

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.

July 2019
Edition 381

Postage
Paid
Australia

Splashes of vibrant colour celebrate National Tidy Town win



Morangup artists Nicola Cowie (left) and Katherine Ferguson with Toodyay's first street mural which they completed last month on a new shire public toilet block in Charcoal Lane to mark Toodyay's 2015 National Tidy Towns win. The Shire of Toodyay plans to instal a nearby plaque to record the remarkable achievement by local Tidy Town volunteers. Letters, Page 5.

New pool grows to 8 lanes

Michael Sinclair-Jones

PUBLIC pressure has resulted in Toodyay's new swimming pool being increased in size from six lanes to eight.

The extra \$400,000 cost will be saved by postponing plans to include a new children's playground near the pool.

The revised Sport and Recreation Precinct master plan was unveiled last month at a



Local residents attend last month's sports and recreation precinct public meeting.

public meeting attended by about 35 local residents.

It includes a 100m rectangular pitch for hockey, soccer and rugby, four tennis courts, four multi-use basketball/netball courts, changerooms and a new community pavilion and kiosk.

Shire President Brian Rayner said the pool was expected to be ready to use before Christmas next year.

Excavation work was expected to start this month after the council voted 7-0 (Cr Ben Bell absent overseas) last month to award the building contract to ADCO Constructions.

The public meeting was told the 25m pool would be deep enough for swimmers to dive off starting blocks at one end, and perform tumble turns at the other.

Shire CEO Stan Scott said the cost of the whole project was \$14.9 million, of which \$4.5 million would be borrowed (with annual loan repayments) and the rest funded from

State and Federal grants, shire savings, and budget allocations over the next three years.

He said the existing Toodyay Showgrounds would continue to be maintained for cricket, football and other community events, and the existing pavilion "kept up to scratch".

Shire's 2.5 per cent rates hike matches more money for CEO

TOODYAY shire councillors voted 6-1 last month (Cr Bill Manning against, Cr Ben Bell absent) to raise shire rates by 2.5 per cent from July 1 this financial year (story Page 3).

Councillors then went behind closed doors and voted 6-1 similarly to give Shire CEO Stan Scott a 2.5 per cent pay rise to stay for another year after voting 5-4 in March not to offer him a new contract (story Page 5).

NAIDOC 'Place of Mist'
celebration, Memorial Hall
Sunday 7 July 10am-3pm

this month

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COUNTRY REALTY

The Toodyay Herald

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

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

All advertising should be emailed to advertising@toodyayherald.com.au. Editorial contributions and photographs should be emailed to news@toodyayherald.com.au.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

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Treasurer: Beth Ruthven
Members:

Sandra Harms, Stirling Hamilton,
Allan Gregory, Peter Harms,
Ieva Tomsons, Barb Dadd

PRODUCTION

Editor: Michael Sinclair-Jones
Admin/Advertising: Heather Appleby
Design/Layout: Sandra Harms
Editorial/Layout: Ieva Tomsons

DISTRIBUTION

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

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THANK YOU

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

ADVERTISING

RATES - NO GST IS APPLICABLE

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

Full Page: Mono - \$664.00; Colour - \$715.50.

Setup size: 260mm wide by 400mm deep.

Half Page: Mono - \$332.00; Colour - \$383.50

Setup size: 260mm wide by 195mm deep.

Quarter Page: Mono - \$166.00; Col. - \$217.50.

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Page Nomination Loading: Front page - 100%,
Back page - 50%, Centre pages / Page 3 - 25%,
other pages - 10% (based on mono price).

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE	STORY DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTED
Noon Thursday July 25	Noon Tuesday July 30	Wednesday August 7

Please note our email addresses

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

Ol' Blind Joe

The right to know

DAMN, I've done it again where I've gathered a hundred articles on the subject at hand, which this month is journalism.

Bugger, no time to re-read things so I'm just going to delve into that cosmic soup laughingly referred to as my memory and find as many morsels and tidbits as I can.

True story, scientists have proven that our brains will shift extraneous little-used information into the cellar or the attic so that the mind has room to sit down with a cup of tea contemplating life, the universe and everything, and this does not necessarily imply dementia.

The ABC *Afghan Files* stories triggered last month's raid by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) on the TV broadcaster over a series of 2017 stories documenting unlawful killing by Australian troops in Afghanistan.

In the wake of a further raid on the home of leading News Corp journalist Annika Smethurst, the AFP's position has gone from embarrassing to deeply disturbing.

Smethurst's story about a plan to allow Australia's National Signals Directorate to spy directly for the first time on Australians by 'hacking' into critical infrastructure was more than a year old.

We now live in a police state where the Federal Government has extraordinary and wide-ranging powers to surveil you, interfere with your life and jail you – all in secret.

According to Australian Federal Police Association President Angela Smith, there is a widely shared feeling across the AFP that the body has "lost autonomy".

"It's an embarrassing situation," Smith was quoted as saying. "We look the least independent police force in Australia."

Police union leaders warned that the AFP was losing "its independence and integrity and must be separated from Federal Minister Peter Dutton's Home Affairs portfolio".

The AFP raids aren't just about journalism. Whistleblowers and others need protection from an overly powerful executive and a Home Affairs Department with a toxic agenda.

Australia's expansion of secrecy laws and its war on information since 2001 has exploded with 64 new anti-terror laws.

Both the ABC and News Corp are arguing that the AFP search warrants infringe an "implied freedom of political communication" contained in the Australian Constitution.

Are such powers being used not in the service of the rule of law or for national security but to protect the Government from political embarrassment?

Use of the term "national security" is now generally intended to shut down any scrutiny or discussion that might embarrass governments and block media questions about crimes or corrupt conduct.

American Founding Father Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) warned: "Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freeness of speech."

Australia may well be the world's most

secretive democracy, according to Damien Cave, Sydney bureau chief of *The New York Times*.

"The aggressive approach – which Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has defended – fits with a global trend," he says.

A pumped-up Morrison had some streetwise advice for his jubilant party room after their miraculous election win last May.

"Remember, journalists are not your friends," he warned.

The fight for press freedom should unite us all, says senior journalist Michael Miller of *The Australian* national newspaper.

"The fight over press freedom is not a fight to protect media organisations," he said.

"It is a fight to protect the public's right to be fully informed."

What should give our politicians pause for thought is the fact that Australia has slipped two places in the Journalists Without Borders World Press Freedom Index – we now stand at 21 on the list.

The index found that our defamation laws and a decade of ever-more restrictive national security and terrorism laws make covering these issues "almost impossible".

In a bygone era during the government of former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam (1972-75), Australia briefly became an independent nation.

Whitlam demanded to know if and why the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was running a spy base at Pine Gap near Alice Springs which – as American whistleblower Edward Snowden revealed in 2013 – allows the US to spy on everyone.

A threat to close Pine Gap caused apoplexy in the White House and a kind of Chile (1973) coup was set in motion.

In 1974, Washington appointed Marshall Green – an imperious, sinister figure who worked in the shadows of America's 'deep state' – as US ambassador to Canberra.

(Known as 'the coup master', Green played a central role in the 1965 coup against Indonesian President Sukarno which cost up to a million lives.)

Australian Governor General Sir John Kerr visited the headquarters of the Defence Signals Directorate, Australia's National Security Agency, where he was briefed on the "security crisis".

On 11 November 1975 – the day Whitlam was to inform parliament about the secret CIA presence in Australia – he was summoned by Kerr – you know the rest.

A CIA deputy director later said: "Kerr did what he was told to do."

Christopher Boyce, a US defence specialist troubled by the "deception and betrayal of an ally", revealed in 1977 that the CIA had infiltrated Australia's political and trade union elite and referred to the former Governor General, as "our man Kerr".

"If all printers were determined not to print anything till they were sure it would offend nobody, there would be very little printed."
– Benjamin Franklin.

FEEDBACK

Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

Suggestions and comments are welcome
please forward to: feedback@toodyayherald.com.au
or post to: PO Box 100, Toodyay WA 6566

The Toodyay Herald

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

July - August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Aug-01	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Migrant Maria told she had to eat Vegemite to 'fit in'

Ieva Tomsons

NUNILE resident Maria Pepe (75) had never seen a banana, a blonde-haired person, freckles or sat in a car until she was nine years old.

Born in the mountain village of San Luca in Calabria Italy in 1944, Maria was the first child to survive after her mother had lost five children – she was a “gift from God”.

At the toe of the Italian boot, San Luca is regarded as the cradle of the Ndrangheta mafia ruled by the Dons, family patriarchs who control the peasant population.

“The best rooster, the best cheese, the best lamb all went to the Dons,” said Maria.

“We lived on what we grew but I can say that my brother and I were never hungry.”

Schooling for the peasant population was made compulsory in 1929 and Maria started her education at five in the understorey of a house before a local school was built.

“In the late 1940s poorer kids who could not afford an exercise book and a lead pencil had to sit at the back of the class with their chalk and slates.”

Maria had a book and pencil which she wanted to share with her friend so they could sit together.

Her attempt to halve the book and pencil didn't work out but it's an early example of Maria's giving nature.

Three years before Maria's father Bruno left Calabria in 1952 to join his brother in Pinjarra, he scored a job working in the props department of a film starring 1950s Italian movie star Anna Magnani.

“Once he realised that the boulders he had to move were made of papier-mâché, he loved it and said it was the best two weeks of his life – eating meat every day,” laughs Maria.

In two weeks, her father earned enough to connect electricity to the house and tile the kitchen.

In 1954 Maria, her mother and brother set sail on the Oceania for the 21-day voyage to Fremantle where they were reunited with Bruno and their uncle's family.

Maria's family rented rooms with three other families in a large house in Pinjarra before buying their own place there in 1955.

Everything was new and exciting, and



Maria Pepe with one of the 100 Carob trees she helped plant at Nunile in 1983.

Maria and her brother picked up English from their three cousins, classmates and others in the share house.

She recalls marvelling at a bandaid a tenant applied when she cut herself.

“It was like a bracelet. I'd never seen anything like it and washed around it for three whole days.”

A gift of a colouring-in book and pencils were another source of awe and wonder.

“The packet of 12 coloured pencils was like seeing a rainbow – all beautifully sharpened and I didn't dare use them for a week.

“These days you have to buy kids a trip to the moon to impress them.”

After a year, Maria was reasonably fluent in English but down the track when she started working at the local co-op at age 15 some words still stumped her.

Part of her job was to repackage bulk provisions and when a box of dates arrived from Egypt her very proper boss asked her if she wanted a date?

“At 15, the only date I knew was ‘to go out on a date’. I didn't know what to say, or where to look.”

Migrant kids are desperate to fit in and it was no different for Maria and her brother who couldn't stomach Vegemite.

“I told him that they don't deport people who don't eat Vegemite but he said we had to.”

“But we all got used to it – too right – and mum and dad took it back to Calabria when they went for a visit in 1977.”

Maria met her husband Angelo Pepe in 1966 and they married five-months later.

Angelo's family were Neapolitan and lived

in Mt Gambier in South Australia where the couple travelled to soon after marrying.

“I couldn't understand my in-laws; we had different dialects and I wanted Angelo to make up his mind about where we were going to buy a house.”

The couple returned to Perth after three months and headed south to Chowerup (near Kojonup) where Angelo worked as a mill hand at the Bunnings timber mill.

The workers' houses had no power or running water but the couple stuck it out for three years and had the first of their five children while living at the mill site.

The Peopes built their first house in Belmont in 1969 and later bought an abandoned nursery where they built another bigger house.

Angelo embarked on contracting large commercial concreting projects, including at Perth Airport and once the kids were off her hands Maria worked for 16 years for Masters Milk.

Maria describes all of her jobs, from meat packing in Mt Gambier to packing icecream, as “beautiful jobs”.

In 1981 the couple bought a 50ha hobby farm in Nunile where they planted 100 Carob and 130 Olive trees, and Angelo and all the family worked weekends restoring a derelict house and building two enormous concrete sheds.

“We were there nearly every weekend and the concreting was a nightmare – Angelo was a meticulous worker and everything had to be spot-on.”

The quality of his workmanship can be seen in the sheds and interior stone walls which are built from fossilised rock from Roebourne because the couple couldn't find a plasterer.

Maria supported Angelo through his four-year battle with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, and the house they built together is a testament to the resilience of this Italian-Australian couple.

“You've got to keep busy,” said Maria who joined the Toodyay CWA seven years ago and recently baked 100 scones.

Locally she is known as the scone lady but *The Herald* can attest that she still bakes a top biscotti.

2.5 per cent rates hike on the cards

Increase more than double 12-month rise in household cost of living

Michael Sinclair-Jones

RATEPAYERS face a 2.5 per cent rates hike this financial year after Toodyay shire councillors voted 6-1 at last month's council meeting (Cr Bill Manning against, Cr Ben Bell overseas on an Australian Government trade mission) to advertise the proposed new increase for public comment (see Page 12).

The rise is more than double the 1.1 per cent cost of living increase in the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics Consumer Price Index for the 12 months to March 31.

A proposed rate increase advertised last year resulted in nine public submissions, 20 pages of comments and a 2000-name petition which the council ignored.

This year's proposed 2.5 per cent rates increase was moved by Cr Rob Welburn and seconded by Cr Judy Dow.

It applies to all rateable properties in the shire, regardless of valuation category.

Shire President Brian Rayner announced to the meeting that a recommendation published in the agenda to exempt about 2000 properties on minimum rates from the 2.5 per cent increase would be replaced by an alternative recommendation to apply the increase to all land owners.

However, visitors in the public gallery were not given the revised calculations on which councillors based their decision.

The agenda papers – which showed no minimum rate increase – estimated that a 2.5 per cent rate increase would raise \$6,542,030 in the 2019-20 financial year.

The proposed new rates include commercial

(0.14020 cents in the dollar), town residential (0.12943) and industrial (0.12483).

Hundreds of 'lifestyle' landowners on relatively small blocks in rural residential subdivisions such as Morangup face a new rate of 0.11260 cents in the dollar.

Farmers on much bigger properties who pay tens of thousands of dollars in rates face a new rural rate of 0.008969 cents in the dollar.

CEO scores 2.5 per cent pay rise, Page 5.

Shire faces grilling from investigators

THE SHIRE of Toodyay has said publicly that the council may be suspended if a local government inquiry finds it unable to govern.

The unprompted remark by CEO Stan Scott at last month's council meeting followed a question by Cr Eric Twine about whether the shire would have to pay for new elections if any sitting members re-elected in October had to resign for “wrongdoing”.

“What happens if the inquiry is not finished before October?” Cr Twine asked.

Mr Scott said there was “no way of postponing the elections – until then it is business as usual”.

“The shire will receive a directions notice from the Local Government Department and those officers concerned will provide the required information,” Mr Scott said.

President Brian Rayner said the shire was providing information to the inquiry “as requested”.

Two State Government investigators who sat in the public gallery are understood to have recently completed gathering a large amount of evidence based on extensive interviews with local residents since the inquiry was announced last December.



Community Transport Service



This service does not replace urgent Ambulance transport. Please call 000 for emergencies

The SJA Community Transport Service (CTS) is now available for residents of Toodyay Shire for one way or return travel to medical and allied health appointments at Toodyay, Northam, Midland, Perth and suburban hospitals, specialists or doctors.

Reasonable rates apply • Book early to confirm travel

Phone Community Transport Service Coordinator on **0418 918 192**
Email: CTS@stjohnambulance.com.au
For full details and conditions, contact 9574 2390

St John Ambulance Australia (WA) Inc.
Toodyay Sub Centre
Office phone: **9574 2390**
PO Box 364 Toodyay WA 6566



The Toodyay Herald

Copping flak

AS WITH some other newspapers, *The Toodyay Herald* is under attack for trying to do its job properly.

That job is to inform people about what's going on.

Whether it be news about the local CWA or latest developments in shire affairs, we believe every member of our community has a right to know what's going on.

Our pages aim to strike a balance between all news, be it good or bad, and our headlines are always straight to the point.

If people prefer the council's version of events, they can read the shire-funded *Toodyay Community Newsletter*.

If they want a different opinion, they can join the local ratepayers' group.

Somewhere in the middle is all of you, the readers who consume 5000 free copies of *The Herald* that disappear rapidly from local news stands every month.

We aim to offer an independent source of local news and information that has caused circulation to grow 60 per cent in six years while other rival publications have folded.

If you visit the Toodyay public library to read *Herald* back issues, you'll find a long history of reporting news that sometimes made other people feel uncomfortable.

These include Page 1 stories 20 years ago about a new sports and recreation centre that "shocked" local residents, and troubles with former shire CEO Graeme Merrick.

Sound familiar?

Former *Herald* editor Samantha Connor copped plenty of flak in 2009 for writing stories that some people didn't like – but that didn't stop her, bless her heart.

That's what newspapers do, and we at *The Herald* believe this paper should not shirk from its responsibility to do its job properly.

Our layouts and headlines have changed to match more professional standards – there's little point printing stories that deter casual readers if they are lost in a sea of grey with tiny photographs that are hard to see.

Some say *The Herald* is "too negative" and ignores a "silent majority" view.

Others say a "vocal minority" of about 100 trouble-makers is dragging the town down and hurting local business.

Opponents call them "cheerleaders" with a vested interest in maintaining the status quo.

Those who follow *Facebook* are sometimes quick to take sides when opinions are stated as fact and unsubstantiated claims go unchallenged.

That's not how newspapers work.

The Herald takes neither side, and nor should it if we are to do our job properly. All we ask is that others do the same.

Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor

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

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- Emu Products Shop
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The way we were – This undated photograph is inscribed in pencil on the back as 'first house on Culham' and shows what appears to be five women on horseback in front of a house and outbuildings, sheds with thatched roofs and timber fencing made from local trees – no other information available. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

LETTERS

Herald ignores silent majority

ONE OF us (Beth) was present at a well-attended meeting convened by the shire on June 12.

A number of prominent citizens deplored the prominence given in *The Herald* to the negative views of our shire held by a disaffected minority.

The dissemination of these views was seen to be bad for business.

Tourists can be put off by the perception of an unhappy and divided town.

By definition the opinions of the silent majority are not presented in *The Herald*.

We contend that most residents of Toodyay respect the hard work and dedication of our volunteer councillors who have to battle with the complexities of local government.

It is conceded that mistakes are sometimes made, but they may be remedied at subsequent meetings.

What volunteer does not make mistakes?

As for our popular CEO, Stan Scott, he has been unfairly maligned by the vociferous few.

He is a prominent and ubiquitous member of our community in his own right.

He and his family have made their home here and put down roots.

Not all his recent predecessors have done so.

The editor of *The Herald* told the meeting that the circulation of the paper has greatly increased on his watch and suggested that such increase speaks for the paper's excellence and popularity.

However, the paper is distributed free throughout the Avon Valley.

Has there been an increase in subscriptions?

Are there any subscriptions?

How many actually read it?

We believe there is a groundswell of opinion that the paper is not what it used to be.

For a start there is no longer the centrefold of Shire News.

Instead we have editorials and letters sniping at the CEO and the shire.

The use of bold and loaded headlines is not, we believe, suitable for a small-town newspaper but smacks of the more unsavoury national tabloids.

If citizens wish for sensation and scandal they can turn to those publications, not to *The Toodyay Herald*.

The world is full of negativity.

Let *The Herald* be an exception.

Bob and Beth Frayne
Toodyay

(Paid subscriptions have remained steady over the past six years; circulation has increased 60 per cent to 5000 copies a month at news stands – Ed.)

Long live The Toodyay Herald

THERE was a comment on the back page of last month's *Toodyay Herald* by local real estate agent Tony Maddox stating that "A huge amount of our Locals have continually expressed their dismay at the local paper, printing such negative comments about the Shire of Toodyay ..."

How many of that 'huge amount', signed the 2000-name petition last year opposing a rate increase which the shire totally ignored?

Local government is the start of the democratic process, before State and Federal Governments.

Not only were the 2000 names ignored but we ended up with a shire president who was elected unopposed and who now holds the casting vote when councillors' votes are tied.

Only in Toodyay can you get a husband (former shire president) and wife (current councillor) on council at the same time.

Being in real estate, Mr Maddox would know that with Toodyay's population shrinking each

year, the shire should be proactive and encourage more local employment opportunities, but what do we find?

The shire engages an employment agency from Perth to hire shire staff who reside in Perth and have the full use of ratepayer funded vehicles – 24/7 fuel/regol/licence – all at ratepayers' expense.

We are not employing rocket scientists or brain surgeons so why should they be afforded such luxuries?

Mr Maddox criticises *The Toodyay Herald* but without *The Toodyay Herald* we would be treated as mushrooms and kept totally in the dark because the shire's own monthly *Toodyay Community Newsletter* contains only what the shire wants you to know.

The current State Government inquiry into the shire was well in advance long before it appeared in the shire newsletter.

The shire running advertisements in *The West Australian* and *The Toodyay Herald* censoring Cr Ben Bell for making his own personal comments on *Facebook* makes a total farce of democracy in Toodyay.

As does the council voting to not offer the Shire CEO a new contract one month and then the following month voting to extend it by a further 12 months.

A decision immediately prior behind closed doors on the casting vote of the Shire President confirms that democracy is not a high priority in Toodyay.

Without *The Toodyay Herald* and the Toodyay Progress Association we would never have known any of this.

Or that ratepayers lost at least \$570,000 chasing former CEO Graham Merrick or that a further \$36,500 was lost on another court case when the magistrate said she would order an acquittal because of a Shire CEO letter, or that thousands more were spent pursuing a \$60 fine for an overseas visitor who parked facing the wrong way for a few minutes in Stirling Terrace.

I hope Mr Maddox's "huge amount of our Locals" don't mind paying huge amounts of rates to cover all of the above.

Long live *The Toodyay Herald*.

Graeme Buchanan
Toodyay

Paper shines light in darkness

I WOULD like to thank the Toodyay Progress Association and *The Toodyay Herald*.

Both organisations rely on volunteers who do an excellent job to expose the truth and to support the community in letting us know what is going on, despite the efforts of the shire CEO and some councillors to keep us in the dark.

I do not see how it can be acceptable to have closed meetings.

Shire business should be accessible to all ratepayers who pay their rates to see their money being wasted and not accountable.

Ron Pyle
Toodyay

Newspaper digs for truth

I WAS in Toodyay recently to make a presentation to your local Probus Club on Captain Harold Rowell's emergency landing of an MMA jet aircraft at Fitzroy Crossing in the early hours of Saturday 31 July 1971.

Club president Joan Bath and her partner put me up for the night.

I brought home with me a copy of the June edition of *The Toodyay Herald* and have just finished reading it.

The attractive layout, the clarity of the typeface, the quality of the writing and the community engagement make for an excellent product – a recognition of good journalism.

Under Michael Sinclair-Jones' editorship the paper illustrates Stirling Hamilton's 'wife Truth's' dictum: dig, discover, deliberate and disseminate.

Congratulations and warm regards.

Dr David Hough OAM
Wembley Downs

(Dr Hough is a journalist, historian, arts critic and academic; and writes obituaries for *The West Australian newspaper* – Ed.)

Council law gags free speech

LIKE one of your Toodyay councillors, I have been accused and found in breach of Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007, specifically, item 7(1) b, "making improper use of the office of council member to cause a detriment to the local government or any other person" (see *Cr Bell story, next page*).

I believe this regulation is often used to silence and intimidate elected members whose ability to question and bring to light maladministration and misconduct should be protected, not be stifled.

Election to public office should bring greater freedom of speech, more right to question things and discuss issues, not less.

Members of Parliament enjoy legal privilege so they can freely raise matters of concern without the threat of legal action.

Compare the law around Rules of Conduct to that governing defamation.

Truth is a defence to a claim of defamation. Not so with 7(1)b "causing a detriment".

It a very curious piece of legislation.

It effectively runs counter to the fundamental law concerning local government – the *WA Local Government Act* – which states the councillors' role is to "represent the interests of electors, ratepayers and residents of the district".

How can anyone provide proper and effective representation if there is another law which says they cannot "cause a detriment" to someone, no matter what that person may have done?

For instance, if I discover someone is stealing, I cannot tell the residents I represent because that will obviously cause the thief a detriment.

Tell police, some will say, but what if the police won't act?

This situation is producing outcomes which are counter to the public interest and needs to be changed as part of wider reforms to the way local government is carried out in WA.

Cr Michael Southwell
(Shire of Capel) Gelorup

More letters, next page.



Shire launches legal bid to sack Cr Bell

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY Shire CEO Stan Scott has launched legal action in Perth to disqualify Cr Ben Bell from being a councillor for up to five years.

Mr Scott has claimed to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) on behalf of the shire that Cr Bell failed to publicly apologise for five minor breaches of local government rules of conduct for comments posted on Facebook.

The claim states that Cr Bell is represented (which he is paying for himself) by international law firm Squire, Patton Boggs.

At a June 12 shire public meeting attended by 24 local residents, Mr Scott said "no fees have been paid" when asked about Cr Bell's appeals against the Local Government Standards Panel findings against him after Mr Scott made a series of formal complaints to the panel about Cr Bell's Facebook posts.

These include a July 24 post last year in

which Cr Bell accused Mr Scott of a "cash grab" for seeking to raise rates by 2.2 per cent instead of 0.9 per cent agreed by councillors the previous month (see *Notice of Public Censure, Page 12*).

Mr Scott filed 64 pages of papers with SAT on June 12 claiming that Cr Bell's failure to pay appeal lodgement fees "appears to be a device to avoid fulfilling his obligations" to stand up in the council chamber and apologise for criticising him on Facebook.

Mr Scott said a 28-day period for Cr Bell to appeal against the panel's findings expired on May 2.

However, *The Herald* has seen a SAT email giving Cr Bell until July 16 to pay for his appeals, which he says he will do.

Cr Bell was overseas from June 19 to July 1 as a member of a 20-member Australian Government trade delegation to Europe, including meetings with ambassadors and

trade commissioners in London, Brussels, Paris, Wiesbaden and Frankfurt.

He emailed all councillors and Mr Scott's office on June 2 that "unfortunately I will be an apology" for the June 25 council meeting because of the trade mission.

The SAT claim against Cr Bell includes a copy of his *The Insider* column in last month's *Herald* "in which he claims that the found breaches as (sic) merely allegations intended to stifle community debate", Mr Scott said.

"This appeal allows the State Administrative Tribunal to make orders for further sanctions under Section 5.117

(Punishment for serious breach) of the Local Government Act.

"It is requested that the SAT make orders under Section 5.117 of The Local Government Act 1995 as follows:

- That Cr Benjamin Bell is suspended for a period of not more than six months; or
- That Cr Benjamin Bell is for a period of not more than five years disqualified from holding office as a member of a council."

Cr Bell was elected in 2017 to the shire's now-abolished East Ward for a two-year term which expires in October this year.

See Cr Michael Southwell Letter, Page 4.

Toodyay CEO scores 2.5 per cent pay rise

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY Shire CEO Stan Scott has gone from losing his current job on July 22 to scoring a 2.5 per cent pay rise for another year after a secret council backflip in May.

Mr Scott will get a total of \$243,000 in a new salary package, including payment of 14.5 per cent shire-funded superannuation.

Toodyay Shire councillors voted 6-1 behind closed doors last month (Cr Bill Manning against, Cr Ben Bell overseas on business) to add Mr Scott's \$20,800 annual housing allowance to his new base salary, which increases his ratepayer-funded superannuation to more than \$25,000 a year.

Perth's Consumer Price Index (cost of living) rose by 1.1 per cent in the 12 months to March 31.

Cr Manning's motion for no pay rise lapsed without debate when no other councillor responded to President's Rayner's call for a seconder.

Mr Scott left the chamber only after Cr Manning queried why the CEO was being allowed to stay and watch while councillors decided how much to pay him.

Earlier, two State Government investigators conducting an "authorised inquiry" into the Toodyay Shire Council introduced themselves to Shire President Brian Rayner and remained in the chamber when the public gallery was ordered to leave for four items of "confidential" business, including the CEO's contract.

President Rayner later told *The Herald* that Cr Manning had sent him five pages of "cosmetic changes" to the CEO's contract the day before the council meeting.

"Council accepted those changes as they did not alter the meaning of the contract," President Rayner said.

"There were also four amendments to the contract to be added."

Cr Manning, a former WA Government senior lawyer who helped prepare multi-million-dollar State contracts, said the draft CEO contract contained several inconsistencies that needed to be corrected.

The contract also required about half a dozen "substantive" changes that councillors debated and accepted, he said.

President Rayner said he was unable to provide a copy of the CEO's new contract to *The Herald* as a public document under local government law until a revised copy was signed by himself and Mr Scott.



Flashback to June 2018 when WA Nationals MP Shane Love (centre) calls for a show of hands of local residents who use Toodyay's Duke street footbridge after it was closed by the Public Transport Authority the previous month due to safety concerns.

Duke Street footbridge set to reopen by November

TOODYAY'S Duke Street footbridge over the east-west freight railway line that bisects the town near the Alma Beard Medical Centre is expected to reopen by November.

The Toodyay Shire Council agreed last month to take over maintaining the bridge later this year after the State Government spends \$145,000 on a safety upgrade and the shire contributes \$56,000 for repairs.

The Perth Transport Authority (PTA) will also build a new controlled railway crossing suitable for disabled people west of the railway station.

The bridge was closed in May last year after a local resident was injured in a fall on the uneven walkway.

A PTA spokesperson said the works would repair critical parts of the bridge, including replacing parts of the pier columns, repairing mesh inserts on the handrails and broken railings, and replacing degraded parts of the bridge decking.

Depending on the weather and subject to required rail safety approvals by freight rail operator Arc Infrastructure, work should begin in September.

WA Transport Minister Rita Saffioti said she knew how important the footbridge was to the people of Toodyay and that many users were looking forward to it reopening.

"Ensuring there is a safe option for passengers and community members alike – particularly those with a disability – to cross the tracks is an important initiative," she said.

Local Labor MP Darren West said he had lobbied the State Government for this outcome and was delighted that the parties involved had reached an agreement.

"I thank the Minister for this investment in the Toodyay community and for her ongoing support of the AvonLink Train Service."

Local WA Nationals MP Shane Love described it on Facebook as "great news for Toodyay residents".

"I have actively lobbied the Transport Minister on this important issue for some time now and this is a great result," he said.

"I thank the Minister for her support."

"This is a good long-term and workable solution that ensures Toodyay residents – including the young, disabled and elderly – can safely cross from one side of town to the other."

LETTERS

Continued from previous page.

Mural judges got it right

WHAT a wonderful addition this vibrant and colourful mural has made to the town.

While I can appreciate why some members of the Toodyay Tidy Towns (TTT) committee felt that its special project to celebrate the town's winning the National Tidy Towns Award had been 'highjacked' (*Herald* May 2019), the result shows the judging panel got it right.

A big thankyou to the TTT committee for initiating Toodyay's first mural and to artists Katherine Chandler Ferguson and Nicola Cowie who have given us something that is positively uplifting.

Robyn Taylor
Toodyay

Superb art worth the wait

I CAUGHT a glimpse of the new mural when I recently drove along Charcoal Lane.

I was surprised and delighted to see the mural completed and pulled over to have a good look and take photographs.

It is superb and the colour and vibrancy of the mural attracts attention.

It showcases Toodyay's lovely setting among rolling hills and farmland, the centrality of the river to the town and integrates age-old Aboriginal art techniques.

And the birds – they are a delight; a Rufous Whistler and a Red-capped Robin.

After a rocky start, I am so pleased that council listened to the concerns of Toodyay residents, took advice and set up a committee which included people with appropriate expertise to judge the best entry in the competition, all following the procedures laid out helpfully in the WA Department of Culture and the Arts Public Art Commissioning Guidelines (2015).

A big thankyou to council, the Mural Committee and, for the idea, the Tidy Towns Committee.

Congratulations to the artists – I hope *The Herald* will tell us more about this very talented duo, Katherine Chandler Ferguson and Nicola Cowie.

Jenny Gregory
Dumbarton

Councillor resigns on principle as elections loom

CR BILL MANNING has given notice that he will resign his seat on September 30 because Toodyay has abolished ward boundaries for the October shire elections.

In an email to all councillors last month, Cr Manning – whose four-year term does not expire until October 2021 – said he believed that all councillors should put themselves up for re-election this October.

"This will mean that all councillors have

been chosen by the entire electorate and ensure greater legitimacy in the eyes of the electorate," Cr Manning said.

"Consequently, I have given notice to the CEO of my resignation as a councillor, effective from 30 September 2019."

Others on the nine-member council whose terms don't expire until 2021 are Shire President Brian Rayner, who won his seat without anyone voting for him in 2017 when

he was the only candidate to stand in the shire's former North Ward, Deputy President Therese Chitty and Cr Paula Greenway.

Deputy President Chitty told a June 12 public meeting that she had considered resigning to stand for re-election this year but decided that she was lawfully elected to serve four years and would see out her term.

President Rayner said he would stay another two years.

Christmas in JULY at **THE VINTAGE DINING ROOM**

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Cowboy truckies put lives at risk

Police Beat

With Acting Sgt Kevan French
Toodyay Police Station



Traffic was held up for nearly five hours when a prime mover broke down on Toodyay Road last month.

A PRIME mover towing a heavy trailer full of rotting Perth rubbish disrupted Friday evening commuter and weekender traffic for nearly five hours last month after it broke down on busy Toodyay Road.

Two more trucks were called to tow both vehicles away after local police inspected the prime mover and issued a work order because it was unsafe for public road use.

The driver of the unmarked truck said he was carting the foul-smelling food waste to Toodyay's controversial new putrescible waste landfill dump in Hoddys Well.

He said the prime mover had 'lost air' near Morangup Road on June 21 causing its brakes to lock, although there were no evidence of skid marks on the road surface.

A Main Roads WA emergency crew was called to close the blocked westbound lane with traffic safety cones at about 3.30pm.

Toodyay police arrived from another nearby job to control traffic travelling in both directions around the broken down truck and conduct a vehicle safety check.

The driver called his employer, who sent a worker from Perth who tried to start the prime mover, causing thick smoke to pour from the engine.

Police then issued a work order that the vehicle was unsafe to drive.

Another prime mover was sent from Perth to collect the stranded trailer full of rotting garbage, and a heavy tow truck was called to shift the unroadworthy prime mover from blocking Toodyay Road.

Police were not able to reopen Toodyay Road freely in both directions until well after dark, at about 8pm.

It is understood the same Perth company owned another truck filled with building waste which rolled over near the corner of Toodyay Road and Fernie Road in September 2017, scattering tonnes of rubbish on the road and nearby bushland.

Local police say they will continue to target unroadworthy vehicles on Toodyay Road.

"Lots have mechanical issues and we've been giving out work orders," Toodyay Police Acting Sgt Kevan French said.

"We will target that as much as we can to help make Toodyay Road safe."

Sneaking in the back way

UNLICENSED and suspended drivers, or those with unregistered or unroadworthy

vehicles trying to sneak into town the back way on railway reserves beware – the cops are onto you.

"Railway access tracks are private property – anyone who uses them is trespassing," Acting Sgt French said.

"We know that some people try to use them to get in and out of town to avoid police attention.

"Some turn off Racecourse Road at the railway crossing boom gates, drive down the access track next to the railway line and park behind the old church in Stirling Terrace before waking into town.

"We've chased a few cars down there and told them to get off private property.

"It's not well sign-posted but people need to be aware that they can't drive there."

Pinched for illicit dip

TWO PERTH men were recently charged with trespass for swimming last April in a private dam at a Morangup quarry.

They were identified and prosecuted after a quarry security camera identified the registration number of their vehicle.

Local police are also keen to hear from anyone with information about wooden boards with protruding nails being left on quarry access tracks.

Costly 73km/h past cop shop

DOING nearly twice the speed limit past Toodyay Police Station was not a smart move for a Ford pick-up truck driver when the long arm of the law caught up with him in a surprise home visit last month.

Police seized the 34-year-old man's vehicle and charged him with speeding, failing to stop for police and driving without a licence.

Acting Sgt French said he was driving

with another officer in Stirling Terrace on a quiet Sunday night when an oncoming vehicle whizzed past the police station at 73km/h in the 40km/h zone.

"I switched on our flashing lights and siren and turned to follow the truck over Newcastle Bridge but it sped up to 140km/h.

"We got as far as the Coondle wheat bins on the Toodyay-Bindi Bindi Road before Perth police communications directed us to call off the pursuit for safety reasons.

"However, we were able to get the vehicle's registration number.

"York police later visited the driver at his nearby Kauring address, seized his truck and charged him with the traffic offences."

Acting Sgt French said he was concerned that other motorists were still speeding through town.

"Traffic section officers were using Multanova speed cameras in Toodyay to catch offenders, including on the town's outskirts where speed limits changed.

At the end of last month, Multanova cameras were operating on the Toodyay-Bindi-Bindi Road near the town cemetery, the visitor information bay in Stirling Terrace, Northam turn-off on Toodyay Road and past the Goomalling Road turn-off.

Local police with hand-held laser speed guns had also been busy in locations such as Goomalling Road near the school turn-off, and with vehicle-mounted mobile radar on regular patrols.



Goomalling Road speed patrol.

Stay safe – keep your distance

SaferToodyay
Desraé Clarke

TOODYAY RoadWise Committee offers these tips that we all know but sometimes need reminding of.

Safe distances – Keep a safe distance from the car in front and leave at least a two-second gap. If driving conditions are affected by rain or reduced visibility increase the gap to at least four seconds.

Overtaking – Don't overtake unless it is safe. When moving back into the left lane leave enough room to get well past the other vehicle. Don't overtake on double white lines.

Keep left – Unless overtaking, always keep to the left. This is not only courteous; it is sensible. A head-on at a speed over 80km/h will probably kill someone.

Weather conditions – Driving in the rain, fog and bright sunlight calls for extra care as these conditions can reduce visibility or increase the risk of skidding and losing control.

Reduce speed – Reduce speed in bad weather as your recovery time is better if something goes wrong.

Fog – If you see fog and mist ahead reduce speed before you enter it. In very thick fog make sure you always know where you are on the road and never drive at a speed that forces you to guess what is ahead. Avoid overtaking.

Rain – Heavy rain can have the same effect as fog with less visibility making it harder to judge where you are on the road in relation to other vehicles.

Braking – Braking should be gentle and not left to the last second.

Sun glare – Beware of blinding glare from sunlight either directly from the sun or reflected from other cars and objects. You may need to reduce speed and use aids such as the sun visor and sunglasses.

Hazard lights – Turn these on in hazardous weather conditions where visibility is reduced.

As of June 13, 12 people have died on Wheatbelt roads with 66 per cent killed or seriously injured on 110km/h roads.

The new emergency app. can be down-loaded from Google, Apple and Windows.

It uses GPS functionality built into smart phones to help a triple zero (000) caller provide critical location details required to mobilise emergency services.

Suspicious behaviour can be reported anonymously either to Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or crimestopperswa.com.au or Toodyay Police 9574 9555.

Report graffiti to 1800 442 255 or goodbye-graffiti.wa.gov.au/.

For further information: safertoodyay.org.au/.

Now where's that blasted file?

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

LOSING a file can at times be extremely annoying.

It can stop you doing all sorts of things that are important to you.

While there is no guarantee of being able to find a lost file, here are some tips and tricks on how to retrieve it.

If you think you downloaded it from the internet, try looking in the downloads folder.

Other places to look are the pictures and videos folders.

If you have lost a picture, try searching your C: drive for 'jpg'.

If you have lost a document, try searching for 'doc', and for spreadsheets search for 'xls'.

If you can remember part or all of the file name, search for that as well.

Searching in your folders is relatively quick but searching the whole of your C: drive can take some time.

If you use Microsoft's OneDrive cloud storage, you might find your file in your OneDrive folder.

If you use Google Drive, it is worthwhile looking in there as well.

Other places to look include your other devices and your backups.

It is possible there is a fault with the file system on your C: drive, so it is worthwhile checking it for errors; right-click on C: properties/tools/check.

Some older versions of Windows will need you to reboot your computer before it can check your C: drive.

If your file is still missing, and it is that important to you, you might need the services of a specialist data recovery firm, but that can be quite expensive and the results are not guaranteed.

Happy surfing.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Hungry Hippo hijinks send firies into frenzy

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Julimar
Alison Wroth**

OUR SATURDAY night social gathering post AGM Christmas in June turned into the social event of the season with everyone of importance or unimportance in attendance.

The organising sub-committee firstly deserves a pat on the back for ordering the best cold weather for the night and secondly for getting what was to be a nice evening of eating, drinking, team bonding and general merriment together in the first place.

Huge thanks to our captain and all-round nice guy Wade and his right hand Karen; for coming up with some incredible team party games with help from Vicki and all those involved in the preparation for producing a night to remember.

Wouldn't have believed it if I didn't see it but wow, some people get awfully competitive when they play adult size Hungry Hippo.

The shed was packed to the rafters for our brigade's general meeting and AGM.

The elected office bearers for 2019/20 are: captain, Wade Robson; lieutenants Vicki Wesley, Corri Murcott, Tegan Martin and Hans Bohlen; secretary Wendy Potter; chairperson Charlie Wroth and vice-chairperson Karen Dore.

The position of training officer has been taken on by Corri Murcott who promises punishing workouts and training drills for those who attend on Friday evening – so be prepared.

Equipment officer is Simon Holding once again.

Catering coordinator has been taken on by a brave Rosalie Phillips, so well done to everybody who has put up their hand as all positions are covered.

Now it's winter, it's time to begin or continue to spray or pull those weeds that surround your home or roadway.



Grant Scobie launches Corry Murcott into a game of Hungry Hippo where contestants try to collect as many ping pong balls as they can. Photo: Lou Kidd.

These weeds, unless attended to will become fuel for summer fires and a concern not only for you but for firefighters as well.

Please think ahead and do the right thing by keeping those yards clean, leaves raked and gutters clean.

It is a wonderful habit to get into as we prepare for high fuel content when the warmer months arrive.

Our winter raffle will be held on Friday July 19 extending into Saturday July 20 with a cake and plant stall outside the IGA.

Please begin to bake now and freeze any items if you don't have time closer to the date.

This is the big one people; our large fundraiser for the year. If you have plants or

have done baking that you can kindly donate, bring them along to the IGA on Saturday July 20.

If you have any queries, raise them on any Friday evening.

Our next meeting is on Saturday August 17 but if you have any queries before the meeting or are keen to join our growing membership at Julimar, please come down to the fire shed on Friday nights from 5.30pm for a cuppa, some yummy supper and stand around that warming fire.

All your questions can be answered on the night or contact captain Wade Robson 9574 4021 or one of his support crew if you are unable to come to the fire shed.

See you at The Fireplace.

Rain brings relief

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Morangup
Sue Maddrell**

IT WAS good to see the rain finally arrive. This was a relief for all fire brigades as there were call-outs once the burning restrictions were lifted.

Unfortunately we've had a few fires in Morangup, one of which appears to be a reignition of a fire that was thought to be under control.

The fires were quickly dealt with by Morangup and other Toodyay brigades.

Our last call was to a campfire that wasn't extinguished before the campers left.

The same rules apply for campfires as any other fire – they must be extinguished before leaving the area.

The brigade had its Annual General Meeting in April.

All positions remain the same except the secretary role. Sharon Gamble has taken over the role.

We thank Kim for the years he held the position and he is indebted to Sharon for taking up the position.

Our brigade and Toodyay State Emergency Services will hold their annual dinner in July.

There are a few hazard-reduction burns that need doing if the weather permits.

It is a good opportunity for new volunteers and also the not-so-new to get out and use the equipment we have.

With less fires in our area, which is a good thing, there is limited opportunity for familiarisation and hands-on experience.

The brigade meets on the third Saturday of each month at 5.30pm (except for July), followed by a barbecue with BYO meat and a salad to share. New members welcome.

Anyone wishing to become a volunteer firefighter can ring our captain Jeff Venn on 0417 714 798 who will explain the steps involved in becoming a volunteer.



Smartie Hourglass contestants from left: Wade Robinson, Brian Rayner, Geoff Boswell and Mary Donegan-Guthrie. Photo: Lou Kidd.

New 3.4 has already lost some bark

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

AT LAST some wet weather and things have turned green.

However, just before the rain started, things got a bit hectic around the place.

There were a number of call-outs on the morning of the rain as some people thought it would be a good idea to burn off but with the conditions at the time, this was asking for trouble.

Some people are so inconsiderate.

Once again, we are volunteers with work and jobs to consider. We don't really need to be called away just because someone thinks their burn is more important than our income and that the fire is not going to get away.

The brigade even welcomed back the aged and infirm (namely me) to call-outs.

Luckily, we were stood down but after I left there were more call-outs.

The new 3.4 Urban tanker has had a workout

and has some bark off already so nominations for the Stan Sutton driving award have lengthened.

The new station has got to the stage where the pad is down for the building and work continues.

There is still some concern about the exit from the station and we hope that signs will be put up, (if not warning lights), so we can exit more safely.

The next meeting will be our AGM.

It appears that there could be a few changes but we will have to wait and see what happens.

Our main social outing for the year will be the annual Christmas in July and it has been decided to have a night out at The Vic.

At least at this time of the year most of us can relax a little without being on call.

Last, but not least, firebreak time is just around the corner and with the new 3.4 Urban and other new trucks being higher, the firebreaks now have to have that extra clearance.

Now is a good time to start planning and implementing some action.

That's about all from Coondle-Nunile brigade for now.

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See Brenton and the crew - Phone: 9574 2335 or 0427 442 553

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Morangup forms second ambulance group

**St John Ambulance
Toodyay and Districts Sub-Centre**
Carolynne Haigh

HERE we are half-way through the year and I am pleased to say that the ambulance service has been a bit quieter during the past six months.

This has allowed us to progress with some changes within the sub-centre.

As we head into the second half of 2019, we can officially say that the Toodyay Community Transport Service is now operational.

This service has been brought into the town to primarily assist Toodyay community members getting to and from medical and allied health appointments.

Whether it be to the local Alma Beard Medical Centre, Northam, or medical facilities in the metropolitan area, we will endeavour to get you there.

The service is being offered with a charge, but we believe the rates to be very fair and reasonable.

For booking information details, please refer to the advertisement on Page 3.

July also sees the Toodyay and Districts Sub-Centre ambulance service become two groups: Toodyay Sub-Centre and, Morangup Sub-Centre.

This will not impact the emergency service we provide to the community in any way.

If you need an ambulance you will still call 000 and, as always, we will be there.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank a very generous community member for a donation made to the sub-centre to be spent specifically on the volunteers.

We recently had the opportunity to get together for a relaxing evening with some delicious food, supplied by Toodyay Bar and Grill, some refreshments and of course, most importantly, some laughs.

The sub-centre very much appreciates the continued support from the local community. Thank you.

Continue to keep well and safe.



Basic safety protocols are often ignored when some farmers rush to burn off paddocks.

Just when we thought it safe...

Bejoording Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

From the desk of The Badger

JUST when we thought it might be safe to hang up our PPE for the winter there were a few mad days earlier in the month where it seemed everyone was madly catching up with bonfires and paddock burns, but sadly too many weren't following basic safety protocols.

Too many fires got out of control and there were numerous callouts, even a temporary 24-hour fire ban.

Anyway, our small brigade rose to the occasion, as did our neighbouring brigades, and there was no critical incident in the neighbourhood.

Thanks to those members who stepped up to the plate.

Training of our new members is under way in earnest: all are now kitted out and some have even attended a controlled burn as part of their training.

The main priority for the brigade is to get everyone ready for action and properly trained up.

The other priority is to prepare for our AGM in July, review our leadership structure, and allocate roles and responsibilities.

Looking ahead Sunday July 7 is our first training Sunday (2pm at the shed), and Friday July 19 is our AGM.

We encourage all members, active and ancillary, to attend the AGM.

All fire bans have now been lifted but the Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to remember to always plan and prepare before lighting any fire for any reason and have a clear contingency strategy in place should things get out of control.

Even at the safest times of the year fires can pose a risk to people and property, whether it's burning off on your acreage or a back yard bonfire, so take care.

Our next meeting at the shed will be on Friday June 21 at 5.45 pm.

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.



From July 1, Toodyay and Morangup sub-centres will operate independently.



St John

St John Ambulance

“Provide First Aid” HLTAID003

One day course

To be held on Saturday 17 August 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

Free first aid kit for all participants



Let's remember, it's we, the people, who call the shots

The Insider



Ben Bell

IT WOULD be funny, if it wasn't so serious. Funny? Perhaps bemusing is a better way to describe the situation.

Either way, it does appear to have all the hallmarks of a classic John Cleese or Rowan Atkinson British TV comedy skit.

You see, last month the complaints officer for the Shire of Toodyay applied to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) on behalf of the shire to have me disqualified as a councillor for up to five years (see Page 5).

According to the application, the shire's complaints officer initiated this action on behalf of the shire.

Who is the shire's complaints officer, I hear you ask?

Why, that would be the shire CEO.

Yep that's right, the CEO told himself to initiate the shire action against me.

Why is the shire trying to kick me off the council?

Well, that is not exactly clear in his application.

The shire first tried (unsuccessfully) to get the WA Local Government Department to suspend me from the council.

Because that didn't work, it now appears it is trying to get SAT to do it.

You can only laugh at the irony of the Shire of Toodyay asking the WA Local Government Department to suspend me from the council.

After all, this is the very same State Government department that is currently conducting a formal inquiry into our shire's

own actions and behaviour.

Unfortunately, this sort of internal politicking risks distracting the council from its primary purpose, namely to ensure that your voice is being heard on the council and that your rate money is spent in the most appropriate manner.

On the matter of your rates for a second, you should be aware that because the application to SAT against me was initiated by the Shire of Toodyay, the CEO is able to use the shire's bank account to fully fund legal fees and all other shire-related costs related to this matter.

This means that even more of your hard-earned rates will find its way into the pockets of the shire's Perth lawyers.

Maybe this helps explain why the shire plans to hit you this year with one of the highest rate increases in Western Australia (see Page 3).

And as an aside, I as a councillor – unlike the shire – pay for all my own legal fees out of my own pocket.

Also, I believe this may be the first time that a CEO of any local government authority has ever applied to SAT to have an elected member disqualified from public office.

Clearly, this appears to be attempt to stifle open communication between individual councillors and the community by seeking to punish those that try to encourage public debate on community-related matters such as rates and how the shire spends your money (see *Cr Michael Southwell letter, Page 4*).

It should be remembered that our system of local government is designed to give the community the power to choose who represents them on a council.

Councils are then tasked with the responsibility of employing a CEO to implement and administer day-to-day shire activities as determined by the council.

When a local government authority starts taking steps to determine who sits on a council, as our current shire has just started trying to do, then the Toodyay community really loses its voice.

Native trees going for \$22 a tray

NORTHAM landowners on properties larger than 2000m² have until Sunday July 14 to apply for discounted trays of native tubestock as part in the 2019 Native Tree Subsidy Program.

A variety of local native species is available, but the special offer will be based on a first-come-first-served basis.

Landowners can apply for their discounted tubestock by collecting vouchers directly from the shire at 395 Fitzgerald Street, Northam or by emailing

records@northam.wa.gov.au, providing owner details and property location.

Vouchers will need to be presented at WA Farm Trees to receive the discounted tray price of \$22.

For further details on available species and how to claim your discounted native tubestock, visit northam.wa.gov.au/.

A program for the smaller landowners will be run later in July in recognition of National Tree Day and will have species that accommodate smaller areas.



Work has started on 2J2AIR's second studio 2A.

'Bonding day' for 2nd studio

2J2AIR 105.3FM

Ken Stivey

THE TEAM is working hard towards preparing our second recording room – thanks to Mark's building expertise and organisation and the shire for providing extra space.

We had a 'bonding day' with white paint, paint brushes and rollers.

Give us a yell if you're interested in joining the team and also a reminder that if you belong to a non-profit community group we offer free advertising for your meetings or events in *What's On in Toodyay* or, if you would like to hear your business promoted on 105.3FM, contact us for info. on our fantastic promotional package opportunities.

Program guide

MONDAYS: 11am *The Green Hour*; 8pm *Swooners and Crooners* and 2pm *Jazz*.

Tuesdays: 8pm *Hooked on Classics*.

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

Thursdays: Noon *Wide World of Folk* (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* (repeat); Noon *Ready 4 Country* (repeat); 8pm *Swooners and Crooners* (repeat) and 9pm *Jazz*.

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

Book now for July school holidays

Toodyay Community Program

REGISTRATION for the July Toodyay Community Program is now open.

This free program boasts five exciting activities for everyone to enjoy throughout the week of Monday-Friday, July 15-19.

The community groups donating their time for free have-a-go sessions this July School Holidays are: Shire of Toodyay; Toodyay Community Resource Centre; Toodyay Public Library and, Wishing Tree Kinesiology.

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

Food and drinks are provided and therefore

registration is essential.

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

The Toodyay Community Program is a true community-based initiative and many local organisations work in partnership behind the scenes to support the program. Our local clubs and community groups in Toodyay have worked tirelessly to make this program a success and we thank you for your involvement and support.

For further information on the program contact Maddie Ross at the Shire of Toodyay on 9574 9395 or email cdao@toodyay.wa.gov.au.

"Thank you Toodyay Herald, that ad worked wonders"

Place your ad today ring 9574 2016



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Why are rates rising at more than twice CPI?

Toodyay Progress Association
Larry Graham, Chair

WHY ARE our rates increasing at roughly two and a half times the Consumer Price index (CPI)?

It is a very good question but after last year's 2000-signature petition was completely ignored by council, it is hard to see how we will ever get rates reduced in Toodyay.

For the next decade, our council has made sure they don't even have to try and that is because its long-term financial plan entrenches rate increases at roughly twice the projected CPI.

Statewide, there has been a lot of media attention on rating, and local government battles hard trying to defend the indefensible but the truth is, few councils make any serious effort to minimise rate increases.

Several councils in the state have reduced their rates in real terms and have been able to do this without reducing services.

But these in the main are large councils with plenty of room to manoeuvre; it is more difficult for smaller councils like ours.

It is more difficult but it is not impossible, and the first step in reducing rates is for our councillors to tell the administration that is what they want to do.

That is it – once council decides that, their administration is obliged to do what it is told.

But that is unlikely to happen with the present Toodyay council.

Most readers will recall the all-in brawl that developed last year when one councillor moved that the council instruct the administration to investigate how rates could be reduced by an actual amount.

Our elected ones went feral at the suggestion that the administration should even have a look at reducing rates, and then within weeks of that they voted to adopt a long-term plan that cemented large rate increases in place.

Because we have repeatedly been told that the new sporting facilities will not require

additional rate increases, it is reasonable to ask what is driving rate increases?

Bearing in mind that we have had increases way beyond CPI for many years, will we still be in deficit in a decade?

That is what it looks like, but with a projected 25 per cent increase in rates over the next 10 years, surely we can do better than that?

Some suggest spending, empire building and subsequent rate increases are linked to shire CEO's pay, but that is simply incorrect.

There is no link between these things and it is wrong to blame any CEO for rate increases.

While it is true that the CEO drafts the budget, it is crystal clear that councillors are responsible for both budgeting and rate setting.

If the Shire of Toodyay is so efficient that there is no waste, no savings, no reductions in spending or no economies that can be made, we must have discovered the secret of efficient government.

And if that is the case the world awaits our knowledge and will be willing to pay for it.

So, maybe our council can reduce our rates by selling other councils the magical process by which we became the most efficient government in the world.

Or that could all just be nonsense and our elected ones have not really tried to avoid rate increases, which means that the question stands – why are our rates increasing at roughly two and a half times the CPI?

Over to you, shire councillors.

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.

New community bus

TOODYAY is to get a new 12-seater community bus after shire councillors voted 6-0 (Cr Judy Dow declared an interest through a family member and left the chamber) to spend \$54,500 on a new vehicle from Avon Valley Toyota in Northam.



Shire of Toodyay public meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday June 12 in Memorial Hall.

Shire public meeting turns ugly

Michael Sinclair-Jones

A SHIRE of Toodyay public meeting turned ugly last month when one of 24 members of the public present was allowed by civic leaders to call a fellow elected member sitting next to them a "cancer on the council".

Darren Prater, who was sitting at the back of the Memorial Hall next to his brother, former shire deputy president John Prater, also said that Cr Ben Bell "doesn't exactly tell the truth, and spin doctors all the time".

Shire President Brian Rayner, who chaired the meeting, did not call the meeting to order as Cr Bell sat silently to his left.

None of the other six councillors (Cr Bill Manning was absent on council-approved leave) objected to Mr Prater's comments, and Shire CEO Stan Scott remained silent.

The verbal attack began after Mr John Prater rose near the end of the meeting to congratulate the council for reversing its March decision not to offer Mr Scott a new contract when it was due to end on July 22.

"I've spoken to a lot of people in the community and it's been a major concern," Mr John Prater said.

He then criticised *The Herald* for not publishing a photo of an "iconic lady" – former Federal MP Julie Bishop – at last year's Toodyay races "which I run", he said.

(The Herald published a Page 1 race crowd photo last October, a story and picture of Mr John Prater with the Toodyay Cup winner on Page 9 and a photo of Ms Bishop online.)

"This negativity is starting to hurt our town, we've had enough," Mr John Prater said.

"I congratulate Stan for hanging in there – it's taken courage, well done guys."

Real estate agent Tony Maddox said he had received "hundreds and hundreds" of calls – "the result was just amazing" – after he criticised *The Herald* in his May back-page advertisement for publishing "negative comments about the shire".

"We have an awesome CEO, he's probably the best CEO we've ever had and he's in every community organisation you can ever imagine," Mr Maddox said.

"I don't think you deserve what the paper writes, it's not fair on the community – all the business people here tonight want the positive stuff."

"Let's let him run this town."

IGA and Victoria Hotel owner Dean Carter said "I'd like to back up Tony on Stan".

"I'm personally glad he's still on board and I'd like to thank you (Mr Scott) for the job you do," he said.

"You should always think about what you're going to do rather than what happened 10 years ago."

Shire Deputy President Therese Chitty said she was "pleased to see the business people here" at the meeting – "I'm sure we can get past this negative stuff".

(The shire public meeting was not advertised in the June Herald a week earlier. Other business owners said they didn't know it was on and disagreed with what was said.)



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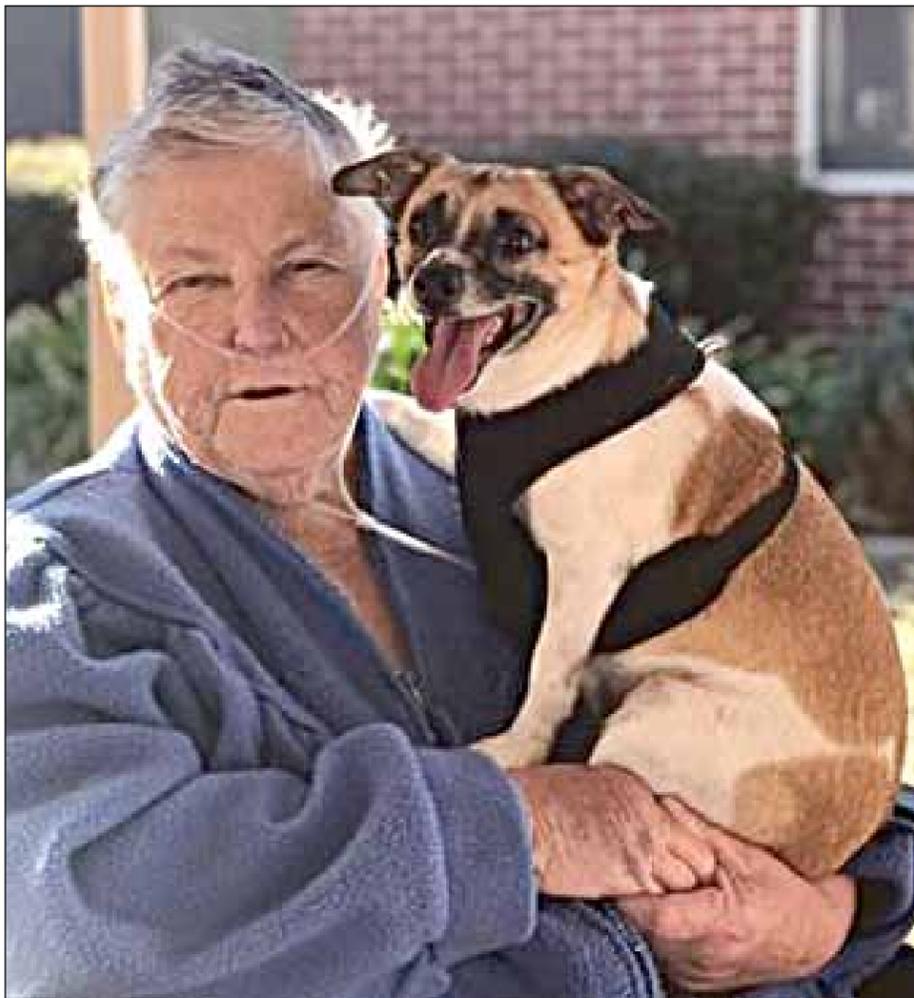
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Jan James with her dog Archie at Northam Regional Hospital before her passing on May 31.

Cross-cultural historian leaves lasting legacy

Mike Whittington and Heather Young

JAN JAMES, one of the Avon Valley's most respected genealogists and historians, will be remembered for her amazing memory – and an unusually inquiring mind.

Never formally trained and trapped in an abusive marriage, she never stopped asking questions, never failed to remember the countless stories, the bewildering detail of her life's experience of many places and people and many cultures.

Eventually, this brought her into the halls of academia as a highly regarded researcher, to the literary world as a much-published author and into public life as a respected civic leader and counsellor.

Her first book was published in 1980. By 2013 she had written 14 books and contributed to many others.

There were honours and awards, positions on statutory and community bodies, a reputation among genealogists and historians and recognition for her community service.

There was also her highly respected on-line collection of texts, thousands of pictures and family trees.

Janice Mary James was born in Northam in 1942, the youngest of 10 children of a Toodyay family.

As a young adult, she spent time in Northam where she married and where two of her children were born.

She travelled interstate with her husband and young family and lived in Perth for a time before returning to the Avon Valley and her life's interest – the family stories of the people and the region.

Her stellar career really began around the 1980s with the publication of her first book and she soon embarked on a defining role as Curator of Northam Cemetery.

Jan's award-winning work included

recording and restoring many long-forgotten gravesites, leading to listing as a significant site with the National Trust and the Heritage Council.

She researched old maps, locating more than 8000 burial sites since 1856.

In locating and recording the graves of stillborn babies and neonatal deaths, Jan established a precedent that many cemeteries now follow.

The Children's Memorial Garden of Remembrance, in memory of 2500 children buried at the cemetery, is dedicated to Jan.

Her work on Avon Valley births, deaths and marriages is widely used for genealogical study and by individuals searching for the burial place of family.

Jan developed a comprehensive database on Aboriginal genealogies, heritage, culture and protocol, now widely and freely used.

Her research brought her into contact with academics and official historians such as Dr Rica Erickson, Margaret Metcalf and Dame Mary Durack on the historic Bicentennial Dictionaries of WA.

Her 40 years' research through Perth's Battye and Alexander Libraries, and the National Library of Australia, produced an incomparable collection of both non-Aboriginal and indigenous records.

Jan also became involved in local government, using the opportunity to promote the conservation of both indigenous and non-indigenous cultures, educating and lobbying on behalf of various community groups.

She was nominated for Northam's Citizen of the Year award in seven consecutive years, winning in 1992; three further nominations followed, as well as other local and national awards.

Until her death, she constantly received inquiries and requests – both international and from all over Australia.

Jan's legacy *The Jan James Avon Valley Collection* is a collection more than 7500 photos of individuals and family groups, and family trees and genealogical records of 20,000 families.

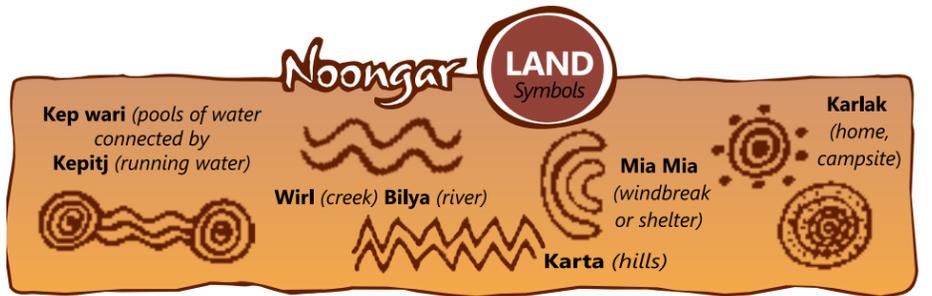
Well-known and trusted, an honorary Aboriginal Elder, respected in the wider community, Jan was always sensitive to the needs of Aboriginal people in preserving their culture and history, and in promoting this to the wider community.

Jan James retired in 2006 and, until recently, still had a steady stream of people coming to her to access her priceless records and knowledge.

She is survived by two adult children, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Jan died on May 31 and is buried in Toodyay Cemetery beside her parents and her twin sister.

Come find out about a 'place of winter mist'



Helen Shanks

THE NOONGAR Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation (NKAC) in Toodyay is super excited to be bringing you their inaugural Makuru Dudja (winter mist) NAIDOC event on Sunday July 7.

Come along and find out about Noongar culture and learn some Toodyay facts, including that our town's name comes from the Noongar word Dudja, meaning mist. Toodyay is known as a place where there is a lot of mist, especially during Makuru (winter).

The shire covers the three Noongar country boundaries of Ballardong, Yued and Whadjuk.

We would love to see you at the NAIDOC event which will get started after a Welcome to Country by Sharmain Miles at 10am.

You'll get to experience a seriously great line up of special cultural guests including: Viv Hansen, Elder, herbalist and co-author of *Noongar Bush Medicines of South-West of Western Australia*; Lea Taylor, award-winning Aboriginal weaver, artist and author of children books; Mort Hansen, Elder with recognised cultural authority, years of commitment to the community and previously in the Middar Dance Group and Jack Davis film *No Sugar*; Marissa Verma of Bindi Bindi Dreaming, tour guide, cook, educator and winner of the NAIDOC Business of the Year 2017; John Mogridge, offering cultural yarning sessions and demonstrating traditional tool making, and Tim Kelly and his son Troy on didgeridoo and dance.

In addition to this, there will be large information displays – experience a smoking ceremony, take the kids to the Moorditj Koolanga art activity, help build a mia mia,

try on a yonga (kangaroo) cloak, learn about the six Aboriginal bonar (seasons), take part in weaving activities, learn about bush herbs and how to use them in everyday cooking, be charmed and captivated by the sound of the didgeridoo, and chat to Noongar-owned businesses.

Go to the NKAC Facebook page for more details or see this advertisement on this page.

So, what is Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation?

The NKAC was formed in late 2018 and its chairperson is local Yued man Robert Miles.

The group's purpose is to support the cultural wellbeing and, where practicable, economic development of the Aboriginal community in Toodyay and surrounding areas.

The NKAC plans to do this in various ways, including:

Regularly providing opportunities to celebrate Aboriginal culture through programs, events and activities including arts, heritage, language, reconciliation, NAIDOC, recording stories and various community activities.

Supporting economic opportunities.

Working closely with the Shire of Toodyay, and other entities, in its desire to develop and implement a Reconciliation Action Plan.

Seeking funds and supporting traditional owners and custodians to maintain and celebrate Aboriginal heritage and cultural sites within the area.

On this note there is exciting news about a local project that will be announced soon.

The NKAC would like to thank NAIDOC event supporters, the Shire of Toodyay, Lotterywest, Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet and the Toodyay Op Shop.



Makuru Dudja

Winter Mist

NAIDOC
Celebration

Memorial Hall Toodyay
This Sunday 7th July 2019
10am – 3pm

An authentic, educational and powerful Aboriginal experience

- Yarn with Elders
- Smoking Ceremony
- Build a Mia Mia
- Cultural Yarning
- Tool Building
- Bush Medicine
- Cooking with bush foods
- Basket Weaving
- Aboriginal Music & Dance
- Learn about the Six Bonar (seasons)
- Learn Noongar words
- Check out amazing Aboriginal businesses
- Keep the kids busy at the Moorditj Koolanga activity
- Large Displays & Info

You are invited
We would love to see you!

Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation in Toodyay would like to thank our awesome supporters: Shire of Toodyay, LotteryWest, Australian Government, Toodyay Op Shop and the Moorditj Yaakiny Project

Full steam ahead as June, Stan and Shandy choof off

Toodyay Miniature Railway June Eastwood

THE WINTER weather does not seem to deter families keen to ride the railway, so we have been quite busy which is a surprise.

The club is happy to welcome two new members, Gordon and Michelle Scott.

Both have jumped in with enthusiasm, learning different roles capably.

We have also had another gentleman keen to join and he has in his stable two steam engines, a diesel and a big tram.

We hope he intends to bring up only one at a time as four machines would be too many for our shed.

Stan and June bade goodbye to Shandy on June 17 and though it is sad to see it go the consolation is Shandy's new home will be the Batavia Coast Club at Geraldton.

Their two great grandsons who are keen Shandy fans will be able to go and ride to their hearts content as the new owner has issued a special invitation.

Work has begun on the new planned line extension with preliminary work done as far as possible.

We now await shire assistance with a bigger machine when one becomes available to accommodate the changes.

There is to be a small siding erected with track laid both sides so a train may pull off. There will be an explanation of the significance of that spot – site of the original line that served Toodyay and beyond in the old steam engine days.

It is also envisaged to place a selected stone and suitable plaque in memory of the

late Micaile Petulengro near a large group of boulders.

Lesley Hugg presented the Mini Rail with Micaile's cap and neck scarf and these, together with a photo, have a permanent place in our carriage Miss Tricia.

Gary Edwards also presented the club with two big enlargements, one of the staff standing together with president Graham Mills holding the framed shire award from Australia Day 2010 and one of Stan driving Shandy, so both of these are now adorning the carriage wall.

This will be my last report for *The Herald* as Stan and I are moving on.

I urge active Toodyay people to get involved with the Mini Rail.

It is a lot of fun and the railway is an amazing draw card with families coming from great distances to ride the trains and picnic in the park, visit and patronise local business.

When you consider we have had riders from Albany on the south coast to visitors from the east Kimberley and all points between, we are getting widely known through social media.

All good for Toodyay.

We will be popping over from Gingin until our final move to Albany in spring but I say goodbye and thank you to *The Herald* for the space allocated to our report each month.

June's entertaining and knowledgeable reports on Mini Rail activities will be missed by Herald readers. We wish June and Stan all the best and thank them for their contributions to the Toodyay community.



Locals and dignitaries gather for the handover of the York Motor Museum.

Peter Briggs hands motor museum to local group

York Motor Museum
Ross Ainsworth, Secretary

THERE was a party atmosphere at York Motor Museum recently, when several special events were officially recognised.

The Avon Valley Motor Museum Association (AVMMA) which purchased the Motor Museum buildings from Peter Briggs in December 2017, were officially handed the ownership in a short ceremony.

Peter Briggs outlined his 40-year involvement in establishing and running the Motor Museum, as well as initiating the York Flying 50 racing event.

He then officially handed the Motor Museum to association president Gary Byfield.

Agricultural Region MP Darren West then helped association vice-president Julian Krieg unveil the AVMMA Honour Board, which recognises all donors who made the Motor Museum purchase possible.

The foremost of these is the WA Government \$200,000 Royalties for Regions grant, plus \$54,000 from the Shire of York and an in-kind donation from Peter Briggs, who discounted the sworn valuation of the Motor Museum buildings by \$165,000.

Private donations were also listed, ranging from \$100 to \$10,000.

A newly fitted-out special room at the Museum is known as The Briggs Room as it contains Briggs family photographs, memorabilia, history panels and a screen which runs historic footage of Peter Briggs in rally mode.

In the final event for the evening York Shire President David Wallace presented Peter and Robin Briggs with a framed commemorative plaque and an award for Outstanding Service to Tourism.

A second copy of the commemorative

plaque will be on permanent display in the York Town Hall.

The 66 guests present for the celebrations included Motor Museum volunteers, donors and many others who have made the purchase and subsequent successful running of museum possible.

Butterly freshens up

Butterly Cottages
Margaret O'Sullivan

THE COUNTRYSIDE has taken on its winter colours and is turning many beautiful shades of green with the wonderful rains we have been having.

The countryside looks fresh and washed of dust, a great time for new projects and getting things completed.

Butterly Cottages Inc. has been doing just that with much hard work and thought being put into an amended and updated Rules of Association (constitution) just sneaking in to end-of-June deadline.

The governance sub-committee of Judy, Jenny and Maggie, along with some extra help from David, have worked tirelessly to bring together a constitution that covers this very diverse organisation, bringing it in line with the latest requirements.

A very successful general meeting was held in the Anglican Church Hall where the final tick of approval was given and voted on to accept the new guidelines, followed by a cuppa and chat enjoyed by all.

We welcome new members and any interested people to come along and see how things operate, and how Butterly Cottages is open to aged applicants living independently and those interested in rental accommodation.

Annual membership of \$5 is now due and any inquiries can be made to butterly21@gmail.com or to PO Box 37 Toodyay 6566.



On running days, it's full steam ahead at Toodyay Mini Rail in Duidgee Park Toodyay.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LEVY DIFFERENTIAL RATES

In accordance with Section 6.36 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Shire of Toodyay hereby gives notice of its intention to impose differential rates on rateable property in the Shire of Toodyay in the 2019/20 financial year.

Details of the proposed differential rates are as follows:

Basis of Rating	Current Rate in \$	Proposed Rate in \$
GRV Residential	0.123350	0.12943
GRV Commercial	0.156060	0.14020
GRV Industrial	0.123350	0.12483
GRV Rural	0.113950	0.11869
GRV Rural Residential	0.113950	0.11260
UV General	0.010880	0.01168
UV Rural	0.008928	0.008969

Basis of Rating	Current Minimum Rate	Proposed Minimum Rate
GRV Residential	1,318.00	1,351.00
GRV Commercial	1,318.00	1,351.00
GRV Industrial	1,318.00	1,351.00
GRV Rural	1,318.00	1,351.00
GRV Rural Residential	1,318.00	1,351.00
UV General	1,318.00	1,351.00
UV Rural	1,318.00	1,351.00

The rates in the dollar (\$) shown are estimates and may be changed as part of the Council's deliberations of any submission received. All normal statutory concessions for pensioner and other concession holders will apply.

The object of and reasons for each proposed rate and minimum payment may be inspected at any time on the Shire's website Toodyay.wa.gov.au or at the Shire's administration office, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay during normal business hours.

The Shire invites submissions in relation to the proposed differential rates to be received by 4.30pm Wednesday, 20 July 2019.



Government of Western Australia
Local Government Standards Panel

NOTICE OF PUBLIC CENSURE

The Local Government Standards Panel has found that Councillor Benjamin Bell, a Councillor of the Shire of Toodyay, breached:

- (a) regulation 7(1)(b) of the *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007 (WA)* by publishing a Facebook post on 24 July 2018 relating to rate rise and Mr Stan Scott, the Chief Executive Officer of the Shire.

In engaging in this conduct, Councillor Bell made improper use of his office as a council member.

The Panel censures Councillor Bell for breach of regulation 7(1)(b) of the *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007 (WA)*.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STANDARDS PANEL

Exhibitors' workshop for photography

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Alison Wroth

OUR THIRD Annual Exhibitors' Workshop featuring photography is fast approaching on Saturday July 13.

Compared with previous years, we are only featuring one of our show sections this year, so the qualified show judge has all morning to give advice and tips on what he is looking for and how to improve your photography skills.

Definitely bring along any exhibits or photos that you have queries about.

Presentation in the photography section is very important so you need to know what to do after the photo has been taken.

I am still looking for a Photography Steward, so do come along if you are keen on volunteering for that position.

Morning tea will be provided with a welcome at 9.30am and the workshop begins at 10am.

There will be a raffle, so a few gold coins could win you a wonderful prize.

An increase in advertising in this year's Show Schedule means it will virtually pay for itself due to wonderful support from sponsors and advertising businesses.

Heartfelt thanks to you for getting us over the line.

Succulents and cacti have become so retro lately that they are sure to attract many entries at this year's Show.

If you do not grow succulents, try putting a hanging basket together – they just add so much colour and greenery to the entire

section of the hall.

We have been a bit short on hanging baskets in the last few years and the class may be cut from the schedule if it is not supported with entries.

If the season and the parrots have been working with you, the roses will be ready just in time; come on people, let's liven up the Floriculture Section and give the stewards and our new judge some real work to do.

Our Royal Agricultural Show Rural Ambassador entrant, local vet nurse Jordana Street, will be putting her best foot forward for our Show and the Toodyay community when she competes in the Central Group level at Northam on Sunday July 14.

Jordie will be coming up against entrants from the agricultural societies of Northam, York and Beverley.

We are behind you all the way, Jordie; the committee is so proud that you are our ambassador representing the Toodyay Agricultural Society and putting forward your point of view and opinions.

Well done for accepting this challenge. This year we are bringing back Farmers' Classes in the Sheep Section to hopefully increase the number of sheep exhibited.

The Dairy Goat Society of WA exhibits will be located across from the sheep.

This year goats are being included as a competitive section, not just on display.

The Sheep Pavilion will be packed full of livestock on show day and that will be a great thing to witness.

See you at the Show on Saturday October 12.



Newly minted Master Classer Melissa Boyce at Glen Erin, Toodyay.

Northam wool master joins a classy elite

Ieva Tomsons

LAST month, Northam wool classer Melissa Boyce (36) earned the title of Master Classer – an elite group of some 250 wool classers in Australia who are at the top of their game.

Ms Boyce was nominated by shearing contractor Peter Jokich, for whom she has been working for the past 17 years, and underwent further industry verification to be accepted into this year's intake of seven Australia-wide applicants.

"I'm very proud of her. Melissa started with us from scratch and now she can pass on her knowledge to the younger ones," Mr Jokich said.

The opportunity to travel to Melbourne to qualify as a Master Classer was supported by South Regional TAFE Wool Classing Lecturer Rob Carter and Australian Wool Exchange Wool Classer Registrar Fiona Raleigh.

"Melissa's attention to detail was exemplary

and she conducted herself well throughout the course.

"It was a pleasure to have her and she has definitely earned the title of Master Classer," Ms Raleigh said.

For Ms Boyce, the opportunity to become a Master Classer was totally unexpected.

"It wasn't on the cards at all for me but it was good to meet other classers with different ideas and to learn more about the process as a whole and to speak to the buyers.

"Our team is like a family and they helped me to get there," Ms Boyce said.

"As a Master Classer, Melissa will be an ambassador for the wool industry and I'm sure she will continue to demonstrate strong leadership and impart her knowledge to her staff to prepare wool clips to the highest standard," said Ms Raleigh.

"It's a bit scary but I know the team can do it," Ms Boyce said.

Sticking with sheep pays off



A crop in the early stages of growth on Racecourse Road Toodyay.

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza

WELCOME rains fell statewide on June 7.

This was much to the relief of farmers who were becoming very concerned about the very dry autumn and the lack of feed for livestock.

Since then, good falls of rain have covered almost the entire state, although an area along the south coast of WA has had lighter falls.

As reported in last month's article, May 1948 and 1949 were very dry months.

In both years June was wet and this year appears to have followed suit with Perth recording its wettest June since 2005.

Pasture paddocks have now had fresh green growth offering some feed to sheep and cattle.

Pastures have established well albeit a little slow due to the colder weather.

Some livestock producers are still supplementary feeding stock until pastures improve but expect to reduce supplements of grain and hay over the next few weeks.

Local fourth generation farmer Edward Ludemann commented that "pastures look green but there is not a lot of bulk yet.

"They will improve slowly so we expect to handfeed our ewes with lambs for a few more weeks yet.

"Our ewes with twins, which we separate into a special mob will need to be fed longer," he said.

Mr Ludemann pregnancy tests all his ewes in March to separate the ewes pregnant with twins.

These ewes are given additional feed to ensure that the survival rate of the twins is as high as possible.

Mr Ludemann farms in Bolgart with his partner Tegan and his parents Geoff and Sue.

The Ludemanns run a mixed sheep and cropping enterprise with about 60 per cent of the farm put to cropping and the balance to running merino sheep.

"I was lucky that dad stuck with sheep as now we are enjoying better times with the wool and sheep meat market," Mr Ludemann said.

Crops have germinated well, no doubt helped by the steady nature of the opening rains in June.

This has also helped the efficacy of pre-emergent herbicides which appear to be working very effectively.

It's been a lucky break, as a large proportion of crops sown in the shire were sown dry without an effective knockdown herbicide application.

Young hands sought

Toodyay Farmers Market
Sandra Cousins

FIRSTLY, thank you to all who supported our wood raffle.

It was very successful with the proceeds being used to make our market even better.

The lucky winner was Josh – what a lovely young man and so appreciative.

Now down to serious business. We are in desperate need of some volunteers.

At present the current band of volunteers, (the majority over the age of 60) unpack the float at 6.30 am on market Sunday.

This involves setting up the marquees, tables and chairs, the information stall and the book exchange and then helping to repack the float at 1pm after the market ends.

So, if you have some spare time before or after the market your help would be appreciated.

If you think this is not your cup of tea, don't worry because we can find you something that is.

Any offer of help in any capacity would be appreciated.

New to the market last month was the doggy treat stall and boy if you were a dog you would be barking with joy. So, dog owners come on down and have a look.

The stallholders were so impressed by the friendliness of the people they met and are looking forward to returning.

Once again, a great day. Hope to see you on Sunday July 21.

Red & Black Theme



Toodyay RSL Sub-branch
invite to you attend the

CENTENARY BALL



To be held on
Saturday 5th October 2019
6pm for a 7pm start at the
Toodyay Memorial Hall

- ★ Pre-dinner drink and canape on arrival
- ★ Catered 3 course dinner
- ★ Glass of wine with dinner
- ★ Cash bar in operation
- ★ Service band providing background and dance music

Cost: \$90 per person Dress: Evening wear

Tickets available by email: Paul or Irene fixitdad@bigpond.com
or call 0466 984 301 for further details



James Cottage on the old Northam Road was built in the 1860s by former convict Abraham James.

A nostalgic sense of rustic beauty

Toodyay Historical Society
Robyn Taylor

THERE is a wonderful Japanese saying for things such as buildings, objects and places that reveal the passage of time and the impermanence of life.

In English we often describe this as patina, and there is the lesser known term palimpsest where, for example, the original writing on a manuscript or paint on a canvas is rubbed, scraped or worn away then overlaid with new text or image.

However, something of the original still shows through, capturing a sense of the past and is often used as a technique by artists, and those in the business of creating nostalgia.

The effect can be created artificially with a piece of furniture by 'distressing' the paintwork or the surface to give instant age and character.

Some time ago I read about wabi-sabi in an article by newspaper columnist Lex Hall (*The Forum, Weekend Australian*, 12-13 April 2014) and it made me think of Toodyay's historic buildings and why the place appeals as a tourist destination.

Wabi-sabi comes from Zen Buddhism and is used to describe the 'melancholy beauty of the decay of everyday things'.

Wabi could be 'the austere beauty of a fallen leaf', while sabi 'suggests a rustic patina (moss on a river stone)'.

This suggests it is not wise to over-restore old buildings or objects because the very things that attract and hold value for us, the sense of age and impermanence, will be lost.

We experienced wabi-sabi on our June excursion to member Jane's historic James Cottage, a familiar landmark on the right-hand side of Toodyay Road.

The mudbrick, weatherboard and iron cottage had been built in 1885 by former convict Abraham James.

In the 1860s James had established himself as a successful blacksmith in the Toodyay area with a good clientele.

Following his marriage to Mary Ann Hitchcock in 1866, and with an expanding family of nine children, the couple needed a larger home.

Abraham bought Avon Location 5 and built a six-room house with a large cellar on what was known as the Fingerpost Corner.

This location marked the junction of the original road to Northam, which the cottage fronts, and the road to Guildford.

Remnants of the former convict-made Toodyay Road were recently unearthed during roadworks.

Apart from making horseshoes, Abraham also produced branding iron designs and extracted teeth, as blacksmiths did in those days.

His son continued the blacksmith trade until about 1930 when motor vehicles were replacing horses.

The cottage remained in the James family until the early 1960s when 'Jack' James died.

Today, James Cottage reveals its 130-plus years of use as a home and business, the renovations and additions that were made by subsequent owners and the laying out of gardens and fruit trees.

Fortunately, its 21st Century owners appear to treasure its wabi-sabi.

Next general meeting: Wednesday July 17 at 7pm, at Drummond House.

Our end-of-month excursion will be to the historic Twine property Newgain in Dumbarton.

Please note this will be on Saturday July 27 at 10.30am, courtesy of owner and member Ian Stannard.

The place has a Level 1 (Exceptional Significance) category on the Shire's inventory of heritage places.

BYO morning tea and picnic lunch.

Contacts: 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, opens Thursdays 1-3pm.

Postal address: PO 32 Toodyay 6566. Website: toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au/.

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

Membership is \$10 per annum.

Wintry weather crimps turners' turnout

Avon Woodturners
Max J Heath

HI FROM the Avon Woodturners. On June 22 we held our WA Woodturners Association day in town at the Memorial Hall.

About 70 people attended, well down on usual for Toodyay, but the weather forecast and the fact that the workshops are usually on the second Saturday of the month made quite a difference.

Three of the state's top turners demonstrated the turning of different items requiring totally different techniques.

All three were very interesting. Having these workshops is great for Toodyay as several turners and their partners stay overnight and eat out while they are here.

On the day of the workshop, people take time to have a look at businesses around town and always seem to come back carrying some purchase.

We would like to thank the Shire of Toodyay and all our helpers on the day for their support.

We have requested that we have a break from presenting next year's workshop as it is a hell of a load for a few people to organise and run.

The club has been approached for items to display at the Annual Wood and Craft Show at Claremont Showgrounds early in August.

The show organisers always try to get something from each WA club for display.

Other than that, turning has been going along steadily and some turners are trying to make some entries for the Toodyay Agricultural Show, which will be here before we know it.

We have also been able to collect some donated timber, and working bees to end-seal and store have been time consuming.

Well, that is about all from the Avon Woodturners this month.

Please remember our motto – Don't Drive Tired.

Red mud, green grass and tanks full of rain

Bejoording Community Group
From the desk of the Badger

AT LAST some decent rains have come. Green shoots, be they grass, crops or weeds are coming up everywhere and what a delight it is to see.

This time next month it will seem like another country.

It always amazes me, since retiring to a rural area, just how much a good drenching revives not only nature but the people too.

It's has an energising effect. You'll hear no complaints about the rain up here, unless someone happens to get bogged.

Our tanks are full, three-minute showers can now be five, and the bucket that flushes the loo with bore water can now be replaced by that little magic button on top of the cistern.

The 'shed' continues to be our focal point but with all the extra nights of footy, such as Thursdays and Sundays lately, there has been a lot of backyard entertaining.

Thanks as always to everyone who throws open their home; back porch; shed; or man-cave for a fun evening of footy.

Socially we had our annual soup feast at the shed, so thanks to everyone who made those beautiful stock-pots of different soups, and thanks to Barry Grey for coordinating it.

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 to know more you can contact president Barry Grey on 9574 2149, or call The Badger on 0414 250 484.

Hope to see you soon.

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From left: Marion Guthrie (president), Kerry Borgas and Karryn Collins representing the State President of CWA at the Bolgart branch's 95th birthday celebration in the Bolgart Hall.

Fabulous day marks 95 years

Bolgart CWA

Nolene Kaszanski and Serena Syred

BOLGART CWA celebrated its 95th anniversary on June 12 in the Bolgart Hall.

Bolgart, the second branch formed in the WA association, opened in August 1924.

Members in the first year were; mesdames Thackray (president), Ludemann and Davey (vice-presidents), Smith (secretary/treasurer), members MacPherson, CE Syred, WC Syred, Waters, Harrington, Camerer, Rose, Foster, Edmonds, Travers, Kilpin, Ericson, MacPherson and misses Rouston, Thackray and L Syred.

Misses Walsh and Smith were associate members.

Representatives from the state management committee, many past and current members and guests were invited to share in the celebrations.

A magnificent grazing table was prepared

by the Bolgart branch members.

Guests travelled from branches representing Toodyay, Wongan Hills, Aldersyde, Jennacubine, Mount Helena/Parkerville, Northam, Bindoon and Perth.

Certificates of Merit were presented to Dianne Edmonds, Pam Meston, Bernice Clarke and Rosina Ainsworth.

Guest speaker Jo Drayton from Holyoake who specialises in suicide prevention in the Wheatbelt spoke about self-motivation.

Three cakes were cut by three generations of the Syred family, Natalie, Serena and Annette who are long-standing members associated with the Bolgart branch.

A fabulous day celebrating a great achievement.

The birthday cake was made and decorated by member Annette Syred.

Thanks to the Shire of Victoria Plains for their generous contribution.

Many thanks to the Bolgart P&C ladies who helped in the kitchen.



From left: Three generations of Bolgart CWA members Serena, Natalie and Annette Syred..

Teabag strings, tea set and crisp packets recycled for fashion

Country Women's Association
Elizabeth Mansom

OUR BRANCH was looking forward to two outings in June, one to Tammin for their annual WA Week Lunch and the other to York for their Friendship Day.

Sadly, the Tammin trip was cancelled as the terrible flu currently going around had struck.

We wish the Tammin ladies a full and speedy recovery and will certainly attend if they decide to reschedule their lunch.

The addition of overhead cupboards along one wall of our kitchen recently has added greatly to its convenience and appearance.

Our thanks to Bob Haynes who, once again, helped us out.

On June 24 eight of us travelled to York for a Friendship Day, the topic of which was recycling.

Everyone was asked to wear some kind of headgear sourced from op shops and/or recycled materials.

Three prizes were awarded and our Viv and Meg took out two of them; Viv with a miniature tea set on an Alice band teamed with a scarf woven from tea bag strings, and Meg with crisp packet frills attached to an Alice band.

A Toodyay member also held a winning ticket in the raffle, so we came home very pleased with ourselves.

Those present were also treated to two guest speakers, the first being the Chief Executive of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Rebecca Tomkinson.

Rebecca is very much a local, having lived and undergone all her education in Northam.

After lunch Trish Chitty, another Northam identity who is the Community Coordinator for CWA of WA, described her latest project of providing emergency backpacks for children aged up to 15 who need to go into foster care at short notice.

Circumstances often mean the children find themselves in a new environment with possibly only the clothes they stand up in and the provision of a backpack containing toiletries, undies, a soft toy and similar items can be comforting.

Trish also spoke of the need for bunny rugs for King Edward Memorial Hospital.

It seems they can use up to 15 a month but as each requires a square metre of material this can be quite expensive.

Spotlight in Midland has agreed to let Trish have material at a reduced rate and she passed a container around for donations.

At reduced rate of \$4 per metre, the \$160



Meg Mills' crisp packet creation.



Viv Street and her miniature tea set hat.

collected is an excellent start towards filling this ongoing need.

On June 27 we celebrated our 92nd birthday, which is only three years behind the oldest branch in the state.

But before we could cut into the birthday cake, we had to vote on motions to go before our State Conference in July.

This was serious business; appointing auditors, changes and amendments to the constitution, road safety and rural crime.

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 at the side of the hall.

To book the hall please contact Jennifer Clarke on 9574 5715.

Empty seats painted to dupe viewers

Toodyay Probus Club
Norm Green

OUR RECENT visit to the Optus Stadium was a highlight of the month for the Toodyay Probus members fortunate enough to partake.

From my point of view, it was an exceptional experience even though I am totally disinterested in sport.

The Little Ferry Company operates an electric-driven vessel that is licensed to carry 12 people.

It operates from Elizabeth Quay and cruises silently and odourlessly towards the stadium, taking about half an hour.

On the way we were treated to didgeridoo playing by crew member Rory.

The stadium, when it is empty, is quite magnificent.

I was surprised to learn that many seats are painted randomly in dark-coloured shapes to deceive TV viewers into believing that they are occupied when they are in fact empty.

The stadium has 1500 toilet cubicles, 25 kitchens and a 'vomitory' which is an entrance between theatre or stadium seating.

The guest speaker at our June meeting, David Hough, told a true story about Howard Rowell, who was a pilot who ran into trouble flying to Derby where he was to refuel.

He couldn't land there due to fog and had to land on a gravel airstrip at Fitzroy Crossing, just as the plane ran out of fuel.

Phil Roberts, who was a pilot and actually flew with Howard, was also at the meeting.

This month we are lucky enough to welcome Toodyay's own Greg Warburton as our guest speaker to talk on the local waterways and reserves.

The outing on Tuesday July 16 is a tour of the Old Gaol, followed by lunch at a local hostelry. Come and join us.

Please contact our president Joan on 0417 171 606 if you think our Probus Club could interest you.

The next meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday July 9 at Freemasons Hotel.

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For more information
call Pete on 0448 492 935
or Lou 9574 4310
toodyayrsl@gmail.com

Applications must be
received by COB on
Friday 27 September 2019
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"An opportunity of a lifetime for a local student to win a free trip to Borneo, where they will see Kuching, Labuan, Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan. They will also visit the famous Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre. These activities are only small samples of what they will see and do!"



Sepilok Orangutan Centre



Tour Group 2019



Kundasang War Memorial

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Scholarship includes a fully funded trip to Borneo for a Year 8 or Year 9 student.
Must be a resident of Shire of Toodyay.

Essential : Accompanying parent / guardian. Both with current passports.
Tour time 2 weeks in 2nd half of April 2020.

Information available now by calling Peter on 0448 492 935 or Lou 9574 4310, email toodyayrsl@gmail.com

Applications: Close on 27 September 2019 and winner advised at end of year school assembly.

Tour includes: Tours, Free time, ceremonies, swimming, school visits and opportunities to learn about local culture.