

# The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned  
community newspaper  
Est. 1902

4250 copies circulating in Toodyay, West Toodyay,  
Goomalling, Bolgart, Calingiri, Morangup, Coondle,  
Culham, Bejoording, Nunile, Julimar, Bakers Hill, Clackline,  
Wundowie, Gidgegannup and local districts

February 2016  
343

## Bauxite mine, jobs 'on hold'

Michael Sinclair-Jones

PLANS for a major new open-cut bauxite mine and hundreds of new jobs at Morangup and Wundowie have been postponed indefinitely after an overseas takeover of project ownership.

Chinese Government-owned Yankuang Group now has sole control of all bauxite reserves covering 62sq/km from Wundowie to the Avon River and within a kilometre of the Shire of Toodyay's Morangup rural subdivision were 600 people live.

The mining company's promise of 700 new jobs – many of them local – in a project that was due initially to start next year has now been delayed indefinitely.

Last month's Australian stock market announcement resulted in the scrapping of Perth-based Bauxite Alumina Joint Ventures (BAJV), which closed its Toodyay office in Stirling Terrace at the end of last month.

A controversial BAJV Community Advisory Group (see letters Page 4) has also been "put on hold" with no further meetings planned.

It follows repeated delays in seeking environmental approval – initially due last Easter – and an unresolved contractual dispute between Yankuang and former Australian joint-venture junior partner Bauxite Resources Ltd over refinery plans.

Former joint-venture spokesperson Chantelle O'Sullivan, whose own job disappeared in the takeover, said mining was deferred because of an economic slowdown.

Ms O'Sullivan, who helped rejuvenate the Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry as its former secretary, said BAJV had terminated its Stirling Terrace office sub-lease with Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, which leases the whole building from the Shire of Toodyay.

Other financial losers are likely to include the Toodyay Agricultural Society, for which BAJV was a major cash sponsor and regular Toodyay Show display client.

Ms O'Sullivan said it was up to Yankuang to decide what to do next.

The delay takes the heat off the Shire of Toodyay, which faced community divisions over whether to join the mining company's Community Advisory Group.

Yankuang's Perth-based exploration manager, Bruce Groenwald, said further development work on the Felicitas (Morangup) and Fortuna (Wundowie) projects would be deferred until economic conditions improved.

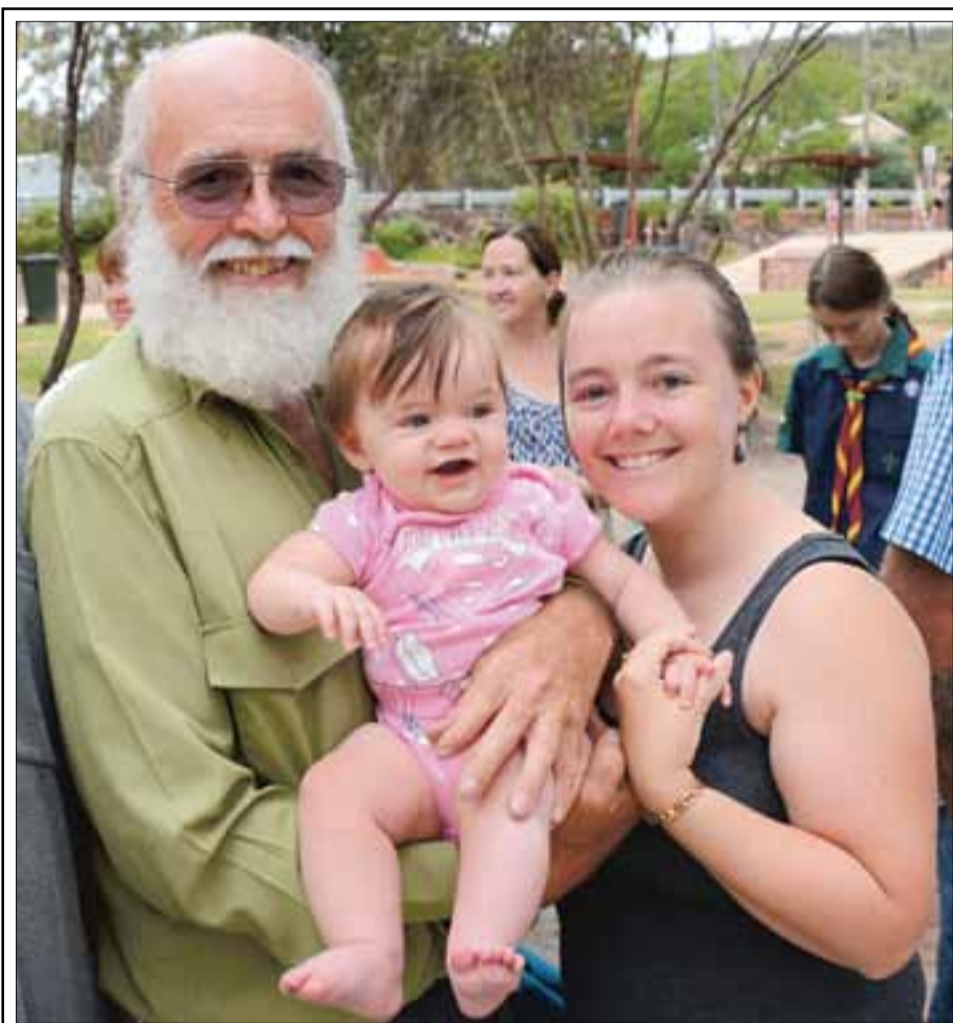
"This means that activities and meetings for the projects and the bauxite mining community advisory group will cease," Mr Groenwald said.

"While our activities are currently being scaled down, we expect that as economic conditions improve we will be looking to continue with the development of our projects.

"The current climate is tough and the group has had to lose key members of the team which has brought us this far.

"However the Felicitas and Fortuna resources meet all the requirements for a good project and I'm confident they will be developed when conditions improve."

See Letters Page 4, AHMAG story Page 20.



Award winner Peter Robinson with daughter Julia and grand-daughter Sabrina.

### Toodyay honours citizenship award winners

VETERAN volunteer Peter Robinson has been named winner of the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award (over 25 age group) in this year's Toodyay honours list.

Peter, pictured above with his family at the awards ceremony in Duidgee Park before the announcement, was cited as a willing helper for many local volunteer

bodies over the past 25 years.

He is best-known as a member of the Toodyay Historical Society and Toodyay Tidy Towns Committee, which won the Active Citizenship Group Award for Toodyay's win as Australia's Tidiest Town in 2015 after its State title win.

They were joined by Shire of Toodyay Executive Support Officer Kristee Jolly,

who won this year's Active Citizen of the Year Award (under 25) for her volunteer work with local youth and sports groups, the Toodyay Roadwise Committee and for her previous work with the Toodyay Agricultural Society, Tidy Towns and the Constable Care youth program.

More stories Pages 10, 19, Australia Day pix Page 14.

### Horror road report with Minister

WA POLICE Minister Liza Harvey is considering a list of recommendations based partly on last November's Toodyay Road Safety Forum called to discuss the high number of road deaths and serious injuries.

About 100 local residents attended the Memorial Hall public forum with WA Road Safety Commissioner Kim Papalia, which led to recommendations to the Minister.

Toodyay was omitted from a Wheatbelt Highway Safety Review until local WA Nationals MP Shane Love intervened.

The RAC lists Toodyay Road as one of WA's 10 worst, underscored last month by another fatal accident when a 67-year-old Morangup man died after his motorcycle crashed near Mayo Road.

Mr Love said most Toodyay Road crashes involved a single vehicle running off the road in dry conditions, mostly in daylight.

Speeding, overtaking on double white lines and tailgating were raised as issues.

The narrow road, lack of overtaking lanes, dangerous intersections and road surface conditions were also highlighted.



The Toodyay Road Safety Forum.

Toodyay - National Tidy  
Towns Champion 2015  
this month



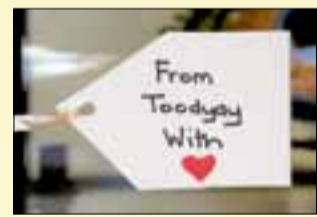
Skate Park opens  
Page 3



160km/h crash inferno  
Page 3



Mud and guts  
Page 11



Yarloop fire appeal  
Page 7

classifieds	28
emergency services	8
environmental matters	19-21
health matters	18
letters	4
public notices	28
puzzles	29
shire news	16-17
sport and leisure	30-31
trades & services	22-26
when & where they meet	28

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# The Toodyay Herald

is a monthly community paper that welcomes contributions of letters, articles and photographs from all members of the community. Contributions via email or on flash drive are preferred. There is no charge for articles that appear in the paper.

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

All advertising should be emailed to [advertising@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:advertising@toodyayherald.com.au). Editorial contributions and photographs should be emailed to [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au).

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

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are \$30.00 (postage and packaging) per year (11 issues). Please send a cheque to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of *The Toodyay Herald* is available to Shire of Toodyay residents at \$10 per financial year, with members entitled to free advertising worth \$15 annually. Please send your name, phone number and residential, postal and email address with your membership fee to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566 or leave it at 92B Stirling Terrace.

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 and Michelle Haycock

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## DISTRIBUTION

The Toodyay Herald has a distribution of 4250 copies, with 2800 copies delivered monthly to PO boxes and letter boxes in Toodyay, Morangup and Bolgart. Copies are also available at roadhouses and businesses in Toodyay, Northam and York and Clackline General Store, Bakers Hill Newsagency, Gidgegannup Newsagency and Wundowie. Web address: [www.toodyayherald.com.au](http://www.toodyayherald.com.au).

Printed by Rural Press

## THANK YOU

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped produce this edition of *The Toodyay Herald*: Richard Grant, Peter Ruthven, Beth Ruthven, Roger Simms, Sandra Harms, Heather Appleby, Ieva Tomsons, Maree Lewis and Jean Witcombe.

## ADVERTISING

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The cost of a casual display advertisement is \$4.30 (inc. GST) per column cm (NB Column width is 61.5mm.)

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Half Page: Mono - \$296; Colour - \$347.50.

Setup size: 260mm wide by 195mm deep.

Quarter Page: Mono - \$148; Col. - \$199.50.

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Page Nomination Loading: Front page - 100%, Back page - 50%, Centre pages / Page 3 - 25%, other pages - 10% (based on mono price and inc. GST)

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**NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION**  
**ADVERTISING DEADLINE** **STORY DEADLINE**

**Noon Wednesday**  
**17 February**

**Noon Monday**  
**22 February**

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 Articles and stories: [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au)

# Ol' Blind Joe

## Pool of tears in desert of disappointment

HAPPY New Year, ladies and gentlemen.

I might meander a bit and cast my eye askance at last year's good, bad and ugly.

It was by far the hottest year globally since records began more than a century ago despite the fact that our oceans have absorbed more than 90 per cent of the excess heat and nearly 30 per cent of the carbon dioxide generated by human consumption of fossil fuels.

As the oceans warm, storm intensity increases and more aquatic species are being forced from their traditional ranges.

Queensland gropers, tiger sharks and even coral trout are now being found in Tasmania, and tropical fish usually found off WA's Ningaloo Reef are swimming south to feast on seaweed forests off the state's mid-west coast.

The Americans are still 10 months away from their elections but it looks like an almighty pretend battle between the hairpiece from hell and a couple of dinosaurs versus the 'business as usual' Hilary Clinton and a bloke called Bernie Sanders who has told very few lies, so obviously he won't stand a snowflake's chance in Marble Bar.

In Australia's corridors of power, recently deposed King Tony Abbott copped a knife in the back and is now frantically hunting down his mates to repay the favour.

Billy Bob Shortening has managed to pale into insignificance and in a splendid display of absolutely nothing at all, wraps himself into knots of meaninglessness.

Mining magnate Clive Palmer got caught with his pants down and it was discovered that the Queensland Senator had an empty wallet and his sordid dealings are to be hung on the line when the dust settles.

Newly crowned King Malcolm Turnbull may be wearing the ring of gold called 'precious', but his hands appear to be tied behind his back and he has achieved nothing of significance since assuming the throne.

However, I give him credit for adding a range of breakthrough hepatitis C medicines to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme - I doubt the old budgie smuggler former PM would have approved it.

This is no small matter.

There are 230,500 Australians living with the hepatitis C virus which can lead to liver cancer, and the King is gonna put a billion dollars in the kitty for therapies with exceptionally high cure rates that exceed 90 per cent and it'll sort it out quick smart.

Nowhere else in the world has stepped up to the crease on this issue and, as with the AIDS epidemic, successful disease prevention therapies such as needle and syringe programs make us an example of best practice involving partnership between government and non-profit groups.

Lord Colin Barnett has been having a jolly old time building stadiums for casinos and other memorials to himself and strutting

around maxing out his credit card, (oops, sorry - yours).

When he took the castle it was three billion gold pieces in debt and since then he's thrown nearly forty billion more into the moat and he did that during the boom time when trainloads of gold were steaming into the realm from the men digging it out.

In October he announced that he couldn't afford \$90 million for basic municipal services to 282 Aboriginal homelands to provide water, power, sanitation, schools, road maintenance and rubbish collection.

But he managed to find \$54 million for the new footbridge connecting East Perth with the new Perth Stadium at Burswood, saving casino owner James Packer a fortune.

State Labor Leader Mark McGowan has been as exciting as a stale slice of toast floating in a puddle but Lord Colin is now so badly on the nose that Mark has a good chance of getting in at the next election.

Locally, we've got ourselves a new council but the Earl of Toodyay (Shire President 'Dour Dow') has spat the dummy on Press freedom and tightened the screws on media communication.

I noted that at the shire's recent annual electors' meeting, prominent ratepayer Renee Lee-Steere cracked the shits and wanted to know why his rates had doubled in the past five years while his property valuation ain't moved diddly-squat - he wasn't alone in this sentiment.

It has a lot to do with the shire's 10-year plan and a decision to raise rates annually to implement it.

The big-ticket item in this plan is this 'recreation centre' business and I simply can't understand why it has to cost \$27 million.

Just about every town in the Wheatbelt has a damn pool and with some trees, a bit of shade cloth and a couple of dunnies, you're in business.

Twenty years ago Ol' Man Dazzy put his hand up and offered to bring the excavator in and dig a dirty great big hole and several tradesmen also piped up and said they would chip in their time to make it happen.

We need to rethink the way we do business, what with everything these days being preplanned and dependent on funding.

Perhaps instead we should just put our shoulder to the wheel and do it ourselves.

This reminds me of a similar tale way back when Federation Square was being built and the shire said, "Oh no - Toodyay stone is too expensive, we'll go with paving".

So Ol' Man Dazzy said whatever the cheapest price for paving was (\$12 a metre) that he would match it but they just ignored us and paid more than \$30 a metre for imported stone and achieved a lacklustre result.

*"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are" - US President (1901-09) Theodore Roosevelt.*

Office hours are from 9am - noon on highlighted days February - March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February			10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Advertise deadline	18	19	20
21	22 Story deadline	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	1	2	3	4	5

## FEEDBACK

### Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

Suggestions and comments are welcome  
 please forward to: [feedback@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:feedback@toodyayherald.com.au)  
 or post to: PO Box 100, Toodyay WA 6566

**The Toodyay Herald**



# Shire plans another dive for pool funds

Michael Sinclair-Jones

THE Shire of Toodyay is planning to reapply for a \$10 million federal grant to help build a new \$27 million sport and recreation centre – including a public swimming pool – after its first bid was refused late last year.

The City of Karratha was the only WA local government council to get the maximum grant of \$10 million last December, with Rockingham next on \$5 million.

However, a new round of bids opened last month and the Shire of Toodyay is preparing to reapply for the full amount again, pending council approval, and further grants are being sought from other sources.

The shire is under pressure to build a full-scale sports and recreation centre rather than just a long-awaited public swimming pool because of inadequate sports facilities elsewhere in the town.

According to a shire report, football finals can't be played at the showgrounds' oval and a nearby hockey pitch is unusable because it is located on an Aboriginal burial ground.

The lack of a local swimming pool and indoor sports hall were two significant gaps in local community assets.

"Most communities with a population the size of Toodyay have one or both of these facilities," the report said.

Plans for a new \$10 million federal funding bid will be discussed at a shire public forum starting at 4pm at the council chambers on Tuesday February 9.

Shire President David Dow said the federal funding body had indicated the shire's application was strong enough to warrant a fresh application.

It would be based on feedback and modified criteria.

"Despite negative commentary by a small section of the community, council remains committed to delivering sport and recreational facilities in Toodyay, including an aquatic facility," Cr Dow said.

"The reality is that without external funding, construction cannot commence, even on a small scale."

See Letters Page 4



A high-flying Skateboarding WA member thrills onlookers in Duidgee Park

## Skaters stoked by 'fully sick' stars

A SPECTACULAR Australia Day display by members of Skateboarding WA helped the Shire of Toodyay officially open the town's new \$225,000 skate park extension in Duidgee Park last month.

Onlookers gasped in wonder as visiting skateboarders defied gravity to perform seemingly impossible aerial feats at breakneck speed.

It was, as youngsters like to say, 'fully sick'.

Local children later signed up for Skateboarding WA lessons to emulate their new heroes.

The skate park design incorporates suggestions from Toodyay District High School students who toured and tested several Perth skate parks.

Stage one was opened in 2011 and stage two completed recently with a \$65,000 grant from the State Government and donations and heavily discounted labour and materials from local suppliers and contractors (details in Toodyay Shire President's report, Page 16).

## Driver dies after 160km/h crash into power pole incinerates car

A 19-YEAR-OLD driver died from serious burns after his car was incinerated in a high-speed crash on Bindi-Bindi Road only a week after Toodyay police charged him with stealing fuel from a service station and driving while under suspension.

The man was driving a Holden Commodore sedan into town at extremely high speed, (believed to be about 160km/h) as he approached a 80km/h zone.

The vehicle failed to take a left bend near the cemetery, crossed the oncoming lane and hit a power pole on the opposite side of the road.

The impact snapped the wooden pole from the ground and caused the car to roll over and catch fire.

Two male passengers aged 16 and 17 escaped the burning wreck but the driver was trapped in his seat and badly burnt.

An RAC rescue helicopter flew the driver and 16-year-old boy to Perth's Fiona Stanley Hospital.

The other boy was treated locally.

The crash – which set fire to a nearby paddock – was witnessed by an oncoming motorist.

The driver died in hospital next day and police have withheld his name at the request of his family.

He was listed as having no fixed address.



Burnt out car wreck on Bindi-Bindi Road

Toodyay Police Sgt Warren Conder described the crash scene as "horrendous".

"This is another example of drivers who travel at excessive speed in high-powered vehicles with little or no driving experience are not adhering to road rules and come unstuck.

"In this case we lost a young man but it could have easily been all three in the vehicle.

"As it is, the two young boys who survived the crash will have some form of scarring – both physical and mental – for the rest of their lives.

"Again I am pleading for motorists to slow down and observe the speed limit.

"I am fed up with attending these types of incidents and seeing this ongoing carnage and senseless loss of life."

## Have your say on town age friendliness

AN AGE-BASED survey of public opinion on local facilities and services has been extended by two weeks to 5pm Friday February 13.

The six-page Shire of Toodyay Age Friendly Community Plan Survey invites people to select their age category (under 54 to 85 and older) and answer questions by ticking boxes and adding comments.

Topics include health and community services, outdoor spaces and buildings, transport and movement, housing, sport and recreation, social participation (events), and communication and information.

Participants are also asked if they are satisfied with the level of 'Respect and Social Inclusion' seniors (people aged 60 or older) experience in the shire.

The survey can be completed on line or downloaded from the shire website, or obtained from the shire office, visitors' centre or public library.

Shire President David Dow said survey results would be used to develop a draft Age Friendly Community Plan for public consultation.

A final plan is intended to go to council in May or June.

## The Toodyay Herald aint broke and doesn't need fixing

The Toodyay Herald Inc.  
Bill Manning, President

THE TOODYAY HERALD Committee is disappointed to hear stories being peddled around town that your local free newspaper is in serious financial difficulty and "needs rescuing".

This comes as a surprise to the committee, which is unaware that any such difficulty exists.

We can assure our readers and advertisers that *The Toodyay Herald* has adequate

financial assets to operate successfully into the future, and in the six months to 31 December 2015 traded at a profit, albeit a small one.

Our objective has always been to produce a quality monthly newspaper to serve the local community while at the same time ensuring we more than meet costs.

Of course, suggestions about how we might make *The Herald* bigger and better are always welcome.

In short, claims of *The Toodyay Herald's* "imminent demise" are unfounded.

# AQUARIUS

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# The Toodyay Herald

## Hot off the Press

IN THE world of new media, newspapers around the globe have been struggling to survive.

Facebook, Twitter, Google, the Cloud and all the rest of it offer us instantaneous and sometimes bewildering ways in which to get our news.

Once a commodity that almost every household in WA bought daily – indeed had delivered – newspapers are now fighting for every casual sale they can make alongside soft drinks, fast food and fuel.

Nobody would deny the revolutionary and beneficial nature of the digital revolution.

The mind boggles at what more can be achieved across so many fields of human endeavour, assuming, of course, its more sinister aspects can be kept under control.

And yet when it comes to news at the local level, communities need more than Twitter. They need a source of gathered information, edited with their interests in mind. And that's where newspapers have an edge.

The best definition of a newspaper I know says that it's a community talking to itself. And our town – Toodyay – luckily has one of those. People feed it, enthusiastically, with news and comments about everything one might expect – and indeed a good bit more.

It wouldn't exist today as a private business operation because it couldn't make enough money. But as a community project run largely with the contribution of volunteers it prospers and provides a unique service.

There's enough in the bin at the end of the month to pay for the professional direction of an editor and assistant editor. That's a real community achievement.

As a retired journalist with 56 years' experience I have had the pleasure and mind-widening experience of contributing as one of those volunteers for the past two years. As I sign off – or rather log off I congratulate all concerned with *The Herald's* success.

And as a Julimar weekender for the past 30 years, I would also like to endorse the sentiments expressed by *The Herald's* new columnist Rosemary Madacsi (Page 12).

Nicely put, Rosemary, that's how I feel about the place too.

*Roger Simms, the author of this editorial, is a former news editor of The West Australian newspaper and senior lecturer in journalism at Murdoch University.*



The way we were – Toodyay School 1953. Front row L-R: Brian Andrijich, Max Cook, Bill Hassen, Wayne Andrijich, Alan Cook, Mike Andrijich, Harry Abbott, Doug Forsyth. 2nd row L-R: Doug Strachan, Doris Waters, Glennys Hunter, Kay Howie, Lyn Chitty, Ann Hassen, Lynette Davies, Bob Jones. 3rd row L-R: Mavis Harold, Janis Fleay, Esther Strachan, Lorraine Ohde, Silvija Andrijich, Daphne Harders, Marion Harders, Elvira Andrijich. Back row L-R: Bruce Coleman, Billy Strachan, Barry Baker, Wayne Obst, Gary Obst, Ray Cook, Max Chitty, Tom Bonshore, Brian Haywood, Royston Sinclair.

## Letters

### Bye bye bauxite – for now

FRIDAY January 29 was a momentous day for Morangup, Wooroloo, Wundowie and Toodyay as a whole when Bauxite Alumina Joint Venture (BAJV) packed up and left town.

Since the mining company blew into Toodyay just over a year ago, it has thrown the communities of Morangup and Toodyay into a heated conflict fuelled by the prospect of local jobs for a bauxite mine that was supposed to open sometime in 2018.

BAJV supporters were asked to submit job credentials and expressions of interest to work on the proposed mine – but the promises have been broken.

Alliances between the miner and the shire, Toodyay Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, the agricultural society and no doubt land owners now amount to nothing.

All active and pending tenements are now 100 per cent owned by the Chinese Government through the Shandong-based Yankuang Group.

The distrust created between the Shire of Toodyay and its constituents through lack of transparency and information will take a very long time to heal, especially given the council's recent adoption of its M.6 mining policy.

This allows the shire council to talk to miners without being questioned by you and me, their constituents.

Any promises that may or may not have been made or inferred by BAJV staff may now amount to little because the Chinese may not be as obliging.

The mining company's community advisory group has been disbanded and members are no longer required to meet.

BAJV's staff have been let go and a Perth-based skeleton crew will manage the tenements.

It is disgusting to say the least that BAJV can come to town and cause so much conflict and upheaval in our communities only to leave literally overnight but I am ecstatic about their departure and I'm sure that I am not alone.

I even drove into Toodyay on the Friday to say goodbye to the BAJV staff and to wish them well but the office was empty because the mining company had already left the building.

As many *Herald* readers would expect, if and when Yankuang decide to step into the spotlight, we will be waiting for them because the Perth Hills and the Avon Valley are not appropriate areas for bauxite mining.

Call me a NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard), call me what you like but unless mining is proposed in your backyard you will never understand how strongly you will fight to protect your way of life.

*Brian Dale  
Morangup*

Imagine Toodyay school children being able to take swimming lessons in our own public swimming pool, and employment for those who could teach Vacation Swimming Classes all summer.

Imagine enjoying a picnic on the lawn around sunset with your family, and having a healthy way for kids and oldies alike to spend their sweltering summer days rather than burning up electricity at home to keep cool.

Come on Toodyay Shire Councillors, think outside the square and take a risk.

I don't think I'm in the minority who want to shout: "We want a pool!"

*Colleen Sheehan  
Toodyay*

### President wrong on sign

I WOULD like to make comment on our Shire President's report in the December 2015 issue of *The Toodyay Herald* in relation to the entry statement.

He is in error in stating: "For several decades there have been attempts to initiate the placement of one or more entry statements in various locations beside roads leading into town but for reasons that persons more knowledgeable than I cannot explain, it has never happened".

Entry statements to all the shire boundaries – 'Welcome to the Shire of Toodyay Gateway to the Avon Valley' – and at all the town boundaries – 'Welcome to Historic Toodyay' – were put in place in 1988 and only removed after the new signs were installed.

They were produced in sepia colour print and scroll to represent the historic value of Toodyay.

I cannot remember who made them or where they were made (I think they were made in Perth) as we were not lucky enough to have Vicky Wesley in town at that time.

The statement on Toodyay Road was just opposite the Classic Cars premises, which was then Toodyay Machinery, owned and operated by the Dow family.

As *The Herald* is well read, items in it tend to become fact.

May I say that the new signage is effective and replaces the old tired statements.

*Robert Millar  
Toodyay*

### We want a pool

FOR SOME, Toodyay is becoming unliveable – especially in summer.

My friends and I drive almost every day to Northam or Wundowie to swim in public swimming pools there.

We do exercise laps, water aerobics and take our children and grandkids for fun.

Recently we drove from Toodyay to Mt Barker and discovered public swimming pools in every little town along the way, at York, Beverley, Brookton, Pingelly, Wagin, Katanning, Narrogin and Kojonup.

Most don't have a big recreation centre – they're simply a public swimming pool with surrounds of grass and a few shade sails, fenced in with a small kiosk.


Why can't we start with that?  
Why can't we gradually add on the other facilities to eventually become a recreation centre?

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# EASTER 2016

**Worship at St Stephens Anglican Church, Toodyay this Easter**

*The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia!*

**Bible studies through Lent** -Tues 10am at the Rectory & 7.30pm at Harcourt Rd  
**Ash Wednesday** 10th February 5pm Communion and marking with ash  
**Maundy Thursday** 24th March 6.30 Communion  
**Good Friday** 9-10am Reflection on the cross  
**Saturday** 26th March 6.30 Service of light at Culham Church  
**Easter Sunday** 8am Bolgart 10am Toodyay Easter Communion

*All Welcome for more details contact Rev Peggy 04 555 43888*

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

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CORTIC DS 1% OINTMENT 30G	\$6.10	<b>\$4.99</b>
HYDROXO B12 1MG/ML 3 AMPOULES	\$6.10	<b>\$5.99</b>
MYCOSTATIN ORAL DROPS 24ML	\$6.10	<b>\$5.39</b>
PANAMAX 240 ELIXIR 200ML	\$6.10	<b>\$4.69</b>
PANAMAX 500MG 100 TABLETS	\$6.10	<b>\$1.89</b>
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 THURSDAY: 8.30AM - 6.30PM • SATURDAY: 8.30AM - 3.00PM



# More eyes on street needed in drug war

## Police Beat

With Sgt Warren Conder  
Toodyay Police Station



A RECENT spike in illegal drug activity has prompted local police to appeal for more eyes on the street to help report suspicious activity.

"We can't be everywhere at once," Toodyay Police Chief Sgt Warren Conder said.

"If it looks wrong, it probably is."

Sgt Conder said local police recently ordered the destruction of 145 drug-related items, including crystal methamphetamine (ice), heroin, natural and synthetic cannabis, and illegally-obtained prescription drugs such as dexedrine ("dexies" or dextroamphetamine), which was used as a juvenile party drug.

Drug paraphernalia destroyed included pipes, bongs, scales, grinders (for cannabis) and scissors.

All items were evidence in police prosecutions and were sent to Perth to be incinerated.

The recent increase in local drug activity was detected partly as a result of random alcohol drug testing by road traffic police over the summer period.

"People need to be more active and report what they see if we are to stop the current crystal meth epidemic," Sgt Conder said.

"People who ignore criminal activity are doing the community a disservice.

"If people see or hear anything suspicious, they can email me directly at toodyaypolice@outlook.com - a special new email address that goes only to me.

"All messages to me at that address will be treated in confidence.

Sgt Conder said suspicious activity could include houses where people in cars visited for short periods of time and left soon after.

People should also look out for glass pipes (about eight centimetres long) commonly used for smoking crystal methamphetamine (ice).

"Behavioural signs for crystal meth are people who look intoxicated but there is no smell of liquor, their pupils are dilated and they are perspiring" Sgt Conder said.

"The biggest giveaway is people are jumpy or fidgety, and a high proportion will show signs of aggression and may be talking to themselves.

### Rock-throwers busted

FIVE rock-throwing offences over the school holidays resulted in charges against several juveniles aged 13-16.

The incidents caused broken windows and other damage to vehicles, houses and a former church.

### Footpath chase

POLICE who chased a motorcyclist down a Stirling Terrace footpath last month believe the rider was seeking to avoid being caught in possession of drugs.

The chase started near the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank and ended when the rider turned left into Stirling Park next to *The Herald* office and rode his motorcycle over the school footbridge across the Avon River to escape.

Police believe they know who the rider is and are making further inquiries.

### I Love Lucy heist



Stolen I Love Lucy DVDs recovered by police

POLICE charged a Toodyay woman with receiving stolen property after thieves raided a deceased estate in Coondle Road.

Several items were stolen when the unoccupied home was broken into after the owner's death.

Items recovered by police included 25 DVDs - including several *I Love Lucy* TV comedy series discs - and a Ned Kelly collection which was allegedly later advertised for sale on the internet.

A white LG fridge remains missing and police suspect it may have been advertised for sale on the internet from late October.

A search of the charged woman's house in December also found a laptop computer reported stolen from Queensland.

Police inquiries are continuing.

Several other home burglaries last month included a property in the Riverview Estate (off Drummond Street, Toodyay) where burglars broke into a house to steal goods which they stacked outside.

However, the thieves were disturbed before they could remove their haul.

Another unoccupied Toodyay house being built on the Goomalling Road was also broken into and several whitegoods items stolen.



A locally seized glass pipe used for smoking crystal methamphetamine or 'ice'.



A Ned Kelly collection (allegedly advertised on Facebook before being recovered by police) and fridge stolen from a deceased estate in Coondle Road. Police are still looking for the fridge, which may also have been advertised on social media.

## Ex-soldier from Toodyay joins local police force

LOCAL police are welcoming Const. Jim Moore to the Toodyay station following this month's transfer of Const. Chris Milonas to Joondalup Police Station.

Const. Milonas served in Toodyay for about three years and was active in local sports and community groups.

Const. Moore is a Toodyay resident and

new police graduate. He previously served in the Second Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment, including during Australia's 10-year Regional Assistance Mission in the Solomon Islands which ended in August 2013.

The transfer will be completed later this month.



Toodyay police chief Sgt Warren Conder (right) with new recruit Const. Jim Moore.

# TOODYAY

MRB 2339

## Tyre Service

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Coming to  
Toodyay  
February 11th  
2016

Health rebates available

# Yes Minister response ducks mining query



**Bat in the Belfry**  
Geoff Appleby

TOODYAY Shire Council got 2016 off to a flying start, whizzing through a 41-page agenda and 181-page addendum last month in a breathtaking 31 minutes.

At last December's meeting, Shire President David Dow took a series of ratepayer questions on notice from Morangup farmer Brian Dale who is convenor of the Avon and Hills Mining Awareness Group and whose rural property overlooks a proposed 62sq/km open-cut bauxite mine.

The council has for the past two years been stuck on the vexed question of what to say and do about mining in the face of heated public debate, and only late last year adopted a formal policy on how to respond.

One of Mr Dale's questions asked why the council needed to have a policy at all.

On their own admission Cr Dow and Shire CEO Stan Scott have conceded that the shire has no role to play in mining approvals and that the neighbouring shires of Northam and Mundaring have not seen the need for such policy.

However, Mr Dale was served up with a motherhood statement worthy of the British TV comedy show *Yes, Minister* containing such platitudes as "...its policies are based on best practice governance for the needs of the Toodyay community as a whole".

Mr Dale had asked 14 questions in all and received similar responses, with the shire rejecting his call for a local referendum on the issue.

The shire refers to its involvement in the overall process as "advocacy for the best interest of the Shire and Community" – and so say all of us.

In February last year, a storm badly damaged Mrs O'Rielly's Cottage in Stirling Terrace which is a heritage building listed on the Shire's Municipal Inventory.

The council, after a long process of negotiating with various stakeholders agreed to accept a tender from H. S. Hyde and Sons for repair and restoration work valued at just over \$200,000, which is covered by insurance.

Following last month's devastating fires

in Waroona and Harvey, the council is considering the cost of providing further assistance and this matter will be discussed at the shire's next public forum starting at 4pm on Tuesday February 9.

And now for something completely different. The following is an extract from the shire's January council minutes.

*'At a Special Meeting in October 2015, Council made appointments to its Committees and authorised the advertising for interested members of the community to nominate as a representative for both the Audit Committee and the Museum Advisory Committee. Council reappointed community members to a number of other Council committees.'*

*'At its Ordinary Meeting held November 2015, Council appointed further members to the Museums Advisory Committee. Responses received to the advertisement in relation to the Audit Committee was disappointing'*

Last year's audit committee community members were Robert Millar and Beth Ruthven, both of whom are eminently qualified for the role.

Mr Millar decided not to continue but Mrs Ruthven, who did re-nominate late last year for the position and who is known to ask the odd difficult question, has yet to receive a response from the shire.

Assuming the shire received Mrs Ruthven's application, it would seem courteous to at least inform her of the shire's response before deciding last month to readvertise the position to see if there are any other takers.

A very positive move by the council is the payment of out-of-pocket expenses to local volunteer Bush Fire Control Officers.

This matter has been considered in the past but previously hit a snag with the issues of fairness and accountability when expending ratepayer funds.

Maintaining records of mileage and mobile phone calls when controlling a fire front is problematic to say the least, and the stumbling block has not only been this but also the cost of administering comparatively small amounts of money.

From this year, all FCOs will be issued with pre-paid Visa cards.

\$1800 has been allocated in the 2015/16 Budget Review to provide an annual payment of \$400 for the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, \$200 for deputies and \$100 for Fire Control Officers.

Though these small amounts may not fully compensate all expenses, it is a step in the right direction and all councillors should be congratulated for solving a difficult problem.

## Sex worker refuge won't lie down

TOODYAY Shire Council's decision to reject plans for a sex worker refuge in Bejoording faces a legal challenge in the State Administrative Tribunal.

Sharon Beel, representing the recently formed Alabaster Community Association, said an appeal was lodged in December and would take about six months to decide.

The refuge for up to 14 inmates is planned to be built on a hobby farm bought by Mrs Beel and husband Andrew Beel in Seventh Road, Bejoording (near Syred's Cottage), in 2014.

However, Mrs Beel said her husband was not involved in registering the Alabaster Community Association, as reported in the December *Herald*, and that if the appeal succeeded, they would transfer their joint ownership of the property to the association.

The shire voted 9-0 behind closed doors last December to reject the application after North Ward Cr Brian Rayner tabled a petition from 70 local residents claiming they had not been properly consulted.

The shire said it rejected the planned "women's refuge" because the land use was not permitted in a rural residential zone.

All other details were suppressed.

Mrs Beel later told *The Herald* that the planned refuge would house former sex workers and seek to "rehabilitate and educate vulnerable women" on condition they attended daily Bible readings and prayers.

Some would also undertake voluntary "discipling".

Shire President David Dow said he understood the appeal would be delayed until a similar one in another shire was decided.

## New garden to chomp into history

TOODYAY will get a long-awaited community garden at the former Youth Park in Clinton Street, across from the Old Newcastle Gaol.

The garden will be called Incredible Edible Toodyay with the theme 'Bringing the Golden Oldies Back', focussing on settler plants, edible local native plants and edible 'heirloom' plants in a heritage-inspired setting.

Project leader Karla Hooper – who last year helped establish the Toodyay Farmers' Market – said the Toodyay Community Garden Association was seeking a grant to help structure the association, engage a planning consultant and develop a design.

"It's basically about bringing life to how we used to eat and grow food before supermarkets were available and aims to demonstrate that edible food comes in all types of varieties, different to what is currently monopolised by shops," Ms Hooper said.

"I'm currently developing a Toodyay Community Garden website and will release an email to the community soon."

The Toodyay Shire Council approved the Clinton Street site last December after taking nearly two years to reach a decision.

It was carried 7-2 on condition that no trees be removed and that the shire-owned site be kept well-maintained and tidy at all times.



Toodyay volunteer Melanie Pree with items donated to the Yarloop fire appeal

## Yarloop collection grows

**From Toodyay With Love**  
Melanie Pree and John Mitchinson

TOODYAY has proved yet again what a generous and empathetic community we are by contributing to a brilliant collection of goods to send to the people of Yarloop and Waroona after last month's devastating fires.

An empty shop in Charcoal Lane kindly loaned by Toodyay IGA store owners Dean and Amanda Carter is brimming with items (pictured above) that will be welcomed by recipients from fire-affected areas.

We now have more than 210 boxes of donated items sorted, packed and stored, and many more boxes waiting to be filled.

We also have willing truck and ute drivers who have volunteered to move the collection to the South-West once we have secured a distribution venue.

Thank you to the volunteers who have helped to sort and pack the items in such a way that the huge task of setting it out and helping fire survivors select their items will be easier at the other end.

Donated items range from vegetable peelers to books, beautiful linen to spinning wheels and everything in between.

Our focus now is on tools and clean-up gear as well as trusty screwdrivers and hammers.

We already have three wheelbarrows and hope this number will grow before our delivery date – yet to be announced.

Thank you to everyone who has helped –

you know who you are and be assured that Yarloop won't forget you.

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**Toodyay Theatre Group Inc presents**

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THE SHOW??

MYSTERY AUCTION

Saturday 12 March, doors open 6:00pm

Toodyay Memorial Hall

Tickets \$40 for meal, show & auction available until 6 March from Makit Hardware, then \$15 for no meal

Tickets must be paid for at time of booking

Bar available on night, strictly no BYO

ALL money and proceeds go to the Yarloop, Waroona and Disticts Fire Appeal

## emergency services

# Yarloop fire reveals insurance need

**Julimar Toodyay Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**  
Alison Wroth

IT'S SUCH a shame that it's only when Mother Nature is at her worst, as with the massive fires that resulted in the tragic loss of life, livestock, income and homes in the south-west recently, that we think of updating our insurance policies.

After being totally burnt out and losing everything but the clothes they were wearing, many people spoke of not being fully covered by insurance or having no insurance cover at all.

This definitely needs to be considered before the fire season hits.

Get your insurance policy updated if you

can and then, whatever happens, you'll have something to fall back on.

This massive fire proves one thing for us – put together the right conditions on the worst summer day and a fire is virtually unstoppable.

All we can do is to prepare our homes and surrounds to the best of our ability before every new fire season; maybe just think of the community in Yarloop, then do your utmost to keep your house and garden fireproof, gutters uncluttered and firebreaks clean and accessible.

The Julimar brigade has been fairly quiet regarding training over the festive break and, especially with our training officer away on one of his long European sojourns again, it's amazing that anyone gets trained.

Training nights seem to be working well

on Fridays with everybody who needs to be there, and more, attending.

The attraction must either be the chook wheel or the fact that Rocket hasn't been around to win it all the time.

We said a sad farewell to Wes and Helen, who have been solid supporters of Julimar ever since arriving in Toodyay.

Their property has now sold and they are moving down south to be with family.

Wes's sponge recipe was to die for and his sponge cakes will be sadly missed when Julimar fire brigade volunteers hold their annual 'Julimar Café' at the next Toodyay Show.

Best wishes to Wes and Helen for their future dreams and we hope that relaxation and great games of bowls go with them.

We also send hugs and get-well-soon wishes to those two ladies who wish they weren't in hospital recovering – Anne Kidd and Tracey Salmond.

We hope you're up and running with the best of us again soon.

We hope to hold a training evening with St John Ambulance on Friday February 19 to enable brigade members and anyone interested to learn to use the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank-sponsored 'Heartstart' defibrillator now in place on the shed wall.

The 'Heartstart' is very people-friendly and if you're interested, come on down to the Julimar Fire Shed at 6pm and see it in action and have a chat with the local paramedic at the same time if you have concerns.

We have been advised by St John that first-aid kits will be available at a discount price on the training day – an added bonus for anyone needing a new kit around the home or in the car.

If you still want to meet our happy bunch of firefighters please come to the Julimar Fire Shed on Friday February 19 at 5.30pm and join us.

You can discuss your family's fireplan or if you'd like to become a member, chat to our captain or any of our friendly brigade members.

Our recent raffle was a great success and we thank Toodyay businesses who generously donated prizes, including Toodyay IGA, Toodyay Hardware & Farm (Makit), Toodyay Lolly Shop, Toodyay Pharmacy, Toodyay Emporium, Bottlemart, Toodyay Traders, The Freemasons Hotel, Cola Café, Victoria Hotel and Toodyay Newsagency.

Thanks also to those who supported us and bought raffle tickets. The lucky winners were – 1st Anne Kidd, 2nd Louise, 3rd Claire, 4th Charlie Wroth and 5th Paul Clune.

## Lightning strikes keep Central on its toes

**Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**  
Mick McKeown

SO FAR this summer we have turned out to fires in Toodyay, Northam, Gidgegannup and Waroona, including one turn-out by Wayne Weaver with the 12.2 water tanker to Northam on Christmas Day.

Most of the fires in Toodyay, Northam and Gidgegannup were caused by lightning and promptly extinguished by local volunteer brigades.

This summer has been a bit different so far with significant rain and generally mild temperatures but there's a way to go yet, so we all need to maintain our vigilance and readiness.

Toodyay Central deployed firefighters and our 1.4 fire truck to last month's disastrous Waroona fire.

Thanks to Craig Stewart, Will Hort, Wayne Weaver, Stuart Dodemaide and Kaitlyn Chaney who travelled away and gave their time to help those down south.

The 1.4 was away for the best part of three weeks and is now back on station in Toodyay bearing some signs of close encounters while away.

As we start a new year it is fitting to review events of 2015 and while doing so, please spare a thought and a prayer for Paul Sanderson from the North Rothbury Rural Fire Brigade in the Hunter Valley of NSW who died last November while fighting a fire.

Meanwhile at Toodyay Central, we're always keen to welcome new members.

The training provided will not only help you to help others but it will also give you the skills and confidence to help yourself when the need arises.

If you're interested in finding out more about our brigade or would like to join the brigade, please get in touch with our Captain, Mick McKeown 0439 998 808, our Secretary, Wayne Clarke 6364 3609 or email: 2jcentralvbf@westnet.com.au.

Our next monthly meeting will be at 7:30pm on Tuesday February 23 at the fire station in Stirling Terrace.

## New members learn to take the heat

**Bejoording Volunteer Bushfire Brigade**

From the desk of The Badger

HAPPY New Year to all our members, supporters and fellow brigades – let's hope it's a good one, as John Lennon once sang.

All told, our community has been spared any serious fires so far and our hearts go out to those communities down south that have suffered such devastating losses since the year began.

We have managed a few minor fires this year – mostly lightning strikes – and assisted other brigades in similar situations.

Renewal is the lifeblood of any brigade and Bejoording has had a good run of new volunteers, especially young teenagers and also some fathers joining along with their sons and daughters.

We were able to send eight new volunteers to their 'Introduction to Firefighting' training following which all decided to stay with us, so their training will continue through January and February.

Our ability to secure your safety during times of fire depends on having a sufficient number of volunteers to keep the brigade

resourced and be able to respond to anything the universe throws at us.

There are always people retiring or moving away, so this influx of new members enables us to move ahead with confidence.

Don't forget, you can volunteer at any time of the year – just give us a call at the numbers below if you're interested.

Finally, a big thank you to the Toodyay Op Shop for their generous contribution.

They're a committed bunch of people greatly valued by the community.

There is now a total fire ban in place.

The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to remember to always plan and prepare for fire and have a clear contingency strategy in place should things get out of control.

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

Advice is free, but getting it wrong can be expensive.

If you have any questions, remember you can contact Captain Barry Grey on 9574 2149, or The Badger on 9574 4834. Please leave a message if we're not there.

Our next regular meeting is on Tuesday February 16, 6pm at the shed. New members welcome

CELEBRATE YOUR  
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## Morangup mourns the loss of a veteran volunteer

**Morangup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**  
Sue Madrell

A FEW MONTHS have passed since the last article and we've had some unfortunate events, fires and the tragic accidental death of one of our long-serving volunteers.

Richard Watson JP, was killed on January 13 while riding his motorcycle on Toodyay Road in Gidgegannup.

His contribution to the brigade will be missed as he turned out to many fires, including last year's Boddington fire.

Our end of year BBQ was a great success with the local community enjoying themselves on the night.

Thank you to Father Christmas (Gary, the other fireman) for coming along and making it a special night for the kids.

There have been a few fires in the Morangup area caused by lightning strikes.

Luckily, on one of those days Morangup must have been on the edge of the lightning storm as Gidgegannup had 16 strikes and as you can imagine were kept quite busy.

Morangup firefighters that afternoon were helped by air support. Without this backup

the job would have been much harder.

Thank you also to those Morangup residents who turned up with private units to the Toodyay Road and McKnoe Drive fires.

The Waroona fires have been devastating, as you all know.

Morangup members Rick Langham and Mark Briggs went down to Waroona along with other Toodyay firefighters.

Here is an excerpt from *The Gidgegram* regarding private units and dress requirements at any fire:

"Crews on private units should be properly dressed, i.e: long-sleeved jumper/long trousers (cotton or wool), safety or bushfire-fighting helmet, leather boots, leather gloves, safety glasses or smoke goggles.

"Once brigades take over a fire, the incident controller has complete authority and will order off the fireground any private units and crews not essentially meeting these standards."

More information can be found on the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website: [dfes.wa.gov.au](http://dfes.wa.gov.au) under the heading Safety Guidelines. Bushfire Publications "Guidelines for Operating Private Equipment".

# Here's your chance to learn life-saving skills

**St John Ambulance Toodyay**  
Heather Appleby

THE ST JOHN Ambulance Toodyay Sub-Centre's Monster Christmas Raffle raised \$5332 and was a monster success.

Lucky winner Gill from Clackline was absolutely thrilled to win such a wonderful prize.

I think all her Christmas present problems were solved as there must have been something for everyone in the 'ambulance'.

Our thanks go to all the local businesses and people who donated prizes, to the thousands of people who supported us by buying raffle tickets and to our volunteers who sold tickets at various events and venues leading up to Christmas.

We have also received some fantastic donations over the past month, including a Toodyay Op Shop donation of \$5000.

Our thanks to the ladies who run this amazing shop and to all the wonderful Toodyay people who donate their used clothes and those who shop at the Op Shop.

We also received donations from the collection tin at Toodyay Hair Studio (thanks Sandy) and from Sally at the Post Office – now you know where your \$2 goes when you forget your PO box key.

The money goes into the St John Ambulance collection tin so we hope you all forget your keys at least once a month.

## First-aid courses

TOODYAY's St John Ambulance service is offering one-day first-aid courses this month.

The courses provide an excellent general grounding in first-aid and will enable the participants to provide appropriate first-aid procedures and basic life-support skills in an emergency at home or work or elsewhere.

It satisfies training requirements across a

range of community and workplace settings. Participants will also receive a free first-aid kit.

The courses will be held at the St John Ambulance Sub-Centre in Toodyay (behind the St Vincent de Paul shop), Stirling Terrace, on Saturday February 13 and 27.

To book for either course or for further information, contact Carolynne on 9574 2390, 042 8957 600 or email sjatooday@bigpond.com.

You never know when these life-saving skills may come in handy – a family member, a neighbour, or even a total stranger may need first aid at some time.

This course will give you the confidence to handle an emergency for the first vital minutes while waiting for an ambulance to arrive.



Lucky winner Gill from Clackline.



June Eastwood with Joan Thomas's new book Shandy.

# Shandy author flies in to launch train book

**Toodyay Miniature Railway**  
June Eastwood

THE AUTHOR of our beautiful new children's book *Shandy Makes New Friends*, Joan Thomas, flew over from Canberra to be at the launch of the book.

Joan, June, Stan and Pat spent a day at Federation Square and a day at the alcove at IGA and sold almost 150 copies, which Joan was happy to sign or dedicate to a special child.

Not only is this a lovely story featuring all our engines and Benny's adventures along the banks of the Avon, but there's a section dedicated to Toodyay with a map of where we are and an explanation of the wildlife and places featured in the story.

Joan was asked to visit Constable Care while in WA and had her picture taken with Constable Care himself and her book.

In the story Constable Care issues Benny a parking ticket at Turtle Crossing but all is subsequently forgiven.

Copies of *Shandy Makes New Friends* can be obtained from June direct at 138 Railway Road, from the Visitor's Centre or Uniquely Toodyay.

Fourteen members spent a happy New Year's Eve at the new loco shed where we partook of kebabs, sausages, chops and hamburgers, done to a turn by chefs Graham and Vern.

These were complemented by a great array of salads and sweets and of special note was chef Dymond's offering of an oriental fruit salad which was enthusiastically received by all.

Peter did have to confess it was a matter of opening four jars and tins with unpronounceable names, but the result was still delicious.



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# Sock knitters and sandbaggers did their bit for WW1

**Toodyay Historical Society**  
Robyn Taylor, President

BEFORE starting this column I decided to dip into our records to discover what was happening in Toodyay 100 years ago.

Overseas the Great War was still taking its terrible toll, and local families were hoping and praying for the safe return of loved ones.

The urge to make a useful contribution to the war effort would have been strong, so it was interesting to read a *Toodyay Herald* article under the banner heading "Sand Bags. A Magnificent Response".

While socks were being knitted by the thousand so too were sand bags being sewn.

Organised by the Toodyay Committee of the Sandbag League, the first meeting of the sandbag makers was held in the town hall with 120 willing helpers sewing 220 bags.

The article brings added meaning to the phrase 'on the home front'.

## Sundowner at shearing shed

OUR LAST function for 2015 was held on a balmy summer night in late November.

Invited guests included Shire CEO Stan Scott and his wife Laurel, the Shire President David Dow and his wife Judy (a recently elected councillor).

Following supper we were entertained with stories by former farmers and sheep shearers Peter Robinson and Colin Kendall.

Peter brought along his shearing comb, but more fascinating still was his off-the-shoulder 'Tarzan' singlet that he wore for the occasion.

There is so much more to our rural history that needs exploring.

## 'Toodyaypedia'

ON JANUARY 15 Robyn and Beth joined Toodyay Museum Curator Margie Ebele at a Wikimedia Australia celebration marking the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the online co-operative encyclopaedia *Wikipedia*.

The event was held at the tiny Museum of Perth located in Grand Lane, between Murray and Barrack Streets – google Museum of Perth to find out more.

'Toodyaypedia' was one of the many WA Wiki events that featured on the night.

## Fire-fighting heritage talk

SOCIETY members were pleased to help at the Museum's Inclusive Community Session held on January 22 around the Museum's Old Police Stables and Shearing Shed on Clinton Street.

Volunteer fire brigade member Max Heath and members of the Toodyay Fire and Rescue crew related the history of fire-fighting, while the old red hand-pulled fire cart and a polished brass fireman's helmet were much admired by the 40 children and 27 adults who took part.

## Australia Day breakfast

CONGRATULATIONS to member Peter Robinson who won Toodyay's Premier's Active Citizenship Award (Over-25).

For a long time, Peter has been active on many volunteering fronts in Toodyay including representing the society on the Toodyay Tidy Towns Committee which was also nominated and won the Community Group Award.

## Op Shop donation

I WOULD like to take this opportunity on behalf of THS to thank the Toodyay Op Shop for its generous donation – what a great organisation to have in our town.

## Coming events

OUR Planning Meeting for 2016 will take place on Sunday February 7 at 4pm (note new time) at Linda's place.

All members welcome; please bring something to share for the Sundowner.

Our next general meeting: 7pm, Wednesday 17 February, Donegan's Cottage, Toodyay Showgrounds. Feature peaker: Robyn Taylor, on Toodyay identities.

For more information: secretary Desrae Clarke: desraec@westnet.com.au; resident Robyn Taylor: rdtaylor@iinet.net.au, 9574 2578 or, member Beth Frayne, 9574 5971.

Donegan's Cottage (in the showgrounds) is open every Thursday, 1-3pm.

Postal address: PO Box 32, Toodyay WA 6566. Membership is fantastic value at \$10 per year.



End-of-year function in the old Wicklow Shearing Shed, Newcastle Gaol Museum Complex. (Photo: Taia Sinclair.)

## Sandakan winners off to Borneo

**RSL Toodyay sub branch**  
Bruce Guthrie

WELCOME back to our readers and wonderful Toodyay community to the RSL Toodyay sub-branch news.

We ended last year with two significant activities – our annual Christmas lunch and the announcement of this year's Sandakan Tour Scholarship winners.

The Memorial Hall lunch was attended by 50 members and guests.

Many caught up with old friends and much laughter was heard around the hall.

The raffle and Christmas gift exchanges were a highlight of the day.

A very fine selection of hot food was prepared under the guidance of Victoria Hotel's Marg Gladman and served very

professionally by uniformed wait staff. Thank you to everyone involved.

The 2016 Sandakan Tour Scholarship winners were announced at an end-of-year presentation evening at the Toodyay District High School

Toodyay TDHS student Catherine Fletcher and Swan Christian College student Kobe Wakka are this year's winners.

Well done both for very well researched, prepared and presented applications.

The two students will be going to Borneo for a trip of a lifetime later in Term One.

RSL members are reminded that this year's general meetings will be held in the Memorial Hall, with the first scheduled for Saturday February 6.

We wish all members who may be unwell at this time good progress and a speedy recovery.



# St John Ambulance

## "Provide First Aid"



## One day courses

To be held on Saturday, 13 February 2016

and Saturday, 27 February 2016

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# Local Amazons go hard in the mud

**Bejoording Community News**  
The Badger

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our members and neighbours, and we wish every one of you good health, prosperity and happiness.

Shortly before Christmas the rumour mill was buzzing in Bolgart and Bejoording.

Someone heard there was ice being manufactured in our area, and it would be available at 'below street rates' at the Bejoording Community Centre.

It was almost a case of lock up your teenagers and turn out the home guard.

Slowly the truth filtered through and a sigh of relief spread quickly through the community.

One of our members had acquired a second hand ice-making machine like those in our local pubs, and would place bags of ice for sale in a chest freezer at the shed as a community service.

Our annual Christmas Party was a great success, a big thank you to all the volunteers who prepared a feast of roast meats and vegetables, and sumptuous desserts.

Everyone knows who you are, and once again you did a terrific job. Thanks also to Santa who looked decidedly hot in his winter uniform.

This is a marvellous event for our children but the adults really get into the spirit of the occasion too.

Boxing Day soon came around and the annual Mud Footy Tournament took place.

Pumps were running from early am covering the clay paddock in dam water and creating some of the slimiest grey mud imaginable.

Women are known to pay a fortune to bathe in this stuff at spas, so quite a few opportunistic young femme fatales were seen writhing around in the mud early in the day, stepping off the pitch like prehistoric warriors, and trudging off to the dam for a rinse off.

When it came time to play the game a new

approach was taken this year to create two teams – instead of youngies vs oldies, this year it was shirted vs shirtless regardless of age.

Needless to say the shirtless team was male dominated but the shirted women were undaunted by the competition.

Normally demure young women suddenly became loud-mouthed Amazons fighting and kicking their way, along with their male colleagues, to victory.

It was a fantastic family picnic day, great fun was had by all, and there were no serious injuries.

A great big thank you to our hosts, Linda Veldtman and Marc Bodium.

One of our popular young members, Luke Cox, was farewelled at a big party early in January.

Luke has joined the army and left for his initial training. A few tears were shed on the night by his many friends and his family.

Luke has always been active in our community group from a young age, and for the past couple of years has served his community in the volunteer bush fire brigade. Now he's off to serve his country in the army.

Go well Luke, we'll miss your cheerful presence, and we hope you visit us whenever possible.

Your monthly reminder. We meet every Wednesday evening (except in January) at the Bejoording Community Centre which shares premises with the local volunteer bush fire brigade in Bejoording Road.

Come along from 6pm and leave when it suits you.

It's strictly 'come as you are' casual, kids are welcome, and there are fun events every month.

If you aren't yet a member, come along, we'd love to get to know you.

If you want to know more you can contact president Barry Grey on 9574 2149 or call The Badger on 0414 250 48.



Where's the ball?

## Wild storm rattles tranquil Saturday hideaway

**Ida's Hideaway**  
Neil Stewart

A HAPPY New Year to everyone and I hope you all had a great Christmas and caught up with your loved ones.

We had our Christmas party on the Saturday before Christmas and we were delighted that Father Christmas found time in his busy schedule to visit us, bringing Mother Christmas along with him – how lovely.

After giving out his presents and exchanging a 'merry quip' with each of our members he joined us for Christmas afternoon tea, then off he flew on his sleigh back to the North Pole to finish the toys for all the children.

We were glad to welcome Aileen Smith to our party and we all went home full of Christmas fare and presents from Father Christmas.

The New Year has begun and let us hope it will be a peaceful one.

Syd and Ann have become 'grey nomads' and we don't expect to see them for a few weeks.

Our Saturday afternoons are always tranquil so it was a shock last month when we were bombarded by howling winds, horizontal rain and horrendous claps of thunder – very frightening.

Some members went home early to check if their houses were safe only to find it hadn't even rained in their part of Toodyay.

We are looking forward to another year of friendly afternoons with gossip, company and chocolate treats as bingo prizes.

Congratulations to Jim Page for his birthday last month.

If you are interested in joining us please feel free to come to Butterly Cottage at 1pm on Saturday afternoons, or you can ring Ida on 9574 2858.

Do you know: nine out of 10 living things are in the ocean?

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# Toodyay draws tree changers, wanderers and wounded

**A Sense of Place**  
Rosemary Madacsi

TOODYAY is a place we were drawn to or born to but, regardless, stay.

Something seduced us – the tree changers, wanderers and wounded – to this quiet refuge among the hills with the whisper of trees, rolling fields and grazing livestock.

Yet like most adventurers we found these valleys were already settled by others.

Like nature Toodyay is in flux between the old and the new.

Pressures come from many sources and history knows change is inevitable. Nothing remains the same.

Yet we are not flotsam, powerless to direct our future. It is how we respond to these pressures that will define the community.

These forces are not unique as everywhere peripheral communities are being absorbed by city expansions or are succumbing to economic decline.

Yet alongside the fallen are notable exceptions of communities that have not only retained their identities but have thrived.

Toodyay largely has the 'big picture'.

Most of us wish to keep Toodyay's 'qualities'. Whether we are farmer or

*The Toodyay Herald is pleased to announce the start of a new monthly column by local environment writer Rosemary Madacsi*

newcomer we are united in this sentiment. But how do we do this?

The answer lies in the components of this picture, the parts that make the whole as the whole is only as strong as its parts.

Interestingly during the 1960s hippy era, the Gaia hypothesis emerged that the earth's 'parts' were inter-related and that organisms interacted with their inorganic surroundings.

They formed a self-regulating and complex system that contributed to maintaining the conditions for life on the planet.

Considered at first to be a symptom of too much funny weed by the mung bean sect, today this hypothesis is the catalyst of change in agriculture and science. It has completely altered the way we think and do business.

Gaia perfectly described the natural environment but we as sophisticated 'organisms' also reside in a second environment, the construct called 'civilization' that functions on economic drivers and social needs.

We need the 'Gaia plus' model.

This is the purpose of the column, not to espouse hippy principles and hug a tree but to explore what defines our 'sense of place' our physical, social and economic parts, and how we can build on these in the face of so much change to keep Toodyay special yet still prosper.

It is a journey the whole community must take if it is to succeed.

We need to become aware of each of our components and how they work together to create Toodyay.

We need to understand and accept these, and work actively towards our common objective – the quiet refuge among the hills, the whisper of nature and the rolling fields and grazing livestock.

We need also to be a prosperous agricultural and business community that provides for all its residents within rural environs.

This may seem flaky but be patient – each monthly 'layer' in this column will explore a stronger sense of place and how our needs can be met.

It is our future, so please respond, think and debate.

In the discussion we lay the groundwork for a great common future.

It can be done, it has been done and we certainly can do it.

# Singers bid a sad farewell to their gentle giant

**Toodyay Community Singers**

CHRISTMAS, hectic even as it is enjoyable for the Toodyay Community Singers, is gone for another year and we are all enjoying our seasonal break.

You'll find some of us relishing the cooler climates of Albany and Margaret River, exploring the eastern states, languishing at Rottneest, visiting or entertaining relatives and others just simply taking a break in Toodyay.

It is, however, with much sadness that we mourn the passing of one of our own.

Don Fyffe, a gentle giant of a man with a big voice to match, passed away in January after a long and painful battle with cancer.

Don was a founding member of Toodyay Community Singers in 2007-2008 and previously sang with the Northam branch of Sing Australia.

His rich baritone voice featured in all of our productions and was a splendid base for our regular singing appearances such as at the Christmas Street Party.

Musical director Trish Young compared his voice to that of Paul Robeson, so it came as no surprise that his rendition of *Ol' Man River* brought the house down at our first major production.

Our group was pleased to be able to farewell Don at his funeral with our theme song *Let There Be Peace on Earth*.

Our thoughts are with Anne and his family. The singers will return on Thursday March 3 and meet at 7pm at the CWA Hall.

We are looking forward to regrouping and to welcoming some new members.

For further enquiries phone Margaret on 9574 2183.

## You Can Leave Your Hat On for our next meeting

**Toodyay Music Club**  
Jenny Edgecombe

DID YOUR New Year's resolution involve getting out that old guitar and brushing up the chords?

Here's the perfect way to do it – bring that guitar along to Toodyay Music Club.

Join us for some singalong, listen to items presented by our members and perform an item yourself if you feel so inclined.

End-of-year club activities saw members provide entertainment for Christmas parties at Bethavon Hostel and the Avon Valley Residency in Northam.

Our December meeting had a festive feel as well. There were gingerbread bikkies and other items on a Christmas theme.

K4 (my name for a quartet whose members used to drive here from near Kalamunda) could not fail to please with their magic harmonies in *So This is Christmas*.

I swear Maurice made his uke sound more like a lute when he accompanied Eileen's beautiful *What Child is This?*

Peter and Moya were next with a cheerful little number to set our feet tapping, *Mele Kalikimaka*, the Hawaiian Christmas Song.

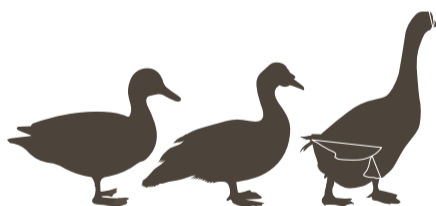
Joe and Jenny brought the tone down a little with *Robert the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and *Snoopy's Christmas* but Spencer retrieved

matters with his unaccompanied *I Want to Live* – what a lovely voice he has.

Brian's dramatic *La Donna e Mobile* was a bit of a trick. I thought it a noble song until his English rendition of a verse at the end informed us how flighty and unreliable the writer finds women to be.

Our next meeting in the CWA Hall is at 4pm on Saturday February 13 when members will be present items on 'Attire' (connected to boots, clothing, etc.) – a great way to extend our repertoires.

Any style of singing or instrumental performance is welcome so long as it is acoustic. For further information call Joe on 0400 862 694 or Jenny 0417 910 050.



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# Retic saves the day for CWA

Country Women's Association  
Elizabeth Mansom

A HAPPY and healthy 2016 to you all from Toodyay CWA and we hope your Christmas was more joyful than stressful.

Did you buy a ticket in our raffle at the street party at the beginning of December? We made \$838.50 and it was agreed it be sent to the Esperance Fire Appeal.

No doubt a similar arrangement will be made at our first meeting this year to help those affected by the recent fires around Waroona and Yarloop and we will keep you informed.

We have contacted the Secretary of Yarloop CWA to extend our condolences and ask if we may help in any way.

On December 11 a group of us went to the Wild Goose in Noble Falls for Christmas lunch. Great food and cheery company ensured an enjoyable time was had by all.

Thanks must go to Eleanor Frith for the huge improvement in the surrounds of our hall.

In an effort to combat the summer heat it was decided to install reticulation and when Edith from the hardware store heard that Eleanor was buying for CWA she wouldn't charge and helped Eleanor to install the system – we are very grateful.

Small town service beats city prices any day.

On January 28 we had an informal get-together to plan functions and outings we would like to hold or attend to ensure an even spread throughout the year.

The AGM and first formal monthly meeting for 2016 will be held on Thursday February 25.

There is plenty of parking in Charcoal Lane and disabled access at the side of the hall from the rear.

People who wish to book the CWA Hall can phone Glenys Clabaugh on 9574 5110 or 0427 478 325.

# Crafty ladies stitch support for Yarloop fire survivors

The Crooked Needle  
Heather Wright

IT SEEMS so long since I put finger to keyboard.

The fine ladies of the craft group hope everyone had a wonderful festive season and a fantastic start to the New Year.

Our end-of-year Christmas dinner was a sumptuous occasion, thanks to some beautiful dishes being prepared by our ladies.

The table was resplendent with napkin holders, crackers and Christmas decorations thanks to the hard work of Jan and Annette.

Gail joined the duo by helping make presentations to the ladies who take time to make the weekly gatherings run smoothly by giving them each a beautiful poinsettia.

Gail, who keeps us all on track, didn't purchase something for herself which was a pity as she is our Head Honcho.

Thank you Gail for the effort you make to keep ideas coming to make our group have fun and have interesting activities for us to do.

The usual Kris Kringle was so much fun with everyone making such an effort to handmade something – well done to all, it was such a lovely day.

One of our own, Enid, has a brother who lived in Yarloop.

Last month's disastrous fire there was a worrying time for him but he was one of the extremely lucky ones whose house wasn't destroyed.

Our group is trying to do special things such as embroidery to donate to fire victims, so the ladies have some special handmade items to cherish.

We are glad that Enid's brother was safe but we're sad to hear that Enid herself has had a fall. Luckily she has recovered well.

Two of our girls, Lee and Lynda, have flown to England for a holiday – I wish my name began with L.

We hope that they travel safe and are back home soon.

Our friend Val has had a nasty time with an eye – not good for a crafty person, or anyone for that matter.

We are glad she is making a good recovery at this stage.

This month sees us into a routine – the chance to do an activity or make something for the fire victims, complete UFOs or even start a new project.

For me personally anything that allows me to chat and work at the same time is great.

New folk who would like to join us can meet us at the Scout Hall in the Toodyay Showgrounds on Friday mornings, 9.30am to noon.

Everyone is welcome.

# Albany Spin-in features Show winners

Toodyay Spinners  
Ange Sturman

AT THE END of November seven of our members went to Albany for a Spin-in.

We met some old friends and made new ones.

The seven of us travelled in three cars and shared meals at designated places on the way down.

At Mt Barker we stayed the night in a motel so we could arrive at the Vancouver Arts Centre in Albany by 9am the next morning.

It's always a great joy to see what other spinning groups are doing.

Because the Albany Spin-in followed so closely after the Albany Show we were privileged to see some of the local group's prize-winning exhibits.

The Albany spinners fed us all well for the day and we shared experiences and ideas.

We stayed in Albany for two nights, enjoying a day of pottering around Albany before heading home on the Saturday.

After exploring the Albany growers' market we made a morning tea stop at the sandalwood factory where we congratulated Carol Davidson on her birthday.

The staff in the cafe noticed and gave her a piece of cake with a candle to mark the occasion.

Our spinning group meets every Wednesday from 9am to noon, and every third Saturday of the month (also from 9am to noon) at Parkers' Cottage in the showgrounds.

For further information on our group please contact our Secretary Heather Jones 0407 287 002 or president Judy Mackie 9574 4421.

The felting group meeting time is now the second Monday of each month from noon to 3pm, also at Parkers' Cottage.

Felting group contact is Jenny Cornwall 9574 5978.

New members are most welcome in both groups – no experience is necessary.

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# George slings his hook

Ieva Tomsons

NOBODY in their right mind would describe master butcher George Johnson (72) as 'retiring' but, retiring he is.

Retiring at least from the local butcher shop where he has provided "good old-fashioned service" for the past three years.

Although George has lived in Toodyay for more than 30 years, his 50-year butchering career has taken him throughout the state's abattoirs and metropolitan retail outlets as both butcher and meat inspector.

He's owned and worked in more butcher's shops than he cares to remember and fondly recalls the industry's camaraderie.

At one stage the Goomalling abattoir was processing 900 sheep a day so, just for fun, they cranked the chain up a few notches with each man boning out 40 sheep an hour.

"We had sparks flying out of our arses," laughed George.

George was expelled from school when he was 14, started as an apprentice butcher when he was 16 but remained "basically illiterate" until he was 28.

Studying for a diploma in meat inspection gave George the added security of being able to participate for a lot longer in a tough trade that "is in his blood" and he will continue working part time as a York-based health inspector and still do on-farm butchery.

George has made and lost a lot of money over the years and in 2003 he went "belly up" with a business venture.

"None of that matters" said George, "all you need is a good partner and family, a roof over your head and three meals a day".

He salutes his wife Valerie who worked with him at the local shop and says that she deserves the Victoria Cross and Purple Heart for sticking by him.

In closing, George thanks all his customers and staff and is more than pleased to hand the shop to "a younger generation" (Luke Jones and Anthea Brown) who will continue and expand on traditional butchering in Toodyay.



Toodyay master butcher George Johnson.



Toodyay stands for the National Anthem.

# 'Australians all let us rejoice'



Councillors Brian Raynor and Eric Twine cook breakfast.



Toodyay Scouts raise the flag.



Kristee Jolly with her award.

## Toodyay celebrates national day with brekkie in Duidgee Park

The Shire of Toodyay put on a breakfast feast for several hundred people at an Australia Day Awards Ceremony in Duidgee Park last month.

Shire councillors cooked a BBQ breakfast that included 500 sausages, bread rolls and rashers of bacon, 420 fried eggs, 300 serves of juice, 200 yoghurts, 200 bottles of water, tea, coffee and assorted fresh fruit.

Shire President David Dow said the shire catered for 500 people but ran short on a few items, including plates.

Citizenship awards were presented to local volunteers Peter Robinson and Kristee Jolly, and the Toodyay Tidy Towns Committee (see Pages 1 and 19).

The morning included an Australian citizenship ceremony in which Lorraine Mathee, from South Africa, and Richard Lyne, from the UK, took the oath of allegiance to their new homeland and received certificates and gifts.

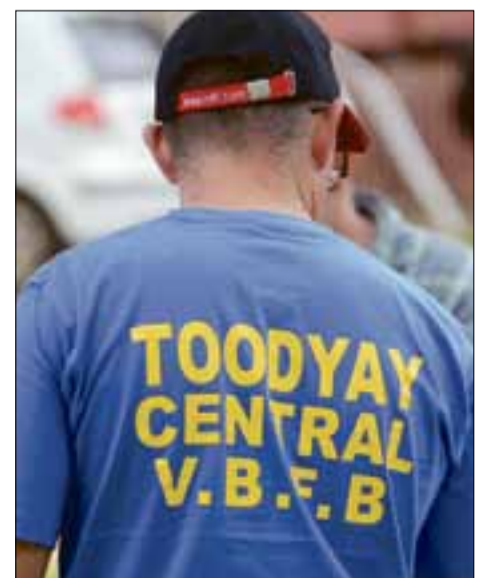
Stage Two of the shire's Skate Park was officially opened with a show by members of Skateboarding WA (see Page 3).



Councillor Judy Dow serves fruit.



Councillor Kate Wood cuts buns.



Volunteer firefighter on duty.

## Wheatbelt Bushcare grants

**Is there bushland in your area that needs looking after?**  
**On your property, local community reserve or creekline?**  
**Are ferals animals and weeds also posing a threat?**

Wheatbelt NRM can help you and your community to protect important bushland in your area!

Individuals, community groups and groups of neighbours may be eligible for Bushcare Grants up to \$15,000, to help cover costs for the materials required for:

- ▶ feral animal control
- ▶ fencing
- ▶ bushland weed control
- ▶ biodiverse revegetation.

**Workshops (FREE)**  
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 Narembeen – 24 Feb 2016  
 Northam – 9 Mar 2016  
 Brookton – 12 Mar 2016

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**Closes 1 April 2016**

Wheatbelt NRM encourages groups of adjoining land managers to work together and apply jointly.

Apply by contacting Rachael Major on (08) 9670 3100 or [rmajor@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:rmajor@wheatbeltnrm.org.au), or visit our website.

[www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/bushcare](http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/bushcare)

This project is supported by Wheatbelt NRM through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

**Beat the rush!**  
 Get your applications in to us by  
**12 February 2016 to get started sooner.**

## Pointers for parents on raising boys

Chaplain's News  
Robyn Sinclair

THE DAD's and children's breakfast will now be held at 7.30am on Friday February 18 in the school courtyard.

We have exciting news: Dr Ian Lillico, founder of Boys Forward Institute, will be in Toodyay on February 18 and 19 to address staff and parents. The parents' meeting will be on Thursday February 18 at a venue to be confirmed.

Ian is a father of three, former principal of City Beach High School and an international consultant on gender, boys' education and middle schooling.

He completed research in gender throughout Australasia from 1992 and during a Churchill Fellowship in the Northern Hemisphere in 2000, and been with the WA Education Department for 31 years.

He is the founder and executive director of the Boys Forward Institute, holds a PhD in education) and is a National Fellow of the Australia Council of Educational Leaders.

Ian is an Edith Cowan University staff member and was a National Travelling Scholar in 2006.

He provides professional development throughout Australia and overseas and his website is boysforward.com.

This meeting deals with helping boys to become great young men.

Ian will outline strategies for parents to assist boys in their development along the lines of, 'It takes a village to raise a child'.

The role of still pictures, reading fiction, digital homework and many other facets will be examined during the evening.

Ian will explain why it is even more difficult for today's boys to put their minds to reading, writing and numeracy without the assistance of calculators and computers.

He will offer practical strategies for parents and teachers to better engage both boys and girls to improve their functional literacy and to help them grow into fine young adults.

## Probus now flush on toilet history

Probus Club of Toodyay  
Joan Bath, Member

THE FREEMASONS Hotel pulled out all stops and decorated the dining room and set festive tables for our delicious festive dinner in December.

After a very brief meeting we tucked into ham and turkey for our main course followed by a rich and delicious plum pudding with custard and brandy sauce.

Between courses, John Smart introduced Dr Susan Bell, environmental engineer and senior lecturer at London College University.

Her opening gambit was to ask us what had been the most significant advance in medicine in past centuries.

We, of course, responded with things like antibiotics and vaccinations but the answer is sanitation.

This led into an absorbing talk about the development of the London sewerage system.

As the London population grew, the old way of disposing of sewage via storm water drains and streams into the Thames was totally inadequate and led to cholera epidemics.

A particularly hot, dry summer led to

sewage being washed to and fro by the Thames tide and the Houses of Parliament – then only about 20 years old – were evacuated.

Finally, the money and organisation were found to establish the London sewerage system which still operates today.

Water pollution is not a new issue.

Even then, there was concern that fresh drinking water was being used to dilute and wash raw sewage out to sea.

Dr Bell also introduced us to several different styles of toilets which use minimal or no water.

Did you know that supplies of phosphate rock which is one of the main sources of fertiliser are limited but that our urine is also a great source of phosphate?

It puts some theory behind watering the lemon tree, gents.

Thank you Susan for a fascinating walk through some of the history of sanitation.

The Probus November outing was a great success with about a dozen members taking the train from Toodyay to Fremantle, having lunch on the seafront and then spending time at the Shipwreck Galleries of the WA Museum which houses some of the original timbers from the 1629 Batavia wreck off the

WA coast.

In early December a willing band of Probus members assembled at the corner of Coondle West and Julimar Roads ready to clean up about 5km of road verge.

In an hour and a half 25 bags of rubbish weighing in at 62 kg were collected. Great work everyone.

The next meeting will be at 7pm on February 9 at the Freemasons.

This is the AGM, so come along ready and willing to get involved with our active group.

Those interested in joining Probus please contact the president Peter Healy on 9574 4778 or member John Smart on 9574 2339 See you there.

## Kids learn better in calm setting

First Steps Montessori Playgroup  
Kylie Mathias

FIRST STEPS Montessori Playgroup is welcoming new families in Term One.

We offer a calm and supportive environment for kids to explore practical life skills and independent play.

Playgroup runs on Wednesdays 9.30-11.30am at the Toodyay Community Resource Centre.

We provide activities for children aged six months to four years.

If you are interested, you can attend one session free of charge to find out if the Montessori approach is right for your child.

Information packs are available if you would like to know more.

Our sessions include independent play time, group craft activities, songs and stories that encourage fun in a relaxed atmosphere.

For more information please call Kylie Mathias on 0439 422 932 or email toodyaymontessori@hotmail.com.

## Woodturners set to spin rolling pins

Avon Woodturners  
Max Heath

IT'S BACK to wood turning after a short break and we at the pavilion hope everyone had a good break.

We finished up the year with a rush as most of us were making Chrissy presents.

Also we were making small bowls for Silver Chain which were filled with goodies for people who need the services of Silver Chain.

We made 29 of these so this was not a small project for a club with only a few members.

The club has also undertaken a new project to make a number of rolling pins.

We hope this is a successful venture as we are raising funds for our new premises when we finally get in there.

Avon Woodturners understands that this

is now under way and tenders have been accepted and work will soon be started. We will have to spend quite a bit on fitting out for our use.

Also on the fund raising side some of our members have made quite a few garden dibblers for a nursery to sell.

We didn't have a Christmas break-up and decided instead to go out for breakfast on our return to turning.

Of course we had to pick the Sunday when the power was off around the district and this caused confusion as some didn't realise that Toodyay itself was okay.

We resumed turning last month and from now on will meet each Sunday.

We will also be meeting on Wednesday night from 6.30 until 9pm.

We are trying this so people that are busy on Sundays have a chance to join us.

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Phone Anders McGuinness Mobile: 0437 051 280  
Email: avonearthworks@bigpond.com

## Felicitas Bauxite Mining Proposal



### Latest Update

Thank you for your continued dialogue and interest in the Felicitas and Fortuna Bauxite Mining Project developments.

The sale of Bauxite Resources Limited's interest in Bauxite Alumina Joint Ventures (BAJV) to Yankuang Resources Limited has recently been completed. This means:

- BRL has transferred to Yankuang all its interests in the tenements that relate to the joint ventures;
- Yankuang has paid BRL \$7.15 million and will pay a royalty of 0.9% of the FOB price for the first 100 million tonnes of bauxite mined from the Fortuna and Felicitas tenements;
- BRL has bought back Yankuang's 19,700,000 shares in BRL for the sum of \$1.15 million.

Given the current economic climate, we will be focusing on the activities required to maintain the tenements in good standing. Further development work on the Felicitas and Fortuna projects will be deferred until economic conditions improve.

This means that activities and meetings for the projects and the bauxite mining community advisory group will cease. The process of integrating into Yankuang's Australian business (Yancoal Australia) will see some changes to BAJV, which will be communicated as they are implemented.

### How to Contact us

In the coming weeks, BAJV will be renamed to reflect our new ownership. In the meantime, we will post updates on our website and Facebook page. Our BAJV email addresses and phone numbers will remain active for a while after the changes. If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact:

**Bruce Groenewald, Exploration Manager on 9200 6300 or e: bruce.groenewald@yancoal.com.au**

# OUR SHIRE NEWS

JANUARY 2016



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In my December report I mentioned the devastation and loss of life caused by fires in the Esperance region. I certainly didn't expect to be touching on this subject again in this edition. I personally find the sheer size and extent of the recent fires in Yarloop and surrounding areas difficult to comprehend. The loss of lives and the destruction of the majority of the town of Yarloop is a stark reminder of how vulnerable we are to the forces of nature. I extend Council's condolences to all affected residents and their families.

Toodyay community volunteers have once again rallied to assist displaced residents in the Shires of Harvey and Waroona (including Yarloop) by organising a collection centre at IGA, to receive donated items that will assist residents with their relocation to alternative short term accommodation. If unable to donate items, please consider a donation to the Lord Mayors Distress Relief Fund.

Council have resolved to further discuss its response to natural disaster recovery at the February Council Forum.

An in depth strategic review of Bushfire Policy is almost complete and will soon be brought to Council as part of an ongoing

effort to improve bushfire safety within the Toodyay Shire.

Early in December we were advised that our application for Federal funding to progress the construction of the proposed Sport and Recreation facility was unsuccessful. Subsequent advice received from the funding body indicates that the application documents were of sufficient strength to warrant the Shire reapplying for NSRF round 3 which closes 15 March 2016.

Preparations are well advanced for a renewed application incorporating feedback and modified criteria for a fresh application. We are also continuing to pursue all other available avenues for alternative funding, including consideration of funding of a staged project over a longer time-frame. Council will receive a full briefing on the Recreation Precinct in February.

Despite negative commentary by a small section of the community, Council remains committed to delivering Sport and Recreation Facilities in Toodyay, including an aquatic facility. The reality is that without external funding construction cannot commence, even on a small scale.

Congratulations to Toodyay's winners and nominees for the Premiers Active Citizenship Awards, announced on Australia Day at a well-attended Australia day celebration in Duidgee Park. Award winners: Mr Peter Robinson, Ms Kristee Jolly and the

Toodyay Tidy Towns Committee were extremely worthy recipients but fair to say that unsuccessful nominees Mr Andrew Carr and Mr Ian Bull also had impressive citations.

Congratulations to Lorraine Matthee (born South Africa) and Richard Lyne (born England) on receiving their Australian citizenship as part of the morning's activities.

Thanks to Shire Staff and Community Volunteers for again organising another successful Australia Day Celebration.

Following the Australia Day Ceremony, Stage Two of the Skate Park was opened by the Hon Martin Aldridge MLC; representing the Department of Sport and Recreation who contributed funding of \$55,000.00 toward construction costs.

Local suppliers and contractors also contributed by way of donated or heavily discounted labour and materials, resulting in significant cost reduction.

Thanks go to: Mobile Concrete Services, Vernice, C & J McKay, S & J Street, P&S Ferguson, Jones Contracting, Ringa Civil, Avon Earthworks, Paul Harrington, Ferguson Earthmoving, BGC Quarries, BGC Cement and Transwest Assets for assisting to bring Skate Park Stage Two to fruition.

## Celebrate Australia Day

### THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all who made Toodyay's Australia Day Event 2016 possible:

#### Local Community groups;

- Toodyay Miniature Railway
- St Johns Ambulance
- Toodyay Central Bush Fire Brigade
- Toodyay Men's Shed
- Shire of Toodyay Councillors & Staff
- Hon Martin Aldridge MLC

#### Entertainment & Services

- Parties Kids Remember
- Pioneer Bush Band
- Skateboarding WA
- IGA
- Toodyay Butcher
- Toodyay Bakery
- Makit Hardware
- Avon Waste
- Harvester Foods

And lastly to the Community of Toodyay for coming together to celebrate all that's great about Australia.



## PUBLIC NOTICES

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Shire of Toodyay is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified or experienced persons in the community willing to become a community representative on the Audit Committee.

Information in relation to Council Committees is available on Council's website at <http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/council-committees.aspx> Expression of Interest forms can also be downloaded from <http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/forms.aspx> together with a copy of the Department of Local Government Guideline No 9 titled "Audit in Local Government – The appointment, function and responsibilities of Audit Committees"

Expression of Interest submissions will be received up to 4.00pm Monday 15 February 2016 at the Administration Centre, 15 Fiennes Street (PO Box 96) Toodyay WA 6566 or via email at [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST WORKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Shire of Toodyay is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified or experienced persons in the community willing to become a community representative on the Works Advisory Committee.

Information in relation to Council Committees is available on Council's website at <http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/council-committees.aspx>

Expression of Interest forms can also be downloaded from <http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/forms.aspx>

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## EVENTS

### AUSTRALIAN TIDY TOWN AWARDS

Thursday 17 & Friday 18 March

The Australian Tidy Towns Awards will be held in Toodyay, with a series of inspiring workshop activities, networking opportunities and awards presentations celebrating outstanding achievements in rural and regional community sustainability. The Australian Tidy Towns Awards are sponsored by the Australian Packaging Covenant, the Department for the Environment and the Shire of Toodyay.

### TOODYAY FARMERS MARKETS

Sunday 20 March

Creating a space for local and regional community members to sell, promote and advertise local produce, the Toodyay Farmers Markets are hosted on the 3rd Sunday of every month in Stirling Park. These markets aim to promote sustainable living and back to basic principles which support the community as a whole.

### AVON VALLEY BLACK DOG RIDE

Sunday 20 March

The Black Dog Ride 1 Dayer is a nationwide motorcycle event to raise awareness of depression and suicide prevention. For more information on the Avon Valley ride, please head to [www.blackdogride.com.au](http://www.blackdogride.com.au)

### TOODYAY GIVE-IT-A-GO DAY

Sunday 20 March

Come down to Toodyay's first 'Give-It-A-Go' Day held in Duidgee Park from 10am - 12pm. This event will host a variety of our local community groups and sporting clubs, showcasing some of Toodyay's exciting activities, hobbies and sports. Come and give it a go, discover what our community has on offer and even register to join on the day.

For further information on any of these events and more, please contact the Shire of Toodyay's Event Coordinator, Debra Andrijich on 9574 4318.