

# 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.

June 2021  
Edition 402

## War on feral pig menace

TOODYAY has declared war on feral pigs.

The local shire is using a specialist contractor and cameras to stop increasing numbers of the voracious predators breeding in Julimar, West Toodyay and elsewhere.

Feral pigs pose a serious traffic hazard on local roads – three were hit by a passing truck on Toodyay Road in Morangup last month, and another was hit by a car on the Bindi Bindi Road in Bejoording last October.

They can destroy hectares of crops in a single night, contaminate harvests and are a declared pest throughout WA.

Feral pigs kill new-born lambs, spread foot and mouth disease and damage fragile natural ecosystems such as local waterways protected by WA Aboriginal heritage law.

The highly destructive animals foul water holes and displace wildlife by competing for food and habitat.

The shire has installed movement sensor cameras to detect feral pigs in known local habitats and plans this month to start using traps to cull numbers.

Most feral pigs grow to about half a metre tall and move in groups of about a dozen but are highly elusive and seldom seen.

Some people regard feral pigs as sport for hunters armed with guns and crossbows and have reportedly released captured animals into new areas deliberately to breed and proliferate for hunting.

Local farmers report gates left open and fences cut by trespassers hunting feral pigs with four-wheel-drive vehicles and dogs.

The introduced species is regarded as one of the world's most destructive pests with an estimated 24 million in Australia.

*Continued on Page 5.*



Feral pigs pollute local waterholes.

### Seat to remain vacant after councillor quits ahead of potential horror budget

By Michael Sinclair-Jones

AN ELECTION to replace former Toodyay Shire Cr Paula Greenway who resigned at the end of April will be postponed until three other council seats fall vacant in October.

Last month's council meeting also deferred discussing whether to cut the number of Toodyay councillors from nine to seven.

Cr Greenway's surprise resignation citing "personal priorities, beliefs and morals" six months before her four-year term was due to expire in October leaves Toodyay's remaining eight councillors with the task of finalising this month's likely horror budget.

Shire President Rosemary Madacsi will



A Nunile grower finishes off this year's cropping program. Photo: Andrew Thornton.

### Local farmers' prayers answered as rain and warm weather boost early canola and pastures

LOCAL farmers hoping for good opening rains had their prayers answered last month when very good falls of rain were received in all areas in our shire.

Isolated falls of more than 90mm were recorded, and heavy rain caused some sowing delays due to boggy paddocks, though the rain was most welcome.

The rain has given a massive boost to pasture growth as earlier autumn rains that germinated pastures were struggling.

*Full story Page 15.*

## Council 'culture and dynamics' face further State scrutiny

THE 'culture and dynamics' of the Toodyay Shire Council will be reviewed in a further State-funded investigation after a damning report on a year-long inquiry was tabled in the WA Parliament last year.

The recommended review will examine the council's performance and behaviour from 1

November 2019 to February this year.

It will seek anonymous responses from councillors and staff "ensuring they can speak and/or submit information freely".

The formal review follows a year-long State Government inquiry which made 25 adverse findings against the former council and shire – including 14 adverse findings against former shire CEO Stan Scott – over a seven-year period.

Two councillors who led the council for part of that period – former shire president Brian Rayner and former deputy president Therese Chitty – still serve on the council.

A third, former Cr Paula Greenway, resigned at the end of April with six months of her four-year term left to serve.

Last year's findings include that the former council failed to "give guidance and direction" to the former CEO over the loss of \$550,000 of ratepayers' money in a failed court case against two former civic leaders.

"The new council voted 7-2 at its April meeting (Cr Greenway and Mick McKeown opposed) to appoint Perth local government consultants Hammond Woodhouse Advisory to conduct the latest review and report back to the State Government by September 30.

Joint consultancy principal Andrew

Hammond is a former City of Perth Commissioner and former CEO at the shires of Nannup, Wyndham and East Kimberley, and at the cities of Albany and Rockingham.

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#### Coming events

Fibre Festival June 6  
Naidoc week July 4-10

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# COUNTRY REALTY

# The Toodyay Herald

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

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

All advertising should be emailed to [advertising@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:advertising@toodyayherald.com.au). Editorial contributions and photographs should be emailed to [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au).

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

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Peter Harms, Ieva Tomsons,  
Barb Dadd

## PRODUCTION

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

## DISTRIBUTION

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

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## THANK YOU

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

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## NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

STORY DEADLINE

DISTRIBUTED

**Noon Thursday  
June 24**

**Noon Tuesday  
June 29**

**Wednesday  
July 7**

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Articles and stories: [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au)

# Ol' Blind Joe

## Cleavage usurper

### Stirling Hamilton

I JOINED Toodyay's Moondyne Committee sometime before 2008 (early records are sketchy) and shortly thereafter became the character Ol' Blind Joe judging the festival's lively cleavage competition each year at the Victoria Hotel.

I always approach the first Sunday in May with trepidation exacerbated this year by the threat of a last-minute Perth lockdown to determine whether hordes of flatlanders could attend, otherwise it was gonna be another dismal no-show like last year.

After hearing the good news that borders were to stay open after all, I lobbed at the nearby Freemasons Hotel and settled in to gather some Dutch courage for the daunting challenge ahead after having been a hermit these past several years.

It wasn't too long before I felt like a diamond tipped stylus slipping into the groove of a Beatles' *White Album* vinyl record, coming home at last to roost.

Having spent half my life living and working in hotels, the development of a finely honed bullshit/Reality detection radar system seems a completely natural part of my neural pathway development.

Speaking of Radar, he's 78 today with exactly the same smile of youth on his dial.

Back to the tale at hand. I was watching the world walk by with a nod here and a word there and found myself swimming in a lake of oxytocin and dopamine which I've missed of late.

I'm reading Patricia Churchlands, a neuro-philosopher who writes that "being engaged in some way for the good of the community, whatever that community, is a factor in a meaningful life."

"We long to belong and belonging and caring anchors our sense of place in the universe."

Well, the pub has always been the hub of the community and it serves as our central nexus of communication and connection.

You usually find out soon enough if you're talking to a good man or not but be careful though, some of them critters out there are sociopaths and quite clever at hiding their motives.

Turning to the bar I recognised a girl I've known since she was knee-high to a grasshopper and asked her if it was she.

Yep, now she done gone grown up and serving me drinks wearing a Floozie outfit quite fulsomely yet, as a girl she was a shy little flower.

The Moondyne Committee has changed the name of my gig from Cleavage Competition to Floozie Competition.

It'll be down to some waste of space in a suit in Perth who's providing the funding and crossing their legs to protect their politically correct persona.

Patricia says: "Knowing about the neurobiological and evolutionary basis for social behaviour can soften the arrogance

and self-righteousness that often attends discussions of morality.

"It may help us all to think a little more carefully and rationally."

Anyhow, after three hours of girding my loins at the Freemasons Hotel, I set out for The Vic to deal with destiny and found myself at a table centre-stage next to a large group of well-to-do women frolicking in cascading fountains of laughter.

The bell tolled, the bevy of beauties arrayed themselves and, as I arrived, a character seemingly attired as Little Lord Fauntleroy pranced up on my left while the 'Judge most dreaded' from the rowdy street theatre trial of Moondyne Joe appeared on my right.

The Little Lord assumed the role of Master of Ceremonies (MC) without even acknowledging the time-honoured presence of the venerable Ol' Blind Joe and proceeded to usurp the entire proceedings.

What really got my goat was when he judged and awarded the prizes without so much as a by-your-leave or even a pretence of consulting The Oracle.

At times I've had MCs over the years.

We talk and plan and judging is decided by audience approval but Ol' Blind Joe is always ultimately the Supreme Court judge and jury and can overrule public opinion.

I returned to my table contemplating resignation but thought it unbearable to relinquish my role and allow it to become a tawdry charade.

The ladies next to me were most amusing, with one blonde lady especially striking me with her acerbic sense of humour.

As they were leaving, I tapped her on the arm and said that she reminded me of that female actor in the TV comedy hit show *Absolutely Fabulous*.

Neither of us could remember her name but we both knew who I meant and she thanked me for the compliment and re-joined her friends.

Not very momentous, and kind of apropos of nothing, I hear you say.

Except that half an hour later the same lady returned by herself, put her hand on my shoulder and whispered in my ear "Joanna Lumley".

We smiled at each other and she vanished into the mist, yet it was for me the most memorable occasion of the day.

Turns out it was meaningful and I'm quite certain she remembers it as vividly as I.

This is why I'm aghast at algorithms like those used by *Facebook* that herd us into paddocks of like-minded people.

I never would have otherwise met that lady because she hails from a different class to me yet, left alone on open ground we could find common traits and celebrate them.

*Life is made up of a few moments all strung together like pearls. Each moment is a pearl, and it is up to us to pick the ones with the highest lustre - Cherokee author, filmmaker and philosopher Joyce Sequichie Hilfer.*

## FEEDBACK

### Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

Suggestions and comments are welcome

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## The Toodyay Herald

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

June-July 2021

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

# Sculptors dodged IRA bombs to create Hills haven

levaTomsons

FOR THE past 50 years, Gidgegannup sculptors Joan Walsh-Smith and Charlie Smith have travelled the world creating large-scale public art projects many of which are now part of Perth's urban landscape.

They grew up in Ireland's oldest city Waterford, both were Catholic but their families were poles apart.

When they were 17 they met at Waterford School of Art and Design where Joan was training to be an art teacher and Charlie was completing art courses to qualify as an architect.

"The boys from architects' offices would come three days a week to study and it took me a while to adjust to their disruptive behaviour after a strict boarding school education with nuns," said Joan.

A mutual interest in visiting Waterford's numerous ruined Norman abbeys and castles drew them together on weekends when they would sketch the great stone carvings of Ireland's historic past.

"This was the start of our life-long collaboration," said Charlie.

At 18, they decided to escape the "narrowness" of small-town Waterford and moved to a bedsit in London.

"We couldn't see the point of hanging around and arguing" (with Joan's parents who thought they were far too young to marry). "It was time to get on with the great adventure of life," said Charlie.

Their 'elopement' was short lived and they returned to face Joan's parents "as adults" but the situation was now worse as Joan was pregnant, totally unacceptable in Catholic Ireland.

Charlie's family were supportive and helped organise the 18-year-olds' marriage in a small church in the countryside.

The newlyweds moved into an idyllic thatched cottage at the seaside and Joan kept studying while Charlie earned a living as a heritage draftsman and designer during the late 60's and early 70's manufacturing boom in Ireland.

At 19, they found themselves the parents of three children, two being twins which came as a major surprise in the days before ultrasound.

The children spurred on the reconciliation with Joan's parents who financially backed the purchase of a spectacular piece of land overlooking Waterford Estuary in 1967.

"We could see the world's second-oldest lighthouse and the east side (of the estuary) was the Hook and the west, the Crooke. The saying 'by hook or by crook' goes back to 1649 when Oliver Cromwell promised to conquer Waterford by whatever it took," said Charlie in one of his interesting asides.

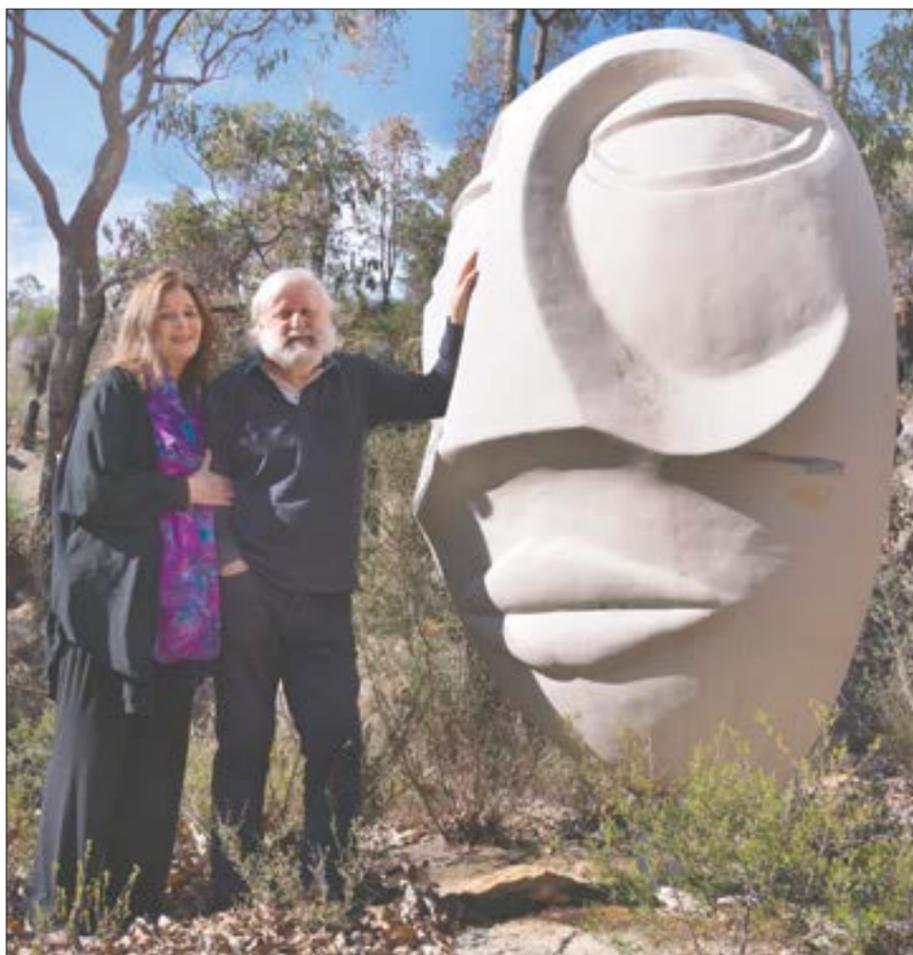
For 14 months the family lived in an on-site caravan while Charlie designed and built a stunning glass-fronted studio/home.

"We were buying expensive double-glazing windows when we didn't have any furniture," laughs Joan who says she still can't think of caravans without reliving the horrors of managing three toddlers in a confined space on a wild stormy cliff.

Charlie struck out on his own as an industrial designer and looked after the kids while Joan completed her teacher training.

Joan was apprehensive when Charlie suggested they "go full on for sculpture" but winning a prestigious award in 1972 to create a piece in Londonderry Northern Ireland launched their career.

It was the height of the IRA's bombing campaign and Joan was meeting with the



International award-winning artists Joan Walsh-Smith and Charlie Smith with a striking representation of a Gaelic water god that watches over the entry to their Gidgegannup bush block.

landscape architects who designed the park where their 50-ton 100m-long concrete relief wall was almost completed when 16 bombs were detonated across the city.

Their sculpture was destroyed but they meticulously reproduced it.

They were getting fed up with the situation in Ireland when they met a Swedish couple who invited them to organise an exhibition at their villa in Marbella, a resort town on the Costa del Sol Spain, which became the base for their continental expansion.

In 1978 the family moved for a year to Marbella where the kids were enrolled in an international school but they realised that raising them in a town full of casinos among high-flyers in the "pursuit of pleasure" wasn't a good move, so they returned to Ireland.

Joan had been juggling motherhood and being an artist for some time and Charlie thought it "was time for her to fly" with a solo exhibition, *Fragments of a Woman*, which was exhibited twice in Holland.

After the two successful Dutch exhibitions, Joan and Charlie were invited to represent Ireland at a contemporary sculpture Biennale, Artered '83, in Bilbao Spain.

"We'd throw our hat in the ring for anything and even won an art print competition in Brazil," said Charlie.

"If you asked us to paint a white line on the the road we would have done it," said Joan.

"It dawned on us that Perth's natural landscape was much more Australian and Adelaide felt too European and conservative," said Joan.

They sold their house in Waterford and moved to Australia in 1984 and the following year bought a small property in Stoneville which they quickly realised would be surrounded by houses.

"When we first saw this block (60ha in Reen Road) the evening sun was reflecting off a great wall of ancient rocks and we knew that this was it," said Charlie.

Aislinn (Gaelic for a poet's dream) Studios, was born.

Local commissions started rolling in and winning the prestigious National Memorial of Australian Army project in 1987 set them on the road of military memorials.

"Australia is a young country which is still building its civic monuments and we have had the opportunity to be part of that journey," said Charlie.

To date, they have completed more than 100 public artworks and are the only artists to be awarded two national monument commissions. They were also awarded the Centenary Medal for Public Art.

The memorial in Geraldton to the 645 sailors who lost their lives when the HMAS Sydney II sank in 1941 is a 20-year project which is closest to their hearts and visitors are often brought to tears by the poignant reflection space.

Joan and Charlie aren't ones to sit around waiting for commissions to land in their laps and when local work started to dry up in the 1990s they embarked on projects in Indonesia, Japan and Hong Kong where they are still involved constructing a major series of works for the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Much of their inspiration comes from nature and when they were designing the St George's Terrace kangaroos they would have had no shortage of life models as their home is a haven for roos and 100 rescue birds which are housed in soaring aviaries.

Ninety percent of their property was burnt in the February fire but their studios, aviaries and home were saved by fire fighters – to whom they are eternally grateful – and Charlie's sprinkler system which ran continuously for five days providing a refuge for a huge number of displaced roos.

So what makes these indefatigable artists tick?

"We've grown together and between the two of us we make one reasonable artist," laughs Joan.

A successful collaboration, they say, is based on "never blaming each other when things go wrong".

## Toodyay ahead of nation in Covid vaccine roll-out

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY is ahead of the national average for Covid-19 vaccinations.

More than 180 people received their first dose of the Covid-19 AstraZenica vaccine last month at the Alma Beard Medical Centre in Stirling Terrace.

This brings Toodyay's overall total to 380 first doses since the national vaccination roll-out began in March.

It represents 15.2 per cent of Toodyay's population compared with the national average of 11.6 per cent.

More than 750 first shots have been given in Northam.

Flu shots for people older than 65 also started in Toodyay in the middle of last month and need to be spaced at least 14 days apart from AstraZenica vaccinations.

At the start of June, there were more AstraZenica doses available in Toodyay than the number of people in the community wanting to be vaccinated.

The Wheatbelt Health Network says one reason for this may be sensationalised media reports of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS blood clots).

WA's Chief Health Officer, Dr Andrew Robertson said Australia's Technical

Advisory Group on Immunisation estimated the risk of contracting TTS from AstraZenica at around 1.6 per 100,000 in people older than 50, and 2.6 per 100,000 in younger people.

Dr Robertson said the risk of contracting Covid-19 remained real, as shown by a serious new outbreak that forced Victoria back into lockdown at the start of this month.

"The risk of severe disease or death associated with Covid-19 illness far outweighs the risks associated with vaccination," Dr Robertson said.

"We encourage you to discuss any concerns or questions you may have with your GP."

WA vaccination rates need to increase if Australia is to open its borders to other countries and WA must.

At the end of last month, a total of 3.1 million doses had been administered Australia-wide.

A total of 480,000 people in Australia – 1.4 per cent of the population – had been fully vaccinated.

If you would be over 50 and want to book a Covid-19 vaccination, please call 9578 2500.

If you are under 50, vaccination centres have been scheduled for Northam and Merredin hospitals in the coming weeks.

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# The Toodyay Herald

## Cultural quandary

ONE has only to look at the shenanigans surrounding last year's appointment of a new Toodyay shire CEO to see why the council's "culture and dynamics" are being examined in a new State-funded review.

The same veteran councillors who opposed the dumping of the previous CEO and then tried to stall the start date for a new one may have some explaining to do.

It might include why – during a critical staff shortage and costly pandemic restrictions – those members were uncharacteristically absent from two special meetings called to allow the new CEO to start a month earlier than planned.

The first meeting had to be aborted because it lacked a quorum of at least five members of the nine-member council to be present in the chamber.

Cr Brian Rayner turned up a week later to provide a quorum for a second special meeting but offered no public explanation when he kept his hand down and remained silent during a call for objections.

He then defeated the motion by voting against it, resulting in a 4-1 decision which lacked a required absolute majority of five votes to pass.

The defeat suggested a hidden agenda or perhaps indicated someone else pulling the strings behind the scenes.

Whatever the reason, such behaviour by an elected community representative is abhorrent to open, accountable and transparent local government.

Some were bitterly disappointed when last year's State Government inquiry into the shire administration and council resulted in no sackings or prosecutions.

It did however publish 25 adverse findings that exposed a former council that seemed all too willing to turn a blind eye to unethical behaviour, unlawful actions and costly mistakes.

That same council even went so far as to exploit the resignation of a member who moved interstate by organising a secret vote a month later to rescind a decision not to re-employ its later-discredited former CEO.

The two former civic leaders who presided over that costly fiasco still sit on the council and have never said a word publicly to explain their actions.

Meanwhile, the council's culture and dynamics continue to be on public display for anyone who cares to endure the ordeal of watching its monthly meetings online.

Many are characterised by lengthy points of order, occasional shouting, aggressive outbursts, disputes with the chair and rulings pointedly ignored.

Whether the latest review can resolve any of this may be a forlorn hope – the ultimate solution may lie in next October's poll.

Michael Sinclair-Jones  
Editor



The way we were – Farm labourers in this undated photo bundle stooks of hay at Shaw's Field on Culham Estate. The land was owned by Toodyay pioneer Samuel Pole Phillips who formed a business partnership with Edward Hamersley dating back to 1839. They bred and sold horses, with Edward organising the business from Guildford while Samuel reared the horses at Culham, which was named after his English family home on the River Thames. Son Samuel James Phillips – commonly known as 'Squire' Phillips – later took over managing the property and became heavily involved in local community affairs, including as MP for the seat of Irwin from 1890-1904. He was also associated with other influential families in the colony through marriage and business interests. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

## LETTERS

### Axe claim disputed

BY CLAIMING that I proposed to a WA Parliamentary Select Committee the axing of the Shire of Toodyay and the merging five councils, last month's editorial and other comments misrepresent my views.

Simply put, I did not propose "that the Shire of Toodyay should be axed to merge five Avon Valley local government authorities into a single new regional council" as *The Herald* claimed.

Following my 55-page written submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Local Government, I was summoned to give further evidence and answer questions.

That process took over an hour and is recorded in around 40 pages of transcript that can be examined at [www.parliament.wa.gov.au](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au).

Because there is nothing else relevant, the "proposition" that I think the editorial refers to constitutes one paragraph of those 40 pages.

The relevant part responded to a question from a committee member, and I stand by what I said, which was:

"The big picture issue is that the boundaries are structurally unsound, and as a consequence of the boundaries being structurally unsound, most councils are financially unsound.

"It is just silly.  
"Take my neck of the woods, if we had an Avon Valley council, what difference would it make?"

"In a long time in public life I never had anyone come to me and say, 'Gee, I really want to be in that council'.

"They could not care less.  
"If it was an Avon Valley council, there would be a natural convergence of interests – there are similar industries, similar town structures, similar organisations.

"What do you do?  
"You probably have seven to nine councils in that area, so you probably save the equivalent of the rates of Toodyay by getting rid of five CEOs.

"You set up a corporate structure that allows things to work effectively and efficiently, and inside six months no-one would care what its name was."

That expression of an opinion was not a proposal and anyone objectively examining my written and verbal submissions will see that; as they will see that there certainly was no reference to axing the Shire of Toodyay.

I do not resile from either what was said in that inquiry nor what I actually did propose, which was that "responsibilities for council boundaries and elections be transferred to the WA Electoral Commission".

The Parliament extended the powers of the Auditor General to cover local governments, so why not the Electoral Commission?

As taxpayers already pay for an independent and expert body that does that job, it really is hard to see what is wrong with recommending their authority be extended to include all local governments.

Larry Graham  
Toodyay

(Last month's Herald quoted a December 2019 Page 1 story 'Call to dump five shire CEOs to form new Avon Valley Council' which was not disputed at the time by Mr Graham when he was Toodyay Progress Association Chair – Ed.)

### Moodyne pride

WHAT a terrific day this year's Moodyne Festival was.

My wife Kerry and I have been taking part for the past five years and some of the locals are starting to recognise us.

We are pleased to be part of this terrific event.

The community of Toodyay has every reason to be proud of the preparation, planning and hard work that makes the festival such a success.

We're looking forward to next year.

Frank Cherry  
Southlake

### Rangers' kindness

THANK you to both of our shire rangers, Wade and Leon, especially Wade who came to my house and helped me with a very sick animal.

Your kindness was most appreciated.

We have two very special people as our shire rangers.

Brigid Giannasi  
Toodyay

### Questionable hearsay

I REGULARLY enjoy Ol' Blind Joe's diverse and pithy jottings in *The Toodyay Herald* but his March column has stuck in my craw because it regurgitates some very questionable hearsay about fracking.

The technique of fracking, as used in hydrocarbon exploration, injects fluid (mostly water) at high pressure into deep rock formations to fracture them and liberate tightly bound gas or oil so that the products can be extracted and gathered at the surface just as in normal hydrocarbon production.

Fracking and similar drilling techniques have been used in Australia for decades without notable problem.

Despite this track record many in the community (including Joe) have expressed fears arising from two misconceptions.

Firstly, that fracking is likely to contaminate, or somehow interfere with water supplies desperately needed for human activities – particularly so in outback areas where oil and gas companies frequently operate.

Secondly, that fracking uses industrial chemicals which intensify the potential harm associated with spillage or contamination of water sources.

Both these ideas may seem plausible to Joe's readers but in fact are highly misleading to the point where presenting them as reality is inexcusable.

Fracking is a highly complex and expensive procedure which no individual or company would undertake lightly, without careful consideration of risks.

It is conducted deep underground (far below any water supply aquifers) using water with very small additions of other materials which are (in most cases) both common in everyday life and demonstrated safe at the concentrations used.

In my personal experience I know that much effort is expended to prevent any escape of either injected fracking fluids or released gas or oil.

Nevertheless, as a scientist, I also know that no intensive, highly technical activity can ever be guaranteed risk-free. Hence there are always contingencies, no matter how unlikely, which must be considered.

Comprehensive risk-management and mitigation planning are the proper safeguards against such hypothetical events, not the knee-jerk rejection of technology.

The latter reaction may forego access to gas resources which have proven potential to reliably support the transition to renewable energy systems.

Those who are not swayed should remember that Australians regularly and voluntarily immerse themselves in water containing a variety of dangerous chemicals at concentrations ranging from unwise to outright hazardous to humans.

Yes, the water from swimming pools and spas is unsafe for consumption and should never be released into waterways.

Continued on Page 9.

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

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# Probe to tap into secret sources

Continued from Page 1.

HAMMOND Woodhouse Advisory co-principal John Woodhouse is a former Minter Ellison law partner and has held senior legal positions at the cities of Canning, Wanneroo and Rockingham.

The shire used a government template to set the scope of the review, which was agreed to by the council in April and approved last month by WA Local Government Department Director General Duncan Ord.

Hammond Woodhouse Advisory was directed to assess the performance and behaviour of the new council – which was elected in October 2019 – from the time State investigators completed their work to last February.

The conduct of council meetings, functions of committees and “the degree to which the council involves itself in day-to-day operational matters” will be examined.

The role of “individual council members” will be assessed to “ensure they are performing in accordance” with local government law.

The review will also “assess the council culture and dynamics” to “ensure adherence” with local government codes of conduct.

The relationship between the council and shire CEO will be examined “to ensure it is productive, positive, professional and compliant” with local government law.

The relationship between the council and administration will also be probed.

The review will also examine annual staff performance reviews and the awarding of shire contracts worth more than \$50,000 to ensure compliance with local government law, along with a direction to make recommendations based on “industry best practice”.

The “scope and authority of the CEO regarding any litigation on the shire’s behalf” will also be assessed.

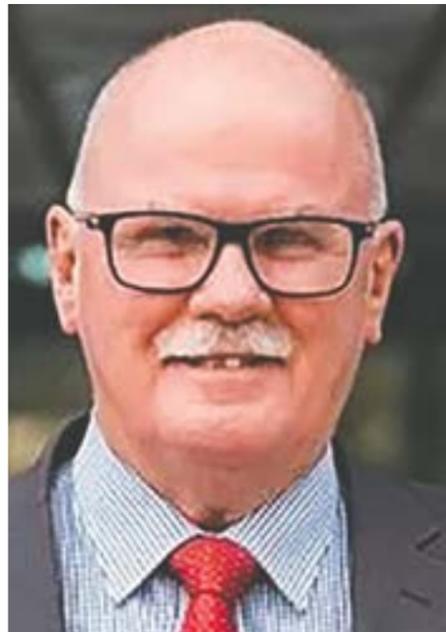
The consultants are expected to visit Toodyay this month to attend council meetings, examine shire records, invite information to be provided anonymously and conduct interviews with individual councillors and staff.

A final report to the State Government due by September 30 will include findings and a “prioritised list of recommendations for action”.

Interim reports will be sent to the shire on July 8, the council on July 27 and the department on July 30.

Mr Hammond declined last month to explain to *The Herald* how the consultants would assess the council’s ‘culture and dynamics’.

He said it was up to the shire to provide any public information about its contract.



Former City of Perth Commissioner Andrew Hammond will jointly head a State-funded review of Toodyay councillors and staff.



# Smaller council mooted

Continued from Page 1.

THE WA Electoral Commission wrote last month that it would approve a May council decision to defer an election until October.

It will be the first time all Toodyay voters decide who fills the seat after the 2017 vote was restricted to only those living in the now-abolished former West Ward – which includes Morangup – when former Cr Greenway was re-elected with 214 votes.

Crs Brian Rayner and Therese Chitty, whose four-year terms also expire in October, are the only other two remaining councillors who have never faced all Toodyay voters.

Nobody voted for Cr Rayner in 2017 when he was the only candidate to stand in the now-abolished North Ward, and Cr Chitty was elected in the former East Ward with only 284 votes.

A total of 2575 Toodyay electors were enrolled to vote in 2017, and 3425 in 2019.

Cr Ben Bell topped the shire’s historic first postal ballot of all Toodyay electors in 2019 with a record 1126 votes when ward restrictions were abolished.

A council forum in April discussed whether more money could be saved by cutting the number of Toodyay councillors from nine

to seven, as in neighbouring Goomalling, Chittering and York.

The Local Government Advisory Board said last month that it was too late this year to elect a smaller council in October.

The board said it needed to be formally notified of an absolute majority vote of at least five supporting Toodyay councillors by January 31 in a local government election year.

The board would then take a further six to nine months to review and publish its decision in the WA Government Gazette.

This needed to be done by June 30 in an election year to enable the WA Election Commission (WAEC) to modify the poll.

“The good news is that if your Shire decides to commence a representation review (via council resolution) soon, then you will be well ahead of the game for the 2023 LG elections!” the board wrote.

Cutting the council’s size was omitted from last month’s decision to leave former Cr Greenway’s seat empty until October.

Councillors voted 7-0 (Cr Bell absent on council-approved leave) to seek WAEC approval to defer an extraordinary election until the state-wide October poll.

# Toodyay declares war on feral pig menace

Continued from Page 1.

FERAL pigs are distant relatives of domestic animals that early European colonists lost or released into the wild and have interbred with more recently escaped or released animals.

Feral pigs vary considerably in size, shape and colour but tend to be black, relatively hairy, strong in their forequarters with a shorter back and have a longer snout than domestic pigs.

Like their farmed counterparts, feral pigs are highly intelligent animals, wily and are good at hiding – they are not easily seen but numbers are increasing, with local sightings only five kilometres from the Toodyay townsite.

Feral pigs can leave distinctive evidence of their presence.

The tracks can be mistaken for those left by sheep, goats or even cattle but soft ground can reveal the impression of dew claws at the back of a feral pig’s foot.

Mud wallows provide another clue but feeding activity offers the clearest evidence.

Feral pigs are omnivores that eat plants and meat.

They have a keen sense of smell and will dig up anything from small patches of earth to large areas up to 20cm deep in search of subterranean food such as bulbs, roots, earthworms, frogs and reptiles.

Small mammals are also on the menu, along with crops, livestock and carrion.

Agriculture WA says the cause of lamb losses can be shown in the following way:

“Pig predation on lambs may not be obvious as the carcass is often consumed completely; however, several features are reported to be characteristic.

“The lamb is caught after a short chase and killed by a bite to the thorax. The lamb is then held down by the pig’s forefeet and feeding begins with the intestines and viscera.

“The flesh and bones of the spine, ribcage and upper parts are then eaten, with the skin of the legs turned inside out to the stifle (knee) joint. The head is then eaten and finally all or part of the skin and remains of the legs are consumed.

“On a partly eaten carcass, the pattern of feeding and lack of bite marks and canine

punctures should distinguish the kill from that made by a fox or a dog.”

The shire urges feral pigs sightings to be

reported by emailing [rmo@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:rmo@toodyay.wa.gov.au) or by calling Mr Warburton by phone on 0448 284 260.



Feral pigs are elusive and hard to spot.

### Comparison of Tracks

**Sheep 5cm long**

**Goat 5cm long**

**Pig 9cm long**

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# Runaway kids a nightmare for local cops



Police spend many hours trying to solve runaway kids' problems.

## Police Beat

With Sgt Dave Flaherty  
Toodyay Police Station



RUNAWAY kids and frustrated parents have become a nightmare for local police.

A lot of our time is spent dealing with children who either refuse to go home or some parents who don't want them at home.

In just two days last month, local officers spent a total of 20 hours dealing with runaway children in several cases involving different families.

It comes as children test boundaries and parents enforce rules, thus creating problems when there is no common ground and the kids take off.

We can't leave runaway children unattended because police have a duty to provide public safety at all times.

People sometimes report to us if they see kids sitting in parks or outside shops at night when you might normally expect them to be home.

We also keep a watch for runaway children while out on patrol.

Some are regulars who we see all the time – it can be a merry-go-round.

We ask if they are OK and try to determine what the problem is and what we can do to help resolve it.

The best option is to negotiate a return

home but this can be difficult if parents are telling us they don't want the child back.

We can help by putting them in touch with the WA Department of Communities for counselling and other support services.

Police are only a short-term fix. We can calm things down, but the long-term solution is not up to us.

Ultimately, the parents have legal responsibilities and need to find an answer.

### Cool it on Julimar Road

WE ARE pleased to report that fatal traffic accidents throughout the Wheatbelt – which includes Toodyay – have gone from 19 road deaths to only two in the past 12 months.

It means that police strategies to help keep people alive are working.

However, excessive speed on Julimar Road remains a big problem.

A recent survey showed that 80 per cent of motorists in the 100km/h speed zone were travelling at 115km/h or more.

Apart from the danger of a kangaroo, stray cattle or even a feral pig (see Page 1 story) suddenly jumping out or running across the road in front of you – particularly when travelling at high speed at night with little time to react – it is illegal and could cost your driver's licence, if not your life.

Please slow down.

### Naked poo protester

AN ITINERANT who arrived by taxi from Northam to beg for money and food in Toodyay ended up being a messy handful for local police.

The man went to a house on the edge of

town when his taxi fare ran out and started begging for money.

When his request was declined, the man sat down, said "I live here now" and refused to leave until he was given some cash.

He then went to a Stirling Terrace café and threatened to smash all the windows until he was given free food and drink.

The man returned for breakfast next day and, when his demand for more food and drink was refused, started asking customers.

Police were called but the man left before he could be caught.

He was seen near the café later in the morning but fled down a nearby laneway.

The man was arrested when he tried to return to the same place for lunch.

He was charged with "threats to influence" and placed in a cell at Toodyay Police Station where he removed all his clothes, stuck his fingers down his throat to vomit and urinated and defecated on the floor.

He also smeared excrement on the cell walls and was refused bail after being charged with being disorderly in a police station.

The man continued to refuse to wear clothes and had to be transported naked in a police paddy wagon which he also soiled while travelling to the Perth watch house.

He remained in custody and appeared in the Perth court next morning.

A specialist biohazard cleaner had to be called to clean the police vehicle and cell.

### Big guns response

WE RECEIVED dozens of calls in response to last month's *Police Beat* column about how the law deals with firearms when their owners pass away.

We were able to help in many cases but at other times may have been away from the station when busy on other police work.

If you need help with disposing of firearms and we are not here to take your call, please contact Police Licensing Services (Firearms) on 1300 171 011 or at LicensingServicesFirearms@police.wa.gov.au for further advice and assistance.

As said last month, firearm licences do not transfer to relatives or the executors of deceased estates when gun owners die.

Until a firearms licence transfer has been sought and approved, the law requires the guns and any ammunition to be placed in secure commercial storage, such as with a licensed gun dealer, to avoid police seizure and possible destruction.

This enables us to keep track of all guns and ammunition in the community to prevent them from being stolen or falling into criminal hands.

### Horses for courses

LOCAL residents must obtain permission from the Toodyay Race Club before using the local racecourse and its surrounds for exercise, sport or to take their dogs for a run.

Anyone wanting to use the racecourse grounds should first call Toodyay Race Club President John Prater on 0413 154 347.

## Online campaign reaches out to Wheatbelt youth

SaferToodyay

HEALTH Promotion Officer Jessica Daniels at Holyoake's Wheatbelt Community and Alcohol Drug Service is developing an early intervention social media project aimed at young people aged 12 to 18 who live in the Wheatbelt.

The campaign has been created with young people for young people and is called Within REACH, an acronym for Resilience, Empowerment, Action, Connection and Health.

Within REACH connects young people to the support and guidance they need to make positive, healthy life choices and to adopt help-seeking behaviours.

Each week, posts provide links to helpful websites and help lines, interviews with local support services and subject matter experts, and strategies to improve health and wellbeing.

"Young people spend hours each day scrolling through their social media feeds which exposes them to unsafe and incorrect information," Ms Daniels said.

"By following the Within REACH page, young people will have access to a trustworthy resource, and up-to-date information on important topics and issues identified by young people which include alcohol and drug use, mental, physical and sexual health, social and emotional wellbeing, personal and online safety, life skills and, career information."

Within REACH can be found by searching @withinreachwheatbelt on Instagram and Facebook.

## 'Free' gifts really are too good to be true

Computer Safety  
Phil Hart

THIS month's article looks at the details of a recent scam attack, what to look out for, and how to deal with it.

One such typical attack is to congratulate you on having been selected to do a survey on behalf of a large retail chain such as Coles or Woolworths.

The attacks typically come via email and a check on the 'from' address often shows that it has nothing to do with any reputable survey company.

This mismatch should ring alarm bells that the mail is coming from a scammer.

It does not matter what you say in the so-called survey, you are always presented with a 'thank you' page which offers you a very attractive 'free' gift and asks for a small payment to cover the cost of postage.

The free gift is a sham and might turn out to be a coffee maker (\$329), an iPad Pro (\$1799) or a Dyson vacuum cleaner (\$599) which will cost you only \$8.95 or \$3.

The offers are simply far too good to be true.

At some point you will see a page asking you for your credit card details which is what the scammer really wants.

The scammer's web site will check the card number's validity and once verified, it will try to make a debit from your financial institution.

Once the scammer has your credit card number they will spend your money until either your card maxes out or you put a stop on it.

Either way, it can be time consuming and expensive to sort out the resulting mess to both your finances and your reputation.

Whatever happens, do not supply the scammer with your credit card numbers.

Happy surfing.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Future fire fighters learn the basics

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade  
Coondle-Nunile**  
Jane and Marc Grant

HELLO fellow Toodyayians. This is Jane and Marc from Coondle fire brigade.

We are stepping in for the marvellous Max Heath who is touring the South West with Millie.

The brigade has been busy now that the burning season is open; a timely reminder that burns can get out of hand quickly so it is good practice to let your local brigade know when you are intending to burn so there are no unnecessary call outs, and it is also good to have a backup plan in place if things do get out of hand.

Coondle and Julimar brigades have teamed up to provide training for the Toodyay Senior High School cadets.

Both brigades welcomed the opportunity to work alongside some of our community's outstanding youth.

The training program is being held over five weeks on Friday afternoons at the school and involves classroom-based theory, an introduction to bush fire fighting skills and hands-on learning with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services trucks.

Throughout the program students will learn about teamwork and safety, basic fire theory, incident command and control, radio communications, using and maintaining equipment, bush fire behaviour, bush fire suppression, map reading, bush fire safety awareness and using hand tools.

All of us involved in the training program have been impressed with how enthusiastic these outstanding cadets have been.

We will be winding up the training with a fire ground scenario which will bring together all our emergency services.

The brigades hope that some of these students will become our future local bush fire fighting heroes.

Coondle is excited to announce we are



Fire fighters of the future learn the ropes from Mark Pittorino. Photo: Jane Grant

recruiting. Yes, we are looking for new members to join Coondle Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade; positions include volunteer bush fire fighters and auxiliary brigade members.

If you would like to help the community, gain skills and experience in something completely different from your normal life, become part

of a fantastic team, challenge yourself or, play with fire trucks, then volunteer.

Go on – take the challenge. Volunteers are provided with all the necessary equipment and training at no cost.

If you are interested in finding out more about both exciting volunteer positions you are welcome to call Jane Grant on 0417 949 103 or join us on a Friday afternoon from 5pm at the new state-of-the-art Coondle fire shed on Bindi Bindi-Toodyay Road corner of Coondle West Road. Drop by and meet our team.

# New ankle forces Brian to stand down

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

THE BRIGADE said goodbye, but not farewell, to captain Brian Rigby at last month's AGM.

As a result of reconstructive surgery down at ankle level Brian has chosen to stand down for the year to come. Being a man of action he didn't relish being in the brigade while unable to attend incidents so he has gone on extended leave.

The brigade registered their appreciation of Brian's time both as a firefighter and as captain with a small presentation and made it clear we look forward to welcoming him back.

As a small brigade, Bejoording didn't at this point in time have a logical successor so we welcomed back Lawrence Hayward to the role, albeit acting, until our next captain is identified.

The brigade is very lucky to have Lawrence in their ranks, he's one of the most-experienced fire fighters in the district, a qualified trainer/assessor, and has over 20 years active commitment to fire fighting, and a lengthy period as our previous captain.

Chief Bushfire Control Officer (CBCO) Craig Stewart who was chairing our AGM, passed on the shire's thanks to both Brian and Lawrence. Also in attendance from the shire were Mick Griggs deputy CBCO No 1, and Rob Koch the Community Emergency Services Manager.

Colin Hoffman remains as our sole lieutenant, and Regan Kesic is equipment officer. Barry Grey and Richard Hazlewood continue as the back office team for the brigade.

In the field, the seasonal rains have been kind to us with a handful of call-outs being stood down before we even started the truck – so much so we took it for a test drive to make sure everything was still working.

The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to be vigilant and careful lighting any fire. Remember to 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 past-captain Barry Grey on 9574 2149, or The Badger on 0414 250 484. Please leave a message if we're not there.



Toodyay District High School Cadet Clive Millett receives firefighting instructions from Bill Fletcher. Photo: Jane Grant.



Julimar fire fighter Grant Scobie was on hand to help with training. Photo: Jane Grant.



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EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Goodbye Geoff and Megan, hello new admin officer Debbie

**St John Toodyay Sub-Centre**  
Heather Appleby

THE St John Toodyay Sub-Centre held a farewell morning tea recently for two Community Transport Service drivers who are leaving Toodyay for a sea change.

Geoff and Megan Ebdon were among the first in our community to volunteer as drivers for the transport service.

They will be missed by the volunteers at St John Toodyay and the many patients they have taken to medical appointments over the years.

As we say goodbye and thank you to Geoff and Megan, we also say hello to the new administration officer for the Toodyay sub centre.

Coondle resident Debbie Tunnicliffe started at our sub-centre on May 24 and her regular hours will be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 9am and 4pm.

Debbie will take some time to get used to life in the sub-centre and should you have any queries, if she doesn't immediately know the answer, she will find out and get back to you.

Last month we also welcomed four new volunteers, who gained their Emergency Medical Assistant (EMA) qualification.

They all had to undertake a four-day training course which included clinical and practical lessons as well as training in driving an ambulance.

After spending some time in the field, working with two experienced Emergency Medical Technicians (next level to EMA), they will be ready and able to attend patients in future.

Welcome Kieron, Stacey, Jacob (Jake) and Claire. Tammi is waiting in the wings, with just a couple more competencies to complete.

In April the volunteers at the sub-centre responded to 31 call-outs, including 15 which were of the highest priority.

While we get to all calls as quickly as possible, it can take some time for us to respond.

Our volunteers are not waiting at the sub-centre when on roster – but they are on the phone immediately when we call.

They then have to get to the sub-centre and head to the emergency in the ambulance.

Even on blue lights and sirens, the further you live away from town, the longer it will take for us to reach you.

Don't delay in calling 000 if you have an emergency situation and need our help – we will get there as soon as we can.



From left: Geoff Ebdon, Community Transport Service Coordinator Sandra Cousins and Megan Ebdon.



Retiring Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Captain Mick McKeown (left) presents a Volunteer of the Year Award to Brian Clarkson.

## Captain Mick steps down after eight years at helm

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**  
**Toodyay Central**  
Peter Brennan

A FIRE call-out just before the start of last month's brigade annual general meeting was thankfully stood down, enabling a good membership turnout to elect this year's brigade and committee positions.

Paul Thompson was once again elected committee chairman, with Karen Hansen secretary and Bronwyn King treasurer.

We thank outgoing secretary Lorraine Hort for her terrific support over the previous years and to Paul, Karen and Bronwyn for accepting the positions.

Peter Brennan was elected new brigade captain with former captain Mick McKeown and John Hansen and Will Hort as lieutenants.

Many thanks go to Mick for his very dedicated eight years at the helm. He has been a great leader and mentor for many Central brigade members over the years.

John Hansen was again nominated to continue as a Fire Control Officer, with Will Hort agreeing to take on training.

Many thanks go to Kevin Hug who was training officer for several years previously.

Brian Clarkson has taken on the maintenance role assisted by Barry Stokie.

Kath Summers has agreed to continue with rations.

After the formalities, Brian Clarkson was presented with a Volunteer of the Year Award. We all congratulate him for the way that he has embraced the brigade since joining – well done Brian.

Central brigade members are reminded that this month's general meeting starts at 7.30pm on Tuesday June 8 at the station.

A truck wash and detail and station clean-up are planned on Sunday June 27 starting 8.30am – please set that date and time aside.

Central brigade members received nine call-outs after last month's AGM and up to the time of writing.

One was a structure fire which did considerable damage to a house, six were stood down almost immediately and two were stood down enroute.

The brigade has lost several members in recent months due to moves to other locations, new life challenges and health issues.

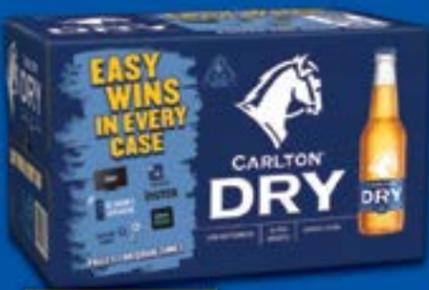
Of particular concern is a lack of members with licences needed to drive our medium and heavy-rigid fire vehicles.

We invite current and new members of the Toodyay community to come down to the station to meet the crew and see what we do.

New members are always most welcome to join us each Friday evening from 5pm to 6pm when we conduct vehicle checks at the fire station in Stirling Terrace near the Alma Beard Medical Centre.

What any property owner can learn with the brigade will certainly be useful, and now is a good time of the year to start.

Please give joining our Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade some serious thought – your community needs you.



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# Sports

Events/Results

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# Straight talk on curly question of road funding

## President's Pen

Rosemary Madácsi



IT'S TIME to have a straight talk about roads.

Simply put, the shire works program is under-resourced.

From 2013 to 2019, overall expenditure for the shire's transport budget has risen from \$2.3 million to \$4.3 million, an increase of 87 per cent.

Transport also includes plans, wages, administrative costs, other maintenance, loans and reserve account payments.

When only road construction and maintenance is considered, investment has declined half a million dollars in seven years from \$3.1 million in 2013 to \$2.5 million in 2019.

In this period, the shire's own investment in roads averaged \$667,000 a year to 2019.

In contrast, the cost of supplies to local government has increased considerably.

The Shire's Manager of Assets and Works believes a realistic budget to maintain the roads and drainage network is estimated to be between \$4 million and \$5 million each year.

What has happened?

For a small ratepayer base, we have many subdivisions and 658km of road and drainage network – 344km unsealed and 314km sealed, in 1693sq/km of mostly hilly terrain.

Unsealed gravel roads are designed for low traffic volumes.

Although more economical to build, they

deteriorate quickly with storm or prolonged rain events, particularly on slopes.

Unsealed gravel roads require higher maintenance than bitumen, which provides better value for money.

Subdivisions, hilly terrain and half a network of gravel roads means Toodyay has higher maintenance demands than surrounding rural shires with flatter terrain and fewer rural subdivisions.

The shire has a small workforce to meet these challenges – only four full-time employees in road maintenance and four in road construction.

The Road Maintenance Team not only maintains the local road and drainage networks, re-sheets gravel roads and undertakes storm repairs (roads, drains and culverts) but also completes traffic management and site inspections.

It also does cemetery works, installs signage, assists the transfer station and provides inter-departmental support for projects and events.

Our roads are largely funded by State and Federal grants, along with road-user contributions and our own funds (rates).

Works are prioritised for regular maintenance or construction according to the shire's works program, or by need as in storm damage, etc..

The shire applies for government funding either directly or through regional alliances.

An example is State Road Funding for Local Governments distributed through Regional Roads Groups (RRG).

Money derived from heavy vehicle registrations and fuel levy/km is reserved specifically for roads.

The WA Local Government Association (WALGA) advises the State Government of

a fair contribution of State Road Funding, which local governments receive through the RRGs.

The funding received from Wheatbelt North RRG for the Avon Sub-branch (York, Northam, Goomalling and Toodyay) is divided equally – 25 per cent each.

Funding is sought annually by the group by agreement on a joint application.

Extractive industries annually contribute to a shire Road Contribution Reserve to offset wear and tear on the roads their trucks use.

The amount is calculated and agreed to within their Development Approval conditional to their Extractive Industry Licence.

The shire's cash contribution comes from rates, either directly, or indirectly from shire reserves set aside for specific purposes.

Consequently, some grant funding can be estimated in the budget and Long-term Financial Plan.

What has led to this situation is a series of failures – a failure to budget sufficient funds for roads and a failure of the assumptions used to justify the expenditure on Toodyay's new recreation centre.

Since 2013, the cost of local government supplies has eroded our works budget but was not offset by an increase in the shire's contribution.

The shire's February 2017 "Business Case for the Toodyay Sport and Recreation Centre" (February 2017) justified the cost of the project based on a set of assumptions.

These included anticipated population growth, property sales, capacity to put aside funds, and rate increases.

It was apparent by the 2019-2020 budget that most of the assumptions had not been realised.

Although building the centre was achieved within budget, management costs were under-resourced.

The State-wide Covid-19 Emergency Directive caused shire revenue to be further reduced by mandating a zero rate rise and rates concessions.

As it costs more to rebuild rather than maintain our road networks we are obliged to remedy the roads budget.

Our only options are to attract more revenue or to increase rates.

## Why have rate arrears been allowed to accumulate?

The Toodyay Progress Association  
Brian Foley, Chairman

\$196,368 outstanding in rates past 90 days.

We question why these amounts have been allowed to accumulate; if both figures were zero, then the shire's finances would not be under stress.

We have not had anyone show interest in joining our association so it is likely that we will close down the group in the coming weeks.

The association can continue only if others are willing to commit time. Contact me on 0419 933 721 if you wish to discuss joining.

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.

THE MAY Ordinary Council Meeting was the shortest meeting I have attended – under one hour in duration.

The only item on the agenda, apart from the standard items, was the approval of a clay pit in Hoddy Well, which was passed unanimously with some conditions.

We questioned the shire's cash reserves and its ability to finance the shire until rates are received in September.

It will be tight from the answers given. The shire is relying on the majority of outstanding rates being paid but history shows that rates which have not been paid, just don't get paid.

There is \$655,778 owing in rate arrears and



The seemingly endless task of maintaining local gravel roads.

## LETTERS

Continued from Page 4.

Furthermore, runoff from farms and industries is causing far more damage to drinking supplies than the worst consequences of fracking could ever match.

If well-meaning individuals who seek to protect our community's water and environment are really serious then I suggest that this is where they concentrate their efforts.

No, Ol' Blind Joe, fracking is not "one of the world's worst mining technologies ever developed", not by any stretch of the imagination, nor is using the technique to promote an increasingly green economy "short-sighted and stupid"

Please do some research and think carefully about the alternatives before making such assertions.

Other than that Joe, keep it up.

Peter Edwards  
Retired petroleum geologist  
Toodyay

## Window on mothers

I WAS privileged to go to our pristine town on Mother's Day which is a time to reflect on the ones who brought us into the world, nurtured, cared and then said, tongue in cheek: "It is time for you to be on your own."

Our mums provided us with the will to be who we are today; she worked hard, loved deeply but above all she was our mum.

I wandered through Toodyay and saw so many families eating lunch and hugging

each other and felt so proud that in our small regional town we have caring and affection for others.

Then I walked past the Toodyay Op Shop and saw the magnificent display presented to our mothers and it was a joy to behold. Whoever created the window display reflected brightly on what our mums represent.

The display's colours of affection embraced what mothers, grandmother and great-grandmothers mean to us all.

We all say our kin are far away but our hearts are always with them, so love the times that have been shared, keep memories close and remember you are never alone.

Di Roberts  
Toodyay

## Tea for Toodyay

THERE are many beautiful and memorable places in Australia and one recently opened in Toodyay – a new tea house.

We have visited this place of tea and mosaics twice, first for Low Tea and then for High Tea.

Our friends from out of town commented on the delicious food and teas, the marvellous setting and witty hostess.

It can't get any better. Toodyay is blessed with another unique place and its praises ought to be sung loud and clear.

Monika Zechetmayr  
Toodyay

SUNDAY 6TH JUNE 2021  
10AM - 3PM

Toodyay  
Fibre Festival

STIRLING TERRACE TOODYAY

FEATURING

Artisan Markets - Exhibitions - Fashion Parade  
Kids Activities - Animal Farm - Alpacas  
Shearing Demonstrations

toodyayfibrefestival.com  
f @ ToodyayFibreFestival

# Aboriginal flags fly as shire launches reconciliation plan



About 40 guests attended last month's official launch of the Shire of Toodyay's inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan.

## Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

BACK in 2017 the Shire of Toodyay and local Aboriginal community members began talks about developing a formal Reconciliation Action Plan.

Aboriginal community representatives agreed that it would be of great value for the whole community and provide a proper protocol to acknowledge and respect local Aboriginal presence and history.

Discussions continued, and the proposal gained momentum with the formation of the Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation in late 2018.

It viewed a reconciliation action plan as important and that the shire continue to strive for and engage in reconciliation actions even before any formal action plan was developed.

This started in 2019 with actions such as the daily raising of the Aboriginal flag outside Shire of Toodyay administration buildings, shire information board notices at the town's entry to promote important indigenous cultural events such as Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Week, museum education resources, and support for interpretive art at Redbank Pool and other NAIDOC activities.

Many discussions and meetings occurred over 18 months to shape the Reconciliation Action Plan – with 14 actions – to a final document which was officially launched in a ceremony at the end of last month at Toodyay's new recreation centre.

The Reconciliation Action Plan sits within four core pillars of the shire's strategic plan and includes all the above items, plus other significant actions.

It highlights reconciliation as an ongoing process, with the shire indicating that it wants the plan to be meaningful and achievable and deliver realistic outcomes that benefit the whole community.

The corporation thanks Toodyay shire councillors for unanimously approving the jointly developed Reconciliation Action Plan at their April meeting.

Special thanks go to Toodyay Cr Therese Chitty who was there at the beginning, along with key staff who have listened, discussed and made the shire's first Reconciliation Action Plan a reality.



Sharmaine Miles' Welcome to Country

## Community leader helped transform Toodyay

**FORMER Toodyay shire president, Bejoording farmer and widely respected community leader Bob Somers passed away in late April. This eulogy was delivered by his close friend Charlie Wroth at a packed memorial service last month at the Toodyay Memorial Hall.**

I FEEL so honoured to be asked by Bob's family to speak today.

The last time I saw Bob was two weeks before he passed – George Murray and I had gone down to visit him in hospital. He was obviously in a lot of pain and not in the best of health, so it was a fairly short visit due to this and the Covid-19 restrictions.

About four nights later, Bob rang me at home. He was in good spirits and we had a long chat – he thanked me for visiting him.

He then went into great detail about the pride he felt for his daughters and what they had achieved in life. He mentioned his grandchildren as well, how proud he was of them before talking about how appreciative he was of his sons-in-law. He also mentioned how grateful he was to have Jenny in his life and the love and support she had given him.

I wasn't to know that this was to be the last time I would speak to Bob but in hindsight I believe he knew.

A couple of days after Bob passed, I was talking to a friend who does some work for me and he mentioned that Bob "was the best boss he had ever had". I glanced at him and after a while he said "you're the second-best boss". Reflecting on that now, I believe it was impossible to surpass Bob Somers as a leader, so I am quite comfortable to be in second place to him in my friend's eyes as well as mine.

As we all know, Bob was a real community person.

He was a Fire Control Officer for the Bejoording (or 'Bidjiding' if you come from that area) Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade for more than 30 years. This would have involved attending many bushfires and writing out hundreds if not thousands of fire permits for farmers and others wanting to set the countryside alight.

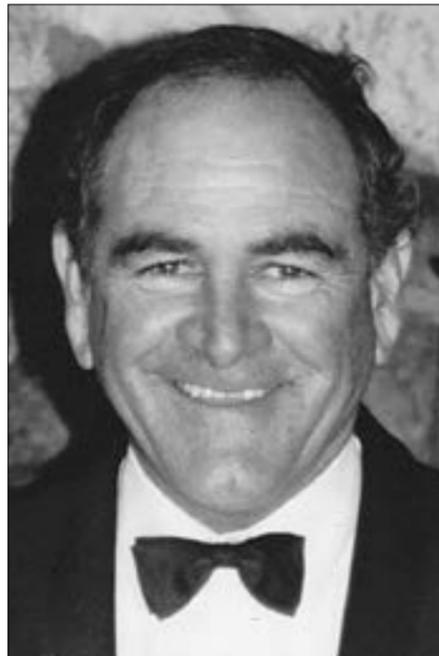
Bob was also actively involved in the Toodyay Agricultural Society, being a committee member and then president between 1975 and 1978. After he left the committee, he continued to support the organisation of the Show through helping with the busy bees, various sponsorships and I know the Somers family still provide a trophy to the Show to this day.

Bob was also actively involved in the Toodyay Lions Club which once again involved assisting other community groups and needy individuals in the town, and I'm quite sure Bob's biggest achievement and proudest moment with the Lions was when his younger brother Gus joined as well.

Bob and Jenny donated a defibrillator to the Toodyay community which is placed at the sports pavilion – there was never any fanfare about this, it just appeared.

In 1984 Bob was elected to the Toodyay Shire Council. Between the years of his election and 1994, Bob served as a councillor and gained the position of shire president serving between the years of 1988 and 1994.

We of the current generation were privileged to have men such as Bob on the council at this time.



The late Bob Somers.

These were the years when Toodyay was on the verge of changing from a sleepy country town to the bustling tourist town that it is today.

The planning strategies and policies that Bob and the councillors of the day put in place helped Toodyay make the transition into what we see and enjoy today. They were looking at the bigger picture, what was best for the community, not their own egos.

He also made himself available to the public on Friday afternoons when people could come into the shire office and discuss any concerns they had. I'm sure with three teenage daughters at home, this was a welcome break for him.

Bob always came across as a very placid and controlled individual but I recall a ratepayers' meeting in this very building (Toodyay Memorial Hall) when he was shire president explaining one of the shire's new policies and the benefits it would provide.

A ratepayer kept asking the same questions about the policy over and over and Bob would go into detail each time explaining it. This ratepayer persisted however until Bob placed his big hands down in front of him, leaned forward and said: "Are you hard of hearing?" That was the end of the discussion.

You see, Bob didn't have to raise his voice to get his point across and he could hold it with the best of them, keeping calm, never getting flustered and always delivering the precise facts.

In 2011 Bob decided he wasn't done with

local government and ran again, this time in the town's former Central Ward.

He had a very respected citizen as an opponent in Greg Warburton in what turned out to be one of the closest results in our shire's electoral history.

Greg was quite active in the community and had offered to pick up any electors who couldn't drive and give them a lift to the council chambers to vote. This was usually a sure way of knowing you have their vote by doing them a nice turn.

One of the residents Greg picked up late on that day was Les Purser. Greg ran Les up to the chambers, waited for him to vote and when taking him home asked Les if he "got his voting done ok?" Les replied: "Yep, I voted for Bob." This proves just how much respect Bob had in the community.

When the votes were tallied that evening, the result was tied. Two marbles were put in a barrel and Bob's was drawn out.

I was shire president at this time and Bob was elected as my deputy. I have always felt so indebted and fortunate to have had him as my right-hand man during this time on the council together, for his advice, guidance, mentoring and support.

As a council we achieved so much during this time; such as the redevelopment of the main street and renovation of the town library which was so close to being condemned, as well as beginning a transformation of the Old Newcastle Gaol and former stables into the wonderful complex that is available to the public now.

All this was achieved for the community without the burden of a huge financial debt.

It was during this period that Toodyay suffered the worst fire in its history with nearly 40 dwellings destroyed. Bob not only fought the fires on the day but also helped lead the following recovery effort which included many months of support and assistance for those affected by the fires.

Bob was blessed with strong leadership skills; he was honest to a fault, so reliable and most importantly had the ability to communicate clearly.

I don't know anybody who was more able to hold a conversation with any age group, from the elderly to young children, and show a genuine interest in what they had to say.

As you can probably gather, there was a common trait in everything that Bob was involved in during his life, and this was helping other people.

I believe it's not so much as what you achieve in life, it's the legacy and how you are remembered that is important.

The community owes Bob and especially the Somers family, a great debt for letting him accomplish what he did during his life.

## Local picnic races set to return

### Toodyay Race Club

TOODYAY'S historic annual Picnic Race Day is set to return this year on Sunday September 26 after last year's Statewide Covid-19 pandemic lockdown forced the 2020 race day to be abandoned.

The Toodyay Race Club is looking for busy bee volunteers to help prepare the course with jobs such as repairing track railings, mowing grass, sweeping leaves and small handyman repairs.

If you can help, please call club president John Prater on 0413 154 347.

The Toodyay Race Club is a local not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers.

Agents for BONAIRE

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Winners of Chalice Mining trophies (from left) Nolene Kaszanski, Pam Meston, Vivienne Camerer, Joy Hamilton, Jenni Knowles, Merle Manuel and Serena Syred

## Doris explains how to draw up family trees

**Bolgart News**  
Pam McGill

AT THE Toodyay Old Gaol Museum's heritage festival presented by the museum and Toodyay Historical Society on May 16, Bolgart's Doris Martin was invited to showcase a display of hints and tips on preserving social and family history stories.

Doris did this by displaying family trees she had drawn up and explained how she separated the generations with a numbering system.

She showed visitors to the Wicklow Shearing Shed in the heritage precinct how to use sketches and artwork her late father Albert Waters had done as a 14 year old boy at the Coondle School in the early 1900s.

Three ladies who attended were grateful for the help Doris has given them over the years; Karen Wicks (whose natural family Doris helped track down), and Karen's Ferguson/Waters cousins Sue Lommers and Maxine Glover.

### Hungry dinosaur cake

STUDENTS in the Junior Room had a lot of fun making a vanilla cake recently after reading a story about a hungry dinosaur making himself a cake. The end result was a little messy but was worth it as it tasted delicious.

At the end of last term students accompanied Mrs Sims to the garden where they planted garlic, sunflowers and marigolds which are growing and looking wonderful.

Aussie of the Month awards went to Eowyn Moore and Madeline Cotter and Merit Certificates were awarded in the Senior Room to Noah Clarke and Tyler Page and in the Junior Room to Amy-Grace Crawford

### White elephant a winner

THE CWA Mother's Day fundraising cake and bric-a-brac/white elephant stall raised more than \$500.

Well done to everyone who helped cook, donate and came along on the day, it was very much appreciated.

Congratulations to Cody and Lizzie Knowles on the birth of their daughter Elaina Chloe Knowles on April 30. Elaina is a little sister for Jaxon and granddaughter for Michael and Jenni Knowles.

The Bolgart Hotel held a Mother's Day luncheon on May 9 when a scrumptious three-course meal was served to the appreciative crowd.

Condolences are extended to Chris King and family on the passing of Paul. Paul was a former Councillor of the Shire of Victoria Plains and a long-time resident of Bolgart.

Former local footballers recently returned to Bolgart for their yearly get together to relive their glory days.

A lot of memories were shared over the two-day catch-up at the caravan park.

### Deserving life member

CONGRATULATIONS to Phil Syred on being presented with a life membership of the Bolgart Golf Club; this was very much deserved.

The Mixed Opening Day of golf was held on the May 1 with an ambrose competition sponsored by Adrian and Dianne Edmonds.

Winners on the day were Callen Syred, Samuel Syred, Matt Camerer and Joy Hamilton. Runners-up were Vivienne Camerer, Phil Syred, Todd Meston and Dick Walker

Ladies Golf Opening Day was held on April 29 sponsored by Therese Chitty and Pam Meston.

Winners were Jenni Knowles and Nolene Kaszanski. Runners-up Pam Meston and Pam McGill

The winner of the Chalice Mining Day on May 20 was Vivienne Camerer, runner-up Jenni Knowles, third Pam Meston.

There were various other winners on the day kindly sponsored by Derek Gardner from Chalice Mining.



Ladies Opening Day winners Jenni Knowles, trophy donor Therese Chitty and Nolene Kaszanski.



Winners of Mixed Opening Day (from left) Callen Syred, Samuel Syred, Matt Camerer and Joy Hamilton.

## Fire pit return sparks more interest

**Bejoording Community Group News**

From the desk of The Badger

THERE was a good turnout to our annual clean-up and firewood collection day on May 16.

This year we focussed on spring cleaning the community/fire shed rather than collecting roadside garbage.

The neighbourhood verges are in pretty good condition at the moment but there are still thoughtless people who drive through the district and throw the occasional bottle, can or food wrapper from their vehicles.

When you drive through our beautiful picturesque countryside what would motivate someone to throw rubbish from their vehicles?

Members en masse congratulated Charon Sherrard for her outstanding effort producing an Asian food feast during the month. Our feast nights every month are always popular and Charon has set the bar a little higher.

With our fire-pit back in operation we noticed an almost overnight increase in attendance. There's something very comforting and welcoming about standing near the warmth of an open fire.

On the social front, Friday night footy continues and a big thank you to those in our community who host these nights.

We also had a group outing for Sunday lunch to the recently refurbished Bolgart Pub. The new management and chef have settled in now and the standard is very high - but it still has that old country pub feel.

Our thoughts and good wishes go out to our member, Fred Maxted, who fell off a ladder and broke a few too many ribs. Fortunately there was no other damage except to his pride, and he's been left rather sore for a few weeks. You can't keep a good man down though and he's back home slowly returning to normal life.

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

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

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

## NOTICE

Land Administration Act 1997

### REQUEST FOR CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROAD PORTION OF FOLEWOOD ROAD, TOODYAY

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 58 of the Land Administration Act 1997, of receipt of a proposal to permanently close a portion of the following public road:

**A 2,921.77m<sup>2</sup> portion of Folewood Road, Toodyay**

A site plan showing the proposed road closure is available for inspection at the Shire's Administration Centre at 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay and will be available for inspection during office hours. A copy is also available for inspection on Council's website on: [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au).

Your views on the proposed road closure are encouraged and welcomed. All submissions must be presented in writing to the Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96 Toodyay 6566, by 4pm on Thursday 8 July 2021.

Suzie Haslehurst  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



## Talking up Toodyay in new TV ads

**Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry**  
Bob Schrader

FOLLOWING on from last year's very successful social media and television campaign, the chamber has once again committed to a similar multi-faceted advertising campaign to lead into Toodyay's peak tourism season.

We have already reached nearly 15,000 metropolitan people in the first week of

this new social media campaign and the 30-second television commercials are now running on WIN TV for the next six weeks.

The purpose of these advertisements is to encourage more visitors to experience the wonders of Toodyay and all it has to offer, resulting once again in more revenue for our Toodyay business community.

You can view the television advertisement on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/ToodyayChamb/](https://facebook.com/ToodyayChamb/).



The opening frame of the advertisement presenting the benefits of visiting Toodyay.

JUNE 2021

# Julimar Project News



## WELCOME

The purpose of this update is to provide regular information on our Julimar Project, located in the Shire of Toodyay. This is an exert taken from our 'Julimar Project Newsletter', available in full on our website.



Chalice Mining is a WA-based exploration company with a long track record of responsible exploration. In March 2020, Chalice made a major platinum group element (PGE), nickel, copper, cobalt, gold discovery at the Julimar Project. The Project comprises several granted exploration licences over private farmland and the Julimar State Forest.

## Project Updates

This update marks the first anniversary since the Chalice team began work at the Julimar Project. It has been a busy 12 months, with recent activities including:

- Seven drill rigs operating across two Chalice-owned farms at the discovery.
- Drilling has continued to expand the size of the mineral deposit and is expected to continue until late 2021.
- Completion of initial non-ground disturbing exploration activities within the Julimar State Forest (JSF), in accordance with the approved Stage 1 Conservation Management Plan (CMP).
- Chalice proudly commenced support of the Toodyay Lions Football Club, the Toodyay Agricultural Show and the Marsupial Mamas and Pappas wildlife rescue.

## Recent Property Purchases



Chalice recently purchased a further four farms surrounding the Julimar discovery. Chalice also purchased the Avalon Homestead to utilise as a field base. This ensures Chalice's field team remain part of the local community, and goes some way to ease the current shortage of accommodation within the Toodyay Shire.

Local residents can expect to see more of our Avalon Property Managers, Wendy and Lisa (above), who are tasked with keeping our camp well stocked using local suppliers.



The Chalice team celebrating the first anniversary of the Julimar discovery during a recent site visit in March.

## When will the Julimar discovery become a mine?

Typical Development Timeline for a Mining Project



Over the last few months, Chalice has continued to engage with key groups from surrounding communities to answer queries relating to the Julimar Project. A frequent question arising from these conversations is when Julimar will become a mine. The diagram above shows a typical timeline for a mining project with several stages of progression. Although some projects advance quicker, it is rare for a project to get from discovery to a decision to mine in less than 5 years, especially if it is located in a new region.

Chalice have commenced early feasibility studies, also known as scoping studies, to determine if the discovery can be developed into a feasible mining project. The initial scoping studies will analyse costs, processing, mine design, infrastructure, as well as environmental and social impacts. Further studies will then be needed to demonstrate the economic feasibility of the project with sufficient certainty to allow a decision to mine. Multiple key regulatory approvals are also required, including extensive environmental and heritage approvals.

### Get in touch

info@chalicemining.com | (08) 9322 3960

For more information and fact sheets visit:  
[www.chalicemining.com/community-julimar-project](http://www.chalicemining.com/community-julimar-project)



Emilia Carpenter (left) and Ayla Thompson clearly like the school's new lockers.

## Students give colourful new lockers the thumbs up

### Toodyay District High School

TOODYAY District High School and the P&C are delighted with the recent installation of our brand new multi-coloured lockers.

Our Year 10 leaders are so excited to receive yet another school improvement in their leadership year.

Each locker has a pin code lock to ensure the security of students' belongings.

The colours represent our three school factions and the lockers are tall and wide enough to fit an entire school bag inside.

This project is just one of the many to which our fantastic P&C committee commit funds from their many fundraising activities carried out throughout the school year.

Many of our student leaders attended a leadership conference at Dowerin District High School on May 25.

The conference provided students with strategies to build initiative and self-confidence as a school leader.

We are looking forward to hearing their accounts of the experience.

## School trivia night promises a little bit of mischief

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

WHAT do you remember about your school days?

Were they filled with fun, friendship and learning? Did you strive to achieve your best or were you good at getting up to mischief?

Well, now's your chance to relive your school days and show off how much you know at Toodyay District High School P&C's Back to School Trivia Night on Friday July 23 at the Memorial Hall.

Come dressed in school uniform or the school's faction colours and get ready for a night of trivia, games, challenges and a little bit of mischief.

School principal David Ball who will MC the event said: "A Back to School Trivia Night is a fun way to bring our community together to support our school."

All funds raised on the night will go toward improvements to school grounds, play spaces and support learning.

We're seeking volunteers and sponsors to help make the night a success.

You can help by sponsoring a trivia round or table, or by donating goods or services for prize winners including games, a raffle and silent auction on the night.

Save the date and start brushing up on your trivia and school day shenanigans.

Contact [pandtoodyaydhs@gmail.com](mailto:pandtoodyaydhs@gmail.com) for further information and to reserve your tickets.

In other P&C news, volunteers hosted a Mother's Day stall on May 7 for students to

buy an affordable gift for their mum or mother figure in their lives.

The stall raised \$586 thanks to the generosity of families who both donated goods and provided up to \$5 for their children to buy a gift. Special thanks to Heather McGlasson and her helpers for setting up the stall.

Mothers and parents were also treated to a scrumptious morning tea following the school's morning assembly on May 7.

Sincere thanks to P&C canteen volunteers Sal, Maxine and Tash who prepared the morning tea on top of an already busy Friday meal deal.

Thanks to the commitment of canteen volunteers (most notably Sal and Maxine) the P&C has raised more than \$9000 to support the school since July last year.

This is an amazing effort that can only be sustained with the ongoing support of regular volunteers.

Lastly, at the term two P&C members' meeting on May 18 we celebrated the installation of long-awaited lockers for the school's secondary students.

A P&C contribution of \$5000 helped to make the lockers available for students, providing their own secure space to store their belongings and school resources.

Contact the P&C by mail, PO Box 1624, Toodyay WA 6566, email [pandtoodyaydhs@gmail.com](mailto:pandtoodyaydhs@gmail.com) or visit the [Facebook](#) page and search Toodyay DHS P&C.

For further information ring: president Kelly-Anne Murray 0406 585 716; vice-president Heather McGlasson 0418 930 721; secretary Heather Clarke 0412 866 463 or treasurer Dimity Boggs 0438 097 022.

## Chaplain on the run in action-packed day

### Toodyay YouthCARE Chaplaincy John White, Secretary

DON'T the weeks fly by – it seems like yesterday that I was writing for the April edition.

Here's an update from the Toodyay District High School YouthCARE Council Chaplaincy.

The works around the school are progressing well. Paths for disabled access are in, Home Economics modifications are practically complete, and staff and students are working well together.

Chaplain Doug is still breathing – puffing is more accurate, as he continues to run to keep up with all the activity.

We're watching closely to ensure he doesn't get to 'gasping'. Thanks for your great work, Doug. We appreciate you and the entire staff with whom you 'run'. Thank you all.

On May 15, 39 students, Doug, one parent and two YouthCARE council members made the journey to Joondalup to Darklight Laser Tag.

This was an Anglican Church/Toodyay District High School event and was a great success.

After the morning at Laser Tag the group

walked, sweaty and exhausted to a nearby shopping centre where we found fast food (actually, it was pretty slow lunch crowd) at a variety of outlets.

After lunch it was another walk back to let the food settle and gear up for water games at the HBF Stadium.

A good time was had by all. The students were a credit to themselves and their school. Well done, guys; you can be proud of yourselves and we were proud of you all.

On Monday May 24, on a seven degree morning, 13 brave students, a brave deputy, and Doug headed south with bus driver Ken to North Bannister (I know, those directions sound crazy.) where the kids were dropped off to start their wilderness hike to Dwellingup.

Breakfast club will start again this month after modifications to Home Economics are completed.

We still need a couple more adult volunteers to assist on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 8am to about 9am. If you can help, please call Max on 0400 206 929. Thanks.

We would also welcome more Friends of Chaplaincy for a small (or large) donation. Thanks again.

# Toodyay local radio now streaming worldwide

### 2J2AIR105.3FM

Paula Greenway

SHOUT it out Toodyay – 105.3FM Toodyay community radio is now streaming.

Yep, our programs, community information, music and our wonderful sponsors are now heard all around the world.

Technology – don't you just love it.

It's a huge achievement after many, many hours of work by the tiny team at Toodyay Community Radio.

Hats off to station manager Mark Greenway for not giving up and Bethan Lloyd for keeping the faith to achieve live streaming. Well done guys.

The hills are no longer a problem, and the world can now hear us.

Work has begun on building our own 105.3FM app.

We're also on a membership drive and we need you on our books.

Come and join us. No special skills required, just be kind and love your community.

Membership is only \$10 a year.

We always encourage our sponsors to voice their own material on the radio and you can listen to that silky smooth voice from Makit Hardware. They may sound professional but there are no professional radio announcers on our team.

Toodyay Community Radio sends a big thank you to our new sponsors, Toodyay RoadWise and Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank.

As always, community announcements are free.

Call our friendly committee for information on anything related to our station.

It's your radio station Toodyay and we invite you to use it.

As always, we thank our sponsors Makit Hardware, Toodyay Tyres, Uniquely Toodyay, Toodyay and Avon Valley Counselling Services. Without your support we would not exist.

For further information contact Paula on 9574 2116.



Station manager Mark Greenway teaches his grandson the broadcasting ropes.



Presents

**For One Night Only  
Saturday June 12th  
Peter Rowsthorn & Stephen Lee  
Special Guest "MC" Werzel**



Scan me  
To Buy Tickets



**Saturday June 12th  
Toodyay Memorial Hall  
Show Starts 8pm**

Tickets \$30 @ [trybooking.com/BQMxI](http://trybooking.com/BQMxI)  
This event is a strict no BYO Alcohol, doors open at 7:15pm



Sponsored By  
**DRN1**



Robert Miles shares knowledge with the kids at the bird hide. Photo: Helen Shanks.

## Kids learn Noongar culture

### Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

WHAT an incredibly exciting month. The NKAC, local Aboriginal community members and the Shire of Toodyay have been busy with both the burial ground's sign and the development and launch of the shire's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

The shire's RAP was launched during Reconciliation Week, May 27 to June 3.

Reconciliation is about unity and respect and the launch was a proud moment for NKAC and members of the Aboriginal community.

Our chairperson Robert Miles said it was with great pride that he was able to represent the Noongar community and pay his respects to the Noongar Elders, both past and present.

Mr Miles also gave a special thankyou to his peers at the corporation for not giving up on this reconciliation path that we started several years ago.

He also thanked the shire for their 'generosity of spirit' and unwavering support for a plan that is more than just words but more of action and commitment.

The corporation looks forward to seeing

how this RAP translates to real outcomes and opportunities for its First Peoples.

Following on from the RAP launch, the shire and NKAC are now finalising the burial ground sign with its installation near the old hockey oval.

Head down and take a look and learn about the area and Aboriginal burial traditions.

If you want to learn more about local Noongar culture take a look at our Facebook page or visit Redbank Pool to look at the interpretive art work Gnulla Moort which is the first of three interpretive art works planned for Toodyay, with the second underway at Pelham Lookout.

We are very excited to be sharing our Noongar culture with the wider community.

On May 26 the Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management group ran an excursion to the bird hide on the Bilya Walk Track along the Avon River (Guguljar) in Toodyay for the Year 2/3 class at Toodyay District High School.

Representatives from the Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation attended with Sharmaine Miles giving a welcome to country and Robert Miles sharing some knowledge about the Aboriginal history of the river and how it was traditionally used.

## A booka will keep you warm

KAYA –hello.

During June and July we are in Makuru season.

Noongar have six different bonar (seasons) in a yearly cycle; Birak, Bunuru, Djeran, Makuru, Djilba and Kambarang.

The seasons can be long or short and are indicated by what is happening around us rather than by dates on a calendar.

Makuru season is the coldest and wettest time of the year and many Aboriginal people living closer to the coast during the warmer seasons would move back inland.

As the waterways and catchments started to fill, people were able to move about their country with ease.

Food sources changed from estuarine and lake foods to those of the land, in particular the grazing animals such as the kangaroo (yonga).

This month's words are associated with the colder months.

**Booka** – Animal skin cloak made from possum or kangaroo used when the nights become much cooler.

**Dudja** – Mist. During Makuru season there is a lot of mist in the mornings.

**Boroong** – Rain      **Nyidiny** – Cold times

**Kaarla** – Fire      **Malkar** – Thunderstorm

For more information about the Noongar seasons you can go to bom.gov.au/.

## Team effort gains second gong

### RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch Heather Brennan

RECENTLY, Returned Services League WA released the names of the recipients of its annual state awards and we were pleasantly surprised to learn that our sub-branch has once again been awarded the Colonel Collett Cup.

The award encompasses country sub-branches of more than 25 members which are rated for all-round performance in governance, membership, welfare, commemorations, community activities and media.

The Colonel Collett Cup is presented in memory of the late Colonel H B Collett for competition between country sub-branches.

It is a great honour receiving this accolade and the RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch committee expresses its sincere thanks to all our members for a wonderful team effort.

Our sub-branch also acknowledges and appreciates the importance of our local community and the role you have played in gaining this achievement and this honour would not have been possible without your tremendous support.

This year we held our first stall at the Toodyay Moondyne Festival, and what an awesome day it was.

The weather was glorious, and the atmosphere was outstandingly Toodyayish, i.e. very

friendly and hospitable.

It was a surprisingly busy day for us, yet so rewarding as it is an absolute delight when we find ex-service personnel and their families who were unaware of our existence here in Toodyay and even more fulfilling to be able to offer them information on our services, whether they want to join us or not.

It was enjoyable to talk to visitors, members from other sub-branches and our always very-supportive community.

Thank you to the Moondyne Festival Committee for inviting us, thank you to everyone for making this such an outstanding event for us and a huge thank you to our members who staffed our stall.

On May 14 and 15 our sub-branch held our annual wood raffles outside the IGA and it was lovely to see so many familiar faces supporting us again.

It was also wonderful to see so many of our members give their time, whether it be time spent manning the stall or dropping by for a visit and a bit of a chat.

Friday's winner was Connor Boyle and Saturday's winner was Max Howard.

We would also like to thank Charlie and Marion Ferguson for their generous donation of the wood.

Members please note: the venue for this month's social barbecue is to be advised.



From left: Geoff Brown, Charlie Carabott, Mary Tucker and Ann and Syd Sinclair at the sub-branch's Moondyne information stall.

## Diet-busting goodies a hit

### Country Women's Association Elizabeth Mansom

TOODYAY CWA held two very successful fundraisers during last month and the first was the Cancer Morning Tea on May 13.

Invitations were sent to our sister city branch, Bayswater, and surrounding branches which happily most took up.

Jerry from the Community Cancer Service in Northam gave us a very reassuring talk on after-care and was enthusiastically endorsed by people present who have used the service.

A standout of Jerry's talk was that those who make the effort to exercise during chemotherapy report fewer side effects.

The diet-busting goodies produced by our members disappeared amid oohs and aahs and a raffle with a large assortment of prizes attracted much attention.

At the end of the day Dixie triumphantly

announced cancer research would benefit by \$450.

Then on May 22 our much touted retro sale took place.

Members went into the hall the afternoon before to set up, which was just as well as potential customers arrived just before the opening time.

We were thrilled at the number of people who visited and quite surprised when Dixie announced we had raised \$470 as prices ranged from 50 cents with \$5 being the highest price.

So thank you, Toodyay. The money will be put to good use.

The recent rains have meant attention to the roof and drainage at the hall have become more urgent.

June promises to be a busy but enjoyable month with functions at Chittering, Jennacubbine and Tammin.

Then, at the end of the month we are giving ourselves a party to celebrate our 94th birthday.

CWA meets in the hall in Stirling Terrace at 1pm on the fourth Thursday of each month.

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

To book the hall please contact Bev Casey on 0488 722 8474.



Dixie McKenzie models her outfit bought at bargain prices at the retro sale. Photo: Viv Street.



Last year's oaten hay crop. Photo: Frank Panizza.

## Oaten hay: To sow or not to sow?

**Toodyay Agricultural Alliance**  
Frank Panizza

LOCAL farmers who were hoping for good opening rains had their prayers answered early last month when very good falls of rain were received in all areas in our shire.

Isolated falls of more than 90mm were recorded and the heavy rain caused some delays in sowing operations due to boggy paddocks; however, the rain was most welcome.

The rain has given a massive boost to pasture growth as earlier autumn rains that germinated pastures were struggling.

The comparatively warm month of May has also boosted growth not only in pastures but also early sown canola crops.

To sow or not to sow oaten hay – that is the question that many Western Australian farmers have had to face this year.

Local farmers produce oaten hay which is exported to Japan, China, South Korea,

Taiwan and the Middle East.

Our hay is a unique, high-quality product that is sought after for its nutritional value particularly for dairy cattle.

In recent years China has taken up to 4 per cent of WA's hay exports and is an important growing market but this has suddenly stopped, creating uncertainty in the industry.

This sudden halt in trade has been as a result of the lapse in registrations of many Australian exporters.

Hay exporting companies require registration and import licences to send hay to China.

Only a few hay exporters are not affected, all of which are based in the Eastern States, as they still have registrations that have not expired.

The renewal process involves Chinese authorities being able to inspect not only the quality of the product but also the processing facilities. The current travel restrictions due to Covid-19 are obviously having an effect

on the ability of Chinese authorities to carry out inspections.

Stored oaten hay from last year is still in good supply and when combined with the export uncertainty, plantings of oaten hay have dropped markedly.

Canola plantings have risen as a result, spurred on by a historical high price for canola exceeding \$800 per tonne in recent weeks.

The 2020 canola price ranged from \$600 to \$650 and travellers throughout the Wheatbelt will notice more bright yellow fields this year.

Feral pigs (See story Page 1) are a recurring problem which appears to be on the increase. A local farmer spoke to me recently who saw two mobs of pigs, of at least 20 pigs each mob, which were feeding on newly germinated canola.

A concerted, coordinated effort needs to be implemented to prevent these pests spreading further and eventually impacting lifestyle properties.

## Pass the Parcel and a Black Cockatoo

**Toodyay Farmers Market**  
Sue Wakka

THE WEATHER was great for last month's busy market.

There was no shortage of choice on the day and there was a bonus for the kids. A Pass the Parcel game was greatly enjoyed by the children with lots of gifts for all.

We are lucky enough to be supported by the Toodyay Shire which has a stall where you can catch up with councillors.

Being involved in the market is also paying off for some of our local groups which use the event to raise funds.

Karate club Avon Valley Shotokan, Toodyay Locals Care and Toodyay Men's Shed are always there making sure we have a great range of food, and this also allows them the opportunity to help others within our community, so get on down to the next market and support them.

If you belong to a community group and would like to get some exposure with an information stall, don't hesitate to get in touch by ringing 0487 440 754.

The next market is on Sunday June 20 from 9am to 1pm. See you there.



Farmers market's favourite Bob the cockatoo.



Locally grown citrus.



A variety of succulents.

## Get ready for another trailer load of jarrah

**Toodyay Agricultural Society**  
Alison Wroth

NEARLY half of the year is over, so things have well and truly picked up speed on our committee in the effort to get all events planned and achieved in style.

Thank you to my vice-president Bruce Guthrie who has taken my seat while I have been an 'apology' from the committee.

The meetings have been running smoothly and I owe all my committee members and

admin officer heartfelt gratitude for their understanding and professionalism during my absence.

Our first fundraising event will be – better sit down people – a wood raffle, yes another wood raffle.

It will be held outside the IGA on Friday and Saturday June 18 and 19 which knowing our luck could be on the coldest days in winter.

The society's shopping bag will also be available for sale at \$10 per bag.

The community of Toodyay is amazing at supporting the variety of groups in town, so thank you all in advance; you do not realise how humbled we are when even a donation is handed across the table to assist the committee organise our annual Show.

So get ready to see another trailer load of good-size split jarrah, just waiting for someone to buy that winning ticket.

Our local community resource centre, with Kayla Brown taking the reins along with local Olivia Wood, has taken on the Children's Section in the *Show Schedule* as stewards and are considering holding a workshop in the school holidays before the Show to encourage local students and children to enter the large variety of classes available such as cooking, craft, artwork and even arranging flowers.

We welcome the resource centre as part of our sponsor group for supporting the Children's Section in this wonderful way and I am sure it will benefit both parties.

I will begin promoting sections from the schedule in the next *Herald* and provide a

bit of motivation to exhibit.

The outside exhibits were all well supported in 2019 but the cattle, alpaca and sheep over the past few years have experienced a lack of support from surrounding producers.

We might have had to reduce the competition in these areas to 'display only' which would be a terrible shame.

However, with our new and eager committee member Breanna confirming fleeces for the wool section already and a keen desire to oversee bio-security and promote agriculture at the Show in general, the situation may not be as bad as previously predicted.

Along with Breanna, we now have the keenness of youth which I have been praying for years to join our team. Nicole, Debra and Sarah Janei are all multi-skilled and bring with them modern applications, event coordination and computer tech which balance the experience on the committee to make all the stars align for this year's Toodyay Agricultural Show.

Heartfelt thanks to those businesses and individuals who have responded so quickly to the request for support in the *Show Schedule* and offered Section Best Exhibit Trophies or cash prizes for group awards.

These donations, be they financial or a trophy that is presented on the day, are greatly appreciated not only by the children but I believe, the big children as well.

Keep a look out for our new look website [toodyayagshow.com.au](http://toodyayagshow.com.au) and links to all major sponsors and social media. See you at this month's wood raffle in June.

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# Toodyay's old families gather for shearing shed collaboration

**Toodyay Historical Society**  
Robyn Taylor

AN IMPORTANT part of our society's work is researching family histories and last month we collaborated with the Newcastle Gaol Museum to present *Families – Past present and Future* as Toodyay's contribution to the 2021 Heritage Festival theme Our Heritage for the Future.

This is an Australia-wide festival and this year it was organised by the National Trust of WA with Lotterywest support.

I should give a plug here for Lotterywest, whose benefaction is believed to be unique in Australia.

Established in 1932 as the Lotteries Commission of Western Australia, it has been supporting projects organised by not-for-profit organisations and communities ever since. So keep buying those lottery tickets.

Our event was held on May 16 at the Wicklow Shearing Shed, a great venue located in the Clinton Street heritage precinct.

Our president Linda Rooney undertook the official opening and provided information for this column.

Linda welcomed the gathering of around 50 attendees who included many descendants from well-known Toodyay families. Names included Whitfield, Syred, Waters, James, Ferguson and Britt.

There were research documents to look at and the opportunity to discuss families with Doris Martin, an avid genealogist who has collected photographs of all the members of her extensive family that includes many past and present Toodyay residents.

Advice and examples of archival boxes and materials were displayed for preserving family items such as bibles, christening gowns and photos, while Linda talked about the importance of undertaking and recording oral histories and some of the important procedures for doing this.

A list of Toodyay residents prior to 1900, a major undertaking by our member Peter Robinson, was also available.

As a lasting memento of the day, a family photo was kindly provided by shire



Family members examine documents in the Wicklow Shearing Shed. Photo: Linda Rooney.

councillor Phil Hart.

On the other side of the road in the

Newcastle Gaol Museum, Shire Curator

Margie Eberle continued the theme *Families*

– *Past Present and Future* by showing how history is held within the physical objects we treasure. This ongoing exhibition provides lovely insights into our heritage and is not to be missed.

We thank Margie Eberle and her team for including us in this special day and their hard work to ensure a very successful event.

Our end of June excursion will be a visit to the former St John the Baptist Catholic Church, now a private residence.

Details will be emailed to members.

The research centre in Donegan's Cottage is open by appointment only. 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 phone 9574 5971, toobide4@iinet.net.au. The postal address is PO Box 32 Toodyay WA 6566.

Website: toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au. Membership is \$15 per annum.

## Tour groups discover Old Gaol Museum

**Volunteers of Toodyay Museums**  
Barry Keens

ANOTHER busy month helping put together the new *Families – Past, Present and Future* exhibition which was opened on May 16 with a meeting held in the Wicklow Shearing Shed and attended by both local and other family members.

It was a joint venture with the Toodyay Historical Society and Old Gaol Museum and hosted by Linda Rooney, Margie Eberle and museum volunteers, with guest historian Doris Martin.

Phil Hart was official photographer for the day and took photos of family groups and the general meeting.

The exhibition is in the Old Gaol Museum and all Toodyay residents are invited to visit at no cost between 10am and 3pm daily.

The Old Gaol Museum is becoming well

known to tour operators and groups with two visiting this month.

Twenty eight members of the Fenians Fremantle and Freedom Inc Group visited on May 21 and were hosted by Beth Frayne who had researched the Toodyay Fenian

convicts who arrived on the Hougoumont. Information was exchanged and the group then visited the museum displays.

The troopers for the Moondyne Festival re-enactment used the museum for some publicity photos on the day of the event.



Beth Frayne addresses the Fenians group. Photo: Barry Keens.

# QUALITY HOUSEHOLD CLEARANCE

12th and 13th June 8am - 4pm

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