

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.

February 2019
Edition 376

Postage
Paid
Australia

CEO gets Easter job deadline

State inquiry widens as investigators probe shire administration

Michael Sinclair-Jones

SHIRE CEO Stan Scott has been given until Easter to convince Toodyay councillors that he should keep his job.

The council is undergoing a formal State Government inquiry based on "reasonable suspicion" it breached local government laws and regulations during the five years Mr Scott has been shire CEO.

Mr Scott served written notice to last month's council meeting that he wants to keep his \$223,000 a year job when his four-year employment contract ends in July.

However, councillors went behind closed doors to reject his bid to start talks on a new contract, saying they need first to decide if he should keep his job.

Shire President Brian Rayner has called a special council meeting for 11.30am on Tuesday February 19 to discuss whether Mr Scott should get a new contract.

His current contract states "there is no compulsion" for councillors to agree to a new contract when the old one expires.

Mr Scott's recommendation last month for the council to start talks with him for a new contract was moved by Cr Judy Dow, seconded by Cr Paula Greenway and backed by President Rayner.

It was defeated 5-3 by Deputy President Therese Chitty, Audit Committee Chair Rob Welburn, and Crs Eric Twine, Ben Bell and Bill Manning (Cr Craig Brook absent).

A motion by Cr Bell, seconded by Deputy President Chitty, to terminate Mr Scott's employment when his contract expires on July 20 was lost 7-1 when only Cr Bell voted in favour.

Cr Welburn then seconded a motion by Cr Manning that the council:

- enter into discussions with the CEO as to whether the council and the CEO wish to enter into a new contract employment for a further term, and
- determine whether to enter into a new contract of employment with the CEO by no later than 18 April 2019 (the day before the four-day Easter break).

The motion was carried 7-1 with Cr Bell opposed.

It is unlikely that a report on the Toodyay council will be completed and any adverse findings made before Easter, and it certainly won't occur before this month's special meeting to discuss whether the council should offer the CEO a new contract.

The CEO's contract is likely to be discussed behind closed doors which means the meeting agenda – when published – will not show any recommendations put forward for the council to consider or who proposed it.

The inquiry follows 11 months of State Government monitoring of shire operations and affairs after a warning that the shire had shown "not only a lack of understanding of the provisions of legislation but also a propensity to misinterpret other legalities and procedures".

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Big crowd turns out to celebrate Australia Day in Duidgee Park

John Hansen, red kelpie Spirit and Mary Guthrie-Donagan relax in Duidgee Park during last month's Australia Day celebrations, Toodyay shire councillors and staff cooked and served hundreds of sausages and eggs for a free barbecue breakfast, and entertainment community citizens awards and singing of Advance Australia Fair. was provided by popular musical duo Chain Reaction. More Page 7.

Shire cover-up shields Rayner, Scott from censure for newsletter breach of conduct

A FORMAL finding six months ago that Toodyay Shire President Brian Rayner and CEO Stan Scott breached the shire code of conduct by publishing "derogatory and improper" statements in a shire community newsletter was kept hidden from ratepayers and other councillors until last month.

The pair were not required to apologise or face any penalty because only the council can order such action – and councillors were not



Shire CEO Stan Scott (left) and President Brian Rayner on Australia Day last month.

told the code had been breached.

It was not revealed until Mr Scott's written recommendation to last month's council meeting that the adverse finding against President Rayner and himself be overturned.

Most councillors knew nothing about the breach until Mr Scott raised it as 'confidential business' behind closed doors at last month's council agenda briefing.

The breach occurred in last year's April shire newsletter when Mr Scott used WA's 'R U OK?' campaign slogan to publish: "I am not OK with the way that the good people of Toodyay who do not agree with the unprincipled campaign by *The Herald* and the TPA (Toodyay Progress Association) are bullied and harassed for having a different point of view."

"I am not OK with the damage that is being done to my reputation in the Local Government Industry, a reputation which prior to this smear campaign was impeccable."

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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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of *The Toodyay Herald* is available at \$15 (\$12 concession) per financial year, with members entitled to free advertising worth \$15 annually. Please send your name, phone number and residential, postal and email address with your membership fee to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566 or leave it at 92B Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

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DISTRIBUTION

The Toodyay Herald has a distribution of 5000 copies, with copies delivered to letter boxes in Toodyay, and Morangup. Copies are also available at roadhouses and businesses in Toodyay, Northam, Bolgart, Bakers Hill, Calingiri, Clackline, Giddegannup, Goomalling, Wooroloo and Wundowie.

Printed by Rural Press

THANK YOU

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.

ADVERTISING

RATES - NO GST IS APPLICABLE

The cost of a casual display advertisement is \$4.15 per column cm (NB Column width is 61.5mm.)

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE	STORY DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTED
Noon Thursday February 21	Noon Tuesday February 26	Wednesday March 6

Please note our email addresses

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

OI' Blind Joe

Beautiful Truth

Stirling Hamilton

MY BEAUTIFUL wife Truth and I have been watching the news from every aspect of the globe each morning while our lovely daughter Inspiration flits around.

Prejudice and manipulation are easily deducible when your wife is a master of her cherished craft.

The US Government, its right-wing allies and an obedient corporate media have repeatedly referred to Venezuela's actual president, Nicolás Maduro, as an "authoritarian dictator", and declared the need for a coup – it would make heaven weep.

A coalition of Canadian unions, church leaders and other officials declared the election to be "a transparent, secure, democratic and orderly electoral and voting process".

However, US President Donald Trump has recognised unelected right-wing opposition leader Juan Guaidó as the new 'president' who has pledged to carry out a mass privatisation of state assets and to implement harsh neoliberal capitalist policies.

US aligned states Ecuador, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Costa Rica reportedly back the US-led 'diplomatic coup'.

All of them are countries where the US has taken out democratically elected governments and installed dictators or stooges.

The US said five months before last year's Venezuelan elections took place that it would not accept any result.

The US military has invaded Latin American and Caribbean countries 96 times, including 48 times in the 20th century.

That total constitutes only direct interventions and doesn't include coups fomented by the US, such as Guatemala in 1954 and Chile in 1973.

Venezuela, which has the world's largest oil reserves and has challenged the hegemony of the US dollar, has long been a target of US aggression.

In 2002, the US supported a military coup that briefly ousted democratically elected President Hugo Chávez and replaced him with the right-wing oligarch Pedro Carmona.

Tens of thousands of people surrounded Government house to protect it from the

Gringos and demanded the release of President Chavez.

US intervention, including crippling economic sanctions, has continued since then and they've got forty billion dollars of Venezuelan gold locked up in US and UK banks.

Seventy Latin American political science and history scholars oppose US intervention.

US troops are deployed at 800 bases in more than 160 countries; and as many as 300 bases are 'off the books'.

The US has 95 per cent of the world's foreign military bases, compared with France, Russia and UK with 10-20 each, and China has one.

The true Left – whether in Brazil, Venezuela, Britain or the US – does not control the police or military, the financial sector, the oil industries, the arms manufacturers or the corporate media.

It was these very industries and institutions that smoothed the path to power for President Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Hungary and Trump in the US.

I turn my mind's eye to that sham that the US laughingly refers to as its justice system.

A mate of mine was FBI trained and I've read a dozen books on controversial former FBI director J Edgar Hoover, training manuals and the history of the FBI since that bastard ran the joint.

Hoover was more interested in infiltrating hippy groups, environmentalists and anti-war movements, and hated US civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

In a strange twist, he liked dressing up in women's clothing.

Hoover's manicured mannequins with white shirts and crew cuts perfected a technique I call 'trip and flip'.

You ping a guy for some corruption that goes on in the White House or wherever every day, then you offer him a deal and flip him to give up the dirt on some other poor sucker.

You cut a deal and he might still be left with a career – if he's lucky.

There is no god higher than truth – Indian Independence leader Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948).

Herald advertising rates stay the same

Heather Appleby

THANK you to our loyal advertising clients, and a special welcome to all new clients.

Due to your advertising support, *The Herald* made a small profit for the year ended 30 June 2018 and the first six months of the new financial year reveal we are on target for another successful year.

Due to our healthy financial position we are pleased to advise that there will be no advertising price increase, at least for the time being.

The Herald committee reviews advertising rates at the beginning of each year and is pleased to report that with the improved advertising income, there is no need to increase rates.

There is of course a proviso – if we receive

notice of an increase in printing costs, the decision may have to be reviewed.

Our rent, electricity, water rates, internet, telephone and other expenses are manageable and are assessed monthly against our budget.

Due to your continuing advertising support we can keep our rates low and still provide a 20 per cent discount on all advertising for our local, not-for-profit incorporated community groups.

Last financial year *The Herald* provided \$9030 in discounts to local community group advertisers.

Contact details for advertising remain the same – office 9574 2106 Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9am and 1pm, or 0419 906 083 at other times or email advertising@toodyayherald.com.au.

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Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

Suggestions and comments are welcome
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The Toodyay Herald

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

February - March 2019

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February		4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	March 1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	

Shutterbug's wasp shot wins international award

Ieva Tomsons

LATE last year Coondle resident Georgina Steytler became the first Australian woman to win a category in the highly contested Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition run by Britain's prestigious Natural History Museum.

Her remarkable close-up photograph of two mud-dauber wasps collecting mud for a nest in a Goomalling nature reserve beat 45,000 entries from 95 countries in the 'Invertebrates: Behaviour' section at a glittering awards ceremony in London.

"I didn't have anything to wear and dashed out to buy a \$50 black dress," laughs Georgina who stood up in front of her peers on the world stage last October to accept wildlife photography's equivalent of the Oscars.

Georgina (45) grew up on an apple orchard in Donnybrook and spent a year on a Rotary exchange scholarship in Japan.

"My host was very enthusiastic and kept me up late, teaching me Japanese – it was exhausting.

"Japanese kids have to clean the school every day. It teaches them discipline and a work ethic; it's a good idea."



A close-up from Georgina's award-winning photo of mud-dauber wasps at Goomalling.

Georgina needed a ton of self-discipline and a work ethic to get through six years at Murdoch University where she completed Law and an Arts degree majoring in Japanese.

In her third year at uni she returned to Japan for another year cementing her knowledge of Japanese.

As a law graduate Georgina started her career as a judge's associate at the Supreme Court of Appeal of WA where she met her husband Chris Steytler, the first President of the Court of Appeal WA.

She spent six years at the top end of St George's Terrace working in commercial litigation which she "hated absolutely" and led to her being "seriously depressed".

"It's not a life – people would leave by the fire escape because the partners took a dim view if you left before 7pm."

The highly competitive environment, 12-hour days and working every weekend took its toll and Georgina switched to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC), investigating insider trading in the mining industry.

"I'm not going to make any comment about the gold mining industry but needless to say, I still want to write a fictional book called *Dirty Gold*."

Photography has always been a hobby for Georgina and while she was at ASIC she contributed numerous articles and photographs to *The West Australian's* travel section.

"I tried to weave conservation into the articles. In one on the Fitzgerald River National Park I wove in the Western Ground Parrot which is down to 140 birds and the captive breeding program isn't working."

In 2007 Georgina started volunteering at BirdLife Australia helping older members with PowerPoint presentations to illustrate their talks on birds.

"They were wonderful people who care nothing about status and money."

Georgina readily admits that she knew nothing about birds when she first started taking pictures with a powerful lens in 2007.

"I thought that the small pigeons were the



Georgina holds the 5kg, one-metre lens she used to win her international award.

babies of the bigger ones," she hoots.

By the time the Steytlers moved permanently to Toodyay in 2012, Georgina had joined BirdLife Australia's Photography sub-group committee and served as its competition co-ordinator for a couple of years.

The goal of BirdLife Photography is to create a national data base of images; it's a fantastic resource."

In 2014 Georgina won her first major photographic competition and has been a winner, runner-up or finalist each year since in the Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year Awards.

"I'm drawn to capturing anything that flies and when you find an animal that has a distinct flight path it presents a golden opportunity."

In her blog, Georgina describes how she took the prize-winning shot of the wasps

by lying down on a muddy slope next to a waterhole at eye-level with the wasps' flight path in Walyormouring Nature Reserve (Oak Park).

She used the 'spray and pray' method; setting the shutter mode to continuous high-speed and hitting the button whenever the insects flew into range.

Of the 5000 images that she took in three hours, very few were in focus and the winning photo was the only one with two wasps in focus.

Georgina doesn't use a tripod to support the one metre, 5kg camera and describes her hand-held positioning as a 'bodypod'.

"I'm going to patent that word," she jokes.

Wildlife photography is all about being in the right place at the right time and the rest is down to luck.

"Luck won't find you – you have to be there to get the shot."

Shire wards to go, but public wasn't asked who should face next elections

THE TOODYAY Shire Council has asked the State Government to abolish electoral wards for next October's shire elections but angered some ratepayers by proposing that four of the shire's nine councillors should not have to face the polls until 2021.

It follows a shire call for submissions in which local electors were asked if they wanted to scrap ward boundaries and reduce the number of councillors from nine to seven.

The council voted last month to back public support for nine councillors after councillors said that number would enable the council to continue to reflect diverse community views.

However, the call for public submissions did not ask voters if they wanted the shire's four councillors with four-year terms that don't expire until 2021 to keep their jobs for another two years.

The four are Shire President Brian Rayner, Deputy President Therese Chitty and Crs Paula Greenway and Bill Manning.

President Rayner is the only current council member who did not face voters at the last shire election because nobody stood against him in his North Ward seat although a total of 11 candidates contested four seats in the shire's other three wards.

The abolition of wards is expected to

eliminate the election of councillors that nobody voted for because all voters will be able to vote for all candidates regardless of where they live.

Deputy President Chitty's motion to abolish wards, keep nine councillors and allow four councillors – including herself – to serve out the balance of their four-year terms to 2021 was seconded by Cr Judy Dow.

Cr Chitty said it was important for the council to maintain stability rather than risk the election of nine new inexperienced councillors in October.

"I'm not trying to secure my position but if we had nine new people it could be quite disconcerting," she said.

Cr Dow, whose four-year term expires in October, said "I wouldn't like to see all councillors stand down".

Cr Ben Bell questioned why ratepayers were not asked in the shire's call for public submissions if they wanted the four councillors to stay on until 2021.

"We put two options to the community and came up with three answers," he said.

"At no time was option two (retaining four councillors) put to the people.

"My understanding is that it was generated by the CEO (Stan Scott).

"Those four councillors have been voted for by only a quarter of the shire.

"If you're confident you're doing a good job, you'll have no problems getting re-elected."

In answer to Cr Bell's question about what the shire asked for in public submissions, President Rayner said the option to retain four councillors (including himself) was not included.

"It was not put out to the public," President Rayner said.

'Lumped together'

CR BILL MANNING, whose four-year term expires in 2021, said the three parts of the question had been lumped together as one motion.

"I agree with abolishing wards and retaining nine councillors to provide a more diverse range of views," he said.

"But what worries me is option two.

"I can see that it provides more stability but a more telling argument is that it should be up to the whole of the shire to decide who sits on council after the next election."

Cr Manning said it didn't seem right that the council should keep four councillors, including himself, for whom most people in

the shire didn't vote while five new councillors would be elected by everyone in the shire.

Cr Eric Twine, whose four-year-term expires this year, said it would be a "shame" if a whole new council was elected in October with the shire's new sports and recreation centre, a new roof for the Old Newcastle gaol "and who knows, a new CEO".

"A whole new council is too great a risk," Cr Twine said.

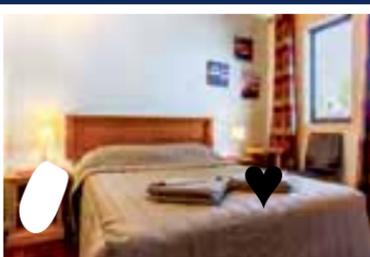
Cr Rob Welburn, whose four-year term also expires this year, said "the reason we don't have full elections every four years is to maintain continuity".

Cr Chitty's motion to abolish wards, retain nine councillors and let four councillors remain until 2021 was carried 6-2, with Crs Bell and Manning against and Cr Craig Brook absent on leave.

The proposal has been sent to the Local Government Advisory Board for it to consider recommending that an order be issued by WA Local Government Minister David Templeman to abolish wards in the next October's Toodyay Shire Council elections.

The public has the right to make submissions to the board before it makes a final recommendation.

Eat, Drink, Play, Stay at Duke's Inn



14th February 2019

Valentine's Day

Check out our special Valentine's Day Menu on our website
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Bookings essential

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The Toodyay Herald

Crunch time

OUR shire council is about to make the most important decision any council can make – the appointment of a CEO for the next four years.

It is the most powerful job in local government and in the right hands can help shape our community's destiny to grow and prosper for decades to come.

The right person is one who commands respect without abusing their authority, is well-versed in financial management, public administration and local government law, and understands and accepts the right of elected bodies to oversee their work.

Unfortunately we have not seen much of those desired qualities in recent years.

The State Government says it has "reasonable suspicion" our council has breached local government laws and regulations over the past five years, and has ordered a wide-ranging formal inquiry into the shire and its administration.

This is not a witch hunt in response to a few frivolous or vexatious complaints from a handful of aggrieved troublemakers – it is a serious investigation with powers to take evidence under oath and refer any wrongdoing to the State Crown Solicitor's Office or the WA Corruption and Crime Commission for criminal prosecution.

The inquiry also has powers to recommend that WA Local Government Minister David Templeman does whatever is needed to clean up the mess.

It will take time for the three State investigators working in Toodyay to get to the bottom of what's been going on, and their report and any adverse findings are unlikely to be finished for several months.

Word on the street is that they have found a lot of work to do.

In addition, the shire's latest annual report shows that it ran operating deficits of nearly \$2 million in each of the past three financial years and was warned by shire auditors Moore Stephens in December that this "will erode the shire's ability to service debt and maintain both its operational service level and asset base over the longer term".

This is worrying news after the CEO's initial bungling of costs for a new sport and recreation centre and swimming pool at the shire's December 2017 meeting, and a rushed decision two weeks later to reduce borrowings to \$2.7 million but still boost shire debt for the next 20 years.

It is against this backdrop that Shire President Brian Rayner has called a special meeting of the council on Tuesday February 19 to discuss whether to negotiate a new contract with the CEO.

It's hard to understand why any public body would start talks on terms for a new contract with its top administrator while subject to a potentially damaging inquiry.

But that's what President Rayner and Crs Paula Greenway and Judy Dow voted to do at last month's council meeting.

The other five councillors (Cr Craig Brook was absent) – hold the absolute majority of votes required by law to make decisions of this magnitude and said the council needed to first decide if the CEO should keep his \$223,000-a-year job.

Toodyay's future will be in their hands on February 19.

Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor



The way we were: Titled on the back, 'Dad at wickets 1935', this photograph is thought to have been taken either at the Toodyay race track with stables behind or at the town's showgrounds with football goalposts in the background. Photo Newcastle Gaol Museum.

LETTERS

Police chief pulls the pin

AFTER a long five years plus as the Officer-in-Charge at Toodyay Police Station it is time for me to move on.

I have grown fond of Toodyay and can say, hand over heart, it's a better place now than it was when I first arrived.

We had crimes, road deaths and other issues to deal with as a community and have worked hard to make Toodyay a place in which people can feel safe.

We still have those among us who are happy to engage in criminal activity; doing drugs and committing crime.

But I can put your minds at rest and tell you that Toodyay Police are all over it – we know who those offenders are and are constantly on their case.

My new job is in Police Breath and Drug (booze bus) Operations with the State Traffic Enforcement Group in Midland, a fresh chapter for me to get my teeth into.

However, I still have strong connections to Toodyay and you may still see me lurking around the place from time to time.

Stay safe – always available if needed.
Sgt Warren Conder
Chittering

Half-sized pool inequitable

I ATTENDED the Shire of Toodyay's community briefing last October regarding the proposed new recreational centre.

The shire CEO identified that Toodyay needs improved facilities and services to attract and retain new community members, and that a state-of-the-art recreation centre is fundamental to that goal.

It became obvious that the pool was, and has been for many years, the main priority for the community.

The project provides for a 25m six-lane main pool.

Several issues were raised by the audience, mainly about the size, heating and availability of the pool.

These significant concerns were politely indulged but it felt that a compromised pool was a fait accompli.

Understandably, cost was cited as a primary factor.

Nobody would argue that pools are

expensive to build and operate.

However, successive councils have had 40 years to come to terms with this issue.

Another rationale offered up was that pools of the proposed size were "standard for the Wheatbelt".

As far as I'm aware, Northam has an Olympic-sized pool and Goomalling and Wundowie have pools of 33m length.

Recreational and competitive swimming is buried deep in the Australian psyche.

If people are to be prised away from the coast, Toodyay needs to provide an antidote to its reputation as the 'rim of hell' in summer.

It is that reality that stops many people relocating here.

That said, a pool complex needs to be about more than just 'beating the heat'.

A 50m eight-lane pool would accommodate people of all ages in their recreational, health and competitive needs.

We wouldn't dream of providing a half-size football field or half-size tennis or volley ball courts.

As one councillor said to me: "Of course not, because you can't play on a half-sized field or court."

True, and you can't take swimming seriously in a half-sized pool.

What about the needs of young people who have aspirations to become competitive swimmers, or older folk who are committed to giving their hearts and lungs a workout?

It is not acceptable to make such a significant investment in community infrastructure, the centrepiece of which is supposed to be a multi-purpose swimming facility, which is second best.

The argument that providing a compromised swimming facility is standard practice for the Wheatbelt or that half a swimming pool is better than no pool, doesn't swim.

We may not be able to provide facilities for every sport or recreational activity (the ice hockey mob won't be happy), but those activities that are being accommodated should be provided for equally.

It is a matter of equity.
Frank Farmer
Toodyay

Why so few tennis courts?

I AM A great fan of your newspaper.

Please note that I am a Life Member of the Toodyay Tennis Club but am not on any of the committees at the moment and speak for myself.

I wonder why the tennis courts proposed for the recreation centre are so few as at the moment the club has four courts plus use of a public multi court.

I believe the current tennis courts are owned by the shire and could be, I believe, sold for development and the money, which could be quite considerable, be used for the recreation centre.

Just some thoughts!
Also, I wonder how much money is going to consultants etc.?

This month's Toodyay Tennis Club article on Page 31 discusses the advantages tennis has for wellbeing and longevity over all other sports.

Michael Edwards
Toodyay

More lanes needed for value

THE RESPONSE by members of the Toodyay community to the invitation from the Shire of Toodyay to meet the new Sport and Recreation Project Manager and his team on January 19 was gratifying.

A healthy stream of questions was asked and answered factually and with confidence.

The ongoing debate about the swimming pool and whether we have six or eight lanes continues to dominate that subject.

We were informed that an additional cost to increase the pool to eight lanes could be approximately \$400,000.

My suggestion is in order to obtain this amount of money, the shire could advertise for willing sponsors.

The successful contender could then claim naming rights.

The shire council should call for interested parties, whether corporate or private, to put their hand up.

The sum involved is no longer a formidable amount, plus has the benefit of having tax-deductibility for the successful bidder.

This is the final stage of getting the project under way – please let it be good value for our money.

Milton A Baxter
Toodyay

Thanks for helping the Vic

DEAN and Amanda Carter would like to thank some of the local business people who helped over the past 18 months with renovating the newly restored Victoria Hotel and Cellarbrations Bottle Shop which opened on 16 December 2018.

Reid Carter (builder); Rod Evans (builder); Fitzgerald Plumbing; Alex Hayes (tiler); Ringa Civil (earthmoving); MCS (concrete); Ducky Dave (labourer); Aart Van Logtenstien; Sean Byron (electrical); Mark Evans (electrical); Shire of Toodyay; Ross and Nancy Harvey; Steve Logan (gyprock); Avon Waste; K&R Contractors and the Toodyay Police for putting up with the dust.

Most importantly, we would like to thank the designer Debbie Mickle and architect Drew O'Dwyer.

Stage two will commence in February 2019 – 16 new self-contained units will be constructed.

Landscaping and lawn will then be finished which will complete the renovations of this beautiful historic building in the heart of the town.

Thank you to everyone who has come to check out the hotel; the feedback has been amazing and this is what keeps us wanting to reinvest in our beautiful town.

Dean and Amanda Carter
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.



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Toodyay
Community Centre

State inquiry hangs over CEO contract

Continued from Page 1.

MR SCOTT refused at first to reveal the department's criticism of the shire to the council, saying it was an administrative matter.

It prompted the shock resignation of newly elected Cr Di Granger after Mr Scott accused her in a Saturday afternoon email of ignorance and inexperience, and said he expected the council to "immediately jump on" her for questioning his actions with "ill-informed" criticism.

Mr Scott's email to former Cr Granger is part of a widening group of matters now being examined by local government investigators.

Toodyay is one of five WA councils currently under State investigation.

What's being investigated?

The terms of reference cover:

- The adequacy of and adherence to council policies and procedures by elected members and administration staff,
- enforcement actions undertaken by the Shire of Toodyay,
- the function of the audit committee,
- declarations of interests by elected members,
- the culture within the shire, and
- any other matter that comes to the person's attention during the inquiry.

Three Perth investigators have been interviewing local residents since early December.

They have powers to enter shire premises, seize shire computers, phone records and other property, inspect records held by banks and question staff and councillors under oath.

A motion by Cr Bell to censure President Rayner for allowing "false and misleading" information about the inquiry to be published in last month's *Toodyay Community Newsletter* was carried 5-4.

President Rayner did not speak during the debate and voted to censure himself in a 4-4

split, using his casting vote as President for it to be carried.

Crs Dow, Greenway, Welburn and Twine voted against the censure motion being carried, which was published in the minutes as "not by an absolute majority" without saying why this was relevant to the vote, which was not declared invalid or raised as a voting requirement during the debate.

Still 'false and misleading'

THE SHIRE website continued to publish the "false and misleading" article early this month despite a correction titled "Local Government Authorised Inquiry Update" in the website's News and Media section.

Ratepayers who got the newsletter by mail were not told it was false and misleading.

Matters being investigated under the State Government inquiry include:

- The loss of more than \$550,000 in legal fees in a failed WA Supreme Court case against two former shire leaders;
- Mr Scott's failed bid to sell shire-owned O'Reilly's Cottage for \$530,000 for use as an art gallery despite a long-standing verbal agreement and town planning approval for Heartlands Veterinary Hospital to lease the property to avoid having to leave town;
- unlawful 2016 rates that had to be quashed by a State tribunal and re-issued correctly to hundreds of rural ratepayers;
- the loss of at least \$36,500 in legal fees last year after Mr Scott wrote a letter that botched a shire prosecution for an alleged dog attack on sheep;
- a further \$6000 lost in legal fees after Mr Scott rejected an overseas visitor's request last year to waive a \$60 fine for parking on the wrong side of a road, and
- breaches of the shire Code of Conduct.

Local government law says a council may be required to pay all or part of the cost of an authorised inquiry if there is an adverse finding against the council or any councillor or employee.

Mr Scott declined to comment.



Flashback to August 2016: Protesters confront Toodyay police in a tense stand-off that saved two tall trees on the corner of Anzac Memorial Park from being axed by shire contractors.

Anzac trees saved by \$200,000 State offer to upgrade bypass

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY'S two threatened Anzac Memorial Park trees on the corner of Clinton Street and Anzac Parade appear to have been saved by a State-funded upgrade to four of five dangerous corners on the town's temporary heavy-haulage bypass.

The Toodyay Shire Council voted 7-0 last month to accept a Main Roads WA offer of up to \$200,000 to widen the four corners to enable heavy trucks and trailers to pass safely.

Cr Judy Dow left the chamber after declaring a financial interest because she and former Shire president David Dow own a house in Hamersley Street on the bypass route, and Cr Craig Brook was absent with leave.

Main Roads WA said the fifth dangerous corner – at the intersection of Harper Road and Stirling Terrace near Newcastle Bridge – was too costly to upgrade because it would require substantial bridge works.

The council still has a July 2016 decision on its books to cut down the Anzac trees to limit the shire's legal liability if there is a serious traffic accident on that corner.

The decision was made without public consultation or notifying the RSL, and was not published in the agenda before being raised as urgent business at the end of the council meeting after a dinner break.

The shire was caught off guard by public

reaction when the news was published a week later on Page 1 of *The Herald*.

It led to a tense stand-off between police and protesters when shire contractors with chainsaws arrived to remove the trees.

Protesters called former Cr Sally Craddock to the scene, and she got the reluctant support of Crs Paula Greenway and Brian Rayner who – after a heated argument with protesters – agreed to sign a formal shire request to refer the matter back to the council.

However, former president David Dow ruled at the August 2016 meeting that Cr Craddock's new motion to rescind the previous month's decision was out of order because it needed three signatures to be debated.

Cr Craddock's motion lapsed but councillors voted 9-0 to accept Deputy President Therese Chitty's amendment to defer axing the trees pending further reports.

President Rayner said this month that if Main Roads WA "sign off on the proposed treatment (negotiated with the shire) it would eliminate the need to remove the two trees".

"Council has always been focused on public safety," he said.

"When this work has been completed, council can reconsider any outstanding resolutions."

President Rayner said WA Transport Minister Rita Saffioti's offer for rare discretionary road funding for Toodyay was "resulting from advocacy work by the Shire".



Lots of empty seats at annual general meeting of electors

Shire councillors and staff outnumber electors at last month's poorly attended annual general meeting in the Toodyay Memorial Hall. The meeting was advertised two weeks earlier in the Avon Valley Advocate paid newspaper published in Northam, on the shire website and Facebook, and in the shire's January Toodyay Community Newsletter. No questions were asked, no general business was raised and the meeting lasted just five minutes.

APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

Community Budget Submissions for 2019/2020

The Shire of Toodyay invites written submissions from individuals, community groups and businesses on any aspect of the budget in relation to:

Projects and Events

Projects - means new projects that may include the purchase of an asset to meet additional service level requirements.

Events - means any event where the community or a particular group will benefit.

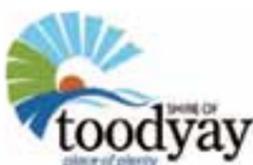
Submissions should include details of how GST is intended to be treated by each group, in particular whether or not the group is in receipt of an Australian Business Number (ABN) and if your group will charge GST.

Applications are available from the Shire Administration and on the Shire website.

Submissions are to be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566 and received by the Shire by **4.00pm, Friday 22 March 2019**. Submissions may also be emailed to records@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Please note that late applications will not be accepted.

If you have any queries in relation to the above please contact Finance Manager, Narelle Rodger on (08) 9574 9300.



Stan Scott
Chief Executive Officer

Breach of conduct goes unpunished

Continued from Page 1.

MR SCOTT said he was supported by the "majority of the people of Toodyay who don't like the way this campaign looks and smells".

However, some councillors later described Mr Scott's article as "appalling" and said it should not have been published in a ratepayer-funded shire newsletter.

The Toodyay Progress Association made a formal complaint to the shire that President Rayner and Mr Scott breached clause 3.5 of the shire code of conduct – "Avoid Derogatory Statements".

"We will not make any allegations that are derogatory or improper," the code states.

"We will always act in the best interest of the shire and refrain from any type of communication in our public or professional duties which may cause any reasonable person unwarranted offence or embarrassment.

"When we are uncertain about the probable impact of our communications, we should seek access to legal advice."

Neither Mr Scott nor President Rayner are understood to have sought legal advice before publishing the 'R U OK' article.

The complaint against them quoted the Oxford Dictionary definition of 'derogatory' as "showing a critical or disrespectful attitude", and 'improper' as "not in accordance with accepted standards, especially of morality or honesty".

The shire appointed Deputy Shire President Therese Chitty to investigate the complaint, which she upheld in August last year.

It sought remedial action that the "Shire of Toodyay unreservedly withdraws these statements and allegations; that it issues a formal and public apology to the TPA and further that the Shire President and CEO undergo remedial training".

The code states that the council can impose penalties on staff members ranging from

"warnings and other disciplinary action to instant dismissal".

Penalties for elected members include "public censure, public apology and an order to undertake training".

"Matters reported will be treated in the strictest confidence until appropriate action has been taken."

However, no action was taken because the breach was not referred to the council, there was no apology and the offending article was still on the shire website earlier this month.

Most councillors didn't know the code had been breached until Mr Scott's report last month sought to have it overturned and asked the council to uphold "the right of the Shire President and the CEO to make reasoned factual responses to public criticism".

President Rayner declared an "impartiality interest" because the complaint was against "myself and the CEO", and Deputy President Chitty declared a similar interest because she conducted the investigation.

Both stayed in the chamber for the debate, which was held behind closed doors.

Mr Scott's bid for the council to decide no breach had occurred was moved by Cr Judy Dow and seconded by Cr Paula Greenway.

However, Cr Ben Bell said the code of conduct did not allow the council to determine whether or not a breach had occurred, and the motion was lost 5-3 with only President Rayner and Crs Dow, and Greenway supporting Mr Scott's recommendation.

The shire's failure to apologise and withdraw the offending article has been referred to a formal State Government inquiry into the council which includes "the culture within the shire and any other matter that comes to its attention during the inquiry".

President Rayner and Mr Scott declined to comment.

Counterfeit \$50 note passed in Bolgart, illegal swimmers caught on camera

Police Beat

With
Acting Sgt Nicky Turner
Toodyay Police Station



LOCAL traders and shoppers have been warned to watch out for fraudulent banknotes after a fake \$50 note was used to make a purchase at the Bolgart Sports Club last month.

The fake note was not discovered until the club went to bank its takings at the town's local Bendigo Community Bank where the counterfeit bill was rejected by the bank's automatic note counting machine.

It is not known if the person who used the note at the club knew it was fake or got it unwittingly from someone else.

The fake \$50 bill has the same look and feel of a genuine note except for three easily spotted flaws.

The fake note is about two millimetres shorter in length than a genuine one and has slightly rounded corners compared with the sharp corners of a true \$50 bill.

However, the biggest giveaway is the five white stars of the Southern Cross set in a clear window in the polymer banknote.

In a genuine note, the edges of the white window frame and stars are crisp and sharp, while the fake note window is not smoothly edged and the stars are blotchy and uneven.

Acting Sgt Nicky Turner said similar notes were obviously in circulation and she urged people to look out for them.

"If you see one, please report it immediately to police and try to remember where you got it from," she said.

The fake \$50 note used in Bolgart is a copy of an old series of notes which was replaced by a distinctive new \$50 note released by the Reserve Bank last October.

However, the older \$50 banknote remains in general circulation and can still be used as legal tender.

Illegal swimmers nabbed

BEATING the heat has been on everybody's minds lately but two people who took the law into their own hands have been charged with trespass.

Others are being warned to stay away from flooded quarry pits and farm dams, where damage to property and litter have been reported.

Acting Sgt Turner said two men were charged after they used a vehicle to knock down a wire fence in Julimar to go for a swim



The fake note (bottom) is about 2mm shorter with slightly rounded corners and distorted stars.

in a farm dam on a private property.

Other incidents have also been reported at quarry sites in Morangup, where offenders dumped beer bottles and other rubbish after crossing locked gates for an illegal swim.

"Swimmers should be aware that these places are under video camera surveillance and we have footage of vehicle number plates," Acting Sgt Turner said.

"It's also dangerous to go swimming if you have been drinking alcohol, particularly if you get into difficulties in the water in isolated places and no help is available.

"Don't do it or you will be charged."

Double trouble

A NUMBER of motorists were stopped for speeding and random drug and alcohol tests on local roads during the double demerit Christmas and New Year holiday period.

The random traffic stops are part of an ongoing police campaign to reduce the high road fatality rate in the Wheatbelt and combat the high use of methamphetamines and other illegal drugs in the community.

"When drivers test positive for drugs, we normally find other items in their vehicles such as smoking or injecting equipment and

deal bags," Acting Sgt Turner said.

"That often allows us to tell if a person is a user or selling drugs.

"If we find just one small bag of drugs then the owner is probably a user.

"But if we find more than one 'deal' bag in a vehicle, it indicates that the offender is likely to be a seller.

"Random traffic stops are an important part of drug law enforcement because they provide us with intelligence that we can use to track down offenders."

Bakery bandit

POLICE are searching for a young man who stole a carton of soft drink from a sea container at the back of the Toodyay Bakery last month.

The theft occurred at about 4am on Thursday January 24 while staff were busy baking bread in the nearby kitchen.

Police believe the same man returned in the early hours of Wednesday January 30.

Acting Sgt Turner said bakery staff had secured the area and were conducting a stocktake to see if anything else was stolen.

Police are urging anyone who saw a man in the vicinity at the time, to contact local police on 9574 9555 or Crime Stoppers WA on 1800 333 000.



Illegal swimmers near a Morangup quarry.

Bank signs on to Choose Respect

Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association
Allen Clabaugh, Chairman

AT A RECENT presentation ceremony, the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank became the most recent community organisation to join Toodyay's Choose Respect initiative.

Association chairman Allen Clabaugh presented a certificate of acknowledgement to bank manager Kirsten Barrack to mark the event.

Other attendees included the bank's Zeta Fitzgerald and Andrew Lee, association committee members Wayne Clarke and Paul Sutton and Neighbourhood Watch coordinator Desraé Clarke.

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.

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

For further information or to find out how your organisation can become a Choose Respect participant, contact Wayne at info@safertoodyay.org.au or Allen Clabaugh, chair@safertoodyay.org.au.

Call 000 for emergencies only. For Toodyay Police ring 9574 9555, Crimestoppers, 1800 333 000 and Graffiti Hotline, 1800 442 255.

What to do when you lose a smart device

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

IT IS all too easy to forget where you have put down your phone or your tablet.

How often have you mislaid your smart device at home and found it again later?

If you think it is still in your house, you can try calling it from another phone.

If you mislay your device in a public place you might never see it again.

If your device has a 'find my device' app, try using that.

If your device has a SIM card in it, call your telephone company and tell them about it; you don't want somebody else using your phone at your expense.

If your phone automatically uploads pictures to your cloud service and new ones appear, try sharing those on social media asking for help to identify the location and the person using it.

You can take some steps beforehand to try to make it easier to find your device.

Instructions for both iPhone and Android devices can be found at cnb.cx/2CMHdML.

It is good practice to back up your device to somewhere else, such as the cloud or a computer at home.

Even the basics of trying to rebuild your list of phone numbers can be long and tedious.

Without a backup, all your precious photographs could be lost forever.

You can find more information at bit.ly/2KuRBkV.

Happy surfing.

TOODYAY

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Wednesday 5pm
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Toodyay Community Centre

When did it become illegal to tell the truth?

The Insider



Ben Bell

AS I PENNED this article, I suddenly became aware of just how many times I delete a sentence purely out of concern that I may be accused of so-called 'adverse reflection' and, to be honest, it is starting to irritate me.

When did it become illegal to tell the truth? Adverse reflection means that as a councillor, I am not supposed to say anything about the Toodyay Shire Council or the shire's Chief Executive Officer that may show them in anything but a good light. That means that if the council or a

councillor or shire manager does something dumb, inappropriate or not in the best interest of the community, I am not supposed to say anything in case it may make them look bad.

In short, it places the feelings of a councillor or the CEO above the right of the community to be fully informed about matters affecting them.

This, in turn, potentially stymies your ability as a Toodyay resident or ratepayer to provide input into the policies and decisions being considered by council.

Take the proposed communication policy that the shire administration brought to the council last year.

This policy, if adopted by councillors, would have given the shire CEO the right to tell anyone associated with the shire – including paid employees and volunteer workers – what they can and cannot post on their personal Facebook pages.

Concerned about the enormous imposition such a policy would have on the individual

private lives of people living in Toodyay, I spoke out publicly against it and, as a result, this poorly drafted policy was not implemented.

Yet even though the CEO himself acknowledged that I was correct and that his proposed communication policy was flawed and deserved to be pulled, he nonetheless commenced legal action against me via the Department of Local Government on the basis that I ostensibly made him look bad.

18 legal actions and breaches

THIS IS just one of the 18 legal actions and breaches against me that the CEO has since filed with the Department of Local Government over the past six months for speaking out on matters that I consider to be of interest to the Toodyay community.

Why am I mentioning this?

It's because I firmly believe that as a community every single councillor should have the ability and freedom to discuss

matters that may affect you in an open manner without being threatened by legal action every step of the way by other councillors or the shire administration.

This is especially so when it involves the proposed introduction of policies that could have a direct impact on you.

This will be particularly important over the coming years given that the administration's expenditure is continuing to grow at a much larger rate than its income, thus setting the Shire of Toodyay on the path to virtual bankruptcy by 2023.

Open conversation between the council and the Toodyay community should be embraced, not quashed, and that is why I will continue to engage with the community to the best of my ability using whatever avenues are available to me.

Which brings me back to my initial thought – when did the role of a councillor stop being about representing you and your interests on council and start being about protecting the image of the council and shire executive?

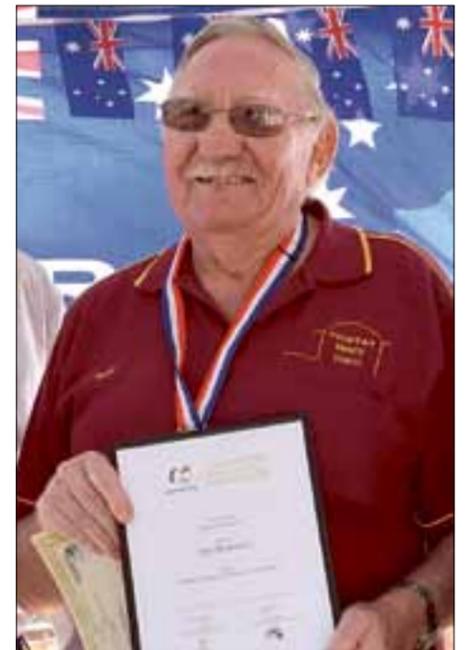
Toodyay celebrates Australia Day with big splash



Councillors (top) cook community breakfast before all stand to sing Advance Australia Fair.



Cooling off on water slide (above) and Senior Community Citizen of the Year Jeff Roberts.



LETTERS

Continued from Page 4.

Tracker's respect for Ron

I WAS pleased to read the eulogy for my cousin Ron Waters and the article about the Aboriginal tracker in the December 2018 Herald.

It was nice to see the respect shown by the Aboriginal tracker at Ron's funeral.

My wife Beverley and I were part of Ron and Rita's wedding party many years ago.

Unfortunately, due to ill health we were unable to attend Ron's funeral.

It is good to see *The Herald* is still going strong.

Was there ever an article written about Robert Waters of Spring Gardens Toodyay?

Max Mohr
Safety Bay



Toodyay Shire President Brian Rayner congratulates Op Shop President Ina Prior for her organisation's Community Citizen of the Year (Group) Award.

Clip for a cause

LADIES, now is the time to donate 30-35cms of your virginal hair (no chemicals, colour or other treatments) to help those with Alopecia Areata.

This is an autoimmune disease which causes hair loss and cannot be prevented or cured.

It is quite common and one person in 50 will suffer from this condition.

Mostly, the hair eventually grows back.

At the Toodyay Hair Studio on Monday, February 11 at 10am, you can donate your hair which will be made into wigs in New Zealand for Alopecia sufferers.

If you like, photos can be taken before and after the clip.

See you there.

Patricia de Soto-Phillips
Toodyay



Shire Community Development Officer Debra Andrijich won Toodyay's Community Citizen of the Year Award.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the TPA
will be held on Wednesday
13th February 2019 at the Community Centre
(next to the Medical Centre) at 7pm.

Toodyay Progress Association Inc

All Toodyay Shire residents are welcome to attend
Refreshments will be served after the meeting

The AGM will be followed by a
General Meeting.

Agenda will include:

- State Government Inquiry into the Shire of Toodyay
- The Wards System and related matters
- Chairman's Annual Report
- General Business from the floor of the meeting

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Local crews rush to assist with Goldfields fires

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

WELL, what a Christmas and start to the year we have had.

Thank you all for taking care and giving volunteers a reasonably easy and safe time over the festive season.

There have been a few call outs generally resulting in stand downs.

One call out was the usual one we have when we have light rain at this time of year – a pole top fire which was contained and put out straight away.

Unfortunately, we have had the call to participate in two task forces that have travelled to the Goldfields to assist with controlling large fires there.

On both occasions the call was for the 1.4 and it appears that the crews gained a lot of valuable experience at these fires.

This left us with our 2.4 and so we still had protection for our area considering we have the backup from other district brigades.

With a lot of people still away, we had a very quick meeting in January.

Our training for January was to take the vehicles and check out as many of the egresses in our area as we could and in some cases the findings were a bit unsettling to say the least.

It was still a very worthwhile exercise – thanks Jane.

Last but definitely not least, we would like to welcome Laureen, Tammy and Simon to our midst. You are very welcome.

Anyone else who would like to join our brigade and become a valued member needs only to turn up on a Friday evening about 5pm or on the second Saturday at our meeting again about 5pm.

You will be trained at no cost to you and will be most welcome.



Vollies shout bang-up lunch for Op Shop ladies

In early December the Op Shop ladies were treated to lunch at the Freemasons Hotel. The slap-up meal was paid for by Bejoording, Coondle-Nunile, Central and Morangup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades. From left around to the right: Freda Richardson, Tina Short, Robyn Warrenner, Veya Due, Jan Reeve, Daphne Lee, Shirley Patten, Glenyce Bosnjak, Annie Morrison, Jenny Hildred, Linda Kerlake, Trish Young and Ina Prior.

Moisture in the air causes pole top fire

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Bejoording
From the desk of The Badger**

IT'S BEEN a hot start to the new year and the first cool day and hint of rain caused the first local fire event – a pole top fire.

Apart from the inconvenience to the land owner and his neighbours, who all had to endure a power cut, the whole event caused no further problems and was brought under control fairly quickly.

I'm no engineer or electrician but it's hard to believe that some kind of shield cannot be designed to prevent the dust build-ups that cause the arcing of electric current that starts the pole top fires as soon as there's some

moisture in the air.

All is well with the brigade as the new year commences although we have had to say goodbye to long-term members Fiona and Mark Glossop whose business interests have taken them away from us.

We thank them and acknowledge a couple of decades of loyal service; they will be missed.

Our change of monthly meetings to the third Friday of the month, followed immediately by a training session, has proved to be a winner.

Well done to the rostered members who turn up whenever possible, and thanks to Brian Rigby and Lawrence Hayward who plan and deliver the training.

Our next meeting will be Friday February 15 at 5.45pm.

The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to be vigilant and careful using any tools or vehicles with the potential to cause a fire.

Remember to always plan and prepare for fire and have a clear contingency strategy in place should things get out of control.

Fires can be a catastrophic risk to people, animals and property, so take care.

Advice is free but getting it wrong can be expensive.

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

Please leave a message if we're not there.



St John Ambulance
“Provide First Aid” HLTAID003

**One day course
To be held on Saturday 9 March 2019**

St John Ambulance, Stirling Terrace Toodyay

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

Contact Carolynne for further details:
Phone: 0428 957 600 or 9574 2390
Email: sjatoodyay@bigpond.com

Free first aid kit for all participants



EMERGENCY SERVICES

700 call-outs a year as local ambos help out other shires

**St John Ambulance
Toodyay Sub-centre**
Wayne Fletcher

THE TOODYAY Sub-centre provides ambulance services to our local community with three ambulances based in Toodyay and one in Morangup.

These are manned exclusively by trained local volunteers who provide year-round service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and handle around 700 callouts a year.

Recently we had cause to review the statistics relating to ambulance services provided by the Toodyay Sub-centre.

The figures are quite telling and indicate that the volunteer service is one of which the community can be proud.

Over last financial year, we looked at 738 callouts.

Of these, 375 callouts came from Toodyay and Morangup – our local patch.

The remainder were to locations outside the Toodyay Shire.

Twenty percent of our callouts were

in Northam, including many transfers from Northam Regional Hospital to a metropolitan facility.

The remaining calls were to other shires including Goomalling, York, Beverley, Bindoon, Bullsbrook, Mundaring, Cunderdin, and others.

But the really telling statistic is the number of callouts in Toodyay that had to be covered by other sub-centres.

This figure is zero.

In other words, the Toodyay Sub-centre is staffed, resourced, managed and coordinated to a level where we were able to respond to 100 per cent of calls in our shire while also providing considerable assistance to neighbouring shires.

Response times for the most urgent Priority One calls, the time from when the call is received to when the ambulance is mobilised with two volunteers, was on average less than 17 minutes.

That means 17 minutes to get two vollies out of the paddock, or their bed, into a uniform, drive to the sub-centre and get

the ambulance underway.

Our local management committee has been asking what else we can do to benefit our community.

We are looking at a Community Transport Service that would provide transport to locals for medical appointments at an affordable cost.

The idea is to keep people in our community who may otherwise have to relocate because of difficulties accessing medical facilities.

We would like community input into this proposal and will be having a street stall display outside the IGA on Friday and Saturday February 8 and 9 and information displays at the sub-centre on Tuesday February 12, at 10am and again at 6.30pm.

We want to gauge the need for such a service and recruit some volunteer drivers.

If you believe our community would benefit from such a service, or you may like to assist, let us know. (See advertorial below.)

Smouldering root burns months later



A smouldering tree root can reignite when the conditions are right.

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Julimar

Alison Wroth

AFTER hearing of the recent fire in Collie where 180ha were burnt, it seems that it is only after fires and accidents that the general community are vividly reminded to update insurance policies.

News reports often feature families and individuals who have experienced a bushfire who lose everything but the clothes they are wearing. They speak of having no insurance cover or that they haven't updated household policies for years.

These are definitely things to consider during the fire season.

It doesn't take long to get your policy updated and then, whatever happens in the future, you have something to fall back on for support.

A point of interest is that a smouldering underground root was the reignition point of a fire in Coondle West Road last month.

What is remarkable is that it was the result of a burn-off five months ago.

This just proves that the mopping up after a fire is of utmost importance for both firefighters and locals who burn their rubbish during the burning period.

Even in swampy land, or as mentioned underground, fires can smoulder for months just waiting for the right conditions to burst into life again.

Days of extreme temperatures and hot winds provide the right conditions for fires which will be virtually unstoppable once they are ignited (or reignited).

All we can do is best prepare our homes and surrounds for this fire season and continue to check and possibly clear firebreaks, making them clean and accessible.

Do your utmost to keep your home and garden fireproof by raking leaves, cleaning gutters and keeping hoses and pumps in good working order and then, if you also have a fire plan in place, you are ready for anything.

The gradual renovation work on the 'Fireplace' is taking place, the wall colour has been picked and power points installed successfully with no electrocutions.

Thanks to all members who are volunteering to take on our projects this year; big or small, it really helps when there are many hands.

If you want to meet our happy bunch of members at the Julimar Fire Shed on Friday evening, please come on down around 6pm and join us for a few drinks and supper.

Discuss anything related to fire or you can ask Sue why she got a horse; you'll definitely get an answer to both.

Catch up next month.

Advertorial



St John Ambulance is canvassing the need for a patient transport service.

Do you need transport to the doctor?

DO YOU require transport to pre-booked medical appointments?

Access to safe, reliable and affordable transport to medical appointments is something most of us take for granted; however, for many, transport is a significant challenge.

The St John Ambulance Toodyay Sub-centre is considering supplying a transport service to take patients to pre-booked medical and some ancillary appointments.

A volunteer driver would pick you up at a designated time, take you to your appointment and drive you home again.

This will not be an emergency ambulance service. Passengers must book transport in advance, be able to self-manage in and out of the vehicle and be medically stable. They will be able to have a carer with them if needed.

Medical aids, such as walkers and some wheelchairs can be transported in the vehicle.

Children under 16 years of age would

need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Single or multiple passengers can be accommodated and the vehicle will carry four, plus the driver.

It is envisaged that there would be a flat rate charged, payable prior to departure, for the various locations – Toodyay Medical Centre, Northam, Midland, Perth, or elsewhere but the fees are yet to be decided.

To gauge the need for this service, St John will be holding an information stall outside the IGA on Friday February 8 (8am-4pm) and Saturday February 9 (8am-1pm) where survey forms will be available for completion.

There will also be a morning tea and information session at the sub-centre on Tuesday February 12 at 10am and another session at 6.30pm.

Volunteer drivers will also be needed if this service is to go ahead.

Drivers would need to be a registered St John volunteer (this can be done online)

have a current driving licence, a First Aid Certificate and a Police Clearance.

A similar community transport service is already operating in various regional towns in WA, including Denmark and Jurien Bay.

The service will operate between Mondays and Fridays, with the normal hours being between 7am and 6pm but it may be possible to make special arrangements if necessary.

It will be possible to make advance payment by credit card, direct deposit, or in cash, but these details have yet to be confirmed.

The vehicle will be equipped with an automatic external defibrillator and first aid supplies to ensure optimum safety for your journey.

Please visit the information stall at the IGA on Friday February 8 or Saturday February 9 and the information sessions at the sub-centre on Tuesday February 12, or contact St John Ambulance Toodyay Sub-centre on 9574 2390.

Hard-working students reap distinctions

SIXTEEN students from schools within the *The Herald's* circulation area have been awarded the WA Certificate of Education (WACE) which recognises significant achievements in Years 11 and 12.

Certificates of Merit and Certificates of Distinction recognise student achievement in the WACE and are dependent on the degree of difficulty of the courses and programs undertaken, together with the student's level of achievement.

Certificates of Distinction were awarded to Daniel Siciliano of Jane Brook (La Salle College), Fleur Draffin of Northam (Woodthorpe School), Gracie Butler of Toodyay (Swan Christian College) and Luke Button of Woorlooloo (Eastern Hills Senior High School).

Those awarded the Certificates of Merit were Jade Rohrlach of Clackline and Leilani Dunkerton of Northam both from Northam Senior High School.

Woodthorpe School was represented by Analise Dowell and Ezra Sharpe both of Northam.

Gidgegannup residents Dane Blackman and Sarah Jackson represented Eastern Hills Senior High School and Anika Donnison of Gidgegannup and Bonnie Perron of Jane Brook both attended Swan Christian College.

Phoebe Weaver from Jane Brook represented the Swan Valley Anglican Community School.

La Salle College was represented by Emma Boness, Mazenod College by Calum Thompson and Charlotte Kitchin-Fyffe of Woorlooloo attended St Brigid's College.



St Aloysius House (pictured) is one of five buildings in the Catholic precinct to receive a heritage listing.

Heritage listing for Catholic Church site

Friends of the Toodyay Catholic Precinct
Mick McKeown

ON DECEMBER 5 welcome news was received regarding the future of the site around the Catholic Church.

The Minister for Heritage, David Templeman, announced that the historical and religious heritage of the Roman Catholic Church Group has been recognised by being placed on the State Register of Heritage Places.

The buildings included in the listing are: St John the Baptist Church (1963); St Aloysius House (1921), to the right of the Church; The Convent of Mercy (1903), behind the Church; O'Connor House (1929), behind St Aloysius and, The Ship (circa 1860), to the right of St Aloysius.

"Beyond its physical heritage importance,

Toodyay's Roman Catholic Church Group has helped the town develop a strong sense of community," Mr Templeman said.

"It is greatly valued by Toodyay and the wider community as an historical landmark and a long-term religious and educational institution, as a place of prayer and spiritual guidance for parishioners, and by generations of former boarders and their families."

The site as a whole and each building on the site has special significance.

Even the humble covered walkway that allowed the sisters access to the church from the convent is considered rare and unique.

Listing on the State Register of Heritage Places means that any changes or works proposed need to be referred to the State Heritage Council.

The Heritage Council is obliged to provide advice on any proposed works to ensure they are done with care and sensitivity to heritage

significance is maintained.

Prior to the State listing being made, the group had already been listed in the Shire of Toodyay Municipal Heritage Inventory.

However, the shire listing does not provide any legal protection for the buildings.

In fact, shire listing alone does not prohibit development, alteration or even demolition of a property.

The next step in assuring the future of the site is for a plan to be developed to enable the buildings to be repaired and retained in the long term for the benefit of Toodyay and WA.

Friends of the Toodyay Catholic Precinct is currently working on such a plan.

If you have any suggestions to make regarding the future of this important part of our history and heritage please get in touch with Dr Robyn Taylor, John Clarke or Mick McKeown.



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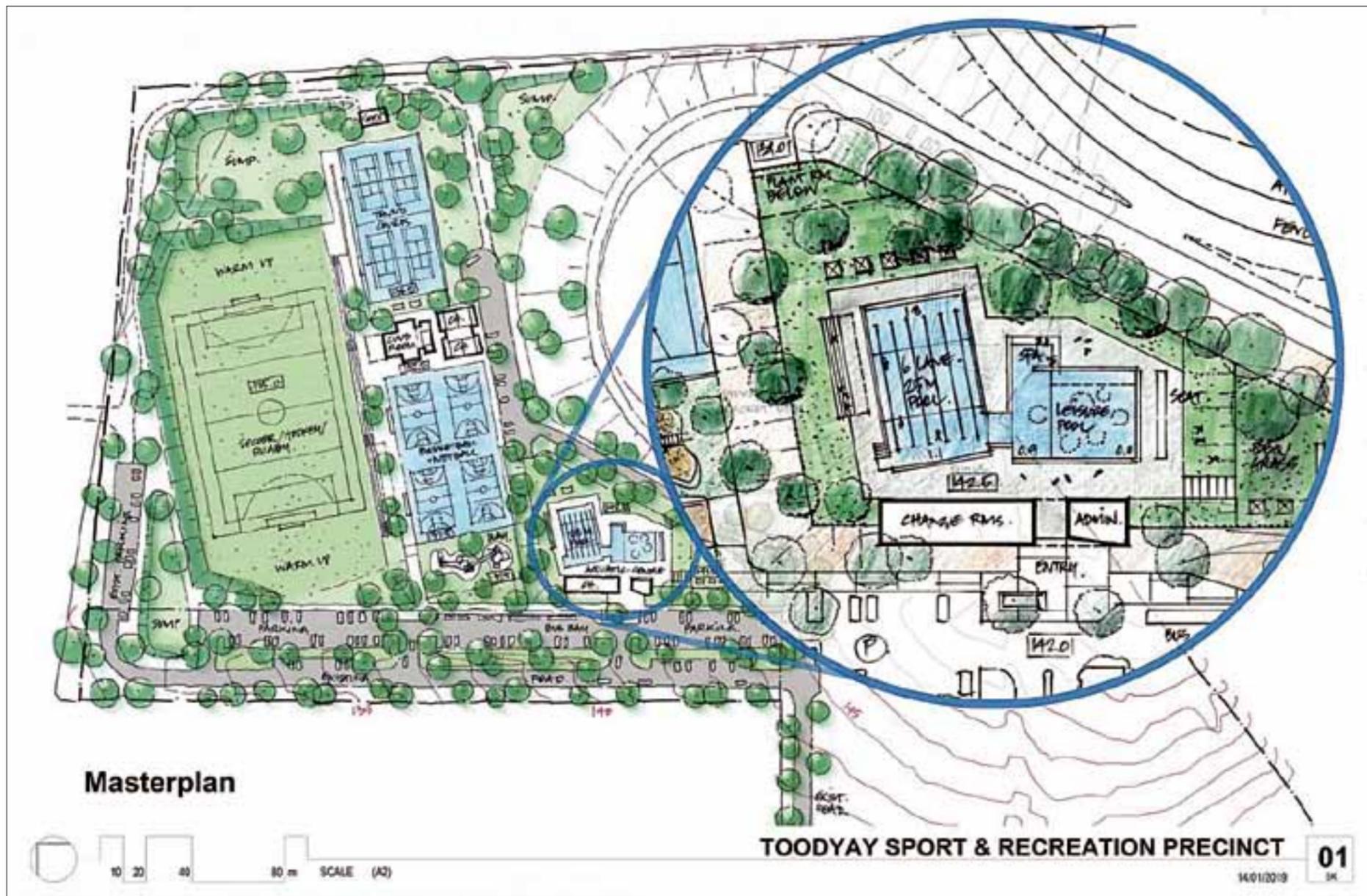
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Toodyay's new pool revamped



Revised layout and redesigned pool and buildings for Toodyay's new \$11.8 million Sports and Recreation precinct near the high school.

Community's long road to realising a dream

Bethan Lloyd

THE TOODYAY Swimming Pool Action Committee (TSPAC) was formed in April 2004 to discuss the need for a community swimming pool.

Initially, the committee intended to increase awareness of the need for a pool and to raise \$500,000 which would, at that stage, be the one-third community contribution required to build the pool.

The original plan was for funds to come equally from the shire, State Government and the community.

By the time the committee formed, the shire had already done a lot of work including the introduction of a voluntary levy.

Funds from the levy form what is now known as the swimming pool reserve fund.

There were various fundraising activities and it was quickly realised that raising funds was less important than convincing the shire and community that Toodyay needed a pool.

Originally the only plan for a swimming pool was one commissioned back in 2000.

A grant was received from LotteryWest and the pool was going to be built on 6.5ha at Lot 1 Drummond Street, adjacent to the school and alongside Boyagerring Brook on donated

land when adjacent land was subdivided.

Opinion at the time was that this site would prove costly for earthworks etc., but it would have been the perfect setting for the pool.

The shire decided not to proceed and returned the grant money, causing a perception for some that we were not serious.

Getting a swimming pool has been high on the list of priorities at all stages of community consultation.

At one time there was a suggestion that we should dam the Avon River.

The TSPAC was then formed with the intention of keeping the pool on the agenda at every opportunity.

A flat area with cheaper site costs and closer to power was also suggested but it was limited by being sandwiched between the river and West Toodyay Road and turned out to be an Aboriginal burial ground.

It was realised that all sporting facilities needed upgrading and that if you take the Aboriginal site out of the equation there was just not enough room at this location.

A referendum question was put to the public during the 2007 council elections.

It asked: "Do you support the shire building recreation and aquatic facilities for Toodyay and paying for it by a combination of rates,

borrowings and a \$150 levy per rate notice for five years?"

TSPAC was disappointed with the question but campaigned heavily for a 'yes' vote, which went well until votes came in from Morangup.

The referendum result was 'no'. It was back to lobbying and fundraising again and the task of finding another site was on – even the racecourse was considered.

Reasonably flat land is hard to find in Toodyay, but councillors eventually decided to buy the current 14ha site near the school.

Since then the shire has been seeking Federal and State funding through various sources and constantly talking to politicians.

The WA Nationals even offered a large sum of money at the last State Election if they were returned to power but lost the election.

However, the shire was successful in winning a Commonwealth Building Better Regions Fund grant in July 2017.

The success was due in large part to the huge commitment by community members.

The shire has obtained \$4.7 million

in funding and there are pending grant applications with the State Government under the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund for a contribution towards the sporting facilities and with LotteryWest for a contribution towards the new pavilion.

The TSPAC has raised total of \$117,000 which is held in a trust account at the shire.

Although the TSPAC is no longer an incorporated body, we continue to lobby to make sure the pool is of a size which will cater for Toodyay's future growth.

Sincere appreciation to those who have contributed over the years to achieving this outcome; from the smallest donation to the commitment of those supportive councillors and the work done by shire staff and all past members of TSPAC committee.

A special mention to Carol Plackett former Chair of TSPAC and former shire president David Dow who did a lot of the groundwork to get us into the position we are in today.

Please support and encourage shire staff and councillors to bring this project to a conclusion.

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- 20 years experience as a Firefighter

Call Mick **0428 583 954**

 **Toodyay
Agricultural Society (Inc.)**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2019 Annual General Meeting will be held on
Monday 11th February 2019 commencing at 7.30pm.
At the Youth Pavilion, Toodyay Show Grounds, Toodyay.

Members will be required to vote on the proposed adoption of the new rules as mandated by the Associations Incorporation Act 2015.

Electronic copies of the proposed new Rules (Constitution) will be available from 1st January by email - toodyayagsociety@gmail.com or by phoning the Admin Officer on 0476 918 607

Ignorance no excuse for breaching code

Toodyay Progress Association
Larry Graham, Chair

LAST MONTH'S shire council meeting felt like a Monty Python skit – I really felt discombobulated and flummoxed.

I have used those funny old words because they reflect the verbal diarrhoea and the mountains of stockyard confetti produced at this marathon meeting.

The performances by our elected ones were bizarre – and I will skip over their rudeness to people making submissions – in that many councillors had obviously not read their papers, and the strange decisions and long silences while folks tried to understand what it was they were doing at the time.

We will take a look at some of the weird things that happened.

There was a decision to accept funding from Main Roads WA to upgrade the town's heavy-haulage route through a residential area which is good stuff, except no-one thought it important to tell the people who live along that route anything about it.

There was no confirmation of this but we assume those deadly Anzac trees that our council decided had to be chopped down are no longer deadly and will now be kept.

Then there was the RSL building which all

involved wanted to proceed without delay but to make that happen there were some very innovative interpretations of planning laws and schemes.

We also had councillors expressing concern that they had not been properly briefed on changes to and costings for Toodyay's new sporting precinct.

The Shire President voted to censure himself "for publishing, or allowing the publishing of, false and misleading information in the January 2019 edition of the Toodyay Community Newsletter in relation to the current Authorised Inquiry into the Shire of Toodyay by the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries".

For a while, noise from the swarm of pigs flying overhead meant we could not hear very much but then came the doozy of them all, the formal complaint made by the Toodyay Progress Association.

This was dealt with confidentially but the published minutes of the meeting tell us that the motion was:

"That Council determine that, in relation to the complaint by the Toodyay Progress Association, there has been no breach of the Code of Conduct by the CEO or the Shire President in relation to the article titled 'R U OK' in the April 2018 edition of the Shire Newsletter or in subsequent responses to public questions."

The motion went on to say "That Council supports the right of the Shire President and the CEO to make reasoned factual responses to public criticism".

Councillors voted 5-3 against that motion, meaning it was lost, which probably also means that there really was a breach of the Code of Conduct and that our council does not support reasoned and factual responses.

But wait – there is more. The official reason given for councillors voting that way was that "The Officer's Recommendation was moved and lost because Council formed the view that it did not have a role in determining Code of Conduct matters." Wow.

Obviously some of our councillors have not read their Code of Conduct because if they

had they would have seen the part headed 'Acting on Breaches' that says "Penalties for elected members which can be imposed by the Council itself include censure and suspension of privileges".

As Barack Obama said – "yes we can".

And that bit comes after "During this period staff may be suspended with or without pay at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or, in the case of the Chief Executive Officer, the discretion of the Council".

Cue Barack again with a resounding "yes we can".

This code that they are all supposed to follow also says "The Shire President and all councillors, as the elected leaders of the Shire of Toodyay, will demonstrate the highest level of civic conscience, impartiality and personal conduct".

Hear that rumbling noise? – there go those pigs again.

But back to the business at hand.

A tick further on there is also this pretty important bit of their Code of Conduct that says "We will inform ourselves of the statutory obligations imposed on us because ignorance is not an excuse for breaching the Code".

So there you have it officially – ignorance is no excuse and it is obvious that many councillors are ignorant of that.

While ignorance is no excuse, it may well be a reason; a reason to seriously doubt people who do not understand and enforce their own rules.

As always, we point out that we are a not-for-profit, volunteer public advocacy group that has not and will not run supported or endorsed candidates for elected office.

PS: It was nice to be nominated as Senior Citizen of the Year on Australia Day and I congratulate all the very worthy winners.

I have never sought personal honours and accepted the nomination as some small civic recognition of the unpaid work the committee members of our association have put in trying to improve civic life in our home town.

Like many in the community I greatly appreciate their effort and thank them for it.



Singer/songwriter Nathan Coleman.

Toodyay radio tweaks signal

2J2AIR 105.3FM
Ken Stivey

JANUARY has been a busy month for us as we continue to work on new shows and upgrade equipment.

Thanks to Shire of Toodyay community grants we now have a new transmitter and are currently tweaking the studio gear to obtain the best output signal.

We are also assisting new presenters with applications to add more diversity to our program schedule.

On Sunday February 10 at 1pm we will be broadcasting the first of a new monthly series *Local Spotlight* – this month featuring singer/songwriter Nathan Coleman.

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.

Program guide

MONDAYS: 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*.

Thursdays: 11am *Folk Hour Archive* (repeat).

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

Saturdays: Noon *Country* (old) and 1pm *Country* (new).

Sundays: 8pm *Swooners and Crooners* (repeat) and, 9pm *Jazz*.

Daily: 10am and 3pm *What's On in Toodyay* community information.





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Shadecloth

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Trading Hours

Mon - Fri 7am to 5.30pm | Sat 7.30am to 4pm | Sun 8am to 1pm

High yields, high prices combine for top harvest

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza

MOST local farmers have been enjoying a break away after the busy harvest season.

Livestock producers of course have had to juggle shorter breaks when they can, due to supervision of watering points which need checking every day during the hottest months of the year.

The 2018 season finished off very well, not only for local farmers, but almost the entire state.

Late finishing rains in October gave a very timely boost to cereal crops, especially wheat.

Most farmers reported wheat yields above average and certainly above expectations.

Grain quality was good, although protein levels were low due to the very mild end to the season.

When wheat and barley mature in cool moist conditions the grain size is larger and plumper.

As a grain is formed in the plant, the first nutrient deposited is protein and then progressively carbohydrates such as sugars and starches.

So, the plumper the grain, the higher proportion of carbohydrates and lower protein.

WA farmers have not only enjoyed good yields, grain prices have been above average as well.

This is a very rare occurrence.

The eastern states drought has pushed prices to decade-high prices in some instances.

Although the world price for wheat is around average levels, demand for grain from eastern Australia has been strong and is responsible for the current high prices for grain and hay.

Prices for milling wheat are at a record level above non-milling grades.

Milling wheat is wheat for processing into flour for bread and pastry baking and must have high protein in the grain to be suitable for this purpose.

The large price difference between high protein wheat and lower grades will lead to flow-on price increases for milling-grade



Wheat-straw bales awaiting pickup in late afternoon light at Nunile. Photo: Frank Panizza.

flour which will inevitably affect the cost of bread and pastries.

The lower protein wheats are generally exported to overseas customers who use them for instant noodles, biscuits, Lebanese-style breads and other flour-based products.

This year a large portion of this market

was consumed by the eastern states due to the drought.

Livestock continues to be very positive, especially for sheep producers.

Wool and sheep prices have remained very high and appear to be holding firm.

The stability in sheep enterprise returns is now creating a renewed confidence in the industry.

This confidence will encourage new farmers into the sector and particularly young women who tend to favour livestock over grain production.



Opening Hours

11am-10pm (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday Friday & Saturdays 11am - 12pm)
(Closes earlier if quiet)

Kitchen Open

Kitchen opens from 11.30am - 2.30pm and dinner from 5.30pm - 8.30pm

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Rural women pencil in agenda

Women In Farming Enterprises
Alison Wroth

OUR 2019 diary includes many more agriculturally based guest speakers as well as evenings that will generally appeal to local rural women as we aim to look at the bigger picture in an effort to increase our membership this year.

Our February general meeting is a special one as we have a local police representative coming to talk about home security.

This should appeal to everyone who lives on a farming property as well as those who live on a block in town.

It will benefit all to hear directly from the police on how to handle some situations such as strangers in the night when you are alone, how to report stolen livestock and, gun control.

I can immediately think of questions so if you can as well, please attend the Freemasons Hotel on Thursday February 7 at 6pm.

Our timeline for possibilities and tours that are already being planned for the months ahead are: a CBH Avon yard tour in Northam; a guest speaker from Farm Safe and, a Mother's Day fundraiser in May.

The May meeting will be an interesting evening of 'relaxation' and will include yoga, beauty products by Clare Love and wine tasting to finish up the meeting.

Our general meetings for our personal interests and business will be held throughout the year.

Copies of the Toodyay Women in Farming Enterprises flyer and a timeline for this year's activities will be available at our AGM at 6pm on Tuesday March 5 in the Freemasons Hotel.

The election of office bearers and then a brief general meeting will wind up March, with hopefully some new members with interests and ideas to keep the branch increasing its numbers.

For further in formation contact Alison Wroth 0437 099 960 or warragenny@bigpond.com.

Bush wage subsidy

THE AUSTRALIAN Apprenticeships Incentives Program (AAIP) has introduced a subsidy for rural and regional employers of eligible apprentices in areas such as plumbing, mechanical, electrical, painting trades and hairdressing.

Subsidies will be provided at 75 per cent of the apprentice's award wage in the first year, followed by 50 per cent in the second year and 25 per cent in the third year.

The new wage subsidy will complement other incentives currently available through the AAIP and support the engagement of eligible new full-time apprentices at the Certificate III and IV levels in occupations on the National Skills Needs List.

For further information visit business.gov.au/assistance/australian-apprenticeships-incentives-programme.

New twilight market starts this month

Toodyay Farmers Market

WHAT a great December market and, even though Santa could not make it, we had a visit from one of Santa's elves.

The free face painting was a big hit with the children, along with the Lions Club Wriggly Worm.

Last-minute Christmas items were purchased along with the usual shopping – farm fresh eggs and produce, plants, home

baking and a great range of handmade goods, coffee and food stalls.

The big news is that from 5-9pm on Saturday February 16 we will hold our first twilight market.

The twilight market is something extra for a normally quiet time on Toodyay's events calendar.

Please come along; your support will be greatly appreciated.

Independent living group needs helping hands

Butterly Cottages Association
Margaret O'Sullivan

BUTTERLY Cottages builds and operates independent living units in and around the Toodyay town site.

Its target group is older people who can live independently and our aim for this year is to build community awareness of this great organisation.

Currently 21 independent units make up the Butterly Cottages Association's package, with all units fully occupied and many people on our waiting list.

Our hope is one day to be able to build stage two of the newest section up at Rosedale Village but this will take a lot of further planning, together with financial partnerships, grants and a mammoth amount of hard work.

The newest nine units built on Rosedale Street are still very much in their teething and settling stages and like all new buildings are taking a lot of time and energy by all involved to iron out initial issues.

They are the cream on the cake; new, roomy

and very modern and add much value to this wonderful organisation.

For a voluntary organisation it is a unique concept and one that needs on-going planning, participation, funding and work to enable a secure and reliable future.

We have been extremely blessed by past and present volunteers but like all organisations, fresh ideas, enthusiasm, people on the ground, members and volunteers are desperately needed.

We are working towards a webpage that can easily provide all our general information, but we are not quite there yet, so an email to butterly2j@gmail.com is our contact point for now.

Like lots of things, we often feel this is of no relevance to us, but please don't be narrow minded in your thoughts – we all age, we all have someone who may utilise this rental accommodation, we are all part of this great community and understand the vital importance Butterly Cottages Association makes to this place we call home.



Eucalyptus drummondii in the Toodyay Pioneers Arboretum. Photo: Beth Frayne.

Taking up the trail of our botanical pioneers

Toodyay Historical Society
Robyn Taylor

WA IS justly famous for its unique wildflowers and this month those interested in our flora and the history of collecting in this state are in for a treat.

The *Taking Up the Trail* exhibition which opens at the Newcastle Gaol Museum on Saturday February 16, is based on the work of renowned government botanist and Curator of the State Herbarium, Charles A. Gardner (1896-1970).

Readers may be familiar with Gardner's (updated) book *Wildflowers of Western Australia* which was first published in 1935 as *West Australian Wildflowers*.

Using James Drummond's letters from 1834 to 1848, Gardner retraced the colonial botanist's journeys in order to locate the specimens that Drummond had collected and sent to Kew Gardens in England.

The exhibition also includes the work of Rica Erickson (1908-2009), renowned naturalist, botanical artist, and historian who published *The Drummonds of Hawthornden* and Toodyay's official history *Old Toodyay and Newcastle*.

The history of collecting Australia's wildflowers and sending them to government and private collections in England and Europe is a fascinating one.

One of the earliest collectors was the English adventurer William Dampier who sailed along the west coast, anchoring off Shark Bay in August 1699.

The wildflower genus *Dampiera* is named for him.

While he wasn't impressed by what he saw, Dampier's writings and detailed maps encouraged further exploration by the British and the search for the fabled continent in the south.

In April 1770 Captain James Cook sailed the Endeavour into Botany Bay, south of Sydney.

After observing the transit of Venus in Tahiti, Cook had been instructed to find the unknown Great South Land.

He circumnavigated New Zealand then decided to return home via the east coast of New Holland where he made three landings, the first being at Botany Bay.

On board were two botanists, James Banks and Daniel Solander, who collected specimens of what, up to then, were totally unknown plants.

Their excitement can be imagined. Banks' name was given for the strange banksias they collected, as was one of the capes through which the Endeavour sailed.

The other cape, on the south side, was named for Solander whose name is perpetuated in the Solander box used by museums for the safe keeping and preservation of fragile items.

On board the Endeavour was an illustrator named Sydney Parkinson who made detailed drawings and colour notes of all the specimens collected by Banks and Solander during Cook's voyage around the world.

Almost 30,000 dried specimens were collected, resulting in a 25 per cent increase in the known flora in the world.

During this voyage Cook wasn't aware they were sailing along the eastern coast of the Great Southern Land.

This was left to Matthew Flinders when he circumnavigated the island continent in 1802-1803, and, as we recently heard during our Australia Day celebrations, it was

Flinders who first suggested that the name Australia be given to this continent.

Learning history through the natural sciences can provide a different and deeper slant on how we view and understand the world, as long as we keep an open mind.

A calendar of events for this year was compiled at our early February planning meeting and will be sent out to members.

The next meeting is at 7pm Wednesday February 20 at Drummond House.

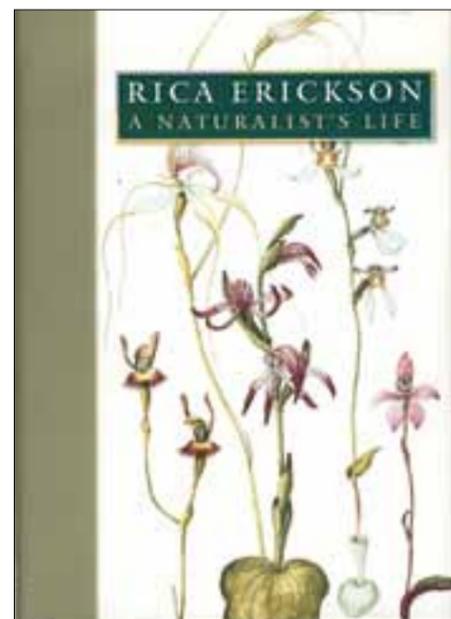
Contact: secretary.2j.ths@gmail.com; Robyn Taylor, rdtaylor@inet.net.au, phone 9574 2578, or Beth Frayne, toobide4@inet.net.au, 9574 5971.

Donegan's Cottage Research Centre (in the showgrounds) opens Thursdays 1-3pm.

Postal address: PO 32 Toodyay. Website: toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au.

Books and displays available at Drummond House on Saturdays 10-12 noon.

Membership is \$10 per annum.



A Naturalist's Life by Rica Erickson. Photo: Courtesy of the Erickson family.

Long waits at the Bridge of Sighs

Bejoording Community Group News
From the desk of The Badger

WHY Bridge of Sighs?

Anyone who travels regularly along Toodyay-Bindi-Bindi Road beyond the Culham Church will have endured the frustration of a half-road closure over a bridge on the way to Bejoording.

We have endured a slow-changing traffic control light for a couple of months now at a point where half the road is closed yet drivers in both directions can see the road ahead clearly for at least 300m.

How frustrating to sit there for minutes when you can clearly see there is no traffic ahead.

There's no sign of any work being done, in fact there isn't even a sign indicating when work will be completed.

What is the issue?

In some urban areas in many cities there are signs at traffic lights that say "turn left on red any time if road is clear", or similar.

Perhaps we could have a sign saying "pass

through if road ahead is clear".

Sometimes we feel like poor relations up here.

As our rates continue to rise we see Bejoording Road continue to deteriorate.

Has anyone noticed how the road surface improves as soon as you cross the shire boundary?

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.



MOONDYNE FESTIVAL

Sunday 5th May 2019

Toodyay's Annual Moondyne Festival is to be held on May 5th 2019

Expressions of Interest and bookings for local Groups and Stallholders deadline is the 28th February

Hurry Book Now!

E: moondynecommittee@gmail.com.au

M: Jas 0412 710 253



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Tree-top scientist climbs where eagles dare to go

Ieva Tomsons

THE HERALD has been following the extraordinary journey of a Wedge-tailed Eagle that hatched on a Gidgegannup property in October 2017.

Murdoch University PhD student Simon Cherriman satellite tagged the eaglet at nine weeks and named her Baakininy ('biting' in Noongar).

The satellite transmitter has allowed Simon to plot Baakininy's progress since she commenced her dispersal flight on 25 April 2018.

In May 2018 she arrived in the Kimberley region and spent several weeks in Purnululu National Park (The Bungle Bungles) before departing on July 15.

Flying in an anti-clockwise loop through the Pilbara, Goldfields and Northern Territory, Baakininy completed 3500km in 13 days before returning to Purnululu.

On August 25 she left the national park and flew south through the Pilbara, Gascoyne and Murchison to the west coast, staying for a week in Kalbarri.

Baakininy then followed the coast south before returning to Kalbarri on October 2 via an inland loop crossing Wongan Hills.

For nearly three months she roosted in a relatively small area covering Ajana Station at the eastern end of the Murchison Gorge country.

"On Christmas Eve, 'away from home' for seven months, Baakininy returned to the Avon Valley roosting just 10km north of her natal home range," said Simon.

"She then headed south and has clocked up a few exploratory flights in WA's deep south west."

On New Year's Eve Baakininy was in Rocky Gully before she headed north again. At the time of writing, she was roosting



Sky Lab: Some eagle eyries are so high that it's safer to measure, weigh and band eaglets in the nest, rather than bring the birds down. Simon took this image with a GoPro, tied to a branch just above a 30m-high nest, set to time lapse.

south of North Bannister on Albany Highway. "I don't have an exact statistic of total distances travelled but her 'odometer' reads

well over 10,000km," said Simon.

Researchers have been banding Wedge-tailed Eagles since 1957 but Simon's satellite

tracking program is now showing important details of the vast distances they travel, where they go and how long it takes them.

De-clutter in time in for April Lions' auction

Lions Lines

Jim Silvester, President

MEMBERS of the Toodyay Lions Club wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2019.

The Toodyay Lions Club Jumbo Auction will be held on Friday and Saturday April 5 and 6.

Please note that this year the charge for a seller's lot will increase to \$5.

The reasoning for this is to try and raise the standard of goods presented so both the seller and buyer benefit.

Further details of the auction and entry forms will be published in the March edition of *The Herald*.

So now is the time to start sorting out the shed in readiness for the auction.

In the past six months the Lions Club has supported Toodyay Locals Care for their Christmas Lunch, Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal, Police Legacy, Toodyay Chamber of Commerce Toy appeal, Eastern States Drought Appeal and the Beyond the Road Suicide Prevention Project.

We also assisted the RSL with their sponsorship of two students to attend Anzac Day in Sandakan, Borneo.

The selling of Christmas cakes was a great success with the majority of the cakes being sold; in fact we sold more this year than last year.

Thank you all who supported the cake sales.

The Lions Club would like to thank Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank staff, Toodyay Traders, Toodyay Club, Toodyay Community Resource Centre and the police for selling cakes on our behalf.

The money raised will be used for community projects.

If anyone is wanting to purchase cakes please call Jim on 9574 4695.

To achieve the support our community needs we always welcome new members – don't be shy, join us.

We meet at the Freemasons Hotel every first and third Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm for a drink prior to a meal at 7pm.

Contact Steele Williams on 9574 2903 or Jim Silvester on 9574 4695.

Free program helps adults read, write

AVON Valley adults who want to improve their reading and writing skills can apply for the Department of Training and Workforce Development's Read Write Now program.

Students meet with a trained volunteer tutor once a week, one-to-one, free of charge, to help improve reading and writing skills.

There are no tests and no text books and lesson plans are developed around individual needs.

These adult students come from a range of backgrounds – some run their own small businesses, some are TAFE students, or parents who want to read to their children and assist with homework.

Some are struggling to keep their jobs or are working towards a promotion and require additional skills.

Prospective students can phone 1800 018 802 for more information.

People wanting to find out more about becoming a volunteer tutor can visit the program's website, read-write-now.org.

Priority is given to people who fell through the cracks in the school system here and have inadequate literacy.

Other students need to be permanent residents of Australia with reasonable spoken English.

Boost for local road maintenance

THE SHIRE of Toodyay will receive \$1,447,510 to maintain and upgrade local roads under the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery Program.

Toodyay is one of seven shires in Pearce to receive the funding which will be made

available over the next five years.

The other shires to receive funding are: Beverley (\$1,214,606); Chittering (\$1,183,168); Gingin, (\$2,181,182); Northam (\$2,018,356); Swan (\$6,738,257) and, York (\$1,587,472).

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CWA learns summer school skills for brave souls

Country Women's Association
Elizabeth Mansom

A FRESH new year with fresh new hopes and dreams we hope you realise.

On January 24 Toodyay CWA held its AGM which Pat Old once again kindly agreed to chair. Thank you, Pat.

Toodyay branch has a new president, Maxine Walker, who was elected unopposed to much applause.

Kathy Haynes was re-elected vice-president along with secretary Vivien Street and treasurer Meg Mills.

Last month CWA of WA held three days of summer school with a wide range of sessions on offer.

Some were intended to help members contribute to CWA more fully, such as in proof reading *The Countrywoman* magazine or learning about the requirements of being

a branch treasurer if you are a particularly brave soul.

Some were personal pastimes such as sudoku and cryptic crosswords and other sessions dealt with making items for hospitals and care facilities.

Three of us from Toodyay went along to learn about fiddle rugs; items in high demand but which have very specific requirements.

If you are interested, try searching 'fiddle rugs' on the internet.

All Toodyay branch members would like to record a public thankyou to Cruz Stanford.

Cruz, who is now 11, lives in Two Rocks but has spent a lot of time in Toodyay with his great grandmother, a long-time CWA member.

Cruz said he spent so much time at the CWA Hall with Ev it was like his second home and he wanted it to look nice so he saved his pocket money and put it towards one of the ornamental pear trees which will grow to shade our bench in Charcoal Lane.

With thoughtful caring young people like Cruz growing up to take over the decision-making, the future is in good hands.

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

To book the hall ring Glenys Clabaugh on 9574 5100 or 0427 478 325.



From left: Treasurer Meg Mills, secretary Viv Street, AGM chair Pat Old, vice-president Kathy Haynes, outgoing president Judith Walton and outgoing bookings and catering officer Jennifer Clarke. Newly appointed president Maxine Walker was unable to attend.



Cruz Stanford with the ornamental pear tree he helped to buy for the CWA Hall.

Advertorial

New company offers fresh approach to pools

FRESHWATER is the pool solutions division of new local business MAHA Services.

They specialise in installation, service and repairs of pools and pool equipment but, as the name suggests, their passion is for Chlorine Free systems.

After leaving the Mechanical Engineering sector many years ago, MAHA owner Alan took a "less stressful"

position as a Pool Technician for the local pool shop in Northam.

"I loved it from day one. It's a very interesting and enjoyable job.

"There's technical elements, mechanical systems, fluid dynamics, water chemistry - I'm a real nerd for that stuff," said Alan.

Now, after installing and repairing pools and equipment from Dalwallinu to Merredin to Narrogin, he and his wife Heather have

decided to go into business for themselves.

"I've been very fortunate to have learned my second trade here in the wheatbelt.

"It exposed me to a far greater range of pool and equipment problems than city techs would get.

"Pool businesses I talk to in Perth are truly amazed at the diversity of equipment and harsh conditions out here," said Alan.

There are other pool businesses in the Avon region but where FRESHWATER differs is in their technical capabilities, understanding of water chemistry, experience with wheatbelt conditions and their business model is not based on selling chemicals, in fact, they'd prefer you use less.

When it comes to repair or replacement, all pool equipment has pros and cons, so FRESHWATER always offers their clients a wide range of options and lets them make the best choice to suit their needs.

With regard to chlorine free systems, FRESHWATER has fantastic solutions available, and while the health benefits of these systems, to allergy sufferers and children, are already well known, what's also amazing is they are comparative in price to equivalent chlorine systems, have the same warranty, have lower running costs, the water is regarded as drinking quality and they can be retro-fitted to any pool.

Like most pool equipment, they are a significant investment, but if your existing equipment is out of warranty, not performing as it should or you're seeking a low toxicity swimming option then give FRESHWATER a call and find out if a chlorine free system is suitable for you.

If it's not, that's no problem as FRESHWATER can source and install any brand or system type you prefer, and often match internet pricing on genuine equipment.

Just looking for someone to manage your pool for you?

FRESHWATER offers flexible servicing options and are looking to expand their service routes in the shires of Toodyay, Chittering and Victoria Plains.

They use the latest calibrated centrifugal photometer equipment for all their water analysis, provide test results for 10 chemical elements and can even customise the test ranges to suit your pool, so you use less chemical, but still have a perfectly safe water to swim in.

If you'd like more information please contact FRESHWATER on 0456 661 845, visit www.mahaservices.com.au or find them on Facebook and Instagram.

Wood borers get into turners' timber

Avon Woodturners
Max J Heath

HERE we are again at the start of another woodturning year.

We did have a good little break until January 16 when we met and enjoyed a bacon and egg brekky followed by our first meeting of the year which was fairly quick.

Our workshop in June was discussed and we are busy trying to engage demonstrators for the event.

We are also organising a sign to hang on the outside wall letting people know where we are and who sponsored the whole venture at The Junction.

The major sponsor was LotteryWest, which seems to sponsor many local organisations and events.

We plan to have a wood raffle during the year which will be the usual load of wood with other prizes crafted by members.

One of our members became enthusiastic with one particular piece of timber and all was well until some of it let go and the lot sort of disintegrated. Such is woodturning.

It was decided to have a shed clean out when some timber borers were discovered; the clean out was conducted and a lot of timber was cut into more useful pieces.

And so folks, we are back to meeting Sunday and Wednesday mornings from 9am to approximately noon.

If you would like to visit us please feel welcome to, and remember our motto: Don't drive tired.

Ida's is back on deck

Ida's Hideaway
Rae Vigar

IDA'S Hideaway would like to thank the people of Toodyay for their wonderful support of our Christmas raffles.

The winners were: hamper, Nina; Father Christmas, Kath Knott; beauty pack, Kimberly; mortar and pestle, Lyn and, scratchy tree, Grumpy
Thank you also to the people who donated the prizes.

Get well wishes go to Syd and Trish.
We are back at the Toodyay Community Resource Centre every Saturday afternoon from 1-4pm.

For more information contact Rae on 9574 2356.

YOGA

Wednesday 5pm
Friday 9am



Sally 9574 4184
Toodyay Community Centre



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