

The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned
community newspaper
Est. 1902

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

April 2021
Edition 400

New pool packed for inaugural school swim carnival



It was a full day of sport, fun and relaxation for scores of Toodyay District High School students, parents friends as the shire's new 25m public swimming pool hosted last month's inaugural Faction Swimming Carnival. The program included competitive water events, novelty games and even a faction 'dance-off' contest for extra points. The Faction Swim

Carnival ended with student, staff and parent 4 x 25m freestyle race. The contest was neck-and-neck for most of the race with parent and student teams leading first and second respectively into the last leg of the relay before the staff team powered ahead in the final stretch to "take the chocolates". More on Page 12.

Veteran councillor quits over 'morals'

Cash-strapped shire seeks to avoid extra \$23,000 cost by leaving council seat vacant until October.

Michael Sinclair-Jones

THE Toodyay Shire Council will decide this month if it should hold an early election following the surprise April 1 resignation of veteran Cr Paula Greenway.

Cr Greenway said she was too busy to



Cr Paula Greenway resigned on April 1.

speak to *The Herald* on Easter Saturday but issued a brief email statement the next day saying she had resigned because she was "choosing to put my own personal priorities, beliefs and morals first".

"I am not available for a conversation this weekend as I have priority family time."

Cr Greenway's resignation was not publicly announced or widely known until she responded to a phone call from *The Herald* over the Easter weekend.

Her current four-year term was due to expire in October.

Cr Greenway served more than eight years on the council after being elected with 68 votes in the shire's now-abolished West Ward in 2013 and won re-election in 2017 with 214 votes in an 'in-person' ballot restricted only to former West Ward electors.

Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst will prepare a report to the council about options for the already cash-strapped shire to avoid the additional \$23,000 cost of a postal ballot of all Toodyay voters in a one-seat by-election.

This would leave Cr Greenway's seat vacant until October's state-wide local government elections when the four-year terms of four Toodyay councillors expire.

Cr Greenway's resignation takes effect from April 30, and her last council meeting will be on Tuesday April 27.

Her departure will leave the Shire of Toodyay with an eight-member council, with President Rosemary Madacsi holding

a second 'casting' vote to break any deadlocked decisions.

The last time this occurred was two years ago, also on April 1, when former Cr Craig Brook resigned after a council meeting for which he flew back from his new job in Melbourne.

At that meeting, former Cr Brook seconded a motion that was passed 5-4 not to re-employ former shire CEO Stan Scott when his contract expired in July 2019.

Cr Greenway was one of Mr Scott's most ardent supporters in council and reportedly angrily berated Cr Brook as he left the chamber after his final meeting.

The shire's Code of Conduct requires elected members to "treat others with respect and fairness" and not "make any allegations that are derogatory or improper".

"We will always act in the best interests of the Shire and refrain from any type of communication, in our public or professional duties, which may cause any reasonable person unwarranted offence or embarrassment."

Cr Greenway later told *The Herald* she could not recall the incident.

She then took part in a surprise council backflip a month after Cr Brook's departure to re-employ Mr Scott in a secret 6-2 vote behind closed doors.

This was despite a State Government inquiry that later made 14 adverse findings against Mr Scott for financial mismanagement, conflict of interest,

unethical conduct and other failures under local government law, many of which were reported in *The Toodyay Herald* but largely ignored by the former council.

Cr Greenway voted unsuccessfully against employing Ms Haslehurst as Mr Scott's replacement in May last year.

She also lost her second bid in two years to be elected shire deputy president after unsuccessfully opposing the election of Cr Rosemary Madacsi as shire president.

See Letters, Page 4.

Coming events

Anzac Day
Sunday April 25
Moodyne Festival
Sunday May 2

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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

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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, Frank Farmer and Barb Dadd.

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

STORY DEADLINE

DISTRIBUTED

Noon Wednesday
April 21

Noon Monday
April 26

Wednesday
May 5

Please note our email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

Ol' Blind Joe

Planning tangles

Stirling Hamilton

I MISSED an opportunity for public input into a shire planning document last month and it seems I was more than a decade late.

My first article for *The Toodyay Herald* appeared in September 2012.

"The shire's recently departed town planning officer left a legacy of proposed amendments to Town Planning Scheme No 4 (TPS4) and Local Planning Policies (LPPs)," I wrote.

"The changes to policy E1 'Subdivisional development guidelines' which add the words 'and leading up to' to the paragraph outlining a subdividers' responsibility to upgrade the road fronting the lot have already been passed in a manner reminiscent of the show *Yes Minister*."

"This is because instead of calculating costs on the road frontage of the subdivision, you would also be up for sealing gravel roads 'leading up to' the subdivision."

"This is calculated at \$212,000 per kilometre."

"Despite the potential effect on landowners, they (the changes) were adopted quietly in a manner of which (*Yes Minister* character) Sir Humphrey Appleby would be proud."

"I'm fairly certain the councillors weren't even aware that, hidden away in the middle of 300 pages of a routine Corporate Services Annual Review Of Delegations and Policies, were inserted those four little words."

Another concern for residents was a proposal to make it compulsory to prepare a structure plan for any proposed new subdivision.

These are complex documents that require planning consultants, engineers, and roadworks consultants to produce and cost about \$30,000.

Our shire's town planning scheme currently says that the council can decide if a structure plan is needed – the shire can prepare one itself or require a landowner to do so.

This is important because it allows the council to exercise discretion if the subdivision is simple and doesn't unduly affect other properties.

I wrote in July 2013 that "the Scheme sets the law and the Strategy gives the reasons/objectives."

The problem is that the strategy was written after the scheme and the previous administration under former shire CEO Graham Merrick didn't finish its homework.

There are many inconsistencies between the scheme and the strategy.

For example, the scheme gives the council discretion to require structure plans – the strategy deems them compulsory.

As I wrote in 2012: "The Strategy says of itself that 'it is unlikely to be a complete and definitive document and aims to be a living document.'"

The strategy has been controversial since it got served up in 2008.

It received more than 180 critical submissions and has not been reviewed since.

"The Strategy will need to be reviewed (in

2012) at the same time as the Scheme, as both documents are dependent on each other for their integrity," I wrote.

I wrote in March 2014 that "it seems the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) has allowed radical elements within its ranks to promote an eminently sensible idea."

"Responding to community demands for more affordable housing and rentals, the WAPC has altered its policy on Ancillary Accommodation (granny flats)."

"The Commission has removed the requirement that they can be occupied only by members of the same family and will allow folks to rent them out."

"Our Council waxes lyrical in its aims and objectives about wanting to provide for a range of housing choices and to encourage creative planning and design."

"Yet we have hundreds of overly restrictive building regulations, such as the one that says an ancillary dwelling must be a similar design and appearance to the existing house."

"Also, if you adapt and upgrade a shed or suchlike while you build, the council demands that you decommission its habitability once the primary dwelling is completed."

Why can't they be kept as temporary accommodation for families and friends?

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are" – US President Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919).

Meanwhile, on the subject of swimming pools, just about every town in the Wheatbelt has a damn pool and with some trees – a bit of shade cloth, a couple of dunnies and you're in business.

I wanted to build one out the back of the Top Pub (former Toodyay Tavern) where parents could have a couple of drinks in the beer garden while the kiddiewinks cavorted in the water.

Twenty years ago, Ol' Man Dazzy put his hand up and offered to bring an excavator, loader and truck to dig a dirty great big hole for it.

Several tradesmen piped up and said they would chip in their time to make it happen.

But our illustrious shire overlords ignored Dazzy and chose instead to spend \$14 million on a big new Colosseum.

None of our problems are due to any flaw in human nature itself but to the actions of fiscally incompetent former shire CEOs with grand plans to send us all broke.

I actually feel sorry for our councillors who receive maybe one per cent of what shire CEOs and their staff earn.

I've watched newly elected councillors led meekly like lambs to the slaughter on the high altar of shire rules and regulations.

It's so appropriate that council meetings are held in the old courthouse which befits the nature of its conduct when former shire CEOs passed judgement on all and sundry.

How I wish I could drag them all outside to watch them wither and shrivel before the beacon of truth.

Men fight for freedom, then they begin to accumulate laws to take it away from themselves – Anon.

FEEDBACK

Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

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

Office Hours are from 9.30am - 12.30pm on highlighted days

April - May 2021

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	May 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Bardi grubs cooked in ash 'very tasty, like butter'

Ieva Tomsons

BALLARDONG Elder Frances Gillespie (90) was born in a tent on the Narrogin Native Reserve during the Great Depression.

She is the third born in a family with 10 children who would follow their father as he chased seasonal work in the south west shearing sheep and picking potatoes and grapes.

In the Depression, having to 'go on the wallaby' by surviving off the land was a hardship to be endured by most Europeans but for Frances' family it was how they usually lived.

"We lived off the land mostly and ate parrots and possum which tastes like rabbit."

Whenever the family was back in Toodyay, they lived on the Native Reserve on Goomalling Road and would walk over the hill to Red Bank Pool where her uncles would dive to catch turtles and spear cobbler in the reeds of the Avon River.

"Grandmother, mum and auntie would make a big fire on the sandy bank and cook the turtles while us kids played in the shallow part of the river."

"While the turtles were cooking we would go up the river getting jilgies and turtle eggs."

"The ones that came over the hill to Red Bank was us family and I am the only Elder left now," wrote Frances in a family memoir.

Due to the family's itinerant lifestyle, Frances attended many schools and in Toodyay she recalls going to the local convent for "a couple of days a week".

The Gillespie's constant relocation to different areas saved the children from being forcibly removed from their parents by the Chief Protector of Aborigines in WA, Auber Octavianus Neville.

When Frances was about nine years old the family had just finished picking grapes in the Swan Valley and were heading to Mogumber when 'Neville the Devil' swooped on the vineyard and removed several Aboriginal girls who would be sent to missions to train as domestic servants in European households.

"Dad was a big man and there would have been trouble if Neville had found us. He kept us safe."

The Gillespies are among the lucky 30 per cent of WA Aboriginal children who avoided becoming part of what is known as The Stolen Generation.

Frances recalls happy days on Long Forest, a property on Toodyay's outskirts where her father cleared land for the Upills and built a house with 44-gallon drums and hessian cladding.

"We smashed ant hills and carted the bags of dirt back to make the floor which was really good and hard."

"One day, Dad was burning logs and we



Ballardong Elder Frances Gillespie recalls cobbler being speared in Toodyay's Red Bank Pool.

were helping picking up sticks when all of these pythons crawled out.

"Dad wanted to tie the live pythons around our waists to keep us strong, but he couldn't catch me or my brother. So no pythons – but I'm still living," laughs Frances.

"Father Goodie was the local priest and he rode all the way out to Long Forest to marry my mum and dad."

"We also had a little fox my dad brought home and old dog Sailor wouldn't touch it. It would follow us everywhere and we cried and cried when we had to move to town and leave the little fox behind."

As Frances was growing up, Aboriginals had to abide by a 6am to 6pm curfew which meant they would be arrested if they did not have a Native Pass entitling them to remain in rural town centres and the centre of Perth after the cut off times.

"It didn't affect us as we were always living outside towns and didn't go out at night."

By the time this law was repealed in 1954 Frances was in her mid-20s and married with the three young children.

She met husband Eric Moody when he joined her family picking potatoes in Roelands near Collie.

"It was hard work and we were paid one and six (one shilling and sixpence, now 15 cents) for a large bag."

They married in Midland in 1948 and during the grape-picking season they lived on site in the pickers' cottages but their main camp was on the banks of the Swan River in Bassendean.

"Eric worked cutting wood and digging up those bulb weeds (Watsonia)."

By 1954 the family was back in Toodyay living with Frances' grandfather James Gillespie Senior who milked cows for Ted Hayes on Goomalling Road.

"My grandfather lived to the age of 109. He ate all the good food (bush tucker)."

Eric started working at the Toodyay tallow factory and the Moodys eventually bought a house in Goddard Street.

Up until then, Frances had always cooked on coals and the Toodyay house was where

she first used a stove and twin-tub washing machine.

As we talk about food Frances imparts her recipe for cooking bardi grubs, the pupae of beetles found in dead Balga (blackboy) tree stems.

"You take the leaves of the blackboys and burn them down. Put the bardis on the burnt leaves and fresh leaves on top. After about three minutes, blow the ash away. Very tasty, like butter."

As Frances put her energy into raising their five children, Eric went to work on the railways in Goomalling and Kellerberrin.

The couple split up in the late 1970s and Frances went to live with her son Jerry who worked for various Aboriginal corporations in Canberra.

"We drove over to Canberra and stayed about two to three years, helping out with my two grandies."

Jerry's job took him to Malabar in Darwin and later to the remote desert community of Mimili 380km south of Alice Springs in South Australia where Frances found the local Pitjantjatjara people "very friendly".

"When I was 60, I climbed Ayres Rock holding onto the chicken-run chain – you were allowed to then – and later we went into a cave where we could hear water running and voices but there was nobody there."

Frances also spent time in Kalgoorlie with Jerry's family before taking off on her own, driving around the state visiting relatives often with her mother in tow.

"I'd pick up mum in Midland and we'd just go. I'm a traveller and kept driving until my 70s."

It's salmon season now and you get the feeling that Frances wouldn't mind casting a handline and reeling in a few big ones to roast on the coals but she's been settled in Northam since 2009 and it's where she intends to stay.

"My kids* turned out all right – I'm happy."

*Frances lost one son when he was a baby and in the past 10 years three more sons have passed away. At last count, Frances has 24 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren and 22 great-great grandchildren.

First Covid-19 jabs rolled out at Toodyay clinic

TOODYAY residents have started receiving their first free Covid-19 vaccinations at the Alma Beard Medical Centre in Stirling Terrace.

The local roll-out started on Tuesday March 30 with no adverse reactions reported in the first 50 doses administered.

The Wheatbelt Health Network said most patients experienced a mildly sore arm and slight 24-hour fever after receiving their



Local resident Dennis Toop gets Toodyay's first AstraZenica vaccination last month.

first dose of the UK-developed AstraZenica vaccine.

The local roll-out is part of a national push to combat a global pandemic that has killed nearly three million people worldwide in the past 12 months, forced international lockdowns and plunged many countries – including Australia – into massive debt.

Medical authorities say 'herd immunity' to end the pandemic can be achieved in Australia if more than 80 per cent of the population is vaccinated.

Toodyay is due to receive 50 doses of the vaccine every week, with plans to increase this number over time to immunise the more than 1200 eligible people – about a third of the shire's population – during the first phase of the mass roll-out.

They include people aged over 70, emergency service volunteers, those with chronic disease and Aboriginal people older than 55.

Some GP clinics in other parts of the state have chosen not to administer the vaccine, resulting in increased demand in other GP medical centres.

The Wheatbelt Health Network says it will call all eligible Toodyay patients to offer them local Covid-19 shots as fresh doses arrive from Perth.

Bookings will be made in groups of 10 because each vial of the AstraZenica vaccine contains 10 doses.

Continued on Page 5.

Moodyne FESTIVAL

Presented by **LIVELIGHTER**

TOODYAY

Home of Healthy Fun

Sunday 2nd May 2021
9am - 4pm

- Street Theatre
- Swaggies Camp
- Shearer & Blacksmith
- Clydesdale
- Competition
- Dancing
- The Carnival
- Colonial Music

Fun For All The Family

On Sunday 2nd May 2021, the Avon Valley town of Toodyay will step back in time yet again to celebrate the life and times of the iconic Moodyne Joe by hosting the Moodyne Festival, bringing the infamous Avon Valley bushranger Joe and his escapades to life. The highlight of the day being the re-enactment of Moodyne Joe's various escapades and his mock trial.

The festival is the premier colonial festival in WA, first held in 1984 to celebrate the life and times of 'Joseph Bolitho John's, known as 'Moodyne Joe', the Avon Valley's legendary bushranger.

The festival transforms the picturesque historical town of Toodyay into a lively all-day festival with the sound of song, dance, laughter and fun for the whole family.

The opening ceremony is at 10am. Locals and guests dress in 19th century costumes for a colourful procession down the main street, headed by the musket-firing Rifle and Artillery Regiment 1860, and will be followed by a fun, colourful, energetic and noisy parade with street actors, pipe band, blacksmith, wood chopping and more.

For more information and to view the events programme visit www.moodynefestival.com.au or contact: moodynecommittee@gmail.com

Midland to Toodyay:
Depart Midland 08:30 Hrs
Arrive Toodyay 09:21 Hrs
Arrive Northam 10:03 Hrs

Toodyay to Midland:
Depart Northam 15:00 Hrs
Depart Toodyay 15:21 Hrs
Arrive Midland 16:28 Hrs

AMPLE PARKING

This is a **Dog FREE** event

The Toodyay Herald

A question of 'morals'

MORALS are defined in the Macquarie Dictionary as "principles or habits with respect to right or wrong conduct; ethics".

When an elected community representative resigns from public office on grounds of 'morals', it clearly suggests a serious breach of conduct has occurred.

This was the written reason – along with "personal priorities and beliefs" – given by veteran Cr Paula Greenway in her surprise resignation from the Toodyay Shire Council on April 1.

It raises questions of serious concern for all members of the community and leaves the remaining councillors in an awkward situation.

They now have to decide whether to fill the unplanned council vacancy with a \$23,000 by-election that will wipe out more than half of the shire's razor-thin 2020-21 projected budget surplus.

Or they can ask new WA Local Government Minister John Carey for permission to continue with reduced community representation until WA's October local government elections.

A six-month delay would expose Shire President Rosemary Madacsi to the thankless task of using a second "casting vote" to break tied decisions that don't need an absolute majority of five members.

Former president Brian Rayner faced a similar situation in 2019 after former Cr Craig Brook resigned to move interstate.

But of greater concern is the question of 'morals' raised by Cr Greenway in her *Letter to the Editor* published on this page.

Her unwavering support for disgraced former shire CEO Stan Scott is well documented in shire voting records.

So too was her opposition to last year's choice of a new shire president and CEO, and her own two failed bids since 2019 to be elected shire deputy president.

So what is it about the new council's 'morals' that offends Cr Greenway so strongly that she has now lost the "passion and commitment" to complete the four-year term she was elected to serve?

Councillors swear an oath of office to "undertake the duties of councillor in the best interests of the people".

Clearly something serious has prevented Cr Greenway from doing that, and Toodyay voters have a right to know why.

Cr Greenway's final council meeting on Tuesday April 27 will provide an opportunity for her to place that matter of serious concern on public record.

*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 black and white picture of students outside Toodyay's former Duke Street school was donated in 2001 (or earlier) by Effie Mair (nee Mackintosh) of Shark Bay. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

LETTERS

'Morals first'

FOR THE last seven and a half years I faithfully and wholeheartedly committed myself to the Toodyay community and its residents.

It is with a heavy heart that I have chosen to resign from council, but I have made this decision on the grounds I am choosing to put my own personal priorities, beliefs and morals first.

It would have been unfair to the community, and to myself, if I continued to serve the Shire of Toodyay without the passion and commitment I once had.

Toodyay is a beautiful community which I hold very close to my heart.

I will continue to serve Toodyay as a member of the general public, rather than on an official level.

I wish all remaining councillors all the best going forward.

*Cr Paula Greenway
West Toodyay*

Corridor carnage

IT IS curious that a public outcry and protest prevented the removal of two non-native trees on Anzac Avenue to allow for badly needed safety improvements but the annihilation of 100s of mature Wandoo, Jarrah and Marri trees at Jingaling Brook has caused hardly a murmur of objection.

Main Roads want to continue this destruction with a further 55ha of native woodland destined for the bulldozers and mulchers.

The mantra we hear from them, that is, the justification for this \$100,000,000 27km project is road safety but they also tell us Toodyay Road has been identified as 'strategic transport corridor'.

The massive scale of the works, especially the realignments and deep cuttings indicate an exercise to reduce gradients more than anything else.

This of course fits in to facilitating increased truck movements such as you would expect on a strategic transport corridor.

The intersection of Sandplain and Salt Valley Roads (a shire flora road) alone will see an 11m deep and 90m wide cutting covering over six hectares.

As we know too well, contractors are currently widening and resurfacing to where Stirling Terrace begins.

Has Main Roads neglected to consider the impact on our historic town when creating their strategic transport corridor?

*Greg Warburton
Safe and Scenic Toodyay Road*

Time to pay

HI EVERYONE. I just need to set a few things straight when it comes to the hay and hard feed distribution for the fire affected families in Gidge, Woolooloo and Bailup.

We are now out of the fire emergency stage and getting hay and feed to animals under emergency conditions, so this is where the distribution of this feed will now be changing.

As we need to ensure we keep supporting our local stockfeed suppliers we are asking that if you have not lost bulk amounts of feed through the fire that you start buying it.

We don't want to turn people away but are beginning to find that a lot of people are just stocking up and this is not what this was all about.

Feed will be restricted to how many head of stock or horses you are feeding, and hay will be the same.

We have quite a few people in the community who lost bulk hay and feed and we need to ensure these people don't get left out as they are often feeding large numbers of stock.

If you would not normally be feeding pellet feed, we ask that you don't just do this now because it's free. This is all donated feed and has been offered to people who would normally have been using this hard feed.

We also don't always have everything available, so if we don't have it, please go to our local stockfeed suppliers and buy it as we only have what our donators have given us.

If hay is required, I ask that you ring me on 0419 005 312 and give me at least a day's notice of your hay requirements.

Thanks for your understanding.

*Karen Andrich
Gidgegannup*

Brekkie help

ONE OF Toodyay YouthCare Council's activities is organising a breakfast club for our students at Toodyay District High School who may need something to eat when they arrive at school.

We are requesting the help of three more volunteers, one each for Monday, Wednesday and Friday for about an hour.

Volunteers will need a police clearance and a working with children card.

There is some cost for the certification but the YouthCare committee will help financially.

If you can see yourself helping out, please contact me on 0400 206 929 or YouthCare secretary John White on 0488 513 102.

*Max J Heath
Toodyay*

Soaring duets

I WAS fortunate to visit Toodyay recently for Music Fest where I attended a delightful and truly magnificent performance at the Anglican Church by a group of fabulously talented and versatile singers.

The program was a credit to organiser Emma Petteimerides and included sets by sopranos Penny Shaw, Harriet Marshall and Emma, tenor, Jun Zhang accompanied on keyboard by Tim Chapman.

The Toodyay community is privileged to have Ms Petteimerides attend and share her delight of music.

The repertoire varied from popular arias to well-known songs from musical theatre.

Performers engaged the audience with explanations of what was happening in the songs and thrilled everyone with beautiful duets.

The audience was even invited to sing along to a chorus of a popular song.

The church 'vibrated', echoing the high notes reached by the performers.

It was an inspiration and brought joy to my soul.

What a wonderful and marvellous way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

Congratulations to the organisers and the supporters of this event.

*Nevia Medica
Doubleview*

Heroes and angels

MY SON and I live in Bailup at the centre of the fire which started on February 1.

We watched as the smoke became darker and thicker.

Kangaroos appeared at the top of the hills and one of the poor roos was on fire. My heart broke and for the first time in my life I wished I had a rifle.

We packed what we could into the Hyundai, which wasn't a lot – two cats, one bird, the dog, David's Playstation, plus a few other things.

Then we went and caught the two horses, brought them down from the top paddock and put their halters on.

I had decided to go to Mundaring, but we had only driven 100m down Toodyay Road when we were met by a wall of flames.

I turned the car around and headed towards Toodyay thinking our horses were going to die.

Then I decided we would drive a little further down the road, park the car, run back and grab the two horses. It was not to be.

The police were parked near the moto-cross track at Aspen Road. We were waved over and I told them my plan regarding the horses and was told it was too late.

We were not allowed to go back. Both in tears we continued on to Toodyay.

Are we angry at the police? No, they were doing their job.

We arrived in Toodyay around 6.30pm where we met our first hero, a lovely young man named Nick.

We told him about the fire and he offered to look after Lucky as we were going to stay at the caravan Park.

We had no idea how long it would be before we could return home, but Nick was still prepared to take Lucky.

Nick, you and your mum helped make a really bad day just a little better. You cared for Lucky like he was your own. To do that for people you don't know, in our eyes, you and your mum are heroes.

Our next heroes are the Heartlands Veterinary Hospital staff who gave our two cats, Same and Shane and bulldog Molly somewhere to stay.

After having animals for five and a half days Heartlands told us there was no charge and suggested we donate to a wildlife fund caring for animals after the fire.

Many thanks also to Kevin and his lovely wife who own the Toodyay Caravan Park – you and the staff were all there for us when we needed to talk to someone.

Last, but not least, the lovely ladies at the Op Shop, thanks ... oh, and the gentleman who made us laugh.

As for the horses, they survived the fire. After being without feed or water for five days our next hero was Ashley (found by Heartlands).

Our angel Ashley took water and feed out to the horses and chooks. Ashley, here's to you and thanks a million.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the strangers who stepped up to help us.

*Yvonne and David
Bailup*

Wheatbelt Clinical Psychology

94 Stirling Terrace Toodyay WA 6566

Richard Taylor
Clinical Psychologist

Foundation member
Australian Clinical Psychology Association

Bulk Billing/Private Health Funds/Telehealth

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business hrs

Main Roads WA defends large-scale tree-clearing

Main Roads WA

Dean Roberts, spokesperson

MAIN ROADS WA recognises the environmental importance of Toodyay Road and, as such, established a Community Reference Group (CRG) in 2017 to enable input from stakeholders for this project.

The CRG includes representatives from Toodyay Agricultural Society, Toodyay Naturalist Club, Toodyay Roadwise Committee, Wildflower Society of WA, Toodyay Friends of the River, WA Police, Toodyay St John Ambulance, WALGA Roadwise, Shire of Toodyay and neighbouring landowners.

Main Roads have been granted approval to clear 54.87ha of native vegetation for the entire Toodyay Road upgrade program.

Main Roads has undertaken a number of initiatives to minimise environmental impacts such as:

- Optimisation of the road design to reduce the amount of vegetation removed. A recent measurement of the amount of vegetation cleared for the reconstruction, widening and overtaking lane works at Jingaling Brook Road was found to be 11 per cent less than the clearing

approved by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

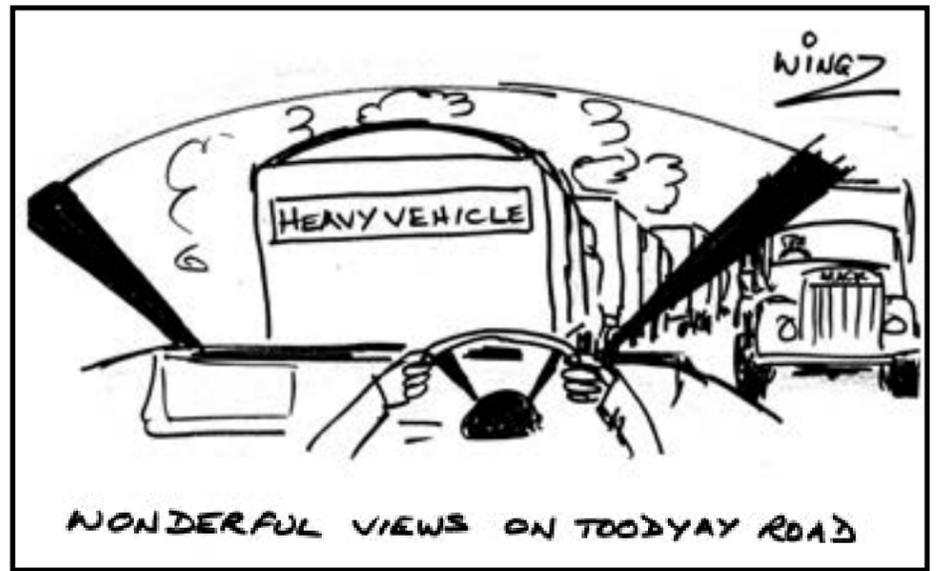
- Perpetual conservation of an environmental offset of 196 hectares of prime Wandoo woodland adjacent to the Clackline Nature Reserve
- Installation of 188 artificial black cockatoo nesting hollows, in the reserve or in other nearby nature reserves
- Collection of seeds in the Toodyay Road reserve to ensure species currently on the roadside are available for re-vegetation

During winter 2020, interested people in the local community assisted with plant relocations with Main Roads staff

To prevent impacts on the environment in the vicinity of the works, Main Roads will use environmental management controls during construction.

Implementation of a revegetation plan to contribute to the ecological connectivity whilst preserving the look and feel of the roadside, using locally sourced vegetation species

Main Roads will continue to work with the CRG to refine and improve the design for future upgrades to further reduce vegetation clearing where possible, while improving safety for all road users accessing Toodyay.



AstraZenica jabs to be balanced with flu shots

Continued from Page 3.

THE TOODYAY clinic says it is balancing standard medical appointments with Covid-19 vaccinations to enable a doctor to be present when shots are administered.

The AstraZenica vaccine requires two doses to be given 12 weeks apart.

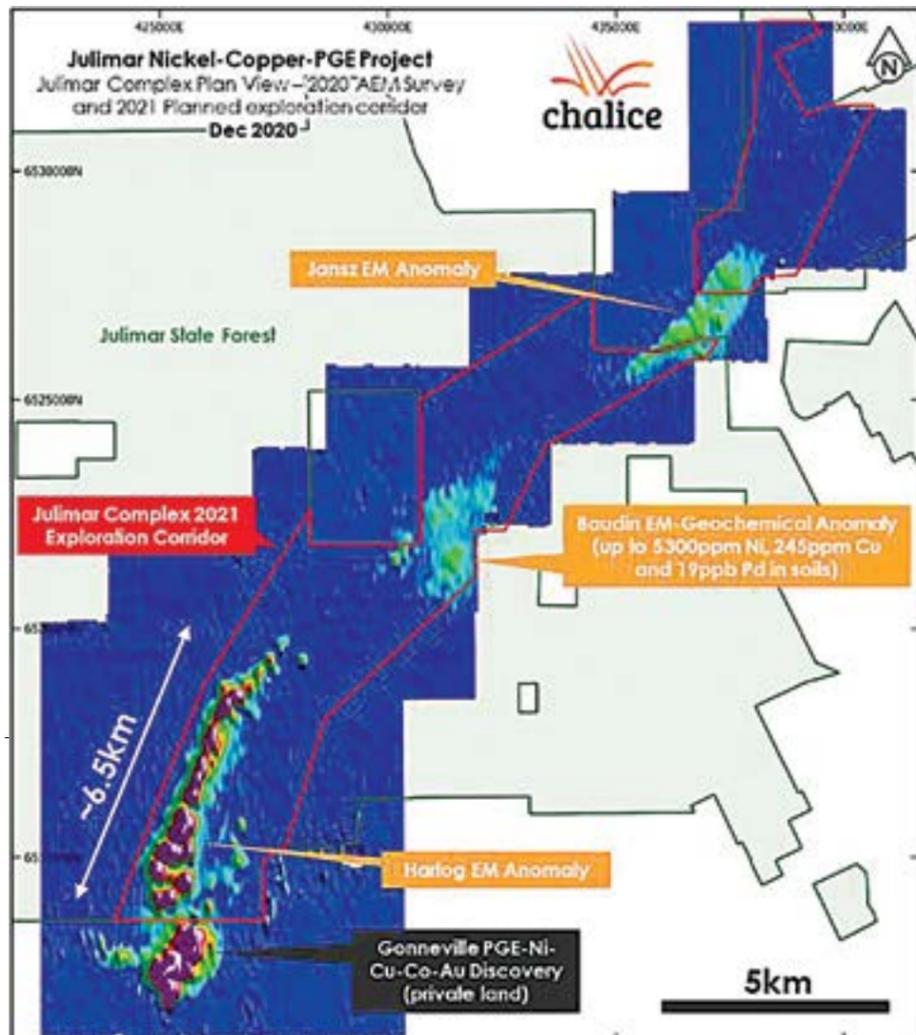
The local vaccination roll-out coincides with the start of WA's annual flu season,

for which separate shots are due to become available in Toodyay at the end of this month.

Covid-19 and flu vaccines need to be administered at least two weeks apart.

The Wheatbelt Health Network said people who didn't want to wait for a local booking could contact Perth respiratory clinics that are providing dedicated immunisation programs.

Stocks soar as miner buys Avalon Homestead



Chalice map shows "significant new results" (shaded red) in Julimar State Forest.

Michael Sinclair-Jones

CHALICE Mining has bought Toodyay's Avalon Homestead for an undisclosed sum as company stocks continue to rise with last month's announcement of "significant new results" from increased mineral exploration in Julimar State Forest.

The 16-suite Julimar Road guesthouse in West Toodyay had been on the market for \$1.78 million since February last year and includes two conference rooms.

Chalice bought the 2.3ha property for an undisclosed sum last month and says it will use the premises for staff accommodation.

Chalice also announced last month that it had appointed former senior Alcoa executive Soo Carney as its new General Manager of Environment and Community.

Dr Carney holds a Doctorate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and an Honours Degree in Natural Resources from the University of Adelaide and previously held senior health, safety and environment posts for BHP's \$20 billion outer harbour development in Port Hedland and at Woodside Energy's \$15 billion Pluto LNG Project at Karratha.

Managing Director Alex Dorsch told the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) last month that her appointment would help "advance our major project towards development as a long-term supplier of many of the critical metals required to decarbonise the global economy and reduce pollution".

Shares in the cashed-up Perth explorer rose sharply to 5.46c on April 1 after the company informed the Australian Stock Exchange a week earlier of "highly encouraging" new results.

These include tests for palladium, which fetches more than \$2500 an ounce (28.3g) on world markets, as well as nickel, copper,

cobalt and other platinum group elements.

Palladium is highly sought after on world markets for use in catalytic converters to reduce vehicle pollution in petrol engines.

The platinum group elements are regarded by major car manufacturers and 'clean energy' industries as "critical metals for electric vehicles and other energy storage applications".

The latest Toodyay test results follow ground-based electro-magnetic surveys in the southern Julimar Forest.

They add to drilling results on 945ha of private land - which Chalice calls 'Gonneville' in nearby Keating Road - which the company bought last year for a total of \$14 million in cash and shares.

Chalice says it has yet to apply for State Government permission to drill in the environmentally sensitive State Forest to confirm the full extent and potential cash value of its Julimar discovery.

The latest test results cover a southern portion of the forest that Chalice calls 'Hartog' (see map, left).

A second area of interest in the middle of the forest 'Baudin' and a third area 'Janz' that extends past Dewars Pool Road to the north have undergone only aerial electromagnetic surveys.

Chalice says ground-based work in Hartog did not require vegetation to be cleared or soil disturbance.

In its March 25 ASX statement, Chalice described the Hartog results as similar to last year's ground-based electro-magnetic findings in Gonneville, south of Julimar Road.

"The results are considered to be highly encouraging," Mr Dorsch said.

They were "mostly aligned along the strike from Gonneville, making these high priority drill targets".

Easter Bunny delights youngsters in Duidgee Park egg hunt



The Easter Bunny has eggs for everyone.

THE EASTER Bunny delighted lots of excited children and handed out dozens of chocolate treats after a special Easter egg hunt organised by Toodyay Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service members on Easter Saturday morning.

About 100 children, parents and onlookers took part in the local community festivities, which featured a race to find hundreds of chocolate eggs hidden in and around the Duidgee Park playground.

"It took only four minutes for all 400 eggs to be found," Toodyay Fire and Rescue Service Captain Ian MacGregor said.

Children who weren't quick enough to find the hidden treasures went home happy with additional chocolate eggs provided from a basket by the Easter Bunny who made a welcome appearance after the race ended.

The Easter eggs were donated by Toodyay IGA Store owners Dean and Amanda Carter, and Toodyay Tyres owner Chris Brockliss donated sausages for a community breakfast barbecue cooked by local volunteers.



They're off and running in the great chocolate egg hunt in Duidgee Park on Easter Saturday.

Eye in the sky cops expand their horizons

Police Beat

With Sgt Dave Flaherty
Toodyay Police Station



TOODYAY police have taken another big leap into hi-tech law enforcement by qualifying to become commercial pilots.

They won't be flying jumbo jets any time soon but are now licensed by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) to patrol Toodyay's skies with new highly sophisticated police drones.

Local officers have completed formal training to obtain commercial remote pilots' licences to fly two new police drones that started operating in Toodyay and Northam last month.

The drones are equipped with video screen handsets, high-resolution colour and infra-red cameras, vehicle number plate and facial recognition software and can operate at a maximum distance of 15km from a controller in winds of up to 55km/h.

The new law enforcement capability follows the introduction of vehicle number plate recognition cameras on police cars, high-tech security cameras in the towns' business district, and mobile phone links to an extensive WA police criminal database.

Most people may not know it is illegal to fly a drone without a CASA licence.

They also probably don't know that much of the sky over Toodyay is restricted airspace because it is regularly used by the RAAF for flight training exercises.

All of Northam airspace is also restricted because it is used by aircraft landing and taking off from the local airfield.

Anyone who uses a drone is required by law to undergo flight training and obtain a \$2000 operating licence from CASA.

Flying a drone in restricted airspace requires a licensed operator to submit a CASA flight plan that includes the purpose of the flight, designated landing areas, a risk management strategy and approvals to meet other regulatory requirements.

The maximum penalty for flying a drone illegally is \$12,000 for each offence.

A Northam man was recently fined a total of \$24,000 on two counts of flying a drone in restricted airspace over a populated area without a commercial pilot's licence.

Toodyay police generally use education to inform local drone operators about legal requirements.

Apart from air safety, there are also legal protections for property and personal privacy.

It is illegal to fly a drone over another person's property to spy on them.

It is also an offence to publish or distribute material recorded illegally by a drone operator even if it reveals an unlawful act being committed.

Firing a gun or aiming a laser at a drone is also illegal and can attract a heavy penalty – including jail – because drones are classed as aircraft.

Toodyay's new police drones are being used to search for missing people, locate drug crops, track offenders and detect stolen property.



Sen. Const. Joe Neal with one of two new high tech drones operated by Toodyay police.

They can also lock onto a selected target and automatically follow it.

In one recent case, a police drone was used to conduct airborne surveillance of a Toodyay house to monitor suspected drug offenders and vehicle movements.

The drone identified a female visitor with a record of drug and alcohol offences who was found also to have an outstanding arrest warrant for failure to appear in court.

The information was captured from a height of 100 feet and relayed to a police video handset more than a kilometre away.

Screen vision displayed on drone handsets can also be sent wirelessly to a larger monitor in the police station.

A third case involved a man flying a drone from his back veranda at home to record what was happening on a farming property next door.

The drone was being flown from a populated area and illegally recording private activity.

The operator was cautioned and told he needed a licence to continue flying legally.

One of Toodyay's two new police drones – a

Matrice M300 – weighs 6.3kg, costs \$50,000 and has a high-resolution camera that can record video images at 30 frames per second.

It can operate at a height of up to 400 feet (122m) and use number plate and facial recognition technology to identify a vehicle and its driver up to half a kilometre away.

The drone also has infra-red capability to detect the body heat from people in water or on land and can even locate items dropped by fleeing offenders by tracing remnant body heat on discarded material.

And all this can be done by a police officer using a handset up to 15km away.

It makes police work a much higher tech job

than it used to be – the advances are enormous. Part of the latest training included how to move drones around a tall building while keeping a police camera trained on it and how to evade airborne attacks by eagles.

Drones can also be used at crime scenes to see things that might not be obvious at ground level or during the use of search warrants to watch for offenders trying to escape through concealed exits.

The aim is not to create a "Big Brother is Watching You" environment but to help prevent criminal activity, save lives, protect property and create a safer local community.

Wheatbelt radar

WE ARE still seeing too many serious vehicle crashes locally.

There were three last month and three vehicles were written off but thankfully nobody was seriously hurt.

We can do better than that.

Often it's a case of motorists driving too fast and losing control of their vehicles – people driving beyond their capabilities.

If this is happening on bright sunny days with ideal weather for driving, it concerns me what might happen when winter sets in and local road conditions deteriorate.

Toodyay police will be spending more time on local roads and I have also asked the Wheatbelt Traffic Unit – which operates about half a dozen marked and unmarked police cars – to increase their radar speed patrols in and around Toodyay.

We also do about 400 random traffic stops a month locally for alcohol and drug testing, and that will continue.

Knock, knock – who's there?

A REMINDER, if you call at the Toodyay Police Station and find it locked, it doesn't mean nobody is working, only that we're all out and about doing our job.

The office is open 9am to 4pm Monday to Wednesday except on public holidays, and 90 per cent of the time somebody will be there to answer at the front counter, unless perhaps they have ducked across the road briefly to buy take-away lunch or coffee.

The rest of the time, please call 131 444 seven days a week, including after hours, for your inquiry to be relayed back to us.

That is the reality of every WA small country police station with limited staff and resources.

I'd rather local officers are out and about doing their job to help keep our community safe than sitting in the office waiting for someone to call or knock at the door.

People can also use their mobile phones or other devices to go online to report a crash or theft or start a licence application.

It might not suit everyone but there are lots of things that can be done online.

Missing man owns Bejoording property

WA POLICE Force Missing Persons Team investigators are seeking any information in relation to David John Devine and request the public keep him in mind in their travels around the state.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing man or his vehicle, they are asked to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report the information online at crimestopperswa.com.au

David John Devine (54) has not been seen since August 21 when he last contacted family.

Mr Devine usually resides in Kalamunda, however, he also has property in Bejoording near Toodyay.

He is of medium build, 186cm tall with brown short hair and brown eyes. It is not known what clothing he was wearing.

Mr Devine is believed to be driving his white 2005 Nissan Patrol utility registration 1BXD010.

This vehicle has distinctive compartments on the rear tray but may not have the black pipe racks attached.

Anyone who has heard from Mr Devine since



Missing man David Devine.

he went missing is asked to contact Crime Stoppers and quote IR 191020104589922.

Watch out for more caravans on local roads

SaferToodyay/Toodyay RoadWise
Cliff Simpson

THE TYPICALLY dangerous Easter period on Avon Valley roads is over but it's time to consider whether that car trip was really essential.

There has been an increase in caravan sales, affected by the lack of interstate travel over the past year, and we expected more of these vehicles on our regional roads this Easter.

Country drivers know our roads but caravanners may not, so some consideration should be shown and distance left around them.

Bob Neville, Chair of Toodyay RoadWise said: "Fatigue is the perennial problem with driving in the country, so if you are planning a trip, plan accordingly.

"You can find the rest stops on your route by looking at the Main Roads website Driver Reviver locations (there are five in the Wheatbelt North region) and roadhouses which offer free

coffee to the driver. Take regular breaks, swap drivers where you can. Arrive alive is our message.

"Slow down and enjoy the ride is another old message which is good advice.

"Wheatbelt Police are still reporting people driving at ridiculous speeds on country roads. Some might say 'It is not the speed that kills you, it's the idiots' but it is a combination of factors that cause road crashes and the faster you travel, the more serious the effects of a crash are on the human body.

"Between 2015 and 2019 there were 101 crashes on local roads in Toodyay with 22 resulting in fatalities or hospital admissions.

There were 56 run-off road crashes, 13 hit animal or swerve to avoid animal, and 15 serious motorcycle crashes.

"It is everyone's responsibility to drive safely – there's simply no excuse for texting while driving, speeding, drink driving or any other dangerous driving behaviour," Mr Neville said.

TOODYAY

MRB 2339

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tyres1@inet.net.au

EMERGENCY SERVICES



Various district brigades attended to extinguish the haystack fire on March 23.

Firies unite in spontaneous combustion

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

LOOKING back at this column this time last year, it was all about the financial aftermath of the dreadful fires in the Eastern States.

I never did find out if any of the millions of dollars raised actually ended up in the hands of country brigades.

This year its apocalyptic floods but they don't seem to be stirring the fundraising emotions quite like fires did. That's enough reflection.

Firstly, my apologies go to fellow members for the lack of a column last month. Quite simply I was too sick to write one.

It's amazing what you can pick up on a simple trip to a grandchild's pre-school. My first time and I was warned they were hotbeds of disease.

We've had a fairly quiet time so far this autumn except for the major Wooroloo fire a month ago and one on March 23.

We're all accustomed to lightning, carelessness, accident, arson and sheer stupidity starting fires but we don't hear the phrase self-combustion too often. Well, that's what happened.

One of those apartment-sized stacks of hay bales decided to burn from within causing an event that called upon the majority of the shire's resources for quite a few hours, including the Bejoording crew.

Fortunately losses were limited to the hay, nobody got hurt, it doubled up as a good training exercise for some, and there was some healthy social interaction between brigades which rarely gets much of a chance in stressful events such as the Wooroloo fire.

Limping around in his moonboot captain Brian Rigby is still our 'virtual' captain, and our continuing thanks go to Lawrence Hayward who is looking after the operational side of leadership.

Our next regular meeting will be at the shed on Friday April 16 at 6pm.

Members will be advised of training sessions but we anticipate that the first Sunday of every month will continue in the New Year, except for our next session for March which has been delayed a week

because of the long weekend so it will be on Sunday April 11 at 2pm.

We skipped a week because of Easter and fairly commitments.

The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to be vigilant and careful using any tools or vehicles with the potential to cause a fire.

Remember to always plan and prepare for

fire and have a clear contingency strategy in place should things get out of control.

Fires can be a catastrophic risk to people, animals and property, so take care. Advice is free, but getting it wrong can be expensive.

If you have any questions remember you can contact captain Brian Rigby on 0417 984 324, or The Badger on 0414 250 484. Please leave a message if we're not there.

More diligence needed when firefighters leave the scene

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

BURNING season has opened for agriculture burning and callouts haven't been too bad so far.

This will probably change as seeding time approaches.

Our meeting was postponed for a week because quite a few were at concerts etc.

Even when the meeting was held and it was fairly quiet with a few apologies.

The main meeting item was the captain's report where Nick spoke of the debriefs concerning the Wundowie and Wooroloo and Gidgegannup fires and the running thereof.

Wundowie apparently had some problems. The bush fire advisory meeting sounds as if it might have been interesting as the debriefs were also discussed there, as were other matters.

Apparently we have some landholders in the shire who think that the volunteers have nothing to do and that landholders don't need to take due care of a fire when volunteers have left the scene and handed responsibility back to them.

Hence the volunteers are very often called back because of these irresponsible people.

I believe there has been some talk of billing them when brigades have been called back.

Earlier this year it was decided to start a life member board.

One of our members supplied some Marri

timber and this has come up beautifully and names have been added ready to hang the plaque in our station.

The other honour boards are behind in having names added as our previous engraver closed down. Another engraver has been located and a catch up is under way.

Please remember that Coondle-Nunile brigade is collecting recyclables and if you ring me on 0400 206 929 I can arrange a pickup.

Bumpy ride tickles the funny bone

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Julimar**
Karen Dore

OFFICIAL Department of Fire Emergency Services training is now underway for new recruits.

Our newest fire fighters were recently guided through bushfire safety awareness and by the time you read this they will have received further firefighting skills training.

This has been supplemented by our own in-house training as this season we have undertaken fireground safety including un-bogging a vehicle, radio etiquette and water (getting it into and out of the truck).

Most recently a map-reading exercise saw members finding elusive places utilising only a six-figure grid reference.

The training officer set up and checked the 20 target locations and when he was sharing the story with me, he did note that it was discovered on the day that there was a bit of a difference accessing some of these areas in a fire truck as opposed to his 4WD ute.

That's fine though because, as always, training has multiple outcomes, including in this case testing the driver – and not just their driving skills, but their parking also.

Overheard in one of the trucks was: "I'm not as tall as you and you always park the truck on a slope so I can't reach to get in".

It was comforting to hear that everyone's humour remained intact, with the driver's friendly banter: "I'm sorry, I tried to hit every bump and pothole but I can go back and see if I can get the rest for you."

However, when faced with driving the rather heavy truck down a rather steep street in Rugged Hills Estate the driver's rhetoric could not be repeated in this article.

The brigade is proud to report that the female driver in question managed the vehicle admirably and is now all the more confident in her driving abilities.

Wooroloo pushed resources to limit

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Morangup**
Sharon Gamble

LOCAL brigade members have been busy over the past few months attending several fires.

The York and Wundowie fires were challenging but the Wooroloo fire called

on all brigade resources.

Our trucks and volunteers were on the fireground every day along with brigades from all over the state, out for long hours, often in very dangerous situations.

The brigade would like to thank Lidia Myburgh for her support providing free massages to assist firefighters with rest and recovery.

Members have been attending training to maintain and develop their skills.

New volunteers are always welcome, so if you are interested please call captain Jeff Venn on 0417 714 798 or Sharon Gamble, 0417 540 406.

You are also welcome to come along on a Saturday morning to meet members when the brigade conducts maintenance checks from 8.30am to 10.30am.

Belonging to the fire brigade is not just about fighting fires there are other positions required that do not involve being on the fire ground.

The brigade will be holding its AGM on Saturday April 17 at 6.30pm after the general meeting. You are welcome to attend.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

'Can-do' Carolynne cuts farewell cake

St John Toodyay

TOODYAY St John's long-serving administration officer Carolynne Haigh officially resigned from the position on February 26.

A morning tea, complete with goodbye-and-good-luck cake was held on March 13, with volunteer ambulance officers, community transport drivers, and volunteer service officers attending.

When Carolynne joined St John in December 2013 she was (apparently) very quiet, but as everyone who knows her now, that soon changed.

She knew nothing about the volunteer ambulance service, how it was run, what it actually entailed or even what half the stock was in the ambulances.

One of the questions she asked in the interview was "did she have to do a first aid course?" – because she was never going to do that.

As time evolved and she found herself continually requesting volunteers to give up their time to do first aid posts or attend in the ambulance she felt guilty and realised that doing a first aid post was something she

could do – she finally booked herself into a course.

A few months later she then decided to do her ambulance training, after saying again "she would never get in an ambulance".

She never looked back and as the years rolled on, became one of the best.

Carolynne not only performed all the administrative duties to ensure the smooth running of the sub-centre but she also took on just about every other task.

She co-ordinated 000 calls 24/7, carried out kit servicing, organised first aid posts and rostering, ordered uniforms, did van and bag checks ensuring there was always stock on hand, organised social events for the volunteers and, was heavily involved in organising training exercises with the local police and fire and rescue units.

Carolynne organised the catering and ensured everything was set up for first aid courses.

One thing she was really committed to was getting first aid out to the community, liaising with groups to do defibrillator training and basic first aid demonstrations.

Along with the then chairperson, Charlie Wroth, a commitment was made to deliver



Carolynne Haigh cutting the cake at her farewell morning tea. Photo: Heather Appleby.

first aid training to all the students at Toodyay District High School on an annual basis. This morphed into the regional office requesting the sub-centre to extend the training to schools in Bindoon and Northam.

This was and could only be achieved with the help of other dedicated volunteers.

This training continued to a greater learning capacity for the high school cadets, with a four-year program being established as part of the cadet program.

Carolynne knew many of our patients who were always happy to see her when they needed an ambulance.

While Charlie Wroth was the chairman, the Toodyay sub-centre was nominated three times for the award of Sub-Centre of the Year.

Without Carolynne's dedicated support this

would never have been possible.

More recently, with decisions that were being made for the sub-centre by management with little or no consultation with the group, Carolynne's passion slowly faded.

She took long service leave at the end of November 2020 hoping to come back reinvigorated after a break.

It was during this time she made the decision not to return.

Carolynne was 100 per cent committed to our sub-centre and generally became indispensable.

Her friendly face, laughter and 'can-do' attitude will be greatly missed at the office, but we can happily say she will continue in the role of ambulance officer.

We wish her all the very best in her new life.

Volunteer grants for grabs

THE 2021 Federal Volunteer Grants round is now underway with grants of between \$1000 and \$5000 available to help community organisations support the volunteer community's efforts.

Grants can be used for the purchase of small equipment, fuel used by volunteers during their volunteering activity, screening and training costs.

The funds can also be used to increase participation and promote awareness of volunteering opportunities and adjust

policies and procedures to ensure volunteer safety.

Organisations must be nominated by their Federal Member of Parliament and meet eligibility criteria.

Groups interested in participating, should contact their local MP's office for more information on the expression of interest process and timeframes for their electorate.

National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers and will run from May 17 to 23.

Excessive clearing may not reduce crashes

Safe and Scenic Toodyay Road Andrew and Charmian St John

BETTER driver behaviour leads to fewer crashes, so congratulations go to all Toodyay road users.

Improved driver behaviour has seen road crash statistics significantly reduce in the five years 2016 to 2019 since the Wheatbelt road safety review was conducted in 2015.

This means that the crash and killed or seriously injured reports have reduced significantly from a crash density of 0.722 to around 0.200.

We are still waiting for the crash data to come out for 2020 but these figures are based on the assumption that 2020 will be similar to 2019.

Driving change – the road safety strategy for WA 2020-2030, is the framework to guide WA's road safety journey over the next decade including reducing the number of people fatally, severely or seriously injured by 50 to 70 per cent by 2030, and to zero by 2050.

The document also highlights that approximately 75 per cent of all serious crashes involve a mistake, a momentary lapse in attention or being tired.

So a reminder to all drivers – plan ahead to avoid distractions, give yourself a little extra time, make sure you are well hydrated and stop frequently if you are on a long journey.

Crash insights reveal that 55 per cent

of rural crashes are on roads designated 110km/h and 37 per cent involve the vehicle crashing into a solid object such as a tree.

The sealing of road shoulders and installation of audible edge and centre lines on a number of WA's rural roads has reduced severe and casualty crash rates by 58 per cent and 80 per cent respectively.

After accounting for treatment costs, the net cost savings to the community were estimated at \$50.6 million.

Equally significantly, these statistics show that excessive land clearing to achieve road widening is not always necessary to reduce crash rates.

Not only money and lives are saved but also our precious environment.

The new road strategy for the next decade of achieving a 50 per cent reduction in major crashes will see WA keep pace with the rest of Australia.

Achieving a 70 per cent reduction will see WA catch up with the best performing Australian jurisdictions.

WA could save up to 723 lives and prevent approximately 8000 fewer people suffering from serious and life-changing injuries over the next decade.

This is achievable by doing more of what works, embracing new technology and engaging with the community and stakeholders to develop a cultural shift in road-safety attitudes and behaviours.



Old-growth Wandoos will be removed to widen Toodyay Road.



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Toodyay's last shire clerk led life of service

Geoff Appleby

Robert John Millar (1945 - 2021)

THE FORMER CEO of the Shire of Toodyay Robert Millar died peacefully in Royal Perth Hospital on March 24 aged 75.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years Susan, sons Jeremy and Matthew and grandchildren Emily, Zoe, Amy, Ethan and Ava.

Robert was born and spent his early life in Geraldton where his father was a chartered accountant and business owner.

He went to high school in Perth and, after graduating worked for a nutritionist before being called up for National Service where he served with the Royal Australian Army Service Corps.

After his discharge, Robert embarked on a 30-year career in local government; initially as assistant to his father who was by then the shire clerk at Yalgoo.

Having gained valuable experience, in 1967 Robert was appointed assistant shire clerk at Wyalkatchem where he met and, in 1970, married the shire clerk's daughter, Sue.

Their first son was born during Robert's six-year term in Wyalkatchem and the only down-side of this particular job was being unable to go home after work and complain to his wife about the boss.



Robert Millar.

In 1974 Robert accepted the job as shire clerk in the remote Kimberley town of Halls Creek and the Millars ventured north with 16-month-old Jeremy in tow.

Soon after their arrival in the dry and dusty town, second son Mathew was born.

It was a most interesting job because as well as his normal shire duties Robert was required, among other things, to be the town's undertaker and to operate the former

outdoor picture theatre.

It was a job like no other and explains why Robert was, at that time, the best paid shire clerk in WA.

An added 'bonus' of the job was that during an official government tour of the Kimberly he and Sue had the pleasure of hosting WA Governor Sir Hugh Edwards VC and Premier Sir Charles Court in their three-by-one fibro council house.

Robert and Sue spent three years in Halls Creek before moving to the Town of Narrogin where Robert spent the next 10 years as assistant town clerk.

In August 1986 he was appointed shire clerk of Toodyay and he and Sue immediately fell in love with the town and decided that this was to be their last move.

They built a house on acreage not far from town and in 1995 Robert bought two school buses and employed drivers to operate the buses until he resigned from the local shire in 1997.

During his tenure, the job title of shire clerk changed and Robert thereby held the distinction of being the last shire clerk and the first CEO of the Shire of Toodyay.

However, the change had no bearing on his dedication to advance any cause which would benefit the town.

The town's War Memorial facing Anzac Terrace was quite run down when Robert

arrived in Toodyay and he organised its upgrading, as he did also with the historic Memorial Hall in Stirling Terrace.

Robert played a vital role in getting the AvonLink train to Toodyay and oversaw several major projects including the building of the railway station, the Youth Hall at the Showgrounds and the Alma Beard Medical Centre.

Duidgie Park's mini-rail was another of Robert's pet projects and he applied for and obtained grant funding for the project.

He was a gregarious man with many interests, a great love of community and he was a chronic volunteer.

At different times he was the District Scout Commissioner, Board Member of the Bendigo Bank, Treasurer and Master of the Freemason's Lodge, Treasurer of the Toodyay Agricultural Society, the Toodyay Race Club and The Toodyay Club.

Robert was Chairman of the Avon Valley Tourist Association and the Toodyay Yacht Club and for many years was on the committee of *The Toodyay Herald* and the Toodyay Tourist Association.

He was a keen philatelist and numismatist and, on a less serious note, he was also a life-long fan of *The Phantom* and war comics. One wonders when he got the time to read them.

Uncertainty tempers budget decisions

President's Pen

Rosemary Madácsi



I WILL focus this month on demystifying our local government – let us clear some clutter.

The new Toodyay Recreation Centre water bill of \$71,000 included start-up usage, the initial establishment of new turf and filling the pool and flush back.

Currently, we are searching for a possible leak because the last account showed an unexpected jump in usage.

A February water account of \$872.09 for the old Harper Road works depot listed in the March council agenda, was investigated. It appears unauthorised use has occurred.

The scope of a governance review ordered by last year's State Government Inquiry into the Shire of Toodyay and former council has been reduced which lessens the time involved and therefore reduces costs.

A State grant of \$79,818 has increased the shire's water storage capacity.

The Shire Works Depot in Railway Road now has two new tanks, Darwinia Crescent in Coondle and McKnoe Drive, Morangup, will receive relocated fire shed tanks and a new pump and backup power installed at Julimar Fire shed.

The Shire of Toodyay is in effect a community-owned service business run by rates, user pays fees and charges and government funding sought to meet the budget shortfall.

All supplies (utilities, equipment, contractors and stationery, etc.) are subject to market change.

Consequently, the shire's annual budget always includes a degree of uncertainty, and prudent management is required to ensure we can meet our commitments.

All financial decisions require an absolute majority vote – five out of nine elected councillors.

The shire's annual budget is set by the council and covers estimated income and operating costs.

The council also determines a delegation register which gives senior shire staff authority to approve day-to-day spending within limits set by the council.

The shire budget cannot be altered without an absolute majority council vote.

The budget undergoes a mid-year review every March and is adjusted to keep it on track.

Cost items may be added, deferred or removed if over or under budget.

Monthly income and spending are listed in council meeting agendas and minutes (a record of council decisions) to keep local community members informed about how their money is being spent.

Shire accounts use 'activity-based costing' to group all expenses incurred for each item of activity or service.

This enables councillors to know the true cost when making strategic decisions.

Now to explain the Toodyay Recreation Centre loans.

Two State Treasury Corporation short-term interest-only loans totalling \$4.5 million were used to fund the construction phase.

The plan was always to convert the two smaller loans into a single long-term loan of 20 years before the loan termination date of 23 June 2021 to avoid having to repay \$4.5 million back this financial year.

At last January's monthly council meeting, a full six months before the short-term loan deadline expired, the Manager of Finance recommended:

'That Council in accordance with the requirements of section 6.20(2) of the Local Government Act 1995, confirms by absolute majority, the Shire's Intention to Borrow – Conversion of Existing Short-Term Facilities into Long-Term Facility of \$4.5 million and authorises the CEO to provide public notice of this intent for at least one month.'

Councillors had three options to consider:

- Repay the \$4.5 million construction-phase borrowing in full, which was never envisaged and financially impossible.
- Keep the two short-term loans until June 23 which meant interest only in this financial year, or
- Convert the two smaller loans to a single long-term borrowing over the next 20

years and start paying off the amount borrowed.

The January council meeting voted 6-0 to defer any action until after the March budget review, which meant delaying a loan decision until the March 23 council meeting.

The State Treasury then advised Council in February to act as soon as possible because of the time needed to convert the shire borrowings.

Because at least an additional month was required to advertise the intention to borrow, State Treasury could not start processing the application until May.

Therefore, by March we did not have time to complete the conversion and pay any principal, so there was no reason to delay or discuss at the Budget Review.

Council needed to act expeditiously to ensure that everything was in place for June 23.

Proper process was followed, and a decision was finally made last month when the council voted 8-0 to approve the loan conversion and advertise it for 30 days.

Now the challenge for council is to increase the use of the Shire's excellent facilities to attract local and outside use and reduce the cost burden to the community.

Toodyay's security and future prosperity lies in ensuring every council decision produces an outcome that justifies the cost and is based on strong forward planning.

Community watchdog needs more members

Toodyay Progress Association
Brian Foley, Chairman

WE NEED help. The Toodyay Progress Association may have to shut down due to lack of members and the subsequent lack of committee members.

This has been discussed with previous members who no longer wish to continue but they feel that the association can still be a positive force in the community.

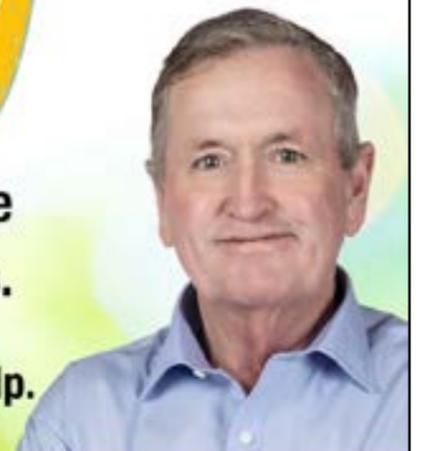
I am asking anyone who feels they wish to have a say in the community through the TPA and is willing to commit some time, to contact me on 0419 933 721. As always, we point out that we are a not-for-profit volunteer advocacy group that has not and will not run, support or endorse elected candidates for the council of the Shire of Toodyay.

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Thank you

I look forward to working hard for you as the
State Member for Moore for the next 4 years.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can help.



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Shane LOVE MLA
Your State Member for Moore

Covid-19 rules apply to local Anzac Day service

RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch
Heather Brennan

THE PROGRAM for Anzac Day is as follows:

0600 – Dawn Service at Anzac Park followed by the Gunfire Breakfast. Social distancing rules apply and you will be required to sign in or use our QR code.

1030 – Form up for march outside Memorial Hall on Stirling Terrace. Everyone marching will be required to register.

1100 – Service at Anzac Park. Social distancing rules apply and you will be required to sign in or use our QR code.

If you require further information please contact Heather on 0408 284 852.

We sincerely thank Di and Bob Ashely from Home Hardware who have donated a wonderful Anzac statue (pictured) to our sub-branch. We are constantly amazed and humbled by the generosity of our community.

Last month we were back at the Toodyay

Farmers Market and we would like to thank each and every person who visited our information stall.

Once again, our red Containers for Change bins were on-site and we thank you for your support in using our bins as all funds go towards our first permanent home in more than 101 years.

The Black Dog ride concluded at Duidgee Park on March 21, the same day as the market and our sub-branch was tasked with providing lunch for the riders.

We are grateful in being able to give back to the community in such a way. We also thank our team of volunteers who helped/catered for this event. All involved praised the catering as our team did an outstanding job, not only in food variety, but also in catering for special food requirements.

We would like to give a huge shout out to Roz Davidson who recently helped us with a welfare matter. Nothing seemed too much to ask of Roz who even took the initiative

by visiting the home of our member for ease of assistance.

Note to members; our Poppy Wall upgrade and general meeting will be held on Saturday April 10.

The Memorial Hall will be open from 0900 for the upgrade and our meeting will commence at 1300.

Please bring scissors, unpickers and wool needles. This is a wonderful opportunity

to meet other members and enjoy the camaraderie that goes with these activities.

Our next events following our April meeting will be our Anzac Street Appeal outside the IGA on Friday and Saturday April 23 and 24, followed by our services listed above for Anzac Day on Sunday April 25.

For members it is important to note that the Toodyay District High School Anzac Service will also be on Friday April 23.



Bob Ashely (left) donating an ANZAC Statue to RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch President Peter Brennan AM CSM.



Black Dog riders head off down Kalamunda Road to Toodyay.

Riders raise \$8000 to chase off the Black Dog

Black Dog Ride
Gale Nelson

THE BLACK Dog Ride is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to starting conversations about the importance of raising public awareness of depression and suicide prevention.

Each year on the third Sunday in March Black Dog Rides are held throughout Australia.

This year on March 21, 170 riders and pillions took part in the Avon Valley Ride which departed from the Kalamunda RSL and moved through the Swan Valley to

Bindoon, Calingiri and Bolgart, before finishing at Duidgee Park in Toodyay.

Police provided the riders with a motor cycle escort as they left Kalamunda and the riders were welcomed at Duidgee Park by the local Toodyay police.

Toodyay RSL also put on a magnificent lunch at the end of the ride.

Along with raising awareness, the riders also raised close to \$8000 in funds to help support this worthy cause.

For more information please contact the coordinator, Wes Sutton, at avonvalley@blackdogride.org.wa.



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Stall volunteers from left: Jess Thewlis, Olivia Wood and Michelle Duke.

Shade sails set to soar over children's playground

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

CONGRATULATIONS to all the swimmers, staff and volunteers who contributed to a successful swimming carnival at Toodyay Aquatic Centre on March 12.

Toodyay District High School Parents & Citizens Association (P&C) hosted a stall selling donated cakes and canteen volunteers cooked up a scrumptious sausage sizzle lunch for students.

We're very grateful that students have access to a local pool for swimming lessons and can participate in a swimming carnival event. It's a significant asset for students and our school community.

From swimming to basketball, playgrounds, lockers and library furniture, the school's P&C supporters are helping to improve school facilities and resources.

At the term one members' meeting on March 2 members approved a donation of \$16,000 to the school towards improving facilities.

Students will return in term two to a newly surfaced basketball court in the primary area and shade sails over the oval playground.

Later in term two we'll see the introduction of lockers for secondary students and new library furniture.

P&C members also approved a donation of \$1000 towards the Year 6 camp (held from March 8 to 10) and \$250 towards transport for the interschool swimming carnival in Wongan Hills on March 26.

With the first school term coming to a close we're seeking canteen volunteers for term two on Mondays and Fridays between 8.30am to 1pm.

Committed canteen volunteers Sal, Maxine and Heather will show you the ropes. You can help for as little or as long as you like; even one hour is a great help on the day. Please contact Sal on 0437 992 568 or Heather on 0418 930 721.

Contact Kelly-Anne Murray on pandtoodyaydhs@gmail.com, 0406 585 716, message via the Facebook page (search Toodyay DHS P&C) or write to PO Box 1624, Toodyay, WA 6566.

Join Morangup locals for a cuppa and chat

Morangup News
Ida O'Connell

Everyone is welcome at the Morangup Hall from 2pm to 4pm.

Tea, coffee and cake will be supplied for just \$1 per person.

If you need more information, please call 0472 975 593.

THE MORANGUP locals would like to invite you to enjoy afternoon tea and a chat on every second and fourth Tuesday of each month.



Locals enjoy afternoon tea and a chat last month at the Morangup Hall.

Tipping book open as footy kicks off

Bejoording Community Group News
From the desk of the Badger

find out who is throwing their home open for the next Friday night footy gathering.

All we need now to make the shed the perfect place to be on a Wednesday evening is the open pit fire.

There's nothing so inviting and conducive to camaraderie as standing around the glow and warmth of a fire pit on a cold winter's evening.

We just need some rain to encourage the shire to lift restrictions. Let's hope with all the moisture in the ground that the shire doesn't delay the fire lighting time.

Two years ago, I said in this column: "I doubt it was the occasional prod from this column that did it, but it's good to see the shire undertaking some remedial work on Bejoording Road at last."

Well, that turned out to be just a patch-up job but for the past couple of months real restoration work has been happening at last.

I also said: "Who knows, we might even see some action soon on the half road closure on the bridge just our side of Culham that's been an irritation to locals for many months."

What an irony that the recent inclement weather has caused another half-road closure at the same spot, albeit without the dreaded red light traffic controller. I'm pleased to see there's some real work being done, in record time.

Our AGM coincides with the publication date of the Herald on April 7 so we won't get any news or results in this column, but any changes or news will be reported next month.

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

Come along from 6pm and leave when it suits you. It's strictly 'come as you are' casual, kids are welcome, and there are fun events every month.

If you aren't yet a member, come along, we'd love to get to know you and if you want to know more you can contact president Barry Grey on 9574 2149, or call The Badger on 0414 250 484.

NOTHING kicks our year into gear more than the start of the footy season and annual tipping competition.

It's always exciting to see the tipping book open on the table at the shed on a Wednesday and to

Statewide drive to support women's safety

Country Women's Association
Elizabeth Mansom

LAST month eight of us attended the Gathering of the Birds held by Mt Helena/Parkerville, the first inter-branch function since last year's event.

We were royally fed and entertained and Maria was thrilled to win a chair which had been re-upholstered and donated to raise money.

At the March meeting we were all pleased to see our new committee in-situ for the first time this year.

Maxine Walker and Elizabeth Mansom continue as president and vice-president respectively while Dixie MacKenzie steps into the treasurer's position and Gina Butler, who joined us only last year courageously volunteered to take on the position of secretary.

Gina had received the secretary's badge from Maxine at the Gathering of the Birds. Thank you, ladies. We promise to behave.

On March 11 David Cornforth came and talked to us about electronic devices, in particular their sensitivity to electrical storms.

He also advised those who were farsighted enough to bring along their own recalcitrant devices.

Thanks, David. At the rate these things change we will be asking you back on a regular basis.

State Office has advised that this year's statewide fundraiser recipient will be the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing, which works to increase the capacity and support to regionally based counsellors in the domestic and family violence and sexual assault sector.

If you would like more information regarding this organisation go to facebook.com/



Gathering of the Birds from left (front row) Evelyn Oliver, Val Byron, Maria Pepe and Maxine Walker (back) Rose Rootham, Gina Butler, Vivien Street and Elizabeth Mansom. Photo: Viv Street.

CWSW1/?ref=page.

Statewide fundraisers generally raise approximately \$75,000, and in the past the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Alzheimers and Motor Neuron research have been recipients.

In a previous edition we mentioned CWA had rapid response grants of up to \$500 available for people experiencing loss in the Hills bushfires.

This fund was established in 1934 and 87 years later 120 Hills bushfire-affected families received a grant within 48 hours of making their application.

State Office was expecting further applications to come in.

I'm sure you will all be aware of the Containers for Change which is active in Toodyay.

CWA of WA is registered to be a Containers for Change fundraising recipient with all donations to the CWA of WA being directed to the Sir James Mitchell Fund.

This fund is used to assist people with such things as school fees and food and, also provides general help.

If you would like to assist this worthy cause you can donate your Containers for Change to CWA of WA (Inc) scheme ID number C10240442.

On Thursday May 13 we will be holding a Cancer Morning Tea in our hall from 10am to noon. For a gold coin on entry there will be the usual luscious morning tea, a raffle and a speaker.

Come and have your morning break with us and contribute to a good cause.

On Saturday May 22 we will be holding a Retro Jumble Sale. The retro refers to the four racks of clothing already assembled, and the jumble of books, bric-a-brac, potted plants, jams and preserves.

Our catering ladies will provide you with tea and scones for a small fee, so come along, find a bargain and relax with a cuppa.



CWA members farewell Meg Mills at last month's meeting. Photo: VivStreet.

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Noongar Waangkiny
Noongar words and yarning

Sharmaine Miles Ballardong Elder



Where three tribes meet

KAYA – hello.

This month I would like to talk about the vastness of Noongar boodja (country).

Noongar people are the traditional owners of the south west of WA.

We have a deep knowledge and respect for our country, which has been passed down by our Elders.

Noongar country extends from north of Jurien Bay, inland into the Wheatbelt and down to the southern coastline of WA.

It is defined by 14 different areas and tribal groups. Did you know that the Shire of Toodyay sits within three tribal groups?

These are the Whadjuk, Yued and Ballardong.

The town of Toodyay itself sits within the country of the Ballardong people.

This month's words

boodja – land/country **bilya** – river
ngamma – waterhole



The shaded triangle (upper left) covers about a third of the Shire of Toodyay's former hockey pitch at the town's showgrounds and marks a State-registered Aboriginal Cemetery containing about 100 graves which was gazetted in 1916. The adjacent Avon River is similarly marked because all WA waterways are protected under State Aboriginal heritage law.

TLC wins the money tree

Toodyay YouthCARE Council
John White, Secretary

Principal's message

THANK you, Uniquely Toodyay, for the donation of the hamper for first prize in our last raffle, Toodyay Garden Centre for the donation of the plant for the Money Tree prize and to David Gardiner for his donation of two litres of Waylen Farm Olive Oil.

First prize went to Toodyay Locals Care (TLC). A couple of people gave us money and asked us to write a ticket for someone who might need it, so we selected TLC.

Second prize went to Greta Sauta winning the Money Tree and third prize to Sue Ludemann who won the olive oil.

Thanks to everyone for your support. You helped us raise \$786 for chaplaincy.

The next YouthCARE meeting is our AGM on Tuesday April 20 at 2pm at the school.

We still need volunteers for Breakfast Club. All it takes is an hour or so of your time from 8am to 9am, one morning each week to enjoy the company of well-mannered, happy but hungry kids.

A GREAT start to the school year with pretty much everything and everyone in their right places.

The atmosphere in the school is 'buzzing' and the year promises to be a good one for all.

We've welcomed a few new families to town, have just over 300 students enrolled, and are honoured by an excellent staff group.

Our first swimming carnival at the new aquatic centre was a great success and it was gratifying to have the supportive presence of so many parents.

We've started assemblies again and have enjoyed the attendance and interest of parents.

Capital works to provide universal access for all students are ongoing and should be completed around the middle of the year.

Our Chaplain Doug McGhee is as valuable, popular and busy as ever and, in addition to his day-to-day care of students and staff, is in the process of planning activities for the year which include a wilderness camp and exciting and challenging excursions.

Our thanks to all for being part of this excellent school.

David Ball

Cemetery plaque backs new shire reconciliation plan

Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

WE ARE working closely with the Shire of Toodyay to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan as part of a formal statement of local government commitment to reconciliation with local Aboriginal people.

It coincides with our plans to more publicly recognise the site of an Aboriginal Cemetery behind the Showgrounds grandstand where about 100 people were buried over a period of 80 years.

For Aboriginal peoples – including in Toodyay – Australia's colonial history was characterised by devastating land dispossession, violence, and racism.

Over the last half-century, however, many significant steps towards reconciliation have been taken, including locally.

Developing a shire reconciliation action plan is part of that ongoing journey.

Corporation chairperson Robert Miles said he was very encouraged by recent talks with the shire about developing a practical action

plan built on relationships, respect and opportunities.

In other news, the corporation is working closely with the shire to install a plaque to commemorate a State-registered Aboriginal burial site behind the historic Toodyay Showgrounds grandstand.

It was used as a hockey pitch from 1979 until 2013, when the shire was informed by the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council that the site had been gazetted since 1916 as an Aboriginal Cemetery.

An older plaque hidden in nearby trees is not visible from the burial site, which was cordoned off by a line of large rocks in 2013 when hockey playing stopped.

We are progressing well with this project, which will in future include other nearby cultural facilities, and hope the new plaque will be installed in time to be celebrated, along with the shire's new reconciliation action plan, during National Reconciliation Week which runs from May 27 to June 3.

Countryman



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First school swim carnival makes a big splash

Toodyay District High School
Scott McCallum

ON MARCH 12 Toodyay District High School held its first-ever Faction Swimming Carnival at the Toodyay Aquatic Centre.

The day started off with some overcast conditions but that did not stop the high spirits of students, staff and parents as the weather slowly started to warm throughout the day.

It was excellent to see all students and staff in their faction bays supporting and cheering for their faction, and for various year-group swimmers.

All students showed excitement and determination for the entire carnival day through their swimming events and novelty games.

Students even got to show off some of their dance moves at recess and lunch breaks through faction dance-off competitions for extra points.

I was extra proud of our swimmers who swam in events because each swimmer gave it their best shot for all their events, which was awesome to see.

Coming back with a bang in 2021 to finish off the Faction Swimming Carnival was the staff, parent and student 4 x 25m freestyle relay.

It was neck-and-neck for most of the race with the parent and student teams going into the last leg in first and second place before the staff team moved out from third place to take the chocolates.

Thank you to the Toodyay Aquatic Centre staff Beck, Fiona and Claire for their enormous support and help before, during and after the carnival.

Also, a big thankyou to all Toodyay District High School staff for their efforts throughout the carnival, our parent helpers on the day,



Inaugural Swimming Carnival winning faction Avon competitors Winton Davey (left) and Oliver Rogers.

parent and family supporters, our P&C with their amazing food and drink stall, the school canteen for providing delicious lunches, and the Toodyay District High School students for their participation and support.

Due to the amazing help from everyone, the first Toodyay District High School Faction Swimming Carnival at the Toodyay Aquatic Centre was a great success.

Best deal for local Tradies



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

Hills' residents form community voice

Perth Hills Future
Paige McNeil

PERTH Hills Future Inc is the newly formed community peak body which aims to provide a consolidated community voice to create a strong economic future that protects and enhances the environment and culture of the Perth Hills.

The group formed in response to the 2020 *Perth Hills Strategic Visioning Report* by Regional Development Australia Perth which acknowledges widespread community frustration at the disconnection between engagement and planning outcomes.

The report recommended that a grassroots community peak body be formed to enable authentic and cohesive community consultation and also outlined development challenges, including bushfire risk, drying climate, limited and ageing infrastructure and wastewater management that have resulted in ad hoc and misaligned planning outcomes.

Perth Hills Future will undertake broad-based and multi-faceted community consultation to deliver strong mandates that will form the basis of a community-endorsed conversation with government in pursuit of a more integrated planning, development and investment future for the Perth Hills.

The Perth Hills are an iconic WA natural asset and biodiversity hotspot, critical to the health of the greater Perth region whose ecological and cultural importance grows daily as the Swan Coastal Plain is developed.

Our community wants smart growth and thriving communities but not at the cost of our strong environmental and cultural values.

Other regions have achieved this; the Adelaide Hills and Yarra Valley have both harnessed their natural assets to generate significant value for local communities without risking their core values.

Perth Hills Future believes that the time is now to seize the opportunity to develop a community-led dialogue about the future of the Perth Hills.

Please visit perthhillsfuture.org and join. Members will be invited to participate in the community consultation process to help us envisage the future.

If you would like to promote your local business on our website, send your logo to info@perthhillsfuture.org.

It is important for us to hear the voice of our local businesses so we can grow a strong economic future which respects and enhances our unique environment.

Metal detector unearths historic fob watch

Nick Hocking

LIVING in the historic town of Toodyay offers plenty of opportunity to observe and explore the area's rich history.

One of the first properties to be settled was Hawthornden where a magnificent two-story mansion was built by George Hassell in 1865.

Hawthornden has seen many owners over the years including the Drummond and Lee-Steere families.

It is one of many privately owned properties where I am allowed to enter to search for relics and has produced many memorable finds.

It gets bloody hot out there in late summer so I mainly work early mornings and late afternoons.

The forecast for the day I found a real treasure was hot, so I decided to take a look around a shady spot I had been saving for just such an occasion.

I had scanned the area a while back with a standard 12-inch (30cm) search coil and done pretty well so opted for the smaller six-inch (15cm) sniper coil to see what else might be hiding down there.

There were a few cool pieces and the usual trash and I was just about done when I heard that sweet unmistakable sound of treasure.

Bing, bing went the Nox 800 metal detector as I swung away over the target in disbelief that I could have missed this before.

It was a nice high tone, solid 26, so I knelt down and began to scratch away at the soft dry earth with my pick.

A couple of inches down, out pops a nice old pocket watch.

You beauty I thought, a complete fob watch.

As I turned it over and gave it a rub, there was some hand etching.

I quickly moved out into the scorching sunlight to take a closer look and the inscription read E H Lee-Steere Hawthornden Toodyay WA.

I was completely blown away to discover such an historic piece of local history.

The family were away at the time so I



Ernest Henry Lee-Steere's fob watch.

took the item home to clean and do some more research.

It turns out that Sir Ernest Henry Lee-Steere was quite a lad, noted for his involvement in horse racing in WA.

He was chairman of the WA Turf Club from 1963 to 1984, Lord Mayor of Perth

from 1972 to 1978 and was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1988.

The Lee-Steere family were ecstatic to be reunited with the item which I'm sure will take pride of place back where it belongs in historic Hawthornden.

Our environment matters at the Toodyay Herald.

news@toodyayherald.com.au



A country hotel located in the Wheatbelt serving great food, craft beers and ciders

ENTREE

GARLIC BREAD – Sourdough Bread baked with Garlic Butter \$7.50

MEXICAN NACHOS – Mexican Beef mince with beans layered with cheese, corn chips, Guacamole & Sour Cream. Standard \$18 Share \$24

BRUSCHETTA with a Twist – Sweet vine ripened tomatoes, Spanish onion, Homegrown Basil, Fetta & Blue Vein cheese on Garlic Sourdough. \$14

CHICKEN SATE Indonesian style, on a bed of Rice w' Peanut enhanced Sauce. \$15

PROSCIUTTO WRAPPED BBQ PRAWNS, Skewer on rice, topped with our own BBQ Sauce. \$19

Giant marinated BUFFALO WINGS w' Sticky Chilli sauce and a Blue Vein & Sour Cream Dip. \$15

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CHICKEN & PORK Mince SAN CHOY BOW in lettuce cups & mild Chilli dressing. \$17

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Monster Beef Pattie & Bacon Burger w' Caramelised Onion. \$22

Tender Sirloin Steak Burger w' Bacon & Caramelised Onion. \$23

Crispy Battered Fish Burger w' Aioli \$22

Panko Crumbed Chicken Fillet Burger \$22

All Burgers with lettuce, tomato, beetroot, cheese & Pam's homemade Tomato Relish
Fried Eggs optional extra \$3.00

MAINS

CHICKEN, BACON & MUSHROOM CARBONARA w' Tomato, Basil & Cream base, topped with Parmesan cheese. \$27

SPAGHETTI BOLOGNAISE - Tomato based ground beef mince, spaghetti and cheese. \$23

Crispy BATTERED EMPEROR Fillet, salad, fries & tartare sauce. \$28

Grilled TASMANIAN SALMON served on mash, w' green vegetables & home grown herb butter. \$36

LAMB SHANKS slow cooked in Red Wine, Garlic & Rosemary w' Mash & Vegetables. \$35

CHILLI MUSSELS in tomato & wine base w' chilli & **GARLIC BREAD**. \$35



OLD BOLGART HOTEL

MAINS

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CHICKEN SCHNITZEL PARMI – w' sliced Ham, Provencale sauce & cheese, Salad, Fries or Vegetables. \$28

CHICKEN SCHNITZEL SEASIDE, topped with Prawns & Garlic cream sauce, Salad, Fries or Vegetables. \$37

Grilled tender juicy PORK SIRLOIN w' your choice of Pepper, Mushroom cream sauce with Salad & Fries or Vegetables. \$28

Tender TERIYAKI PORK, Asian veg&egg noodle stir fry in Teriyaki sauce. \$27

PORK SIRLOIN SURF & TURF, grilled sirloin topped with Prawns & Garlic cream sauce, Salad, Fries or Vegetables. \$38

Grilled SIRLOIN to your liking w' Pepper, Mushroom or Creamy Garlic sauce, Salad and Fries or Vegetables. \$39

Grilled Grass Fed 400g RIB EYE SCOTCH FILLET w' choice of Pepper, Mushroom or Garlic Cream Fries or Vegetables. \$45

Group bookings and club outings are welcome.

Call Craig to customise a set menu for your guests.

For bookings call 0430 571 585



Genteel refinement sacrificed for standard gauge railway

Toodyay Historical Society
Robyn Taylor

OUR EXCURSION to Woodbridge House last month was particularly meaningful given the connection between this magnificent mansion built by Charles Harper Jnr and his father Rev Charles Harper (1799-1872), the first Anglican rector for Toodyay.

Charles was the only son of Rev and Julia Harper (née Lukin) and left home after finishing his schooling in Perth to make his own very successful way in life.

A fuller account of Harper's achievements featured in the February *Toodyay Herald*.

Harper Jnr's visits to Braybrook, the substantial parsonage that Rev Harper built for his family in Toodyay, can be imagined as joyful occasions and possibly inspirational given his subsequent major contributions to

agriculture, and education.

Using his own funds and convict labour, Rev Harper built a home for his family on land fronting the Avon River, not far from St Stephen's Anglican Church (1861-62).

The undercroft of the house was used for Sunday school classes and a day school for girls, while a separate building contained the kitchen and servants' quarters.

There was a coach house and stables, and before long a flourishing garden, orchard and vineyard.

Under Mrs Harper's influence Braybrook became the centre of the Toodyay district's genteel society.

Unfortunately, by June 1963 Braybrook had been sacrificed for the construction of the Standard Gauge railway.

Charles and Fanny Harper's home Woodbridge was also a centre of refinement



Woodbridge House was built in 1885 and changed to accommodate various uses.

and education which the Harpers sought to provide for their own and the district's children.

Initially the billiard room was used as a classroom with 14 pupils including three of the Harper's daughters.

In 1911, after the school moved into a new building it was bought by the Anglican Church to become Guildford Grammar School which dates its foundation to 1896 when it started in the billiard room.

Charles Harper Jnr died in 1912 and when Mrs Harper and her two unmarried daughters left Woodbridge in 1921 it was leased by Cecil Priestly for the Woodbridge House School.

The school operated for 20 years before it was taken over during the World War II to house the elderly women from the Fremantle Asylum.

In 1964 the house was converted into an annexe for Governor Stirling Senior High School.

It can be imagined with all these changes of use over the decades and with the building being structurally adapted to meet these changes, the old house was in a parlous state.

It was considered too costly to restore and moves were afoot to demolish the building. However, in 1968 public support for its retention resulted in Woodbridge being vested in the National Trust.

The slow process of restoration and refurbishing the building back to something resembling its original use as a family home has been ongoing.

Our April excursion to Fremantle has been postponed; however, members can enjoy being volunteers at our annual street raffle outside the IGA on Friday April 30 and Saturday morning May 1.

Volunteers can contact Beth, details below. A roster will be emailed out to members.

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

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

Write to PO 32 Toodyay WA 6465 or visit toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au/.

External hard drives essential to back-up your computer

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

BACKING up your computer is a great way of saving your data if and when your computer dies completely.

Having backup means you can copy the saved data onto another computer but sometimes the backup is incomplete or corrupted so it helps to occasionally check.

The trick is to copy or 'restore' your backup onto an external USB hard drive and compare what is on your computer with what appears on the external hard drive.

Using an external hard drive avoids the risk of corrupting your existing data but it needs enough free space to store everything that is on your backup.

If you make your backups by simply copying files and folders onto your backup drive, then copying your backup onto the external hard drive is easy to do.

If you use a proprietary backup system, such as Windows backup or Western Digital backup, it's a good idea to check how that system restores your files and make sure that the backup goes to the external hard drive.

A quick and easy way to check that the backup is working properly is to compare the sizes of files and the numbers of files in folders between your original data and what is on the external hard drive.

If you compare data for any app that is running, such as email, then what appears on the backup may be slightly smaller than your original data.

To check the sizes of files and folders in Windows, right click on each of them and then click on 'properties'.

This brings up a window showing size and if it is a folder, it shows the number of files and folders inside the folder.

If the numbers are the same, then your backup is probably OK. Happy surfing.

Sports / Events / Results
Read it in the Toodyay Herald
news@toodyayherald.com.au

Toodyay Agricultural Society Inc



Proudly sponsored by



Chalice Mining is the 2021 sponsor of the Society's 'Expressions of Interest' program. We invite local community groups, organisations, businesses and individuals to register their interest to carry out the following tasks at the Toodyay Agricultural Show in October.

- Assisting with set up of facilities & equipment from 9.30am on Friday 8 October
- Assisting with the dismantling of facilities and equipment from 7am on Sunday 10 October
- Cleaning of the Exhibition Hall and Lee Steere Pavilion, by Monday 4 October
- Gates (organization and manning) from 6 am to 4.30pm on Saturday 9 October
- External Parking (Toodyay Street / Telegraph Road) from 7 am on Saturday 9 October
- Grounds Caretakers (2 nights), from 8 pm on Friday 8 October to 6am on Saturday 9 October and 9pm Saturday 9 October to 6am Sunday 10 October
- Sport Pavilion Kitchen and Hall from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday 9 October (Donation to T.A.S)
- Youth Hall Kitchen (light snacks only) Friday 8 October from 5pm to 6 pm; Saturday 9 October from 10am to 4 pm; Saturday 9 October at 11 am for VIP Morning Tea. Contact TAS for specific details
- Terrace Bar and licenced area from midday to 9 pm (sharp) on Saturday 9 October

Please note the following:

- Monetary remuneration will be donated for the non-catering activities.
- All interested parties are requested to submit their **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN WRITING**.
- Clearly state chosen task/s to be undertaken and the proposed donation required.
- Information / Duty statements are available upon request.
- The lowest donation may not necessarily be the offer accepted.

While the Toodyay Show is six months away, we are working on the assumption that the major effects of the pandemic will be past and the 2021 Toodyay Agricultural Show will proceed on...

**Saturday
9th October, 2021**



Bar revamp to add food and music

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Geoff Appleby

WE WERE extremely disappointed having to cancel the Toodyay Agricultural Show last year but it has motivated us to bounce back and make the 2021 Show a blockbuster event.

Four new enthusiastic committee members have joined our team this year and have embraced a range of initiatives working towards making this year's Show the biggest and the best yet.

One of our new committee members Debra Andrijich is heading The Terrace Bar sub-committee, sponsored by the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, which will transform the old bar area into a family-friendly cosmopolitan boardwalk of food, wine and music.

While still in its embryonic stage, another of our newbies, Nicole Coleman, is working towards assembling a collective of environmental, art, nature and similar pursuits in an Eco-Environmental Hub.

We are seeking a sponsor for this project and all expressions of interest will be welcomed.

The society relies on sponsorship to stage the annual Show and we are pleased to announce that Chalice Mining is now a major sponsor.

This year Chalice will sponsor the fundraising efforts of the community groups in our Expressions of Interest Program. Please check out the details in our advertisement on Page 14.

The Show relies on the participation and physical support of the many local groups and associations which undertake a variety of jobs on Show day and, in turn, they rely on the event for their own fundraising.

The Royal Agricultural Society WA Rural Ambassador Award will resume this year and we are looking for a young person to represent Toodyay and the Central Group in the statewide competition.

Please contact Alison Wroth on 0437 099 960 for more information.



Firefighters extinguish the remains of the 300-bale haystack that spontaneously-combusted in Culham. Photo: Kevin Yost.

Record rain causes havoc but fills dams

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza

THUNDERSTORMS and associated hail and rain in early March has brought both widespread damage and a very healthy top up to dams and water storage tanks.

Rainfall totals for the shire varied from 100mm up to isolated falls close to 200mm and falls in the range of 150 to 170mm were common throughout the Toodyay Shire.

There have been widespread reports of major damage to creek crossings and to fencing generally.

One property in the northern part of our shire had all their creek crossings, 14 in total, damaged or completely destroyed. Damage to the road network and firebreaks was extensive mostly from debris and washouts.

Sheet erosion and rutting of paddocks from the heavy downpour has caused headaches for landowners large and small.

Bare paddocks from overgrazing by livestock were the worst affected. The heavy rain also washed debris into creeks and dams with some requiring cleanouts.

The heavy rainfall has also caused a local farmer's haystack to catch alight from spontaneous combustion.



A cow battles the floodwaters at Culham Grazing. Photo: Jessica Yost.

Kevin Yost of Culham Grazing who farms with his wife Robin and daughters Morgan and Jessica awoke to find their 300-bale stack of hay on fire.

"We woke to a slight smell of smoke but it wasn't until we drove towards the stack that we could see it was well and truly alight,"

Mr Yost said.

"We were amazed because the fire started at least two weeks after the storms.

"The fire authorities were alerted and local brigades attended the fire and brought it under control.

"We have a lot of cleaning up and repairs to do before our upcoming yearling bull sale which is due in a few weeks' time."

Culham Grazing is having its annual Liberty Charolais and Shorthorn yearling bull sale on their property in Toodyay on Friday April 16.

Most local grain growers have been busy spraying a 'knockdown' on their cropping paddocks in preparation for the upcoming cropping season.

Local farmers report that a large amount of ryegrass and wild radish has germinated allowing early control of these troublesome weeds.

The rain has boosted sub-soil moisture levels to the best they have been for a number of years.

Good sub-soil moisture reserves are critical for good establishment of early sown crops.

Some canola is likely to be sown in early April to take advantage of the good moisture.

Celebrate six years of local markets

Toodyay Farmers Market
Sue Wakka

THE WEATHER was warm and the atmosphere great at last month's markets.

Local group Avon Valley Shotokan put on some displays, as did the Avon Woodturners. It's a great way to see what these groups have to offer.

Marsupial Mammals and Pappas animal rescue group were there again, as were the Toodyay Shire and the RSL.

There was great music and some awesome painted faces done by the lovely girls from Toodyay Fairytale Farm.

Lots of yummy foods again from the Toodyay Men's Shed, karate group Avon Valley Shotokan, and Toodyay Locals Care which raises much-needed funds for many local causes.

Sweets were on offer too, so no one missed out on scrumptious cookies and cupcakes.

Lots of fresh vegetables, fruit, jams, honey, wines, along with soaps and creams, not to forget all the great choices of things on offer to purchase as gifts or to spoil yourself.

If you missed it, we are celebrating our sixth year on Sunday April 18, so join us then to celebrate our birthday.



There was plenty to see and do at last month's Toodyay Farmers Market.

Bush photographs sought for rural award

Rural Aid

RURAL Aid is calling for photographers of all ages and abilities to submit their most stunning images of life on the land to this year's competition.

Last year Rural Aid received more than 700 photographic submissions making it a very tough job for CEO John Warlters to choose his top snaps.

"The creative talent in the bush is outstanding and I'm always blown away by the images Rural Aid is sent," Mr Warlters said.

"Last time we ran this competition, most photographs poignantly depicted the heartbreaking reality of drought.

"I hope that this time round all of our farmers have been given the chance to capture some happier pictures."

A panel of judges will determine the best bush snaps, based on 12 categories; farming generations, drought, fire, flood, life on a farm, farm animals, rural women, rural men, outback kids, rural landscapes, man's best friend and small towns.

Winners will be awarded a feature in the 2022 calendar and a Rural Aid prize pack.

Photos can be submitted through woobox.com/srqwkgpage until Monday May 31.

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Colin Yandell explains how to make models of horse-drawn carriages.

Ex-Premier Brian Burke set to tell all in Toodyay – maybe

Toodyay Probus Club
Norm Green

TOODYAY Probus Club is once again alive and well following the AGM.

We have a new secretary in Colin Yandell who also gave us a talk last month on his favourite pastime.

Colin makes models of old horse-drawn vehicles and has won many prizes at the Toodyay and Northam shows as well as the Perth Royal Show.

He brought along a few of his models as well as some printouts of other models and how he makes the wheels.

The models were a delight to see and are very detailed and painted meticulously.

Colin also had loaned some of his models to the Revolutions Transport Museum at Whiteman Park, where they were greatly appreciated by the visitors.

As everyone knows, we recently had a State Election with huge swing to Labor.

It is quite coincidental that we have been able to receive confirmation that a former Labor Premier can come as our next guest speaker.

Brian Burke has agreed to come and tell us everything – or maybe not quite.

Mr Burke was Premier of WA from 25 February 1983 until 25 February 1988 so it seems that it is more than an amazing coincidence that his birthday is also on February 25.

He has written several books, including his life story *A Tumultuous Life* which includes his account of a seven-month stint in jail in 1994.

Those old enough to remember Laurie Connell, the collapse of the Bond Corporation and the WA Inc. saga will be keen to hear what went on – first hand.

Mr Burke will talk at our Tuesday April 13 meeting at 3pm at the Freemasons Hotel.

For further information please contact Joan on 0417 171 606.

Woodturners invite women to give it a whirl

Avon Woodturners
Max J Heath

HI FROM 2J Junction where things have been going along well, but quietly, for the woodturners.

First up we would like to introduce two new members, Rob Pearce and Hamish Dobie. Welcome guys.

If any prospective members would like to have a look at what we do, you are most welcome to visit us.

We meet on Sundays and Wednesdays unless we are demonstrating somewhere on a Sunday such as at the recent Toodyay Farmers Market.

Ladies are most welcome – we are not just a men-only group, as in the past we have had several lady members and one took on the position of convener for several years.

Moondyne Festival will be our next demonstration outing and our next market excursion will be to the Northam Lions Market, probably in June.

Although it was such a hot day, we had quite a bit of interest in our stall at last month's

Toodyay Farmers Market.

A few people took our brochure and showed expressed interest in coming and having a look at what we do.

We turned quite a few give-away items such as garden dibblers and also tealight holders of different shapes.

People don't seem to expect to be given something for nothing these days and when offered they asked, "How much?" They left with a smile when we told them: "Nothing."

We woodturners would like to thank those who offered and gave us a bit of assistance in setting up and packing up on the day.

The group recently purchased a small thicknesser and it has been in use already and will do what we need to do.

We have a lot of timber that has split while drying out but is quite usable when squared up and joined together.

Also, we can now do laminating where we join two or more different timbers and this, when turned, can be quite effective.

Well, that's about all from the woodturners for now until May's issue of *The Herald*.

Blokes down tools to tuck into hearty shed brekkie

Toodyay Men's Shed
Graham Hill

IT'S NOT all work at the Men's Shed as the last Saturday of every month is Men's Shed Breakfast.

It's time to relax and chat and enjoy a full breakfast ably cooked by Steve Abbot and Charlie Carrbott and enjoyed by all.

Some work had to be carried out after the recent heavy rain eroded several areas on the Men's Shed site. This work was carried out by both new and old members.

Our long-serving member Phil Roberts seems to be concerned over the life expectation of his trusty tractor/converted mower.

Phil tells me all is still in perfect working order. We assume he means the tractor as well as himself.

Easter is traditionally a time for family and friends and while this time has now passed maybe you missed out on a visit, so why not contact those that you haven't heard from for

a while and catch up?

It's friends being there for friends, like blokes being there for blokes.

While the Toodyay Men's Shed is not a service club we can undertake small projects within the ability of our members

Looking to visit the Men's Shed? We meet on Monday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 9 am to noon at 5 Harper Road, Toodyay or contact the secretary on 0408 871 406.



Phil Roberts and his trusty tractor/mower.



Men's Shed members enjoy a full breakfast on Saturdays.

More locals turn up to visit museums

Volunteers of Toodyay Museums
Barry Keens

DESPITE last month's warm weather, we have had a steady flow of visitors to the museums and more Toodyay residents showing an interest in local history.

Sharmaine Miles together with son Robert and grandson Robert (pictured) were among the locals visiting.

Relatives of the Drummond and Sinclair families living outside Toodyay also visited.

We had another profitable day at Toodyay

Farmers Market selling shingles and shingle products and are now considering what our next community project will be now that the recently acquired laptop is up and running.

We have received more donations of interesting objects for the museum collection which are most welcome.

The group now has one new front-of-house volunteer, Bec, but we always need more people to spread the load.

As always, the museums are open daily from 10am to 3pm with free admission for Toodyay Shire Residents.



Sharmaine Miles, son Robert and grandson Robert recently enjoyed a day at the museum.




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