

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.

October 2020
Edition 395

Heated pool to operate all year

Surprise announcement as lifeguards sought for planned November 1 start to town's first summer swim season

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY'S long-awaited public swimming pool will be heated in winter to enable it to stay open all year under surprise new plans announced this month by recently appointed venue manager Clublinks.

The company says it aims for swimmers to start using the pool on or before Sunday November 1 if construction finishes in time.

Lighting towers from China have been installed and site work is largely complete.

However, the company has issued a "priority" call for people to apply for jobs as lifeguards to enable the pool to open on a full schedule seven days a week as planned.

Clublinks State Manager Matt Day told a public meeting of about 50 people at the Shire of Toodyay's new \$14 million recreation centre that the pool was built with heating pipes already installed.

He said later that it may cost less than \$10,000 annually to keep the new 25m pool heated to about 27C.

His company would absorb the extra \$150,000 to \$200,000 cost of installing new equipment to keep the pool warm during Toodyay's chilly winter months.

"We don't want local people driving past this pool to swim in Northam because ours is not heated," Mr Day told the meeting.

"We'd like it heated by April next year, but the worst-case scenario is by June 2021.

Mr Day said a mix of solar panels and mains power would be used for year-round water heating.

"We've already got quotes and are preparing a detailed business case to put to the shire," he said.

"Running costs won't be massive – possibly under \$10,000 a year – we are still investigating the detail."

Opening hours planned from November 1 to March 31 are 7am to 6.30pm on weekdays and 8am to 6pm weekends.

April and October next year will be 7am to 10am and 3pm to 6pm on weekdays, and 9am to 3pm on weekends.

Winter hours will be announced when heating is added.

Proposed entry fees are \$5 for adults and \$4 for children and concession card holders, including pensioners and seniors.

A full season pass will cost \$90 for adults and \$80 for children.

Tennis court hire will cost \$30 an hour.

Mr Day said the new facility would give priority to employing local residents.

The workforce would consist of five or six full-time employees and four or five casuals.

"Our main priority at the moment is to recruit more lifeguards so that we can keep the pool open for the planned hours.

"We also need casual customer service staff and sports umpires for night-time basketball and other competitions, mainly starting after Christmas."

The company has started a new Toodyay Recreation Centre Facebook page which says training is free for casual shifts starting next month.

Continued Page 3.



Notorious local bushranger Moondyne Joe (Greg Warburton) begs for clemency and receives a Royal Pardon after ambushing WA Governor Kim Beazley near Toodyay Railway Station during a low-key Vice-Regal visit this month to promote Avon Valley regional tourism.

State Governor bestows Royal Pardon on Moondyne Joe

WA Governor Kim Beazley made an unannounced visit to Toodyay this month as part of a low-key Vice-Regal tour of the Avon Valley to promote regional tourism.

Mr Beazley, who earned the nickname "Bomber" for his love of all things military while Labor federal defence minister from

1984 to 1990, also visited Beverley, York, Northam and Chittering.

Toodyay was his last stop, and he joined a small entourage of local civic representatives and Vice-Regal staff on the town's historic Convict Depot walk from the Visitor Centre to Newcastle Gaol Museum.

On a return trip via the Duke Street railway footbridge he called at the Christmas shop, Uniquely Toodyay and bakery.

Toodyay was the last stop of the tour and when asked what the Governor thought of our town, a local civic leader said "he loved it".

Minister gets final report on Toodyay inquiry findings

A REPORT on a long-running State Government inquiry into the Shire of Toodyay has been finalised and sent to WA Local Government Minister David Templeman for action.

The Minister is expected to table the inquiry's findings in State Parliament on one of nine scheduled sitting days left this year, starting on Tuesday October 13 and ending November 19 before parliament rises for its summer recess.

An 11-month probe last year by three State Government investigators from Perth examined the operations and affairs of shire administrators and councillors over a seven-year period to December 2018.

The shire was headed during that period

by former CEO Stan Scott who resigned last April after taking two months extended sick leave at short notice just hours before the start of the council's February meeting.

Three remaining councillors who served during the seven-year inquiry period are former shire president Brian Rayner, former shire deputy president Therese Chitty and Cr Paula Greenway.

The inquiry followed 11 months of monitoring by Perth local government officials after a formal warning that the shire had shown "not only a lack of understanding of the provisions of legislation also a propensity to misinterpret other legalities and procedures".

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Bush Poetry Festival
October 30 to November 1
Toodyay Farmers Market
Sunday October 18

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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.

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

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THANK YOU

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

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RATES - NO GST IS APPLICABLE

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

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

STORY DEADLINE

DISTRIBUTED

**Noon Thursday
October 22**

**Noon Tuesday
October 27**

**Wednesday
November 4**

Please note our email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

Ol' Blind Joe

Chinese whispers

Stirling Hamilton

I USED to swear by the ABC and now I find myself swearing at them, first over their Hong Kong coverage and now over its reports on Uyghurs in China's remote eastern region of Xinjiang.

The ABC recently interviewed two so-called 'experts' in a *Four Corners* hit piece on the situation there.

One was German researcher Adrian Zenz, a born-again evangelical Christian who has never visited Xinjiang and claims to be "led by God".

The other was from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) which has drummed up so much local fear and loathing of China that our government has ordered \$470 billion worth of submarines and F-35 warplanes and wants to acquire a new long-range missile capability to confront China in the Indo-Pacific region.

The US National Endowment for Democracy has given the Washington-based Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders millions of dollars to promote a narrative that millions of Uyghur citizens were being detained in China.

It published a report based on eight anonymous interviews and unverified statements to extrapolate a claim that China had incarcerated at least one million Uyghurs in Xinjiang.

As America's international influence wanes and China's economy grows, the US has launched a new Cold War of economic threats, military antagonism and political propaganda.

The same media ecosystem that greased the wheels of perpetual war towards disastrous Western intervention in the Middle East is now busy manufacturing support for conflict with China.

And who gains?

Using the so-called threat of China and agencies under his control, Australian Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton infiltrated the political process to bypass or marginalise the Canberra bureaucracy while keeping an eye on the top job he failed to win two years ago.

From climate change, energy, telecommunications, infrastructure and foreign policy, certain Australian agencies, associated think tanks and defence industry lobbyists have become not only involved in providing policy advice to government but driving and implementing policy contained in the advice that they have provided.

The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) and Australian Federal Police (AFP) leaked to the media that it was legitimate to raid the homes of Chinese people because the occupants used the Chinese social media app WeChat.

It was the same in the 1950's McCarthy era of US politics when a deliberate campaign of anti-Soviet spy hysteria destroyed the lives and careers of those who sought to improve relations with Moscow.

America's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) worked to develop contacts with Uyghur separatists in the 1970s.

Xinjiang's Baren Township Riots in 1990 were considered the first terrorist attack in a phase that lasted until 2016 during which time terrorism was considered a severe threat in the region.

The United Nations registered the mainly Uyghur East Turkestan Independence Movement as a terrorist organisation in 2002

but the US has not.

There was no Western coverage in 2009 when the Urumqi Riots in Xinjiang's capital killed 197 people and wounded 1700.

I've got five pages of these dates and there're tens of thousands of Uyghurs in Afghanistan, Syria and Turkey doing Jihadist stuff and killing people.

American President Donald Trump's appointment of former CIA director Mike Pompeo as US Secretary of State in 2018 heralded a new era of rapidly deteriorating relations with China.

Western media and state officials have put Chinese government policy in Xinjiang under intense scrutiny using just a handful of think tank reports and witness statements to lodge charges of forced labour, slavery, and genocide of Uyghurs.

Pompeo called last July for an end to "blind engagement" with a Chinese state he describes as a "new tyranny" and an existential threat to the "free world".

Western media accounts of China's Uyghur Muslims are the product of a carefully conceived campaign generated by an apparatus of right-wing, anti-communist Uyghur separatists funded and trained by the US government.

The World Uyghur Congress (WUC) is a US-funded and directed separatist network tightly aligned with US foreign policy and a hostile new Cold War strategy to isolate and "increase the pressure on China", ratchet up economic sanctions and withdraw Western companies from the region.

Other members of the "Five Eyes" intelligence alliance - Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the UK - are caving in to US pressure to isolate China.

China identified the "three evils" as extremism, separatism, and terrorism.

Unlike the US which uses terrorists as pawns and then drones and tortures them, China tries to educate them and provide jobs.

Uyghurs missed China's economic recovery because they speak their own language, not Mandarin.

"The Chinese government always thinks long-term," said John Lord, a former Royal Australian Navy rear-admiral from WA.

"We are all working on the assumption that iron ore will be untouchable and that they will have to buy our iron ore forever.

"But that may not be the case."

Australia risks losing its huge Chinese market for exports, large numbers of Chinese students for its lucrative education sector and thousands of Chinese tourists for its normally prosperous hospitality industry.

China has said repeatedly that it wants peaceful relations and cooperation with the US, and China's foreign policy principle of a "community of shared future for humankind" is enshrined in the Communist Party constitution.

Where the US pursues unilateralism, sanctions, and threats of military intervention to get its way, China has invested in international organisations and stepped up to fund the World Health Organisation as the US moves to withdraw from that body.

China has also promoted pandemic aid and cooperative vaccine development, and helped nations suffering under US sanctions to fight Covid-19 infections.

"It is dangerous to be right in matters on which the established authorities are wrong." - French philosopher, historian and writer Voltaire (1694-1778).

Sports / Events / Results

Read it in the Toodyay Herald

news@toodyayherald.com.au

Office Hours are from 9.30am - 12.30pm on highlighted days						
October-November 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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
Nov 1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Halfway to nowhere and millions of acres

Ieva Tomsons

RETIRED pastoral station managers Dudley and Jill Hall have gone from overseeing millions of acres to settling on a picturesque 70-acre (28ha) block in Nunile.

It takes a special breed of person to cope with the isolation and challenges of living on remote properties and the Halls were bred for it.

Dudley spent his first seven or eight years on Boodarie station 18km from Port Hedland and Jill grew up on Maroonah 250km south of Onslow.

Mustering, windmill runs and helping at shearing time were all part of station life on their sheep properties.

Aboriginal families that lived and worked on their stations taught them at an early age how to track sheep and other animals.

"They told me to look at the ground, watch the ants and when the crows were flying high it meant rain was on its way," said Jill, who wishes she had paid more attention to their stories and was sad when they moved off the station to live in town.

In the late 1940s Dudley's family bought Wallareenya 40 miles (64km) east of Port Hedland.

There was no School of the Air and Jill's primary education was by correspondence until she went to board at St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls in Mosman Park.

Dudley spent his first three years of primary school living with friends in Port Hedland during the week and once they moved to Wallareenya he was taught by his mother before heading to Guildford Grammar School as a boarder.

After high school Dudley returned to Wallareenya. His parents had separated, and he was left to run the property with his mother.

He learnt a lot from Aboriginal stockman Jack Coppin who had been on the station for many years.

"Jack could do anything. You name it he could do it – fix windmills, wells, fencing, all aspects of stock husbandry and he was a good horseman."

Dudley was often the only white bloke in the mustering team and developed a taste for bungarra (monitor lizard), a staple bush tucker.

After three years on Wallareenya, Dudley headed to NSW and Queensland to work on sheep and cattle properties and took time out to visit his father and his new family in NSW.

While Dudley was over east, Jill, after a gap year on Maroonah, returned to Perth to complete a secretarial course and started working for a real estate company.

When Dudley returned to Perth in 1963 he was met at the airport by his sister and Jill. They were married two years later.

"It was the beginning of happy times," smiles Dudley.



Retired pastoral station managers and Mundrabilla Roadhouse owners Jill and Dudley Hall.

The newlyweds drove to Wallareenya and Jill adapted to station life on a much-smaller property in close proximity to Port Hedland.

"It felt suburban as we went to town every week not once or twice a year like on Maroonah. Supplies didn't come on the mail truck and Dudley was able to play cricket in town, the race round was fairly close – Roebourne, Wittenoom, Marble Bar, Hedland – and we'd go out with friends on weekends."

In 1970 Wallareenya was sold and the Halls were offered the management of Maroonah where they stayed for the next eight years.

Dudley wasn't really keen on getting a pilot's licence, but it was essential to overseeing 500,000 acres (200,000ha).

Jill had to be a Jill-of-all-trades, schooling their two daughters on School of the Air, caring for a young son, cooking for the workers and treating mishaps or illnesses affecting her family and workers.

"We had a pedal radio and every morning the doctor would come on and diagnose symptoms if needed. All the medicines were numbered, and you were told to give three of number two, twice a day; it was a pretty good system."

After Maroonah was sold in 1978 the Halls first managed Minilya, a 1,000,000-acre (400,000ha) coastal pastoral lease 119km north of Carnarvon, for a couple of years when it too was sold.

It would be a place where they were content and after a short stint on Warroora station they returned to Minilya where they stayed for another six years.

Visitors were always stopping by and the

couple were kept busy managing 3000 cattle and 48,000 sheep which took 10 weeks to shear.

"By the end of it, even the shearers were sick of it," laughs Dudley.

He remembers flying over Minilya during floods. "All the rivers had joined up and the stock were standing on small islands – it was amazing that they survived."

In 1988 Minilya was sold and the Halls say it was "really tough" having to leave the property and all their friends.

An Elders' advertisement for a manager in Yunta South Australia caught Dudley's eye.

"Jill's instinct was not to go, and she was right. There had been 12 managers in 12 years. We didn't last long either."

Back in WA they headed north again to oversee Minnie Creek, a 1,000,000-acre (400,000ha) property running 36,000 sheep north of Gascoyne Junction.

"We had three-four permanent workers and casuals at mustering time," said Dudley.

After four years Minnie Creek changed hands. The Halls tried their luck in Perth where Dudley mowed lawns and Jill turned her hand to sewing cushions for her sister's interior decorating business.

"The winter was grim, and we'd had enough after nine months. A 'brilliant opportunity' came up to own a roadhouse at Mundrabilla," said Jill, tongue-in-cheek.

"It was halfway to nowhere and we were going to be the big owners," laughs Dudley.

The business was really rundown, and they resorted to parking their own cars and rubbish wagon out the front to make it look as if they had customers.

With 4am starts and 11pm finishes it was a punishing workload but they built the business up in less than two years.

"We went from saying (to the passing traffic) 'please stop' to 'keep going'. We were there 20 months, two weeks, seven hours and six minutes," hoots Dudley.

After selling the roadhouse, Dudley embarked on a career in real estate and Jill worked in a florist's office in Perth.

Selling real estate didn't suit Dudley. "I'd tell the buyers all the negatives; it wasn't for me."

In 1994 the Halls headed to the Goldfields to manage Melita station, a 500,000-acre (200,000ha) property 25km south of Leonora.

They were in unfamiliar country but liked being near Kalgoorlie and local history.

After four years on Melita the Halls purchased their block in Nunile and relocated one of the old Northam army barracks to make their permanent home.

They were now cropping and running a few stock of their own but they also took time out to manage a Dunsborough resort as well as caretaking properties up north.

For their final station management job in 2005 running Gifford Creek near Mt Augustus for a few years, Dudley had to re-sit his pilot's licence.

The million-acre (400,000ha) cattle property was in rugged country but was the best-set-up property they ever worked on – a fitting finale to their long career as station managers.

No Toodyay Dollars to replace cancelled street party



Michael Sinclair-Jones

CANCELLATION of this year's Christmas Street Party due to Covid-19 pandemic uncertainty left a Toodyay Shire Council meeting without a quorum last month over an alternative sponsorship proposal.

The Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry asked that \$5000 of shire money budgetted for its annual street party be spent instead on a TCCI members-only 'buy local' business incentive scheme.

It prompted a procession of councillors to leave the chamber over potential conflicts of financial interest.

They had already voted 4-5 to reject the TCCI request after Cr Susan Pearce objected to ratepayers' money being spent to benefit only chamber members instead of being available to all local businesses.

It was different to the annual TCCI Christmas street party which all ratepayers could attend," she said.

Cr Pearce proposed an alternative motion

that all local businesses – including TCCI non-members – have access to a \$5000 shire donation to the Toodyay Dollars scheme.

Cr Mick McKeown – who owns a local olive oil business – was the first to declare a potential financial interest and leave, followed by Crs Therese Chitty, Paula Greenway, Ben Bell and Brian Rayner.

Their departure left the council without a required quorum of at least five members to enable the meeting to continue.

Shire President Rosemary Madaesi declared a brief adjournment and called the absent councillors back into the chamber to enable Cr Pearce to withdraw her alternative motion, which was allowed with a 9-0 vote.

Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said later there had been no further approach from the chamber about sponsoring Toodyay Dollars.

Lifeguards sought for new Toodyay pool

Continued from Page 1.

Working as a pool lifeguard requires a current police check, working with children check, first aid qualifications and current aquatic lifeguard qualifications or an interest to be trained in this field.

Anyone interested should email their resume and a brief introductory letter to venue manager Beck Foulkes-Taylor at bfoulkes-taylor@toodyayrecentre.com.au

Toodyay Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said the Toodyay Recreation Centre – including the pool – would be officially opened at with civic ceremony on Saturday November 21.

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The Toodyay Herald

Hot news

THIS month's surprise announcement that Toodyay's new public swimming pool will be heated and stay open all winter is a big win for local people power.

The Shire of Toodyay's original plans for a new 25m pool omitted heating, which meant the town's long-awaited new pool would close for six months every year.

This was bad news for retired local swimmers who drive 50km to Northam and back several times a week year-round to stay healthy by swimming regularly in that town's heated pool.

With nearly half of Toodyay's ageing population older than 55, it represented a significant lost opportunity for older residents wanting access to local winter aqua therapy to help them recover faster from debilitating treatments such as hip and knee replacement surgery.

A public meeting in Toodyay last year said a lack of heating was short-sighted.

The shire responded by saying it would examine the additional cost of building a new pool with pipes already installed to enable heating to be added later.

Nothing more was said publicly until this month when new pool manager Clublinks announced that not only would Toodyay's pool be heated year-round but that the company would absorb the cost of up to \$200,000 to install heaters.

The company said this was part of the its successful tender – which the shire kept tightly under wraps – to manage the new \$14 million multi-sport complex.

Clublinks says it will cost about \$10,000 a year to warm the pool to about 27C year-round with a mix of solar and mains power.

The Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry's decision to cancel this year's annual Christmas street party due to the Covid-19 pandemic means the shire has already covered half that cost by saving \$5000 in sponsorship.

Pool fee structures will be similar to those in Northam, which is also good news for families with young children and older residents who are likely to be regular users.

It is now up to everyone who worked so hard to raise funds and publicly campaign for this magnificent new pool to ensure that it works.

Last one in's a rotten egg.

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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The way we were – This photo taken around 1934 shows Toodyay Tennis Club members whose names written on the back are (back row, from left): Jack McCluney, Joe Wiltshire and Tom Dawson; (middle row) Les Haymes, Mrs Brewis, Beryl Haymes, Ev Thompson, Mrs Purser, Dorrie James and Peter Lee; (front) E. Lee, E. McCluney, Mrs James, Alma Leonard, Mrs Costello, Muriel Lee, and Clarrie Haymes. Children Brian and Irene Lee, children of Charlie and Edie Lee. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

LETTERS

Leave him alone

AS SOMEONE interested in various aspects of local government I have applauded Toodyay's high voter turn-out rate (*Toodyay Herald*, December 2017).

I like *The Herald* but a matter becoming irksome is that paper cannot mention Cr Brian Rayner without the ad nauseum insertion of the barb that "no one voted for him".

It is not his fault that no other candidate stood and it is to his credit that he threw his hat into the ring.

Perhaps other readers feel as I do. Can you imagine where you'd be if there were no candidates?

Alf Campbell
Kenwick

VINO lifts spirits

LAST month's VINO art exhibition at Coorinja Winery helped bring new joy to our community in what has been a difficult year for many local people.

It was an on-again off-again project as Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions crushed many arts and culture events with devastating consequences across Australia.

The Arts Toodyay committee sat down in July to talk about this year's VINO.

Last month's annual Toodyay Picnic Races were cancelled so where was Arts Toodyay with VINO?

Do we take the risk? We believed it was a very important decision for our community, our region and our membership of artists and helpers.

Then Toodyay Christmas shop owner Sean Byron said: "I will be your major financial sponsor – the community needs this."

Something extraordinary happened right there and then.

In one single day, the generosity of local businesses and a call for award sponsorship fell into place.

New Toodyay Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst responded enthusiastically to our invitation to open this year's 15th anniversary exhibition as guest speaker.

We were elated when our amazing judges Peter Efford and Georgina Efford accepted our invitation and again knew something wonderful was in store.

Judging took more than three and a half hours.

Our opening night was warm and balmy and started early with the arrival of about 150 invited guests, mostly local people.

Friendships were renewed, spirits were lifted, people laughed and joined together again at VINO – all in the name of art.

The three-day exhibition over WA's Queen's Birthday long weekend attracted a total of about 2700 art lovers.

Our team of hard-working volunteers greeted visitors who viewed more than 230 pieces of beautiful, interesting creations, and enjoyed good wine, goodwill and a very funny auction on the opening night.

Thanks Coorinja owner Michael Woods

and local real estate agent Lui Marcelli.

Thank you Suzie for such a positive and wonderful opening address.

Thank you Sean for your sponsorship, clever lighting and Best in Show Award won by Stephen Hill for *A Bend in the River*.

Thank you local WA Nationals MP Shane Love for again sponsoring an Acquisition Award for best Local, Regional Emerging Artist which was won by Sue Walker for *Dusk Over the Simpson*.

Thanks to sponsors Christmas 360, Makit Hardware, Toodyay and District's Bendigo Community Bank, Toodyay Op Shop and Toodyay Theatre Group.

The exhibition sold an amazing 77 works of art and enabled our community to share a great local art experience that brought joy to many – it was unique and special.

Thank you everyone.
Margaret Sommerville
Treasurer, Arts Toodyay

China blind

THOSE who do actually read Stirling Hamilton's monthly OI' Blind Joe diatribes in the *Toodyay Herald* will have noted his comments on China; a nation he regards as a 'friend' as opposed to that harbinger of all evil, the United States.

His piece in last month's *Herald* where he dismisses the threat of China is simply dangerous thinking.

Does he really believe the propaganda emanating from China?

Is he really willing to discard the protection of the US, a long-time ally, for the honeyed promises of a communist dictatorship that is now trying to bully us into line?

In case Mr Hamilton forgets, could I just remind him that:

Xi Jinping made himself China's President for life in 2018 – the classic act of a dictator;

Ridiculous and aggressive claims on territories in the South China Sea far from China are being pursued and military bases established on what were previously half-submerged sandbars;

Jimmy Lai – proprietor of the Apple Daily in Hong Kong – has been arrested because the People's Republic of China (PRC) didn't like what he was writing;

Australian citizen Cheng Lei, who is a presenter on Chinese TV has been arrested on some pretext, as have other Australian citizens Stern Hu, Matthew Ng, Charlotte Chou and Yang Hengjun;

Two Australian reporters had to evacuate China when their arrests appeared imminent after they were informed by the Chinese in an infamous midnight knock on the door that they were "banned from leaving the country" and,

A visit by the Czech Senate President to Taiwan was called an "act of treachery" by the PRC which promised that the Czechs would pay "a heavy price".

All this is on top of a PRC announcement that anyone of Chinese heritage should display primary loyalty to the PRC.

China is also trying to strong-arm Australia by accusing our country of treachery for having the temerity to seek an inquiry into the origins of the global Covid-19 pandemic.

This, as everyone knows, was followed for dubious reasons by sanctions against Australian producers.

Those sanctions directly affect some of our people in Toodyay, including our hard-working farmers, so it is hardly surprising that *The Toodyay Herald* has previously published letters complaining about OI' Blind Joe's skewed view of the world.

Is China your idea of a friendly nation Mr Hamilton?

If it is then you might want to relocate to that country though I doubt the PRC would allow any 'alternative thinking' if you were to pick up a pen there.

Allan Henshaw
Toodyay

Sean was right

I WAS overwhelmed by the way our whole community responded to last month's Arts Toodyay's VINO exhibition at Coorinja Winery – it surpassed all previous events.

Firstly Sean Byron of Christmas 360 who encouraged us to go ahead with this year's VINO and gave us a donation to cover the immediate costs and the major prize.

Sean told us our community needed this event to lift its spirits during this strange year – how right he was.

Thank you also Carolyn Elphick of Makit Hardware, local WA Nationals MP Shane Love, Toodyay Op Shop, Toodyay Shire Council, Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank and Margaret Sommerville for their financial support.

Coorinja Winery owner Michael Wood and his daughter Gemma supported us yet again by sharing their beautiful venue.

Margaret Sommerville was amazing and overcame all sorts of difficulties to bring her vision all the way to the final event.

The beautiful displays were all her work, including supervising the team during the hanging and setting up.

We received 140 RSVPs for the opening night so I knew the launch would be huge – it was.

Frank Farmer and Nuala Ennis processed queues of people waiting to purchase their chosen pieces.

Award winners were overwhelmed to receive their certificates and cheques.

Hazel McKone's response was: "Now I know I am an artist."

Eleanor Frith, who provided the music for the night, was equally thrilled to receive recognition.

It was lovely to see how all the artists felt special and rewarded by the kind and supportive comments from the judges.

Crowds of visitors on the Queen's Birthday long weekend continued to praise the exhibition, and sales were still being processed as we dismantled the exhibition after it closed on late Monday afternoon.

I am humbled by the support given by everyone; the members with their time and expertise, artists trusting us with their works and the appreciation shown by visitors and guests.

I am so very glad Sean gave us the encouragement to hold this event during the coronavirus pandemic.

It seems as though everyone needed something positive in their lives.

Thanks to everyone involved.

Ruth Silvester
Acting-President, Arts Toodyay

Shire planning reshuffle aims 'to assist, not block'

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY'S new local planning scheme will be the envy of every other local government authority in WA, says Shire Planning and Development Manager Kobus Nieuwoudt.

Mr Nieuwoudt, who joined the Shire of Toodyay from Northam last year, leads a revitalised shire planning team that he says aims to bring a fresh approach to planning and development applications in Toodyay.

It includes developing what he describes as a more-approachable working relationship with ratepayers.

"I see us as facilitators," Mr Nieuwoudt told *The Herald* while discussing the shire's draft new Local Planning Scheme No. 5 which is now open for public comment.

"Our approach will be not to block but to see how we can assist people."

Toodyay's draft Scheme No. 5 will replace current Local Planning Scheme No. 4 adopted in 2008 when State regulations dating back to 1967 still applied.

The shire's new draft scheme is based on updated State regulations that came into effect in 2015.

Mr Nieuwoudt said the 'deemed provisions for local planning schemes' contained in the 2015 regulations provide greater consistency for local government planning across the state.

They require councils to prepare local



Toodyay Planning and Development Manager Kobus Nieuwoudt and Planning Officer Hugo de Vos inspect Toodyay's draft new planning scheme which is now open for public comment.

planning strategies – which Toodyay did in 2018 – to create a vision for future planning and development.

"Our new local planning scheme will give effect to that strategy," Mr Nieuwoudt said.

The shire's draft is based on the Model Scheme Text which are contained in the

2015 State regulations.

The regulations include, among other things, a list of requirements the shire must consider when examining development applications.

"Town planning is not an exact science," Mr Nieuwoudt said.

"It's based on principles of assigning

weight to a myriad of planning issues, including social values and other subjective considerations such as visual impact."

"Our draft new planning scheme is much more modern and contemporary than the one it will replace and will be one of the most modern in the state.

"It will be a step in the right direction for Toodyay.

Mr Nieuwoudt said moving the shire's planning department from the old courthouse to the Visitors Centre opposite the post office had enabled his staff to be more closely connected to the community."

"I'd like all ratepayers to know that our staff are approachable and always happy to offer basic advice and guidance for planning applications," he said.

The shire's draft Local Planning Scheme No. 5 is currently open for public comment with submissions closing on Wednesday December 2.

The shire council will then meet to consider any amendments before voting on a final draft and forwarding it to the WA Planning Commission and the Minister for Planning for comment – and possible further amendments – before the new scheme becomes law.

Copies of the 84-page draft can be downloaded from the shire website or inspected at the Visitor Centre in Piesse Street, Toodyay.

Unusually dry soil index points to high-risk fire season

Rob Koch

Community Emergency Services Manager

A DRY winter means that parts of our shire are now already as dry as last summer as we approach what is expected to be a high-risk fire season.

Low rainfall and the onset of warmer weather means conditions will continue to become even drier at a faster rate than is normal at this time of the year.

This assessment is measured by a 'soil dryness index' which correlates to the flammability of vegetation.

Less moisture in the ground means the vegetation above will burn faster and more intensely.

That's why it is essential for everyone in the shire to comply with the prohibited burning period that will apply from Sunday November 1, and current burning restrictions which began at the start of this month.

Anyone now wanting to light a fire – no matter how small – must first obtain a shire permit with strict conditions which must be adhered to.

Permits generally require at least two independent sources of pressurised water – such as a mobile firefighting unit on the back of a ute.

For example, a single hose supplying water from an electric pump connected to a mains electricity supply is insufficient because a power cut will stop the flow of water.

People who obtain permission to light fires this month are required by law to ensure it is done correctly – failure to do so may result in an infringement notice or prosecution.

All fires must be carefully watched and managed at all times until they are completely extinguished.

This is particularly important for people with small 'lifestyle' bush blocks who may live elsewhere and visit Toodyay only on weekends and holidays.

Most local farmers will have already completed their burning-off and we find it is generally smaller landholders who want to burn at this time of the year.

Volunteer firefighters have arrived at bushfires in recent years to find a locked gate and the owner gone after leaving the smouldering remains of a fire that later re-ignited and burnt out of control.



Local Community Emergency Services Manager Rob Koch.

Police involvement is likely in such cases of negligence.

Bush fire control officers appointed by the shire will assess all applications for permits in line with local conditions.

If issued, a permit lasts up to seven days but that doesn't automatically mean that a fire can be safely lit at all times during that period.

It is essential that anyone with a permit to light a fire should first check local weather conditions before starting.

Local wind forecasts need to be checked to ensure they remain light for the duration of a fire and that no change of direction is predicted.

Some people mistakenly assume that a forecast of rain means it is safe to light a fire but in fact it usually indicates strengthening winds and a change of direction.

Look for low and consistent winds over the entire period of a fire.

I highly recommend that people use the Bureau of Meteorology's MetEye online weather forecasts to check three-hourly predictions for wind strength and direction, relative humidity and temperature.

Burning should occur according to conditions – not the calendar.

If in doubt, it is better not to burn at all and wait until conditions improve.

I would also like to remind all local property owners that they have until Saturday November 1 to ensure their properties comply with the Shire of Toodyay's annual Fire-Break Notice.

Perimeter firebreaks are not designed to prevent fires from spreading but to allow

safe and ready access for firefighting vehicles responding to emergency callouts.

Firebreak notices also include other requirements such as removing overhanging branches from buildings and maintaining low fuel areas around buildings.

Shire rangers will start checking properties from Sunday November 1.

Ratepayers and occupiers risk fines if they are found to be in breach of their firebreak notices.

Everyone is urged to play their part to help our community prepare for this year's fire season.

This includes preparing your property, discussing your fire plan with your family and keeping abreast of restrictions, alerts and warnings.

Visit emergency.wa.gov.au and listen to ABC local radio to stay abreast of Total Fire Ban information, alerts and warnings.

The shire's free SMS service provides information on harvest, vehicle movement and hot works bans, other restrictions imposed by bush fire control officers or changes to prohibited or restricted burning periods – simply SMS the word BANS to 0408 017 439 to subscribe.

Your efforts can greatly help our dedicated volunteer firefighters to keep our community safe and protect lives and property.

Anyone interested in joining a volunteer bush fire brigade to learn valuable new skills with a great team of like-minded people should contact their local brigade or the shire.

More information is available on the shire website at toodyay.wa.gov.au and the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services at dfes.wa.gov.au.

Clock ticking down on Toodyay inquiry report

Continued from Page 1.

THE MINISTER authorised the inquiry to examine:

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

The investigation included the loss of more than \$570,000 of ratepayers' money in a failed legal action against two former shire leaders, other botched court cases that cost tens of thousands of dollars, unlawful rates, a failed bid to sell O'Reilly's Cottage for \$530,000 and the resignation of former Cr Di Granger amid allegations of bullying.

Investigators attended council meetings, examined shire records and questioned witnesses during their probe.

A draft report on the findings was sent to the State Solicitor's Office earlier this year to decide if any prosecutions should occur.

A confidential edited version was sent to councillors in July for comment before a final report was forwarded to the Minister.

The State will publish the findings when they are tabled in Parliament.

New Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said it was likely the findings would also be published on the shire website.

See Cartoon Page 9.

The food is simply sensational so spoil yourself!

Come on out to the **THE VINTAGE DINING ROOM** at Pecan Hills BnB, only 5 minutes drive from town



BYO
Open All Day
Saturday & Sunday
Dinner Friday and
Saturday nights

KISS CATERING
Keep it simply sensational, by Lynda Burke

Bookings: **0438 745 853**
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99 Beaufort Street Toodyay -off Clarkson, off Julimar Road

**HARVEST
WORK
WANTED**

Mature aged ex-farmer
Cannot do long hours
Will help transport machines from farm to farm
Shift field bins
Look after stock at harvest and your holidays
Prefer work close to Northam
Phone Andrew 0408 931 384

Cries for help prompt dramatic rescue

Police Beat

With Acting Sgt Kevan French
Toodyay Police Station



AN INJURED man lay pinned under a collapsed car trailer (pictured right) in West Toodyay while rescuers spent half an hour trying to trace his calls for help.

The alarm was raised at 10.35am on September 9 when a Julimar Road resident heard distant cries of “help me, help me” coming from across the valley but couldn’t work out from where.

The resident rang Toodyay police who began checking the area and listening for more signs of distress without knowing exactly where to begin looking.

An urgent call for information on Facebook (pictured below) prompted more than 100 responses.



A hydraulic lift and wooden support blocks were used to free the trapped man.

Another person returning home from a brief visit to town discovered the injured man trapped under the twin axle trailer in their yard and rang for emergency help.

Toodyay Fire and Rescue Service volunteers raced to the address and used a hydraulic lift and wooden support blocks (pictured) to free the injured man.

He was airlifted to Perth by helicopter after being treated at the scene by local St John Ambulance Brigade volunteers.

Quarantine-free

NO LOCAL households were required to undergo mandatory Covid-19 quarantine restrictions for travellers returning from overseas or interstate in Toodyay last month.

All previous returned travellers subject to regular local police checks at home were cleared after successfully completing their required 14-day isolation period.

Long weekend bouquet

A BIG influx of visitors to Toodyay during last month’s Queens Birthday WA holiday long weekend kept local police busy.

Number plate recognition cameras recorded more than 2500 vehicles using Toodyay Road during the three-day break. The town was packed.

Most motorists followed road traffic rules during the statewide double-demerit points period.

Police radar caught only 11 drivers for minor speeding offences on local roads for the entire period – a very good outcome.

Officers also randomly breath tested

about 200 motorists locally and along Toodyay Road without any returning positive – another good road safety outcome for our community.

There were no reported traffic crashes. The long weekend was a pleasing result in what was generally a relatively quiet month for local policing.

Well done Toodyay.

Cyber criminals target elderly

CYBER criminals are continuing to try to steal money from Toodyay residents.

Elderly people have been targeted with threatening demands for payment disguised as genuine emails or mobile phone text messages from what appear to be legitimate senders.

In one case, local police received a call from an elderly person who reported a mobile phone text message purportedly from internet movie streaming service Netflix.

It claimed the company was unable to process a payment and needed the recipient’s bank details to complete the transaction.

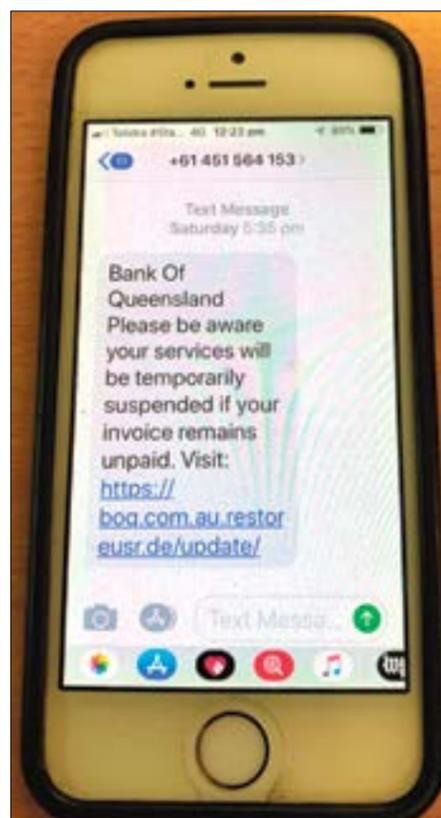
In another case, a mobile phone text message purportedly from the Bank of Queensland (pictured below) claimed services would be suspended if money wasn’t paid.

The give-away – as is usually the case – was that the return email added a German country code (‘de’) to the end of the Australian bank’s normal ‘au’ address.

Another clue was that the demand for payment was sent at 5.35pm on a Saturday.

Banks and other organisations such as the Australian Tax Office have said repeatedly that they will never seek customers’ personal details via insecure emails or mobile phone texts.

Please don’t open any doubtful messages but phone the sender to check if authentic and report fraudulent demands to scamwatch.gov.au.



Fraudulent text message purportedly from the Bank of Queensland.

Online casinos lure prospective punters

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

ONLINE casinos offer the convenience of gambling from the comfort of your own home.

They get your attention through advertising on web sites as well as sending out emails and SMSs.

Some online casinos appear to be aimed at children.

Casinos are all the same – they make their money from people placing bets.

It is a mistake to think you will ever win in the long term against any casino.

This is why the ‘gambler’s fallacy’ is called exactly that.

With bricks-and-mortar casinos, obtaining money to place bets often involves going to an ATM.

With online casinos, moving money from your bank account to the casino takes just a few clicks or taps.

Online casinos often offer a ‘free money’ trial period so that you get used to playing their game.

When it comes to playing with real money, the odds can change sharply to the casino’s advantage.

You never get to see who is running an online casino.

Gambling on an online casino while under the influence of alcohol or recreational drugs can be a recipe for disaster.

There have also been reports of some online casinos refusing to pay out and if a casino is based in another country, then there is very little you can do to recoup funds.

While using an online casino can be viewed as a form of entertainment, it can also be extremely expensive.

Normal top-of-the-range online entertainment packages cost around 70c a day – significantly cheaper than placing and losing a \$1 bet in a casino every day.

You can find more information at bit.ly/3mzHy0J/.

Happy surfing.

Scammers spike at taxation time

SaferToodyay
Desraé Clarke

GOVERNMENT impersonation scams have been rising over the past six months with more than 7100 reports to the Australian Competition and Commerce Commission (ACCC) amounting to a loss of \$1.26 million.

The increase in scams has spiked over the taxation period with text messages claiming to be from MyGov.

“The scams are increasingly taking advantage of the financial difficulties and uncertainty generated from the Covid-19 pandemic to trick unsuspecting Australians,” said ACCC Deputy Chair, Delia Rickard.

The scammers try to scare people into handing over money, personal details, tax file numbers and superannuation details and may threaten arrest if information is not given.

If you have any doubts about an email’s source or the validity of a text or phone call do not open a link or attachments and do not give personal details. Verify the sender by independent means.

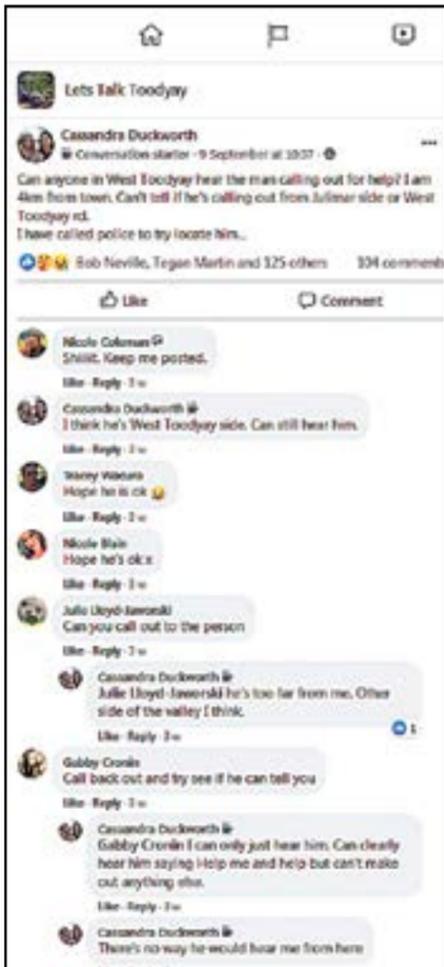
The ACCC also recommends that you report the scam to the government department that was impersonated.

You can subscribe for email alerts on the latest scams on scamwatch.gov.au which give regular updates.

To report suspicious activity ring Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or visit crimestopperswa.com.au or call the police on 131 444.

Report graffiti by phoning 1800 442 255 or go to goodbyegraffiti.wa.gov.au/.

For further information contact safertoodyay.org.au/.



TOODYAY

MRB 2339

Tyre Service

New 4X4, Truck,
Motorbikes &
Tractor

Repairs
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tyres1@inet.net.au

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Julimar Octopus Balls keep firies on their toes

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Julimar
Karen Dore

THE MUCH-anticipated Julimar Olympics 2020 proved to be a fantastic bonding experience for members young and old, new and seasoned.

Team events included Shuffleboard, Octopus Balls, Croc Creek and Pantyhose Soccer.

Shout-out to stalwart member Lou Kidd for reintroducing this traditional social event.



Brigade members go back to back in Octopus Balls. Photo: Lou Kidd.

Our youngest active firefighter, Lucas, enjoyed both the camaraderie and the knowledge gained by taking part in Coondle's Rural Urban Interface Exercise.

The morning was spent assessing properties for 'defend-ability', an essential thought process for a firefighter to have top of mind during an emergency.

Two brigade members were lucky enough to have the opportunity to attend DFES's Regional Pre-Season Brief and Leadership Forum which included presentations on the seasonal outlook for 2020-2021, recruitment and the importance of auxiliary members and mental and physical wellbeing.

Did you notice the Coondle, Central and Julimar 1:4 fire trucks enjoying a weekend out and about around town mid-month?

Two Julimar drivers spent an interesting weekend at Toodyay's Co-location Centre undertaking an on-road driving course and two more headed over to Northam to join in the fun.

If you Google Hendon Driving System, you too could learn a thing or two.

Unfortunately, a planned hazard-reduction burn in the Julimar patch was cancelled due to inclement weather.

We hope homeowners are managing to get on top of their preparations – safely – for the next fire season.

By the time this article goes to print our brigade pre-season brief and fire shed busy bee will be done and dusted, capping off a busy month.

Another dry month means high bush fire danger imminent

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Coondle-Nunile

Max J Heath

WELL another dry month but the weeds continue to grow and the outlook for the coming fire season is not looking good.

The Soil Dryness Index is about the same as it was in February and this is going to increase the fire danger for our district.

With the growth we have had, it will mean that there will be considerable fuel which will make battling fires more difficult.

At our last meeting, Peter Alum announced his retirement as a brigade member.

We wish Peter and Thelma all the best as Peter has done a lot for the brigade, behind the scenes as well as firefighting when he could.

Also at the meeting Carolyn Brown from Northam gave an outline about what is going to happen with the Cash for Containers situation.

Coondle-Nunile brigade has received a grant to purchase a trailer with the idea of collecting these containers as a future fundraising activity.

So if you wish to support a worthy organisation in Toodyay we will gladly receive containers once the scheme starts.

It was also announced at the meeting that

at last we will have an official opening on Saturday October 10 with all the appropriate officials there of course.

The opening was going to happen earlier but the Covid-19 problem caused it to be postponed until now.

We are going to follow the opening with an open day so the public can come and have a look-see and learn what can be done at your place regarding fire preparation.

It will also be an opportunity to welcome new members to our brigade and if the visitors are lucky, they might even score a sausage sizzle.

The day after the meeting the brigade had a burn off which was conducted as a training session with some of the team also going through driver training.

Captain Nick has virtually called off any further burns for our area for the year due to the aforementioned Soil Dryness Index.

So to fire breaks...

It is now too late to spray and so, if needed, a contractor should be booked to construct the breaks if you cannot do it yourself.

It is going to be very important to have good breaks in a year such as this.

That's about all from Coondle-Nunile for now until the next issue of *The Toodyay Herald*.

Bare arms and thongs not much chop in a fire

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Morangup

Sue Maddrell

IT HAS been a couple of months since my last article but that doesn't mean volunteers haven't been busy.

We've had a few members away on holidays and several doing courses, the most recent being the on-road driving course.

With the burning season coming to an end we hope everyone has tidied up around their properties.

Things to think about are a fire plan – what is going to happen on your property if there is a fire?

Are your gutters clean and is a grab-and-go box for yourself and one for your pets ready to go?

Firebreaks should be done or in the process of being done and fire equipment should be

working and ready to use.

Fire equipment includes personal protective clothing as bare arms and legs and a pair of thongs won't help you if you are staying to fight the fire.

The brigade continues to have its general meetings on the third Saturday of the month at 5.30pm with a barbecue afterwards with BYO meat and a salad to share. All those interested are welcome to attend.

It was decided at our last meeting that considering Covid-19 restrictions the annual community barbecue which is usually held at the end of November or in early December will not go ahead but hopefully it will be back next year.

The brigade carries out vehicle checks and maintenance every Saturday from 8.30am until 9.30am and we invite people interested in joining or just wanting to talk to our captain Jeff Venn or other volunteers to come along.



Closing Ceremony of the Julimar Olympics 2020. Photo: Lou Kidd.

Ambos get 385 call-outs as 600 locals undergo first-aid training

St John Toodyay Sub-Centre

Carolynne Haigh

THE ANNUAL Review Meeting (previously known as the AGM) of the St John Toodyay Sub-Centre was held on September 15.

Paul Harrington who has been chairperson for the past year did not re-nominate for the position and Matt Williams was elected unanimously.

Filling the vice-chair position is Rachel Bell, with Nuala Ennis taking on the secretary's role and Heather Appleby treasurer.

The sub-centre would like to thank the new regional manager Craig Spencer for attending the meeting and acting as returning officer.

For the 2019/2020 period the sub-centre attended 385 call-outs, with just-under 50 per cent of these being Priority 1 callouts.

Throughout the previous financial year we had 115 participants attain Provide First Aid Certification and a further 490 participants attending various first aid courses.

Overall there were just-over 600 participants involved and included high school students and business employees.

Covid-19 meant that we were unable to

provide our monthly first aid courses but these are now up and running again.

During the past year all three ambulances have been replaced – the newer vehicles are ex-metropolitan vans but have more features and upgrades than our older vehicles.

We are planning to move the office into the building (the old St Vinnies shop) on Stirling Terrace.

This will give us more exposure and provide more storage space.

The need for the Community Transport Service (CTS) vehicle continues to grow and we are therefore looking to purchase a second one.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions we were only able to transport one patient at a time and even when these restrictions are removed, the second CTS vehicle will mean we are able to assist many more patients.

If you are in need of a new first aid kit or stock for your first aid kit, call in and see what is available.

If you wish to book a first aid course you can do this by either going on line or calling in to the office.

Carolynne will be able to assist you with all this Monday to Thursday, 9am to 5pm.



HLTAID003

St John

“Provide First Aid”

**Next one day courses
To be held on
Saturday
7th November 2020**

St John, 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 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@stjohnwa.com.au

Free first aid kit for all participants



River bend vista scoops the pool

VINO 2020
Naomi Millett

THIS year's VINO exhibition at Coorinja Winery over the Queen's Birthday long weekend was a resounding success with thousands of visitors viewing local artworks.

Opening Night was great fun with art enthusiasts enjoying the near-perfect evening weather.

The visitors were excited and delighted by what was presented to them in such a beautiful location which owner Michael Wood provides for the art and wine loving patrons.

Winners

BEST in Show, Stephen Hill's *Bend in the River* sponsor, Christmas 360.

Shane Love Acquisition Award awarded to local emerging artist Sue Walker *Dusk Over the Simpson*.

The Shire of Toodyay, Clive Eger *Black and White Ceramicware*.

The Toodyay Op Shop Award, Jenelle Morgan's *Cascade Garnet Pearl Necklace*.

Margaret Sommerville Award, Margaret Bowes mosaic work *Untitled Slate*.

Carolyn Downie Makit Hardware Award, Hazel McKone's *Crackle-weave Shawl*.

Carolyn Downie Makit Hardware Award, Eleanor Frith's *Bird of Prey*.

Arts Toodyay Inc. Surprise Award, Barb Dadd (author) and Alison Downie (illustrator) for *The Misty Fog Collective*.

Toodyay Theatre Group Recycled/Repurposed Award, Brett Chrimes, sculpture *Maggie Maggie*.



Stephen Hill with his prize-winning painting *Bend in the River*. Photo: Helen Shanks.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

More volunteers sought to swell Bejoording ranks

Bejoording Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

From the desk of The Badger

ONCE again, it's been a pretty quiet month and we have continued with our monthly training sessions.

Please refer to the advertisement on this page of *The Herald* as we really do need to attract some new members.

Unfortunately for the best of reasons a couple of members have moved on and too many of our active members are very willing, very capable but work on a FIFO basis so their rosters don't always match our rosters.

If you live in the area and want to be a part of a valuable service which will protect your own assets as well as the rest of the community, then please contact captain Brian Rigby on 0417 984 324.



Opening night drew many art lovers to appreciate 230 exhibits created by 60 local artists.

VINO bubbles with opening night buyers

Arts Toodyay
Eleanor Frith

COORINJA Winery was abuzz on Friday night of the Queen's Birthday long weekend with the opening of VINO.

The annual Arts Toodyay event was hugely successful this year with 60 artists contributing 230 works.

A large number of people attended the opening event filling the soulful old building with their excitement.

Shire of Toodyay CEO Susie Hazelhurst opened the event and spoke about the importance of art and how it can enliven and bring vibrancy to a community.

Susie also praised the diversity and quality of the exhibits.

Two judges, Georgia and Peter Efford came to judge the exhibition and select the prize winners.

There were eight awards in total with the Best in Show awarded to Stephen Hill for his painting *Bend in the River*.

The support from sponsors this year has been amazing and is a great encouragement for the arts in Toodyay.

A big thank you to all of the sponsors – Arts Toodyay, Coorinja Winery, Christmas 360, Makit Hardware, Toodyay Op Shop, Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Shire of Toodyay, Shane Love MLA, Toodyay Theatre Group and Sommerville Gallery.

The exhibition was well-attended over the long weekend with a healthy number of sales.

It seems domestic tourism is really coming into its own with the road to Toodyay packed with enthusiastic travellers keen to discover treasures within easy reach of the city.

Wandering out yonder is truly a marvellous pursuit and VINO is another gem to be discovered.

Big congratulations and thanks to Margaret Sommerville who coordinated the exhibition very capably.

As always with any community event, there are countless volunteers who step in and contribute their skills where needed. VINO was no exception.

On another news front, events are continuing and there are more on the way.

Saturday October 24 may need to be marked down in your diary as three of our Arts Toodyay members – Ruth Silvester, Despina Weston and Di Granger – will be opening their studios to visitors.

Please check out the Arts Toodyay website and Facebook page for more information.

For any Arts Toodyay enquiries contact secretary.arts.2j@gmail.com/.



Eleanor Frith entertained VINO visitors.

Survey supports saving heritage site for arts

Home of Culture and Arts in Toodyay

Helen Shanks

THANK you to all who completed the Home for Culture and Arts in Toodyay (HCAT) survey.

It is very obvious from the comments that Toodyay wants to transform the heritage-listed St Aloysius Catholic Precinct building into a multi-purpose facility for cultural and artistic experiences.

What a stunning 'entrance statement' to our beautiful historic town this would be.

A snapshot from the survey reveals 89 per cent of respondents said they would use the facility to attend performances.

Fifty-eight per cent said they would participate in group classes and 63 per cent would attend lectures.

Interestingly, 25 per cent of respondents said they would be interested in renting space.

Ideas put forward by respondents included exhibitions, sculpture park, arts/crafts markets, gallery, visiting performers, musical



Jim Cathcart (front left), Kirsten Barrack, John Zawada (back left) and Sean Byron on the verandah of St Aloysius. Photo: Helen Shanks.

performances, café space, artist-in-residence, history/research space, Fringe Festival and opera events, art competitions, cabarets, craft shop, Aboriginal culture and events, lectures, recitals, workshops for sustainable living, meeting space use for music, crafts and other groups, yoga and wellness space, art displays and music in the garden on weekends.

Other interesting ideas included coordinating complimentary activities with the new Toodyay Recreation Centre with focus across the Avon Valley and Wheatbelt.

The need to involve those who don't think they are creative types (we love this) was suggested and that art projects could reflect the town's historical and farming legacy.

Chatting with experts was also proposed.

The HCAT planning team members were very fortunate to have Jim Cathcart visit Toodyay recently to discuss our home for culture and arts proposal and take a look through the proposed building – St Aloysius.

Until recently, Jim was the Director of Fremantle Arts Centre for 15 years and he has an enormous amount of knowledge in the area of arts.

Having Jim take an interest and assist with guidance is awesome.

On Wednesday October 14 at 5pm we are hosting a community meeting and funding drive in the Toodyay Memorial Hall where we will provide further updates and seek community pledges and support.

Sean Byron, our deputy chairperson, will lead this discussion and he can be contacted on 0419 199 367.

You may have received the information brochure in your mailbox by now.

If you would like to know more about the proposal or are keen to pledge a contribution, you can contact chairperson John Zawada on 0432 614 080.

We will continue updating the community each month via the *Toodyay Herald*, and via our Facebook page.

Bejoording Residents, we need you to help us help you

Do you realise that on a summers day on the gentle slopes of Bejoording a fire could spread 1km in the time it takes to drive from Coondle to Bejoording to attend a fire in our area.

Due to a lack of volunteer members your local brigade may not be able to attend to some fires in Bejoording and because of this you may have to wait an extra 10-20 minutes for a crew from Coondle to respond.

This is a local issue and the solution is up to you!

Contact Brian your local brigade captain on 0417 984 324 and give some of your time to help keep us all safer.



SHIRE OF TOODYAY NOTICES

Shire of Toodyay Bush Fire Control Officers

Pursuant to Section 38 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, the Shire of Toodyay advises appointment of the following persons as Bushfire Control Officers for the Shire of Toodyay.

Craig Stewart (Chief Bush Fire Control Officer), Nicholas Griggs (Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer 1), Brian Rayner (Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer 2), Robert Koch (Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer 3), Garry Forsyth, John Hansen, Kim Maddrell, Ian MacGregor, Charles Wroth, Greg Warburton, Leon Couper, Wade McMillan, Ebony Francis

Suzie Haslehurst – Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Toodyay



Watching dollars should be at forefront of council thinking

Toodyay Progress Association
 Brian Foley, Chairman

THIS month's council meeting was over very quickly without any contentious issues.

We did see Cr Mick McKeown question some accounting figures which looked way out of kilter.

It was explained that it was a timing issue which gave this result.

This questioning of accounting issues and where the shire is spending ratepayers' monies should always be in the forefront of councillors' thinking.

The shire has issued the documents for the Toodyay Local Planning Scheme No 5.

We ask ratepayers to download these from the shire website and comment on these if they

believe that the items can be improved.

The Toodyay Progress Association will be making a submission and will also assist anyone who also wants to have a say.

The association wishes to hear from ratepayers and invites them to forward ideas that will benefit the town.

We have not progressed this as we would like due to a number of reasons, but we will move on this.

If any residents have suggestions on what they would like to see, we can be an advocacy group for the suggestion, please make contact on 0419 933 721.

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

Community needs to balance wants against needs

President's Pen
 Rosemary Madácsi



SINCE I last wrote a number of interesting events have occurred.

The Governor of Western Australia, the Honourable Kim Beazley AC visited Toodyay on October 1 as part of a State Government promotion of regional WA.

On request, the visit was informal and not announced.

The governor accompanied community members on the inaugural Restoration and Convict Depot Walk to the old gaol and museum and clearly enjoyed the sudden appearance of Moondyne Joe, the impromptu visit to the old court house (shire chambers), Newcastle Gaol and Museum and the morning tea provided.

A casual saunter through the main street followed with visits to the bakery, Uniquely Toodyay, Christmas 360, the Toodyay Recreation Centre and concluded with lunch at the Victoria Hotel.

Throughout, the governor's enthusiasm for our community and history was apparent which was reciprocated in the obvious pleasure and warm welcomes he received.

A little surprise was discovering the governor's family descended from a Toodyay convict.

Last Saturday, a community presentation by Clublinks, the new managers of the Toodyay Recreation Centre led to the very welcome announcement of the intent by the company to install pool heating.

Answers to questions about operating hours and fees reflected those of similar centres such as in Northam but are still being decided.

What was apparent was the enthusiasm and willingness by Clublinks to establish a professional and popular precinct in harmony with community expectations.

Expectations are sometimes difficult to reconcile in the community.

Local governments must constantly weigh a community's wants (services) against the rates

a community feels are acceptable.

Acceptability however is very subjective and therefore varies considerably; the outcome is a decision that seldom pleases everyone.

We as a community now need to consider expectations and acceptability.

The Toodyay Recreation Centre is now finished and we now have a wonderful facility.

Regardless of differences in opinions we must now fully harness its potential to maximise the benefit the community receives from this investment.

Longer operation hours have a wage and utilities price to pay and lower fees means less to offset running costs.

Rates may need to be increased to accommodate this.

The question is, what charges and hours are needed and what can we negotiate or do without?

These questions also need to be expanded and asked of the shire services in our community.

If we want rates at a manageable level, what services are essential, what can we manage with down sizing and what are we prepared to sacrifice or have undertaken by others?

Budget time resumes in November and there is no such thing as a free lunch.

Toodyay has always been a strong community, vocal, proactive and innovative.

Neither are we backward in voicing our displeasure, particularly with shire decisions.

Well now is an opportunity to proactively contribute to having planning reflect community expectations.

The Local Planning Scheme No. 5 draft is out for public comment until Wednesday December 2 and is accessible from the shire website under Public Notices.

Before turning the page, consider what area of planning most affects you and address that.

The Local Planning Scheme is divided into parts: Part 2 – Reserves (two pages), Part 3 – Zones and Use of Land (10 pages), Part 4 – General Development Requirements (16 pages) and Part 5 – Special Control Areas (one page).

Sectioned like this, it is not a large task.

Please consider, then submit a submission or letter to the shire, with the section named and clearly titled Local Planning Scheme No. 5 submission.



Chance to shape new electoral boundaries

MEMBERS of the public are invited to propose changes to the boundaries and names of Federal electorates in WA.

The decrease in WA's entitlement, from 16 to 15 members of the House of Representatives, together with recent population and enrolment growth in areas of WA, will require most of the state's Federal divisions to be altered to some degree.

Members of the public can lodge written submissions with the Redistribution Committee for WA until 6pm on Friday October 23.

Written suggestions will be published on the Australian Electoral Commission website on Monday October 26 and the public will then have until 6pm on Friday November 6 to lodge written comments on suggestions.

The Australian Electoral Commissioner and Chair of the Redistribution Committee for Western Australia, Tom Rogers, said the Committee would review all ideas, suggestions and comments, and then release proposed division names and boundaries in the first quarter of 2021.

Shire CEO promotes regional art



Shire of Toodyay CEO Suzie Haslehurst opened last month's VINO 2020 by addressing the importance of local art and how it can enliven and add vibrancy to regional communities.

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Email: tjauto@bigpond.com See Brenton and the crew - Phone: 9574 2335 or 0427 442 553

Bruce enlists as RSL events coordinator



The recently elected Toodyay RSL Sub-Branch committee. Front row from left: Paul Barton (treasurer), Peter Brennan (president) and Heather Brennan (secretary/media liaison). Back Row from left: Bruce Guthrie (events coordinator), Geoff Brown (welfare officer), Sue Eldridge (membership), Bob Wood (project lead) and John Clarke (senior vice-president).

RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch Heather Brennan

OUR AGM on September 12 resulted in most of the committee putting up their hands to undertake their positions for another year.

We thank our new committee member Bruce Guthrie for taking on the role of events coordinator and we thank our membership for once again entrusting us with these roles.

On September 18 we held our annual raffle outside the IGA, and the winner of our money tree was Heather Brennan.

The cake stall held the following day was amply stocked with baking and plants provided by our hard-working members.

It was delightful to see so many of our members participate with staffing our tables and supporting our sub-branch.

In addition, I cannot say enough about the support from our generous Toodyay community and visitors to our town – we are most grateful.

Members please note Saturday, October 17 at 1300 in the Memorial Hall we will hold our last ordinary meeting for 2020.

Due to the Toodyay Agricultural Show being cancelled, our sub-branch will hold an additional Famers Market stall this year on Sunday October 18.

This is a chance for you to drop by and ask questions about the niche wall plaques, welfare and membership or to peruse our new collectable stubby holders and to get a response to general enquiries.

We are undertaking another run of niche wall plaques for relatives who served but didn't die in war, as a few more expressions of interest have come through.

Please contact the secretary at toodyayrsl@gmail.com or 0408 284 852.

We will keep this offer open until Sunday October 18 so you can speak to us in person at the Toodyay Farmers Market if you prefer.

RSL Toodyay has adopted the Containers for Change program and invites the

community to support our building fund by donating container refunds to our scheme; ID C10299385.

Xtreme Rhino Enterprises, bag drop, will take place at Lot 324 Duke Street North, Toodyay on Tuesdays between 0930 and 1730.

A reminder: our advocate has returned to Northam on the last Wednesday of each month.

This service is available to ex-service personnel/partners (whether you are an RSL members or not) at the Memorial Hall in Fitzgerald Street, Northam.

Please contact our welfare officer on 0458 411 648 for appointments.

On Friday and Saturday November 6 and 7 we will hold our Poppy Day appeal outside the IGA and on Wednesday November 11 we will hold our Remembrance Day Service at Anzac Memorial Park at 1030.

We look forward to seeing you and until then, stay safe and well.

Military memorabilia sought for market

Northam RSL Sub-Branch
Donna Prytulak

NORTHAM RSL Sub-Branch will hold its annual military display and swap meet on Sunday November 8.

People wishing to have a stall will need to contact Donna Prytulak by Monday November 2.

We are looking for people who have military items to display or sell.

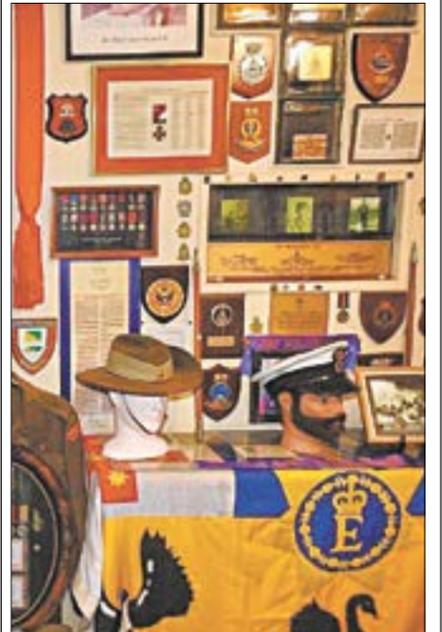
People wishing to attend are welcome from 8.30 am.

Money raised from the day will go towards the cost of erecting a statue for our Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

A sausage sizzle plus a Devonshire Tea will be on offer.

A gold coin donation would be appreciated but is not essential.

For further information contact donnarsl1957@gmail.com or the secretary at northamrslsb@hotmail.



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Amanda Carter – Victoria Hotel / Toodyay IGA

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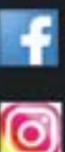
Petrina & Rob Oremek – Deepdale Farm

"Our freshwater pool is amazing! Could not go back to chlorine now. I am happy to highly recommend MAHA Services. Top products and service."

Gemma Wood – Coorinja Winery



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EFTPOS ready for Show Quiz auction

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Alison Wroth

THIS time of year 'usually' brings images to mind of Show schedules, entry form due dates, stress when no livestock has been entered and constantly thinking what the weather will be like when we make the countdown to the annual Toodyay Agricultural Show.

This however is not a normal year in so many ways and doubts that some Show entrants might usually experience – such as rose buds blooming in time for judging, or how many six white eggs to enter when only getting one a day, or getting the kids to enter just one more sand bowl or the big one or are there enough vegetables to enter a 'collection' or should they even bother – are not on the cards this year as we have no Show to stress over or to ultimately enjoy.

In some ways, not having a Show is a huge hole for me, but I see the benefit of the society having more time to fundraise for a blockbuster Show next year.

We have been overwhelmed by the community's support for the Show and for that we are very grateful.

We can now consider organising the huge celebration when we return to a vibrant Toodyay Agricultural Show next year filled with new ideas and entertainment.

The president and committee have been working hard to organise our quiz night which is the 'night to mark the day' that the Show would have been held.

All tables are booked so attendees are in

for a great night filled with games, auction, heaps of prizes, raffles, showbags and the occasional question thrown in for interest's sake.

So if you are coming along on Saturday October 10 to the Sports Pavilion, bring some coin/cash if you are keen to participate in our games – not just the table games either.

We will have an EFTPOS machine available for any bigger purchases made in the auction and there will also be a bar facility.

Stephen and Liz Ferguson volunteered to operate the bar for us on the evening, so heartfelt thanks to them for taking the time out of their busy lives to support both the Show and our society.

Our major sponsors, Makit Hardware, Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Toodyay Op Shop and our local businesses as well as Mandurah Resort Apartments have really stepped up and offered wonderful donations, dinners, accommodation and services for the silent auction which can be secretly bid on throughout the night.

It will be interesting to see who gets to out-bid who as a silent auction is all about strategy.

The winners will not be the only ones with grins on their faces. I believe the community also benefits by having events such as this now – even if the fireworks are missing.

By supporting Toodyay Agricultural Society the committee can provide you with an energetic Show next year and for that we thank you.



Freshly cut oat hay awaiting baling in Nunile. Photo: Frank Panizza.

Illegal hunters leave gates open as feral pig risk increases

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza

WARMER days have given us a taste of spring and the changing of seasons.

Pasture paddocks have good amounts of feed for livestock, once referred to as the 'spring flush' providing welcome feed for the range of livestock you can find grazing the green paddocks around Toodyay.

Local farmers have been busy with making hay and getting machinery ready for the coming harvest, which usually starts with canola in early November.

Hay has been cut early this year due to warmer and drier seasonal conditions.

Oat crops cut for hay were shorter than normal and many crops had not emerged properly from the 'boot' before they were cut.

The 'boot' is the last leaf from which the grain head emerges.

To achieve optimal quality the farmer closely monitors the crop growth stage and will begin cutting the crop once it flowers, before the oat plant starts to form grain.

The quality of hay declines rapidly as grain begins to develop due to sugars and other nutrients being mobilised from leaves and stems to form grain.

Hay yields have been reported to be below average, similar to last year.

And while the rain is always welcome, when it rains during the period between

cutting and baling, it can cause mould and fungi growth on the hay – so there might be a few anxious farmers.

Feed grain prices, particularly lupins, have fallen due to improved yields expected from the northern Wheatbelt.

Feed barley prices have also fallen, mostly due to the tariff imposition by China on Australian barley.

Have you seen feral pigs? Did you know there are large numbers of feral pigs in the bushland areas in the Toodyay area?

A recent survey was carried out by the National Feral Pig Action Plan with the aim of ascertaining the level of feral pig activity and damage to agriculture and the environment in Toodyay and further afield.

Feral pig activity in our shire, and particularly in reserves, has steadily increased to a point that pigs are being found in areas that previously have had no recorded activity.

Feral pigs have been seen north and west of Toodyay on farmland and recently an animal was struck by a car on the Toodyay-Bindi Bindi Road near Bejoording.

An additional concern is the reports of illegal pig hunters trespassing on properties in the area.

These trespassers have left gates open, and cut fences in pursuit of pigs.

Both feral pigs and the illegal hunters pose a biosecurity risk with weeds and pests transported by vehicles, as well as the diseases that are spread by feral pigs.

If you have seen feral pigs, please contact the shire ranger, and help us protect the environment and agriculture.

Meetings are planned to map a way forward for the control and spread of feral pigs moving in and out of reserves under the control and responsibility of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

It is hoped that these meetings will lead to better engagement with the land managers of remnant bushland areas where feral pigs are known to be causing destruction and breeding, and that a suitable management plan can be formulated and implemented.

Crowds brave wild weather to support local stalls



Strong winds failed to deter visitors from attending last month's Toodyay Farmers Market.

Toodyay Farmers Market
Sue Wakka

WELL the weather didn't stop last month's Toodyay Farmers Market and the sun did come out to play.

Thank you to all who came along in the windy conditions to support our local market.

There were plenty of veggies and fruit and yummy honey and wines to choose from.

Lots of goodies for every member of the family, gift selections and things for around the home – you had to be there to see it all.

Again, we had great music and delicious food – beef and gravy rolls, soup and of course the newest member's pizzas were

among the choices with a much-needed cuppa, followed by a good stroll around.

There were characters to see and the hatching, and friends from Toodyay REaD turned up. Congratulations on their great reading program.

The local marsupial rescue animals were once again there to cuddle – so cute.

There was also an opportunity to see our local woodturners in action as well as a few demos from the Avon Valley Shotokan karate youngsters, and a chance to chat with the shire council.

So, if you missed it then look out for the next one on Sunday October 18.



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Bicycle networks in regional areas create additional tourism revenue from visiting recreational cyclists.

Bike path to Spencer's Brook proposed in strategy

WORK has commenced on a long-term cycling strategy for the Avon and Central Coast regions.

The work which will identify an aspirational network to improve safety and connectivity for residents and support local businesses by creating tourism opportunities.

The State Government is developing the Avon Central Coast 2050 Cycling Strategy

in partnership with the Shires of Beverley, Chittering, Dandaragan, Gingin, Northam, Toodyay and York and is seeking input.

As well as sharing how they use the current bicycle network and how they would like to see it developed, the community is invited to have their say on a range of potential opportunities identified in a preliminary regional network.

These opportunities include a primary route along the scenic Avon River linking West Toodyay, Toodyay, Northam and Spencers Brook.

Other opportunities include completing shared-path networks in towns and connecting key destinations and attractions within the region to boost cycle-tourism.

The strategy, anticipated to be finalised

in 2021 is the next step in the State Government's long-term approach to planning and investment in WA's regional bicycle network.

The community can share their thoughts via My Say Transport until Friday November 6 at the community drop-in which will be held at the Toodyay Farmers Market on Sunday October 18 from 9am to 1pm.

Air your ideas on new radio programs

2J2AIR 105.3FM
Bethan Lloyd

WE HAD hoped that we would be able to report we are now on line but unfortunately Telstra works a lot slower than we anticipated.

Let's hope we have better news for next month as getting on line means we can reach more listeners.

We just had our AGM and the new committee is resolved to do the best we can to deliver you a diverse range of programs and community information.

We welcome new member Michael and would love some more new members and supporters to help us on the committee.

If you have interest in community radio and would like to get involved, please join us by contacting us at 2j2air@gmail.com.

Use the same email if you would like to put your community event information on air, take up one of our sponsorship packages to advertise your business or, if you have an idea for a program you would like to present.

We would really love to get more feedback and suggestions about our programs, so please let us now if you are listening to us by contacting us on Facebook or go to our website 2j2air.org.au to find out how you can submit a program idea.

Program guide

MONDAYS: 11am *The Green Hour*; 1pm *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*, 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.



Toodyay event planners want Moondyne Joe and his gang to run riot again in Toodyay next year.

Neville to help Moondyne run riot next year

Toodyay Event Planning
Moondyne Festival
Clint Fricker

THE AGM for Toodyay Event Planning Inc. (TEPI) was held last month, and the following office bearers were elected: Tanya Stuart, chair; Neville Hoy Poy, deputy chair; Sarah Gilbertson, treasurer and Clint Fricker, secretary.

TEPI is the organisation under which the

Moondyne Festival working group operates and we are very pleased to announce that Neville Hoy Poy has put his hand up to be the co-ordinator of the working group.

Neville has a wealth of professional experience in project management and has already proven himself an invaluable group asset.

Once the website for next year's festival is up and running, potential stallholders and entertainers will be able to submit their

applications on line.

Those who had applied for the cancelled 2020 festival will be contacted by email to see if they still wish to be considered.

If anyone would like to offer their services, it would be very much appreciated.

In particular we are looking for someone to organise the entertainment for the day and a costume/re-enactment skit organiser.

Please contact Neville on 0410 272 066 or Clint on 0423 226 898.

Hundreds of TV ads booked to promote Toodyay tourism

Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Clint Fricker

ON SEPTEMBER 18 the chamber hosted a very-well-attended sundowner at the shire community centre.

Thanks to the committee for organising the event, particularly Bob Schrader and Stacey Dadd.

The guest speaker was Alex Dorsch, CEO of Chalice Gold Mines, who gave a comprehensive presentation of the discovery and possible future development of a deposit of valuable metals on farming land near the Julimar State Forrest.

Alex comes from the Adelaide Hills and as a country lad at heart gave a very easy to follow presentation which was well received.

In a nutshell, it is too early to tell how significant this find may be and indeed if and when it will be developed.

The reason for talking to the community now is that with full-time drilling and exploration by air underway the company wants to keep the community informed.

After a period of dedicated service, Deb Andrijich has resigned from the committee to take a well-earned break from some of her community involvements.

Her most recent role was as president and her presence will be greatly missed. All the best for the future, Deb.

Our group is always looking for ways to promote Toodyay to the wider population and we recently ran a 30-second video, *Experience Toodyay Today*, on social media.

You can watch the video on our Facebook page or website.

The video reached 30,000 people; an excellent result. Even better, these hits were predominantly from viewers in the Perth metropolitan area.

On the back of this success we are now going to feature the advertisement on television.

The WIN TV Network will be running it 673 times over 124 consecutive weeks.

For those members with an eye for fiscal prudence this is being paid for from State grant money and not from members' subs.

On a different note, the committee is now largely made up of people without businesses located in the Toodyay commercial precinct.

If your business is located in the thick of things, particularly in the main street, please give serious consideration to joining the committee to ensure the businesses in town continue to have a strong voice.

TOODYAY EMU FARM



Walk amongst "Free Range Emus" in natural bushland

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- Create a post to market your business - on your Facebook Business Page
- Create a post to market your business - on 'Destination Toodyay 6566' Facebook Page (Criteria apply)

Go to 'Destination Toodyay 6566' Facebook Page, and click on 'services' for costs and more information

Contact Helen Shanks via Messenger, 0419 580 016 or email: hjshanks@bigpond.com

Check out FB Pages 'Destination Toodyay 6566' and 'The Farm 6566'. Helen also manages Facebook for several groups including Arts Toodyay, AvonLink Supporters, Home of Culture and Arts in Toodyay, and Noongar Kaardijin Aboriginal Corporation.



Old gun and dog sold to pay for local convict's funeral

Toodyay Old Newcastle Public Cemetery

Robyn Taylor

OLD CEMETERIES have their issues – early plots can take up too much space, the graves become neglected and it can be hard to read the inscriptions if the headstones are covered in lichen, or badly damaged through storms and vandalism.

These monuments to the departed can stand forlorn and unrepaired because of the expense, and the descendants who might have cared are long gone.

All of the above are evident in our town cemetery but what a fascinating place to wander through especially on a quiet still day.

Despite what some say, it's not morbid to find curious pleasure in reading the inscriptions, to be prompted to think about the transiency of life and feel pangs of sorrow for the loss of infants and children.

The cemetery was established on an acre of land provided by James Drummond Junior in February 1862 (the signboard indicates 1861) and consecrated by the Bishop of Perth, Mathew Blagden Hale on 4 June 1867, the same day he consecrated the earlier cemetery at Nardie which featured in last month's *Herald*.

A bazaar and concert were held in October that year to raise funds for improving and fencing the cemetery as well as those at Nardie and Culham.

The grave of blacksmith Thomas Slater who died in 1867 has the oldest dated headstone in the cemetery.

There are three main sections in the town's cemetery, Roman Catholic, Anglican and General, located on a gently sloping site facing Telegraph Road as you enter town from the north.

The graves face east towards the hills and dales of Mount Anderson which at this

time of year are lush with green pastures and fattening lambs.

You can imagine the interred members of farming families would approve.

A walk along the section rows reveals the names of generations of well-known Toodyay families, some having their first burials at Nardie.

A poignant link between the two cemeteries are the burials of Rev. Charles Harper (died 1872) who had been chaplain for the Toodyay district for 23 years, his wife Julia and their three daughters Julia, Mary and Sarah.

The burial of Charles and Julia's infant daughter Isabella at Nardie in c.1839 marks the beginning of that cemetery and the thought occurs, if only there could be some gesture to record this at the Harper burial site.

There is another section of unmarked graves, higher up the hill behind the Protestant section where the land remained unhallowed or unconsecrated.

Such areas were reserved in the old days for convicts, paupers and suicides.

Whether at some stage compassion prevailed and the area was consecrated will need further research.

We do know that former convict William Sykes, who died at the age of 63 in 1891, was buried in the cemetery. But just where is contested.

In her 1959 book *Unwilling Emigrants* about the life of William Sykes, Alexandra Hasluck wrote that he was buried in "a nameless grave...outside the consecrated ground".

However Graham Seal in his 2006 book on Sykes *These few lines. A convict story...*, suggests he was buried in the Anglican section but no supporting evidence is given for this.

Whatever, the government had to be reimbursed for the cost of his burial and funds were raised from the sale of his few belongings including an old gun and his dog.

In 1981 the cemetery was upgraded by the shire with the construction of a new all-denominational general section and the creation of a niche wall to hold ashes.

This was officially opened in December 1982 by Geoff Ludemann, then President of the Toodyay Shire Council.

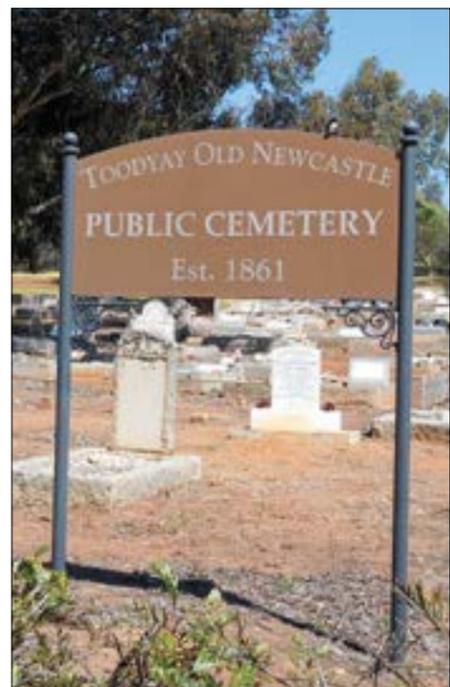
In 2000 a new sign for the cemetery, Toodyay Old Newcastle Cemetery, was erected.

This has helped to counter the on-going confusion for visitors, and even locals, that Newcastle was the former name of the present town of Toodyay.

Over the following decades the value of Toodyay's cemeteries as attractions for tourists and those undertaking family histories has been well recognised.

There have been clean-ups, repairs to fences and tree plantings by local groups to assist the shire in its management through its Toodyay Cemetery Committee.

A database recording known burials in Toodyay was created by Brian Chambers and there are other on-line resources such as ozburials.com



Sign at Toodyay Old Newcastle Public Cemetery, Est. 1861. Photo: Robyn Taylor.



Headstones facing eastward in the Catholic section. Photo: Robyn Taylor.



Club members take a break from spring cleaning Syred's Cottage. Photo: Linda Rooney.

All hands on deck for annual heritage cottage clean-up

Toodyay Historical Society

Robyn Taylor

LAST month we celebrated springtime with our annual spring clean of historic Syred's Cottage at Bejoording.

This is always an enjoyable outing where we descend on the place with brooms, dusters, rakes and whipper-snippers and picnic baskets.

This time we concentrated on the gardens and immediate surrounds and checked out the latest repair works to the Harper fencing by member Bob Sutcliffe and his father Bob.

Bob's mother Fran is a Syred so the family has a keen interest in the preservation of this State heritage-listed property, now owned by the shire.

The two Bobs have been doing some excellent work on site under the auspices of the shire.

Bob (junior) showed us his recent exciting find, a well-preserved concrete sheep dip that had been filled in over the years.

This adds another surviving element to the working of a farming property.

The dip is near the old smithy, which has been deteriorating since the roofing was blown off in a storm. The same has recently happened with the outbuilding, also a mud brick construction, which contains the smoke house and slaughterhouse.

It is satisfying for the historical society to know we are doing something to help preserve this unique piece of WA history.

The place is a remnant of the only known English-style village development planned around a Commonage.

We are hopeful that one day this largely

authentically preserved cottage (built circa 1859) will become accessible to visitors as an example of an early farming property.

At our September meeting our guest speaker was member Wayne Clarke, well known to everyone for his invaluable and long-standing contribution to volunteering in Toodyay, which has included other organisations.

Wayne doesn't want recognition, which means efforts to nominate him for various awards generally fall on deaf ears.

With the cancellation of the State Affiliated History Conference, which was to take place this month in Denmark, an alternative excursion has been organised to Buckland House in Irishtown.

This will be on Friday October 23 from 10.30am to noon followed by a picnic lunch at Nardie Cemetery.

Details have been sent out to members but make sure you bring a chair as the ants can be lively.

Our next general meeting takes place on Wednesday October 21 from 7pm in St Stephen's Anglican Church Hall featuring member Peter Robinson as our guest speaker.

Donegan's Cottage remains closed to the public. Drummond House is now open on Saturdays between 10am and noon in accordance with safety measures.

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

Postal address PO 32 Toodyay WA 6566. Website: toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au/ Membership is \$15 per annum.

Speckled red egg helps Toodyay kids to read



The Toodyay Early Years Network brought a special speckled red egg to Duidgee Park last month to promote early literacy skills in children after a federal survey showed that local children performed below the WA average in communication and language skills. The egg 'hatched' a dragon mascot that will tour the district encouraging kids to learn to read. Photo: Phil Hart.



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Purple bra out for \$2150 Bolgart fundraiser

Bolgart News
Pam McGill

ON SEPTEMBER 22 a garden party morning tea was held at Serena Syred's home in Bejoording.

Approximately 50 ladies from Meckering, Calingiri, Northam, Perth, Toodyay and Bolgart enjoyed gorgeous food, weather and friendship while admiring Serena's beautiful garden and raising money for Breast Cancer Care WA.

Denise Kiff who was a nurse at the organisation for seven years was guest speaker.

A fantastic total of \$2151.70 was raised and it's planned to make the garden party an annual event.

School and sports awards

SENIOR Room Merit Certificates were awarded to Nicholas Moore and Josephine Edmonds.

Junior Room Merit Certificates went to Amy-Grace Crawford and Alexander Edmonds.

Madeline Cotter and Caleb Wallis received Aussie of the Month awards.

Congratulations to the participants and winners of the recently held Calcoinnart and Victoria Plains School Sports Association (VPSSA) carnivals.

At Calcoinnart, Molly Snooke was Open Runner-up Girl, Oliver Clarke won Under-11 Champion Boy, and Josie Edmonds Under-11 Runner-up Girl.

At VPSSA, Josie Edmonds was Under-11 Runner-up Girl.

Fun was had by all at both carnivals and it was great to see that students showed sportsmanship and were encouraging of their teammates.

Footy get-together

A GOOD crowd of past Bolgart Football Club players gathered over the long weekend in the Bolgart Caravan Park to catch up and talk about their playing days.

The get-together is an annual event which has been ongoing for a number of years.

For a little entertainment the 107-year-old tractor, which is on display in Bolgart was started and driven around the oval.



Serena Syred (left) and Denise Kiff share a laugh at the garden party.

CWA cookbook

BOLGART Country Women's Association ladies have completed a wonderful new cookbook which is in the process of being printed.

The final product will include recipes from many local sources and members and will be on sale at the Bolgart Bush Christmas Market on Sunday November 15.

To pre-order a copy please contact Stephanie on 0447 160 470 or email bolgartcwa@gmail.com.

Around the greens

THE MIXED Closing Day of Golf sponsored by Bowden Shearing Contracting was held on September 19.

Men's winner was Brett (Cadji) Watson, and the winning lady was Jenni Knowles.

Men's seasonal trophy winners: Eclectic donated by Geoff Ludemann, Brett (Cadji) Watson; Men's Long Drive No 2 donated by Colin and Marion Guthrie, Callen

Syred; Mens Nearest to the Pin No 6 P Meston Memorial Trophy donated by Todd Meston, Callen Syred; Mens Best 2nd No 14 donated by Justin Edmonds, Lester Snooke.

The Adele Ludemann Memorial Trophy Hidden Partners sponsored by Sue Ludemann was won by Joy Hamilton and Serena Syred; runners-up Vivienne Camerer and Pam McGill.

The Syred Cup 27-hole event was won by Joy Hamilton; runner-up Serena Syred.

Vivienne Camerer was the Gross Winner and AM Winner Pam McGill and PM Winner Lynne Marcelli.

Many thanks to Phil and Serena Syred and Callen and Annette Syred for their generous sponsorship.

To wind up the event, a lovely meal was had at the Bolgart Hotel along with the presentation of trophies.

The ladies also played for the St Gertrude's Cup sponsored by the Benedictine community in New Norcia.

Unfortunately, Dom Chris wasn't able to attend the presentation but a big thank you for their ongoing support.

The cup was won by Joy Hamilton on a countback from Serena Syred.

Gross Winner was Serena Syred and runner-up Nolene Kaszanski.

Congratulations to Serena Syred on winning the 2020 Country Week Sandgreen Gross bronze division, with Vivienne Camerer runner-up.



Sponsor Geoff Ludemann (left) congratulates Eclectic Trophy winner Brett (Cadji) Watson.

Nominations open for cottages' committee

Butterly Cottages

Jenny Perkins, Secretary

BUTTERLY Cottages Inc. AGM will be held at 2pm in St Stephen's Anglican Church hall on Thursday November 5.

Butterly Cottages is a not-for-profit association run by volunteers to provide affordable accommodation for older residents with links to Toodyay.

All membership renewals need to be paid by the end of September to ensure eligibility to vote at AGM.

Should you wish to nominate for the committee of management please apply in writing to the secretary PO Box 37 Toodyay 6566 or email butterly2j@gmail.com by Friday October 30.

Pub run, curries boost local spirits and camaraderie

Bejoording Community Group News

From the desk of The Badger

SEPTEMBER had two terrific social events.

The first was our annual curry feast, organised and partly catered by Brian and Deb Rigby who did a terrific job.

Thanks also to the other members who also made curries.

The range was terrific, everything from mild to hot, meats, seafood and vegetarian.

Our second event was the annual pub run when 26 of us descended on the Chidlow Hotel for an excellent social lunch with lots of laughs.

Acknowledgements and thanks to the various designated drivers who showed considerable self-control.

There were also birthday celebrations for two members with appropriate celebrations at people's homes.

It'll be sad saying goodbye to open fires, so let's hope the spring weather warms up quickly.

I've said it before, but I'll say it again. The Bejoording Community Group is a terrific bunch of people determined to get the most out of life and friendships and is always willing to help out if someone has a problem.

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

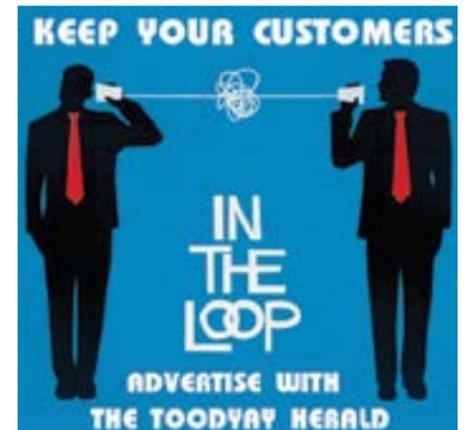
Come along from 6pm and leave when it suits you.

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

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

If you want to know more, you can contact president Barry Grey on 0428 742 149 or call The Badger on 0414 250 484.

Hope to see you soon.



Planning and Development Act 2005

LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

SHIRE OF TOODYAY
DRAFT LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME NO 5

Notice is hereby given that the local government of the Shire of Toodyay has prepared the above-mentioned planning scheme.

Plans and documents that set out and explain the planning scheme have been deposited at:

- Shire of Toodyay Administration Offices;
- Shire of Toodyay Community Libraries (Toodyay and Morangup);
- Shire of Toodyay website: www.toodyay.wa.gov.au; and
- at the Western Australian Planning Commission, Perth, and will be open for inspection during office hours up to and including 2 DECEMBER 2020.

Submissions on the planning scheme may be lodged in writing and should include the scheme name and number, the property affected and details of the submission and lodged with the undersigned on or before 2 DECEMBER 2020.

Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Administration Centre
Telephone: 9574 9300 -Facsimile: 9574 2158
15 Fiennes Street (PO Box 96) TOODYAY WA 6566
E: records@toodyay.wa.gov.au

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St John Ambulance presented Toodyay Playgroup with a first aid course focussed on children.

Playgroup makeover includes Messy Play Thursdays

Toodyay Playgroup
Jessica Donovan

TOODYAY Playgroup is undergoing a transformation with a newly appointed committee.

We are excited to welcome committee president Jessica Donovan, secretary Nikki Fleay, treasurer Joanna Lamas and members, Siobhan Puescher, Sheradin Lockyer and Katie Sharples.

The committee has been working tirelessly to give playgroup a makeover with the centre being freshly painted and acquiring new furniture, toys and a shade sail.

Playgroup invites all families with children aged five years and under to the open day on Thursday October 15 from 9am to 11am.

There will be a petting zoo, face painting and activities for everyone to enjoy.

All are welcome to come along and check out what playgroup is all about.

We are looking forward to offering

Messy Play Thursdays starting in week one of Term 4.

Playgroup activities are set up for your children to explore sensory materials and learn through play experiences in a safe environment.

The centre is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 11am (0-5 welcome), while Bubs Play, best-suited to under-one-year-olds is on Wednesdays from 10am to noon.

Playgroup recently hosted a St John Ambulance first aid course specifically focussed on children.

It was a great turn out with a lot of new parents attending the session which provided an ideal opportunity for everyone to brush up on their first aid skills.

We will endeavour to provide ongoing educational opportunities to playgroup members.

The new playgroup committee is looking forward to a fresh beginning and welcoming new mums, dads, grandparents and caregivers to the centre.

Lockers to come for Toodyay secondary school students

Toodyay District High School Parents & Citizens Association
Kelly-Anne Murray, President

THE TOODYAY District High School Parents & Citizens Association (TDHSP&C) promotes cooperation between parents, students, staff and community members for the benefit of all students.

The association is working collaboratively to identify how the P&C can help improve access to opportunities, resources and better facilities for students.

First up is a contribution of \$3000 towards a re-imagined concrete bike path in the early childhood area, followed by a donation of \$4000 towards the cost of resurfacing the basketball court in the primary school area.

There are more donations to come in 2020/21 – including bus transport for the Year 6 camp and the installation of lockers for secondary students.

We are also fundraising towards the installation of shade sails throughout the school grounds and for stage two of the library upgrade which includes a new circulation desk, reference shelving and furniture.

The association plays a significant role in raising funds to support these initiatives which are achieved in partnership with the

local high school.

Income is generated through the canteen food service which is provided two days a week by a team of dedicated volunteers.

Funds are also raised through fundraising activities and events such as gift stalls for Mother's Day and Father's Day, sausage sizzles, event catering and other special events (e.g. the upcoming Halloween school disco on Friday October 30 at Toodyay District High School).

The disco for kindy to Year 2 students runs from 4.30 to 6pm and for Years 3 to 10, from 6pm to 7.30pm.

Entry is \$2 and there will be games and prizes.

You can help the P&C by supporting fundraising activities and events, by volunteering at the canteen or at an event, or by making a donation to TDHSP&C. You can help in any way you choose.

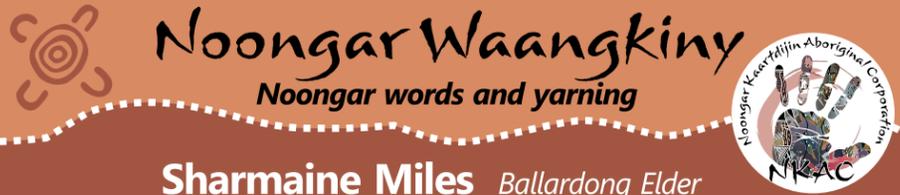
Membership is open to people who support the aims of the association.

Members may be parents of students, grandparents of children at the school, former students, or anyone new to the community and keen to contribute to the school's success.

To receive a membership form email pandctodyaydhs@gmail.com, message via the Facebook page (search Toodyay District High School P&C) or pick up a membership form from the school office.



Runners compete in the recent school athletics carnival.



Noongar Waangkiny
Noongar words and yarning

Sharmaine Miles Ballardong Elder

Take only what you need to live in harmony with nature

Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

NOONGAR people have traditionally hunted and gathered food according to the six bonar (seasons).

In Noongar these are called Bunuru, Djeran, Makuru, Djilba, Kamarang and Birak and are determined by the weather patterns.

We are currently in Kamarang. The seasons tell us which animal and plant resources are plentiful at those times.

Noongar people know when it is the season for harvesting by signs in nature, and communities have always taken care to assure the survival of animal and plant species.

It is an important part of Noongar custom and lore to take only what you need from nature in order to maintain biodiversity.

By eating foods when they are abundant and in season, natural resources are not depleted and will still be available for the next year.

As guardians of our country we achieved balance and adaptability through thousands of years of living in harmony with the bush.

Our knowledge of the seasons and managing the land was given to us by the Waugal and passed down by our Elders.

Corporation chairperson Robert Miles said: "The NKAC is looking to develop a video about the six seasons that will be filmed with Elders and other knowledge holders in the wider Toodyay area across a 12-month period."

Anyone wanting to support this project financially as a sponsor should get in contact with our secretary Helen Shanks on email, hjshanks@bigpond.com.

The bush is our gourmet deli

Noongar Waangkiny
Elder Sharmaine Miles

KAYA noonuk (hello everyone).

This month I would like to highlight some Noongar words for some of our traditional foods.

Tom and Deborah front the house

Volunteers of Toodyay Museums
Barry Keens

WE WELCOME Deborah as a front-of-house volunteer at the Old Gaol Museum on Thursdays, and Tom returning on Tuesdays now Covid-19 restrictions have been relaxed.

We would still like a couple more volunteers to cover Monday and Friday to take the strain off the existing team. Any offers?

There have been big changes in the administration/workshop with the addition of some storage racks and two desks from the Toodyay Visitor Centre giving better workspace.

Administration work continues on digitising documents and records and adding items to the collection.

We are grateful for donations received and are always interested in new donations of objects and photographs which help us to tell the Newcastle/Toodyay story.

Noongars harvest many types of berries, goanna, witchetty grubs, kangaroo, turtles, and birds' eggs.

Food from the waterways are a major resource for Noongars.

Fishing was traditionally carried out by men while women gathered yams, berries, and quandongs.

For Noongar people, the bush is our gourmet delicatessen.

yonga – kangaroo, **bardi** – witchetty grub, **karda** – goanna, **yurenbur** – berries, **yarkan** – turtle, **yoorna** – bobtail, **djildjit** – fish, **lerderap** – black duck.



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Dragged 'kicking and screaming' into new tech

Country Women's Association
Elizabeth Mansom

THE CORONAVIRUS is dragging us kicking and screaming into the technology age.

This year's state conference, usually a three-day event for members from 138 branches across the state, has been reduced to a one-day interactive livestream webcast in November.

Acknowledging that there are those who shrink from this type of thing, there will be an on-line AGM learning and practice workshop this month.

We look forward to future conferences when we can once again hug a friend we've not seen since last conference, enjoy the pre-conference dinner, and listen and learn from guest speakers.

Our state conference has always been about far more important things than money and motions.

On Saturday, October 10, you will find us sitting in front of IGA between 9am and noon selling tickets for a wood raffle.

Being CWA, there will also be scones.

Our hall is in urgent need of structural work and you will remember we advised in the last *Herald* that use of the front entrance has had to be stopped due to structural weakness.

Also, to avoid the subsidence that has led to this, we must have drainage and landscaping work done at the back of the hall.

The CWA hall has been an active part of the community since being moved from Coondle in 1937.

The hall is always in use by local groups and we need your help to ensure it remains a safe place for them and an attractive addition to the streetscape.

Please come and support us and thereby your community.

After an earlier mix-up (it's been one of



Branch president Maxine Walker (right) welcomes new member Rose-Maree Rootham.

those years) membership and name badges finally arrived for our newest member, Rose-Maree Rootham and our president, Maxine took great pleasure in pinning them on her.

A very warm welcome from each and every one of us, Rose-Maree.

Usually when one of our members is ill or injured, we send a card to say we're thinking of them.

However, this month, after Viv's newly installed knee dictated she miss the meeting,

Rose turned up with a crutch and Val with an arm in a sling. We thought public congratulations on their fortitude were in order. Better times ahead, ladies.

CWA meets in the hall in Stirling Terrace on every fourth Thursday of the month.

There is plenty of parking in Charcoal Lane with disabled access at the side of the hall.

To book the hall please contact Meg Mills on 9574 2245.

Free fish and chips keeps members active

Toodyay Autumn Club
Michael Cox

THE LAST few weeks have been quite active with a train trip to Fremantle where we enjoyed a fish and chip lunch followed by a tour around the port city.

Another week we got together for a most enjoyable lunch at Amy's.

We recently had a surprise visit from our old friend Wes and his friends from Bunbury.

The ladies put on a salad lunch for us all (thank you ladies) and we played carpet bowls with our guests.

Apart from playing carpet bowls each week, we also visit other clubs and have monthly lunch parties.

If you are looking for somewhere to spend an enjoyable afternoon with good friends, come along to our club room at the showgrounds on Wednesdays from 1pm, or contact our secretary on 9574 4587.

Good turnout for 'thumbnail' glimpse

Toodyay Probus Club
Norm Green

THE FIRST meeting since the Covid-19 restrictions held at the new time of 3pm on September 8 at the Freemasons Hotel had quite a good turnout.

The guest speaker for the month was one of our members Helen Kevern who gave us, as she calls it, a 'thumbnail' glimpse into her early life.

Helen was born in Adelaide and first came to WA on a 10-day holiday on the then new Indian Pacific train.

Shortly after arriving here, her 'helpful' husband put her name down to be a shearers' cook, so bang went the 10-day holiday.

There's a lot more to Helen's story that she has promised to divulge at a later date.

Our first coffee gathering at a coffee shop also happened in September, so things are sort of back to normal.

The outings list is being honed and first off the block is a visit to the Dromedary Camel Farm on Saturday October 9.

We will take a tour of the dairy after which we will have a buffet lunch at the Avonbrook Winery in Clackline where we will have the opportunity to taste some wine.

Dr Michael McGuinness who is this month's guest speaker has many awards, including an Order of Australia, and also runs the local dental clinic.

We look forward to hearing his experiences.

The inaugural Probus Day was on October 1 with the theme Staying Connected and Active with Probus – the key to happy retirement.

The primary purpose of this day was to raise awareness of Probus and to draw attention to the benefits of joining the local club.

Well, I hope that has been achieved in this article.

Come along on Tuesday October 13 and give Probus a try.

The meeting is from 3pm to 5pm at the Freemasons Hotel in Stirling Terrace.

Please contact president Joan Bath on 0417 171 606 or joanbath@bigpond.com.

Advertorial

Judge takes stage at Bush Poets' Festival

BUSH Poets are back in Toodyay for their annual Bush Poetry Festival from Friday and Saturday October 30 and 31

to Sunday November 1. Award-winning Perth balladeer and songwriter Terry Bennetts will be one of

the judges and will perform a concert on the Saturday night.

Terry has shared the stage with the Bush Poets at the Moondyne Festival and has won national awards for songs co-written with WA Bush Poetry legend Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge.

Terry will start the weekend with a song-writing workshop in the CWA Hall on Friday October 30 at 1.30pm.

That evening there will be a Meet and Greet at the Freemasons Hotel.

Meals will be available from the hotel, followed by walk-up poetry in the dining room starting at 6pm.

An entertaining program of poetry and yarn spinning competitions, featuring some of the best bush poets in WA, will be held all day Saturday and Sunday in the Toodyay Memorial Hall.

There will be sections for traditional and modern poetry as well as for serious and humorous poetry written by the competitors themselves.

On Sunday morning the Toodyay Lions Club will start the day with a Bush Poet's brekky.

This will include the popular Poets' Brawl where poets have to read a one-minute poem which includes a given line they have been given earlier in the weekend.

A written competition is also being run in conjunction with the festival.

Entry to this event is open to all writers of rhyming poetry under the guidelines of the Australian Bush Poetry Association.

Details of these guidelines are on their website abpa.org.au.

There is a special award within the written competition for the best poem written by an Avon Valley resident.

All events during the weekend, including the concert, are free and residents and visitors are welcome to call in for part or all of the program.

To view the full program, download entry forms for the written and performance competitions, and other information about the festival, check the website abushpoets.asn.au or email the society's president Bill Gordon at president@wabushpoets.asn.au or phone him on 0428 651 098.

WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinnners

Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival

Fri 30th Oct - Sun 1st Nov 2020

WA Bush Poetry Performance Championships Song Writing Workshop Variety Concert Saturday Night

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