

The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned
community newspaper
Est. 1902

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

October 2021
Edition 406

Crowds of happy punters flock back to Toodyay for Picnic Race Day



A BIG crowd of exuberant punters ignored overcast skies and showers to celebrate the welcome return of Toodyay's annual picnic race day after last year's event was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Scores of colourful characters thronged trackside last month for a full card of eight races, including the \$30,000 Toodyay Cup over 1850m won in a close finish by Gingin-trained bay gelding Admiral Promo, ridden by jockey Jade McNaught.

Fashions on the Field and the Dash for Cash footrace added to a day of entertainment.

The program ended with regular Toodyay picnic races frontman Tod Johnson (left) rocking punters with a string of popular hits performed by his Perth band PeaceLove.

More pictures Pages 12 and 14.



Three newcomers complete historic clean sweep

Michael Sinclair-Jones

THREE newcomers have been elected unopposed to the Toodyay Shire Council.

They are Charmaine Duri, Steve McCormick and Danielle Wrench.

Cr Mick McKeown – whose 15-month term was due to expire this month – was re-elected unopposed to fill a fourth remaining vacancy on the nine-member council.

The result represents a clean sweep to replace a former Toodyay council publicly discredited by 23 adverse findings against

it and a former CEO when the results of a year-long State Government inquiry were tabled in the WA State Parliament last year.

This year's four candidates were the only nominees for four council vacancies, which means there will be no postal ballot of Toodyay electors this month.

It will be the first time in shire history that all elected members will represent all Toodyay voters after minority ward representation was abolished two years ago.

The council's two remaining veteran councillors elected under the former ward

system – Crs Brian Rayner (shire president 2017-19) and Therese Chitty (deputy president 2015-19) – did not stand for re-election when their terms expire this month.

A third veteran of the abolished ward system, former Cr Paula Greenway, resigned last March.

Cr McKeown was first elected in a postal ballot of all Toodyay voters in July last year after former Cr Bill Manning (shire president 2019-2020) resigned to move to Tasmania.

Continued on Page 3, shire budget Page 3, Editorial Page 4, new councillors Page 5.

Coming events
Toodyay Agricultural Show
Saturday October 9
Toodyay Farmers Market
Sunday October 17

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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.

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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, Warren Naseby and Barb Dadd.

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

STORY DEADLINE

DISTRIBUTED

Noon Thursday
October 21

Noon Tuesday
October 26

Wednesday
November 3

IN MEMORY OF STIRLING HAMILTON 1958 – 2021

Farewell Ol' Blind Joe

Kim Angus

STIRLING Hamilton – known to many Toodyay residents as Herald columnist *Ol' Blind Joe* – passed away last month after an extended period of poor health.

One of Stirling's last actions as a local community volunteer and Toodyay Herald (Inc) committee member was to attend last month's annual general meeting of members just two days before his death.

Stirling was a complex character with good points and bad, troubled by his own conscience and rarely at peace with the Establishment.

He could be too clever by half, especially in his youth, and had an artistic eye with Toodyay Stone his medium of choice.

The distinctive wall (pictured right) at the corner of Goomalling Road and Stirling Terrace is one of Stirling's magnificent creations – an enduring landmark of which we can be proud for many years to come.

But Stirling's main weapons were his words which he wrote with great effect to charm and infuriate readers with his *Ol' Blind Joe* columns on this page.

A massive amount of research went into producing his often-unorthodox views of the world, and Stirling spent many hours agonising over every sentence.

Love him or hate him, everybody read *Ol' Blind Joe*.

Stirling was also happy to offer help to those who needed it, though frequently his input was limited to organising while somebody else did the actual assisting.

He was extremely vocal in his objections to capitalism.

Stirling may have been happy in his younger years to sleep under a bush but in later years he was more likely to lob on somebody's verandah or shed and stay a year or more, uninvited.

He ran up power bills without paying while trying to convince owners to organise things more to his liking until Danny Sims from West Toodyay finally came to rescue Stirling from himself.

Stirling's health had been failing for a number of years and though he quit smoking cigarettes to help his lungs, his liver didn't receive similar consideration from his favourite tippie, cartons of Coopers Pale Ale.

Stirling loved robust political discussions, as did his great friend and former Toodyay shire councillor Chris Firns, who passed away last year.

In one amusing incident, Stirling – fuelled by steroids to help his laboured breathing – challenged Chris during a particularly heated discussion to “step outside and settle this like a man”.

Onlookers told both to behave or the result would be none too pleasant for Stirling – a clear example of how steroids can be dangerous.

Live music was another of Stirling's great interests, and his extremely individual style of dancing will be remembered by many.

His costumed appearances as *Ol' Blind Joe* at Toodyay's annual Moondyne Festival to judge the raucous Cleavage Competition for 'Floozyies' at the Vic Hotel were legendary.

As well as being on the Moondyne organising committee for many years, Stirling also participated in Mud Footy when



The late Stirling Hamilton pictured as *Ol' Blind Joe* at the distinctive Toodyay Stone wall that he built at the corner of Goomalling Road and Stirling Terrace.

good sense suggested otherwise.

Stirling was in all ways his own man.

He was also there for the young ones in moments of need to genuinely care about their welfare – another important aspect of his life.

His father and mother moved from Scotland to New York where he and his sister Susan were born, him in 1958, before the family migrated in 1970 to the eastern states.

Stirling travelled around northern NSW after leaving school and lived in Nimbin – the centre of Australia's '70s hippy counter-culture – where he married and led an idyllic life before travelling in 1996 to visit his sister in Toodyay, where he became a fixture.

Close friend Donnelly Whincup said: “He was always there for me, always stood up for me, always cared for me and saved me many times in many ways.”

“I knew no matter what happened I could turn to him and many times he was my only friend.

“He taught me to see myself, to be myself, hear myself, love myself and dance like nobody else is watching no matter what others thought.

“He stood by me even when he didn't agree with my decisions, always knowing that I would be able to figure it out myself.

“Stirling was a constant in my life, and I am devastated by his departure.

“I am so grateful that we got to have one last drink, one last laugh and one last hug.

“I will love you always Stirling – thank you for being such a massive part of my life.

“The world has lost a legend.”

Stirling leaves a mother, a sister Susan Burley, nieces and nephews, two children Cody and Brodie, and many friends and acquaintances who will all miss him.

His invariable answer to being asked “how are you Stirling?” was “not dead yet” – alas this is now no longer true.

Vale Stirling Hamilton.

But if the arrow is straight, and the point is slick, it can pierce through dust no matter how thick. So I'll make my stand, and remain as I am, and bid farewell and not give a damn – US singer/songwriter Bob Dylan, 1964.

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October - November 2021

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

'Ducky' Dave soldiers on in life of Salvo service

Ieva Tomsons

TOODYAY racecourse caretaker Dave 'Ducky' King has been living up to his nickname of "ducking in here and there" while preparing the grounds for the recent Picnic Race Day.

He grew up in Perth's western suburbs and was abandoned by his alcoholic mother when he was five years old.

"Child welfare would have stepped in if my grandmother hadn't. Grandma was alright but she was very strict.

"It was a very poor upbringing and my toys were pots and pans."

In Grade 1 Dave was diagnosed with eye problems and learning disabilities which would lead to a succession of "special schools".

Dave is good at maths and with a photographic memory he remembers all the numbers of the buses he would catch to attend the schools.

"I was like a bouncy castle back then."

His final year of schooling was at Perth Modern School which also had a "special class".

"I couldn't believe I got through primary school," laughs Dave.

At Perth Modern School Dave was allowed to work in the garden when he wasn't handling classes and got into a lot of fights defending himself from kids' taunts.

"I spent most of the year sitting outside the principal's office. Back then there wasn't any fancy stuff (for special needs kids) and I did need extra help."

He was 12 when he came home and told his grandmother that he wanted to leave school, a decision he stuck to.

From an early age Dave delivered papers before and after school as well as helping his uncle with his lawn mowing business.

"Grandma's son, Uncle Wally was a conman and I worked for him for four years for no pay. I had to learn the hard way, but I didn't want to rock the boat with the family – we all knew there wasn't a bank book for my wages."

When he was 15 he designed and built a three-wheel bike with a basket at the front which could hold a mower and wheelbarrow and started out on his own mowing lawns for \$4 an hour.

"I'd take Grandma shopping in that basket," laughs Dave who gave half of what he earned to his grandmother.

In 1974 Dave signed on for a 'work for the dole' scheme which led to three years working in Karrakatta Cemetery where he dug graves with a pick and shovel and cut down dead trees.

"It takes about three to four hours to dig a grave without an excavator. The first body (in family plots) goes in at 7ft (2m), the second at 5ft (1.5m) and the last at 3ft (1m)."

When the scheme was wound up, Dave was one of only three workers selected for a full-time job.

"I worked real hard and they saw something in me. They trusted me to work virtually unsupervised."

Dave set his sights on getting a driver's licence which proved to be another hurdle he'd have to overcome.



Former Toodyay Bakery worker Dave 'Ducky' King and Dudley-Doo.

After seven failed attempts with driving instructors, the head of Ken Sue Driving School investigated and found nothing wrong with Dave's driving and sacked two of the instructors.

"The boss wanted to give me back my money, which I didn't take. I got my licence on my 21st birthday. How good is that?"

Dave was 25 and working in demolition when he hurt his back which led to a year at Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital and work at ParaQuad Industries where he continued his education and met his future wife Wilhelmina.

They married in 1990 in the Salvation Army Community Church in Morley and went to live in a Homeswest unit in Doubleview.

"Wilhelmina couldn't settle down and we were only married for a week before she went her merry way for the next five or six years," laughs Dave.

"My family offered to help but I'd seen all the domestics, the whole box and dice, so I said no to that."

By the time they got back together Dave had become a Quartermaster Sergeant for the Salvation Army, an organisation he first

became involved with as a teenager attending Sunday school.

"I really wanted to become a (Salvo's) welfare officer, but I couldn't do the paperwork."

He was still doing demolition work and

mowing lawns but spent a lot of time helping to establish a Salvo's op shop in Morley.

On a Salvation Army bus trip to Uluru, the first time Dave left WA, he helped a blind man climb the rock.

"I loved being part of the Salvos and I am still a soldier."

In his mid-40s Dave bought a caravan and while still doing demolition jobs he started caretaking at wreckers' yards in Midland and Malaga.

"It suited me as I had the run of the yard and could get parts and tyres whenever I needed them."

Dave eventually took out a Homeswest loan to buy a one-bedroom flat on Great Eastern Highway in Maida Vale.

"There was a six-lane highway coming so I knew it was time to get out of the dog kennel. I lost money but cleared my Homeswest debt. It was an experience."

Dave moved to Toodyay in 1994 where he started working as a cleaner and night cook at the local bakery.

He was living at a caravan park and when a rental came up in Northam he took it and cycled to Toodyay and back each day to his job at the bakery.

After two years in Northam Dave moved back to Toodyay where he set up a recycled bike shop at the back of *The Toodyay Herald* building. He became a volunteer firefighter and would close the shop to help fight bushfires.

Down the track he became involved in BMX riding and continued well into his 50s.

In 2013 former service station owner and proprietor of Amy's Cafe Kenny Lee shouted Dave a trip to Vietnam.

"Dave had helped me so much and he deserved a holiday," said Kenny.

Community involvement and service are second nature to Dave and in 2005 he was awarded Citizen of the Year for assistance with landscaping and painting Toodyay Central fire station and planting at a local park.

Dave is always out and about with his best mate Dudley-Doo, the last in a line of white dogs he has adopted while living in Toodyay.

"In Perth I always had Blue Heelers but here they have all been white. Everyone loves my dogs."

Shire rates and fees up 5pc

Michael Sinclair-Jones

RATES, fees and charges will rise five per cent this financial year after the Toodyay Shire Council rejected a last-minute bid to adopt smaller increases.

Higher rates were approved 5-1 last month with Cr Mick McKeown against (Crs Ben Bell and Brian Rayner absent).

Toodyay rates did not rise last year due to the cost of Covid-19 emergency lockdowns.

Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said a five per cent increase would generate a surplus of \$80,000 in the current financial year.

Councillor payments would remain the same except for an additional \$1000 travel allowance which will be shared by all elected members from a single fund.

Use of Toodyay's new Recreation Centre facilities – including the swimming pool – will cost five per cent more, as will rubbish collection, hall hire, cemetery fees, planning applications and other costs.

The increases apply from October 1.

The council heard earlier that a four per cent rate rise would leave a \$30,000 deficit.

However, the last-minute discovery of a \$70,000 double entry in cost allocations would have turned it into a \$40,000 surplus.

Cr Susan Pearce said the shire was in a

precarious position after the expense of two major storms but needed to be mindful not to over-burden the community with increases.

Cr Phil Hart said roads had been under-funded for years – there was a legal and moral responsibility for future generations.

Shire Deputy President and Audit Committee Chair Beth Ruthven said a break-even budget was too risky "in these unpredictable times".

"We have little in our reserves and we need to be in a more resilient position with a forward-thinking budget," she said.

Newcomers complete council clean sweep

Continued from Page 1.

CR MICK McKeown and the three new councillors are due to start their four-year terms on October 16.

A special council meeting has been called for 1pm on Monday October 18 to swear in the four elected members, who will then join the other five sitting members to elect a president for the next two years.

Cr Rosemary Madacsi currently holds that position and is expected to renominate.

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The Toodyay Herald

Historic shift

IT'S DISAPPOINTING that four Toodyay shire councillors were elected unopposed last month without a single vote being cast.

It is also a concern that broad-acre farmers who pay about a fifth of all shire rates no longer have a seat on the council.

Community fatigue after years of costly civic turmoil may have deterred more candidates from standing for election.

The result is historic, however, because our council no longer has members elected by only a minority of voters under the now-abolished ward system.

It also represents a final break from a former council hit by 23 adverse findings tabled in State Parliament last year.

Councillors who wasted hundreds of thousands of ratepayer dollars on futile legal actions and ignored State Government warnings about a disgraced former CEO are now all gone.

They deserve thanks for the many hours of underpaid service they gave to the community but not for a serious lack of judgment that cost ratepayers dearly.

Toodyay's new shire councillors face the daunting task of learning a complex job that will make many demands on their time and patience over the next four years.

These will range from seemingly trivial debates over whether to allow Toodyay pet owners to keep three dogs instead of two, to critical decisions about spending millions of dollars of ratepayers' money.

The starting point is that it is always the elected members – not shire staff – who determine what the council does.

Every recommendation is required by law to be considered on merit, questions asked and, if needed, amended or rejected.

Ratepayers are entitled to expect no less from their elected representatives.

They are also entitled to expect openness, accountability and transparency, and sound judgment that serves the best interests of the entire community.

The surprise in this year's budget is that the rate increase is not higher because of the extra \$700,000 needed every year to pay for a former council decision to build a new \$14 million recreation centre.

It is worth noting that there were no community objections to a five per cent rate rise after last month's shire call for public submissions drew no responses.

An \$80,000 surplus sounds like a lot of money but it represents only about half a per cent of the shire's total budget of \$13.5 million this financial year.

More lockdowns as WA opens its borders to interstate and overseas travel or more damaging storms and catastrophic bushfires like we saw last summer could wipe out that surplus very quickly.

Our councillors are ordinary people who have volunteered to undertake public leadership roles in extraordinary circumstances.

We will be watching closely to see how they perform.

*Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor*



The way we were – This undated photo shows students from the former 10 Mile Hill School which opened in 1913 near the junction of old Toodyay-Perth Road and Lovers Lane. The school was built by E. Crossley and the first teacher was Gertrude Hasell. The school closed in 1925 and the last teacher was Eileen Plummer. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

LETTERS

Hands off our zoning

ATTENTION Toodyay Shire Council.

We, the residents of Timberden Drive, Julimar, hereby oppose the Shire of Toodyay proposal to change our properties' rural zoning under the draft Local Planning Scheme No. 5 to rural smallholding.

This is merely another revenue raising attempt by the council.

The proposed zoning change doesn't even allow for hobby farms to be a permitted use of our land, yet most of us are already small farmers who developed the land decades ago.

We all bought here so we could enjoy the benefits of our rural zoned lots.

By changing our zoning, the council is essentially devaluing our properties and depriving us of property rights that we already enjoy and have paid to enjoy.

It is a well-established legal maxim that you cannot take away one's property rights without the payment of compensation.

As owners, we will fight to be financially compensated in a class action should our council choose to oppose us and change our rural zoning.

I should also mention that not one single landowner who I consulted even realised that the vague letter sent by shire potentially affected our zoning.

As elected representatives of 'we' (the people), you – the shire – have a duty to be transparent and not send landowners on a wild goose chase to unveil the truth of the extent of your proposal and its effects on us as rate payers and fellow community members.

The owners of Timberden Drive in Julimar already have established farming enterprises including, but not limited to, the following: aquaculture, horticulture, registered Highland cattle breeding, registered Murray Grey cattle breeding, sheep breeding, donkey breeding, camel breeding, game bird breeding, and poultry breeding.

Please hear us loud and clear. We, the residents of Timberden Drive, Julimar, hereby oppose the proposal to change our properties' rural zoning under draft Local Planning Scheme No.5 to Rural Smallholding.

We can and will, if required, submit a petition signed by each landowner.

*Lorri Reeve
(on behalf of Timberden Drive residents)
Julimar*

Whitewater drive

WE'VE been visiting Toodyay for half a century now and we love it.

Whenever we have visitors from overseas or over east, Toodyay is always our first port of call.

One thing that always seems to spoil the day is the long drive to Toodyay after visiting the Avon Valley National Park.

We generally get to the national park reasonably early, have a walk through the beautiful bush and then along the river and back to the barbecue area for morning tea.

From the park we drive 18km back to the Toodyay Road and another 30km or so to Toodyay.

I got to thinking about how the trip would be improved if the 6km of road from the park to Cobblers Pool Road was upgraded to serve both the rail and general traffic.

The tourism potential for Toodyay would be fantastic – a scenic River Road drive and by the time you make Lovers Lane it's only 12km to Toodyay for lunch.

A major spin-off from this would be Toodyay's winter whitewater playground. Instead of kayaks and boats accessing the river in Toodyay and exiting at Bells Rapids they could exit at the national park and drive back to Toodyay.

The area could become WA's premier whitewater attraction and would bring thousands of visitors into your area, especially around Cobblers Pool Road.

Upgrading the road could result in many sporting events starting and finishing in the Toodyay Shire.

I'm sure a few more spin-offs could come out of this 6km road upgrade and one level crossing gate. So hopefully in the not too distant future funding can be secured.

*Dave Tupling
Kalamunda*

Too many chiefs

WAKE up Toodyay – we have a small town and a large shire, so you now know why the shire is broke.

We have too many chiefs and not enough Indians around this place.

I cannot believe that I will now pay more rates than my grandson who lives in Brabham near Whiteman Park. Where we live, there is no mail service and it's a 28km round trip for food and mail and we supply our own water.

I cannot believe that a shire that was asked for a pool created a recreation centre that costs \$400,000 a year to maintain; a debt we all have to service.

I cannot believe a shire that has a project hires consultants when there is an engineer on staff.

I cannot believe a shire that has an enormous debt asks to hire an engineering technical officer, an environmental health officer and a development services officer. Too many chiefs and not enough Indians.

I cannot believe the shire purchased a large television and software to create a conference centre. What happened to picking up the phone and calling?

I cannot believe the shire paid for new IT programs that replaced old ones that worked.

Too many chiefs and not enough Indians. Perhaps as we now have councillors without individual wards, we could cut back on the number of councillors?

Perhaps we could reduce all the chiefs and employ more Indians.

Can the shire not understand that you

can't spend money you don't have without factoring in repayment?

If we ran our household like the shire does we would all be on welfare and there are enough there already.

Wake up and apply commonsense, cut the spending, reduce staff and cut projects. We might not like it but after five years we might have some money.

Tighten our belts Toodyay. We can get through this, but the shire has to decide – now.

*Fred Fellowes
Coondle*

What happened to spraying?

WE HAVE become increasingly concerned about the lack of maintenance to verges throughout the Toodyay Shire.

Of particular concern is the Toodyay-Bindi Bindi road from Toodyay town site all the way to Bolgart.

The verges are grossly overgrown presenting a serious fire hazard.

Years ago the verges were sprayed by shire staff but this does not seem to happen anymore.

Various firebreaks on smaller hobby or lifestyle paddocks are also overgrown along with the rest and present a serious fire risk.

It's time the shire committed resources to mitigate the risk of fires getting out of control by tending to these road verges and applying local law in regard to firebreaks.

Our rates continue to climb on an annual basis, and we seem to be receiving less services that are of critical importance to community safety.

*Stephanie and Barry Clarke
Wattening-Bolgart*

Posthumous praise

AS A NEW resident returning to country life, I have been delighted with the vibrancy of the Toodyay community.

An unexpected joy has been finding a columnist who does not dish up the usual trivia and uneducated, even untrue disinformation that passes for news.

Stirling Hamilton, by contrast, deeply researches the subjects he covers which clearly upsets those who have been brought up on alternate facts.

However, without people being informed, our democracy is unworkable.

*Jim Scott
Toodyay
(Stirling, alas, passed away last month.
Obituary Page 2 – Ed.)*

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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Jet noise expert raises concerns about Julimar forest mining

Richard Wilkinson
Avon Valley Environmental Society Inc.

LIKE many *Herald* readers, I am concerned by the recent exploration activities of Chalice Mining in the Julimar State Forest.

I was a member of a consulting group run by a bauxite mining group which got few direct answers to our concerns about open-cut mining in Morangup.

Luckily this threat has gone away temporarily.

Chalice with its prominent advertising and newsletters appears to pose a bigger threat.

I have been treasurer of The Avon Valley Environmental Society for 10 years, was a Toodyay shire councillor 2011-12 and live in Coondle West.

Society members generally engage in activities such as building footpaths and protecting riverbanks rather than opposing projects.

But after a face-to-face meeting with Chalice at Avalon Homestead earlier this year we came away with little information and have received no response to a page of questions left with them.

In this article, I will concentrate on noise and transport, both topics I feel well qualified to discuss.

I have asked for informed comments on environmental issues from a more qualified source.

If mining is allowed, there is little doubt that enormous damage will be done to flora and fauna in the Julimar State Forest, some

of which is already in danger.

With respect to noise, I hold a Masters Degree in sound and vibration science from Southampton University in the UK.

I spent two years in the 1960s researching the source of noise in jet engines when new Boeing 707 passenger jets were being banned from some airports because of noise.

I also worked on noise footprints around European airports and was an expert witness in a successful nightclub noise case.

Noise is measured in decibels, which is best described by example.

A noisy motorbike would measure 90-95 decibels, a car between 70-75 decibels, radio and TV between 50-60 decibels for comfortable listening.

To sleep you would need less than 30 decibels.

Noise decreases in theory by six decibels every time you double the distance from its source.

Thus, if a noise is measured at 90 decibels at 100m from its source, you would expect it to be 84 decibels at 200m, 78 decibels at 400m, 72 decibels at 800m, and so on.

At 40 decibels, the noise would still be intrusive outside a bush property but not really heard inside a house with closed windows.

With a 90-decibel source, this would occur in theory at a distance of around 26km.

However, this distance can vary with wind direction, type of terrain such as woods and hills, and temperature gradient.

Sound waves normally curve upwards,

but on cold days are often refracted back downwards towards the ground and can be heard even further away.

Let us assume for argument's sake that 20km is a fair distance.

A further complication is that low frequencies attenuate less in air than high frequencies.

This effect accounts for you hearing the thump-thump of a sub-woofer rather than a female singer when a neighbour is holding a noisy party one kilometre away.

Also, noise nuisance can vary depending on it being continuous, rhythmic or spasmodic – the last being where you wait anxiously wait for the next noise to occur.

The only way to accurately determine a noise problem is to make extensive measurements near a mine situated in a similar environment and to then estimate the number of people affected by the problem.

In the Julimar forest, the number of people affected by the noise may be surprisingly large because parts of Chittering and Muchea are likely to be included.

Having worked as Head of Operations Research with Westrail for several years, I would like to comment on the problem of transporting ore from the site.

Assuming that a 100-wagon standard gauge train of around 1.5km in length can carry 3000 tonnes of ore and a road truck 30 tonnes, for each one million tonnes of ore each year you will require 330 trains or 33,000 trucks loads.

This equates to one train or 100 trucks a day.

The bauxite miners were contemplating 14 million tonnes or, as I pointed out to them, 14 trains or 1400 trucks a day.

I am not sure how many tonnes Chalice expects but a brief look at rail and port facilities is worthwhile.

New infrastructure would be required at Fremantle or Kwinana to handle the ore unless there is spare capacity in current local iron ore port facilities.

If not, even one extra train a day being scheduled in and out of the port would have been difficult in my time with Westrail, and 14 trains a day would have been impossible.

Neither mining company, as far as I can ascertain has even approached the railway operator to broach this problem.

If roads are used, the prospect is even worse with 100 trucks each way per day for every one million tonnes of ore per annum.

Roads would first have to be constructed from the mine site(s) to the docks or the railhead, maybe the size of the Northam grain silo.

If rail is not used, the trucks would emerge onto the country roads before reaching the main road system, probably onto the Great Northern Highway.

Property owners adjacent to the roads would have around 10 trucks an hour going by each way for each one million tonnes per year, assuming a 12-hour per day operation.

I believe we need answers to these questions now before the project has gone too far to oppose it with expensive appeals.

Other points we have raised with Chalice include the type of mining – surface or deep mining – and the footprint of the mine site itself, water usage and disposal, dust problems and, probably worst of all, did they envisage building a refinery nearby?

Finally, we mentioned the eventual rehabilitation of the site.

Was it possible, because in the case of proposed bauxite mining at Morangup, removing the ore and destroying the water table would have meant that rehabilitation was not feasible?

Meet your new councillors

TOODYAY'S new shire councillors submitted the following statements last month prior to being elected unopposed, along with current Cr Mick McKeown.

The four successful candidates on the nine-member council were all elected to serve new four-year terms that are due to expire in October 2025.



Charmaine Duri

I AM A resident of Toodyay and a former manager of the Toodyay Visitor Centre.

I am semi-retired, married and with my husband, Henri, we have worked together in diverse careers.

These included residential building, running a café, mining/research and development, living/working on farms, real estate/property management, tourism, education, financial management.

I have been involved in many community organisations, including youth groups, coaching, umpiring, assisting children with learning difficulties, theatre, cancer fundraisers, nursing homes, also holding office on a number of committees.

I believe local government should be transparent and accountable with councillors making informed decisions, supporting local business and the environment.

I offer honesty, leadership and integrity.



Steve McCormick

I ARRIVED in the shire around 2013 with intentions to reconnect with country life and am now happy to call it home.

I believe Toodyay and the greater Avon Valley has a very bright future.

The opportunity to help current and future residents through council decisions is important to me.

As a member of several local interest and sporting groups, I have an underlying commitment to community organisations and residents in general.

My work as a local electrical contractor have caused me to meet many locals from diverse backgrounds who have inspired me to nominate.

I stand for a progressive and compassionate community served by a transparent and positive council.



Danielle Wrench

I HAVE lived in Morangup since 2010 and love our beautiful part of the world.

I ran for council to support community, share my experience and expertise and work for the betterment of our shire.

I have a strong background in finance, governance, strategy and planning. I would bring these skills to my role as councillor and undertake all activities with commitment, based on how my community is asking me to represent them.

I will act with transparency and honesty in all undertakings and ensure my decisions are led by my community.

I stand for the protection of our environment, growth in tourism, success of both new and existing business to grow and prosper and ensuring our volunteer emergency services are supported.



THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION
of
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Call for submissions – Review of the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (WA)*

The Attorney General, the Hon John Quigley MLA, asked the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia (Commission) to review the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (the Act)*.

The Act promotes equality of opportunity in Western Australia and provides remedies in respect of discrimination on the grounds of sex, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, family responsibility or family status, race, religious or political conviction, impairment, age, or publication of details on the Fines Enforcement Registrar's website, or involving sexual or racial harassment or, in certain cases, on gender history grounds.

The Commission is to provide advice and make recommendations to the Attorney General on possible amendments to the Act.

The Commission's Discussion Paper outlines options and poses questions about changing Western Australia's anti-discrimination laws. It is available at www.lrc.justice.wa.gov.au.

Individuals and organisations can provide a submission on one or more of the options and questions in the Discussion Paper or on other aspects of the Act including personal experiences. Submissions close on **29 October 2021**.

Online community consultation forums will be held to discuss the issues raised. To register your interest in attending please email equalopportunityreview@justice.wa.gov.au. For more information visit www.lrc.justice.wa.gov.au.

Fatality closes Julimar Road for 6 hours

Police Beat

With Sgt Dave Flaherty
Toodyay Police Station



JULIMAR Road was closed for six hours last month after a fatal crash near Keating Road.

The crash occurred at 5.30am on a Monday when a vehicle rolled over and hit a tree.

The impact caused a female driver to be ejected from the vehicle.

She sustained serious injuries and was airlifted to hospital.

A passenger in the front seat died at the scene.

No other vehicles were involved.

Julimar Road was closed to traffic until 11.30am while officers from the Police Major Crash Unit attended the scene.

Investigations into the cause are continuing.

Cops target back roads

TOODYAY police are conducting daily patrols of secondary roads to ensure driver and vehicle safety standards are maintained throughout the shire.

Regular patrols occur every day on roads such as Julimar Road, Bindi-Bindi Road and Goomalling Road as well as on main arterial roads such Toodyay Road and Great Eastern Highway.

In one instance last month we covered 500km on a single day and stopped 19 motorists for various reasons, mostly for speeding and driving unlicensed vehicles.

One motorist was stopped for using a mobile phone while driving, which is an offence that costs a \$1000 fine and four demerit points.

No arrests were effected but we did issue infringement notices and several cautions for speeding and vehicle defects such as only one headlight working and cracked windscreens.

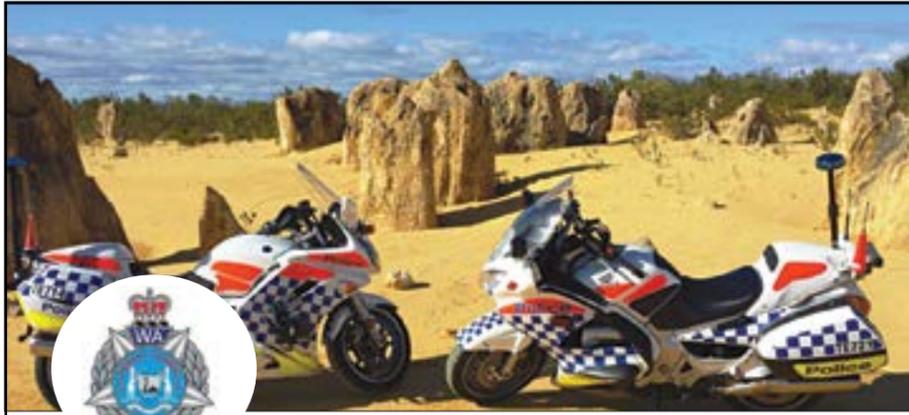
For us road safety is a daily event, day and night.

Coming to our attention lately is vehicles travelling the roads with minor crash damage.

We accept small dents and dings in the bodywork but can't accept protruding sharp edges. This includes the fitting of rod holders to the bullbar.

In the event of a crash these could cause serious or further injury.

We are making a concerted effort to patrol



Wheatbelt District – WA Police Force

Official Facebook page of the Western Australia Wheatbelt District Police. Know something? Call Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000.

The Wheatbelt District of the Western Australia Police Force administers this page to provide important public safety and public interest information – see more



Facebook helps Wheatbelt police track stolen vehicles and return lost property to owners.

back roads on a daily basis to ensure they remain as safe as major highways for everyone.

Facebook to the rescue

THE Wheatbelt District Police Facebook page (above) has helped Toodyay officers to investigate a complex case involving the

Is this yours? It has been handed in to the Northam Police. If it's yours, please attend the Northam Police Station Monday to Friday between 8am and 4pm with proof of ownership #Fb#valleycops

This update came from the Northam Police on Twitter.



Best lay off the booze when expecting

SaferToodyay
Jo-Anne Woodruff

THE INTERNATIONAL Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day is observed every year on the ninth day of the ninth month in recognition of the importance of being alcohol-free for the nine months of a pregnancy and September 9 marks this important day of awareness.

Research findings state that to prevent harm from alcohol to their unborn child, women who are planning a pregnancy, or who are pregnant, do not drink alcohol. It is also advised to not drink alcohol if breastfeeding your baby.

Alcohol is a poison that acts on the nervous system. Even small amounts of alcohol can have a big impact. The reality is that alcohol can cause damage to an unborn child at any time, even before a pregnancy has been confirmed.

Alcohol use in pregnancy can cause a miscarriage, stillbirth, and permanent damage to the brain of the developing baby that may cause brain damage, known as FASDs, learning difficulties, memory loss, behavioural problems, difficulty in decision-making, lack of understanding of basic instructions and adjusting behaviour to different social situations.

So, if you are pregnant, or if you know someone who wants to become pregnant, please consider this extremely important information. It could help prevent a lifetime of very sad consequences.

For further information visit: holyoake.org.au; alcoholthinkagain.com.au; nofasd.org.au or nhmrc.gov.au/.

It's tax rip-off time for online con artists

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

THE DEADLINE for lodging your tax return with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) this year is Sunday October 31.

The ATO keeps a record of impersonation scams and October is the scammers' favourite month for trying to rip you off: bit.ly/3EoRNhp.

Phone calls are the scammers' preferred approach, with email and SMS lagging far behind.

If you receive an unexpected phone call from the ATO, assume that the caller is bogus and that he or she is telling you lies.

You can always call the ATO yourself on 13 28 61 to check on the claims made by the unexpected caller.

Scammers often ask you to confirm something about yourself. It could be a request for your bank account, after claiming that they want it to pay your 'refund' into it.

It could be your Tax File Number (TFN), after saying that they are checking their records.

If you think your TFN has been stolen, you can always call 1800 467 033.

Scammers may ask you for your address, your date of birth or your mother's maiden name. Just say "no".

You may get a demand to pay instantly or face being arrested. The ATO never does that.

There is a long list of other deceptions that phone scammers use. You can read about them at bit.ly/2XqdtJp.

Before you call the ATO, you should always check the number provided (and that includes the numbers in this piece).

The ATO has a very handy list of numbers at bit.ly/39cKhHM.

TOODYAY

MRB 2339

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Motorbikes &
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Repairs
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GIVE THE GIFT
THEY WILL LOVE
THIS CHRISTMAS

The Toodyay Herald

EMERGENCY SERVICES



Toodyay Central brigade members chat to farmers market visitors about volunteering.

Refresher courses gear up for this year's fire season

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

IN THE lead up to the coming fire season Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade members have been undertaking refresher training courses after our monthly meetings.

The next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday October 12 at the co-located Emergency Facility at 67 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay commencing at 7pm.

The brigade held a successful recruitment drive for volunteers at last month's Toodyay Farmers Market. Potential new members got the opportunity to speak with volunteers about training and what being a brigade member involves. We look forward to welcoming these new members into our team over the coming weeks.

The unrestricted burning period finished on September 30 and we are now in the spring restricted period which lasts from October 1 to 31. Anyone wishing to burn during this period will require a permit.

October is also the time for property

owners to get their firebreaks and properties prepared for the coming fire season.

Firebreaks need to be maintained from November 1 through to 30 April 2022. The shire conducts inspections and penalties apply for non-compliance.

Information about firebreaks is provided with rates notices but information can also be obtained by visiting the Toodyay Shire website at toodyay.wa.gov.au. Click on Resident Services and in the drop-down menu you can find extremely useful fire information.

We advise property owners to please take special note of the width, condition and clearance height required for firebreaks.

The brigade will be holding an open day on Sunday November 7 at the Co-located Emergency Facility between 9am and 2pm.

Department of Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm AFSM will be visiting to present service medals to past and present brigade members.

Everyone is welcome to come and learn about what brigade volunteers do and the equipment they work with.

Powered barrow saves firewood muscle

Heather Appleby

WHERE there's a need, someone somewhere will find a solution.

That's what happened when Tim Officer decided he needed help to push his wheelbarrow loaded with wood from the shed to his house.

The result is Tim's Powered Barrows (*see advertisement Page 15.*)

Last week Tim donated one of his powered wheelbarrows to the Tool Library run by Rotary Clubs to help those rebuilding their lives after the Wooroloo-Gidgegannup bush fires earlier this year.

Various Rotary Clubs support the library, opening up the doors of the shipping container located in Tilden Park on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

Tools, fencing equipment, alternators and now a powered wheelbarrow are available on a loan basis for a week at a time, or longer if not requested by another resident.

The wheelbarrows were originally constructed from scrap parts from push bikes and old power tools and some of these spare parts, duly restored, are still used.

Tim also works with Bikes for Humanity, a group which salvages old push bikes and usable parts to send overseas.



Rotary's Bill Hardman receives a donated powered wheelbarrow from Tim Officer.

Shire budget achieves long-range fiscal target

President's Pen

Rosemary Madácsi



OCTOBER has commenced with the budget adopted at the Special Council meeting held on September 29.

It ended a long and complex process to ensure accurate financial accounting was maintained during the Shire's transition to a new enterprise software system.

My sincere thanks go to staff and Councillors for the long hours and dedication they put in to produce what we believe to be the best outcome possible.

A final budget workshop on September 28 requested that options be prepared for proposed rate rises of 4, 4.5 and 5 per cent.

It also requested an option for a 5 per cent increase in Shire fees and charges.

The outcome was that the Special Council Meeting agreed to increase rates, fees and charges by 5 per cent.

Why did council do this?

The Shire's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) predicted that the Shire required annual rate rises to meet its obligations.

Less than this without increasing other revenue would mean we could not.

Secondly, the Council is focused on raising revenue from other sources to keep rates manageable while meeting community needs.

In 2020, the community was supported during the Covid-19 lockdown by freezing rates (no increase) and providing discounts totalling approximately \$222,000.

The LTFP was adjusted in June last year to project a rate rise of 6 per cent this year to restore the Shire to its pre-Covid-19 financial position.

Fees and charges were reviewed because they had not risen for three years, and many charges were considered to be too low.

The outcome is that the Council has achieved its original LTFP target for annual rate increases of 2.5 per cent, with this year's 5 per cent rise compensating for last year's freeze.

The compounding effect means that ratepayers will actually pay less overall than if two 2.5 percent rate rises had been applied in successive years.

Shire services will remain largely unchanged but the contribution to roads increases by about 50 per cent compared with the pre-Covid budget, and \$266,000 has been invested into drainage.

With grants and reserve funds, the overall capital investment in roads and drainage this year is about \$4.1 million.

Storms earlier this year highlighted the inadequacy of Shire drainage systems to cope with future severe weather events.

A drainage and sewerage reserve fund of \$109,780 has been established to help plan for future costs, and other Shire reserve funds have been reorganised.

The community bus reserve fund was closed because this service is already available through other sources.

New councillors Charmaine Duri, Danielle Wrench and Steve McCormick will be sworn in later this month, and we welcome back Cr Mick McKeown.

All four were elected unopposed to serve on the Council for the next four years.

Long-standing Councillors Brian Rayner and Therese Chitty will retire later this month after holding the often-difficult positions of President (2017-19) and Deputy President (2015-19) respectively.

On behalf of the Council, I wish them both well and acknowledge and thank them for their contributions and achievements during their eight years of commitment to serving the community.



St John

HLTAID003

“Provide First Aid”

Next one day courses
To be held on

Saturday 16th October and
Saturday 13th November 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



EMERGENCY SERVICES

Smurphy sweeps up as fire season nears

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Julimar
Grant Scobie**

AS THE fire season fast approaches, the time has come for the brigade to complete its final preparations.

To that end, Julimar held its pre-season clean-up at the old shed on September 19. The eight stalwarts who were able to make it managed, in three hours, to clean and grease hose fittings, sift through all the perishables and organise replacements, sweep and wash the vehicles as well as check that nothing was missing.

The shed also got a thorough cleaning, a task that Smurphy was constantly reminding us that he had contributed to by sweeping the floor.

Thanks to Tegan, Bruce, Gayle, Wes, Jeff, Corri and Simon for coming and helping (I was the eighth – didn't want to thank myself).

Unfortunately, there were not enough to enable us to take the 2021 members' photograph, so Lou and Anne headed home to leave us to our cleaning.

Speaking of Lou and Anne brings us to a special event which we celebrated on

September 17. In Lou's words, we were helping him to celebrate the 20th anniversary of his 60th birthday.

A fabulous crowd of current and former members came along to show how loved and appreciated Lou has been to us all.

Lou said that in his 25 years with the brigade, he was proud to be a member of the Julimar family.

Although he's not out fighting fires any more Lou is still an active member whose knowledge and input are greatly appreciated.

Last month's training involved an incredible effort by the shire's five Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) qualified trainer/assessors to put practically every firefighter in the shire through Comprehensive Crew Protection training.

This training upgraded members' knowledge and qualifications to cover the various new goodies DFES has supplied on all appliances to help protect crews when caught in a dangerous 'burn-over' situation.

It's always good to run through the practicalities of preparing for such an event prior to the season beginning in earnest.

Throughout the month five sessions were held at the brigades' stations/sheds.

Members were able to choose the appropriate date and venue they could attend, making it possible for as many as possible to be trained.

As well as putting many of our members through the course, it was great to welcome a strong contingent from Coondle-Nunile brigade to the morning's activities.

This month's training will be a Back to Basics run-through.

As was pointed out to me by some members, they might only get out on the trucks once per season which does not necessarily keep their skills up-to-date.

So, we want everyone to know how to start the pump, hold the hose, fill the water tank via various means and many other little things that can get lost through the passage of time.

And finally, when this edition of *The Herald* comes out the restricted burning period will have begun and our rosters will be up and running.

Please be fire conscious and try not to do anything that can endanger yourself or your community.

Local teacher thought outside the box



Career teacher Charm Venn.

Charmian 'Charm' Venn
1.8.1956 – 15.7.2021

TOODYAY teacher Charmian 'Charm' Venn was born in Three Springs, the second of three daughters to local wheat and sheep farmers Geoffery and Ramona Broad.

Like many country kids she was sent to boarding school in Perth where she established life-long friendships at St Hilda's.

Charm studied hard and was awarded the silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, an early indication of her leadership skills.

After graduating from Churchlands Teachers College in 1977 she was posted to Wiluna where she met husband Kip Venn and together they helped establish an emu farm with the local Wongi people.

The newlyweds moved to the Venn family property in Toodyay in 1979 and Charm taught at West Northam Primary School.

Four years later, the couple decided to return to Charm's home farm in Three Springs where Charm started working at nearby Carnamah Primary School.

By the mid-80s the couple had three children, Robert, David and Sarah and the last thing they expected was an offer to buy emu chicks from Wiluna which led to the family relocating back to Toodyay where they founded Toodyay Free Range Emu Farm.

Charm threw herself into teaching at Toodyay District High School where she remained for 30 years earning the respect of students, parents and colleagues.

"As a teacher, Charm always had the students' best interests at heart and she would often look for alternative experiences that would help them make connections," said former colleague Alistair Kettell.

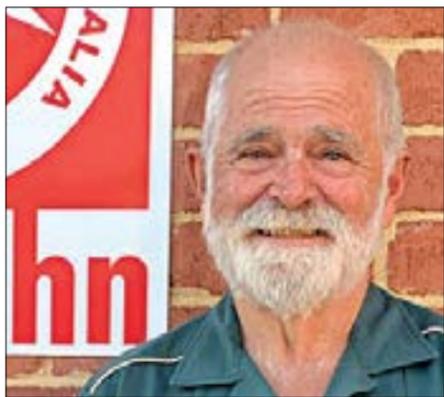
"If the regular methods didn't work, Charm would think outside the box to find ways that did."

One student who struggled with literacy was inspired to write more than he had ever written after he watched an emu chick hatch in an incubator that Charm had placed on his desk.

During her teaching career Charm taught more than 2000 students who remember a teacher who would go that extra mile to make learning more accessible and relevant.

In a tribute to his mother, Robert Venn said: "She had found her calling, her passion – a passion which has led to all her three children following in her footsteps."

During their 44-year marriage Charm and Kip worked in tandem to raise their family and establish what is now the longest-running emu farm in the world.



Glyn Harrington.

Local vollie awarded top ambo honour

Nuala Ennis

THE ORDER of St John is the highest honour in St John Ambulance's awards and honours system and is recognised in the Australian Honours System.

The award recognises outstanding performance in the service of humanity.

Glyn Harrington served as a volunteer ambulance officer in Jurien Bay (1977-1980), Wyalkatchem (2009-2019) and now Toodyay.

In Jurien Bay and Wyalkatchem Glyn also served on sub-centre committees.

He was nominated by the Wyalkatchem Sub-Centre where he served before 'retiring' to Toodyay.

The Toodyay community is fortunate that Glyn swapped his service to Toodyay as he is one of our most active volunteers. His experience, leadership and empathetic nature is greatly valued.

No man is an island, however, and we acknowledge that Glyn's dedication and commitment would not be possible without the support and encouragement of his wife, Jo, and extended family over the years. We salute you all.

Even on the day of the awards announcement Glyn did not rest on his laurels. Instead, he donned the green uniform and went about his unassuming way of serving his community.

We join our colleagues in the Wyalkatchem sub-centre in honouring Glyn Harrington's exceptional service. Congratulations Glyn.

Too late to spray – time now for the whipper snipper

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

WELL, things are still nice and green but summer is coming and fuel growth is well advanced.

If you haven't sprayed yet, it is now too late and the whipper snipper should be well and truly in action.

If you are not sure your firebreaks are compliant with regulations, look up the Toodyay Shire website or contact your local fire brigade. It could save you a fine.

We still need new members to ease the load on the rostered personnel.

Comprehensive training is provided to get you up to speed. All local brigades can do with extra help, so it doesn't matter what area you live in. Auxiliary members are always needed as well.

Both of our trucks are now serviced and ready to go and training is constantly going on.

The most recent training was on burn over and was held at several stations in the shire. Our training on September 19 at Coondle-Nunile was well attended.

A training video gave a good indication of what not to do in a burn over. It was a good session with a practical exercise to go with it.

There was a smaller than usual attendance at last month's meeting with some members making the most of a break before the season starts.

Vehicle checks were discussed as well as the problems of fires at this time of the year burning under the green grass and being difficult to extinguish.

Also, the problem of bogging at this time of year was mentioned. Things may have dried up but there will be areas of concern for heavy vehicles.

All vehicles in Toodyay are now equipped with electronic flares – another great safety device for us.

Cleaning our station is becoming a problem as we are all volunteers who actively participate with other areas of the brigade. The shed is also used for general shire bush fire courses quite often so we are trying to work out a system to

overcome this.

The Containers for Change scheme is still going well and Coondle-Nunile was given the opportunity to collect the containers at the recent Toodyay Picnic Races where our volunteers assisted with crowd control at the entrance where the horses crossed the road.

All funds are going towards a special television which ties into the Bart fire alert system helping crews to know where incoming personnel are.

Well, that is about all from Coondle-Nunile for now.

School students learn how to save lives

**St John Toodyay Sub-Centre
Pam Tennant and Liz Boston**

CONGRATULATIONS to Toodyay District High School Emergency Services Cadets.

During Term 3 this year they have worked hard to complete modules in the First Aid Awareness Cadet Program.

Depending on the year level, cadets have completed the bronze, silver or gold modules.

Many cadets have worked their way through this over the past three years.

Year 10 cadets may go on to complete the full Provide First Aid course next term.

Topics in the various modules included; DRABC (Danger, Response, Send for help, Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Defibrillation), CPR, defibrillation, sporting injuries, bleeds, asthma, allergies, anaphylaxis, poisoning and envenomation.

Manequins, training epipens, asthma puffers and spacers, bandages, splints and slings were all used in demonstrations and scenarios.

Thanks must go to cadet leaders Scott McCallum and Doug McGhee and all of the other teachers who have assisted with this program.

Even more than this, I would like to give my sincere thanks to the volunteers who have provided instruction and demonstrated the skills.

To Matt, Michael, Liz, Claire, Carolynne, Lee, Mark, Wendy, Rachel and Glyn, thank you all for giving your valuable time and expertise voluntarily to encourage developing first aid skills in these young people – hopefully our future volunteers or first responders.

The St John Toodyay Sub-Centre office has now moved into the old St Vinnies building at 120 Stirling Terrace.

Our administration officer Debbie will be happy to welcome you to the new building which is as yet unfinished but functioning.

The office is open from 8.30am until 4.30pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Only the administration has moved – the ambulances and training facilities will still be based in the building behind the new office.

We have moved!

Our new Administration office is at
120 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay
(previously the St Vinnies shop)

Office hours are 8.30am to 4.30pm
Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Phone 9574 2390
Email: toodyay@stjohnwa.com.au

ADVERTISE WITH US

CWA's big win to help hall facelift

Bolgart News

Pam McGill

THE ORGANISERS of the third annual Bolgart Bush Christmas Markets are anticipating a bumper event this year if the interest and variety of stalls is any indication.

The markets will be held on Sunday December 5 in and around the recently air-conditioned Bolgart Hall from 10am until 2pm.

There will be a wealth of new crafts and products available include quilting, timber and resin pieces, festive wreaths, barbed wire and metal garden artwork and the sought-after decorated Christmas cakes.

The Bolgart CWA will provide morning teas and Bolgart P & C will have a sausage sizzle.

Details are available from Barbara Mottershaw, 0488 733 351, and Gwenda McGill, 9627 5274.

\$5000 for hall

THE CWA Annual State Conference was held recently at Optus Stadium and Bolgart branch was represented at the conference by Barb Mottershaw.

Bolgart had a vested interest in attending as the branch submitted an entry to the Community Project Award Grant and were ecstatic to win half of the \$10,000 award which they will share with the Augusta branch.

Bolgart allocation will go towards the refurbishment of the Bolgart Memorial Hall kitchen.

Perfect weather

WEATHER conditions were perfect for both sports carnivals held recently.

At the Calcoart Carnival three students were awarded medals. Alex Edmonds was runner-up in the Year 1&2 Boys, Mason Clarke was runner-up in the Year 3&4 Boys and Josephine Edmonds was runner-up in the Year 5&6 Girls.

Although there were no medal winners at the Victoria Plains School Sports Association Inter-School Athletics, students did their best and showed a lot of respect and great sporting spirit towards their fellow competitors.

This month Senior Room Merit Certificates were awarded to Oliver Clarke and Summer Otremba and in the Junior Room to Ethan Uriarau, Rocket O'Sullivan and Cameron Uriarau.

Aussie of the Month awards went to Alexander Edmonds and Brodie Whiteaker.

Spring fundraiser

MORE than 50 ladies attended Serena Syred's garden party on September 21 with some coming from as far afield as Mandurah, Perth, Cunderdin, Northam, Goomalling, Toodyay and Calingiri as well as Bolgart.

There was a lovely selection of bring and buy items on the stall and an abundance of raffles.

Magnificent weather and Serena's garden, looking brilliant with spring colour, together with a beautiful morning tea topped off the day.

Two special guest speakers were Denise



From left: Pam Meston with daughters Sharon Jones and Nolene Kaszanski.

Kiff from Breast Cancer Care WA and a young breast cancer survivor that the organisation had helped.

A wonderful amount, \$2900, was raised; this included a very generous donation of \$250 from a lovely lady friend of Serena's who lives in Canberra.

Golf at 80

SEPTEMBER 9 was a special day for Pam Meston who celebrated her 80th birthday by doing what she loves doing – playing golf with her daughters Nolene Kaszanski and Sharon Jones.

Friends came along to share a magnificent afternoon tea and Pam cut her beautiful cake which was made and iced by Annette Syred.

Pam also celebrated earlier with all of her family at a dinner at The Duke in Northam then rising early to go hot air ballooning over the Avon Valley, an experience she loved and will always remember.

A Cakes for Cancer Stall will be held on Thursday November 4 from 9.30am to 11.30am at the Bolgart shop.

The student council will run the stall to raise money for Can Teen Australia.

Congratulations to Ray and Doris Martin who welcomed their 17th great-grandchild recently.

The Bolgart Hotel was the place to be on Father's Day and a lot of dads and their families celebrated there with a beautiful meal.

Cup winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Vivienne Camerer on her great week at County Week golf.

After gaining 36pts at Royal Perth Golf Club she backed it up with 35pts at Mt Lawley Golf Club. Vivienne scored a total of 71 pts over two days to win the Gladys Hawkes Cup for the 36-hole nett event – a wonderful achievement.

The St Gertrude's Cup sponsored by the

Benedictine Community in New Norcia was won by Joy Hamilton (35pts); runner-up Merle Manuel (32pts).

Merle Manuel and Jenni Knowles won the Adele Ludemann Memorial Trophy sponsored by Geoff and Sue Ludemann.

The Joy Hamilton Trophy was won by Serena Syred (34pts), runner-up Nolene Kaszanski (32pts).



Vivienne Camerer with Gladys Hawke Cup.

Correction

IT WAS incorrectly reported in last month's *Herald* that Toodyay dentist Michael McGuinness received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2016.

Dr McGuinness was in fact appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

The Herald apologises for the error.

Badger on scent of mystery ABC radio caller

Bejoording Community Group News

From the desk of The Badger

I DRIVE around quite a lot during the day with my radio always tuned to the ABC's 720AM.

Many programs invite listeners to send in text messages regarding different matters being broadcast, be it gardening, entertainment, social issues or whatever.

At least twice recently, maybe it was three times, I have heard a message from Jesse in Bejoording.

We rarely hear Bejoording mentioned and none of the group of people I know have heard of a Jesse, but thanks to him/her the rest of WA has now heard of Bejoording.

I would love to know who you are, and I promise to respect your anonymity. You can call the Badger on the mobile phone number below and put my mind at rest. I'm fully retired and I assure you I won't try to sell you anything.

Our annual casserole night last month was the usual success with a variety of tasty, even imaginative, dishes. In October we have another favourite coming up, our annual seafood feast.

Socially, the football finals have attracted some good crowds at various members' sheds and a great big thank you to those who went out of the way to ensure they were good nights of fellowship and tucker.

Now we have to find some good excuses to continue regular gatherings on non-footy nights.

Last month I waxed lyrical about nature's outburst of greenery and colour.

This month I'm not so happy because there is now an invasion of mozzies which have been hiding and breeding in the wet grass and puddles, so I've decided that some warmer weather is a good excuse to go on the attack.

As I walked through the wild oats and weeds on my block clouds of mozzies (or are they midgies – I don't really know the difference) emerged and happily bit all my exposed surfaces. I was hedge trimming in a T-shirt yesterday and after 20 minutes counted 12 red dots, itching like mad, on one arm alone. Needless to say, I was back indoors pronto.

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.



Pam Meston with her 80th birthday cake made by Annette Syred.

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Cadets take to the water in canoes during the recent adventure camp in the south west. Photo: Doug McGhee.

Luxurious coach ride to adventure camp

Toodyay YouthCARE Chaplaincy
John White

IS IT just me or is time speeding up? Last time I was in this space it was July and I don't know what happened to August, except it came and went and here we are reflecting on September.

It's no surprise that chaplain Doug McGhee is as busy as ever dreaming up and executing a bunch of great activities designed to support our kids in all aspects of their being, including encouraging and challenging them to push their limits.

How does Doug do that? He organised for 60 of our school cadets to climb aboard a luxurious coach complete with leather reclining seats, on-board movies, toilet, etc. (Nothing is too good for Toodyay District High School kids.)

Their destination was an adventure camp

on the beach west of Busselton where these lucky youngsters got into caving, zip-lining, tree-top tight-rope walking, hiking along the coast, kayaking, cooking their own tucker when they camped out one night, team games, entertainment by talented leaders, fishing, and enjoying warm fresh muffins and cakes between meals.

All were very thankful to physical education instructor Scott McCallum and John Francis from Scripture Union for organising the great experience.

Doug grabbed a quick breath then took two high school teams to Country Week. He had coached one of the mixed basketball teams. They all had a great week being undefeated and won the grand final beating Morawa District High School, 50 to 29. (See story Page 31.)

Congratulations to players Hunter Colfer, Jaxon Crook, Jaiden Kell, Charlotte Hunter,

Quinn McEwan, Leslie Martin, Jack Jordan-Kemp and Cloe Tucker.

All that excitement is in addition to Doug's regular work with DRUMBEAT, Protective Behaviours, one-on-one with kids who need a yarn about various 'life-troubles' as well as supporting the staff.

I can report on behalf of the YouthCARE Council that Breakfast Club is going well. The big brekkie was a great success thanks

to Roz Davidson and the team from Toodyay Locals Care and many other helpers.

Our last YouthCARE Raffle raised \$695 – thanks people of Toodyay for your ongoing support.

Principal David Ball advised that the school quiz night raised \$11,200.

What an amazing effort. Thanks to all who participated and supported the event.

Get set for a freaky fun-filled Halloween disco

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

SAVE the date – Friday October 29 from 4.30 pm for the Halloween disco at the Memorial Hall.

Brought to you by the Toodyay District High School P&C and the Toodyay Community Resource Centre, it's set to be a freaky, fun-filled night.

For children and young people from kindergarten to Year 10, all are welcome to join one of two sessions (4.30-6pm for kindergarten to Year 3 and 6.30-8pm for Year 4 upwards).

A \$2 entry fee is payable at the door and food and drinks will be available to purchase from the canteen.

With DJ entertainment, prizes for the best dressed, games, face painting and a photo booth to capture memories, it's sure to be a night to remember.

If you can assist by sponsoring or volunteering for the event please contact Natasha Hof on 0457 556 397.

In other news, Toodyay District High School held its open night on September 2, providing a wonderful opportunity to visit the school and learn more about what the school offers.

Parents, family and friends visited their child's classroom to view their work and had access to both primary and secondary classrooms including a fantastic ancient-Egyptian-inspired book fair as part of book week celebrations.

Parents were entertained with a performance by the school choir and the recently formed school band and the P&C sausage sizzle was a sell-out.

The P&C Father's Day gift stall was held at school on September 3 providing students with an opportunity to purchase a gift for the father or father figure in their lives while raising funds for the school.

We're looking ahead to Term 4 activities and to holding our final members' meeting for the year on Tuesday November 9.

If you can support P&C activities please contact Kelly-Anne Murray on 0406 585 716 or email pandctoodaydhs@gmail.com, message via the Facebook page (search Toodyay DHS P&C), or write to Toodyay District High School P&C at PO Box 1624, Toodyay WA 6566.

Committee members: president Kelly-Anne Murray 0406 585 716; vice-president Heather McGlasson 0418 930 721; secretary Heather Clarke 0412 866 463 and treasurer Dimity Boggs 0438 097 022.

Oasis creates cool spot for hot books

Toodyay District High School
Lynda de Ruiter, Teacher

TOODYAY District High School recently celebrated Book Week for which we chose the scholastic theme of Reading Oasis: A cool place to discover hot books.

The students and parents were in awe as they entered Ancient Egypt, complete with a pyramid and an oasis.

Teaching children to read and immersing them in literature from a young age stimulates a child's imagination and develops crucial language, comprehension and literacy skills.

The Book Week book fair allows students to purchase a book that they can read for enjoyment.

Thank you to all the families and volunteers who contributed towards making our book

fair such a success.

Proceeds from the book fair resulted in the school gaining books valued at \$1000.

On September 3 Mrs Lee's Year 2/3 class hosted our Book Week assembly showcasing the Doctor Seuss story *The Lorax*.

The whole school enjoyed parading around the assembly area in their awesome costumes and three students won a \$15 book voucher to spend at the book fair.

Congratulations to Georgia Bennett from kindy who came dressed as Shine from *Shimmer and Shine* TV series, Year 1 student Lola Brockliss who came as the *Maleficent* film character and Michael Woodford from Year 8 who arrived as a leprechaun. Thankyou parents for your input into your child's costume – it sure was a fun-filled day.



Makaira and Fisher Hocking enjoying their book fair purchases in Ancient Egypt.

Educator in line for finals

TOODYAY-BASED family day care educator Cassandra Duckworth has been recognised for her commitment to early

childhood education and care in the 2021 Family Day Care Australia Excellence Awards.

Cassandra, who works as an early childhood education and care professional, is one of 69 regional educator winners selected across Australia.

"Educators like Cassandra provide vital support to children, families and communities all across Australia," Family Day Care Australia CEO Andrew Paterson said.

Cassandra has nurtured and educated more than 30 children over the past seven years of running her family day care in West Toodyay.

She prides herself on the strong relationships she forms with the children and families in her care and believes this foundation is the secret to her success.

Cassandra is now in the running to be named as one of four national educator finalists which will be announced on Tuesday October 26.



Toodyay regional educator winner Cassandra Duckworth with one of her students.



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Spectacular bulbs delight Julimar excursion

Toodyay Garden Club
Daphne Lee

LAST month's visit to Denise and David Richardson's amazing property in Julimar was very special in many ways.

Toodyay Garden Club began in 2005 with some wonderful people with a great idea that has grown so much over the past 16 years.

During the visit to the Richardson's garden, we honoured club founding members Sheena Hesse, Marlene Andrijich, Wendy Lewer, Barbara Moran, Francis Moran and Diane Edmonds who were in attendance.

The club also acknowledged the contributions of Janine Stacy and Life Member Wendy Munckton who could not attend.

We were delighted to have Wendy's husband David join us to present certificates, special name badges and a commemorative rose bush to honour the founding members' achievements and to sincerely thank them for their foresight.

David was a very pleasant surprise guest. He was heartily welcomed by many members and it was a pleasure to have him attend.

Our current committee was able to keep this special presentation under wraps and all of the founding members said they were overwhelmed and definitely surprised – so we pulled it off.

Special thanks to Judy Rowston for her amazing work in compiling the histories of each founding member; most have attended more than 100 gardens and many committee meetings etc..

Thanks also to Steph Bain for her welcome assistance.

Denise was a very hospitable host and the garden was really lovely; very colourful, and the dam was such a tranquil and peaceful spot where some members gathered around the fire pit.

Although the weather was a bit inclement it did not detract from an enjoyable day with 92 people appreciating the hospitality and wonderful surrounds.

We celebrated with a sausage sizzle for lunch cooked beautifully by Kim, Dave and Murray; we thank them very much.

Garden clubs from York, Bindoon and the Darling Scarp were happy to join us as we wandered around, enjoying the garden.

The spectacular bulbs were a delight. There was also a great vege garden and I really loved the water features and fruit trees. This really was a garden that had something around every corner.

Thank you Denise for welcoming us so warmly. Our next visit is a bus trip on Thursday October 7 to Claire and Ron Dadd's property in Goomalling.

The November excursion is also a bus trip to Honey Fairclough's in York.

Come and join us for fun, frivolity, food and fantastic gardens. Please contact me on 9574 2375 for further information.



Toodyay Garden Club founding members from left: Barbara Moran, Francis Moran, Diane Edmonds, Marlene Andrijich, Wendy Lewer, David Munckton and Sheena Hesse.

Everyone is a races winner

TOODYAY Lions Club, Avon Valley Shotokan Karate Club, the local St John's Ambulance sub-branch, Toodyay Cricket Club and Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade had a win at the Toodyay Picnic Races on September 26.

Toodyay Race Club Chair John Prater said community groups providing important local services were the focus of fundraising efforts on race day with Community TAB matching funds up to \$5000.

In a two-way support partnership, the groups helped with on-course activities throughout the day.

"The Community TAB program brings in much-needed funds to local community groups and we have seen the positive impact throughout our community due to the partnership," Mr Prater said.

"Each of the community groups we have chosen to support not only provides services that assist with the running of the Toodyay Race Club each year but they also provide vital services to the Toodyay community.

"We value the contribution they make and providing this additional funding is the least we can do to thank them."



Toodyay's big day out at the track



LEFT: Myles Wilson Dash for Cash winner Joseph Hinder, from Bassendean Football Club, claims victory. ABOVE: After the race. RIGHT: Riding instructions. Photos: Hans Welliger.



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Local wheat crop taken at 'the bank manager's hour' – the late afternoon when the crop looks thicker and may convince a bank manager to extend more credit. Photo: Frank Panizza.

Farmers surprised by size of feral pig menace

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza

MILD spring weather has settled in for farmers and non-farmers alike.

Paddocks have dried out considerably and the usual spring flush has seen excellent levels of feed for livestock. Crops have improved considerably after having very wet feet in early August.

Farmers are generally happy with their crops which most believe to be above average. This has occurred at the same time that grain prices are high, which is a rare occurrence.

Canola is currently at a record high price, trading at nearly \$950 per tonne. Cattle and sheep prices continue to be well-above average.

The wet winter has had its challenges and one of the more troublesome has been the difficulty in spraying firebreaks.

The delay in being able to drive on the firebreaks has resulted in weeds that are larger than usual and more difficult to control. Many landowners have had to resort

to grading or scarifying firebreaks to keep them to the required standard.

The very wet winter has produced a large amount of vegetative growth. Areas on all rural properties that have not been grazed out by livestock or sprayed will have a large fuel load which presents a hazard in the event of a bushfire.

Even though the wet conditions create difficulties, firebreaks must be installed in accordance with shire standards.

"Despite the difficulties of maintaining firebreaks this year, they are still as important

as ever," said Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for the Shire of Toodyay Craig Stewart.

"Fire Control Officers can help with advice on how to maintain clear and safe firebreaks if landowners are unsure of what they need to do.

"Mechanical clearing of firebreaks should be carried out early, before grass dries out, as the attempt to clear a break could actually start a fire," Mr Stewart said.

He urged landowners who are unsure of what is required, to seek advice.

A meeting was convened by the Shire of

Toodyay with broad acre farmers who are having issues with feral pigs.

A number of councillors, staff, farmers and representatives from government agencies attended the meeting which was held primarily to determine the extent of the feral pig problem and the willingness of landowners to formulate a co-ordinated approach to dealing with the problem.

Attendees generally were surprised about the extent of the problem. Plans are now underway to formulate a co-ordinated response which leads to action on the issue.

Bulging at seams for blockbuster event

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Alison Wroth

OCTOBER has arrived with great speed, as it always does any year, especially if you are organising the 167th Toodyay Agricultural Show.

We have all been saying the right things to whoever organises the critically important Show day weather in the hope that somebody is listening and does the right thing for us.

Weatherwise, October can be fickle and you can organise the best event but it comes down to whether the day is suitable to bring the crowds out for a look.

With luck, hopefully the weather is all we have to worry about on the day. Hint: Buy your tickets online through our website toodyayagshow.com.au to avoid the queues.

The great news is that we are fully booked with a huge variety of trade stalls this year, so expect a Show that is bulging at the seams, all ready to provide you with that blockbuster event we have been promising.

Continuing with the plan from previous Shows we have extended our ground-space tents and community stalls further out onto the main oval, creating a wonderful walkthrough from our main stage out from the goalposts

onto the showgrounds oval.

The main stage will be the venue for the official opening at 10am.

Equestrians will have the all new Have a Go events this year, so there will be activity on the oval from 8am.

The entertainment list we have this year covers a huge variety of attractions for people of all ages.

The program will be available as you enter the gate including free activities for the children.

Dairy Goats will again be in competition this year, being judged behind the Sheep Pavilion which is an attraction in itself.

Sideshow Alley, fashion parades at 11am and 1pm, The Krankies, our wonderful buskers and the Perth drag queens are just a taste of what will be on at the showground.

Our emergency services volunteers will again be providing the crowd with an accident scenario in front of the grandstand at midday; this is always a huge drawcard, so grab your lunch and come along.

Organising the entertainment and fireworks along with our continued maintenance in the Lee Steere Pavilion Exhibition Hall and the general organisation of our Show means many shoulders go to the wheel to produce a

successful annual event.

The Show would not be possible without the huge amount of donated prize money that we give to prize winners on the day, and the sponsorship and support by individual donors and our major sponsors Makit Hardware, Chalice Mining, Deepdale Farm, Dunning Fuel, Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Morgan Feed Supplies, CSBP, Shire of Toodyay, Spud Shed and the Toodyay Op Shop.

Without these major sponsors, local businesses, community groups and individuals, some of whom have supported the Show for years, we as a committee would not be able to pull the Show together and provide you with one of the best country agricultural shows situated on the most scenic and historic grounds in the state. A heartfelt thankyou to all our supporters; the Show would not continue without you.

Our revitalised and family friendly Terrace Bar is opening at noon and our auction of donated exhibits begins at 6pm just before the Makit Hardware sponsored fireworks wind up the day at 7.30pm.

On behalf of the committee, good luck with your entries and I hope you have a wonderful day.

Top music and lots to read

Toodyay Farmers Market
Sue Wakka

LAST month's market was such a great day and was made so special by the many stallholders who attended, some who have been with us from the very beginning and some who are new to the market.

The music was tops and we had the Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade in attendance spreading the word about how important the service is to the community.

Volunteers encouraged locals to consider joining and some new members did step up. Thanks to those who did.

We have a number of community groups that run food stalls to fundraise for their organisation – Toodyay Locals Care, Avon Valley Shotokan and the Toodyay Men's Shed. We thank them all.

Toodyay Agricultural Society and Safe and Scenic Toodyay Road were on hand to provide information about their groups.

If you have a community group and would like to get the word out about your activities get in fast as stall allocations are taken up quickly, or perhaps you would like to become a stallholder or simply become involved.

The crew from Marsupial Mammals and Pappas wildlife rescue group were with us again and they have proven to be a great drawcard.

As always, we are fortunate to have the support of the Toodyay Shire Councillors who are always available to answer questions at every market.

Our book exchange is still going strong, so if you have the need to read, pop on down and take a look at the range of literature. Bring a book to swap or make a donation to take one home.

Consider joining us, especially if you have excess vegetables. We have small stalls allocated for this purpose so please email toodyayfarmersmarket@gmail.com for further information.

If you would like to help out, we like all community groups, need more volunteers.

Our AGM is coming up in November and the next market will be on Sunday October 17 from 9am to 1pm. Take care and stay safe.

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Toodyay turns it on for Picnic Race Day



Above: At the mounting yard and Fashions On the Field. Photos: Hans Wellinger.

Glistening coat after stables washdown.

Northam crusher handled Coolgardie gold rush ore

Toodyay Historical Society
Robyn Taylor

EARLY last month our members attended a conference in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, travelling on The Prospector train.

Sitting in comfort allowed us to contemplate what was once a gruelling journey undertaken by the early prospectors hoping to make their fortunes in this fabulous gold mining region.

Unfortunately for some, their survival after getting there was short-lived with many dying of typhoid caused by the lack of clean drinking water.

For part of our journey we were accompanied by the Golden Pipeline, a monumental undertaking famously engineered by C Y O'Connor of the Public Works Department to bring fresh water from Mundaring Weir to the goldfields. It was officially opened in 1903 at Mt Charlotte by the Premier John Forrest.

Another crucial development had been the extension of the rail line to the goldfields.

While Northam's rail had been a spur line from York, in 1894 the decision was made for the Goldfields railway extension to start from Northam.

The town benefited hugely from this decision and it was one that influenced Italian entrepreneur Eugenio Vanzetti to build what became during the gold rush the second largest ore crushing battery in WA, though the *Coolgardie Miner* boasted it was the largest in Australia.

The battery was situated at Seabrook, five miles east of Northam.



Ruins of the old gold battery at Seabrook can still be seen east of Northam.

Vanzetti, a trained metallurgist, was head of a syndicate wanting to invest in the gold rush. He discovered there were no state batteries on the Goldfields for crushing the gold bearing rocks so the syndicate seized their chance.

Vanzetti needed to acquire land near a rail line and a permanent body of water for the extraction process.

The chosen location was near the Mortlock River where subterranean lakes were said to exist beside a large pool. A spur line named Seabrook Siding was built to connect the site to the Northam-Yilgarn rail extension.

The plan was to have specially constructed wagons to bring the ore to the battery then carry water on the return trip to the goldfields.

In 1895, Vanzetti went to London where

funds were raised for the venture and a trip made to Italy to recruit workers. The syndicate also acquired mines in Southern Cross.

In 1896 construction on the spur line began, damming of the Mortlock was undertaken, wells sunk and machinery imported. Crushing commenced the following year.

This could have been a huge success story and for a short time it was.

A Royal Commission in 1896-1897 resulted in the government establishing a Public Batteries Branch of the Mines Department, with the first six public batteries being set up in the Goldfields and the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme was finally approved by Parliament.

By 1900 the Seabrook Battery was permanently closed and the equipment sold.

Over time the structures were removed and

the land acquired by Lindsay Milhinch, a Northam farmer who recognised the value of the site for its history and native flora.

He gifted it to the shire on condition it be made into an A-class reserve. This was followed by its gazetting in 1992 for the purpose of Protection of Historical Site and Native Vegetation.

For students interested in history and archaeology, being involved with places such as this or the convict sites in Toodyay, can lead to exciting and rewarding career paths.

Our Sunday October 31 excursion will be to Morby Cottage (1836) in Northam followed by lunch at Spencers Brook Tavern (1884). Meet at 11am at Morby Cottage Museum on the Katrine Road.

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.

Shingles now tell the time

Volunteers of Toodyay Museums
Barry Keens

THERE was a sudden spike in demand for shingles and shingle products at last month's Toodyay Farmers Market.

Each year we have made a product for Christmas and this year Geoff Miller is making carriage clocks from varnished shingles which are being sold for \$40 at the Old Gaol Museum and Farmers Market. Orders can also be placed by calling 0427 047 850.

Kids entertainment packs at The Old Gaol Museum have been made up for the school holiday break and there should still be some available when you read this, so do come along between 10.30am and 2pm.

Toodyay Shire residents have free entry to the Old Gaol Museum and also Connors Mill which is open from 10am to 3pm.



Geoff Miller's carriage clock is the latest item made from recycled shingles.

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'It won't last six months' they said 20 years ago

Ida's Hideaway
Rae Vigar

MEMBERS and supporters celebrated Ida's Hideaway's 20th birthday at the Victoria Hotel on September 13.

Ida was told in 2001: "It won't last six months." So, it pays not to doubt 'the golden oldies'.

The committee would like to thank the following for their continuing support and friendship over the years – Charlie and Marion Ferguson, Dean and Amanda Carter, the Shire of Toodyay and Paul Sutton for the photographs.

The 21 friends who attended the birthday had a lovely lunch in a pleasant setting, after which Ida presented keepsakes to members and thanked all for keeping the group going.

Ida also thanked her daughters Astrid and Lei for their continuing support over the past 20 years and mentioned how it would be helpful if we could get more people to join the group.

So, if you are over 50 and would like to get out on Saturday afternoons, come and play bingo for chocolates with us.

We have lots of fun from 1pm until 4pm at the Toodyay Community Resource Centre conference

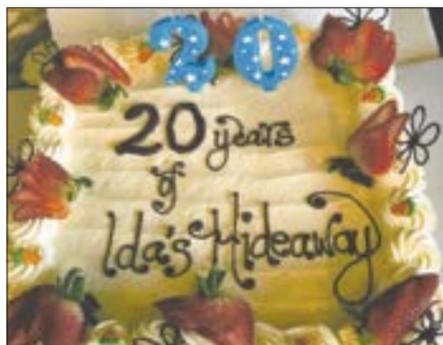
room behind the Christmas shop.

Ida cut a lovely cake which had been supplied and beautifully decorated by the Toodyay Bakery.

The committee would like to thank the Victoria Hotel for the enjoyable lunch and great service.

We are hoping we can keep Ida's Hideaway as a going concern and would appreciate any help we can get for our not-for-profit group.

If you would like more information, please phone Rae on 9574 2356 or Ida on 9574 2858.



The club's birthday cake. Photo: Paul Sutton.



Members relax after a game of carpet bowls at Bindoon Seniors Club.

Clean-up, lunch then bowls at Bindoon

Toodyay Autumn Club
Mike Cox

ANOTHER busy month for the club with an Adopt a Spot clean up to start with, then lunch at the Victoria Hotel, and a couple of weeks later we were off to Bindoon Seniors Club for a fun day out.

We all piled into cars on a cold morning and made our way to Bindoon to be welcomed by the local members who ushered us into their club rooms for a welcoming cup of tea and

coffee and some nibbles.

Then it was time for a great game of carpet bowls with plenty of laughter and joking.

This was followed by a lunch of soup and sandwiches and then a lucky dip, more games and more food and it didn't stop there.

We enjoyed ourselves so much we would have liked to stay longer but we had to get back home.

Our president thanked the Bindoon group for a very enjoyable day and we look forward to a return visit in future.

Changing of the guard looks to new shed members

Toodyay Men's Shed
Graham Hill

THE RESULTS of the recent AGM at the Toodyay Men's Shed has produced several changes.

I am proud to confirm Graham Hill is the incoming chairman and Godfrey Harmer the incoming secretary, giving the committee a new look after several years of administration by past



Incoming chair Graham Hill.

chairmen Fred Fellowes and Jeff Roberts.

The work and time taken in establishing the Men's Shed by Fred and Jeff in particular cannot be underestimated and as a result they will still be committee members and be on hand to advise the new committee if required.

May I congratulate all those elected to the committee and we look forward to a great team effort in the coming year.

The committee has several challenges but the main focus will be on new membership and to ensure any members that have drifted away become more active.

There are several projects being undertaken at the moment including Jinka Blocks for the Toodyay Farmers Market and refurbishing a trailer donated to the shed along with several items in the timber workshop.

The Toodyay Men's Shed will still offer traditional shed attractions and you can become involved in doing whatever you like, be it in the workshop, working on projects outside the shed such as our market trailer, dropping in for a chat and a coffee or join us for breakfast on the last Saturday in the month.

So why not call in to see us at 5 Harper Road, Toodyay on Mondays, Thursdays or Saturdays from 8.30am to noon and I am sure you will be greeted with a smile, a hot tea or coffee and a friendly chat.

For further information please contact the secretary on 0408 871 406.

Kambarang is the season of birth and transformation

Noongar Kaatdijin Aboriginal Corporation

DID YOU know that Noongar culture has six different bonar (seasons) in a yearly cycle? These are Birak, Bunuru, Djeran, Makuru, Djilba and Kambarang.

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

The seasons tell us which animal and plant resources are plentiful at those times and as such Noongar people have traditionally travelled, hunted and gathered food according to the season.

We are now entering Kambarang season (October/November) which is the season of birth and a transformational time of year.

During this season we see an abundance of colours and flowers exploding all around us; the yellows of many of the acacia, along with banksia and many others including the kangaroo paw and orchids.

This is also the time the Balga (grass tree)

will start to flower and one of the most striking displays of flowers to be seen during this season will be the Moodjar or Australian Christmas Tree (*Nuytsia*).

The bright orange flowers serve to signal that the heat is on its way. Many of these trees grow in Yued country in the northern part of our shire and have spiritual significance.

For the animals, October is also the most likely time of the year that you'll encounter a snake as the reptiles start to awaken from their hibernation and look to make the most of the warmth to assist them in getting enough energy to look for food.

It's also a time that many young families of birds will be singing out for their parents to feed them. Koolbardi (magpies) will also be out protecting their nests and their babies.

Many things are undergoing transformation with the warm change in the weather and longer dry periods accompany a definite warming trend.

For more information on the seasons go to our NKAC Facebook page or check out indigenous weather on bom.gov.au/.

Noongar Waangkiny

Noongar words and yarning

Sharmaine Miles *Ballardong Elder*

How to pronounce Noongar words

KAYA NOONUK – hello everyone.

A number of people have asked about how to pronounce Noongar words.

The Noongar language was not written but was passed down the generations in the spoken word and through stories and dance.

As such there may be a few different ways to pronounce common words and this is reflected in the spelling as communities try to record them.

There are lots of resources on-line to help you. A good but older dated one showing pronunciation is the *Noongar Dictionary*

compiled by Rose Whitehurst for the Noongar Language and Cultural Centre in 1997.

This reference book can be located on noongarculture.org.au and then search 'Noongar Dictionary'.

This month I would like to highlight some Noongar words for those associated with the Kambarang bonar (season). Enjoy.

Yoorn – Bobtail ...**Koolbardi** – Magpie
Balga – Grass tree ...**Koonart** – Acacia
Mangatj – Banksia ...**Yurenburt** – Berries
Djidi Djidi – Willy Wagtail ...**Weitj** – Emu
Moodjar – Christmas tree

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Non-veterans invited to join local sub-branch

RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch
Ian Calderwood

ON SEPTEMBER 11 the RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch held its AGM which included the election of office bearers.

Lou Kidd, who has a long and distinguished history with Toodyay RSL, was elected president.

He joined the sub-branch in 1997 and has served at various times as secretary, treasurer, media liaison officer and events coordinator.

Lou is also a long-standing member of the Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and on

Australia Day 2020 was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to the RSL and the community.

Membership of the RSL is not restricted to those who have served in the Australian Defence Forces. Those who have served in the armed forces of Australia's allies may also join as Service Members.

Affiliate membership is also available to those who have no personal defence force connection but may want to join the Toodyay sub-branch and support the principles and values of the RSL.

Membership information is available from the secretary Bob Wood, 0412 681 794.



The new RSL committee from left (back) Paul Barton, Bob Wood and Colin Bird (front) John 'Clarkie' Clarke, Lou Kidd and Ian Calderwood. Welfare officer Geoff Brown is not pictured.

Ex-Army surveyors' map lunch

TOODYAY ex-serviceman Warren Hall was one of several former Royal Australian Army Survey Corps members who met in Toodyay last month for a service reunion.

They played an important role in producing accurate maps for military operations in the Vietnam War during Australia's involvement from 1965 to 1975, and in land and air operations elsewhere.

Former Cpl Hall is a familiar figure at Toodyay's annual Anzac Day Parade which he leads from the town's Memorial Hall in Stirling Terrace to Anzac Memorial Park

wearing his distinctive white gauntlets.

The Royal Australian Survey Corps Association (RASVY) has started a Facebook page to enable its members to stay in touch and hold gatherings in Perth, Mandurah and Toodyay, with more planned in Bunbury, Greenbushes and elsewhere.

Members usually book into caravan parks, cabins and other accommodation to meet at local hotels and restaurants for lunch and swap stories about past experiences.

Last month's Toodyay reunion was held in the Freemasons Hotel dining room.



Cpl Warren Hall front row third from left with Royal Australian Army Survey Corps members.



The CWA stall nearly sold out on the fundraising day. Photo: Viv Street.

Hall roof fundraising off to encouraging start

Country Women's Association
Elizabeth Mansom

DID YOU buy something from our stall at IGA on September 11?

The stall was the first fundraiser held to replace the roof on our 100-year-old hall which, when initially brought up, looked to be an overwhelming fundraising challenge.

However, with your help, we're off to a very encouraging start and think maybe, with help from State Office, two years should see the goal achieved.

Access in Charcoal Lane has recently been improved. There's a new ACROD parking bay at the back of our hall which is a huge help not only to those of us not as quick and agile as we used to be but to drivers assisting those with walkers. Thank you, ACROD fairies.

Don't forget to look for our display at the local show. Other than Netti, who will be there in all her Japanese finery, we know nothing of what our Viv has planned except that, as always, it will be a stand-out. Thanks, Viv.

We are also very grateful to Margo who has been our guide to all things Japanese during the period it has been the country of study. From drinking games to mending frayed jeans (some of us do) it has been a real voyage of discovery.

We're off to Bayswater on Thursday, October 21 to a Friendship Day being held by our sister city branch.

They always have an interesting guest speaker and this time the subject is beekeeping.

With bees so important to our food supply and so threatened these days we can perhaps come away knowing how to organise our small piece of garden to shelter and nurture these vital insects.

And, of course, there will be luscious food, raffles and various other ways Bayswater can raise money and we can bring home goodies.

Gina, our secretary, has bravely volunteered to work in the CWA stand at the Royal Show this year.

As most of the present branch members have not had this experience we look forward to her report at the next meeting and, if you get time, Gina, some photos.

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

There is plenty of parking, including an ACROD bay in Charcoal Lane with disabled access at the side of the hall. To book the hall please contact Bev Casey 0447 268 762.



Margot Watkins' Auntie Billie helped with the fundraising effort. Photo: Viv Street.

Masons open Lodge doors

The Toodyay Lodge
John Adams

ALL MEMBERS of the Toodyay community are invited to attend an open night at The Toodyay Lodge 17 Fiennes Street, Toodyay on Tuesday, October 26.

The Lodge will be open from 6pm and the highlight of the evening will be a lecture on Masonic Victoria Crosses by Tony Banner.

Tony is a Freemason and has constructed a mobile exhibition and display with which he is touring around Australia and New Zealand over the next four years.

His exhibition and lecture is designed to not only tell the stories of 123 Australian and New Zealanders but reflects on values lost in today's society.

Tony is also in the process of writing a book on the subject and his work has been

acknowledged by *The Albany Advertiser* and GWN News.

Doug Baird OAM (father of Cameron Baird VC MG) is a great supporter of the exhibition and says "there is nothing like this in Australia".

Tony's one-hour lecture will commence at 6.30 pm. After the presentation, light refreshments and beverages will be provided.

The event is an opportunity to discuss Freemasonry in general and inspect the historic building.

The main building was completed in 1879 as a Temperance Hall and the Lodge meeting rooms were added in the 1920s.

As the Lodge rooms only have approval for 50 occupants it would be appreciated if you could advise secretary John Adams on 0437 228 879 if you wish to attend.

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