

# 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,  
Woorloo, Wundowie, Gidgegannup and local districts.

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## \$1.79m boost for sport precinct

### Premier in Toodyay to announce money for construction jobs

Michael Sinclair-Jones

WA Premier Mark McGowan has announced two State grants totalling \$1.79 million to help build new sports facilities next to a long-awaited public swimming pool on shire land near Toodyay District High School.

The funding announcement coincides with a Shire of Toodyay call for local contractors to register for work on the \$12 million project, which is expected to significantly boost local employment during construction.

The latest funding announcement is in addition to last year's Federal grant of \$4.7 million and represents a "best case scenario" mapped out by the Shire of Toodyay in December 2017.

The Premier visited Toodyay last month to make the announcement at an official civic gathering at Newcastle Gaol Museum before joining about 80 local residents for morning tea in the Memorial Hall.

He also visited the Toodyay RSL's new Clinton Street premises to inspect plans to convert the former shire gardening depot into a sub-branch headquarters, which the Premier was told requires initial funding of \$10,000 to get the building project started.

Last month's funding announcement consists of \$900,000 from the State Government's Community Sporting and Recreational Facilities Fund and a WA Lotterywest grant of \$890,000.

Mr McGowan said he grew up in rural NSW where similar projects were funded by poker machine revenue.

"I'm very pleased that in WA we don't need pokies to pay for better community facilities – this is a much better way to do it," he said.

The grants are for a new multi-purpose sports pavilion, tennis, netball and basketball courts, and a new rectangular playing field with floodlights for hockey, soccer and rugby.

The shire publicly advertised last month



WA Premier Mark McGowan chats with local residents at a 'meet-and-greet' morning tea in the Toodyay Memorial Hall last month.

an intention to borrow up to \$4.5 million from the State Treasury to help build the new \$12 million sport and recreation precinct, including a 25m swimming pool.

Last month's funding announcement reduces required borrowings to \$2.7 million and cuts annual costs to \$319,000, according to the shire's best-case scenario.

Mr McGowan said Toodyay's new precinct would become a hub for a range of local sports, provide a timely upgrade of local sporting infrastructure and help foster a

healthier, more-connected community.

"Grassroots sport is the cornerstone of country communities like Toodyay, and my government is proud to help deliver this important project," the Premier said.

"Not only will the new precinct offer better opportunities for local junior and senior sport, it will provide important work for tradespeople in a range of industries, supporting small business and local jobs."

Mr McGowan congratulated Shire Community Development Officer Debra

Andrijich – who won this year's Australia Day Toodyay Community Citizen of the Year Award – for writing the successful grant applications.

Local Labor MP Darren West said Toodyay was a growing community – the new sports and recreation project was vital to accommodate further growth into the future.

Anzac Day Dawn Service and  
Parade Thursday April 25

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### No new contract for Shire CEO

TOODYAY will get a new shire chief executive officer later this year after councillors voted 5-4 last month not to re-employ current CEO Stan Scott when his five-year contract expires on July 22.

The decision was carried by an absolute majority at a special council meeting in which Shire President Brian Rayner and Deputy President Therese Chitty twice voted against each other over whether Mr Scott should be allowed to keep the shire's top job.

Mr Scott has attracted increasing criticism since starting in 2012, culminating in last

December's announcement of a State Government inquiry into the council after a year of Local Government Department monitoring and official departmental criticism which Mr Scott tried unsuccessfully to withhold from the council.

He wrote an email described as "appalling" to former Cr Di Granger, prompting her to resign only five months after defeating former shire president David Dow by an absolute majority vote in a record Central Ward turn-out in the 2017 council elections.

Continued Page 3, Editorial Page 4.



WA Premier Mark McGowan led local residents in singing happy birthday to community volunteer Desrae Clark at morning tea in the Memorial Hall last month.

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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).

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

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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## MEMBERSHIP

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## DISTRIBUTION

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## THANK YOU

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

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# OI' Blind Joe

## Heroes for truth

AFTER the morning lecture about my drinking habits and bone idle laziness, I fired up the Thunderbird and my lovely wife Truth and rode to Adelaide.

Richard Boyle is a former Australian Taxation Office (ATO) staff member who is currently facing 161 years in jail for blowing the whistle on the ATO for its use of heavy-handed tactics and revenue targets as motivation in its collection of debts targeting vulnerable people.

He disclosed his concerns to the ATO under the Public Interest Disclosure Act.

They told him to piss off so he went to the media which resulted in an investigation by the ABC TV program *Four Corners* titled *Mongrel Bunch of Bastards*.

Exxon, BHP, Google and thousands of other corporations pay nothing or bugger all in tax while Richard faces the same time in jail as notorious convicted criminal Ivan Milat who raped and murdered seven women.

Truth and I rode over to the US to see Daniel Ellsberg who is an American writer, activist and former US military analyst who in 1971 released the *Pentagon Papers*, a top-secret Pentagon study of the US government decision-making about the Vietnam War that was published in *The New York Times*.

The US Government tried to lock him up for 115 years but he got lucky on a technicality.

Ellsberg reckons US whistleblower Chelsea Manning is again acting heroically in the name of press freedom, and it's a travesty that she has been sent back to jail for refusing to testify to a grand jury.

Former army intelligence officer Manning (31) - formerly known as Bradley Manning - was sentenced to 35 years in prison for exposing the largest cache of classified documents in US history, 700,000 of them detailing US war crimes in Iraq, to the anti-secrecy website *WikiLeaks*.

She has already been tortured, spent seven years in jail and has suffered more than enough despite having been pardoned by former US President Barack Obama for the 'crime' of informing the public about what the US was up to in Iraq.

No shit, locked up naked on a concrete floor and woken every hour.

They want her to testify that *WikiLeaks* founder Julian Assange solicited the leak which would allow them to charge Assange for printing it.

The US investigation of *WikiLeaks* for publishing is a grave threat to all journalists' rights, and Chelsea is doing us all a service for fighting it.

Ellsberg notes the leaks exposed "a massive cover-up over a number of years by the American authorities".

In 2008, a plan to destroy both *WikiLeaks* and Assange was laid out in a secret document dated 8 March 2008.

The authors were the Cyber Counter-

intelligence Assessment Branch of the US Defence Department.

Aussie journalist John Pilger explained "They described in detail how important it was to destroy, and I quote, 'the feeling of trust that is *WikiLeaks*' centre of gravity".

"This would be achieved with threats of exposure and criminal prosecution, and an unrelenting assault on reputation."

As Pulitzer Prize winning US journalist Chris Hedges warns, the mission is to "criminalise any journalistic oversight or investigation of the corporate state" and "turn leaks and whistleblowing into treason".

He notes that "the persecution of Assange is part of a broad assault against anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist news organisations [making] journalists, writers, dissidents and intellectuals ... prime targets."

In July 2010, one month before the Swedish investigation began, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had opened its own investigation into *WikiLeaks*, partnering with the US Department of Defence and the Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service.

The investigation soon became a "whole of government operation" taking in the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), Department of Justice, Central Intelligence Agency, various army divisions, the President's Intelligence Advisory Board and numerous arms of the national security state.

In tandem with this FBI-led operation, in 2010 Julian Assange was placed on a "manhunting target list" by the National Security Agency, and a Grand Jury was convened.

A 'war room' was also established under the direction of a Brigadier General at the DIA involving a "suite of government offices not far from the Pentagon", where "120 intelligence analysts, FBI agents, and others" worked "24 hours a day, seven days a week - on the frontlines of the government's secret war against *WikiLeaks*".

While there is "not a single shred of evidence that any of (*WikiLeaks*) disclosures caused anyone harm", what *WikiLeaks* did do in 2010 was expose thousands of previously unreported civilian deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan.

These deaths included the nonchalant gunning down of children, journalists and their rescuers, and other "indiscriminate violence ... torture, lies (and) bribery," writes Chris Hedges.

*WikiLeaks* is the only major Western publication without cause to ever publish a retraction, and the truth of its every authenticated published leak has never imperilled a source.

"We shall advance when we have learned humility; when we have learned to seek truth, to reveal it and publish it; when we care more for that than for the privilege of arguing about ideas in a fog of uncertainty" - Walter Lippmann, US writer, reporter, and political commentator (1889-1974).

## FEEDBACK

### Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

Suggestions and comments are welcome  
 please forward to: [feedback@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:feedback@toodyayherald.com.au)  
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## The Toodyay Herald

Office Hours are from 9am-1pm on highlighted days						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4

# Baker's daughter raised dough for local community

Ieva Tomsons

THIS month the Toodyay Op Shop celebrates 40 years of giving back to the community so it's a good time to recognise the achievements of founding member Shirley Patten.

Shirley was born in Mt Lawley in 1934 and moved with her family to Wiluna when she was four.

Wiluna was then a thriving goldmining town with three suburbs, four hotels and two bakehouses which were run by her parents Phyllis and Eric 'Cobber' Campbell.

It was a carefree and happy time for Shirley and younger brother Keith who attended the town school, which included local Aboriginal kids.

"We had an Aboriginal nanny after school and I loved her to pieces," said Shirley.

In 1945 Cobber moved the family to Toodyay to take up the dilapidated Wendourie Tearooms and bakery on Stirling Terrace where Amy's Café and Toodyay pharmacy are now located.

"Toodyay was a real culture shock to us," laughs Shirley.

"Only eight main families in town and all were related, including the Lees, Lloyds, Fergusons, Cooks and Chittys – we nicknamed them to tell them apart.

"There was a 'Fowlhouse' Chitty who kept chooks in his house."

A month after the Campbells bought the shops, the bakery was condemned and Cobber had to work hard to bring the family's living quarters and the bakehouse back up to scratch.

At the start, Cobber and Peter Lee (the other baker) mixed the dough by hand in long wide troughs, a step backwards for Cobber who was used to working with machinery.

"The whole town turned out to watch the arrival of mixing machines from Wiluna and one side of the bakery had to be taken out to get them in," Shirley recalls.

Shirley left school at 15 after missing a lot of her education due to debilitating leg ulcers, which meant she had to be lifted around by her father and at times by milkman and future husband Eric Patten who lived across the road.

"I didn't like him and nor did our dog



Shirley Patten is a founding member of Butterly Cottages Inc. and the Toodyay Op Shop.

Tarzan who would chase Eric on his milk round," Shirley said.

From her early teens, Shirley was an integral part of the family business, delivering bread around town and eventually running the Wundowie bakery which the family had purchased.

When Shirley was 18 she was pulled into a mixing bowl at Wundowie and nearly lost her life.

"Cob hadn't come back and the dough kept rising and rising," she said.

"I kept tucking it into the bowl but realised

I would have to 'knock it' (punch the dough down to enable it to rise twice before baking).

Luckily, Shirley had braced her feet against a table and the butcher's boy next door heard her screams and ran to her rescue.

By her late teens Shirley was 'a looker' and had caught the eye of Eric, who by then was a returned World War 2 veteran and captain of the Toodyay Fire Brigade.

Eric didn't get to walk her home the night she was crowned Belle of the Firemans' Ball but he did make friends with the dog, and

Eric and Shirley married in 1955 when she was 21.

As the family grew, the Patten's added rooms to their house in town, using a cement mixer Eric had given Shirley as an engagement present.

"The whole town knew if you were building another room, another baby was on the way," Shirley said.

As a young mother of four children in the early 1970s, Shirley was active in the local preschool and eventually worked as a teacher's assistant for the princely sum of \$108 a fortnight.

The preschool needed bigger premises and Shirley approached former shire CEO Brian Harris who asked her to pick a block of land in Hamersley Street.

"Ian Murray was the shire president and it seemed to go up overnight," Shirley said.

In 1975 the pre-school was taken over by the State Government.

The out-of-town mothers who helped at the preschool were left with three hours of spare time and Shirley decided to organise them to raise funds to build independent living units for Toodyay's senior citizens – Butterly Cottages.

She started the Toodyay Op Shop, which grew gradually from a base of eight volunteer mothers who staffed it.

The Op Shop was started next to the former Toodyay Tavern before moving to Connor's Cottage in Piesse Street and finally to its current location in Stirling Terrace.

"The Op Shop's first takings (\$200) went to Butterly Cottages but over the years we have given \$600,000 to all of Toodyay's community groups," said Shirley who was voted 1977 Toodyay Citizen of the Year.

Lending a hand to people in need is second nature to Shirley.

From her family supplying meals and looking out for the town's old characters such as 'Corporal' Campbell, 'Happy' Donegan and 'Crusty' Lloyd, Shirley's need to contribute has been integral to the establishment of three valuable Toodyay institutions – the local preschool, Op Shop and Butterly Cottages.

If only she had found the time to take on the swimming pool.

## Council leadership split as shire president loses bid to retain CEO

Continued from Page 1.

MR SCOTT and Shire President Rayner were also found by a separate internal inquiry last year to have breached the Shire of Toodyay Code of Conduct by publishing "derogatory" statements in the shire's ratepayer-funded April 2018 *Toodyay Community Newsletter*, for which the pair have refused to apologise.

These matters are now being examined by three Perth investigators conducting an 'authorised inquiry' into the Toodyay Shire Council and its administration.

Mr Scott's performance was raised when the council met behind closed doors last month to consider his bid for a new contract.

He was invited to address the start of the meeting and said he had done an outstanding

job for the shire and that a new three to five-year contract was considered normal.

Mr Scott then left the chamber and councillors spent the next hour and a half discussing whether to re-employ him.

Cr Eric Twine's motion that Mr Scott be offered a new two-year contract was lost 4-5, with only President Rayner and Crs Twine, Paula Greenway and Judy Dow in support.

Cr Bill Manning, seconded by Cr Craig Brook, then moved that Mr Scott not be offered a new contract.

It was carried 5-4 by Deputy President Chitty and Crs Rob Welburn, Ben Bell, Manning and Brook, with Cr Rayner and the other three councillors against.

Cr Manning then successfully moved that

President Rayner and Deputy President Chitty obtain three quotes from professional recruitment agencies to look for a new CEO.

Cr Brook, an oil and gas industry safety expert whose council-approved six-month leave of absence ended last month, emailed his resignation – effective from April 1 – to President Rayner at the end of the meeting.

The West Ward councillor, who owns a house in Morangup and was elected last year, said he could not find work locally to support his family and had taken a job in Victoria managing bulk fuel supplies at Adelaide and Melbourne airports.

"Morangup is my home and I hope to be able to return to live and work here and run for council again," he told *The Herald*.

Cr Brook said President Rayner told him the shire would seek Local Government Department advice on whether to call a fresh election to fill the vacancy or wait until next October's council elections when Crs Dow, Welburn, Twine and Bell's terms expire.

The council decided earlier this year to seek State permission to abolish electoral wards to enable all Toodyay electors to vote for every candidate, regardless of locality.

The October elections are expected to be by postal ballot after a 2017 switch from 'in-person' voting lifted local voter turn-out from near WA's worst to almost the best.

It is understood that at least two councillors whose terms expire in October may decide not to recontest their seats.

Registered Repairer MRB6464

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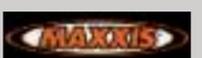
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## ANZAC DAY

Thursday April 25



The way we were – This photograph of one of Toodyay's earliest Anzac Day services is thought to have been taken in the late 1920s or early 1930s, when the full horror of World War I (1914-18) and the loss of 26 local lives and many more wounded were still fresh in the minds of those pictured. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum. More Page 5.

## The Toodyay Herald

### Credibility shredded

A TOODYAY Shire Council decision not to offer CEO Stan Scott a new contract of employment suggests that Shire President Brian Rayner no longer has the majority support of the council.

Cr Bill Manning, who last month introduced a successful motion to replace Mr Scott, said in January that appointing a CEO was the most important decision that any council can make.

He was talking about delaying proceedings until absent Cr Craig Brook could return to Toodyay to take part in the council debate and cast his vote.

It proved decisive last month when Cr Brook joined Shire Deputy President Therese Chitty and Crs Manning, Rob Welburn and Ben Bell to oppose President Rayner and three other councillors in a vote not to renew the CEO's contract.

To his credit, President Rayner did not join in the acrimonious slanging match that erupted inside the chamber three hours after the decision was made and continued on the steps outside.

But the outcome left President Rayner and his allies on the losing side of a battle to control a council that is currently under a formal State Government investigation into its actions and behaviour.

He and the CEO also both have an official finding of misconduct against them for publishing a 'derogatory statement' in an April 2018 *Toodyay Community Newsletter*, for which there has been no apology or retraction.

It was further revealed last month that the pair took it upon themselves to "form a view that an apology was not warranted" for their misconduct – and didn't tell the council.

In response to *Herald* questions asking how they came to that conclusion, President Rayner said "I regard efforts by *The Toodyay Herald* to attack the shire newsletter and demand its censorship as self-serving".

"It would appear *The Herald* supports free speech only for itself and censorship for everyone else, and especially everyone who has a differing point of view".

No, Mr President, a differing point of view is what free speech is all about.

The bigger question is your failure to apologise for the official finding of misconduct against you and the CEO, and whether you still have any credibility left to lead our shire council.

Michael Sinclair-Jones  
Editor

## LETTERS

### Growing pains

IN 2011 when I went on council, *Facebook* and other social platforms were largely unused by my generation and the workings of council were largely unknown within the community.

News was passed by word of mouth and the local paper and we rarely checked if it was factual.

Life seemed simpler and happier.

Today, we are unsettled by politics, division seems rife in the town and the ills of the community have been laid at the feet of a few, which few depends on the point of view.

The overarching sentiment is it was all fine before *Facebook*, *The Herald* and an outspoken minority.

I disagree. What we have today is the teething pains of a community entering an era of instant communication.

Like children, we are learning the boundaries, the limits of privacy, what is newsworthy and what is mischief; we are learning to moderate our delivery and be more kind. And, we are learning quickly.

If we consider the first forays into the brave new world of social media which were dominated by rage, profanity, gossip and nastiness, then we have made significant gains.

We now engage in mostly informed debate. Information is shared and current.

Most now understand how they are governed. Voices can be heard.

We find our missing pets, get great bargains and we assist each other.

Most of all, we are interacting on a level never seen before and no one is excluded.

No, it isn't as simple, but it is more truthful as less is hidden.

Old values and new technology are merging, and we will be richer for it.

There may be some bruising in the transition but it will be worth it.

Rosemary Madacsi  
West Toodyay

### Bridge heritage important

A REAL effort has been put into tourism during the past 12 months with several exciting initiatives underway, including two I coordinate voluntarily for the Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

They are the Toodyay promotional seasonal videos, with its last video *Toodyay in Autumn* being filmed now, and a new Toodyay Food and Picnic Trail to be launched next month.

To support the ever-increasing opportunities that flow from tourism, it is important that we value heritage and view it as a key attraction.

We have some amazing heritage buildings maintained by the Shire of Toodyay, including Connors Mill and Newcastle Museum, and I urge preservation of heritage-listed Ringa Bridge, near Coorinja Winery.

This bridge has significant value both in heritage and tourism, and needs to be maintained for all to experience.

Helen Shanks  
Toodyay

### We live in a town that cares

THANK you to the anonymous honest person or persons who collected my purse and handed it in to the police station on March 25.

I had put my purse on the roof of my car before driving away and of course it landed on the road.

What a wonderful and caring community we live in.

Thank you, whoever you are.

Jennifer Clarke  
Toodyay

### Gold on our doorstep

IN THE early days of WA, migrants from the eastern states and overseas came to find gold.

Having spent most of my life travelling around the globe with the Royal Air Force I found my gold right here in Toodyay.

Just a glance out of the window right now is proof of that.

How fortunate are we, the discoverers of Toodyay.

In many respects we are fortunate that not too many people have discovered the place, otherwise we could become another crowded and over-developed town.

We have absolute riches on our doorstep with the hills, river, the community (even with the odd blip), and the occasional bleating of sheep which can be heard on a still evening as we watch the magnificent setting sun all accompanied, of course, by a nice glass of wine.

I'm proud to call Toodyay my home for almost the past 30 years.

Here's to you Toodyay – cheers.

Allan Henshaw  
Toodyay

### History worth keeping

AS A relative newcomer to Toodyay (but not to the Wheatbelt) I am informing myself about the history of the Avon Valley.

Currently I'm reading *Old Toodyay and Newcastle* by Rica Erickson and *Toodyay-The Good Old Days* by Wally Chitty.

Each a terrific read (recommended), although with different timeframes and perspectives.

It has made me realise how fragile the colony was at times and the tenacity needed to settle and develop the Avon Valley region.

What struck me about Wally Chitty's largely anecdotal account, which is mainly confined to the 20th Century, is the sense of spirit, innovation and community.

Both he and Erickson have included photographs and maps which, collectively, have made me see how much architectural heritage we have lost both in town and beyond.

Chitty includes a map of the main street which illustrates all the buildings and businesses that existed in the first half of the 20th Century.

Toodyay is universally appreciated for what remains of our historic architectural heritage and village charm, not to mention the superb setting.

That is a large part of why we love living here and why Toodyay is such a drawcard for tourists.

The shire has a responsibility, within reason, to preserve and conserve the town's heritage and I'm sure we all try to work within their guidelines to do just that.

However, sometimes it is the little things that are, or aren't implemented, in the name of progress or convenience, that work against our goal.

The renovation of The Victoria Hotel is to be applauded.

It is so good to have two operational pubs in town, each offering something different, both of which need to be appreciated and patronised.

However, the new modern doors on the street façade of The Vic are an oversight.

If heritage matters, they should be reviewed.

Another concern is the Ringa Railway Bridge which is located near the Coorinja Winery.

I am under the impression that while some people know about it, few people have seen it.

Built in 1888 as part of the infrastructure for the Toodyay-Clackline rail line, it remains standing today as the longest wooden railway bridge in WA.

It is a sight to behold and is in relatively good condition.

The Ringa Railway Bridge cannot be seen clearly from the main road, but when next visiting the Coorinja Winery take a stroll a couple of hundred metres past the cellars where the bridge is in all its glory.

In the meantime, let's be more vigilant about our heritage – it matters.

Frank Farmer  
Toodyay

### Morangup miracle

OUR sincerest thanks to that dedicated team of very special people on the official opening of the Morangup St John Ambulance facility on March 1.

What a debt we owe, and continue to owe, to those who built and to those who now operate such a skilled and professional service by day and night in caring for us.

Having witnessed this miracle from its inception to that which it provides to our community today, makes me truly thankful to belong among those men and women who are intent on ensuring our welfare.

We are truly blessed. Thank you all.

Peter Kirkland  
Morangup

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.

# Birth of memorial to honour Toodyay's fallen soldiers

Last month The Herald published an edited extract from Toodyay RSL President **Peter Brennan's** history of the local sub-branch to mark this year's 100th anniversary of its formation soon after World War 1 (1914-18) ended. This month's story covers the building of the Toodyay War Memorial, which was opened in December 1921.

BY JULY 1919, several Toodyay community members had become aware of moves in other nearby towns to erect public memorials to honour local soldiers who fell in the Great War, which had ended only eight months earlier.

It was suggested that a monument in a town park or some other suitable place would be most fitting for Toodyay.

A public meeting was held in June 1920 at the Toodyay Roads Board chambers (now occupied by the Toodyay Public Library) in Stirling Terrace to discuss raising funds to erect a memorial to honour fallen soldiers from the Toodyay district.

Roads Board members were asked to form a committee to achieve this goal, and Toodyay RSL members voted in March 1921 that the memorial be a stone obelisk.

The committee inspected various sites and decided by May 1921 to build it on Lot 19 of the old Toodyay town plan at the corner of Clinton Street and Fiennes Street.

C J Cook, B L Clarkson, H T Weston, R MacCallum and J Somers were appointed to make arrangements to have the monument erected.

Once the site was decided, the community set about beautifying the park.

## Working bees

WORKING bees were organised between May and August 1921 to complete preparatory works for the memorial and also to lay out new nearby tennis courts.

The *Toodyay Herald* of 16 July 1921 reported that "there were over 60 workers at the working bee in the park last Wednesday ... workers were busy with ploughs, scoops, hoists and drays while the many pick and shovel men were hard at it filling the drays ... about 150 tons of earth was removed ... it was a credit to the district to see volunteers turn out in such large numbers".

A *Herald* announcement on 10 December 1921 read: "Toodyay Soldiers Memorial TOODYAY'S GREAT DAY - Sunday, December 18 promises to be a red-letter day in the history of Toodyay".

"This is the date set apart for the unveiling of the Toodyay Soldiers Memorial when hundreds of residents will gather at the park to watch the proceedings and do honour to the boys of the district 'who offered their lives and services to their country in a great hour of need'," the *Herald* said.

"There is no need to stress the importance of the function.

"Everyone knows Toodyay's proud record during the enlistment period and it is hoped that everyone for miles around will endeavour to be present even if it is only to show they are still proud of that record.

"His Excellency the Governor (Sir Francis Newdegate) has accepted the invitation to attend and will perform the ceremony, while no doubt other distinguished personages who were invited will also be present.

"Relatives of deceased soldiers are particularly asked to witness the ceremony as the day to them will carry a special significance - perhaps that little monument of granite will serve as a link between their lost loved ones and them.



RSL memorial unveiled in December 1921.

"The ceremony takes place at 4pm and as a large crowd is expected it is hoped that those who can will arrive early, more especially does this refer to children who will have to be accommodated with front view positions otherwise, for them the ceremony will be a blank.

"Children are also reminded that *The Herald* will give two prizes of 5/- (five shillings) and 2/6 (two shillings and sixpence) for the best two descriptions of the ceremony sent in by them by the following Wednesday, the editor of this paper to be the judge."

The obelisk was funded by public subscriptions, designed by Perth firm Wilson and Gray and made of polished Western Australian granite.

The *Herald* noted that shady trees and lawns were required as an improvement.

## Unveiling ceremony

THE MEMORIAL unveiling ceremony took place on a hot Sunday 18 December 1921.

Returned soldiers paraded for the ceremony, led by Australian Army/Flying Corps Service Capt. Reginald MacCallum, a Toodyay bank clerk who served in Sinai, Syria and Palestine and was wounded at Gallipoli.

The official party consisted of the Governor, prominent Perth architect and former commander of the 5th Australian Division in World War 1, Major-General Sir Talbot Hobbs, Premier Sir James Mitchell and his wife Lady (Clara) Mitchell.

Northam buglers A and N Caddy played the *Last Post*, medals were presented, wreaths laid and the gathering sang *Abide With Me*, English poet Rudyard Kipling's *Recessional Hymn* and former Australian national anthem *God Save the King*.

The *West Australian* newspaper reported in September 1922 that Toodyay would soon have an Arbour Day when trees would be planted to honour fallen soldiers from the local district.

There were 26 names in all, and the necessary trees - red and white flowering gums - had already arrived.

The *West* said that school children would play a prominent part in proceedings.

Organisers intended, if possible, for a tree to be planted by a relative of each of the 26 fallen local soldiers.

Late local historian Wally Chitty wrote in his book *Toodyay - The Good Old Days* that

the memorial park was upgraded in 1929 when the trees were planted, each marked by a metal plaque with the name of a local fallen soldier from Great War placed in alphabetical order from the front gate.

## Sandakan shirts presented as RSL prepares for Anzac Day



Left to right: Kylea Garnett, Ellea White, Peter Brennan, Mackenna Cousinery, Brian Rayner, Charlene Dayman, Dr Michael McGuinness, Carolynne Haigh, Andrea Carling, Ina Prior and Lou Kidd at the Sandakan Scholarship presentation.

## Toodyay RSL Sub-branch Jacqui Graham

SANDAKAN shirts were presented recently to our 2018-2019 scholarship recipients in the company of family, project sponsors and Toodyay RSL Sub-branch members.

Congratulations again to Ellea White and Mackenna Cousinery.

Anzac Day is fast approaching and the sub-branch is busy preparing for the event.

The program for Anzac Day Thursday April 25 starts at 6am with the Dawn Service followed by the Gunfire Breakfast at the Wicklow shearing shed in Clinton Street Toodyay.

At 10.30am the parade forms up at the front of the Memorial Hall in Stirling Terrace.

The Main Service will be held at Anzac Memorial Park at 11am.

Members will be outside the IGA on Wednesday April 17 and Thursday April 18 from 8am for the Annual Anzac Day Street Appeal - please drop by.

Planning is well underway for the Centenary Ball in October and members are reminded to get their tickets before Tuesday April 30.

Come and join us for a great night out with live music, three course meal and great fellowship.

Details were in the last sub-branch newsletter which was sent to all members.

Further information can be obtained from Paul or Irene on either 9574 4630 or 0466 984 301.

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# Searches, crashes, naked man keep cops busy

## Police Beat

With Sgt Dave Flaherty  
Toodyay Police Station



TWO SEARCHES for missing people in recent weeks have stretched local police resources the limit.

A Wundowie man in his 30s driving home after a doctor's appointment in Perth had to call a friend at 11.30pm from Bolgart to say he was lost.

The friend asked him to drive to the next road sign to report his position but didn't hear back and later reported the missing motorist to police.

Officers became concerned for the man's safety when they were told he needed to take to take prescribed medication which he had left at home.

"We sent out four police vehicles in a search that went all night," Toodyay police chief Sgt Dave Flaherty said.

"We finally found the man driving in Stirling Terrace near the Toodyay Police Station at about 6am next day.

"He was very disoriented and confused, and in urgent need of medical attention due to the lack of his normal medication.

"The man was taken to Northam Hospital to recover."

A second, much bigger search for another missing man was called off when his body was discovered on March 31.

Police said there were no suspicious circumstances.

### Twister rips off roofs

THREE local houses were significantly damaged when a cockeyed bob (also known as a willy-willy or dust devil) ripped through West Toodyay last month, tearing off roofs and sending debris high into the air.

The red dust twister struck suddenly in Waters Road at about 4.40pm on a Tuesday afternoon, forcing residents in its path to take shelter.

Hail also fell in some places.

Sgt Flaherty said SES volunteers searching nearby for the missing West Toodyay man were able to arrive quickly at the scene to help safely secure damaged properties.

Nobody was injured.

### Two dead in car smashes

TWO PEOPLE were killed in separate car crashes near Toodyay last month.



Nobody was injured when this cockeyed bob ripped through West Toodyay last month.

The first fatal accident occurred at about 5pm on Friday March 22 about 5km north of Bolgart on the Bindi Bindi-Toodyay Road.

A Miling man in his mid 50s was driving home alone on a straight stretch of the 110km/h road when his Subaru wagon veered off the bitumen into a tree.

The force of the head-on impact crushed the engine compartment and the vehicle was a write-off.

The second fatal accident occurred on Friday March 29 in Grass Valley when a person was killed in a single-vehicle accident during the morning while heading east on Great Eastern Highway.

"It's been quite a while since we've had any fatal road accidents and I urge people to take more care when driving."

"The message is slow down and pay attention," Sgt. Flaherty said.

### Naked suspect pinched

A TOODYAY man suspected of several local burglaries and thefts was arrested and charged by police after being spotted naked at Pelham Reserve lookout last month.

Police received a call about a naked man at the lookout and went to investigate.

The naked man turned out to be already on bail with a night-time curfew after being previously charged with burglaries at the Toodyay District High School and Freemasons Hotel in February.

Local police had just received DNA test results from an earlier incident which resulted in further charges of burglary and damage to an empty house in Folewood Road after a 79-year-old woman who lived alone passed away in January.

The 35-year-old man was due to face court this month.

### Nicky off to Midland

SEN. CONST. Nicky Turner will work her last shift at Toodyay Police Station on Friday April 12 after 5½ years in the job.

She has a new post at the police breath and drugs unit in Midland where her husband – former Toodyay police chief Sgt Warren Conder – started work in January.

"He won't be my boss – I'm working in another part of the building," she said laughing, although Sgt Flaherty said everyone knew who the real boss was.

"We'll miss Nicky very much because she provided valuable service to our local community, including as acting officer-in-charge this year before I started and at other times previously," Sgt Flaherty said.

The couple have built a house in Toodyay and plan to return when they retire from police work.



Sen. Const. Nicky Turner.

## Safety group changes name

SaferToodyay  
Allen Clabaugh

THE TOODYAY RoadWise Committee and Toodyay Community Radio have become the most recent local organisations to sign on to the Choose Respect initiative.

The initiative provides a common language and framework and aims to foster a culture of respect in homes, schools, work places and the community.

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

The Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association has been renamed and will become SaferToodyay.

In keeping with our new badge, we're looking for a few good people to help out with our expanding roles.

We also want to form an autonomous Choose Respect committee and any volunteers would be most welcome.

The eyes and ears of the Toodyay community are invaluable in assisting the police in crime prevention so contact police or Crimestoppers to notify them of any suspicious behaviour.

Every bit of intelligence becomes a vital piece in solving the jigsaw puzzle of crime even if a particular suspicious activity doesn't seem that way at the time.

For further information on how your organisation can become a Choose Respect participant and how you can participate in

SaferToodyay, contact secretary Wayne Clarke at info@safertoodyay.org.au or chairperson Allen Clabaugh at chair@safertoodyay.org.au.

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

## \$300,000 grant to upgrade shire security

THE FEDERAL Government will provide \$300,000 in funding to the Shire of Toodyay for the installation of CCTV and security infrastructure.

The funding has been allocated under Round 3 of the government's \$30 million Safer Communities Fund which supports local communities to address crime and anti-social behaviour and protects organisations that may face risks from racial or religious intolerance.

This Round 3 commitment brings the total amount available under the Safer Communities Fund to \$70 million between 2016-17 and 2019-20.

The fund will deliver more than 300 projects across Australia.

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## EMERGENCY SERVICES



If you see a fire Facebook is not the right place to report it. Ring 000.

## Forget about Facebook – ring 000 when you see smoke

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade  
Julimar**  
Alison Wroth

STILL no rain in sight and the stubble will be alight soon as local farmers get the go ahead to burn in preparation for this year's crops.

Definitely not a wet start to the year like last year but this should keep us alert even though the fire season is drawing to a close.

Due to the tinder-dry nature of the pasture and reserves, it is still not a good time to burn that pile of rubbish that has been sitting there and growing in size through summer.

Thankfully, there haven't been many callouts recently, so members only meet on the Friday evenings for changeover and vehicle checks along with the usual gathering at The Fireplace – even though supper has been on the slim side in recent weeks.

If names are not up on the Friday roster for supper, no supper will be available and any complaining will go unnoticed.

We have heard that during the fire season, people are still not in the habit of calling 000 in an emergency when they see a column of smoke, especially black smoke.

The trend now is to post fire questions on Facebook but social media can give false information.

Even if you ring your neighbour to check, they will only tell you to ring 000, so do that immediately and save time before the fire is out of control and running.

One of our firefighters, Tegan Martin, was successful in her application to a Volunteer Leadership Program for three months on Christmas Island.

Julimar brigade is covering her out-of-pocket expenses and we await her return to hear what she learnt from the program.

Congratulations Tegan, skill-up and absorb as much as you can about leadership; just

make sure you phone home every once in a while.

At the last general meeting, there was a motion to build a BBQ and outdoor kitchen at the back of the fire shed next to the water tank – just in case the chops burn.

Thank you to Simon for volunteering to undertake the planning of this new project which will keep the smoke of overcooked sausages far away from The Fireplace.

We look forward to the final result. A donation of \$1500 was made to us by the Op Shop ladies recently. This was out of the blue and much appreciated.

We all value and respect what the Op Shop does for the Toodyay Community we will put the donation to excellent use.

Our next meeting is on Saturday April 13 at 6pm but if you want to meet us any time before that, come down to The Fireplace to meet the brigade members who might one day be protecting your home and property.

We gather on Friday nights at 5.30pm for a few drinks and a spin of the Chook Raffle wheel.

Come on down and we'll see you there.



Ring Triple Zero for fires.

## Patient transport on its way

**St John Ambulance  
Toodyay Sub-Centre**  
Charlie Wroth

ALTHOUGH we were initially advised that it would take about four months before our community transport vehicle would be delivered, we are expecting it to arrive early this month.

This is great news as it means that we will

be able to get the service up and running much earlier than anticipated.

We are in the process of training our voluntary drivers and a number of details still have to be finalised before we can pick up our first patient, but we would expect that the service should be available by June.

Updates will be published in *The Herald* in the coming months.

## Finding a child-safe search engine

**Computer Safety**  
Phil Hart

PARENTS can be rightly concerned at what their children see when a search engine produces inappropriate or upsetting results.

There are some search engines that are aimed at children.

While no technology works 100 per cent of the time, those search engines can be a useful starting point.

The reactions of some parents have been very mixed, so it pays to check out a selection of search engines along with any reviews for yourself.

Some search engines are free, some carry advertisements, and some have extra features that you pay for.

A listing of search engines can be found at

[bit.ly/2IGx9k3](http://bit.ly/2IGx9k3).

The Google search engine also has a safe search facility; click on 'settings' at the bottom of their page and then click on 'search settings' to turn on SafeSearch.

Some of these search engines use curated results from manual searches by other people but they can sometimes miss useful web pages, so it means children can miss out.

Even with curated pages, they can be hacked by unscrupulous people and so return inappropriate content.

Perhaps the best approach is to use a mixture of safe search engines and education, teaching your children the risks that are still present and how best to respond to them.

You can find more information at [bit.ly/2ftdsfq](http://bit.ly/2ftdsfq).  
Happy surfing.

## Colin jumps on board with a heavy truck licence

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

LAST month we put out a plea for an additional member with a Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) licence, and much to our surprise we got one.

Bejoording resident Colin Sherrard has an HGV licence and put his hand up to join the brigade.

Welcome aboard Colin, and we'll get you trained up and kitted out well before the next fire season.

We've also had another expression of interest from another suitable driver, so watch this space.

There have been more callouts during March, nothing too serious, but it puts our rostering to the test.

Well done to all who responded.

Just a reminder to members that there is a computer in the brigade office where you can

access the Department of Fire Emergency Services eLearning portal in comfort, peace and quiet without chewing up your home internet.

Our next meeting, at 5.45pm, will be a week later than normal due to the Good Friday holiday on April 26.

We are now in a permit period and hopefully will soon be able to light domestic fires on our properties without restrictions.

The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to be vigilant and careful lighting any fire.

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

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

Advice is free but getting it wrong can be expensive.

If you have any questions remember you can contact captain Barry Grey on 9574 2149 or The Badger on 0414 250 484.

Please leave a message if we're not there.



Grass fires can easily turn into major fires.

## Nominees need to be active firies

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade  
Morangup**  
Sue Maddrell

THE BRIGADE will hold its AGM at 5.30pm on Saturday April 27, followed by an ordinary general meeting; all are welcome to attend.

All executive positions will be declared vacant and only active firefighters can vote.

Those wishing to nominate should write to [secretarymvbfb@gmail.com](mailto:secretarymvbfb@gmail.com) by 5pm on Friday April 26.

The nominee must have been an active member for 12 months.

The nomination must also be seconded by an active member.

There will be a barbecue after the meetings so please bring a salad to share. Meat will be supplied.

Last month there were only a few fires in the shire and lightning seems to have been the main cause.

There are some training courses coming up that a few of our new volunteers are interested in doing.

Remember, we are still in a restricted

burning period and a permit must be obtained by accessing the Toodyay Shire website and completing an online application form.

It's been a long dry summer and we would all appreciate a bit of rain.

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## EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Morangup ambos finally get their own space

**St John Ambulance  
Morangup Sub-Centre**  
Dennis Bertoldo

AN AMBULANCE first responder group was established in Morangup in 2009 and the ambulance was temporarily housed in the Morangup Fire Station while alternate accommodation was found.

The local sub-branch was formed in response to the increasing number of people moving to the area.

Housing the ambulance in Morangup significantly reduces the time taken to respond to local calls and eases the workload of Toodyay's crews.

A facility was required to house the ambulance and provide a place for volunteers to debrief, rest and clean up after call-outs.

It consists of a two-bay garage, kitchen, office/storeroom, lounge area, bathroom and undercover parking area and features an off-grid photovoltaic system with battery back-up.

The project was funded by Toodyay sub-centre with materials donated by Midland Brick and Austral Brick.

Local tradespeople and committee volunteers contributed hours of time and labour to complete the centre.



*The opening of the St John Ambulance Morangup Sub-Centre on March 1.*

The ambulance is expected to cater for about 300 patient cases per year.

Morangup is a sub-branch of St John Toodyay and Districts Sub-Centre.

If anyone would like to volunteer, visit: [changelives.stjohnwa.com.au/changelives](http://changelives.stjohnwa.com.au/changelives).

## Charlie Wroth gets top gong

CHARLIE Wroth (*see picture on right*), Chairperson of the St John Ambulance Toodyay Sub-Centre, is to be awarded the Order of St John at the Annual Investiture of the Western Australian Commandery of the Order of St John on Saturday, April 6.

Being admitted to the Order is the highest honour that a volunteer can be awarded within the St John's Awards and Recognition program.

Service needs to be recognised as outstanding and is measured by the quality of an individual's service, identifiable achievements during that service and the level of impact on the organisation and community because of that service.

St John Ambulance Toodyay Sub-Centre volunteers and the community congratulate Charlie on this well-deserved honour.



*From left: Simon Burke, Regional Manager Wheatbelt, St John Ambulance, Kim Maddrell and Charlie Wroth celebrate the official opening of the St John Ambulance Morangup Sub-Centre.*



**St John**

# St John Ambulance "Provide First Aid" HLTAID003

## One day course To be held on Saturday 4 May 2019

St John Ambulance, Stirling Terrace Toodyay

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

Contact Carolynne for further details:  
Phone: 0428 957 600 or 9574 2390  
Email: [sjatoodyay@bigpond.com](mailto:sjatoodyay@bigpond.com)

**Free first aid kit for all participants**

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Local residents calling for no high-density housing in Perth Hills. From left: Rob Roget, Claire Palmer and Claire Hurst. Photo: Zac Williams.

## Big land developer admits failure to consult 200 neighbouring residents

Debra Bishop

THE CAMPAIGN to oppose a suburban land development for 4000 residents in North Stoneville is hotting up with land developer Satterley admitting it hasn't actively consulted with the estimated 200 residents potentially impacted by the proposed housing development.

Representatives from the Save Perth Hills campaign recently met with senior Satterley executives to exchange views on the controversial plans to build a high-density suburban-style development in a fire prone region of Stoneville, currently rated 'extreme'.

General Manager Operations of Satterley, Brendan Gorringer, revealed to the meeting that the company had not directly contacted or consulted residents whose properties surrounded the proposed development of 1450 homes for thousands of residents.

"We have not gone out and door-knocked the residents, no," Mr Gorringer said.

Mr Gorringer said Satterley believed the Mundaring Shire had adequately informed residents.

Save Perth Hills Chairperson, Amy Collins said it was very disappointing to hear Mr Gorringer's comments.

"The community deserves to know, from Satterley, exactly what they plan for this area and how it might affect those who will, essentially, be 'neighbours' of 4000 new residents," Ms Collins said.

"Satterley told us they've held 'community meetings' to talk to local groups, many of whom, we believe, have no direct impact with or connection to the proposed development.

"With some of these blocks planned to be less than 350sqm – meaning up to 57 homes could be built on a five-acre property, the neighbours need to know," she said.

The meeting was told Satterley is still doing more work regarding bushfire evacuation access and design, and that the proposed

North Stoneville townsite will be Satterley's first ever attempt at building an entire townsite to required Bushfire Attack Level standards.

"We have the best minds assisting us in this as we have never done this before," Mr Gorringer said.

Save Perth Hills is holding a community rally on Sunday April 7 at 10.30am at Mundaring Sculpture Park.

The rally will call on Mundaring Shire councillors to reject the plan and say 'no' to Satterley's Local Structure Plan 34.

"Perth's hills are essentially Perth's backyard," said Ms Collins.

"This development will be the precedent for suburban-design and high density throughout the hills.

"We need to think and plan very carefully about how, as a hills community, we would like the future of the hills to look, for those of us who currently live here, and for future generations."

The Mundaring Shire Council plans to hold a Special Council Meeting, most likely in May, to deliver its recommendations.

The Mundaring Shire has withdrawn its intention to fine residents who display banners, opposing the development, on their private property.

## Free school help online

THE DIGITAL Technologies Hub website provides free up-to-date resources on digital technologies, including school lesson plans and activities.

Students who want to explore an interest in all things digital and parents who want to play a more active role in their child's education can easily access the hub's contents.

A recent addition to the hub has been inclusive education resources for students with a disability and for gifted and talented students.

To access the resources and activities, visit [digitaltechnologieshub.edu.au/](http://digitaltechnologieshub.edu.au/).

# Tempers flare ahead of budget meetings

## The Insider



Ben Bell

I EXPECT much will be said and written by others about recent events, including a council decision not to renew the employment contract of the shire's most senior employee.

There is little benefit in me providing additional commentary on the matter other than to reiterate that your council decided, by an absolute majority, that it would prefer a new CEO to lead the shire administration come the end of July this year.

The recruitment process for a new shire CEO has commenced and I would expect that updates will be provided to the community at regular intervals.

Putting the actual issue of the CEO's employment to one side for a moment, recent events appear to have revealed a toxic sub-culture that exists within the Toodyay Shire Council.

Take for example an allegation that immediately after last month's council meeting ended, two councillors harangued another councillor because he voted against renewing the CEO's contract.

### Angry shouting

MOMENTS later outside the chamber and in front of startled onlookers, including kids playing basketball across the road, a third councillor shouted angry abuse at another councillor because during the meeting – but more than an hour after the information became public – he posted a brief, factual statement on Facebook that the CEO was not getting a new contract.

This was followed next morning by an apology emailed to six senior staff and all other councillors for "the raising of my voice" but repeating that the previous day's Facebook post was "disrespectful".

Later that afternoon, a councillor involved in the first incident in the chamber emailed everyone – including the six senior shire employees – that the Facebook post was "unacceptable but is at the very least consistent" and that "there was quite a bit of emotion in the chamber last night so no apologies required".

In short, council's decision not to renew the current CEO's employment contract appears to have touched a sensitive nerve within some parts of council and has resulted in a less than professional response.

According to *The Toodyay Herald*, the WA Local Government Department has been concerned for some time about our council's behaviour.

This may explain why the State Government's current 'authorised inquiry' into the Toodyay Shire Council includes 'culture' as one of several areas under investigation.

I mention this not to rake over the coals of recent events but out of a genuine concern

that fallout from these unrelated events may inhibit the effectiveness of the shire's budget process, which is scheduled to commence later this month.

The Toodyay community can ill-afford any member of its council being preoccupied with the now resolved topic of the CEO's contract when they enter the first of four budget workshops on Thursday April 4.

Nor can the community afford a councillor to harbour any ill-will towards another councillor over the CEO matter when negotiating the unrelated issue of a shire budget.

The coming financial year's budget process will need to be significantly different from all previous years.

Traditionally, budget negotiations tend to be a top-down affair rather than bottom-up.

This means that the council almost always uses last year's budget as a template upon which it makes a few minor tweaks.

As a result, very little in the shire budget appears to change year after year.

This process is OK if the shire is operating in a predictable environment without any significant changes in its activities.

This year, however, we are about to embark on the ambitious and long-awaited construction of Toodyay's Sport and Recreation Precinct which will require about 10 per cent of the shire's total rate revenue for at least the next 20 years, starting this year.

Significant cuts will need to be made in other areas of shire expenditure to absorb the extra half a million dollars or so that the Sport and Recreation Precinct will cost ratepayers each year going forward.

In my view, only a complete bottom-up budget process in which the council identifies, ranks and funds its priorities will ensure that vital areas of community events, parks and reserves, road funding and emergency services receive the appropriate level of funding into the future.

After all, the last thing anyone would want to see is the shire's ability to fund these vital community services and areas adversely affected by cost-saving measures to pay for building and operating the new recreation centre.

### Leave baggage at the door

THIS requires that everyone leaves any baggage associated from the council's CEO contract decision at the door so that we as a collective body can nut out a budget for the benefit of the greater community.

And just to make my position clear from the outset, the council has already received an independent report that clearly shows that the Toodyay community pays higher rates than other comparable WA shires.

After all that debate last year about how a rate rise was essential despite the views of the majority of the local community, guess where the money raised by this contentious rate rise went? Nowhere.

The shire didn't spend the extra money at all because, as it turned out, the money was surplus to requirements.

So the equivalent of the money from last year's rate rise appears to be sitting idle in the shire's bank account.

Surely that makes a rate rise this year difficult to justify – yes?

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**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD & BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**

2019



Act-Belong-Commit

# MOONDYNE FESTIVAL

Sunday 5th May



On Sunday, May 5, the historic Avon Valley town of Toodyay celebrates the life and times of bushranger Moondyne Joe in the Act-Belong-Commit Moondyne Festival. The festival takes place in the colonial-era main street, Stirling Terrace, which is closed to traffic during the celebration. A colourful and noisy parade with street actors, pipe band and rifle regiment precedes the official opening at 10am and the entertainment continues throughout the day.

Moondyne, WA's premier colonial event, was first held in 1984 to celebrate the life of Joseph Bolitho Johns, better known as Moondyne Joe – a legendary horse thief and poacher who roamed the Avon Valley and Perth Hills. Although local legend paints him as a bushranger, he was more famous for his repeat escapes from Newcastle (old Toodyay) Goal and Fremantle Prison.

The festival is a chance for residents and visitors to turn back the clock to the pioneering days of the 1800s and add their voices to the street theatre re-enactment of Moondyne Joe's arrest and trial. Cheer on Joe's gang and the cast of floozies, coppers, convicts and swaggies roaming through the town in period costumes.

Check out the Colonial Village with the swaggies' inn, general store, courtroom, blacksmith, blade shearer, poets and bush band. Try some roo stew, or just sit and enjoy the music. The day has the atmosphere of a wild town fair with; the 1860's Rifle Regiment; Kalamunda Pipe Band; wood chopping; local spinners; wood turners; potters; camel and Clydesdale rides; Best Moustache Competition and, Best-dressed Floozy Competition. The town centre bustles with continuous street entertainment, stilt walkers, artisan and heritage crafts, antiques and art exhibitions, vintage cars and bikes and, healthy food stalls.

Take the train to Toodyay

The AvonLink train will leave Midland for Toodyay at 9.30am and will return to Midland at 2.57pm so you can relax and enjoy the scenic ride through the Avon Valley. Each ticket will be validated on arrival and passengers will receive \$10 Toodyay Dollars which can be spent at participating local shops.

Don your best pioneer costume and join in on a day of lively activity and fun. There is plenty to see do and the whole family will be entertained throughout the day.

The Act-Belong-Commit Toodyay Moondyne Festival is a smoke-free event and is supported by Healthways WA, Lotterywest, Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Tourism WA, Department of Regional Development and, the Shire of Toodyay.

For further information

email: [moondynecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:moondynecommittee@gmail.com)

or phone Rosie 0430 335 516



## AVON LINK MOONDYNE FESTIVAL SERVICE Sunday 5th May 2019

This year we have the Avon Link running from Midland to Toodyay at 9.30am and then departing from Toodyay at 2.57pm back to Midland.

Each ticket purchased for the train, can be validated once you've arrived in exchange for

**\$10**

**Toodyay Dollars** to be spent at participating shops



# Lots to see and learn at Ballardong cultural centre

**Toodyay Historical Society**  
Robyn Taylor

OUR MARCH excursion was a visit to Northam's Bilya Koort Boodja Centre for Noongar Culture and Environmental Knowledge, or BKB for short.

What a fantastic place to immerse yourself in the rich Ballardong culture of this region.

The centre is located on the banks of the Avon River in the heart of town and was officially opened on 11 August 2018.

The name Bilya Koort Boodja translates to mean river, heart, land.

The building comes as a surprise with its charcoal-black exterior standing in stark contrast to the colours and chaos of the main street with its mix of modern and historic buildings.

On reflection, this feels just right.

It is a building that speaks of a different and timeless culture but also one that is very much part of the present.

It doesn't outwardly proclaim what it is until you enter the interior. Kiya, Wandju – Hello, Welcome.

As your eyes adjust to the cool dimness, you become immersed in the displays where state-of-the-art technology enables the visitor to interact and learn.

And there is a lot to see and experience. At least two, even three, trips are needed to take it all in.

Certainly, such a place is timely given the rapid expansion of knowledge about Aboriginal culture and the realisation that so much wisdom has been lost, and even more could be lost if we don't respectfully engage with it.

Our gains have been learning from Aboriginal methods for managing our fire-prone environment and identifying bush foods and medicines to name but three important fields of traditional knowledge.

There hasn't only been an expansion in terms of gaining knowledge; there have been important and necessary shifts in European attitudes.

In the field of research and interpretation of the state's historic properties, the National Trust has for some time been actively engaging with local Noongar people to help expand the 'interwoven histories' connected with these places.

The most recent property is Ellensbrook/Mokidup in Margaret River/Wadandi Country.

Both cultures are explored through interpretation, and signage using artworks commissioned from renowned Noongar artists.

At the recent reopening of Ellensbrook/Mokidup there were speakers including the chair of Lotterywest and the Minister for Heritage, with both addressing the crowd in both English and Noongar, and not just using



From left: Bridge expert Lloyd Margetts, conservation architect Eric Hancock with members Alison Cromb, Karen Wilson and Peter Robinson. Photo: Robyn Taylor.

a token sentence or two.

Their words and those of the Wadandi

elders reinforced the importance of language in sustaining culture.

There have been some exciting discoveries of late including an early ford across the Gabidine Brook downstream of the old Strahan/Gabidine Brook Bridge.

The bridge was constructed as part of the early road to Toodyay.

Some members met with bridge expert and retired Main Roads WA officer Lloyd Margetts to inspect the bridge, when the inspired thought occurred to Lloyd that there had to be a ford when the bridge was washed away by floods in 1880.

And sure enough, some bush bashing downstream revealed a stone ford.

The next challenge is to find out how old it is.

The AGM will be held at 2pm on Sunday April 14 in the Anglican Hall.

Guest speaker Len Leeder will talk on WA Railways on the Move – 1960s to 1990s.

Members, please bring a plate for afternoon tea.

The next general meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday April 17 at Drummond House next to the bank.

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

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

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

Books and displays at Drummond House which is open on Saturdays, 10am to noon. Membership is \$10 per annum.

## Funds restore Art Deco masterpiece

THE SHIRE of Northam recently granted \$10,065 under the Central Business District Heritage Enhancement Fund to the owners of a building located in the main street of Northam.

The building at 178 Fitzgerald Street was built for CJ Coles in 1937 and is an example of the Art Deco architectural style.

The building is significant as a small-scale simplistic version of an inter-war functionalist building.

More than 75 per cent of the project was undertaken by local contractors.

Funded works included removing the paint to the original tiling at the front of the premises, restoring the brass window frames, preparing and painting the exterior and removing the existing render.

Restoration works reflect best-practice heritage advice to ensure that the building's facade will be enjoyed for many years to come by residents and visitors alike.

The CBD Heritage Enhancement Fund is open to all land owners or tenants, with the owner's consent, for building facades located



The building the restored building displays many features of the Art Deco architectural style.

within the shire's Fitzgerald Street Heritage Precinct.

Eligible projects may include reroofing, masonry repairs, new guttering, painting, reinstatement of lost features such as

verandas, pergolas or wooden sash windows or a new front fence in an appropriate style.

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## Chaplaincy needs new secretary

**Toodyay YouthCARE Council (Chaplaincy)**

Vivienne Freeman, Secretary

LOOKING for something different to do for Toodyay District High School – why not become the YouthCARE Council Secretary?

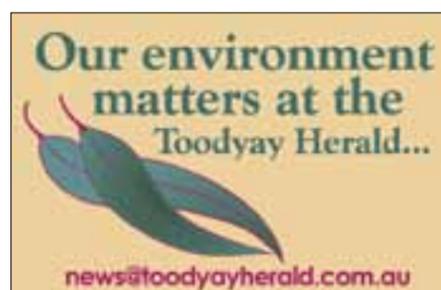
Toodyay YouthCARE Council promotes Christian Values Education classes and supports our school chaplain and the Breakfast Club which is provided three times a week.

Our AGM is on Tuesday April 9 and the position of secretary will become available.

We meet monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 2pm for approximately an hour.

Representatives from our local churches are on the committee.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Vivienne Freeman on 9574 4915 or freeos@iinet.net.au or the Rev Peggy Ludlow on 9574 2203 or revpeggy56@gmail.com.



## IN MOORE WITH LOVE

Last week Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of The Nationals, Michael McCormack announced **\$70 million funding for roads** across 42 Wheatbelt shires.

Upgrades to Local Government roads will enhance productivity and improve road safety across the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network. The announcement was made on one of the 'lime routes' within the Toodyay Shire which enable the delivery of millions of tonnes of coastal lime sand to farmers working to correct acidic soils.

The Minister for Health has appointed a Ministerial Expert Panel to advise government on a safe and compassionate framework for **voluntary assisted dying** in WA.

The panel will consider key issues and is seeking input from the community so that the legislation meets the needs of the WA community. For further information, to make a submission online or read the discussion paper visit: [health.wa.gov.au/voluntaryassisteddying](http://health.wa.gov.au/voluntaryassisteddying) Public consultations will be held in Perth on April 12, 15 and 29. Register to attend at: [health.wa.gov.au/voluntaryassisteddying](http://health.wa.gov.au/voluntaryassisteddying)

Last week in Parliament, the Nationals moved a motion demanding the McGowan Labor Government place a higher priority on country health following more than two years of cuts in the bush. The Health Minister and Labor MPs supported this motion. I spoke specifically on **palliative care**. As parliament debates legislation regarding End of Life Choices, we need to be sure that adequate palliative care is available to all Western Australians no matter where they live. Palliative care options are extremely limited or non-existent in large parts of the Moore Electorate.

**Shane Love** MLC  
Member for Moore

**THE NATIONALS**



# Postpone new CEO until after council elections

**Toodyay Progress Association**  
Larry Graham, Chair

THE TOODYAY Progress Association thanks Shire CEO Stan Scott for his service to the Toodyay community.

The CEO still has months to serve on his contract and we expect that he will be treated with respect and dignity because whether we agree with him or not, he tried his best for our town.

Mr Scott was not sacked, nor was he moved on; it is as simple as him approaching his contractual end date and the majority of councillors deciding that it was time for a change.

That is not only how it should be, it is a contractual obligation that "There is no compulsion on either the Council or the Chief Executive Officer to agree to a new Contract".

At times we have strenuously disagreed with the CEO but we have never attacked him personally, and we have often publicly pointed out that changing the CEO does not fix the civic problems of Toodyay.

The problems are far deeper than that, and many in public life take offence at public questioning and probing of their performances.

But that is how democracies work – we need more of it and not less – however, the bitterness and vindictiveness that is the dominant feature of civic life in Toodyay is not warranted.

To all involved we say that if you cannot handle being questioned or having your performances publicly examined, you do not belong in public life.

For our part, there has never been anything personal about the matters that we have raised and that is because we are about policies, practices and processes, and not personalities.

But where to from here is the big question that every citizen should be asking; many have been very vocal on what they are against, but now is the time to work out what we are all for.

At times of change, the town has a long history of tearing itself apart when angry people throw around accusations, threats and make baseless allegations.

Our association is on the public record saying that changing office bearers of itself changes little, and we also say that this is not the time for that senseless and destructive nonsense.

Our town must take the very rare opportunity presented by the formal State Government

inquiry into the Shire of Toodyay, a new CEO and upcoming council elections in October because all these significant events combine to give us the best chance to change for the better.

And we either make the necessary changes or we suffer more of the same type of civic behaviour that got us into this mess.

But how to drive that positive change is the confronting question; and the answer is by our council implementing a simple three-step plan.

Firstly: Postpone any decisions on hiring a new CEO until after the upcoming elections.

This allows an incoming council to choose who it wants, not who it inherits.

Secondly: Engage a mentoring CEO and shire president to work with the current council until the formal inquiry reports.

Thirdly: Once the ward system is removed all sitting councillors should resign and contest a shire-wide election.

This step will enable councillors elected previously with tiny or no votes in former wards to validate their public standing and authority, and at the same time instil public confidence in our shire council.

If these three simple steps are followed, there are no victims, no recriminations and they will take us a long way towards fixing our civic issues and re-establishing a democratically elected shire council with a high degree of public authority.

Cost is usually raised as an obstacle to change; however, the shire budget review came down at last month's council meeting showing a significant budget surplus, meaning that the type of changes we are proposing will impose little or no additional cost on ratepayers.

Until something like this happens, civic life in Toodyay is doomed to start another cycle of public discontent and dissent, and sadly those who dislike the Toodyay Progress Association are most likely to unthinkingly reject our proposals.

It would be a pity if this happens because there are no other positive options on the table, and we hope that these proposals or something similar will be implemented quickly because our community needs things to change for the better.

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



WA Premier Mark McGowan addresses local residents in the Toodyay Memorial Hall.

## Premier's 'meet and greet' goes down a treat at free morning tea

ABOUT 80 local residents gave WA Premier Mark McGowan a warm welcome at a free morning tea in the Toodyay Memorial Hall last month.

Extra tables had to be laid out as the Premier moved through the hall shaking hands with residents and asking about their concerns.

## Cadets get grant for sheltered space

LOCAL Labor MP Laurie Graham, presented a Lotterywest Grant Certificate for \$15,000 to the Toodyay District High School Emergency Services Cadets on April 1.

Instructor, Doug McGhee, accepted the grant on behalf of the cadets.

The Lotterywest grant will be used to provide an undercover outdoor activity area and storage facility for the cadets' activities.

The Emergency Services Cadet WA Program focuses on developing leadership skills, teamwork, outdoor education and provides developmental adventure opportunities.

The cadet unit is free to attend and open to all young people in the Toodyay area.

The group has 55 members including cadets who are Aboriginal, are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds or who have a disability, with 50 per cent of members coming from low socio-economic backgrounds.

The unit is managed by a local management committee supported by volunteers.

Since 1998, the State Government through Lotterywest has approved three grants to the

Toodyay District High School Emergency Services Cadets totalling \$26,905, inclusive of this grant.



From left: Doug McGhee, Laurie Graham, David Ball (principal) and Nakita Archer.

# Fundraising Opportunities

## The Toodyay Agricultural Society Inc is seeking Expressions of Interest

from local Community Groups, Community Organisations, Businesses or Individuals to undertake the following Show tasks;

- Assisting with set up of facilities & equipment from 9.30am on Friday 11th October
- Assisting with the dismantling of facilities & equipment from 7am on Sunday 13th October
- Bar (organisation/operation) from midday to 9pm (sharp) on Saturday 12th October
- Cleaning of the Exhibition Hall & Lee Steere Pavilion, by Monday 7th October
- External Parking (Toodyay/Connor/Jubilee Streets) from 7am on Saturday 12th October
- Gate Traffic Management from 4.30pm to 8pm on Saturday 12th October
- Gates (organisation/manning) from 6am to 4.30pm on Saturday 12th October
- Grounds Caretakers (2 nights), from 8pm on Friday 11th October to 6am on Saturday 12th October and 9pm Saturday 12th October to 6am Sunday 13th October

Monetary remuneration will be donated to the group/s or person/s undertaking the activities, all interested parties are requested to submit their **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN WRITING** clearly stating which task/s they would like to undertake along with the proposed donation required. For more information duty statements are available upon request, please note, the lowest donation may not necessarily be the offer accepted.

Operation of food outlets in two onsite kitchens. Negotiation with TAS for suitable remuneration by the operator for each of these facilities.

- Sport Pavilion kitchen and hall as Tearooms, from 10am to 4pm, on Saturday 12th October
- Youth Hall kitchen for light snacks only, from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 12th October

The **CLOSING DATE** for Expressions of Interest is **31 MAY 2019**

All correspondence to: Toodyay Agricultural Society Inc. - Administration Officer  
(M) PO Box 362, Toodyay WA 6566 ~ (E) toodyayagsociety@gmail.com ~ (P) 0427 299 330

# 166<sup>th</sup>

# SHOW

Get involved

## Saturday 12 October 2019 ~ Toodyay Showgrounds

# Dry season extends use of summer pastures

**Toodyay Agricultural Alliance**  
Frank Panizza

UNLIKE recent seasons, we have had little rain over the summer months and early autumn resulting in stubbles and pastures holding up fairly well.

Many livestock producers are now supplementary feeding grain and hay to sheep and cattle.

Local livestock feed manufacturer Michael Morgan, of Morgan Feed Supplies, stated that "livestock feed sales into the Wheatbelt areas of WA have been lower than last year primarily due to a good spring and the early turnoff of lambs to market".

The reduction in sales of feed locally has been offset by the demand from eastern Australia for feed grain and hay.

"We have been exporting cattle pellets to NSW for eight months now," Mr Morgan said.

Morgan Feed Supplies manufactures feed pellets locally and packages them into bulk bags for transport by rail to the eastern states.

Mr Morgan has recently had strong interest from the Kimberley pastoral areas of WA.

The Kimberly area had a very dry wet season with feed and water shortages in many areas.

"The wet season should be in full swing now but so far it's been poor and is causing concern to pastoralists in the area," Mr Morgan said.



Wild dogs are now well established within the vermin-proof fence between the Wheatbelt and pastoral areas.

The Toodyay Agricultural Alliance (TAA) has recently become affiliated with the Grower Group Alliance, a farmer-driven, funded project connecting grower groups, research organisations and WA's agribusiness network.

The TAA held a pre-seeding sundowner at the Victoria Hotel on March 21 with more than 25 broadacre farmers from the Toodyay area coming along for a fun and informative night.

The evening's first guest speaker was Jim Miller from the Department for Primary Industries and Regional Development who gave a very interesting presentation on feral animals and their effect on agriculture and the environment in WA.

Mr Miller highlighted recent evidence that wild dogs are now well established within the vermin proof fence that separates pastoral areas from the Wheatbelt, with sightings of wild dogs in neighbouring shires.

Closer to home, feral dogs have been observed in the forested areas near Bindoon in the Shire of Chittering.

Mr Miller stated that wild dogs could come from many sources including hybrids of native dogs (dingos) mating with domestic dogs but also from escaped or abandoned domestic dogs born in the wild.

If you suspect you have seen wild dogs, a Pestsmart guide is available on the internet. Go to [feral.org.au](http://feral.org.au) to find out more.

## Rural women learn about benefits of soil testing

**Women In Farming Enterprises**  
Alison Wroth

THE TOODYAY Branch of Women in Farming Enterprises Inc. held its AGM on March 5 at the Youth Hall in the showgrounds.

We began the night with our guest speaker CSBP Representative Matt Williams who spoke on the benefits of soil testing.

Heartfelt thanks to Matt who put a lot of detail into handouts to take home and answered all the questions put to him.

Matt did not go home empty handed as he succeeded in winning the raffle; I bet he was



WIFE members learnt the value of soil testing from guest speaker Matt Williams.

in the good books when he returned home after the meeting.

The AGM then took place with the regular members attending and few apologies which were heartening.

Election of office bearers resulted in the following: chairperson, Alison Wroth; secretary, Petrina Oremek; treasurer, Jane Simonetti and, social media organiser, Alison Wroth.

New members with interests and ideas to keep increasing the branch membership are always welcome.

To answer a common question; you do not have to pay any fees until you attend three meetings, so come along, bring a friend and you might surprise yourself by enjoying our company and sharing rural interests.

This month's tour of the CBH Avon Yard will be very interesting for those who have never been through the bins or taken the tour led by a CBH guide.

Please contact Alison on 0437 099 960 for further information and, if you are interested in attending the tour, keep your eyes out for our poster on the IGA notice board regarding time and date.

Copies of the Women in Farming Enterprises flyer as well as our 2019 events schedule will be available at every general meeting.

## Easter Bunny set to hop into markets

**Toodyay Farmers Market**  
Sandra Cousins

OUR REGULAR third Sunday of the month markets are back.

The March Farmers Market was a great start to the year with 40 stallholders.

There were many of our regulars with a good mix of new items to keep things interesting and more will be joining us over the coming months.

Without the stallholders there would not be a Farmers Market so, in appreciation, this month's \$50 market voucher raffle was just for stallholders and was won by the very appreciative RSL stall.

In order to have our stallholders return, we need to keep visitor numbers up and March left some room for improvement so everyone please come on down.

Encourage family, friends, lost relations, visitors, travellers and anyone else you can think of to have a look at what the Farmers Market has to offer; you will be pleasantly surprised.

April market day falls on Easter Sunday and the Easter Bunny will be there so come and say hello.

Hope to see you all soon.



The mid-year photography workshop will provide tips on taking prize-winning shots.

## Show needs more stewards

**Toodyay Agricultural Society**  
Alison Wroth

ONE HUNDRED and sixty-six years ago the original Toodyay Agricultural Show committee consisted of farmers.

Today, we have people from different backgrounds with a wide variety of skill sets.

It has taken the dedication and loyalty of members of the Toodyay Agricultural Society and the community to keep it going for this number of years to produce the second-oldest Show on the most scenic and historic showgrounds in the State.

At the March meeting, the new committee elected all the sub committees; Advertising, Equestrian, Ground Space, Catering, Agriculture, and the list goes on.

So, if you start seeing ads or stalls around the town promoting the show and our membership, don't cross the street but run up to the stall.

Buy a ticket or take out some advertising or become a sponsor – it all goes toward making our Toodyay Agricultural Show bigger and the fireworks at the end of day, better.

Speaking of raffles, our first big membership drive takes place on Friday and Saturday May 10 and 11 outside IGA.

Become a member of the Toodyay Agricultural Society and reap the rewards on Show day.

The annual workshop for anybody interested in realising their full potential at entering exhibits in the Show is with luck happening again this year, possibly June or July.

I will confirm this date in the next issue of *The Herald*.

This year's workshop will concentrate on photography.

Anybody is welcome to attend the

photography workshop where a judge will advise on what he wants to see in an exhibit and give tips on how to display up to a Show standard.

I will be promoting this workshop very soon on *Facebook*, on our website and via good old word of mouth, so keep an eye out and please come along if you are keen on improving your photography presentation skills.

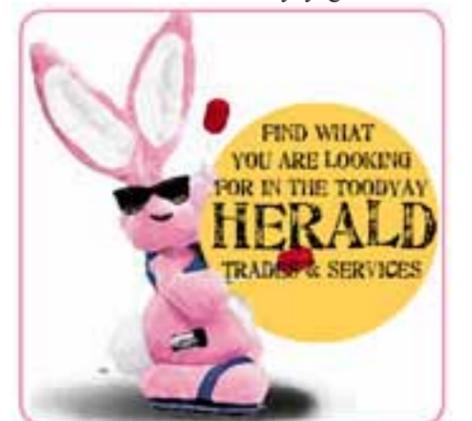
Expressions of Interest for various jobs are advertised on Page 12 of this month's *Herald* so if your community group would like the chance to raise some funds, please contact administration on 0427 299 330 for further information.

As chief steward I am usually looking for and confirming regular stewards at this time of the year.

The possibility of requiring stewards in Hand Weaving, Hand Spinning, Cookery, Photography and Cattle is high.

Give me a call if you are interested in any of these sections and we can have a chat.

Become involved #toodyayagshow2019.



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Winner of the blue radio Bernadette Forbes (left) with Cr Paula Greenway.

## Free-to-air adverts offered to not-for-profit groups

**2J2AIR 105.3FM**  
Ken Stivey

THANKS to everyone who took the time to stop for a chat and participate in 2J2AIR's quick survey outside IGA.

Participants were given the chance to win a baby-blue radio which was won by Bernadette Forbes.

Don't forget 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.

Also, a reminder that if you belong to a non-profit community group and wish to attract new members, we offer free advertising for your meetings or events in *What's On in Toodyay*.

Stay tuned to 105.3FM Toodyay's for local business and tourist information, events,

shire 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); 7pm *Ready 4 Country*; 8pm *Ready 4 Retro Rock*, and 9pm *Ready 2 Rock*.

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

Sundays: 9am *Hooked on Classics*; Noon *Ready 4 Country* (repeat), 8pm *Swooners and Crooners* (repeat), and 9pm *Jazz*.

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

### Obituary

## Toodyay's last 'old school' farmer

MORE than 200 mourners packed into St Stephen's Anglican Church on March 28 to farewell the district's last 'old school' farmer Peter Syred who passed away on March 22.

Peter was born in Toodyay Hospital in 1925 and attended Wattening Primary School and later Northam High School.

He and younger brother Bob would cycle 50km to the high school on Mondays and return home on Fridays to the farm at Hill 60 Wattening which the family still runs.

After finishing school, Peter joined the air force in 1942, training at Benalla in Victoria where he learned to fly Tiger Moths.

The war ended before Peter saw active service but he retained his love of flying, buying a glider which he flew with good friend Bill Raines at Beverley and Cunderdin.

Peter purchased land from his cousin Eileen Syred in Bejoording soon after he married Natalie Wroth in 1952.

At the start he used a team of seven horses to sow and harvest his crop but finished his farming career in the late 1990s in an air-conditioned tractor.

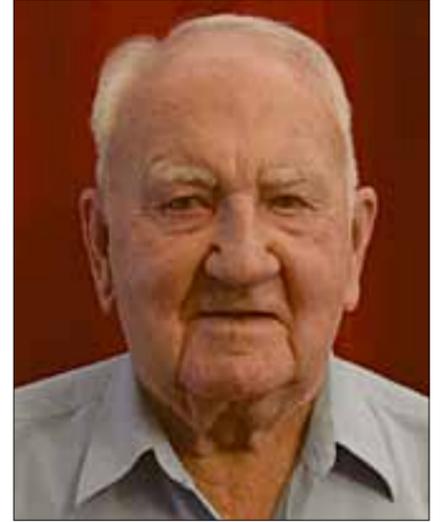
Even after he and Natalie retired to Stoneville, Peter maintained an active interest in son Phil Syred's farm calling in nightly to get an update and provide advice.

Peter played bowls and golf for Bolgart and even landed a hole-in-one which he shrugged off as "a fluke".

A committed family man, he was a top farmer who quietly went about his business, earning the respect of all who knew him.

Peter is survived by his wife Natalie, three children, 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

See family notice on Page 29.



Gentleman farmer, Peter Syred.

## Hideaway cranks aircon to No. 11

**Ida's Hideaway**  
Rae Vigar

WE ARE struggling in the heat, but we still have a good turnout on Saturday afternoons at the Toodyay Community Resource Centre.

The air conditioner gets a good workout from 1 to 4pm.

We have had to add another table as our numbers continue to grow.

There is plenty of room for more friends so if you want something to do on Saturday afternoon, come along and join

our friendly, informal group.

We don't ask anything of you – jut your company.

For more information, phone Rae on 9574 2356.



## alzheimer'swa the dementia experts

**Toodyay Memory Café**

**launching Tuesday, 9 April**

**Second Tuesday of the month**

**10.00am-12.00noon**

**The Cola Café and Museum**

**128 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay WA 6566**

Memory Cafés provide an opportunity for people living with dementia to socialise, feel welcomed in a safe and inclusive environment and make new friends. Supportive community members may attend.

Supported by the  
WA Country Health Service



For more information contact **1300 66 77 88**  
email [dfc@alzheimerswa.org.au](mailto:dfc@alzheimerswa.org.au) or visit  
[alzheimerswa.org.au](http://alzheimerswa.org.au)



Having a laugh at *The Gathering of the Birds* (from left): Kathy Haynes, Judith Walton, Mavis Rowles and Maria Pepe.

# Gathering of Birds a real hoot

**Country Women's Association**  
Elizabeth Mansom

THE GATHERING of the Birds on International Women's Day March 8, was great fun.

Thanks must go to vice-president Kathy who did an excellent job as MC and even managed to cajole us all into doing the hokey-kokey.

Also, to Maria who only this year put herself forward as catering officer and ensured an abundant and tasty spread.

Long-time members Judith and Mavis

remain valued guides regarding CWA policy and lore.

Members from 11 branches came from as far as Aldersyde and Kulkarni for a day of dress-ups and fellowship.

As far as dress, Lady Gaga, alias Trish Chitty, was best on the day.

Kerry Borgas, mentor for Toodyay, spoke about her role which includes being the first point of contact with branches which takes some pressure off state office staff.

As a member of state management, Kerry encouraged us to challenge ourselves and nominate for state positions, relating how

she had benefitted personally from doing so.

Lastly, Kerry talked about Sandra Guzzi, the winner of the CWA/Commercial Travellers' Award, whose work helps those affected by mental illness and also in preventing suicide.

After a luscious lunch, branches discussed future functions.

Aldersyde branch is 70 this year and Tammin and Helena/Parkerville both achieve 80 years.

As CWA in WA will be 95 this year this is no mean feat on the part of a small country town.

We all look forward to helping these branches celebrate and wish their members good health and many more years of fun and fellowship.

It was a small gathering but very productive craft morning on March 14.

We sorted through a large icecream container of shells, beads, buttons and the like and Val took a selection to glue on a pot while Jen chose items for a fiddle rug.

Jen and Maria are knitting arm muffs which hospitals use to cover dressings and tubing so agitated patients fidget with the items on the muff rather than interfere with whatever the medical profession has applied underneath.

April looks like a quiet month for functions but May, June and July will more than compensate with at least two outings in each month to look forward to.

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 Charcoal Lane down the side of the hall.

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



Lady Gaga alias Trish Chitty was best dressed at *The Gathering of the Birds*.

# Fire hose hijinks at end of hot day

**Toodyay Miniature Railway**  
June Eastwood

WITH our first official run day for the season on Sunday April 7, we are hoping the long summer will have given way to kinder temperatures.

No doubt so will the wonderful volunteers of the various local bush fire brigades.

On Australia Day we provided train rides and one of the brigades (we won't do in which one) waited patiently with their units to make sure no steel wheel caused a spark which could lead to a fire.

At the end of a long morning two members who had sat for hours watching loads of happy people pass their unit decided they would like a ride.

With president Mark Greenway driving blue engine Len and Stan settled in with his red and green flag as guard in the rear carriage, they departed Newcastle Station.

Eight minutes later the train rolled back into the station but to everyone's surprise who should indignantly emerge from their carriage but two dripping-wet passengers.

Their mates had trained the fire hoses on them as the train drew level with the unit.

Stan, seeing what was happening, was frantically waving the red flag at the cheeky hose-holders who spared him.

Vengeance was vowed and we would love to know how it all ended.

Some very kind donors have been assisting us in our efforts to convert Newcastle Station to an authentic pioneering station.

Charlie and Marion Ferguson have contributed a full-size Porter's trolley which will be restored to its former glory and displayed in future.

Another great gift is the absolute Rolls Royce of steam train headlights.

The light is no ordinary round affair but in a big ornate half hexagon shape and we think, very old. We will have to do some research to unearth its history.

Our daughter has contributed a pioneer saddle which is typical of the goods transported by rail in bygone days.

Together with other exciting plans for our track we are building a fun ride for all ages.

We do have good and bad news; bad news first.

The railway no longer has a working steamer.

Our big black engine Laverton has been sold as owner Alex has serious eye problems.

Even sadder for us is the end of Shandy's career in Toodyay as she made her last run in November 2018.

Shandy was purchased as a wreck from the late hobbyist Jack Stanbridge and began running in 1998.

During the years, two children's books were written in Shandy's honour; the first a simple story of a mishap to Shandy.

The second beautiful hard back copy *Shandy Makes New Friends* is a lovely story of kindness and incorporates all our present engines in wonderfully illustrated full-colour pages; information for visitors to the Toodyay area is also included.

There are only 37 copies of this book left and there will be no reprints of either book.

On a happier note, Shandy will make Castledare its new home which is very fitting as Jack Stanbridge was the instigator of Castledare Miniature Railway where Shandy was a foundation engine.

The first of our term holiday runs will be on Wednesday April 17 followed by: Easter Saturday, Sunday and Monday April 20-22; Wednesday April 24; Anzac Day Thursday April 25 and, Moondyne Festival Sunday May 5.

Trains run from 11am to 3pm on all days except on Anzac Day when rides start at noon.

Please wear enclosed footwear.




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Ph 9622 1644**

# Probiants go ballistic for aviation talk

**Toodyay Probus Club**  
Norm Green

OUR MARCH club night started with a meal at the Freemasons Hotel and was followed by a brief meeting and a talk by Richard Wilkinson.

Richard spoke about his employment from 1959 to 1979 in the UK aviation industry where he worked as an aviation engineer on some of the old pioneer passenger aircraft.

He also worked on the British ballistic missile Black Night which was launched at Woomera in South Australia in 1958.

We also found out why aircraft have round windows.

It seems that square ones create stress points in the corners that eventually cause the windows to blow out.

Richard was sent to a helicopter factory in Somerset to work on rotor vibration problems which involved getting the rotor pitch correct at various points in the rotation.

To do this Richard and his colleagues used one of the early computers that used tapes, disks and punch cards.

Richard brought with him a memory board from the early days that had a capacity of four kilobytes, weighed about half a kilogram and was approximately 200mm square.

Boy – how things have changed.

The talk was so interesting and there is much more to tell so we hope Richard will come back to talk to us again.

Last month we started a new tradition to get a few more coppers into the kitty.

We randomly pick a number from our member list and the winner gets a door prize.

I would like to win one week because I need another door.

Jenny Clarke was our first door prize winner.



Jenny Clarke won the Probus Club's first door prize.

Another Richard will be our guest speaker this month, Richard Hazelwood.

Richard gave a talk last year and this time he will talk about one of his passions – the History of American music.

Tune in to our local radio station 2J2AIR on Sunday and Monday nights to hear Richard's music programs.

Please contact Joan on 0417 171 606 if you would like to come to a club meeting.

## Free kids' activities

REGISTRATIONS for the April Toodyay Community Program are now open.

This program boasts four exciting activities for everyone to enjoy from Monday April 15 to Thursday April 18.

The community groups donating their time for free Have-A-Go sessions this April school holidays are: Shire of Toodyay; Toodyay Community Resource Centre and Toodyay Soccer Club.

This free program is suitable for all ages and abilities and a great opportunity to get involved in your local community.

Food and drinks are provided and because of this, registrations are essential.

Registration forms are available from the Toodyay Visitors Centre, Toodyay Public Library and Toodyay Community Resource Centre.

The Toodyay Community Program is a true community-based initiative and many local organisations work in partnership behind the scenes to support this program.

Our local clubs and community groups have worked tirelessly to make this program a success – thank you for your involvement and support.

For further information on this program, contact Maddie Ross at the Shire of Toodyay on 9574 9395 or email [cdao@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdao@toodyay.wa.gov.au).

**Sports**  
Events/Results  
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