

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, Dewars Pool, Culham, Bejoording, Nunile, Julimar, Bakers
Hill, Clackline, Wooroloo, Wundowie, Gidgegannup and local districts.

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Court slams latest shire fiasco

Another \$36,500 lost in legal
fees that could have been
used to cut this year's rates

Michael Sinclair-Jones

A SECOND botched court case in two years has cost local ratepayers a further \$36,500 in lost legal fees after a Northam magistrate described a Shire of Toodyay letter as "absolutely shocking" and "duplicitous".

The shire's latest financial disaster represents about a quarter of this year's 2.2 per cent rate rise, which was opposed in a recent petition signed by 2000 local electors who comprise nearly two thirds of the shire.

The shire had sought to prosecute Mountain Park resident Robbie Gough for an alleged dog attack on two sheep on a neighbouring property on June 2 last year.

However, Magistrate Jennifer Hawkins described an official letter signed by Shire CEO Stan Scott to Mr Gough 10 days later as a "bombshell" and said she would order an acquittal unless the shire withdrew its case.

She also said Mr Gough's two dogs – a frisky kelpie Ginger Meggs and elderly blue heeler Providence that had been caged at the shire dog pound for 13 months – should be released back to him immediately.

Mr Gough – who represented himself in court – faced paying at least \$20,000 in shire legal costs, \$10,000 in pound fees and a fine of up to \$10,000 if convicted.

He told the court he had been treated appallingly and would take legal advice on suing the shire for incompetence.

"I have been through hell over the past 13 months," Mr Gough said.

"I have been extremely hurt to the point of being hateful, and I resent that I've been brought to that point and brought that low."

Toodyay Shire President Brian Rayner declined to comment on the failed court case or respond to the magistrate's criticism of Mr Scott's letter.

"The prosecution was for an alleged dog attack and discontinued on legal advice," President Rayner said in a brief email statement to the *Herald*.

"No costs were awarded."

"Legal advice is confidential."

Continued Page 5, Editorial page 4.



Paddlers improvise with tennis racquets in last month's annual Recycled Regatta from Newcastle Park to Newcastle Bridge.

Thrills and spills in fun-filled annual Recycled Regatta

A COOL day and chilly water conditions failed to deter an enthusiastic flotilla of mostly youngsters in home-made craft

who took part in last month's second annual Recycled Regatta on the Avon River through Toodyay.

One boat, the Titanic II, capsized at the start and had to be pushed all the way by a brave young crew member. *More Page 20.*

New fight to stop rubbish dump

LANDFILL opponents are gearing up for a fresh fight to stop Toodyay becoming a dumping ground for millions of tonnes of rotting Perth household waste.

State Environment Minister Stephen Dawson last month rejected large parts of a

community-funded appeal against conditions for granting works approval for the Chitty Road site in Hoddys Well.

His decision includes allowing the bottom of the new Class II tip for "putrescible" waste to be separated from the underlying water table by less than a previously required two-metre gap.

The tip is planned to run for 20 years and receive three million tonnes of Perth waste.

Local WA Nationals MP Shane Love said he remained "utterly opposed" to Toodyay being used as a putrescible waste dump.

"The State needs to take leadership of the issue of waste disposal sites being imposed on rural communities who clearly do not want them in their midst," Mr Love said.

"A proper strategy needs to be developed by the State to address waste disposal in the future."

When asked for comment, Toodyay Shire President Brian Rayner said "I have not heard further in regards to the landfill" and didn't respond to a further invitation to comment when emailed Mr Love's remarks.

Mr Dawson said the WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation was currently amending its works approval to

include new conditions for groundwater monitoring.

Continued Page 3.

Everyone's a winner at Toodyay Picnic Races



Singer Tod Johnston revs up punters at last month's Toodyay Picnic Race Day. *More page 9.*

**Toodyay Agricultural Show
Saturday October 6**

this month

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

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE	STORY DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTED
Noon Thursday October 25	Noon Tuesday October 30	Wednesday November 7

Please note our email addresses

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

Ol' Blind Joe

Alexander the Great

Stirling Hamilton

I FIRED up my old Triumph time-twisting triple and rode back to 320 BC and dropped in on Alexander the Great who I hadn't seen since he was 16 and he and Plato were hanging out with Aristotle.

He had now conquered most of Europe and created one of the largest empires of the ancient world stretching from Greece to north-western India.

He sought to bring the largest continent to common unity and friendship by means of intermarriage and family ties.

He adopted many elements of Persian (now Iranian) dress and customs at his court and greatly increased contacts and trade between East and West.

He sent scholars to the far reaches of the known world to fill the Royal Library of Alexandria in Egypt with papyrus scrolls from the great names of philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, physics, geometry, engineering, geography, physiology and medicine.

It was dedicated to the Muses, the nine goddesses of the arts, and wouldn't be finished for centuries.

Sadly in the end it would be burned down by Julius Caesar, the Roman emperor.

He showed me around and when we were sitting in the gardens having tea, I invited him back to my place to see the largest library in the world in a single book.

On the way I stopped off and grabbed a couple bottles of absinthe and a block of hashish.

After pleading with the Almighty Tech Gods for bloody ages, I was finally able to open the book.

I started out by showing him how after Alexander's death his generals had squabbled and divided themselves into fiefdoms which led to his empire's subjugation by Rome after the Third Macedonian War (171-168 BC).

It took me a while to explain the advent of Christianity and the ensuing onslaught of the Catholic Church on the peoples of Europe and beyond.

The Crusades and the Inquisitions were especially horrific in what was aptly named 'The Dark Ages'.

I gave him a crash course on the other religions of the world and their internal and geopolitical machinations.

I introduced him to Genghis Khan, the fearsome Mongolian warrior of the 13th century, whose empire extended across Asia, from the Pacific Ocean to the Caspian Sea.

After a conquest, looting, pillaging and rape were the spoils of war for all soldiers, but Khan got first pick of the beautiful women.

His grandson, Kublai Khan, who established the Yuan Dynasty in China, had 22 legitimate sons and was reported to have added 30 virgins to his harem each year - about 16 million individuals alive today carry their genes.

Alexander had great self-restraint in

"pleasures of the body", in contrast with his lack of self-control with alcohol which are traits I understand and thereby hangs a tale.

I gave him a brief outline of America's discovery and the attempted genocide of its indigenous peoples and its ascent to empire.

Skipping a bunch of wars short and long, I took him through WW1.

He couldn't understand why it started or how the hell it was run, and reckoned the generals should have been executed for dereliction of duty.

WW2 was more understandable to him but after showing him the destruction of Dresden, which had no military significance, the firebombing of Tokyo and the atom bombs dropped on civilians in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he turned to me and declared that the rulers of my era have dead hearts and black souls.

He fought men who fought back and sometimes women and children were sold into slavery which was the custom at the time, but wanton slaughter of innocents appalled him.

I told him how the US transformed itself into a war economy during WW2 and has remained that ever since

I went through Vietnam, Korea, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria and showed him the utter devastation thereof.

He replied with a quote from Sun Tzu (544-496 BC), the oriental military genius tactician who said that in the practical art of war, the best thing of all is to take the enemy's country whole and intact; to shatter and destroy it is not so good and there has never been a protracted war from which a country has benefitted.

I poured us another shot proposing a toast to Aristotle as I was aware of and silent to the fact they would both die in the next few years, he at 32 and Aristotle at 57.

Explaining the nature of this book, *The Tree Of Knowledge*, I used Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to illustrate.

This Apple thing we're looking at here is very sweet and I can go anywhere in the world but I've got a snake on my shoulder listening to every word I say and watching everything I do.

See that huge web there with a dirty great spider in the middle, well that's the military. These two species have worked together for years.

DARPA is the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency which uses taxpayer money to innovate the hi-technology which brought us this internet and now dominates the top-10 list of US corporations: Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google, and Microsoft among them.

Voltaire said that the present is pregnant with the future and I reckon she was raped by the titans of industry and finance with the generals on their knees holding her down.

"And in today already walks tomorrow." - English poet, philosopher and theologian Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) who wrote Kubla Khan.

FEEDBACK

Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

Suggestions and comments are welcome
please forward to: feedback@toodyayherald.com.au
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The Toodyay Herald

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

October - November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2
	4	5	6	7	8	9
						10

Former floozie bags her Moondyne swaggie

Ieva Tomsons

'SURVIVOR' is often applied to people who have experienced a single life-changing event but Terri Watson fits the bill in spades.

Born in Hamilton Victoria in 1958, she was accidentally shot in the leg before she was two, drank kerosene, fell into a spring and almost drowned and was pushed over a balcony and hit in the face with a dart by her feisty brother – and that's just for starters.

"My parents were the most itchy-footed people I know. We packed up and shifted houses, towns and even states for as far back as I can remember," wrote Terri in a *Herald* column in 2008.

"We were dirt poor," said Terri who recalls the family's constant moves as a series of adventures.

With five kids in tow, the family's first interstate move was by station wagon to Darwin in 1966 where the kids attended four schools in three years.

They returned to Victoria in 1971 but two years later they were off again to South Australia.

The two oldest children had left home by now and Terri was 15 when she got her first job in a department store in Whyalla, the beginning of a long career in the service industry.

In 1975 her dad got a job with Hamersley Iron in Dampier and the family moved again.

By the time Terri was 18 and independent, she had survived two motorbike crashes, suffered a serious head injury playing squash and had been hit by a taxi in Sydney.

In her late teens and 20s Terri criss-crossed the country and had an adventurous life working as a governess and jillaroo on Julia Creek cattle station in North Queensland where she started training horses which led to her fracturing both hips.

The accident didn't stop her from becoming an apprentice jockey and she rode in the women's Powder Puff Derby at outback Queensland's Cloner Races, winning seven of her eight starts.



Moondyne Magic – Phil and Terri Watson met at rehearsals for the 2000 Moondyne Festival.

At 25 she married a plant operator and her nomadic life style continued – Wiluna, Eneabba, Newman and back to Perth.

After losing her first baby in 1983 and being told that it was highly unlikely that she would have a family, the couple went on to have five healthy kids.

In 1998 Terri fell seriously ill with a rare blood disorder. She recovered but her marriage didn't.

Three days before Christmas in 1999 Terri escaped her increasingly volatile marriage to take refuge with her mother, brother and sister who had moved to Toodyay in 1992.

"I was a single mum with five kids and

mum (Evelyn Oliver), who was in the CWA, introduced me to a lot of people.

"People really helped me out; I had fled with only our personal gear and the kids' beds and the Op Shop was brilliant."

In 2000, Moondyne Festival mover and shaker Garth Gladden dragged Terri out of social seclusion to play a floozie, and romance blossomed with swaggie Phil.

"I was too scared to get tangled up again but the kids roped me into it; he's got kind eyes, we like him, why don't you go out with him?"

Phil is a Toodyay bloke through and through – his ancestors arrived in the mid-

1860s when the town was called Newcastle. Phil also left school at 15 and was taught the ropes of butchering by local butcher Tom Bonshore.

"It was on-the-job learning," said Phil who worked eight years at Linley Valley Abattoir and until recently at Hepples in Northam.

He worked all sorts of jobs in between stints as a slaughterman, from farm-handing to truck driving in the Goldfields and working for Main Roads; he was footloose, loved playing footy and cricket and had no intentions of settling down.

In his early 20s, Phil saved the lives of two teenagers swept out to sea at Guilderton.

The young man who Phil pulled up onto a surfboard and revived with a bang on the back ended up marrying Phil's cousin.

Phil embodies the image of a colonial swaggie, a bit rough around the edges but ready to try his hand at anything and always up for a laugh.

He is a natural fit for playing a swaggie at the Moondyne Festival and the sole survivor of the original band of swaggies who started in 1984. Every year he's in charge of cooking the roo stew at the Colonial Village.

"The hardest part is catching the roo," laughs Phil who confesses to adding Gravox to the brew of roo, onions, carrots, potatoes and salt.

Terri made an honest man of Phil in 2002 and at 45 he took to fathering like a duck to water.

While Terri hung up her floozie's corset a couple of years ago, she can now be found with Phil in the swaggies' camp chopping the vegies.

The Watsons live on a hill overlooking Toodyay with three cats, a dog and six pink and grey galahs that Phil has nursed back from injury.

Terry works at the IGA deli and Phil works at whatever comes his way – that's when he's not playing bowls.

His obsession has finally paid off; this year, Phil won the Bolgart singles championship. "Life's sweet."

Another 60 heavy trucks a day if Minister allows new landfill site

Continued from Page 1.

THE DEPARTMENT would continue to monitor tip operator Opal Vale's compliance should the Perth-based company succeed in getting a State Government licence to start operations.

A local community group which has already spent thousands of dollars fighting the \$3 million project says it will appeal against licence approval on the grounds that

Opal Vale is not a fit and proper company to operate the new landfill site.

They say the company has breached conditions at other landfill sites, including at another nearby Toodyay site it operates for construction rubble and other inorganic waste.

Its business model includes using cut-price contractors that have been responsible for three truck rollovers on Fernie Road in the

past year, some involving unregistered and unroadworthy trucks and trailers.

Local police say it is only a matter of time before someone is killed.

The new Chitty Road operation would put another 60 heavy rubbish trucks and trailers a day on Fernie Road, as well as on Toodyay Road through Morangup and Gidgegannup to Perth.

Opal Vale applied last year for an operating

licence but a decision was delayed pending works approval, which was finalised last month subject to new water monitoring conditions.

Local opponents have lodged at least two further appeals against the licence, which will ultimately be decided by the Minister.



Aerial photo of Chitty Road landfill site with rubbish dumping area (left), evaporation ponds (front) and flooded former claypit (centre, rear).



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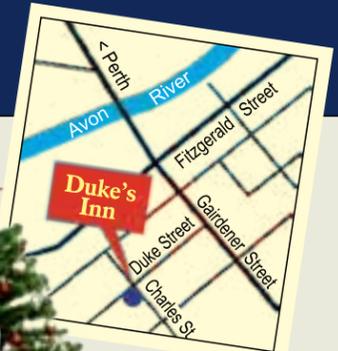
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The Toodyay Herald

Who's in charge?

JULIMAR farmer Brian Rayner never wanted to be shire president, and didn't even want to run for council at last year's shire elections.

He was talked into it by people close to former shire president David Dow, who lost his Central Ward seat by an absolute majority in a record voter turn-out.

"What do we do now?" Cr Rayner was overheard to ask the defeated president at the declaration of the polls, in which Cr Rayner was elected unopposed in North Ward without having to face voters.

The answer was to run for the top job – which Shire Deputy President Therese Chitty thought she had in the bag – in a secret ballot at the next council meeting.

In a two-way contest, Cr Rayner won the presidency 5-4 with the support of the former president's wife, Cr Judy Dow.

So we have a shire president who didn't want to be a councillor, who didn't have to face the polls and who seems increasingly reluctant to be the public face of a council under seige from ratepayers for wasting public money and raising rates.

Take for example this year's budget, when the shire went from a recommended rate increase of 0 to 2.2 per cent in less than a month, and six councillors totally ignored a petition signed by 2000 electors – nearly two thirds of the shire electorate.

Herald questions to the shire president went unanswered, leaving Deputy President Chitty to respond in a limited way because under council standing orders, only the president is authorised to speak publicly on behalf of the shire.

Fast forward to this month when President Rayner declined a *Herald* request to comment on a matter of environmental and road safety concern after WA Nationals MP Shane Love said he was "utterly opposed" to Toodyay becoming a putrescible waste dump for millions of tonnes of Perth garbage (*story Page 1*).

And as for the \$36,500 wasted on legal fees in yet another botched court case (*story Page 1*), forget it – our shire president used the same lame excuse as his predecessor that "legal advice is confidential".

Except that it isn't – everything said that costly day in the Northam Magistrate's Court in the middle of shire budget deliberations is on the public record.

It includes a letter from the shire CEO to a Toodyay ratepayer that Magistrate Jennifer Hawkins described as "absolutely shocking", "duplicitous" and a "bombshell".

Our own elected representatives knew nothing about this until the cost was revealed in public question time at last month's council meeting, and most probably still won't know the whole story until they read it in this month's *Herald*.

President Rayner pledged at his first council meeting in the chair last year to be a "new broom" in council, "but will try not to sweep too clean".

That isn't good enough Mr President, and we're still waiting.

*Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor*

FAMILY LAW

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The way we were – This badly faded photo from an original sepia print shows local driver Peter Lee in the 1920s with a horse and bread cart owned by Toodyay baker George Haymes, who also owned the former Wendouree Tearooms in Stirling Terrace. The last two letters of the owner's name can be seen at the back of the cart and a bread basket sits on top. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum; additional information: Toodyay Historical Society.

LETTERS

Farmers get raw deal on rates

I FARM a property west of Bolgart in the Toodyay Shire with my husband and sons and upon receiving our rates for 2018/2019 I would like to point out the following.

Last year's rates for five different neighbouring properties increased by up to 16.8 per cent due to a differential rating system.

I am unsure how Toodyay Shire Cr Ben Bell calculated this year's 0.6 per cent rate rise for farming properties as quoted in the last month's *Herald*.

Our rate in the dollar increased by 0.6 per cent but our unimproved land values also rose by up to 3.4 per cent, and thus our overall rate increase across our farming properties is 2.55 per cent.

This is well above the shire's advertised rate of 2.2 per cent and similar to rate increases quoted in *The Toodyay Herald* for other parts of the shire.

The unimproved value of our properties is multiplied by the rate in the dollar to ascertain the total dollar value in rates paid.

Since 2003, rural properties have shouldered a disproportionate increase in rates due to a previous council decision.

When questioned at the time, the council could not provide any evidence of why one part of the shire had become more expensive to administer than another.

This has meant the proportion paid by broadacre properties has risen by about a third and non-rural properties have decreased proportionally.

It has occurred during a time when the number of broadacre farms has decreased and lifestyle properties increased.

I believe that we have and will continue to pay our fair share.

*Stephanie Clarke
West Bolgart*

Local folks special

A SHORT time ago I was confronted by an event that reinforced my view that the folks in this town are just a bit special.

Cut to the scene: It appears that a chap had collapsed alongside his car in the car park adjacent to the bank and a lady passing by noticed and stepped up.

I don't know her name but she was one of these quiet impressive people and what must have only been a few minutes later, as I was over the road and saw her standing over someone lying on the ground, I went over to see if everything was ok.

That very calm and capable lady had done all that was necessary; she had correctly diagnosed the problem, taken corrective action, had it all under control and by then one of our ambulances was on the way. This essential service is of course staffed by fantastic unpaid volunteers.

What happened over the next half an hour

was remarkable; staff from the bank and other businesses came out to see what they could do, an off-duty ambulance officer and his spouse turned up and played a wonderful role while the ambulance was on its way.

Another chap noticed that there was a dog in the back of this chap's car so he opened the window to calm it and allow fresh air to the animal.

Staff from Heartlands Veterinary Hospital turned up and took care of the dog, passers-by found towels, blankets and tissues to make things more comfortable for this poor chap and then the ambulance arrived.

The professional, calm and very, very caring officers took control and with the assistance of the folks there, they lifted the chap onto the gurney and then off he went to hospital.

Somewhere in all of this the lady who was first on the scene just drifted away – her job was done.

She was impressive and the genuine concern of everyone who turned up to help a chap that nobody knew was apparent; it was an amazing demonstration of the caring community of which I am proud to be part.

*Larry Graham
Toodyay*

Smoke coming out of our ears

WE WROTE to the Shire of Toodyay CEO and Shire President about our 100 per cent disgust over their claim in August that some of the 60 per cent of local people who signed a recent rates petitions are hysterical and uninformed.

We asked for a public apology, yet neither a letter nor an apology appeared.

'Hysterical' is characterised by or arising from psychoneurotic hysteria in which physical bodily functions are disordered and is marked by excessive or uncontrolled emotion.

We were also accused of being uninformed.

What a brainy insight when the shire does not provide us with information – a lack of transparency and good management.

Don't the CEO and president know they are employed by the people of Toodyay who pay their income?

Don't they know or even care that we live in a democracy?

It was said in August that the new rates increase is worth only the cost of a "pack of cigarettes".

**Read the letters online:
www.toodyayherald.com.au**

Maybe smoke is coming out of our ears, but not due to cigarettes.

The shire's new draft tourism strategy was to be presented in March, and now appears five months later with requests for submissions.

A public meeting due last month was postponed to October in another sign of disregard for local development needs.

What do we need?

Out with the present regime or we will become a ghost town.

*Dr Monika Zechetmayr
and Peter Edwards
Toodyay*

Herald market bouquet

THANK you very much for including in last month's edition of *The Toodyay Herald* the September Farmers Market item that you received so close to the deadline.

It is much appreciated.

*Sandra Cousins
West Toodyay*

30cm haircut for a cause

ALOPECIA is a lifelong condition affecting men and women who are unable to grow hair.

Generally they require hair wigs for life and the best wigs are made in New Zealand.

I propose that I and others with long, natural hair which has never been exposed to chemical products offer our hair to Clip for a Cause.

This event will take place at the Toodyay Hair Studio on Stirling Terrace in February 2019; the exact date to be advised later.

People affected with alopecia will be at the studio on the day to tell their stories so you can learn how important your donation will be.

We are giving notice now so that you can allow your hair to grow – 30cm is the minimum length to be cut.

Ideally, hair should be washed within 24 hours of cutting and all ages are welcome (parental approval may be required for juniors).

I personally have grey hair at 82 years young and when 30cms is cut, I will still have enough left to grow for another clip.

*Patricia de Soto-Phillips
Toodyay*

The Toodyay Herald invites you to have your say in our letters page. Please email us at 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.

'Devastated' that shire caged his dogs for 13 months

Continued from Page 1

THE SHIRE'S latest financial disaster follows the loss of at least \$550,000 of ratepayers' money in a failed attempt to sue former CEO Graham Merrick and another shire leader for \$150,000 in another case that WA Supreme Court Acting Master Ron Gething described as financially pointless.

The latest legal fiasco began when shire ranger Christopher Sumners seized Mr Gough's two dogs from his property on June 2 last year.

The dogs were initially held at the shire pound for 10 days until Mr Gough paid a \$400 fine – which he later told the court was a "stupid" decision – for letting them stray.

Shire CEO Stan Scott wrote to Mr Gough on June 12 saying there was "no direct evidence from examining and observing your dogs to verify the attack".

He said that before the dogs could be returned, the shire would inspect Mr Gough's property to ensure they could be adequately contained and that if there was another incident, the dogs would again be seized, deemed "dangerous" and possibly destroyed.

The dogs were returned to him after 10 days, together with a \$400 fine for "dogs being on another property without permission of owner".

A month later, Mr Gough was working elsewhere on his property when Mr Sumners returned and again seized the dogs, leaving a note on the front door which Mr Gough said he did not see until more than two hours later.

He asked next day to see Mr Scott who he said told him that the shire had received additional information about the June 2 sheep attack and that his dogs should not have been returned to him.

Mr Gough disputed the shire's claim that his dogs were involved, and after several court appearances in Northam elected to go

to trial on July 31 this year.

The shire's chief witness was another neighbouring property owner – WA Corruption and Crime Commission Assistant Director Warren Cattell – who had reported the alleged June 2 dog attack to the shire.

However, before Mr Cattell or Mr Sumner could be called to give evidence, Mr Gough showed Magistrate Hawkins the letter from Mr Scott, which she read out to the court and described as a "bombshell".

"I'm just shocked to see this letter, absolutely shocked," the magistrate said.

She warned shire lawyer Sam De Vita that "it's highly likely that I will require the CEO to come and give evidence before this court".

The magistrate said the shire's prosecution of Mr Gough for the June 2 incident after he had already been issued with an infringement notice for that date and paid a fine to get his dogs back was "duplicitous."

"It's a statement at law that you should not be the subject of two charges," she said.

"You can't have your cake and eat it too. My concern really is how this letter is worded."

"There's nothing in that letter that says 'but in any event you may well be charged with further offences that arise from this incident'.

"This court is being asked to punish him twice essentially because he has already been punished by paying the infringement."

"I'm not suggesting anyone is incompetent, I'm just suggesting that it is extremely problematic at this point."

Mr De Vita was allowed an adjournment to call Mr Scott at the shire office in Toodyay to advise him to drop the case, which Mr De Vita announced to the court when it reconvened after a short lunch break.

Mr Gough said later he had been devastated by the 13-month seizure of his two dogs.

They were his closest companions at



Robbie Gough at home with kelpie Ginger Meggs (left) and blue heeler Providence.

home after the recent break-up of a 37-year relationship with a former partner.

He said sheep roaming on his property was a recurring nuisance and his dogs often chased them away as if to protect him from

harm, as they did last year when one of the dogs found a deadly snake in his bedroom.

There had been several incidents of sheep being attacked by other dogs in the area, including while his dogs were impounded.

New councillor granted 6 months' leave

Michael Sinclair-Jones

NEW TOODYAY Shire Cr Craig Brook has been granted an official six-months' leave of absence from attending monthly council meetings because he has taken a temporary job in Victoria.

The Morangup-based councillor who was elected only four months ago had sought council permission to take part in council meetings via teleconference or video link to Victoria.

However, the shire obtained legal advice from Perth lawyers Kott Gunning that local government regulations allowed this to occur only from townsites within WA – not from outside the state.

Councillors who miss three consecutive monthly meetings without leave of absence are automatically disqualified from office.

Leave refusal could have resulted in a fresh by-election, with West Ward voters going back to the polls for the third time in a year at a further cost of about \$14,500 to the shire.

Cr Brook did not attend last month's council meeting but flew from Victoria for one afternoon to attend the August council meeting before flying back that night.

Leave of absence means Cr Brook will not be allowed to vote on council decisions unless he flies back from Victoria to be

present in the chamber for the vote.

He will also not be allowed to debate council motions or ask questions while he is located anywhere outside WA.

This leaves the remaining eight councillors with a potential 4:4 voting deadlock, as occurred last month when President Brian Rayner was required to use his casting vote – a second vote given to the chair – to allow a non-conforming shed to be built in Toodyay's Majestic Heights subdivision.

The decision to prevent Cr Brook from taking part in council meetings from Victoria was carried 6-2, with fellow new councillors Bill Manning and Ben Bell voting against.

Cr Judy Dow, seconded by Cr Paula Greenway, then moved to support CEO Stan Scott's recommendation to prevent Cr Brook from taking part in monthly council forums electronically from Victoria.

However, that motion was lost 3-5, with only Crs Dow, Greenway and Rob Welburn voting to exclude Cr Brook from forums.

Local government regulations about teleconferencing and video links apply only to council meetings, not forums.

Deputy Shire President Therese Chitty, seconded by Cr Bell, then moved that Cr Brook be allowed to participate in forums electronically, and this was carried 5-3 with Crs Dow, Greenway and Welburn against.

Public input sought for Toodyay youth strategy

A DRAFT youth strategy is being advertised by the Shire of Toodyay for public comment.

The document can be downloaded from the shire website at toodyay.wa.gov.au.



Thinking of moving into Toodyay?

resort-style riverside home with 80m2 workshop



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Double fatality highlights danger on local roads

Police Beat

With Sgt Warren Conder

Toodyay Police Station



Sgt Conder with a road safety display of a Suzuki Alto wreck in which the driver was killed.

THE STATE Coroner is investigating a double fatality on Morangup Road in which two 16-year old-boys died and a third suffered burns to 20 per cent of his body after their car crashed into a tree and caught fire.

The driver from Morangup and a passenger from Wundowie were killed. The surviving passenger was also from Wundowie.

The three boys were in an unregistered Holden Commodore owned by the under-age driver when it blew a tyre and veered out of control before hitting a tree and catching fire.

"We believe speed and inexperience were involved," Toodyay police chief Sgt Warren Conder said.

The accident was attended by ambulance volunteers from Morangup, Toodyay and Mundaring, and Toodyay Fire and Rescue volunteers who helped extinguish the fire.

A rescue helicopter airlifted the injured boy to hospital after he managed to escape the wreckage.

A quarry truck driver was first on the scene to assist the surviving passenger until local ambulance volunteers and police arrived.

Chilled shoplifter

POLICE are seeking public help to identify a woman (pictured below) who allegedly stole a bottle of sparkling wine and a three-pack of bourbon and cola from the Toodyay Bottlemart liquor store in Stirling Terrace last month.

A store video security camera captured vision of the woman leaving the store with the allegedly stolen goods concealed under her clothing.

"She went to the fridge, grabbed the two cold items and hid them under her top before walking out past the front counter," Sgt Conder said.



Alleged Toodyay liquor store thief.

"She would have felt quite chilly." Anyone who can identify the suspect is asked to ring Toodyay police on 9574 5555."

Body in boot

A TOODYAY man was charged with obstructing police after lying about a fugitive on the run from a return to prison warrant.

"We went to a house in town acting on information that the wanted man was there but the two occupants said they hadn't seen him," Sgt Conder said.

"We went back when only one of the occupants was home and got the same answer. "But as we were leaving, a car arrived with the other occupant in the driver's seat.

"He was ordered to open the boot and police found the wanted man hiding inside.

"We've got a more comfortable place for you back in jail" I said as he was taken back into custody."

Sgt Conder said the fugitive – who is not from Toodyay – had breached the conditions of a prison release order.

The driver who hid the wanted man in the boot of his car was charged with obstructing police.

Car wreck reminder

LOCAL police are displaying a wrecked car (pictured above) on a trailer in front of the police station in Stirling Terrace to remind all motorists to drive safely.

"There have been 17 fatalities on Wheatbelt roads since January 1 this year," Sgt Conder said.

"At least four of those road deaths were in the Toodyay police district."

Sgt Conder said the wreck was a Suzuki Alto which had been in fatal crash on a local road.

"We'll also be putting the wreck on display at the Toodyay Agricultural Show on Saturday October 6," he said.

Mountain Park bobcat stolen

THIEVES stole a bobcat worth about \$50,000

from a property in the Mountain Park rural estate in Dumbarton last month.

The bobcat was stolen between Sunday September 16 and the following Wednesday and is described as a black and yellow JCB skid steer loader.

Charity ride tragedy

SGT CONDER and Northam-based Sgt Andrew Toop from Coondle raised a total of \$7000 for charity in last month's annual

motorcycle marathon that was marred by the death of a Victorian officer who was also taking part.

Off-duty officers in motorcycle convoys from all states and territories gather each year at Canberra's Wall of Fame to honour officers killed on duty, and to raise money for charity.

Detective Snr Sgt Victor Kostiak was riding with his son – who is also a police officer – ahead of a Victorian police contingent near Orbost when a car coming the opposite direction veered onto the wrong side of the road and collided with Snr Sgt Kostiak's motorcycle.

The officer was killed in front of his son, and Victorian police have charged the motorist with culpable driving.

"It put a huge dampener on this year's gathering," Sgt Conder said.

The WA contingent had earlier ridden from Joondalup to Canberra, stopping at Toodyay to honour the memory of First Class Const. Den Green who was killed in a motorcycle crash on Julimar Road while on a training exercise last December.

Sgt Conder and Sgt Toop elected to ride their motorcycles home from Canberra in an 8815km round trip to save money instead of freighting their bikes back.

"I've still got a sore arse, Sgt Conder said a week later.

"I won't be doing that again for a while."



Northam-based Sgt Toop from Coondle and Sgt Conder at Canberra Wall of Fame.

Stock, wildflower rustlers hit town

Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association
Desraé Clarke

ONE HEARS of the crime of rustling every so often, a term used in American Wild West films.

However, this expression is still used in modern times.

Toodyay has experienced stock rustling from out-of-town areas and carcasses have been dumped in several reserves.

Toodyay has also been targeted for the disposal of bulk rubbish such as tyres and mattresses.

Being a glorious wildflower area, the shire is well-visited for its colourful displays and unfortunately there is also rustling of wildflowers, especially orchids from reserves

and roadside areas.

Wildflowers will not transplant from their particular area. They require the correct soil and the microbes that live within the soil.

Orchids are particularly individual plants. They may flower in an area for two to three years and then disappear.

Digging them up to transplant is destructive and illegal.

If suspicious activities are observed, do not intervene but contact police and/or Crimestoppers as soon as possible. Information given to either area is strictly confidential.

For all emergencies ring 000. For police emergencies ring 131 444, Toodyay Police 9574 9555 and Crimestoppers 1800 333 000. The Graffiti Reporting Hotline is 1800 44 22 55.

Messenger Kids is now a fact of life

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

YOU MIGHT have heard of Facebook for children under the age of 13, formally known as Messenger Kids.

Like all technology, some ways of using it are good, while others are bad.

Social media is a fact of modern life, so it seems like a good idea to teach today's children how to use it both effectively and safely.

Messenger Kids allows a parent or guardian to set up a list of trusted contacts, typically themselves, grandparents and close friends; it has free video calling and messaging facilities.

As with adult Facebook, you can have groups of people.

Parents can teach their children about the risks of using social media and they can support

them if anything goes wrong.

Typical risks include spending too much time on social media, using a device when they should be sleeping, receiving an inappropriate message from a friend – "You're fat" – or sending inappropriate messages.

Messages don't disappear, so you can refer to them if you need to support your child.

Some children are quite sensible about the amount of time they spend on social media but others may need advice and guidance on the risks of spending too much time on social media and of using devices too late at night.

More information about Messenger Kids can be found at bit.ly/2AUFPOL.

A discussion about the pros and cons of using Messenger Kids can be found at bit.ly/2CeAYEi.

Happy surfing.

MRB 2339

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Rec. Centre update

THE SHIRE of Toodyay is inviting community members to attend an update on its Sport and Recreation Precinct Masterplan on Saturday October 20 between 11am-1pm at the Toodyay Sports Pavilion.

A barbecue lunch and light refreshments will be provided – please reply to Debra Andrijich on 9574 9392 by Friday October 12 or email events@toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Tell us what you want to hear

Toodyay Community Radio

2j2AIR 105.3FM

Ken Stivey

WHETHER you are visiting Toodyay or living the local life, stay tuned to 105.3FM Toodyay's own community radio station for local business and tourist information, community events, Shire of Toodyay information and music to suit all tastes.

As we continue to develop a presence in our community in the first year of operation you can check us out on Facebook or our web page 2j2air.org.au.

The contact page is your convenient way to communicate with us and our presenters who would love to hear your requests.

We consider communication with our listeners as a vital component of our desire to provide you with what you want to hear, so your input will be appreciated.

Program guide

MONDAY: 11am *The Green Hour*, 8pm *Swooners and Crooners* and 9pm Jazz.

Wednesdays: 11am *The Green Hour* repeat; 8pm *Wide World of Folk* and, 9pm Blues.

Friday: 11am *The Green Hour* repeat and 7-10pm *Friday Rock* (7pm Retro, 8pm Country and 9pm Rock.)

Saturday: Noon Country (old) and 1pm Country (new).

Sunday: 8pm *Swooners and Crooners* repeat and 9pm Jazz.

Hey big spenders, think of your own pockets in cash splash

Ben Bell

AS MANY of you can probably attest, any envelope brandishing the Shire of Toodyay logo during the month of September is unlikely to contain good news for the recipient.

It was therefore with a fair degree of resignation that I opened such an envelope a week or two ago.

Sure enough, the envelope contained the inevitable rates notice from the shire for my family home in Toodyay.

Now I freely accept that no one likes to pay rates, taxes or make any other payment to any level of government because, let's face it, governments have a reputation of wasting money at times on apparently frivolous things.

The amount of pork-barrelling that occurs in the lead up to a State or Federal election or the amount of white elephant projects constructed over the years by all tiers of government only serves to reinforce the community's scepticism.

The Shire of Toodyay is, therefore, not alone when in the eyes of some in the community it squandered almost \$800,000 of ratepayer's money in lawyers' costs over the last few years pursuing failed legal actions.

The most recent of these was only last month when having spent some \$36,500 on legal fees, the shire's case was unceremoniously thrown out of court.

So how does this perceived waste of public money occur?

I suspect it is because governments forget that it is not their money that they are spending.

Take the Shire of Toodyay's own Long Term Financial Plan – being the shire administration's 10-year financial forecast.

This was approved by most of the council a month or so ago and indicates that the shire expects to purchase 50 new cars and utes over the coming decade.

Fifty new vehicles?

The Insider



Yes – most are replacements of the existing fleet but still, 50 new car purchases over a 10-year period does seem a lot for a shire the size of Toodyay.

And to pay for this and other costs, the shire expects your rates will be 30 per cent higher after 10 years than what you are paying today – ouch.

May I propose one simple test, a question, really, that should be applied whenever any government body such as the shire thinks about making a purchase: If I had to pay for this out of my own pocket, would I still go through with it?

For example, how often does a government representative or executive replace their own personal cars?

I bet you it's nowhere near as frequently as they replace their corporate car.

Similarly, would this same person fork out their own cash on accommodation when attending a multi-day seminar or training course in Perth, or would they commute each day?

I suspect we all know the answer to that question.

As I said, I appreciate that rates are a necessary evil but, as my neighbour asked me over the weekend, if rates are driven by property values, why did they pay more in rates this year than someone living in Mosman Park?

Have Toodyay's property prices increased by that much?

Yes, that last question was asked a little tongue-in-cheek.

However, the point remains that shire rate rises and expenditure should always be approached judiciously, and the community is currently debating whether this is indeed being practised in Toodyay.

Oddly, despite its history of hiking rates – including the most recent increase – in excess of CPI, the shire expects its accounts to be in the red within the next six years.

I find it more than a little alarming that the shire CEO and senior executives are deliberately aiming to do this in 2023, and that most of the council knowingly approved it.

How can the council approve a Long Term Financial Plan that clearly shows that the shire will not be able to pay its bills in a given year and will, according to the plan, be effectively operating in the red in year six of a 10+-year plan?

This is a puzzle to many, but I digress.

It does prove my point though that the Shire of Toodyay does not have a revenue problem because it expects its rates revenue to more than keep pace with inflation via +2.5 per cent annual rates increases.

However, it has an ever-expanding spending problem which will likely place the shire in a very precarious financial position in coming years.

Hence, the plea to the shire and council from many people across our community – please think before you spend ratepayers' money.

If you wouldn't pay for something if the money had to come out of your own pocket, you probably shouldn't expect the community to pay for it out of their rates.

More money sought for new sports centre

THE STATE Government has been asked to spend \$1.4 million on Toodyay's new sports and recreation precinct, which recently gained \$4.7 million in Federal funds for a new pool and other sports facilities.

Toodyay shire councillors last month voted 8-0 (Cr Craig Brook absent) to apply

for the extra money to help pay for a new rectangular playing field for hockey, soccer and rugby, tennis and multi-purpose netball and basketball courts, and changerooms, lighting and fencing.

Cr Rob Welburn said any extra funds would be a bonus.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES



Jamie Norgate volunteered to be the dummy for the rear window extraction demonstration.

Joint training a win-win for all

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Coondle-Nunile
Jane Taylor**

WITH the fire season just around the corner, we have spent the last few months preparing for it with vehicle maintenance, equipment checks, personal protective equipment replacement, obtaining qualifications and the all-important training.

September was a particularly busy month for us in terms of training with the Rural Urban Interface exercise at the start of the month and then a great day mid-month with the guys and girls from Fire Rescue Service, Central and St Johns ambos.

It was a jam packed day all about vehicle accident rescue (how to safely remove patients from cars and the equipment used) and vehicle fires (the safety and dos and don'ts of putting a vehicle fire out).

Thanks go out again to all who attended, Ian Macgregor for organising the day, Darren Macgregor for his awesome expertise and demonstrations and to Mick Rogers for cooking up a great feed for us all at the end of the day.

There are endless benefits to integrated training so we have decided to continue with it whenever possible, for the best outcome for our brigades and community.

At our August monthly meeting it was decided that we would donate \$1500 to the rural aid, helping farmers over east who are struggling through the worst drought to hit Australia since records began. We donated through Coles who then matched our donation, taking it up to \$3000.

We have now commenced our weekend

rosters, as of the first of October with permit burning also coming into place on the same day.

Fire season officially starts November first. Give us a call or message our Facebook page. We are always happy to help.

Summer is a'comin'

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

IT'S THAT time of year again when we must plan for the hot dry summer and all the things we hope it doesn't bring. Time to remember the Boy Scout's motto – Be Prepared.

On the domestic front we must ensure our firebreaks comply, so get out there with whatever weeding method you prefer, fill in the winter rain gullies that can trap a vehicle tyre, cut the overhanging branches and so on.

You have all received advice from the shire so be ready to be inspected.

The Bejoording brigade would welcome any new volunteers, especially someone with an appropriate heavy-vehicle licence. This would help to spread the roster load.

Our next regular meeting is at 6pm, at the shed, on Friday October 19.

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

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

Keep on truckin' – how the Isuzu 1.4 stacks up

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Julimar
Graham 'Bubbles' Barber**

ALTHOUGH not regarded as a serious off-roader by experienced 4x4 aficionados, the Isuzu NPS300 1.4 ticks most of the boxes required for a long distance tourer – or so it thinks.

The 1.4 models carry up to 1500 litres of water on a 4-wheel drive train.

At \$355,000, excluding tax (emergency services vehicles do not pay purchase tax or GST), this model doesn't come cheap and is aimed at the middle of the market.

However, this price includes all you would need for serious fire-fighting, if not-too-well equipped for long-distance touring.

First introduced in 2001, the latest models have been updated to provide digital enhancements as well as more driver and crew safety and comforts.

So what do you get for that princely sum?

You get the reliable Isuzu 4HK1-TCN engine and chassis configuration that accommodates up to three people in moderate comfort.

Although the centre seat is a cut-down affair with just a lap belt, the seat back does fold forward to provide a handy tray/workspace.

Unfortunately, with the addition of all the two-way radios, there's not much room left to put gear behind any of the seats.

Although not formally identified as a people mover, the accommodation does include a sun deck at the rear of the cab and, with a little modification, the cabin can be converted to sleeping places for at least two very-friendly people.

The 5.2 litre turbo charged diesel engine, manufactured in China, produces 114k/w (153h/p) at 2600rpm with plenty of torque for low power use which is where the Isuzu comes into its own.

The limited slip differential allows for travelling through the roughest terrain although steep hills will stretch the legs on the shorter-wheelbase model.

The low ground clearance doesn't suit Toodyay's rocky terrain and the general consensus is to stay on the fire breaks/trails where possible.

The cabin includes Isuzu's DAVE (Digital Audio Visual Equipment unit offering a twin-speaker stereo with AM/FM/CD/MP3 input and Bluetooth connectivity although the real star is the reversing camera – no more reversing into trees by one of Julimar's recidivist drivers.

As mentioned earlier, there's also VHF (high and mid band) and UHF radios supplied as standard.

At night, the cabin converts into a cosy room with roll-down curtains that offer privacy as well as protection from that unexpected burn over.

An external sprinkler showering system provides washing for both the cab and its occupants – ideal for sweaty, hot summer days –and, of course, with the 1500-litre capacity fresh water tank, you will never run out of water on your trip.

There is plenty of room for personal gear such as tents, clothes, camping gear, etc. in the six lockers but you will have to discard some of the unnecessary standard equipment such as hoses and nozzles.

So much for the good news, now for the cons.

The fuel consumption is ridiculous with 26 litres per 100km making a trip to the Kimberley very expensive.

And, despite the torque levels available, the Isuzu is no sprinter; zero to its maximum speed of 95km/h took just over 32 minutes.

The ride is harsh over bitumen roads and jarringly hard off the tarmac.

This correspondent found the engine and wind noise too excessive and even painful after a few hours.

And forget about cooking, the kitchen facilities are non-existent.

In summary, the Isuzu is an ideal vehicle to attend a paddock or bushland fire provided it is not too far from its base but, as a city commuter or a holiday tourer, forget it.



St John

St John Ambulance

“Provide First Aid” HLTAID003

One day course to be held on

Saturday 13th October 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:

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Free first aid kit for all participants

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Local community leaders and students at last month's Choose Respect campaign launch.

Toodyay chooses respect

TOODYAY community leaders from several local groups took part in the recent launch of Toodyay's Choose Respect campaign at the Shire of Toodyay council chambers.

Shire President Brian Rayner and Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association (TCSCPA) Chairman Allen Clabaugh announced the partnership of the shire and the TCSCPA in the Choose Respect initiative and the shire's intent to become the first Toodyay organisation to institute the Choose Respect strategy.

Those at the event included Shire CEO Stan Scott; District High School Vice-Principal Sharyn Edgar and student council members; Police Acting Officer in Charge Nicky Turner; RoadWise Committee Chairman Bob Neville; Shire Community Development Manager Audrey Bell, Community Development Officer Debra

Andrijich and Community Development Administrative Officer Maddie Ross.

Other attendees included TCSCPA committee members and secretary/treasurer Wayne and Desraé Clarke, Cr Judy Dow and Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank Manager Kirsten Barrack.

Choose Respect is a common language and framework whose aim is to foster a culture of respect in homes, schools, work places and the community.

It functions in a preventative, rather than an interventionist manner in order to enable positive change.

For further information on Choose Respect or to find out how you can become a Choose Respect Champion contact Wayne Clarke on 9574 5574, info@safertoodyay.org.au or Allen Clabaugh on 9574 5110 or chair@safertoodyay.org.au.

Community cheques presented

NOT-FOR-profit community groups in Toodyay received a financial boost from Community TAB matching fundraising efforts at the TABtouch Toodyay Picnic Day on September 23.

Local groups provided various services on race day, including a first-aid post, sausage sizzle, car parking and cleaning.

In return for these services the Toodyay Race Club provides them with a donation which Community TAB matched dollar for dollar.

The dollar matching initiative helps local community groups to continue to provide their services to the wider community.

Toodyay Race Club Chairman John Prater said the club believes this is a fantastic program that provides much-needed funds to local not-for-profit organisations and clubs.

"It means that we are provided with an opportunity to properly thank and showcase

the good work that our local community groups are doing," Mr Prater said.

"The TABtouch Toodyay Picnic Race Day is an annual event that provides entertainment for the whole family including quality racing, free kids' entertainment, live music, market stalls, Fashions on the Field and much more; it's a day that offers something for everyone.

"These local community groups not only provide services that assist with the running of the Toodyay Race Club each year, but they also provide vital services to the Toodyay community, which we really value, so providing this additional funding is the least we can do to thank them."

Groups benefiting from the fundraising are Toodyay St John Ambulance, Toodyay Lions Club, Toodyay State Emergency Services, Toodyay Cricket Club, Toodyay Football Club, Toodyay District High School P&C and the Toodyay Karate Club.



Community groups with TAB cheques at the recent Toodyay Picnic Races.

Will new Toodyay in Spring video go totally viral?

Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Helen Shanks

IT HAS been a productive year for us so we are providing an update to keep the community informed.

Back in March the Vision, Brand Marketing (VBM) sub-committee held a well-attended workshop, Introduction to Experience Packaging.

Participants were provided with guidance in

identifying a tourism product and developing packages as a powerful partnership tool.

It is exciting to know that a number of packages are in development for 2019.

After the workshop, a Packaging Podcast went online providing the listener with an understanding of the process and the dos and don'ts of successful packaging; instantteleseminar.com/Events/108018633.

Following on from this a wide survey and several meetings were held to begin to identify a brand for Toodyay.

Yes, I hear you – "but we have a brand".

Well in fact we have several brands and several tag lines, used by various entities.

We expect that further work with branding experts will take place next year.

Move forward to July where the priority was filming the *Toodyay In Winter* video. What a response.

When it went to social media it had 20,000 views in the first two weeks.

We know we live in an amazing location and now everyone else does too. View it at vimeo.com/281922349.

If you thought the winter video was awesome, wait until *Toodyay In Spring* which comes out later this month.

Then we move onto our next initiative, a workshop on Agri Tourism which will focus on opportunities in our region based around food, wine and related businesses.

For more details see our advertisement on Page 15.

The chamber has also been busy with a number of informative sundowners and has implemented two very exciting initiatives to support local business.

August saw the launch of the #Toodyayfirst Buy Local campaign which has its own Facebook group and encourages locals to buy local.

There is no cost for a Toodyay business to join this campaign, they just need to be a member of the TCCI.

But wait, there's more – to further support this, TCCI has introduced Toodyay Dollars.

Your business, community group or individuals can purchase these dollars to give away as prizes or gifts.

The deal? They can only be spent locally at businesses that have joined the campaign.

Look out for the sign in the shop window or on the business vehicle.

Want to get some Toodyay Dollars or know more?

Contact Tracey Salmond on 0448 559 981 at Muntz & Partners in the main street, or email: 2jchamber@gmail.com.

Anyone who would like more information can contact Helen on 0419 580 016 or go to the chamber's website or Facebook Page.

IN MOORE WITH LOVE

News last week that **Toodyay Road** will be excluded from upgrades under the WA Safer Roads Program coincides with the rejection of the latest appeal against the works approval for the **Opal Vale Class II** putrescible landfill site. This will put another 60 trucks and trailers a day on Toodyay Road posing a risk to all road users. Transport Minister Rita Saffioti announced \$28.4 million funding for 24 regional road upgrades at rural crash hotspots but Toodyay Road has been overlooked. Last year I wrote to Minister Saffioti imploring her to prioritise the Wheatbelt section of Toodyay Road, given its appalling safety record. I have again written to her seeking an undertaking that further funds will be allocated. Given \$3.8 million funding had already been allocated to this project by the Liberal-National government in the previous term, I understood this project to be 'shovel ready'. My discussions with the Transport Minister and her office continue regarding **Duke Street footbridge**. When Parliament was last sitting, I presented more petitions calling for the footbridge to be reopened and maintained. The Minister has given an undertaking to re-examine this issue. While the Nationals WA welcome the Royal Commission into **aged care**, we are also seeking it investigate the critical shortage of age-appropriate housing and care providers in regional Western Australia. Gaps in aged care service include a lack of carer respite, a lack of dementia facilities, the uneven availability of support and care-in-the-home and widespread unmet demand for age-appropriate housing.

Shane Love MLA
Member for Moore

THE NATIONALS



SHIRE OF TOODYAY NOTICES

Fire-Break Notice

Pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, all residents and ratepayers within the Shire of Toodyay are required to comply with the requirements set out in this notice.

Due Date: 1 November Annually. **Maintained Until:** 30 April Annually.

NB: If you purchase land during this period you have 14 days from purchase to comply with this order.

Failure to comply may result in a fines or prosecution

1. All land less than or equal to 1 hectare

1.1 All land with an area less than 1 hectare (2.47 acres) are required to be fire hazard reduced by ensuring:

- grass height does not exceed 100mm; and
- no tree crowns overhang the building; and
- Total available fuel load is maintained at 2 tonnes per hectare or lower.

2. All land greater than 1 hectare

2.1 Land up to and including 200 hectares in size shall have a fire-break cleared and maintained within 10 metres of the external boundary.

2.2 Land exceeding 200 Hectares in size shall have fire-breaks cleared and maintained so as to divide the property into parcels of land less than 200 hectares.

2.3 A fire-break shall be cleared and maintained within 15 metres from external walls of buildings and around haystacks, solar panels and fuel storage areas.

2.4 A 20 metre wide Asset Protection Zone (low fuel area) shall be maintained from external walls of buildings and around haystacks, fuel storage areas such that:

- grass height does not exceed 100mm; and
- no tree crowns overhang the building; and
- Total available fuel load is maintained at 2 tonnes per hectare or lower.

2.5 A fire-break shall be cleared and maintained immediately surrounding a stationary motor.

DEFINITION: Fire-break – An area cleared of all inflammable materials 3 metres horizontally (wide) and 4 metres vertically (high).

Shire of Toodyay Bush Fire Control Officers

Pursuant to Section 38 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 the Shire of Toodyay advises appointment of the following persons as Bushfire Control Officers for the Shire of Toodyay.

Craig Stewart (Chief Bush Fire Control Officer), Rowan Hunter (Deputy Bush FireControl Officer 1), Robert Koch (Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer 2), Brian Wood, Garry Forsyth, Jay Wakka, Charles Wroth, Jens-Dieter Bartels, Kim Maddrell, Ian MacGregor, John Hansen, Brian Rayner, Debbie Papps, Chris Sumners, Greg Warburton, Leon Couper

Stan Scott – Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Toodyay



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BOLGART

Standing room only at Toodyay ratepayers' meeting

Toodyay Progress Association
Larry Graham, Chair

IN ANOTHER well-attended meeting, the association was pleased to welcome all of our shire councillors except Cr Craig Brook, who put in his apologies, and Crs Judy Dow and Rob Welburn.

However, had they also turned up, it could have been a problem because there was standing room only.

We also noted that our harshest social media critics again resisted the temptation to front up and give us the benefit of their vast knowledge but we live in hope because there is a standing invitation for them to participate.

Rates were the big topic and we pointed out that when around 2000 constituents sign a petition like the one presented to council, they should be listened to – but were not.

The council's rates setting process was a dog's breakfast which did not follow recommended State Government procedures for budgeting and rate setting, and we were bemused when one of the councillors adamantly pointed out that these were only guidelines.

While that is strictly correct, government regulators set guidelines that are underpinned by law and regulations and, if these are followed correctly, councils can budget, plan, prepare and set their rates in a timely and considered manner.

Those departmental guidelines are aimed at preventing precisely what happened in Toodyay this year where our council set its rates and adopted a budget without all of the vital plans being in place.

These essential plans are the basis for all decisions on rates and spending, but our council made the decisions on rates and spending first and will now do the planning afterwards – horse-cart, cart-horse ... what's the difference?

Seriously, we could not make this up but such behaviour fits the department's view that the Shire of Toodyay demonstrated "... not only a lack of understanding of provisions of the legislation, but also a propensity to misinterpret other legalities and procedures".

Because these plans are so important,

any competent council would have made delivering its vital Strategic, Asset Management, Long Term Financial, and Workforce, Corporate Business Plans, and its Local Planning Strategy and Local Planning Schemes key areas of the CEO's performance criteria.

Competent councils would also have required these actions to be done inside the timelines set by those departmental guidelines, and would probably have also aimed to have them completed by April so that annual shire budget processes could be conducted without any hiccups.

If our councillors did do that, we trust they are carefully evaluating the results, and if they didn't, they should be filling out their resignations.

Then there are the important and mostly irreversible decisions being worked on right now, that once made, will affect our town for a decade or so.

This is possibly the worst time for that process to be started and the critical decisions include whether or not to:

- Extend the CEO's contract;
- Adopt a new town planning scheme;
- Conduct a complete policy review and,
- Overhaul the town's heritage plans.

The critical decisions also include whether or not to support broad-scale mining and landfill, and what major decisions to make on sporting facilities.

Each issue is controversial and dealing with them competently requires a council working closely with the community.

But when the relationship between the community and the council is as broken as it is, we think good decisions are the least-likely outcomes.

When citizens speak, elected ones should listen and in functional democratic organisations, when those elected lose the support of their constituency, they are duty bound to recognise that and act accordingly.

But there are no signs that this message is getting through; and it needs to get through because what we have is a divided, lame duck council.

At our meeting we compared the difference in public support given to citizen's issues

by councils such as Moora and Denmark with the aggressive attitude of the Shire of Toodyay.

The association strongly recommends restoring some semblance of democracy to our shire, and because things are so dysfunctional we suggest that the council accept that things are broken and approach the department to seek a mentoring CEO to come in and put our council on the right track.

This is necessary because unless something

substantial changes soon things are most likely to deteriorate further and the wider that crack between council and the community grows, the harder it gets to find any sensible resolution.

And it is important it be found because unless we do, our community will never reach its full potential.

As always, we 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.

Sitting in the driver's seat of a heavy-haulage truck

Toodyay RoadWise Committee
Cliff Simpson

AT THE 2018 Toodyay Agricultural Show come and visit the road safety displays – you can't miss them, look out for the Midland Brick truck and dog.

This year Toodyay Agricultural Society received an event grant from the Road Safety Commission and as a part of this year's show we thought the most helpful, topical and practical way to promote safe driving on our country roads was to concentrate on road safety around trucks.

Toodyay Road carries a high number of trucks from the extractive industries and waste facilities, agricultural equipment, harvest freight, plus tourism and commuters – a volatile mix.

Heavy vehicles make up 14 per cent of the daily traffic on the road and increasingly the community is concerned about road safety.

With this initiative, the Toodyay RoadWise Committee, Transafe WA, Main Roads and Midland Brick will be available to answer your questions and dispel myths about trucks.

Did you know, for example, that in over 90 per cent of fatal incidents involving a heavy and a light vehicle, the light vehicle is at fault?

Trucks are not intrinsically dangerous but



Trucks and cars – a volatile mix.

drivers need to be mindful of their blind spots, safe stopping distances, how much distance is required to safely overtake and so on.

Sit in the driver's seat for a closer look and talk to experienced truck drivers.

We know there are plans to improve Toodyay Road in the Wheatbelt section from Dryandra Road to Toodyay and several passing lanes are included, but until the funding is available for these works we need to be patient and careful.

Remember trucks are very important to our economy, and they are here to stay.

As always, elsewhere on the oval Toodyay St John Ambulance and Fire and Rescue Service volunteers will present their road crash rescue re-enactment.

With serious injuries and fatalities resulting from road crashes all too common in our region, please take the time to visit these displays and share views and information with the people working for all our safety.

Local historians go fishing and net an award

Toodyay Historical Society
Robyn Taylor

OUR SOCIETY is an affiliated member of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society based in Perth and each year an annual conference is held of all the state members.

Each alternate year the conference is hosted by a society based either in the Perth metro area or in a regional town or city. This year it was hosted by Cervantes.

Cervantes is a 'young' place, being established by cray fishermen in the 1960s. It is set within the Nambung Reserve, a remote location surrounded by considerable natural beauty.

Tourist brochures refer to Cervantes and its far-flung neighbouring towns as being located along the Turquoise Coast.

Initially we were curious about how much history such a small place could muster for a state conference.

There is of course the name Cervantes, taken from the 230-ton American whaling barque Cervantes that was wrecked off the coast in 1844.

This links the town to the rich maritime history of WA's coastline, a topic that was expertly covered by Ian Warne, President of the Maritime Archaeological Association of WA.

For interested readers, there is a web page and free phone app of ShipwrecksWA which was launched in 2014.

On land, history does not necessarily require bricks and mortar to make it come alive.

Cervantes has a rich legacy of stories which were related by individuals who established the local fishing industry and provided essential services, such as the volunteer nurse working under less than ideal conditions.



Members with the Award of Merit presented at the Affiliated State Conference from left: Robyn Taylor, Beth Frayne, Linda Rooney and Jenny Edgecombe.

Their reminiscences are full of grit and humour.

From the local context, the conference program expanded to take in the wider region.

The Neergabby Community Association presented a great story about its long involvement with the development of a heritage trail along the Old North Road Stock Route.

Honey producer Peter Scharf of Jurien Bay related how the areas in and around the Shire of Dandaragan have the most species of endemic plants in WA which means there is nectar flow for much of the year.

Other papers dealt with the natural features of the region, the Pinnacles, stromatolites and several caves that are part of a national database.

There are more than 200 military sites in the Mid-West and an increasingly rich history of World War II activities in the region has been gathering apace, now that previously withheld records have been released.

This subject was well-covered by archaeologist and historian Bob Shepherd. I have a research interest in camouflage during WWII in WA, so question time was particularly useful.

Town farewells a good friend

13.9.1944 – 28.9.2018



Trevor Rowles. Photo Shakura Rowles.

MORE than 200 mourners filed into St John the Baptist Catholic Church in Toodyay to farewell Trevor Rowles on September 6.

Trevor (73) was a deeply religious man who made time to support his community – driving parishioners to church, volunteering at the Old Gaol and in the past, delivering *The Toodyay Herald*.

At the conclusion of the full Requiem Mass family and friends reflected on Trevor's generous nature and stoic friendship.

A cushion in the home he recently shared with mother Mavis Rowles is embroidered with Trevor's favourite saying: "The only way to have friends is to be one."

Trevor loved cryptic crosswords, coin collecting and was an avid fan of East Fremantle and the Fremantle Dockers football clubs.

From an early age, Trevor helped his mother run Key Farm guest house while his father Patrick (deceased) was away shearing.

As an adult he applied his strong work ethic to all his jobs on the railways, at Extracts Industrial Park and at Midland Brick.

"He was a simple man who did big things," said Reverend Father George James of Northam parish.

For Trevor, his family was everything and he will be sadly missed by mother Mavis, brother Bernard, children Craig, Roslyn and

Bryan, and his eight grandchildren Shakura, Ethan, Billie, Harry, Danyl, Callan, Logan and Archie.

The parishes of Toodyay and Northam have lost a stalwart parishioner and the Toodyay community will miss a much-loved friend.

Daughter's heartbreak

Roslyn Rowles

What can we do Dad to make smokers aware?

How can people still smoke, how can they even dare?

We love you so much Dad but there was nothing we could do, No way at all to take this terrible disease away from you.

Oh, how it hurt us so to see you lying there, In dreadful pain, a shrinking body, gasping for air.

I can feel you with me Dad the words are coming fast,

We can work together to make smoking a thing of the past.

How could it be that we wanted you to slip away,

Not wanting to see you in pain for another single day.

Why then is it so if help was needed you were the one

But when you needed help the most, nothing could be done.

What we have lost is a friend, Dad, grandad and brother,

And oh how does anyone console an aching, grieving Mother?

We can try Dad and only with your permission,

To do something, to show them to make them really listen.

So here is my new challenge and I know you understand,

Every day I will honour the loss of an amazing man.

Keep us strong Dad from where you now peacefully sit,

Give us the strength and know how to make them all quit.

This is the value of state conferences which provide the opportunity to network with others who may share your passions.

Of course a highlight for us was winning this year's much coveted Award of Merit for our achievements over the past year.

Donegan's Cottage, our headquarters at the showgrounds, will be open with displays on Saturday October 6 for the Toodyay Agricultural Show and we require at least two members to be on hand. Please contact Beth Frayne (see below) who is organising the roster if you can assist.

Our October excursion will be a sundowner at Connor's Mill, Saturday October 27 from 6pm to view the shire museum's new display on the Coorinja Winery. Bring a plate to share and BYO drinks. Tea/coffee, etc. provided.

Next meeting: Wednesday October 17, 7pm at Drummond House. Contact: secretary.2j.ths@gmail.com; Robyn Taylor, rdtaylor@iinet.net.au, 9574 2578 or Beth Frayne, toobide4@iinet.net.au, 9574 5971.

Donegan's Cottage Research Centre in the showgrounds is open on Thursdays 1-3pm. Postal address: PO 32, Toodyay. Website: toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au.

We have displays of books and other items at Drummond House, open Saturday mornings. Membership is \$10 per annum.

RSM

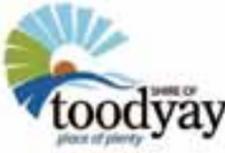
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For further enquiries please contact Claire McGowan on 9574 9394 or email cdm@toodyay.wa.gov.au

CWA leaders confront Premier over funds

Country Women's Association
Elizabeth Mansom

THE COUNTRY Women's Association of WA has not rested on its laurels since receiving the welcome news that Moora Residential College will remain open.

CWA State President Heather Allen and General Secretary Jackie Farmer met WA Premier Mark McGowan at State Parliament House last month to press the association's continuing case to reverse funding cuts for agricultural education.

The association's main concern has been centred on the State Government skimming 20 per cent of funds contributed by WA's five agricultural colleges to the Agricultural Education Farm Provisions Trust Fund.

Students from these colleges provided

the labour that generated on-farm profits for the benefit of these colleges and other agricultural courses.

Mrs Allen and Mrs Farmer questioned the Government's right to snatch money that was intended to support agricultural education.

The meeting also raised concerns about State policies affecting the future of community kindergartens.

A report circulated to all CWA members said it was a good meeting with many strong points made by all parties present.

Last month was a quiet one for functions for Toodyay members – just the craft day on the second Thursday and monthly meeting on the fourth Thursday.

However, we are looking forward to going to Mt Helena/Parkerville on Wednesday October 31 to attend a fashion parade

featuring Kimbos.

Of course, there is the Toodyay Show on Saturday October 6.

Netti will, as always, sit sentinel at the CWA display in the pavilion.

Her guardian, Vivien, has been hard at work putting together a new outfit for her.

There has also been much behind-the-scenes activity to prepare for our Christmas stall.

We decided the emphasis will be on biscuits and preserves presented so they can be used as gifts which we feel sure will meet any unexpected need or be just right for that hard-to-buy-for person.

The CWA meets at 1pm on the fourth Thursday of the month in the CWA Hall in Stirling Terrace.

There is plenty of parking in Charcoal



CWA State President Heather Allen addresses Mark McGowan.

Lane, with disabled access from Charcoal Lane down the side of the hall.

To book the hall, please ring Jennifer Clarke on 9574 5715.



Lester Snooke (left) and Tim Sippe present Calingiri P&C representative Jane Liu with the \$500 cheque.

Local kids get magic carpet ride

Keith Cox

THE TEACHERS and children of Calingiri Primary School have welcomed a \$500 donation from the Crop Science division of Bayer and Primaries Bolgart through the iGiveLocal Community Support Program.

The cheque was presented to Calingiri Primary School P&C representative Jane Liu

by Tim Sippe from Bayer and Lester Snooke from Primaries Bolgart.

"P&C organisations are often overlooked when it comes to grant funding, so it is nice to give back to this community.

"The money was very much appreciated and already been used to fund a school excursion to Perth for the children to see *Aladdin*, which they loved", Mr Sippe said.

Footy fever's over – for now

Bejoording Community Group News
From the desk of The Badger

BY THE time you read this the footy final will all be over as we come to the end of another footy season.

As usual in our friendly community every broadcast game this season has been an 'open house' at the home of one family or another.

And who can forget the night the Eagles won their preliminary final? You could hear the shouting and screaming right across the valley.

It's a true Bejoording tradition and a big thank you to all of you who threw open your sheds, patios or man-caves, lit your barbecues and open pit fires, served up plenty of tucker and congenially hosted these enjoyable get-togethers, not only on Fridays but the occasional Thursday and Saturday too.

Friday nights especially are going to seem a bit empty for the next few months, but it's always amazing how quickly the next pre-season games come around and I've no doubt that most weekends someone will find an excuse for a gathering somewhere. That's the Bejoording way.

Speaking of spring, one look at the weeds

after a relatively mild winter confirms it's well and truly here. Weeds everywhere and firebreaks that seem to disappear almost overnight. Spray jigs are being dusted off and utes are all over the place.

We're running a few weeks late but finally our new kitchen for the shed has arrived. Now we just need a weekend of volunteers to assemble and install it.

No doubt we'll organise a feast night to celebrate once it's up and running. A big thank you to Doug Colfer who scoped it, designed it and then used lots of influence and contacts to get a terrific job done very cost effectively.

Your monthly reminder. We meet every Wednesday evening (except in January) at the Bejoording Community Centre which shares premises with the local volunteer bush fire brigade in Bejoording Road.

Come along from 6pm and leave when it suits you. It's strictly 'come as you are' casual, kids are welcome and there are fun events every month.

If you aren't yet a member, we'd love to get to know you. If you want to know more, you can contact president Barry Grey on 9574 2149, or call The Badger on 0414 250 484. Hope to see you soon.

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'Riff' and 'Raff', otherwise known as Max Howard (left) and Ian Calderwood, mind the fort at the Dowerin Field Days.

Old soldiers to spin wheel of fortune

Toodyay RSL Sub Branch
Jacqui Graham

WE ARE all coming out of hibernation as the weather warms up and the RSL team has been busy.

August saw us at the Dowerin Field Day. As well as contributing to the success of the event, we raised funds for the RSL coffers.

Out in the field again, our annual street stall and raffle was generously supported by Toodyayites. A huge thanks from the sub branch for your continued support and congratulations to our raffle winner Warren.

Vietnam Veterans Day on August 18 was again well attended.

We hosted the Great Ride in partnership with the Toodyay Historical Society and a local audience enjoyed the story and songs about the taking of Damascus.

In the not-too-distant future all of our post-event mateship gatherings will be held in our new headquarters in Clinton Street.

If you have not seen the master plans for the building renovation, come and view them at the Toodyay Agricultural Show.

This year we will be spinning the chocolate wheel of fortune and will have a special treat on display at our stall.

Drop in to join our sub branch, view our building plans and get involved. Expertise, time or dollars – every little bit will help to make our 'home' vision a reality.

Lastly a heads-up for Remembrance Day, 100 years since the armistice. Mark this event in your diary: Sunday November 11,

Anzac Memorial Park, service to commence at 10.45am.

All are invited afterwards to share words and a barbecue at the Clinton Street site.

As always, poppies will be available on Friday 9 and Saturday 10 November at the front of IGA.

Seniors are on a roll

Toodyay Autumn Club
Michael Cox

WE HAD a great time last month with a visit to Bindoon Seniors Club by bus, driving through Chittering and on to Bindoon to a welcoming morning tea and a few games of carpet bowls.

One popular activity was the raffle. You won by drawing out a number and nearly all of us took home a gift.

A few days later we were off again, this time to York, with an early start as the York Club meets earlier than we do.

This was just as well as the bus got stuck for a while but we only arrived a little late for the morning tea that was awaiting us.

Although we took our own lunch, the York Seniors Club provided soup and pies so we all had a feast.

We do not let the grass grow under our feet and this month we are off to visit the Goomalling Seniors.

Birthdays for October are Dean Shanks October 8 and Rose Rootham October 11. We all wish them a very happy birthday.

Ida cruises home for 17th birthday bash

Ida's Hideaway
Heather Appleby

WHERE can you have great company, play bingo and cards and enjoy Saturday afternoon tea with a group of happy people? Ida's Hideaway of course.

The Herald was recently invited to help Ida's Hideaway celebrate its 17th anniversary with a meal at the Cola Café and a big birthday cake.

Ida, at 83, was there this year, having missed the 16th birthday due to ill health.

She's just returned from a cruise visiting Scotland, Ireland, Amsterdam and The Hague, where she caught up with many of her relatives.

Ida's Hideaway was formed when Ida realised that there were many elderly people, some living in Butterfly Cottages, who needed some companionship and fun.

There are two rules, and only two – firstly everyone has lots of laughs and secondly no-one talks about ill health. Otherwise anything goes on Saturday afternoons.

The group would like to thank Charlie and Marion Ferguson who donate wood each year for the Ida's Hideaway raffle which raises funds to ensure Saturday afternoons are free for everyone attending.

The group meets every Saturday afternoon at the Toodyay Community Resource Centre and all are welcome.

Ida is now looking forward to an even bigger celebration in 2021 when the group reaches its 20th year.

For more information about Ida's Hideaway, contact Rae Vigar on 9574 2356.



From left: Michael Cox, Ann Sinclair, Syd Sinclair, Rae Vigar and Ida Edwards (seated).

Dr Happs rejects climate change

Toodyay Probus Club
Norm Green

IT WAS with regret that I was not at the September meeting to catch the talk by our guest speaker, Dr John Happs, who spoke about climate change.

John gave the club a lot of evidence that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has manipulated the figures to make it look as if humans are causing this problem.

Many scientists and US President Trump have come out in support of climate change being a natural occurrence.

The CO₂ which is being blamed for climate change is a very minute part of our atmosphere – 0.038 per cent and human activity produces three per cent of that amount. This works out at 0.00114 per cent.

John gave us a lot of evidence that the climate has been going up and down over the years and there are no unusual changes in our time.

Seven Probus Toodyay members went to see *Ladies in Black* in Midland and I would highly recommend this film.

No coarse language, no drugs and no violence. Some would say, "gosh, how boring".

However, there were no negatives in it and no sorrow, just a wonderfully made story based on a group of 1959 department store employees in Sydney.

Further excitement at Probus in September was another litter pick-up on Julimar Road where the comment was made that the road was a lot cleaner this time.

Come and join us. Contact Dr Monika Zechetmayr on 9574 2559.



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House sale to boost community support

Caroline Campbell

THE TOODYAY and Districts Bendigo Community Bank has created a new community initiative that will result in significant local sponsorship funding for Toodyay community groups.

The Community Bank Board of Directors has decided to sell a property with all proceeds going into the bank's Community Enterprise Foundation account for community use.

The sale will boost the branch's sponsorship funding of community organisations, which includes adding to the branch's funds already in place for the swimming pool project.

The well-positioned property at 66 Stirling Terrace Toodyay, is a neat three-bedroom house which will also have a freshen up with repainting inside and new carpets.

Real estate agent Tony Maddox is selling the property and expects a big turnout on auction day, Saturday November 24. (See advertisement back page.)

"With bidding commencing at \$200,000, there's every reason to believe this property is going to be one of the hottest sales opportunities of the year.

"What's extra-special about this one is that all proceeds from its sale will be channelled back into the community," said Mr Maddox.

Toodyay and Districts Community Financial Services Chair, Andrea Carling, said this was the biggest community give-back initiative undertaken by the Toodyay community bank branch in recent years.

"We are locally owned and operated which means we are invested in the local community and in supporting our people.

"Sponsorship funding is awarded to community groups on a quarterly basis.

"We have had an exceptional number of applications for which we are delighted to be able to provide funding support.

"The most recent recipients include the Toodyay Car and Motorcycle Show, Northam Chamber of Commerce, Avonvale Youth Group, Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and the Avon Valley Art Society.

"We look forward to a very successful campaign period ahead and we thank Tony Maddox and his team who, in the spirit of the sale, have waived the auction fee and have charged us only minimal administration," said Ms Carling.



Mini rail's new pig and piglets have been a big hit with passengers.

Bull ants put the bite on Graham – again

Toodyay Miniature Railway June Eastwood

FATHER'S Day brought fathers out in large numbers but it did not extend to having mothers pay for fathers to ride, except on one occasion.

We carried 40 more adults than children and that 40 were almost all dads.

Three young fathers fronted up at the counter, each buying for himself and his offspring.

I queried "no mothers?" to which came the grim reply: "Our wives are off on a girls' weekend and we've been left with the kids but you wait until Mother's Day and we're off fishing."

In September 2016, Graham went down the line to check out our brand new addition of horse, man and dog, a tribute to Toodyay's pioneers.

Within a minute flat, three stealthy bull ants had quietly climbed up inside Graham's clothing and he was simultaneously bitten under the arm and lower regions.

Fast forward two years to September 2018 and our conscientious member went down with ladder and paint tin in hand to add a silver coat to our latest addition at Turtle Crossing, a replica of an authentic water tower for steam trains and its windmill.

Graham suddenly found himself menaced by yet another three bull ants.

Do ants retain a genetic memory of the monster who stomped their mates?

Whatever, their leader was perched on a blade of the mill head to distract attention from his two comrades who were making a surreptitious ascent of the metal legs and it was Graham's legs they had in sight.



The new steam era water tower and windmill at Turtle Crossing.

It appears either Graham has to change his aftershave or stick to sitting on an engine if he does not want to be terrorised by these determined marauders.

Barry Keens, a former Supervisor of Rail Safety, has been busily drawing up a set of safety tips for each position in the mini rail system.

He has made a large laminated board with a no-holds-barred message in large letters and this will be displayed in a prominent position.

Our main objective is to stamp out the practice of parents heaving themselves into a small rocking carriage with a baby in arms.

In a sad fact of modern life, staff members who ask to hold the child until the parent is safely seated are given a glaring "no".

The only thing we can do in this case is for two staff to hold the carriage still but they also give the scenario of a caught foot meaning the parent trips and it is the baby's head that hits the brickwork first.

At the other end of the scale was a toddler who was so intrigued with the nice staff member who held him that he was reluctant to return to the arms of his surprised parent.

Maybe when all the staff are resplendent in the new bright-yellow hi-viz jackets emblazoned with the Toodyay Miniature Railway logo we will not be seen as such a threat to children.



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Marathon mums beat mental struggle

Dimity Boggs

TOODYAY'S Marathon Mums have raised a total of \$4598 for BreastCare WA as a result of their epic 42km run from Bolgart to Newcastle Bridge last month.

We want to thank the community for its generous donations, and our families and friends for their physical and emotional support.

We have been running as a group for four years and decided to tackle a marathon.

It caused some mixed emotions because our previous longest run was 21.1km, and our biggest worries were finding the time to train and whether our bodies would be up to it.

We are all in our 30s and 40s and have 15 children between us, and injury was a concern, as was mustering the mental ambition – did we really want to do something so gruelling, let alone find a reason why?

Nonetheless, over a post-run Sunday breakfast we agreed to tackle it on September 2, allowing us 17 weeks to train like demons.

We downloaded a 15-week marathon training program and away we went.

As it got progressively more demanding, we put the onus on ourselves to fit in the kilometres when we could and ensured we touched base on Sundays by scheduling some long group runs, followed by a fried breakfast.

We decided after a few weeks to use the marathon to raise money for a worthy cause, which provided extra motivation to train.

A couple of us have a personal connection to breast cancer so we contacted BreastCare WA and set up the fundraising page, which helped with our commitment when money started flowing in.

Three weeks before the marathon, we covered the longest training distance of 30km along the planned route from Long Forest Road to Toodyay.

Lynlee Chitty provided support by driving ahead, cheering us on and waving the Australian flag out her window like we were an Olympic team.

It was the furthest any of us had ever run and we covered it comfortably, which made us pretty proud.

For the first time, running a marathon



Marathon mums get set at Bolgart, the starting point of their 42km run to Toodyay.

seemed to be achievable.

We met at 7am at the start line at Fowler Road north of Bolgart with a huge crowd of family and friends to see us off.

We decided to run at a slow pace of around seven and a half minutes per kilometre and that's what we did for 42.2km – give or take a minute.

Our support crew were incredible along the route, with Lynlee and 'Aunty Gloria' driving the support vehicle to ensure traffic was aware of our presence and all our kids, partners and friends manning a series of drink stations and cheering all the way.

At around 28km the weight of the run was starting to show among the runners as the chatter dropped off and we got the sense that the mental struggle was upon us.

Bree Byfield and I both admitted at this point that this was harder than we thought but knew our bodies could probably cope if we kept our minds in a happy place.

This is when the support of our people made all the difference.

We had invited anyone who wanted to challenge themselves to run a distance they had never run before to jump in and run at least part of the way with us and, run they did.

From ages six to 72, our family and friends covered various impressive distances and kept us moving.

As we ran up the final hill to the Toodyay Cemetery we finally saw the finish at Newcastle Bridge ahead.

We were flanked by dozens of running, skipping, happy kids and our support runners and there was a huge crowd of smiling supporters waiting to congratulate us and share lunch at Duidgee Park.

We had all made it and no-one got hurt (much) – it had taken five and a half hours.

We didn't set any records but that wasn't the point.

We had done everything we wanted to by completing the longest distance we had ever run, raising a pile of money for a great cause and setting a tremendous example for our kids.

Along the way, we had to overcome demons such as mental negativity and self-doubt, plus blisters, headaches, chronic chaffing, calf tears, sunburn, stress fractures, rolled ankles, shin splints and displaced hips.

Everyone's run experience was different, but we all agreed it was totally worth it thanks to everyone's support.

Roll up, roll up, it's Show time again

Toodyay Agricultural Society

Alison Wroth

WHEN organising an event such as the 165th Toodyay Agricultural Show, it's time to step back and make sure all the boxes are ticked – liquor licence confirmed, fireworks permit received and fire brigade booked for the evening.

Then, after that final committee meeting, all the plans are put into action for a smooth ride towards a successful Show.

Unfortunately we cannot organise the weather but after looking back over the past few years where the show day weather has been unkind to say the least, we at the Ag Society believe we are due for a fine day to draw the crowds and keep the treasurer content.

The recently held stewards meeting was attended by 21 volunteers, both new and experienced, who offer their time to receive exhibits and arrange the displays.

Without these wonderful people, the exhibition halls and livestock displays would not operate as smoothly.

Thank you to the stewards and judges who realise that supporting a local show also supports the local community.

Much appreciated support also comes from the larger businesses which back us financially.

Without this support from our major sponsors – Road Safety Commission, Morgan Feed Supplies, Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Vernice Earthmoving, CSBP, REECE, Toodyay Op Shop, Dunning's, Shire of Toodyay and Country Wide Insurance Brokers and individual donations from our community – the Toodyay Agricultural Show would not be able to attract the entertainment, marquees, new banners, community and trade displays that every show-goer deserves to see.

Two guessing competitions are featured in the Show this year, Guess the Weight of the Cow and Guess the Length of the Rusty Fence Roll, which has been running on Facebook for well over a month.

Both competitions will be drawn on the day. The weight of the cow will be announced at 2pm and the length of the fence at 4pm.

On behalf of the president, thank you to all our committee members for their extra team work this year; what is always needed on a committee is loyalty and reliability and the Toodyay Ag. Society certainly has both.

Thank you also to all the community groups that support us by running the bar, cleaning, parking, catering and attending the gates, to name but a few.

We could not manage the day if you all had not offered to assist and why not – it's a great way to raise funds.

We hope you have entered plenty of exhibits to make this 165th Toodyay Agricultural Show one to be remembered.

See you at the Show – please enjoy the exhibition hall displays, the livestock and the firework finale along with all the other entertainment.

FREE

AGRI TOURISM

WORKSHOP

Thursday 1st November, 1– 4pm at the
Toodyay Community Resource Centre

- Do you have a food or wine based business that can offer visitors a unique experience?
- Are you thinking about starting a food related business that might be of interest to visitors?
- Do you have an interest in Agri Tourism opportunities in our region and keen to identify potential trail ideas?

If so, then this workshop is for you!

The Toodyay Chamber of Commerce & Industry's - Vision, Brand, Marketing Sub-Committee is excited to be hosting this FREE workshop. Places are limited. We anticipate there will be great interest and preference will be given to food and wine based related businesses. This workshop is an initiative of Tourism WA's Taste 2020 Food and Wine Tourism Strategy. John Stanley, an internationally renowned food and retail tourism consultant will present a half day workshop on trends and opportunities in food tourism.

If you would like to register your interest, please do so by emailing your name, business name (and type) and contact details before 18th October to workshop coordinator
Anthea Brown: anthea@macabee.com.au

VACANCY Administration Officer

Are you good at Admin? Please consider helping us with ours...

The Toodyay Agricultural Society is into its 165th year and Committee members and volunteers believe we organise one of the best run agricultural Shows in the State.

Please apply if you believe you have the skills to support the organisation of the Toodyay Agricultural Show. The role involves:

- Distributing the Agenda for our general meetings monthly, Minute taking at these monthly meetings and then circulating them to members.
- Collecting mail, filing and responding to correspondence after Committee meetings as advised.
- Sorting emails, responding or forwarding to Committee members as requested.
- Assisting the President, Executive and Committee members where possible in the lead up to our Show Day in October.
- Possibly liaising with external bodies and local community groups via correspondence, email and TAS mobile phone.
- Applications for any Shire Event we hold and if able, Grant applications (optional).
- Ideally, we are looking for someone with good PC skills and access to the Internet. If you are organised, self-motivated and can spare a few hours every week to support us, then we would like to hear from you.

Honorarium is available for discussion.

For an informal chat or more information about this position, please contact Ms Karen Dore 0413 380 650.

Closing Date
for applications
October 31
2018



Black Sea exports threaten WA grain

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza

WARMER spring weather has brought a sigh of relief from livestock producers who have struggled with soggy pastures.

The feed has bounded away lately and animals are struggling to eat everything on offer.

All livestock are generally in good condition with many farmers having already sold this year's lambs for the domestic market.

The usual spring flush of new season's lamb has led to softening of prices at sale yards which is fairly common as the influx of lambs can lead to oversupply.

Saleyard prices for shippers (two-year-old merino wethers) have fallen substantially more than lamb.

Instability in the industry caused by the uncertainty of the live sheep export trade has led to a sharp drop in confidence and there is not an easy fit for shippers if they are not exported, as they have to be sold as mutton which has limited appeal to Australian consumers.

The sheep meat industry is trying to find new markets for its products and air-freighted chilled side lamb is a relatively new innovation which fits well into the South East Asian market.

Grain markets continue to remain very strong and demand from the Eastern States continues to hold prices at multi-year highs.

Frosts and the dry September in WA have lowered the state's expected crop, adding to concern regarding grain shortages this year.



Old-fashioned strain of bearded wheat first grown in 1952 which is mainly cut for hay.

On a global scale, the world's grain-producing regions have had a poor season in 2018, apart from the USA.

The US President Trump-initiated trade 'arm wrestle' with China has left the USA holding large exportable grain cargoes without a home, particularly soya beans which China has previously imported in massive amounts from the USA every year.

The trade stand-off has seen China impose tariffs on US beans in response to President Trump's actions.

Industry commentators suggest that the retaliatory actions by the Chinese have been targeted deliberately at US states that are strong Trump supporters.

The lowering of US grain exports has been evened out by recent near-record exports out of the Black Sea ports servicing countries such as Ukraine and Russia.

Major improvements in infrastructure, farming practices and logistics in the post-Communist era have seen Russia and former Communist country Ukraine, which once imported wheat from Australia, emerging as among the world's largest grain exporters.

Exports out of the Black Sea ports pose a direct and ever-present threat to WA's grain markets.



From left: Robert Miles, Laurie Green, Helen Shanks, Sharmain Miles and Bernard Green.

Local Noongar projects planned

Noongar Kaakning Aboriginal Corporation
Helen Shanks, Co-director

TOODYAY'S newly reactivated Noongar Kaakning Aboriginal Corporation held an AGM last month with a real feel of optimism about several exciting new projects planned for coming months.

Objectives include renewing traditional culture, undertaking heritage activities and supporting economic projects.

The group will seek funds to protect local registered heritage sites, including clean-ups, new signs and possibly interpretation.

The corporation is also keen to work with

like-minded groups such as the Toodyay Friends of the River and Naturalists' Club to help preserve Aboriginal heritage.

Our shire contains three separate areas of Noongar native title – Ballardong country (including the townsite), Yued country to the north-west and Whadjuk country to the south-west.

The corporation has 13 members and five directors, and we expect Aboriginal membership to increase as more people hear more about us.

The directors are Robert Miles (Chair), Laurie Green, Helen Shanks, Sharmain Miles and Bernard Green. For more information, please contact Robert Miles, 0487 283 732.

Hunt on for new crop of rural leaders

THE COUNCIL of Rural Research and Development Corporations is looking for 10 emerging leaders in the agriculture and food industries to attend the inaugural international agrifood technology event, evokeAG, in Melbourne next year.

Applicants, aged 18 to 30, need to create a short video on why they should be selected to represent evokeAg.

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to present their ideas to an international audience of stakeholders.

Applications close at on Friday October 12.

For full eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and how to apply, visit evokeag.com.

AgriFuture awards seek female entrants

EMERGING female leaders who want to create an impact, innovate and make a difference to rural and regional Australia are encouraged to apply for the 2019 AgriFuture Rural Women's Award.

Projects or initiatives can be commercially focused, providing they still align with AgriFuture's strategic priorities of innovation, creativity, community sustainability, education, productivity, agribusiness, regional development and technology.

Applicants are not required to have a specific project to be considered eligible. Applications can be submitted based on an idea, an identified problem or an opportunity.

Each state and territory winner will receive a \$10,000 bursary to bring their idea or project to life.

Applications close on Wednesday October 31. Apply to agrifutures.com.au/rwa.

Advertorial

Multi-million-dollar agriculture auction set for Northam

THE WORLD'S largest industrial auctioneer, Ritchie Bros. will host the first large-scale unreserved agricultural auction in Northam on Thursday October 25.

With permanent sites in Brisbane and Geelong, Ritchie Bros holds several offsite agricultural auctions a year and this will be their first agricultural equipment sale in WA.

The major consignor to the sale is Ag Implements, a family owned agricultural machinery business with its foundations firmly grounded in the eastern Wheatbelt of WA.

With the demise in 2001 of Carson's of Merredin (part of the Agro Holding group), Merredin and surrounding areas were left with no John Deere dealer, nor service for their existing machines.

Local farmer and business man John Nicoletti identified the gap in sales, service and parts in the area and commenced negotiations with John Deere Limited.

A commitment was made to establish a new dealership in Merredin and Ag Implements was born.

Ag Implements now employs 100 local staff in six locations and services more than 30,000km² in 20 shires and consider themselves to be long-term service providers to rural WA.

The management team of John Nicoletti (owner and managing director), Ross Withers (CEO/CFO) and Graeme Pember (dealer principal) is committed to innovative and customer driven service to Wheatbelt communities, not only in the form of sales and service of John Deere farm equipment, but also in providing training and long-term employment in our rural communities.

Ag Implements is all about the customer and their family, and the community where they live.

Included in the historic sale are 12 combines, 15 headers, 8 sprayers, 7 tractors and 7 air drills.

All equipment has been well-maintained and serviced by Ag Implements, who have a good reputation in the market.

Ag Implements are the John Deere dealer for the Wheatbelt and provide new and

used equipment sales and service as well as rental equipment.

Because of the poor conditions in the Eastern States, Ag Implements decided that instead of sending the used equipment to the East for sale, they would have an agricultural sale in WA.

Ritchie Bros were chosen to conduct the sale as John Nicoletti has been to Ritchie Bros auctions in Canada and the US and believes they are the best at what they do.

Ag Implements hopes the local community will support the sale.

"When you decide to do an unreserved auction you hope people will turn out and get behind it.

"It's a great opportunity for people to buy this equipment, so we're looking forward to the sale.

"Hopefully we'll all be successful and Ritchie Bros schedules more auctions in the future.

"That would be good for the region," Mr Nicoletti said.

Ritchie Bros Territory Manager for WA, Cody Irvine, said that they were expecting a good turnout on the day.

Interest in the region is building and they have been seeing interstate web traffic inspecting the equipment online.

"This is a great opportunity as it's not every day that an unreserved auction of agricultural machinery of this size is conducted," Mr Irvine said.

"We regularly see over 2000 people turn out to our auctions on the East coast, and our Ag auctions can attract over 1000 people on the day.

"This auction is also great for the local region – with 30 staff working on the auction, there will be a demand for accommodation and meals and the whole community will benefit.

"Potential buyers from all over the country will visit the Avon Valley," he said.

The site will be open for inspection on Saturday October 20, and all the machines are available to view online as well.

Simply go to rbauction.com.au and select the Northam sale.

If you can't make it to the sale, you can also bid online, or place a proxy bid.

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