

NEWS FROM

our Shire

May 2011

FROM THE DESK OF THE SHIRE PRESIDENT

Update on Simon Fraser, our Chief Executive Officer; recently underwent additional surgery to install a shunt to relive pressure on his brain. The surgery was successful – he has been discharged from hospital and is receiving intensive therapies at his parent's home in Perth.



Council has completed the statutory budget review of the 2010/2011 budget. The purpose of the review is to ensure income and expenditure results are monitored – exceptions in performance can result in an amendment to the budget outcome expected, or adjustments made to programmes / projects to align the financial results with budget provisions. Council's review revealed higher than budgeted income and expenditure after 8 months operation such that there is an expected deficit for this financial year of \$876,715.

Given that the Audit Report received on 21 February 2011 identified a negative impact on this year's budget of \$815,396 and since two properties, included in the budget for sale (amounting to \$278,000) have not been sold the reviewed deficit is significantly lower than it could have been.

The Shire has finalised its Annual Report for 2009/2010. The Annual Report was presented by the Shire at the Annual General Meeting of Electors held on 20 April 2011 in the Memorial Hall.

Progress has been made with the footbridge renewal with tender specifications for substructure upgrade almost complete and Landmark, a "Local Government preferred supplier" has provided a quotation on the supply of replacement superstructure.

Discussions with representatives of the Medical centre and all Councillors were held on 6 April 2011 with a degree of clarification reached on a number of issues. Within the community a Medical Action Group has formed and is following up on an alternative means of providing assistance for the recruitment of a replacement doctor.

At the meeting on 19 April 2011 Council resolved to conduct a ratepayer survey to assess the attitude to imposing a rate increase to assist the Medical Centre.

Councillor Somers and I attended the Annual Zone Conference of the Western Australian Local Government Association at Cervantes on 31 March and 1 April 2011. Matters of particular relevance to the Shire of Toodyay were:

- State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement has been amended to exclude funding Department of Conservation and Environment roads, resulting in an increase for funds to Local Governments.
- Proposal by the State Government to restrict the number of elected members on each Council to 6 to 9 members.
- Local Government Amendment (Regional Subsidiaries) Bill 2010.
- Draft Rural Planning Policies circulated by the Department of Planning for public comment by 27 May 2011 on:
 - o State Planning Policy 2.5 - Agricultural and Rural Land Use Planning
 - o Development Control Policy 3.4 - Subdivision of Rural Land.

A whole of Local Government forum is to be held on 12 May 2011 with the theme of "Planning for Change." This forum is to be hosted by the Department of Local Government.

On 14 April 2011 the Heritage Council of WA held its Annual awards night in Winthrop Hall at the University of WA.

Dr Brian Shepherd and the Shire of Toodyay were winners in their respective categories.

Congratulations to Dr Brian Shepherd and thank you to all staff and the Community for their contribution to the Heritage of our Shire. I take this opportunity to remind everyone of

- Anzac Day Ceremonies on Monday next commencing with a gunfire breakfast at 6.00am
- The Skate Park opening on 30 April 2011 at 10.00am in Duidgee Park.
- The next quarterly Shire information session in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 19 May 2011 following the next Council Meeting on 17 May 2011.

HERITAGE

Shire of Toodyay wins Heritage Award

The Shire of Toodyay was honoured at this year's Western Australian Heritage Awards, with Shire staff and community groups recognised as finalists in several heritage categories. Two members of the Toodyay Historical Society, Dr. Robyn Taylor and Dr. Brian Shepherd, both listed as finalists in the category "Outstanding contribution to heritage by an individual in the heritage industry," with Dr. Brian Shepherd winning this category. The upgraded Toodyay Public Library was also listed as a finalist in the category "Outstanding conservation of a non-residential place" and the Shire Museum Curator/Heritage Officer Moss Wilson was listed in the category "Outstanding Newcomer: The Professor David Dolan Award." The Shire as a whole however, including Shire staff, Council and Community Groups, were listed as a finalist and then went on to win in the category "Outstanding heritage practices by a local government agency (regional)." The Shire President Kevin Hogg gratefully accepted the award in a ceremony at the University of Western Australia, and expressed his gratitude at all the individuals and groups who played a part in the Shire's award-winning recognition.



Tour at Newcastle Gaol Museum

This month saw students from St. Joseph's Catholic School in Northam tour Connor's Mill and the Newcastle Gaol Museum. The school students were also able to take part in two of the activities available at the Newcastle Gaol Museum. The first was an Archaeology exercise, where students sifted through the remains of an archaeological dig and constructed theories about how the people who left the artefacts behind might have lived. The second was a return of a classic Newcastle Gaol Museum, the Courtroom trial! All students played the role of convicts sent to the Newcastle Convict Depot, with the Shire Museum Curator playing the role of the cantankerous Prison Warden. Three students were put on trial for their crimes and as a result were 'flogged and put in solitary confinement!' A good time was had by all, the Museum looks forward to more tours booked over the next month.



TOODYAY YOUTH HALL OPENING

The Shire of Toodyay was successful in obtaining a \$1,000 grant from the Department of Communities to host a National Youth Week event at the Toodyay Baptist Church, being an open day for their new youth building. The Be Active Coordinator along with the Shires Executive Support Officer worked to coordinate the Youth Hall Grand Opening.

The Youth Hall Grand Opening was held on Saturday 2 April, and was a great success with around 40 attendees. All participants got involved in the activities on offer such as Table Tennis, Air Hockey and Pool. There was then an Amiya Drumming Session, and interactive activities for the rest of the night.

Youth group is held Friday Nights from 7:15pm at the Toodyay Youth Hall behind the Toodyay Baptist Church.



TOODYAY VISITOR CENTRE

The Toodyay Visitor Centre aims to provide quality visitor information working pro-actively with our community and local businesses.

Promoting upcoming events within Toodyay on our toodyay.com website, notice board and newsletters is an ideal opportunity to attract visitors to our region and is both beneficial to our local community as well as to our visitors. This service is free of charge. Please feel free to contact us should you wish to advertise any event or function. We look forward to hearing from you!

Toodyay Visitor Centre
T: 9574 2435
E: visitorscentre@toodyay.wa.gov.au



BACK TO BACK CHAMPS

The Summer 2011 Beach Volleyball competition came to a close on 16 April. The competition was held over 7 weeks, on Sunday afternoons at the Toodyay Club Inc. There were six teams competing this year in what has been a successful, social competition. Congratulations to 'Just Bring It' who played well throughout the season, and took out the first place title, for the second year running.

'Crumbed Sausages', a Northam based team, took out second place in what was a high quality grand final. It was a great season for all teams, with all participants looking forward to next season commencing late this year.



'Just Bring It'



'Crumbed Sausages'

Photo's Courtesy - Lesley Hugg

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

National Volunteer week is from 9 to 15 May this year and the Library would like to take this opportunity in thanking our regular volunteers: Maureen, Peter, Wilma & Laurie who help the Morangup Library, Julie who repairs and covers our stock, Alison who provides Baby Rhyme Time, Story Time and the infamous Sharing a Good Read and of course the fantastic ladies who regularly attend the Library and assist shelving the returned Morangup Library items.

The Toodyay Library became the proud owner of a homemade book devised by 8yr old member Harmony Anderson. Harmony's tribute to Justin Bieber has been given pride of place on the Junior Library shelf.

Many thanks to Avril the Regional Speech Pathologist for attending the Baby Rhyme Time session in April. Avril's input into the regular session was much appreciated and most beneficial and we sincerely look forward to further visits and direction.

The theme for Story Time this month is "Frolic on the Farm" and everyone is invited to attend from babies to pre-school children. There will be animal stories, songs, craft activities and much, much more each and every Friday from 10.30am.



'Better than a Book Club' will be held on 12 & 26 May; this month's themes are respectively 'Childhood Memories' & 'Home - Reflection of your Personality'. The club has evolved into an exhilarating, fun filled experience for all to enjoy.

"Toodyay Crime Club" can be found super sleuthing at the Library on Friday 20 May from 10am in the Reading Room. If you have an eye for detail, a nose to sniff out clues and a head for intrigue - then join Dot & Liz and their team deciphering some dastardly crimes.

This month the Morangup Library will be held on Tuesday 10 and 24 May between 3pm - 5pm. Please do come along and take advantage of this regular and valuable service provided by our much appreciated Morangup volunteers.



PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Application for Retrospective Dam
Lot 24 Seventh Road, Bejoording

The Shire of Toodyay has received a retrospective planning application for a dam at Lot 24 Seventh Road, Bejoording.

The upper portion of the dam is 575m2 in surface area and 0.8m deep with a total capacity of 460kL while the lower portion of the dam is 475m2 in surface area and 1.5m deep with a total capacity of 712kL. The method of water catchment for the dam is from Bejoording Creek.

Your views on the proposal are encouraged and welcomed. Submissions on the proposed development should be addressed in writing and lodged with the Chief Executive Officer by 4.00pm on Monday 18 May 2011.

Further information on the above proposal is available on the Shire's website www.toodyay.wa.gov.au or by contacting the Shire's Development Services on 9574 2258.

Trevor Harken
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BECOME A CENSUS COLLECTOR AND BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY

The 2011 Census is coming up on 9 August!

This is a very important date for our community services, for planning for future needs, as well as the distribution of GST funds.

Census WA is currently looking for people to fill Census Collector positions. Collectors deliver and collect Census forms from all households in their allocated area and, where necessary, help the householders complete their Census form. The job is part time between July and September.

If you are interested in Collector positions you can apply now at www.abs.gov.au/census or by calling 1800 420 182.

Further information is available at www.abs.gov.au/census

Recruiting local people who know and care about our community will make a big difference. Please consider if you could undertake a Census Role and make an important contribution to your community.



COUNCIL DATES

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

21 June: Ordinary Meeting of Council, Morangup Community Centre, 7pm.

health matters

Toodyay Medical Centre

Dr Richard Walkey

COCHRANE is an organisation that reviews evidence from research, clinical trials and papers. It then collates all the information to give informed advice on effective and non effective treatments.

Taking zinc within 24 hours of developing cold symptoms reduces both severity and duration of the illness. It can also be used preventively and shown to reduce the use of antibiotics in children. Side effects can include the taste and nausea.

The Department of Health and Aging found screening 50 to 74-year-olds for bowel cancer every two years could reduce deaths by 25%. It is surprising therefore that the department has not confirmed the continuation of the programme. This is cost effective screening for what to governments is a relatively small amount of money.

For years medical students and doctors have been taught to inform those patients on the contraceptive pill that taking antibiotics could reduce the efficiency and lead to unwanted pregnancies. It appears there is no significant interaction after all.

CT coronary angiography sounds a great way of checking for heart disease but in people with no symptoms there is no broad consensus about its value and there is the risk of radiation exposure plus expense.

Omega 3 fatty acids which are found in cold water fish protect against heart disease and also diabetic retinopathy reducing blindness. The two actions it appears to have are promoting healthy blood vessel growth and inhibiting abnormal blood vessel growth. A recent study in women also showed reduced rates of macular degeneration.

For some reason nitro-glycerine, which is used in heart patients, could increase bone mineral density and therefore reduce fractures in post menopausal women. Bone formation is increased and reabsorption decreased in a study using ointment. Side effects include headaches.

With recent bad publicity surrounding some vaccines an interesting study suggests that pro-biotics in infants not only reduce the fever related to vaccination but increase the amounts of protective antibodies. Whilst there have been recent warnings about the rotavirus vaccine and intussusception

(IS), the increase is small and the benefits outweigh the risk. Symptoms and signs include colic like pain, bouts of crying, pallor, persistent vomiting, bloody stools, abdominal bloating, high fever and a palpable abdominal mass.

Finally the Breast Screen WA van screened 320 women compared with 302 in 2009. While this is great news, it does mean only 57% of the target group is being checked in a two year period where 70% is the aim.

Psychological Health

Richard Taylor
Specialist Clinical Psychologist

Federal Budget

THERE appears to be consensus that the Federal Government needs to spend at least \$3.5 billion in this month's budget to make good pre-election promises and to end decades of under-funding in the mental health sector. Even with this injection of funds over a five-year period mental health's share of the overall health budget will only increase from 7 to 8 per cent.

A report in *The Australian* on 30 March referred to a report prepared by six experts, including three members of the federal government's ministerial expert advisory group. A document prepared by the group identified eight priority areas, including prevention and early intervention services for children and young people aged 0 to 25 (\$998 million), integrated community services (\$710 million), collaborative community-based mental health services (\$203 million), and services targeting the elderly (\$100 million). The group also called on the government to spend \$50 million on a new national mental health commission to report to federal parliament. The report also highlighted that the Australian Medical Association had called for the government to pump an extra \$5 billion into mental healthcare.

After decades of scandals, reports and inquiries the time for action in the mental health area is at high noon. The recommendations are on the table.

While it is likely that funding increases will be detailed in the Federal budget there may be issues as to when the funds are allocated. Also expect changes to the current Medicare arrangements particularly as to how funding can be re-directed to those most in need such as in the outer suburbs and in regional areas.

The report in *The Australian* also noted that the Minister for Mental Health and Aging, Mark Butler, had declined to comment. The Minister earlier on 15 March was reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* as saying that that he could not comment on whether mental health changes would be funded in the 10 May federal budget. While having ministerial federal and state positions to address mental health has been welcomed let us hope that it is not just window dressing.

A review of the budget arrangements will appear in next month's column.

New Support for Carers of People with Mental Illness

CARERS who are providing support to loved ones, family members or friends with a mental illness such as depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and various other mental illnesses can now access a free service within the Wheatbelt to support them in their caring role.

Sue Weston from Mental Illness Fellowship WA is available to meet with carers and provide several carer programmes to inform carers about mental illness. These workshops consist of a 7.5 hour Snapshot course which is often run during a short break away, allowing participants to form social supportive networks.

Well Ways Building a Future is a series of eight workshops of three hours duration which are held on a weekly basis and covers topics including up-to-date knowledge of mental illnesses, information about services available to people with a mental illness and their families, practical insights into behaviours associated with MI and strategies to assist carers to respond to these behaviours and opportunities to explore the dilemmas and complexities of the caring role. Carers also have the opportunity to form new friendships and social support networks.

Duo provides a series of six, three-hourly sessions focussing on caring for someone with a mental illness and a drug and alcohol issue.

These programmes aim to support families and increase the ability of family and friends to care effectively for themselves, other family members and the person living with the MI and drug and alcohol issues as people move towards recovery.

Sue is available to speak to Men's Sheds and other interested organisations who wish to gain increased knowledge of mental health issues.

Please contact Sue on 0429 418 010 or email her on sue@mifwa.org.au for further information.

Young Children Deserve a Better Start in Life

RESULTS of the recently released Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) reveal that a large percentage of young children in the shires of Northam and Toodyay are experiencing significant delays in their development.

The AEDI index is an important tool in assisting communities and the government to plan and assess the effectiveness of their efforts in supporting young children and their families.

Conducted nationally by the federal government, the AEDI focuses on children in the years before they start school and measures the proportion of children 'on track', 'developmentally at risk' and 'developmentally vulnerable' in five key areas: physical health and wellbeing, language and cognitive skills, emotional maturity, communication skills and general knowledge as well as social competence.

The results found that 52.5% of children in Toodyay are 'developmentally vulnerable' and need improvement in at least one or more of these domains, whilst 32.5% need assistance in two or more domains.

In Northam, 40.3% of children were found to be developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains, with 22.7% developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains.

Child Australia, a not-for-profit organisation, has been appointed 'Local Champion' with the specific aim of engaging the Northam and Toodyay communities to discuss the findings of the index and to find ways to work together to improve outcomes for local children.

The organisation already provides a range of programmes across Western Australia and the Northern Territory, aimed at supporting indigenous families, children with additional needs as well as children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

"Research shows that early experiences

such as caring relationships and a supportive learning environment forms a positive foundation for later success in life," says Mr Dawson Ruhl, CEO of Child Australia. "We want to work with a range of educators, family support and child health providers in the community so that we can contribute towards a dramatic improvement in the lives of our children."

Perhaps the saying 'it takes a whole village to raise a child' is about to ring true for many local families after all.

A free community information session 'Measuring our children's development and wellbeing' will be held on Tuesday 17 May 2011 at Bridgeley Community Centre, Northam from 9.30am-12.00pm.

It will highlight the results of the AEDI and will discuss what strategies the community can adopt to ensure that local children are on track.

The session is free with morning tea provided. It is open to parents, carers, teachers and child care professionals and any member of the community that is interested in the emotional development of children.

To register, call Susan Hobbs, AEDI Local Champion on 9270 6615 or email SusanH@childaustralia.org.au. For more information about Child Australia, go to www.childaustralia.org.au.

Asthma Triggers Thrive this Autumn Warning as conditions create a storm for asthma and allergy sufferers.

LOCAL residents with asthma are being warned to be extra vigilant this autumn, as the season delivers a trifecta of asthma triggers – mould, more dust mites and increased exposure to pet allergens.

According to National Asthma Council Australia Chief Executive Officer, Kristine Whorlow, these three nasties are the leading triggers of asthma in Australia.

"Many areas of Australia are experiencing mould problems following an unseasonal wet start to the year; there is an annual autumn indoor dust mite population spike; and, some people face increased exposure to pet allergens as soft-hearted pet owners allow their four legged friends more household access as temperatures plunge," Kristine Whorlow explained. "This can all add up to make autumn pretty miserable for many people."

Kristine Whorlow points the finger at house dust mites as the biggest problem.

"Around 45 per cent of the population have an allergy and of those people, almost 80 per cent react to dust mites.

"In fact, dust mites are the number one trigger for asthma in Australia and research from Sydney's Woolcock Institute of Medical Research has shown that dust mite levels can increase two to three fold during late autumn, compared with summer levels," she said.

House dust mites are microscopic creatures that feed off human skin scales. They are mostly found in the home and live in soft furnishing such as beds, bedding, carpets, upholstered furniture, soft toys and clothing.

Kristine Whorlow said the bedroom is the site of greatest exposure to the pesky mite; however, there are a number of avoidance measures and tips to reduce exposure to allergen triggers.

Typical control measures include:

- washing sheets and pillow cases weekly in water hotter than 55°C;
- covering mattress, pillow and quilt with dust mite resistant covers, which must be washed every two months;
- removing soft toys or hot washing them weekly or freezing them overnight;
- dusting hard floors and surfaces with a damp or electrostatic cloth; and
- cleaning carpets weekly using a vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter.

"It's important to remember that dust mite allergy is a perennial problem and dust mite control measures need to be adhered to year round – not just in autumn," Kristine Whorlow warned.

Comprehensive dust mite control advice can be found on the National Asthma Council Australia website at www.NationalAsthma.com.au.

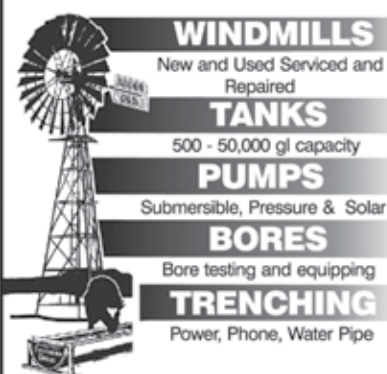
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Toodyay & Bindoon

Richard Taylor

Member of the *Institute of Clinical Psychologists WA*
Foundation Member *Australian College of Specialist Psychologists*

Specialist Clinical Psychologist
Medicare provider

0427 447 190
(business hours)

31 Years for Toodyay Chiropractic Clinic



TOODYAY Chiropractor Bob Mattin and wife Lynette celebrated the 31st anniversary of their Chiropractic Clinic in the nurses' quarters of the Old Newcastle Hospital (1895) on 1 April, 2011. The Mattins purchased the hospital in 1979 and converted the historic 10 bed hospital into their home and the adjoining nurses quarters into the Chiropractic Clinic.

Mr Ian Murray, Toodyay Shire President, cut the ribbon and officially opened the Chiropractic Clinic in April 1980. Bob has continued practising in Toodyay since that date and Lynette also practises Naturopathy in the Clinic. Dr Andrew Mattin, Chiropractor, Medical Doctor and now Orthopaedic Surgical Registrar in Melbourne also practised in the Clinic. Eldest son Bradford Mattin, Photographer, who now resides in San Francisco California, has also utilised the premises for his photography.

Bob Mattin, Senior Supervising Clinician at Murdoch University Chiropractic Clinic, was recently given the privilege of leading the Chiropractic oath to 69

graduates of the School of Chiropractic at Murdoch University. Head of School, Associate Professor Dr Brian Nook awarded Bob Mattin with a plaque which has been mounted in the outpatient clinic, commending him on his service to the students and patients of the clinic since its inception in 2005. Bob also continues to consult four sessions a week at the Toodyay Clinic.



Toodyay Christian Fellowship

GETTING BACK TO BASICS

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

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

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

National Families Week: 15 – 21 May

“Sticking together: families in good and tough times”

EACH year, tens of thousands of people and hundreds of organisations celebrate National Families Week – Australia's annual celebration of families. National Families Week is timed to coincide with the United Nations International Day of Families on 15 May. This day is observed by the United Nations to mark the importance that the international community places on families as the most fundamental units of society, as well as to draw attention to the plight of families in many parts of the world.

The aim of National Families Week 2011 is to encourage everyone to think about the things that make their family strong in both good and tough times whatever their circumstances. This Families Week let's all take time to explore ways we can support each other - in our families and communities - through all the ups and downs of daily life.

All Australians, including community organisations, schools, councils, companies and individuals are invited to participate in National Families Week each year. Celebrate National Families Week:

- Promote your services, events and activities to families through local media;
- Arrange a picnic or BBQ for your organisation and people who use your services;
- Hold an open day or morning tea;
- Erect a National Families Week display;
- Organise a seminar on an issue relevant to families;
- Promote achievements of local families through recognition awards;
- Arrange for feature articles in the media on local families and wellbeing;
- Hold a writing or poetry competition;
- Arrange a community outing to local areas of interest;
- Do something special for a family in difficult circumstances e.g. a gift hamper, take the family to a movie;
- Disseminate information on youth and families, parenting and the issues faced by families;
- Have a photographic display or competition;
- Hold a bush dance, hip-hop or a multicultural dance display;
- Hold an open forum to discuss the concerns of families and youth in your area;
- Investigate families' needs, the issues they face and review services accordingly;
- Produce a National Families Week edition of your newsletter or publications;
- Provide discount entry to your facility for families;
- Record interviews with people in your community to build an oral history;

- Sponsor or raise funds for a local family or youth related community project;
 - Encourage your family to make short movies on issues important to them – and then hold a 'Movie Premiere Night';
 - Have a special family breakfast before work and/or school;
 - Take some family photos;
 - 'Adopt' a granny or grandpa at the local nursing home or hostel;
 - Let the children make dinner for the adults!
- The types of events are only limited by your imagination! Many of these ideas are interchangeable between organisations and families



TOODYAY HOSPITAL 1895

Toodyay Chiropractic Centre

7 Henry Street West
(Behind Old Newcastle Hospital)

Office Hours:

Mon: 4pm - 6pm

Tue: 2pm - 6pm

Fri: 4pm - 6pm

Sat: 8.30am - 11am

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As part of Silver Chain's commitment to increasing the community's capacity to maximise its health and wellbeing, the Toodyay Day Centre is open for mature aged people with a disability. Dedicated to encouraging social interaction in a welcoming setting, the Toodyay Day Centre promotes healthy ageing within our community through a variety of activities and initiatives.

If you visit our centre today, you can:

- Be part of monthly outings to places of interest
- Meet like-minded people
- Play board games and other fun activities
- Enjoy delicious lunches and
- Hear guest speakers discuss a range of interesting local issues

For more information or to book, please call Silver Chain 1300 650 803 (cost of a local call).

Clients must be HACC eligible to be entitled for this service and transport can be provided if you require it. Standard fees apply according to the fee for service schedule.



Sitting for Too Long is a Health Hazard

Call for our kids to *Unplug and Play*

TOO much sitting has been highlighted as a key risk to heart health and the Heart Foundation, through its *Unplug and Play* campaign and its new guidelines to encourage less sitting, is targeting this risk to children's health.

The *Unplug and Play* campaign, which will be on air again from Sunday 20 March, emphasises the need for parents to act to encourage their children to spend less time sitting in front of a screen and more time playing.

Heart Foundation Cardiovascular Director, Trevor Shilton, said *Unplug and Play* and the launch of the new resources was a timely reminder of the need to get our kids off the screens and outdoors.

"Many children already exceed the electronic media use guidelines and aren't active enough, so parents have an important role in encouraging their children to *Unplug and Play*," Mr Shilton said. "Sitting less helps to reduce the risk of children and young people developing health and other problems in later life."

"Watching television, using a computer and playing electronic games, which usually involve sitting for long periods of time, are a big part of the leisure time of children and young people. Therefore, children and young people who spend less time doing these things have better health than those who spend too much time doing these things."

Mr Shilton said the social benefits of playing outside with others, as opposed to inside on a screen, should not be underestimated with international research showing that active kids spend more time interacting with siblings and friends.

The two new resources, *Sitting Less for Adults* and *Sitting Less for Children*, outline the effects sitting for too long has on health and give tips on how to decrease sitting time. At school and home, Australian children are sitting for long periods of time each day.

Australian guidelines recommend that children need at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day for good health and children should spend no more than two hours a day using electronic media (computer, TV and games) for entertainment. The *Unplug and Play* campaign provides practical tips on how to encourage and support active play.

The *Unplug and Play* campaign is an initiative of the Heart Foundation and is funded by the Department of Health, Western Australia, with support from Physical Activity Taskforce.

For more information on *Unplug and Play* www.unplugandplay.com.au. The Heart Foundation sedentary papers can be found on http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/Healthy_Living/Physical_Activity.

Organic Canola Oil

Do we have to go to North America to find it?

A WEST Australian niche oilseed processor is gearing up to import supplies of organic canola seed from North America - the home of GM crops. For the marketing director at Aus-Oils, Jon Slee, this is an interesting development.

"While Canada is the world's single biggest canola producer and near 85% of its crop

has been based on GM varieties since 1996, and the USA grows enormous quantities of GM varieties of corn, cotton, soybeans and canola, there are American farmers who continue producing canola under organic principles," said Jon.

"It looks like we'll be importing some of it to supply my market." Jon says he's looked far and wide for Australian supplies of organically produced canola seed.

"Over the last few years, I've had up to half-a-dozen inquiries for organic canola, ranging from a very small, basically household size request to a near-commercial size quantity, he said. "I've looked for commercial scale supplies of organic canola in WA and I've even contacted Australia's main producer of organic vegetable oils in NSW, but they've been unable to source organic seed for several years too. So, I found a supply in North America."

Based in the heart of WA's 'canola country' at Kojonup, Aus-Oils is a niche oilseed processor, specialising in the natural processing of non-GM canola seed for the Australian market. It has a capacity of 9,000 tonnes of seed per year and can process and market non-GM or GM seed and oil as required by the market. Most of Aus-Oils' product is then refined in WA and packaged for the food service sector.

Mr Slee says organic production guidelines in other parts of the world recognise that a zero tolerance cannot operate in a biological system as trace levels of material can occur by means outside of the controls of farmers.

"If the Americans can have both GM and organic canola farming systems operating together vibrantly, then we should too. All it requires is a realistic, sensible and workable tolerance system," Jon said. "The guidelines in place in North America take the view that 'unintended presence' can occur and should not jeopardise the organic registration of a farming operation. This approach has met customer requirements for organic production and is used elsewhere around the world."

Australia's organic production standards were first drawn-up prior to the wider adoption of GM technology and Jon suggests it might be timely to revisit these to open up marketing opportunities.

"So, if the organic sector were to re-think its unique zero-tolerance attitude to GM, then I'm sure organic farmers could quickly take advantage of the market niche!" he says.

C.Y. O'Connor Institute Celebrates Student Graduation

ON Friday 1 April 2011, C.Y. O'Connor Institute celebrated the achievements of its 2010 graduating students with a colourful ceremony at the Bridgeley Community Centre in Northam.

The Graduation Ceremony is one of the major events of the Institute's academic year. The Institute was fortunate to have the Hon Jim Chown, MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region, representing the Hon Peter Collier, MLC, Minister for Training and Workforce Development, to address and present awards to the graduates.

"The training offered by C.Y. O'Connor Institute is valued more than ever and essential for the future of the Wheatbelt community," said Mr Chown. "Graduands here tonight have made a very wise decision in obtaining their vocational qualification, and I hope that some of you will look at improving your skills to an even higher level

in the future. "I wish to congratulate those who are to receive special awards tonight.

"But really, you are all winners in graduating, because you have gained an internationally recognised qualification that enhances your employability throughout your working life," concluded Mr Chown.

One of the evening's highlights was an address given by guest speaker, Denese Smythe, a former student who won 2010 Western Australian Vocational Education and Training Student of the Year. Mrs Smythe conveyed her experience at C.Y. O'Connor Institute as a student and the employment opportunities that arose as a result of her studies.

Mr John Scott, Managing Director at C.Y. O'Connor Institute, further praised the efforts of the graduating class of 2010 and wished them every success in the future.

"Tonight, for a special group of people, is a celebration of success, of hard work, of sacrifice, of perseverance, of commitment, of setting and achieving personal goals, and of realising a dream. Congratulations to that special group of people who tonight transition from being students of C.Y. O'Connor Institute to being our graduands," said Mr Scott. "I would like to acknowledge the support provided by our many sponsors who have generously donated the prizes to be awarded tonight.

"I have long held the view that the best vocational education and training occurs when industry is an engaged and active partner; and I think that tonight exemplifies that support."

Mr Scott concluded, stating, "Congratulations, again, on your achievement in graduating from C.Y. O'Connor Institute. I wish you well in all that follows."

Mrs Eileen O'Connell, Chair of the Governing Council of C.Y. O'Connor Institute, presented the closing address to the graduates and, like Mr Chown and Mr Scott, wished each and every student all the best for their future endeavours.

"Tonight we have recognised the efforts of all our students through the presentation of certificates and awards highlighting achievement and success," Mrs O'Connell said. "I hope that all of you have gained the rewards that you set out to achieve from your study.

"I am certain that you will have gained a great deal of satisfaction from your achievements, and the new skills and knowledge that you now possess," concluded Mrs O'Connell.

C.Y. O'Connor Institute would like to congratulate all of the graduating students, the sponsors of the awards and award winners listed below:

Northam Boulevard 2010 Student of the Year:

Luluk MacKintosh

Directions 2010 Regional Business Student of the Year:

Lorretta Adams

C.Y. O'Connor Institute Governing Council 2010 Regional Services and Lifestyle Student of the Year:

Luluk MacKintosh

Cooperative Bulk Handling 2010 Regional Trades Student of the Year:

Grant Leeson

WAFarmers 2010 Regional Primary Industries Student of the Year:

Stephen Paterson

Shire of Northam 2010 Aboriginal Student of the Year:

Kyra Bolton

Northam Toyota 2010 Apprentice of the Year:

Ben Kirby

Shire of Northam 2010 Trainee of the Year:

Marinelle Meyntjes

James Dawson Memorial Award 2010

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The Storm

Meg Wayne
March 2011

To the north, east and west we saw all that lightning

*Against dark of night it was very frightening
Still far away we had a glimpse of its power
It moved closer quickly within the next hour*

*With a rush of wind the curtains flapped high
As thunder crashed the dog thought she would die*

*The gutters could not hold that onslaught
As water gushed over, the tanks would get nought*

*The mud and dirt from our gravel driveway
Washed into the patio where it would stay
The thunder so loud it was deafening to me
The lightning flashing made it harder to see*

The spot fires that started were drowned by that rain

The roads were awash with mud which did remain

Houses were damaged, rooves lost in that storm

People will now worry when they see dark clouds form

*It was over so quickly but hard to feel glad
At the end of the drought and rainfall so bad*

The weeds will now grow and maybe grass on the hill

But the heat has come back and the tanks did not fill

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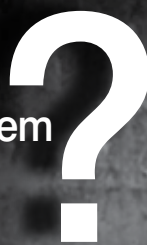


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Inside the Shed

The Scribe

HELLO fellow Shedders.

This month has brought a cool change in the weather and made our time at the shed a far more pleasant experience. Work goes on with benches being relocated and storage cupboards being upgraded ready for use. Most of the donated woodworking machines have been serviced and checked so that they are safe to operate, and some new equipment has been brought out of storage and put together ready for use. Although there are many more improvements to do in the shed, we are ready to start our first project as soon as the timber arrives.

Holidays were upon us with Easter and ANZAC breaks coming together. Those of you who were travelling away, we hope you had safe journeys and look forward to your return and, along with those of you who stayed home, we hope your holiday was full of good cheer.

We knew this Easter was going to be a tough one for our mate Wal. We hope you've been able to keep your head up, bloke, and remember you are not alone and we're here to help you work through this.

Lil Geoff returned to the fold early this month only to be struck down with some health problems but managed to turn up to most shed days. Hang in there, mate, we all feel your pain.

Finally, what a wrap we got in the REIWA News! There was a nice clear photo and a three column spread explaining that the REIWA and the original donations were being passed on to Northam and York Men's Sheds to help out after the recent storms. If anyone hasn't seen this article, there will be a copy on the pin-up board at the shed (won't there, Jeff?)

Until next month guys, may all your journeys be long ones.

Chemical Free Breakthrough in Post Harvest Treatment

A WESTERN Australian research team led by Department of Agriculture and Food scientist YongLin Ren has been recognised nationally for a breakthrough in post harvest technology to rid stored grain of insects.

The team has won the prestigious Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity (CRCNPB) Science Exchange award for 'Impact on Industry'.

Associate Professor Ren, said the team had developed the low oxygen technology as a practical, cost effective commercial alternative to phosphine fumigation for the treatment of grain and as a replacement to phosphine for management of insect resistance.

The project, undertaken in collaboration with farmers and grain companies, is part of a CRCNPB project on low oxygen technology for alternatives to phosphine.

"The low oxygen technology is achieved by purging the stored grains with a high concentration of pure nitrogen. This nitrogen is readily sourced from the air as nitrogen constitutes 78 per cent of air," Associate Professor Ren said. "What is most exciting is that the process provides the grains industry with a viable chemical-free treatment and is a low cost alternative to the use of phosphine."

Associate Professor Ren, who is currently seconded to Murdoch University where he leads the team, said through funding from the CRCNPB, field trials were complete, and the team was now working on systematic laboratory studies and on generating protocols for end users.

"A Lake Grace farmer who assisted with field trials is now attracting better prices for his grain after it underwent long-term safe storage of wheat and canola with the chemical free process," he said. "CBH is also using the process at grain storages in Perth and Albany. That is significant and is further building the reputation of Australian grain to offer residue-free grain to the international market."

Associate Professor Ren said the

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) had nil tolerance to insects in exported grains.

"This alternative, using low oxygen technology, provides an economical and chemical free way to replace phosphine fumigation. It also ensures our grain, utilising this new chemical free process, is more attractive to those national and international markets that want insect free grain," Associate Professor Ren said.

The project is the first of its kind internationally, and has been supported by detailed research on the effects of low oxygen on insect pests, grain in storage and grain quality.

"Internationally, it is a significant breakthrough for biosecurity across the grains industries and we are attracting a lot of interest from overseas," he said. "Both Canada and China have sent delegations to WA to look at what we are achieving in terms of insect control in on-farm storage facilities, and we are now in collaboration with Chinese scientists to further develop the efficiency of the membrane separation process for generation of nitrogen and its recirculation through storage facilities."

Associate Professor Ren said work was also undertaken with canola, which is stored under high temperatures.

"Canola seed colour, oil content and level of free fatty acid did not change during the two month storage period at 30-36°C and 97 per cent nitrogen, while the treatment of canola significantly contributed to insect control and its safe storage by inhibiting the respiration process that can lead to rapid localised heating," he said. "We also hope to apply the technology with malting barley and pulses, for control of insects and maintaining colour as well as improving both malting and brewing quality."

Associate Professor Ren said the project had multiple benefits to plant biosecurity including control of insects, food security, residue free grain, a safer workplace and protection of the environment.

Webinar Series Continues with Coffee with Rachael Bermingham

THE Foundation for Australian Agricultural Women (FAAW) will facilitate its second of a new quarterly informal webinar series entitled *Coffee with...* on Tuesday 10 May for one hour from 11am EST.

The series will feature well-known achievers who will discuss their personal experiences of voice and presence throughout their careers. Our speakers provide insights into how they have established themselves in their chosen sphere.

This second webinar promises to be inspiring with Rachel Bermingham, co-author of the hugely successful *4 Ingredients* series who will share her own experiences of voice and presence.

President of FAAW, Julieanne Cox, said, "FAAW is delighted to be able to have Rachael Bermingham presenting in our second *Coffee with...* webinar in the series. The webinar format provides an immediate connection between the speaker and the audience, wherever the members of the audience are located in Australia. We are proud to bring this opportunity to rural and regional participants and we are sure that Rachael's personal story of self-made success will inspire and motivate."

The series kicked off with respected journalist, Kerry O'Brien. Julieanne Cox, FAAW's President, asked Kerry to share his own experiences of what it means to have voice and presence, drawing from his long and interesting career in news and current affairs. This was very well attended and is available to view for free on the FAAW website.

A further session in September 2011 will feature Ratih Hardjono, Senior Counsellor with Mirah Sakethi, an Indonesian Public Affairs Consultancy Company. She too is also a journalist.

The sessions are FREE and are open to anyone. People are invited to register on the FAAW website (www.faaaw.org.au), grab a cup of coffee and enjoy listening to some of our region's most successful and respected leaders share their insights and life experiences. Places are limited to 100 and are filling fast, so those interested are encouraged to register immediately.

What: Coffee with Rachael Bermingham
When: 11am Tuesday, 10 May 2011
Where: Via webinar

Yellow Page Scheme

CONSUMER Protection's WA ScamNet branch has recently carried out an investigation into a directory listing and registry scheme run under the website www.yellowpage-westernaustralia.com

The unsolicited fax misleads WA businesses by implying that it is an offer to renew an existing business directory listing. However the listing is not with the primary business phone listing directory and the terms and conditions require payment of \$129 a month.

Communication with other State jurisdictions suggest a wider scheme involving location-based variations of the same name, including: www.yellowpage-nsw.com www.yellowpage-victoria.com etc. Although the faxes suggest the business is in the UK, the group is headed by Yellow Page Marketing BV based in the Netherlands.

As the scheme was allegedly using an inverted version of the 'Walking Fingers' logo, WA ScamNet advised Sensis who own the registered trademark. Sensis took steps to have the logo removed from www.yellowpage-westernaustralia.com which has since been rebranded as Western Australia Directory although the URL remains the same.

Sensis has advised businesses to consult their sales representative should they receive faxes from anyone claiming to represent Yellow Pages. Their number is 13 23 78.

Details of directory and registry scheme scams, and advice relating to them, can be found on the WA ScamNet website www.commerce.wa.gov/wascamnet.

In summary WA ScamNet advises businesses to:

- read all documents carefully before signing;
- try to restrict the number of employees who are authorised to sign invoices and important documents;
- avoid giving out information about your business to a third party until you clarify the purpose of their enquiry; and
- deal with people you know and trust wherever possible.

Commissioner for Consumer Protection Anne Driscoll said: "It's easy when you're in a busy office environment to quickly put pen to paper but it's vital to check the fine print before signing any contracts."

"This form implies that you are agreeing to have your business name listed with a well known directory service, when in fact you will receive a tax invoice for \$1548 for a 12 month listing with an internet directory scheme."

"We know in the past that businesses, which have signed this type of form and then chosen not to pay the invoice, have received threatening legal notices or been contacted by debt collectors. We advise any business in this position to seek independent legal advice but ideally we want to spread the message about this scheme to prevent people signing up in the first place."



L-R: Associate Professor YongLin Ren and his research team James Newman, Dr Manjree Agarwal and Hui Cheng.

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New Online Roost for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo



THE days of scouting through numerous web pages on the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) website to track down all available information about Carnaby's black cockatoo are over.

A new webpage dedicated to the endangered bird provides a home for a range of documents and information that were previously located on numerous pages on the DEC website.

DEC project officer, Christine Groom said this had made it a lot easier to find information about Carnaby's black cockatoo.

"We now have everything, from the species profile to the Plants for Carnaby's search tool, all in one place," she said. "The new web page has the latest reports, the recovery plan, information on the design and use of artificial hollows, as well as links to other relevant websites."

"There is ongoing work to find out more about Carnaby's black cockatoo and its needs, so it made sense to bring the information together in one place."

Work on aiding the recovery of Carnaby's black cockatoo is continuing through a number of DEC initiatives, some being undertaken in collaboration with Birds Australia and others with the Department of Planning.

The projects include ground-confirmed maps of feeding habitat; identification of critical feeding habitat requiring protection in breeding areas; night roost surveys, mapping and research; the Great Cocky Count; and research into the feeding requirements of Carnaby's black cockatoo in terms of energy needed and energy available to the species in the landscape.

Visit the Saving Carnaby's black cockatoo webpage at www.dec.wa.gov.au/carnabys.

Recipe Corner Beef Stroganoff

Desraé Clarke

AS the months become cooler, it is time to think of warming casseroles. This type of cooking is simple, less expensive than many of the summer meats and nutritious. Although you may normally buy stewing steak for a casserole, I'm more inclined to shin beef which has a beautiful flavour and is not 'stringy' like some steak.

If you have a slow cooker, this is an ideal recipe to get the best flavour. Cook it a day before needed and the flavour will increase tenfold. It also freezes well.

Ingredients:

- 500gms shin beef, cut into thin strips
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 2 medium onions, finely chopped
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- 420g can of Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 2 tablespoons Tomato or BBQ sauce
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 150gms button mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons fresh, chopped parsley

Method:

Using a deep pan gently heat the oil and sauté the onion until it has softened.

Add the paprika then the strips of shin beef and allow to brown, stirring all the while. Add the sauces then the sliced mushrooms.



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You may need to add a tad of water as the soup is thick and may catch on the bottom of the pan.

Transfer to the slow cooker or continue to cook very, very gently on the stove, stirring occasionally to check the mixture has not caught on the base of the pan.

Prior to serving, stir in the sour cream, freshly ground black pepper and sprinkle the Stroganoff with the chopped parsley.

It may be served with cooked vegetables, rice or pasta.

Trolley Dash

THE start of the 2011 Shopping Trolley Dash is fast approaching. Teams are building all sorts of wonderful trolley designs which should prove quite a spectacle.

From 9am on Sunday 15 June, the decorated trolleys will set off at two minute intervals from Northam Visitors' Centre and head the 28.4kms to Duidgee Park in Toodyay. The first trolleys should arrive in Toodyay around midday.

Toodyay Shire has contributed \$500 through the Dry Seasons Community funds

for a BBQ for all starting at midday so come and watch the event and enjoy a free community BBQ.

The team make up is one trolley and four people – one pushing and three on bicycles who then interchange as required. If you are feeling energetic, there is still time to get a team in – remember it is not about the race but completing the event and taking part.

For an entry form and team rules, contact Alan Rose on trolleydash2011@hotmail.com.

Countryman Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day

Saturday 28th May 2011
9am to 4.30pm

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- Dexter Association Display
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Local Stud with Hot Prospects



THE Easter weekend brought success for local stud, Treechange Alpacas, at the annual Autumn Alpaca show and fiesta held at Whiteman Park.

Stud Principals, Angela and Dieter Bartels, described the weekend results as confirmation that they are using excellent stud males in pursuit of their breeding objective to produce high quality alpacas.

Hot Chilli, a premiere stud male, received first place in the white senior male category and was described by visiting Victorian judge, Steve Ridout, as being a superior male with fine, dense fleece displaying high frequency crimp.

New arrival to Treechange Alpacas is the SRS recommended male, Suncloud Houdini. Houdini was presented in the white mature male category where he was awarded reserve champion. Houdini is a large framed male with excellent density and long staple length with a well-defined crimp style. According to Angela Bartels, Houdini's progeny are consistently displaying an improved density and fleece structure.

With the first bale of alpaca fibre being sold on the auction floor in April and more commercial avenues becoming available to growers, it is imperative to make the correct breeding decisions to ensure maximum fleece return

per head.

For further information please contact Angela and Dieter Bartels on 9574 4144.



Countryman Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day

THE fourth Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day will be held on 28 May 2011. Gates will be open from 9am – 4.30 pm. Admission is \$10 per adult with those under 16 free (and free parking!)

The Mayor of the City of Swan, Cr Charlie Zannino, will perform the Official Opening Ceremony at 10.45am in the Sustainability Pavilion.

This year the Alpaca Sale will be held on the day. The Dexter Association Display and the Bullsbrook Poultry Club Promotional Day and Sale are also on the agenda.

There will be visits to Open Farms; the Nardie Wiltshire Horn Stud will be showcasing their easy management meat sheep, which are ideal for small landholders and new farmers, and providing information on their husbandry; Jim Dawson, a knowledgeable plants man who shares his experience on growing and propagating exotic fruit and nut trees will be there from his Jujube and Fig Farm; and Bees Neez Apiaries where information will be given on how to manage a sustainable apiary business efficiently and profitably. Transport to all farms is free to Field Day attendees.

Over at the livestock centre, there will be all the above animals plus llamas, sheep, lowline cattle and goats. There are shearing demonstrations and working dog displays, talks on animal husbandry and advice on caring for your own livestock. The Department of Agriculture will be there to provide advice on Small Block Landcare. There is also an animal petting farm and pony and trap rides are available for the children.

Examples of value added goods will be on display in the Fibre Pavilion and fashion parades in the Café Entertainment area will showcase some of these fabulous garments as well as garments from RM Williams, Horseland and local boutiques. Live spinning demonstrations are also being held in the Fibre Pavilion.

The Food and Wine Pavilion offers many chances to sample the olive oil that is produced in Gidgegannup together with local and southwest wineries and a diverse range of other food products.

The Café entertainment area will provide day long entertainment starting with Josephine and Goggles the Goose, Punch and Judy, face painting, fashion shows and then the very popular 'Black Velvet Band' providing music throughout the afternoon. This area is surrounded by local volunteer groups, providing fabulous food, and our exhibitors with their great products.

The Sustainability Pavilion features talks and question and answer sessions with Sue McDougall and Ross Mars on all sorts of sustainability related topics in the garden. There will also be talks on Bio Mass as a renewable energy source, Tony Palmieri from Tony's House of Tender Meats on butchery and meat preparation and Augusta Saunders from Ringwould Dairy on cheese making.

Please do not forget all our exhibitors as well with their wonderful range of products for you to view and purchase.

The Countryman Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day is the place where those living and working on small farms in the agricultural

sector can come together at the one time to view and compare from a selection of products and services designed for efficient farming and rural practices. It's also for those who want to see if this is the life they would like and have some fun finding out.

Come along and enjoy the day in the fabulous setting of Gidgegannup just 15 minutes from Midland for a great day full of information and fun for everyone. For more information contact 9574 7065 or email experiencegidge@gidgegannup.info or go to our website at www.gidgegannup.info.

Don't Miss the Magic of Australian Alpacas

THE WA Region of the Australian Alpaca Association welcomes all visitors to the Gidge Field Day being held on Saturday 28 May 2011 to check out the alpacas that will be on display and for sale at the Gidgegannup Showgrounds.

Alpacas are fast becoming the popular choice amongst lifestylers and farmers as they are undoubtedly the most environmentally friendly of all domesticated livestock in Australia. Like all camelids they do not have hooves but have, instead, soft-padded feet, each with two fairly soft toenails. Their ground foot pressure is even less than that of our native kangaroo.

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Mothers' Day: a Gift to Save a Child's Life

IF you weren't already aware, more than 80 per cent of refugees are women and children. An estimated 1.3 billion people worldwide, 70 per cent of them women, live in absolute poverty on less than \$1 a day. Refugee women are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, violence and disease and events like Mother's Day serve as timely reminders to consider the needs of women who need our help.

Australia for UNHCR's Safe Mother and Baby Appeal is an easy way Australian mums can help rectify these conditions and help improve the lives of refugee women around the world.

Safe Mother and Baby Appeal

Thousands of refugee mothers and newborn babies suffer and die needlessly every year as they lack simple health services. Australia for UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, will launch its 5th annual Safe Mother and Baby Appeal with special lifesaving gift packages that can be bought and sent to women in refugee camps around the world, on behalf of Australian mothers, daughters and sons.

This Appeal has raised almost \$1 million since 2007 to help mothers and newborn babies in Chad, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Somalia.

As little as \$26 can help save the lives of 10 mothers who are at risk of dying from complications at childbirth. Clean delivery kits will help to ensure the safe delivery of babies in some of the world's poorest countries, where maternal and infant mortality is more than 100 times higher than in Australia.

Gift packages include:

\$26 Clean Delivery Kits

10 kits containing an instruction sheet, soap, cotton baby wrap, plastic sheeting, a clean blade and string for the umbilical cord

\$53 Midwife Delivery Kit

Supplies drugs, sterile dressings and other renewables for midwives

\$100 Pregnant Women Packs

Provides nutritional supplements, baby blankets, baby clothes, and soap for 20

pregnant women

Facts:

- Clean delivery kits cost only \$2.66 each and the five simple items they contain can mean the difference between life and death for mothers and babies
- 99% of all maternal deaths occur in developing countries
- Maternal and infant mortality can be one hundred times higher than in Australia
- One in twelve Somali women die during childbirth

There are some incredible people who are helping implement UNHCR's programmes around the world. Women like Roberta Russo are doing wonderful things to reduce infant and maternal mortality in Somalia and Maeve Murphy, who works as a Community Service Officer in Sudan to improve basic facilities in the region, both of whom rely on donations to keep the programmes running.

Australia for UNHCR is also involved in a number of other programmes around the world such as providing shelter for refugees, providing access to clean water and improving sanitation and maternal health. For more information about Safe Mother and Baby appeal and other humanitarian programmes please visit the Australia for UNHCR website.

To purchase a Mother's Day gift package visit www.worldsbiggestpackage.com or phone Australia for UNHCR on 1300 361 288. This site will be customised for Mothers' Day packages within the next day or so. A printable gift card is provided for each donation, which is tax deductible.

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
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	3.4	7.2	21.4	149.6
2011	14.8	0.0	14.2										29.0
AVERAGE ALL YEARS: (RECORDING COMMENCED IN TOODYAY 1/1/1877)													
	10.7	12.4	19.4	25.9	67.2	99.9	102.4	80.3	47.8	31.4	14.8	9.1	521.3

environmental matters

New Crop of Agriculture Students

C.Y. O'CONNOR Institute is on the way to developing a whole new generation of agriculture workers, with the commencement of a new programme in Rural Operations in 2011.

Ten students from Dalwallinu and Wongan Hills district high schools ranging from year 10 through to year 12 are attending the Agriculture Department's Research Station near Wongan Hills every Wednesday.

The Certificate I in Rural Operations course is incorporated into the normal school week and will take the year to complete. Consisting of six units, it covers subjects such as woolshed operations, preparing for work, chemical safety, support cropping operations and operating tractors.

"Most of this group want to stay and work locally and will be looking at getting farm hand or roustabout work", said their lecturer, Jacqueline Wilson. "We will be offering Certificate II next year, with options for school-based traineeships or full-time traineeships."

"These students have the opportunity to be able to graduate from high school with not only a high school certificate, but vocational qualifications as well. Once on this pathway, there is a huge variety of options for training and career paths. They can go through Certificate I, II, III and IV, then on to a Diploma. This could even lead to research science at University."

"We are really pleased to have Jacqui as part of our lecturing team. Although new to C.Y. O'Connor Institute, she will be a real asset," said Peter McGlew. "She brings with her a wealth of experience in the agriculture and rural industries. This is a brand new programme and Jacqui did all the preliminary work on getting the project up and running and having the course ready to go for the students. She has a lot of enthusiasm and energy."

"Once we had the concept and the framework of the programme ready to go we then needed a venue to teach from and the agriculture research station at Wongan Hills is ideal," said Peter. "We negotiated with the Department of Agriculture to be able to use some areas of the research station as a teaching facility and hopefully this is the start of a productive and positive long term association."

"We are also involved with Intergrain, a grain research development company which also uses part of the agriculture research station," said Jacqui. "Intergrain is keen to become involved with the students. We are talking about them having their own trial plots for planting. They will know what grain goes through to be developed into the crop varieties that we use and why we use them. Part of this process will also be learning about seeding and harvesting."

Based at Merredin Campus, Jacqui travels to Wongan Hills every Wednesday to deliver the course. "I enjoyed the actual preparation of putting this new course together; it was interesting. It's great to be able to put it all into practice now. This is only our third week and I really like teaching this class."

"I am enthusiastic about teaching agriculture because it's such an important occupation. I am keen to give the students learning practical skills that they are interested in learning. The key is to have their interest and then anything is possible. Having the practical learning environment means that when they go out into the workplace they will be confident in what they are doing."

"Courses like this enable students to get practical training closer to home in a career path of their choosing," said John Scott, Managing Director of C.Y. O'Connor Institute. "It gives more options to rural students."

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Community Rallies to Protect Cockatoos

MORE than 4200 signatures were handed over during a lunch-time rally outside Parliament House recently, in a petition to the WA Government calling for better protection of habitat for the state's threatened black cockatoos.

Over 8,000 hectares of vegetation in the Perth Metropolitan Region which is likely to be habitat for endangered Carnaby's cockatoos – the equivalent of 30 Kings Parks – is already zoned urban, urban deferred or industrial land and is therefore under direct threat of clearing and development.

Outside Parliament House on 12 April, a giant black cockatoo and cockatoo puppets "flew" over the crowd, which called on WA Environment Minister Bill Marmion to explain what his government is doing to save black cockatoos from extinction. Over 4,200 signatures in support of black cockatoo habitat protection were lodged via an online petition at www.cockatoosneedyou.org.au and handed to the minister.

The minister was also presented with a mock-up of a museum display case dated 2050 containing feathers from three black cockatoo species, symbolising their potential extinction, and a framed photograph of a black cockatoo indicating an alternative, healthy future for the birds.

"Our message is simple. We want a future that includes black cockatoos! To do that, we need to protect the remaining habitat of these marvellous birds, habitat on which so many other species rely," said Heidi Hardisty, Convenor of the Cockatoo Coalition. "We are driving these uniquely West Australian birds to extinction and it does not have to be that way. We must and can find a way to balance economic development and conservation."

All three species of black cockatoos found only in Southwest WA – Carnaby's, Baudin's and Forest red-tailed black cockatoos – are threatened with extinction, due largely to habitat destruction. Black cockatoos now regularly come into conflict with development proposals as urbanisation encroaches further into remaining native vegetation. Habitat also continues to be cleared for mining and logging activities.

"Thousands of people are pressing the WA Government for a solution that will find space for both people and wildlife," said Katherine Howard, WWF Policy Manager Southwest Australia. "We cannot allow the globally unique bushland of Perth to continue to be cleared at the rate of 10 WACAs a week. We urge the State Government to prioritise already cleared or degraded land for development, and to protect what little native bushland we have left."

The event, organised by the Cockatoo Coalition, reflects growing community concern over the ongoing destruction of natural bushland habitat for iconic WA black cockatoos and other native animals and plants.

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Harvest Time to be Wary of Olive Lace Bug

COMMERCIAL olive growers, park managers and home gardeners are being urged to watch for the olive lace bug, an industry pest now established in Western Australia.

Olive lace bug is present in a number of areas and while eradication is not feasible, a key aim is to minimise its effects on individual growers and industry.

Department of Agriculture and Food industry development officer Dick Taylor said while it was no longer necessary to report infestations, harvest was a key time for growers to monitor and help prevent spread of the pest.

The olive lace bug was first discovered in WA at Busselton in 2002. Further detections occurred at Margaret River, Boyup Brook and Beverley. The bug can make commercial plantings less productive and amenity plantings unsightly. With heavy infestations, trees can become stunted with chlorophyll-depleted leaves and unsightly black excretions on lower leaves and yellowing caused by feeding punctures.



Damage caused by olive lace bug to leaves.

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environmental matters



Photo courtesy 'Field Guide to Reptiles and Frogs of the Perth Region' by Brian Bush et al.

Python Watch Long-necked or Oblong (Freshwater) Turtles

Desraé Clarke

ALTHOUGH the turtle that frequents the Avon River is said to be found in freshwater and seasonal swamps it is still found in the saline waterways of Toodyay. Reports have been made of creatures crossing roads, (usually females to lay their eggs in farm paddocks), from the river to paddocks or on the return trail to the river. Clutches of up to 25 brittle, white eggs are laid and take many months to hatch. Unfortunately, foxes often dig up the eggs and they also kill the adults. The journey to the waterway is also fraught with danger for the hatchlings as they may be taken by dogs, cats, kookaburras and, if they are fortunate enough to arrive at their destination, by the large water birds.

The Long-necked Turtle spends most of its time submerged in the water. It has webbed feet and four clawed toes. When it returns to the surface to breathe its tiny nostrils may be visible before it dives again. It will bask for short periods on partly submerged rocks or logs but this extremely shy creature will very quickly plop into the water if disturbed.

Apart from seeing the tiny nostrils protruding on the water surface the turtle is difficult to find in the water. Its head, neck and carapace (top shell of turtles and tortoises), with the latter up to 40cms in length, are dark brown or black in colour and the carapace is often covered in algae. The plastron (bottom shell of turtles and tortoises), is white in colour. A turtle will leave a foul-smelling odour on hands when handled. The odour is produced by glands that are located at each section of the bridge where the carapace joins the plastron.

The Long-necked Turtle is carnivorous. It feeds on fish and the crustaceans and molluscs in the river and swamp areas. Many years ago I visited the Perry Lakes waterways with my children and found a

piece of stout string that ran out into the water. On pulling it out we found it to have a turtle on the end. The string must have had a piece of meat tied to it and the turtle not only ate the meat but swallowed a great length of string! However, we pulled and pulled at the string until the creature was rid of it.

As mentioned in the Naturalists' notes the Club members recently visited Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Kalamunda, where there were several turtle residents. Turtles may have been admitted with a damaged carapace (which, we were told, may repair naturally), dehydration, sores or fungal infections or may have been injured. The current patients have recuperated but are unable to be released at present because of the lack of water in their swamp/wetland areas. They will be returned to their natural habitat following the change of season.

Area Infested by Skeleton Weed Decreases



THE area infested with skeleton weed in Western Australia has reached its lowest level in 12 years, attendees were told at an annual programme debrief meeting in Mandurah.

Department of Agriculture and Food staff and Local Action Group coordinators met last week to report on outcomes of the

current 2010-11 season and plan for the 2011-12 programme. The meeting was also attended by members of the Grains, Seed and Hay Industry Management Committee (IMC), which oversees the budget and operation of the skeleton weed and bedstraw programmes.

For the current season, the area infested with skeleton weed stands at 880 hectares. This is down from 1,702 hectares in 2009-10 and is the lowest in area since 1998-1999.

Department skeleton weed project manager David Atkins said the dry conditions had provided an opportunity to have a big impact on known skeleton weed plant populations which stand at around 21,000 plants.

"The number of new properties for the season stands at 47, while 50 properties were removed from the infested list," Mr Atkins said. "This resulted in a reduction of three properties, taking the total number of infested properties in WA to 848. Of the new properties, 14 were found by department staff undertaking targeted surveillance."

The total area searched for skeleton weed by the department, landholders and contractors was 470,000 hectares. A further 121 sites were checked in the Perth metropolitan area with plants found at 54 sites. The majority of detections were in the Henderson area.

Barry Large, chair of the Grains, Seed and Hay IMC, said he wanted to assure growers that the committee was continuing the skeleton weed programme under the Industry Funding Scheme.

"The IMC members are committed to running a fiscally responsible programme and will report back to growers on the expenditure and outcomes," Mr Large said.

Local Action Groups are funded by the programme through their local shires to undertake awareness and support and assist with management and control of skeleton weed at a local level.

Toodyay Naturalists' Club

Desraé Clarke

Members' Excursion to Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre

TOODYAY Naturalists' Club members recently spent an interesting evening at the Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Lesmurdie, in the company of a number of the volunteers who worked there. They introduced us to the complex task of treating and rehabilitating the many and varied residents in the Hospital as well as guiding us expertly through the Nocturnal Tour. The aim of the Wildlife Centre is to treat, where possible, then rehabilitate, the varied reptiles, birds and mammals brought to them so that they can be released back to their original habitat. Orphaned mammals and hatchling birds are taught to fend for themselves while still at the Centre, and are not released until they are suitably independent.

The Centre is a 'not for profit' organisation supported by donations, fundraising, funding applications and 160 dedicated volunteers. Volunteers range in age from students from local primary schools, to elderly folk who enjoy 'doing their bit'. The work of the volunteers is extremely varied and ranges from construction of aviaries to flower gathering, from making meat balls to collecting either surplus fruit and vegetables from Coles, mistletoe berries

or termite mounds. Food preparation is extremely important as the diet of a turtle is vastly different to that of a bobtail, a bilby, an echidna or a python. Each resident is weighed daily, as is its food, to ensure it is getting sufficient nutrition and thriving.

Many residents admitted are severely dehydrated and in shock. They often require electrolytes, antibiotics, supplements or hand feeding all of which can be time consuming. The group was shown a power point presentation of a puggle (baby echidna) that was so small it fitted into the hand of its carer. As a tiny puggle laps the milk which is secreted from glands on the abdomen of the mother, the carer dripped special formula onto the palm of her hand from a small syringe and the infant hungrily lapped. The tiny creature had minuscule spikes covering its body and, small as the baby was, they are as sharp as needles! Once the puggle matures it will be released back to the area it originally came from.

A second power point presentation by Club member and volunteer at the Kanyana Centre, Sarah Dudley, introduced the members to the varied bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic loads carried by the patients. Faecal samples are examined under the microscope and the contents are an important indicator of the treatment required for a particular animal. Some infections require the animal to be kept in isolation until cured as they are infectious to other related species.

The Nocturnal Tour introduced the group to the Echidnas, the Frogmouths, the Woylies, the Sugar Gliders and the Bilbies. The latter, which are part of a national Endangered Species Programme, have a series of 'tunnels' in their enclosures which resemble their natural habitat. The Bilbies were very active searching for their mealworms or other food from a hinged-lid container that required clever manoeuvring on their part to open. A number of the resident Frogmouths have suffered from a virus thought to have originated from eastern Australia but all are now alert and well as a result of the wonderful care given at the Centre. The tiny white endings on the fine, stiff feathers found above the bill between the birds' eyes were particularly interesting as they glisten in the moonlight and attract moths – a source of Frogmouth food!

Sugar-gliders from Tasmania were brought to the Rehabilitation Centre last year. They are now breeding and are staying in Lesmurdie as a 'half-way house' en route to a permanent home in Broome later this year. These beautiful little members of the possum family are found along the east coast and across northern Australia but are thought to be in decline due to habitat loss and the presence of feral predators. The Brush-tailed Bettong ('Woylie') has bred well at the Centre with the release of 30 animals in a 'predator-controlled' area of the lower south west of our State last year.

By the time this edition of the Herald will have been released Kanyana will have had its 'Open Day' on Sunday 1 May, in conjunction with other annual celebrations in Kalamunda. It is a chance for the general public to see what wonderful work is done at the Centre. Once again, the hard work behind the Open Day is done by the volunteers. Kanyana always welcomes new ones!

The next General Meeting is to be held at the CWA Hall on 21 May 2011 commencing at 7pm. It is to be a Member's Night with a 'bring and share' tea. Enquiries may be made to Acting President, Greg Warburton, on 9575 5445 or Secretary, Wayne Clarke, on 6364 3609



Photo courtesy Vicki Warburton.

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environmental matters

classifieds

Weed of the Month Freesias

Compiled by Wayne Clarke

WITH nurseries and mail-order catalogues currently advertising the sale of Freesias there is a need to point out the threat to our environment. They are common garden plants that are becoming increasingly abundant as weeds in Toodyay, particularly on wetter soils. Identification and control is critical, as Freesias have the capacity to invade firebreaks, bushland and reserves, competing with native vegetation, particularly native orchids and grasses.

Freesias are small perennial herbs with annual leaves and flowers, and are members of the Iridaceae (Iris) Family. They produce oval-shaped corms (underground storage stems) that are covered with netted fibres. They grow to between 10 and 40cm tall with 4 to 10 long, narrow-shaped sword-like and pointed leaves 5 to 10cm wide, branching from their base. Their stems are unbranched, their flower spike having 3 to 7 flowers.

Flowering time for Freesias is August to October; however their first shoots appear with the autumn rains. Their tubular flowers are commonly white to cream in colour, with yellow markings towards the base, shaded purple on the outside of the flower tube.

Freesias that have naturalised (become established and are successfully competing with our native flora) in south-western Australia are hybrids between *Freesia alba* x *leichtlinii*, although other *Freesia* varieties, with the potential to naturalise, are available through mail-order catalogues. Where they have become established, densities of up to 1,500 bulbs per square metre are not uncommon.

Several hundred seeds per plant are produced, and are most likely to be distributed by birds. The plants also reproduce by vegetative means, with up to six cormlets (multiple, short, underground storage stems), capable of developing into new plants, forming along the stems. The parent corms have specialised contractile roots that drag annually produced cormlets deeper into the soil.

Freesia management techniques are important to stop further spread of the plants. Hand removal should occur early in the growing season and either burning or deep burial (inside plastic bags over a metre deep) are considered the only safe method of disposal. Untreated or unsecured plants taken to the waste transfer station, is only transferring these weeds to another location.



Photograph courtesy Penny Hussey, *Western Weeds, (Plant Protection Society of WA 1997) Flora of Australia Volume 46, Iridaceae to Dioscoreaceae (1986), AGPS Canberra Environmental Weeds Action Network Hand Notes*

Bird of the Month Australian (Nankeen) Kestrel

Desraé Clarke.

BIRDS of the falcon family, in most cases, attack their prey (birds in flight), by swooping on them at a tremendous rate to grab them with their talons. However, the Australian Kestrel, although a member of the falcon family, will hover with barely-moving wings and a fanned tail to gradually drift downwards to suddenly swoop to grasp its ground prey. Small mammals such as rabbit kittens, rodents, small reptiles and ground birds together with insects, such as grasshoppers and crickets, are its main source of food. This small, delicate Kestrel is commonly seen in the Shire of Toodyay and may be heard calling in a rapid, shrill chatter or a short, single repeated note.

When seen from below the Kestrel appears

to be an all-white bird but its upper parts are of pale rufous colouring with fine black spotting on its back. It has black wing tips and a band near the tail tip. The face is white with a thin black tear stripe from the front of the eye down the side of the throat. It has a brown eye with a yellow eye-ring and cere (pronounced 'seer' - the soft, fleshy skin at the base of the bill, in which the nostrils of raptors are situated), a blue-grey bill and yellow feet.

As with other birds of prey, the male Kestrel is smaller in length, 30cms, to the female of 35cms; it has a wingspan of 69-78cms. Breeding is from July through December but there is no nest-building. Vacated nests of ravens, tree hollows, cliff edges, or shelving of cave entrances may be used. On average four eggs, of pinkish colouring with reddish-brown blotching, are laid. The female incubates for 26 to 28 days and the young fledge in approximately 16 days. Young are sexually mature and sometimes breed when a year old.

The Australian Kestrel is found in open woodland and agricultural land but avoids dense forest areas. It may be seen sitting on wires, fences, dead trees or hovering over paddocks. It is not a threatened species and is found throughout Australia; it has possibly benefitted from clearing.



Toodyay Seed Orchard Group

PLANTS in the community shade house are now being hardened off in readiness for distribution to landholders at the end of May.

The time for pickup of plants will be Saturday 28 May 2011 from 9am -12pm at the community shade house at the parks and gardens depot. Anyone who has not ordered plants should still be able to get a good selection if they turn up at this time. Plants are priced at 75c each.

Meeting times are 11 and 25 May and 8 and 22 June.



Tubestock at the shade house ready for pickup on 28 May 9-12am

Toodyay Friends of the River

WE are all very relieved to have Wayne, our Treasurer back home and under expert care after a worrying time in hospital and of course wish him a speedy recovery.

Preceding the April working bee, Peter Sullivan, CEO of Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management and Grants Officer, Kerry Skinner, addressed the group. Peter acknowledged TFOR's work while highlighting future opportunities and funding possibilities by engaging with this important agency.

With these words of encouragement, members launched into another productive session with two working parties, one busy on river care along the town section and the other engaged in the Lloyd Reserve work. The walking track from Lloyd Reserve to Redbanks Pool was further developed by a Greencorp Team in April along with more pre-control burn preparations.

Good progress is being made on the Strategic Development Plan which had a boost when, at the April Council meeting held at the Bejoording Fire Shed, there was a unanimous vote to approve the Millard's Pool picnic shelter and interpretive signage. The structure has now been ordered and installation is scheduled to commence in June. Meanwhile, the Harper Brook re-vegetation site is in readiness for planting in the same month. May is the time we try to get our River Section reports in and well done to that diligent member who had their reports in early.

Please note that the winter start times commence at the May meeting! Sunday 9am, 15 May at Duidgee Park. Depending on conditions we could be spraying weeds in Lloyd Reserve and/or removing tree guards at Boyagerring.

Enquiries about TFOR can be made by phoning Greg on 9574 5445 (mobile 0438 920 617) or Robyn 9574 2578.



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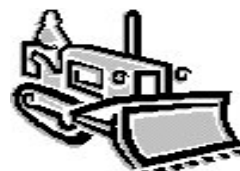
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toodyay sports



Adult Riding Club Member Bonnie Tuckwell and her pony Scarlet winning the Steer Undecorating Championships at Stampede Arena recently.

Avon Valley Adult Riding Club

Caroline Venables-Kyrke

DESPITE the long Easter break, the Club's April rally held on Easter Saturday was attended by over 20 members in reasonably cool weather for a change.

Most members took advantage of the flat work lessons in the morning and jumping in the afternoon to hone

their riding skills for the Interclub Challenge held on 1 May which was a Show Horse and jumping event.

Many thanks to those members who have contributed with prizes for the challenge raffle. It was certainly worthwhile purchasing tickets. Over 60 entries have been received so it will be a very busy challenge. Results of the challenge will appear in the June Herald.

Our members certainly enjoy all aspects of horse riding as the picture of Bonnie Tuckwell shows.

She actually won the steer

undecorating class in a personal best time of 1.48 seconds – faster than a speeding bullet!

Julie Malley had a very good day out at a recent show held at Wanneroo taking out Reserve Champion Galloway.

Trevor Blight on Scooby Doo recently competed at the EWA Intermediate Novice Hack event and was awarded Reserve Champion Hack.

Congratulations to both Julie and Trevor and anyone else who has been out and about and took home ribbons.

Next month, luckily, will be fairly quiet for the club, but we will have to look towards the Winter Interclub Challenge on July 3 which is a jump cross held at Brigadoon and hosted by Zamia and the Spring Challenge which is a dressage event hosted by Orange Grove, more on these as information comes to hand.

Then there is the club's official/unofficial EAWA Show Horse day on 14 August, which is a very important date on the EAWA calendar and we will need a lot of volunteers to make it run smoothly.

If you have taken a box of chocolates for our fundraising drive, could you please pay Heidi as soon as possible, so she doesn't have to chase anyone up.

The club is open to all equestrians owning their own horse and over the age of 18. We meet every fourth Saturday of the month at the Toodyay Racecourse, from about 8.30am to 3pm with two lessons per rally and lunch is provided.

If you are interested in coming out and seeing us, riding as a guest, or becoming a member contact Caroline on 9574 1407 or Kerry on 0428589466

Toodyay Hockey Club

THE senior women started off the season with a loss to Calingiri 5-0. This result was not too bad considering only a handful of the girls are experienced hockey players.

Emma Lucas and Nicki Smith played an excellent game and the goalie, Sara, being her first game in this position, did a great job.

Toodyay Junior hockey, playing in the Avon association, is going to field a junior primary (years 3, 4, 5) and middle school team (years 6, 7, 8). We could use a few more players in the Years 3, 4 and 5 age groups, it is not too late to come along to training and join up (contact Nadine 9574 4165 for training times.) The first game for the A team is going to be on Sunday 8 May against Wongan Hills. The B team will start the season in Northam Saturday 15 May.

The Toodyay Hockey Club would like to thank the Toodyay Op Shop, Toodyay Women's Football Club (which are now disbanded) Toodyay Lions club and Toodyay IGA community chest, for their generous donations to the club. Also, thanks to Toodyay hardware, Jess, her Dad and Sara for repairing the goals ready for the first match. The club is going to purchase new goals which will take a few weeks so the time and effort put into repairing the existing goals is very much appreciated.

Have a go hockey for the younger players was coached by Damon Geary who once again showed the kids some basic hockey skills and drills. Thanks Damon for your time and also to Suzette for her help with the beginning of the season.

Football Report

TOODYAY Lions had a great start to the 2011 season on Sunday 17 April with a 21 goal victory over Calingiri. It was the Lions' largest win over Cougars for many years – 25.12 to 4.9.

Stan Collard kicked three goals and Ryan Pearce kicked two in the first quarter. Jack Wood kicked a goal on the first siren.

The Lions continued with 6.4 to 2.2 in the second quarter to lead 13.9 to 2.5 at half time. Chad Broughton also played strongly, kicking three goals in the final quarter.

Coach, Craig Nicol, was happy with this first victory for the season.

The Toodyay Reserves side also had a big win to start the season, 23.13 to 2.5. Toodyay's next game is against last year's Premiers, Dowerin, at Dowerin on Saturday April 30.

**In case of an
Emergency
Dial 000**



It's about our Iron Heritage

WUNDOWIE IRON FESTIVAL

Sunday 15th May 2011

Wundowie is located 65 km east of Perth

Join in the celebrations of Wundowie's Iron Heritage with this country festival of displays and activities for all ages.

Bradken Bus Tour of Wundowie Foundry

Fit2Cheer Cheerleading Demonstration & Workshop

Monster Balls, Motor Train Rides, Animal Farm & Face Painting

Machinery Preservation Group & Working Blacksmith

Hand Tools Preservation Society

Music by Bedrock Band

Toss the Pig Iron Competition

Browse the iron-themed art in the Community Hall including sculpture, painting, photography and metalwork.

Many and varied stall, rides and games on the Oval

Watch the Iron Beasts complete on a 135m track


Food & Refreshments are available

FREE ENTRY

Exhibition open all day Sunday and

3pm to 5pm Monday 16th May to Friday 21st May 2011

Contact Trish 95736265



BAKERS HILL VET. CLINIC TOODYAY DAY EVERY WEDNESDAY

- Our regular day in Toodyay, at a reduced charge, is proving very popular. Remember, bookings must be made prior to each Wednesday.
- A great way to save on routine work such as drenching, vaccinations & preg. testing.
 - House visits for pets - farm visits for large animals.
- No travel charge from Bakers Hill to Toodyay or within 5km of Toodyay PO.
 - Travel charged from Post Office for farm visits.
 - Our usual service applies any other day.
- Please phone **9574 1061** to book appointments or make enquiries.

Toodyay Bowling Club

June Eastwood

THE official season is winding down but enthusiasts are reminded that Thursday Winter Bowls get underway on Thursday 2 June at 12.30 for a 1pm start. This is an informal afternoon and everyone is welcome to come and try their hand at bowls.

An event still to come will be the John Smart Day on Saturday 7 May with a 1pm start. This is a mixed event; dress Mufti (casual).

The annual Bindoon night was held Friday evening 15 April at Bindoon on a perfect, warm evening. The green was beautiful to bowl on and, at the conclusion, a delicious and plentiful supper was served.

The evening was an outstanding social success due to our keen Corporate bowlers. The Bindoon Club has only 16 men and 12 ladies and the few of these unable to attend had their place filled by the Sunday Jack Club bowlers so that 28 bowlers presented for the evening.

Sadly, Toodyay had not one bowler from 1st Division and only six from 2nd Division, with 1 lady bowler. Ladies of our club who normally participate were involved in a 2-day Northam Classic so were unavailable. Twelve Corporate bowlers attended and,

after waiting 25 minutes in hopes some others would appear, one gentleman was dragged from the bar and we left late with 20 aboard. Bindoon graciously loaned one of their teams so each town had 6 playing teams. The Bindoon team was the only winning 'Toodyay' team. It is a lovely evening and, when Toodyay hosts the event next year, we hope for more enthusiasm from the local bowlers.

Ladies Events:

The Fours have been concluded with the team of Marilyn, Enid, Kaye A and Lorraine the victors.

Handicap Singles winner was Marilyn with Kaye Adams equal Runners up.

The ladies Annual Gala Day was held Saturday 30 April and was booked out for some months so a great day was anticipated. More in next month's paper.

Special birthday congratulations for a very special birthday lady, Enid, who recently celebrated her 80th birthday. She even gave a birthday lunch for us to enjoy. Enid is a cheery and enthusiastic bowler and a serious Pennant contender. Her exclamations of disgust at a rare bad bowl she has delivered make it very difficult for the next bowler to send down a good bowl when shaking with laughter. Every good wish for the coming year, Enid.



Pennant Winners 2010/2011 Season – Toodyay 2nd Division

Back L – R: D.Lloyd: J.Short: T.Watson: B.Bosanjak: S.Eastwood: P. Watson: M.Spence: N.Adams: S.Lever. Front: M. Smith (Umpire) J.Paulsen: D.Smith: P.Mete: W.Smith: G.Due: J. Smart. Centre: B. Rayner

Toodyay Junior Tennis

THE Jones Perpetual trophy which is donated by Bobby Jones and family was played Sunday 3 April. This event was also the closing day for the Junior Club for season 2010-2011.

Many thanks to Bobby who came to watch the afternoon of tennis and also for supplying afternoon tea as well as the great trophies. The winners were Kristen Twine and Christopher Hasson. Runner ups were Aminah Indich and

Luke Catto.

During the season at junior club days, every second week a mini tournament is held and the results of these tournaments are kept and collated. The result of this is a consistency award which was won by Jacob Blankendaal with the runner up Kristen Twine. The junior club all-rounder award was won by Megan Moffet. Well done to all the junior members for your commitment to attending Thursday junior club tennis, displaying your sportsmanship and sense of fun. Also, to those parents who volunteered to help throughout the season, a big thank you to you all.



L-R Luke Catto, Kristen Twine, Christopher Hasson, Bobby Jones and Aminah Indich

Toodyay Tennis

Angela Fox

NOW, do you think the hot weather is over? It has still been very warm but let's hope for some rain (but not too much so we can't play) and some cool days soon.

We had another one of our very successful wood raffles recently. Thank you to all the people who bought tickets. The first prize was won by a lady from Wundowie and a lady in the town won second prize. Many thanks to all who sold the tickets and to all of those who helped with the wood.

Friday nights are still seeing a few people turn up; let's hope they all keep coming.

We wish Barry Bywater a speedy recovery. (He lets Glenys out sometimes!)

We shall be having another one of our lunches soon at the club with a date yet to be fixed. We look forward to seeing you all there now that the weather is hopefully going to be cooler for tennis.

That's all for this month.

Clackline/Toodyay Karate Club

THANK you to everyone who bought and sold tickets for our Mother's Day and wood raffle and also to everyone who donated to the raffle and cake stall.

A small but industrious group of members had a trailer load of wood collected in no time and then enjoyed the generous hospitality of Wayne and Meg Smart for a BBQ afterwards. Unfortunately the winners of the raffles aren't available for inclusion in this month's article.

Our first Club Challenge for the year had a great turnout of the Junior and PeeWee students as well as plenty of parents and friends. While the number of Seniors attending was a bit low, their enthusiasm and dedication made up for it. All of the Seniors and older Junior students helped to organise the younger students as well as with judging. Big thanks as well to all the parents who assisted on the night with scoring, setting/packing up and organising the sausage sizzle.

On 24 September the Clackline/Toodyay Karate Club is holding an outdoor exhibition tournament as part of Toodyay's 175th

celebrations and we need assistance from all club members and their families. There are five sub-committees organising specific areas of the tournament, including canteen, grounds, events coordination, sponsorship and advertising. If you can help out or have an interest in any of these areas, please let Helen know and she can direct you to each sub-committee's coordinator. We will need parents/carers/friends to help out on the day with setting/packing up, scoring/timekeeping, selling raffle tickets and canteen duty. There will be more Club Challenges held before the tournament so that you can learn how a tournament is run and have a go at scoring/timekeeping. By September we should be able to conduct a well coordinated, quality tournament to showcase our students and club but we need everyone to contribute. There will be a meeting to specifically discuss the tournament on Wednesday 16 May 2011 at 4pm at the dojo and anyone is welcome to attend.

WA State Championships are being held on 29 May at the Morley Recreation Centre. Entry forms are due by 18 May and the entry price has been discounted so, if you are interested in attending, please see Helen for a form.

Regan Flaherty and Jordan Turnock recently represented the club at the Tournament of Champions and Regan came 1st in the 10-11yr olds Kumite. Congratulations to both students for your effort.

Remember to keep up with your karate practice because it's not long now until the next grading to be held on 12 June.

Toodyay classes are held in the Youth Hall:

Wednesdays

3.45 – 4.15pm 5-8yr olds
4.30 – 5.30pm 8-12yr olds
6 – 7.30pm Highschool and adults

Fridays

3.45 – 4.15pm 5-8yr olds
4.30 – 5.30pm 8-12yr olds
6 – 7.30pm Highschool and adults

Classes are also held in Bakers Hill at the Bakers Hill Rec Centre:

Mondays

3.30 – 4pm 5-8yr olds
4 – 5pm 8-15yr olds

If you would like to keep up-to-date with all that is going on at the club, email Helen at helenbain@optusnet.com.au and ask her to link you into the Avon Valley Shotokan Facebook site.



Are you struggling to stay in school?

Did you leave school before completing Year 12?

YOUTH CONNECTIONS works one-on-one with young people like you (13 to 19 years) who might be thinking about leaving school or who recently left school before completing Year 12.

YOUTH CONNECTIONS may be able to provide support to help you stay in school, help you move into education and training that suits you, or help to prepare for work.

Contact RDA Wheatbelt's **YOUTH CONNECTIONS** office to learn how Youth Connections can help you. It's a free call.

Email: yc@rdawheatbelt.com.au
Telephone: 1800 352 355



Youth Connections is funded by the Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).



RESIDENTIAL GEM

1,300sqm block in Settlers Ridge conveniently located in area with child care centre & walking distance to the town & railway station for daily commuter train to Perth. Invest in a real family size block here.
\$95,000



RIVERSIDE CUL-DE-SAC

594sqm scarce level building site in prime location ideal for your new home, a stroll to all facilities in the town. Currently includes large enclosed shed.
\$99,000



CHECK OUT THE VIEWS

Huge 1,868sqm block overlooking surrounds. Double C/B garage with roller doors, rain water tank, flat house site & septic already installed. Surrounded by lovely homes this property is worth a look.
\$135,500



WONDERFUL LITTLE HOME IN THE COUNTRY

2x1 at end of secluded lane. Pretty 9ac pasture shaded by old growth trees. Ideal for farm animals or just relaxing in the country. EXCELLENT PRESENTATION.
\$333,000



ODDFELLOWS HOUSE

Renovated 1890s 3 bed air-con cottage on level 719sqm opposite sporting, recreational & medical facilities. Colourful cottage garden at front, double carport at side, yard, shed, chook run at back. Convenient downsize.
\$349,000



NEAR NEW HOME

Easy care 3bed 2bath home with picture windows, timber decking, rear patio, established fruit trees, gorgeous views & double secured carports on low maintenance 749sqm block. Ready to view now.
\$369,000



TOWN CENTRAL

5 bed 2 bath with 2 room external office, spa room & 3 separate living areas. Big open shady gardens with ponds, fruit trees & pool. Complete family unit in a perfect location. Get so much more for your money here!
\$425,000



SECURITY PLUS

D/B 4bed home surrounded by colourful gardens & paved verandahs on beaut 1,554sqm block with driveway access to tons of powered shed space. Ideal for a retired couple.
\$485,000

21 BLACK WATTLE ROAD TOODYAY

MUST BE SOLD

100 ACRE SMALL FARM

PICTURE PERFECT

Rolling hills, tall trees, stream lines & well.

Arable land with additional grazing, excellent fencing, driveways, one main shed with quarters & workshop, second shed & outbuildings.

\$499,000

**JOHN BUTLER
L J HOOKER TOODYAY
9574 2455**



COUNTRY CASUAL

2ac with informal, roomy, air-con 3bed home just 5km from town. 40' x 20' powered shed with many extras, fresh water bore & paddocks for your cherished farm animals. Cool outdoor entertaining & established gardens make this a property you should inspect.
\$359,000



BEST LITTLE STREET IN TOWN

3bed, 2bath family home with high ceilings & air-con. Full length patio for outdoor enjoyment. B/G pool plus self-contained teenage retreat in backyard. All on huge level terraced block with two street frontage.
\$385,000



TEMPLE TREE FARM

Unique 10ac property features 50sqm lined lake, fresh water bore & stands of ancient gums. Smart 3bed home complimented by 1bed self-contained cottage with separate workshop/studio.
\$479,000



WATER WATER WATER

100ac farm with 4 dams – all still with water in them. 4 D/size bedrooms & study. Man-size powered shed with extra height for truck access. Elevated property with gorgeous views midway between Chittering & Toodyay.
\$649,000

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Visit our websites:
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reiwa.com
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