

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.

June 2022
Edition 413

Ambo inquiry vindicates Wroth claims

Volunteers too afraid to speak out for fear of retribution by head office managers

Michael Sinclair-Jones

SICK and injured people in regional WA cannot continue to rely on unpaid volunteers to provide ambulance services, a State parliamentary inquiry has found.

It said country communities had no guaranteed access to ambulance services and that patients living in 98.5 per cent of the state had no guaranteed response times.

“Continued reliance on volunteers to perform ambulance services is not sustainable,” the inquiry found.

Public health officials were urged to investigate using paid paramedics to extend regional ambulance services in a ‘hybrid model’ to support volunteers who currently respond to 90 per cent of all country calls.

A total of 74,000 calls last year were responded to by regional volunteers – a 22 per cent increase over the previous five years.

The inquiry also reported that more than 85 per cent of “frontline” paramedics did not trust senior St John Ambulance management.

Evidence suggested that “cultural issues” inside WA’s privately run ambulance service “extends to serious matters such as harassment and bullying,” the inquiry said.

“Current processes do not adequately address these matters.”

Despite three other recent inquiries, St John Ambulance had failed to resolve “issues” in its workplace and organisational culture.

The inquiry reported “numerous examples of employees in fear of reporting their issues to come forward and air their concerns because of possible ramifications”.

The findings echo claims by former veteran Toodyay St John Ambulance chair Charlie Wroth, who was sacked by Perth administrators and stripped of his 39-year volunteer membership after criticising management workplace culture at a private 2019 emergency services forum organised by WA National Party MPs in Northam.

Local WA National’s MP Shane Love later told State Parliament that he was “shocked” and “dismayed” by the sacking, which he described as “gut-wrenching”.

Mr Wroth testified under oath to the inquiry that St John Ambulance management culture was “toxic” and had failed in basic areas of emergency service delivery.

Several Toodyay ambulance volunteers had resigned, and others were too afraid to speak out, he told MPs in Perth.

The State should take over WA’s ambulance service and run it similarly to rural WA’s fire and emergency services, Mr Wroth said.

The inquiry said WA was one of only two Australian jurisdictions – the other is the Northern Territory – where ambulance services were not governed by State law.

It agreed there was a case for the State to take over ambulance services in WA but said “a private provider may deliver essential government services so long as it provides the services to a similar or higher standard as would a public entity”.

The inquiry said the State should investigate new laws to govern ambulance services or implement a “comprehensive policy”.

Continued on Page 5.



Noongar Elder Sharmaine Miles (left), Toodyay Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst (centre) and Shire President Rosemary Madacsi in Duidgee Park.

Ngain-ya-ye-ya cooling – watch out Boss Ladies, the Wagyl swims in murky waters

THREE Toodyay Boss Ladies, as the local Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation likes to call them, celebrated Reconciliation Week (May 27-June 3) by

launching a new display at Duidgee Park. The sign is one of nine on a Noongar Trail to show the connection of Yued, Ballardong and Whadjuk people to the Toodyay area.

The display describes how the Wagyl Spirit Snake swims in dark and murky waters, and visitors should call out *ngain-ya-ye-ya cooling* to say they are coming.

Former councillor prosecuted over ‘false’ \$500m claim

FORMER Toodyay shire councillor Ben Bell is being prosecuted by Australia’s corporate watchdog for allegedly misleading overseas investors over a claimed \$500 million deal that government lawyers say did not exist.

He is also accused of making “false and misleading” representations to investors in London and Hong Kong about a \$5 billion deal with a South Korean manufacturer of electric batteries for motor vehicles.

Former Cr Bell stood unsuccessfully in a secret council ballot for Toodyay shire president in 2019 before resigning from the

council at the end of January this year.

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) is seeking Federal Court orders for Mr Bell to be fined and barred from managing a corporation for a period of time to be decided by the court.

Court documents show that the alleged “serious” corporate offences are claimed to have occurred in April and May 2018 when Mr Bell was serving as a Toodyay shire councillor.

Mr Bell’s Brisbane-based company, Australian Mines Ltd, announced his

resignation last month as managing director and CEO on the same day the Australian Government Solicitor’s office filed its Federal Court action in Perth.

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Cops chop winter firewood for oldies in need



Local off-duty police sergeants cut firewood.

FOUR local off-duty police sergeants have been cutting and splitting free firewood for elderly Toodyay residents and others in need.

The scheme operates with the support of Toodyay Race Club, Toodyay Op Shop and local firewood supplier Charlie Ferguson.

“We’re happy to help vulnerable people who can’t afford to run electric heaters or buy and chop fire wood themselves,” organiser Sgt Dave Flaherty (far left) said.

For more information, please call Toodyay Local Care on 0427 744 352.

Coming events
Toodyay Farmers Market
Sunday June 19

this month

classifieds	28
emergency services	7, 8
environment	19, 20, 21, 27, 28
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COUNTRY REALTY

The Toodyay Herald

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

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are \$33 (postage and packaging) per year (11 issues). Please send a cheque to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566.

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

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DISTRIBUTION

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

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THANK YOU

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

ADVERTISING

RATES - NO GST IS APPLICABLE

The cost of a casual display advertisement is \$4.35 per column cm (NB Column width is 61.5mm.)

Full Page: Mono - \$696.00; Colour - \$747.50.

Setup size: 260mm wide by 400mm deep.

Half Page: Mono - \$348.00; Colour - \$399.50

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Quarter Page: Mono - \$174.00; Col. - \$225.50.

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

STORY DEADLINE

DISTRIBUTED

Noon Friday
June 24

Noon Wednesday
June 29

Thursday
July 7

Please note our email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

Frank chat

Roger Simms

AFTER a Federal Election result like that, time for a whole lot of talkin'.

Our new Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, was quickly into discussion mode.

Within two days, he was on the world stage in Tokyo in talks with his Quad counterparts – the leaders of America, India and Japan.

From the TV coverage beamed back to Australia, he looked a good fit in the role.

And across the country the talk has been all about resets.

What will change and how quickly will it happen under this new Labor government?

What comes first in the stepped-up war on climate change, how will the spectacular rise of Independents – most of them women – reshape national politics, will shell-shocked Liberals alter course and move further Right, and who will lead them?

And how will the Australian economy fare under new Treasurer Jim Chalmers with a bundle of promised social reforms to pay for, the threat of accelerating inflation and a record national debt which he has already said will last for generations?

All hot topics for debate, from a pub to a politics lecture.

But talking of resets, there's another sort of talk that I reckon would serve Australia well as the new government settles into its work.

Mr Albanese spoke during his successful election campaign about a piece of advice he said he received from his late mother – "to leave no-one behind."

He was referring, of course, to those in need – the jobless, the homeless.

But if our new Prime Minister is aiming to take the Australian people along with him on his leadership journey and stay in touch, he needs to put a fresh face on Federal politics, to lift the quality of what goes on in Canberra and refresh a word not used much in the national capital these days – statesmanship.

And I reckon an innovative step towards that would be for Mr Albanese to introduce something that made former US leader Franklin Roosevelt's presidency (1933-45) so successful – the fireside chat with the nation.

On 12 March 1933, a newly elected Mr Roosevelt went on national radio and began: "I want to talk for a few minutes with the people of the United States ..."

Note the preposition "with".

He wasn't talking 'to' Americans or 'at' them, he was using the language of a leader by putting himself on equal terms with his listeners, a leader prepared to put his cards on the table and talk frankly about national problems.

In that first talk, America's new president wanted to explain about banking during

the Great Depression (1929-39), why his government had closed banks for a day (due to fears of a run on them) and to give people an assurance that their money was safe.

He was to have many more such chats with the American people and there seems little doubt that his willingness to keep the nation informed was a big part of his electoral success.

He won four presidential terms, serving from 1933 until his death in office in 1945 near the end of World War 2.

His frankness echoed an observation reportedly made in 1864 by US President Abraham Lincoln: "Tell the people the truth and the country is safe".

Now that might sound naïve.

No prime minister can go on national television and tell the country about every bit of government business – no sensible person would expect that.

But I believe Australians would like to know more about the broader national picture – as the government sees it – as problems, challenges and changes crop up.

No fudging, no dodging, no bragging and no bagging the Opposition.

Just a straight-talking, cards-on-the-table assessment from the leader of what's happening and what's being done.

That rules out anything remotely like former US President Donald Trump's appalling idea of reporting to the people by attacking opponents on *Twitter* and inciting mass rallies of shouting supporters.

No easy job, of course, and style would be important.

And not everyone has the relaxed, confidence-winning way Mr Roosevelt was said to employ.

Moreover, no one is going to listen to boring renditions of government activity, much less anything that has a whiff of bullshit about it or amounts to no more than an attack on opposition parties.

Mr Albanese told us while chasing our vote that Australians deserve better.

Well, I for one think that would mean better ways of keeping open lines of communication with the nation rather than political slanging matches in Parliament.

Now I know our prime ministers are not presidents and – unlike in America – they are not directly chosen by the people, but they are still our national leaders.

And every now and then, when the national mood suggests the need, I believe they should go on TV, bite the bullet, forget all about politics, and talk with us.

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June - July 2022

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

Sustainable duo in tune with environment

By Ed Watson

NOBODY can argue that this isn't a great time of the year to live in and around Toodyay.

Clean crisp air and a warm fire at night now combine to drown the memories of our long hot summer.

Much like the weather and landscape, Toodyay has a diverse range of people with an ever-surprising range of work and life experiences that add to the town's fabric.

It offers the people of Toodyay young and old an opportunity to learn and maybe find a new interest or passion.

Diversity gives Toodyay a unique background and subtle charm that is not often noticed until people sit down and listen to the many stories on offer.

The countryside surrounding Toodyay is also diverse and subtle in its own way.

Fresh ideas and concepts are being brought to life as people find their own place in the landscape.

From camels to cows, new ways are being found to forge a living and bring fresh business ideas and ways of living for our historic town to gain a new lease of life.

Out of town and tucked away in Julimar is one of those stories.

On a beautiful 38 acres (15ha) of mixed Eucalyptus and Dryandra forest registered with 'Land for Wildlife' sits a straw bale home that demonstrates sustainable living at its best.

The house sits unimposing on the natural bush and gardens around it.

Years ago, these types of buildings, along with mud brick and rammed earth homes, were well and truly mainly for hippies but that stereotype is now falling away.

The home is testament to a modern, sustainable living and the custodians of this little piece of paradise are Yani and Sandy.

The couple come from backgrounds that are both similar and different, and both for many years did the hard yards of driving to and from Perth for various types of work.

But through lifestyle choices and jobs, both are now able to enjoy their 38 acres together and share their knowledge of sustainable



Yani and Sandy at their unique circular straw bale house.

practices full-time.

Yani, who some might recognise from his sharpening business around town, fell in love with Julimar many years ago and in 2000 began building his straw bale home.

It came with challenges and hold-ups but stands as testament to the ingenuity and persistence that comes when you really put your mind to developing an idea.

Yani is a 'hands-on' person – a jack of all trades and master of quite a few.

He combined his electrical engineering background with experience of working with

many trades to help bring his visions alive.

If you look at the current housing crisis and the amount of time it takes these days to build or renovate a home, maybe it is time to consider alternatives such as straw bale, mudbrick and rammed earth construction.

Apart from the thermal and acoustic qualities and benefits that come with straw bale construction, Yani also built the house for optimum performance.

The roof is a solar collector which, with some simple and not so simple engineering, helps to both heat and cool the interior.

The house has a circular shape which has its own unique charm – once inside you would never know you're in a round house.

The interior and exterior design dispels any theories about having to go without because of the straw bale hippy stigma and stands up to any modern dwelling with its stylish finishes and use of materials.

A spacious kitchen, living and entertaining areas make the house a home, but it didn't finish there.

The home is surrounded by carefully designed outbuildings, gardens and orchards to complement the natural bushland.

Unique permaculture systems help established orchards and vegetable gardens flourish without a lot of labour, and supply the couple year-round with all their basic fruit and vegetables needs.

Life can throw us many challenges, and Yani overcame one of his biggest some years ago with the passing of a loved one.

But life goes on, and Yani was able to find a wonderful new life partner in Sandy.

They combine to keep the natural bush and gardens in harmony using insects, birds and native animals to help sustainability.

Sandy recently quit her daily commute to Midland and has turned her considerable experience as an academic and hands-on worker to focus on sustainable living.

Yani and Sandy have turned the land and its use into what they call Green World Eco Retreat – a place where they can share their passion for sustainable living practices.

The idea grew from visitors' questions about an adjacent cottage in which they were staying, and the house and gardens.

The pair saw an opportunity to share their knowledge of sustainable living on a bigger scale.

Their ideas grew into various workshops that now cater for groups that can spend an afternoon or even a weekend learning about composting, wicking beds, and permaculture, and hands-on construction techniques for various projects and applications.

Participants gain the confidence to adapt what they have learned to their own homes, whether it be for a city balcony, suburban backyard or bushland acreage.

Sustainable living is no longer a fad, and many more people are looking at what they can achieve in their own little patch.

Yani and Sandy use their entire property as a classroom where people can relax, unwind and acquire a unique understanding of the relationship between the bush its many inhabitants, and how we can adapt that to look after our own little patch.

The knowledge becomes a starting point for a journey into sustainable living.

Sandy, Yani and their 38-acre Julimar classroom are just one of those many little gems mentioned at the start.

Toodyay and its surrounds are full of Yanis and Sandys offering new ideas and opportunities for our community.

It brings yet another unique touch to an already wonderful place to live.

For more information about workshops, please call 0427 744 721.

Toodyay Community Resource Centre needs \$10,000 to avert closure

LAST-MINUTE community support and \$916 from a wood raffle have helped Toodyay's popular Community Resource Centre to avert imminent closure – but more money is needed to ensure its future.

"We need \$10,000 more to get us back in the black," centre manager Nicole Coleman

said at the end of last month.

"We can stay open for at least the next little while but need to raise \$50,000 to keep going for the whole of the next financial year."

The Stirling Terrace facility provides a range of community services for local residents, including printing, laminating,

secretarial support, office services, events and workshops.

It helps people to access online government services on computers provided at the centre.

It also rents out a conference room and meeting space for use by other organisations.

Ms Coleman said the State Government contributed \$106,000 a year in quarterly instalments under a five-year deal that runs until June 2027.

This paid for just over half of the centre's operating budget, she said.

Other revenue came from fees and charges for services, fund-raisers such as raffles, membership fees and donations.

The centre has asked the Toodyay Shire Council to provide a total of \$10,000 to help pay for the town's annual Christmas Street Party and School Holiday Program.

The request will be decided at the next council meeting starting at 1pm on Wednesday June 22.

Ms Coleman said the requested funds were for annual one-off community events and did not cover the \$10,000 needed to cover the centre's budget shortfall for everyday operating expenses.

The centre had 115 financial members, including some small local businesses, who paid between \$15 and \$50 a year depending on their membership category and circumstances.

Staff numbers were recently cut with the departure of an administration officer, leaving three others to keep the centre open.

Ms Coleman said the centre had no money to pay for a replacement.

However, she was heartened by the public response after the centre posted a recent plea for help on a local Facebook community page.

"We just need \$10,000 to keep going," Ms Coleman said.

"I don't think anyone in this town would like to see us close."

If you can help, please call 9574 5357 or email admin1@toodyaycrc.com.au.



Toodyay Community Resource Centre Manager Nicole Coleman at the Stirling Terrace facility.

Councillors vote themselves a pay rise

TOODYAY'S eight shire councillors have voted 8-0 to give themselves a pay rise.

The State Government recently increased local government payments to all WA councillors by 2.5 per cent across the board.

Payments are grouped in four bands, with Toodyay second lowest in Band 3 with York, Chittering and Gingin but behind Northam and Mundaring in Band 2.

Toodyay councillors voted last month to increase their ordinary payments to 85 per cent of the new Band 3 maximum instead of the previous 75 per cent set in 2020.

Payments for shire president and deputy president will also increase to 85 per cent of Band 3 instead of the 60 per cent previously.

Toodyay's shire president will get \$4525 a month, the deputy \$1860 and the other six councillors \$1385 each.

An annual allowance of \$400 for "information and communications technology" expenses for all eight council members rises to \$410.

The increases will cost an extra \$35,000 overall and are subject to council approval in the 2022/23 shire budget, due next month.

The Toodyay Herald

Wroth was right

SACKED local volunteer ambulance chief Charlie Wroth was right on the money when he described head office bosses as a bunch of incompetent bullies.

It got him dismissed for his pains, told to shut up and cast out like a leper.

His shock demise in 2019 divided local ambulance volunteers, some of whom quit in disgust while others sided with management to attack this newspaper for reporting Mr Wroth claims.

Those claims turned out to be accurate, as shown in last month's 192-page report of a State parliamentary inquiry into WA's troubled ambulance service.

It reads as a damning indictment of corporate mismanagement of an essential service that has been allowed for too long to operate without proper public scrutiny.

Many in the community may not realise that the St John Ambulance service is a privately run monopoly with virtually no public oversight.

The inquiry made a point of noting that – unlike other local emergency services such as firefighters and police – St John's is not answerable to the State Corruption and Crime Commission which has sweeping powers to investigate WA government agencies.

Nor do ambulance volunteers have a representative body to protect their professional interests, another deficiency pointed out by the inquiry.

Workplace bullying is a serious offence, but ambulance volunteers have few protections under Federal and State law.

They are not paid employees and lack the same rights to unfair dismissal laws as others in often less-demanding roles.

Being exposed to smashed bodies, bleeding corpses and distraught families on a regular basis is not something most other people would care to take home after a busy day at work.

But there are no laws to protect those who fear retribution if they dare to speak out about how the ambulance service is run.

As this newspaper said before, Mr Wroth is a plain-speaking local farmer who is not one to pussy-foot around with politically correct weasel words to make a point.

Sick and injured West Australians in need of urgent ambulance care deserve better, as do the hundreds of ambulance volunteers whose seemingly tireless efforts on seven-day call-out rosters help to save countless lives every year.

Our ambulance service clearly needs to be fixed, and it needs to be done quickly.

A good starting point may be a public St John Ambulance WA apology to Mr Wroth and his family, and full reinstatement of his 39-year voluntary membership.

Mr Wroth many not want to wear the green uniform again but he surely has every right to be restored to his former status as a full member of this unique band of local community heroes.

Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor

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

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING for cattle



Jean 0478 037 315

Jeremy 0450 366 530

See Classified Advertisement on page 28



The way we were – This photograph taken outside Toodyay's former Duke Street School in 1908 when the town was previously named Newcastle shows 46 students in what appears to be colonial costumes. The old school operated from 1887 to 1954 and was the first purpose-built school in the new town site when it was shifted from flood-prone West Toodyay. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

LETTERS

No jobs for leavers

THE PURPOSE of my letter is to support the views put forward by Alison Wroth in last month's letters in *The Toodyay Herald*.

Alison's letter pointed out that a proposed Chalice mine in Julimar may bring opportunities for young workers and school leavers hoping to be able to secure local apprenticeships.

My personal experience is that young school leavers who want to get apprenticeships for skilled employment really struggle to get that opportunity in Toodyay.

Our son wanted to be a heavy diesel mechanic only to find that opportunity out of the Shire.

Two of his school friends who also wanted to become mechanics had to leave the Shire as well to find apprenticeships in Perth.

Employment self-sufficiency in Toodyay is poor.

Information I recall seeing recently, is that the Shire of Toodyay has an employment self-sufficiency of just over 50 per cent.

Broadly, this means that half of our residents can't find work within their own Shire.

This obviously indicates that employment opportunities and particularly opportunities for school leavers seeking apprenticeships, are very poor.

Debate around a proposed mine appears to be centred around the protection of an endangered animal.

From information I can see, the currently proposed mine is on farmland that was cleared decades ago.

Exploration has been proposed to seek extensions of the mineralisation into the State Forest.

Obviously, environmental controls over exploration in a reserve will be, and should be, far more rigid than farmland that has been cleared for decades.

Chalice Mining's discovery of a "world class" deposit of "green metals" does not sit well with some in our community.

It would have been far more convenient if this was in the Goldfields ... but it isn't.

A carbon-neutral future is dependent upon electric vehicles and hydrogen.

Minerals discovered in Julimar contain the metals required for this transition away from coal and petroleum.

Any future decision on whether to allow mining in the forest needs to balance the interests of all parties in our community, as well as the planet.

Frank Panizza
Nunile

How's your glass?

AS WE enter winter and the middle of 2022 perhaps it is time to ask the question "is the glass half full or half empty?"

If it is half empty, we can look back and remember the lovely summer days, the warmth and the barbecues, cold beer and sun tans.

Despite COVID-19 and restrictions, we still had Christmas and New Year celebrations as well as Australia Day.

We did lose a bit of freedom such as eating out, happy pubs full of people, night clubs and wearing masks so we could not recognise each other.

I missed having full family gatherings because of restrictions on numbers and am sure this will apply to many others.

We did have the pleasure of living in the Toodyay area where life seemed more normal than it was for many in more populated areas.

Which brings me to the half full glass and the rest of 2022.

I hope we can expect a wet winter and a good start to the crop growing season followed by another successful harvest.

The Avon River will have just enough water to make this year's Avon Descent interesting and not cause flooding.

We can look forward to Spring and another local Agricultural Show as well as healthy-looking crops.

Some volunteers will have a break as the seasons change, others will get busier and many of us will carry on as usual ensuring Toodyay is a good area to live in.

As Christmas and New Year approaches and harvest is done, we find the glass is nearly empty.

We can look back on the half full glass and find that we had both good and bad times in the whole glass and that we can refill it again for another year.

How is your glass?

Barry Keens
Toodyay.

Brekkie plea

PEOPLE of Toodyay your help is needed.

The Breakfast Club at our local school is in danger of closing.

This is a very necessary service because some students have to catch an early bus to school and don't eat any breakfast at all.

Studies show students who eat a healthy breakfast tend to have better concentration in the classroom than those who skip breakfast altogether.

They can focus on tasks better and are less distracted in their learning.

Toodyay's School Breakfast Club service operates Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Each shift needs three volunteers who can offer their support for just one hour a day.

At the moment we are down to just Wednesdays and Fridays, with only two people available for each of those shifts.

In addition, the current Breakfast Club coordinator is retiring, and a new volunteer is needed to take over this key role.

The coordinator finds volunteers when required and organises stand-ins from a couple of relief people we have at present when a regular volunteer is unable to do their rostered shift.

The Breakfast Club coordinator checks dates on stock and organises term orders through Foodbank.

They are also responsible, with the help of the School Chaplaincy committee, for organising a Big Breakfast at the beginning of each term.

The present coordinator will be available, if required, to mentor a new coordinator for a couple of school terms to settle them in.

If no new volunteers are found, this vital school breakfast service for local students will unfortunately have to cease.

Please, we need your help.

If you can do so, please phone Max Heath on 0400 206 929.

Max J Heath
Toodyay

Moondyne pride

MY WIFE Kerry and I were proud to be a part of the Moondyne Festival last month.

Dressed for the scene, we absolutely enjoyed the best day on Toodyay's calendar.

Everyone involved in organising the event should be very proud of themselves.

We are now welcomed as part of the scene and are so looking forward to next year's event.

Frank Cherry
Southlake

Never seems open

TOODYAY has a large Men's Shed building in Harper Road which never seems to be open.

I remember that they received a grant of around \$380,000 from the WA Government to purchase the building.

Friends of mine in other areas say their Men's Sheds are open most days of the week and on weekends when men can gather to chat, talk about their mental and general health, and work on various projects for themselves or others.

It made me curious about our own Men's Shed, which I was told opens only three mornings a week for about three hours.

This doesn't seem to me to be very good value for the amount of taxpayers' money spent on building it.

I hope that things will change in the near future so that the Toodyay Men's Shed can be used by more men, more often.

Frances Lawson
Toodyay

Manor hailed

CONGRATULATIONS to the proprietors of the Toodyay Manor, formerly the tavern, opposite the Bowling Club.

Bouquets to you for the fabulous restoration work you have undertaken and for how beautifully it now sits in the main street.

Kerry Gregory
Dewars Pool

Onya Tony

I WOULD like to compliment last month's Page 3 story on the "cheeky" Tony Maddox.

Tony has shown many people in Toodyay the quality of his life, his attitude and his constant love of music, farming, real estate and, of course, his family.

Onya Tony. Of course, there is also another aspect regarding attitude, respect and dignity.

I refer to the many community organisations in our shire who with their volunteers freely give many hours of their time, with their respect and dignity building from the ground up.

Many folk come and go from organisations but look at the ones who created them to better the community.

So many could be named. Those who are involved in these organisations never falter with their beliefs – they just continue without any kudos.

It was recently Volunteer Week and respect for our volunteer fire brigade members goes without saying.

We are privileged to have such wonderful men and women keeping us all safe.

I thank all volunteers on whatever you are achieving and wish you great happiness and continued support from our community.

Di Roberts
Toodyay

Men's Shed rift prompts mass defections

A COURT-FUELLED rift in the Toodyay Men's Shed has led to mass resignations and the formation of a new rival group that has registered the name 'Moodyne Men'.

Veteran Men's Shed member Jeff Roberts applied in the Northam Magistrates' Court last month for a restraining order against former Men's Shed member Owen Webb, who is now a member of Moodyne Men.

It followed a verbal dispute between the pair after five former Men's Shed committee members – including the chairman and secretary – resigned their elected positions and quit their Shed membership on April 14.

The former committee had voted 4-1 on March 10 for Mr Roberts to resign from the committee over several emails he sent to other members and for "serious concerns" about his ability to continue in the role.

Mr Roberts resigned from the committee later that day "so as not to cause the elected representatives any embarrassment of drawn-out mediation or litigation".

Former Men's Shed vice chairman and "Shed Boss" Fred Fellowes failed a month later to secure a committee vote of no-confidence in the Secretary and Chairman.

The vote was lost 5-2 with only Mr Fellowes and Steve King voting in favour.

Mr Fellowes then tabled a note signed by nine Men's Shed members that required a special general meeting of all members to be called, prompting the five who voted against his no-confidence motion to resign.

A special general meeting called by Mr Fellowes for May 7 elected Mr Jeff Roberts as Secretary, Phil Roberts as Chairman and former Toodyay shire president Brian Rayner (pictured right) as Vice Chairman.

At last month's Northam court hearing, Mr Jeff Roberts and Mr Webb accepted the magistrate's view that the restraining order sought by Mr Roberts should not go to trial.

Neither side was understood to have been represented by lawyers, and the pair agreed to sign a "mutual understanding" provided by the court for them to sign this month.

Mr Jeff Roberts wrote in this month's Men's Shed column on Page 12 that "gaps" had been filled after a "glitch" in the "normally smooth running of the organisation".

An interim committee had been formed.

Mr Roberts said later that he knew of only five Men's Shed resignations in April.

One of them – former Men's Shed chairman Graham Hill – now chairs Moodyne Men.

Mr Hill said Moodyne Men had been incorporated as a not-for-profit association and had 18 new members – mostly from the Toodyay Men's Shed – who meet weekly at the new Toodyay RSL Hall in Clinton Street.

Former Men's Shed committee member Colin Bird was new Moodyne Men Secretary, and Barry Squires Treasurer.

Mr Hill said Moodyne Men raised \$1100 in last month's Moodyne Festival clean-up and donated it to Toodyay Locals Care.

Members meet at the RSL Hall on Mondays and Thursdays from 9am to noon, and for breakfast on the last Saturday of the month from 8.30am.

See *Where and When*, Page 28.

Ambo bosses told to fix mess or lose contract

Continued from Page 1.

"PRIVATE providers of essential public services must be subject to the same oversight and scrutiny as a public body," the inquiry said.

It noted that unlike with other essential services run by the State, the WA Corruption and Crime Commission had no jurisdiction over St John Ambulance WA operations.

A seven-year State agreement with WA's monopoly ambulance service provider is due to expire at the end of this month.

The inquiry recommended that St John be offered a new contract for five years instead of the 10 years with two five-year options it had sought, with greater public scrutiny and accountability to the State.

This would include regular WA Health Department audits of St John Ambulance workplace and organisational culture to be tabled annually in the WA Parliament.

The inquiry said WA should consider switching to a different private operator or a government-run ambulance service if these higher standards could not be met.



Former Toodyay shire president Brian Rayner – the only local JP who can sign police search warrants – is about to travel around Australia and needs a replacement to take over the role.

New JPs needed to sign police warrants and witness forms

TOODYAY needs new Justices of the Peace young enough to sign police search warrants.

The only local JP who is qualified by age to do that is former shire president Brian Rayner (above) who is planning to be away from Toodyay on an extended holiday in coming months.

Two other local JPs – Max Heath and Jeff Roberts – are both older than the legal 75-year age limit for signing police warrants.

Without younger JPs, Toodyay police will need to travel to Northam or beyond for a signature required by law for search warrants, which could impede criminal inquiries and enable offenders to escape.

Mr Rayner said he was normally asked up to three times a week to witness statutory

declarations which have no age limit and can be signed by Toodyay's two other JPs.

But they were unable to sign police warrants, which Mr Rayner said was usually required two or three times a month.

Two or more new younger JPs could share the community responsibility by working to a roster so that that someone was always available to assist police in their work.

"It would suit a reputable person with good community standing," Mr Rayner said.

JPs are appointed by the State Governor who authorises them to carry out a range of official administrative duties in their local communities.

For more information about how to become a JP, visit the WA Justice Department online.

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Save
10%
when you order
your LPG cylinders
online.*



Handbag thief fined, card users being traced

Police Beat

With Acting Sgt
Gary Ferguson
Toodyay Police Station



THEFT of cash and bank cards from an elderly woman's handbag have resulted in one court conviction and ongoing inquiries into the alleged misuse of funds by others.

The first theft occurred when the robbery victim left her handbag unattended at Toodyay's IGA store in Charcoal Lane.

A store security camera spotted an offender taking the handbag, which contained several hundred dollars.

The thief later discarded the handbag at nearby Toodyay train station.

The cash was taken but the handbag still contained the elderly woman's bank card and other personal items.

Two other offenders went to the railway station, took possession of the stolen handbag, drove away in a car and used the bank card elsewhere to buy cigarettes.

Security camera footage enabled Toodyay police to identify and arrest the cash thief, who pleaded guilty to the offence in Northam Magistrates Court.

The offender was fined more than the value of the stolen cash and ordered to pay restitution to the elderly woman.

Police inquiries are continuing into theft and misuse of the elderly woman's bank card by the other offenders.

Busy night in Rugged Hills

A THIEF damaged one car and stole a fuel card from another during a night of crime on at least three residential bush blocks in Toodyay's Rugged Hill estate last month.

The offences were reported to have occurred overnight on May 12-13 in the Ridley Circle area.

The ignition barrel lock on a Kia Sportage SUV was damaged in apparent attempt to steal the vehicle, which had been left unlocked overnight.

No items were reported stolen. The intruder also entered an unlocked Kia Rio parked on the same property, rummaged through the glovebox and left without stealing anything.

A third unlocked vehicle – a company-owned Holden Colorado utility on another nearby property – was also entered.

The thief stole a fuel card, car keys belonging to another vehicle that was not at the scene, a packet of pork crackles and 100 plastic gloves in a packet.

The thief entered a property about half a kilometre away and rummaged through the glovebox of an unlocked Audi B6 sedan.



Acting Sgt Gary Ferguson with road safety stickers handed out to Toodyay school children.

Nothing was stolen and there was no damage to the car.

None of the owners – who were all asleep at the time – reported hearing anything unusual that night, though one said she woke about midnight and listened for sounds before returning to sleep.

Owners woke next morning to find car doors left open.

Police are seeking help from any Rugged Hills residents who may have heard or noticed anything unusual that night, such as dogs barking.

Residents are also urged to check any security camera footage on their properties

that may help to identify an intruder on the night of May 12-13.

As always, police urge all Toodyay owners – including bush block residents – to secure their property overnight.

Station upgrade

TOODYAY Police Station is to undergo some much-needed renovations later this year.

Work is expected to start when winter ends and take about six weeks to complete.

The upgrade will include a new roof to replace leaky tiles that have caused water to damage the ceiling near the front door, and new internal walls, doors, rooms and other facilities to make the station more functional and efficient.

Toodyay Police Station was originally built to include a courtroom – now used as a gym – in which local Justices of the Peace heard minor cases.

Local cases are now heard by a magistrate in Northam.

The ageing building will be shut during construction and a separate police office and front counter will be provided.

More information will be provided later. Toodyay's police presence will remain unchanged and there will be no disruption to local law enforcement activities.

People detained for serious offences will be taken to the Northam police watch house while the Toodyay lock-up closes temporarily to enable contractors to work on the building site.

Cops go to school

LOCAL officers visited Toodyay District High School last month to deliver a road safety message to students.

The visit was part of a May 20 National Walk Safely to School Day which aims to encourage primary school students to walk and commute safely to school.

Acting Sgt Gary Ferguson and Sen. Const. Jodie Howard showed young children how to safely cross the road and reinforced the national road safety message.

They also spoke to students at the school and handed out road safety stickers and other educational material.

The event was held in conjunction with the National Road Safety Week (May 15-22) when more than 50,000 motorists made a pledge to drive so others can survive.

More information is available at www.roadsafetyweek.com.au.

Don't tell thieves that you're going away on holidays

SaferToodyay
Desraé Clarke

NEIGHBOURS can be our best means of security.

The 'self-help' program relies on neighbours communicating and agreeing to keep a watch on each other's properties, especially when away for short or more extended periods.

If you can't install security monitoring at your property, other simple and relatively cheap options can be effective.

If living in town, it is preferable not to show your name on your home and, if you intend to be away for even a short period, it is better not to advertise it.

Ensure that your letterbox mail is collected, bins emptied and ask your neighbour if they can remove empty bins from your front verge after collection day.

Variable lighting in your home is another means of security with a timer that switches on and off between daylight and night-time.

Outdoor movement sensor lights are a great innovation that don't cost much.

If you have a landline phone, lower volume so it cannot be heard ringing unanswered from the street.

Prickly plants such as roses beneath windows can also deter intruders.

Residents living out of town can keep driveway gates permanently open or shut so as not to show if occupants are home or not.

If possible, keep sheds shut and preferably locked when not in use or owners are absent.

Engrave household items, tools, pumps, trailers, etc. with your driver's licence number.

List and photograph items that are important to you and place the records in a safe place to help if property is removed.

The SaferToodyay Committee is planning to hold a Seniors' Morning Tea at a date to be confirmed.

It will be an opportunity for people to ask questions and comment on local community safety issues.

Please report any suspicious or worrying activity to CRIMESTOPPERS on 1800 333 000 or Police 131 444.



Nosy neighbours can be very helpful.

TOODYAY

MRB 2339

Tyre Service

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Motorbikes &
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Repairs
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Balancing
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Beware of Spam!

EMERGENCY SERVICES



Captain Peter Brennan (right) congratulates Central Brigade Volunteer of the Year Kevin Sullivan.

Deja vu as volunteers stand down after pre-AGM callout

Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Peter Brennan, Captain

THE TOODYAY Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade held its Annual General Meeting last month.

There was a good turnout of members for the election of committee and brigade positions. A fire callout came through just prior to the meeting start time, but thankfully we were stood down shortly after.

This felt a little like déjà vu as the very same thing happened prior to last year's AGM.

After 14 years at the helm, Paul Thompson has stepped down as chairman in order to pursue a new chapter in his life.

We thank Paul very much for his commitment to the Brigade, both as a fire fighter and committee chair and we wish both him and Sue the very best for the future.

John Morrissey was subsequently elected as chair, with Judy Morrissey secretary and Bronwyn King treasurer.

Our thanks go to outgoing secretary Karen Hansen for her terrific support over the previous year and to John, Judy and Bronwyn for accepting the positions.

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

Will Hort also agreed to continue with training. Brian Clarkson continues with maintenance with assistance from Kevin Sullivan, and John Morrissey agreed to continue with rations.

Bronwyn King was elected social secretary with Peter and Heather Brennan taking on publicity.

Following all formalities, Kevin Sullivan was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Our congratulations go to Kevin who has been a steadfast member since joining, has responded to many callouts and has continued to develop himself as a fire fighter who promotes a great team spirit.

Well done, Kevin.
The leadership team also acknowledged

the continued long-term efforts of Bobbie Jones, Max Howard and Julian Little with Certificates of Appreciation.

A review of our brigade turnout and commitment records show that our members contributed more than 699 hours to attending fires and 745 hours to training, stand-downs, vehicle checks, meetings and admin, totalling 1444 hours of service to the Toodyay community.

Following the departure of several members at the end of last season, we ran a successful winter recruiting campaign and welcomed Nadine Beans, Joy Chau, Dan Mason, John Morrissey, Peter Phillips and Steve Weston to our team.

More recently, we welcomed Judy Morrissey, Allan Ware, Brad Gardner and Andrew Wharram as they go through the joining process.

If you are interested in joining the Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, you can catch up with us from 5-5.45pm on Friday evenings at the town's fire station at 67 Stirling Terrace.

Annoyingly, local volunteer bush fire brigade members had to turn out last month to several fires which could have been prevented.

It is a timely reminder that if you are going to light a fire, please ensure that you have water and the tools available to control it.

Never leave a fire unattended while it burns because small gusts of wind and embers can quickly take it out of your control and spread to adjoining properties.

Once a fire is out, it is important to ensure there is no underlying heat in the burnt area because sufficient wind can quickly bring embers to life.

Finally, please never leave a property if a fire is still burning, hot embers remain or if you have not thoroughly checked that no heat remains in the burnt area.

Brigade members are reminded that the next monthly general meeting will be on Tuesday August 9 at 7pm at the station.

A truck wash and detail, station clean-up and BBQ are planned for Sunday morning June 26 commencing at 9.30am, so please set that date and time aside.

New 'scoop' stretchers help protect spinal injuries

St John Toodyay Sub Centre
Pam Tennant

JUST in case you need to call into the St John Toodyay sub centre, to pay your Ambulance Benefit Fund fees or purchase or re-stock your first aid kit, please remember that our office is now in the building previously occupied by St Vinnies in Stirling Terrace.

Our office hours are from 8.30am to 4.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Administration Officer Debbie will be only too pleased to help you or answer any queries.

Last month was quite busy with 33 calls for volunteer crews, most of which were for the highest priority.

We also helped out other sub centres, where possible, when they were too busy themselves.

We continue to provide ambulance stand-bys at local football matches when home games are played at the Showground.

Volunteers also attended a monthly training

session, including a refresher on patient assessment skills.

Our new 'scoop' stretchers have arrived to replace older ones that were becoming too hard to lock together.

The stretcher halves can be slid under a patient and joined so there is no need to roll or lift patients.

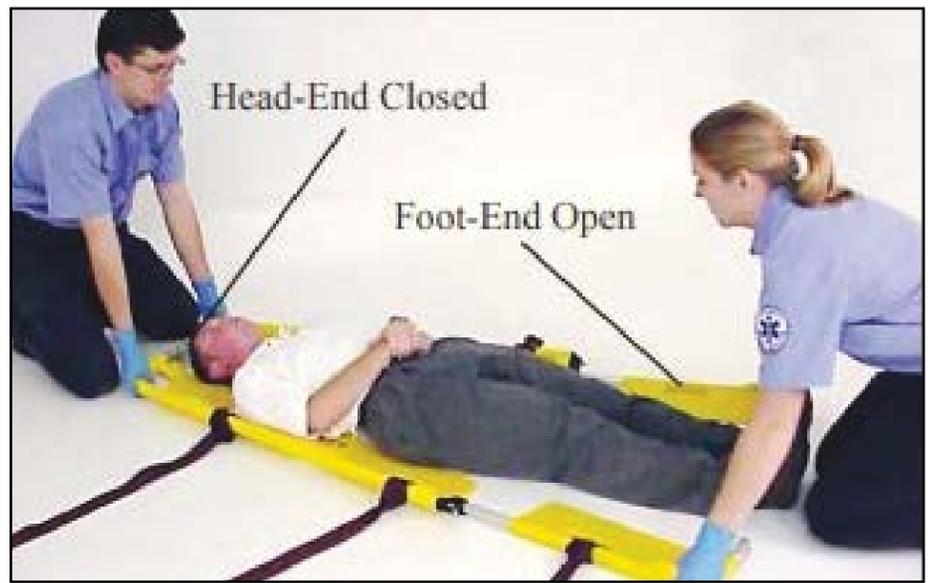
This enables quick, safe retrieval while reducing patient and user risk of harm, especially if a spinal injury is suspected.

New iPads have also been purchased but not yet commissioned.

These are loaned to volunteers to help with training such as online quizzes, reading materials and training videos.

Don't forget that if you have a medical appointment in Toodyay, Northam, or further afield in Midland or Perth, our Community Transport vehicle is available to take you, and, if needed, bring you home.

Call Sandra on 0418 918 192 if you need to book our vehicle for your medical appointments.



How a scoop stretcher works.


HLTAID003

“Provide First Aid”

**Next one day course
To be held on
Saturday 18th June 2022**

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

Who wants to volunteer to be another Justin?

Bejoording Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

From the desk of The Badger

IT'S ALL seemed a bit quiet lately.

No major incidents, a couple of stand-downs, and a chance to catch up with 'shed' life.

We are pleased to officially welcome Justin Dorigo to our ranks.

Thanks to the availability of training and the loan of a 4.4 tanker we have completed a truck-load of training for him, including getting his MR (Medium Rigid) vehicle licence.

Justin generously gave as much time as was needed by a small group of our members to get him up to scratch quickly.

We welcome Justin as a fully-fledged active member.

Our thanks too to those members who have generously devoted time for Justin's driving lessons and practice.

Now all we need is another Justin – any volunteers?

Thanks to the generosity of the Toodyay

Op Shop, our members all have new custom printed baseball caps and matching T-shirts.

These are more for social gatherings and team meetings than active fire duty but it's true that a uniform identity encourages team spirit.

We've had a few spares made for future members – hint hint.

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

Remember to always plan and prepare for a fire and have a clear contingency strategy in place should things get out of control.

Fires can be a catastrophic risk to people, animals and property, so take care.

Advice is free but getting it wrong can be expensive.

If you would like to express your interest in joining us and would like a 'no commitment' discussion please contact Captain Lawrence Hayward on 0447 253 320 or the Badger on 0414 250 484.

Be sure to leave a message if we're not there.



From left: Jenni Knowles, Merle Manuel.



Bejoording fire truck.

Fireside 'bush chook' as Middle Earth mercury drops

Bejoording Community Group News
Justin Dorigo

MIDDLE Earth of Lord of the Rings fame.

That is what the gently undulating hills of Bejoording look like when the sun creeps over the horizon and illuminates the mist settled into the valleys.

Of course, this indicates the weather has changed considerably.

As soon as the sun is away for the day, the mercury drops.

Along with the mist, one can smell the wisps of chimney smoke that are burning during the night to warm our souls.

Possibly with some "bush chook" to help, but I may be projecting here.

In that vein, the Bejoording Social Club is just that much more inviting now that winter is upon us, and fires are once again permitted.

On a Wednesday evening that fire is both cheerful and of course warm.

Personally, I enjoy the old 'bush chook' together with a chat with the neighbours, but like my choice of football team, my beer

choice isn't the most popular.

But, encouraged by the Bejoording community spirit, there is no judgement – about football teams or choice of beer.

Possibly some eye rolling.

The grumpiest attendee is probably young Timmy in all honesty.

But you'll have to come along to meet Timmy and his four-legged friends, along with the more-chatty two-legged variety.

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 Justin on 0416 435 345.

Nancy celebrates 90 with stylish Swarovski bangle

Bolgart News
Pam McGill

NANCY Holmes celebrated her 90th Birthday at Trees Café on May 3.

She enjoyed a lovely lunch with friends and was presented with a stunning Swarovski bangle to which all her friends contributed, along with a lovely photo frame and flowers.

A beautiful cake was made and iced by

Barbara Mottershaw and cut by Nancy to mark this wonderful occasion.

Around the town

BOLGART Hotel had the band Chain Reaction Duo playing recently with Great Rock Classics.

A large crowd attended and everyone enjoyed a great night.

A beautiful Mothers' Day luncheon was held at the Bolgart Hotel with delicious crayfish a very popular choice.

Thank you, Craig and Wendy and all the wonderful staff.

School news

AWARDS: Aussie of the month – Isola Croser and Cameron Uriarau.

Merit Certificates – Senior Room: Ethan Uriarau and Madeline Cotter.

Junior Room – Jacob Wallis and Matilda Clarke.

Ladies golf

JOY HAMILTON and Pam Meston travelled to Geraldton to compete in the Regional Seniors Golf Tournament.

Congratulations to Joy on finishing runner-up in the Green division, Sand Greens.

Vivienne Camerer won the Luanne Martins Trophy on Thursday May 12 with Merle Manuel runner-up.

Jubilee Foursomes were played on Thursday May 19.

Club Trophy winners were Merle Manuel and Jenni Knowles, with runners-up Serena Syred and Vivienne Camerer.

Congratulations go to Serena and Vivienne for their win in the Tammin Ladies Open Day, Joy Hamilton and Therese Chitty winning Best Unplaced Visitors.



Nancy Holmes with her 90th birthday cake made and iced by Barbara Mottershaw.



From left: Serena Syred, Vivienne Camerer.

Keep customers happy and boost your sales . . . advertise in the Toodyay Herald

Mining companies set to pay higher shire rates

LOCAL mining tenement holders face paying higher shire land rates from July 1.

Companies such as Chalice Mining in Julimar currently pay only a minimum rate of \$1351 a year for unimproved land values.

This raises a total of only \$36,477 a year from the 27 exploration leases in the shire.

The Toodyay Shire Council voted 8-0 last month to increase this amount to \$200,000 by charging new differential rates.

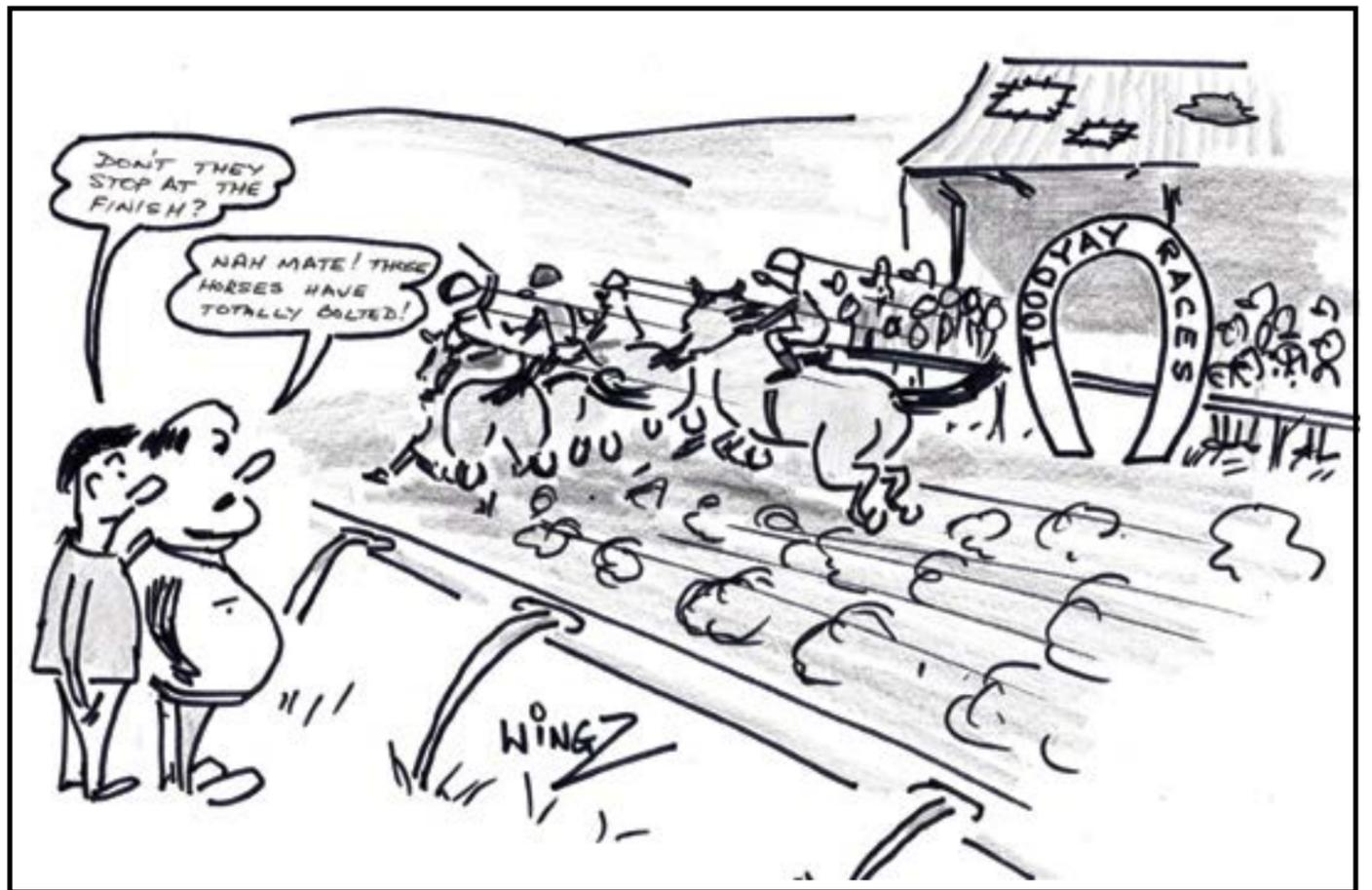
The extra money will be used to upgrade and maintain roads damaged by heavy mining equipment and lessen the impact on local residents and the environment.

Keating Road in Julimar needed to be sealed because of the increased amount of local heavy haulage traffic generated by Chalice Mining's extensive drilling program.

Plunkett Road and Beech Road had gravel surfaces that now needed to be graded every three weeks – especially in winter – instead of only two of three times a year previously when they were used mainly by farmers.

The shire said the increased need to repair these roads had reduced its capacity to fix gravel roads that need work elsewhere.

The new rates will be advertised for public comment in the 2022/23 shire budget.



Former councillor to face court as shares crash \$400,000

Continued from Page 1.

ASIC said the UK Financial Conduct Authority had assisted the investigation.

Trading in Australian Mines was halted on May 10 pending a further announcement.

Prices fell from 16c to 13c next morning and dropped further to 10c on May 31.

It wiped more than \$400,000 from the value of Australian Mines shares held by Mr Bell and his wife, Rachel, according to figures published in a May 11 Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) announcement.

Australian Mines is named as a co-defendant in the Federal Court litigation.

Lawyer Jennifer Flynn representing the

Australian Government Solicitor, told *The Herald* that a hearing date is yet to be set.

The company informed the stock exchange on May 10 that it intends to defend the case.

It announced next day that Mr Bell had been assigned to an unspecified new role which included helping Australian Mines transfer its business to a new acting CEO.

Mr Bell did not respond to a *Herald* request for comment about his intentions after being named as the second defendant in the Federal Court litigation.

The former councillor, who company reports show earned \$400,000 a year in his former job, failed three years ago in a highly

publicised bid on *Facebook* to become Toodyay shire president after topping the poll in the October 2019 council elections.

He received only one vote – presumably his own – in a secret ballot in the council chamber three days after the election.

Former Cr Bill Manning was later elected unopposed as shire president.

Mr Bell resigned from the Toodyay Shire Council in January this year after missing several monthly meetings and playing no role on any council committees to which he was elected over the previous two years.

His four years on the council were marked by several legal disputes with former shire CEO Stan Scott, who was later named in 14 adverse findings after a year-long WA Government inquiry into his performance.

Mr Bell's criticism of Mr Scott and other councillors on *Facebook* resulted in several adverse State Local Government Standards Panel findings directing him to publicly apologise, some of which he ignored.

No penalties were imposed. Mr Bell is a former *Herald* monthly columnist who wrote about shire matters

under the title *The Insider* for about two years until after the 2019 council elections.



Former Toodyay shire councillor Ben Bell.

Club plans for races to resume next year

President's Pen

Rosemary Madácsi



TOODYAY'S 38th Moondyne Festival set the tempo in May.

Good rains throughout the month transformed dry landscapes to green and seeding and burning are well underway.

The Verge Flora Project has started with its first meeting on Thursday June 2.

It is a large and ambitious project to record roadside flora and it will be broken down into smaller daily activities.

Anyone can attend as and when available.

It is an opportunity to learn a new appreciation for the abundance of Toodyay native plants and help build a community and shire database for intuitive roadworks planning, research, conservation and restoration.

Reconciliation Week highlighted work being done to incorporate local Indigenous history seamlessly into Toodyay.

A community is always richer for the whole of its story and this has been beautifully undertaken in interpretative signs at Redbank Pool, Pelham Reserve, the Museum, behind the Showgrounds and now in Duidgee Park (see Page 1).

Council budget workshops continue and the focus at the shire is an overhaul of compliance, policy reviews and finishing projects.

Compliance covers a broad area and was simplified by a Contracts and Agreements Register which provides oversight of the multiple documents and compliance conditions of leases, licences and agreements.

One lease attracting public interest is that for the Toodyay racecourse.

The racecourse is State owned land vested in the Shire for recreation, and the shire

leases it to the Toodyay Race Club.

A concerted effort was made last year to ensure the local race meet could proceed.

As repairs were unlikely to be ready in time this year due to current supply shortages, the club cancelled its 2022 event and moved the running of the Toodyay Cup to Belmont.

The Shire is in the process of engaging an engineer to detail the extent of work to be undertaken and anticipated cost.

The Club says it intends racing to resume next year.

The Shire's advocacy agenda for the new financial year starting on July 1 is roads, mining, energy and water sustainability.

These are seen as main cost pressures for Shire households and businesses and the largest threats to the future of Toodyay.

High on the agenda is the need for a new Toodyay heavy haulage bypass to alleviate large trucks having to pass through the town or negotiate tight bends on the Hammersley Street/Anzac Parade temporary route.

Rain coinciding with increased mining and farm vehicle movements are taking a heavy toll on gravel roads, with Shire maintenance crew struggling to keep up with repairs.

A particular challenge is the need for more frequent grading of Keating Road in Julimar due to increased local mineral exploration activity which has kept the Shire grader away from other scheduled maintenance jobs elsewhere.

Roads in Nunile also need urgent attention due to the increased movement of farm vehicles during the busy seeding season.

Conditions attached to clearing permits have pushed several government-funded roadworks programs into the 2022/23 financial year and reduced the Shire's own planned roadworks program.

Hiring private contractors to do the work has a cost not factored into the Shire budget, and State and federal funding authorities do not allow grant money earmarked for other projects to be re-allocated to these jobs.

All in all, a busy month of progress with a few frustrations.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (Full Time)

The Shire of Toodyay is seeking the skills and talents of a dynamic and enthusiastic person to take on the position of Community Development Officer.

Located in the beautiful Avon Valley, and less than an hour from Perth, Toodyay combines heritage, agriculture, tourism, and a diverse natural environment to create a unique lifestyle, blending country living with access to city amenities.

The role focuses on engagement with the community; networking; creating linkages with key agencies and community groups; supporting community led projects; and assisting with the development and delivery of events and activities within the local community.

To attract the right candidate, the Shire is offering a base salary of \$65,000 per annum, plus superannuation. Other benefits include professional development opportunities, uniform allowance, additional superannuation contribution policy and income protection.

Application packages are available on our website at www.toodyay.wa.gov.au or by contacting the Records Officer on 9574 9312 or email records@toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Applications should be marked "CONFIDENTIAL – Finance Officer - Rates and Revenue" and forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay;

- By mail to PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566;
- In-person to Shire of Toodyay Admin Centre, 15 Fiennes Street Toodyay during opening hours; or
- Via email to records@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Applications close **4pm on Tuesday 14 June 2022.**

Applicants must have the right to live and work in Australia.

The Shire is an Equal Opportunity Employer that values and respects diversity in its workplace.

Please Note: Canvassing of Councillors will disqualify. The successful applicant is required to obtain a current Federal Police clearance, pre-employment medical, and to provide evidence of all claimed qualifications prior to commencing employment.





Toodyay Probus members enjoy morning tea at Bindoon Museum (from left, seated) Claire Ball, Maurice Ball, Pat Yandell, Helen Kevern, Bel (Alice) Rowe; (standing) Fred Derooij, Colin Kendall (helping himself to coffee) and John and Jenny Clarke. Bindoon Museum volunteers in blue. Photo: Norm Green.

No vice for stand-in acting President

Toodyay Probus Club
Norm Green

OUR GUEST speaker booked for last month was self-isolating and will come next month instead.

It was on the morning of the meeting that we found out about it, so a baby photo guessing competition was quickly arranged.

It was marvellous that almost all of the members that attended had read the email and brought their photos along.

All in all, there were enough photos to keep us entertained for an hour.

Isn't it interesting (if that is the word) how we change dramatically as we age?

Winner Claire guessed more than half of the photos, which was truly amazing.

Toodyay Probus president Joan was not available last month so yours truly was left to step in.

I now understand why my position is Vice President – no vice.

Our trip to the Bindoon Museum was very interesting and enjoyable.

We were ushered upon arrival into a room with a long table full of cakes and scones.

Cups of tea and coffee and a chat ensued before we looked at the items and artifacts on display.

Bindoon Museum volunteers certainly know how to put on a good morning tea.

Our speaker organiser, Colin, recognised

a photo on display of Alice Martin (1879-1973). Colin told us a story of when she would not allow her boar to do a mating for the neighbours on the farm across the road, because it was Sunday.

We had a great lunch at the Bindoon Bakehaus afterwards.

Entertaining ourselves for the last two

meetings has shown that it is not difficult and can be highly interesting, even if organised at the last minute.

There are so many clubs in Toodyay but none quite like Probus – please come along and see if it tickles your fancy.

Contact Joan on 0417 171 606 or joanbath@bigpond.com.

Booby trapped text messages

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

THERE has been a recent rise in SMS text messages being used for phishing attacks.

The messages are designed to trick you into revealing personal information and passwords that can be used against you.

The number of attacks on mobile phones and other devices more than doubled last year (bit.ly/3PwmXtc).

A message can be about anything at all.

It might say that you have a voicemail message to check, a parcel to pick up or a message for you to download.

The message could also claim to be from your bank or the Australian Taxation Office.

If the message asks you to download something, it is almost certainly seeking to install malware onto your device.

If you are asked to follow a link, that link will most likely end up asking you for your personal details, probably including your credit card number and your bank password.

There is a word for this sort of attack: smishing – a combination of SMS and phishing.

The safest option is to ignore and delete the SMS message.

If the message seems urgent, pause for a moment and ask yourself "is this for real?"

If you have any doubts, contact the person or organisation that allegedly sent the message.

If an SMS impersonates an organisation, it can help other people if you contact that organisation about what has just happened to you.

If you do become a victim, contact your bank immediately, change your passwords, and monitor your account for any unauthorised transactions.

You can also report smishing attacks to Scamwatch at bit.ly/3Lvlc1.

Interestingly, they are aware of smishing going back to 2008.

You can find more details at bit.ly/3PxKB8j.

Sandakan student scholarships to be replaced by new program

Toodyay RSL
Bob Wood

WE HAVE been proud to have been involved since 2009 in the Sandakan Scholarship Program which has sent some 15 local students on educational trips to Borneo.

There they learned about the horrendous conditions that Australian prisoners of war suffered by being forced on death marches during World War 2.

The arrival of COVID-19 sadly disrupted the program to the point that it is not possible for it to continue in the foreseeable future.

Aware of the enthusiastic following that the scholarship program enjoyed, we are currently developing an alternative that will provide a comparable educational benefit.

Full details of the new scholarship program are yet to be settled but we are well advanced in the planning and intend to be able to commence it at the beginning of the 2023 school year.

The program will be circulated to all schools with Year 10 students who live in the Toodyay district.



Sandakan shrine in Borneo.

Thirsty Lions delighted by a return to their customary lair

The Toodyay Lions Club
Clint Fricker, Secretary

AFTER a COVID-19 enforced absence of some months from our usual home, members were delighted last month to celebrate our first meeting back at the Freemasons Hotel.

We were doubly delighted as we were finally able to acknowledge three very worthy Toodyay not-for-profit groups who were to have been recipients of proceeds from this year's cancelled Lions Jumbo Auction.

President John Pearce presented donations to Roz Davidson (Toodyay Locals Care), Doug McGhee (The Toodyay District High School Chaplaincy) and Nicole Coleman (Toodyay Community Resource Centre) in front of other guests and members.

A big thankyou to these groups for the good work they do in the community.

Other recent local Lions activities include hosting the annual Anzac Day Gunfire Breakfast at the Wicklow Shearing Shed on April 25 and running Wiggly Worm kids' rides at last month's Moondyne Festival.

Now we are back on track and our next meeting will be Tuesday June 7.

Anyone who would like to know more about Lions is very welcome to come along.

For more information, please contact Secretary Clint Fricker on 0423 226 898 or look us up on Facebook or our web Page. Your first meal is on us.

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Local corporation members with Dr Richard Walley (centre, rear) during community consultation for the 'Boola Daa Waangkiny' (Many Voices Talking) Aboriginal Cultural Centre project.

'Be Brave – Make Change' call for 'truthful' conversations

Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

THIS time each year (May 27-June 3) is a week in the annual calendar, where we as Australians, are asked to reflect on the meaning of reconciliation between Aboriginal people and other Australians.

Exactly a year ago we celebrated the launch of the Shire's Reconciliation Action Plan.

It was a proud moment.

This year's reconciliation theme is 'Be Brave. Make Change'.

If this means having truthful, genuine and authentic conversations about the bad things that have taken place, then so be it.

Symbolic gestures and talk are one thing, but practical and meaningful actions are another – in fact, better.

Corporation chairperson Robert Miles thanked the Shire of Toodyay for its support at a Reconciliation breakfast hosted by the shire last month.

"Let's continue to be brave and work together to take action," he said.

"Whatever that looks like, it starts with having a conversation and firming our relationships through a respectful and kindness agenda.

"I look forward, on behalf of the corporation, to continue to follow a path of reconciliation, Toodyay style".

Reconciliation is about unity and respect, and this year's Reconciliation Week started with Sorry Day and culminated with Mabo Day.

These are days of national reflection and history-making court decisions about land rights and the forced removal of children from their families.

A lot has happened since last year's Reconciliation Action Plan launch with the installation of more on-country signage as part of the developing Noongar Trail that celebrates local indigenous heritage and culture.

Check out the latest sign 'A Spiritual and Mythological Wagyl Place' on the Bilya Track in Duidgee Park.

Thanks to funding from the WA Government through LotteryWest we are now close to completing the Gnulla Karnany Waangkiny (Our Truth Telling) project at the Newcastle Gaol Museum.

This partnership between the corporation and the shire is reclaiming Noongar voices by highlighting traditional life and acknowledging the early displacement and unjust treatment of Noongar people.

Corporation members last month also met Dr Richard Walley OAM, a Noongar man who is one of Australia's leading Aboriginal performers and writers.

Dr Walley heads community consultation for 'Boola Daa Waangkiny' (Many Voices Talking) on behalf of the State Government for a new Aboriginal Cultural Centre to be built in Perth.

This early stage yarning puts culture at the centre of the regional discussions and collecting local stories will enable ideas for the project to be Aboriginal-led.

The corporation would also like to thank representatives from Chalice Mining for meeting the group to discuss engagement and opportunities.

More information about our projects and other corporation activities is available at www.noongarkaartdijin.com.au.



Noongar Waangkiny

Noongar words and yarning

Sharmaine Miles Ballardong Elder

We acknowledge the Shire area covers Yued, Ballardong and Whadjuk country. Information here is in good faith based mostly on Ballardong language and we understand differences in language and meaning across the wider Noongar nation

Noongar sky stories help to preserve ancient astronomical wisdom

Noongar Waangkiny

KAYA, wanju nidja Noongar boodja (Hello, welcome to Noongar country)

The oldest form of Australian storytelling is Aboriginal storytelling.

Storytelling has been valued in traditional ways of 'knowing' in Aboriginal culture.

Telling stories is seen as a primary means to pass on knowledge over generations.

Oral histories play a significant role in Noongar culture.

Our Noongar Creation stories provide important information about culture, values, people, animals and the environment, and are passed down from generation to generation through storytelling.

Oral histories let Noongar people teach about their own cultures in their own words.

Storytelling about the Toodyay area is

underway through a Dudja Yarning activity.

I will keep you updated, but for now I'd like to highlight the *Worl Waangkiny* (Sky Stories) Art Project at the Perth Observatory at 337 Walnut Rd Bickley.

Worl Waangkiny provides visitors with insights into the stars and what they mean for Noongar people.

The centre celebrates tens of thousands of years of Noongar astronomical knowledge and stories through public art.

The Perth Observatory is open 10am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday except on public holidays – check it out when you can.

Here's a few words for this month:

Ngangk – Sun

Meeka – Moon

Djinda – Star

Babanginy – Lightning.

Volunteers work more than half a million hours

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

WESTERN Australia said thank you to Parents and Citizens Associations across the state at last month's P&C Day WA.

P&Cs across WA contributed a total of \$17.2 million and volunteered a whopping 581,672 hours of their time last year.

The Toodyay District High School P&C contributed an impressive \$22,303 to our school and countless volunteer hours.

So next time you see one of our dedicated volunteers please pass on your thanks.

Better still, thank us by helping out sometime in any way you choose.

We're already half-way through term two at Toodyay District High School and have much to celebrate.

Volunteers held a successful Mother's Day stall on May 6 so students could purchase a gift for the Mum or Grandma in their lives.

We raised \$630 for the school thanks to the generosity of families who donated gifts and purchased from the stall.

The joy on the faces of students as they showed off their gifts for Mum was priceless.

Last month's term two members' meeting

acknowledged significant works going on behind the scenes and on the school site.

Landscaping surrounding the primary area basketball court is almost complete.

Students can enjoy new lawn and seating areas at recess and lunch, with just garden plants and shade sails left to install.

Thanks to Avon Valley Landscaping, WacWil Landscaping and Earthworks, Bunnings Northam, Betta Canvas, Natasha Hof, the school and P&C for bringing this project to fruition.

Construction dates for a creative and inspiring nature playground at the front of the school have been set for next month's school holidays.

Between now and then we'll be approaching local suppliers to secure the materials and equipment needed to complete the job – lots of rock, sand, gravel and logs suitable for climbing, balancing and challenging our students' imaginations.

If you know someone that can help please contact Kelly-Anne Murray on 0406 585 716 or at pandtoodyaydhs@gmail.com.

You can also contact us on Facebook by searching for Toodyay DHS P&C or write to Toodyay District High School P&C at PO Box 1624, Toodyay WA 6566.

New disabled access pathway being built to link school to pool

WORK has begun on building a new paved pathway from the back of the Toodyay District High School to the nearby aquatic centre to provide better access for disabled students.

The project is being assisted by Midland Brick, BGC Quarries, the Shire of Toodyay and other contractors, and the path is being built by Northam contractor Brickmart.

Midland Brick is donating pavers and organising the project with the shire, and BGC Quarries are donating cracker dust to level the ground.

The Herald has been advised that construction may require road closures or restricted access to the pool or school.

The contractors apologise for any minor inconvenience this may cause.

TOODYAY DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS...

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New Catholic Precinct owners passionate about restoring the historic buildings

Toodyay Historical Society Inc
Robyn Taylor

SOME time ago, a planned excursion to the Roman Catholic Heritage Precinct in Toodyay had to be cancelled because of the changes that were taking place there.

The land had been subdivided with each heritage building having its own lot and these were put up for sale through an 'expressions of interest' process.

Today, all the buildings have new owners who are passionate about restoring these beautiful old places that are so full of history and memories.

This is a great relief for our town as the Precinct has played such an important part in the lives of generations of children, whether Catholic or otherwise.

From the time of their first arrival in Western Australia in 1846, and their establishment around Victoria Square in Perth, the Irish Sisters of Mercy gained an outstanding reputation for their scholarship and teaching in maths, science, languages and music.

The Sisters arrived in Newcastle (now Toodyay) in 1884.

Following the purchase of land and Dr Growse's old two-storey home, known as The Ship (1860s), they set up a convent school while Mercy House was built. This was completed in 1903.

Young scholars were educated either as day students or boarders, and it was the dedicated efforts of the Sisters and their donors, in particular the Connor-Quinlan family, that enabled this precinct to be expanded with new buildings; St Aloysius in 1921 and O'Connor House in 1926-27.

Have you ever wondered why the nearby bridge across the Avon is named Connor Bridge, and Connor's Mill at the western end of Stirling Terrace?

It's a wonder we don't have a Connor Festival to add to our list of attractions, but there isn't the romance attached to Daniel Connor's name, a former convict who rose from itinerant peddler to one of the most wealthy men in the colony.

He had the luck of the Irish but not the love of the farmers he lent money to, and foreclosed on, when they hit hard times.

Maybe contrition in his later years led to



Historical society members at Mercy House. Photo: Linda Rooney, 2022.

his being a generous provider to his Church and the Sisters.

Last month we were able to visit two of these buildings, Mercy House and O'Connor House where a chapel dedicated to St Pio was established when the building was last occupied by the Franciscan friars from 1997 to 2017.

They were known as the Franciscans of the Immaculate and had renamed the convent 'Marian Friary of our Lady Help of Christians' after the official Patroness of Australia.

The friars led a life of prayer and pastoral work. One young friar was particularly memorable for his skills with skateboarding, which he shared with the local youth in the carpark behind the IGA.

Mercy House has only recently been acquired so restoration works have yet to commence. The owners of O'Connor House

are well on the way to converting this former single-storey boarding house into a home.

Why it is named O'Connor, and not Connor, is open to conjecture.

What a joy to see these places being given another lease of life.

This fascinating excursion concluded with a sumptuous morning tea on the verandah of O'Connor House.

Our next excursion is a two-night stay at New Norcia on Friday and Saturday July 1 and 2. Information will be sent out to members about accommodation arrangements in the Old Convent.

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.

Shed fills gaps after 'glitch' in smooth running

Toodyay Mens Shed
Jeff Roberts

HI OUR Fellow local Shedders.

Recently there has been a "glitch" to the normally smooth running of the organisation that has been around for nigh on 13 years.

However, things are now flowing quite well with the membership choosing some good people to fill the gaps.

An interim committee has been formed and the stage is set for renewal.

The sign out the front welcomes those who wish to share the ethos of Toodyay Men's Shed in the true form of "Blokes supporting Blokes" with laughter and reminiscence of days gone by.

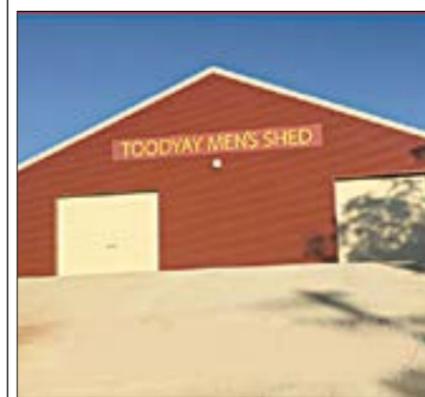
The main aim for us is to provide support for the general health of men in the community.

The men's shed members value and care for the worth and participation of all the other worthy community organisations in this wonderful town that is so diverse and interesting.

Your support for our firewood raffle on June 10 and 11 will be appreciated.

'Til next time, be safe.

For Toodyay Men's Shed inquiries, please ring Jeff on 0499 403 830.



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Rain creates ideal conditions for seeding

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance (Inc.)
Frank Panizza

LOCAL farmers have completed or are near completion of their seeding programs.

Timely rains at the end of last month boosted crops that had already germinated.

Good soil moisture levels have enabled local seeding programs to be completed in ideal conditions.

Sheep and cattle producers with calves and lambs were also relieved to see some green come back into pastures though hand-feeding remains a chore for many, at least in the short-term.

Last month's election of the Labor Albanese Government federally has created some concern to WA farmers, and sheep producers in particular.

Labor made it clear before the election that it would phase out live sheep exports.

Unfortunately – or predictably – Labor refused to set out a timetable.

Instead, Labor stated that it would work towards a “transition” away from live exports to “expanding Australian processing” and “providing more employment for Australian

workers”.

These comments by Labor have generally been treated with suspicion by many and contempt by a few.

Lack of faith in the plan stems from the fact that live exported sheep are generally not prime lamb but low-value merino wethers.

The low value of these animals will generally make it uneconomic to process them in Australia.

Mutton does not have anywhere near the same appeal to customers as prime lamb, thus its value to most overseas buyers is limited.

Prime lamb is mostly processed in Australia and exported or consumed locally.

Meanwhile, grain markets continue their wild ride.

Worldwide shortages combined with logistics turmoil caused by Russia's war in Ukraine continues to drive grain prices higher.

Recent evidence has come to light that Russia has deliberately targeted grain storage facilities in those parts of Ukraine that it does not control.

Furthermore, it also appears that Russia has exported wheat pillaged from other areas of



Canola kelpie. Photo: Chris Panizza.

Ukraine that it has invaded.

India recently stated to world markets that it would release three to four million tonnes of wheat from strategic storage for export, only to reverse that decision just days later.

The reason for the reversal is unclear but market analysts suspect political pressure within India was a contributing factor.

This comes as food inflation, particularly

in developing countries, is creating concern for their governments.

It is a fact that many regimes have been overthrown due to a lack of food.

On the home front, another report of theft from a local farm is of concern.

A large quantity of liquid fertiliser was reportedly stolen from a farm storage tank.

The matter was referred to police.



Local farmer prepares an airseeder for night shift. Photo: Frank Panizza.

Beverley bows out as Toodyay sets fuse for monster fireworks

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Alison Wroth, President

TOODYAY, York, Northam and Beverley constitute the Central Group of Agricultural Societies for the annual Royal Agricultural Society Rural Ambassador Award.

Beverley was to host this year's Central Group final and Toodyay had secured the only entrant, much to our early delight.

Beverley has now advised that it is unable to seek an entrant this year and will not enter future Rural Ambassador Awards.

As a result, this year's awards have been cancelled.

Society presidents have had much discussion since this announcement, which comes as rather a shame for not only Beverley but the youth and those aged 18-30 interested in furthering their goals and careers, for which the Rural Ambassador Awards are so beneficial.

This year's Toodyay representative is Aimee Tyson, who is again assisting our Show as a valuable Steward in the Agriculture Section.

Aimee is studying to be an agronomist and I believe this will be of benefit on her CV.

She might, with luck, be available to enter next year when York hosts the RAS Rural Ambassador regional final.

Our wood raffle will be held on July 1 and 2, outside the IGA store in Charcoal Lane.

Hopefully the wind chill factor won't be too Arctic.

Our popular \$10 Toodyay Agricultural Society 'Showbags' will again be on sale and the raffle will be drawn at noon on Saturday July 2.

I must thank my family for donating the wood – it will be lovely old jarrah, good enough just to look at, and some white gum thrown in for those overnights.

So please come down and buy a raffle ticket to support your local Show and we'll tell you about all the wonderful ideas we have planned for October at the Toodyay's historic Showgrounds.

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

This incorporates receiving entries from exhibitors, preparing the display for judging and waiting on the judge during the Friday.

If anyone is keen on volunteering or would like more information, please contact me and I will try to answer any query – I promise not to bite.

This is just in case one of my regular stewards falls ill or can't make it on the day of judging.

This year's Toodyay Show will include Lifestyle Pavilions and a bigger-than-ever Fireworks Display.

We have come up against a few hiccups so far, but hopefully we will get over them.

With repairs by the Shire, the Lee-Steere Exhibition Hall and Bar will be newly maintained and ready to spring into action for what they were designed for; the Toodyay Agricultural Show.

Our sincere thanks must go to our major sponsors and individuals who have once again supported us to organise the 168th Toodyay Show.

Toodyay & Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Challice Mining, Elders, Spudshed, CSBP, Dunnings, Toodyay Op Shop and the Shire of Toodyay understand that Toodyay Show is an historical event well worth supporting.

Without businesses like them or individuals donating a few dollars, small country shows like Toodyay's would battle to survive.

But with your kind sponsorship, we will endeavour to again deliver a well-organised and entertainment-filled blockbuster Show this year and well into the future.

If you have any queries about Show ground space or food van applications, please contact the Admin Officer or me direct on 0437 099 960 and we will solve them or point you to the right team member.

Best deal for local Tradies

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

advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

\$10m expansion for Muresk farm training

THE MURESK Institute (formerly Muresk Agricultural College) near Northam is undergoing a major expansion with construction of a new \$9.1 million specialist agriculture machinery training centre.

The new State Government agricultural training facility will include workshops, classrooms, information technology laboratories and student facilities.

A nearby 1940s cottage will be renovated into administration space for lecturers and

a 'breakout' space for students.

Construction will employ about 100 workers, including apprentices and trainees, and is due to be completed next January.

A further \$800,000 has been spent at Muresk on an industry-standard shearing workshop which is nearing completion.

Shearing forms an integral part of Muresk's role as a working farm and agricultural training provider.

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How to find out what goes on behind the curtain

Toodyay Theatre Group
Barry Vause

THE TOODYAY Theatre Group is always on the lookout for new members, not only for a cast but also to take on front-of-house and backstage roles as well – there is a lot that goes on behind the curtain.

If you would like to become a member and join us, please message us on Facebook or email toodyaytheatregroup@gmail.com.

The cast and crew of *Robin the Hood* have been doing their best to avoid the COVID-19 cloud and we are ready to wow audiences with our fantastic show.

Be sure to book a ticket, if you haven't already, for this high energy, full of fun show.

Evening performance dates are June 4, 10 and 11, with a family friendly matinee time slot on June 5.

Tickets can be purchased from trybookings.com.

Stay tuned for more Toodyay Theatre Group news as we look towards planning another riveting show for early November.



Volunteer Barry Keens warms himself on a new recycled plastic bench at the Old Gaol Museum.

Lots happening at Old Gaol Museum – free entry for locals

Volunteers of Toodyay Museums
Barry Keens

WE HAVE had another busy month, including for me with a stall at the Moondyne Festival, in conjunction with the Toodyay Historical Society, to raise more funds.

New benches at the Old Gaol Museum have been installed, one by the machinery shed and the other overlooking Pelham Brook behind the cells.

The benches are made from recycled plastic, require no maintenance and have an

expected life of up to 40 years and can then be recycled.

Nina Paterson is transcribing the Duty Book from April 1863, Michael Cox is refurbishing external seating, Sheena Hesse has kept the Museum open on Fridays and generally tidied up the reception area, Phil Roberts is on duty Wednesdays and the occasional Sunday, and Beth Frayne is working with Curator Margie Eberle on a special project.

Although taking time out, Geoff and Michelle Miller have been cutting and

planing shingles so I can use them to make more shingle bells and signs for sale.

We are a small team that always needs more volunteers to help keep the Museum open so please do come and join us.

For more information, please contact Margie Eberle on 9574 9393.

The Old Gaol Museum in Clinton Street and Connor's Mill at the corner of Stirling Terrace and Piesse Street are open daily from 10am to 3pm, with free entry for Shire of Toodyay residents and Toodyay District High School students and teachers.



Toodyay Agricultural Society Inc



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Chalice Mining is the 2022 sponsor of the 'Expressions of Interest' program. Community groups, organisations and businesses are invited to express their interest in under-taking any of the tasks below on Show Day 8th October and to nominate the payment they require for the task.

The Toodyay Show is just four months away. We invite your group to join us and be part of the action On Saturday 8th October, 2022



- Assisting with dismantling facilities and equipment on Sunday 9th October.
- Cleaning the Exhibition Hall and Lee Steere Pavilion by Monday 3rd October.
- External parking organisers from 7am until 2pm on Saturday 8th October.
- Management of the 3 gates from 6am - 4pm on Saturday 8th October.
- Youth Hall Kitchen light snacks throughout show day. Worker's supper on Friday 7th October 5-6pm, VIP morning tea at 11am on Saturday 8th October.
- Management of the Terrace Licensed Bar from noon until 9pm on Saturday 8th October.

Please note the following:

- Cash payment for non-catering activities - submit your tender.
- Expression of interest to be in writing.
- Information about the various tasks and the arrangements for the catering and the bar operations can be obtained from the Administration Officer.
- The lowest tendered price may not necessarily be accepted.
- Closing date for expressions of interest is 30th June 2022.

**All correspondence to: The Administration Officer, Toodyay Agricultural Society Inc. PO Box 362, Toodyay, WA 6566
Email: toodyayagsociety@gmail.com - Mobile: 0427 299 330**

It's bright, shiny, new and occasionally provocative

Arts Toodyay
Karen Chappelow

"ARTIS man's constant effort to create for himself a different order of reality from that which is given to him" – Nigerian novelist, poet, professor, and critic Chinua Achebe.

It's bright, shiny and it's new here in Toodyay.

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, Arts Toodyay, in collaboration with the beautifully renovated Toodyay Manor (formerly Toodyay Tavern), has opened an art gallery in the main street of Toodyay.

It is a welcome relief to see this rebirth occur at the same time that we as a State also leave behind our confinements, and at a great time and position to welcome visitors into our town.

The gallery represents the creative efforts of local artists and invited artists from around the State.

With some local artists now achieving great success over east and overseas, including in New York, Madrid and Luxembourg, Toodyay now has access to collected works and sought-after pieces.

The art collection is beautiful, thoughtful, occasionally provocative and available for immediate purchase to brighten up its new owner's space.

To keep the collection fresh, Arts Toodyay is calling for new submissions from artists.

All artists are encouraged to apply, with information available on our Arts Toodyay website (see below).

The future looks bright for art and culture in Toodyay.

Keep your eye out for new shows and workshops, pop in and discover new art, sculpture and pottery and new things you need to have.

The gallery is staffed by the artists themselves volunteering their time and knowledge.

The gallery is at 82 Stirling Terrace and opens every Friday to Sunday from 10am.

Follow us on Instagram @artstodyay or our website www.artstodyay.com.



Interior of the new gallery.

Hydro scheme powers musical feast

Toodyay Music Club
Jenny Edgecombe

LONG-term members will remember the old folk club days when we regularly heard the same few songs month after month from some singers.

One of the greatest benefits of our three-monthly theme days is that it prompts members to explore new songs in a huge variety of styles.

For the May meeting, we worked on the theme of 'Hills and Mountains', and the result was thoroughly enjoyable.

Peter kicked off with a lovely ballad inspired by the Snowy Mountains hydro-electric scheme in NSW.

Back in the 1950s, this scheme was considered to be one of Australia's largest ever engineering projects.

Jenny also contributed a nostalgic Snowy song, *Jindabyne Farewell*, about the flooding of the Old Jindabyne townsite for the hydro scheme.

The Hills of Isle Au Haut was one of Joe's choices: a haunting song harking back to his early years in the old Toodyay Folk Club.

Your correspondent has to confess to a lump in her throat while listening to Maurice's beautiful presentation of *The Scottish Soldier*.

Anne's *These Are my Mountains* also made for emotional listening.

The Mountains of Mourne, as sung by Collette, was also very moving.

A gentle guitar accompaniment made Spencer's rendition of *The Earth is our Mother* especially enjoyable.

In quite a different mode, but also most enjoyable, Brian and Collette gave a rousing rendition of *River Deep, Mountain High*.

Singing and learning to listen, really listen, to other people, is a super way to spend an afternoon.

Our next meeting is at 1pm on Saturday June 11 and you are very welcome to drop in for a while, to listen or to perform in this friendly acoustic music club.

We can be found at the CWA Hall, in Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

For more information, please contact Joe on 0400 862 694.

Carpet bowls keep us busy in cooler weather

Autumn Club
Mike Cox

WE ARE settling down and playing indoor carpet bowls as cooler weather sets in.

We are making plans to meet up with other clubs, but COVID-19 has interrupted our regular program of events.

Our meeting with the Northam Club was postponed until August but we plan to meet Bindoon Club members on July 13, so keep your fingers crossed.

Our club's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday June 29 to elect a new committee and bring members up to date with events.

Our president is away on holiday but will be back for the AGM.

We hope George and Veya are having a good holiday.

Wood raffle success

Butterfly Cottages Association
Judy Dow, President

WE sincerely thank everyone who supported our raffle by buying tickets or making a donation.

First prize of a load of wood was won by Catherine, second prize went to John and our third prize was won by Andrew.

I would like to thank Sam Chitty for donating the wood and Jenn Nock for donating two hampers for the other prizes.

A big thank you also to Judy Morrissey and Roma Heath for their very good organising skills, and other committee members for giving their time to such a worthwhile cause.

If you would like to become a Butterfly Cottages member or volunteer, please contact Secretary Jenn Nock 0417 174 712.

Trish back on song to direct community singers



Toodyay singers, (from left, rear): Beth Frayne, Peter Millar, Anne Barr and Stuart Weir; (front) Anne Millar, Kathy Haynes and Paula Bignoux.

The Toodyay Community Singers
Anne Millar

HI ALL.

BIG news for the singers – we have a new musical director.

Trish Young has come back and taken the position of Musical Director and consultant.

We are hoping to be able to take part in our community projects once again.

Are you new to the town of Toodyay and would like to participate in some of our community festivals or pay respects on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services?

Do you like to sing?

We welcome singers of all ages.

If you enjoy singing, are new to our town and looking to be part of the community, we rehearse on Thursdays at the CWA Hall in Stirling Terrace.

Please note that our rehearsal time has recently changed to 5pm to 7pm for the winter months.

Hope to see some of our new residents.

Email info to: news@toodyayherald.com.au or
advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Platinum Jubilee celebration fit for a Queen

Country Women's Association
Viv Street

APRIL and May were busy months for local members with Anzac Day, the Moondyne Festival and our Biggest Morning Tea to arrange, plus a visit to Jennacubbine for a Friendship and Games Day.

We made and packed biscuits to distribute after the Anzac Day service and took part in the laying of wreaths on the day.

Our monthly meeting competition in May was to honour the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, celebrating 70 years on the throne.

Many of us dressed up in a Queenly fashion and we enjoyed the day.

We charged a small fee to enter and a larger one for those who chose not to.

Proceeds go to our New Roof Fund, a tiny amount each month but it all helps.

The Moondyne Festival boosted those funds when we opened our hall for morning and afternoon teas, offering a quiet place to escape from the noise and bustle outside.

The hot day was an incentive to come in to enjoy a cool sit down and we had a steady stream of appreciative visitors all day.

Thanks to all who supported us and those who helped.

A wild and wet day saw the start of the Biggest Morning Tea day two weeks later.

Our CWA teddy wore pink and we had a good spread ready for visitors.

Thanks to those who supported this important Cancer Council fund raiser.

Despite a relatively low turnout we raised a decent amount due to the generosity of those who braved the weather to attend.

Ten members, including two newcomers, set off for Jennacubbine last Monday.

It was our first outing for months and a welcome relief to be able to get together with other CWA branch members for a Friendship and Games Day.

The morning was spent playing old-fashioned board games and doing diabolical jigsaws or just catching up after browsing the bargains on the trade table and admiring the



Toodyay CWA members dressed in a 'queenly' manner at last month's meeting for a competition in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee marking the 70th anniversary of her coronation on 2 June 1953. Standing (from left) Val Byron, Judith Walton, Gina Butler, Margot Watkins, Dixie Mackenzie; seated (from left) Mavis Rowles, Evelyn Oliver, Kathy Haynes, Vivien Street.

raffle prize table.

The raffle was so huge that it occupied us from after lunch to leaving time.

Seven Toodyay members won prizes so it was more of a squash on the way home after a very enjoyable day.

This month we are hosting Wanneroo Branch members who have asked to attend

our meeting, so it will be a full afternoon.

We plan this month to visit Northam's Bilya Koort Boodja Centre for Nyoongar Culture and Environmental Knowledge as part of our study of Aboriginal Australia – more of that next month.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at 1pm in the CWA Hall in Stirling

Terrace and also have a coffee morning get together in the hall at 10am on the second Thursday of each month. New members are most welcome.

There is parking in Charcoal Lane with a bay and hall access for disabled members and visitors. For hall bookings contact Margot Watkins on 0405 067 591 or 9574 2823.



A selection of entries in the beanie, hat and bonnet challenge.

Pigtail, pompom and tiara beanies rise to the challenge

The Crooked Needle
Jean Melhuish-Hill

BEANIE, hat, bonnet challenge was our theme for this month and there were some beautiful and fun entries submitted.

From premature baby beanies, baby bonnets, berets, woven beanies with pigtails, knitted and crochet beanies of all sizes to some fun sunhats for kids to play dress up, we had them all.

Rose Rootham was our judge and she chose three entries for commendation.

They were a beautiful white woven beanie with pigtails and purple florets by Carol Barlow, a tri-coloured beanie with a pompom by Glenyce Bosnjak and a sunhat with sparkles, veil and tiara by Val Seagrim.

Val also made a young boy's hat with motor cars and lights.

Many ladies created multiple beanies to donate to Knit 4 Charities WA and Aboriginal settlements around Telfer.

Thank you to all the ladies for your time and effort in submitting entries and extra donations for two very good causes.

If you are looking for a friendly group of ladies to exchange crafting ideas in a social setting, please come for a visit.

We meet from 9.30am to noon every Friday at the CWA in Stirling Terrace.

For further information, please contact Jan by phone 0407 083 079 or call Annette on 0428 804 666.

Fabulous Pink Panther gets new knitted siblings

Toodyay Spinners
Gail Williams (Secretary)

DO YOU remember that fabulous soft toy knitted by Margaret Grassic?

Well, Margaret has done it again and now the 'Panther' has some brothers and sisters.

Judging by the reaction they had at last month's Moondyne Festival, I think that Margaret will be a busy knitter.

On a rather sad note, Toodyay Spinners have lost one of our longest serving members, Alice Bailey.

Alice first joined the Spinners in 1984 – with the last 13 years as a Life Member.

Alice was our 'keeper of the key' and always here if anyone needed help.

She will be missed. Rest in Peace, Alice. Toodyay Spinners would like to extend an invitation to anyone who wishes to learn a new skill.

We have members experienced in the craft of knitting, crochet, spinning and weaving, and they are only too willing to teach you what they know.

Toodyay Spinners meet every Wednesday and the first and third Saturday of the month at Parkers Cottage which is located in the Toodyay Showgrounds.

Why not come along and join our group? You need only yourself.

We meet from 9am until noon. For more information please contact Secretary Gail Williams on 9622 3411.



A selection of soft toys made by Margaret Grassic.

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