

news from



ur Shire

December 2010

From the desk of the Acting Chief Executive Officer



As the community is no doubt well aware, concerns regarding the condition and safety of the Toodyay Footbridge have been ongoing for some time. Recently, I contacted the Shire's Consulting Engineer in order to secure certification that the bridge is safe for pedestrian use. Unfortunately, the Engineer was not prepared to provide this certification, resulting in a serious liability issue from a Shire perspective. Acknowledging that any decision to close the footbridge to public use was likely to cause significant inconvenience to the daily users of same, on the basis of advice received from the Shire's Insurer, the Shire was left with no option but to facilitate an immediate closure of the footbridge in the interests of public safety. Engineers have been engaged to prepare a Tender Specification detailing the required improvements in order for Council to initiate the calling of tenders.

On Wednesday 17 November 2010, I had the pleasure of addressing a meeting of the Toodyay District High School Parents and Citizens. Essentially, my attendance at the meeting was in response to the Shire's decision to close the footbridge. I certainly appreciated the opportunity to meet the parents in attendance and to engage with a School Executive. More specifically, however, I would like to thank all in attendance for their understanding in respect of the Shire's decision to close the footbridge. A "Toodyay Footbridge Fact Sheet" has been prepared by the Shire's Administration and is available upon request.

In conjunction with the developers of the new IGA Supermarket, Council agreed to provide improved car parking to service Toodyay's Central Business precinct. Works in relation to this project were intended to commence prior to Christmas, however it has been decided to postpone the commencement of these works until early in the New Year when a full contingent of Shire Staff and Contractors will be available.

Wilful damage of infrastructure at Duidgee Park has been experienced in recent weeks. Replacement covers for damaged lights together with major repairs to timber playground equipment have been the focus of Shire Staff. The community is requested to report any observations regarding antisocial behavior at Duidgee Park to the Shire Rangers, as all repairs are initially financed using ratepayer funds until such time that the culprits, if caught, are ordered to pay for restitution.

Old Plains Road, clearing and re-sheeting will be finished in two to three weeks. Shire Staff has been progressing the budgeted works on Old Plains Road. Given the environmental sensitivity of this area, particularly in respect of the roadside vegetation, the clearing works were undertaken in close liaison with members of the Toodyay Naturalist's Club. From all reports, the clearing has resulted in a much safer transport corridor without compromising the integrity of the environmental assets. To all involved, thank you for achieving this balanced outcome.

Congratulations to Kirsten Wood, Toodyay's Most Active Individual winner in the Pedometer Challenge. Kirsten walked over 400,000 steps in four weeks.

Rates Incentive Prize Winners!

Thank you to all businesses who contributed to the 2010/11 rates incentive prizes. This year was very successful with 17 prizes to give away. The prize draw took place at the September Ordinary Meeting of Council by Shire President Kevin Hogg. Congratulations to all winners, including

- First - \$1,000 cash - **Mike and Rose Stapley**
 Second - Gas Fired Pizza Oven - **Joy Hamilton and Sandra Burke**
 Third - Overnight stay at Good Earth Hotel - **Klaas De Vires**

New Household Hazardous Waste Collection Shed



Toodyay's new Household Hazardous Waste collection facility is nearing completion. The facility is located at the Toodyay Waste Transfer Station and has been made possible by funding from the Waste Authority - \$85,000, Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program - \$30,000 and the Shire of Toodyay - \$55,000. Thanks to the Department of Environment and Conservation the facility is guaranteed to remain a free collection point until 30 April 2011. Household Hazardous Waste includes

- Waste Oil
- Garden chemicals, pesticides and poisons
- Flammable liquids & ethylene glycols
- Corrosive 8 (acids & alkalis) and flammable solids
- Dangerous goods and sanitisers
- (oxidising agent 5.1 & organic peroxide 5.2)
- Paint
- Gas bottles
- Car batteries
- Household batteries
- All types of light globes including fluro tubes
- Mobile phones
- eWaste
- Miscellaneous
- Unknowns

Residents and landholders are invited to participate in the opening day on 27 December 2010 where information will be available to assist the public in understanding Household Hazardous Waste.

Please note the Waste Transfer Station opening hours over the Christmas period.

Fri 24 December, 8.00am to noon
 Sat 25 – Sun 26 December, closed
 Mon 27 December, 8.00am to 3.00pm
 Tue 28 – Wed 29 December, 8.00am to noon

Council Dates

9 December: Ordinary Meeting of Council, Council Chambers, 7pm.

20 January: Ordinary Meeting of Council, Council Chambers, 7pm.

17 February: Ordinary Meeting of Council, Council Chambers, 7pm.



Visitor Centre Service Delivery Survey

The Shire of Toodyay is currently conducting a review of the services and functions of the Toodyay Visitor Centre. As part of this review, it is vitally important to liaise with local operators to hear their thoughts and views on our current service delivery standards and to understand what their needs and wants may be.

Staff members of the Toodyay Visitor Centre who are conducting this survey realise that there are operators and businesses that they have not yet had the pleasure in dealing with.

We would like to invite you all to participate in this survey, as your feedback will assist us in understanding what it is the business community desires from the Toodyay Visitor Centre.

If you would like to be part of this survey, please contact the Toodyay Visitor Centre on 9574 2435 prior to 23 December 2010.

Toodyay Community Directory Updates

Are you new to town and would like to be listed in the 2011 Directory? Have your residential details changed? Are you part of a Toodyay Community Group? Contact us and tell us your current details.

This year the Shire of Toodyay is making a concerted effort to ensure residential and community group details in the Toodyay Community Directory are as accurate as possible.

Let us know your changes by filling out a form at the the Shire Administration Office, by giving Michelle a call or by emailing your details to records@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Shire of Toodyay Christmas/ New Year Closure



Administration Centre and Library

The Shire Administration Office and Library will be closed from 4:30pm Friday 24 December 2010, reopening on Wednesday 5 January 2011.

Visitor Centre

The Toodyay Visitor Centre will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Emergency response will be available by calling Shire Ranger and Emergency Services on 9574 4555.

Shire Councillors and Staff wish you a safe festive season.



2010 Pedometer Challenge Results**Most Active Individual**

- 1st Les Krauth (750828 steps)
 2nd Clem Kerp (618023 steps)
 3rd Christine John (599561 steps)

Most Active Team

- 1st Die Hards (404088.7 steps)
 2nd Goomalling Surgery (Average 401822.8 steps)
 3rd Toodyay Medical Centre (Average 367682.8 steps)

Most Active Shire

- 1st Goomalling Shire
 2nd Dowerin Shire
 3rd Toodyay Shire

Toodyay's Most Active Individual

Kirsten Wood (400,000+ steps)

Congratulations to all of our winners and all participants

If you would like more information, please contact Jo Buegge, Avon Be Active Coordinator on 0428291302 or avonbeactive@goomalling.wa.gov.au

LAND ADMINISTRATION ACT 1997**Request for Closure of Public Road, Two Portions of North Street**

The Shire of Toodyay has resolved to permanently close two portions of North Street from where it intersects with Fitzgerald Terrace and Collett Way to Picnic Hill Road.

Plans showing the proposed road closure are available for inspection at the Shire's Administration Centre at 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay and will be available for inspection during office hours up to and including 6 January 2011.

Your views on the proposed road closure are encouraged and welcomed. All submissions must be presented in writing to the Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96 Toodyay 6566, by 4.00pm on 6 January 2011.

Simon Fraser

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2 December 2010

Swimming Pool Fencing

With the warm months already here and the festive season starting, it is very important that swimming pool fencing is maintained. Drowning is the major cause of preventable death in children under the age of five and appropriate fencing is one way of reducing this concerning statistic.

The Building Regulations 1989 prescribe that swimming pools in certain locations must have a minimum standard of fencing. Within the Shire of Toodyay any person who has a swimming pool in the Toodyay, West Toodyay or Bejoording townsites must have minimum fencing requirements installed. While it is not a legal requirement for properties outside these areas to have a swimming pool fence, it is strongly recommended by the Shire that they are installed.

The Shire of Toodyay has information sheets available detailing the requirements for swimming pool fences. Please contact the Shire if you would like a copy.

It is important to remember that under the Regulations "swimming pool" is a place or premises for the purpose of swimming, wading or like activities on private property, containing water that is more than 300 millimetres deep. Therefore spas, wading and bathing pools with a depth of water more than 300 millimetres require fencing.

If you would like any further information please contact the Shire of Toodyay's Development Services section on 9574 2258.

Keep Australia Beautiful

The Shire of Toodyay is proposing to establish a Tidy Towns Committee. Individuals, businesses and community groups keen to participate in promoting the Shire of Toodyay as a neat and sustainable community are encouraged to register their interest.

In addition to promoting a positive visual aspect, the Tidy Towns initiative incorporates environmental challenges and considerations, litter control, wildlife habitat preservation and restoration of historical buildings, all which are significant characteristics of the Shire of Toodyay.

The Committee would oversee, co-ordinate and report on activities in the Shire and also be the link between community, Shire, Keep Australia Beautiful Council and Department of Environmental Protection.

Expressions of interest are sought from interested community members to establish a Tidy Towns Committee for the Shire of Toodyay. To register or for further information please telephone Kerry Skinner at the Shire of Toodyay on 9574 2258.

**Toodyay Team Sports**

The Toodyay Team Sports challenge has been running over the past eight weeks with six teams from Toodyay and Northam participating this year. Your everyday sports have been programmed into this year's challenge, with the addition of the introduction of other sports that are not readily available within Toodyay. Ultimate Frisbee proved to be a hit with all players, many not quite realising how much running is involved. Modified sports including Rec Footy, showed the different types of Football games that can be played with different team numbers. Different state Sporting Associations have been supporting the challenge including Lacrosse WA, whom donated their time due to the Toodyay Bush Fire in 2009.

The race is on for the Toodyay Corporate Team Sports Trophy with the final being played this Tuesday 7th December at the Toodyay Show Grounds Site. Anyone is welcome to come down and watch the finals. Hope to see you there!

**Having trouble paying your rates?**

If you are experience financial difficulties regarding the payment of rates, the Shire of Toodyay has payment arrangement options available. For more information and advice, please contact Narelle Rodger at the Shire Administration Office on 9574 2258 or email records@toodyay.wa.gov.au

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO A LOCAL PLANNING POLICY**Local Planning Policy No 15 – Keeping of 3 to 6 Dogs**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Clause 2.4.3 of Local Planning Scheme No 4 that Council resolved on 18 November 2010 to adopt amendments to the following Local Planning Policy

- LPP.15 – Keeping of 3 to 6 Dogs.

Copies of the Local Planning Policy are available for inspection at the Shire of Toodyay's Administration Centre, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay and are also available for viewing on Council's website www.toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Simon Fraser

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2 December 2010

Christmas Shopping at the Toodyay Visitor Centre

Running out of Christmas present ideas? The Toodyay Visitor Centre has a wide range of local products to choose from. Don't forget the fantastic selection of lollies and chocolates from our Lolly Shop. Free gift wrapping of your purchases is available.



Donations for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal may be left at the Visitor Centre under our Christmas Tree.

FREE eWaste collection Day 27 December 2010

The Shire of Toodyay, through the Avon Region Organisation of Councils (Chittering, Dowerin, Goomalling and Northam), has been granted additional funding to extend the free eWaste collection program until the end of December. This free service includes the collection of electronic waste that may contain hazardous materials, such as lead and mercury, which when sent to landfill can leak into waterways and cause irreparable environmental and human harm.

What is eWaste?

Computer parts, televisions, monitors, desktops, laptops, printers, photocopiers, scanners, faxes, hairdryers, mobile and landline phones, projectors, cd drives, cordless tools, electronic games, joysticks, cd's, dvd's, cameras, dvd players, videos, and speakers.

To date we have collected and recycled over three tonnes of eWaste - congratulations Toodyay!

Please note that on 27 December, the Transfer Station is opened for extended hours. This is our designated collection day, given this is the holiday period why not do your bit to help with our recycling initiative whilst you have the time spare to clean out the old shed or cupboards!

eWaste can be dropped off at the Toodyay Waste Transfer Station free of charge up until 29 December 2010.

Waste Transfer Station Christmas Hours

- 24 December, 8.00am to noon
 25 - 26 December, Closed
 27 December, 8.00am to 3.00pm
 28 - 29 December, 8.00am to noon

Toodyay Visitor Information Centre
 7 Piesse St, Toodyay
 7 Days Per Week: 9:00am to 4:00pm

T: 9574 2435
 F: 9574 2431
 E: visitorscentre@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Toodyay Library
 96 Stirling Tce, Toodyay
 Mon to Fri 9am - 5pm, Sat 9am - 1pm

T: 9574 2323
 F: 9574 2323
 E: library@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Health Matters

Dr Richard Walkey
Toodyay Medical Centre

STRESS. We all have it in one way or another, sometimes as an individual and sometimes collectively.

We were all victims of the Toodyay Fire because of the impact it had on our community and, with the anniversary not far away, a dry winter just gone and a predicted hot summer to come, the possibility of raised tensions. But, as a community, we have survived by good fortune and standing together in adversity and supporting each other.

The Xmas lights at the surgery are for us all to enjoy and this year the 'Festival Of Plenty' is to share the joy we have in Toodyay and living here. We want to celebrate the good that is in Toodyay, the fact that people care and still reach out to others. We have a great, revamped main street, restored historic buildings and a beautiful park. For a younger generation there is the promise of a skate park. We also have the promise of new shops. So let's be proud of our town and what we offer.

At the surgery, gifts for under the Xmas tree are gratefully received to distribute to people less fortunate than ourselves – the spirit of Xmas and giving. For the youngsters, the colouring competition will be in full swing with winners advised on 19 December, although every picture is special and put up for all to see and enjoy.

Other medical news.

There appears to have been a breakthrough in the development of a new polio vaccine. Whilst type 2 polio is more prevalent, types 1 and 3 still need protecting against and a new oral vaccine appears to be doing that. In India cases fell from 464 last year to 39 this year.

Chinese herbalists who work with herbs containing aristolochic acids (ALAs) seem

to run the increased risk of renal failure up to three and a half times compared with matched controls if manufacturing or selling ALAs and, if they frequently or occasionally consumed these products, the risk increased to five times matched controls.

The World Health Organisation suggests that 15,000 Indians die each year from malaria; a staggering figure. The true figure could actually be 205,000 as many deaths are occurring in rural areas away from medical facilities and inaccurate reporting of cause of death is common.

Want to have fun? Want to use amphetamines? Well it seems a lot of Australians do as we are the largest consumers in the world. About 1 in 11 Australians has tried methylamphetamine, 16% of 20 to 29-year-olds and about 1 in 4 undergraduates at university. So, okay, some may be occasional users so what's the harm? Hippocampal oedema and sclerosis!

That is fluid swelling and changes to the tissues involved with short term memory. For chronic users who often mix these drugs with others, this becomes brain atrophy.

So it seems as if amphetamines age you inside and outside and the evidence will continue to grow about the bad effects. Some have called amphetamines the cigarette smoking of the 21st century and we are now so much more aware of the deaths and complications smoking caused. In a few years we may have another epidemic on the way from the longer term use of amphetamines and that does not put into the equation the potentially horrific side effects of acute intoxication.

For your next quiz night: there are 200 islands dotted around Hong Kong and Saudi Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud is rumoured to have taken 600 private guards to protect him when holidaying in Morocco. Nothing like a quiet break from it all.

From all at the surgery, have a very Merry Xmas and Happy New Year but, most of all, a safe one.

done. Getting away from the term 'mental illness' and having a greater emphasis on 'psychological wellness' would be one step in the right direction.

Good mental health services will need to be addressed across the whole of the human lifespan and include important areas such as supported housing and social recovery, and vocational programmes.

This survey findings carry a warning to all politicians about the level of concern about mental health issues in our country and they could do well to take heed. The more feedback they get from consumers of health services the better.

I am a foundation member of a new professional body, the *Australian College of Specialist Psychologists* (ACSP), which has been founded in Perth. The ACSP is going to have a major focus on government mental health policy at state and federal levels. To that end we have just had a productive meeting in Perth with Senator Rachael Siewert (WA Greens Federal Mental Health) and Christian Smyth (Policy Advisor to Bob Brown, Greens). The issues canvassed included standards of training in psychology, access to specialist psychologists, and stigma in the mental health area. It was good to have broad and in-depth discussions with these two very interested people and we hope to have on-going discussions with politicians of all persuasions in 2011. The ACSP web site is www.acsp.net.au.

Inspired Recovery

The publication, *Inspired Recovery, true stories of hope and recovery from mental illness* as told to Sonia Melbourne (Hybrid Publishers 2010) is now in the Toodyay Library.

I wish to thank the Toodyay Herald for promoting psychological well-being by publishing this column. All the best for the 2011.

Don't Turn a Night Out into a Nightmare

HAVE you or a friend ever lost a valuable item such as a phone or wallet after a night out? Or maybe something more serious, like said or done something you regret, been in an accident or ended up in an emergency department after a night out?

Local Health Promotion Officer, Rachael Biddulph, stated that, "These things happen far too often in our community as a result of people getting drunk. But you can stop these incidents from happening to you by making responsible decisions and always planning ahead for a night out."


"For example, eat before and while you are drinking, organise a lift home or take a swag, alternate your drinks with non-alcoholic drinks and avoid drinking games. One of the most powerful actions you can take is to stand up for others facing peer pressure. If you feel comfortable, take a stand against those who pressure others into drinking", she said.

"You can even suggest activities that you and your friends can do that are not centred around excessive alcohol consumption, such as a Wii night, movie night or dinner where everyone brings a specially cooked dish. Or hang out with friends that make you feel good about yourself and who don't pressure you into drinking," said Rachael.

The new national guidelines for alcohol consumption recommend that adults drink no more than four standard drinks on a single occasion to reduce the risk of alcohol-related injury arising from that occasion.

For more information on how to have a safe night out go to www.drinkingnightmare.gov.au.

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CALL 9574 5939 \$40 p/h
For more info Google "What is Thai Massage"

View from the Shed

Looking to the Future –Why it Matters

Julian Krieg
Wheatbelt Men's Health

GRIEF is often narrowly focused on the loss of a loved one. It is also true that grief is often much worse when we lose that loved one unexpectedly, either through a sudden illness or an accident. It is also significantly increased if we lose someone through suicide, as we start to blame ourselves for what we may have missed or been able to do to prevent it from happening.

One of the problems about the type of season we are experiencing is that we can underestimate the amount of grief we suffer because of our changed circumstances. The emotional stress from a bad season is very similar to the emotions felt when we lose a loved one. When we realise this, we can start to work on how to manage these emotions in appropriate ways.

The first thing we need to acknowledge is that these grief feelings are a normal and appropriate response to any significant loss. In the case of this season, the loss of income, the failure of our crops, the increasing financial liabilities, etc are all valid reasons to slip into a grief state of mind. There is also a tendency to feel guilty. As we reflect on the time leading up to this point, we agonise over every detail to see if there was something we could have or should have done to prevent what has happened. For most of us, it hasn't been our fault at all but we put ourselves through the wringer to see.

If we compare what happens when we lose a loved one, particularly unexpectedly, there is a period of intense grief (very normal) and we put ourselves through the same scrutiny. We then move to a period of recovery which involves changing our focus which has been on the past to looking to the future. Our lives must be focused on the future as we cannot alter the past. We learn from the past but we must always live for the future.

Right now we need to switch our attention from what is or has been (our focus in recent times) to where to from here, how do I move away from my current grief to getting on with my life.

For many, this will mean regrouping and starting to think about next year's programme. For others, it could mean I don't want to do this anymore, how can I exit farming with dignity?

If we consider these two positions it is very similar to losing a loved one. We need to reorder our lives to move forward, there is no way back. Each of us must consider where we are in the process. The process is different for everyone but when we work through it in our minds we can start to give due consideration to our future options.

Although this year has been a shocker for many looking forward will help to put the year behind us quicker than you think.

Toodyay Well-Being Support Group

Gina Gulbransen

THE last meeting before Christmas is on Thursday 16 December at 10.30am. The first next year is on Thursday 20 January 2011.

We hope to see some new faces for morning tea and a chat. Anyone interested in attending the workshop 'Taking Control of Your Life' is asked to register interest by calling Gina on 9584 0136.

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Institute of Clinical Psychologists
Registered Clinical Psychologist

Medicare provider

0427 447 190

(business hours)

Psychological Health

Richard Taylor
Specialist Clinical Psychologist

Mental health top worry in Australia

AN international survey of eight countries, including Australia, which cover almost half of the world's population, has found that global warming and mental health problems provoke more public concern in Australia than in any of the other countries surveyed.

About 35 percent of Australians named mental health as one of the country's two or three biggest challenges in contrast to the international average of just 10 percent. The second most worried country on this issue was China with 15 per cent.

These results are not surprising given that the second national mental health survey found that one in two of us will have anxiety, depression, or a problem with drug and alcohol abuse in our lifetimes. About one in five people surveyed had had a mental disorder in the previous 12 months. Yet surprisingly few people were being treated due to a variety of factors. These factors include deep-seated beliefs that nothing can be done and the unfortunate stigma that is often attached to idea of 'mental illness'. In the latter area much still needs to be

Office Hours

Monday	9am to 5pm
Tuesday	9am to 5pm
Wednesday	9am to 5pm
Thursday	9am to 5pm
Friday	9am to 5pm
Saturday	9am to 11am

Please note all consultations are by appointment

Please Ring 9574 5055

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Inside the Shed

"Blokes Supporting Blokes"

Karl Walsh

HELLO again everyone and welcome to November. For some it has been Mo-vember, well done, blokes!

In starting off our column this month, I have been asked by Fred Cooke, a staunch Shedder, to give a great big Thank You to all the blokes who turned out to help with his fire breaks. So there you are. This month also saw the passing of Ted Rowe, husband of Bel. Bel Rowe originally mooted the idea of a Men's Shed in Toodyay. Our sincere condolences Bel, our thoughts are with you.

We have been offered the use of a Shed but, having been out of the loop for awhile and still reeling, I have not had the joy of seeing these premises.

In the meantime, I have been mooching around town looking at possible sites. One such place I found is at the Showgrounds between Donovan's cottage and the Historical Society cottage. Plenty of room and it's flat! Imagine that, somewhere in Toodyay where you can put down a glass of beer without it falling over! I expect that there will be much breast beating, but who else has been looking?

Sorry, can't help myself – How do you starve a Chinaman? – Give him one chopstick. Probably get beaten up for that too, never mind, it happens. Our men's health continues to be a concern; if anyone in our community is in need of our help and you know of someone who may benefit from a yarn, give us a nudge nudge wink wink. Speaking of which, keeping your troubles bottled up is like winking at a lady in the dark - you know what you're doing but no one else does. So share your problems. I have been talking to many of our young folk lately, and the message is this: if you have some dark thoughts, then share them with someone you trust; a secret shared is no longer a secret and the burden is lighter.

Men's Shed is working as it should. Recently one of our members told a story of his experience as a child, seeing something in war torn Europe that has puzzled and troubled him ever since. It seems that the chance remark among friends has borne fruit, so much so, that Australian authorities have taken up his concern and are currently

entering into an investigation that will ultimately set this member's mind at rest. Bravo to the 'Aims and Objectives' of this great organisation.

At a recent Shire Council meeting it has become apparent that the Submission made to Council in March 2010 was to no avail – all that work seemingly gone to waste. Not to labour the point too much, your Committee has been given the opportunity to ask questions and made yet another submission to the November meeting of the Shire Council; hopefully we will eventually be granted what we seek.

Meantime, by the time this goes to press, we will have gathered at 6176 (lot 1) Toodyay Rd. Just Perth side of Harpers Brook for a breakfast and will have had the opportunity to interact with our community leader and be better informed all round.

For any info please phone Secretary, Geoff, on 9574 4568.

Until next time, we'll see you – Inside the Shed.

Taking Action against Asthma

A PATIENT card being distributed to metropolitan pharmacies across Western Australia this month will give people with asthma more control over their asthma and may save lives.

Western Australia is the first Australian state to introduce a patient card for people with asthma that includes both an Asthma Action Plan and medication list. The Department of Health, Respiratory Health Network, has developed the Asthma Action Plan and Medication Record in response to the recommendation of the WA Health Asthma Model of Care.

The new card will include a list of important asthma reliever medications, enabling people to manage their own treatment in conjunction with health care professionals. Asthma action plans have been proven to help people take greater control of their health by identifying poorly controlled asthma and reduce the number of fatal attacks among chronic sufferers.

With more than 400 deaths caused by asthma each year in Australia and many more people suffering ill health as a result, asthma impacts not only on the person with asthma but also their family, schooling and the workplace.

The new card is the result of the WA Health Asthma Model of Care and collaborative research by the Asthma Foundation of WA, Pharmacy at The University of Western Australia and the WA Health Department to find better ways to improve the care of people with asthma.

People with asthma generally see a GP for their ongoing care and a community pharmacist for their medication supply.

"The aim of the UWA research was to find better ways of providing care to people with asthma via the community pharmacist," said Associate Professor, Rhonda Clifford, of UWA's School of Biomedical, Biomolecular, and Chemical Sciences. "The card can be regularly reviewed by a community practitioner (GP, pharmacist, asthma educator or other health care professional).

People with asthma are encouraged to request a card from their GP, community pharmacist, the Asthma Foundation of WA or the WA Health Department and ask for their asthma to be reviewed by a general practitioner.

Healing in the Hills

The Christmas Gift should start with us

Bob Adair

Toodyay Christian Fellowship

Most of us have watched beauty pageants and listened to the contestant tell us about their priorities. Many will include in their list world peace as one of the most important issues we could address. The world leaders meet and again; world peace is a major issue.

Most of we ordinary folk listen and wish, with a micron of hope, that they will succeed.

We all know that, like the beauty contestants, our leaders are there with their own agenda. Yes, I'm afraid it's true; world peace depends on the individual. If you have any doubt, think of Osama Bin Ladin or how about Mr Mugabe? Our own politicians are not exempt; individual ideologies drive all of us. Wars are started by individuals not by the masses. So what's the point you might ask.

Each Christmas, the phrase peace on earth is heard. We are inundated by confusing messages and have to ask, "What's peace got to do with Christmas?" There is a well known hymn that has a line in it that says, "Let peace

begin on earth and let it begin with me."

The message of Christmas is so simple that we have missed it. God tells us we have mucked up but He is ready to forgive, so His gift to us is the offer of forgiveness – a bit radical eh? You and I have to take responsibility as individuals. If most of the world's problems are caused by individuals, then just maybe they can be fixed by individuals.

So this is the message of Christmas: it is not about family nor about world peace nor happiness; it is about the key that drives all these things – how to forgive.

When I thought about this it became very clear that forgiveness is indeed a powerful gift so, to help you understand the way God's gift works, I thought we might look at how hard it is for some people to even contemplate forgiveness as an option.

Like many people, I was raised in an atmosphere of religious and national intolerance – not that I went to church or understood history, it was just that I was Scottish and Protestant as against being English and Catholic; forgiveness therefore was not an option.

Relationships break down, we assign fault and experience hurt. To those hurting, forgiveness is not an option. So many people say, "I can forgive but I cannot forget." Therefore, to them, forgiveness is not an option. Yet, if we did forgive, a new world would open up.

There are many who do find it easy to forgive regardless of their circumstances or cultural background; they are called parents.

So let's look at our universal creator or parent, God. He offers us forgiveness as a life changing gift. The experience is amazing because it is like receiving His genes; we are able to break down all the excuses; we are set free to begin again (maybe that's why Christians talk about being born again?)

Here is a great quote, "God has done it all! He sent Christ to make peace between himself and us and he has given us the work of making peace between himself and others. What we mean is God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of the world. And he has given us the work of sharing his message about peace." (CEV) This is His Christmas gift to us; peace and forgiveness are linked.

The first step is telling God you want to receive His gift of forgiveness. When you have received forgiveness then you will begin to experience its power and the effect it will have on your own life and the life of others.

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*Suzanne & Craig would like to wish everyone
a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year*

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OVER time there can be gradual changes that affect seniors' eyesight. Blurred vision, watering of the eyes, development of eye disorders and taking longer to adjust to light changes can all increase the risk of falling. If seniors notice changes in their eyesight, seek advice from a General Practitioner or Optometrist as this can significantly help to reduce the risk of falling.

How can seniors look after their eyes and reduce their risk of falling? Northam Optometrist, Alison Coogan, says, "It is important for seniors to have their vision tested at least every two years. If any changes are noticed more regular checkups may be required."

"Other tips I make seniors aware of include taking breaks when you are doing close work like reading or sewing. If wearing bifocals or multifocals, take care when walking up or down stairs, and when stepping off road verges," stated Alison.

For more information on eye health visit a General Practitioner or an Optometrist.

Autumn Club

Autumn Leaf

AS we come to the end of the year, it is time to look back: we have had a number of trips to other senior clubs, a day out to the Tivoli Club for a show of singing, dancing and comedy, a trip to Midland and a BBQ in the park.

Our next activity is the Christmas party on 18 December at 12.30 pm, so come along and celebrate this festive season. Birthdays this month are: Tina Short (4th); Billie Dodemaide (6th); Ray Edwards (8th); Freda Richardson (22nd). In January, we have Mena Chapman (10th); Bob Nelson (22nd) and Jim Short (23rd). We wish them all a very happy birthday.

On behalf of the committee I wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2011.

Toodyay Music Club

Jenny Edgecombe

FIRST, an important reminder - there will be a Music Club meeting in December but no meeting in January when the club takes a break, resuming in February.

We never did settle on a zippy title for November's theme of Trains, Planes and Motor Vehicles, but this did not deter our members from ferreting out songs old and new for a most entertaining evening.

The tune used in 'Wreck of the Old 97' has long been a popular one for 'disaster' songs. One of these was 'The MTA Song' about

poor Charlie, doomed to ride forever on a Boston train. Maurice presented a marvellous, rollicking version, with great backing from Pete, Eileen and Moya. Maurice now holds the club's award for an introduction that lasted longer than the actual song. To be fair, the background really did increase our understanding and enjoyment. 'The Old 97' tune appeared again later when Spencer later sang the entertaining 'Bicycle Wreck' version.

Spencer's hilarious rendition of 'Beep Beep' (the Cadillac - Nash Rambler song) was the funniest item of the night for me - well done Spencer! Good to see Teddy coming in on ukulele in the group numbers, too. Jan's poem, 'Are We There Yet?' was also a treat, recalling horror road trips suffered by every family. Our own Missing Chords and Keys entertained with songs from earlier years, like 'I've Been Workin' on the Railroad' and the Aeroplane Jelly Song!

I enjoyed watching the audience during Gale's singing of 'The Other Woman'. She poured on the pathos of the trucker's unhappy wife, with the audience suddenly realising the identity of the 'Other Woman' right at the end.

Jeanette added another favourite train song, '500 Miles' and Australia's railways weren't forgotten, with Jenny singing the catchy '3801', about the famous NSW steam engine.

The evening was by no means restricted to Folk and Country and Western songs, although so many of them feature trains and trucks. Peter and Moya's beautiful version of 'If You Go Away' added some variety, as did Joe's 'Steel Rail Blues' and Allan's singing of Neil Young's 'Long May You Run'. The fast-paced version of 'Freight Train' sung by Eileen with Allan on guitar was rather different again - loved the harmonica.

Leila cast a wider net to come up with 'Indian Pacific' and 'Wagon Trains North' on violin. My untutored ear detected some delightful new achievements in Leila's playing, even without understanding the technicalities.

I would love to describe every item, but you will just have to come along yourself sometime to experience the range and quality of performance the club offers, while still encouraging those who are just beginning.

Next Meeting: 7pm Friday 10 December. Any style of singing or instrumental performance is welcome, so long as it is 'acoustic'.

For further information please contact Teddy or Spencer on 9574 4492.

Toodyay Theatre Group

Vicki Haggarty
President

HUGE apologies to our ever faithful patrons on the cancelling of our last show, 'Skit'll Do'. We just needed more time to get the show running smoothly and iron out a few glitches so the hard decision needed to be made. Better to cancel and look forward to a more professional performance next year than to put it on and lose the good name we have in the community.

On the positive side, the last few months have been a great training ground for our up-and-coming young talent. I have watched their stage presence and confidence grow which will only serve the group better in years to come.

Anyone who has not yet received their ticket refund, please see the gang at Makit Hardware. Sincere apologies for mucking you around!

Our AGM and Christmas Party is Sunday 5 December 2010 where we hopefully get new and enthusiastic members on board to make 2011 a great year.

Anyone out there who has always fancied being involved in theatre - WE NEED YOU! Keep a lookout for our audition notice early next year and don't be scared to come along. There are so many jobs to do and so few members! Please ring me on 9574 5230 at any time to discuss any aspect of theatre.

Merry Christmas to All.



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Toodyay Swimming Pool Action Committee

THE last month of the year 2010 is here – very nearly Christmas – the first month of what promises to be a long hot summer.

We held our AGM on 9 November at the CWA hall; it was well attended by those interested in having a pool in Toodyay.

This is the President's report for the past year for those of you who were unable to attend:

Another year of fund raising has passed with still no swimming pool in Toodyay but perhaps we are coming closer to achieving that goal.

Certainly, we are still raising money and depositing it in the Toodyay Branch of the Bendigo Bank where it will remain until it is put towards a pool in Toodyay

We thank the community of Toodyay for its support in our fund raising efforts. All businesses are very willing to help and give most generously when asked.

The Junior Football Club allowed us to have raffles at all their home games this last season, and this added over \$1,000 to our savings account.

We held our usual stalls – coconut shy and roll a coin – at the Moondyne Festival. We have had several main street raffles and will be having another on 19 and 20 November.

Our big fund raiser was selling show bags at the Toodyay Show, followed on the Sunday at Hack Day with morning and afternoon teas and light lunches. Thanks must go to the Toodyay District High School P & C for kindly donating the cold meats, salads and cakes remaining from their stall at the show. This saved considerably on expenses and so increased our profits on Hack Day.

Our pens are still on sale in businesses around Toodyay and these continue to bring a steady profit.

With renewed support and the councillors showing a willingness to consider improved recreational facilities and a pool for Toodyay our fund raising will continue until we eventually reach our goal.

As mentioned we held a raffle on 19 and 20

November. Thank you so much to residents and visitors of Toodyay who helped in raising a further \$800 to be placed in the Pool funds at the Bank .

The winning tickets were,
 1st prize Purple C 97
 2nd prize Red B 9
 3rd prize Purple C 8
 Stay cool and greetings of the Season.

My View

Anne Skinner

IT'S just great that from time to time we get to see foreign visitors in our town. I always try to make a point of greeting them in some way. They, by their manner and the way they look, make it very obvious that they don't live here, that they are only passing through. Other visitors, affectionately called 'grey nomads', are not so obvious except for their portable homes but they are usually passing through either to the north or the south of our town.

We were also passing through, visitors on our way to visit our daughter and her family on the other side of Toodyay. We, however, fell in love with this town and chose to stay; that was 6 ½ years ago.

Although we came here as 'semi-retired', we seem to be busy all the time. There are never enough hours in a day for what I want to do and for the things that must be done. Life certainly is not getting any quieter or slower. I wonder, is all my rushing back and forth of any worth? When my allotted days have been numbered, will people remember me for all that I did in my to-ing and fro-ing or will I be remembered for more meaningful virtues?

The scriptures tell us that our days are numbered, even saying in one place they could be three score and ten (70) or even 80 if we are strong. Further on in Ecclesiastes, they say that we should have a prudent attitude toward life: "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die." I have been reminded this week how short some lives are, and I am reminded how precious every life is – no matter who.

Each of us has our own road to walk; some are more difficult than others but it's how we walk it that makes all the difference.

I heard a song by Charlie Landsborough called 'Passing Through'. Let me share a few lines with you. "We're all passing through, Do unto

others as you'd have done to you. Do what you can for your fellow man is travelling too, we're all passing through.No one knows how long their journey may be. It's not how far but how well you've travelled that God will see. We're all passing through."

It's not how much treasure we have at the end of our journey that is important; in fact we all know we cannot take it with us when we go. It's what we do with our treasures – whether they are goods or finances – whether they are talents or gifting. Could our abilities be of benefit to someone else? Maybe leave behind a treasure such as kindness, compassion, gentleness, selflessness or even our time. I try to think as the Psalmist, that, "My times are in His hands". And most of all, to leave behind – love.

Will you be remembered for any of these fruits? Will you be remembered for the joy you brought to some one's life, or the patience shown in a trying time? I pray that my life will ring true, but I have to work at it every day.

I believe some of us are travelling through life so fast the days are a long blur with no logic, rhyme or reason. I heard this saying many years ago, and I believe it has some worth: "Never travel so fast, that your angel cannot keep up with you." If you are over the speed limit you are living on borrowed time. Have you seen the 'amber light of warning'? Don't wait until you see the stop sign, it may be too late. Have you seen the sign that says "You're going the wrong way"? Or do you have blinkers on like horses, only going where someone takes you, without thinking about it. Forgive this sounding a bit like a cliché, but we all need to slow down and smell the roses. Also, live every moment as if it were your last. To appreciate all that we have been given, and as the song says, do unto others as you would have done to you. This also is from the scriptures Mat. 7:12.

A young man left us this last week and, although his time with us was very short here on earth, he left behind a memory of bright smiling eyes and a cheeky grin and a heart full of love. When he was just in pre-school, while I was helping in the class, he challenged me to know Jesus, to be able to live in heaven when I died. Maybe I looked as if I were nudging heaven, I don't know. But I told him I did and I never will forget the sincerity of his question. He was a young man who showed determination and pride in what he did. You didn't get to the U.S. of A, Ethan, but you are in a far better place. We will miss you.

You got there before me, see ya later. R.I.P.

Toodyay Playgroup & Baby Playgroup

Brenda Hutchinson

THIS year our Christmas party was held at Duidgee Park on Thursday 25 November. We all had a fantastic day; the children enjoyed the bouncy castle and the park, while the mums, friends and relatives enjoyed the yummy food and social atmosphere. The children all enjoyed a very special visit from Santa and a present (of course!).

Toodyay Playgroup is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30 - 11.30am at the Community Centre in Stirling Tce. New families are always welcome so please come along. It's a great way to meet other parents, make new friends and allows little one to socialise with other children (dads are welcome too!). Our playgroup is informal, set in a casual environment for you and your little ones to enjoy.

In addition to our regular sessions, we also have Baby Playgroup especially for babies (0-12 months). Baby Playgroup is held on Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30am. All new mums and babies (and older siblings) are welcome to come along. This session is a great opportunity for mums to interact with other mums with access to Child Health Care Nurse, information sessions and other facilities as needed. So come along and join us.

The Toodyay Toy Library has been incorporated into the Toodyay Playgroup and toys can now be borrowed by members of Toodyay Playgroup and Baby Playgroup. The cost is \$2 per toy/fortnight. All money raised will be put back into the Toy Library to replace toys as needed.

Any enquiries about Toodyay Playgroup and Baby Playgroup please call Brenda Hutchinson on 9574 4489.

Our next meeting will be our AGM which will be held on 11 January 2011.



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Arts Toodyay

Margot Watkins

WE have been busy with traditional indigenous coiling methods, using grasses, and, before that, with the textiles group making a 3D vessel using rope and a wild assortment of bits and pieces...

On 21 November we held the film screening and public meeting to gather ideas for a possible Bushfire Project for Toodyay. There is a separate article elsewhere in the paper on the outcome of that.

What was quickly hatched though on the day was that we are to have an exhibition to mark the actual anniversary that is coming up so quickly. It will be artworks, photos (including real ones and some to be digitally displayed on screen), artefacts and any other thing that can be displayed, and is related to the fire. Again, more details elsewhere, and forms available soon. This is an opportunity to say we have not forgotten all those people who have been affected by this major event.

Ruth's Open Day on the 20th was very successful too. And I was busy in Fremantle over about a fortnight with the Drawn Together Festival. This was a fabulous feast of artmaking (drawing mainly) and enjoying, and I will pass on a couple of fun things to do that I learnt there when it can be organised.

We will also be organising a weekend event/workshop in April next year using part of our grant, and purchasing some art essentials. Join us to be part of an exciting program.

A big welcome to some new members who have recently swelled our numbers. We usually do not meet in January so have a great Xmas and New Year and holiday, and come back rejuvenated for some great wonderfully creative 2011.

Bejoording Babble

Kim Leonhardt

Howdy ho everybody! And may I give a BIG howdy ho to all the non-members and visitors that just swan in to our events and waltz out with all the fame, glory and prestige that come with winning a Bejoording event!

Some may read a little sarcasm in that previous sentence, but no, not at all! We take pride in the fact that we're doing our little bit to help the community recover from the Global Financial Crisis and the dark depths of depression that you all must be suffering who do not live in the hallowed grounds of Bejoording!

Why, just the other day for example, we had the Halloween Games Night. I said to Darb, "Darb," I said, "we should just ring Barry and tell him to send the 1st prize straight over, saving him having to go to all that effort organising the event."

"Kim," Darb said, "Kim. You're a fool." "Fool!" I said, "Fool!"

I immediately rushed for the dictionary. There must be a second meaning under 'fool'. There is: "be a fool to... be nothing in comparison with." Cool! Darb reckons no one can be compared with me! Shucks! I hope that's one of the questions on the Games Night.

However, I digress. So we're just cruising along, answering questions and displaying our skills and assisting others in their quest to come 2nd or lower, when the horn blew for the last time and the points were added up. I dragged Darb to the front of the pack, to save time picking up our prize, when Barry announces the winners to be Grant and Clare. GRANT and CLARE! Who the hell're GRANT and CLARE?!

Melbourne Cup Day was next. A little ripper it was too! Meats, cheeses, dips, chicken, prawns, salad, strawberries, cream, pavlova and trifle... and cream... and prawns... did I mention the prawns?... and cream... with strawberries? The big race was on... and the winner is... Tammy. TAMMY! Who the hell's TAMMY?!

Our Christmas Party is the next big event coming up. It's scheduled for Wednesday 22 December from 6pm. Non-members \$10 a head, kids free, though they must be accompanied by an adult. Just checking

who will be coming. Wait a minute, who's this then? I'll just check the membership list. He's not on there! SANTA! Who the hell's SANTA?!

Our next Community Meeting is Wednesday 1 December from 6pm and will be followed by a sausage sizzle. And don't forget Boxing Day is MUD FOOTY! Keep an eye on the board for details.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Grey family for their creation of the Halloween Games Night and also Linda and Darb for the Melbourne Cup Day Lunch.

Finally finally, congratulations to Grant and Clare for winning the Games Night and Tammy for winning the Melbourne Cup. I may as well pre-empt it, and congratulate Santa for winning whatever the hell he does at Christmas!

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and I'll see ya all next year.

Toodyay Miniature Railway

June Eastwood

IT would be nice to start the last column for 2010 on a positive note but our patience has been sorely tried by repeated acts of vandalism and theft.

Our DC wagon had a top hatch smashed in and the keys to the 114 year old wagon known as Miss Tricia stolen from their hook therein. This allowed access to Miss Tricia and, after having a 'sleep over' there (did some parents not miss a young teenage daughter and wonder what her behaviour had been?), the culprits left with a New Zealand cap, a hammer and the back padded cushion from the Guard's Chair. This is a 114-year-old wagon; we cannot replace this article at Traders. Even if we get a replacement crafted, we cannot replace with identical fabric. We would have to have the remaining complete chair and cushion to the second chair totally re upholstered at some considerable cost. If anyone should find a discarded blue tartan object, please let us know.

When the lock was changed to thwart these thugs who still had our keys, they retaliated when unable to gain entry subsequently by smashing further items. Since then an attempt to gain entry into the locomotive shed by climbing on the roof and smashing the end fascia board - with our own hammer by the marks left - was unsuccessful. Once again I appeal to parents to ask their children if they know who is responsible and drop the names in an envelope to Box 230 Toodyay, anonymously if you wish.

On a more hopeful note, we have received a survey from Paul Kraft (sincere thanks Paul) as to where a new locomotive shed may be situated and now, with this information, we have begun negotiations with the Shire and hope this is the beginning of a favourable solution to our dilemma.

Our hardest working member in Vern Witney will have a brand new knee on Thursday 25 November and we wish him all the best for a speedy recovery from the great pain he has endured for many years.

Thank you to the Herald for publishing our notes monthly and we wish all a Happy Xmas and successful 2011. Mini Rail is now in recess till Easter Saturday begins our 2011 running season.

Seed Trading: Make Sure You Get What You Pay For

FARMERS sourcing seed for 2011 have been warned to avoid the risk of lost production, weeds and herbicide resistance by having their seed tested or purchasing seed from quality seed schemes.

Department of Agriculture and Food and Plant Health Australia grains biosecurity officer Jeff Russell expects increased farmer-to-farmer trading as a result of the low yields and harvest volumes this season.

He encouraged grain growers to research the seed they were acquiring and to have it tested. "It is worth making sure the seed is viable and not contaminated with weed seeds, which may also be resistant to herbicides," he said. "It would also be beneficial to test the germination potential of the seed, given the impact of the dry season."

Mr Russell said growers purchasing seed from other farmers need to do their own research.

"Growers need to know where the seed is coming from, the farm's herbicide resistance status, as well as its weed and disease status, variety identity and isolation from other contaminating sources," he said. "The seed should also be graded." The same recommendations applied for donated grain.

"Growers really need to do their homework to ensure they get what they pay for and make sure they avoid the risk of spreading weeds, especially resistant weeds, around their properties."

"They should also be aware of their requirements under the Plant Breeders Rights Act and the Seed Act to avoid the risk of encountering costly mistakes."

For more information about farmer-to-farmer seed trading, the department's certified seed service or sample submission forms visit www.agric.wa.gov.au/agwestplantlabs.

Funding Available to Help Strengthen Wheatbelt Environment

A GROUP of Wheatbelt farmers who received funding to film a DVD on the benefits of tree cropping are encouraging others to apply for a similar grant. The funding was made available through Wheatbelt NRM's Community Small Grants Incentive Scheme.

The 'Greener Horizons' DVD was designed to encourage other farmers to investigate tree cropping as an option on their less-profitable soils. It was put together with the help of AVONGRO Wheatbelt Tree Cropping.

Bencubbin farmer Michael Hogan was featured and said the grant helped make the project possible.

"We hope this DVD will give other farmers the confidence to consider tree cropping on poor farming soil," Michael Hogan said.

The Northam Senior High School also received funding to develop a bush tucker garden and the River Conservation Society to study invertebrates at the Gwambygine Pool near York.

The 2011 round of grants is now open Preference will be given to first time applicants. Priority will also be given to projects that meet Caring For Our Country targets listed in their 2010-11 Business Plan.

Funding of up to \$15,000 per project is available and the closing date for applications is 10 December 2010.

For further information and to download an application form, please visit our website at <http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/funding/csg>.

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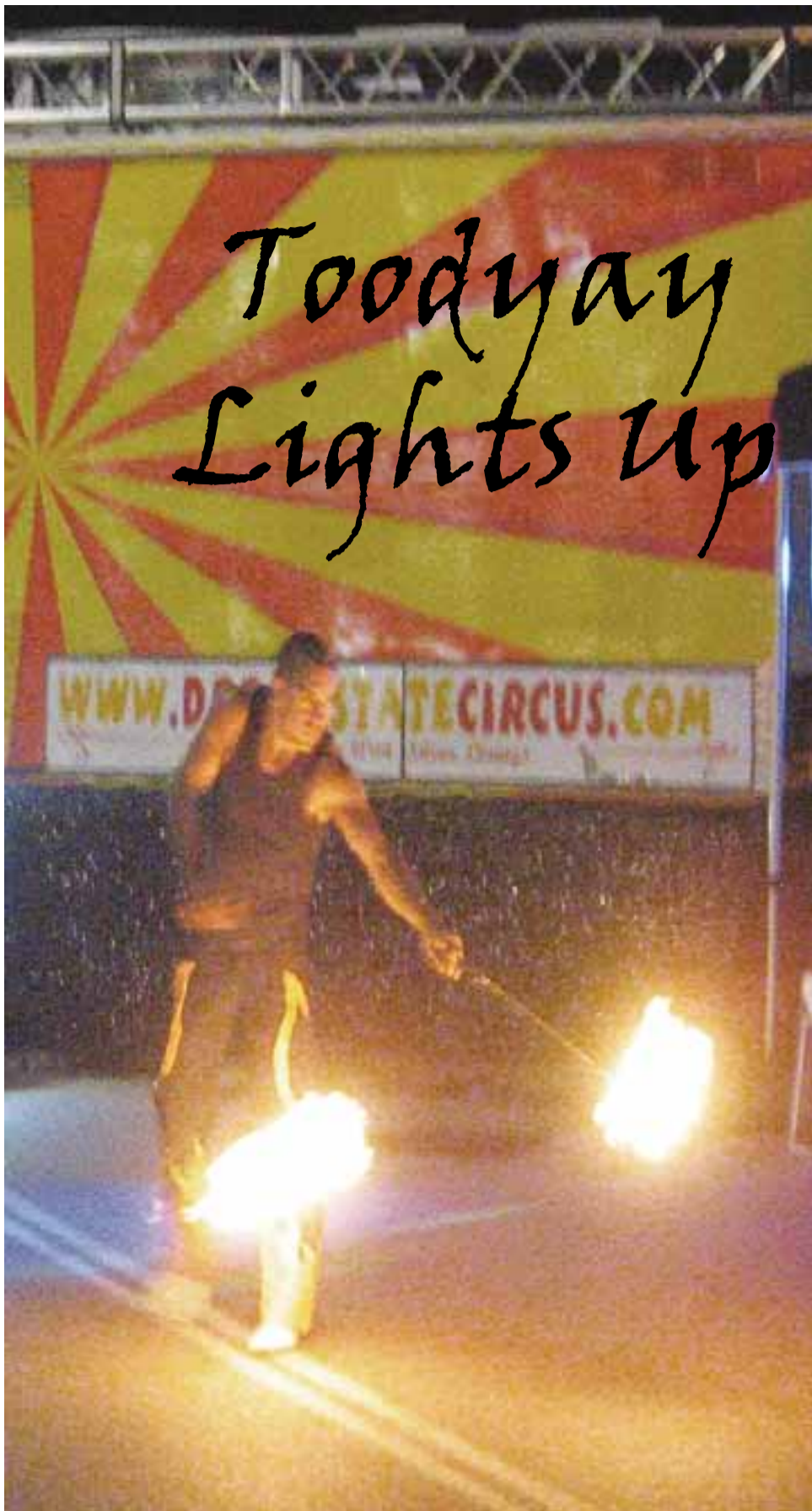
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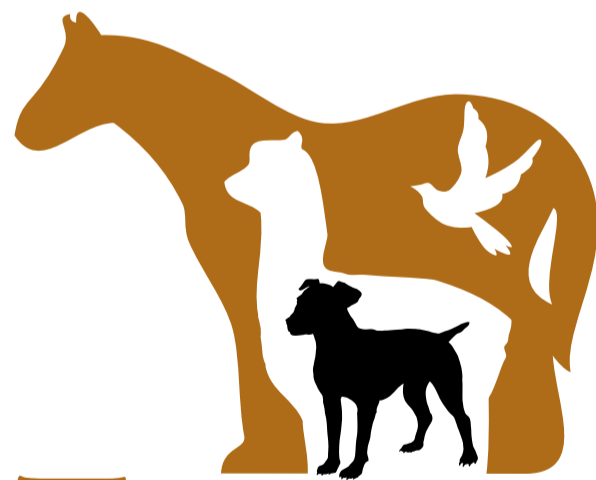
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Desraé Clarke
Member: Toodyay Naturalists' Club

APART from the Toodyay Ranger's observations of a number of snakes seen around our Shire there have been many reports of a great variety of reptiles over the last month. These have included the Blind Snake, Legless Lizard, Gould's Monitor, Black-tailed Monitor (Racehorse Goanna), Bobtail, Barking Gecko, Varied Dtella (Gecko), Reticulated Velvet Gecko, Dugite, Gwardar and the Mulga Snake. Also, in the herpetofauna listing we hear a Pobblebonk (Banjo Frog) on a nearby dam, a little girl called about a Motorbike Frog (Western Green Tree Frog) and a Moaning Frog was reported. Unfortunately, as always happens at this time of year, there have been many road kills; reptiles try to gather extra warmth earlier in the day by resting on the roads with dire results.

With the discovery of a large, handsome Mulga photographed as it was crossing a road out of town, and was not in any hurry to reach the other side, it would be apt to describe it at this time. Photos and data of this animal were sent to the WA Museum where the herpetologist, Brad Maryan, stated that the "the boofier head is a sure giveaway" and "the typical Mulga is in no hurry to move - in contrast the Brown Snake is usually quick to get out of your way." The Mulga is known as the King Brown but, in actual fact, it belongs to the black snake genus.

The Mulga has large scales that definitely allow it to be recognised relatively easily. The facial and head scales are also large. Its body colouring is variable from a light brown, olive, and reddish brown to almost black. It also may be a pale colour with each scale having a dark crescent that gives it a reticulated patterning from head to tail. This is shown quite definitely in the photographs provided.

The Mulga is found throughout Western Australia except in the lower south west and adjoining coastal areas. This large reptile houses in deserted burrows, on rock ledges,

in hollow logs, beneath galvanised iron sheeting, in derelict vehicles and in dumped rubbish. When my husband and I were on a natural history trip in the north of our state, some years back, one was disturbed from its home in an abandoned truck at Munja Landing on the banks of the Isdell River.

Food consists of lizards, snakes (its own kind included), mammals and vermin such as rats, mice and rabbits. It lays a clutch of 10 to 20 eggs that hatch within 9 to 12 weeks. The Mulga is both diurnal (active by day) and nocturnal (active by night); it is also 'cold tolerant' like the Tiger Snake.

The Mulga grows to a length of two metres, plus, and has a thicker body than the slender Dugite or Gwardar. Although it is not classified as an aggressive animal it, like any animal including humans, can become defensive if injured, frightened, cornered or attacked. It is **DANGEROUSLY VENOMOUS**.



Photographs of the Mulga courtesy of Mrs Viv Street



Toodyay Naturalists' Club

Lee Francis

WELL, the club's meeting year is over. We held our last meeting on Saturday evening 20 November followed by an extraordinarily delicious dinner at the Clarke's. Everyone brought along contributions to the meal and it was commented that, if we ever fold as a Naturalists' Club (unlikely after 42 years!), we can always go into catering.

We farewelled members Vicki and Steve Westerink who are relocating to the cooler southwest - seems to be a bit of a trend. We wish them well in their new adventure.

Our next gathering will be a planning day on the third Saturday in January, so please put that date in your diaries and come along with lots of ideas. Members will be sent further information about the time and venue soon.

In conjunction with members who are surveying the reserve on Julimar Rd, a management plan for the reserve is about to be published by WWF Project Officer Carla Swift. Hopefully this will afford long term protection for this special area. Member Frank Turnbull did a lot of the early work and his contribution has been very valuable. This is being carried on by Sally and Jacqui.

At the December meeting of Council, the Club is going to make a presentation to the Shire of our book on the history of the Club. Copies have already been donated to the library and the school. Members are invited to attend the Council meeting, and a generous invitation to the pre-meeting dinner has also been extended by Simon Fraser. Numbers are needed for catering purposes, so if you plan to come please advise Lee no later than 6 December.

In the new year we will be working in conjunction with DEC to commence long term monitoring of the Mavis Jefferys Reserve on Sandplain Rd, as part of it was burned in the 2009 fire, and it is a biologically significant site.

As President I'd like to thank members for their support and hard work over the year. I'd also like to wish everyone a safe, peaceful and happy festive season.

Even though we are 'on holidays', we are still interested in any sightings of flora and fauna and welcome contact from anyone in the community.

Everyone is welcome to any of our meetings or excursions. For details, contact President, Lee, on 9574 2560, Vice-President, Greg, on 9574 5445 or Secretary, Wayne, on 6364 3609.

The Lions Club Of Toodyay

CHRISTMAS Tree

DROP A PRESENT MARKED WITH YOUR CHILDS NAME & AGE INTO TOODYAY NEWS IN TIME FOR SANTA'S VISIT

WHEN? 18TH DECEMBER 2010

WHERE? DUIDGEE PARK

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CORDIAL, LOLLIES, ICE CREAM & CAROLS PROVIDED BY SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS, THE LIONS CLUB OF TOODYAY

environmental matters

Bird of the Month

Sacred Kingfisher

Desraé Clarke

THIS beautiful little bird is heard at this time of year as it returns early November from the south western areas to breed; it returns south around January. It is wonderful to hear as it sits high in a dead tree letting everyone know it has returned to our area with its quite monotonous, clipped call of 'dek dek dek dek'. In the past we have watched a pair collecting nesting materials in readiness for parenthood but this year the visit, to date, has been quite brief.



The Sacred Kingfisher is approximately 20 to 23cm; it is one of the smaller members of the 'kingfisher' family of which the kookaburra belongs. It nests in tree hollows approximately 25 metres from the ground with both parents

incubating three to five glossy, white eggs for 17 to 18 days; the young fledged within

four weeks.

The colouring of this small bird is magnificent. It has a crown of dark blue-green, a black facial mask, wings and tail of peacock blue; the back is green and the collar and underparts are a buff white. It has the typical thick-set, powerful, black bill, as its diet would demand, large brown eyes and black feet.

It hunts on dry land for small reptiles, crickets, beetles and their larvae, small rodents, young birds; on the edges of wetlands it will catch frogs, fish and crustaceans. Flight is swift and direct; when hunting it will perch on trees, posts, overhead wires and fences to dart down to seize its prey.

The Sacred Kingfisher is not a bird of arid areas; in those areas one will find the Red-backed Kingfisher which is much the same in size and has a rust-red rump rather than a red back. On a natural history trip in the Gibson Desert we saw the Red-backed Kingfisher on a number of occasions which was an exciting observation.

Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos Dining Out in Town

THE endangered Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo naturally feeds on a large variety of native plants such as Banksias, Hakeas and Jarrah seeds but, with much of their native food plants having been removed from the Wheatbelt, they have had to find alternate sources of food. A number of our introduced commercial nut bearing plants provide a good, high-energy food source.

"With most of their native sources of food no longer available in the Wheatbelt it is common to see Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos feeding in urban areas on nut bearing trees, particularly Pine and Almond," said Birds Australia's Conservation Officer, Claire Bartron. "Both Pine and Almond nuts are high in calories and provide a great energy return for a small amount of foraging effort, which makes them

an important food source for this continually declining species."

Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos are habitual, and are known to return to the same feeding grounds year after year while a reliable food source is present. "It is likely that the Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos visiting almond trees in your area have been visiting those particular trees each year for the majority of their lives," said Miss Bartron. In the case of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos, it can be decades as they live as long as 50 years.

For those concerned about protecting their fruiting trees, correctly erected netting is an effective solution as birds do not like to perch and feed on netting. A cost effective alternative to netting is to cover trees with 30% block-out shade cloth during the fruiting season, it still allows fruit to ripen, has a low risk of entanglement and is easily removed once fruiting has finished. Covering fruiting trees also has the benefit of protecting trees from other causes of damage such as wind and hail.

Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos are classified as endangered, and are protected under both State (Wildlife Conservation Act 1950) and Commonwealth (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999) legislation. As such, it is illegal to shoot or cause intentional harm to Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos and doing so attracts both substantial fines and possible imprisonment.

To learn more about Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos you can visit our website:

www.birdsaustralia.com.au/carnabys

To report a sighting you can contact us directly or go to our new online database where you can create your own login and



Festival fun

report and review all your sighting, just head to our website and follow the links.

To report any suspected illegal activity please contact the Department of Environment and Conservation and, if you find any injured birds, you can call the Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055.



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Toodyay Agricultural Society

Pam Jackson
Committee Member

THE Toodyay Show is usually held on the 2nd Saturday in October of each year but, for 2011, it will be held on the 3rd Saturday in October as the Perth Royal Show will be held Saturday 1 to Saturday 8 October.

Therefore, the 2011 Toodyay Show will be held on Saturday 15 October.

Support the Toodyay Show; come along to the Annual General Meeting on Monday 14 February 2011, 7.30pm at the Youth Hall, Toodyay Showgrounds.

Please come along and show your support for the Toodyay Show, a major community event. Don't forget to put the date in your 2011 diaries.

We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

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Toodyay Garden Club

Gale Anderson
Secretary

OUR last garden for the year was Marianne Nisich's at Wooroloo, a garden with some 300 varieties of beautiful roses that are all named. Tall hedges separated her other garden rooms which all featured huge statues and fountains. Arched corridors covered in creepers enticed you to saunter through to the next milieu.

Marianne and her husband purchased the property some 24 years ago with the idea of breeding pigs. Unfortunately, the economic time was not right for such a venture so the pigs had to go and they subdivided the property leaving 17 acres. Marianne decided to put her energy into creating a garden around the homestead.

With only a few trees and plants it was a blank canvas for her artistic nature and, with the help of a very spritely 90 year old friend, Roy, she has created rock walls, terracing and planted a mass of shade trees for her horses. The back yard was transformed into a very quiet and shady alfresco area with a straw bale retaining wall decorated with leaf impressions while the render was still wet. It just adds another artistic touch and, with the wall cutting out the wind, makes it a perfect spot to sit back and relax with a glass of wine, she said.

A fully enclosed cat haven on the verandah for some beautiful cats was sheltered with rambling rose bushes encompassing the majority of the front of the house. A chook pen has been converted to a pigeon house for her magnificently coloured, ex-racing pigeons. A substantial vegetable and herb garden provides her food chain as she is almost self-sufficient and a vegetarian who also makes her own homeopathic remedies.

All Marianne's soil is heavily composted with horse manure and straw from the stables with the addition of blood and bone; no chemical sprays are used. Water is mostly from a bore with some scheme water, kept to a minimum by a very water wise gardener.

It was a most enchanting visit to these exquisite garden rooms; we will remember this wonderful garden for some time to come.

Some of us then ventured on to see the Buddhist Temple on her neighbouring property which was quite amazing. The 'Temple of the Three Sisters' is richly adorned with ornate, colourful, cultural structures and the 8' high statues of the three sisters surrounded by lotus flowers, a monk and his pious kneeling in prayer; a place of beauty and serenity.

Hope to see you all next year as we venture out and about the district to see many more delightful and interesting gardens.

Robyn Sinclair
Member of Australian Therapies Association 2514

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Avon Wood Turners

Max J Heath
Convenor

HI there from the Pavilion and the Avon Wood Turners.

Well, summer is now upon us again and we at the pavilion have decided to do our own daylight saving and start early at 8 am and finish at 11 am to beat the heat in the Pavilion.

Although we are now meeting weekly, our monthly meeting is still on the fourth Sunday.

We appear to have worked out our club project for next year and are in the process of final drawings and who will do what piece. It is very different from the last project and we look forward to having something different for you to observe when this project is finished.

We have one new member who is well into it and has already made a couple of coffee rammers while others of us are doing things like bowls, etc. I am tackling one now from a Jarrah burl which should be interesting. This is my second one as the first one exploded on me! My own fault of course!

And now, of course, we have Christmas just around the corner and we have already planned our Christmas do with a breakfast at the Cola Cafe planned.

Every now and again we have someone drop in and have a look around and think about joining us. Remember that you also are welcome to come and have a look at what is going on.

Well, all that leaves me to do now is wish one and all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Moondyne Festival

IT is only six months to go before we celebrate the next Moondyne Festival.

In 2011 Toodyay town will be celebrating 175 years of existence and the Moondyne Festival Committee is busy organising a festival extravaganza to mark this milestone of our beautiful town.

The Moondyne Festival brings Moondyne Joe and his various escapades back to life. Joe and his gang will once again run riot throughout the town of Toodyay holding up various businesses and anyone else in their path. You will see them cosy up with the floozies defy the ever present hassling temperance ladies whilst trying to evade the local constabulary who are intent to lock him up and throw away the key.

The Moondyne Festival is a wonderful display of life during the pioneer years. Everyone attending, including stall holders, local businesses, artists and visitors are cordially invited to dress in period costume for the day and truly get into the spirit of Moondyne.

The Moondyne committee would like to invite all local arts and crafts enthusiasts to join in this annual celebration by exhibiting and demonstrating their artistic wares.

Also, we are looking for volunteers who could donate some time on the day.

Together we can make Moondyne Festival 2011 bigger better and more enjoyable than ever.

Please contact Jasmin on 0413 710 253 or call into the Library for further details.

WE NEED YOU!

Toodyay Spinners

Phil Lansell
Secretary

WE have some members down in Albany for a spin-in and hope they all have a good time.

Share table: Pre-felting in brown, grey variegated colours in llama, suri, wool and alpaca by Jan Manning; reddish, variegated scarf in Sheras-merino by Lois, Val and Marilyn - scarves from scarf exchange; white patterned scarf on knitting machine by Marilyn; a brown and white throw in Border Leicester, Portland down and merino by Marilyn.

Happy birthday to Val and Marilyn for their 60th birthdays. Marilyn came from overseas for a holiday in New Zealand with Val. Have a safe trip home, Marilyn.

We meet every Wednesday from 9am to approximately 12 noon at Parkers Cottage in the showgrounds. We also meet on the second Saturday of the month at the same place and times.

For more information, please contact the president, Carol Worrell on 0407 429 047 or secretary, Phil Lansell on 9574 2015.

Toodyay Community Radio

105.3 FM

Steve Bannister

OH, to be a Fortune Teller! Sitting here writing this on 23 November, I can only hope that things go OK on 3 December and our launch goes without a hitch.

It was only at the Shire meeting on 18 November that the council voted unanimously to allow us the use of a building, so we thank them for that. It needs a lot of work, so our 'Toodyay Talkback' programme will be on hold until we move into the new studios but it's the perfect building for us and it will be nice to be able to personalise it from scratch. Our main thanks, though, go to Deputy CEO, Sam Mastrolembo, for writing the submission, helping us out and pulling an amazing rabbit out of a hat. Thank you.

Channels 9 and 10, who own the TV mast on the hill, are leaving it until the last minute to allow us to get on there with various hoops to jump through, all of which seem to be on fire! Nothing we can't sort out but we first approached them in April!

RTR-FM in Perth has been wonderful, and has donated a lot of equipment to us after they refurbished their studios and we thank them for their help and kindness.

I must also thank Gale Anderson, who has been harassing loads of local groups to tell them to get their free adverts in so that we can record them in time for our launch. All local groups and not for profit organisations are entitled to free adverts with us to tell everybody who they are, when and where the meet, contact details, etc. If your group hasn't done this yet, do it now! You can send them to me at studio@jukeboxradio.com.au

Our schedule was published in the October edition of The Toodyay Herald, but if you missed it, you can find it at our temporary website at www.jukeboxradio.com.au where you'll also find all the information of how to get involved, become a member, or just how to choose your own music to be played.

So, fingers crossed, it all goes well and we have many years of good, local entertainment ahead of us in Toodyay. To (mis)quote a famous little engine, "I think we can, I think we can, I think we can..."

TOODYAY RAINFALL

Recordings are taken from Bureau of Meteorology (in mm).

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2000	94.4	0.0	13.0	31.6	7.6	73.0	115.6	78.8	26.0	0.8	5.0	2.8	488.6
2001	7.2	3.2	2.6	2.8	60.4	6.4	78.6	70.6	50.8	22.4	28.0	0.0	333.0
2002	9.0	5.4	2.2	52.4	37.2	72.4	90.4	50.6	50.0	27.0	11.4	2.6	410.6
2003	0.0	26.6	46.2	49.0	71.8	120.0	68.6	92.0	75.2	7.0	26.8	6.8	590.0
2004	2.2	2.4	3.4	4.2	73.6	93.2	63.8	82.8	28.6	21.2	35.0	0.8	411.2
2005	0.0	2.2	25.2	10.6	86.0	135.6	43.6	71.6	51.0	22.6	9.6	4.6	462.6
2006	119.5	16.6	3.0	21.2	19.0	29.8	54.8	88.8	73.2	15.6	13.8	9.4	464.7
2007	16.4	26.6	10.2	34.0	58.2	43.2	121.0	74.0	70.4	39.2	0.0	57.6	550.8
2008	0.0	10.8	9.8	76.8	38.2	62.8	146.2	8.4	50.6	43.0	31.0	3.4	481.0
2009	8.0	8.0	9.0	32.6	39.2	83.6	115.0	76.2	56.2	17.2	30.2	2.6	478.2
2010							69.4	36.2	12.0	1.2			118.8
AVERAGE ALL YEARS: (RECORDING COMMENCED IN TOODYAY 1/1/1877)													
	10.7	12.4	19.5	25.9	67.2	99.9	102.4	80.3	47.8	31.4	14.9	9.0	521.4
Driest year 1914 - 255.3mm. Wettest year 1917 - 916.8mm. Wettest month June 1945 - 322.4mm. Wettest day March 9 1934 - 191.3mm.													

Phone Scammers Pose as Microsoft

SEVERAL Western Australians have paid out hundreds of dollars to over-the-phone scammers posing as Microsoft computer technicians. They, along with dozens of others, have put themselves at risk of identity theft by allowing the cold-callers to remotely access their PCs.

Consumer Protection has received more than 155 enquiries in the last three months about the Microsoft scam, which involves an unsolicited telephone approach to help fix supposed system errors or technical problems.

Commissioner for Consumer Protection Anne Driscoll said there is clearly a need to issue a fresh warning.

"Despite previous warnings by consumer protection agencies and Microsoft themselves people in WA are still falling victim to this scam," she said. "You may be asked to log onto a website which allows the cold-caller to gain remote access to your computer. Or you could be encouraged to supply information like the IP address and then see the cursor begin to move when you're not touching your mouse or keyboard.

"We have also heard of a random pop-up which falsely claims to offer a Microsoft system upgrade and then installs unwanted software."

The Commissioner said the scam involves phishing and potential extortion.

"The scammer can alter security or anti-virus software settings, or add a key-stroke recorder to the PC. This means that when you enter personal or secure details, during online banking or internet trading for example, those details can be used fraudulently.

"Some consumers have been asked to pay between \$125 and \$220 by credit card, for a system upgrade available for free online. Those who refuse may have their passwords changed or be locked out of their computers. There's also a risk of unwanted software being installed and scammers asking for payment to remove it.

WA ScamNet advises:

- Never let unknown third parties access your computer;
- Regularly scan PCs with an up to date virus detection programme;
- Do not be fooled by legitimate sounding organisation names like 'Windows Security' or 'Windows Service Centre'.

If you have let a potential scammer access your computer you should consider having it inspected by a reputable technician to ensure it can no longer be logged onto remotely and is free from malicious software.

If you've paid money to these scammers via credit card seek a charge back from your financial institution.

There is more advice on this and other scams at www.commerce.wa.gov.au/wascamnet. Microsoft's warning and advice in relation to scams using their company name can be viewed at: <http://www.microsoft.com/protect/fraud/phishing/msname.aspx>.

Quo Vadis

IT was the Greek Philosophers, who regarded the quality of 'citizenship' of cardinal importance, so that the essence of magnanimity may be nurtured into everyone's mind, spirit, soul.

The present ABC Boyer lecture, by a prominent university Vice-Chancellor, is, naturally enough, embracing the subject matter of 'educare', which is a wide-ranging subject, but has already noted the fact that a fellow academic of another university is offering a combined ethic/moral course in its curriculum which, historically, was transposed to the university from the monastery. So the Macquarrie University is on a 'reversion' course that has been referred to as "articulating the right relation between economic and technical imperatives, intellectual socialisation, and the urge toward moral and spiritual activism – the distinction between true and false consciousness, though related to, is not identical with, truth and falsehood. It is this confusion which results in spiritual hubris, anomie and indiscipline of every kind, conceived apart from overriding human purposes. This, in turn, circles back to another view of an academic who broadcast in 1990, "There are sub debates on the environment, social welfare, wages, jobs, interest, debt, etc. Meanwhile, out in the real world, the most dramatic political/economic changes are taking place – rearranging agendas for the balances of power and the global economy.

There are two great issues involved: the

future of democracy under an avalanche of demand for it (consider what is being sought – a political system under which people have power that is responsive, humane and open to peaceful changes, that recognises the wellbeing and safety of the individual as the first object of political activity – this is a clear ringing message for Australians – can we honestly say that we have that sort of democracy, that we have no despots controlling our economic wellbeing, security or home grown values? Economic growth and the market are the commanding ideologies – the guiding hand of profit and free enterprise – as long as we continue to embrace this ideology – placing all our eggs in those two baskets – our economy is hostage to a global influence beyond our capacity to influence. The debate about growth and democracy lies at the heart of the European drama and dominates civilised agendas everywhere presently.

However, let us return to the Boyer of 1985 to illuminate the past and the present to do a little weaving! Shirley Hazzard, in a reference to the 1930s depression, stated, "Possessions are not a substitute for living. There was a climate of sacrifice as there is now a climate of indulgence." According to her, "What was lacking, here and elsewhere, was the concept of truth and past history that was informed by the errors of past civilisations, especially their land relationships, that became foresworn to the financial commandeering of finance," a relationship that exists presently of even negative, nil substance, or substantial trade! (It is an activity, at the core, the driver of the ecological, bio-diversity dilemma.) There is no full realisation in the human psyche of the dangers which we face; if we do not act together to reduce the life-style driven by the selfish pursuit of the beggar-my-neighbour attitude, instead of being a global citizen. In reality, humanity is at war with the planet, presently, in which case it needs to marshal all the war-time restrictions upon the wasteful injurious factors that are in large measure responsible for the climatic effects on the terrestrial systems whose health is so vital to all of life!

Very recently we have had David Suzuki giving a broad exposé upon our planetary health, as has previously been done by the author of 'Gaia' and, in a supplementary way, by Rachel Carson in her book 'Silent Spring'. One can quote a long list of authors who have warned humanity as far back as Plato, who warned about the tree-felling then taking place in Greece! What humankind has forgotten is their 'stewardship' of the 'garden' as Alan Paton wrote decades ago in 'Cry the Beloved Country', "Stand unshod upon it – for the ground is holy – being even as it came from the creator keep, guard, care for it – because it keeps, guards, cares for us – destroy it and we are destroyed too!" It was Al Gore who wrote what is indeed a pertinent title, 'An Inconvenient Truth' in which there are many inconveniences to our way/mode of living that are contrary to above 'Beloved Country'.

One of the salient guideposts for all civilisations is the précis of 'The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire' which spans centuries of history which in summary can be sheeted home to the paucity of any development/ application of knowledge. The citizens at large were both ignorant and unimaginative, which foresaw nothing much to the lament of many notable writers. The empire made no effort to teach, train or win its citizens into any conscious participation within the socio-political life; the adventurers of finance and property eventually undermined the rural backbone of the yeoman class and, finally, the decorum of the forum, even unto the assassination of Julius Caesar on the floor of the Senate (for which we have a bloodless example) in view of all the indulgences the Romans practiced, the soul of empire and its people were neglected, despite the belated 'meditations' of Marcus Aurelius, which were virtually confined to his own writings. However, even within the original Islamic teachings of Muhammad there have arisen divisions that have riven the three major 'faiths' away from the 'truth' at the core of each of them which, manifestly, is not either one overcoming the other or any new variant thereof but that the minds, hearts, and institutions of humankind must acquiesce to the one 'Will' ruling over them all, which is the quintessential aspect of religio(n) itself. What does Micah 6:8 teach? That "He hath showed thee Oman what is good and what does the Lord require of thee but to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Indeed, what is the significance behind our parliamentary daily prayer?

Dry Season Support for Rural Communities

THE Liberal-National Government has approved an additional \$5million Dry Season Assistance Package for communities in up to 100 drought-affected shires.

Premier Colin Barnett said this was the first phase of State Government measures to help rural communities cope with one of the driest winters on record.

"For a big part of the State it has been the worst season they've ever had and this is having a significant impact not just on farmers, but also on rural communities and businesses," Mr Barnett said. "The Government at all levels understands the financial and emotional pressures on individuals, families and communities resulting from the dry season."

The Premier said an important measure in the assistance package was \$1million for the installation of high-volume water tanks at standpipes.

"The tanks will ensure there is a ready supply of water available in case of bushfires and for emergency stock and domestic supplies," he said.

Mr Barnett said all Government services would be maintained in affected areas.

"That means essential services like small schools will remain open, school buses will continue to run, and police, health and allied services will continue," he said. "People grappling with the dry season have enough on their plate without worrying about losing services in their town, so it's very important for the Government to give them that security."

The additional funding measures announced today include:

- \$2million for community service grants
- \$1million social support grants
- \$1million to install high-volume water tanks to assist fire response and water carting
- \$500,000 to assist small businesses
- \$200,000 rural financial counselling support.

Agriculture and Food Minister Terry Redman said the measures were an initial response to help address some of the critical issues confronting rural communities.

"The grants acknowledge and support our farming and rural communities not only in the short term to deal with this very challenging season, but also to ensure their longer-term survival," he said.

This funding is on top of more than \$396million already invested in regional communities in the 2010-11 financial year.

"This includes support through the Drought Pilot, State Government Royalties for Regions, Men's Health program and investments through infrastructure commitments and services provided through departments," Mr Redman said.

The measures were all recommendations of the Dry Season Advisory Committee (DSAC), which includes representatives from WA Farmers, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, local government, banks, farm consultants, rural support services and rural women.

Mr Barnett said he had also directed all Ministers and their agencies to look at capital works, maintenance and other initiatives that could be brought forward to provide an economic boost to drought-affected areas.

"A taskforce comprising directors general and chief executive officers of government agencies and the chairman of DSAC will be established to oversee that process, which will be a continuing part of the Government's response," he said. "One of the first actions of the taskforce - to be chaired by the Director General of the Department of Agriculture and Food - will be to visit drought-affected areas because the worst affected areas will be targeted first."

Further information is available on the Department of Agriculture and Food website <http://www.agric.wa.gov.au> - click on 'dealing with the dry season' - or phone 1800 198 231.

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In Days Gone By Machinery and Fire Breaks

Ron E Waters

IN the early days Dad said the Dewars Pool and Coondle children held a ribbon across the railway crossing on the Bindoon Dewars Pool Road, when the first steam train came from Toodyay to Miling. As soon as the train got close they cut the ribbon. From that day they had to have a fire break both sides of the railway line, as steam trains often set fire to the grass.

I can remember Bert Crane from Bindi Bindi ploughing the firebreak both sides of the line and then the Toodyay railway workers would burn between the break and the line on both sides. He had a blue tractor and a disk plough. This was a very handy firebreak because it was so wide also the Toodyay Bolgart Road alongside it made it a very wide firebreak, so no major fire could get across it.

In the olden days we were allowed to burn our road verges as long as we first cleaned around the trees that were there, and you had to have a very good firebreak on your own land.

Three times in my lifetime fires have come up from west of Toodyay to the Town. The first came right to the Council Depot, just above Connors Mill when I was very young. The next one, with which I helped in the mid 1970's came to just above the Council Office in the mid 1970's and finally, this one we have just had.

Also, in my lifetime we have fought some big fires in the Julimar bush that have come from the Chittering area right to our farms in the Toodyay area, another came from the Chittering area to the Army area and then towards the Bolgart area.

There were also, two big fires from the Bindoon Road to the Culham farming area from the hills above the Bindoon Road to Rockdale Road at Culham.

I remember the one that came from Chittering when I was young came right to our farm at Dewars Pool just above what is Black Wattle Road today. Dad spent two days pulling a Jam tree with a horse along our boundary fence which was about a mile and a half, making a fire break before the fire came in. When we could see the flames just above our fence Dad got me to run and light all along the fire break as fast as I could from Dudley Chitty's land to Cook Brothers land. It was a very hot day and I remember I got so hot I felt quite ill, but with Dad making that good firebreak and me running as fast as I could, lighting along the fire break we saved the farm.

Dudley Chitty had two properties to look after Belmont and Glenmore, and Dudley and Ray Geary saved both properties, The Cook Brothers saved their farm too. Dudley Chitty and Cook Brothers were very good fire fighters, we didn't have water tanks on trucks in those days or water bombers fighting the fire from the air. The only way we could fight the fires was by back-burning.

Today you are not allowed to cut down a jam tree to make a good fire break and I haven't got a horse to pull it and I can't run like I could when I was young.

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HENS ISA/B. \$6ea, 10 for \$50, 30 for \$120. Pullets, 12wks. \$13ea. Sussex, 0-8wks FROM \$8ea. Del Mon 20 Dec, Toodyay. Ph 9846 6055

MOTOR VEHICLES & MACHINERY

HYUNDAI Getz 2003, 2-door manual, hatchback. Exc cond. New tyres. Lic to 6/2011. \$4900. Ph Toodyay 9627 5230

REAL ESTATE

HOUSE for sale: Historic colonial cottage set on two titles (2x600m2) with lots of character in main street of Toodyay. This home has two bedrooms, a study, a front lounge room and a separate dining room. Features lime rendered walls, pressed tin ceilings, jarrah features, an ornate fire place and wooden floors. New energy efficient HWS, part air-conditioned with underground power, ADSL Internet available and deep sewerage. Outside there is a covered al-fresco area, a large workshop with 3 phase power and concrete floor, a garage at the rear and plenty of parking. Short stroll to town. Private sale at \$455,000 OO. Phone 0408 156 826 or 9574 5692

GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY 4 & 5 December, 10am – 4pm. 169 Coondle Drive.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

WINDOW cleaning, 3 days per week earning \$54k pa, Avon Valley areas. \$30,000. Ph 9622 2514 or 0427 576 952



Street Festivities

Recipe Corner

Party Nibbles, Adelle's Cheesies and Gemma's Mars Bar Slice

Desraé Clarke

IT is often difficult to find a gift to suit someone who has 'everything' but home cooking is always welcome. These three recipes all look really great on the Christmas table or dressed up to be given as gifts.

Party Nibbles, also known as Nuts and Bolts, are a savoury surprise. One little, but important, hint is to buy about 180gms of each type of unsalted nut, such as Brazil, cashew, almond, macadamia, peanut and walnut, etc; bags of 'mixed nuts' are practically all peanuts. Fill several nice-looking jars with Nibbles (I use large coffee jars with well-fitting lids to make them airtight), dress them up with Christmas stickers, a piece of festive paper or fabric and some bright ribbon and there they are – beautiful and yummy gifts!

The second recipe, Adelle's Cheesies, was given to me, many years ago, by an elderly lady. These little cookies are very 'more-ish', so much so, that they must be well-hidden from the 'man of the house'!

The third recipe, Gemma's Mars Bar Slice, is a delicious chocolate slice and best kept in an airtight container in the frig.

These three recipes are not expensive and VERY easy to make.



Party Nibbles

Ingredients:

- 1 pkt Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1 pkt French Onion Soup
- 1 dessertspn curry powder
- ½ cup oil (warmed)

1 lge pkt Nutri-grain

Approximately 400gms of a variety of unsalted nuts

Method:

Pour ¾ of the Nutri-grain into a VERY large bowl (or even a clean, clean bucket) together with the nuts and stir really well.

Thoroughly blend the two soups and curry with the warmed oil and add to the Nutri-grain mixture and again, mix very, very well. Gradually add the remaining cereal mixing all the time.

Spoon into the jars and tightly screw on their lids to make them air-tight.

Decorate the jars with Christmas stickers, cover the lids with the festive paper or fabric and tie them up with some contrasting ribbon resulting in really nice gifts.

Adelle's Cheesies

Ingredients:

- 115gms butter
- 1 cup tasty cheese, grated
- 1 cup plain flour
- ½ tspn salt
- 1 cup Rice Bubbles
- Pinch cayenne pepper
- Paprika to sprinkle on to the cookies

Method:

Cream the butter by stirring it till it is light and fluffy then add the grated cheese, sifted flour, salt and cayenne pepper; mix together really well.

Add the Rice Bubbles and, after thoroughly combining them, roll small amounts into little balls and place on a tray lined with baking paper; leave a small amount of space between each cookie for it to spread.

Press each one down with a fork dipped in cold water.

Sprinkle with a dusting of paprika and bake in a moderate oven for 15 to 20 minutes. Watch them very carefully so as not to allow them to burn.

Store the Cheesies in an airtight container.

Gemma's Mars Bar Slice

Ingredients:

- 3 x 60g Mars Bars
- 60gms butter
- 3 cups rice bubbles
- 200gms dark chocolate

Method:

Line a lamington tray with foil. Melt the Mars Bars and the butter together in a large bowl.

Stir in the 3 cups of rice bubbles. Spoon the mixture into the foil-lined tray and press it firmly into the tray and refrigerate.

Break the dark chocolate into small pieces and gently melt it to spread over the slice.

Allow to harden then cut into bite-sized pieces to store in a container in the fridge.

TOODYAY HOSPITAL 1895

Toodyay Chiropractic Centre
7 Henry Street West
(Behind Old Newcastle Hospital)

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Mon: 4pm - 6pm
Tue: 2pm - 6pm
Fri: 4pm - 6pm
Sat: 8.30am - 11am
Telephone: 9574 2493

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Wheatbelt Community Legal Centre

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- Solicitor by appt. Mon, Tues & Wed
- Tenancy Advocate Mon, Tues & Wed

123 Fitzgerald Street Northam
PO Box 601 Northam 6401

T: 9622 5200
F: 9622 5700
E: admin@wheatbeltclc.com.au

COORDINATOR'S ASSISTANT - Part Time

The Toodyay Community Resource Centre is seeking a community minded person to fill the above position. As part of a statewide network of around 110 regional centres, successful performance in this position will also provide you with the skills to access other opportunities within the network if desired.

The position in our Technology and Office Services section (formerly known as the Telecentre) involves general office and customer service duties. The position currently requires a person for two days a week. Additional hours will be available from time to time and may become permanent as we expand our service contracts or gain additional funding.

The successful applicant will be of neat appearance and able to communicate in a friendly manner with all levels of our community. A sound knowledge of Microsoft Office applications is highly desirable, along with a general knowledge of the internet and public email programs. Full job description is available by contacting the centre on 9574 5357 or by email to toodyay@wn.com.au.

Interested applicants are encouraged to forward an application letter addressing your reasons for applying and outlining what you can contribute to the role, together with a current resume.

Applications close 5pm 14th January, 2011
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toodyay sports

Toodyay Tennis Club

Roma Heath
Secretary

COMING EVENTS

Mother/Daughter - Father/Son Competition

Sunday 12 December. Entries close 8pm, 8 December. Nomination fee \$15.00 per pair.

For further information, contact Judy Dow on 9574 2342. The day's events will be followed by presentations and BBQ.

Annual Christmas Lunch

This will be held at the Freemasons Hotel on Tuesday 14 December. All past and present members and partners are invited to attend. Contact Roma Heath on 9574 5534 if you wish to come. Numbers have to be in a week prior to the 14th.

Social Tennis on Tuesdays, starting at 8.30am is still attracting reasonable numbers. Friday night tennis at 7pm is open to all players.

At present numbers are low, so come and enjoy tennis on these cool evenings. One or two juniors come and are up to playing with the older and experienced players.

Our thanks go to Frank Taylor and Michael Edwards for erecting the sunshade and also for putting the shade cloth on the pergola. The club is in the process of having 'blinds' made to put on the verandah. We thank Healthy Healthways for funding this project. Once this has been completed, the club will have sufficient shade for members and spectators. New members are always welcome.

Toodyay Junior Tennis

Therese Chitty

EVERY Thursday Junior Club is held at the Toodyay Tennis Club. The number of players has been very encouraging with 26-36 attending each week.

We are lucky enough to have sponsorship from Vernice Pty Ltd; this is used for our Mini Tournaments that are held every second week. The winners of the Vernice Mini tournaments so far have been:

October
22 Winner Olivia Ferguson
R/up Jacob Blankendaal
Sportsmanship Joel Moffet

November
4 Winner Jacob Blankendaal
R/up Regan Flaherty
Sportsmanship Taylor Ferguson
18 Winner Kristen Twine
R/up Jayden Ellis
Sportsmanship Amy Browne

Congratulations must go to three of our 13yrs and under girls who represented the Zone in the Regional Cup held in

Geraldton on 25, 26, 27 October. The team did very well and finished 4th overall out of the 12 teams that attended from around the state. The team was Andrea Chitty (captain), Kristen Twine and Megan Moffet from Toodyay with Hayley McAlpine from Wubin. Hayley won the consultation singles as well.

Luke Catto and Sam Chitty travelled to Gingin to attend the Junior Open Day in the under 11 age division; well done boys. Megan Moffet played in the Quairading Open Day with Tsigie Lacey from Northam; they were runner-up in their age division. It is good to see that our players are willing to travel to other tournaments to gain experience and competition.

Toodyay is having a Junior Open Day on 27 November. This is being sponsored by Toodyay IGA Community Chest. Thank you, Dean and Amanda. We also receive some sponsorship from Sunsmart.

Junior Club will break for the Christmas holidays with a small party Thursday 9 December.

On Sunday 12 December, there will be a family day held at the club. For more information regarding this event, please contact Therese Chitty (9574 4274) or Judy Dow (9573 2342).

Toodyay Bowls

Stan Eastwood

RESULTS of Men's Pennants:

First Division

6 November beat Dowerin 7 - 1; 13 November lost to York, one and a half points scored; 20 November beat Northam Blue for a 6 - 2 win.

Second Division

6 November beat Dowerin 7 - 1; 13 November beat York 7 - 1; 20 November lost to Northam Gold, one point scored.

Both Divisions have so far this month had 2 wins and 1 loss.

Ladies Results:

Wednesday 27 October, the ladies contested the Pairs Championships, winners being Marilyn Smith and Roma Heath. Congratulations.

Sunday 31 October two teams competed at the Beverley Gala Day. Enjoyable but no success; 3 October Pennants saw 1 draw and 1 loss for half a point; Tuesday 9 there were League Fours at Beverley. Heather Henderson's team was 3rd overall; 11 November was Dowerin Invitation Day and 1 team attended; Tuesday 16 Pennants saw both teams go down to York Gold; Thursday 18 was York Gala Day with one team winning last round of the day; Tuesday 23 the ladies lost to Bolgart; Wednesday 24 will see the Championship Triples contested.

The ladies are having a very busy time with their bowling commitments and deserve more success in the coming rounds.

Toodyay Cricket

John Lucas

'A' Grade

Sat 30 Oct - 20/20 Game

Federals 119 lost to Toodyay 6 for 122

Toodyay Batting:
Corey Higgins 69
Damien Higgins 13no

Toodyay Bowling:
Shaun Bazley 3 for 22
Ryan Van Beek 2 for 16

Sat 6 & Sun 7 Nov - Country Cup Games

Toodyay was represented by Jack Dasborough, Corey Higgins and Kirwan Stuart.

Sat 13 Nov

Grass Valley Green 5 for 205 def Toodyay 154

Toodyay Batting:
Jermaine Davis 90no
Jack Dasborough 15

Toodyay Bowling:
Jermaine Davis 3 for 22
Jack Dasborough 1 for 27

Sat 20 Nov

Toodyay 3 for 217 def Emus 136

Toodyay Batting:
Jermaine Davis 136no
Peter Dasborough 32
Jason Jones 32

Toodyay Bowling:
Jason Jones 4 for 39
Damien Higgins 3 for 39

'B' Grade

Sun 14 Nov

Toodyay 9 for 188 def Grass Valley Green 134

Toodyay Batting:
Paul Morgan 84
John Lucas 29no

Toodyay Bowling:
Cody Butler 3 for 11
Josh Wlazlowski 3 for 13

Sun 21 Nov

Toodyay 89 lost to Grass Valley White 9 for 169

Toodyay Batting:
John Thorne 26
John Lucas 16
Paul Morgan 15
Ben Jenkins 13

Toodyay Bowling:
Kevin Wakefield 3 for 25
John Thorne 2 for 22

Juniors

The Under 16 have won 2 games and lost 3 so far this season.

The Under 13 teams, Red and Gold have both started the season well with both recording wins.

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RESIDENTIAL GEM

This 1300sqm block in Settlers Ridge is one of the few yet to be built on. Very conveniently located in an area with a child care centre and walking distance to all that Toodyay Townsite has to offer, including daily rail service to Perth. Make room for the backyard footy and invest in a real family size block here.

\$109,000



LIFESTYLE BLOCK

Beautiful large old growth trees for wonderful shady summers, valley views on 3.6 easy care lifestyle acres. Very private location yet only 3 minutes to townsite of Toodyay on Perth side. Perfect for your dream home and new lifestyle.

\$158,900



ONE OF THE CHEAPEST BLOCKS YOU CAN FIND

5 acres of elevated land in the popular area of Woodland Heights. This block overlooks everything else to take advantage of views to the distant hills. There is a leveled building site at the top. **What a bargain at this price!**

\$165,000



RIVERSIDE DRIVE

Stroll to the rear of this gorgeous 1ha (2.5 acre) block & revel in the abounding water wildlife. One of the only places in Toodyay where cooling water is present year round. Beautiful homes being built to compliment the uniqueness of the area. On the outskirts of Toodyay town, on the banks of the Avon River, this is a special place to be.

\$190,000



360 DEGREE VIEWS!

This 10 acres sitting proud in a quiet spot in Bejoording has commanding views of the surrounding countryside and substantial new homes. Fully boundary fenced with approx half good quality land for hay or plantings of crops. **Priced to sell, so view now!**

\$199,000



PANORAMIC VIEWS ACROSS TOODYAY VALLEY

Pretty 3.8ac life-style block. Semi-developed ready to build your dream home. Fencing, shed and tank with power to boundary. Only 7 minutes to Toodyay's rapidly expanding tourist town. **Make an offer today!**

\$199,000



SMART NEW COTTAGE

This 2 bedroom, low maintenance home would be ideal for a single or couple. Split air-conditioning, log fire, timber deck and glorious views are features. Short stroll to all amenities but still with that country town feel. Make an appointment to view.

\$305,000



INVESTORS LOOK!

Big air-conditioned 4 x 2 McGrath home with sitting/theatre room, shed and double carport. Under contract with Government Housing with options to renew. Take the opportunity to secure the biggest house at the smallest price this market has seen. Act now and start your property investment portfolio with this bargain!

\$329,000



OLD FASHIONED COUNTRY HOME

Neat 3 bedroom. Large open living. Wrapped in verandahs & a huge shadehouse or party arena. Set into a hillside overlooking the valley of the Toodyay Brook this block has been fenced into 7 paddocks for the horses. An excellent bore provides plenty of water. Only 8 kms from the townsite at the entrance to Balgalling Views.

\$379,000



A COMPLETE LITTLE FARMLET

3.9HA (9.5AC). Bright cool 3 bed home, surrounded by shade, seclusion & most of all, idyllic views. Fully established for family & friends - the shed/workshop even has secondary accommodation! Your animal friends have neat paddocks, dam & bore, chook yards & duck pond. Fruit salad orchard & veggie gardens. Ready to simply move in & relax, this is the one you must see!

\$399,000



SECLUDED FOREST RETREAT

Classic double brick country home: 3 bed, 2 bath & office. Big open plan living overlooking secure private pool area. Shady verandahs, double carport & easy care gardens surrounded by 10 acres of natural forest with sandalwoods & wildflowers. Giant lock-up workshop complete with fully serviced accommodation unit. Discrete veggie gardens, fruit trees, poultry houses & rain water tanks complete the rural scene.

\$499,000



HUGE FAMILY HOME - MORANGUP

6 x 2 with 3 WC and 3 living areas. Cathedral ceilings soar above stunning monster kitchen. Lots of tiles, French doors and room to move. 6 x 9m workshop, aviaries and small stock yard. No water worries, 34,000gal rainwater tank, excellent bore + 2 hour winter creek. Call Tracey 0409 293 996.

\$650,000

112a Stirling Terrace
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