because they assumed the audit report would automatically be made public.

Yeah right. Cr Bell said there was no harm in amending the motion to “avoid any misunderstanding”.

Cr Greenway objected to the change but Cr Bell’s amendment was seconded by Deputy President Therese Chitty and councillors voted 5-2 (Crs Greenway and Judy Dow against, and Cr Rob Welburn absent) that the audit report be a public document.

The amended motion was carried 7-0.

Unfortunately it won’t cover a second ill-fated, secretive case against Mr Wroth that also ended up costing ratepayers dearly.

Within weeks of the ink drying on the Merrick settlement deed, the council went behind closed doors to sue Mr Wroth’s private company Warragenny Pty Ltd for an alleged seven-year-old business debt of \$14,300 connected to the 2009 bushfires.

Mr Wroth settled for \$5500 last June without admitting any liability – presumably to stop having to pay mounting legal defence costs and to get the council off his back after years of litigation – but not before long-suffering ratepayers were left to fork out another \$25,000 in legal costs.

Discounting staff time and other shire resources wasted on this futile exercise, the total cost to ratepayers was \$19,300.

That’s another one that won’t be so easily forgotten.

## Shire on notice as CEO stalls release of warning

Continued from Page 1.

MOST councillors knew nothing about the Local Government Department warning until a week later when the Toodyay Progress Association published parts of its own letter from the department on Facebook.

It prompted councillors to go behind closed doors at a February 13 forum to ask Mr Scott to explain what was going on.

It is understood Mr Scott said it was an administrative matter and that local government law prevented the council from getting involved.

However, one councillor – after consulting the others during the closed-door discussion – sent a phone message to Mr Graham asking if he would release the association’s copy of the department’s letter, which Mr Graham emailed to all councillors next morning.

Cr Sally Craddock resigned from the council later the same day.

This was followed by a week of email exchanges between the remaining councillors, resulting in a 4-4 split over whether to demand that Mr Scott release his copy of the department’s letter at the council’s February 27 meeting.

President Rayner is understood to have backed the CEO’s stance, supported by Crs Paula Greenway, Rob Welburn and Judy Dow, whose husband David was shire president for most of the period covered by the official warning until he lost his seat to Cr Di Granger in last October’s shire elections.

Had it gone to a formal council vote, President Rayner could have used his casting vote to keep the warning letter – which according to council minutes he still hadn’t seen – hidden from the council.

Cr Ben Bell served written notice on Sunday February 18 that he would seek the release of the letter and “all other correspondence”, prompting Mr Scott to release it the following Friday to all councillors, including President Rayner.

However, it took a further call by Cr Bell on the Sunday for Mr Scott to release “all other correspondence”, which he did on



Shire CEO Stan Scott.

the Monday – a day before the February 27 council meeting.

Cr Bell’s notice of motion was not published in the meeting agenda and the letter was not raised for discussion by the council or made public.

However, in answer to a question from Mr Graham, President Rayner said the council would get a copy of Mr Scott’s answer to the Local Government Department’s letter “when he responds”.

Under the heading “Withholding bad news before an election” Cr Bell posted on Facebook next morning that it did not appear to him “or to many in the public gallery” to be “overly clear” from the previous night’s council meeting “if the shire intends to potentially withhold the release of information before the upcoming (May 25) West Ward election” caused by former Cr Craddock’s resignation.

“As far as I am permitted under the shire’s standing orders, I will endeavour to ensure as much information is in the public domain both in the lead-up to this election as well as throughout my time on council,” Cr Bell said.

Thinking of moving into Toodyay?

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Firefighters watch each other's backs

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade  
Julimar  
Grant Scobie

TEAMWORK – it's the most important thing on the fire ground.

Didn't I say in last month's article that it was water? For putting out fires, there's nothing better; for firefighters' safety, it comes a close second.

Firefighters potentially face many hazards, not just fire but falling tree limbs and trees, hotspots on logs, ash, steam, embers, high-speed traffic, hanging electrical wires, etc.

The worst, by far, is heat-related illness; heat stress, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

So, if heat is really that dangerous, wouldn't drinking water or water to put out the fire be the most important thing?

Yes – and no.

If one was to wander alone off the beaten track in the middle of summer, water would be the most important thing one could take.

And, in a firefighting situation, having water to put out the fire and water to drink are definitely requirements.

But a firefighter is part of a team.

Team members watch the backs of other members, check they're not going into dangerous situations, keep an eye on their hydration, their fatigue and watch for things dropping from the sky or spurting up from the ground.

Firefighters need to drink water before it's required and to drink more than is believed necessary but, sometimes, individuals don't think about it until it's too late.

At Julimar we carry water bags, each containing about 10 to 12 bottles of water with a further supply on the back of one of our units.

Leaving the shed, we make sure the water bags are loaded into the appliances and a bottle each is distributed among the crew to drink on the way to the fire.

Crew members watch each other and go back to the truck to get more water if they see another member is out of water and also have a drink themselves.

Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) is also important.



Teamwork is essential when crews are on the fireground.

Those yellow, two-piece suits, gloves, boots, helmets and goggles/face masks, etc. are another thing we watch out for – making sure our colleagues are correctly attired for their best protection, not only from the fire but from the sun, dropping embers, smoke, etc.

Fatigue can be managed by taking the weight of the hose from the person holding the branch (handpiece and nozzle), watching to make sure they're ok and swapping positions.

It's incredible how heavy a 26mm diameter hose, 30m long and charged with water can weigh; get it caught under a rock or around a tree and the strain is tremendous.

While holding the hose, the second firefighter will be looking above to see if there are tree branches about to fall or if there is smoke or fire in the tree above. They will look at the ground to see if it's hot or smoking and keep the hose out of hot spots and they can see if the smoking branch overhead is throwing sparks into the unburnt area, helping the fire spread or creating a dangerous situation for the crew.

Noticing if a colleague is suffering from a heat-related illness is not always easy.

Early symptoms including cool, moist skin, weakness, dizziness and nausea can often be

put down to just being out in the heat and everyone is slightly different.

But a good team mate will watch colleagues and notice changes in their appearance, response and fatigue levels.

At a recent training session, where we were joined by three members of Toodyay Central brigade, one of the members noted some red faces in the crowd and went and got drinking water for all.

And it would be remiss of me if I didn't mention our 'team mates' at the Incident Control point.

There, apart from running the fire, etc., they monitor firefighters' welfare and arrange for food and drink, water for the appliances and some respite to be available when necessary.

At Julimar, we get to know our colleagues as much as possible through social activities and training sessions.

During the fire season, training can be interrupted by call-outs, etc. but we continue to meet every Friday from 5.30pm for checks on the appliances (another safety consideration – know your truck; know where everything is; know that all is in good working order) and a bit of time spent getting to know each other.

Teamwork makes for a safer environment in an unpredictable workplace.

## 100 call-outs in a busy 'quiet' period

St John Ambulance  
Kim Maddrell

HOW FAST is this year going – two months gone already.

While I thought we had had a relatively quiet period during this time, we have actually attended 100 call outs; seven cardiac patients, 64 medical patients, 27 trauma patients and two others.

Our Toodyay crews have attended 63 of these with Morangup crews turning out to 37.

In relation to a number of trauma incidents we have attended, we have done so with the local police and also the Toodyay Fire and Rescue team.

While in the ideal world it would be great if we never had to work with other emergency services, we really do appreciate the support and assistance that they offer us with them often going above and beyond in what they can do to help us.

For those of you that aren't aware, we have a new community paramedic in our area. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Ann Davies.

Ann comes from the UK with 10 years' paramedic experience and has been with St John for seven years.

She has spent the past four years as a Volunteer Education Trainer and we all look forward to her sharing her knowledge with us at our monthly training sessions.

Is your first-aid kit fully stocked, or do you need one? We sell a variety of kits or we can service your current kit.

Call in and see Carolynne at the sub centre otherwise call her on 9574 2390 and she can arrange a time to come out to you.

Be safe, be well, but if you do need an ambulance, call 000 and we will be there.



St John

## St John Ambulance

“Provide First Aid” HLTAID003

### One day courses

To be held on **Saturday 10th March 2018**

and **Saturday 7th April 2018**

St John Ambulance, Stirling Terrace Toodyay

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

Contact Carolynne for further details:

Phone: 0428 957 600 or 9574 2390

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

**Free first aid kit for all participants**



**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**SLOMO law will help keep us safer**

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade  
Toodyay Central  
Mick McKeown**

AFTER a quiet summer Central Brigade has turned out to five fires in the last month.

A fire near the Clackline Road, ignited by welding equipment being used outdoors, took more than six hours to contain and mop-up.

The Bush Fires Regulations require that a person shall not operate welding apparatus in the open air, unless at least one fire extinguisher is provided at the place where the welding is carried out and the place is surrounded by a firebreak which is at least 5m wide.

This fire was a typical example of why this regulation exists.

Central also turned out to assist at fires in the neighbouring Shires of Chittering and Northam.

Recently, you may have come across references in the media to Slow Down, Move Over (SLOMO) legislation.

The government has introduced new laws to improve the road safety of people attending roadside emergencies in WA.

The SLOMO law requires motorists to reduce speed to a maximum of 40km/h when passing incident response vehicles with flashing lights and, where possible and safe to do so, to move to the next lane.

The penalty for failing to slow down and move over is \$300 and three demerit points.

The law came into effect on March 2 and has been introduced for the protection of emergency workers – we urge you to comply with it.

In addition, in the event of a bush fire, traffic must obey the directions of police or fire fighters who may be assisting with traffic control.

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

**Six new members ready to fight fires**



Morangup 'newbies' get a handle on the fire hose at a recruit training session. Photo: Jeff Venn.

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade  
Morangup  
Sue Maddrell**

AT THE time of writing there have only been a couple of fires in the shire; none of them in Morangup, and all have been brought under control in a relatively short period of time.

Our six new members have completed their initial fire courses and are looking forward to having some practical experience and to also getting their uniforms dirty.

A few weeks ago all the brigade had a training day to help the new members become familiar with the vehicles and to also give them some practical experience on water transfer with a few scenarios thrown in.

The day was a great success with everyone getting to know each other.

Our 1.4 truck has gone to have the deluge system fitted. We have a replacement as it could be a few months before we see it again.

It will soon be Permit Season. Historically, we have had a large number

of fires in this period due to burns getting out of control or other people seeing the smoke from a permit burn and incorrectly thinking it is okay for them to light up too.

Infringement notices can be issued for lighting a fire during permit burning season.

The brigade meets on the third Saturday of each month at 5.30pm.

Those interested in joining are welcome to come along. A barbecue is held after the meeting. Please bring your own meat and a salad to share.

**Old faithful Big Kev is on the mend – again**

**Volunteer Bushfire Brigade  
Bejoording  
From the desk of The Badger**

THE BADGER had a shock early in February.

On his first visit back to the shed he saw a much more modern and shiny fire engine. Fantastic he thought, they finally retired Big Kev the old faithful truck. Alas I was wrong.

Big Kev has gone to the repair shop for yet another upgrade, this time to crew-safety features, so we can't complain.

We have a loan vehicle from Central Brigade for the next couple of months.

What a wonderfully event-free season

it's been. As I write it's almost the end of February and permit fires have been allowed early in some neighbouring shires.

Hopefully I don't speak too soon, but we have got through summer without extended heatwaves, large electric storms, and gale force winds. There have been no serious fires in our area at all for a long time.

Our hearty thanks to all the crew who have been on standby throughout the summer; to those who have been called out only to be stood down again but done so with good grace.

If you'd like to discuss becoming a volunteer fire fighter, give us a call.

An informative chat is not a commitment, but we'd like the opportunity to meet you.

Our experiment to run meetings on a Friday

evening has worked well, so Fridays will be locked in permanently; that's the third Friday of the month, every month of the year.

Our next regular meeting will be at the shed on Friday March 16 at 5.45pm.

The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade reminds you of the need to be vigilant and careful.

Remember to always plan and prepare for fire, and have a clear contingency strategy in place should things get out of control. Fires can be a catastrophic risk to people, animals and property, so take care.

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.

**Experienced firies boost our ranks**

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade  
Coondle-Nunile  
Max J Heath**

HI FOLKS and welcome to the new year.

The brigade had a small get-together for a Christmas do and thank goodness that it was a quiet Christmas season.

A good number put their names on the board for the Christmas roster but luckily they were not required.

In the past few weeks we have had two new members join, both with experience. We would like to welcome Rob Lowe and Scott Wilkinson to our midst.

Rob came from a brigade down Albany way and Scott brings experience from the eastern states.

We also have another two women interested in joining us shortly I believe.

It has been a quiet start to our year. Our 2.4 was returned to us with an upgrade and now has all the bells and whistles on it.

We were still trying to sort out the problem with the Engel fridge and its mountings which, after a visit to the shire mechanic, has now at last been sorted.

At our January meeting we received a nice donation from the Toodyay Op Shop. This is very much appreciated.

The work these people do and the contribution they make to Toodyay is amazing.

There have been a couple of wood raffles booked for the year and these will be our main fundraisers.

The raffles will be held in June and July and all your support would be welcome.

On January 14 a contingent from Central Brigade came out with their vehicles for our members to inspect and they also joined in the training with Oxysock, radios, map reading and burn-over being the targeted areas of the day. A barbecue was held after the training.

After our February meeting some more Central Brigade members visited and Charlie Wroth went through the defibrillator while others dealt with the oxygen masks inside

vehicles. It was very useful training.

We have had one fire in recent times on Coondle West Road which seems to be a suspicious incident – the sort of thing we don't need.

Our entire community needs to keep a look out for these situations and report any concerns immediately.

Then, later in February, there was a fire at Hoddys Well and another call out near Julimar and Coondle West Road later in February seemed a bit suspicious.

These were kept to smallish fires and were soon extinguished by a competent team of fire fighters from the district.

Well that's about all from Coondle-Nunile for the present so please keep vigilant.

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**Now Open** **food market**

*Delicious*  
**Swan Valley Seedless Grapes**

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*Pick up your Fresh Fruit and Veg for Easter*

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**COFFEE TO GO AND MORE**

**Coffee & Cake Special \$5**  
(Choice of Banana, Carrot or Chocolate Cake)

SHIRE OF **toodyay**  
place of plenty

**COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP/ GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES**

The Shire of Toodyay is calling for applications from local community groups and organisations as part of its Community Grant/Sponsorship Program. Requests may be made for a specific event or project.

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

**Applications close 4.00pm Thursday 29 March 2018**

**Stan Scott**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Toodyay is SPECIAL

One of the great things about living in Toodyay is that people will look you in the eye and say "G'day". It's a refreshing change to walk down town and people smile, acknowledge you, are never too busy to answer a question and are just plain friendly.

Country Living is about the community, the people, the lifestyle and the glorious surroundings. And if you really need to, the city is only an hour or so away.

Ever since Lynn and I purchased our first property in Toodyay in 1995 we have been singing the praises of Toodyay. So much so that some our friends have moved here as well.

Born 14 years ago in March 2004, Country Realty was created to help people fulfill their dreams of this idyllic lifestyle. Yes, **it's our birthday!**

In the ensuing years, your support has taken a small 2 man business to one employing 10 families, two offices and being the **one of the largest sales and property management companies in the Avon Valley**. But rather than just say thank you, we have been able to turn that success into help for many individuals and associations in Toodyay

Be it a festival or a young lady wanting to get to a horse event in Melbourne, **your support** has enabled us to pass on funds to many and varied in the **community**. We love doing that.

The world has changed dramatically in the past 14 years. The Internet was new, and Facebook had not even been invented back then. Nor had iPhone or tablets and drones.

We have embraced these new technologies including Social Media and emerging virtual reality to ensure that with your support we will be able to assist the community for the next 14 years.

Now for the sales pitch! - If you're buying, selling or renting you will find us just as warm and friendly as your neighbours with a large dose of professionalism thrown in. We don't need to talk about honesty and integrity because in a small community that is a given.

We work 7 days a week for our clients and we are there for you long after the deal is done.

Regards

*Lui & Lynn Marcelli*  
Owners of Country Realty



*For our birthday month, we will give you 10% off our fees or match any competitor and beat it by 10% ... sensational !!!*



[countryrealty.com.au](http://countryrealty.com.au)

**COUNTRY REALTY**

Ph 1300 149 091

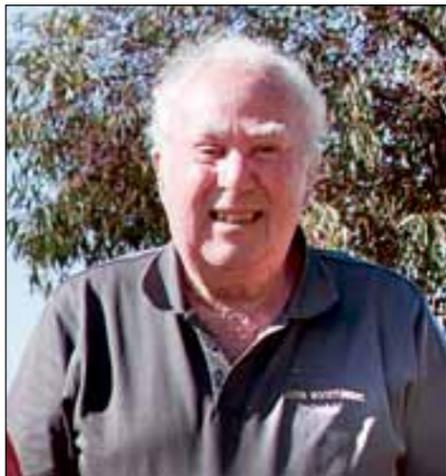
# Community Citizen Award winners and nominees

LAST month's report on the Shire of Toodyay's annual Australia Day breakfast and citizenship ceremony in Duidgee Park on January 26 omitted local WA Community Citizen Awards results.

The winners were:  
 WA Community Citizen of the Year Award – Kim Maddrell (also nominated: Charlie Wroth).

Active Citizenship Award for a Community Group or Event – Toodyay Miniature Railway (also nominated: Butterfly Cottages Association, Toodyay Farmers Market and *The Toodyay Herald*).

WA Senior Citizen of the Year Award – Max Heath (also nominated: Marlene Andrijich, Heather Appleby, Stan Eastwood and Paul Sutton).



Max Heath.



Toodyay Mini Rail's Stan Eastwood.



Toodyay Shire President Brian Rayner congratulates Kim Maddrell (right).

## Ready to roll in Easter

**Toodyay Miniature Railway**  
 Stan Eastwood

MEMBERS are girding up for the new running season with the official start to the season being Easter Saturday.

We will also run Easter Sunday and Monday and Wednesday in school-term holidays. Times are the same at 11am to 3pm.

Vern has taken on the role of garden guru and has planted several sunflowers whose bright heads are nodding happily.

Our Bunyip has been delivered and at present is in Gingin awaiting his designer giving him a coat of paint. He will have a happy welcoming wave when put in place near his lair.

It is very lucky for him and us that there

is a natural grotto which will be perfect for him and I am sure he will make our small riders smile.

The Mini Railway was honoured to receive the shire's Active Citizenship for a Community Group or Event on Australia Day and, what a busy day it was.

First trains went out around 7.45am and the last after 11am.

Our last riders arrived after we had closed but as one of the intending passengers was a new Australian citizen who had taken the oath hours before, it was thought we could extend the welcome by getting out an engine and carriages and take the family for a ride.

We look forward to a happy holiday beginning and no doubt Benny will be in his usual spot in his red caboose.

## Bank backs bid to tread the boards

**Caroline Campbell**

TOODYAY'S Bailey Valentine is a star in the making and having recently been awarded a scholarship, is well on the way to realising his dreams.

The Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank and Northam Customer Service Centre committed \$5000 to this year's Youth Focus Community Grant Program which provides a pathway for young people to attain their goals.

Bailey aims to attend the WA Academy of Performing Arts and wants to study sound production and special effects.

The Year 11 student at Northam's St Joseph's School is an active member of the Toodyay Theatre Group and has performed leading roles in *Holka Polka*, *Peter Pan*, *Beauty and the Beast* and most recently *Go Bananas*.

Bailey is also a committed community volunteer who performs at numerous charity events in Toodyay and Northam.

Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank and Northam Customer Service Manager, Kirsten Barrack, said the grant committee had to make a tough decision as all applicants would have been worthy recipients.

"As parents ourselves we also know how expensive it can get supporting our children and their various interests. We hope this scholarship program helps make life a bit easier for his family and we look forward to following Bailey's journey."

"To give the the gift of encouragement to our young people by way of this scholarship program is easily one of the most rewarding aspects of our job," Ms Barrack said.

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Phone Anders McGuinness Mobile: 0437 051 280  
 Email: avonearthworks@bigpond.com

Bendigo Bank  
 Youth Community Grant  
 winner Bailey Valentine.

**Toodyay & Districts Community Bank® Branch and Northam Customer Service Centre**

## Happy to be a support act.

**Bendigo Bank Youth Community Focus Grant.**

We understand the significant role that clubs, projects and community groups play in building the fabric of a local community and in bringing people together.

**Drop into your nearest branch at 108 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay - 9574 4077 or 150 - 152 Fitzgerald Street, Northam - 9622 8159 to find out more.**

**Bendigo Bank**  
 Bigger than a bank.

[bendigobank.com.au](http://bendigobank.com.au)

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# Wow, what a month – but who's really in charge?

## Toodyay Progress Association

Larry Graham, Chair

WOW – what a month, so much has happened.

We could start with Toodyay Shire Cr Sally Craddock's resignation, or maybe our association finding out that the equivalent of 14 families' rates are paying for the CEO's housing allowance of \$20,000 a year.

Or it might be that after a year of council saying it is all very secret squirrel, we are going to have an audit of those huge legal costs.

Any one of those items would usually be attention-grabbers and – because it has formally put our council on notice – the State Government's response to our call for an inquiry would also normally attract a lot of public interest.

But the real whopper which overshadows everything is someone in the council deciding that the WA Local Government Department's response was so important that our councillors should not be allowed to see it.

Many of our elected ones first heard about it from the Toodyay Progress Association (TPA) newsletter and that alone is an astounding thing because to give the council time to examine that response and to make a public statement informing the shire's ratepayers, we deliberately waited before releasing our newsletter.

Winding back the clock a bit, many will recall last year's official shire response to our submissions to the Department of Local Government, when it said:

"The Shire has reviewed the list of complaints and we totally reject the claims being made by the TPA."

We now know that was not true, but thankfully, the Local Government Department did not reject our claims – instead it considered what we said and formally put the council on notice.

In its letter to our association, the department said it:

"...believes there remains sufficient justification to continue to monitor the operations and affairs of the Shire in regard to its policies, processes, procedures and compliance.

"To this end the Shire has been requested to revisit the specific areas of policy, review certain procedures and improve its level of compliance.

"The Department has advised the Shire that it intends to assess the Shire's responses in that regard to determine whether any further action may be warranted."

These sorts of decisions don't get made because things are going well in an organisation.

But it seems someone in the council thought it was not necessary to tell councillors what was going on, nor did they think it is necessary to tell us what they are going to do about our complaints.

That is pretty strange behaviour.

In a normal, healthy and functioning organisation, decision-makers would have seen the documents immediately and they would have quickly called an emergency meeting to discuss how to fix their problems.

But that did not happen.

Our mob weren't told, didn't meet and then got into a brawl over whether they should be told what was going on or not.

How can it be that in the Shire of Toodyay, the people in charge are not allowed to be in charge?

Who could imagine any other organisation put on notice by their regulator, and that organisation's governing body not being told about it?

Even big companies that are put on watch are required to tell their board and shareholders about it – but not the Toodyay Shire Council.

The department's letter arrived in council on February 1 and it took nearly another three weeks to get to our decision-makers.

And even though they have now seen the department's letter, it appears that what it says is now deemed confidential so councillors can't talk publicly about it.

Answers we got from the council made it clear that our decision makers have no idea of the way forward, other than meeting a March 6 deadline for council submissions back to the department.

But we don't know if our councillors will be allowed to see those either.

The Toodyay Progress Association cannot understand why our councillors are not angry with this – they are supposed to be in charge, so what is stopping them taking charge?

The same councillors finally made a good decision to audit those controversial legal costs and to publish the results.

We need more of that behaviour, not less.

This is not North Korea and the association says it is time for the council to stop its secretive nonsense, stop avoiding questions and start providing some answers.

Most folks want a change to an open and receptive local government authority.

They want the council to get on with the job of governing responsibly in the interests of ratepayers, electors and residents.

But, because these folks have not got the changes that the record numbers of them voted for at the last election, many of those same people are now getting cranky.

It does not have to be like this and the association hopes that civic matters improve quickly in town.

However, this will happen only when there is a dramatic change in how the

council does its business and how it deals with the public.

We live in hope and – as always – point out that we are a not-for-profit, volunteer public advocacy group that will not, and has not, run, supported or endorsed candidates for elected office.



Former West Ward Cr Sally Craddock was often a lone voice in the wilderness.

## Thank you Sally

THE TOODYAY Progress Association wishes to publicly thank former Cr Sally Craddock for her public service to the community.

Sally survived some pretty horrible treatment (and we have to say it was not from us) over her 15 years on the council and she did that with grace and dignity while always fighting hard for what she believed in.

Sally, the town thanks you.

Our environment matters at the Toodyay Herald.  
news@toodyayherald.com.au



We Serve

LIONS Club of Toodyay Inc.

# JUMBO AUCTION

Saturday 8th April 2017

**Important information for SELLERS**  
**Food and Drinks will be available for sale**

There will be a maximum of 500 Lots for the entire event. Lots will be accepted on Friday, April 6, 2018 from 8.30am.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Sellers with Lots of 15-20 (20 Maximum) are accepted by prior arrangement only. Please advise by close of business on Friday, March 30 to Jim Silvester on 9574 4695, or email jim.silvester@bigpond.com.

**No old TV's or Computers please.**

For large and expensive items, call Jim Silvester 9574 4695 or Steele Williams 9574 2903, and please leave a message.

Delivery of these items will be on Friday, April 6, 2018 after 10.30am.

If you need items collected, please contact Jim Silvester or Steele Williams.

Entry is at the Hockey Oval Gate (not the main gate).

No Lots will be accepted for sale on the day of the Auction.

**ALL** items in the Lots NOT sold **must be removed** by the owner and **ALL** items in the Lots purchased must be removed by buyer by 5pm on the day of the Auction.

The Toodyay Lions Club takes no responsibility for Lots after the fall of the hammer.

Auctioning of the goods will commence at 9am sharp on Saturday, April 7.

Seller's donation is \$2 per Lot, plus 10% commission on sale amount. No reserve on items less than \$50.

Goods purchased become the responsibility of the buyer on fall of hammer.

Auction Registration Forms are available at Toodyay IGA, Tony Maddox Real Estate, Freemasons Hotel, Toodyay Bowling Club, L J Hooker Real Estate and Gidgegannup Convenience Store.

**Important information for BIDDERS**

Gates open at 8am for viewing Lots and purchasing of your \$2 Buyer's tickets.

Food and drinks will be available for purchase at the Auction.

**NO DOGS ARE PERMITTED ON THE OVAL DURING THE 2 DAY EVENT**

**Net proceeds divided between Natural Disaster (Flood & Fire) Appeals and local beneficiaries**



President Rachel Oliver with Ian Harrower who received an award for introducing many new members to the Lions Club in Toodyay.

## Toodyay Lions want to help you de-clutter your life

LIVING in spacious Toodyay encourages clutter so let us help you de-clutter and rationalise your 'assets' while helping Lions raise funds for local and national organisations.

Remember – someone's 'unwanted item' is another one's treasure; the politically correct version of an old quotation.

We are happy to receive crockery, books, ornaments, garden tools and any other household goods.

Larger items such as furniture, indoor and outdoor, machinery and building materials are also welcome.

We also accept cars, tractors and caravans. For help or advice, contact Jim Silvester on 9574 4695 or Steele Williams, 9574 2903.

This year, auctioneer Tony Maddox and his assistant will once again do a tireless and professional job. Come on down to the oval on Saturday April 7 and see them in action and enjoy the banter.

Don't forget to collect your buyer's ticket.

Sellers need to meet with Lion Steele on Friday April 6 to pay their selling fee; please complete the registration fee earlier to make this job easier.

Lions members will document all items to be sold.

Registration forms can be obtained from Tony Maddox Real Estate, IGA, Freemasons Hotel, Makit Hardware, Toodyay Community Resource Centre and the Toodyay and

Districts Bendigo Community Bank.

Buyers can preview items on Friday evening April 6 – just wander around the oval to check out the goods.

On the fall of the hammer on Saturday, buyers are advised to retrieve any valuable items from the lot.

When you pay for your purchases drop into the office and meet the happy pride of Lions who run the office.

Thinking of becoming a Lion – why not join the Toodyay Lions Club? We are an eclectic group of young, young-at-heart, working and 'retired' people – that is, until they joined Lions.

This year we have welcomed four new members and a transferee from Merredin; Geoff and Gerri, Peter C, Peter E and Jenny P.

We meet every second Tuesday at the Freemasons. Contact Jim Silvester 9574 4695 or talk to us during the Lions Jumbo Auction.

Apart from good food and fellowship, Lions raise funds to support many local and national groups.

This year we supported the Toodyay District High School with donations for Country Week and Chaplaincy, the RSL Sandakan Scholarship, Disaster Relief and of course, Play Group through the proceeds from the Wiggly Worm.

Please refer to the advertisement on Page 12 for further information and contact details.

## New mast extends local radio range

Toodyay Community Radio  
Bethan Lloyd

GREAT news. Thanks to the support of our local sponsors we have purchased a new mast which is higher than the previous one and will give us a greater range.

Our technical team will have this erected at our signal site very soon. Those who haven't been able to pick us up yet – get ready.

We have some new programs coming on board in March and our current programs Green Hour, Ready 2 Rock, Crooners and Swooners and the Wide World of Folk are all proving to be a hit and we congratulate the producers of these programs.

Remember this all takes a lot of time and we are all volunteers.

Thanks to all the buddies who have come in to the studio and chatted on the Green Hour.

We are always looking for more people so if you have an interest in the areas of environment, sustainability, or gardening call Bethan on 9574 5882. All and any feedback is encouraging and appreciated.

If you have any requests for community announcements and broadcasts, any questions, queries or suggestions, please forward them to 2j2air@gmail.com or leave a comment on our Facebook page.

Set your dial to 105.3FM and enjoy the programs.

## School Chaplain Doug on deck four days a week

Toodyay YouthCARE Council  
(Chaplaincy)  
Vivienne Freeman, Secretary

WE'RE UP, up and away in 2018 and looking forward to another busy year for Toodyay YouthCARE.

This year our school chaplain Doug McGhee will visit Toodyay District High School on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Doug will be available for our students, parents, teachers and staff to have a chat and be a supportive and caring presence within our school.

Our first open breakfast club for the year was held on February 12.

It was very well attended by students, mums and staff.

On offer were cereal, fresh fruit salad,

yoghurt, spaghetti, toast, juice and Milo.

We are able to provide the Breakfast Club on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, thanks to Foodbank, IGA Toodyay and Bee Happy.

We are pleased to have a full complement of volunteers to cover our breakfast club.

Our raffle held on February 23 and 24 for YouthCARE was well supported.

First prize was won by Jacqui Graham who has recently moved to town. Welcome to Toodyay, Jacqui.

Second prize went to Ernst Kaltenbrunner. Thanks for your support, everyone.

An advance notice regarding our Toodyay YouthCARE Council AGM; it will be held on Tuesday April 10. Further details in next month's Herald.

YouthCARE looks forward to your continued support of our chaplaincy program for another year.



Toodyay's daily AvonLink commuter rail service may be replaced by coaches.

## Coach may replace daily AvonLink passenger service

THE AVONLINK passenger rail service is unlikely to return to more than one service a day and may be replaced by a coach through Morangup, Toodyay Shire Cr Paula Greenway told the shire's Annual Meeting of Electors last month.

Cr Greenway, who is a founding member of the Toodyay AvonLink Supporters' Group, said the future of Toodyay's weekday commuter rail service "was on hold".

"She said passenger numbers for the MerredinLink service which runs three days a week through Toodyay had "increased quite a lot".

However, there had been no increase in AvonLink numbers.

"We've gone down this road before – we cannot get the numbers," Cr Greenway said.

"We had a trial but could not get the patronage."

Cr Greenway said a Transwa survey of passenger needs could result in the AvonLink being replaced by a coach service, which would benefit Morangup residents.

"Transwa have committed to monitor the growth of this area and will consider this option in future service reviews," she said.

## IN MOORE WITH LOVE

Parliament's return on February 13 was marked with the CWA Rally protesting the closure of **Moora Residential College**, a 20 percent tax on the income generated at **Agricultural College farms** including Cunderdin and the closure of the six **camp schools**.

I commend the hundreds of regional people that travelled to Perth to make clear their disgust for this Labor Government's attack on regional communities. WA's agricultural education system is held up as an example elsewhere in Australia. The McGowan government's indirect attack on the agriculture sector amounts to class warfare against farming families.

While Labor attack regional education and health programs in the name of 'budget repair', Labor electorates across WA have just shared in a staggering \$39 million cash splash. The **Local Projects Local Jobs** program announced last month saw \$14.8 million lavished across 34 Perth Labor seats in the past eight months.

Labor's unravelling of the **Royalties for Regions** program was confirmed in the September budget and the Liberal Party last week announced that they will cull the program altogether. In less than 12 months, Labor has stripped \$861 million from **Royalties for Regions** to fund core government services. The Nationals WA however remain committed to the flagship **Royalties for Regions** program.

**Shane Love** MLA  
Member for Moore

**THE NATIONALS**



Toodyay Theatre Group Inc.  
Presents

## Double 21 Radio

A brand new comedy written by Graham Boston.

ON AIR

Two Nights Only!  
6 & 7 April

Tickets from Makit  
\$20 per person

Bar & Food available

Toodyay Memorial Hall

Strictly no BYO food or drink

Doors open 6pm, show starts 6:30pm





From left: Robin, Kevin and Morgan Yost with their four-legged Kelpie workforce. Photo: Frank Panizza.

## Local stud sets new WA record with \$23,000 Charolais bull

**Toodyay Agricultural Alliance**  
Frank Panizza

RECENT stud cattle sales have seen keen interest state-wide from cattle producers wanting to improve the genetics of their herds.

A WA record auction price of \$23,000 for a Charolais bull at the Brunswick bull sale was set late last month.

The breeders of this exceptional animal were local farmers Kevin and Robin Yost of Liberty Charolais.

Robin Yost who farms with her husband Kevin and daughters Morgan and Jess believes the great result was reward for persistence and faith in the Charolais breed and the cattle industry in general.

Mrs Yost said: "Mum and Dad started the stud in 1974 after they sold Mount Augustus station in the Pilbara.

"The breed, which originated in France, has been in Australia for 40 years and was renowned for good growth rates and good fertility," Mrs Yost said.

However, breeding in Australia has now markedly improved the breed's adaptability for Australian conditions.

"It is almost a case now of having an 'Australian Charolais' as the breed is now quite different from French Charolais of today," Mrs Yost explained.

Mrs Yost met her husband, who was born in America and lived in Iowa, in Australia at a

cattle sale.

"Our daughters Morgan and Jess work full time on the farm with Kevin and me, so we are all farmers through and through," she said.

Both Jess and Morgan studied agricultural degrees before returning to the farm.

The family also run a commercial herd of Charolais cattle which they finish off in a feedlot for the local domestic market.

The Yosts also run Dorper sheep for the prime lamb market, again for the local domestic market.

The news about sheep gets better and better. Recently wool sales have seen some new record highs.

Recent sales of prime lamb have seen some lines surpass \$150 per head.

Confidence remains high which is leading to widespread investment into the sheep industry.

Reports have emerged of at least one large corporate-sized 'total cropping' farm in the Great Southern converting to a 'total sheep' farm in one fell swoop.

Shearing shed manufacturers have recently had strong enquiries about new shearing sheds and upgrades to existing shearing sheds.

Cooler than average temperatures in the latter part of summer, together with rain from thunderstorms late last month, have managed to keep a green pick in pasture paddocks.

Clover is hanging on in places which offers some hope that it can survive into autumn which will be a boon for livestock owners.

## New faces front up for 165th Show

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

THE COMMITTEE to organise the 165th Toodyay Agricultural Show was elected at the society's AGM on February 12, followed by nibbles and drinks at the Youth Hall in the showgrounds.

New faces and ideas mixing with experience are taking committee seats this year, including two members of the younger set who will provide us with what the youth of today are looking for in an agricultural country show.

The elected executive comprises: the Patron, David Chitty; President in his second year, Kevin Hutchings; Senior Vice-President, Alison Wroth; Junior Vice-President, Merridith Lamb; Treasurer, Narelle Rodger and, Secretary, Vanessa Donaghy.

New and experienced members make up the committee.

A Show Ball is being discussed already for around September, so we can all let our hair down, dress to the nines and celebrate our historic 165th Toodyay Show in style.

The Toodyay Agricultural Society will also host the Royal Agricultural Society Rural Ambassador Award this year, so it is a busy one in front of us with talk of a craft workshop being tossed around as well.

We can't wait to get into it and get going and are looking forward to community support, both prior to and on the day, to keep this historic agricultural show alive.

Hopefully the farmers will stick by us when it comes to exhibiting livestock on the day. What is an agricultural show without livestock on display?

We are promoting what can be bred locally, so let's put it out for everyone to see at the show.

There will be many issues to discuss in the next *Herald*.



New life members (from left) Kay Williamson, Steve Williamson and Esme Caine.

## Three Gidgie troupers get gongs

THREE Gidgie Show stalwarts were recognised for their ongoing contribution to the Gidgegannup Agricultural Society at its recent annual general meeting.

Show caterer Esme Caine and long-serving members Kay and Steven Williamson were presented with life membership badges by society president Colin Metcalf who will again chair the committee this year.

Senior vice-president Gordon Caine, junior vice-president Marcus Hemsted and treasurer Gloria Metcalf were re-elected to their previous positions, while Shelley Williams took on the role of secretary.

Committee members Rosemary Corbin, Esme Caine, Steve Williamson, Owen Snook, Phil Corbin, Val Forrest and Allan Lockwood will be joined by newcomers Peter Baudinette and *Toodyay Herald* volunteer Jean Witcombe.

Mr Metcalf said he was pleased with the meeting attendance and stressed the need for senior committee members to ensure their knowledge of show management is passed on.

City of Swan Gidgegannup Ward Cr Rod Henderson conducted the election of office bearers and complimented show organisers on continuing to present successful and well-attended shows.



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Members enjoying a sundowner at St Stephen's Rectory. Photo: Linda Rooney.

## Toodyay has been a tonic since the early 1900s

**Toodyay Historical Society**  
Robyn Taylor, President

MANY people today must wish they could escape to less frenetic times when there was no television or smart phone to feed us a daily diet of disasters.

It can become overwhelming at times and can't be doing us any good.

Admittedly there are benefits today that weren't enjoyed in the past such as the obvious advances in medical technology.

But still, it's also beneficial for our health to take a pause, switch off, take in our surroundings and enjoy the peace and tranquillity that nature can offer.

Toodyay provides the opportunity to do this.

In fact, since at least the early 20th century, and possibly earlier, Toodyay and other towns east of the Darling Range, were referred to in advertisements as sanatoriums, enticing city dwellers to get away from the hustle and bustle and enjoy the benefits of fresh country air and locally grown food.

One such place in Toodyay was a popular guesthouse called Key Farm.

Anyone who has driven along Toodyay Road from Perth will have seen the sign on the left hand side of the road.

Key Farm had been purchased from the Piesse family in 1928 and became a well-known guesthouse under the management of Mrs M G Gadson.

Alfred Piesse had been Newcastle's (Toodyay's) Resident Magistrate from 1900, and in between duties had established the farm and became the leader of the local Vine and Fruit-growers Association.

An advertisement in the 1933 Christmas edition of the *Western Mail* describes Key Farm.

"Ideally situated only three miles from Toodyay in picturesque surroundings, this well-known guesthouse offers every facility for perfect rest and enjoyment.

"Hot water baths, electric light, tennis, golf, and swimming appointments.

"Fresh cream, and milk daily; fruit and vegetables from our own farm, dance and sports room."

Such a place sounds idyllic.

We welcome any stories or anecdotes *Herald* readers might be able to provide about this former guesthouse; perhaps your parents or grandparents had their honeymoon there?

Members will be pleased to learn our March excursion will be to Key Farm. Details will be circulated to members.

On Saturday February 24, we enjoyed a delightful sundowner in the back garden of St Stephen's Rectory.

Many thanks to our hosts and society members the Reverends Peggy and Brian Ludlow for sharing their home, and Pug and Potter for delighting us with their company.

Our planning meeting in February has produced another exciting year of events and excursions.

We encourage members to put a copy of the program on their fridge for easy reference.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday March 21 at 7pm in Drummond House, Toodyay Environment & History Centre, next to the bank.

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

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

There are also displays of books and other items at Drummond House which is open Saturday mornings.

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

Membership is fantastic value at \$10 per annum.

## The Badger zeros in on what makes a small 'town' tick

**Bejoording Community Group News**  
From the desk of The Badger

WRITING a monthly column for a community group can be quite a challenge.

Now this isn't cheating, but I like to check back and see what I wrote for this month and I came across much of what's in this column back in 2015.

We all know what we've done, who's had a birthday, got married, won a prize and so on, so we don't need a column to be reminded.

As for the rest of the shire community, do they really want to know the minutiae of our lives up here near the end of the white line or, read our 'in jokes' – I suspect not.

That got me to thinking it might be an idea to revisit The Badger's thoughts on the value of a community group, especially in an area like Bejoording which isn't a town, which doesn't have a shop or a post office and the only focal point we have is the shed we share with the volunteer bush fire brigade.

But oh, how important that shed is. It's the one place where everyone knows they can turn up on a Wednesday evening and be made welcome by their neighbours.

If you have visitors, you can bring them to meet your local friends. Everyone is equally welcome whether you come only a few times a year or every week.

If you are standing alone, without fail someone will engage you in conversation. You can bring your children, you can even bring your dogs – if they behave.

It's a gossip fest of the kindest kind, it's how we keep up with what's going on.

On any night there can be serious or light-hearted discussions about a wide range of subjects from music to movies, books to bar rooms, politics to pumps, fashions to food, harvests to the *Herald*, or sports to supercars.

Often a number of such conversations are happening at the same time, while other people are simply catching up with each other.

While there is always a small group of dedicated people who ensure the group keeps going, there are many people who contribute to its success.

Every month there's at least one significant event. It might be a feast night

on a Wednesday, or a group car outing to a country pub on a weekend, or Melbourne Cup Day.

All these things are the lifeblood of a community; it's what binds it together.

So if your community seems to be lacking focus or togetherness consider finding a neutral venue, getting a few friends together, and starting a community group. You may only get a few people to begin with but if it works it will grow.

The Badger would be happy to share his thoughts with any interested community.

At our first meeting for the year in February a program of special events was discussed and every event now has a volunteer to coordinate its success.

Upgrades to the kitchen and cooking facilities at the shed were agreed upon and, through our past social events, we have raised sufficient funds to do this.

We take pride in being self-sufficient. So 2018 is shaping up as an exciting year.

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, come along, we'd love to get to know you.

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

Hope to see you soon.



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**HELP!**  
**We need your help!**

If you live in the Shire of Toodyay we need to know your ideas, aspirations and thoughts for the future of Toodyay.

We are writing a new **Strategic Community Plan** and need your input.

**See us at the Toodyay Farmers Markets**

We will be at the Toodyay Farmers Markets on Sunday 18th March between 9 am and 1 pm. See you there!

**Complete the Survey**

You can do the survey on the Shire's website or online at  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KVCWW78>

You can get a paper copy at the Toodyay Library, Toodyay Visitor's Centre or at the Shire Office.

The survey is open until 25 March 2018.

**The plan will be much better if you are in it!**

**Stan Scott**  
Chief Executive Officer

*Johnny Young Presents*

# KAREN CARPENTER



## DINNER & SHOW

*Starring* **Narelle Belle & The Carpenter Band**

**Saturday 17th March 2018**

at the  **wildgoose**

**\$128**  
per person  
includes  
3 course meal

**Doors open at 6pm**  
**Show 9pm**

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Advertorial

# Special night brings Karen *Close to You*

NARELLE Belle has ‘channelled’ a lot of well-known artists in cabaret shows and this month will immerse her audience in *An Evening with Karen Carpenter* at the Wild Goose in Gidgegannup.

Young Talent Time host and perennial entertainer Johnny Young will host the evening which will transport guests back to the melodious 70s soft-rock era.

A five-piece band and two back-up singers will join Narelle and Johnny on stage highlighting The Carpenter’s 14-year hit-making career which ended in 1983 when Karen died from anorexia aged 32.

*We’ve Only Just Begun, Rainy Days and Mondays, Top of the World* and the mega-hit *Close to You* are songs which are a natural fit for this versatile performer.

Narelle has worked as a comedian, actor, radio producer and presenter and as a vocalist, has embodied the personas of Liza Minnelli and Amy Winehouse in her own cabaret shows.

Working with other acts, Narelle has also performed as Abba’s Frieda, June Carter in *Johnny Cash & Co* and Magenta in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

Karen Carpenter has been Narelle’s idol since she was young and the opportunity to bring her songs back into the spotlight has been a career highlight.

Narelle’s contralto voice is a perfect match for the songs that feature strong harmonies and the enduring arrangements of Karen’s brother Richard. According to Narelle, performing the show without a band and back-up singers would cheat the audience of experiencing The Carpenters’ musicianship.

Johnny Young has written and sung a lot of songs; he has heard countless singers during his long career and was astounded when he first heard Narelle sing The Carpenters’ songs.

“I thought it was her,” he said.

Performing as Karen is an emotional experience for Narelle as well as her audience and she often has to work hard to

restrain the feelings that the songs evoke.

*An Evening with Karen Carpenter* recently played to eight sell-out audiences at Friends Restaurant followed by performances at Mandurah Performing Arts Centre and Bunbury Entertainment Centre.

Narelle’s show at the Wild Goose on Saturday March 17 starts at 9pm after guests have enjoyed their three-course meal at this premier location in the hills.

Be prepared to be transported back to a time when harmonies, words and musical arrangements came together to produce songs that have stood the test of time.

Be prepared to sit back, close your eyes and experience the magnificent voice of Karen Carpenter.

## Elephant book turns page to road safety

THE RAC has released a new children’s storybook which confronts road safety issues that occur nearly every day in the Wheatbelt.

*My Family, The Elephant and Me* follows a Wheatbelt family on a road trip and has a central message at its heart –we travel safe or not at all.

The book will be delivered free of charge to all primary school students across the Wheatbelt over the next six months.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said the storybook was the next phase of RAC’s Elephant in the Wheatbelt campaign, a regional road-safety initiative aimed at raising awareness of the Wheatbelt’s poor road safety record.

“The Elephant in the Wheatbelt project started a long-overdue discussion about the devastating impacts of road trauma and we want to make sure it remains a continued reminder of road safety,” Mr Golsby said.

Coinciding with the book deliveries, RAC has also commissioned six artists to paint unique elephant murals in towns across the region.

## Toodyay Progress Association Inc

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 28th March 2018

**Commencing 7pm at the Freemasons Hotel**  
**The AGM will be followed by a general meeting.**

There have been many matters of concern to residents since the last meeting in December and we will be providing commentary and seeking your input to plan the way forward.

All Toodyay residents are welcome to attend but it should be noted that only financial members will be allowed to vote.

You may renew your membership or join the TPA on the night.

The March newsletter will be circulated next week.

Any residents who are not members or who are not on the mailing list but would like a copy, should email the secretary at [gandha@iinet.net.au](mailto:gandha@iinet.net.au)