

# The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned  
community newspaper  
Est. 1902

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

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## Public misled over audit failure

### 'Exemplar of good practice' claim rejected by Deputy Auditor General

Michael Sinclair-Jones

THE SHIRE of Toodyay used ratepayer funds to falsely claim that its new records storage facility in West Toodyay was "recognised as an exemplar of good practice" in a damning State Government audit report on shire failure to manage records correctly.

The false claim – published in the shire-funded April *Toodyay Community Newsletter* and repeated by CEO Stan Scott in the *Avon Valley Advocate* newspaper – followed last month's tabling in State Parliament of a report that exposed inadequate record keeping at Toodyay and three other WA councils targeted for audit last year.

Mr Scott responded by saying that "there was a concern across all local governments" and that the shire had "tendered to a new enterprise software system which will help address most of the issues raised".

State Auditor General Caroline Spencer said all four audited councils fared poorly in "important areas where we expected to see good record-keeping practice".

She singled out Toodyay for its failure to produce reference checks on file for five employees – including a senior shire officer.

All councils should keep "sufficient evidence to demonstrate that an employee's identity, professional qualifications and right to work in Australia were checked before employment," Ms Spencer said.

Good record-keeping practice was most important for transparent and accountable decision-making and legal proceedings.

The shire was given two weeks during an audit inspection last year to produce the missing records but was unable to comply.

"Good records support good decision-making, effective business practice and improve accountability and efficiency – they are the cornerstone of good governance," Ms Spencer said.

She reported that inadequate records policies at all four audited councils had "often not been reviewed, updated and approved to reflect current management expectations for record keeping".

"Record-keeping tools that support implementation, such as policies and procedures, training and monitoring were not adequately developed," she said.

Toodyay "did not meet expectations" or had "not done" what was required in eight of 11 areas audited, and only "partially met expectations" in one other area.

The shire had "met expectations" only in records-management training for new staff and for its records disaster recovery plan.

The report described the shire's new records security and preservation arrangements at Toodyay Junction as "good".

However, WA Deputy Auditor General Sandra Labuschagne rejected Mr Scott's published claim that the facility "was recognised as an exemplar of good practice".

More Page 5, Editorial Page 4.



**Anzac Day Parade:** Toodyay RSL President Peter Brennan, flanked by RSL recruiting Officer Sue Eldridge and Shire President Brian Rayner, leads last month's parade into Anzac Memorial Park for the annual morning service. Continued on Pages 9, 10, 11 and 12.



Workmen drill out reinforced concrete to repair cracks under Newcastle Bridge.

### Cracked pylons repaired under Newcastle Bridge

REPAIRS to cracks in reinforced concrete pylons supporting Newcastle Bridge are expected to be completed by the middle of this month.

Workmen have been using 100-tonne steel frames to support the 50-year-old bridge while drilling out cracked sections, repairing pin joints and lubricating reservoirs at the base of each support to keep out water.

The bridge has remained open to traffic for this work but Main Roads WA said one lane would be closed temporarily to install an expansion joint at the town end.

The \$618,000 cost is jointly funded by Federal and State money.

Moondyne Festival  
Sunday May 5 9am-4pm

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# COUNTRY REALTY

# The Toodyay Herald

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

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

All advertising should be emailed to [advertising@toodyayherald.com.au](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

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

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## DISTRIBUTION

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

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## THANK YOU

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

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# OI' Blind Joe

## Slim just left town

THE US Government made 50 million decisions to classify information last year.

Politicians and federal agencies have long recognised that "what people don't know won't hurt the government".

The UK Ministry of Defence in London produced a secret document which described the "principal threats" to public order as threefold; terrorists, Russian spies and investigative journalists – the last was designated the major threat.

The document was duly leaked to *WikiLeaks*, which published it.

"We had no choice," *WikiLeaks'* Australian founder Julian Assange said.

"It's very simple. People have a right to know and a right to question and challenge power. That's true democracy."

*WikiLeaks* contributed something profound to journalism: a 21st Century tool to circumvent increasing state surveillance of journalists' interactions with their sources by putting an encrypted gap between sources and the media.

The Assange case is a morally tangled web because he believes in publishing things that should not be published but has always shone a light on things that should never have been hidden.

He has won dozens of journalism awards and been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize every year since 2010.

America's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is currently engaged in a sophisticated effort to dehumanise, delegitimise and imprison Assange.

In April 2017 US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, while still CIA chief, delivered a deranged speech proclaiming that "we have to recognise that we can no longer allow Assange and his colleagues the latitude to use free speech values against us".

Republican Congressman Peter King proclaimed "Someone should get a gun and shoot the son of a bitch" and 2016 US Democrat presidential candidate Hillary Clinton asked "Why can't we just drown the guy?".

Former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard was certain Assange had committed an offence but Australian Federal Police, said "No, he has committed no crime".

US troops are now fighting in 14 foreign nations; will America's military leaders tell us all about it?

The chances are slim and none and, as prominent American journalist Dan Rather liked to say, "Slim just left town".

The US war against Iraq was among the more idiotic and gratuitous slaughters in human history.

It was premised on lies, prosecuted by criminals and fools, outsourced to professional murderers and it still isn't over.

The US has imposed sanctions on Cuba, Russia, China, Iran, Venezuela, Turkey, North Korea, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan, Libya, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.

Sanctions are vicious wars by other means and it's the poor who suffer most.

One hundred years ago, US civil rights activist W E B Dubois – the first African-American to gain a PhD from America's prestigious Harvard University – warned of racist motives behind imperial wars when he noted "What do nations care about the cost of war, if by spending a few hundred millions in steel and gunpowder they can gain a thousand millions in diamonds and cocoa?".

Swedish investigators had in fact wanted to drop the case against Assange in 2013 but the UK Government insisted that the charade continue so that Assange could remain locked up after he was evicted last month from Ecuador's London embassy, ending nearly seven years' political asylum.

A British official emailed the Swedes: "Don't you dare get cold feet".

They signed off on the right of the US authorities to seize any foreign journalist, anywhere in the world and opened the door to a new, special form of 'rendition' – moving prisoners to another country for interrogation.

This was never about Sweden or bail violations, or even about the discredited 'Russiagate' narrative – it was about the US doing everything in its power to crush *WikiLeaks* and make an example of its founder.

They did so because they are not there to represent the truth or stand up for ordinary people or protect a free press or even to enforce the rule of law.

Former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark declared in 1967 "Nothing so diminishes democracy as secrecy".

Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826) was the third president of the United States and head writer of America's historic Declaration of Independence from Britain.

He wrote those famous words "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness".

Elsewhere he wrote "The end of democracy will occur when government falls into the hands of lending institutions and moneyed incorporations.

"A true patriot will defend his country from its government, and when tyranny becomes law, rebellion becomes duty.

"The issue today is the same as it has been throughout all history, whether man shall be allowed to govern himself or be ruled by a small elite.

"The press is impotent when it abandons itself to falsehood, and our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost.

"It is, therefore (freedom of the press) the first shut up by those who fear the investigation of their actions."

## 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) or post to: PO Box 100, Toodyay WA 6566

# The Toodyay Herald

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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## NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE	STORY DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTED
Noon Thursday May 23	Noon Tuesday May 28	Wednesday June 5

# Ironing royal undies led to life of lending a hand

levaTomsons

TOODYAY has changed over the years but one thing that hasn't is the willingness of volunteers such as Roz Davidson to step in and make a difference when someone needs a hand.

Roz (65) is the founding member of Toodyay Locals Care (TLC) a not-for-profit local charity group that provides thousands of meals a year for sick, hungry and homeless Avon Valley residents.

"Locally (in Toodyay) there are 27 homeless people at any given time but there are many others who fall through the cracks – old men and women, some younger families and single mums with bubs," says Roz.

TLC also stands for Tender Loving Care, and Roz was inspired to start the local charity movement after seeing a program about volunteers visiting cancer patients once a month to keep them company.

A Facebook post three and a half years ago generated 250 responses and TLC, which now has 15 active members, was formed with the aim of addressing a variety of local community needs.

When the group has the manpower, it will provide assistance with gardening, moving house, preparing firebreaks, house cleaning and supplying loads of wood.

If any money is generated through these services it is ploughed back into making healthy meals and supplying care packages for homeless local people and essential items for those who are doing it tough.

Roz was born in Southern Cross, moved to Bakers Hill when she was four and then to a Herne Hill vineyard when she was 12.

"I hated the city," said Roz who quit school at 15 to work as a carer for a Bindoon woman with multiple sclerosis.

From there she started working at the Golden Fleece Restaurant and Roadhouse in Walebing, on the Great Northern Highway near Bindi Bindi.

"That's where I learned to cook and all about the value of giving good service," Roz said.

In the late '60s Roz was working for 50c an hour before tax in the restaurant which turned over 10,000 meals during Easter holidays.

Roz already knew her future husband from their student days together at Governor Stirling Senior High School in Midland and when they married in 1973 she went to live in Yerecoin where her husband's family ran the local garage.

After six years the isolation of living out of town on a farm with two small kids got to Roz and the couple divorced.

"If it had been acceptable to talk about it, it would probably have been OK and I might still be there," Roz reflects.

"Don't ever say 'toughen up princess' because rates of suicide are so high due to this 'toughen up' crap.

"It's important to be non-judgemental and, above all, to be kind."



Roz digs deep into one of several freezers stocked with pre-packed meals for people in need.

In 1980 Roz moved with her kids back to the city and started working in an industrial laundry in Belmont.

"(During a royal visit) I ironed Prince Charles' shirts and packed Prince Philip's shirts; all their underwear was blue," laughs Roz, who added that Australian comedian Barry Humphries' sleeves were the longest she has ever seen.

She also learned to sew, a skill that now comes in handy for her eight-year role as costume co-ordinator for Toodyay's annual Moondyne Festival.

Her needlecraft skills in repairing clothes

and making alterations also generate funds for TLC's numerous activities.

In 1980, Roz and the kids moved to Bunbury where she became a foster parent and provided weekend respite for up to 15 street kids.

"It started off with three kids and my kids and the others collected more," she said.

The local police provided boxes of food and sleeping bags, and Roz assigned the kids jobs to teach them self-worth and responsibility.

"It was an incredible year and I loved taking care of people. Some of the kids'

stories were really heartbreaking," she recalls.

In 1989 Roz was diagnosed with cancer and during chemotherapy treatment she learnt the value of having someone to talk to and a warm beanie for when she lost her hair.

Today, TLC members make wheelchair lap rugs and up to 1000 crocheted and knitted beanies annually for local and overseas aid organisations.

Sixteen years ago, Roz and her partner Jeff Hudson found their "piece of paradise" and moved to a former Julimar deer park north of Toodyay.

The couple continued commuting to work in Perth before Roz and two friends bought a fruit and vegetable shop in Stirling Terrace which they gutted and turned into the Licks and Lollies cafe.

"It was all going well until I fell to bits literally; I fell out of bed and smashed a shoulder," Roz said.

She recovered and opened an antique shop which operated in different town locations over the next 10 years before reverting to her stock-in-trade, clothing repairs and alterations.

Since arriving in Toodyay, Roz has immersed herself in the local community by helping out for seven years with a school breakfast program and organising an annual long-table lunch for local people who have nowhere to go for Christmas.

A few months ago, Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank Chairman Andrea Carling offered Roz a peppercorn lease to base the TLC at a vacant bank-owned property in Stirling Terrace.

All the rooms are now furnished with donated items and crammed with clothes, craft materials and freezers bursting with food ready for distribution.

"I love food and no-one should go hungry," said Roz who is planning to run classes on budgeting and establishing a sensory garden at the new premises for people with dementia.

'What goes around, comes around', and 'paying it forward' are catchphrases for generosity which Roz and the crew at TLC have in spades.

To keep the wheels of this local charity turning, *Herald* readers can make a donation at the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank; BSB 633 000, account number 161 466 594.



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# The Toodyay Herald

## Gilding the lily

THE SHIRE of Toodyay's ratepayer-funded community newsletter should be a source of important information about what our shire is doing, job opportunities for local contractors, public notices and community advice about useful services.

Unfortunately it has also become a vehicle for derogatory and improper attacks that breach the Shire Code of Conduct (April 2018), false information (January 2019) and last month a straight-out lie.

Shire President Brian Rayner says he is ultimately responsible for what appears in the newsletter.

He even voted at a council meeting earlier this year to censure himself for publishing false information about a State Government inquiry into the shire and its administration.

However, the latest effort takes the cake. WA Auditor General Caroline Spencer last month tabled a report in State Parliament saying that Toodyay – one of four councils selected for audit – had failed to keep correct records or meet official expectations in several important areas.

In addition, our shire was singled out for failing to produce reference checks for five employees, including one for an unidentified senior shire position.

One of the few plusses for Toodyay in an otherwise dismal performance was that its new records storage facility at West Toodyay was described as "good".

However, ratepayers reading last month's *Toodyay Community Newsletter* could be forgiven for thinking that there must have been another, completely different report.

The newsletter trumpeted that a new shire record-keeping facility "was recognised as an exemplar of good practice".

No it wasn't – those words weren't used anywhere in the Auditor General's report and when we rang her office to check, her deputy confirmed that to be the case – those words were a complete fabrication.

When questioned about it at last month's council meeting, Shire CEO Stan Scott said "They were my words – if it was a gilding of the lily, I'm not sure".

Well we're sure, Mr President, and it was much more than a mere gilding of the lily but a self-serving attempt to mislead Toodyay ratepayers – again.

Why is all this important you may ask, when records management must surely be one of the duller subjects ever.

Not so, says the Auditor General.

Good record keeping is the cornerstone of good governance, she said.

It was most important for transparent and accountable decision making – and for legal proceedings.

The Auditor General has given our shire three months to get its act together and publish the results on its website so ratepayers can see what is really going on. Let there be no more gilding of lilies.

*Michael Sinclair-Jones  
Editor*



*The way we were – A 1990s Moondyne Festival photo of two girls dressed as floozies in 19th century costume with low-cut corsets and full skirts. The two men on the left are dressed in colonial military uniform with square caps, white leather harnessing and rifles, and the man on the right is wearing regimental uniform with a bearskin hat and dark jacket embroidered on the sleeves. This year's Moondyne Festival is on Sunday May 5. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.*

## LETTERS

### Windscreen carnage

WHEN I got home with another broken windscreen, I decided to check my records and discovered that in two years I have now had six broken windscreens on Toodyay Road.

In the previous 15 years I have driven around Australia twice and have had two broken screens, and both of those were from heavy haul stock trucks in the Pilbara.

The latest one happened as a bonehead sped past the huge screen warning of windscreen damage and she threw up the stones that broke my windscreen.

The previous one was three months ago and it happened half way down Toodyay Road where the signs warning of windscreen damage slowed traffic to 80km/h and a bonehead in a ute went past at breakneck speed, shattering my windscreen.

All of these breaks have been on Toodyay Road and with one exception have happened because of cars overtaking me; the one exception was a truck passing at high speed.

I am not known for having a feather foot, and when I say that truck overtook at high speed I mean it.

Surely I am not the only person with this issue and it is interesting that of the five cars that have done the damage, four had Toodyay number plates and one was from Goomalling.

It is not city folks doing the damage; it is our people who should know better.

*Larry Graham  
Toodyay*

### Pool lost in sea of complexity

IN LIGHT of all that has ensued from a simple desire for a swimming pool, principally for our youngsters to enjoy, and not just enjoy but perhaps even aspire to higher purpose, and for those of the adult population to use at will (sparingly I would suggest) – how did we end up with this sporting extravaganza that the shire hierarchy has convinced a significant number within our ranks that we must have, as well, if we are to have a pool? This extraordinarily long diatribe was compiled to equate with the extended saga that has ensued from the initial, simple proposal of a swimming pool.

Can we please, as an intelligent, sensible, purposeful community, erase all the complications that have ensued and simply revert to the initial proposal?

By all means, if there is some merit in developing the area on the other side of the river with future residential development in mind, build the pool over there.

But let all of the extraordinary, extravagant, and expensive ancillaries be put aside, at least for the present.

We already have a sporting ground that caters for football and cricket, and tennis, basketball and netball are similarly provided for on the relatively recently refurbished and expensive surface of the tennis courts.

Surely it can't be that hard to find another level playing surface somewhere near town – perhaps in the empty space in the centre of the Toodyay race track, which the shire already owns – to mark out a rectangular pitch for hockey, soccer and rugby?

So, let the development of bigger, 'better' facilities for those other sports wait until the present grounds prove to be inadequate.

Anyway, if we were to cater for football and other sports in that new facility, what is to become of the existing sports ground and all of its expanded facilities – pavilion, youth hall, football club/change rooms, grandstand, toilets, etc. – will they become defunct?

If the shire has a hidden agenda to sell off that facility, perhaps to a private developer, then surely the ratepayers should be fully informed.

It is conceivable to pay for the new development by selling off the land but if this is proposed, why the secrecy?

And, if this is not the intention, then make a public statement to that effect. That might put a lot of minds at ease.

Pursuant to that, what would become of our Toodyay Show facilities?

Where would that leave our historic tradition of the Toodyay Agricultural Show, now in its 166th year?

We don't really believe that once the shire is maintaining sporting grounds at the new site that it would still continue the upkeep on the old facilities, including the well-maintained, attractive sports oval.

If the area is to be retained, will it become a dust bowl show arena?

All ratepayers deserve to be fully informed, not left wondering about the shire's intentions, or the potential outcomes.

*Allan and Kerry Gregory  
Dewars Pool*

### 'Do unto ...' don't undo others

FOR THOUSANDS of years the Ballardong Noongar people lived in this place that we wadjulas call Toodyay.

As the story goes, Toodyay is an Anglicised version of Duidgee, which is thought to mean 'a place of plenty'.

And what a magnificent and plentiful place it is for those of us lucky enough to live here.

'Plenty' in life also includes difficulty and turmoil and, in recent times, we've experienced more of that in our community than was perhaps necessary.

We each have opinions and ways of seeing life that we often hold too tightly.

This over-identification tends to set us one against another in adversarial and counter-productive ways.

That's how war starts.

The fact is, each of us has a value of a single unit. No-one is worth more, and no one less.

The crucial task in transforming turmoil and becoming a life-giving, 'plentiful' community is to see the other as our self and our self as other.

The Bible instructs us to "do to others as you would have them do to you", remember?

In fact, every major religion and philosophy has a version of that same dictum.

It's not rocket science.

It's common, sensible humanity, and the personal responsibility of each of us to create a positive, enabling life for ourselves and each other in this beautiful place we call home.

*John White  
Toodyay*

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

## Herald ready to treat its volunteers

NATIONAL Volunteer Week is an annual celebration which acknowledges the massive contribution of our nation's many volunteers.

Thousands of events will be held across the country from May 20-26 in a week-long celebration which will include breakfasts, morning and afternoon teas and lunches, as well as open days, awards ceremonies, picnics, forums and training sessions.

In Toodyay, two community groups have received grants to help them recognise their

volunteers – The Toodyay Herald (Inc) and the Toodyay Community Resource Centre.

While we are on the topic of volunteering, two Toodyay organisations are in need of help.

The Op Shop, which as many readers will remember was this year's community group of the year, needs volunteers as does the Toodyay Community Resource Centre.

If you have a few spare hours on a regular basis, contact either organisation directly or, visit [volunteeringwa.org.au](http://volunteeringwa.org.au).

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# New mural in limbo as art decision 'hijacked'

Michael Sinclair-Jones

AFTER two years of delays, the fate of Toodyay's much-anticipated first public mural on new shire toilets in Charcoal Lane near the town's IGA store is now in limbo because of council indecision.

The mural was commissioned to recognise Toodyay's 2015 national Tidy Towns win.

A competition for best design was held and a winner selected for approval at last month's council meeting.

However, it was opposed in a submission by Toodyay Tidy Towns member Peter Robinson who said the process had been "hijacked" and the "abstract" design failed to represent Toodyay's Tidy Towns win.

The artwork (above right) was also opposed by Toodyay Tidy Towns chairperson Greg Warburton, who – along with Shire CEO Stan Scott, founding sponsor Colin Moore and local artist Margaret Sommerville – was part of a four-member panel that chose the winning artwork from 11 entries.

It is understood the Toodyay Tidy Towns committee wanted a design more like Mr Warburton's sketch (below right) published two years ago in *The Herald* showing a group of people using orange plastic bags to collect litter and a woman with a child dumping rubbish in a yellow bin.

Last month's debate echoed a similar one five years ago when council indecision killed off a plan by survivors of Toodyay's disastrous 2009 fires – which destroyed 38 homes – to erect a 500kg metal Carnaby's Cockatoo sculpture in Stirling Terrace to commemorate the town's recovery.

## Greenway bid to defer lost

A MOTION by Cr Paula Greenway to defer a mural decision to a May 14 council strategic forum was seconded by Cr Judy Dow and resulted in a 4:4 deadlock, with Crs Greenway, Dow, Rob Welburn and Eric Twine in favour, and Shire President Brian Rayner, Deputy President Therese Chitty and Crs Bill Manning and Ben Bell against.

President Rayner then used his casting vote to defeat the deferral motion 5-4.

Cr Manning said he saw no benefit in delaying a decision and would vote for the winning entry by Morangup artists Katherine Ferguson and Nicola Cowie.

"Even if you asked 100 people, you will never get everyone to agree to a work of art," he said.

"Two members of the selection committee are artists and what we will finish up with is a work that has artistic merit."

The artists submitted that their winning entry used "layers of imagery with significant meaning and structure".

"The central theme of the background is the mapping of Toodyay from the sky using an abstract mapping country style similar to that of both current and past Aboriginal artists," they said.

"The Avon River dominantly runs through the image giving the town life and a central heart.

"The foreground image is the beautiful Silvereye bird holding onto wheat to represent Avon Valley farming areas, the flowers in the top left are *Eucalyptus caesia* endemic in WA and the small yellow vine is a Flame Pea which thrives in low humidity areas such as Toodyay.

"The shapes running north of the river and into the hills are a nod to early, current and future settlers to Toodyay.

"Coloured circles at the bottom are representative of Duidgee Park and its location on the river and the river pebbles that our children love to play with.

"The white rectangle (bottom right) is a space to contain the following statement as per the artists' brief: 'An Initiative of the Toodyay Tidy Towns committee, national winners of the Tidiest Town 2015'."

However, Cr Welburn said the mural "should be a bit more inclusive of tidy town elders" because it was their idea to have a mural to mark the town's 2015 national titles win.

Deputy President Chitty said the mural had been "a long time coming – perhaps we need to go back to the artists about how it fits the brief".

Cr Dow said the Toodyay Tidy Towns contribution needed to be acknowledged.

A recommendation to approve the winning mural was lost 6-2 with only President Rayner and Cr Manning voting in favour.

Mr Scott had no answer after the vote when councillors asked what would happen next, indicating it will be at least another month before anything can be decided.



The \$15,000 project, which was planned to be completed this month, includes \$1000 donated by Ms Sommerville, who said she was disappointed by the outcome.

"It highlights the urgent need for the shire to adopt a public arts policy for Toodyay," she said.

It is understood the council proposes to adopt an arts policy but decided to press ahead with the mural to avoid further delay.

Above: Shire of Toodyay winning mural entry. Below: Toodyay Tidy Towns' concept sketch.



## State auditor orders shire to publish how it will fix faulty records

Continued from Page 1.

"We did not use those words anywhere in the report," she said.

The Auditor General has given Toodyay and the other audited councils – Canning, Mosman Park and Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council – three months to provide an "action plan" to WA Local Government Minister David Templeman on how they will address issues raised in the report and publish those plans on their council websites.

When asked in Public Question Time at last month's council meeting to explain his "exemplar of good practice" claim, Mr Scott said "They were my words – if it was a gilding of the lily, I'm not sure".

"Some of our computer systems had gaps which we raised with the Auditor General," he said.

When asked how the council intended to address policy inadequacies raised by the report, Shire President Brian Rayner said "We are upgrading our computer systems and processes to comply with the report".

When asked a second time what action the council would take about inadequate shire records policies, President Rayner said "We are upgrading our software".

President Rayner did not respond to *Herald* questions about which senior shire officer's job file lacked reference checks, and who was responsible for the omission.

## Perth rubbish starts being dumped in Hoddys Well

A PERTH landfill company has started dumping metropolitan household waste in Hoddys Well pending an appeal to the State Government against licensing conditions.

Opponents have spent tens of thousands of

dollars fighting plans to dump three million tonnes of rotting waste at the Chitty Road site.

Scores of heavy trucks a day are now carting Perth rubbish to the site, adding to traffic congestion on busy Toodyay Road.

Advertorial

## Great news for locals selling Toodyay properties

GREG Giddings, a well-known, trusted, and very experienced real estate industry local with extensive Toodyay knowledge is ready to assist with selling your house or land.

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# Tree bark drug suspects caught in real jam

## Police Beat

With Sgt Dave Flaherty  
Toodyay Police Station



TOODYAY police are congratulating local motorists for maintaining a safe and relatively trouble-free holiday break on local roads during the Easter holiday break.

"Thirteen police officers worked over the weekend up until midnight Easter Monday, having to issue only 20 infringement notices," Toodyay Police's Sgt Dave Flaherty said.

"These were mainly for speeding – the most was 26km/h over the limit – and for unlicensed vehicles.

"We also conducted 100 random breath tests over the break but there were no positive drug or alcohol readings, which is a really pleasing result."

Sgt Flaherty said local police patrolled holiday traffic in Toodyay and surrounding areas as far as the Great Eastern and Great Northern Highways, as well as responding to local call-outs.

### Little bit quick

A DRIVER who clocked 150km/h on Julimar Road while travelling towards Chittering admitted he was 'whipping along a little bit' when stopped by local police on a mid-afternoon last month.

Sgt Flaherty said he and another officer were driving in the opposite direction towards Toodyay when their police car radar "went crazy".



This sign on Julimar Road doesn't mean 'no speed limit'.



Stranded vehicle used by suspected jam tree bark strippers.

"He was coming at us at a pretty fair rate on a straight stretch of road past Coondle West Road," Sgt Flaherty said.

The driver – a Toodyay resident aged in his 60s – was travelling alone in a Holden sedan and told police he didn't know the speed limit in the area was 110km/h.

"We want to reinforce the dangers of driving/speeding in an area where, the verge is unforgiving, and kangaroos and other animals can jump out at you at any time," Sgt Flaherty said.

He said motorists should also be aware that traffic signs on Julimar Road near Parkland Drive and elsewhere showing a black circle crossed by a diagonal stripe (pictured left) did not mean "no speed limit".

"It means only that the road has not been assessed/rated for a maximum speed and that the State default of a maximum of 110km/h applies – it's a limit, not a target," Sgt Flaherty said.

"In any case, motorists should always slow down if bad weather, poor light or some other hazard exists making the legal speed limit unsafe."

### Jam tree drug suspects

VOLUNTEER firefighters called to a bushfire near Jimperding Brook off Toodyay Road last month were surprised to find a 4WD vehicle (pictured above) trapped in a gully after it had been driven over a low wall.

Police were called and found a Perth man with the stranded vehicle and another man with axes hiding in nearby bush.

Identity checks revealed that both had

previous drug convictions and police suspect they may have gone to the area to strip bark from local jam trees to make an illegal hallucinogenic drug.

The case was referred to the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife investigations unit for further inquiries.

A similar incident was reported in *The Herald* in 2016 when bark was found to have been stripped from dozens of jam trees on both sides of a stream in a picnic area on Toodyay Road near Strahan Road.

The drug is smoked or injected by users and requires a large quantity of bark to be stripped, which can kill the trees.

Police said at the time that anyone caught in possession of a large amount of stripped jam tree bark would be charged with illegal drug possession unless they had a licence to use the bark for a legitimate purpose.

### Credit card fraud

LOCAL police are seeking a woman (pictured right) to help with their inquiries after a stolen credit card was used to buy cigarettes and soft drink at the Toodyay IGA store at about 2pm on Sunday April 21.

Further attempts were made to use the same card a short time later but each of those transactions was declined.

Anyone with information should call Toodyay police on 9574 9555 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

Sgt Flaherty said that if a lost credit card was found by another person, any attempt to use it without the owner's permission was regarded as fraud/theft and charges would be preferred.

### Free help to stop violence

PEOPLE experiencing trouble at home are urged to get free professional help before disputes escalate into some form of family violence.

"We get up to four calls a day to respond to incidents of this nature, which is about 10 per cent of our work in the Toodyay area," Sgt Flaherty said.

"Sometimes it's a frightened call from a person directly involved, or a report by a concerned neighbour or passer-by who has heard shouting and screaming or seen someone acting aggressively.

"Sometimes we arrive to find that neither side wants us to be there but our priority is

to restore order and ensure everyone is safe, particularly if children are present.

"If we are able to ascertain an offence has been committed, we take a 'no tolerance' position and the offender will be arrested, regardless of what the other party wants."

Sgt Flaherty said most reports concerned males as the offender but sometimes the offenders were women.

"Some callers are regulars, others are one-offs," Sgt Flaherty said.

"If we have to take a person into custody, they go to the lock-up in Northam or Perth, Sgt Flaherty said.

"Neither are pleasant places – bare concrete floors, plastic mattress, metal toilets and a vast array of cellmates.

"You sleep in your clothes, wake up next day feeling terrible and then go to court.

"Bail, if granted, can include protective conditions such as restricted contact or an order preventing you from returning home.

"It gets very complicated for the persons involved and is not a very pleasant or usually a great outcome for anybody."

Sgt Flaherty said local police always urged people in trouble to seek free phone or online help for financial, relationship or other difficulties in their lives which are the cause of many family violence incidents.

Professional help is available from local agencies such as Share and Care in Northam on 9622 2828 or online at [shareandcare.com.au](http://shareandcare.com.au).

Northam's Holyoak Centre also offered free drug and alcohol counselling and treatment, including Toodyay home visits, which could be arranged by calling 9621 1055 or visiting [holyoak.org.au](http://holyoak.org.au).

"These services work if you want help and give them a go," Sgt Flaherty said.

A person who made 15 distressed calls to police this year had not rung for a month after being referred by local officers to Holyoak.

Sgt Flaherty said it was not the job of police to act as psychologists or provide counselling.

"We're here to restore order, enforce the law and put people in the right direction," he said.

"We just implore those facing difficulties to get help before things get out of control and police become involved."



If you know this woman please call Toodyay police on 9574 9555.

## Hang up when the taxman rings

SaferToodyay  
Desraé Clarke

SCAMNET – what is it?

The WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety established WAScamNet as a method of combating the increasing problem of scams, rip-offs and fraudulent activities becoming more commonplace.

Currently there is a spate of pre-recorded phone calls displaying a legitimate telephone number of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

The call is pretending to be from the ATO, states the recipient has an outstanding debt with the tax department and unless an immediate payment is made, an arrest warrant will be issued.

Hang up immediately and report the call to the ATO's official scam line on 1800 008 540.

The ATO does not use pre-recorded phone messages, does not demand immediate payment and does not threaten immediate arrest.

Remember, hang up and call the official scam line on 1800 008 540 or report the call via [scamnet.wa.gov.au](http://scamnet.wa.gov.au).

Alternatively, you can ring Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or report it through [crimestopperswa.com.au](http://crimestopperswa.com.au).

You can anonymously report suspicious behaviour to any of the following, either by phone or online: Toodyay Police, 9574 9555; Report Graffiti 1800 442 255, [goodbyegraffiti.wa.gov.au](http://goodbyegraffiti.wa.gov.au).

For further information contact [safertoodyay.org.au](http://safertoodyay.org.au).

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Coondle Fabrication business owner Matt Murray (right) and fourth-year apprentice boilermaker Tom Sims put the finishing touches to the BMX track decking.

## Steel-framed 'monster' on track for desert kids

Frank Panizza

TRAVELLERS approaching Toodyay from Perth may have been puzzled by the steel framed 'monster' being built at the rear of Coondle Fabrication's workshop; it puzzled me so much that I had to investigate.

Coondle Fabrication owner Matt Murray shed light on the project – it is a portable BMX track.

Mr Murray designed the track based on an idea from Toodyay local John Reudavey.

"It's a prefabricated BMX track built and designed locally for the Punmu Indigenous Community in the far East Pilbara region of WA.

"This is the second project we have built for the community, the first being a water play area for the children," Mr Murray said.

Trachoma, or the common term sandy blight, is carried in dust particles.

Apart from the fun and activity that the facility brings, playing in water substantially reduces the children's risk of contracting the disease.

Visit [indigenous.gov.au/news-and-media/stories/cooling-down-western-desert](http://indigenous.gov.au/news-and-media/stories/cooling-down-western-desert) to view the water play project.

"The BMX track will add further wellbeing to the lives of the children of Punmu, something I and my staff are very proud of," Mr Murray said.

The community's 60 children will enjoy the health benefits of the track as well as meeting visiting children from nearby communities.

Safety features are an integral part of the design, as well as measures to prevent the use of the track without adult supervision.

Once the track has been completed and transported to Punmu, it will be assembled by community members and the Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation.

The Punmu Community took a proactive approach and sought funding for both projects.

They were successful in getting donations from the Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation, Department of Communities, Keystone Support, RAWA School, Pilbara Meta Maya,

Chris Rusten, Quick Chill Electrical and Air Conditioning, Knight Corporate Insurance and Matt Murray.

Coondle Fabrication will also complete a recycling project that will be transported with the BMX track.

This design, fabricated in steel mesh, spells the words Punmu Oval and will be filled with recyclable containers.

"These projects were a little different from our usual metal fabrication work which covers heavy truck body building to a full range of mechanical repairs.

"They were interesting and enjoyable jobs which my crew and I enjoyed being involved with," Mr Murray said.

## Shire gets nod to abolish wards, defer vacancy to October

THE SHIRE of Toodyay has been given State permission to defer an election to fill a vacancy on its nine-member council created by the recent resignation of former Cr Craig Brook until October's statewide local government elections, when four other Toodyay council seats fall vacant.

The State has also approved the Toodyay council's plan to abolish its four electoral wards, which means that all shire electors will – for the first time – be able to vote for every candidate in every seat instead of only those standing in their local area.

The changes follow a decision two years ago to abandon poorly-attended 'in person' voting run by the shire at polling stations in Toodyay and Morangup and replace it with postal ballots run by the WA Electoral Commission, which resulted in a record voter turn-out at the 2017 shire elections.

The council is due to hold a special meeting at 2pm on Tuesday May 14 to discuss Cr Brook's resignation, the elections and "mapping out a recruitment process for a new CEO and matters thereto".

# 'Pub test' needed for wasted legal costs

## The Insider



Ben Bell

IN RESPONSE to a direct question last month from a member of the public, the Shire President stated firmly and without hesitation that all future annual rate increases in Toodyay will be capped at 2.5 per cent per year for at least the next decade.

This is great news for our community. To have the most senior public official in Toodyay set in stone the absolute maximum your rates can rise this year, next year, and every following year until at least 2029 is indeed progress and I applaud him for taking this position.

Likewise, this statement by the Shire President represents the strongest signal yet that the cycle of massive, and some may suggest, unjustified annual rate hikes by the shire appears to be over.

This, however, is only half the story. While the Shire President capped the maximum amount your rates may rise going forward, he left the door wide open for the council to pursue a strategy of minimising the annual rate increases that the shire can impose on you, with the ultimate goal of course being a zero per cent increase.

A zero per cent increase in rates ... that's fantasy you say.

Perhaps, but it should be remembered that every cent of your hard-earned cash that the shire took from you last year courtesy of that highly contentious rate rise is still sitting idle – unspent and unallocated – in the shire's bank account.

That's right, if the shire had not increased your rates last year, you would have had a few more dollars in your pocket and the shire and the services it provides would not have been negatively affected in any way whatsoever.

Therefore, just as I said repeatedly last year, anyone undertaking an objective review of the shire's forward budget would likely come to the same conclusion as me – that the shire does not have an income problem but, instead, has a spending problem.

Consequently, I firmly believe that the shire can ostensibly freeze your rates this year, without it having any adverse effect on the shire's long-term financial viability or on the ability of the shire to provide services to the community.

### How to cut rates, boost spending

IN FACT, you just may find that it is possible to minimise any increase in your rates this year (and in future years too) and at the same time increase the amount the shire spends on community services going forward.

How, I hear you say?

Well, there are numerous examples where, in my opinion, the shire has probably not spent your rate money to best effect.

One area is the shire's apparent desire to pursue expensive and often drawn-out legal action against tourists and members of the Toodyay community that have little, if any, perceived merit.

Take a recent case where the shire spent more than \$11,000 in legal fees chasing up a \$100 fine it issued to a local Toodyay business.

Who spends \$11,000 to collect a \$100 fine? Would you?

Could you honestly justify spending more than \$10,000 in legal fees to get only one hundred dollars back, noting that you don't get the amount you spent on legal fees back even if you win the case?

Unfortunately for you as a Toodyay ratepayer (after all, it is your money that is ultimately being used to fund these legal actions against fellow community members) this is not an isolated case.

Earlier this year, the shire spent almost \$6000 chasing up a \$60 parking fine from an overseas visitor despite the fact that the tourist had agreed to pay the fine from the outset.

Another \$30,000 was spent dragging a Toodyay local through court only to have

the magistrate throw the shire's entire case out.

The list continues ...

I guess we all thought that the shire may have been a little hesitant when it comes to potentially wasting money on legal action after racking up more than half a million dollars in legal bills in the unsuccessful pursuit of an ex-shire CEO.

Unfortunately, recent events suggest that this may not be the case.

Now I am not suggesting for a moment that the shire shouldn't issue fines.

Nor am I suggesting that its shouldn't chase down payment of outstanding fines.

I would, however, submit that it may be beneficial for the ratepayers of Toodyay if a reality check was installed somewhere in the process – a 'pub test' so to speak.

Would you spend \$11,000 to get \$100, or \$6000 to get \$60? I somehow doubt it.

Yet, as ratepayers and the people funding the shire's legal actions, that is how your money is being spent.

### More for community, not lawyers

PERHAPS the council should play more of an oversight role in regard to shire-initiated court action against any Toodyay community member to ensure any such legal action is both warranted and justified on cost/benefit grounds.

Why? Because while the final figures are yet to come in, it is feasible that the shire may spend more on suing local Toodyay community members than it will spend on funding community events.

Obviously this is far from ideal because the more money the shire gives lawyers, the less it has available to invest in public infrastructure and community activities.

There are plenty of other examples within the current year's accounts that suggest significant cost savings are possible in the shire's budget.

And how realistic is a zero per cent rate rise this year?

All it takes is for each councillor to identify about \$20,000 worth of unjustified spending in the coming 2019/20 budget, and presto, no need for a rate rise this year.

My contribution to this saving?

Delete the lawyer's phone number from the shire's speed dial.

## IN MOORE WITH LOVE

I welcome upgrade works underway on the Wheatbelt section of Toodyay Road as well as the planning stages for future works. It is hoped the May state budget will make available funding to continue these works. The funding is overdue - the Transport Minister advised me in 2017 that Main Roads were expecting to receive further funding for design and pre-construction activities to progress the works on Toodyay Road in 2017/18.

As Parliament will consider legislation regarding assisted dying later this year, the McGowan Labor Government must urgently address the lack of palliative care options in regional WA. It would be a horrific scenario if a terminally ill patient elected to end their life because adequate care is not available. The Nationals moved a successful motion in the Legislative Assembly calling on the Labor Government to place a higher priority on country health, including palliative care. A diagnosis of terminal illness for country patients is particularly traumatic, forcing patients to leave family, friends and the community they know and love. For further information regarding the Voluntary Assisted Dying debate, to make a submission online until 24 May 2019 or to read the discussion paper visit: <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/voluntaryassisteddying>

WA's Container Deposit Scheme will commence early in 2020 with the aim of reducing waste and providing opportunities for employment and social enterprise. If your organization would like to be involved in the collection network for the Container Deposit Scheme, please register your interest at <https://dwer.wa.gov.au/container-deposit-scheme>

**Shane Love** MLC  
Member for Moore

**THE NATIONALS**



**KISS CATERING**  
Keep it simply sensational, by Lynda Burke

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Anzacs embodied the spirit of volunteer community service

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**

**Julimar**

Alison Wroth

HAVING just returned from our recent Anzac service in town, I realised how many times the word volunteered was used in the speeches.

In WWI, the 'war to end all wars', many men enlisted or volunteered their lives and gave up any chance of having a family in order to serve their country.

What a huge effort and ultimate sacrifice by these young, and sometimes not-so-young men for the nation they loved.

Compared with that incredible act of volunteering, when a community group such as a fire brigade asks for someone to volunteer their time to learn skills, help the community and join a group that is more like one big family, we are not really knocked down by people willing to sign on.

We are into May now and the hills are definitely getting that tinge of green and this is a good time to remind everybody that we at Julimar are always keen on getting new and eager brigade members whatever the season.

You don't have to sign up to put your lives on the line like the Anzacs did all those years ago in order to become a radio operator or auxiliary member.

If you are interested in learning how to become a fire fighter and protect your home and community, please don't hesitate to call our captain to discuss membership and hear about what we do as brigade members.

Smoke has been in the air lately as farmers have been burning stubble for crop preparation. The restrictions will soon be lifted and all backyard rubbish and piles of leaves can then be burnt.

So it's time to clean up the backyard and around the sheds and the house, which you've all been waiting so long to do.

When burning is allowed you still need to keep a careful watch on all fires as embers can so easily be picked up by wind and blown into a neighbour's backyard or paddock.

It's a beautiful time of year now and hopefully the rain will set in after seeding; the farmers will be happy and we will have food on the table.

Let's all wish for a good season this year.

See you at the brigade's Fireplace on Friday nights from 5.30pm for lively chatter and drinks around the fire.



Spot The Badger – one lives in England, the other in Bejoording.

## New firie follows in dad's footsteps as Herald plays 'Spot The Badger'

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**

**Bejoording**

From the desk of The Badger

WE NOW have another new member, Codey Hayward, son of Lawrence, a stalwart of this brigade for many years.

Welcome Codey, so good to see the family line continuing.

April was a pretty quiet month. Cooler weather, some rain and fewer really windy days.

You can definitely feel the seasons changing.

We are surrounded by controlled burn offs, and, being a largely broadacre cropping area, the smell of smoke and some early morning haze has been further evidence that the change is with us.

It's been pleasing to see the emphasis has been on control and there have been no dramas in the paddocks.

With all the public holidays out of the

way, our next meeting will be on its normal evening, the third Friday of the month, May 17 at 5.45pm at the shed, followed by training.

Hopefully by the time you read this, fire restrictions will have been lifted.

With indoor fires and electric heaters the risks will be greater inside your home than outside, so please be risk averse.

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.

## Thanks to all for a quiet fire season

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**

**Coondle-Nunile**

Max J Heath

WELL, it seems as if we have had another quiet year firewise but there is still time for problems with quite a bit of agricultural land remaining to be burnt.

There have been a number of call outs resulting in a few smaller attendances and several stand downs.

This does not mean we can become complacent if we are doing any burning off.

Anyone driving along the Toodyay-Bindi Bindi Road will have seen some action beside the old Coondle wheatbin where the new Coondle-Nunile Fire Station is in its construction stage.

It is expected that we will be in the new station sometime in October, ready for the next fire season.

Also, the new 3.4 Urban Fire Unit for Coondle has been seen around Perth and this should be a far superior heavy unit to the one we have now.

It would be good to have some more volunteers to help man our new unit and what better place to start than at a new fire station?

Anyone interested can come to the fire shed on Coondle West Road on a Friday evening or to our meetings on the second Saturday of the month, both at 5pm.

There are regular training sessions going on now that will prepare you for the role of volunteer fire fighter, if not in the Coondle area then with any of the other brigades who would always welcome new people.

Our AGM has usually been held in April but to bring this in line with other brigades it will now be held in June.

As Christmas is in the fire season, we have avoided having a Christmas function in December and now have our Christmas in July.

We are planning on booking a Toodyay venue this year.

Well that's about all from the fire shed for this month; we would like to thank everyone for taking some care and letting us have another quiet season.



**St John**

# St John Ambulance

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To be held on Saturday 8 June 2019**

St John Ambulance, Stirling Terrace Toodyay

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

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

**Free first aid kit for all participants**



# Council's secrecy phobia defies public right to know

**Toodyay Progress Association**  
Larry Graham, Chair

OUR COUNCIL has a secrecy phobia.

Anyone who has tried to access information or asked public questions knows this, but what is most concerning is that our councillors still do not get that the point of local government is for it to be open and accountable to the public.

Unless there is a good lawful reason not to do so, information should be released publicly and meetings and deliberations of council should also be public.

The public does not have to explain why they want information, nor is justification required for meetings to be public, because the law makes this the default position and our council needs to learn that.

So why is it that our council continues to use the Freedom of Information Act to restrict or delay the release of information when the law says they should do the exact opposite?

And why is it that discussions relating to the process for hiring a CEO are deemed to be confidential when they are not?

The Act and Regulations make provisions for matters relating to individuals, contracts and the like to be carried out privately and then the results reported publicly; and that is quite proper.

Our council is not talking about who will get the job or what any contract might say; they are talking about a process and none of that is confidential.

Simply put, the public is entitled to know what is happening, why it is happening and more importantly the public is entitled to know who is driving what happens and why they are doing that.

This town has a long history of high turnovers of staff, executives and councillors to the extent that we suggest there is no one in the organisation who has ever done these things before.

Even if that is not the case, there is

legislation before WA Parliament to change these processes and all the decisions of our council and administration for the last six years are under formal investigation.

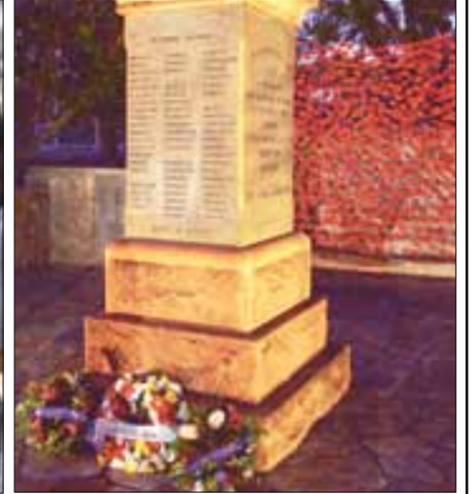
When we match those issues with the lack of experience on a council where a majority of councillors are up for election in October; where there is already one council position vacant; where no one outside of their wards has voted for any of the current councillors; where the Shire President is not publicly elected; where the CEO has been advised that his contract will not be renewed; and where a formal inquiry will report in coming months, then surely someone in authority can see that all is not good and that someone must surely know that secret meetings are not the way to go.

Surely, the only place that our council should be meeting behind closed doors is with the regulating department and, as we have written previously, they should be doing that seeking to get in a mentoring CEO and Shire President to guide them through until the investigation reports and elections are held.

Even those who turn feral at any mention of the Toodyay Progress Association must see how hopelessly conflicted this situation is and the only people who can fix it are the eight councillors of the Shire of Toodyay, and fix it they must. But they must not fix it in secret.

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.

## Anzac Day 2019 in Toodyay



Top: Last month's mid-morning Anzac Day Parade in Stirling Terrace. Above left: Young people wearing relatives' service medals on the right side of their clothing joined veterans marching with their medals worn on the left. Above right: The first three commemorative wreaths at the Dawn Service which was attended by a large crowd before Toodyay Lions served a traditional Gunfire Breakfast at nearby Wicklow Shearing Shed. More next Page.

Advertorial

## Wear Art tailors to all shapes, sizes and hip pockets

THE COLOURS of the Avon Valley and Kimberley flow together in the bespoke clothing and accessories shop Wear Art in Toodyay's main street.

Designer Ruth Roberts' one-off and

limited-edition creations offer Wheatbelt women the opportunity to find something truly unique at a reasonable price without having to travel to the city.

The handmade silkscreened items

range in sizes to fit all body types and all budgets – from \$35 for 'shundies', a cross between shorts and undies, to \$399 for a fully lined wool coat.

Ruth only uses high-quality fabrics such as Italian linen, vintage silk, bamboo, pure wool and quilters' cotton sourced from around the world.

Beige is rare in this collection but earthy plain colours complement the vibrant colours of Broome where Ruth first started the Wear Art label in 2007.

Wear Art's relocation to Toodyay late last year is the start of a new chapter for Ruth who has already created designs inspired by the Avon Valley – golden summer paddocks, banksia patterns and Avon River blue are just the start of her local palette.

This is a shop where customers' individual preferences can be accommodated. If a client likes a garment but prefers it in another colour combination, pattern or size, Ruth can produce it.

Some Wear Art clothing has already been designed to be rearranged to make four different dresses from one design.

The loose-sleeved Angel Dress begins as a sleeved dress then converts to an asymmetrical evening dress, a halter neck and finally a skirt. It retails for \$139 – that's less than \$35 for each new dress.

Ruth's accessories range includes funky leather 'saddle bags' in various colours and sizes.

One of the pockets fits an iPad or a bottle of champers as Ruth cheekily points out.

"They are designed to be worn across the body to promote back health and are suitable for all ages, from festival goers to Zimmer frame users.

"Your hands are free and they're great for jumping on a boat, motor bike or horse," said Ruth who is an avid equestrian.

Wear Art's winter range is currently being made and will feature houndstooth and tweed trousers and coats.

The new collection will arrive later this month so it's a great time to revisit, or discover for the first time, a quirky little emporium in the heart of Toodyay which offers high-end garments at well below Melbourne prices.

## Facing up to Facebook

**Computer Safety**  
Phil Hart

FACEBOOK is a great way of exchanging words and pictures with friends and family but it can also give away a lot of information that you might prefer to keep to yourself.

This can include where you happen to be, such as at your doctor's surgery.

Burglars delight in knowing when you are away from your house.

Having lots of friends on Facebook can give you a wonderful feeling but sharing your views on anything and everything is bound to upset some of those people.

It pays to think who you are sharing your posts with.

If you post something in a Facebook group, it is a good idea to follow the group's rules.

Treat people on Facebook as strangers unless you know them face to face, or you have a very good understanding of each one of them in other ways.

Facebook has been designed to keep your attention – it is designed to be addictive.

By keeping your attention, Facebook gets more money from its advertisers.

It can take effort on your part to limit the amount of time that you spend on the social media site.

Limit the amount of information that you put on Facebook.

The more information that you put up, the easier it is for somebody to steal your identity.

Using a single Facebook sign-on for multiple apps might be convenient but it increases the amount of your personal information that can be stolen when things go wrong.

It is safer to use separate sign-ons for separate apps.

There is a handy guide to adjusting your Facebook settings at [bit.ly/2WIq0BZ](http://bit.ly/2WIq0BZ).

More information on safety can be found at Facebook's own web pages on the subject at [bit.ly/2U9471z](http://bit.ly/2U9471z).

Happy surfing.

Featuring the colours of Toodyay and Broome

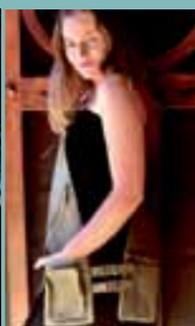
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2019 ANZAC DAY ADDRESS

# Call to honour slain local army nurse's name at medical centre

**Charlie Wroth, Chairperson, Toodyay St John Ambulance**

GOOD morning returned servicemen, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls.

It is indeed a great honour to be asked to address you in the 100th year of the Toodyay RSL Sub-branch receiving its charter.

I had considered speaking to you about the war service of my grandfather, Earle Joseph Sinclair Wroth, who served in Gallipoli, Egypt and France in World War I and was the first president in 1919 of what was then the Toodyay Sub-branch of the Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia, which later became the Returned Services League (RSL).

Or my father, Mac Wroth, and his wartime service in the airforce because he also was a former Toodyay RSL president.

People on Anzac Day generally focus on male servicemen, famous battles or heroic actions.

However, on this meaningful day I decided to talk about a girl that we should all know through name alone.

This girl who was born in Toodyay, raised on the family farm Telmell on Rockdale Road in Culham and was the daughter of Edward and Katherine Beard.

Alma Beard attended the local school and had a great love of horses, always entering the dressage events at our local Show.

At the age of 17, Alma commenced her nursing training.

She had been a qualified nurse for 11 years; training at Perth Hospital and a larger Sydney Hospital before feeling the need in World War II to enlist in the Australian Army in Perth on 19 June 1941 to serve in the 2nd/13th Australian General Hospital.

She eventually found herself in Singapore with 130 other Army nurses treating sick and injured soldiers.

In February 1942, with the inevitable Japanese invasion of Singapore and the situation getting worse by the hour – and against the nurses wishes because they didn't want to leave the wounded – they were ordered to evacuate to the port where two ships, the SS Vyner Brooke and the Empire Star, were docked to take them to safety.

The nurses were separated into two groups.

The Empire Star left first and made the voyage safely back to Australia.

Alma, along with the remaining 65 nurses, wounded servicemen and civilians, boarded the SS Vyner Brooke.

The next day near Sumatra, the Vyner Brooke came under attack and was repeatedly bombed by Japanese aircraft, causing her to sink quickly within 15 minutes.

The nurses had been ordered not to abandon the ship until all civilians were off.

Many people were killed and wounded during the air attack, and some survivors were strafed by planes while in the sea.

Alma was among the 22 nurses who eventually made it to Radji Beach on Bangka Island off Sumatra after clinging to a lifeboat for eight hours – they would have thought they were the lucky ones after seeing the shelling of another ship during the night.

By morning there were more than 100 survivors on the beach including the 22 Australian nurses, civilian women and children, officers and wounded servicemen from the Vyner Brooke.

It was agreed by all that because they had no supplies, no chance of escape and had injured to care for, that their best option was to surrender to Japanese occupying



*Toodyay ambulance chief Charlie Wroth, flanked by RSL Recruiting Officer Sue Eldridge and Toodyay Shire President Brian Rayner, urges local people to call the Alma Beard Medical Centre by its correct title to honour the local farmer's daughter killed in a World War II massacre.*

forces on the island.

A party of men accompanied by all the civilian women and children went off in search of the Japanese.

Alma and the remaining 22 nurses stayed behind to care for the wounded and erected a red cross to indicate that they were non-combatants and wore their Red Cross arm bands to give them protected status by convention in civilised nations.

They were all under the belief that they would be treated humanely as prisoners of war – their expectations were short lived.

A patrol of about 20 Japanese soldiers later arrived from the township of Muntok.

Some guarded the Australian nurses while the remaining soldiers herded the male survivors down the beach and around a headland.

Rapid gunfire was soon heard from this direction and the Japanese soldiers returned alone, sat down in front of the women and cleaned their bayonets and rifles.

The nurses were then ordered to walk into the ocean, with a couple of the soldiers shoving those who were slow to respond.

One nurse was heard to say "there are two things I hate in life – the Japs and the sea – and today I get both".

Another nurse cried out "Girls, take it; don't squeal" so, even in this horrific situation, there were no tears or screams.

Then matron Irene Drummond called out to Alma and the other nurses "chin up girls, I'm proud of you and I love you all".

At that point, the Japanese started firing up and down the line with a machine gun until they believed they had killed them all.

So what was the heinous crime that they had committed to deserve this fate?

They were just doing what they had trained to do – caring for the sick and injured.

But by pure miracle, one nurse – Vivienne Bullwinkle – was shot but survived by feigning death and floating in the water until the Japanese soldiers had left the beach.

Vivienne tended to her wounds herself and kept her secret when she surrendered once again to the Japanese, knowing full well that if they ever discovered, during her three years as a prisoner of war, that

she was the sole survivor of the massacre at Bangka Island that she would be executed.

It is only through her survival that the horrible details of this massacre can be accurately accounted for.

On her return to WA after the war, Sister Vivienne Bullwinkle wrote to Alma's parents saying that their daughter's brave conduct in her hour of crisis had added lustre to the service she so nobly served.

When Toodyay's new medical centre was opened in 1992, it was named the Alma Beard Community Health Centre in her honour, and Vivienne Bullwinkle attended the opening.

So next time you go there to see a doctor, remember Alma and maybe we should all

be more thoughtful by referring to it by its proper title, the Alma Beard Community Health Centre, named in her memory.

Though this tragic event occurred 77 years ago, more horrific details of the nurses' fate have come to light in recent months.

Let us hope that countries and world leaders have learnt from the mistakes of the past and that we can forgive one another and live in peace.

I apologise if this story is upsetting for some but it is important for the younger generations and those to come, to understand and appreciate the sacrifice that servicemen and women have made so we can enjoy the freedom we have today.



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Guard of honour – RSL veterans stand for The Last Post at last month's Anzac Day memorial service in Toodyay.

## RSL's £1000 gave new name to Memorial Hall

This month's instalment of Toodyay RSL President **Peter Brennan's** history of the local sub-branch to mark its 100th anniversary explains how our historic local town hall became the Memorial Hall.

BY 1939, the world was once again at war and, as in 1915, Toodyay was again affected by the departure of men and women from the community to serve their country.

A Letter to the Editor of *The Toodyay Herald* on 27 August 1943 criticised the resulting deterioration of the town, including that the Memorial Park "looks like a garden or some old deserted and neglected farm, and the Town Hall itself resembles some old barn on the same farm".

"There are many men in the district, many of whom I know, and who have been passed as medically unfit to join the fighting forces, who would make a much better job fighting for the benefit of the town, than the office staff of the present," the writer said.

"Mr. Editor, your journal, with its wide influence, could do much to stir the dry bones of the Road Board (forerunner of the Toodyay Shire Council)."

It seems that the letter had some impact because the Road Board entered into an agreement with Robert Waters to take care

of the Memorial and gardens for a period of 12 months for the sum of £20, and Robert later donated two iron seat frames that were made into seats for the park.

It seems that between 1941 and 1945 – perhaps because of the war – that the Toodyay RSL Sub-branch had discontinued looking after the memorial.

However, by December 1944 the initiative was resurrected and gained some momentum under the new president, E D P Hayes, and by March 1945 wardens were appointed to look after the memorial.

Anzac Day commemorations had lapsed for several years during the war but recommenced in 1945.

### Building fund, honour roll

AFTER the war, the Toodyay RSL Sub-Branch set about organising a building fund and received an amount of money as a result of calls for community donations.

Money raised by Toodyay's annual RSL Ball in 1947 boosted the building fund as did money from the newly formed Toodyay Repertory Club's first performance.

It enabled the sub-branch to buy a block of land in Stirling Terrace (known as the RSL Memorial building block – now Newcastle Park) in January 1948 with a view to building a hall and a block of buildings as a memorial to the fallen and for all those who took part in World War II.

Anzac Day 1948 was attended by a large gathering of local citizens at the Memorial Gardens on an ideal autumn day of bright sunshine.

All organised bodies of the district and children from Toodyay's State and convent schools were invited to march with the returned men.

The Northam Salvation Army Band led the parade followed by returned soldiers (including Legacy wards), the fire brigade and the school children.

Toodyay Sub-branch President G J Parkins reminded the community of the significance of Anzac Day, and many beautiful wreaths were placed on the memorial in loving remembrance of those who did not return from the war.

A *Toodyay Herald* article of the event noted that "it was very noticeable that the years are taking their toll of our ex-soldiers (from World War I), each year seeing one or more crossing the Great Divide".

"One wonders, though, why there are not more men from the Second World War marching with their comrades," *The Herald* said.

"Finally, Toodyay takes great pride in the fact that veterans from no fewer than three wars were on parade, and hopes most earnestly that it will be likewise for many years to come."

By May 1948, sub-branch secretary Eric Patten sought information from the Toodyay district community regarding names and initials for those who should be included in an Honour Roll for World War II.

By July he had a tentative list of names but further work was required.

Potential building projects were discussed at the June 1950 sub-branch meeting but in July 1951 the State Government told the Toodyay Road Board it would resume part of

the RSL's proposed building site in Stirling Terrace to enable a footbridge to be built across the Avon River for a new Toodyay State School.

The sub-branch was concerned that there was no adequate memorial for World War II and sent a deputation to meet the Toodyay Town Hall Committee in March 1956 with a proposal relating to the use and funding of the Toodyay Town Hall.

The RSL offered to donate £1000 to the Toodyay Road Board to refurbish the town hall on condition that it be renamed the Memorial Hall and be available rent-free for monthly RSL meetings.

The Road Board agreed, and in January 1957 the sub-branch donated its entire Building Fund of 956 pounds, four shillings and sixpence to the board to enable it to

repair and renovate the renamed Memorial Hall.

In March 1958 the sub-branch offered to make a gift of the remaining RSL land in Stirling Terrace which was being used as a children's playground to the Toodyay Road Board, and sell the rest of its land there to the board for £50 if the Board erected a notice acknowledging the gift.

The Road Board agreed and the block was later named Newcastle Park.

The 1958 land gift formed part of recent discussions between the RSL and Shire of Toodyay over the lease of the shire's former parks and gardens depot as new RSL headquarters at the corner of Clinton and Hamersley Streets, directly across the road from Toodyay's newly upgraded Anzac Memorial Park.



10th Light Horse member Doug Wood from Toodyay during WWII.

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# Big donation helps advance plans for new HQ

**RSL Toodyay Sub-branch**  
Bruce Guthrie

APRIL this year has been an amazingly busy time for the Toodyay RSL Sub-branch.

We supported Toodyay Lions in setting up the Lions Auction and attended the Toodyay District High School Anzac Day commemoration which was an outstanding ceremony conducted by the students in front of many parents and dignitaries.

Our president Peter Brennan presented the Cadet Encouragement award to cadet unit member Nikita Archer for her commitment, leadership and consistently giving her best.

Two students took lessons from RSL member Tom in playing the bass drum and RSL members Peter and Geoff assisted the

Cadets with marching skills and drills to support their marching in the Anzac Day parade.

Two 2019 Sandakan Scholarship Tour winners who travelled to Borneo returned home at the end of April.

We are keen to hear Ella White and Mackenna Cousinery's stories about the trip and congratulate them on representing Toodyay.

Our new headquarters project in Clinton Street continues to excite with the receipt of a substantial donation towards the document stage and the shire approving submissions of road, pathway and landscape documentation.

We hosted WA Premier Mark McGowan and his entourage at our headquarters to provide a briefing on the three stages of

development and, of course, to plead for some funding to support the documentation phase of the project.

We have welcomed five new members to our sub-branch and conducted our Anzac Day street stall outside IGA.

A sincere thankyou to all residents who generously supported our fundraising. Funds will be apportioned to our 100th Anniversary Ball in October and to general programs in the community.

Anzac Day 2019 ceremonies were extensively supported by our community. Thank you.

The dawn service at 0600 saw the War Memorial site crowded with participants and the stunning morning light, with still and cool conditions, provided a wonderful backdrop.

Thanks also to Toodyay Troop members who secured the memorial site overnight and read the dawn service Roll of Honour.

We thank the shire for preparing the parkland as a wonderful setting for the day and acknowledge the Toodyay Lions for preparing and serving a scrumptious Gunfire Breakfast up in the Shearing Shed on the museum site.

At 1030 a strong contingent of ex-service personnel and family members, St John Toodyay members, Volunteer Fire and Rescue, cadet unit and others formed up and marched from Memorial Hall to the War Memorial.

The main service at 1100 had many contributors including the Toodyay Singers, cadets and others which made for a sincere remembrance occasion on Anzac Day 2019.

Key speaker Charlie Wroth reflected on the occasion and the involvement of his father and grandfather in RSL Toodyay over the years.

Charlie then recited the story of Australian nurses serving in Singapore during WWII, in particular, the plight of Toodyay nurse Alma Beard who was killed in a wartime massacre. (See story Page 10.)

We all struggled with emotions on hearing this story.

Toodyay sub-branch wishes all members good health as we enter autumn time.

Thank you Toodyay, for supporting the sub-branch and all its activities.

## 1000 rally to back Hills development

**Debra Bishop**

MORE than 1000 people rallied in Mundaring on April 7 to tell Mundaring Shire Councillors to say "no" to land developer Satterley's proposed North Stoneville townsite.

Save Perth Hills organisers said the crowd loudly opposed suburbanising Perth's Hills.

Chants of "no Nigel no" – referencing Satterley boss, Nigel Satterley, rang out across Sculpture Park.

The 555ha proposed North Stoneville site is bigger than Kings Park and features 1450 homesites, some less than 350m<sup>2</sup>, surrounded by an extreme fire zone.

Concerns include tripling Stoneville's population to more than 6000 people in an area with a proven catastrophic fire capacity, inadequate bushfire evacuation, road safety risks with 11,200 extra daily traffic movements on Stoneville Road alone, and environmental risks over a proposed privately-run wastewater treatment plant.

Local resident Paige McNeil, whose property would overlook the estate, told the rally Satterley had not contacted any of the 200 residents abutting the site. "This is policy and profits before people," Paige told the crowd.

Many were visibly aghast to learn the Anglican Church owned the land.

Save Perth Hills invited Satterley representatives to the rally, but they declined citing: "We are concerned your proposed community forum would not provide a suitable format for constructive dialogue regarding the concerns held by Save Perth Hills."

Save Perth Hills' Chairperson, Amy Collins, said the issue, uniquely, had united political parties.

"All local members have put themselves on record stating they share the community's concerns."

"Additionally, the Federal member for Hasluck, Ken Wyatt, raised the issue in the Federation Chamber in Canberra."

"This is significant, because if the plan proceeds – along with its potential catastrophic outcomes – there'll be a permanent reminder on our national record of how the community's opposition and concerns were ignored," Amy said.

Mundaring Shire Council will hold a Special Council Meeting in May to announce its recommendations which will be sent to the WA Planning Commission for determination.

## Desalination plant and abattoir get State funding

MISTY Hills Nursery in Wundowie and Avon Valley Beef in Northam are two of eight projects in the Wheatbelt to receive Regional Economic Development (RED) funding from the State Government.

Avon Valley Beef will receive \$190,000 to install a new automated lamb supply chain at its Northam abattoir to triple lamb processing and facilitate both sheep and beef processing at the same time.

Lamb and sheep processing is estimated to increase from 600 to 3600 head per day, creating opportunities for producers to increase supply and provide more locally processed sheepmeat products.

The abattoir expansion will provide an estimated 30 new jobs in Northam.

Misty Hills Nursery will receive \$43,000 for a desalination plant in which owner Chris Davidson has, to date, invested \$250,000 in earthworks and solar panels.

"Compared with coastal desalination, not a lot is known about inland desalination and our project might be used by Murdoch students as a study site," Mr Davidson said.

The RED grants aim to assist small businesses, create employment and boost tourism experiences in regional WA.

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Local farmer burns off stubble in paddock preparation for oaten hay. Photo: Frank Panizza.

## Farmers predict rain with hairy caterpillar trails

**Toodyay Agricultural Alliance**  
Frank Panizza and Georgie Troup

A MIXED bag would be the best description of the recent activity on local broadacre farms.

The usual crop preparation stubble burn offs and supplementary feeding of livestock have been occupying our local farmers.

Heavy rainfall and hail have been a blessing for some and a curse for others.

Hail, though isolated, has caused damage to cars and buildings and has also stripped leaves from trees and flattened any remaining summer feed.

In eastern parts of the shire, particularly in the Nunile area, rainfall recordings have been as high as 40mm but, typical of summer storms, the rainfall has been patchy with areas only a few kilometres away recording falls of less than 5mm.

The timing of the start of winter rains has been a subject of conjecture for millennia – a subject that has been of interest to farmers like myself for as long as I can remember.

Age-old beliefs about signs in the natural world indicating a change to winter rains vary widely.

A common theme in the Toodyay area is the re-start of creek flows that have been dry in summer and the inevitable increase in frog calling resulting from increased water flows.

Bolgart local identity Brian McGill, 'Ned' to all and sundry, subscribes to the leaf-drop-from-apricot-trees theory, commenting to me recently that until all the apricot leaves have dropped, the season is still a way off.

My personal favourite is the 'hairy caterpillar' trails.

These native Australian caterpillars, also

known as the Processionary Caterpillar, move about in autumn to feed on mostly Acacia trees and shrubs.

It is thought that an increase in sightings of caterpillar trails is indicative of a start to the winter rainfall season.

### Milling oat grain trials

THE DEPARTMENT of Primary Industries and Regional Development grains research team has been busy working in the Nunile area in April, sowing milling oat grain trials. The trials are supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation and will provide local growers with information on the best oat varieties to grow and the optimal nutrition strategies for each of them.

Oats, like many other grains grown on farms, can have different requirements for their management between the varieties.

The milling oats grown by Toodyay farmers are used both domestically and exported.

Once the oats are harvested from the paddock they are then cleaned, kiln-dried and rolled.

The majority of the oats grown in WA are then exported to Asia.

Milling oat varieties are grown for human consumption, because they have nutritional qualities that make them beneficial to our diet.

You will find oats in your muesli bars and porridge, and more recently supermarkets stock oat milk and oat rice which all could have been grown in Toodyay.

Feed oats are often grown from different varieties which have nutritional qualities that make them more suitable for animal consumption.

## Tips on when to plant vegies to harvest for Toodyay Show

**Toodyay Agricultural Society**  
Alison Wroth

ONCE again, here is our bit of motivation for all those green-fingered people who want to plant vegetables in time for the Toodyay Show but are unsure of the right time to plant.

Below are some planting times provided by champion vegie grower, retired steward and now judge, Len Leeder.

Thanks so much Len; hopefully, this will get some new entrants to the Show.

For the week starting May 19, plant potatoes, June 2 broad beans, June 9, rhubarb and silverbeet, June 30 cabbages, cauliflowers, beetroot, peas, broccoli; July 7 turnips, swedes and snow peas and the week commencing July 21 plant lettuces.

Hopefully, this information on planting will encourage those young and not-so-young entrants to plant something new and try something different and encourage those who have never entered vegetables before.

Remember that we now have in the Children 15 Years and Under Group, a class for Asian greens, and the sweet potato which is judged on size alone.

We are giving everyone some encouragement to enter by providing our third annual exhibitors' workshop at which a qualified Show judge will provide tips on what a judge really looks for in a prize-worthy entry.

The Show Schedule category under the microscope this year is photography, a section which is so diverse and wide-ranging in classes that it always attracts many entries.

The workshop begins at 9.30am on Saturday July 13 at the Youth Hall in the Toodyay Showgrounds.

So, if you are keen on photography of any sort – action, portraits, landscapes or the new 'selfies' class that has been added to the section, please consider coming along to learn what a Show judge is looking for in an exhibit.

Morning tea and raffle draws will be occurring throughout the morning.

Keep a lookout for posters going up around town and on social media.

To assist with catering, RSVP by Sunday June 30.

Our first members' drive and fundraising stall promoting our 166th Toodyay Agricultural Show will be held in the IGA foyer on Friday and Saturday May 10 and 11.

Come along and buy a ticket to have a chance to win any of the four 'agricultural prizes' that will be on offer.

If you would like to become a member of the Toodyay Agricultural Society so you can have a say in the running of the event at the AGM or possibly get on our show committee, pay the membership now and you will have access to one member's pass and two guest passes plus a Show Schedule.

If you are interested, contact the administration officer, Geoff on our email toodyayagsociety@gmail.com or telephone 0476 918 601.

Our entrant for this year's Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) Rural Ambassador is local vet nurse Jordie Street.

Jordie, who is brimming with personality and enthusiasm, wants to represent both the Toodyay Agricultural Society and Toodyay community to the best of her ability in the regional competition.

Northam is hosting the Central RAS Rural Ambassador Award this year and the committee have every confidence in Jordie.

See you at the Show #toodyayagshow.

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# Footy season revs up weekly shed gathering

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

AS PREDICTED last month, the footy season has brought our weekly gathering back to life – big time.

Attendances at the shed on a Wednesday evening have been very strong and, by the time you read this, hopefully the shire will have allowed us to start up our big log fire.

Our AGM went without a hitch and there were no changes to the office bearers; 26 voting members were present as well as guests and family members.

Barry Grey continues as president, Linda Veltman as treasurer, and Richard Hazlewood as secretary.

Marc Bodiam continues as vice-president and the other committee members are Gloria Robinson and Doug Colfer.

After the AGM we had our annual T-bone feast.

I don't know whether to acknowledge the butcher or the cook but the steaks were beautiful.

As a rare steak-eater you soon know if the meat is good or not and these were very tender.

All the other trimmings were also up to scratch, so a big thankyou to Linda Veltman and her helpers who made it all happen.

I guess I should mention that Marc Bodiam makes the smoothest mashed potato in the west; I'd hate him to feel left out.

There still seems to be no action on the annoying half road/bridge closure just our side of Culham that's been bugging locals for many months.

Maybe there was something in the shire

## Morangup tenders

TENDERS for the design and construction of upgrades to the Morangup Co-location Centre in the Shire of Toodyay are now open.

The deadline for tenders is 2pm on Wednesday May 29.

For further information go to [toodyay.wa.gov.au/Council/Tendering/Current-Tenders/TEN-03-2019-Morangup-Colocation-Centre](http://toodyay.wa.gov.au/Council/Tendering/Current-Tenders/TEN-03-2019-Morangup-Colocation-Centre).

newsletter, but for the small expense involved the shire doesn't think it is worth posting to ratepayers.

There never seem to be any copies in racks outside the post office or IGA anymore and old Luddites like me who live a long way out of town are averse to having to find it on the internet.

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

Come along from 6pm, and leave when it suits you.

It's strictly 'come as you are' casual, kids are welcome, and there are fun events every month.

If you aren't yet a member, come along, we'd love to get to know you.

If you want any further details, please contact president Barry Grey on 9574 2149, or call The Badger on 0414 250 484.

## Northam broker in state finals

NORTHAM mortgage broker Christine Dunkerton has been selected as a state finalist in the Mortgage and Finance Association of Australia Excellence Awards for the second consecutive year.

Mrs Dunkerton was selected from 560 national contenders and will contest the state awards in the Regional Finance Broker Award category.

The awards are the most rigorous in the Australian mortgage and finance industry and are judged by an independent panel of industry specialists, business professionals and experts.

"I have a strong focus on customer service and communication which is my point of difference and I believe this focus has enabled me to grow and prosper during a time of increasing change and uncertainty in the industry," Mrs Dunkerton said.

The awards recognise the best brokers, businesses and industry professionals and play a key role in lifting the industry's standards of service and professionalism.

The state awards will be held in Perth on



Christine Dunkerton.

Thursday May 16 and finalists will travel to Melbourne for the national awards ceremony on July 25.

## Tap into apprenticeship cash

FROM July 1, apprentices and employers can benefit from a Federal Government scheme to address the shortages in trades skills.

Occupations eligible for payments include carpenters/joiners, plasterers, plumbers, bakers/pastry cooks, hairdressers, vehicle painters, air-conditioning/refrigeration mechanics, wall/floor tilers, arborists, bricklayers and, stonemasons.

The Additional Identified Skills Shortage scheme will be in addition to other government programs such as trade support loans and the Australian Apprenticeship Incentives Program.

Eligible apprentices will receive a payment of \$1000 after completing the first year and an additional \$1000 once they've finished their apprenticeship.

To be eligible, apprentices must be new to their employer and commencing a Certificate III or IV on the Additional Identified Skills Shortages list.

Eligible employers will receive \$2000 one year after engaging a new apprentice and a further \$2000 when the apprentice completes training.

For further information visit [australianapprenticeships.gov.au/additional-identified-skills-shortages-](http://australianapprenticeships.gov.au/additional-identified-skills-shortages-)

## Bakers Hill facelift

THE BAKERS Hill Recreation Centre has received funding to upgrade its facilities.

Barbecues, a nature playground and new shade structures will be installed as a result of a \$90,000 grant from the Community Development Grants Program.

The centre is the hub of the local community and the funds will provide for a more family-friendly environment.

## Intersection upgrades

THE INTERSECTIONS at Great Eastern Highway and Old Northam Road in Woololoo, and Great Eastern Highway and Old Northam Road in Sawyers Valley will receive major upgrades under the current Federal Government's budget.

The \$3 million local project is part of the Urban Congestion Fund which aims to eliminate local traffic hotspots throughout Australia.

The Federal Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population Minister Alan Tudge said the projects would help streamline traffic flow along the busy Great Eastern Highway.



### Best deal for local Tradies

The Toodyay Herald offers the best exposure for Tradies to the Avon & hills, circulation of 4250 copies each month and growing

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# Len's deadpan humour brings dry topic to life

**Toodyay Historical Society**  
Robyn Taylor

FOLLOWING our April AGM, we were entertained by member and Patron Len Leeder, who regaled us with an account of his long career with the WA Railways.

To some this may not sound like a riveting topic but Len's dry, at times deadpan humour, had us in stitches and wanting more.

His talk was also very enlightening especially when it touched on Toodyay's rail history, and educational about WA railways as a whole.

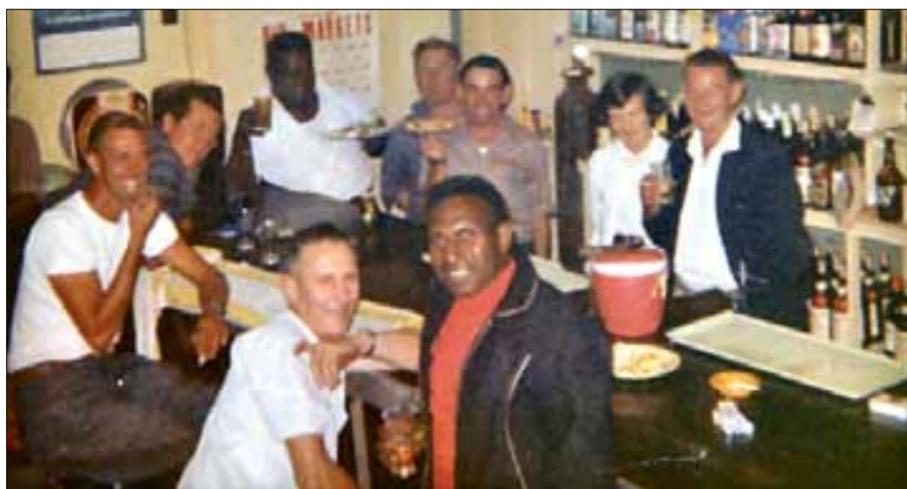
Titled *WA Railways on the Move*, Len's talk covered his career from 1956 when he was a 15-year-old lad fresh from school to his retirement in March 1994.

He was first employed as a junior clerk doing what underlings often did back then – peddling around Perth on a bike delivering mail and collecting morning teas and staff lunches from Boans department store.

Over the next 13 years he gained experience through postings at Kalgoorlie, Bunbury, Narrogin and Northam.

Len rose up the ranks of management to become the Industrial Relations Manager, then the Human Resources Manager in 1987, a position he held until his retirement.

He was to witness great advancements within the railway system, and great reductions in workforce numbers, including the controversial closure of the Midland Railways Workshops.



Members of the Thursday Islander railway crew and friends enjoying a pint and pizza at the Newcastle Hotel bar in the 1960s during the construction of the Toodyay section of the Standard Gauge Line. From the Jack Mensforth collection, courtesy of J (Spot) Watson and Toodyay Historical Society.

One of the fascinating aspects of Len's talk was how his career reflects our changing times.

Back then a career with a company was something you could, generally speaking, be assured of for the rest of your working life.

There was training, stability, steady income and, on your part, loyalty to the firm if it served you well.

It also meant a depth of knowledge was accrued over time; what is often referred to

as corporate memory.

This is what historians treasure when writing histories of organisations.

Too often this knowledge is lost with the retirement of individuals who have a long-range perspective and personal experience of what led to the making of decisions.

Len's talk covered the Standard Gauge Railway that commenced in 1962 and was completed in 1966, with some interesting stories relating to the construction of this

railway through Toodyay and the Prospector rail car service that started in November 1971.

The Prospector replaced the Kalgoorlie Express steam/diesel train, and reduced travel time from 14 hours to less than seven hours – the wonders of progress – and there is the ongoing story of our AvonLink. What will its future be?

We will be having our usual stall outside Drummond House for the Moondyne Festival on Sunday May 5.

A roster will be drawn up, so everyone has a chance to enjoy the festivities.

Next meeting: Wednesday May 15, 7pm at Drummond House.

Our guest speaker will be Ian Stannard talking about Australian bank notes.

End-of-month excursion will be on Saturday May 25 to AvonDown, the Roman Catholic Precinct at the entrance to town. Details to be advised.

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

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

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

Books and displays at Drummond House, open Saturday 10am to noon.

Membership is \$10 per annum.



Allen Clabaugh (right) presents the Certificate of Support to (from left) Bethan Lloyd, Ken Stivey, Mark Greenway and Bonita Axon.

## Classic music hits right note with listeners

**2J2AIR 105.3FM**  
Ken Stivey

AS PART of our commitment to our community we were presented with a Certificate of Support for the new Choose Respect initiative by Allen Clabaugh from the Safer Toodyay committee during the recent survey chat outside IGA.

Thanks to those who expressed their appreciation through social media for the introduction of Margaret Fox's classical music hour on Sunday mornings.

### 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.

## Boost for road safety

THE SHIRE of Toodyay will receive an extra \$361,878 in road-safety funding during the 2020-24 five-year allocation.

The additional grant provided by the Federal Government under the Roads to Recovery program will increase the funding for Toodyay over the next five years to just over \$1.8 million.

A further \$2.55 million will be allocated to the Australian Road Research Board to help councils keep abreast of the latest road-safety design and maintenance innovations.

## Rare dog licence surfaces at auction

KENWICK resident Alf Campbell recently purchased a rare WA dog licence medal which dates back to the early 1900s when Toodyay was still known as Newcastle.

The avid medal collector found the 1904 Newcastle Municipal Council dog licence #32 among a group of items at a public auction.

"I have no idea where it was found but its condition is consistent with it having been buried," Mr Campbell said.



Alf Campbell bought the 1904 Newcastle Municipal Council dog licence at auction.

"Perhaps it was found by a detectorist and perhaps it was found well away from the Toodyay district.

"Perhaps the finder and the previous owner did not recognise what they had, but I congratulate the fossicker who made it available for preservation."

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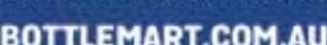
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# Easter Bunny hops into action-packed month

**Toodyay Country Women's Association**  
Elizabeth Mansom

THE TOODYAY Country Women's Association held its monthly meeting a week early last month because of Anzac Day.

Apart from the Easter Bunny calling and ensuring everyone present went home with a chocolate offering, a particularly luscious afternoon tea was held to celebrate the birthdays of Mavis and Judith.

We sang *Happy Birthday* along with the musical candle and wished that they continue in good health and enjoy the years ahead.

We were out again offering Anzac biscuits on Anzac Day and hope you met one of our ladies before the delicious tidbits ran out.

On Thursday May 2 our president, Maxine and Evelyn will drive to Tammin to join their 80th anniversary celebrations.

Birthdays, especially big ones, are always popular and numbers have to be restricted, but Tammin has a WA Week dinner in June so the rest of us will get our turn then.

On Sunday May 5 you will find us in the kitchen at the side of the Memorial Hall providing light lunch and teas to Moondyne revellers.

The following day, Jennacubbine will



*Fiddle rugs and an arm muff made by Toodyay CWA members.*

hold International Day which this year concentrates on Papua New Guinea.

With a guest speaker who lived in that country, different food plus the usual raffles and trade table, it will be well worth attending.

So far at craft mornings on the second Thursday of the month we have produced

two fiddle rugs for care-facility residents and arm muffs are proceeding as it's good weather for knitting.

The rugs keep dementia sufferers amused and arm muffs stop them interfering with dressings and other medical paraphernalia.

CWA of WA has put out a call for emergency overnight backpacks to give to children removed from home at short notice in the hope of making their lives a little easier and brighter at a very difficult time.

Our branch is supporting this initiative and anyone who would like to donate a backpack or items can contact any CWA member or our community coordinator Trish Chitty on 0466 285 164 or trish.chitty9@gmail.com.

The children are aged from 0 to 15 years and the bags can be filled age-appropriate items.

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

There is plenty of parking in Charcoal Lane, with disabled access from the lane down the side of the hall.

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



*Mavis Rowles (left) and Judith Walton shared a birthday cake at the CWA's meeting last month.*

## Turner gets stuck into salt and pepper mills

**Avon Woodturners**  
Max J Heath

HI FROM 2J Junction and the woodturners.

We have been cruising along at the shed and are busy preparing for our WA Woodworkers Association (WAWA) workshop next month.

The workshop has now been pretty-well organised and three demonstrators, along with the competition judges, have been found for us by WAWA.

The event will be held in the Toodyay Memorial Hall on Saturday June 22 and all are welcome to come and visit; we are expecting about 90 turners and some wives and partners.

The Avon Woodturners would like to acknowledge the Shire of Toodyay for the support it has given us in assisting with the workshop.

Turning has been a bit quiet recently with some members away on trips, but the rest of us are going along doing our stuff in preparation for the Toodyay Agricultural Show as well as this month's display in Northam.

One of our members has been busy making salt and pepper mills and these have come up really well.

I think he is going to be asked to demonstrate to our other members how it's done.

We had quite a good result from mentioning that if anyone was cutting down trees which were a little exotic we could be interested in the timber.

A working bee has to be organised to harvest some timber we have been offered by local residents, including some Quandong and some Tasmanian Blackwood.

Once again, if you have to cut something exotic please contact me on 0400 206 929.

That's about all for now from the woodshed; please remember our motto – don't drive tired.



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## Busy mini rail staff eat meals on wheels

**Toodyay Miniature Railway**  
June Eastwood

OUR FIRST school holiday Wednesday run took us very much by surprise.

Not only were we busy all day but there was not even time for our drivers to eat lunch so it really did become a case of meals on wheels.

Being curious as to where our passengers arrive from, I asked for their home address and the result was astonishing.

Less than a third were locals. Perth addresses accounted for a third with locations ranging from Glen Forrest in the hills to Alkimos on the coast and all suburbs between.

The biggest surprise was the range of country visitors.

From Kojonup in the south to Northam, York, Cunderdin, Bullsbrook, Gingin, Moora, Newman and Billiluna in the south-east Kimberley.

If you have not heard of Billiluna you are not alone as I only knew of the remote Aboriginal community through north-west connections.

These visitors from all around WA point to the popularity of the mini rail and the urgent need for new, active volunteers to maintain



*Not a steam train headlight but a very early example of a station light.*

a very important Toodyay tourist attraction. Our passengers don't just visit the railway, they ask us what other attractions they might see and no doubt the food outlets benefit from a heap of hungry kids.

In last month's *Herald* I mentioned Marion and Charlie Ferguson's kind donation of a very special lamp.

I mistakenly believed it to be a headlight for a steam train but have since learned it was actually a very early railway station light before the really 'modern' acetylene-gas-operated lights were introduced.

As I mentioned in an earlier column, the dry river may not be an appealing sight but its mud did yield up Graham's black sheep which vandals had torn out and thrown into the water when the river was high.

I am pleased to say black sheep has been panel beaten, repainted and is back with his three white mates so our recently renovated yard contains a healthy flock of four.



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