

# The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned  
community newspaper  
Est. 1902

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

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## Toodyay to get five passing lanes



Work underway on widening part of a 5km stretch of Toodyay Road between Racecourse Road and Clackline-Toodyay Road, with plans for five new passing lanes further along.

### Michael Sinclair-Jones

FIVE new passing lanes near Toodyay will be added to some of the most dangerous stretches of Toodyay Road, with major road-widening already underway between Harper Brook and Coorinja Winery.

Three new westbound and two eastbound overtaking and climbing lanes for heavy trucks are planned between Morangup Road and Toodyay-Clackline Road.

Plans also include seven upgraded intersections between Racecourse Road and

Fernie Road, and 27km of road realignment, vegetation clearing and widening.

Toodyay Road will be realigned and a new structure built where it crosses Jimperding Brook.

A Main Roads WA spokesperson said Federal Government funding had been secured for a one-kilometre section which is currently being widened about 3km from Toodyay.

Further land clearing and earthworks are underway on a 5km stretch between

Racecourse Road and the Clackline-Toodyay Road.

Current roadworks with intermittent lane closures will continue until next month.

The spokesperson said the timing of remaining works would depend on the State Budget, which is due in May.

WA Treasurer Ben Wyatt recently forecast a Budget surprise surplus of \$1.02 billion, although much of that is expected to be spent on the State Government's Metronet rail expansion project in Perth.

Main Roads WA said Toodyay Road was a "key connection between Perth, Toodyay and surrounding communities" and carried agricultural, extractive industries (gravel, sand and clay), waste and tourism traffic.

It quoted a 2015 WA Government review which found that Toodyay Road had the "highest crash density" in the Wheatbelt.

Main Roads WA was currently buying land, removing fences and arranging for utilities to be shifted to make way for the road upgrade. *More Page 5 with plan. Editorial Page 4.*

## Black cockatoos landfill clash

CONFLICTING decisions by two State Government agencies have given local residents new hope in their long-running battle to stop thousands of tonnes of Perth household rubbish being dumped 13km south of Toodyay in Hoddys Well.

The WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) last month granted Bayswater landfill operator Opal Vale a licence to dump more than 400 tonnes of "putrescible" waste in Hoddys Well from 7am to 6pm, every day, seven days a week except on public holidays.

The site is within five kilometres of 70 rural homes, with two "likely to have direct line of sight" to the landfill site which is surrounded

by lush rural farmlands, according to a State Government report.

The licence was granted on the premise that the Clackline Nature Reserve was 2.3km from the Chitty Road site, which was the case when the State Government overruled objections in August 2015 to grant works approval to build the dump.

However, Main Roads WA announced in January this year that it needed to clear 53ha of trees and other vegetation from either side of Toodyay Road for major road widening and new passing lanes.

To offset the loss, it bought 196ha of "prime wandoo woodland adjacent to the Clackline Nature Reserve" which it said

"will be conserved in perpetuity", including 188 new artificial nesting hollows for black cockatoos.

The purchase increased the size of the Clackline Nature Reserve by a third and extended it to within 700m of the landfill site.

Five Toodyay landfill objectors are now using this as one of several grounds of appeal to WA Environment Minister Stephen Dawson via the State Office of the Appeals Convenor.

The Shire of Toodyay is also understood to have considered lodging an appeal but did not respond to a *Herald* request for confirmation or details.

*Continued Page 5.*

### Toodyay Farmers Market Sunday March 17

#### this month

classifieds	28
emergency services	7,8
environment	20-21
health	30
letters	4
public notices	28
puzzles	29
sport	31
trades & services	22-27
when & where	28

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# COUNTRY REALTY

# The Toodyay Herald

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

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

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE	STORY DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTED
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# O! Blind Joe

## Love is life

### Stirling Hamilton

I FIRED up my trusty old Triumph Thunderbird time-twisting triple, rode back to the early 1900s and picked up my old friend Leo Tolstoy.

Leo was a 19th Century Russian writer, philosopher and social activist, and a major influence in the development of non-violent resistance movements such as those of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi and US civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr, and in the political strategies of South African freedom fighter Nelson Mandela.

Considered one of the world's greatest novelists, Tolstoy is especially famous for writing the 19th Century literary classics *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*.

Although born into nobility, Tolstoy spent much of his life as a champion of Russia's peasant class, notably in the field of education.

I brought him back to my place, opened my magic picture book of history and showed him the results of World War 1.

"War is not a courtesy but the most horrible thing in life; and we ought to understand that and not play at war," he said.

"In all history there is no war which was not hatched by governments independent of the interests of the people to whom war is always pernicious, even when successful.

"All violence consists in some people forcing others – under threat of suffering or death – to do what they do not want to do."

I moved on to the advent of Bolshevism in Russia and the killing of the Russian Tsar's family in 1918.

"There can be only one permanent revolution – a moral one; the regeneration of the inner man," Tolstoy said.

### 'Only one happiness'

"LOVE is life. All, everything that I understand, I understand only because I love.

"There is only one enduring happiness in life – to live for others.

"To be good and lead a good life means to give to others more than one takes from them.

"How is this revolution to take place? Nobody knows how it will take place in humanity, but every man feels it clearly in himself.

"And yet in our world everybody thinks of changing humanity and nobody thinks of changing himself.

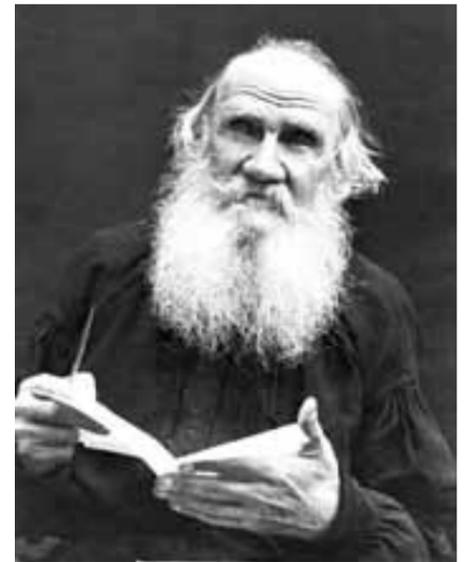
"Slavery exists in full vigour but we do not perceive it, just as in Europe at the end of the 18th Century the slavery of serfdom was not perceived.

"People of that day thought that the position of men who were obliged to till the land for their lords and to obey them was a natural, inevitable, economic condition of life, and they did not call it slavery.

"If only free men would not rely on that which has no power and is always fettered but trust in that which is always powerful and free – the truth and its expression.

"I sit on a man's back, choking him and making him carry me, and yet assure myself and others that I am very sorry for him and wish to ease his lot by any means possible – except getting off his back."

I then gave Leo a brief outline of World War 2 in which 27 million Soviet citizens



Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy.

died because of their leader Joseph Stalin's ineptitude and his initial trust in German dictator Adolf Hitler.

Then came the Cold War which ended when the Soviet Union was brought to its knees and successive US presidents made it their mission to move 'democracy' and – wherever possible – the West's NATO military alliance right up to Russia's borders.

America's military-industrial complex, the motor of the US economy since the end of the Great Depression in 1939, was as always in need of a reason for being.

To that end, our economic and political elites have returned to the view that the right thing to do is villainise Russia.

They tried the anti-Muslim angle for many years, but found eventually that they couldn't quite get all they wanted from it.

They needed a more natural enemy, an enemy Americans would know to be villainous as if that 'knowledge' was somehow inscribed in our genes.

If President Vladimir Putin's Russia didn't exist, our ruling elites would have had to invent it, which is pretty much what they did from the remnants of a century of Russophobic Cold War mongering.

"Armies are necessary, before all things, for the defence of governments from their own oppressed and enslaved subjects," Tolstoy said.

### Patriotism 'unnatural'

"PATRIOTISM is an unnatural, irrational, and harmful feeling, and a cause of a great part of the ills from which mankind is suffering.

"This feeling should not be cultivated, as is now being done, but should on the contrary be suppressed and eradicated by all means available to rational men."

I pointed out that the new Cold War is an American creation that started in the early 1990s and is now fought on many fronts.

It includes NATO expansion to Russia's borders, economic sanctions designed to 'cripple' the Russian economy, a coup in Ukraine promoted by Washington, American withdrawal from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile nuclear treaty, claims that Moscow tried to rig the 2016 US presidential election and ongoing economic and military threats.

"The hero of my tale, whom I love with all the power of my soul, whom I have tried to portray in all his beauty, who has been, is, and will be beautiful, is Truth." – Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910).

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

#### March - April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March	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	29	30
31	April 1	2	3	4	5	6

# V8 Juice fuels winning bet on Billy's dogs

Ieva Tomsons

BAKERS Hill greyhound trainer Billy Choules (72) knows a lot about greyhounds – and handbags, ladies shoes and luggage.

Self-assured and gregarious, Billy grew up in a loving family with three siblings who were much older than him.

What he didn't know, until he was 35 years old, was that he had been adopted as a baby by the Choules, who lived two streets away from his biological parents in Bassendean.

"I was spoilt rotten and sports mad," said Billy who left school at 14 to start a long career in the retail industry.

Starting on the sales floor at Ezywalkin shoe store in Hay Street Perth, Billy's management potential was spotted early and he became one of the state's youngest managers when he was 21, overseeing the company's store in Northam.

"It was a big adventure coming to Northam – I had to fend for myself for the first time."

After three years in Northam where he kept up his football training with Railways, Billy returned to the big smoke and soon after married Margaret in 1972.

From the early 1970s Billy worked for several retail shoe stores and graduated to the wholesale market where he was sent to the eastern states to buy handbags for David Woodroffe and Co.

## Wolf whistles

"WHAT you do learn is not to walk down the street with just one handbag – always carry a few to avoid the wolf whistles," laughs Billy.

From 1973-1978 he travelled to Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney on a regular basis to source handbags and negotiate deals with the local manufacturers.

By the 1980s Australia couldn't meet supply and, working for Cecil Brothers, Billy spent eight years wheeling and dealing for the company in Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and Japan.

"I was away 24 weeks in the year and Margaret was holding the fort with two young boys and she was really great."

In Asia, Billy would often meet up with fellow commercial travellers and one was his biological brother Bob Knox who he knew from Perth as a friend and colleague.

"Bob was in the shoe business and I was in bags; we looked alike and jokingly would call each other brother."

They knew each other for 20 years before discovering they were brothers from a family of five children, four of whom ended up in children's homes.



Billy Choules with Zellwegers Magic, (pictured) winner of the 2014 Dale Cup for WA's Best Grade 5 Dog, with coat awarded in 1991 to Billy's \$34,000 Perth Cup winner Frantic Night.

Bob was the oldest of the siblings and went searching for his siblings, including his youngest brother William (Billy).

"He was looking for William Charles, not Choules," said Billy who still can't believe how their lives had intersected so often without realising that they were brothers.

Billy and Bob were doing deals at a time when Taiwan and Hong Kong were undergoing rapid modernisation.

"Even though the salesmen stayed at The Hyatt in Taiwan, sanitation was poor and there was a silk screen over the bed to stop the roaches falling down," said Billy who

recalls needing to take a satchel of local currency to pay for an evening meal.

Billy learned enough Cantonese to secure contracts with the Asian manufacturers and rapidly realised that the art of making a good deal – one that won't backfire on you – is to ensure that "everyone makes something".

In Taiwan, he screwed down the price too hard on a container load of 10,000 grey school bags which turned up in Perth unsewn, in two pieces.

"I learnt then to inspect the shipment before leaving," laughs Billy.

In 1988 Billy left Cecil Brothers and branched out on his own, starting Choules Discount Shoes in old Midland.

Sporting the West Coast Eagles colours, the shop battled on for three years in a harsh economic period when interest on business loans soared to 28 per cent.

"We got out with our pants on – just."

While he was still with Cecil Brothers, Billy bought his first greyhound in 1985 which he presented to a totally unimpressed Margaret for Christmas.

## 'Couldn't turn corners'

FROM an inauspicious start with a dog that couldn't turn corners because he was trained on Sydney's straight tracks, Billy and trainer Jeff Leppard went on to win the \$34,000 Perth Cup in 1991 with four-year-old Frantic Night.

In 2007 Billy was flung two metres into the air when he was struck by the 89kg lure at the Northam greyhound track.

He spent six weeks in Royal Perth Hospital's trauma ward where orthopaedic surgeon Professor Rene Zellweger reconstructed his leg before he was transferred to Northam Hospital for more than six months' recuperation.

To honour Professor Zellweger, Billy named a dog after the man who had saved his leg from amputation.

Zellweger's Magic, like Billy, turned out to be a winner on his first start at Cannington in 2012.

And Margaret? She's now referred to as a "greyhound racing identity" and was the first woman appointed to the WA Greyhound Racing Association committee in 2003 where she served more than seven years.

The couple currently have 23 dogs which race at Cannington, Northam and Mandurah.

"They are fed on the best beef, biscuits and V8 juice; no needles or hormones," said Billy.

"I started with a good name in the sport and that's how I want to keep it."

# Shire President refuses to admit misconduct

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY Shire President Brian Rayner has refused to publicly admit a finding of misconduct against him and Shire CEO Stan Scott for publishing "derogatory" statements in the shire's ratepayer-funded *Toodyay Community Newsletter*.

Their breach of the Shire Code of Conduct occurred last year but was not revealed until the shire council's January meeting when Mr Scott and President Rayner – backed by Crs Paula Greenway and Judy Dow – tried unsuccessfully to get it overturned.

President Rayner tried again last month to prevent the official finding of misconduct against him and Mr Scott being placed on the official public record while the council decides whether to offer Mr Scott a new contract of employment.

The adverse finding was made by Deputy President Therese Chitty who ruled last August that President Rayner and Mr Scott had both breached the Shire Code of Conduct by publishing a "derogatory or improper" statement in Mr Scott's 'R U OK?' article in the shire's April 2018 newsletter.

"Breaches of this code harm our reputation, reduce public trust and disrupt the proper function of the shire," the Shire Code of Conduct states.

It also breaches clause 4.1.8 of Mr Scott's current contract of employment and Section 5.103 of the WA Local Government Act.

President Rayner declined to stand aside at last month's council meeting while public questions were asked about the finding of misconduct against him and Mr Scott.

"I'll hear the questions first and then decide," President Rayner said.

The first question asked whether President Rayner had been found by a shire ruling to have breached the Shire Code of Conduct.

"I'll take that question on notice," President Rayner said, implying that he needed more time to get further information about the question before responding to it at the next council meeting on March 26.

It prompted the public gallery to erupt into loud guffaws of laughter, after which President Rayner was again asked to stand aside to allow the question to be answered.

Deputy President Chitty then took over question time from her seat at the side of the top table and said "yes" – a finding of misconduct had been made against President Rayner and Mr Scott last August.

When asked if Mr Scott had refused to apologise or withdraw his published statements, Deputy President Chitty said she had no power as the investigating officer to order an apology or retraction.

*Continued Page 5, Editorial Page 4.*

# The Toodyay Herald

## Fast lane to the future

FIVE new passing lanes on a wider Toodyay Road is a significant development that will have major economic and social ramifications for our local community.

It will make the journey to Perth quicker and easier for local commuters, and safer for tourists visiting our many local attractions.

No longer will they be stuck behind slow-moving trucks crawling up hills or face heavy vehicles tearing around narrow bends on the last hilly slopes before town.

Main Roads WA says Toodyay Road is a key connection for "agricultural, extractive industries, waste and tourist traffic".

That means its primary use is as an industrial route for heavy-haulage traffic.

Much as we admire the rolling hills and lush fields on Perth's shortest scenic route to our town, its primary function is economic, and the use is only going to get busier.

Allowing three million tonnes of Perth garbage to be dumped in Hoddys Well is a bad decision for several reasons but we may be stuck with that, at least for now.

Nor is change likely any time soon for increasingly large tonnages of gravel, sand and clay being dug out of those same rolling hills and fertile valleys to build more homes and roads for Perth's seemingly endless population growth.

Mining and extraction are covered by different State laws but remain essentially same thing – dig it up and cart it away.

WA and local government authorities – especially our shire – need to be vigilant that the State's economic demands don't wreck our community's vital tourism potential and future social and economic prosperity.

## What's going on?

TOODYAY Shire President Brian Rayner was right to publicly criticise a recent local social media post that portrayed a worker on a building site with a noose around his neck with the comment "perhaps this is the kind of safety device the shire is using".

Such depictions generally fall within the realm of political satire and are protected by an implied right to free speech in Australian common law.

But in the hothouse world of local council politics, the Facebook post was unwise.

It came a week after President Rayner exposed the council to public ridicule by refusing to admit an official finding of misconduct against himself and the shire CEO, despite it being revealed on the front page of last month's *Toodyay Herald*.

He also voted against adjourning a debate on the CEO's job contract to March 26 so that two relatively new councillors who were interstate could return to Toodyay on that date to represent the views of the people who elected them to the council last year.

What's going on, Mr President?

Michael Sinclair-Jones  
Editor

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

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The way we were – Chairman Edward Davy addresses a ceremony on 19 March 1959 to mark the Toodyay Road Board's move to the town's former courthouse in Fiennes Street after vacating premises in Stirling Terrace which on the same day became the town's public library. Members of the board – now the Toodyay Shire Council – are seated along a top bench which was designed for a magistrate to hear cases, and where the shire president, deputy president, CEO and executive assistant now sit at council meetings. The board's horseshoe-shaped meeting table was also moved to the new site and continues to be used for Toodyay Shire Council meetings, although turned the other way so that three councillors now sit with their backs to the public gallery.

## LETTERS

### Fewer die as speed limit cut

TOODYAY RoadWise Committee's vision for all road users in the Shire of Toodyay is to have a positive driving experience with zero fatalities or serious injuries while advocating for safe roads and informing the community about safe road use.

The local committee comprises nine energetic and very-focused members including two local councillors, the Officer in Charge of Toodyay Police and representatives from the WA Local Government Association and Main Roads WA.

Remember, the speed limit on Toodyay Road was at one time 110km/h.

The number of lives lost as well as the serious injuries on that road were among the highest in the state.

At the request from the Shire of Toodyay following community feedback, Main Roads WA undertook a speed zone review and the speed limit was reduced from 110km/h to 100 km/h and 90km/h.

Since then, the number of fatal and serious injury crashes have reduced considerably.

In fact, speed zoning was identified as a concern at public consultation forums held by the Road Safety Commission in Merredin and Toodyay.

However, some of our other local roads where speed limits revert to derestricted may give drivers a false impression that the road ahead is safe for all vehicles to travel at the maximum speed of 110km/h.

Drivers must take note that driving at the maximum speed limit is not compulsory and that we should all drive to the conditions of the road.

That includes light conditions, the weather, gradient and curves, volume and type of traffic, concealed entrances, seasonal situation, sight-lines and roadside vegetation.

Should you be concerned about a speed limit on any road we ask that the first point of contact is the Shire of Toodyay.

The shire council can then consider if it is a reasonable request and, if so, will refer the matter to Main Roads WA to undertake a speed zone review.

Bob Neville  
Chairperson  
Toodyay RoadWise Committee

### Thanks for help on awful day

A TREE fell over onto our paddock fence from a neighbouring property and our beautiful golden palomino stallion escaped and ran off and despite all our efforts was unable to be saved.

We would like to thank ranger Chris and his helpers from the shire, and Heather from Heartlands veterinary practice for the compassionate way that they dealt with this situation.

We would also like to say a huge thankyou to Kevin and Leslie Hugg of Toodyay Caravan Park for their assistance.

They went over and above to help us on one of our most terrible days, when nothing could ease our pain at losing our beautiful boy.

Thanks also to Glenn who helped us with the logistics – we couldn't have managed it on our own without your help mate.

Thank you all.

Paul and Jo Sutton  
Toodyay

### Old specs wanted

THIS month, boxes will be placed at Toodyay Pharmacy, St Stephen's Anglican and St John the Baptist Catholic Churches for donations of your no-longer needed eyewear; no cases please.

The donated items will be collected and sent to two WA prisons – Casuarina and Acacia.

Inmates have been taught to dismantle, clean, repair and refract the lenses and these are then passed on to the Fred Hollows Foundation and other charitable organisations who export them to overseas countries.

Prescription glasses and plain dark glasses are also acceptable.

Should you have old pharmacy reading glasses, these are very useful too.

Your donation has a two-fold benefit – to the prison inmates who have been trained to do a very valuable task and for the people who receive the spectacles.

If you have any queries, phone me on 0405 242 483 and I will endeavour to assist you.

Patricia de Soto-Phillips  
Toodyay

### Tennis the game of life

LIKE Michael Edwards, in February's letters, I am also a Life Member of the Toodyay Tennis Club and I played both competition and social tennis until I was 75 years old.

In his Toodyay Tennis Club article in last month's *Herald*, Michael also told us that scientists said playing tennis could add 10 years to someone's life.

It may be significant to note that now, at 85 years of age, I am still able to carry responsibility every week for two areas in my local church, both of which use my brain extensively.

Like Michael, I urge everyone to give tennis a try.

Veronica Dymond  
Toodyay

## Thinking caps solve mystery helmet

### Milton A Baxter

HERE'S a big thank you to all the people who read and followed up on my letter in the March 2018 *Toodyay Herald*.

My letter concerned the intriguing story of the Toodyay Helmet worn by a deceased young boy, Francis Edward Dunne.

People did indeed put on their thinking caps, trying to nut out the origins of this piece of Toodyay millinery history.

In a 1873 Supreme Court case, Edward Dunne gave a wonderful description of the hat and clothing his young son wore when he went missing but we had no details regarding the origins of this piece of apparel.

We knew not of its creator, nor of subsequent hatters (mad or otherwise) who may have produced them.

The fact that they were named Toodyay Helmets indicates a Toodyay origin; were they sold in shops perhaps?

There were many suggestions and numerous theories were floated around but as time passed it began to look as if we were never going to find an answer to the intriguing conundrum.

Then by a sheer stroke of good fortune, while reading what I thought was a totally unrelated 32-page booklet titled *Geraldton Primary School Souvenir 1878-1978* there it was – the Toodyay Helmet.

You can imagine my astonishment when I opened the book at page six and gazed down on a 1914 photograph of a Geraldton Primary School teacher sitting before a blackboard, upon which was drawn the elusive helmet showing its construction, and her class making their versions of a Toodyay Helmet.

However, as with many historical searches, the search for more information on the Toodyay Helmet is ongoing.

Many people were intrigued and if anybody comes up with further information the Toodyay Historical Society would be pleased to receive additional facts.

Toodyay Historical Society stalwart Don Carter made an outstanding effort to trace the hat and even enlisted assistance from the Northam Historical Society folk who have spread the word further afield.

To all those who were involved in any way – many thanks.



Millinery Class at Geraldton Primary School in 1914. From left: Maimie Scott, Amy Wood, Edie Boyes, Florrie Oldfield, Miss Baker (teacher), Nancy McCarley, Lydia McLean, Eva Macer, Beryl Baker (assistant teacher), Maimie Erskine, Ada Ward. The design for the Toodyay Helmet can be seen on the blackboard behind Beryl Baker.

# Misconduct muddies Shire CEO contract

Continued from Page 3.

IN ANSWER to a third question about how the council had responded to the finding of misconduct, Deputy President Chitty said no action was taken.

When asked if the council intended to take any action at all, she said the question would be taken on notice and answered at the next council meeting on Tuesday March 26.

A special meeting of council is due to start two hours earlier on the same day to discuss whether Mr Scott should be offered a new contract of employment when his current contract expires on July 22.

It follows a similar special council meeting behind closed doors last month when Cr Bill Manning, seconded by Cr Rob Welburn moved to adjourn discussions on the CEO's contract until 2pm on March 26.

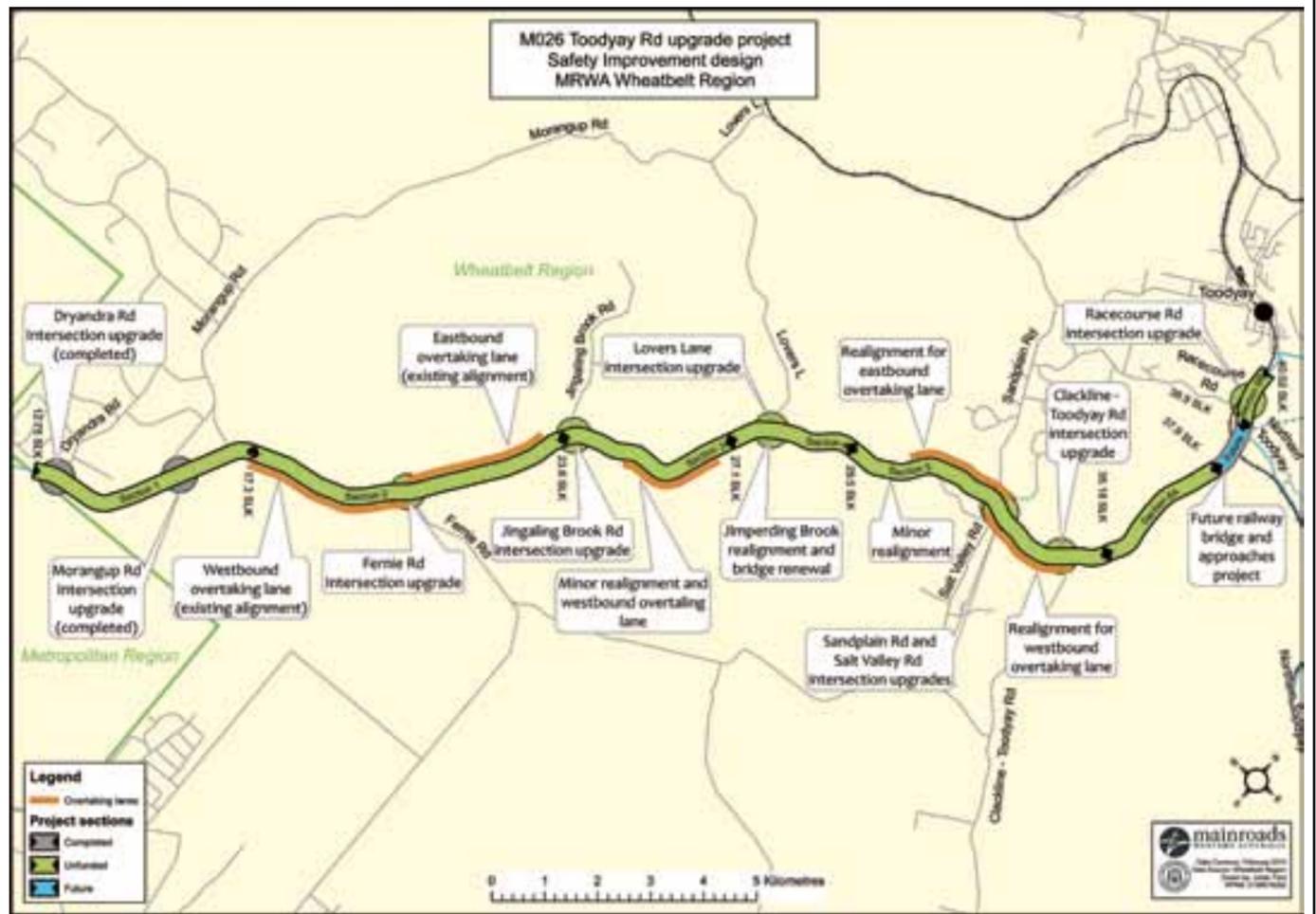
Deputy President Chitty and Cr Eric Twine supported the 4-3 decision after agreeing that there was enough time before the council's April 18 contract deadline to enable Crs Ben Bell and Craig Brook – who missed last month's meeting – to attend.

This would allow all nine elected members to have a say and vote on what Cr Manning described at the council's January meeting as "the most important decision any council can make".

President Rayner and Crs Greenway and Dow voted against the adjournment.

Cr Bell said in January that he opposed offering Mr Scott a new contract of employment.

# Five new passing lanes in Toodyay Road upgrade



Main Roads WA map of planned roadworks for 20km of Toodyay Road between the edge of Toodyay townsite and Morangup Road.

Continued from Page 1.

MAIN Roads WA said there had been no public objections to vegetation clearing permits which were approved by Federal and State agencies.

Up to 55ha of roadside vegetation will need to be cleared for the entire project. To offset this, 196ha of "prime wandoo

woodland" next to the Clackline Nature Reserve "will be conserved in perpetuity" and 188 artificial nesting hollows for black cockatoos installed.

Shire of Toodyay Reserve Management Officer Greg Warburton said the Toodyay Naturalists' Club supported the plan. "The offset significantly expands an

existing nature reserve," a Main Roads WA January 2019 project update quoted Mr Warburton as saying.

"The Main Roads team are to be congratulated for obtaining this outstanding result which has added valuable habitat to our precious conservation estate," Mr Warburton said.

# State issues licence to dump first 50,000 tonnes of metro waste in Hoddys Well



Licence report map shows Perth's new rubbish dump for rotting waste is 65km from city.

Continued from Page 1.

THE NEW landfill licence allows 50,000 tonnes of 'putrescible' waste to be dumped in Hoddys Well in the first year of operation, which is due to start "as soon as is practicable on issue of the licence".

More licences are planned for another five adjacent waste pits to enable a total of 1.5 million tonnes of rubbish to be dumped in the former claypit over the next 10 years.

When those pits are full, further licences are planned for another 1.5 million tonnes of rubbish to be dumped in nearby pits currently being dug by Austral Bricks to extract clay.

The overall plan is for three million tonnes of rotting metropolitan waste to be dumped in Hoddys Well over the next 20 years.

The current Toodyay Road upgrade is designed to accommodate an extra 60 rubbish trucks a day, seven days a week, travelling between Perth and Toodyay before turning off into Fernie Road and Salt Valley Road to the Chitty Road landfill site.



Red dots show 70 houses within 5km of dump. The central dot is landfill site owner Simon Farrell's house.



## INTENTION TO BORROW

Local Government Act 1995 (s.6.20 (2))

The Shire of Toodyay proposes to establish a short-term loan facility with the Western Australian Treasury Corporation for up to \$4.5million to assist with the cash-flow management of the Sport and Recreation Precinct.

Council resolved by absolute majority, at its Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 February 2019 (Council Resolution No. 57/02/19), to endorse this proposal.

Pursuant to section 6.20(2) (a) of the Local Government Act 1995, one month's public notice of this proposal is hereby given from the date of the February 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting.

STAN SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

# Burglaries, roadworks test new police on the beat

## Police Beat

With Sgt Dave Flaherty  
Toodyay Police Station



A SPATE of burglaries has kept local police busy in the New Year.

A house in Folewood Road was trashed after a 79-year-old woman who had lived there alone passed away in January.

Relatives and friends organising her affairs were dismayed to find that the empty house had been burgled several times, windows smashed, furniture broken, drawers tipped out and rooms ransacked.

"The place was turned upside down," Sgt Flaherty said.

"Fortunately, we have some evidence which we are holding until we shore up some more information.

"We don't think it was kids."

### Speed lasers

LOCAL police will be using laser speed guns in Toodyay's main street this month to ensure motorists drive safely in the 40km/h speed zone around the busy central business district and near the school.

"I'm happy for officers with lasers to stand out in front of the police station to check traffic speeds, particularly now that children are back at school," Toodyay's new police chief Sgt Dave Flaherty said.

"Young primary school kids in particular may be at risk near shops in Stirling Terrace and Charcoal Lane."

Sgt Flaherty, who has previously acted as officer-in-charge at Toodyay and lives in the shire, said he knows the local area well and will work hard with his team to maintain community safety.

### Bail with night curfew

A TOODYAY man was arrested and released on bail with a night-time curfew after burglaries at the Toodyay District High School and Freemasons Hotel.

The first burglary occurred in early January when a school window was forced open, classrooms entered and fridges opened.

The Freemasons Hotel was burgled last month when a fire escape was used to enter the premises after hours. Cigarettes and cash were stolen from the kitchen.

Police used video security camera footage, fingerprints and DNA records



New local cops on the beat. Sen. Const. Joe Neal (left) and Sen. Const. Kevan French.

to arrest the man the next day and charge him with two counts of burglary and one of stealing.

He is due to appear in the Northam Magistrates Court next month.

### New cops in town

TWO NEW police officers have been posted to Toodyay after the departures last month of First Class Const. Josh Leone to Perth and Const. Jodie Jarvis to Northam.

Toodyay's new officers are Sen. Const. Joe Neale, who was previously stationed at Morley and Sen. Const. Kevan French from Cockburn.

### 1300 motorists breath tested

TOODYAY police stopped a total of 1300 motorists for random drink and drugs tests in January and last month.

"We're finding a lesser trend to drink driving and an increase in driving while impaired by drugs," Sgt Flaherty said.

"The drugs include cannabis and amphetamines, with users of all ages in both categories.

"We have the capacity to conduct roadside drug tests – if you take the risk you will get caught."

### Patience urged

SGT FLAHERTY is urging motorists to be patient and exercise caution with major new roadworks underway on Toodyay Road between Harper Brook and Clackline-Toodyay Road.

Further improvements – including two new overtaking lanes in both directions between Toodyay and Morangup Road – are also planned.

"I think the road upgrade is going to be a very positive thing for our community," Sgt Flaherty he said.

"I've seen reports that Toodyay currently has 250,000 visitors a year and that this will increase to 300,000 over the next 20 years.

"The new road is going to be a fantastic help and much safer to drive on.

"We just need to drive to the conditions and be a little patient while that work is underway."

### ... and a warning

PATIENCE is also being urged when roads are closed to enable local emergency services volunteers to fight bushfires.

Sgt Flaherty said some motorists became "testy" when Toodyay Road near the Northam turn-off was closed for a few hours last month while firefighters and fixed-wing water bombers were used to extinguish a fire on a farm near Coorinja Winery.

"We shut the road to keep people safe and because of smoke on the road," Sgt Flaherty said.

"Giving coppers a hard time at the control points was not helpful.

"People need to be patient if a road is closed because of fire."

## How to de-clutter your digital space

Computer Safety  
Phil Hart

YOU have probably seen people whose desks are filled with clutter.

The same can happen with people's computers, tablets and smart phones.

Imagine having more than 12,000 unread emails, or more than 25,000 photos on your phone, or 17 open tabs on your web browser.

Or the desktop on your computer could be so crowded with icons and shortcuts that you have trouble finding the one you want.

These are forms of 'digital clutter' and they can be very frustrating at times.

Overcoming digital clutter takes two things; finding a way of organising things in a way that suits you, and having the determination to follow through with being organised.

When it comes to organising things, there is no 'one size fits all'.

What suits one person might not suit somebody else.

Some people prefer to save photos from their phone into a separate folder for each month on their computer.

Other people prefer to save photos by subject, such as family, architecture and food.

When it comes to emails, it helps to have separate folders.

You can have folders for family, friends, work, credit cards and voluntary organisations.

Remembering to move incoming emails into each of those folders takes time and effort, but it makes finding things a lot easier afterwards.

Having 17 open tabs on your web browser suggests that you have not yet had the time to read them all.

One trick is to set aside time to read them, and if you think that you might want to refer to them later, you can always save the web page onto your device.

Organising the icons by category on your desktop is another time saver.

You can find more information at [bbc.in/2GZXCIt](http://bbc.in/2GZXCIt).

## Meet the 2J2AIR radio team at IGA

2J2AIR 105.3FM  
Ken Stivey

AS MENTIONED last month, we've been assisting new presenters with their applications to add more diversity to our program schedule.

We are pleased to announce that Margaret Fox will be making her radio debut on Sunday April 7 at 9am with an hour of light classical music to ease your way into the day.

Being a community-focussed radio station, we value your opinion to assist us with future planning, so we will once again be camped outside IGA on Saturday March 16 and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

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: Noon *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: Noon *Ready 4 Country* (repeat), 8pm *Swooners and Crooners* (repeat) and, 9pm *Jazz*.

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


MRB 2339

## Tyre Service

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Suspensions  
Wheel Alignment

New 4X4, Truck,  
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**9574 4499**  
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## EMERGENCY SERVICES



From left: Rob Koch, Kirsten Barrack and Mick McKeown at the new sign.

## New remote control sign warns of local fire danger

**Community Emergency Services Manager**  
Rob Koch

RESIDENTS and visitors coming to Toodyay from Perth, Northam or Goomalling may have noticed the town's new electronic fire danger rating sign advising them of the day's fire conditions.

The sign has been strategically located at the corner of Hamersley Street and Stirling Terrace to ensure maximum exposure at the Perth side of town.

Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade acquired the sign with funding from the Toodyay and districts Bendigo Community Bank.

The Shire of Toodyay installed the sign and will provide ongoing management.

Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Captain Mick McKeown said: "It is important that everyone understands fire danger ratings and what they mean for our safety.

"Ratings of severe, extreme or catastrophic mean fires may be hard to control and residents should consider their level of preparedness and even consider evacuating from high-risk or vegetated areas during such conditions," Mr Keown said.

Kirsten Barrack, Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank manager said:

"The sign really stands out and is a shining example of what can be achieved by supporting local business, which in turn support community groups".

This type of sign is widely used in Victoria and has recently been adopted by local governments in fire-prone areas of WA.

The rating and message panel can be controlled remotely and are even capable of receiving automatic feeds from the Bureau of Meteorology.

The LED lights are powered by solar panels and automatically adjust their brightness throughout the day and night.

Fire Danger Ratings can also be found on the Bureau of Meteorology website [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au) or [emergency.wa.gov.au](http://emergency.wa.gov.au) by referring to the Lower West Inland forecast district.

The Shire of Toodyay would like to thank the Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank for their hard work in bringing this project to fruition and reminds all residents to ensure that they have, and understand, their bush fire survival plan.

For further information visit [dfes.wa.gov.au/emergencywa/prepare](http://dfes.wa.gov.au/emergencywa/prepare).

Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, along with the shire's other brigades, Bejoording, Coondle-Nunile, Julimar and Morangup welcome new members. Contact the brigades' local captains or the shire on 9574 9300.

## Corri takes 'Annie' on a spin out Coolgardie way

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Julimar**  
Alison Wroth

STILL not any heavy summer rainfall, so even though the fire season has been relatively quiet, fire is still a constant worry for everybody.

Among the varied callouts there have been some interesting ones with the Munyerring Springs fire bringing a few challenges to some of our lieutenants' driving skills.

Word is that they are all apparently expert at using the Max Trax now.

The community should not become complacent with this 'nice' summer weather and keep in mind that house surrounds and firebreaks need to remain clean and fireproof.

It only takes strong winds to bring leaves, limbs and branches down on firebreaks to make them increasingly inaccessible to both firefighters and landholders during an emergency.

These fire breaks can be easily checked without too much hassle.

If your home is surrounded by trees, cleaning gutters comes to the fore as well as maintaining the household pump especially if you are going to stay and defend your home.

The Julimar Brigade recently welcomed two new volunteer firefighters to its ranks.

Dale Canning and Lucas McLerie have already added a bit of life and, especially in Lucas's case, some added youth to our

brigade – everyone will benefit as they will both be important assets after completing the required training.

Dale has had previous experience as a firefighter and is looking forward to updating and getting back into the swing of things now that his work allows him to.

Recently our well-respected member Corri was so desperate (we think) for a break from Simon that, when the need arose, she borrowed 'Annie' and went chasing a fire out Coolgardie way.

The Community Emergency Services Manager received praise for Corri's professionalism and communication skills while on deployment. Congratulations Corri, you did yourself and Julimar brigade proud.

Please make yourselves available for the supper roster.

Delicious food does not miraculously appear on Friday nights, so just put your name down and remember – the simpler the better.

Anybody can throw snags on the barbecue or produce dip and crackers. Put your name down on the roster and write the date on your hand. Too easy.

If you would like to meet some really nice Julimar residents or you are considering becoming a member of the brigade in any capacity, please call in to the Julimar Fire Shed on a Friday evening around 6pm and with music playing and lively discussion, the captain will introduce you around and answer any queries. You may even win the chook raffle for a \$2 donation.

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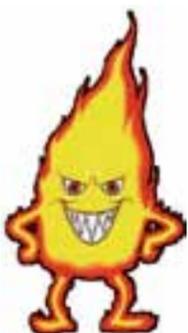
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### FIRE PREVENTION PLANNING PREPAREDNESS AND ADVICE

- On site assessment
- 'Stay or Go' decision making
- Ongoing support and advice
- Don't lose your most valuable assets due to lack of knowledge
- 20 years experience as a Firefighter

Call Mick **0428 583 954**



Our environment matters at the Toodyay Herald.  
[news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au)



**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

# All quiet on Toodyay's western fire front

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade  
Morangup  
Sue Maddrill**

THE BRIGADE would like to thank the Toodyay Op Shop for their very generous donation.

All Toodyay brigades benefit from the Op Shop's generosity.

If you have goods to donate for resale the Toodyay Op shop is certainly a worthwhile organisation.

At the time of writing, all is quiet on the western boundary of the Toodyay shire.

There have not been any fires in Morangup and not a lot of movement of our trucks, although two of our volunteers were part of a taskforce to Coolgardie a few months ago and one of our trucks went to Coolgardie in January.

Thank you to those brigade members and all members that put the time in to keep the brigade running.

The weather has certainly been dry, hot and windy; not good fire-fighting conditions.

Our building extensions and renovations are progressing well.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is planning to extend and revamp the Morangup Fire Station into the Morangup Co-location Centre.

This will house the fire brigade trucks and the State Emergency Services' (SES) trucks in a better manner than currently.

The Toodyay SES has five vehicles and there was even talk of a flood boat at one stage.

Rob Koch has been liaising with our captain and secretary to come to an agreement on the design.

This seems to be at the final stage and once all is signed and sealed on Rob's part, it goes to the tendering process.

The Toodyay SES is open to anyone in the shire to volunteer.

Training has been held in Morangup or

DFES in Northam.

The guys and girls have been called to flooding, storm damage and searches.

These last couple of years the SES has been busier than the brigade.

They've helped out in Moora, Merredin, Wattening, Bakers Hill and Northam just to name a few areas.

With the months going by so quickly we will soon be out of the fire season and that is the best time to be a new recruit as the training courses begin and volunteers will be fully trained for the start of fire season in October/November.

If you are thinking of volunteering, the Morangup Brigade is always happy to have new recruits, but courses must be undertaken before you can step foot on the fire ground.

Contact our captain Jeff Venn by emailing him at captainmvbfb@gmail.com or ring 0417 714 798 in the afternoon or evening.

The brigade meets on the third Saturday of the month.

## Heavy vehicle licence volunteers required

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

THE FAIRLY benign time we had in the lead-up to Christmas seems a long time ago now.

February saw a sharp increase in the number of call-outs, and for a small brigade with limited resources we met all our obligations.

Fortunately none of the fires was too serious although a couple were quite large.

This does raise the issue however that we need a couple more volunteers, especially one at least with a Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) licence.

If you would like an obligation-free discussion with a crew member or our captain, just call the numbers below.

It's not as onerous a commitment as you might think.

I will not name names as they will be embarrassed if I do, but there were a number of members whose attendance was above and beyond the call of duty and their efforts are really appreciated.

Our meetings on the third Friday of the month, followed immediately by a training session, continue to prove their worth.

Once again, 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 March 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, you can contact captain Barry Grey on 9574 2149 or The Badger on 9574 4834.

# Outdoor machinery sparks six paddock fires

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

IN THE December edition of *The Herald* we focussed on fires in the shire during November.

During November, Toodyay Central had turned out to four fires, three of which had been started in paddocks by electrical faults and mechanical sparks.

Unfortunately, since the end of January, Toodyay bush fire brigades have been called out to six fires ignited by machinery.

We know that many of us still have work to do during the drier months that involves the use of machinery outdoors but the use of machinery can create obvious hazards from such things as hot exhausts, electrical faults and mechanical sparks caused by parts of machinery such as mower blades or excavator buckets interacting with hard objects such as rocks.

We urge once again that if you are using any machinery or equipment in the bush or paddock, make sure you have enough water close by or a suitable fire extinguisher to deal with any mishap. Close, means close.

If the water or extinguisher are more than a few seconds away, a fire can escape before you can deal with it.

Fire can move faster and in more directions at once than you can.

As ever, please don't be too embarrassed to dial 000 as soon as a fire starts. Do this straight away.

The bush fire brigade volunteers would rather deal with a small fire sooner than a large fire later.

In February, Central also turned out to a hay truck fire and over the summer many members of the brigade travelled to help out at fires near York, Coolgardie and Balladonia.

On page 7 of this month's *Herald* there is a report on the new electronic fire danger

rating sign that has been installed at the corner of Stirling Terrace and Hamersley Street. (See story Page 7.)

This initiative of Toodyay Central was first mooted at a brigade meeting early in 2018.

Please continue to look after yourselves and others over the next few months and keep an eye out for the new sign.

If you need to receive SMS notifications of Harvest Vehicle Movement or Hot Works Bans or variations to Restricted and Prohibited Burning Periods or Total Fire Bans, please send an SMS with the message BANS to 0408 017 439.

For information regarding emergency warnings visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' website.

If you are interested in finding out more about us, or if you would like to join our brigade, please get in touch with our captain, Mick McKeown on 0439 998 808 or our secretary, Lorraine Hort, 0407 421 234.



**St John**

# St John Ambulance

## "Provide First Aid" HLTAID003

**One day course  
To be held on Saturday 6 April 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: [Toodyay@stjohnambulance.com.au](mailto:Toodyay@stjohnambulance.com.au)

**Free first aid kit for all participants**



EMERGENCY SERVICES



New Silver Chain seniors' social centre.

## Seniors enjoy open day at Silver Chain

Silver Chain  
Alison Middleton

MORE than 20 seniors recently enjoyed a warm Wheatbelt welcome when Silver Chain's Toodyay Social Centre opened its doors for a special event.

People from Toodyay and surrounding areas enjoyed an open day on February 12, where staff and volunteers shared details of the services and activities on offer.

The social centre provides a comfortable, home-like setting where seniors over the age of 65 can socialise, relax and have fun.

Clients enjoy activities including arts and crafts, days out and visits from guest speakers as part of a specially designed program.

A dementia-friendly environment allows visitors to enjoy music boxes, puzzle solving and support to practice skills.

Care team leader Melanie Bernasconi said staff and volunteers were delighted to welcome 25 seniors to the open day.

"We welcomed all our special guests which included Melissa from the Cancer Council, the guys from Silver Chain Digital Services, home chef Lyla from Alzheimer's WA and Claire from the Shire of Toodyay," she said.

"Morning tea was enjoyed by all then the clients had a try of the virtual reality glasses which they all thoroughly enjoyed. Some even went back for more.

"Others enjoyed a spot of gardening, while some played bingo."

Home Chef Lyla provided some yummy desserts to try out and Melissa had a quick chat about being sun smart.

"After lunch we congratulated our volunteer Warren Hall for reaching his 10-year milestone," Melanie said.

"Warren was a volunteer driver and then went to help in our social centre.

"He greatly appreciated the certificate and pin and claimed he will wear it with pride at the Anzac Day march.

## Have a say on Local Government Act

IF YOU haven't already had your say on the proposed changes to the Local Government Act, it's not too late to do so.

The following link will take you to a number of surveys to complete: [dlgsc.wa.gov.au/localgovernment/strengthening/Pages/LG-Act-Review.aspx](http://dlgsc.wa.gov.au/localgovernment/strengthening/Pages/LG-Act-Review.aspx).

This is the first significant reform of local government conducted in more than two decades.

The objective is for WA to have a new, modern Act that empowers local governments to better deliver services to the community.

The survey closes on Sunday March 31.

# New miner predicts imminent bauxite boom

Avon and Hills Mining Awareness Group  
AHMAG Committee

THE HILLS are alive – with live mineral exploration tenements.

They straddle national parks, nature reserves, State forests, productive agricultural land and private properties.

There are a number of companies paying big dollars to maintain their exploration registrations on land they intend to mine for various minerals including bauxite throughout the Avon Valley and vanadium between Wundowie and Bakers Hill.

Lithium Australia's pending application to mine lithium is in an area already pegged for bauxite mining north of Wundowie, while north east of Bejoording and to the east of Toodyay from Bolgart to Calingiri, Northam Iron Pty Ltd has its sights set on mining more iron ore.

Northam Iron Pty Ltd already has live exploration tenements east of Nunile, from Bejoording to near Southern Brook, which they hope to convert to mining tenements.

By far the biggest local bauxite mining proponent is Yankuang Bauxite Resources Ltd which has located 265 million tonnes in our area.

The company recently relinquished a tiny parcel of its holdings but maintains the vast majority as live exploration tenements throughout the Avon Valley.

Some new players have entered the mining arena; Chalice Gold Mines, which has pending tenements for nickel, copper, platinum and vanadium in a 156km<sup>2</sup> area including the Julimar State Forest, and Pacific Bauxite Ltd, which holds pending live exploration tenements over a 405km<sup>2</sup> area 60km north east of Perth.

In its annual report to shareholders in June 2018, Pacific Bauxite Ltd reported:

"The immediate future for bauxite mining remains promising.

"A boom period is considered imminent, driven by demand from China where a substantial fall in domestic reserves and production will require a corresponding increase in bauxite reports."

The company believes that "existing bauxite supplies together with planned developments are expected to satisfy global demands until approximately 2020.

"Beyond this point in time, new projects will be required to meet forecast demand, with a supply deficit of more than 25 million tonnes by 2025 and over 50 million tonnes by 2030."

Residents who have been breathing a sigh of relief that Yankuang have packed up and gone home to China should think again.

To see who has pending and live exploration tenements in your area, there is an easily accessible website that shows who is doing what and where.

Visit LandTracker Maps, register, and

you have free access to monitor what is happening in your own backyard.

If Pacific Bauxite Ltd is correct in predicting an imminent boom in bauxite mining, AHMAG needs your help more than ever.

To become an AHMAG member (\$10 a year) or help with any of our activities, visit [facebook.com/avonhills](http://facebook.com/avonhills) or write to PO Box 111, Gidgegannup WA 6083.

### Submission update

MUNDARING Shire Council has not set a date for when the Swan Gravel/Trico Resources granite pit at Bailup will be discussed.

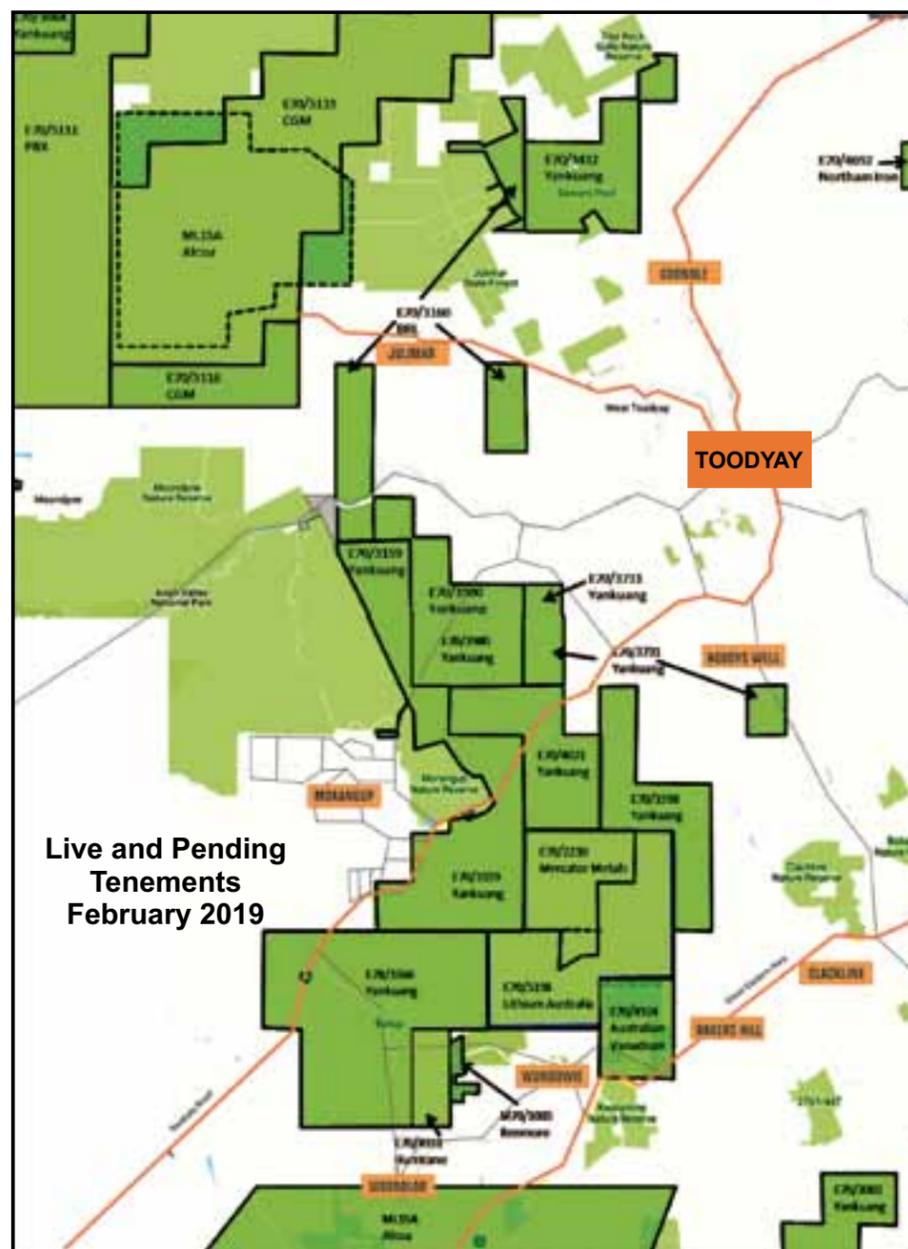
## IN MOORE WITH LOVE

The Nationals WA have announced four local champions who will contest the upcoming **Federal election** - Steve Blyth, The Nationals WA candidate for Pearce; Scott Bourne, The Nationals WA candidate for Durack and Siobhan Blake and Louise Kingston who will join Nick Fardell as Nationals WA candidates for the Senate.

The best means of **reporting littering** incidents is to register as a Litter Reporter. Go to the Keep Australia Beautiful website and once registered, you will be issued a number which allows you to report someone throwing litter or dumping rubbish from a car, boat or trailer. To make a report, access the online report form or mail a reporting card to the Keep Australia Beautiful Council. This advice follows a recent incident on Toodyay Road in which a truck was losing its load and debris proved a traffic hazard to vehicles following the truck. Go to <https://www.kabc.wa.gov.au/> to register as a Litter Reporter.

With **WA's jobless rate** approaching 100,000 - the highest level in nearly two decades, Labor's promise to create 30,000 jobs in regional WA in five years is proving to be a pipe dream. Slashing investment in the regions by gutting Royalties for Regions does nothing to grow regional jobs. This government tossed out the \$22 million Turquoise Coast Health Initiative and cancelled the upgrade of the Northam - Pithara Rd and aged housing projects in Moora, Toodyay and Dalwallinu. In addition, upgrades to the Wheatbelt portion of Toodyay Road do not seem to be a Labor priority.

**Shane Love** MLA  
Member for Moore  
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# Council turns deaf ear to community concerns

## The Insider



**Ben Bell**

IN AN age where the range of communication tools available to people is seemingly endless, I am continually surprised that one of the main issues community members raise with me during any conversation is their frustration at not having a voice on things that may affect their life in Toodyay.

Until recently, my initial response was to walk them through various communication options such as email, phone calls and written submissions to Toodyay Shire Council.

Then it dawned on me. It is not that residents are struggling to get their thoughts, questions and comments to the appropriate decision makers in the council or administration.

Rather, it was that these community members felt they were not being listened to.

The more I speak to people, the more prevalent this complaint appears to be.

Most people have resigned themselves to the fact that their opinions aren't being treated with the level of consideration they deserve.

Consequently, many appear to have stopped engaging with the council, saying "why ask, if council is not going to listen?"

When I delve deeper into this with them, they cite examples such as last year's rate increase and numerous planning documents that were subsequently adopted by council.

As many of you may already know, prior to imposing last year's rate increase, the council via the CEO sought public comment on its proposed 2.2 per cent rate rise.

The Toodyay community response was overwhelming with 2000 rate payers telling the council to take a one-year pause in any rate rises because they had just endured a decade of what many considered to be excessive rises that far exceeded inflation.

So, having asked the question and received the community's response, what did the council do?

It ignored the community's feedback and increased rates regardless.

But it wasn't the rate hike itself that appears to have disillusioned some community members.

It was the use of the word "I" by many councillors when justifying their support for raising rates.

Comments by some councillors along the lines of "I have looked at the budget and I believe a rate rise is necessary" were taken by many residents to indicate that the personal position or opinion formed by an individual councillor cancelled out the opinion of 2000 Toodyay ratepayers.

A similar situation occurred during the public consultation period for the shire's long-term financial plan when numerous voices, including community members with a strong background in accounting and finance, expressed concern that the current 10-year plan puts the shire on the verge of bankruptcy within the next four years.

The shire, of course, has a (very unattractive) silver bullet to fix this problem in the form of imposing massive rate hikes on Toodyay residents in coming years.

But the question remains – why weren't community members' insights, thoughts and opinions given more weight during public consultation, especially given that they all appeared to agree that the current plan puts the shire in a very precarious financial position in future years?

There is a temptation for councillors to argue that they were voted onto council by the community to make decisions on behalf of the community.

That is only half true. Our number one role as councillors – as stated by law – is to be your voice on the council.

That role is to express your thoughts, opinions, objections etc. on every single matter that comes before the council.

Council chambers are probably one of the only places where the word "I" should never be used.

After all, no councillor should vote on a matter based on their own personal opinions, beliefs or prejudices but should make decisions according to what you and others in the community want.

I mention this because the council is about to start workshoping Toodyay's 2019-20 shire budget, and I would like to strongly encourage you to help guide your council throughout this process to ensure that the end result

reflects your expectations and aspirations for Toodyay's future direction.

Ideally, I would like to see a draft of the proposed 2019-20 shire budget provided to the broader community for comment very early in the piece to ensure that we, as a council, are on the right track.

Perhaps even a dedicated Facebook page or similar where the community and administration can openly discuss various elements of the proposed budget would help ensure that your comments and feedback are considered during the process.

I am not proposing anything revolutionary – just that the shire and council find a way

to start a two-way conversation on matters of importance to you instead of relying on a monthly shire newsletter to push what is often incorrect or incomplete information, and a locked shire Facebook page that prevents community engagement.

At the end of the day, you as a member of the Toodyay community need to know that your voice is being heard and that your ideas are being listened to.

The upcoming shire budget process provides an ideal opportunity for this to occur.

After all it's your money the shire is spending and you should be entitled to get a big say in how it is being spent, yes?

## Orchids grow in roadworks area

**Ieva Tomsons**

HERALD readers have expressed concerns about the impact of Main Roads WA's Toodyay Road road-widening program on local flora and fauna.

On page 27 of last month's Herald, Main Roads WA reported that 54.87ha of native vegetation would be removed to make way for road safety improvements between Dryandra and Racecourse Roads.

Toodyay resident Elaine Hall recently met with Main Roads WA representatives to express her concerns about the roadworks' effect on an extensive stand of Giant Sun Orchids (*Thelymitra grandiflora*) on Toodyay Road.

During wildflower season an area 100m north east of Dryandra Road is densely covered with the scented blue orchid.

"I have never seen so many of these orchids. It looks like an English woodland full of bluebells and it was absolutely stunning last November," Mrs Hall said.

Mrs Hall is not opposed to the widening of Toodyay Road but is concerned that future generations and tourists will not get to enjoy the prolific display of the orchids.

Roadworks are not expected to commence at the Dryandra end of Toodyay Road for more than a year and Mrs Hall hopes a solution can be found to protect the local attraction.

While the orchid is not an endangered



A carpet of Giant Sun Orchids north east of Dryandra Road on the Toodyay Road verge last November. Photo: Elaine Hall.

species, the site was visited by Kings Park Director of Horticulture and Conservation Lesley Hammersley who confirmed that the concentration of the blooms was unique.

To offset the approved maximum clearing quantity Main Roads WA has purchased 196ha of remnant vegetation adjacent to the Clackline Nature Reserve (next to Toodyay-Clackline Road) where it will install some of the 188 artificial nesting boxes which will also be placed in nearby reserves for endangered black cockatoos.

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# 100-year march started when Great War ended

Toodyay RSL President **Peter Brennan** has written a history of the local sub-branch to mark this year's 100th anniversary of its formation after World War 1 ended. The following extract covers those early years.

## RSL forged in Gallipoli

BY 1915 the Great War had been raging overseas for nearly a year and some Australian servicemen – many of them wounded or disabled – were returning home.

Soon after the Gallipoli landings in April 1915, the Commonwealth Government formed War Councils in each state, which until 1917 were specifically responsible for the repatriation of invalided men.

Several prominent citizens and various philanthropic organisations also formed returned servicemen's clubs throughout the country, and issues of repatriation, rehabilitation, and support were dominant topics of conversation in these clubs.

These discussions turned to the need for a support organisation with a wider base and a bigger voice, and led to formation of the Returned Soldiers' Association.

Representatives from various returned soldiers' groups met informally in the eastern states on 10 May 1916 and agreed to create a national body to represent and support the needs of returned servicemen.

The first meeting of what is now known as the RSL was held in Melbourne on 6 June 1916, a date generally accepted as the organisation's foundation.

Delegates attended from Queensland, NSW, Victoria and SA and decided to name the organisation the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA) and drafted a constitution ratified at the first Federal Congress in Brisbane in September 1916.

By 1918, NSW, Tasmania, and WA had also joined the league, making it a national body recognised by the Federal Government as the official representative of Australia's returned servicemen.

The name was changed in 1940 to the Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airman's Imperial League of Australia (RSSAILA) before becoming the Returned Services League of Australia in 1965.

Members adopted the current title of Returned and Services League of Australia in 1990.

## 5000 WA veterans unite

WA ALSO faced problems in rehabilitating and supporting its returnees and by 1918 there were two WA returned soldiers' organisations; the Returned Services League and the Returned Services Association.

The two had similar aims but the national body said they could not affiliate with it until the two WA bodies amalgamated.

The new state organisation was known as the Western Australian Branch of the RSSILA, and by mid-1919 had 67 sub-branches in WA, with 21 in Perth and more than 5000 members statewide.

## First Toodyay meetings

THE TOODYAY Branch of the Returned

Soldiers' Association (RSA) was officially founded on 7 October 1919.

A *Toodyay Herald* article in May 1919 noted that the "Toodyay and Districts Branch of the Soldiers' Association has been in existence for six months", which suggests that the first meetings occurred in November or December 1918.

The first Toodyay RSA president was Earl Joseph Sinclair Wroth, the son of Joseph Ablett Wroth who was secretary of the Toodyay Road Board (now Shire of Toodyay).

The RSA secretary in May 1919 was H W Love and by December 1919 the secretary was M Heffernan.

The first recorded treasurer (May 1920) is listed as Milton Taylor Lloyd Wroth.

The first RSA meetings were held at Toodyay's Freemasons Hotel but later moved to the Victoria Hotel.

Earl Wroth served as Toodyay sub-branch president from 1919 to 1922 and 1929 to 1931, and also served as secretary from 1932 to 1938.

He had earlier joined the 10th Light Horse Regiment's C Squadron in the Australian Imperial Force on 7 January 1915 and embarked for the Middle East on the 5324-ton troop transport HMATA52 Surada which sailed from Fremantle on 17 February 1915.

Earl Wroth initially saw service in Egypt before being transferred to Gallipoli.

After Gallipoli, he was transferred to the 8th Field Ambulance and sent to the Western Front in France where he was one of six stretcher bearers to be awarded a Military Medal for evacuating wounded soldiers while under heavy enemy attack.

## 'Conspicuous bravery'

THE CITATION reads:

"At the South West of Bellicourt during 29th and 30th September 1918 these stretcher bearers (E. E. Calf, 4462 F. C. Skiller, 3209 A. A. McGoldrick, 6674 A. A. Wall, 518 E. J.S. Wroth, 4757 A. J. C. Parker) displayed conspicuous bravery in carrying wounded across ground exposed to enemy observation and under heavy shell and machine gun fire.

"Each carry was across the Hindenburg (front trench) System and owing to the rain making the ground slippery each trip took three hours to carry 1000 yards across wire, trenches etc.

"Despite many casualties among the bearers, these men by their endurance, determination and example encouraged the other bearers and, in an extraordinarily difficult situation, made the evacuation of wounded possible."

"Devotion to duty of these men is deserving of special reward."

Earl's son Joseph Charles Wroth was also a sub-branch president and Toodyay Shire President from 1969 to 1971.

His grandson Charlie Wroth is another former Toodyay Shire President (2005-2009) and currently Chairman of the Toodyay St



Toodyay farmer Earl Wroth won a Military Medal for bravery in World War 1 while serving with the 8th Australian Field Ambulance Unit in France when for three hours he and five other stretcher bearers carried wounded soldiers to safety while under heavy enemy attack.

John Ambulance Service, an active member of the Julimar Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, a Toodyay Fire Control Officer and a Toodyay RSL Sub-Branch affiliate member.

## Mackenna and Ellea win Sandakan Scholarships

RSL Toodyay Sub-branch  
Jacqui Graham

TOODYAY RSL members had the privilege of raising the flag at Duidgee Park during the Australia Day ceremony on January 26.

We were asked to undertake this duty because this year is our centennial year.

Our national day symbolises the determination and success of our forebears and may we always remember that Australia has come a long way in such a short time.

Mackenna Cousinery and Ellea White from Toodyay District High School are this year's Sandakan Scholarship recipients.

We congratulate them and look forward to

sharing this auspicious journey with you.

Toodyay RSL members will attend the Toodyay Farmers Market on Sunday March 17 to answer any questions and provide information about services available to ex-service personnel and their families.

Details of how to become a member and application forms will be available.

We will celebrate our centennial year with a ball on Saturday October 5.

Members wishing to attend should contact the treasurer before the end of April.

The next sub-branch meeting will be at 1300 on Saturday April 13 in the Toodyay Memorial Hall.

## Toodyay Curtains & Blinds

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Rosedale Village at the corner of Rosedale Street and Westview Place is fully occupied.

## Full house shows need for more elderly residents' rental units

**Butterly Cottages**  
Margaret O'Sullivan

OFFICIALLY by the time this edition of *The Herald* comes out, we will be out of summer and heading into autumn.

This year, no different from the last, is flying by far too quickly.

As an association we have had a very busy month keeping abreast with the many challenges and jobs involved in running such a great organisation.

We must give a huge thank you to the all the crew at Makit Hardware, while singling out Edith for her ongoing energy and the time she gives to our reticulation, Carolyn for her continuous generosity and Mike for making all those letter box brackets – you all truly understand the words community and contributing.

We are fortunate to have the assistance of the Wooroloo Prison work crew and appreciate the many projects they undertake, from gutter cleaning to paving and lots in between.

Rosedale Cottages are keeping everyone on their toes still with teething issues, but we are happy to say they are finally settling down.

We welcome new residents into our units, both at Rosedale and Butterly, with the hope the transition to your new lifestyle living goes smoothly for you all.

Our recent afternoon tea and sharing session held with service providers and members was welcomed by all who attended and was a great opportunity to ask questions and learn a bit more about what is available.

All 21 Butterly units are occupied, with people waiting for vacancies, confirming the need for affordable rental accommodation for the elderly to live independently.

Toodyay is very fortunate to have such a unique venture here in our town.

Our plan is to build another nine units on the lower side of Rosedale Cottages.

There is no time-frame but plans are being made and we look to the future confident that with community and local support our next dream will become a reality.

We are looking for people who may have a few spare hours and can assist with some basic maintenance and occasional catering.

For further information on tenancy, becoming a member (\$5 annually) or joining the committee, call Gretta on 9574 2868, Margaret on 9574 2183 or email [butterly2j@gmail.com](mailto:butterly2j@gmail.com).

## 'Lack of civic leadership destroying community'

**Toodyay Progress Association**  
Larry Graham, Chair

THERE is a distinct lack of civic leadership in this shire; it is destroying the social fabric and it is time it changed.

What our civic leaders do not understand is that a few 'malcontents' and newspaper stories have not caused these problems.

The issues are real, and it is time our council woke up to them.

As anyone interested in civic affairs in our town knows, the WA Local Government Department has started an inquiry into our shire and it has highlighted our lack of civic leadership.

Our council has never met to consider what an official inquiry from its regulator means and it is hard to imagine any other organisation behaving in this way.

The department said it had "... been reviewing a number of matters relating to the Shire of Toodyay".

It said "The assessment of these matters has identified there is a reasonable suspicion that Council has breached sections of the Local Government Act 1995 (Act) and associated Regulations".

And the regulating department went on to say that it "will be conducting an investigation into the shire's operations and affairs during the period 1 January 2013 to the present".

We have published the terms of reference before, however a most important part is that the inquiry is to "...ascertain whether the Shire council and administration are functioning in the best interest of the community...".

That is a big deal and it is not an attack on staff, nor is it about the CEO's contract or who will be shire president; it is not bullying, it is not singling anyone out for attention, it is formal recognition that the answers provided by the shire to complaints raised by our association were not enough to prevent an inquiry.

In any functioning organisation that alone would trigger a meeting to find out why it is so, but it has not happened and the next thing that should have occurred is that our council ought to have demanded a report from the administration on how we got into this mess. But it did not.

Our council could have sought a briefing from the department to find out what it all means and decide where to go from here. But it did not.

The council could have directed the administration to prepare a confidential report for it on each of the matters that have been raised. But it did not.

The council could have directed the administration to find a mentor CEO and/or president to manage it through this process. But it did not.

There are hundreds of other things our council could have done; but it has done none of them and, confusing activity with achievement, it has focussed on all the tired old political defences of attempting to show that all is good.

Well the truth is that all is not good and it is critical that our civic decision-makers stop pretending it is and deal with things.

We have heard that some staff are being accused, threatened and vilified and that also must stop.

Such behaviour is unacceptable and the association does not, has not and will not target any employee of the council; we strongly recommend to anyone suffering that treatment that they go directly to the police.

As that bad behaviour has to change, this inquiry presents the council with a real chance to change for the better; it gives us the opportunity to put some of the real divisions to bed, to change office holders and to end the petty squabbles and infighting that have driven civic affairs in Toodyay for so long.

These positive changes can only happen if our councillors want them to but sadly their actions tell us that they do not; all they are offering is more of the same and that is a recipe for an ongoing disaster.

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

PS: Thank you to all those who attended our recent AGM; we had eight times more people at ours than attended the shire AGM.

It is not a competition but we have been trying to get the shire to understand they have lost the confidence of the community and this is yet another demonstration of that.



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Bindoon lunch feeds hungry Toodyay CWA members.

## Luscious lunch precedes dealing with touchy situations

**Country Women's Association**  
Elizabeth Mansom

IN THE last issue we told you about attending the CWA summer school to learn about fiddle rugs which are in high demand in hospitals and care facilities to occupy people with dementia.

The February craft day emphasised these items as well as poppies for the 100th anniversary of the RSL this year and other small items such as prosthesis covers that will use up those bits and pieces we can't bring ourselves to dispose of and will now go to a good cause.

The Tuesday before the craft meeting, three of us went to Bindoon for a CWA training day, each clutching our CWA Constitution as instructed.

The two presenters were long-time members and office holders at state level and kept us busy note taking from 10am to 3pm, with a break midway for the usual luscious CWA lunch.

This was grassroots-level training, covering the duties and responsibilities of the branch president, secretary and treasurer together with event organisation and conflict resolution.

The Saturday after the craft meeting Stephanie went to a training day at state office in Perth.

Advertised as a learning and development day for those interested in serving at state level, it covered topics such as Direction with Governance, Effective Feedback in Touchy Situations, Group Decision Making and, if you're brave enough to consider anything to do with the monetary side of things, Comprehending Our Finances.

When I say that the state balance sheet as at 31 March 2018 had totals of \$11,272,838, you will realise why I used the word 'brave'.

At the other end of the spectrum, we are all looking forward to Friday March 8, when nearby branches will meet at Toodyay for the annual Gathering of the Birds where we try to plan joint outings and functions so they don't clash, and we can attend as many as possible.

The day is sure to be one of fun, friendship and great food.

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, please contact Glenys Clabaugh on 9574 5100 or 0427 478 325.

# A lot of water has run under and over Newcastle Bridge

**Toodyay Historical Society**  
Robyn Taylor

INSTEAD of kicking off the year with dinner at one of Toodyay's pubs, we decided to make use of Duidgee Park for a twilight picnic.

A town park is an important social space for the community and we are certainly blessed with Duidgee Park with its well-kept lawns and amenities and direct access to the Avon River.

Of course, it hasn't always been like this. In fact, the picnic area wasn't established until 1975, then in 1978 it was given the name Duidgee Park acknowledging the Noongar people and their name for the region.

Over the decades ongoing improvements have resulted in the park being used for celebrations such as Australia Day; festivals and events including Moondyne and the Avon Descent; family reunions, picnics and spaces to wander through, walking the dog, and going down to the river to skip stones and watch the waterbirds.

Going back to the 1860s, the land, Newcastle Town Lot 1, was acquired by the Monger family who built a store, warehouse and outbuildings on it.

In 1902 Henry Davey bought the property from C S Monger as the family home. In 1949 the two-storey building was acquired by Industrial Extracts Ltd and converted into a boarding house for single men.

The boarding house was demolished in September 1968 and several years later the land was developed into a picnic area.

Of course, the landscape in and around Duidgee Park is very different from those earlier times with levels being altered for replacement bridges and roadworks.

The first Newcastle Bridge, built with jarrah timbers, was completed in 1861 after the establishment of the newly gazetted town of Newcastle in 1860.

The constant flooding of the first settlement, now West Toodyay, had resulted in the government's decision to establish the new town upstream on higher ground around the convict depot and pensioner village.

So, a new (second) and much wider and higher Newcastle Bridge was completed in 1900.

Over the following decades there were regular flood events that washed away the bridge approaches, even covering the bridge, resulting in Newcastle Bridge Number Three being erected at a height above the previous flood levels.

This new bridge, named the Avon River Bridge, was built next to and downstream from the old bridge, requiring the demolition of the boarding house.

The Avon River Bridge was officially opened in 1968 and the old bridge was demolished the following year.

Walkers along the renamed Newcastle Bridge can still see the old timber piles and concrete from its former namesake.

The above is a brief history leaving out major works and additions undertaken over the decades by the Toodyay Shire and community groups to improve the grounds and its amenities.

That is another story for another time. I must thank our researcher extraordinaire, Beth Frayne, for providing her very detailed history of this section of the town of Toodyay.

Our next excursion will be to Northam where we will visit the Bilya Koort Boodja Centre for Noongar Culture and Environmental Knowledge. Meet at Drummond House at 1.30pm for carpooling or at the centre in Northam at 2pm.

The visit will be followed by a stroll along the river before a fish and chips picnic tea.

Next meeting: Wednesday March 20, 7pm at Drummond House next to the bank.

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

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

Contact PO Box 32 Toodyay WA 6566 or, toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au.

View books and displays at Drummond House on Saturdays from 10am to noon.

Membership is \$10 per annum.



A Duidgee Park picnic shelter indicates the extent of the last flood in February 2017. Photo: Beth Frayne.

**Richard Taylor**  
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# From crockery to cars – auction offers the lot

## Lions Lines Nuala Ennis

THE LIONS Club Jumbo Auction will be held on Saturday April 6 on the football oval.

The increase in the seller's fee from \$2 to \$5 aims to encourage better quality items to be offered for sale; buyers' tickets are still two dollars.

There will be no reserves for items under \$50.

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

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

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

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

We also accept cars, tractors and caravans.

For help or advice, contact Steele Williams on 9574 2903.

This year, auctioneer Tony Maddox and his assistant will once again do a tireless and professional job.

Come on down to the oval on Saturday April 6 and see them in action and enjoy the banter.

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

Sellers need to meet with Lion Steele on Friday April 5 to pay their selling fee; please complete the registration form earlier to make this job easier. Lions members will document all sale items.

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

Buyers can preview items on Friday evening April 5 – just wander around the oval to check out the goods.

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

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

Thinking of becoming a Lion – why not join the Toodyay Lions Club?

We are an eclectic group of young, young-at-heart, working and 'retired' people, that is, until they joined Lions.

We meet every second Tuesday at the Freemasons Hotel.

Contact Jim Silvester 9574 4695 or talk to us during the Lions Jumbo Auction.

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

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

The Lions Club would like to thank The Toodyay Car and Motorcycle Club for its very generous donation to the club.

Please refer to the advertisement on this page for further information and contact details.

# Doug plans an action-packed school year with 100km hike

## Toodyay YouthCARE Council (School Chaplaincy) Vivienne Freeman, Secretary

OUR FIRST council meeting for 2019 was held on February 12.

To get the year underway, our usual Big Breakfast Club was held on February 11 and was well attended by students and parents.

This year we are again able to offer Breakfast Club on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Thank you to the many volunteers who ably assisted and to Foodbank, IGA Toodyay and Bee Happy for their generosity with food supplies.

Our recent raffle was won by Mrs Soro, second prize went to Sue Thompson and third prize to Vickie Haggerty.

Our generous community contributed \$882 to our school Christian Values Education program.

Doug, our chaplain, has made his room available for students who might need time and space for a while and he will also provide pastoral care if required at the time.

He will also be the Cadets Unit Leader this year, which involves activities such as participating in the Anzac Day service, learning lifesaving skills from our emergency services groups and camps etc..

This year, 70 students have enrolled in cadets.

After the success of the last Wilderness Hike, Doug is planning an eight-day, 100km hike from Jarrahdale to Dwellingup in Term Two.

Students, start your fitness programs early. The Drumbeat program is planned for this year.

Drumbeat stands for Discovering, Relationships, Using Music, Beliefs, Emotions, Attitudes and Thoughts.

The Toodyay YouthCARE Council 2019 AGM will be held on Tuesday April 9 at 2pm at the Toodyay District High School.

Positions for nomination are chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and treasurer.

Our YouthCARE Council comprises representatives from the Anglican, Baptist, Catholic and Uniting Churches.

If anyone would like to join us on behalf of these church groups, we would be pleased to have you on board.

To our local community – we thank you for your continued support of our school chaplaincy program.

# Mini railway wagons set to roll on April 7

## Toodyay Miniature Railway June Eastwood

AS EASTER is late this year it has been decided to open the 2019 running season on Sunday April 7.

Also, the school holidays commence before Easter so our first Wednesday run will be April 17 followed by Wednesday April 24.

Trains will also operate on Easter Saturday, Sunday and Monday, April 20, 21 and 22.

On Anzac Day, Thursday April 25, the trains will not begin until midday and run to 3pm.

The Moondyne run will be on Sunday May 5.

With the exception of Anzac Day, our running times are 11am to 3pm; adults \$3 and children \$2.

Our club would welcome active new members to share in all aspects of the running and maintenance of what has become a very important part of the Toodyay tourism experience.

We are constantly upgrading and adding to the fun side of our rides and have some exciting projects in the pipeline.

We welcome the news Micaile is soon to return home to a new location within Butterly Cottages.

He has, however, enjoyed his stint at Northam Hospital where the food is so much better and there are lots of Toodyay faces among the staff.

**Sports / Events / Results**  
Read it in the Toodyay Herald  
[news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au)



**We Serve**

## LIONS Club of Toodyay Inc.

# JUMBO AUCTION

**Saturday 6th April 2019**

**Important information for SELLERS**

**Food and Drinks will be available for sale**

There will be a maximum of 500 Lots for the entire event. Lots will be accepted on Friday, April 5, 2019 from 8.00am.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Sellers with Lots of 15-20 (20 Maximum) are accepted by prior arrangement only. Please advise by close of business on Thursday, March 29 to Nuala Ennis on 0429 386 317 or [nualaennis@yahoo.com.au](mailto:nualaennis@yahoo.com.au)

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

For large and expensive items, call as above or Steele Williams 9574 2903, and please leave a message.

Delivery of these items will be on Friday, April 5, 2019 after 10.30am.

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

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

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

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

Auctioning of the goods will commence at 9am sharp on Saturday, April 6.

Seller's donation is **\$5 per Lot**, plus 10% commission on sale amount.

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

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

**Important information for BIDDERS**

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

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

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

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

# Barley brouhaha sows seeds of doubt for farmers

**Toodyay Agricultural Alliance**  
Frank Panizza

FEBRUARY is typically a quiet month for most local farmers apart from livestock work, mostly involving feeding stock and watering point maintenance.

Locally there appears to be no problems with water levels in dams and soaks, which is unsurprising as recent wet winters and unseasonably wet summers have boosted water levels.

Unfortunately, this is not the case state wide, particularly in southern areas of WA that had a dry winter.

Most sheep farmers in south-eastern coastal areas have had to resort to water carting to meet livestock requirements in some areas.

I recently attended the annual general meeting of Co-operative Bulk Handling (CBH) Group in Perth.

CBH is Australia's largest co-operative and Australia's largest grain exporter and is owned entirely by WA farmers.

The meeting was well attended by growers from around the state.

Attendees were given a thorough insight into the past season's highlights and plans for the future of the co-operative.

A worrying development that was raised at the meeting was the anti-dumping



*Australian barley being loaded onto a ship for export.*

investigation into Australian barley by China.

Last November the Chinese government instigated an investigation into whether Australian barley was being 'dumped' into

China at low prices, thus injuring local (Chinese) producers.

While investigations like these are commonplace and are completely within World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, this

investigation has particular significance for WA barley producers.

WA is the largest exporter of barley in Australia with the bulk of the crop being exported to China and there has been a substantial rise in barley exports to China over the past five years.

Barley plantings within the Shire of Toodyay and throughout the state have risen to meet this demand.

Any disruption of this trade with China is likely to have a detrimental effect on barley values and ultimately barley plantings for the upcoming growing season.

Currently it is not clear what the outcome of the investigation by China will be and what effect it will have.

An imposition of an import tariff is possible under WTO rules.

Uncertainty about barley values for the 2019 season is likely to lead to reduced planting of both malt and feed barley.

This may result in either increased sowings of wheat, canola and oats, or further increases in sheep numbers, particularly in southern areas where farmers are reluctant to replace barley with wheat due to wheat's higher susceptibility to frost.

Unfortunately, there are still reports of stock theft occurring within the shire.

If you suspect stock have been stolen, this should be reported promptly to the police.

## New committee gets cracking on this year's Show

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

PEOPLE sometimes think that community group AGMs are boring old meetings that are attended by the usual regulars and that they are best avoided – unless you want a job.

Well, I am here to tell you all that it was a very quick meeting at the recent Toodyay Agricultural Society Inc. AGM where members greeted each other like family.

There were new faces, hot cuppas and the meeting was under way.

Society president Kevin Hutchings is in his final year and all the committee want to make it a great one for him.

Kevin welcomed our new administration officer Geoff Appleby to the 'family', read out his president's report and the elections

and general business were completed.

We all agree that having our office and administration officer available to the community for a couple of days a week, is a positive public relations move in regard to our future plans and retaining our historic home at the showgrounds.

Feel free to contact Geoff on 0476 918 601 if you have any questions about the Show or call into the office.

Office opening hours will be announced in next month's *Herald*.

The new committee comprises young, fresh-faced and keen community members as well as 'the regulars' who provide the experience and knowledge in organising such a historic agricultural and community event.

Welcome to all our new committee

members whose run-up to this year's 166th Show will be interesting, enjoyable and, just as in previous years, very satisfying for all members when Show day comes around.

The committee will be working hard to, once again, present a wonderful Show on Saturday October 12.

Keep a lookout for this column in *The Herald* for monthly news as well as on our Facebook page and website, toodyayagsociety.com.au.

There is a direct link to our Ground Space Stewards on our website; very handy for all possible stallholders.

Northam will host the 2019 Royal Agricultural Society's Rural Ambassador Award later in the year.

If you are community-minded and love to challenge yourself, this rural-based State competition is a great way to network and looks good on your CV.

If you are between the age of 18 and 30 and are interested in entering this competition please contact me on 0437 099 960 or email our administration officer at toodyayagsociety@gmail.com.

Winding up, keep an eye out for the possible workshop this year; confirmation will be in next month's *Herald*.

The topic will be photography and includes getting tips from the judge on how to win the Best Exhibit sash.

Photography is a big section so the workshop should benefit all who attend.

## Rural women learn about stock theft, guns

**Women In Farming Enterprises**  
Alison Wroth

FEBRUARY'S meeting of the Toodyay branch of WIFE was excellent, with a well-organised presentation by local police representatives Jodie Jarvis and our new Officer-In-Charge Dave Flaherty.

Answering all difficult and some freaky questions put to them without a hiccup, those who made their way to the Freemasons Hotel for the seminar benefitted from the Security on the Farm and at Home information night given by the police.

Our heartfelt thanks were given to Jodie and Dave that night, as they covered items on gun control, drugs, burglary, identifying assets, stock theft and the most important thing, to contact the police even if you think you have seen something that just doesn't make sense to you.

What you see could be the one part of the bigger jigsaw that the local police are waiting on.

So don't hesitate, call the police if you see something suspicious.

In April we have organised a tour of the CBH Avon Yard in April.

For those who are keen, come along to our early April 'coffee catch-up' for new

members as we do not hold an official meeting in April.

An email with further information will be circulated with the time and date of the casual April catch-up.

Coffee, cake and information on CBH – what more can you ask for?

Our Mother's Day fundraising and information/membership stall on Friday and Saturday May 3 and 4 outside IGA includes a raffle with a load of wood for the lucky winner.

Keep an eye out in the next issue of *The Herald* for more details and a report on the AGM held on March 5.

This year's diary features interesting guest speakers, the tour of CBH's Avon Yard, agricultural risk management, CSBP soil testing and Farm Safe information intermingled with our general meetings.

With a women's relaxation evening including yoga, beauty product trials and wine tasting, it sounds like a branch membership that even a small rural landholder would consider becoming a member of.

Attend three meetings with a friend and see what you think; you might surprise yourself.

For further information contact Alison Wroth on 0437 099 960 or, warragenny@bigpong.com.

## Volunteer grants on offer

VOLUNTEERING WA, with support from LotteryWest, is offering organisations involved with volunteering the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to \$1000 to organise an event which recognises and thanks volunteers during National Volunteer Week in May.

There are a number of different ways to recognise, celebrate and promote

volunteers and volunteering, for example:

A thank-you breakfast; morning/afternoon tea; picnic; sausage sizzle; open day; awards ceremony; street parade; garden party; movie night; fun activities and self-care or yoga sessions.

For more information on the grants which close on Sunday March 10, visit volunteeringwa.org.au.

## SKELETON WEED

Skeleton Weed is a very invasive wire-like plants, has bright yellow flowers that produce white parachute style seeds, and develops a sticky, white resin-like sap when stems are broken or cut.



Skeleton Weed is spread by seed and its invasive root system. Pulling the weed will simply not eradicate the plant. The plant will sucker up from the remaining root system.

The best way to eradicate Skeleton Weed is to report it to your Local Action Group (LAG) or the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) 9368 3080.

Landholders all over the district are fighting hard to eradicate Skeleton Weed but unless all plants are reported and treated the problem will continue.



*The Skeleton Weed Program is funded by farmers for farmers.*

Please report any suspicious plants to DPIRD on **9368 3080**

# Cellarbrations

Bottle Shop at  
The Victoria Hotel  
Toodyay

**Great  
fortnightly  
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116 Stirling Terrace Toodyay



**TOODYAY**

Mon – Fri 4pm  
6pk \$8 Pints,  
\$5 House Wine

*Happy  
Hour*



## **Chefs \$15 Lunch Specials**

Mon - Fri. Changes each week.

**Check out what's on this week**

## *Evening Meal Deals*



- Mon - Chef's Pie of the week
- Tues - Parmy chips & salad
- Wed - International Chefs Choice
- Thurs - Porterhouse Steak Chips salad

**\$20**  
includes  
Pint of house beer  
or glass of  
house wine

**Sunday 17th March**

# **St Patricks Day**

Guinness on tap

Pint of Guinness and Beef and Guinness Pie \$25



**Bookings 9574 2165**