

news from



# Shire



## AUSTRALIA DAY AND THANK A VOLUNTEER DAY CELEBRATIONS

A record number of people gathered together at Duidgee Park in Toodyay for the 2009 Australia Day and Thank a Volunteer Day celebrations.

Shire Councillors and their families prepared a hearty breakfast for about five hundred people, offering fresh fruit, sausage sizzle, bacon & egg burgers, fruit juice, tea and coffee. Participants were also grateful for the Water Corporation's donation of a plentiful supply of bottled water, particularly as the day's temperature increased.

Music was provided by local resident, John Wheeler and free entertainment for the children included face painting, vegemite painting and rides on the Toodyay Miniature Railway.

The day provided an opportunity for the community to formally recognise the enormous contributions that volunteers make to our society - in sport, health and welfare services, arts and culture, the environment, education, emergency services, politics and advocacy. Shire President, Charlie Wroth acknowledged the many hundreds of volunteers who, at last count, provide assistance to over seventy volunteer organisations within the Shire of Toodyay.

Numerous community groups set up displays during the celebrations, giving the public the opportunity to learn about what they do and possibly become involved as a volunteer.

Nineteen volunteer firefighters were awarded Bush Fire Service Medallions for long term contributions to their fire brigades. National Medals were awarded to Bejoording Fire Brigade members Mark d'Alton (15 years of service) and Geoff Ludemann (45 years of service).



A citizenship ceremony was held for Toodyay's proud new Australian, Marie-Louise Orr (pictured above). This was followed by an Affirmation Ceremony, during which participants affirmed their loyalty and commitment to Australia and its people.

The Shire of Toodyay acknowledges the sponsorship of the Government of Western Australia's Department of Communities and the support of the Avon Valley Dairy, the Toodyay Scouts, the Miniature Railway and the Op Shop in hosting the event.

## 2009 SHIRE OF TOODYAY AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

### Shire of Toodyay Australia Day Awards

Congratulations to all the nominees for the Shire of Toodyay's Australia Day Awards:

*Community Group Award:* Toodyay Lions Club.

*Junior Citizen Award:* Steven Twomey and Courtney Fleay.

*Citizen Award:* Gail Twomey, Barry Grey, Daphne Lee, Ashley Grundy, Peter Robinson and Beth Frayne.

Shire President, Charlie Wroth commented on the wonderful contributions that all nominees have made to the community. Due to the difficulty that the Committee had in choosing a winner for the Citizen of the Year category, it was determined to award joint winners.

### 2008 Community Group of the Year - Toodyay Lions Club

Since its formation in 1976, the Toodyay Lions Club has taken on many and varied activities, some of which, like the Lions' Jumbo Auction, have become annual events. Funds raised by the Club are usually distributed locally, although the Club also supports the wider community by making donations and supporting one-off appeals.

Members also provide practical support to people who need assistance, particularly the elderly, disadvantaged or people with a disability.

In 2008 the Toodyay Lions Club embarked on a very special fund raising event in aid of the Royal Flying Doctor's Service. During a week in September, the *T Cup Run* saw five Model T Fords set off from Toodyay, across the Nullarbor, to Adelaide. This heroic feat for the fourteen volunteer drivers was not only an opportunity for them to act as ambassadors for Toodyay, promoting our Shire as a wonderful place to work, rest and play; it also proved to be an extremely successful fundraiser. Prior to their departure, the local community had committed \$24,000 in donations, and at the completion of their journey, culminating with a Civic Reception by the City of Adelaide, the Toodyay Lions Club had raised in excess of \$60,000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

### 2008 Junior Citizen of the Year - Steven Twomey

Steven Twomey is a dedicated young man from Morangup who has ensured that his favourite sport - basketball - continues to thrive in the region.

Steven started playing basketball when he was about ten years old and at the age of just fourteen he gallantly took on the role of referee for under 10 year old games. He undertook training with a representative of the Australian Institute of Sport to become a Level 1 Black & White accredited coach, which led to him taking on the umpiring of senior men's games.

Steven, as a young teenager, was such an inspiring role model that his example has led to eight more people from the Gidgegannup Basketball Club passing their accreditation, and with others currently undertaking training. Steven has also become a member of the referee panel at the Hills Raiders Basketball Association and has taken on the coaching of junior boys' teams over recent seasons.

Without Steven's dedication to both umpiring and coaching, players in his club would simply not have been able to play. Steven's enthusiasm for these tasks has led the way to showing others the positive aspects to these areas of the sport, which people often avoid taking on.



### 2008 Citizen of the Year - Ashley Grundy

Having lived nearly all his life in Toodyay, Ashley has always been recognised as a skilled athlete. He was a key player for the both the Toodyay Cricket and Football Clubs, played basketball, tennis and badminton and participated in competitive cycling. Nowadays he is actively involved in golf, bowls and darts.

Ashley has always played a key role in the running of local sporting organisations and has held many committee positions. His willingness to get stuck in has ensured that no tasks are left undone and even though he no longer plays some sports, Ashley still provides these clubs with invaluable assistance.

Ashley's enthusiasm is not limited to sport. As Manager Works & Services for the Shire, it is not unusual to find him out after hours tending to urgent matters - he has been seen in the early hours of a wet cold morning removing a fallen tree from across a road with his wife Coral holding the torch! Ashley's untiring dedication to his job, going well beyond all that is expected of him, has been witnessed over the past year as he has managed the upgrading of Stirling Terrace. Ashley is regularly seen late at night and on weekends completing works, ensuring public safety and minimising disruptions to businesses.

Ashley's quiet demeanour, generous nature and positive outlook on life unfailingly inspire others, making him an exemplary role model in our community.

### 2008 Citizen of the Year - Daphne Lee

Daphne commenced volunteering in the early nineteen seventies, offering her time as secretary to the local Kindergarten. In 1986 she joined the local St John's Ambulance and was a provider of first aid courses until 2000. Daphne has also assisted St John's in many other ways; being a regular committee member from 1986 to 2002, librarian from 1990 to 1996, as well as fundraising. She continues to be on the weekly roster for emergency call outs, attending to hundreds of emergencies over the past twenty-three years.

Between 1997 and 2002 Daphne was a willing provider of home help with the Silver Chain, enhancing the quality of life for many elderly and sick residents in the region. In 1999 Daphne began assisting the local Meals on Wheels service, and continues to offer her time to this worthy cause.

For more than nine years Daphne has also volunteered her time to the Toodyay Kindergym, where she manages the storage of the equipment. With enthusiasm she greets children, parents and coaches, lugs around large and cumbersome equipment and guides new coaches on the functionality of the apparatus. Daphne has managed to fit all this into a busy working and family life. She is a wonderful example of an ordinary person doing extra-ordinary things in a quiet unassuming manner.



Administration Centre T: 9574 2258  
15 Fiennes St, (PO Box 96) F: 9574 2158  
TOODYAY WA 6566 E: records@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Library T: 9574 2323  
96 Stirling Tce, Toodyay F: 9574 2323  
Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm & Sat 9am to 1pm E: library@toodyay.wa.gov.au

## Free StreetWise Skateboarding Clinics Roll into Toodyay

Skateboarding WA will be visiting Toodyay on 28 and 29 March 2009 to host the popular StreetWise skateboarding clinics at the skate park in Charcoal Lane. Over the weekend, qualified StreetWise coaches will offer skill development clinics for beginners and more experienced skaters. Being aimed primarily at youth aged 12 to 18 years, the participants will be categorised by skill level rather than age. This will ensure that the participants will gain maximum benefit from the weekend clinic, with each skater receiving two hours of coaching per day.

Thanks to the support from the Department for Communities, Healthway, the Heart Foundation and the Shire of Toodyay, this program, which would normally cost \$88 per person, is being offered free of charge. Skaters will need to bring their own skateboard & helmet. Everyone in the program will receive a StreetWise Participation Pack full of skate stickers, magazines, and vouchers.

Only thirty places are available for the clinics and application forms must be submitted to the Be Active Coordinator at the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre by Friday 20 March 2009. Copies of the application form are available from the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre, online at [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au) or contact the Shire of Toodyay Be Active Coordinator, Michelle Duffield, on 0428 291 302 or email [avonbeactive@goomalling.wa.gov.au](mailto:avonbeactive@goomalling.wa.gov.au).



## Shire of Toodyay Library Activities for 2009

The Shire of Toodyay Library will continue to offer its favourite services and activities in 2009, none of which would be possible without the dedicated and enthusiastic team of volunteers.

### Babies and Toddlers

A child is never too young to explore the sight, sound and magic of books. A wonderful opportunity exists to encourage early brain development and stimulate the imagination of your child by bringing them along to the Toodyay Library for baby "Rhyme Time" and toddler "Story Time".

Rhyme Time - Wednesdays at 10.30am  
Story Time - Wednesdays at 11.00 am

### Children - Premier's Summer Reading Challenge

The Premier's Summer Reading Challenge closes on Monday 9 February 2009. So come on kids - get all those books read and call into the Library to have your passports stamped to enable the completed entry forms to be sent in by the due date.

### Morangup Library

Twice monthly, between the hours of 3.00pm and 6.00pm, the Toodyay Library offers a library service at the Morangup Community Centre. The next visits are scheduled for Tuesday 10 and 24 February 2009.

### Adults - Sharing a Good Read

This fortnightly discussion group is looking forward to another action packed year, with a great range of topics lined up. The group meets on Tuesdays at 10.00 am.

3 February	Favourite Poems
17 February	Dandies of the 1700 and 1800's
3 March	School Days 1800 - 1900
17 March	Favourite Irish Customs
17 April	Ghost Stories
21 April	The Armed Services
5th May	Convicts

### Structural Reform Consultant

The Avon Regional Organisation of Councils (comprising Chittering, Dowerin, Goomalling, Northam, Toodyay and York) is seeking expressions of interest from appropriately qualified and experienced persons or entities to provide a lead role in the formalisation of the Avon Regional Council.

A project brief, detailing the requirements of the role, is available by contacting Karen Dore on 9574 2258 or [espa@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:espa@toodyay.wa.gov.au). All enquiries or queries should be directed to Graham Merrick on 9574 2258 or [ceo@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@toodyay.wa.gov.au).

Expressions of interest are to be marked "CONFIDENTIAL - STRUCTURAL REFORM CONSULTANT" and addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, TOODYAY WA 6566. Submissions are to be received by 4.00pm on Thursday 12 February 2009.

Graham Merrick  
Secretariat  
Avon Regional Organisation of Councils

### Avon Valley - Better Business Blitz

Tourism Western Australia will be hosting a half day 'hands-on' forum focussing on online marketing opportunities and ensuring quality tourism product through accreditation. The workshop will deliver topics designed to help build your business and tourism knowledge to gain the competitive edge.

#### Topics:

- Online Marketing - latest online trends and key tips for developing low cost marketing opportunities that make a big impact.
- Tourism Accreditation - importance of accreditation to the reputation of the industry and how best practice can be used to market your business.
- Quality Control - Australian Tourism Accreditation Program.
- Industry Case Study - Trigg Retreat B&B

**When:** 1.30pm on Thursday 26 February 2009

**Where:** Toodyay Community Centre

**Registrations:** Close Tuesday 24 February 2009

Registration forms are available from the Toodyay Visitor Information Centre 9574 2435 or online [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au)

## FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Council invites public comment on the following, with detail available at [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au) or the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay.

### Central Toodyay Interpretation and Heritage Tourism Plan

Mullaway Studio and Paul Kloeden have been engaged by the Shire of Toodyay to prepare a Central Toodyay Interpretation and Heritage Tourism Plan. The aim of the plan is to improve the access to and awareness of the Central Toodyay Townscape and its cultural heritage significance for key stakeholders, the community and visitors; providing the Shire of Toodyay with guidance for the implementation of interpretation and its integration into streetscape elements.

Comments close: 4pm, 12 March 2009

### Land Administration Act 1997 Request for Closure of Public Road Black Swamp Place, Morangup

The Shire of Toodyay has resolved to progress the permanent road closure of Black Swamp Place, Morangup, between Toodyay Road and Morangup Road.

Comments close: 4pm, 5 March 2009

### Proposed Temporary Road Closure Stirling Terrace, Toodyay

An application has been received for a temporary road closure in Stirling Terrace, Toodyay from Piesse St to Oddfellow St between 7.30am and 4.30pm on Sunday 3 May 2009 for the Moondyne Festival.

Your views on the proposed temporary road closure are encouraged and welcomed.

Comments close: 4pm, 10 March 2009

Forward written comments to:  
Graham Merrick - Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Toodyay  
PO Box 96 TOODYAY WA 6566

### Notice of Adoption of Local Planning Policies

#### Local Planning Policy No 3 - Caravan Park and Camping Grounds

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Clause 2.4.3 of Local Planning Scheme No 4 that Council resolved on 17 January 2009 to adopt the following Local Planning Policy:

- LPP.3 - Caravan Park and Camping Grounds

#### Local Planning Policy No 4 - Development in the Residential Development Zone

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Clause 2.4.3 of Local Planning Scheme No 4 that Council resolved on 11 December 2008 to adopt the following Local Planning Policy:

- LPP.4 - Development in the Residential Development Zone.

Copies of the Local Planning Policies are available at the Shire of Toodyay's Administration Centre, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay or online [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au)

Council, in accordance with section 5.25(1)(g) of the Local Government Act 1995 hereby advises that the following dates for the Ordinary Meetings of Council will apply for the period January 2009 to December 2009.

Shire of Toodyay Ordinary Meetings of Council - Dates for 2009			
15 January Council Chambers	19 February Council Chambers	19 March Council Chambers	16 April Bejoording Fire Shed
21 May Council Chambers	18 June Morangup Community Centre	16 July Council Chambers	20 August Council Chambers
17 September Council Chambers	8 October Julimar Fire Shed	12 November Council Chambers	17 December Council Chambers

## Healing in the Hills

New year resolution or just a big sneeze?

Be honest you let out this giant sneeze (nearly blew your head off) and someone said, "Bless you!" Nice touch but did they really mean it? Bless you – almost like, "may the very best be yours."

A sneeze is an involuntary orgasm; our body says, "Boy wasn't that good getting all that pent up rubbish out of my system!" as you spray germs over everybody else.

By the same token, isn't it funny how you can be nearly choking and you don't get anywhere near the same reaction? People recognise the danger and immediately take action to help. No one would stand by and simply say, "Bless you!"

My little parable is obvious: there are occasions, when the nasties of life affect us, we are able to deal with and there are some things we need help with.

The start of the year always brings good intentions. We look for a better way of life (blessing) and we try and bring this about through our determined will. We hope that our children and those we care about travel life's road with health, wealth and wisdom but often our attitude or theirs brings drama that we could do without.

So imagine this: there's a guy on a hillside and he's talking to a crowd and saying, "May the very best be yours even when you're sad or at the end of your tether, showing mercy, helping people to cooperate instead of arguing."

He was making outrageous promises of happiness through changing our attitude. As a matter of fact, we now call these promises *The Beatitudes* (this looks like a bit of a play on words - the attitude to be actively involved in just don't talk about it.)

Of course the man was Jesus. What he was saying was, no matter what your circumstances, God has a plan. Truth is, you're highly valued and loved and always have been, even when it doesn't feel like it. And His desire is that the very best is yours in every circumstance of life. And Jesus lived and gave up His life just prove it (Matt 5:1-20).

*Bob Adair for the Toodyay Christian Fellowship*

## Quo Vadis

Out of the chaos, calm will come if and when 'leadership, from the individual person to the collective community, is the positive 'mantra' of a society and a civilisation.

For many, too many, reasons, not only mankind but the planet upon which it lives must not only pay obeisance to each of those paramount, profound entities but they need to be embraced in the realm of both thankfulness and humility, as a gift, not of personal making but as an inheritance that has been molded by others over periods of millennia by powers within / without our comprehension – some embraced by phenomena we can see and touch or have implanted by the recorded evidence, geological, literal, even anecdotal. However, there are other influence(s) described as 'noumen' and represent the 'essence' of things as distinct from tangible observed things. Thus the two fall into the division of objective and / or subjective, secular or sacred, material or spiritual or, in modern parlance, the physical (scientific) or the (meta)physical that has become one of the dialectics of the past 2.5 centuries.

The materialism of Marx and Engels, in contrast to those known as the metaphysical poets such as Wordsworth and Evelyn Underhill, not forgetting the generous verse written in Arthur Mee's Childrens Encyclopaedia, "I Nature give to you" which includes in its many verses, "I give to you the love of all true things, and the companionship of true Liberty; I give to you the scorn of all ignoble things, the distrust of all things evil and the strength to march forward against them until they are banished from the Earth, and from our souls" for they are the repository of all that 'noumena' embraces.

Awake my soul indeed as many biblical texts affirm the synoptic synthesis of the Sacred and the secular; a synthesis that has been almost forgotten in the now frenetic rush of daily life within the syndrome of 'time is money', instead of 'spiritualising the material' by incorporating it into the divine. There has been a transmutation of 'life' into a mere money-making ambition, much to the great loss of the quality of life. We have allowed to be substituted a standard of living that is the harbinger of anxiety, the antithesis of a calm and coherent tranquil serenity that

is the reward of a harmonious relationship between those unseen, yet sublime aesthetics that engender mental and emotional health, which has greater riches and wealth than any of the materialistic accumulations that have overwhelmed our society and, indeed, our whole civilisation!

It is almost boring / hackneyed to repeat the aphorism that we never learn from History; that, if we are going to make mistakes, let them, at least, be original. It is more than tiresome and bewildering that there is such a written record of the un-wisdom of humankind or is available, in these times of electronics, for those who have the ability and capacity to 'surf' it and, more importantly, to 'synchronise' it on the wider screen of the 'Mind' to illuminate, in today's parlance, 'The Big Picture' writ large, about the march of Time, Tide and Societies, from the earliest homo erectus to our supposed 'homo sapiens' (the thinking, thoughtful one, who, in reality, has not been anywhere near contemplative nor thankful enough!)

Writing at the end of WW1, HG Wells had, among many things, this to say, "The history of our [human] race and personal religious experience [Note: not faith's] run so closely parallel as to seem almost the same thing. Both tell of a being, at first scattered and blind and utterly confused, feeling its way to the serenity and salvation of a sane and coherent purpose." Thus the profound ? must be, what is the 'essence' of that sane and coherent purpose? Is it not as stated above, the wedding of the sacred and the secular? Now that would call for not only the most profound leadership but the comprehension of all society's to understand / embrace such a vision and lofty claim!

The newly installed President of the USA, whose oratory is of a high quality, seems to be able to inspire the citizenry to a certain euphoria, those words that are also aspirational on his part – especially, "We have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord" (echoing Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address of 'malice toward none' and even Roosevelt's 'We have nothing to fear but fear itself.') Yet, also of significance in present circumstances, of Socrates, speaking to his judges, "If my sons appear to care more for riches than for virtue and if they appear to be something that they are not, reproach them for not attending that 'virtue' which they ought!" But who are 'they'? If it is not 'us' who, as GB Shaw owned as "a bearer of the 'Torch of Life'" that his was the duty to pass it on to the future generations.

As always, the ? remains as it began, Quo Vadis? For you and... mia culpa too!

## Bejoording Babble

Well helloooo! Nice of you to join us again! How was your Christmas? New Year? Good to hear! Well now that you've asked, let me tell you!

We had our combined Community Group / Fire Brigade Christmas Party in December and, as promised, we had the Mr. Real Deal Santa Clause. We new he was real because none of the little kids would go up to him! However after a BIG kid sat on his knee and made small talk about Mrs Clause etc, the rest of the kids started to warm up. Oh, and the fact that Santa revealed he had all these lolly bags to give away helped as well. Santa was very impressed with his ride here on the Fire Truck; the crew however was less so. They had to hose the tyres down after having run over some reindeer doo-doo. What in the world do those things EAT?

Well, after Santa modified his naughty and nice list and disposed of his lollies (even Reggie the dog got a bag), he boarded the Fire Truck for his return trip to the Midland Sale Yards where his reindeer were nervously waiting. Apparently the Fire Truck crew were added to the naughty list, after telling Santa if they run over anymore reindeer doo-doo's, Rudolph will have more than just his nose glowing red!

Boxing Day saw the annual Mud Footy battle again. I'd like to just leave it at that! However, I am being pressured to inform you, nay, the world, that, yes... the younguns won! The cut-off age this year was 18. Anyone 18 or under was on the younguns side; anyone over was on the oldies side. This created a problem with the oldies in identifying their own team. In previous years, the cut off age has been around 30 or so, so your team mates are easily identifiable. You know, big beards and big guts means they're on your side. Small, clean shaven and slim means they're not. But this year we had a number of small, clean shaven and slim members on our team. So the oldies would like to now officially apologise to our younger team mates who, during the first half of the game, were being crash tackled by their own side. Once we figured out that, whoever is kicking and running TOWARDS our goals MUST be on our side, the mighty juggernaut of a side that we are fell into sync and we lost anyway. Oh well, there's always next year.

Alright! Alright! Yes, younguns, you played very well and congratulations on your win.

Pasta night was held on Wed. 21st. and very nice it was too. We had Lasagna, Seafood Lasagne and Spag. Bol. I'm tellin' ya, you gotta be rockin' up to Wed. nights!

If you hadda been rockin' up to Wed. nights, you would also have known that there's an overnight 4wd trip to the Mouth of the Hill River on 26th & 27th January, Adventure World on 31st January and a feast night on Wed. 4th February.

What you will be in time for however, is our next Community Meeting on Saturday 14th Feb at 6pm, followed by a BYO BBQ.

Also don't forget the Community Shed is open every Wed. from 6pm, so if you're at a loose end.? C'mon over. See ya soon!

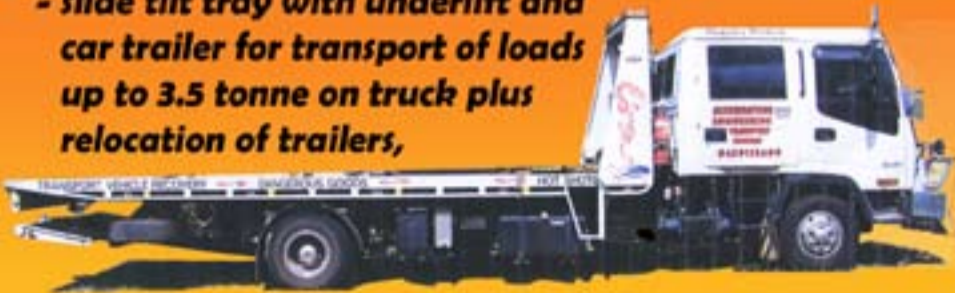
*Kim Leonhardt.*

# ALTERNATIVE ENGINEERING TRANSPORT

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**Toodyay Christian Fellowship**

**GETTING BACK TO BASICS**

We welcome everyone to join us for communion and worship at 9.30am Sunday mornings in the Toodyay Community Centre

If you are interested in getting to know more about God then we have groups that meet informally.

For further information call 9574 5002  
 We are a child friendly church

## Rachel's Roamings

December: my last full month in Germany, and what a month it has been so far! I have been experiencing a different kind of festive season to the one in Australia. One much colder, with snow, a lot of lights, plenty of Christmas cookies, and real Christmas trees hand picked from the forest.

At the start of December, I spent a week staying with my host brother, Benni, and his girlfriend Belinda in a very old Roman town called Trier. They both study at the university here, and were really good to me, introducing me to the city and the student life in Trier. I experienced my first German Christmas markets which are very pretty with a fairytale atmosphere.

One morning I drove across the border into another country, Luxembourg, because the fuel there is a lot cheaper! It still feels so strange to drive for a couple of kilometres and be in a totally different country with a different language and feel to it.

In the past few weeks I have teamed up with a Rotarian called Hubertus who is also a forest ranger and hunting enthusiast. I spent one day hunting with him and a big group of other hunters and dogs in the forest. They hunted deer, wild pig, foxes, rabbits, and other animals which I'm not sure how to translate from German because we don't have them in Australia.. The highlight of my hunting escapades was attending a big Christmas hunting party from a very well known German called Dr Hans Regel. He is famous because he is the founder of the popular confectionary range called Haribo, which specialises in gummy bears. It was very exciting to meet him, as I had been munching on Haribo products all year (very yummy!). The party was held in a big castle/golf resort (which he owns) with great food, a visit from Santa Klaus, and lot of funny Austrian men wearing typical lederhosen!

Not so long ago, school wound up for me in Germany. My favourite English class held a farewell party for me where they baked me a cake saying "Goodbye Rachel!" and were all really great to me as they have been for the whole year.

Last week was one of the highlights of my year in Germany. I spent one week skiing in Süd Tirol, the Italian Alps. We stayed in a cosy guesthouse in the little town of Lappach and travelled by bus to the ski slopes each day. There were about 40 Rotary exchange students in total, from all over the

world. We had the option between skiing and snowboarding, of which I chose skiing and had a lot of fun with it. The snow and the views from the tops of the mountains were absolutely stunning! We had just about every type of weather: snow, wind, fog and beautiful sun. It was a week I will never forget!

In two days I will be experiencing a German Christmas and I am very excited for it! I have been told not to get my hopes up for a white Christmas as it is a bit too "warm" for snow here at the moment. But that is okay, because I have just spent the last week in the snow! While it will be a little bit sad to be away from home and my family for Christmas, I know that I will see them all again soon as I only have 3 weeks left of my exchange (time flies so fast!!).

Last night I held a presentation to my German Rotary Club over my year in Germany. It turned out really well, and was quite sad to say goodbye to a lot of the Rotarians who I have grown very close to. I have done so much with them, and I really have felt like a daughter of the club.

So I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I will be seeing you soon in the New Year!

Liebe grüße,

Rachel Michael



## The View From my Window

The life of my husband and I has been a nomadic existence. Never in one home longer than a couple of years, always moving for very good reasons and not because we loved moving, I can assure you. We often joked that we could out-do Moses in putting up and pulling down our tent. In fact, in our case, special occasions or events were marked not by the year, but

by what house it took place in. Where the children went to school, where our car was stolen, where our children left to be married, the house that was robbed etc. The view for me was always transient, hardly worth the look. Too busy packing or unpacking. I'm not complaining, just wondering if I would ever have time to enjoy the view.

As a wife and mother, there were always others who needed my attention and time and their needs were always many. But my 55<sup>th</sup> year was to be an especially different year. Our roaming came to an end.

A chain of events, all quite miraculous, saw us buy a block of land in Majestic Heights and to build what was to become our dream home in Toodyay - quite a simple home in a very deliberate location to afford all the different views we could now afford. Front you say, but it's at the back, looking up the hill not the valley.

Never a day goes by - five years on - when I don't glory in the light changing the colours of the natural bushland in the front window of our 'Tree Change' home. As the sun goes down the little wrens and honeyeaters jostle for the last sips of nectar from our planted bottlebrush and grevillea shrubs. The maggies gather their family for the last feed from our seed trays, having temporarily regained a position from the cheeky 28s - only to be usurped by much noisier and outlandishly boisterous pink and greys, who always seem to have the last word.

A beautiful visitor caused a hasty building of a net over our fishpond. A kingfisher discovered an easy eating place. We watched as he took a couple of trial runs over the pond. Fortunately a few strategically placed bushes hampered our brilliant blue friend. However I am sure if left, he would have worked out a better flight plan to suit his needs. He just needed a little time on his vantage point overlooking the pond in the window of our front view.

Much to my husband's disdain, the family of rabbits that sit just far enough away for an easy escape, watch and nibble on the grasses and a few of my scrappy agapanthus leaves - the ones I haven't protected with chicken wire.

But in my opinion the months of November through to January afford the best view yet. We have a beautiful native Christmas tree, smack bang in the middle of the view from our window, in magnificent burnt yellow flames as a bonus to mark my view and the coming summer. As the last sun goes

down over the tree, the colour never seems to be the same each day, as the blossom changes through its passing, and falling as a carpet around our fish pond. Each year I can now look forward to its returning, and its prominent position in our view.

I have a secret my husband doesn't know yet. Don't tell him, but our dog Cody, a goofy labrador and I found a rather large hole excavated by some as yet unknown critter underneath the wooden bridge over the stylized dry creek bed next to the pond. I'm hoping it's an echidna. I think whatever it is, it is very brave to be so close to the house, and especially knowing my husband wouldn't want his fishpond undermined so to speak.

I've been house-bound for some months now, with my leg in plaster. Anyone who has had this experience, knows of my craving to walk normally again. The plaster will be off next week, and I am looking forward to walking again around the view outside my window, and to experience the joy of living in this beautiful part of W.A -- my view of Toodyay.

Anne Skinner

Domestic Goddess Extraordinaire

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## Ida's Hideaway

Happy New Year to all.

Results of our Christmas street party raffle:

First prize Christmas hamper went to Veronica Diamond - green B62;

Lois Dival won the rug and cushion with red E30;

Isabel Roberts won the lunch for two at Wendouree Café - red D15;

Adele won the teaset with green B39.

Congratulations to each of the winners. A HUGE thank you to each of the donors and a big thank you also to the Toodyay Shire Council for their generous support.

We don't have any birthdays in the month of February. You know Beryl Donegan liked being 30 so much that she has just celebrated the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of her 30<sup>th</sup>! Congratulations, Beryl.

It's good to see Hazel Carter back again after her operation; keep up the good work, Hazel.

They tell me that Mona Chapman has not been too well. We hope to see her back in good spirits very soon.

Good health to you all.

*Greasy Sleeve*

## News from Bolgart

We have, once again, experienced that quiet time at Bolgart when many folk have been holidaying over summer following harvest and are now all settling back again into their ordinary lifestyles and those with children are getting their youngsters ready to begin the new school year with uniforms, books and the like.

This year, we have seen five Bolgart school students graduate who will move onto high school, which is always a rather large step to take when one is faced with moving from a small school to one many times larger. We wish them well at their chosen schools.

Whilst discussing schools, it is pleasing to note that many folk are now getting into the recycling mode and the Bolgart P&C can be commended for this venture by storing recyclable goods and selling it on, which improves the coffers of the P&C Association and, in turn, provides various amenities needed by the school.

I will take this opportunity also to farewell the Taylor family of Smith Street, Bolgart who have moved to the Northam area. I'm sure that the local community of Bolgart wishes Wayne, Julie and their family, Levi and

Ebony the best in their new lifestyle. Wayne has taken part in many community ventures whilst at Bolgart and both Julie and Wayne were at one stage heavily involved with St John Ambulance work. In turn, we welcome the Higginson family to Smith Street and trust that they will find Bolgart to their liking.

In the last issue of the *Herald*, there was a bit of a glitch regarding celebrations concerning the Melbourne Cup luncheon held at the Bolgart Hotel and the breakfast run at the sporting club to help aid cancer research. The 'cup' celebration was definitely a 'luncheon' and the sporting club fundraiser for cancer research was definitely a 'breakfast'.

It was pleasing to note that the Christmas spirit was still alive and kicking in the local area with some locals adorning their premises with various Christmas lights and decorations and I trust that this will always continue and that laws don't ever change to prevent it from happening. It is also worth a visit to Dr Walkey's surgery in Toodyay at such a time, if only to see the effort that has been put into his wonderful Christmas displays.

With each passing year we are all tempted to make New Year resolutions which hardly make it past the first month of the new year. This year I have made a rather selfish resolution in that I am going to devote more of my time to just pampering myself. This is definitely a New Year resolution I intend to keep. May the year 2009 be kind to us all.

*(Mrs) Doris M Martin*

## Recipe Corner

### Macaroni Cheese

Macaroni Cheese is an old favourite. However, this recipe is a tad different but really delicious and very easy to make.

Ingredients:

- 2½ cups macaroni
- 5 cups water with teaspoon of salt
- 85gms butter
- ¼ cup flour
- 4 slices of bacon, chopped
- salt and pepper
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- ¼ teaspoon paprika
- 1½ cups milk
- 175gms cheese
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 small green pepper, chopped
- 1 can tomato soup
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- extra grated cheese for topping.

Method:

Cook macaroni in boiling salted water 12 to 15 minutes or until tender; drain. Melt butter in a saucepan, remove from heat, and stir in flour and seasonings. Return to heat and cook 1 minute. Add milk gradually, stirring until sauce boils and thickens; remove from heat. Add grated cheese and tomato soup and mix well. Gently heat sauce, but do not boil. Fry lightly the chopped bacon, chopped onion and chopped pepper, add to sauce. Add macaroni and Worcestershire sauce, mix thoroughly. Place mixture into a casserole dish, sprinkle with extra grated cheese. Bake in a moderate oven 25 to 30 minutes.

Serves 4 to 6.

*Desraé Clarke*

**Arts Toodyay Workshop**  
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Speakers, including Peter Andrews, (*Back from the Brink*, and *Beyond the Brink*). Children's activities, music. Photo comp display. Healthy food - in biodegradable containers.

Ph. 9574 2306 for info/stall space/photo comp entry.

## Toodyay Kindergym

Kindergym is back for 2009! Lessons commenced on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2009 and continue to be held at the Toodyay Pavilion, commencing at 9.30am on Fridays.

So what is Kindergym all about? Children under five years may attend lessons which include a gymnastics circuit, singing, dancing and a range of other fun activities. Kindergym helps to develop gross and fine motor skills while providing an opportunity for parents/carers to spend quality one-on-one time with children. Lessons incorporate safety issues such as how to land and climb safely, develop social skills and provide active play no matter what the weather.

Kindergym has kept its lesson costs to a minimum for 2009. Each lesson costs a mere \$5.00 plus there is a small annual registration and insurance fee. For new families, the first lesson is free thus allowing you and your child/ren to experience Kindergym with no obligation.

Kindergym remains committed to providing an active, low-cost activity for the children of Toodyay throughout 2009 and we would love for your family to join the fun. For more information, call Debbie on 9574 4553 or drop in to the Toodyay Pavilion on a Friday morning.

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ARG are committed to your skill development so if you are a highly motivated individual who is willing to learn and interested in career progression, then we are looking for you!

Should you require any further information concerning this position, please contact Graham Lucas, Area Maintenance Manager Northern, on (08) 9622 4643.

To apply for this position, please submit your application through our employment opportunities page on our website: [www.arg.net.au/employ.asp](http://www.arg.net.au/employ.asp). Alternatively you can send your applications to Jessica Vidoni, Human Resources Consultant, GPO Box S1422, Perth WA 6845.

Applications close:  
15th February 2009



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or go to [www.limeliteevents.com.au](http://www.limeliteevents.com.au)

## Toodyay Miniature Railway

Although our railway is in summer recess our small band of enthusiasts have worked hard over many exhaustingly hot mornings. The whole track has been worked over with some leveling, entire track re-ballasted, new expansion joints and an entirely new layout within the station precinct. It is also envisaged that before Easter the present slabs and sleepers at the station will have been replaced with paving to complement the town foot path system. In addition the platform will be lengthened and at a later date, covered to complement the present structure.

Shandy is presently in hundreds of pieces but the word is that with improvements being made you will need to hang on to your hats! All the carriages have been home for a spruce up and complete set of new wheels for

each. Thanks to Brendon's lobbying around, Stan was able to have them all re-shod for \$900 which was a vast improvement on the initial quote of \$1,350. The caboose has been repainted and will now carry besides Benny on his sheepskin seat cover, a fire extinguisher and a first aid kit courtesy of Micaile. Micaile has been busily polishing all carriages and each has a cover.

Our owners have each expended many thousands of dollars in a hobby they willingly share with the public. In light of all this it is a bitter disappointment to have a band of 18-20 year old persons come along and tear up boards protecting the public where they cross over our track, to use as a lever to tear up the newly laid sections of our track adjoining the station. You do not just re-lay the track. Hours and hours have to be spent in leveling the area before this can occur. Meanwhile the hero of our tunnel, Vern, has spent many days on a temporary repair to the tunnel. Vandals climbing on top smashed a hole which allowed water to penetrate the straw

bales. It appears the entire top will have to be removed and costly and time consuming repairs done. An earlier attempt by younger children to break into the tunnel as they could see Percy, our workhorse engine stored within was unsuccessful. Apart from the pleasure to so many the railway brings, the tourists drawn here because of the railway benefit the whole town. The parents of Toodyay can help by talking to their children as many children know the culprits involved. We have some names and a promising lead on our older vandals but appreciate any other information.

In fact 2009 has not begun well for the railway as we are losing a young man who has been a driving force behind expansion plans, his steam engine Riley and the little four wheelers that have enabled the track to be re-ballasted as they have carried all the materials required. It is estimated if

the wheelbarrow method had been our only option, it would have taken a full 12 months of back breaking work to complete. Brendon, Barbara and young family are relocating back to Victoria and though sorry to lose them, we wish them every happiness and future success.

*June Eastwood*

## Toodyay Music Club Inc.

December saw our usual busy pre-Christmas period. Some of our number sang at the Street Party with the Sing Australia Toodyay and Happy Notes groups, before the club evening. We just love to sing.

Some tinsel around the hall and an assortment of Santa hats put us in a festive mood, as did the sumptuous raffle prizes. The first part of the evening featured mainly Christmas songs and carols, then after supper, most performers added some of the favourite numbers they had presented through the year.

Later that weekend, a group of guitarists and singers from the club provided entertainment at the Beth Avon Christmas Party in Northam, thoroughly enjoying themselves. The audience of residents, their visiting friends and families (and Santa) was most appreciative, joining in enthusiastically. Thank you to those members who gave up their time for this event.

Once again this year we decided to hold a club evening in January, because we all enjoy the get-togethers. Although it fell in the middle of that long spell of very high temperatures, there was a sizeable turnout, and we were rewarded by a drop in temperature halfway through the evening. The sing-along sessions have been growing in length and participation, by popular demand. We are increasing the repertoire of songs, chosen because they are easy to learn and play along with. If you are shy about playing in public, this is an ideal way to improve your guitar playing and gain confidence, where you are carried along by the music and enthusiasm, and nobody worries if you get it wrong occasionally.

A reminder that we have the Country and Western 'theme' night coming up in March - we're expecting a sea of cowboy hats and checked shirts for a fun-packed night out.

Next Meeting: Friday 13th February. Any style of singing or instrumental performance is welcome, so long as it is acoustic. Come as performer or listener at our monthly meeting - Toodyay Music Club Inc., Second Friday of each month, 7pm at the CWA Hall. For further information contact Teddy or Spencer on 9574 4492.

*Jenny Edgcombe*



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# Skeleton WEED

If you see a plant please report it to  
**1800 084 881**



## PLANT DESCRIPTION

Skeleton Weed (*Chondrilla Juncea*) flowers from December through to April and seeds during this time as well.

It is a wiry plant that is hairless apart from stiff bristles at the base of the plant.

The rosette starts growing in October and dies off once the plant has "run up" (the stem has grown). New plants can grow from October to April after rain.

*Early detection  
is the best  
prevention!*

**Skeleton Weed is no longer a quarantineable weed**

# environmental matters

## Weed of the Month

### WEEDS

The costs for controlling weeds in Australia are an ever-increasing encumbrance on the taxpayer. Today, more than half of Australia's plants have been introduced, either as food crops, garden plants or by accident. In both agriculture and horticulture, more than \$2 billion is expended annually on control of weeds, with this cost being added to the selling price of the commodity being produced. The cost of environmental weeds would probably equal this, but with the financial burden being placed on us, the taxpayer.

It is every good reason for us to be careful with our garden waste, as it is for the nursery and other industries. Last year, a labelling mistake by a US Exporter has cost the Australian taxpayer hundreds of thousands of dollars in trace-back costs. A shipment imported into a Victorian nursery was labelled as the innocuous grass *Stipa lessingiana*, in fact was Mexican feather grass, a highly invasive weed that is unpalatable to stock, and similar to serrated tussock, a Weed of National Significance. The nursery subsequently distributed the grass across the country.

In countries where the feather grass has established, whole paddocks have been rendered useless. Meat and Livestock Australia estimates the grass would cost Australian agriculture more than \$39 million a year and cover up to 14 million hectares of suitable habitat. The primary industry departments in each state are now desperately trying to clean up the mess, but are struggling to recover plants already sold to thousands of households.

It is a valuable lesson of how vulnerable we are to weed incursions.

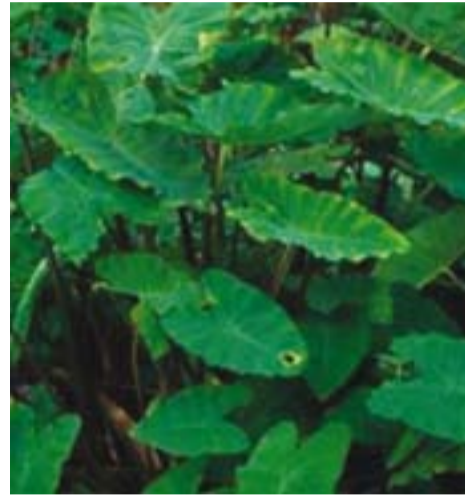
### TARO

Back to the Weed of the Month ...

Taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) is a member of the Arum Family (Araceae). It is often associated with Asian and Polynesian cooking or tropical gardens. It is, however a fast growing and serious weed of our

wetlands. It forms dense stands along watercourses and on the edge of lakes and swamps, displacing native species. It is a perennial herb (plants with a life span of more than two growing seasons) and grows up to 2 metres in height.

It has an upright tuberous root stock (or corm – an underground storage stem) from which numerous (green through red to a deep purple) succulent leaf stems arise. They support large, dark green and velvety arrow-headed leaves. The stalks are attached near the centre of the leaf-base, a character that distinguishes them from other species in the arum family. It prefers wet, acidic, organically rich soils and partial shade, and tolerates intense sunlight, dense shade, and permanent inundation.



Photograph courtesy Rod Randall (Western Weeds, Plant Protection Society of WA 1997)

Taro spreads by cormules (small cormlets which grow off the side of the main corm), or slender stolons (the creeping stem of a plant giving rise to another plant at its tip) or both. The stolons are approximately 100 cm long by 1 cm thick, while the cormules are 4 - 6 cm in diameter. Dispersal between water-bodies is primarily by deliberate or unintentional movement of vegetative fragments, or the cormules can be carried downstream in water.

Taro is one of those sleeping weeds that if left unchecked in moist areas or waterways, again, will pose a significant burden on the taxpayer.

Compiled by Wayne Clarke  
Source: Source: Western Weeds (Plant Protection Society of WA 1997)  
The Environmental Weeds Action Network  
Website on Taro

## Python Watch

In May of 2004 I wrote an article on the invasive species, the Red-eared Slider Turtle, together with its prospective devastating effect on our native fauna. In mid January of this year a female Red-eared Slider Turtle was found in the waterway at Hyde Park. Daniel Hunter, a Wildlife Officer from the Department of Environment and Conservation, says that Hyde Park will be monitored to see if the turtle had laid eggs; he says that this turtle poses a threat to wildlife similar to that of the Cane Toad – it has few predators!!!

The Red-eared Slider Turtle is a fresh-water turtle and originates from the United States. It is illegal to introduce, keep, import, sell, release, feed or transport this pest in any state of Australia. Any of the above may attract a fine. In Western Australia the fine may be up to \$4,000!!!

The International Conservation Union of Nature (ICUN) has placed this turtle on the world conservation 'hit list' of 'the world's 100 most invasive species'. Besides Australia, it has been banned in most countries of the world!

The Red-eared Slider Turtle can grow to 30cms (12¼ inches) in length which is approximately the size of a dinner plate. It has yellow markings on its face and a bright red stripe behind each eye; native turtles do not have red stripes on the head. The red stripes may fade as the turtle ages but the

finer pale stripes around the head remain. The undersides of the Red-eared Slider Turtle are pale yellow with dark smudges. The female lays up to 70 eggs annually and its lifespan is estimated at 40 years.

Mature turtles, of this species, are aggressive and bite; it will out-compete native species for food and space in our waterways. Due to the aggressiveness, pet owners may release this pest into creeks and waterways.

Besides the distinct markings of this turtle as identification it has another notable point. It retracts its head straight back into its shell - our native species retract the head to the side of the shell.

If a suspected sighting of a Red-eared Slider Turtle has been made **PLEASE** notify the Department of Environment and Conservation

6467 5153 (during office hours)  
9474 9055 Wildcare (after hours)

The Toodyay Naturalists' Club welcomes information on all sightings of plants and wildlife to record on a data base. Yours may be a very important contribution to the natural history of the Toodyay area.

Compiled by Desraé Clarke  
6364 3609

Member of the Toodyay Naturalists' Club



Photograph of the Red-slider Turtle (c) The State of Queensland, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, 2009



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STARTS THURSDAY 29TH JAN. AT 9am

# environmental matters

## Laughing Turtle Dove



Introduced into Perth during 1898, the Laughing Turtle-Dove (or Senegal Dove) has now become common in south west WA, particularly Wheatbelt towns where it follows spilled grain. Its natural range is from Africa to India; like the Spotted Turtle-Dove (also introduced into WA in 1898), it was possibly introduced by the Perth Zoo (today it is far more vigilant with its displays). In Toodyay the Laughing Turtle-Dove has been seen around the town, and is now spreading into the subdivisions.

This is a small dove, with a pinkish-fawn head, reddish-fawn back, slate-blue shoulders to wings and tail, with outer tail feathers white. Neck and breast are pinkish-fawn, and it has a black-speckled deep fawn collar (in contrast, the band on the Spotted Turtle-Dove is black with white spots, and only runs across the nape and back of the neck, not across the front); the belly is white. It has purplish-red feet, its eye is brown with a grey eye ring (edged red), and its bill and cere (bare fleshy structure at the base of the upper beak containing the nostrils) are a dark grey-brown. It measures 25 to 27cm (against the larger Spotted Turtle-Doves 29 to 32cm).

Senegal Doves have a soft, undulating and bubbling laugh, "Coo-roo-coo-roo-coo-roo". They nest during any month of the year after rains, but generally during September to March. Their nest is a flimsy platform of sticks, twigs and rootlets, about 15cm in diameter, positioned usually in a tree or shrub anywhere from 1 to 15 metres from the ground. Two white eggs are incubated by both parents over a period of 14 to 16 days. The young fledge (have feathers enough to fly) around three weeks.

Both the Senegal and the Spotted Turtle-Dove are similar in many habits, including their range, diet, behaviour and flight. They both are ground feeders on wheat, domestic animal feed, bread and seed of garden plants. They are displacing our native Doves (the Diamond, Peaceful and Bar-shouldered) both in the north and east, competing for both food and habitat.

Compiled by Wayne Clarke  
Drawing by Desraé Clarke

## Pests and Weeds in the Avon River Basin

Rare and vulnerable native plants and animals will be given a better chance of survival thanks to a new Avon Catchment Council grants program.

Individuals, community groups and local governments wanting to protect a site from animal and plant pests in the Avon River Basin can now apply for up to \$15,000 in funding.

Keen to take part is the Corrigin Shire Council, which has carried out a biodiversity survey on one of the Wheatbelt's largest stands of remnant vegetation.

The Council's Natural Resource Management Officer Sandy Turton said there's evidence of the vulnerable Mallee Fowl and Shield-backed trapdoor spider in the 1200 hectares of bushland.

But we also found plenty of fox and cat tracks, which means all these animals are under threat," Sandy Turton said.

"Considering Mallee fowl are such a fragile species this type of funding is crucial to their survival."

The Avon Catchment Council's project manager Rebecca Palumbo said the grants program was ideal for this type of

conservation.

"The funding can be used for baiting or weed control and will give people a helping hand when it comes to preserving precious remnant vegetation," Rebecca Palumbo said.

The program is worth \$100,000 and is being funded through the state and Australian governments.

The deadline for expressions of interest is Friday, 20th February 2009.

For more information visit the website [www.avonnm.org.au](http://www.avonnm.org.au).



Children taking part in a survey of native plants and animals in the Shire of Corrigin, pictured with a Brown honey-eater.

## Toodyay Friends of the River

Friday November 28th 2008 saw a happy group of thirty people enjoying breakfast at Duidgee Park – the reason??? - the launching of the book containing the fourteen year history of the Toodyay Friends of the River from its beginnings in 1994, its incorporation in August 1998 followed by ten years of working along the River and its environs. It has been a period of:

- clearing of rubbish from the River flood plain, especially within the area of the townsite
- eradication of weeds and woody feral plants
- plantings of sedges, shrubs and trees
- cooperative work with the Shire of Toodyay in maintenance of River fire breaks education involving school children and landowners
- observation of river movement from the upstream Toodyay Shire boundary to the Great Northern Highway
- monitoring of the River and its water quality
- measuring and recording of siltation of the pools
- cooperation with the Avon Descent Committee in maintaining stability of the River banks in fragile areas
- plantings and maintenance of the donated land of Lloyd's Reserve
- clearing of rubbish, plantings, weeding and slashing of long grasses prior to the Avon Descent on Shire river reserves
- rubbish collection from road verges
- River wildlife recordings
- production of a periodic newsletter, 'Biddip'
- creation of a Toodyay Friends of the River website
- fundraising to maintain the Friend's insurance

The Toodyay Friends of the River have always worked very closely with the Government body responsible for water. With the changes in name it began as the Waterways Commission, then the Waters and Rivers Commission, the Department of Environment and Catchment Protection and currently the Department of Water.

It was pleasing to welcome the participants

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especially our Patron, Viv Read, and Life Member, Maggie Marsden, who had both travelled from the city for the occasion.

Viv launched the Friends' publication outlining the many achievements since its humble beginnings in 1994 with Wayne Clarke's vision, incorporation in 1998 to the strength and recognition the group now enjoys.

**CONGRATULATIONS TOODYAY FRIENDS OF THE RIVER**

A planning meeting was held on Monday 26th January 2009 to establish a continuance of work along the Toodyay Shire portion of the Avon River. Urgent removal of weeds and the clearing of rubbish are current priorities with plantings beginning in the cooler months of the year.

Also, on Monday 26th January at the Australia Day celebrations held at Duidgee Park, the Friends were delighted at the nomination of our member, Beth Frayne, for the Toodyay Citizen of the Year Award – congratulations, Beth!

New members are always made welcome; whether active or ancillary, they are very important! The Friends meet at Duidgee Park on the third Sunday of the month with the next get-together on Sunday 15th February 2009 commencing 8am; it will be an attack on Castor Oil plants behind the townsite. Enquiries may be made to President, Gaven Donegan 9574 5347, Secretary, Robyn Taylor 9574 2578 or Treasurer, Wayne Clarke 6364 3609.

Compiled by Desraé Clarke  
Photograph by Wayne Clarke



Macushla, Trudy and Norman Quicke

## Quicke Tap into Mallee Benefits

"If we had not put in the trees, we would have lost more land to salt than the land we lost to trees" (Norm Quicke Kulin WA)

The decision to develop a whole farm integrated mallee tree cropping farm system is a big step for many. 'Giving up' land to trees created much mirth and discussion around the community as the Quicke established their first 'alley' style plantings in 1997. In the case of the Quicke family the decision to press ahead was based on the back of many aspirations. Over ten years ago one of the primary concerns was the potential of salinity encroachment. They also wanted to protect their soil asset and production base. Since then there has been many learnings along the way but the results of that early risk taking are paying dividends in many unforeseen areas. For example Norm Quicke has observed a positive change for livestock management as the trees mature. 'The Sheep love it in the paddocks with the trees.' Norm said, 'It keeps the sheep nice and quiet and you really notice a difference on a windy day.'

The strong dry autumn winds that ripped through the region in March 2007 carted off plenty of topsoil in the Kulin district like many other areas of the State. At the height

continued overleaf

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# environmental matters

of the 'blow' the positive impact of the trees 'knocking' down the wind was witnessed in the inter rows compared to the non treed paddocks. A further indication of this benefit was in the observed sheep camping and grazing patterns during the tempest. Within the Quikes alley farm the sheep remained dispersed, either camped or grazing across the inter row oblivious to the wind, while in more exposed paddocks it was evident that the sheep were tightly clustered protecting themselves from the elements.

Putting a financial cost on soil that blows away is always a subjective assessment. However, the Quikes decision to integrate tree crops was well vindicated and rewarded that day. Despite the high eroding winds they regained a higher level of management control and protection of their soil assets in the treed paddocks compared to the non treed paddocks as a result of the integrated plantings.

With a 10% revegetation target in mind, the Quikes have maintained a progressive planting program via the Avon Catchment Councils National Action Plan funded tree cropping program. The Quikes will look to undertake more plantings in season 2009 bringing their total plantings to over 200,000 mallee seedlings.

Strategic placement of Oil Mallee plantings for Natural Resource Management (NRM) outcomes is well supported by regional NRM Groups such as the Avon Catchment Council (ACC). The collaborative partnership between growers and the ACC has resulted in over \$1 million of ACC on-ground investment into the establishment of 2.5 million Oil Mallee seedlings since 2006.

The Avon Catchment Council is promoting the further adoption of Oil Mallee in season 2009. This investment is through the 'Protecting the Avon's Soil Assets with Integrated Tree Crops program via AVONGRO and the Forest Products Commission and the 'Caring for our Country' program.

For further Oil Mallee detail and opportunity to tap into the mallee investment plans farmers can contact the local grower's representative David McFall on 98815373.

## Toodyay Naturalists' Club

The Toodyay Naturalists' Club calendar for 2009 kicked off with a planning session on the 17th. This well attended committee meeting was a lengthy but productive and enjoyable time with members kept refreshed by a progression of homemade fare, particularly, quiches. I want to thank the committee for giving up their Saturday and travelling out to West Coondle to attend. The result is a packed program for the year with something for everyone I'm sure. Members will soon be receiving their programs in the mail.

Monday the 26th was of course Australia Day and the TNC set up a display at Duidgee Park next to our friends the Toodyay Historical Society and the Friends of the River. We attracted considerable interest with new members signing up and couple of donations from the public. Also on that day committee member, Beth Frayne received her nomination for Toodyay Citizen of the year. Included in her extensive resume was the extraordinary achievement of the TNC 40th anniversary book.

First general meeting of the year will be held at the CWA Hall starting at 7.30pm the 21st of February. At this stage I am waiting on confirmation from Ecologist, Ian Harris as to his availability to speak. This is due to the impending skin shedding by an Olive Python he wants to bring with him on the night. We have someone ready to step into the breach, if necessary. Hope to see a good roll up, members of the public are more than welcome to attend. Enquiries; Greg 9574 5445, Lee 9574 2560, Wayne 6364 5547.

## Toodyay Seed Orchard Group

Great news for our group: the Shire has allowed us back in to use the community shade house at the parks and gardens depot. As from 1st February, we can use the site

after 4pm on weekdays and any other times at weekends.

Many thanks to the personal lobbying on our behalf from the community that contributed to a change in heart. Common sense has prevailed. This is a project which contributes to the whole Toodyay community.

There is some bad news however because unfortunately we have lost two months of seed sowing time over December and January so the amounts of plants we can produce are going to be a lot less. Those who ordered will probably get some plants but not everything they wanted. Also, due to the new hours of operation stipulated by the Shire, some of our group may not be able to attend, so we need some new volunteers.

We will be sowing as much as we can in February which is our last opportunity before the nights cool down so if you can help or if you want plants for 2009 call one of the numbers below. Our group is a subcommittee under Toodyay Friends of the River. Many thanks again to all those who have supported us to get this change.

Please contact Val on 9574 2905 or Bethan on 9574 5882.

## White Tailed Black Cockatoos

Some of you may remember my ramblings three years ago, about the pair of black Cockatoos that nested just outside our lounge windows. Then they had that bad year when six Ravens raided their nest, and all the woes that went with it. I now have some happy news for those who are interested.

The following two years, they returned, took a look, but after returning half a dozen times, decided not to risk another bad experience.

This year, they repeated the ritual, but decided to give it another go. You can imagine our thrill, and our look-out for Ravens! All through the nesting, we observed the young one coming up to the edge of the hollow, and spending most of the day peeping out. As usual, the parents would feed it in the morning, then fly off to get more food and return about 7 pm to feed it again.

They had obviously had a young the previous year somewhere else, because it kept with its parents wherever they went, making a continuous screeching noise. Towards the last 3 to 4 weeks, the young one was no longer with them, but they kept having to scare off another pair of cockatoos, the whole lot making a loud racket, some of which sounded like ducks squawking!

Well, on the 11th December, at 8.05 pm, we had a notion that the young one might fledge (leave nest), and sure enough, the parents showed up, the male one made a loud signal, and off they all flew together, the young one flapping awkwardly for the first ten meters, then getting the hang of it, and went like a bird!

There's a great postscript - the very next day, the other pair that had been chased off, started nesting there. At this stage, they will have an egg or two, and the mother is on the nest, with the male feeding her morning and evening. So in two months time, we should see another fledging. We also have reason to believe that the male is the young of the previous pair, who waited no time in finding a mate. The female approaches the hollow in a different manner to the others.

Have a happy new year, and I hope I will have time to report another successful breeding.

Roy Webb.

## Psychological Health

It is very positive that Western Australia now has a Minister for Mental Health. The Minister is Dr Graham Jacobs who is a medical practitioner. He is a member of the Legislative Assembly and is the Liberal Party member for Eyre (a new seat created out of the redistribution). He is also the Minister for Water.

Dr Jacobs grew up near Esperance on a farm and completed his medical degree in 1976. It is anticipated that he could take a very active interest in psychological (mental) health services in regional Western Australia.

My colleague Dr Jillian Horton, President of the Institute of Clinical Psychologists, is shortly due to meet with the Minister. I look forward to reporting on policy and service development issues in rural psychological (mental) health as the year unfolds.

There are a great number of issues that the Minister might explore. One issue concerns fostering collaboration between clinical psychologists and public health researchers especially given the enormous impact that psychological health disorders and issues (mental illness) has on public health. For example, depressive disorder is a leading cause of disability and can be associated with many medical problems, including heart disease and stroke.

Another major issue for the Minister concerns service delivery models and how services can be accessed, particularly in rural Western Australia. I note from Hansard reports that late last year the Minister was visiting numerous in-patient facilities including those in the regions. This is a policy area where a revolutionary rather than an incremental approach is required.

All of the challenges in psychological health take on an added urgency given the economic and other challenges that are going to dominate the landscape in 2009.

Richard Taylor  
Registered Clinical Psychologist

## Toodyay Medical Centre

A belated Happy New Year and hopes that this year will be good to all. I would also like to thank all the staff and friends who helped with putting up the Xmas decorations once again and to Lynlee who helped take them down which is not as much fun.

This was planned for Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January but I had not expected the surgery to have been broken into on the Friday night, the alarm system evaded (now updated) and the TV smashed.

The TV was there for the convenience of patients so I am sorry you no longer have it. Sadly, about 25% of the Xmas models brought back from the States were also damaged so there will be less of a display for next Xmas.

While there is an expense in putting on the decorations inside and out of the building, it is something I have been happy to do - it's the magic of Xmas. However, with the fall of the Aussie dollar against the US, these models would cost about 30% more and I am unsure whether I will be able to replace them since they were specifically purchased for the surgery whilst in the States on holiday.

This was not my home but invasion of property is a problem. People often lose confidence in the security of their home, feel they may have been watched and concerns about what could have happened. It can lead to anxiety and depression with a change in the lifestyle that may have been enjoyed. Similarly, if going out someone is assaulted there may be a reaction to staying more indoors or anxiety when out. Stress can be dealt with by 'black humour', making

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what was a scary or bad situation into something that can be laughed at but at times professional help and counselling may be needed. The police can help with advice on making the house more secure, neighbours can watch out and knowledge on perpetrators passed on. We can all help with making the environment safer and as we want it to be.

And now for something completely different. After Xmas and the New Year we may all have added extra weight. The NSW government at the end of last year increased funding for bariatric (lap banding) surgery

for obese people with a call that other States should follow their lead. In the United States Mobile phones are being brought into the battle helping people to maintain exercise routines. The two applications being trialled can automatically track workouts but in addition one can show by walking/jogging or cycling the green gases saved by not driving and/or calories burnt. Cardiologists are hotting up the battle for more access to medication lowering cholesterol convinced it saves lives by reducing risks of cardiac, stroke and vascular events.

### Toodyay Walkie Talkies

On behalf of the Toodyay Walkie Talkies group, we wish all our members, readers of our newspaper column and intending participants a very Happy and Healthy New Year. As promised, our group did not take a break from walking in December and January which was appreciated as most members confessed to a little over indulgence of foodstuffs and refreshments during the festive season.

It is pleasing that people are inquiring as to what the Toodyay Walkie Talkies Group actually does. Firstly, let me point out that we do not go around operating two-way radios; we are a very friendly group of walkers who enjoy our healthy and sociable exercise.

Our group was formed some six years ago so that people looking for a healthier lifestyle could exercise for FREE in an enjoyable and social environment. There are two distinct types of walks that the group does: town walks and bush hikes.

Every Monday and Friday morning, commencing at 7am, the group walks in and around different parts of Toodyay town with a duration of less than an hour. Walkers with dogs on leashes are most welcome to join in this healthy exercise. Participants walk at a pace that suits them and, at the end of every journey, we thoroughly enjoy a well-deserved BYO cuppa. Once a month, we have a BYO breakfast at Duidgee Park and

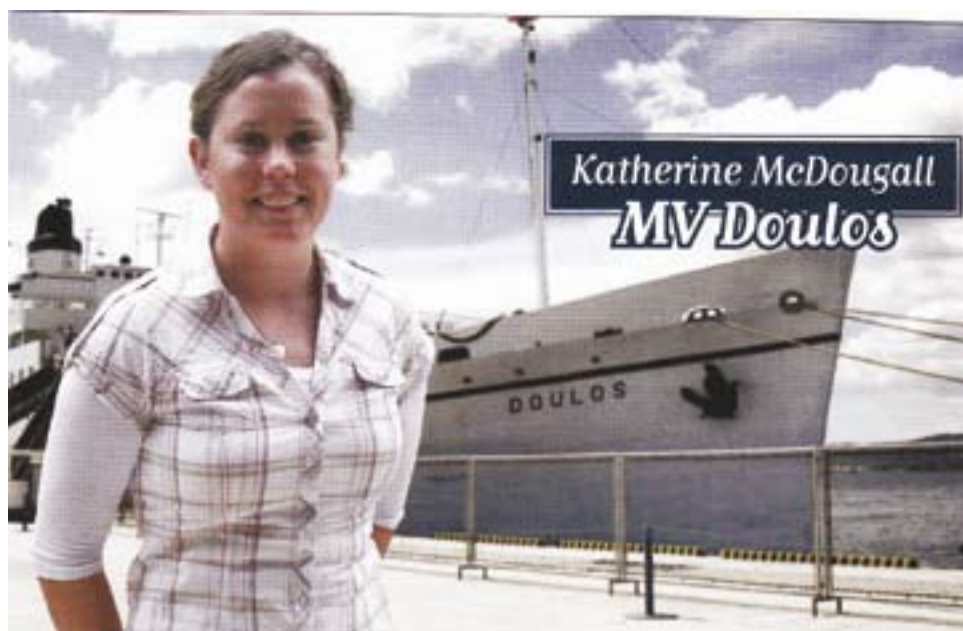
discuss items of interest to be included in our column in the *Toodyay Herald* newspaper for the following month.

We also have, every Wednesday morning, bush walks through our many stunning reserves in the Shire of Toodyay, which offer a fantastic array of ever-changing scenery, flora, fauna and bird life. Starting also at 7am, these bush journeys take approximately one and a half hours to complete. These excursions are very stimulating and, as the trails we use are gravel fire breaks and maintenance tracks, it is strongly recommended all walkers wear sensible and appropriate footwear suitable for hiking.

After March, we intend to have walking excursions once a month on a Sunday on unique tracks in the nearby country towns of Goomalling, Dowerin, York and Wongan Hills as we successfully did last year.

Shown below is our programme for future walks up to mid-March, 2009. As always, we offer an open invitation to everyone to join us on these healthy, sociable, interesting and irresistibly affordable, FREE walks.

If you have made a New Year resolution to do something different, like meeting new friends, becoming healthier and/or planning to lose weight, walking could be the solution by being active and having fun at the same time.



### Katherine On Board the Good Ship Doulos

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January, Katherine McDougall flew out of Perth to join the Good Ship Doulos on its voyage visiting third-world countries; she will be on the Doulos for two years.

The Doulos is owned and run by Operation Mobilization, an inter-denominational Christian organisation whose mission is to train and enable dedicated people to work among the poor in ministries which include helping with relief work and developmental work uplifting and caring for people around the world including third world countries. Upcoming Ports include, Kuching Malaysia, Cebu, Bacolod and Manila in the Philippines and some ports in Taiwan then on to Hong Kong

Katherine has grown up in Toodyay, always putting her heart and soul into the community.

You may have met Katherine through her involvement of any one of the following ways she was active in the community.

- Katherine was educated through home schooling and always helped out with the Home Schooler's special events such as

sports days, outings, presentation nights etc, etc;

- Helping with meals on wheels;
- Katherine may have helped care for your child at Day Care as she commenced as a volunteer helper at 15 years of age with Miss Muffet and then continued working for Little Rascals, recently completing her course with a Diploma in Child Care;
- Katherine has participated in fund raising bike-a-thons raising funds for literature and bibles for underprivileged people;
- For two years has been involved as a Youth Leader for the Toodyay Baptist Youth Group.

At the 2007 Australia Day Celebrations Katherine was presented The Toodyay Youth Citizen of the Year award in recognition of her contribution to the community.

We wish Katherine all the very best as she sets sail around the world and we hope to pass on news of her various exciting experiences to you as she keeps in touch on her travels. So 'watch this space'.

DAY /DATE	THE WALK	MEETING PLACE
<b>February</b>		
Mon 2	Pioneer Arboretum	Duidgee Park
Wed 4	Poison Gully Reserve	End of Black Wattle Road
Fri 6	Lloyd Reserve	Next to Old Catholic Church
Mon 9	West Toodyay	Donegan's Cottage
Wed 11	Rugged Hills Reserve	Entrance off Ridley Circle
Fri 13	Golf Course	Golf Clubhouse
Mon 16	Two Bridges	Duidgee Park
Wed 18	Wongamine Reserve	Entrance off Bejoording Road
Fri 20	South Toodyay	Duidgee Park
*Mon23	River and Mini Rail	Duidgee Park
Wed 25	Vernon Hills Reserve	End of Hovea Way
Fri 27	James Cottage	Next to Old Catholic Church
<b>March</b>		
Mon 2	River Gum Walk	Duidgee Park
Wed 4	Springbank Walk	Cnr Nerramine Drive & Julimar Road
Fri 6	Golf Course	Golf Clubhouse
Mon 9	River Walk	Duidgee Park
Wed 11	Rugged Hills Reserve	Entrance off Ridley Circle
Fri 13	Lloyd Reserve	Next to Old Catholic Church

\* BYO Breakfast in Duidgee Park after this walk.

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*Neville Tanner*

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YOGA, 8.30am, CWA Hall starting 6th February. Wear loose, comfortable clothes. Ph 9574 4184 for more details.

## Moore District Tennis Development Programme

The Moore District Tennis Development Programme would like to thank the Toodyay Tennis Club for providing their club house and courts for the final development program for the year on the 9th November and also on the 23rd November to catch up on a day lost to bad weather. The facilities and surrounds are a delight to use and the committee is to be congratulated on its hard work in maintaining the grounds in such good order in our harsh environment.

Our thanks must also go to the Department of Sport and Recreation, for without their financial assistance, our zone would not be able to provide the wonderful Tennis in schools at the Toodyay District High school, the advanced coaching from Perth coaches that our juniors around the zone are able to participate in and all the other programmes run by the zone.

## Karate

Wow, 2009 is here already. We are planning a big year for Karate so stay tuned.

First up, training starts on Wednesday 4th February in Toodyay from 3.45 - 4.15 for 5 - 8 year olds, 4.30 - 5.30 for 8 - 12 year olds and 6.00 - 7.30 for Highschool and Adults. Bakers Hill training starts on Thursday 5th February from 3.30 - 4.00 for 5-8 year olds and 4.00 - 5.00 for 8-15 year olds.

Our karate website has been updated with karate terminology and manners in the dojo so visit [www.toodyaykarate.com](http://www.toodyaykarate.com) to find out more. All upcoming news and events will be on the website so visit often to keep up with the latest happenings.

Events to watch for:  
28th February 10am Toodyay Memorial Town Hall

Come and see the karate kids in action in the first club challenge of the year. All are welcome to this event and in particular all past and present supporters of our club. Gold coin donation will get you entry to the event, a ticket for the door prizes and a sausage sizzle. We will be presenting belts to students who successfully passed their grading at Fremantle in December. If you have ever wondered what karate is about this is your chance to come and find out.

4th April 2pm Bakers Hill Recreation Centre

We host the KUA interclub tournament. Come and cheer us on, we want our trophy back!

8th November 9am Northam Recreation Centre

We invite karate dudes from all over the place to 'come and play'. This is our biggest event for the year where we hope to have competitors from all karate styles.

Congratulations to Terry and Josie Nagle of Bejoording who had the lucky black ticket D14. They gladly came in on a Sunday to downtown Toodyay to collect their lovely prize. Thank you to all of you who supported us by buying raffle tickets and donating gifts towards the hamper. We raised a whopping \$489.80 for our kids at the Clackline Toodyay Karate Club, Well done!

When: Saturday 28th February  
Why: to see how karate is really done and to have FUN!!

For just a gold coin donation you get, entry, a raffle ticket and a sausage sizzle. So come and see our karate kids do what they do best!

## Avon Valley Adult Riding Club

Welcome to Avon Valley Adult Riding Club's 2009 season, which starts with enrolment day on 14th February, 2.30pm at Toodyay Racecourse followed at 3pm by the annual general meeting.

All members are requested to enrol prior to the annual general meeting and are also asked to attend the meeting.

All positions will be up for re-election and this is your chance to join the committee and have your say and put forward your ideas.

Ridden rallies are held each fourth Saturday of the month, commencing on 28th February, which is a half-day orientation rally. First full-day rally is 28th March starting at 8.45am.

The calendar for the year will include a trivia night in April, the very popular Zoe Harrison weekend clinic in April, inter-adult riding club Challenge in May, David Britza jumping clinic in June, two other challenges, club gymkhanas and several fundraising events. So you can see it will be a very busy, varied, exciting and challenging year for all members.

The new shirts will be available by the first rally and should be paid for immediately. Also there will be some new jackets on sale.

There is a change in the fees structure this year, with the bulk of the fees and membership subscription being payable on enrolment and a fee of \$10 per rally, inclusive of lunch, payable on the rally day. There is also a limit on club membership of 30 members and so don't forget to get in early and enrol.

For more information and answers to any questions you might have about the adult riding club, please phone Caroline on 9574 1407 after 6pm or leave a message on the machine.

Looking forward to catching up with everyone at the annual general meeting – safe riding.

*Caroline*

## Toodyay Bowling Club

Members of the Toodyay Bowling Club wish to send our sincere condolences to the families on the passing of two former members, Dave Walton and Jim Watson.

Corporate bowls commences on 10th February, teams of four to be nominated by phone ASAP. Phone Stan Eastwood 95744462.

**LADIES REPORT**

We are looking very resplendent in our new shirts this year much to the envy of several other clubs.

November – Marilyn and Kaye played in the league pairs at York with mixed success. We played our Championship triples and the winning team was Eileen, June and Kaye A.

December – we played our Championship fours and the winning team was Eileen, Ellen, June and Margaret.

We had our Christmas luncheon at Rivers Edge Café in Northam and this was most enjoyable.

We have been playing in the pennants since October and had early success but are now 8th on the ladder. Several of our members have attended gala days in the area and had an enjoyable time.

January – We played a night competition on Wednesday nights.

Any new ladies wishing to join will be most welcome.

*Kaye Rewel*

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## Cricket

### 'A' GRADE

#### November

**Sat 29**  
Grass Valley 2 for 175 def Toodyay 69

Toodyay Bowling:  
Matt Parnham 1 for 48  
Shaun Bazley 1 for 33

Toodyay Batting:  
Jack Dasborough 21  
Peter Dasborough 16

#### December

**Sat 6**  
Toodyay 9 for 156 def Bakers Hill 64

Toodyay Bowling:  
Shaun Bazley 4 for 23  
Matt Parnham 4 for 25

Toodyay Batting:  
Paul Malatzkey 39  
Cody Butler 29  
Matt Parnham 22  
Jack Dasborough 11

#### Sat 13

BYE

**Fri 19 (20/20 Game)**  
Bakers Hill 5 for 163 def Toodyay 9 for 120

Toodyay Batting:  
Corey Higgins 22  
John Lucas 17 n.o.  
Mick Geary 16

#### Sat 20

Railways 168 def Toodyay 3 for 165

Toodyay Bowling:  
Gary Walker 2 for 1  
Cody Butler 2 for 26  
Shaun Bazley 2 for 34

Toodyay Batting:  
Cody Butler 63  
Kirwin Stuart 38  
Jeff Parnham 28 n.o.  
Matt Parnham 22

#### January

**Sat 10**  
Federals, 5 for 216 def Toodyay 40 and 6 for 81

Toodyay Bowling:  
Gary Walker 2 for 41  
Shaun Bazley 2 for 53

Toodyay Batting:  
Mick Geary 16 1<sup>st</sup> inn.  
Mick Geary 22 n.o., 2<sup>nd</sup> inn.  
Nathan Welburn 21  
Jeff Parnham 13  
Peter Dasborough 12 n.o.

Toodyay players representing the Northam Cricket Association at the recent Senior Country Week championships were Peter and Jack Dasborough and Shaun Bazley in the No 1 team and in the No 2 team were Matt and Jeff Parnham, Nathan Welburn and Ben Gillet.

### 'B' GRADE

#### November

**Sun 30**  
Grass Valley 9 for 139 def Toodyay 121

Toodyay Bowling:  
Wayne Mastin 3 for 28  
Cody Butler 3 for 30

Toodyay Batting:  
Wayne Mastin 36 n.o.  
John Lucas 21  
Steve Bradford 15  
Shane Nagle 10

#### December

**Sun 7**  
Railways 166 def Toodyay 93

Toodyay Bowling:  
Peter Jankauskas 4 for 24  
Jamie Mills 3 for 44

Toodyay Batting:  
Wayne Mastin 21  
Peter Jankauskas 15  
John Lucas 13 n.o.

#### Sat 13

Grass Valley Green 8 for 221 def Toodyay 131

Toodyay Bowling:  
Shane Nagle 3 for 27  
Peter Jankauskas 2 for 40  
Jamie Mills 2 for 46

Toodyay Batting:  
Clint Lobb 37  
Jamie Mills 23  
Blade Brown 19  
Cody Butler 10

#### Sun 21

Toodyay 7 for 170 def Federals 321

Toodyay Bowling:  
Ben Gillet 3 for 33  
Blade Brown 2 for 6  
Peter Jankauskas 2 for 20

Toodyay Batting:  
John Lucas 46 (ret. hurt)  
Wayne Mastin 33 (ret. hurt)  
Peter Jankauskas 29 n.o.  
Blake Byass 12  
Ben Gillet 12

#### January

**Sun 11**  
Roos 102, def Toodyay 95

Toodyay Bowling:  
Todd Meston 5 for 14  
Dave Mitchen 2 for 0  
Chad Broughton 2 for 23

Toodyay Batting:  
Wayne Mastin 31  
Todd Meston 14  
Shane Nagle 12  
John Lucas 10 n.o.

## Cricket Fixtures

### 'A' GRADE

**February**

**Sat 7**  
Toodyay v Bakers Hill  
Toodyay Oval 12.50pm

**Sat 14**  
Toodyay v Federals  
Toodyay Oval 12.50pm

**Sat 21**  
Bye

**Sat 28**  
Bye

**March**

**Sat 7**  
Railways v Toodyay  
Bert Hawke No 2 12.50pm

**Sat 14**  
1 & 2 semi finals  
Bert Hawke No 1 & 2

**Sun 15**  
Preliminary final  
Bert Hawke No 1

**Sat 21**  
Grand final  
Bert Hawke No 1 12.50pm

**Sun 22**  
Grand final  
Bert Hawke No 1 10.30am

### 'B' GRADE

**Feb**

**Sun 8**  
Toodyay v Grass Valley Green  
Toodyay Oval 12.20pm

**Sun 15**  
Toodyay v Railways  
Toodyay Oval 12.30pm

**Sun 22**  
Federals v Toodyay  
Henry St Oval 12.30pm

**March**

**Sun 1**  
Bye

**Sun 8**  
Roos v Toodyay  
Henry St Oval 12.30pm

**Sat 14**  
2<sup>nd</sup> semi final  
Toodyay Oval 12.30pm

**Sat 14**  
1<sup>st</sup> semi final  
Henry St Oval 12.50pm

**Sun 15**  
Preliminary final,  
Bert Hawke No 2 12.30pm

**Sat 21**  
Grand final  
Bert Hawke No 2 12.50pm

**Sun 22**  
Grand final  
Bert Hawke No 2 10.30pm

*Sadly*  
**TOODYAY MUSIC FEST**  
*for September / October 2009*  
*will be cancelled*  
  
*unless*  
*more local volunteers come*  
*forward*  
  
*Contact: Karen at Licks and Lollies or*  
*Barbara on 9574 5786*



## Toodyay Tennis Club

The Toodyay Tennis Club held their Sunsmart Junior Doubles Tournament on the 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2008. The day was a wonderful success with over 70 entries and congratulations to all who helped on the day and to Sunsmart for sponsoring our day.

Winners of the boys 15 and under were Kieran Hug and Matt Haynes from Toodyay with James Whitely and Matt King from Gingin runner ups. Winners of the boys 13 and under were Matt Taylor Wannamal and William Morris Goomalling and runner ups were Jack Butler and Lius Roe from Gingin. Winners of the boys 11 and under were Corey Taylor Wannamal and Jacob Morris Goomalling and runner ups were Aaron Hug and Chris Ferguson from Toodyay. Winners of the 13 and under girls were Kaillee Williams and Haylee Slater from Gingin and runner ups were Andrea Chitty and Dresdan Moffet from Toodyay. Winners of the 11 and under girls were Megan Moffet and Kristen Twine and runner ups were Kasey Abel and Paige Northey from Northam.

The Christmas lunch was, once again, a great success. All the members brought a plate and we had carols playing in the background, so a good time was had by all.

We won't dwell on the weather as we are all a bit over it, I came to Australia for the weather and my goodness I have got it this summer. I was asked on a Friday night if I played and I said I am hot enough just watching them all!!! But seriously we have had some very hot days but the people keep turning up on a Tuesday, that is great.

The new year brought as surprise, our dear Veronica Dymond has decided to retire. After around 20 years she has decided to be a spectator and not a player, she has been an extremely active member for all those years and during that time has had many roles in the club's running and helped to get the courts to the standard they are today. So we thank-you Veronica very much and we will miss you immensely. Please feel welcome to come and have a cuppa with us any time. We have a couple of new members, so a very warm welcome to you both.

There is a Wesfarmers Insurance Men's and Ladies' Doubles Day on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2009, at York Lawn Tennis Club, 9am start. A, B and C Grades, entry fee \$20. inc. morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Entries close - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2009. Call Rory Curtin Ph/Fax 9641 1142 or Emma Stevens Ph/Fax 9641 2364 for details.

I hope you all enjoyed the Australian Open (with the air-con on full blast, no doubt!)

Until next month, keep cool.

Angela Fox

## TOODYAY JUNIOR CRICKET

Toodyay boys Jack Dasborough and Kirwan Stuart were selected to represent the wheatbelt region to compete at the W.A regional carnival (6 regions) held at Tompkins Park in Melville just before Christmas. Jack scored his first century in one match!

Toodyay boys who represented the Northam Junior Cricket Association at the recent Junior Country Week Championships were Jack Dasborough, Kirwan Stuart, Cody Butler and Corey Higgins in the No 1 team and Blake Byass in the No 2 team.

The junior cricket competitions for both the under 13 and under 16 teams resume on Sat 7<sup>th</sup> February.

## Avon Valley Baseball Club News

One of our players, Ethan Bropho represented WA in the Under 14s Regional Baseball Championships held in Kempsey, NSW this last month. Also assigned by BWA from Avon Baseball Club was Coach / President, Reg Skinner, as the pitching coach.

WA struggled at the first two games, finally making it to the Grand Finals by beating Coff's Harbour and NT. They went down by 2 - 0 to New Zealand in the top of the 7<sup>th</sup> innings. Ethan was outstanding as a pitcher by not letting in any runs during the semi-finals.

All our players are waiting patiently as selection is taking place for the upcoming WA Country Charter Tournaments to be held at Baseball Park in Perth and the coming play-offs in the Major League Charter Tournaments and the Asian Championships.

Our players also had the opportunity to train with Team USA players during their visit to Perth.

Boys or girls must be aged between 9 and 13 as at 31<sup>st</sup> May. The coming season will also see us putting together a team for the Under 15s. Teams are being formed in Wongan Hills, Northam, York and Beverley. Scholarships to play in college baseball in the US are also available from time to time.

Anyone still interested in playing this season can contact us on 9574 4884 or 9574 4941 or email raskin@conceptual.net.au.

Tammy Broadwood  
Publicity Officer

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