

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.

July 2021
Edition 403

Red tape strangles RSL plans

Michael Sinclair-Jones

A SERIES of planning setbacks has cost Toodyay ratepayers \$20,000 and left the town's local RSL homeless.

The public money was spent on plans to convert a large shire-owned shed (pictured right) in Clinton Street into a new Toodyay RSL headquarters.

Toodyay defence veterans now face the near-impossible task of raising almost \$1 million to complete the project or look elsewhere for a permanent home.

It leaves the local members with nowhere to access RSL welfare counselling services, hold meetings or run fund raising activities.

The Toodyay RSL branch has 82 members, including some who have seen active service in places such as Vietnam, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Avon Valley is also home to another 300 former defence services personnel and their families who are not RSL members.

Problems emerged soon after 2016 when the RSL responded to a Shire of Toodyay call for expressions of interest to lease its former parks and gardens depot in Clinton Street.

The site is directly across the road from the town's Anzac Memorial Park which made it perfect for Anzac Day ceremonies and other events, including the annual RSL Gunfire Breakfast.

A 10-year lease was signed in 2017 amid much fanfare, including a site inspection by WA Premier Mark McGowan, himself a former Royal Australian Navy lieutenant.

The RSL had previously met in the cramped front foyer of the town's historic Memorial Hall after a 1957 land-swap deal that included donating its £1000 building fund to the former Toodyay Road Board.

Senior Toodyay RSL member Bob Wood said the organisation had spent four years working to meet planning requirements and had spent \$23,000 of its own limited funds on plans that now appear to be useless.

The Toodyay Shire Council agreed in 2017 to contribute \$20,000 which the RSL used to offset costs.

But a subsequent land rezoning and increased planning demands caused estimated building costs to nearly quadruple from \$250,000 to at least \$910,000.

Continued on Page 3, Editorial Page 4.



Senior RSL member Bob Wood holds planning documents that cost ratepayers \$20,000 but may now be worthless.

Shire to cash in on land sales boom

CASH-STRAPPED Toodyay Shire Council has revived plans to sell 12 shire-owned residential properties amid soaring demand for local real estate.

Toodyay real estate agents report that Avon Valley prices have risen 10-15 per cent in the past 12 months and sales numbers have more than doubled.

They say the increased demand is a direct

result of the Covid-19 pandemic which has caused a record migration of people from crowded capital cities to the bush.

One local real estate agent described it as a "dramatic reversal" of previous national trends.

"Younger families in their 30s and 40s are now moving to the country, whereas previously it was the other way," he said.

New Toodyay residential subdivisions, near town – including next to the high school, – were starting to fill up fast after not moving much in previous years.

It's a good time to sell," he said.

The 12 shire properties for sale are all undeveloped residential town blocks of varying sizes except for a house and shed on two adjacent properties in Telegraph Road.

The shire has appointed local real estate agent Tony Maddox to auction the properties, starting next month.

Last month's council meeting accepted his recommendation that the sales be staggered to avoid flooding the market.

The first auction is due in the week beginning August 9, with reserve prices to be based on market value.

The condition of the Toodyay racecourse, Bendigo Bank building and other shire-owned properties will also be reviewed.

The decision comes as the council grapples with how to frame its 2021-22 budget to

manage a record debt for the shire's new \$14 million recreation centre.

The first six-monthly shire repayment of \$156,000 on recreation centre loans totalling more than \$6 million is due on December 23.

A rate rise of at least 2.5 per cent (see story Page 5) and increased fees for rubbish collection and use of the tip are expected to be announced by the end of next month.

Continued on Page 5.

Fibre Festival reaps winter bonanza



Stirling Terrace was packed with visitors for last month's annual Toodyay Fibre Festival. Their presence brightened what has at times been a mixed year for local traders who were later hit by a third Perth and Peel Region lockdown at the end of last month due to a fresh outbreak of Covid-19 in the city's northern suburbs. Photo: Clive Millett. See also Page 19.

Coming events
Farmers Market
Sunday July 18

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COUNTRY REALTY

The Toodyay Herald

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

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

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

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Editorial/Layout: Ieva Tomsons

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

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

STORY DEADLINE

DISTRIBUTED

**Noon Thursday
July 22**

**Noon Tuesday
July 27**

**Wednesday
August 4**

Please note our email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

Ol' Blind Joe

Gas bandits get trillions

Stirling Hamilton

MY COLUMN this month is addressed to Toodyay resident Peter Edwards who wrote an erudite *Letter to the Editor* last month in response to my June ruminations about gas fracking.

'Tis my pleasure to parley with a man of such knowledge, humour and command of the English language.

Your use of the phrase 'pithy jottings' is playful yet concisely defined as meaningful, forceful, precisely and brief, and it tickled my fancy.

Please allow me to admit that I may have gilded the lily a wee bit in March but there are numerous examples of the profligate misuse of water and other matters affecting climate change that are worse than fracking.

Operations such as Adani's Carmichael coal mine in Central Queensland need billions of litres of water every year just to wash the extracted fuel and suppress dust.

The coastal run-off from North Queensland farms must surely equal the coral bleaching damage caused by global warming to the Great Barrier Reef.

We've cut down millions of trees to make way for intensive agriculture and caused the contaminated water run-off to turn our freshwater rivers, creeks and billabongs into salted fertilisers for stinking green algae.

We ain't got no fish from the Murray Darling Basin to the Avon River and, whatever you do, don't drink the water.

However, fracking is still a water-intensive process that uses up to 680,000 litres per frack job a day while removing that precious resource from the natural water cycle.

To get a handle on it, the amount of water used to frack one job per week is 10 times more than the amount of water that fills Toodyay's new eight-lane public swimming pool.

Two companies currently hold gas exploration licences over big parts of the Swan and Chittering Valleys.

Unconventional mining involves vast gasfields spread over large areas and typically includes thousands of gas wells, roads, pipelines, compressor stations and wastewater treatment plants.

Tens of thousands of square kilometres of Queensland farmland have been covered by gas fields in the past decade.

The balance of power is skewed heavily in favour of coal seam gas companies that have all the rights against individual landholders who are left with nothing but risk.

These gas bandits and the powerful fossil fuel industry that supports them get global government subsidies worth \$5.2 trillion a year.

Oz gives them \$28 billion a year – socialism for the rich and capitalism with buggers all for the rest of us poor suckers.

Seventy-four per cent of all Australians support an increased renewable energy target in their own state.

Farmers and pastoralists, supported by the WA Farmers Federation, are calling for the right to veto gas fracking on farmland.

Even the Country Women's Association – far from being a radical protest movement – has called for a halt to fracking.

Businessmen have concerns about chemicals getting into underground water and fear the Swan Valley's value as a food bowl could be harmed.

The most recent comprehensive study of well failure and leakage published in

the prestigious international *Journal of Marine and Petroleum Geology* found that the percentage of wells with some form of "well barrier or integrity failure" is highly variable (1.9-75 per cent).

The truth that the gas industry doesn't like to acknowledge is that over the past few years, fracking companies have been fined time and again for polluting groundwater, rivers and aquifers, and spilling chemicals into the environment.

Also, many don't clean up the mess when they go bankrupt, leaving us struggling taxpayers to foot the bill.

Given our state's almost total reliance on groundwater, it's not surprising that communities are now making a stand against gas fracking.

WA has access to world-class renewable energy resources that can be developed and brought on-line to deliver base-load power with minimal environmental impact at a cost comparable to gas fracking.

Yet there is nothing currently to prohibit gas fracking in catchments and aquifers that supply our drinking water.

This is alarming given that around a quarter of all of WA's drinking water reserves are covered by oil and gas exploration permits.

In a thorough debunking of the industry's favourite talking point, America's Environmental Protection Agency officially confirmed that hydraulic fracturing activities have directly and irreversibly led to cases of water contamination.

America is currently drilling for record amounts of natural gas and oil.

It has caused the US domestic gas price for industry and consumers to plunge to a historic low of less than \$US3 (A\$4) per British thermal unit (Btu), well below the \$20 price paid in Australia.

American farmers and other private landowners own the mineral wealth beneath their land and, as a result, and are paid lucrative access fees and royalties by shale drilling companies to extract gas.

Australia has 100 years of cheap gas but all of it is owned by the government, not the individuals who own the land above it.

The gas export rush in our country is one of the largest and fastest gas industry expansions seen anywhere in the world.

American-owned energy companies have spent more than \$200 billion building seven huge Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export terminals to ship our gas to Asia.

As I wrote a while back, these leeches don't even pay their taxes.

US Ecology and Environmental Biology Professor Robert Howarth at Cornell University says methane produced by gas fracking is 100 times more powerful than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

If methane leakage from gas wells is more than about 2.7 per cent, it becomes dirtier than burning coal to generate electricity.

Fracked gas wells release an average of about 9.5 per cent of their methane into the atmosphere.

"If we did everything we possibly could, it would still not be 100 per cent successful," Professor Howarth says.

"It might be 80 per cent, which is still a big, big problem.

"And doing it would be so expensive, it would price gas out of the market."

As yet, the wind is an untamed, and unharnessed force; and quite possibly one of the greatest discoveries hereafter to be made, will be the taming, and harnessing of the wind – US President Abraham Lincoln (1861-65).

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

July - August 2021

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

Hitched in hot air but skydive vows grounded

Ieva Tomsons

TOODYAY civil celebrant Maxine Walker has married more than 700 couples including one in a hot air balloon soaring 600m above the Avon Valley but as a girl all she wanted to be was a nurse.

Maxine spent years in customer service, starting at age 11 in the Queens Park Primary School tuckshop before she achieved her aim.

"Every morning David Helfgott (a gifted child prodigy) would play *God Save the Queen* on the school piano," she said.

"Later we crossed paths with his brother Les who played violin at weddings – it's a small world."

Maxine was the only girl in her family, was encouraged to leave school at 14 and "walked down the road" to the local general store which doubled as a post office.

"I took the oath of the Commonwealth Bank to distribute child endowment money which arrived in an armoured car and also sent (verbal) telegrams, many of which were in Italian – it was interesting."

At 16, Maxine set her sights on Perth department store Cox Brothers and worked there in the children's department until she was accepted into nursing at age 19.

"We started basic training in Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital, then shifted to RPH (Royal Perth Hospital) but I didn't like the city and moved to Northam Hospital to complete my training, she said.

She met Toodyay farmer Robert Walker on a blind date at a Bolgart dance in 1969 and they were married the following year.

Maxine's nursing career was put on the backburner until the mid-1980s while she was busy caring for their three young kids and helping to run the Lovers Lane farm they bought in 1973 from Robert's parents.

As the kids grew older, neighbour George Murray encouraged Maxine to apply her nursing experience to the local volunteer ambulance brigade where she worked her way up to become an instructor and trained many volunteers over a 20-year period.

In 1986 Robert thought it would be a good idea if Maxine returned to nursing.

She started on a casual basis and ended up working in Toodyay's Alma Beard Medical Centre for the next 20 years.

Local doctors Andre Bisdee and Tony Boyd were leaving and asked Maxine to interview a replacement candidate, legendary Toodyay GP the late Dr Richard Walkey.

"Richard was driving up from Norseman and I felt like he knew Toodyay people and was looking for somewhere to settle and run his own practice."

During Maxine's time working for Richard there were never any vacancies as staff loyalty was underpinned by excursions which Richard organised.

"One year he booked a mystery flight to Sydney," she recalls.

"He went off to visit friends while us girls toured the city and were lucky enough to see the musical *The Phantom of the Opera*.



Maxine Walker married more than 700 couples in her career as a civil celebrant.

"Everyone gave 100 per cent to Richard and the practice."

In 1989 Maxine was still nursing and read an article about marriage celebrants which piqued her interest, so she wrote to Canberra to apply.

It took nearly two years for her application to be accepted and she conducted her first wedding in 1991 under a tree in a Julimar paddock.

"Before 1973 people could be married only in churches or in a registry office, which was very impersonal.

"Non-religious people needed a choice and it was former Federal Attorney General Lionel Murphy who made it happen, against the political odds."

In 30 years as a marriage celebrant Maxine transitioned from conducting simple traditional vows to accommodating requests for highly personalised and at times quirky ceremonies.

"There is a sand ceremony for blended families where sand is intermingled symbolising the union of all family members.

"I once married a couple in a stone circle in Bindoon on a very dewy morning just as

the sun was coming up."

The hot air balloon vows were read in the sky between blasts of heated gas but Maxine drew the line at a suggestion that she jump with a sky-diving couple to marry them in mid-air.

Young children and inclement weather can put celebrants through their paces and Maxine recalls a hill-top ceremony where the bride's veil blew away and the wedding

party was covered in dust.

"We got through it," said Maxine who also stopped another wedding to allow the bride-to-be to take her insistent child to the toilet.

Halloween-themed celebrations and 'surprise' wedding parties are also popular but given Maxine's high profile around Toodyay the 'surprise' element could be lost if she was spotted in the crowd.

Requests to dress in costume were politely declined but she did marry one groom resplendent in a devil outfit.

Maxine has also been a fly-in-fly-out celebrant to conduct four weddings in WA's North-West.

"You have to be prepared to travel as a country celebrant, and we have been to a lot of places we would not necessarily have gone to."

Casuarina Prison would certainly be on that list.

Maxine was searched prior to the ceremony and the entire prison was put into lockdown to avoid disputes over privileges for the newlyweds.

Marriage is a legally binding contract and celebrants are required to ensure the bride and groom are fully aware of the commitment they are about to make.

In 2000 Maxine started conducting funeral ceremonies which call on a different set of social skills to assist grieving families.

"You sit down with the family and work out what it is they want and present them with a selection of readings and walk them through the process.

"Funerals for babies are the hardest to do."

Things snowballed after Maxine conducted her first funeral and she was approached by Northam's Purslove Tinetti Funerals to work full-time as both a celebrant and funeral director's assistant which she did until 2013.

Maxine has also conducted many services for Perth funeral companies.

She hung up her marriage celebrant's hat last year but continues to conduct funerals part-time and is serving her third term as president of the Toodyay CWA which she joined in 1999.

"Whether it's a marriage or a funeral it's all about them, not you," she said.

"You are there solely to guide families through the process."

Toodyay RSL left homeless by red tape

Continued from Page 1

"WE SIGNED a 10-year lease four years ago, spent \$23,000 and still have nothing," Mr Wood said.

"Why would the Toodyay RSL spend nearly another million dollars – which it doesn't have – on shire land with only six years left on the lease?"

"We signed it four years ago on the basis that the shed had two toilets and a shower, hot water for a kitchen and that the shire would make the site 'fit for use'.

"But when the RSL took possession in 2017 we found that the toilets were broken, interior walls were clad with asbestos – which the RSL paid to remove – and there were serious problems with site drainage which we were expected to fix.

"Then the site was planned to be rezoned from 'civic purposes' to 'mixed use', which meant the building had to satisfy higher development standards before it could be occupied.

"The result is that we are required to convert a former storage shed into an assembly hall with onsite parking, site drainage and other facilities with no money to pay for it.

"All we have is a thick manila folder full of planning documents that cost \$23,000.

"At this stage, the only realistic option is that we start looking for a new site."

Toodyay Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said the shire was still looking at ways to help.

"We have been trying to do everything in

our power, including suggesting to the RSL that it seek a second opinion about costs," she said.

"We are also waiting to hear back from a builder that the shire approached earlier.

"This may include advice about whether a staged approach may be possible that satisfies regulatory requirements and enables the RSL to use the building before the project is completed.

"We are still looking at ways to keep the RSL at that site."



Flashback to March 2019: RSL members Ian Calderwood (centre) and Peter Brennan show WA Premier Mark McGowan plans that cost ratepayers \$20,000 and which may now have to be abandoned due to red tape.

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The Toodyay Herald

Bofors response

IT SHOULD have been simple.

The RSL needed a home, and the shire had a big shed.

It was perfect, directly across from Anzac Memorial Park, where the tall trees stand guard over our local fallen heroes.

A lease was signed, documents drawn up and planning applications lodged.

The council put in \$20,000 of ratepayers' money and WA Premier Mark McGowan – a former Royal Australian Navy officer – dropped by to offer congratulations.

Now, four years later, costs have skyrocketed, nothing is built and frustrated RSL members want to aim a 40mm Bofors gun diagonally across the road at the shire.

What went wrong?

It all began when the former shire administration cooked up a secret scheme – backed by the former council – to sell O'Reilly's Cottage in Stirling Terrace to help pay for more than \$500,000 in botched WA Supreme Court legal fees.

It meant reneging on a previous verbal agreement with Toodyay's only veterinary hospital to lease the shire-owned cottage because its cramped surgery in a private house next to *The Herald* was being sold.

When the vet found out it had been duded, the owner went to the council to plead for its deal to be honoured.

The shire responded by offering the animal surgery a run-down former parks and gardens shed on a dangerous corner of the town's ill-suited heavy haulage bypass.

When the sheer impracticality of this new proposal became public and the vet threatened to leave town, the shire caved in and took O'Reilly's Cottage off the market.

The shire then called for expressions of interest from others to lease the shed, and the Toodyay RSL leapt at the opportunity.

Its members were custodians of the Anzac memorial across the road, and the nearby shed was big enough for group meetings plus a library, kitchen and space for veterans' welfare services.

A renovation cost of about \$250,000 looked reasonable and the RSL signed a 10-year lease with the shire, with no money to be paid until renovations were completed.

In return, the shire agreed to make the property "fit for use".

But when the RSL moved in, it found the shed filled with shire junk, two broken toilets, no hot water, a broken shower and interior walls clad with asbestos.

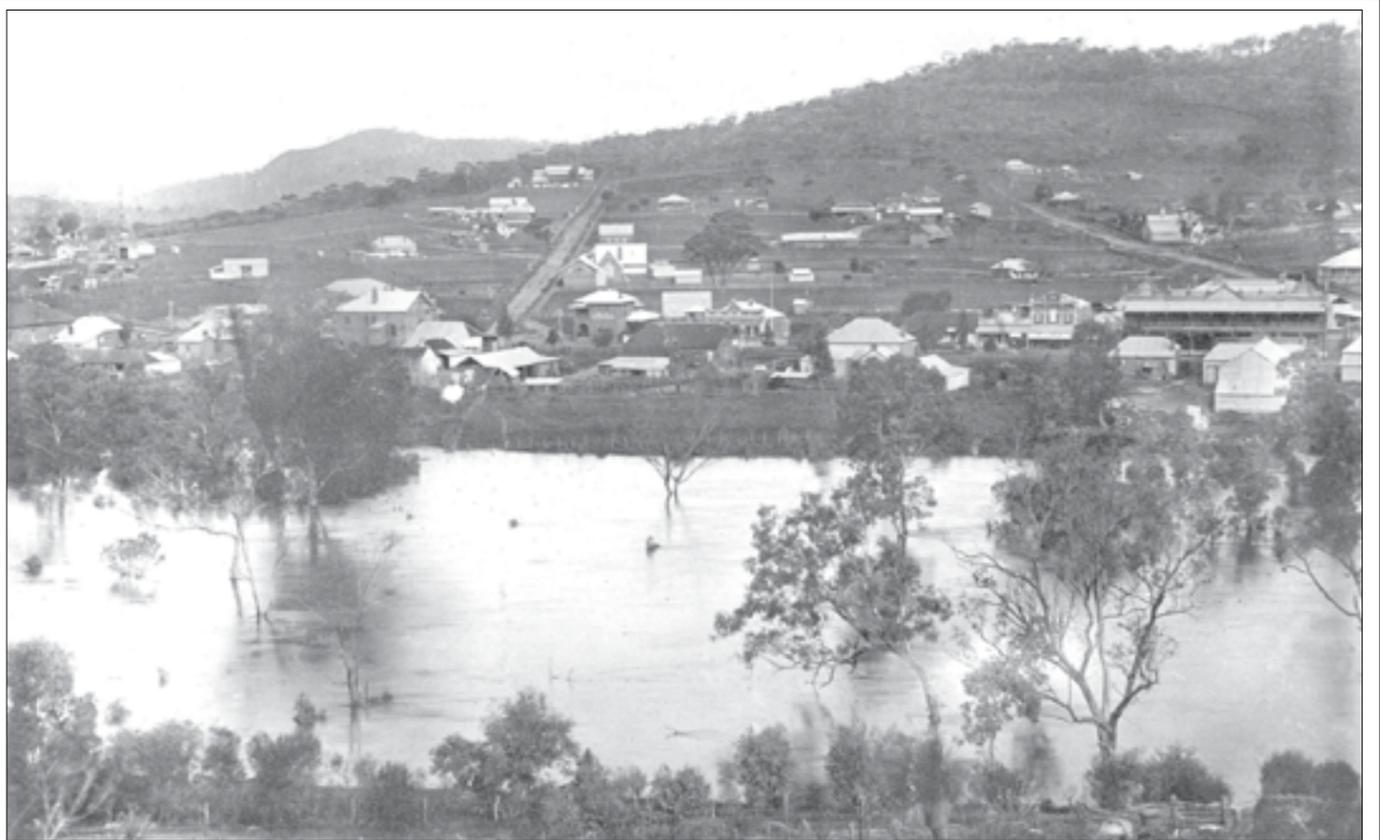
The sloping site was badly drained, had no paved off-road parking and the shire wanted the RSL to provide reinforced driveway access for heavy shire vehicles to reach another block it owned at the rear.

Then the land was rezoned to "mixed use" which added hundreds of thousands of dollars more to the cost, putting it well beyond the reach of our local veterans.

All the RSL wanted was a proper home and it got stuck with a useless dud.

Surely we can do better than that?

Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor



The way we were – 1907 was a wet winter in Newcastle before it was renamed Toodyay. This image of the town on the far side of the flooded Avon River was taken from Mt. Anderson. Duke and Clinton Streets can be seen running up towards what is now Pelham Reserve. Prominent Stirling Terrace buildings include the two-storey Freemasons Hotel on the right, the old Post Office with its characteristic arched front entry in the centre, and the former Newcastle Railway Station and locomotive shed upper far left. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

LETTERS

Flogging the family jewels

UNLESS residents attend or watch shire council meetings online, few would be aware that the council has resolved to sell off a large number of shire-owned properties.

At its June meeting council approved the sale of a dozen lots by auction which range from the historic old police station presently used by Arts Toodyay in Duke Street, to a vacant block next door to the cemetery.

Four lots adjacent to the arboretum in Hamersley Street are also to be sold for residential development.

The revenue from these asset sales is earmarked for "maintaining and upgrading Shire Assets"; but obviously not these assets.

At the same meeting council also considered the future of other Shire-owned assets including O'Reilly's Cottage, currently leased to the local vet in Stirling Terrace, the Bendigo Bank building, Donegan's Cottage at the showgrounds, Syred's Cottage at Bejoording and the race course.

While not discussed by council at this meeting, shire officers are investigating the maintenance and conservation costs of these and other heritage assets and will make further recommendations for consideration by council at a later date.

The officer's report to councillors made it clear that there is no recognition in the current budget (still under deliberation) of any proceeds from the sale of land and building assets.

However, future budgets will be affected because the report also states that, if the shire is to maintain and undertake minimum capital upgrades to all of its building assets, it will cost \$450,000 per annum allocated over the next 10 years.

I would however assume that figure was well known long before the present machinations and has already been factored into the 10-year long-term financial plan upon which council frames its annual budgets.

Except for providing some form of 'asset-backing' I can see no reason for the shire owning vacant land which it could sell to bolster the coffers and encourage population growth.

Furthermore, as a former secretary of the Toodyay Race Club, I can see no reason why better use can't be made of the race course if it can generate extra shire revenue; providing the course and infrastructure can still be used for the annual picnic race day.

However, it is of great concern that the shire is even considering selling Toodyay's heritage buildings, apparently for no good reason.

Geoff Appleby
Toodyay

Worst roads ever

IT IS my understanding that most shires were originally known as Road Boards and I assume it is because that would have been their main focus.

Can I suggest that this shire return to its roots and do something about the awful state of our arterial roads?

I drive a lot in the Wheatbelt and this shire has the worst roads ever.

The Toodyay-Bindi-Bindi Road is both a disgrace and dangerous. The same goes for the Bindoon-Dewars Pool Road.

The shire's solution to the problems on these roads is to hang up a traffic hazard sign and walk away.

There has been a sign at Hawthornden for more than a year and the one on Dewars Pool Road was there for more than two years.

I see shire employees driving on these roads and still no repair work is done, so I assume there is no policy in place for reporting.

I acknowledge that financing roads is always an issue but there was a lot of funding available over the past few years and the shire's focus appears to be on sealing new roads instead of maintaining existing roads.

The shire needs to repair these roads before there is another fatality.

Sally Martin
Culham

Barriers to safety

THERE is one topic that is guaranteed to set tongues wagging and, you guessed it, it's the roadworks on Toodyay Road.

Without weighing into the complicated debate on whether or not excess vegetation has been cleared in the pursuit of more passing lanes, I wish to have my two bob's

worth on the amount of railings that have been installed.

Not only are these safety barriers expensive, they have been installed in places where they serve no purpose e.g. hard up against an embankment in east Gidgegannup.

I was recently driving to Toodyay as the sun was coming up on a very foggy morning and as I was approaching Dryandra Road I was blinded by the newly installed barriers on the left hand side of Toodyay Road.

Due to the barrier, there was nowhere to pull over and it is anyone's guess how I managed to exit the corner without mishap.

On two occasions I have seen panicked kangaroos hopping alongside the barriers looking for a place where they can get off the road.

While they can jump ordinary farm fences with ease they seem unable to negotiate these solid barriers.

With the rapidly increasing number of trucks it won't be just kangaroos which need to find a quick exit to avoid disaster.

It would be interesting to know what all of this overkill of barriers has cost the taxpayer and I for one am not a fan.

Ieva Tomsons
Gidgegannup

Speed kills, not trees

I'M FEARFUL that the massive verge trees at the front of my property on Julimar Road in West Toodyay will be cut down to widen the road over the coming years.

Although they could be deemed as being too close to the road, I really don't think they need to be cut down as they provide privacy and buffer road noise which increases each year.

I have already rung Main Roads WA and in its opinion these trees will kill people, so I'm assuming they will be cut down.

Can't we simply drop the speed limit so we can win both ways – keep the trees and help save lives.

I'm all for widening roads but not at the expense of cutting down the magnificent trees outside my property.

Alana Orton
West Toodyay

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

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Owners face rate rises of at least 2.5 per cent

Domestic rubbish collection and tip fees also to rise as shire issues notices for last year's unpaid rates

Michael Sinclair-Jones

SHIRE rates are expected to increase by at least 2.5 per cent next month in a tough new budget that will – for the first time – start repaying record-sized loans for the town's new \$14 million recreation centre.

Annual rate increases of 2.5 per cent are forecast in the shire's 10-year long term financial plan.

In addition, last year's council decision to freeze rates to help ease economic hardship caused by Covid-19 lockdowns will add pressure for a 'catch-up' increase this year.

The long-term plan, which was adopted by the former council in August 2018, described the "assessed financial risk" from shire borrowings as "low" in justifying annual rate increases of 2.5 per cent.

Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst told *The Herald* last month that next month's rate increases "will be at least that (2.5 per cent)".

She said the shire was still working on a budget which was expected to be ready for a council decision next month.

Shire rubbish collection fees will also need to increase because of a big rise in international recycling costs.

Last month's council meeting was told that China's National Sword policy announced in January 2018 had caused Australia's largest buyer to stop accepting recyclable waste "overnight" due to "contamination and market conditions".

As a result, the cost of recycling Toodyay waste had increased from \$71.50 a tonne to

\$147.39, adding \$21,209 a year to shire costs for domestic rubbish collection.

The council voted 7-0 last month to increase the rubbish recycling levy charged to ratepayers in their annual rates bills.

Councillors also voted 7-0 to increase tipping fees at the shire's West Toodyay recycling depot.

The size of both increases will be revealed in next month's budget.

Meanwhile, ratepayers who deferred paying last year's rates or missed paying their quarterly instalments due to last year's lockdowns are now being asked to pay up.

Last month's council meeting was told that unpaid rates at the end of May totalled nearly \$835,000.

This included arrears for ratepayers who had accepted last year's shire offer not to charge interest on late payments.

Ms Haslehurst described the size of the arrears as "a moderate concern" for the shire.

"This is the delayed impact of last year's outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic," she said.

"Every local government has arrears, so we are not alone in that regard.

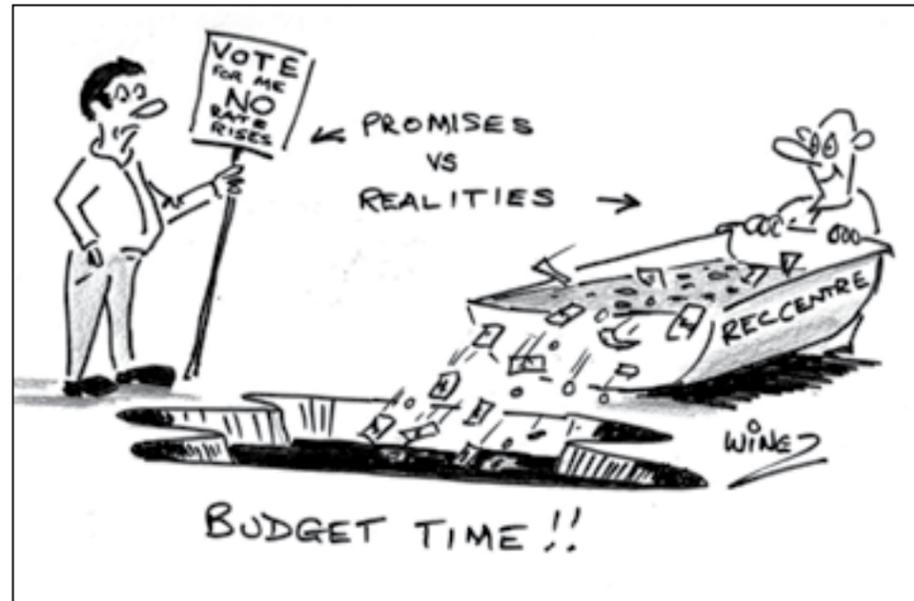
"Those people in arrears have been sent notices.

"Some appear to be still struggling financially and we are trying to make it as easy as possible for them."

Ms Haslehurst said options included paying small amounts such as \$20 a week or fortnightly.

"Small repayments may require evidence of financial hardship," she said.

"We can also provide people with information about the availability of personal financial counselling services to help with their situation."



Racecourse to undergo shire asset scrutiny



The condition of the shire-owned Toodyay racecourse and buildings will be examined as part of a review of all shire-owned properties.

Continued from Page 1.

THE SHIRE can seek State permission to delay the budget as it juggles this month's roll-out of a complex new computer data system and deals with an external review of the shire's "culture and dynamics" after 23 adverse findings were tabled in the WA Parliament last year.

The council has also just appointed a new corporate services manager in the shire's second most senior role to take charge of finances, starting early next month.

Money raised from shire land sales will be placed in an "asset development reserve"

to upgrade and maintain other shire-owned land and buildings.

These include the Toodyay racecourse, which will be investigated for possible "additional uses".

The racecourse includes several ageing buildings and is currently used only once a year for the annual Toodyay Picnic Races.

A report to last month's council meeting by Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst proposed a site inspection by councillors and talks with the Toodyay Race Club.

A separate report would include "development of a master plan to set out preferred options for the repair, replacement,

refurbishment or removal of each of the buildings."

Investigations would also be held into the future of shire-owned Donegan's Cottage at the showgrounds, Syreds' Cottage in Bejoording and the former police lockup in Clinton Street, all of which are covered by heritage protection laws and/or policies.

Other shire-owned properties to be investigated include the Bendigo Bank building and nearby heritage-protected O'Reilly's Cottage which is leased to the vet, in Stirling Terrace and Connor's Cottage in Piesse Street, which is leased to a beauty salon and is also heritage protected.

Ms Haslehurst estimated the cost to maintain all shire-owned properties – including "various other rural, residential and industrial parcels" – would total more than \$4.5 million over the next 10 years.

month's Perth lockdown due to an outbreak of Covid-19 in the northern suburbs.

The two-storey former boys' school includes eight upstairs bedrooms, showers and toilets and a downstairs assembly hall with a stage, kitchen and storeroom.

Nearby Mercy Convent was used as a girls' boarding school and contains seven upstairs bedrooms and a former chapel, and eight downstairs rooms with a large entry and stairs.

Other buildings for sale in the historic precinct include The Ship and O'Connor House which has four dormitories, two bedrooms and six "cells".

The entire package is zoned for mixed business and includes rear lots with access to the Goomalling-Toodyay Road near Connor's Bridge.

Councillors, staff questioned in State review

A STATE-funded review of the Shire of Toodyay's 'culture and dynamics' is evaluating the results of lengthy interviews last month with councillors and senior staff.

The review follows 25 adverse findings tabled in State Parliament last year after a year-long formal investigation of the previous shire administration and council over a seven-year period.

Former City of Perth Commissioner Andrew Hammond and senior local government lawyer John Woodhouse visited Toodyay for three days to interview individual councillors separately in the council chamber.

Each interview lasted up to an hour and a half.

CEO Suzie Haslehurst and senior staff were also interviewed separately.

Each was asked questions from a prepared list.

It is not known if any councillors or staff responded to the review team's brief to seek anonymous input "ensuring they can speak and/or submit information freely".

The Perth-based reviewers also examined official records of Toodyay council meetings and other shire documents.

They are briefed to assess the role of individual council members to "ensure they are performing in accordance with local government law".

The review team is scheduled to send an interim report to the shire by Thursday July 8 and present it to the next ordinary council meeting due on Tuesday July 27.

A final report and recommendations is scheduled to be sent to the shire by September 9 and presented to a council meeting on Tuesday September 28.

The State Government will also receive copies of both reports after they have been presented to the council.

"We are all viewing it in a positive light," Toodyay Shire President Rosemary Madacsi said last month.

"It will be an opportunity to improve governance and move forward."

Two bids to buy historic Catholic precinct

AT LEAST two expressions of interest are understood to have been lodged to buy the Toodyay's historic Catholic Precinct at the town's eastern entry.

The offers to buy the five subdivided lots in a single package are thought to be in the vicinity of \$2 million.

The sale includes the heritage-listed former St Aloysius boys' boarding school which is also being sought by a local not-for-profit group called Home for Culture and Arts in Toodyay in a community fund-raising attempt to establish a local venue for Avon Valley art and cultural events.

The properties are owned by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Perth.

A month-long call for expressions of interest from prospective buyers was extended by a week to Friday July 9 after last

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Chilly weather increases coronial work

Police Beat

With Sgt Dave Flaherty
Toodyay Police Station



COLD winter weather has increased the local mortality rate among older Toodyay residents. This happens every year and occurs also in summer during the extreme heat.

Three local people passed away in four days last month and their deaths were investigated by local police.

We get involved because whenever there is a death in our community, police are required to determine how or why it occurred.

Every death is treated as a potential crime until it can be shown there were no suspicious circumstances.

This can be apparent almost straight away, but we still need to check to be sure.

It provides extra work for us, sometimes in difficult circumstances, when dealing with grieving families and friends.

First contact for police is usually through a family member or the St John Ambulance Service.

If no criminality, our job is to act on behalf of the coroner to establish the identity of the deceased, investigate how the death occurred and seek to establish the cause.

For instance, if a deceased person appears to have died from a drug overdose, a pathology report may be required to show there was no other prior cause of death which could be regarded as suspicious for further investigation.

There are cases where your local doctor may be able to tell us that a deceased person was a patient with a serious illness that they believe caused the death.

When we obtain a death certificate from a doctor, we give it to the coroner together with



Three gel blasters surrendered to Toodyay police.

our report and in many cases, if accepted, no further inquiry is required.

Police reports, witness statements and other evidence gained can have broader community value if the coroner uses it to recommend changes to prevent similarly caused deaths.

This happened when a Perth police officer was killed in a 2017 motorcycle crash on Julimar Road in West Toodyay.

The coroner recommended a road realignment, which is work now being done.

Gel blaster ban

FIVE gel blaster toy guns have been surrendered to Toodyay Police in a single week at the end of last month to avoid heavy new penalties for possession.

The toy guns were among several handed in to Toodyay Police Station to avoid up to three

years' jail or fines of up to \$36,000.

Gel blasters are realistic-looking replica guns that fire small soft pellets that are normally harmless.

The WA Government announced last month that the popular toys were too dangerous to allow them to be freely available in the community.

A State amnesty for their surrender ended on July 3.

The toy guns have previously been used in robberies in Perth and elsewhere.

Police can tell the difference close-up because gel blasters are made of lightweight plastic and our regular handling of firearms gives us some knowledge.

But it becomes harder for officers responding to emergency call-outs to spot the difference from even only a short distance away or at night.

This is more so in poor light or when responding to fast-moving incidents.

The last thing we need is for someone to get hurt or worse because a gel blaster was mistaken for a real firearm.

Gel blasters are now classed as a prohibited weapon and must be surrendered to police for disposal.

If you or someone you know owns one, please advise us or arrange for it to be surrendered.

We don't want to prosecute anyone and the new law aims to protect everyone in the community.

Since 2019, the State Government has provided an amnesty to the owners of real guns to surrender any unlicensed firearms or ammunition in their possession to avoid prosecution by WA police.

A national amnesty has now been announced for a three-month period, starting this month, for all unlicensed weapons and ammunition throughout Australia.

If you've got unlicensed guns or ammunition at home, please call us about surrender or handing them in or alternatively get yourself and the firearms licensed.

Owners must ensure that all guns and ammunition are locked in secure cabinets that conform to legal requirements.

Our community is safer if we can be sure that all firearms and ammunition are legally recorded and secured safely to avoid them falling into criminal hands.

Covid-19 roadblock

FOUR local police officers helped set up quarantine roadblocks in the Wheatbelt on the first day of a recent short Covid-19 lockdown in the Perth and Peel regions.

Two pairs of Toodyay officers each worked morning and afternoon shifts at the roadblocks on Monday June 28.

Road gripes

ABOUT 40 people attended a road safety forum in Toodyay's Memorial Hall last month.

The discussion was about local road safety in general, with particular concerns raised about traffic hazards on Toodyay Road.

Local motorists said they were frustrated by increased numbers of slower-moving trucks and caravans on Toodyay Road and a lack of sufficient overtaking lanes.

Main Roads WA says it plans to build three new sets of passing lanes between Toodyay and Morangup, and provide turn-off lanes at intersections as more funding is released.

Drivers excel

I AM very pleased to report that police detected no cases of drink or drug driving on local roads last month.

This is not because we have stopped random testing – drivers are still being stopped on a regular basis on local roads – but it shows that more people are getting the message “don't drink and drive”.

Let's see if we can keep it that way this month and into the future.



Can you spot the difference? Police Minister Paul Papalia holds a gel blaster while Commissioner Chris Dawson holds a real gun.

Don't get bitten by Bitcoin scammers

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

YOU MAY have heard of cryptocurrencies but may not realise that they are increasingly being used to scam people out of their money.

The money that most people are familiar with is coins and banknotes and their recorded form by way of bank statements.

Debit cards and credit cards allow the transfer of money from person to person without physically handing over any cash.

Cryptocurrency exists only in the form of virtual (i.e. electronic) 'coins' and you may have heard of Bitcoin (bit.ly/3iM5YEI).

Cryptocurrencies also allow for the transfer of virtual coins between people.

El Salvador is planning to make Bitcoin legal tender bbc.in/3cSBv4e and some major companies also accept payment in Bitcoin (bit.ly/3cRebnd).

There are also organisations that sell and buy virtual coins in exchange for conventional money and there are people who invest large amounts of money in a cryptocurrency of their choice.

People who are unfamiliar with managing their own crypto wealth are easy targets for scammers.

While scams with conventional money can sometimes be reversed, scams with cryptocurrency are all but impossible to reverse.

One person was promised a ridiculously high return on Bitcoin investment and he and his friends lost more than \$20,000 when he fell for the scam (ab.co/3f4x3Zj). Another person lost more than \$400,000 to a Bitcoin scammer (ab.co/3yyEkO4).

Last year Australians lost nearly \$28 million to crypto scammers. You can find more information at bit.ly/3xvzPo.

Happy surfing.

Road trauma free help now on hand

Safer Toodyay
Desraé Clarke

TRAUMA from a road crash can affect so many in a multitude of ways.

It may be direct injury from the crash, the loss of a loved one and the ripple effect on families, friends, first responders and witnesses.

The impact of a road crash can be felt long after the actual event and specialised counsellors at Road Trauma Support WA can give support and guidance for concerns and emotions that persist after the road crash, regardless of when the crash occurred.

A referral is not required to access the free service. For more information visit the webpage rtswa.org.au to access brochures and fact sheets or phone 1300 004 814.

If a situation appears to be suspicious or out of the ordinary, call Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 as soon as possible or visit crimestoppers.com.au/.

To contact police, ring 131 444. Report graffiti to 1800 442 255 or visit the web site goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au/.

For further information contact saferToodyay.org.au/.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Onslow thanks Toodyay for heart machine

St John Onslow Sub-Centre

ST JOHN Onslow Sub-Centre recently received a substantial gift, a brand new Corpuls3 Monitoring Defibrillator, thanks to the incredible generosity of their Wheatbelt colleagues in Toodyay.

The Corpuls3 combines a defibrillator, patient monitor and pacemaker in a compact, lightweight and durable design allowing continuous monitoring and diagnosis of a patient's condition, from incident scene to hospital.

St John WA's metropolitan ambulance fleet introduced the device in 2019, at a significant cost, after numerous concerns were raised as to the safety and operational capabilities of the existing HeartStart MRx.

Located some 1400km from Toodyay on the Pilbara coast, three hours from its closest neighbour Karratha to the north and Exmouth to the south, the remote Pilbara town of Onslow had until recently been relying on outdated equipment when responding to local emergencies.

Given its small population and comparatively low case-load, St John Onslow Sub-Centre was unable to update its equipment.

Hearing of Onslow's plight, the chairperson and committee of St John Toodyay Sub-Centre stepped in, gifting their colleagues not only a new Corpuls3, but extensive training in its use.

"As a result of the generosity of St John Toodyay, all our volunteers have now completed their training in the use of the Corpuls3 monitor and everyone is enjoying the benefits of having the monitor to use at our weekly training as well as when attending jobs," Onslow sub-centre chairman Andrew Price said.

"Having the Corpuls3 has enabled us to serve our community with the best equipment, ensuring we can continue to deliver a world-class ambulance service to Onslow and surrounds.

"We cannot thank the committee and all the members in Toodyay enough for their wonderful donation to our sub-centre.

"The new monitor enables Onslow's volunteer ambulance service to provide state-of-the-art care to its patients allowing the patient's condition to be monitored without interruption, assisting with diagnosis and, when necessary, ensuring CPR is delivered effectively and without delay," Mr Price said.



Onslow ambulance volunteers take a closer look at their new defibrillator.



St John Onslow Sub-Centre members receive instruction on using the Corpuls3.

New recruit drops average age below 50

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Julimar Grant Scobie

FINDING a scribe for this monthly column is proving to be a bit of a problem, not helped by the fact that very few even noticed that there was no Julimar contribution in the last two editions of *The Herald*.

It seems the idea of having one's name 'up in lights' is not enough of an incentive to get

anyone to volunteer to put pen to paper or, rather, fingers to keyboard.

So now I have to remember what has happened in the brigade over the past three months.

Luckily, being off-season, not a huge amount but what has been happening is very significant.

Depending on how one looks at it, the most significant thing is the signing on of three new members.

Welcome to Gayle and Wes and especially Connor who is 16 years old. By joining he has dropped the average age of the brigade to under 50.

Sadly we have also seen the departure of a few of our members, all off to greener pastures or, at least, coastal pastures.

Farewell to Bela, Geoff and Megan (all of whom moved on without undue fanfare) and Graham 'Bubbles' and Jennifer who did call unnecessary attention to themselves with Graham's attempt at singing a farewell song at our recent AGM.

Craig, the chief, is now going to add a new

Standard Operating Procedure to the shire's list – singing is not allowed at AGMs.

Speaking of the AGM, the list of office bearers is almost unchanged except for adding Dale to the list of lieutenants and the loss of a catering officer; it was deemed that this function had finally succumbed to the rise in efficiency of our leaders in getting food out to the fire ground when required.

The other major event to take place is the start of the new fire station on June 28.

Along with other brigades, we are now to move well and truly into the 21st century, ceasing to be a 'fire shed' and becoming a 'fire station'. What's the difference?

The shed was used to park the trucks in; the station will include training facilities, offices, showers and toilets, a radio room, storage, washing facilities and kitchen.

Although the facility is not going to be operational until much later in the year, the excitement is definitely building at the Julimar brigade.



St John volunteers Matt Williams, Nuala Ennis and Heather Appleby.

Toodyay ambos on the move

St John Toodyay Sub-Centre Heather Appleby

IF YOU have ever thought about becoming a St John Toodyay volunteer for St John, now is a great time to join us.

We will hold an information night at the sub-centre at the rear of 120 Stirling Terrace on Tuesday July 27 at 6.30pm.

You can learn all you need to know about how to become a volunteer, what commitments you need to make, the training involved and you will meet many of our existing vollies.

If you can't make it that night call Pam on 0429 555 409 and have a chat.

We thought June was busy, and having had a look at the statistics, it certainly was.

Our volunteers attended 42 calls, 21 of which were the highest priority, 13 required urgent help, five were non-urgent, and we did three transfers from Northam Regional Hospital to various other places.

We were unable to help with further transfers from Northam to Perth hospitals because we simply did not have enough crews which is one of the reasons we need more volunteers.

Hopefully by the next *Herald* edition we will have moved our office from the sub-centre at the rear of 120 Stirling Terrace, into the old Vinnies' building.

We have started the process, with the telephone and internet being connected to the new office.

Now all that remains, and this is a much bigger task, is to pack up the existing office, move all the furniture, and then unpack everything again.

This move will only affect the administration and ambulance calls will still be attended as and when required.

If you don't think you have the ability to be an ambulance volunteer, we do need more Community Transport Service (CTS) volunteers.

These volunteers take patients to medical appointments in our CTS vehicle to Toodyay, Northam, Midland and Perth at a very reasonable cost.

If you would like more information about becoming a CTS driver, you are welcome to attend the information night, or contact Sandra on 0418 918 192.



St John

Thinking about becoming a Volunteer Ambulance Officer?

Now is your chance to come along and see what it is all about at our Volunteer Information & Recruitment Night



Tuesday 27th July 2021 at 6.30pm

St John WA—Toodyay
120 Stirling Terrace

Register by selecting "going" on the facebook event on the St John Toodyay facebook page

or

email toodyay@stjohnwa.com.au



EMERGENCY SERVICES

More motorists hit roos

ENCOURAGING people to Wander Out Yonder has resulted in a spike in collisions with wildlife in regional areas.

The RAC recently reported 727 claims, a 36 percent increase in claims associated with hitting animals, of which 90 per cent were kangaroos.

Other animals involved in animal-related insurance claims include emus, cows, dogs, cats and birds.

The RAC advises vigilance and avoiding driving during dawn and dusk when animals are most active.

Motorists are advised to reduce their speed when approaching an animal but not to swerve.

To report an injured animal, ring the Wildcare helpline 24/7 on 94749055.

Locally, wildlife carers who can assist are: Brian Foley 0419 933 721; Robyn Foley 0417 173 283 and Sue Eldridge 0408 944 981.



Kangaroos create danger on roads.



Central brigade's co-located centre in Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

Central embarks on recruitment drive

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Central
Peter Brennan

OVER the past few months the brigade has seen the departure or retirement of a number of long-term members.

Consequently, we now need new volunteers to build our numbers back up.

Without adequate numbers we may not be able to help you or a neighbour at a time when you need us.

We are situated at the co-located centre, 67 Stirling Terrace in Toodyay. Members are there for vehicle checks and crew change on Friday evenings from 5-6 pm.

So please come along to the station, meet the very friendly crew and see what and how we operate. You can text 'Central' to 0408 017 439 and someone will call you to make a time to meet at the station to have a look around.

If you have a truck licence that will be a bonus for us but it is not a prerequisite for joining the brigade.

Apart from meeting new friends you will learn how to protect yourself, your

family, your property and how to help your neighbours. All necessary equipment and training is supplied free of charge.

Auxiliary members are also most welcome as we need members who are willing to help out around the station.

The brigade is planning a Christmas in

July celebration on Saturday July 31 at the Freemasons Hotel. An email is being circulated to members to obtain numbers so a booking can be confirmed.

The next meeting of the brigade will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday August 10 at the co-located centre.

Time to sort good 'stuff' from the bad

Bejoording Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

From the desk of The Badger

NOW WE are in our low-risk and low-activity season, there's more to do than focus on training.

Looking around the store room and office in our shed, it's amazing how much 'stuff' accumulates, and how much 'stuff' ends up where it shouldn't be. There's a good mixture of usable, damaged and obsolete items.

We're dedicating some of this month to good housekeeping and auditing and cataloguing all the materials, equipment, supplies, Personal Protective Equipment, carry-bags and all other items we have.

We're also having a good clean-up before rearranging storage of what's to be kept.

Repeating a message from our newsletter this time last year, Bejoording is a proud but small brigade.

Due to lifestyle changes and relocation, we need a couple of new members, although more would always be welcome, specially someone who is living in or around Bejoording and is licensed to drive our truck.

If you're not sure, our captain Lawrence Hayward would be delighted to sit down for a chat about requirements for commitment and training.

There's no pressure and if it's not for you just say so, but it's a very rewarding way to support the community you live in and you will pick up some very valuable skills and knowledge.

By the way, if you are a FIFO or shift worker, know this: we already have a number of FIFO members and we are used to working our rosters around their rosters, so don't let that put you off.

Just call captain Lawrence or The Badger on the numbers below if you would like an obligation-free chat. If we have never met and you are new to the area, it's also a great way for us to get to know you.

The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to be vigilant and careful lighting any fire. Remember to always plan and prepare for fire and have a clear contingency strategy in place should things get out of control. Fires can be a catastrophic risk to people, animals and property, so take care.

Advice is free, but getting it wrong can be expensive. If you have any questions, you can contact captain Lawrence Hayward on 0447 253 320 or The Badger on 0414 250 484. Please leave a message if we're not there. For emergency fire assistance always call 000.

Old girl gets new lease of life

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Coondle-Nunile

Max Heath

HI FROM the Coondle-Nunile Fire Station where we have our AGM coming up on Saturday July 10.

Nominations are in and voting for the Fire Fighter of the Year is now done and dusted.

The other great news is our old 3.4 is back in the Coondle-Nunile area. Training officer Marc Pittorino and partner Jane Grant have purchased the old girl and are going to do her up. I believe Marc has suggested that the old truck will be available for shows etc.

We have had another new member join us and we welcome Peter Hancock to the brigade.

If you or someone you know are interested in joining Coondle-Nunile or any other brigade please do so as all brigades welcome new members.

To sign up to Coondle-Nunile come down on a Friday evening at about 5pm and say hello or attend our meetings which are held at 5pm on the second Saturday of the month.

Recently the concrete tank that was at our old shed has been moved to Darwinia Crescent giving brigades access to water in that area.

At the last meeting it was decided that during the off-season all lieutenants would remain on a defacto roster as we can be called out even

at this time of year.

Discussion took place regarding Coondle-Nunile becoming a Volunteer Fire Rescue Service brigade and it was decided that we would remain as is, as a bush fire brigade. It would have been a huge commitment and would take a long time to transition.

Marc Pittorino represented Coondle-Nunile recently at a sexual harassment course conducted by Department of Fire and Emergency Services and WA Police.

He found it very interesting and the brigade is now interested in having something similar in-house at Coondle-Nunile.

We do have quite a few women members and they are an absolute asset to our brigade and have spent many hours on the front line firefighting.

I know you think I may be joking, but now is the time to start thinking of the coming fire season.

Firebreaks are best done in August. A second spray maybe needed but this gives the leaf litter time to compost out of the way leaving a better fire break.

If you have a unit, now is the time to have it serviced.

Last but not least it is congratulations to Adam Burke who was presented with his five-year pin at our last meeting. Congratulations Adam.



HLTAID003

St John

“Provide First Aid”

**Next one day courses
To be held on
Saturday
17th July 2021**

St John, Stirling Terrace Toodyay

This is a general one day course that would benefit all those at work, home or for leisure. the course provides an excellent grounding in first aid and will enable you to perform appropriate first aid procedures and basic life support skills.

This unit satisfies training requirements across a range of community and workplace settings.

For further details phone:
9621 1633

Email: firstaidwheatbelt@stjohnwa.com.au

Free first aid kit for all participants



Headaches end with shire data software roll-out

President's Pen

Rosemary Madácsi



THE END of the 2020-21 financial year last month saw completion of some important Shire projects.

Ranked high among them is the Shire's new Datascape information system which was due to go fully live in the first week of this month.

The transition from the old to the new system has been the source of many headaches including Covid-19 delays which affected onsite training.

The upgrade is designed to improve administrative efficiencies across a broad range of Shire business activities, including budget control and record keeping.

Council and staff look forward to a new era and I want to thank everyone for their patience and perseverance in helping to make it happen.

Less exciting, given recent biting winds and fourth-coldest winter on record, is the Shire's new community standpipe in Stirling Terrace near the town's visitor information bay.

The water pump operates like a petrol bowser and is simple to operate with debit or credit cards (*full story right*).

We expect the new community resource to be well used this summer if local rainfall stays at 20 percent below average.

Budget deliberations are currently underway with a series of workshops and revisions which started last month.

The complex process is required by State law to be completed by August 31, although an extension can be sought.

This month's discussions follow a March budget review.

We aim to deliver a budget that enables the Shire to meet community needs and at a cost that ratepayers can afford.

Council decided last year not to increase rates or charge interest on late payments in 2020-21 to help ease local community hardship caused by Covid-19 lockdowns and job losses.

As a result, nearly \$800,000 remained owing at the start of last month.

If you are experiencing difficulties, please contact the Shire on 9574 2258 to arrange payment options or other assistance.

Annual local government audits usually start in May and finish in late November.

The WA Office of the Auditor General began three years ago taking over all local government audits, either directly or through an appointed auditor.

The State has, for the first time, taken over this year's Shire audit, which will be handled by Perth auditors Butler Settineri.

A formal governance review recommended by a year-long State Government inquiry is also underway.

Shire staff and councillors have been interviewed by Perth local government consultants Hammond Woodhouse Advisory.

The review is due to be completed by September.

It is funded by the State government and will provide an opportunity to develop a governance plan for the future and at no cost to the Shire.

Local expectations for the future of Toodyay are captured in the Shire's Strategic Community Plan which directs the budget process – where your money is spent.

Eight different methods were used to engage the shire's 3498 adult residents, and 356 responses were received.

Was your opinion included?

If not, there is still time to send or email your views to us at records@toodyay.wa.gov.au under the heading Strategic Community Plan.

Climate change is affecting all local governments and some of our earlier Shire works are not coping well.

This was shown when local properties, roads and drains were flooded by heavy rains during a severe storm last February.

Work upgrades to limit future disruption will require extra Shire spending.

Significant drainage improvements are currently underway on Toodyay Road near the showgrounds.

We thank local residents for their patience during road closures to enable the work to be done.

Council Committees are busy tackling future issues too.

Fire Control Officer nominations are currently open and need to be received by Shire Chief Emergency Services Manager Rob Koch by Friday July 30.

The Shire's Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) is holding a five-year review of the Toodyay Emergency Plan to update strategies to support people affected by emergencies.

The Environment Advisory Committee is working on a final draft of the Shire's Biodiversity Strategy.

Council will this month consider a committee recommendation to conduct a

survey of verge flora.

The plan is for local residents to assist the survey during winter and spring.

Volunteers will collate the information to enable the Committee to develop recommendations for tourism, verge activities and development applications.

Many hands make light work as we strive to retain and restore our Shire's diverse flora on local road verges.

The Shire's Audit and Risk Committee has in the past three months considered and recommended to council a 10-year Assurances Cycles Plan and a process to

review the effectiveness of the Shire's risk management systems and procedures, internal controls and legislative compliance.

The Committee also reviewed the Shire's compliance audit return and met with a representative of the Office of the Auditor General and new auditor Butler Settineri.

Finally, a reminder that if you want to find out more, public records of all Council and Committee decisions are available online at toodyay.wa.gov.au/.

Council meetings are also streamed live on the Shire's Facebook page and are stored there to view at any time.

New town standpipe to cut water queues

Daniel Yong

A NEW \$44,000 community standpipe has been opened in Toodyay.

The standpipe is a metered pump that provides public access to potable water.

The Shire of Toodyay installed the new 24-hour service last month near the town's visitor information bay in Stirling Terrace.

It is designed for use seven days a week by vehicles such as utilities, caravans and recreational vehicles (RVs) fitted with water tanks and can also be used to replenish mobile firefighting units.

The standpipe works like a petrol bowser and requires payment by credit or debit card.

The current price is \$3.66 for a thousand litres of water, with a minimum charge of \$1 per transaction for 273 litres.

Shire Fleet, Waste and Depots Supervisor Glenn Rodger said account-based payments may be introduced for local users if there is enough demand.

The new community facility was built to reduce congestion at a busy commercial standpipe used by bulk water carters on the Northam Road near the Toodyay Road turn-off.

The town project was approved by the Water Corporation in 2019 and the shire used local businesses to install the new water supply last month.

Mr Rodger said the project had been delayed by Covid-19 restrictions but the shire was very happy with the outcome.

"The new service will benefit people who don't require bulk amounts of water," he said.

"We're hoping it will be a bit of an advantage to travellers passing through town and be an incentive for visitors to stop and spend their tourist dollars here."

More information can be obtained from the shire by calling 9574 9300 or emailing records@toodyay.wa.gov.au.



Shire supervisor Glenn Rodger demonstrates the town's new community standpipe.

Rail operator reviews risky crossing

THE WA Public Transport Authority (PTA) has asked rail operator Arc Infrastructure to review and endorse plans to build a controlled railway crossing for pedestrians at Toodyay Station.

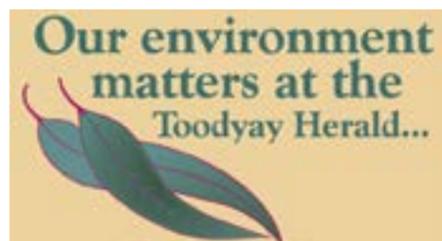
A PTA spokesperson said that once this was completed, a project team would establish a more accurate timeline for the work to be done.

Crumbling bitumen at the pedestrian crossing has prompted concerns by local wheelchair users who fear they might get trapped on the crossing in front of an approaching train like the one pictured (*right*).

The lack of a controlled crossing is also a concern for people with hearing difficulties.



The Indian Pacific passenger train crosses Toodyay Station's crumbling bitumen railway pedestrian crossing.



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RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch President Peter Brennan and secretary Heather Brennan accept the Colonel Collett Cup.

Local RSL leadership readies for changing of the guard

RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch
Heather Brennan

IN MAY we proudly announced that our sub-branch had won the Colonel Collett Cup which was presented to us at the RSLWA Congress last month.

This award would not have been possible without such active membership participation and the support of the wider Toodyay community.

We sincerely thank our members for their teamwork and our ever-supportive community which, without you all, we would not be holding this cup for the third time in our history.

The sub-branch held a social barbecue on the June 13 and we thank the members who attended and those who helped with coordinating the event.

We were fortunate enough to use the Wicklow Shearing Shed which is an awesome venue for such activities as it gives coverage from the elements while allowing people to enjoy the outdoors.

It was lovely to be able to relax with our members during our very full events calendar this year.

We're back at the Toodyay Farmers Market, on Sunday July 18 and will be available for questions about services available to ex-service personnel and their families, eligibility and application regarding memberships, Niche Wall plaques, along with any other RSL Sub-Branch queries from

the general public. Our sub-branch would love you to drop by for a chat.

The new collectible stubby holders depicting an RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch theme will also be available at the markets. If you collect these, they sell quickly so please get in early.

Our red Containers for Change bins will once again be available. We apologise for the absence of our bins at recent markets and we thank market organisers for the opportunity to collect eligible containers as all funds go towards our first permanent home in our 102-year history. Please look for our bins if you would like to support us.

Our Saturday July 24 Ordinary General Meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall at 1300.

This year's AGM in September will see all committee positions vacant (as is the normal practice). However we are aware of three positions where the present sitting members will be stepping down; president, secretary and media liaison officer. This month's meeting provides an opportunity to learn what is involved if you wish to take on one of these positions.

The president and secretary/media liaison officer will make themselves available after the meeting concludes to answer any questions. Comprehensive job requirement notes will be available at handover, with a breakdown given in this month's newsletter to ensure a smooth transition.

Until we meet again, stay safe and well.



Memorial troop members Phil Sullivan and Kevin Williams.

Salute to fallen soldiers and horses

Avon Valley 10th Light Horse
Memorial Troop

ON SUNDAY August 1 the Avon Valley 10th Light Horse Memorial Troop will commemorate the soldiers from the regiment who took part in the Gallipoli Battle of The Nek on 7 August 1915.

The service, which starts at 11am at the Northam Memorial Hall, 265 Fitzgerald Street, will name the boys from Northam, Toodyay and York who died or were wounded on that day.

In attendance will be two horses and troopers with two flag bearers standing beside the flagpole as wreaths are laid, one for the soldiers and one for the horses.

There will be no parade but the *Last Post* will be played and *The Ode* recited.

Everyone is invited to attend to remember our brave soldiers who died in this horrific World War I battle.

For further information contact troop president and commander Phil Sullivan by email, philmaur@iinet.net.au, or ring 0417 182 998.

Burial site recognition paves way for Pelham project

Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal
Corporation

OUR GROUP is loving the collaborative approach being shown by Toodyay Shire and local groups.

Last month's efforts have resulted in the construction of the burial site sign on the old oval and progress is also being made on the Noongar interpretive art project at Pelham Lookout.

The shire has worked closely with us to acknowledge the presence of a Noongar burial site at the northern end of the town's old oval.

The site contains graves of numerous Noongar Aboriginal people, including those from the Ballardong, Yued and Whadjuk tribes, all buried post-European settlement and prior to 1915.

This registered Aboriginal heritage site is on Noongar Ballardong boodja (country).

In 1909 human remains were uncovered during the construction of the Toodyay-Bolgart railway line.

In 1916 an Aboriginal Cemetery was formally gazetted and it is estimated that approximately 100 people were buried at this location.

The shire provided the sign infrastructure, while the wording which includes information about burial beliefs, rituals and protocols was provided by the corporation.

Our chairman Robert Miles said: "This sign helps to inform and educate people about the meaning of this place."

"It is a burial ground where lots of Aboriginal people were buried and is protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*."

"I believe this is a good example of how the Shire of Toodyay and the Aboriginal community can work together in a respectful and mutual way."

We recently met with representatives from the local museum, Toodyay Historical Society, Toodyay Friends of the River and the Toodyay Naturalists' Club for our combined interest in achieving an Aboriginal Place Names project.

Our group really appreciates this collaborative approach and being able to get guidance from local historians and research experts.

The immediate task is to look at all old settler and explorer records, government records and maps, and books about Toodyay history to determine correct place names of areas viewed from Pelham Lookout.

We are at the design stage of a Noongar interpretive board which will highlight the wonderful view of surrounding boodja (country) through cultural interpretation, artwork and Noongar language.

Sponsors for this project include the Shire of Toodyay, Arc Infrastructure, Toodyay Op Shop and Bendigo Community Bank.

We would like to give a special thanks to shire reserve manager Greg Warburton for his work with the project, and group member Helen Shanks for co-ordinating the project.

Just a quick reminder that NAIDOC week runs until Sunday July 11.

We will have static display boards up all week in the Lesser Hall at the front of the Memorial Hall. Drop in and take a look while doors are open each day from 9am to 3pm.



Aboriginal burial site sign behind Toodyay showground.

Noongar Waangkiny

Noongar words and yarning

Sharmaine Miles

Ballardong Elder

KAYA – hello.

This month, with the installation of a sign at the Noongar burial site I'd like to share cultural awareness about burial beliefs and also appropriate protocols that were observed in years gone by but which many Noongar moort (families) still practise today.

In Aboriginal culture it is believed when a member of community passes away the spirit will be released from the body and the spirit continues to the next stage in the journey after life on earth.

A smoking ceremony was almost always carried out to help the spirit depart from this world and into the next.

During Birak season (early summer each year) celebrations were held to honour the spirits of ancestors and celebrate the continuation of cultural lore and traditions.

There are protocols to observe when relating to a deceased person.

The tradition not to depict dead people or voice their first names is very old. This traditional lore said that a dead person's name could not be said because you would recall and disturb their spirit.

In the modern world, if the media uses the name of a deceased person they have to seek permission from the family.

This month's words

- Kura** – Long ago, the past.
- Waugal** – Rainbow Serpent Dreaming Spirit.
- Kwop wirrin** – Good spirits.
- Moort** – Family/relations.
- Boodja** – Country.
- Bardan** – Someone's spirit.

Advertisement



Wandoo Lament

Sentinel, guardian, Lord of the Trees,
 You are four hundred years of history,
 Centuries of drought, fire and storm,
 No white man here when you were born,
 Roots way down in the ancient laterite,
 Immense your girth, lofty your height,
 Branches and hollows home for zoology,
 You are refuge for an entire ecology,
 Oxygen pumping from your crown,
 Keeping the salt below the ground,
 Your skin in autumn an apricot hue,
 Nectar in spring another gift from you,
 From seed small as a sand grain,
 To a living thing, sap in your veins,
 Shedding, renewing across the seasons,
 To destroy you now there is no reason,
 But Main Roads are their own master,
 They say we can drive our cars faster,
 Their machines will snarl and descend,
 Bulldozer and mulcher spell your end,
 Might and majesty reduced to dust,
 Those who care in shock and disgust,
 When it is done this death sentence,
 Who will it be that pays the penance?
 Isn't the cost too much and insane?
 To sacrifice you for a passing lane?
 So we can speed across asphalt stark,
 Where once grew a mighty Powder Bark.



Garry Allison relates anecdotes about restoring the old church to Beth Frayne and Adam O'Neill. Photo: Linda Rooney.

Early churches bookend town

Toodyay Historical Society
Robyn Taylor

DRIVING into the town of Toodyay along the twisting spine of Stirling Terrace which roughly follows the flow of the Avon River, the observant visitor will notice the street is book-ended by two old churches.

Coming from the north and crossing the Newcastle Bridge you see the Anglican church of St Stephen's on the left.

If you drive into town from the direction of Perth there is the former Roman Catholic St John the Baptist church on your left just past the Goomalling Road turnoff where Toodyay Road becomes Stirling Terrace.

Both churches date from the 1860s when the new town of Newcastle was gazetted.

There had been a Roman Catholic church, Sancta Maria (foundation stone laid 1857), in the original town site of Toodyay several kilometres downstream.

With the shift of the town due to periodic flooding at its former location, the Catholic community realised it needed another church.

At this point I would like to acknowledge the excellent research by our new member Adam O'Neill who produced an illustrated booklet on the history of this 1863-1864 church.

The booklet was launched during last month's visit to the former church which was generously opened to us by the owners, Helen and Garry Allison.

Back in the 1860s, a successful request was made to the Colonial Secretary by the Rev. Father Martin Griver (then acting as Administrator of the Diocese of Perth) for land on which to build a church, presbytery and schoolhouse.

Tenders for plans and specifications were called for by Toodyay's Parish priest, Fr Francis Salvado

and an advertisement indicated 'further particulars (may) be obtained on application from the store of Mr D Connor'.

The word 'may' is intriguing. Perhaps Catholic Daniel Connor wanted to see preferment go to a builder of Catholic persuasion.

Connor was well on his way to becoming a wealthy man and a major benefactor of the Roman Catholic establishment including the Sisters of Mercy who established the convent over the road, beginning with Mercy House in 1903.

St John's foundation stone was laid in January 1863 and the church was completed and blessed in time for Christmas 1864.

Over the decades additions were made to St John's but the post-war influx of migrants and their families, many of them Catholic, with some finding employment in nearby Gumley's sawmill and the railway, meant the church was no longer large enough to accommodate its growing parish.

A new St John the Baptist Church, of controversially modern design favoured by then parish priest Fr John Chokolich, was erected across the road and consecrated in November 1963, the centenary year of the old church.

The old church was then deconsecrated and put out for rent before becoming vacant and falling into disrepair.

The church was eventually sold in 1972 and over the years, with sensitive restoration and lots of TLC from its owners, it stands as a beautiful reminder of the beginnings of the Catholic parish in the 'new' town of Toodyay.

Our end-of-month excursion will be to Yanchep National Park on Friday July 30.

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.



CBH GROUP HARVEST CASUAL WORK 2021

Applications are now open - apply today!

We are looking for hard working, safety-conscious people to work at our receival points across the WA grain growing region during harvest this year.

We are inviting applications for the following casual positions:

- Receival Point Operators, including grain sampling, and
- Plant Operators at selected port terminals

Depending on weather conditions, the season will generally commence around October and finishes in December.

No experience? No worries! Full training is provided - no need for qualifications or experience, just a great attitude.

To find out more about the CBH Group, what harvest is like and where to apply, simply scan the below QR code or visit:

CAREERS.CBH.COM.AU



cbh.com.au



Tony tickles up the bidding

Lions Club of Toodyay

IN LATE March we held our annual Lions Auction, an event which would not be possible to stage without the many volunteers who help.

In particular, we would like to thank Tony Maddox for his auctioneering expertise which he has kindly donated for the past 25 years.

The auction is always a humorous, fun-filled event thanks to Tony's efforts and this year he was capably assisted by Adrian Gamble who carried out the relief auctioneer role.

We would also like to thank the members of the RSL who helped out the day before the auction and all volunteers who helped out over the two days.

The auction would not have been possible without the support of everyone who donated items, the people who sold items on

commission and all the buyers who attended. Thank you everyone.

This year our local beneficiaries were Roz Davidson who works tirelessly at Toodyay Locals Care providing meals throughout our community, and Mark Greenway from Toodyay Miniature Rail.

Bearing in mind how much support Toodyay received after our disastrous fire in 2009, we saw fit to donate money to the people affected by the Wooroloo bushfire.

Brian and Sharon Wickins from the Noble Falls Tavern and Kraig and Roslyn Chappell from Gidge One Stop have been working tirelessly to support their local community and both businesses received donations from our Lions Auction proceeds to enable them to continue their good work.

Thanks to the generosity of our Toodyay community in supporting our Lions Auction we have been able to distribute more than \$3000 to worthy causes.



Toodyay Locals Care volunteer Roz Davidson receives a cheque from Lion Peter Edwards.

Shingles pay for storage

Volunteers of Toodyay Museums
Barry Keens

ANOTHER month has passed with volunteers taking a few days off after May's hectic events schedule.

It has been our pleasure to make a cash donation to Toodyay Locals Care towards their Christmas in July celebration. The donation will allow the group to purchase a safe multi-power outlet for use at events such as the Toodyay Farmers Market.

Items that are not part of the museums' collections but which are used to enhance displays still need to be stored safely, so we have bought six storage containers from our shingle sales fund.

We have other projects in the pipeline but are always open to suggestions as to how we can improve the museums and support the Toodyay community.

We welcome new volunteers and advise that the museums are open daily from 10 am to 3pm and are free for local residents.



Museum volunteers (from left) Barry Keens, Beth Frayne, Michelle and Geoff Miller, curator Margie Eberle, Nina Paterson, Tom Thompson and Phil Hart. Photo: Phil Hart.

Community input builds cottages

Butterly Cottages
Therese Chitty

HERE is a very brief history of Butterly Cottages Inc.

On the 20 September 1976 a group of Toodyay citizens met to discuss the feasibility of building homes for the ageing residents of Toodyay.

It was decided the project would need to involve the Shire of Toodyay, fundraising and funding applications from the State Government and a suitable site would need to be found.

The call was put out to the Toodyay community to assist with this mammoth project and many people generously gave their time, skills and made monetary donations.

The inaugural meeting was held and a committee elected as follows: chair, Sam Cook; vice-chair, Mac Wroth; treasurer, Brian Harris (Toodyay Shire Clerk); secretary, Dennis Pember and committee members Percy Groves, Phylis Wood, Joy Wood, Dot Hasson and Ivy Graham. All of these people had busy lives and gave their valuable time to get this project off the ground.

Initially three cottages were built and now there are 21 units with enough land to build another nine.

This is an amazing achievement for a volunteer organisation that does not rely on any government funding.

Over the years there have been many volunteers that have come and gone and in some cases come back again to sit on the Butterly Cottages committee.

The current committee consists of: president, Judy Dow; vice-president, Therese Chitty, treasurer, Maggie Parsons, secretary, Jenifer Perkins and committee members Roma Heath, Jenny Nock and Sally Martin.

Membership renewals are due this month and the cost is \$10.

Butterly is always on the lookout for new members who may be interested in joining to assist with the ongoing success of keeping this volunteer group run by local community members.

The AGM will be held in October and you need to be a member of the association for at least three months prior to voting at the AGM.

Volunteering is never easy, it can be time consuming but also very rewarding knowing you're helping the ageing residents of Toodyay to remain in affordable accommodation in the town they love and feel safe in.

Email butterly2j@gmail.com or contact our secretary Jenifer Perkins on 0427 990 972 for further information or membership forms.



One of the artfully arranged market stalls.

Mingle at the markets and enjoy a delicious snack

Toodyay Farmers Market Sue Wakka

A WET and wild weather forecast led to the cancellation of last month's market.

Not to worry, the next one is on Sunday July 18 and we hope the weather gods smile on us.

The markets are a great place to gather, enjoy a coffee or grab a snack from one of our local food vendors who are trying to raise much-needed funds for their causes.

We have Toodyay Locals Care, Avon Valley Shotokan karate group and the Toodyay Men's Shed always there with great offerings.

These groups all play an important role in our community and rely on our support. So pop on down and enjoy their wide variety of food.

Also on offer are the many varied stalls ranging from fruit and vegetables, seeds, jams and relishes; yummy treats such as biscuits, cakes and marshmallows and staples such as honey and even a drop of wine.

You can also purchase lovely gift items;

lovingly handmade soaps, cushions, quilts, leather belts, earrings, painted pots, resin boards, body creams, ceramics, silver jewellery, clothing, crochet hats, wood creations, metal signs and even doors.

We have books by a local author, native plants, candles, face painting; the list goes on.

You can bring a book to swap while you listen to some great music.

If you are a member of a community group and would like to spread your word, we still have stalls available. Just send us an email to toodyayfarmersmarket@gmail.com or ring 0429 984 482.

Support is critical to keeping the markets going and we encourage everyone to think about attending our AGM in November to become involved.

If you would like to know a little more about what is involved please get in touch with us.

It's not a big commitment but if we don't get any commitment well...you know what that means.

See you at the next market on Sunday July 18 from 9am to 1pm.

Beverley out as host but Toodyay on track for rural award

Toodyay Agricultural Society Alison Wroth, President

THE ROYAL Agricultural Society's Rural Ambassador Award for the Central Group of Agricultural Societies which comprises ourselves, York, Northam and Beverley was to be hosted this year by Beverley.

However, due to unforeseen circumstances and the financial pressure that Covid-19 has placed on many regional agricultural societies, Beverley is unable to host this year.

Much to our delight, all societies have secured an entrant but after much discussion and further meetings all societies agreed that our 2019 Central candidate Josh Antonio will represent us at the State level.

Josh has experience at the more difficult State level of competition and we wish him all the best.

All societies' entrants for this year will be invited to all surrounding Shows' official openings and to gain valuable experience in organising a community Show.

Our local Toodyay representative Aimee Tyson is assisting us as a valuable steward in the agriculture section and is eager to join the committee next year. She is also keen as mustard to enter next year's Rural Ambassador competition.

Aimee is studying to be an agronomist so I believe this can only benefit her on her CV in the long run.

Our recent wood raffle on June 18 and 19 was one of our most successful yet raising a wonderful total of \$1255.35 – in freezing conditions.

This amount included the sale of six of our \$10 'showbags', so thank you to everyone who was involved or who volunteered for a few hours.

I must thank my family for donating the wood which was lovely old jarrah, good enough to "turn not burn" I was told by a woodturner.

Thank you as well to Judy and Kim for

helping split the wood and running the trailer in on both days, especially delivering and stacking the wood at Julie's house when she won the load.

I am still on the lookout for anyone interested in being one of my stewards for the Friday and Saturday of Show week.

The position involves receiving exhibitors' entries, preparing the display for judging and assisting the judge during the Friday. If anyone is keen on volunteering or would like more information, please contact me and I will try to answer any query. I promise not to bite.

Keep your eyes open for more information regarding fashion parades at the Toodyay Agricultural Show. Local outlets and the Op Shop will definitely be a magnet for all fashion divas.

Our sincere thanks must go to our major sponsors and individuals who have once again supported us to organise the 167th Show.

Makit Toodyay Hardware and Produce, Chalice Mining, CSBP, Deepdale Farm, Dunnings, Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Toodyay Op Shop and the Shire of Toodyay understand that our Show is an historical one worth supporting.

Without these businesses and individuals donating a few dollars, small country shows such as ours would have a battle surviving but with their kind sponsorship we will endeavour to deliver a well-organised and entertainment-filled blockbuster Show this year and if things go our way, into the future.

Keep thinking about those entries and remember to visit our new updated website toodyayagsociety.com.au/.

If you have any Show questions regarding ground space or food van applications, contact the administration officer or myself direct on 0437 099 960 and we will solve them or connect you to the right team member.

Climate change drives Canada's canola price to record high

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance Frank Panizza

COOL and wet and wintery weather has set in.

Most local farmers say that this year has been the wettest year since 2016. Early rains in March and very good follow-up rains in May have set the season up exceptionally well.

Pasture growth is very good and crops are well established and are looking very good, especially canola.

Livestock producers are happy with the feed in paddocks with sheep and lambs doing well. Farmers have reported good lambing percentages, above average in general.

Cattle producers have also reported good calving numbers, with cows and calves doing well in the kind seasonal conditions.

Some sheep farmers have again had to deal with lamb losses through fox attacks on newborn lambs, which unfortunately appears to be a perennial problem.

Canola prices are at record highs. A shortage of canola worldwide, combined with production issues particularly in Canada, the world's biggest producer, have driven prices to record levels.

Canola grown in Australia is planted in April



A local farmers' canola crop a few weeks away from bloom. GENERIC PHOTO

or May for growth over winter and is then harvested in November. In Canada canola is also sown in May and grows over the Canadian summer from rainfall and snow melt.

Summer daylight hours in Canada are long, up to 15 hours per day. As a result, the crop grows very quickly and matures earlier than crops planted the same time in Australia.

The risk to the Canadian canola crop is always summer heat while the crop is still growing.

The United States and parts of Canada are experiencing extreme heat wave conditions at present. Temperatures near 40 degrees are forecast for parts of Saskatchewan, Canada's largest canola producing state, and worldwide canola prices have risen as a result.

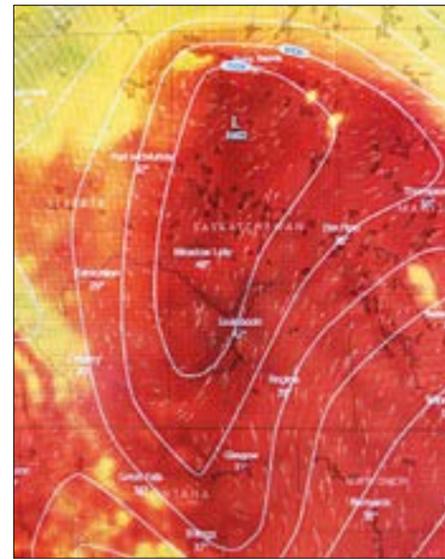
Weather authorities in the United States and Canada apportion the cause of the current extreme weather events primarily to climate change.

Extreme heat conditions in summer have a far greater effect on crop production for countries like Canada and the United States as their crops are predominately grown over spring and summer.

Sporadic extreme weather events, such as the current one in North America, will in the future place strain on the world's supply of grain.

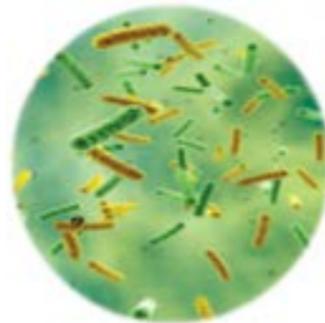
At the opposite end of the scale is the current season in Australia, which apart from some areas in South Australia and Victoria, is tracking along well.

A record-sized crop of canola has been planted in WA with local farmers hoping that the very good start to the season continues until harvest.



Forecast temperature for Saskatchewan, Canada on July 3. Photo: Windy.Com.

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CWA members with Bayswater members and Lance Bennett. Photo: Viv Street.

Fun, friendship rule the day

Country Women's Association
Elizabeth Mansom

TWO OF us drove over to Bindoon on June 10 to attend the Chattering-Bindoon International Day. Japan is the country of study this year and going by the displays, branch members seem to be enjoying exploring the country and its culture.

Our members each won prizes and also had finds at the local op shop so came home well satisfied with their outing.

Those who went to the Jennacubbine Fun and Friendship Day on June 14 came back with reports of exactly that – fun and friendship.

They particularly appreciated that the day was structured to mix attending branches as we do tend to sit together murmuring that we should circulate more.

The lunch on such a cold day was a variety of warming soups and there were raffles and prizes aplenty.

June 24 was our 94th birthday which we combined with an international day so we could dress up. Bayswater, our sister city branch, came to help us celebrate.

A raffle entitled the person with the drawn ticket to choose from a table laden with offerings and we made sure everyone won a prize.

Our thanks go to Lance Bennett who came along and spoke to us of his 18 years living in Japan and teaching English.

The proceeds of the raffle will be directed to the Associated Country Women of the World

(ACWW) of which CWA of WA is a Category 1 society member.

ACWW is one of the largest development organisations for rural women, working with 412 member societies and affiliates to represent more than nine million women in 77 countries worldwide.

They engage with and advocate for women at local, national and international levels so the organisation is a very worthwhile recipient.

An event eagerly anticipated this year is state conference which will be held on Saturday and Sunday July 26 and 27.

State conference is always a highlight in the year but this year more so after we missed out last year. Our thanks go to Stephanie who agreed to be our delegate.

A date to mark on your calendar is Thursday July 15 when Kings Park Fashions is coming to Toodyay with fantastic winter 2021 fashions which will be on display in our hall from 9am to 1pm.

Seniors: bring your Seniors Card to receive a discount on all full-priced garments.

If fashion is not your thing, tea and scones will be available, so make a note to pop in after the weekly shop for a cuppa and a chat.

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

There is plenty of parking in Charcoal Lane with disabled access at the side of the hall. To book the hall please contact Bev Casey on 0488 722 874.

Small population adds to our local charm

Bejoording Community Group News
From the desk of The Badger

THE POPULATION of Bejoording turns over very slowly and grows at an even slower pace.

The stability of our population is part of our charm and so many members tell me they never want to leave.

So when we sign up two new members in the same month it's worth noting. A big welcome to the new members, their families, partners and occasional guests.

At our quarterly meeting on June 2 there was little business of importance except confirmation that our finances were in good shape.

The brevity of the formal meeting may have been influenced by the sumptuous feast organised by Andrea with some assistance from Linda. The range of casserole-style dishes was guaranteed to warm the cockles of your heart. The following week there was a good

gathering for the first State of Origin match and, dare I say it, an outstanding performance from the Blues.

Friday nights continue in full swing at various members' homes so there's never a dull week out here near the fringe of the shire in one of Western Australia's oldest planned communities.

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 0428 742 149, or call The Badger on 0414 250 484. Hope to see you soon.

Dinosaurs flavour of the month when cracking eggs

Bolgart News
Pam McGill

HARD-SHELLED eggs prepared by Mrs Kesic recently gave the younger school students the task of extracting a little dinosaur during a fun problem-solving activity.

Dinosaurs were also the flavour of the month when the kindergarten students were asked to design and make a pair of dinosaur feet which could be worn and successfully walked in.

Senior students helped Mrs Sims harvest some sunflowers to take home to their mothers. The students needed to help her as she couldn't safely handle the flowers and cut them at the same time.

It was time for the sunflowers to be cut down so the garlic which had previously been planted under the flowers could have enough light to develop properly. Thank you Mrs Sims for teaching the students about plants, gardening and helping make our school look wonderful and inviting.

Awards for Aussie of the Month went to Elise Edmonds and Alex Edmonds. Merit Certificates were awarded in the Senior Room to Joshua Cotter and Nicholas Moore and in the Junior Room to Archer Rose, Glenie Thomas, Zane Wallace and Jaxyn Knowles.

Many hands make light work

THE CWA worked hard towards a mighty fundraising event on May 27. A wonderful group of ladies gathered at the hall for our biggest morning tea in support of cancer research.

The ladies enjoyed a beautiful array of food, all lovingly prepared and donated by Bolgart residents. There were plenty of games, raffles, fun and frivolity and a grand total of \$600 was raised for this worthy cause.

Many thanks to everyone who came along to support Cancer Council WA and especially the CWA ladies and friends who provided the delicious spread of refreshments.

The CWA 97th birthday lunch was attended by an enthusiastic group of members and guests at Trees Café. All those attending enjoyed a delicious lunch with sweets to follow. Many thanks to Alan, Kathy, Maryanne and Nancy.

Trees Café held a *Mamma Mia* Italian night on June 26 as part of this year's winter warmers events.

A great group of people attended the dinner to enjoy a scrumptious three-course meal. A prize for the best Italian outfit was won by Elise Edmonds. Thank you Alan, Kathy and Maryanne.

On June 17 the Western Willie Wagtails Caravan Club visited town and Bolgart Progress Association was on hand to assist them with activities and excursions.

A meet and greet was held at Trees Café on the Friday morning with dinner at the Bolgart Hotel and a few other activities were held over the weekend.

A very enjoyable time was had by the visitors who said they will return sometime soon.

Pizzas top off golf day

THIRTEEN men and eight women attended the Mixed Open Day on June 19 sponsored by Max Hubble, Countrywide Group and Brad Parker from Aviso Insurance.

Winner for the ladies was Joy Hamilton, runner-up Pam Meston with Matt Camerer men's winner and Liam Guthrie runner-up.

Pizzas were served later to top off a great day of golf.

Ten ladies from The Vines recently visited to contest the Ruth Taylor Putter Trophy.

The Taylor family has been sponsoring this event for 35 years. Ruth Taylor was a former player at Bolgart for many years and her daughter Janet, who plays at The Vines, made the presentations.

The winner of the day was Serena Syred, runner up Jenni Knowles. A beautiful afternoon tea followed the presentations.

The Bolgart Hotel Trophy for ladies was played in wet conditions and was won by Vivienne Camerer.

Winners of the Travel Tree 4BBB, sponsored by Waveney Jones and Pam McGill, were Serena Syred and Pam McGill.

Congratulations to the ladies who travelled to Jurien Bay for the Rural Bronze Tournament and also to Jenni Knowles who came third over the 36 holes Stableford.



Bolgart Primary School children let their imaginations fly in creating a variety of dinosaur shoes.

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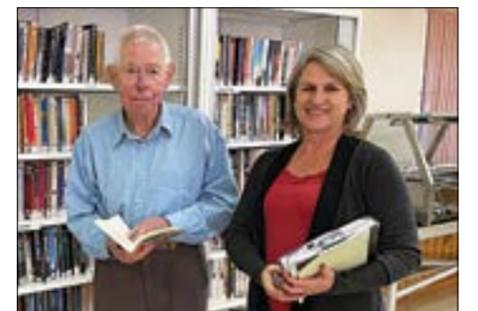
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Book a book in Morangup



Peter Kirkland selects a book delivered by Toodyay librarian Linda Stewart.

Morangup News
Ida O'Connell

TOODYAY Library provides a delivery service to local residents on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month between 2pm and 3pm at the Morangup Community Hall.

Residents can enjoy a tea or coffee as they browse the latest book delivery.

Items can be requested through the Toodyay Library by phoning 9574 2323 or by emailing library@toodyay.wa.gov.au or through the library catalogue on the Shire of Toodyay website.



Student hikers, parents and staff members are reflected in a pool during their 65km trek to Dwellingup. Photo: Sharon Andersen.

Hikers brave the elements to conquer their fears

Toodyay YouthCARE Chaplaincy
John White

IT'S THE end of another term – whoohoo.

It's been a long one and students and staff alike are very relieved to be starting a well-earned break. Not sure about parents, but they'll get their break in a couple of weeks.

In the May edition I mentioned that 13 intrepid student hikers, Chaplain Doug, two staff members and a parent had been dropped off on Albany Highway to hike 65km to Dwellingup.

It's time now to report the good news. They did all return safely and they not only survived, they thrived.

The profound, 'transformational-benefit' of these wilderness experiences for young people cannot be overemphasised and it is simply wonderful that the school and community support them.

At the recent post-hike celebration at the school, these are a few of the comments from the 'champions' (hikers) who braved the elements, conquered their fears, dug deeply into resources they didn't know they possessed, and came out as a 'winning community'.

"What I learned from the hike was to never give up and always stick together."

"I've never done anything this hard before, and I got tired on several occasions, but I realised that if I kept a positive mindset and kept on telling myself 'I can do this', then I can get up a mountain and I did."

"When you work as a team you can accomplish way more than when you're alone."

"Don't be afraid to ask for help."

"I enjoyed how nice people could be, they helped me and asked me if I was OK."

"I learnt I had to listen properly and buckle my backpack so it didn't hurt my shoulders."

"I was worried about being a leader because I didn't think I could do it but was very proud of myself because I found it fun and I did it."

"I learnt that even though I was in pain I could still complete the hike if I put my mind to it."

"I was able to open up about my problems and ask for help when I needed it."

"It helped me make friends and appreciate a different experience of the teachers."

"The hike made me appreciative of everything

I have and made me feel a lot better about myself both physically and mentally."

"I have gained greater confidence in myself and have less anxiety."

"I am better able to speak to people without feeling awkward and I was more comfortable in my own skin. If I put in the effort and push

forward, I can achieve anything I want to."

Wow – how is that for an excellent educational program? Thank you principal and staff. Thank you, parents and helpers. Thank you, Doug.

Thank you, hikers for stumping up the courage and showing us guts. You're all champions and our future is safe in your hands.

P&C seeds first sharefarm crop to help kids

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

WITH the help of Blink Bonny farmers Tyrone and George Murray, Toodyay District High School P&C has seeded its first sharefarmed wheat crop.

Blink Bonny Farm set aside an area of 30ha for the school crop which is visible from Lovers Lane.

Tyrone Murray said: "The process involved seed cleaning and knockdown and pre-emergent sprays to control weed growth prior to seeding in early June."

"In the coming months a combination of fertiliser spreading, sprays and the right weather conditions will hopefully generate a bountiful harvest in December," he said.

Profits from the share-crop will go towards improving facilities and access to resources and opportunities for 300 students at Toodyay District High School.

The project would not have been possible without community sponsorship, including a \$5000 grant from the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank and a \$2000 contribution from the Toodyay Op Shop.

Donations of chemical and fertiliser from local agricultural businesses, Elders (Northam), Candeloro Farms and CSBP, will also reduce

costs and increase profits.

Thanks to the generosity of our community and local agricultural industry, Toodyay District High School is set to benefit next year and into the future.

You can follow the progress of the Farming for Toodyay District High School share-crop on Facebook at: @farmingTDHSPandC.

In the meantime, please get your tickets to the Back to School trivia night on Friday July 23 at the Memorial Hall. Reserve your tickets (\$15pp) by contacting Olivia on 0498 250 879.

It'll be a fun filled night of laughs and trivia with lots of prizes up for grabs, thanks to the generous support of local businesses.

Thank you to our major sponsors, EAG, Freemasons Hotel, Makit Hardware, Tony Maddox Real Estate, Toodyay Tyres, Toodyay Auto Centre and quiz round sponsors Country Realty, Elders, Toodyay IGA and table sponsors Avon Valley Gifts.

We have more businesses to acknowledge and thank for their contributions to the trivia night. Check out local social media pages as we name and fame them for their contributions.

Contact Kelly-Anne Murray at pandtoodyaydhs@gmail.com, 0406 585 716 or leave a message on the Facebook page – search Toodyay DHS P&C.



From left: Brianna, Tyrone and Ava Murray in the freshly ploughed 30ha paddock which is part of the P&C's share cropping project at Blink Bonny Farm. Photo Kelly-Anne Murray.

Live streaming is a breeze



Guests and community supporters at the 2017 launch of 2J2AIR.

2J2AIR 105.3FM
Paula Greenway

IT'S BEEN a busy month down at your 105.3FM Toodyay Community Radio Station.

Streaming our programs and music all over the world has been surprisingly uneventful.

If you have family overseas or know of past Toodyay residents now living abroad or elsewhere tell them to listen in.

Our music is pretty groovy (showing my age there). Our programs cover rock, folk, country, orchestral, crooners, and don't forget our Bethan and her gardening and general information program

We share information from Main Roads WA, updates from RoadWise, Toodyay CWA ladies, and up and coming events.

We acknowledge all our amazing local business sponsors and encourage you to shop locally and support the businesses that support us and keep the music coming.

We have plenty of space for new sponsors if you'd like to hear your business promoted on Toodyay Community Radio Heartbeat of the Community.

Sometime this month the radio station studio will host some of our local musicians who will work with our station master to record their music using the station equipment.

Visit our website 2j2air.org.au, press that button and live stream our programs.

The team is still working on our app.

As always, contact us if you'd like to share community information on the radio or join the team. We are easy to get along with and always looking for members.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Transport**

Request for Applications for Appointment as an Agent to Perform Light and/or Heavy Vehicle Inspection Services in the Wheatbelt West Region

Request No. DOT630021

The Department of Transport is inviting Applications through this process for suitably qualified organisations with an established premise in the Wheatbelt West Region to perform vehicle inspection services for Light and/or Heavy Vehicles as nominated.

Documents are available by downloading from www.tenders.wa.gov.au

Enquires may be directed to Halszka Kriticos on halszka.kriticos@transport.wa.gov.au or 9216 8662

Closing Date: Friday, 30 July 2021

Closing Time: 2.30pm Perth WA

Fiddly knobs add to turners' repertoire

Avon Valley Woodturners
Max J Heath

WELL, it's that time again when I try to work out what to put in this month's paper. We started last month by attending the Northam Markets on a bitterly cold morning which did affect the attendance, but it was still a good day out.

While we had quite a few inquiries on the day, I think the main interest was in the coffee van.

Members turned a number of different items during the day including several give-aways and these were well received.

Items such as tea light candle holders and garden dibblers were crafted, along with simple containers which accidentally ended up with holes in the bottom. Still, a good time was had by all who attended.

Our new members are coming along well and attempting different items – great to see.

Club members have been approached to make some items such as a handle for an antique butter churn and some small but fiddly knobs for a chest of drawers.

One of our members who is shifting house soon has loaned the club his buzzer and so our equipment list has extended and we are now capable of crafting more different items at The Junction.

Peter Vincent has purchased a guide for putting together segmented items. He tried something similar recently but had problems. So far, his new article is looking great.

We are having a wood raffle in early August and new member Rob Pearce has put together a load of firewood for us. Thanks Rob.

There will be a number of other crafted prizes as well. The raffle will run at the IGA and we look forward to having you all support us.

Once again, if you would like to come and visit us, we are at 2J Junction on Sunday and Wednesday mornings from 9am to about 11.30am with a cuppa about 10am.

Well, that is about all from the woodturners for this month so please keep safe.

Many projects on the hop at Men's Shed



A CH Signs and Print staff member installs the new sign at the Toodyay Men's Shed on Harper Road.

Toodyay Men's Shed Graham Hill

WELL, it has been a busy time at The Men's Shed with a successful wood raffle at the IGA with winning ticket sold to Jaime Hewson of Goomalling.

Several projects have been undertaken with the pinball game finally completed as well as Jenga Blocks and extra large Dominoes for the Toodyay Community Resource Centre – much to the amusement of the younger members.

Progress is also underway on some timber

jockey outlines for the Toodyay Racing Club and production is well advanced on some new food platters for the Freemasons Hotel.

To further our facility, CH Signs and Print recently installed a new Toodyay Men's Shed sign, brightly painted and presented on the end of the shed facing Harper Road so now everyone knows where we are.

The sign serves as an invitation to all men of any age to join in the activities of The Shed or just come in for a chat and a cuppa.

You can be involved in any project we may be undertaking or just simply observe what other men are working on.



Fred Fellowes (left) congratulates wood raffle winner Jamiem Hewson.



Toodyay Community Resource Centre staff Nicole Coleman (left) and Kyla Browne with Jenga Blocks and Dominoes made by The Men's Shed.

We are not a service club, however, and can only undertake small projects within the ability of our members.

There is one other major attraction at The Men's Shed – freshly baked cakes and cookies for morning coffee or tea and while we might like to take credit for such an attraction we cannot, as it is supplied by Di Roberts who bakes tirelessly each week to provide such delicacies for the men. Di, we thank you for your magnificent effort.

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

Theatre-goers pull pin on bad language

Toodyay Probosc Club
Norm Green

LAST month club members met at James' Cottage in Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

The cottage was built in 1863 by Abraham James and is now one of the few remaining mudbrick buildings of the 1860s.

Our member Jane was kind enough to tell us the history of the cottage.

Abraham James was an expirree whose term expired in 1861 after arriving in the colony in 1852.

He was the fourth blacksmith to operate in the Toodyay area when he arrived, establishing himself at the junction of the roads to Northam and Guildford known as Fingerpost Corner.

James also sold some stores, extracted teeth and specialised in making branding iron designs which he registered with the government.

James' son Thomas was also a blacksmith and he continued the business until about 1930 when motor vehicles began to replace horses. Thomas died in his blacksmith shop in 1941.

Members of the James family lived at the cottage until the early 1960s.

Jane has lived in the cottage for some time, so I guess it is really Jane's Cottage now.

One of our recent outings was to the stand-up comedy show *For One Night Only* at the Memorial Hall featuring Peter Rowsthorn and Steve Lee.

A few of our members as well as many others in the audience walked out before Peter Rowsthorn had his turn in the second

half. Too much bad language and gutter concepts from Steve Lee.

This month we have the Police Historical Society visiting us to give a talk.

If you are interested in joining, please contact our president Joan on 0417 171 606 or email joanbath@bigpond.com/.

Bindoon visit a welcome return to old ways

Toodyay Autumn Club
Mike Cox

COMING back to the Autumn Club after a spell in hospital and then recovering at home, I was warmly welcomed and was happy to find a lively club with a number of new members.

The game of carpet bowls is our main pastime but not the only activity, as we also have a monthly lunch in town and have in the past visited other clubs but with the shutdown it has not been possible until now.

I'm pleased to say we will be inviting the Bindoon Club to visit us on Wednesday July 14 and later on in the year they will be inviting us to their club.

It is great that we can get back to our old ways of visiting other clubs. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we can visit more in the near future.

Our AGM coincides with *The Herald* publication date so we will report on the election of committee in the next edition.

The club recently did its part by cleaning up our 'adopt a spot' so a big thank you to all who helped.

If you are interested in joining us contact our secretary on 9574 4587.



The Toodyay Theatre Group presents a youth production

"Fogies"

A musical about growing old but living young!

SHOW NIGHTS

Saturday August 14th

Friday August 20th

Saturday August 21st

Doors open 6:30 for a 7pm start

MATINEE SHOW

Sunday August 15th

Doors open 12:30 for a 1pm start



Tickets

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