

The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned
community newspaper
Est. 1902

5000 copies circulating in Toodyay, West Toodyay, Goomalling,
Bolgart, Calingiri, Morangup, Coondle, Waddington, Culham,
Bejoording, Nunile, Julimar, Bakers Hill, Clackline, Wooroloo,
Wundowie, Gidgegannup and local districts.

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Minister urged to stop landfill folly

Michael Sinclair-Jones

LOCAL Labor MP Darren West says he will support the fight to stop Perth rubbish being dumped in Toodyay after the State's environment regulator last month overruled local residents' concerns that water protections had not been complied with.

Mr West said he would invite new Labor Environment Minister Stephen Dawson to Toodyay to meet local residents and see for himself that the Hoddys Well landfill site is unsuitable for dumping rubbish.

Adding more heavy trucks to Toodyay Road was also a concern, Mr West said.

The former Wheatbelt Development Commission chair and Jennacubbine farmer said he had driven trucks on Toodyay Road and knew how dangerous it was.

"The problem is a lack of a government plan for dealing with metropolitan waste," Mr West said.

"Simply banning landfill on the Swan coastal plain – which the previous government did – only invites private companies to look for the cheapest sites elsewhere, such as in Toodyay and York.

"There is no overall strategy for how to manage waste disposal."

Mr West said he would be concerned if the Department of Water and Environment Regulation had rewarded Perth landfill operator Opal Vale for non-compliance.

Local WA Nationals MP Shane Love said he too was concerned about "the recent relaxing of strict conditions regarding the Opal Vale waste facility" and would also take it up with the WA Environment Minister.

The company last month won the right to reduce the distance between the bottom of the landfill pit and the underlying water table after it failed to comply with State requirements during construction last year.

The bottom of the rubbish pit is lined with a 2mm plastic membrane which was only between 1.73m and 1.9m above the water table, according to tests, instead of being separated from it by at least two metres.

The Chitty Road site is surrounded by lush farmlands that carry creeks and streams into Jimperding Brook, which flows under Toodyay Road and enters the Avon River upstream from Cobbler Pool – site of the annual Avon Descent overnight camp – about 13km north of the rubbish dump site.

The decision to reduce groundwater protection was opposed by 14 local residents, the Toodyay Community Group and Toodyay Shire Council, which moved two years ago to ban landfill operations in the shire.

However, Opal Vale argued it had a pre-existing right to continue with its current plans because they were lodged when the shire's previous planning laws still applied.

The environmental regulator said Opal Vale – which said earlier this year that it had spent \$3 million on earthworks, access roads, a weighbridge and other facilities – could now apply for a licence to start dumping, which it has since done.

However, local opponents have lodged a new appeal against the government regulator's latest decision.

Opal Vale is now also seeking to dump thousands of tonnes of Perth rubbish in York after a previous plan by another company was withdrawn last year.

Pictures Page 3.



Brick ramp paves way for new-look ANZAC Memorial Park

Toodyay RSL members (from left) Anne Kidd, Bruce Guthrie, Lou Kidd and Paul Barton inspect new brick paving at ANZAC Memorial Park at the corner of Clinton Street and Anzac Parade. The work is part of a \$110,000 upgrade by the Shire of Toodyay to provide a level parade surface and seating area for local veterans' events, and wheelchair access to the war memorial precinct. More RSL news Page 13.

Shire faces call for State inquiry

THE STATE Government has been asked to conduct an inquiry into the performance of the Toodyay Shire Council.

The Toodyay Progress Association has listed a series of "serious matters" for investigation which it claims are "symptomatic of a wider civic disorder in the Shire of Toodyay".

The Department of Local Government says it is considering the association's request.

Shire President David Dow says the shire "totally rejects" the claims and will cooperate fully with any inquiry.

It coincides with this month's call for nominations to fill five council vacancies on the nine-member council at the October 21 shire elections. (See *State Electoral Commission notice Page 7.*)

It also follows community anger over a new shire rating system that has caused this month's rates bills for some rural residential owners to increase by \$1000 or more.

Matters raised for investigation include:

- legal costs totalling more than \$570,000 in a failed bid to sue former shire CEO Graham Merrick and former shire president Charlie Wroth for alleged wrongdoing;
- council adoption of last year's "unlawful"

rates which forced the shire to apply to the State Administrative Tribunal to have hundreds of rural rates notices quashed after a Coondle ratepayer complained to the State Government that his 2016-17 rates breached local government law;

- a \$2 million discrepancy in a shire budget review that was withdrawn without explanation at a March council meeting and resubmitted with 25 new items the following month;
- a bid to axe two tall trees in Anzac Memorial Park to make more room for trucks in an unadvertised move that led to a tense police stand-off with protesters;
- a move to sell shire-owned Mrs O'Reilly's Cottage to an "unsolicited" buyer for an art gallery in breach of an earlier council undertaking and town planning approval to lease it to the vet and,
- allowing a large limestone retaining wall to be built at the new Butterly Cottages site in Anzac Parade despite heritage precinct restrictions that have been used to bar other ratepayers from building similar retaining walls for their homes.

The progress association has submitted 43 pages of evidence to support its claims of a

"long history of civic dysfunction".

"The systems and oversight operating in the Toodyay Shire Council are considerably lower than one would expect from a contemporary council in 2017," the submission said.

President Dow said the shire "totally rejects the claims being made by the Toodyay Progress Association".

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The Toodyay Herald

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

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of *The Toodyay Herald* is available 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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Many thanks to the volunteers who helped produce this edition of *The Toodyay Herald*: Joseph Fernandez (Legal), Richard Grant, Allan Gregory, Beth and Peter Ruthven and Jean Witcombe.

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE	STORY DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTED
Noon Thursday September 21	Noon Tuesday September 26	Wednesday October 4

Please note our email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au
 Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

Ol' Blind Joe Waters of life

Stirling Hamilton

WATER, WATER everywhere, yet not a drop to drink.

It's raining as I write, and I'm figuring most folks have noticed it's been an unusual year as far as the wet bits go.

After last month's heaviest rainstorm in US recorded history, the hillbillies of Houston Texas are scratching their heads and rowing around searching for The Lone Star Saloon, which is presently submerged in a puddle 16 feet deep.

Kind of a karma thing though is that Houston is the centre of the 'Golden Triangle' where US petroleum was first discovered and exploited.

Lost in the background noise at the moment are the thousands of Nepalese, Bangladeshi and Indians who are drowning in their own Third World countries.

More than 1400 have died and 70 million forced to flee devastated homes as monsoon floods unlike anything they've ever seen before are being made worse as temperatures around the world continue to rise.

It's a shame it's always the poor folks who bear the brunt of these events, and I'm just saying I ain't never seen no suits paddling through the muddy floodwaters.

Research suggests that the warmer the climate gets, the more we can expect an increase in the frequency and severity of catastrophic weather events.

Water evaporation increases as the world warms, which means there is more water vapour in storms and more rain to dump from the skies compared with 70 years ago.

After former US Vice-President Al Gore's 2007 film *An Inconvenient Truth*, 15 water mutual funds were launched globally, quickly amassed \$13 billion and have been growing exponentially since then.

Credit Suisse, UBS, and Goldman Sachs hired water analysts and called water "the petroleum of the next century".

Carbon emissions are invisible but melting ice, empty reservoirs and torrential rainstorms are undeniable.

Water is central to human existence and our very selves are composed of 70 per cent water.

There's no substitute for it at any price, and we cannot make it.

You can stop eating for a week or two and carry on, but without water you're cactus - or might wish you were.

So why would we entertain the idea of gas fracking which would endanger our precious aquifers in the most arid country on earth.

Previous dumb-arse governments have for short-term gain sold all of our easy-to-get gas

reserves to overseas interests for two cents a litre, leaving us scrabbling in desperation for salvation using one of the world's worst technologies ever devised.

Pumping chemicals and billions of litres of water into the depths of the earth to extract gas is disgraceful and stupid.

With many alternatives available, why are business interests so intent on screwing the planet?

Every tribe in history has in one way or another settled next to the waters of life.

There's a Slovakian proverb that pure water is the world's first and foremost medicine.

All my life I've lived next to rivers and creeks, and the sound of running water is music to my ear and a panacea for the heart.

From the waterfalls of Springbrook in the Gold Coast hinterland to the rapids of Cedar Creek near Brisbane, I've loved them all.

My favourite was Cobble Creek near Brisbane where we had 202ha (500 acres) graced with waters flowing from nearby Mt Glorious, which after being filtered through the rocks were pristine.

The only description I can summon is that looking into her pools was like gazing into a kaleidoscope with a magnifying glass, and its magic resonates within me still.

Numinbah Nature Reserve in NSW had a wild river I used to float down feet-first in moonlight, and there's a whole bunch of critters out there that no one - apart from the blackfellas - has ever seen before.

On Cedar Creek on another moonlit eve I was about to dive into a waterhole whose depth was unknown when a head the size of my own rose to greet me at the water's surface.

It had to be an eel but I was reluctant to investigate further and chose to swim upstream from then on.

I used to have this hippyity dippyity thing that whenever I visited a river I would have three sips from it out of respect.

When I got to Toodyay 20 years ago I went to do the same in the Avon River and couldn't get a sip down.

After four days of torrential rain a year later, I figured it's gotta come good but no such luck.

You can't drink the water here and there's no point fishing, while the only frogs you'll find are living in ponds or puddles in someone's backyard.

I ain't no expert folks but I've got a sneaking suspicion where the problems emanate from.

In one drop of water are found all the secrets of the oceans - Lebanese-American poet, artist and writer Khalil Gibran (1883-1931).

NOTICE

Annual General Meeting

will be held on Wednesday September 20 2017
 at 7pm at Toodyay Café & Curry Club
 122B Stirling Terrace Toodyay

The Toodyay Herald Inc.

Your locally owned community newspaper



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September-October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	20	21	22	23
	24	25	27	28	29	30
Oct 1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Three Amigos ride local history trail

Ieva Tomsons

KEEN amateur historians are thick on the ground in most heritage towns but few can boast three resident professionals.

Archivist Jenny Edgecombe, researcher Beth Frayne and historian Dr Robyn Taylor have been chronicling Toodyay's history since their arrival in 2001-2002.

Their collaborative approach to recording and documenting the town's people, events and buildings has given them the moniker of The Three Amigos.

"We're not jealous of our own patch," said Robyn, "and we live in the hope that others will share (their information)."

"It's a network," according to Jenny and "all about networking," added Beth.

All three have worked in senior positions in government or academic institutions and are clearly "hooked on history".

Beth started her career as a librarian at the State Library when it was still called the Library Board of WA.

"I was shy back then," laughs Beth who as a "career public servant" went on to head the Battye Library's cataloguing team and trained National Library of Australia staff in using the nation-wide bibliographical database.

"History was my thing," said Jenny who, as an archivist, admits to being "a bit of a control freak".

After teaching Ancient History in NSW schools, Jenny became an archivist before relocating to WA where she did a 10-year stint as records manager and archivist at the University of WA (UWA).

Robyn, who also hails from NSW, taught Art History at Curtin University and UWA and now works as a heritage consultant. As a cultural heritage historian, she researches



Toodyay's Three Amigos (from left) Dr Robyn Taylor, Jenny Edgecombe and Beth Frayne.

the development of building sites for conservation plans and makes heritage assessments and streetscape classifications.

The Three Amigos have seen the transition from compiling information on catalogue cards to the establishment of extensive databases such as Trove where hundreds of cultural and research institutions and libraries contribute their information for posterity.

"Trove made such a difference," said Beth.

The days of poring over a microfiche machine, where flat pieces of film containing

microphotographs of historic newspaper articles and documents are examined, are happily almost over for anyone who has spent time researching.

All agreed that after a session of scrolling through reams of microfilm they came out feeling sea sick.

These days, home-grown historians and genealogists are free to roam the web and no longer spend hours in fixed information repositories inspecting dusty ledgers or microfiche.

"Baby boomers now have the online

(genealogy) tools to research their history," said Beth who 'admits' to extensively using the popular Ancestry website.

They all agree that historical inaccuracies are perpetuated when everyone simply copies each other's information without detailed research.

Beth's three-part chronology *The Long Toodyay Chronology: events in Toodyay history* cites *Government Gazette* reports, newspaper and other references as well as attributed anecdotal accounts and gives an indication of the depth of research required to produce an accurate account of the town from 1829 to 1980.

The three history buffs have chalked up an impressive amount of voluntary work for the Toodyay Historical Society which started as the Toodyay Society in 1980 and continues today with 50 members.

As core members, they have written books and papers on people and events that have shaped the town, advised the shire on heritage matters, compiled oral histories of local identities and collaborated on *Toodyaypedia* a joint initiative of the society, shire and *Wikimedia* to raise the online profile of Toodyay.

The Three Amigos are at pains to point out that they are part of a line of historians, who have beavered away to produce accurate historical accounts, including Rica Erickson, Alexandra Hasluck and more recently Wally Chitty and Alison Cromb.

There is no doubt that future archivists, researchers and historians will revisit the work of Jenny, Beth and Robyn who continue to bring their expertise to recording Toodyay's fascinating history and heritage.

"History is full of red herrings," said Robyn but it's a fair bet that these Three Amigos won't let many slip through the net.

Minister urged to see landfill site, meet objectors



ABOVE: Chitty Road rubbish site with Jimperding Brook feeder stream in line of trees immediately beyond. RIGHT: Rubbish pit (lower centre) and evaporation ponds (lower right) to be filled with toxic sludge.



Toodyay again leads in business awards

TOODYAY has again shown it is a leader in business innovation by winning four prizes at last month's Avon Valley Business Excellence Awards in Northam.

The multi-award-winning Toodyay Bakery and Café was judged best retail business with 11 or more employees, and the Meat Hook Toodyay won best in the 10 employees or less category.

The best 'artisanal' business prize was awarded to the Toodyay Farmers Market, and the best home-based business award went to Grove Wesley Design Art.

Wired NBN comes to town

ABOUT 800 homes and businesses in the town of Toodyay and Dumbarton recently gained access to NBN fixed-line services.

Another 170 properties are expected to get NBN wireless by the end of the year when two new towers are built in West Coondle and just outside the Toodyay townsite.



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Shire President rejects claims in call for inquiry

Continued from Page 1.

"If the Department of Local Government decides to investigate further we will fully co-operate and provide the department with all information that it may request," he said.

"I have personally spoken to the Hon. David Templeman, Minister for Local Government, advising him that the TPA has expressed concerns with the operations of council.

"I find it concerning that a self-appointed committee of six purporting to represent the wider Toodyay community can call for an inquiry without any minuted resolution or directive from its members.

"I also find it interesting that the TPA has published its call for an inquiry immediately prior to nominations for five council positions when there is little or no prospect of a finding until after the October local government elections."

Toodyay Progress Association Chair Larry Graham said all the rules of the association had been complied with.

"The timing is entirely due to council prevarication - had the council responded in a timely and appropriate way these matters would have been dealt with months ago," Mr Graham said.

"Our letter went to the Director General of the department because he is the person under the Act with the power to inquire."



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The Toodyay Herald

Pool backflip with twist

AT LAST it has come to this.

Exactly a year ago, *The Herald* said Toodyay needed a ratepayer association to help protect local community interests.

It followed two years of reporting on council decisions that revealed how out of touch many of our councillors seemed to be with local community needs and values.

Take for instance Toodyay's protracted public swimming pool saga.

It caused two leading Julimar volunteer fire fighters to sell their dream retirement home and leave the shire last month because Toodyay still doesn't have a pool after decades of broken promises.

Instead of building a \$3.7 million pool in 2014, our council announced a massive \$27.6 million multi-sports complex and other facilities – none of which got built.

Shame on you councillors.

Now – on the eve of fresh shire elections – our council suddenly reveals plans for a new \$5 million pool with just \$860,000 in the shire kitty and a near-deficit budget.

Really?

Who can forget last year's sneaky attempt to axe two magnificent ANZAC Memorial Park trees without telling anyone, and the failed bid to dud the town vet for a fast buck – again without first telling anyone?

And all the while, our shire was bleeding hundreds of thousands of dollars on a secret court case that ended up costing ratepayers at least \$570,000 instead of getting a pool.

Then there's last year's 'unlawful' rates that had to be quashed, leaving hundreds of ratepayers in the dark for months.

Many of those same ratepayers now face massive rates increases that were advertised mid-week in the back of a Perth newspaper near the sex ads with – surprise, surprise – no ratepayer response, and an obscure notice in the back of a shire newsletter.

It's no surprise that a new Toodyay Progress Association formed last February to monitor shire performance has taken only six months to call for a State Government inquiry.

Nor is it surprising that the shire "totally rejects" the call and chooses instead to attack the association's credentials and timing.

When current councillors up for election last faced the polls four years ago, only one seat was contested and everyone else got in without a single vote being cast.

Don't be surprised if it's different this time around.

*Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor*

The Toodyay Herald invites you to have your say in our letters page. Please email your correspondence to 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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The way we were – this photo is thought to have been taken in West Coondle around 1898 and shows (from left) Lewis Lee, William Frederick Lee, Mary Lee, Thomas Lee (seated), Elizabeth Lee and Benjamin Lee. Thomas Lee was born in 1852, married Melvinia Janet McKnoe in 1874 and had eight children, of whom five survived childhood. Melvinia died in 1887 two days after giving birth to still-born twins and five months after losing 16-month-old daughter Emily who ran through hot coals left over from a clearing fire. Oldest daughter Mary Lee (third left) was the grandmother of Bolgart historian and former Herald columnist Doris Martin, who supplied this picture.

LETTERS

300 per cent rates rise shock

WHAT business would be able to increase their prices by 300 per cent overnight and pass the full increase onto their customers?

I was shocked to open my new council rates notice this month and find that our Extracts Industrial Park warehouse rates have increased from about \$1500 to \$5300.

I agree we all need to share the community costs of running our shire, but a \$3800 increase seems excessive when we have no improvement in service or infrastructure.

Let's also acknowledge that the Extracts Industrial Park has no street lighting, footpaths, verge maintenance or weeding, and no deep sewerage.

Take a drive there and you will be shocked to see that Extracts Place is not maintained and its drains are full of gravel and dirt.

How is any business supposed to forward budget a \$3800 increase in a current financial year?

Let's consider fixed outgoings.

With most other budget items being fixed, the only adjustment left is variables.

Where it's hard to increase incomings in a tight economic market, the first variable outgoing that I see is donations, sponsorship and community involvement.

It's sad that the community should miss out based on a council decision.

I feel others in the area will need to close or reduce their output, impacting on employment and the wealth of the whole community.

Why did the council not engage with landowners about such a large increase and think through its impact on the community?

Maybe even a transition as in the Shire of Northam would be acceptable.

However, I probably wouldn't see our own shire's public notice because it's not published in a local newspaper.

I am very disappointed in the Toodyay Shire Council for not forward thinking the impacts.

If this rates increase has to occur, then a three-year transition period is reasonable.

*Sean Byron
(Christmas 360) Toodyay*

Crs should talk to us more

NEXT month's Toodyay Shire Council elections are once again coming around.

Perhaps we should consider them carefully as they are important to what happens in our town of Toodyay.

These are the people who dictate your rates, the general rules we operate under, who prioritise what is important in the shire and who decide if your requests to the shire are implemented.

Consider this: have you had a councillor call at your house and ask for your ideas or opinions lately?

How often have you spoken to one of the councillors and offered your ideas or opinions?

Do you even know who your local ward councillors are?

No – well then we must assume that we have councillors representing us who do not know what you or I want to really happen in our town and shire.

If our councillors are not putting forward our ideas or opinions, whose ideas are they putting forward?

They may be putting forward their own particular agendas or representing a small group of their friends.

This is not representing you or me.

I think many of us would like to have open discussions with our council representatives from time to time, either by visits or councillors being available for a couple of hours each week.

So perhaps in future councillors should make more of an effort to communicate with Toodyay folk and find out what they really want for their town and shire.

Also, we as electors, should be more aware of those we vote into office.

In this way perhaps we will grow to be a forward-thinking town with confidence in our elected representatives.

*Fred Fellowes
Toodyay*

Late rates rip-off

IN THE information supplied by our shire in this month's rate notices is advice that under local government law, overdue rates will be charged interest at 11 per cent per annum calculated on a daily overdue balance.

This is exorbitant given that the very best interest rates available in the current economic environment are around three per cent.

Even if people in financial difficulty take up the shire's offer to "tailor an individual payment arrangement to suit your financial needs", slugging them an extra \$70 for the privilege is not helpful.

If a ratepayer is already in financial difficulty how can this action help them?

*Casey
Name and address withheld*

Too many Towers of Babel

WE ALREADY have a 70m Optus mobile phone tower and a 40m NBN tower within cooe of each other in Julimar.

Now a 60m Telstra tower is proposed in the same vicinity.

Most people choose to live in the area for the natural setting.

How many of these monstrosities are we to have thrust upon us?

Aside from the visual pollution, the overall effects of electro-magnetic radiation these things emit are largely unknown.

Legislation should be in place before these structures are permitted to prevent long, deliberately drawn out, court battles for compensation should they be found to be detrimental to human health.

*R. Barker
Toodyay*

Raise consent age to 21

BACK in the last century – in the 1970s – one of the first Bills passed by former Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam's Government was lowering of the age of consent from 21 years to 18.

A good ploy to get more votes – fair enough.

Now we have two of the biggest problems facing our society today – under-age drinking and the excessive debt incurred by the younger generation.

No longer do they need mum or dad's permission to get a loan to buy a car or get that slab of beer or bottle of whisky.

Are there any real honest and fair dinkum politicians around who are really concerned, regardless of their political beliefs – red, white, blue or whatever?

If so, they can solve the problem in part, as have many other countries and some US states, by putting the age of consent back to 21.

While not curing the problem, it has helped.

Political correctness has gone mad and old-fashioned values and respect have gone down the drain, although even the drains aren't big enough in many places.

Some 'polli'es might take notice and get fair bloody dinkum – just a thought.

*Neil Fancourt
Toodyay*

Citizenship disgust

I WAS recently on a long holiday visiting family in the UK but tried to keep abreast of what was happening back home.

I must say also that I missed our wonderful country more than I expected, especially my home place near Toodyay.

However, I just wanted to express my disgust with this whole issue of citizenship and political life.

Also, the miserable opportunists out there who are trying to unsettle, even unseat, good people on any side of politics who have committed to Australia and public life.

We are a nation founded on immigration, and those of us who sought and obtained Australian citizenship mostly did so to express a commitment to our new home country.

Few of us thought of what limitations might be placed on us because we didn't 'renounce' our previous citizenship, and often consciously retained it out of respect for our forebears in the 'old country'.

We proudly welcomed our children born here into the world as Australians only.

Does this make us less able or suitable to serve our country through public office?

We can after all fight for it if we wish – and many do – or serve as police officers; or is that another constitutional loophole waiting to be exploited?

Had to get that off my chest, it's been bugging me.

*Richard Hazlewood
Toodyay*

Wrath of Wroth, backflip and more pool promises



Geoff Appleby

THE TOODYAY Shire Council's ordinary meeting last month was extraordinary in more ways than one.

Firstly, councillors agreed unanimously to reverse a controversial decision made the previous month.

Secondly, Shire President David Dow took the unusual step of asking councillors to bring that item forward on the agenda – something he has previously been pointedly reticent to do with other agenda items – as a courtesy to 14 visitors and two senior Telstra staff in the public gallery.

It meant – unlike at other times in the past – visitors didn't have to spend two hours waiting at the back of the chamber and another hour outside while councillors and staff ate their dinner before getting to the agenda item they had come for.

Risk twist: And thirdly, President Dow – for reasons known only to himself – made his first 'Presiding Member's Announcement' in 18 months to state that Toodyay was not listed as an "at risk" council in a recent question asked in State Parliament.

President Dow said the list tabled in Parliament covered "the last four years".

"As far as the Department of Local Government are concerned, based on their criteria, they do not regard the Shire of Toodyay as an 'at-risk' council at this point in time," President Dow said, perhaps backing himself before next month's shire elections when his and four other council seats are up for grabs.

"I would be happy to provide a copy of this list to any members or persons in the public gallery who would like a copy."

However, this is somewhat at odds with WA Local Government Minister David Templeman's parliamentary answer on August 9 which said that the last local council risk assessment was done in 2015-16,

and the 2016-17 one had yet to be completed.

Why our shire should suddenly want to incorrectly trumpet outdated news remains a mystery.

But first, to an extraordinary reversal.

Bees backflip: Councillors at their July meeting voted 4-2 – with Cr Paula Greenway absent and Cr Twine out of the chamber after declaring an interest – to refuse to allow a 60m Telstra mobile phone tower to be built in Julimar under the Federal Government's \$220 million "mobile black spot" funding program.

The strongest objection at the time came from a local restaurant owner, wine maker and apiarist who produced an overseas study to claim that mobile phone transmissions from the tower could cause his bees to get lost and harm his business.

President Dow said refusing the tower would only waste shire money on legal costs because an appeal would be upheld by the State Administrative Tribunal.

However, he and Shire Deputy President Therese Chitty were out-voted by the four other councillors, including his wife Cr Judy Dow and Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade member Brian Rayner.

Fast forward to the August meeting when the same councillors – plus Cr Greenway – voted 7-0 the opposite way after an extraordinary backlash by Julimar fires and Toodyay ambos who presented a petition tabled by Cr Judy Dow and took turns at the public podium to unleash a series of increasingly scathing submissions to the council.

Furies fume: Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Craig Stewart told chastened councillors their July decision was "incomprehensible" while Julimar Fire Control Officer and Toodyay St John Ambulance Chair Charlie Wroth called it "pathetic" and a "slap in the face".

The former shire president said he wrote to Shire CEO Stan Scott three years ago that lack of mobile phone coverage in Julimar was an emergency services safety risk but got no reply.

"How can you have someone who is the head of an organisation not respond – it's pretty pathetic," Mr Wroth said.

"Only one of nine councillors responded

and that was to say 'it would be looked at'.

"It just goes to show how little respect you have for emergency services volunteers."

President Dow tried to interrupt with a call to order but Mr Wroth – himself a former shire president – cut him off, quickly changed tack and kept talking.

Mr Wroth said volunteers who rescued a girl who recently broke her ankle at right angles in Julimar State Forest had no mobile phone and limited radio reception at the scene.

Fire fighters also risked being trapped in dangerous conditions because they could not be contacted by mobile phone or radio from fire control headquarters.

"Here is the one thing you could have done to help and you rejected it," Mr Wroth said.

"For goodness sake, do something for the community and our emergency services volunteers."

Mr Scott's report to the council said shire staff had searched the internet and found a number of different references, including "most tellingly" from the US Department of Agriculture, that debunked any link between bees and mobile phone towers.

Why nobody thought to do this earlier is puzzling – perhaps "incomprehensible" – but the good news for fires, ambos and long-suffering locals without mobile phone reception is that Telstra says the new tower should be up by the end of the year.

Pool news: Now don't quote me, but Toodyay's long-awaited public swimming pool finally looks like it might be a real goer.

The latest cost estimate is just a little more than \$5 million.

That's a lot cheaper than a pie-in-the-sky \$27.6 million sport and recreation precinct announced in 2014 for tennis, football, cricket, soccer, hockey, rugby, basketball and netball, and a 180-seat function centre, 24-hour gym, creche and commercial kitchen, followed in Stage 2 by a \$3.7 million pool.

If only it had been the other way around we might now be gearing up for Toodyay's first swim season this summer.

Not to worry.

All we have to do now is convince the State Government to chuck in \$1.6 million and get the rest with a \$100,000 Bendigo Bank donation, \$120,000 from the swimming pool committee, pull \$105,000 out of the shire's 1996-97 swimming pool voluntary levy fund, raid \$755,000 from the shire's recreational development reserve, get ratepayers to cough up an extra \$380,000 in next year's budget

and borrow a cool \$2 million more from the bank.

Easy; where's me towel?

Perhaps Northam's recent success in scoring \$3.2 million in federal funds for a new heated public swimming pool to replace its old one has jolted a few heads.

Or maybe it's because shire elections are due next month and councillors want at least to be seen to be taking notice of ratepayers who for decades have wanted a pool only to see their hopes repeatedly dashed.

Whatever the reason, councillors voted 7-0 for Mr Scott to pull on his togs and apply for a new \$1.6 million sport and recreation State grant to get us back in the swim.

Three dogs: Next we had a resident listed as living in Bejoording who wanted to keep three dogs instead of two – it seemed a simple request.

However – oops – the property turned out to be actually in West Toodyay.

After yet another agenda correction, a 10-minute adjournment to fix errant paperwork and an ensuing torturous debate that had Telstra visitors in the public gallery throwing bemused glances at each other, the extra pooch got a provisional nod – woof-woof.

Councillors then raced through the surrender of a Morangup easement, adopted a new local cat law, authorised the CEO to ask Canberra for a better GST carve-up, appointed Cr Greenway's husband Mark as new Toodyay radio station 2J2 Air Live's representative on the shire's community depot advisory committee (Cr Greenway declared an interest but said she would be impartial and stayed in the chamber to vote for her husband) and, (after Cr Rayner also declared an impartial interest), appointed 13 bush fire control officers – including Cr Rayner and Mr Wroth – before the 6pm dinner break.

Surplus shaved: The main item after the break was the shire's 2017-18 budget which passed with little discussion except to correct some minor typos after being thrashed out at two previous shire workshops and a special council meeting to adopt higher rates.

Recommendation 11 warned that a new \$98,000 shortfall in Federal funding had reduced the shire's 2017-18 budget surplus to less than \$20,000, with further cuts possible in the September 7 State Budget.

Mr Scott was asked to look for further cost cuts and report back to the council in November, after the shire elections.

Visitors are continually drawn to our winter and spring beauty.

So, if you're thinking of selling - right now is definitely the right time!



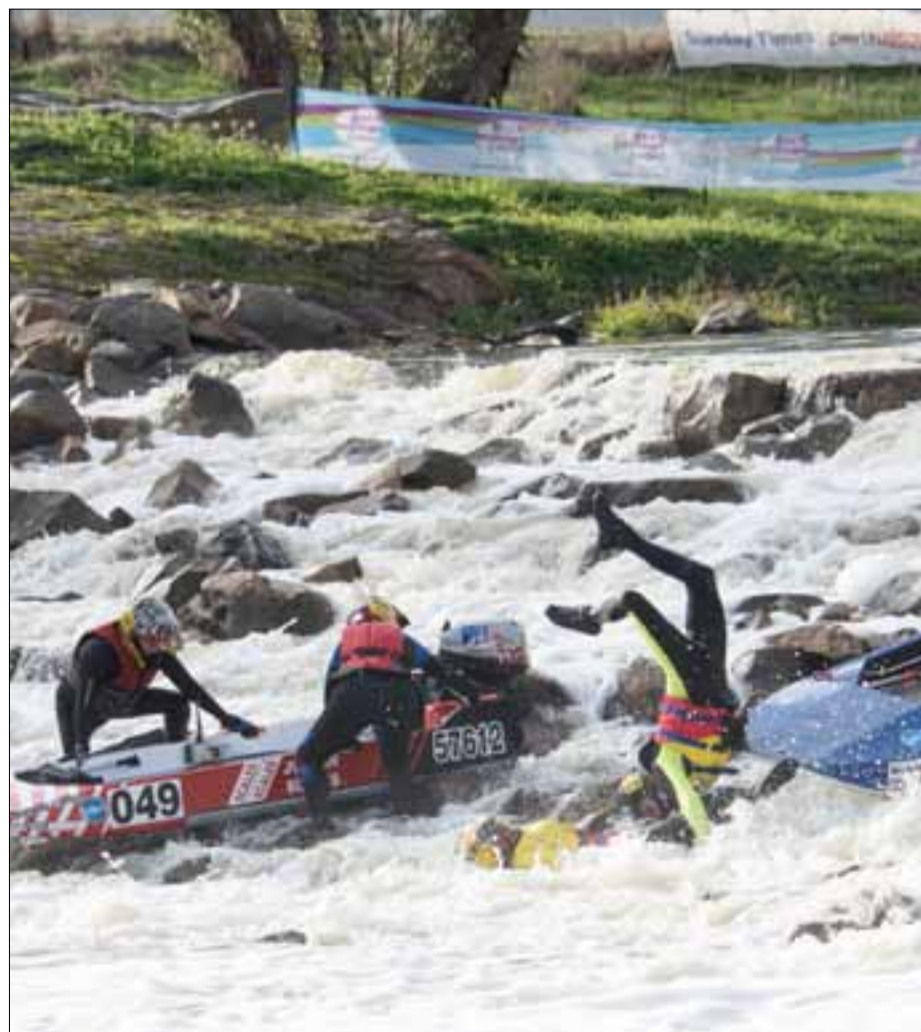
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Extracts thrills and spills in spectacular Avon Descent



Heavy rains turned the Avon River into a raging torrent at Extracts Weir last month, where several power boat crews came to grief in spectacular upsets while trying to shoot the weir's rock wall in a single leap.

Truck fire leads to crash

Police Beat

With Sgt Warren Conder
Toodyay Police Station



A TRUCK fire on Toodyay Road near the Noble Falls Tavern last month led to a near-new Toodyay police vehicle being written off and a Morangup mother of two young children charged with dangerous driving.

The drama unfolded about 1pm on Monday August 7 when Toodyay police chief Sgt Warren Conder was driving from Perth to Toodyay on duty when he was first to arrive at the scene where a truck had caught fire.

"The driver was trying to put it out with a tiny fire extinguisher so I parked my unmarked car on the road and waved him away for his own safety while I called for reinforcements," Sgt Conder said.

Sgt Conder stopped traffic a safe distance away on the Toodyay side of the blazing truck, and a line of vehicles was stopped on the opposite side while firefighters and more police arrived.

"Suddenly a woman in a white Camry with a baby and small child on board pulled out of the queue, overtook three other cars, sped past the blazing truck and collided head-on with a near-new police Ford Ranger from Toodyay which had just arrived at the scene, causing extensive damage," Sgt Conder said.

"The front of her own car was also damaged but she pulled clear, sped past me and turned right into Mayo Road to get away.

"But her car was so badly damaged that it could steer only to the right and, after going a short way down Mayo Road, she lost control of her car which left the road, became airborne and slammed into the base of a tree."

Sgt Conder said the woman got her two children out of her wrecked vehicle, flagged down a passing vehicle and got a lift back along Toodyay Road to get home.

Police found the woman's crashed vehicle in Mayo Road and traced it to a Morangup address, where she was arrested and charged with dangerous driving.

Other charges are pending.

Servo door smashed

THE FRONT door of Toodyay's Shell service station in Telegraph Road near



A firefighter douses a truck which caught fire opposite the Noble Falls Tavern.

Newcastle Bridge was kicked in last month during an attempted overnight burglary.

Nothing appears to have been stolen but the door was damaged and business disrupted while repairs were carried out.

Unlike at the service station owned by the same company at the other end of town, there was no video recording system operating at the break-in site to capture footage of the offenders.

However, Toodyay police have identified a suspect and are making further inquiries.

"I encourage local traders to protect their premises with video recording cameras," Sgt Conder said.

"This will help us to track offenders faster and more effectively, and also help deter criminal activity."

Two homes raided for drugs

THREE local people have been charged with drug offences after Toodyay police raided two homes last month.

The raids provided information that could lead to more arrests.

Last month's charges were for possession of cannabis and drug smoking equipment.

One of the raids was in town and the other in a nearby rural residential area.

Police Rangers for kids

TOODYAY is to get its first Police Rangers unit for boys and girls aged 12-17.

Sgt Conder said he had secured funding

from WA's Police and Community Youth Centres (PCYC) program to launch a new Police Ranger unit in Toodyay.

"The program is similar to school cadets and encourages young people to learn life skills and get involved in community activities that can help their future careers," Sgt Conder said.

Police Rangers enables young people to gain points for their secondary school WA Certificate of Education, which is recognised by universities, employers and other training bodies.

Sgt Conder said young Toodyay Police Rangers would gain an opportunity to learn basic contemporary policing skills, including instruction and practice in using communications and navigational equipment, bushcraft and survival skills.

They would wear special Police Rangers uniforms, learn parade drills and attend an annual camp.

The program paves the way for young boys and girls who may wish to enter the police force as a future career.

Sgt Conder said he hoped to pass on skills he had learnt from policing in WA and 13 years in the Australian military where he served as a quartermaster gunner on HMAS Brisbane and HMAS Swan, and later later as an army signalman.

"I'm looking for local parents with children who may want to take advantage of joining Toodyay's first Police Rangers unit," Sgt Conder said.

"We've got the funding and now we're getting ready to go."

More information about joining Toodyay's new Police Rangers unit can be obtained by emailing warren.conder@police.wa.gov.au.

How to keep your kids safe in cyber space

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

THE QUESTION of young children and the internet is something that concerns many parents.

Some parents have a more relaxed attitude than others to what is on the internet.

It is something that is worth considering when planning your child's access to the internet which provides a wealth of educational opportunities.

Some children are more easily upset than others about what they see.

There are some things that 99 per cent of parents would see as inappropriate for young children and some will put parental-control software on their computers.

The government has a page with links to parental control software at goo.gl/PXQGAU. It also provides a summary of what parental controls can and cannot do at bit.ly/2vNpVPx.

Parental controls have their limitations – they are not 100 per cent perfect.

Children at school can share information on how to get around parental controls and those who know how to use search engines such as Google, can easily teach themselves how to get around parental controls.

The other approach is to educate young children about how to find material that is safe for them and what to do if they come across anything that worries them.

Sitting beside them and guiding them as they use the internet will help them to learn.

Giving them a list of web sites and search terms will help them if you are not there at the time.

Advance checking of web sites and the results of the searches is a must.

You might want to use a mixture of parental controls and education.

Suggesting to your children that you use parental control software to help protect them from being upset is one way to sell the idea to them.

If you use parental control software, you might want to check its settings to ensure that it keeps its list of web sites up-to-date.

Talking to other parents will give you more ideas on how you approach keeping your children safe on the internet.

Happy surfing.



Badly damaged Ford Ranger police wagon worth \$70,000 is removed from Toodyay Road.

Tell-tale signs alert burglars

Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association
Desraé Clarke

HOME security is something we can all accomplish with forethought and planning.

On leaving your residence to shop etc, don't leave a note to friends of your whereabouts or the time you are returning home.

Think very, very carefully where a spare house key is to be left if that is necessary.

If a house key needs to be available leave it with a nearby friend or neighbour.

Always lock all security doors, even when you are at home.

Do not allow a stranger to enter your home to use your telephone – if necessary, ask for the phone number and make the call, with the security door still locked.

Check whether your television screen can be seen, when it's on, from outside your home.

If so, shift the unit so that the screen cannot give evidence of you engrossed in viewing.

If you have an outside garden in front of your bedroom or lounge windows, a prickly bush planted there can be a good idea.

Do not advertise that you are going away or are away from your home by ensuring your mail and papers are collected or held at the post office, and your rubbish bin is put out and taken in on appropriate days.

Leave a light on in your home or have a light on a timer.

When going shopping carry your wallet, house and vehicle keys in a sealed pocket of a jacket, pants, etc.

Local police have two engravers that are free for use by the community to engrave your unique driver's licence or Medicare number on your fridge, fry pan, washing machine, bicycle or any other article that you value.

The Toodyay Police and the Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association are planning a third community forum in November to invite questions and queries on home safety, home security and any other queries you may have.

Further information will be published closer to the event.

To contact Toodyay Police ring 9574 9555, Crimestoppers 1800 333 000 and Goodbye Graffiti 1800 442 255.

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Regional day care winner Tracey Hunter.

Three Little Monkeys lead to national awards

TOODYAY'S Tracey Hunter is in the running to be recognised as National Educator of the Year.

In late August, Tracey was named a regional winner in the 2017 Excellence in Family Day Care Awards.

"I was happy to be nominated," said Tracey, "let alone be selected".

The former Sheraton Hotel chef who set up the kitchens at Cino's and Pecan Hill, stepped away from the stove in 2009 and studied for a Certificate III in Children's Services.

Tracey provides home-based day care at Three Little Monkeys and is registered with Great Beginnings Family Day Care Service.

At present she has seven children on her books aged from five months to three and a half years.

"It's not work, and I will keep on going as long as I can."

Tracey will have to beat 183 nominees from WA and SA to be in the running for the national finals which will be held in Sydney on October 28.

With her dedication to providing early childhood education as well as a close bond with the children in her care, Tracey has a good chance of being nominated as a national finalist on September 22.

Latest funding bid fails but new pool hopes raised

Toodyay Swimming Pool Action Committee

Bethan Lloyd

WE HAVE just heard that the latest funding application for the recreation complex has not been successful although there are moves underway to apply for separate funding for a swimming pool despite the news.

Last month's Toodyay Shire Council's Minutes may reveal some good news in this regard – we hope.

It would be nice to get some positive comments as it would help our cause in getting a swimming pool for Toodyay.

The present swimming pool committee

Toodyay Progress Association Larry Graham, Chair

CONTRARY to what many people will hear over the coming weeks, the Toodyay Progress Association is not some subversive group hell-bent on attacking the Shire of Toodyay – the exact opposite is the truth.

Most of our group had never met each other before we came together with a shared concern over the dysfunction, civic division, personality conflicts and disregard for public processes and procedures that, for a very long time, has seemed to be considered normal civic administration in our town.

Wherever these issues appear in civic life they should be challenged, but when they result in large rate increases, poor spending controls, soft oversight and poor accountability, citizens have every right to be concerned.

And we were concerned.

So we analysed Toodyay Shire Council decisions, weighed them against local government policies, procedures and best practices and became more concerned than we were at the outset.

The association has taken each issue as far as any community group can and – while the public now know a lot more about decisions of council than they did a year ago and councillors are starting to demonstrate increased willingness to perform their functions – the responses we have received from the shire raise far more questions than they answer.

Various explanations of events have been offered and – when these are matched to the official record – we find that discrepancies abound.

When the association's management committee discussed this and the council's input to our last public meeting in July, it was obvious to us that there was very little chance of substantial change.

Good governance dictates further examination by an independent body, so we have referred all our research to the WA Department of Local Government and asked it to hold a formal inquiry into the Shire of Toodyay.

members are seeking some new members to take over the reins.

To that end we will have a meeting at the Freemasons Hotel at 10am on Monday September 11.

If anyone is interested but can't make that date we can arrange another time to suit, so please contact us.

If we get no interest from community members, then we will move to hand over funds to the Shire of Toodyay to go into the swimming pool reserve fund and once that is done, go through the process of winding up the committee.

Any thoughts please contact Bethan Lloyd 9574 5882, email bethanlloyd_8@msn.com.

We think the information we have revealed puts the council's performance akin to the Corruption and Crime Commission (CCC) description of the "disturbing features that have proved common to other local government authorities and are areas worthy of assessment and focus by all local governments".

The CCC said these disturbing features include:

- "Inadequate governance, whether due to placing friendship above probity, ignorance of robust procedures or some other reason;
- a culture of entitlement;
- a lack of adherence to local government policy and inadequate oversight;
- authority and responsibility for very significant procurement and contract management resting with administrators who are not necessarily appropriately qualified, experienced or monitored;
- councillors who are ill-equipped to oversee complex and often high-stakes activities, particularly in the area of procurement and contract management;
- confusion as to the extent to which a councillor can make enquiries of administrative staff and,
- the difficulties and conflicts arising for people who are aware of potentially corrupt activity, but are reticent to speak up."

The association is on public record as

saying that we do not think our council staff or councillors are corrupt.

However, simply not being corrupt does not absolve public officials from their statutory responsibilities to perform in the interests of their community.

This is where we feel Toodyay Shire Council falls a long way short of acceptable civic norms.

It is always possible that we are completely wrong and we sincerely hope that this will prove to be the case.

However, the evidence to date clearly demonstrates that further investigation is required at a level beyond that of a voluntary community group.

The shire president, councillors and the CEO have been sent copies of our submission and now, having formally requested that the Shire of Toodyay be investigated, the association will await the decisions of the department with great interest.

The association stresses that all the actions we have taken have been aimed at policy and process and not at personalities.

Our systemic and professional approach would have been the same regardless of who was in office and it will remain so if changes occur in the upcoming elections.

As always, we point out that we are an apolitical, not-for-profit public advocacy group that will not be running or endorsing candidates in council elections.

For more information please contact , and can be contacted at toodyaypa@gmail.com.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDINARY ELECTION CALL FOR NOMINATIONS Shire of Toodyay

An Ordinary Postal Election will be held on Saturday, 21 October 2017 in the Shire of Toodyay to fill the following vacancies:

Central 1	Councillor	4 year term
East 1	Councillor	4 year term
East 1	Councillor	2 year term
North 1	Councillor	4 year term
West 1	Councillor	4 year term

Nominations Open on Thursday, 7 September 2017

Nominations Close at 4:00pm Thursday, 14 September 2017

Nominations must be lodged with the Returning Officer:

- at any time during the above period by arrangement; or
- between 2:00pm and 4:00pm Thursday, 14 September 2017 (close of nominations) at the Shire of Toodyay, Old Court House Building, 15 Fiennes Street, TOODYAY.

Nominations Requirements

Candidates are required to lodge with the Returning Officer:

- a completed nomination in the prescribed form, signed and witnessed. (This form is available from the Returning Officer, the Western Australian Electoral Commission or the Shire of Toodyay);
- a single A4 page profile containing not more than 150 words of information about the candidate;
- a nomination deposit of \$80 (cash, bank cheque or postal order); and
- a recent passport-sized photograph (optional).

The Commission has developed an online system called Nomination Builder to assist candidates to complete their nomination form which includes the candidate profile. This is the preferred method of completing the nomination form and profile for elections conducted by the Commission. Candidates complete their nomination details and profile, print the completed form which has a reference number allocated and lodge it with the Returning Officer. The nomination builder can be accessed at elections.wa.gov.au

Where an agent lodges a nomination on a candidate's behalf, it must be in the prescribed form with a written authorisation signed by the candidate.

The documents may be hand delivered, posted or faxed to the Returning Officer and must be received by the close of nominations.

Information

Full details about eligibility and nomination procedures for prospective candidates can be obtained by contacting the Returning Officer on 9620 1234 or 0429 962 013 or the Western Australian Electoral Commission on 13 63 06.

Robert DEW
RETURNING OFFICER



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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Dialling 000 saves golfing mate's life

St John Ambulance
Carolynne Haigh

THE FOLLOWING account by Peter demonstrates the value of first-aid training. It was a bright and sunny day just like any other.

We had teed off on the first hole with the usual jokes and banter and had just arrived at the second hole when one of the fellows said something a bit odd.

"Do you mind if I putt out – I want to go and sit down for a moment."

When I went over and asked him if he was OK, and he said "I'll be fine in a minute, I just need to get my breath back."

I started to feel alarmed.

I had done a first-aid course with St John in Toodyay and had never seen anyone have a heart attack but I started to think this might be one.

He was holding his hand to his chest and I asked if he had pain in his chest.

When he said he did, I knew what had to be done.

Despite his protesting, "I'll be alright", we called the clubhouse, advised them of the situation and asked them to bring a golf cart out to us and to phone 000 urgently for an ambulance.

The ambulance arrived shortly after with its lights and siren on and our golfing mate was loaded in and was transported quickly to hospital.

He had a double heart bypass and his surgeon said that if he had been alone when he had his attack, he would have died.

I don't think there is anything more moving or rewarding than when someone puts his hand on your shoulder and says: "Thanks, mate, for saving my life."

I was so glad I had done that training with St John. You just never know.

Regular courses

TOODYAY and Districts St John Ambulance



Toodyay St John Ambulance volunteers deliver emergency first aid to 'injured' victims after responding to a call to a simulated fatal traffic accident which was attended by local police and Toodyay Fire and Rescue Service and Central Bush Fire Brigade volunteers.

endeavours to hold first-aid courses every six to eight weeks. If you are looking to attend one, please contact Carolynne 9574 2390 or 0428 957 600 for more information.

Once again, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended our recent quiz night where a great time was had by all.

Special thanks go to Geoff and Heather

Appleby for all their hard work in making this event such a success.

On September 9, we will be holding an Open Day from 10am to 2pm.

Please call in to get your free health check and free sausage sizzle, watch demonstrations and have the chance to win lots of prizes.

Hope to see you all there.

Morangup fires up for new recruits

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Morangup
Sue Maddrell

AUGUST has been a quiet month.

Brigade training has been put on hold for the time being as Department of Fire and Emergency Services courses are taking priority over in-house training although Jayden, our second lieutenant, is eager to whip us into shape.

We have a stand-in vehicle for our dual-cab 2.4 which is currently undergoing modifications to meet operational requirements.

The brigade is always happy to have new recruits and anyone interested can contact captain Jeff on 0417 714 798.

The commitment required from new recruits is: being able to attend brigade meetings as much as possible; being available to attend incidents whenever possible; following instructions (a must); attending training as required and being able to work in a team environment.

If locals want further information on becoming a fire fighter or to have a look around you can usually catch volleys at the Morangup station on Saturdays from 8.30am.

The brigade meets on the third Saturday of each month with drinks and a BBQ after.

Next month the Morangup brigade has its usual fundraising stall at the Toodyay Agricultural Show.

Anyone wishing to donate homemade produce such as jams, pickles, cakes or biscuits can contact Sharon Gamble on 9574 7012 or on October 6, the night before show day between 5-8pm, someone will be at the Morangup station to receive produce.

TOODYAY



September Specials

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Toodyay SES powers up response capability



Left to right: Frank McHutchison, Jeff Venn, Robyn Taukulis and Steve Gamble beside the new Ford Ranger dual-cab ute and the John Deere Gator. Photo: Peter Harms.

Toodyay SES
Kim Maddrell, Deputy Local Manager

TOODYAY SES has received some new equipment – a Ford Ranger dual-cab ute and a John Deere Gator on its own heavy-duty trailer.

The vehicles, recently delivered by SES Acting District Officer John Saffey and

Toodyay/Goomalling Community Emergency Services Manager Rob Koch, are welcome additions as they will greatly increase the unit's capacity.

The dual-cab ute will provide additional transport for crews attending incidents and will complement the Isuzu truck in dealing with storm damage as it can tow our existing, kitted-out heavy-duty work trailer to allow

crews to more effectively manage multiple storm-damaged properties.

The Gator is a road-registered, all-terrain vehicle ideally suited to negotiating difficult areas in searching for missing or injured persons. It will also provide additional capacity to existing resources when managing storm-affected properties.

Toodyay SES is based in Morangup and has been operating for two and a half years.

The unit has already been involved in multiple searches and storm-damage incidents so the new vehicles are most welcome by the unit which is proud to be able to respond more efficiently when required.

Toodyay SES Manager Jeff Venn is very happy with the new response vehicles and looks forward to putting them to use but

said it will be a test of ingenuity to fit them into the existing space in the Morangup Fire Station.



Left to right: Jeff Venn, Robyn Taukulis and Harry East. Photo: Peter Harms.

Funny names on fire trucks tell a story

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Julimar
Grant Scobie

BUSH fire brigades in Toodyay have a variety of appliances and some of the names of them are pretty weird.

This month, I'll try to explain how we name the vehicles.

In the Julimar brigade we currently have two vehicles, a 2.4R and an LT or Light Tanker.

Toodyay Central has a 4.4R, a 1.4R and a 12.2 although the 12.2 is actually Toodyay 12.2, not Toodyay Central 12.2 – a small but significant difference.

Other brigades have variations on the theme.

So, apart from the Light Tanker – more on that later – what do those fractions mean?

The first number tells us how much water the vehicle carries: 2000 litres for a 2.4, 4000 litres for a 4.4 and 12,000 litres for the 12.2.

The number after the decimal point is whether it's a 4-wheel drive or a 2-wheel drive.

The 'R' means 'Rural' meaning it is set up as a bush fire fighting vehicle.

Toodyay currently doesn't have any 'Urban' tankers (using the letter 'U') which are set up to fight both bush and, to a certain extent, house fires.

Toodyay also has the Fire and Rescue Service (the red trucks) which is specifically set up to fight house fires, hazardous material spills and road crash rescues but can aid in bush fire fighting if required.

Their appliances are typically a Light Tanker and a Pump (a 2.2).

Just for interest, the Light Tanker is usually a Toyota Landcruiser ute with a 400l tank on the back which is designed to get into the 'hard to get to' areas and reach the fire quicker to stop a small one becoming a large one.

They used to be called 'Fast Attacks' but they don't necessarily move as fast as the big trucks which now have turbos etc.

Thus, Toodyay bush fire brigades have Julimar 2.4, Julimar LT, Coondle 1.4, Coondle 2.4, Bejoording 1.4, Toodyay Central 4.4, Toodyay Central 1.4, Morangup 2.4 and Morangup 1.4.

That's more than 14,000 litres of water available immediately with the Toodyay 12.2 coming along later to refill (but only 12,000 litres worth).

It's not much, but training in saving water for specific purpose is constant and fire fighters do well with what they have.

By the way, how do we identify ourselves on the radio? 'Julimar two four', 'Central four four' is the common terminology.

Some still say 'Julimar two point four' and some still say 'Coondle Heavy', meant to distinguish it (the 2.4) from the 'light' tanker, but it's becoming rare in Toodyay.

So, when you see the fire truck driving past, whether to a fire with lights flashing or just going down the road at a leisurely pace, you can now identify where it's from, how much water it carries and if it can drive off-road or not.

The fire shed at Julimar is always open on Fridays from about 5.30pm onwards with supper and drinks on hand. Come on down and meet the crew and see the trucks with the funny names.

Who's your local hero?

EACH year on Australia Day, local governments around the state celebrate active citizenship in their communities.

Nominations are now open for the Community Citizen of the Year Awards to recognise individuals and organisations that have made a big contribution during the year or over a number of years.

The awards acknowledge outstanding contributions and community service in a wide range of areas that promote

community advancement and well-being including charitable and voluntary service, education, health, arts, business, the environment and sports.

Categories include Citizen of the Year, Citizen of the Year (senior and youth) and Active Citizenship (group/event).

For further information and how to nominate your local hero, visit citizenshipawards.com.au. Nominations close on October 31.

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Adults over 18 must present an acceptable form of ID upon entry. Under 18s must be accompanied by a legal guardian.

For more information go to www.toodyayraceclub.com.au





Dog handler Sam digs at the base of an English oak where Mia the kelpie located a truffle.

Mia sniffs a monster

TRUFFLE dog Mia has done it again. Early last month, on her second visit to Alain Fabregues' trufferie on the banks of the Avon River in Dumbarton, Mia and handler Sam unearthed 1.3kg of the prized Perigord truffle.

This latest harvest included a 560g specimen valued at approximately \$620.

"This (size) is very rare," said Alain who is finally satisfied that truffles can be grown in the Avon Valley.

It's been a 12-year project that produced a high degree of scepticism from growers in the established truffle-growing region of Manjimup.

Positive indications of this year's successful harvest started in April when Alain dug up an unripe truffle which he mistakenly thought was a dead puff ball.

In mid-May Alain found two more unripe truffles before Mia's first visit in late June when she located seven more truffles under six of the host oak trees.

The latest find in August completes a long

journey for the master chef who has returned to his Subiaco restaurant Bistro des Artistes where he is – naturally – featuring a variety of truffle dishes for both lunch and dinner.



Alain Fabregues and his rare find.

Toodyay Show expects flood of photo entries

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Alison Wroth, Chief Steward

BY THE date of publication, it will be a month until the Toodyay Agricultural Show on Saturday October 7.

Written entry forms are due by noon on Saturday September 30. Please take these to the Visitors Centre or Toodyay Newsagency and leave them in the boxes provided or post them to the Toodyay Agricultural Society, PO Box 362, Toodyay WA 6566.

Early lodgement of entry forms is greatly appreciated.

That's enough official business.

This is the time when all the marvellous cooks in the district come out of the cupboard with wooden spoons in hand and make their best batch of sweet muffins for the show.

We only require a plate of three and they can be frozen, as can all the cookery if you don't have time to bake closer to the date.

So, what is holding you back? Nothing.

Give it a whirl. If you are a first-time entrant or even if you have been having a crack at my grandmother Phyl Wood's Memorial Schedule Cake for years, please keep at it, especially now with new classes such as the Gluten Free Section.

If that doesn't take your fancy and you have a bread maker, enter that class and throw a loaf in the night before to see how it goes.

Bread is a wonderful exhibit and it is also popular at the auction later in the day.

Come on people, give Cookery a go.

This year we have achieved and confirmed our new letterhead, branding colours and logo of which the committee is very proud.

A few eagle-eyed community members would have already spotted the Show Schedule around town with our lovely logo in the new brand colours of maroon and gold crowning its cover in glory.

Grab a hard cover schedule if you can as they make a wonderful souvenir, otherwise just download the entry forms and sections you require from the website toodyayagsociety.com.au.

The Children's Section is the best one to look through to gain ideas of new things to enter; examples that we have brought back are papier mache animals, decorated Arrowroot biscuits and popstick constructions.

Photography is also one to consider this year as we have a section covering the 2017 Toodyay floods for both adults and children. So many photos worthy of a show entry appeared on social media at the time. Do have them printed and enter them.

This is Lee King's final year as our dedicated Photography Steward so we want her to go out in a blaze of glory.

I am also welcoming my Mum, Lynn Cook, a life member of the society, back onto the stewarding scene and into the Lee Steere Pavilion after many years away.

Times have changed since you were Chief Steward Mum, but it's so good to see you back.

Finally, our stewards' meeting will be held at 10am on Saturday September 16 at the Youth Hall followed by a lovely morning tea.

I look forward to seeing all available stewards, otherwise I can catch up with you later if you require a chance to run through the file.

Please advise me if you cannot attend.

'Tis the season for field days and shows

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza

A PATCHWORK of bright yellow canola crops and lush green paddocks herald the onset of spring in our shire.

What a remarkable turnaround it has been since the record dry autumn earlier this year.

Rainfall over the past two months has been very consistent and turned the season for the shire's farmers into at least an average one.

Many local farmers have reported above-average rainfall for July and August and this has set paddocks up very well for the remainder of the season.

Many paddocks are very wet which is causing some bogging headaches, but headaches that we are all happy to bear.

Local pastures are still behind where they would normally be but the very good soil moisture will see them bolt when the daylight hours increase and the weather warms up.

Farmers are reporting that some handfeeding is still happening, albeit at a much-reduced rate compared with six weeks ago.

Prices at livestock saleyards remain strong and have been maintained at these levels for most of the year. Industry commentators suggest that this trend is likely to continue into the foreseeable future.

Rains have at last penetrated inland to areas so badly affected by the drought-like conditions in May and June.

Farmers in the far north eastern and northern areas of the Wheatbelt have received good falls of rain in July and August which has provided an opportunity for cropping farmers to at least get some of their input and seed costs back.

Most farmers in these areas have either sold their livestock or sent animals further south for agistment.

A farmer from Kalannie told me he had to transport his sheep to Wellstead, east of Albany, to be able to find feed for them – a distance of about 600km.

This time of the year is the field day season. Many field days are held in the next month or so, giving farmers the opportunity to see new technology, machinery and new crop varieties on offer.

The annual Dowerin Field Day event was once again well attended this year with farmers and non-farmers alike enjoying the wide range of products and machinery on show.

Many farmers find it an excellent opportunity to get away from the farm for a few hours have a look around and socialise with other rural people. This always seems to lift everyone's spirits, even if they don't spend any money.



A sea of yellow canola on Goomalling Road.

Pitch in ideas

WHEATBELT residents have until December 1 to pitch their ideas on how Federal funding should be allocated to natural resource management projects.

Community input on how funds should be spent on regional waterways, bushland, farmland and towns is being sought by the Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management group which helps to manage 12 million hectares of land.

The group hopes to secure up to \$12 million in funding for a wide range of projects such as sustainable farming practices, feral animal control and tree planting.

To suggest or vote on projects to manage natural resources over the next five years, visit oursay.org/wheatbelt.

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Bakers Hill posties tick all boxes for service



Left to right, Sarah Jackson, Joanna Lockyer, Australia Post Network Manager Fabian Allen and Ian Lockyer.

Ieva Tomsons

WHAT are a retired prison psychologist and a former CEO of the Taxi Council WA doing in the Bakers Hill Post Office? – They are putting their Licensed Australia Post outlet on the map.

With only 18 months' experience in running the business, Joanna and Ian Lockyer won their area division and placed third in the recent Australia Post Licensee Awards contested by 292 state post office franchisees.

Their award for customer service excellence, post office operations and contribution to the local community reflects the couple's commitment to providing Bakers Hill residents with a top-notch post office.

"We thought it would be nice to have a little post office and sit around drinking cups of tea, reading books and chatting with the customers," said Joanna who previously headed Taxi Council WA.

"It was the biggest under-estimation of my life," said Joanna.

The Lockyers, who put "their heart and

soul into it" improved the service, applied the technology of bigger post offices, expanded the retail section and gave the interior a new look.

Along the way they created a full-time position for local resident Sarah Jackson who was recently nominated for customer service in the Northam Chamber of Commerce Awards.

To receive Australia Post licensee accreditation, the Lockyers undertook compulsory training with Toodyay Post Office owner Sally Martin and her staff.

"We couldn't have done it without her," they said at the awards' night ceremony.

The Lockyers are "delighted" with the growth of their service and put it down to support of the community whose increased patronage and positive customer-service feedback have spurred them on.

Post offices are the hub of all small communities and the Lockyers have been embraced by Bakers Hill locals who drop in for a chat and, in recognition of their efforts, bring morning tea.

"It's certainly a great way to get to know your local community," said Joanna.

Group aims to keep AvonLink on track



AvonLink Supporters Group Chair Di Granger catches the morning train to work.

AvonLink Supporters Group Di Granger, Chair

IT WAS an absolute delight to hear WA Transport Minister Rita Saffioti announce in June that "she had saved the train" by continuing to fund Toodyay's AvonLink passenger rail service until next year.

Our passenger rail link to Perth and Northam has returned to its pre-trial schedule as a weekday commuter service, with an additional MerredinLink service on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

No weekend schedule is available – yet. I say 'yet' because Ms Saffioti also gave a commitment to optimise the service through talks with various regional tourism and aged-care groups to determine local community requirements.

There is currently a lot of activity happening to capitalise on creating a better AvonLink schedule to suit our community's needs and to ensure longevity of the service through communicating and working with many other groups in Toodyay.

I have met with Toodyay Shire CEO Stan Scott and Transwa General Manager Tim

Woolerson to get a sense of the role the AvonLink Supporters Group can play in ensuring the longevity of the service.

Our group has worked with the shire's community and public transport committee to ensure the AvonLink is a regular item on the committee agenda.

I also liaise regularly with Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Bob Shrader and committee member Helen Shanks to ensure the AvonLink is a continuous topic of conversation around all chamber projects.

As was agreed with Mr Scott, our group will find its 'new' voice once we determine if our role is to 'save or promote' the train.

As I write, there is still uncertainty around this.

What we do know is that Toodyay's AvonLink service is funded only for another 10 months – until June 30.

What happens after that depends on the work we all must do as a community to ensure the AvonLink's longevity.

Stay tuned for more news in the next *Herald*, and please visit our AvonLink Supporters Group Facebook page.

SHIRE OF TOODYAY NOTICES

Form 2

Local Government Act 1995

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

Notification of taking possession of land under Section 6.64 of the Local Government Act 1995

To: THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM MCKNOE and
THE ESTATE OF ALFRED THOMPSON
Of: LOT 17 TOODYAY ROAD, MORANGUP WA 6083

Notice is hereby given that the sum of \$38,855.15 having been unpaid to the Shire of Toodyay for a period of 3 years for rates/service charges in respect of the land situated at Lot 17, Toodyay Road, Morangup and being Registered Memorial, Book 6, Memorial Number 894 – Avon Location 220 Page 136 the local government has taken possession of the land pursuant to Section 6.64 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, and in accordance with that Section intends to:

- (a) Sell the land;
- (b) Cause the land to be transferred to local government.

Signed for and on behalf of the Shire of Toodyay on the 27th day of July 2017.

Advertisement of a new Local Planning Strategy Regulation 13(1) Planning and Development Act 2005 LOCAL PLANNING STRATEGY AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

Notice is hereby given that the local government of the Shire of Toodyay has prepared a new local planning strategy. The strategy and associated maps will be available for inspection at the Shire Administration Office, the Toodyay Public Library and at the Western Australian Planning Commission during normal opening hours.

Submissions on the planning strategy may be lodged in writing and should include reference to the strategy, the property affected, details of the submission and lodged with the undersigned on or before close of business on Friday, 3 November 2017.

Local Government Act 1995

Shire of Toodyay Proposed Cat Local Law 2017

The Shire of Toodyay proposes to make a local law relating to cats.

The purpose of this local law is to provide Council with measures in addition to those under the *Cat Act 2011* to control the keeping of cats.

The effect of this local law is to control the number of cats that can be kept and the places where cats can be kept.

The justification for the local law is that it will provide enforcement options for issues that previously are unable to be dealt with by the Shire's authorised officers under the *Cat Act 2011* or its subsidiary legislation.

A copy of the proposed local law may be inspected at the Shire's Administration Office, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay WA 6566 and at the Toodyay Library during normal opening hours.

Submissions about the proposed local law may be made to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566 by 4.00pm, Wednesday 18 October 2017.

Shire of Toodyay Fire-Break Notice

Pursuant to Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, all residents and ratepayers within the Shire of Toodyay are required to comply with the requirements set out in this notice.

Due Date: 1 November Annually - **Maintained Until:** 30 April Annually

NB: If you purchase land during this period you have 14 days from purchase to comply with this order.

Failure to comply may result in a fines or prosecution

1. All land less than or equal to 1 hectare

1.1 All land with an area less than 1 hectare (2.47 acres) are required to be fire hazard reduced by ensuring:

- grass height does not exceed 100mm; and
- no tree crowns overhang the building; and
- Total available fuel load is maintained at 2 tonnes per hectare or lower.

2. All land greater than 1 hectare

2.1 Land up to and including 200 hectares in size shall have a fire-break cleared and maintained within 10 metres of the external boundary.

2.2 Land exceeding 200 Hectares in size shall have fire-breaks cleared and maintained so as to divide the property into parcels of land less than 200 hectares.

2.3 A fire-break shall be cleared and maintained within 15 metres from external walls of buildings and around haystacks, solar panels and fuel storage areas.

2.4 A 20 metre wide Asset Protection Zone (low fuel area) shall be maintained from external walls of buildings and around haystacks, fuel storage areas such that:

- grass height does not exceed 100mm; and
- no tree crowns overhang the building; and
- Total available fuel load is maintained at 2 tonnes per hectare or lower.

2.5 A fire-break shall be cleared and maintained immediately surrounding a stationary motor.

DEFINITION: Fire-break – An area cleared of all inflammable materials 3 metres horizontally (wide) and 4 metres vertically (high).

Shire of Toodyay Bush Fire Control Officers

Pursuant to Section 38 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* the Shire of Toodyay advises appointment of the following persons as Bushfire Control Officers for the Shire of Toodyay .

Craig Stewart (Chief Bush Fire Control Officer), Rowan Hunter (Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer 1), Robert Koch (Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer 2), Brian Wood, Garry Forsyth, Jay Wakka, Charles Wroth, Jens-Dieter Bartels, Kim Maddrell, Lawrence Haywood, Ian MacGregor, John Hansen, Brian Rayner, Debbie Papps, Chris Sumners, Greg Warburton.

Stan Scott- Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Toodyay



Precious Wattening water lured early settlers

Toodyay Historical Society
Robyn Taylor, President

DRIVING along the Toodyay Bindi-Bindi Road at this time of year you cannot help but appreciate the lushness of the pastures and the feeling of well-being.

Water is the magical ingredient and the valley is valued for its abundance of fresh-water springs that flow into the Toodyay Brook.

Last month we had our Wattening excursion along the Toodyay Bindi-Bindi Road where many historic homesteads and farming properties were established because of this precious commodity.

Our first visit was to Geoff and Sue Ludemann's property, Fernlea.

After a tour of the house and a talk about the history of the property by member Jenny Edgcombe, we marvelled at the large century-old domed water tank at the back.

Photographs of the interior show the dome had been finely constructed of corbelled brickwork while the exterior is faced with concrete.

From Fernlea we drove to the Boshack Outback Wilderness Farm situated adjacent to Wattening Springs Reserve.

Owner Derek Brockhurst took us on a tour



Members with Geoff and Sue Ludemann at Fernlea. Photo: Edward Ludemann.

through a paperbark forest which grows from a well-watered, or at this time of year boggy, swamp with pools of pristine water.

After spending some time listening to the wind in the casuarinas and the frog chorus, we toured the farm before enjoying a roast dinner on the edge of a vast spring-fed lake.

While not so well-known by locals, Boshack enjoys international appeal as a place that offers an authentic bush experience, and the chance

to 'get away from it all'.

Dr Toby Metcalf, our featured speaker at the August meeting, presented the first half of his talk Terra Nullius – Cook to Mabo.

This was a well-timed talk given current interest in Australia's early exploration by Captain Cook and the French, and how the British did not recognise Aboriginal occupancy in the European sense of the word, which meant settlement and farming.

Hence the continent was proclaimed Terra Nullius.

Today, these defining terms of occupancy are being revised through research to show that settlement and agriculture did indeed take place.

There has been a lot of interest in our July film

night from those who were unable to attend. We hope to have a re-run later this year.

As several members will be attending the State Affiliated Historical Societies Conference in Wanneroo there will be no excursion this month.

All members are invited to attend the opening of the Toodyay Convict Depot exhibition at the Old Gaol Museum at 1pm on Saturday September 30.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Lynette Mattin on July 20.

Lyn and Bob Mattin were founding members of the Toodyay Society (established in 1980), which became the Toodyay Historical Society in 1994. Both served the society for a number of years.

Also, the passing of Joy Wood who died on June 18 this year was noted. Joy was the widow of our former patron Hector Wood of Coorinja.

We offer our condolences to both the Mattin and Wood families.

For further information contact: Linda Rooney, secretary.2j.ths@gmail.com; president Robyn Taylor, rdtaylor@inet.net.au 9574 2578 or, Beth Frayne toobide4@inet.net.au, 9574 5971.

Donegan's Cottage (in the showgrounds) is open every Thursday from 1-3pm. Postal address: PO Box 32, Toodyay WA 6566.

There are also displays of books and other items at Drummond House, next to the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank.

You can also find us on our website toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au.

Yearly membership is fantastic value at \$10.

RSL medals ready to lead the march in *Blitz to Broadway*

RSL Toodyay Sub Branch
Bruce Guthrie

SPRING 2017 announces the arrival of a wonderful time of the year.

It's when RSL Toodyay sub branch is engaged in many activities including our AGM, annual street stall, participating in Toodyay Singers' *Blitz to Broadway* production, observing the landscape transformation at Anzac Memorial Park and continuing with The Gardeners Shed project.

On Saturday September 9 at 1pm our AGM will be held in the Lesser Hall at Memorial Hall. Please come along and participate in the fellowship after the meeting.

On Friday and Saturday September 15 and 16 we will hold our annual street stall outside IGA. Your donations of home produce including cakes, biscuits, preserves, pickles, jams and scones always 'sell like hot cakes'.

On the Friday we will hold our money tree raffle which raises funds for spending on RSL activities and projects within our community.

Well-grown plants and cut flowers would also be well received for the street stall. Please bring them down on Saturday morning.

On Saturday September 23 at 7pm and on Sunday September 24 at 2pm the Toodyay Singers will present *Blitz to Broadway* at the CWA Hall.

RSL members have been invited to come along wearing medals and participate in a march-on at the beginning to a rendition of *It's a Long Way to Tipperary* and march-off to *Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag*.

Please let Bruce, 0418 929 476, know if you can make it to one or both performances. There will be a rehearsal mid-month.

At Anzac Memorial Park construction is well underway with site shaping and retaining walls now built. These works precede further contouring, paths, planting and grass laying.

An additional seat is being made then four seats will be placed around the site. Paths will be accessible for all to reach the memorial. Contractors are expecting to finish this month.

This is truly a great project that RSL will be proud of particularly at all future commemoration services. We thank the Shire of Toodyay and its staff for the ongoing involvement and support.

Our current community project is the 2018 Sandakan Scholarship Tour. Details were published in the large centrefold advertising feature in the July *Herald*.

The consideration period is now open and applications close on September 22. Please call Peter 0448 492 935 or Lou 9574 4310 to have a chat about the scholarship and to answer your questions.

This scholarship provides a Year 8 or Year 9 Toodyay resident student with the opportunity of a trip of a lifetime. It is certainly worth submitting your application and gaining the experience of preparing an application and of the selection process.

Future events

A SERVICE at 10.45 on Saturday November 11 will commemorate this year's Remembrance Day.

Our annual Christmas function on Sunday December 3 will be held at noon in the Memorial Hall.

We wish our members who may be unwell a speedy recovery. Let's enjoy warmer nights and spring sunshine.

CWA endorses cat control crackdown

Toodyay CWA
Elizabeth Mansom

TOODYAY CWA is very pleased to report that a motion we submitted to State Conference in July was accepted and will be acted upon by State Office.

The wording is as follows:

"Given that over the last two centuries many of our small mammals, birds and reptiles have become extinct, partly related to factors such as clearing of natural habitat for agriculture, urbanisation and industrialisation, and the problem is now exacerbated by predation attributed to cats, both domestic and feral, it is moved that:

"CWA of WA Inc request the WA Minister for Local Government contact all Western Australian local governments and remind them of their responsibility to rigidly enforce the requirements of Cat Act 2011."

Everyone was very concerned that our president, Judith, fell down some stairs while attending State Conference.

However, after spending almost a month in Perth recovering with her family, we were pleased to have her back chairing the August meeting.

With Judith absent, the meeting in July was very competently chaired by vice-president Kathy.

It was a very full meeting and we were our usual high-spirited selves. Thank you and well done Kathy.

On Friday August 25 five of us went over to York to hear a speaker on women's wills which was well worth attending.

We spent all the allocated time on wills so York CWA will arrange with the speaker to return next year so we can explore Enduring Power of Attorney, Enduring Power of Guardianship and Living Wills.

On Thursday September 7, we plan to visit Bayswater CWA, our city sister branch, which has arranged a talk on gerberas.

Look for us at the Recycled Regatta on Saturday September 16 where we will be supplying tea, coffee and soup at a very nominal cost.

And then on Saturday September 30 there's our fashion parade which we hold each year in conjunction with the Op Shop.

Proceeds from the sale of the clothing will go to the Op Shop which, as you know, returns all profits to the local community while proceeds from entrance, the trade table and raffles will benefit CWA.

Come along and enjoy the show and a delicious afternoon tea.

Look for flyers around town closer to the date.

CWA meets at 1pm on the fourth Thursday of the month in the CWA Hall in Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

There is plenty of parking in Charcoal Lane with disabled access from Charcoal Lane down the side of the hall.

Bookings are being taken by Desraé Clarke on 9574 5574.



Members wandering through Boshack Outback Wilderness Farm with Derek Brockhurst. Photo: Linda Rooney.



CORBRACAGH DOWNS

ALPACAS

Matings:

Standing at Stud: Encantador Mikimoto
Ellenvale Chalamon (Son of Somerset
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AMBO's TARGETING YOUTH

Are you aged between 12-16?

St John Ambulance Toodyay and Districts realise that the youth of today are our future. We are endeavouring to start up a First Aid Recruits program.

If we are successful in getting enough participants, we will train you to further develop your first aid skills and build your resilience and confidence to act in an emergency. The program will provide you with hands on, interactive activities that help make connections between the theory of first aid and the practical application.

Through this program we wish not only to see lives saved as a result of skills learnt, but also to highlight possible future pathways for involvement with St John, either in first aid, as an ambulance volunteer or a career as a health professional.

Volunteering can be a very rewarding experience with no age limits imposed. Not only are you helping the community you are gathering life changing skills.



St John Ambulance Toodyay & Districts

Contact Carolynne for further details on 0428 957 600 or 9574 2390 - Email: sjatoodyay@bigpond.com



St John Ambulance Toodyay & Districts

OPEN DAY

9th September 2017

10am to 2pm

Thinking about becoming a volunteer?
Why not come to our open day?

10 First Aid Kits to be given away between 10am and 11am (Maximum 1 per family)
AED & CPR Demonstrations at 11am and 1pm

First Aid Kits for Sale - Monster Raffle Tickets



Free sausage sizzle
Lucky Door Prize
Free Giveaways
Free Health Checks
(Pulse - Blood pressure
glucose level, temperature)



'Wowser' wins the day

Ieva Tomsons

TOODYAY blacksmith Ernest Wesley 'Wowser' James was always up for a bet and rose to the challenge that he couldn't push local barber Frank Costello in a wheelbarrow around an unsealed 6.4km course.

It was 1935 and the contest drew in other competitors and most of the town folk turned out to see if 'pusher' James could go the distance single-handedly around the course known as Clarkson's 4-Mile. Side-betting was rampant.

The course started and ended at the 'middle pub' (Victoria Hotel), ran up the main street, over the Goomalling Bridge, around the school, down Drummond Street and back over the then Toodyay Bindi Bindi Bridge to the finish line.

Wowser was well ahead of the other competitors and coming into town at 45 minutes was well within the two-hour time limit to complete the race.

A story persists that he had enough time to stop at the 'bottom pub' (Freemasons) to buy a beer and take one out to Frank who

had to remain in the barrow before pushing the barber across the road to win.

The craze for wheelbarrow racing took off and was a feature event at the Toodyay Agricultural Show later that year.

It's not known whether Wowser, who was pushing a barrow made by his blacksmith father Tom, won any other races during the heyday of wheelbarrow racing but let's say it's odds-on that he was a starter for 10.

In the early 1980s teams of three raced around a shorter (4.4km) route to raise funds for local organisations and the events proved popular with locals.

The inaugural event in 1981 was a close run race and was won by Harry Hatful, Ron Woodward and Brian Jokich who crossed the line at 22 minutes, ahead of Phil Watson, Graham Lucas and Rodney Chitty.

Maybe it's time to revisit wheelbarrow racing as a source for fundraising which will entertain locals and visitors alike.

Toodyay Agricultural Society President Kevin Hutchings likes the idea, so we may see wheelbarrow racing make a comeback at next year's show.



'Wowser' James pushes local barber Frank Costello as local pound keeper and ranger 'Corporal' Norman Campbell looks on. Photo courtesy Jan James.

30-year reunion for track record owners at this year's Toodyay Cup

THE RUNNING of this year's Toodyay Cup on Saturday September 23 will provide a nostalgic reunion for two Perth couples whose five-year-old chestnut gelding Zio Remus won the cup in style 30 years ago.

Leanne and Bud Welch and co-owners Kerry and Christine Cova will relive some of their favourite country track memories at this year's Toodyay Picnic Races on WA's Queen's Birthday long weekend.

Zio Remus was ridden in 1987 by jockey Tim Stubberfield and set a course record that stood for several years.

"He was a really handy horse," Mr Welch said.

"Zio Remus went on to win the Kalgoorlie Cup two years later and got up to the \$200,000 stakes mark with quite a few Perth wins.



Chestnut gelding Zio Remus bolts home to win the Toodyay Cup in record time 30 years ago.

"He also ran sixth in the 1988 Perth Cup." Mr Welch said Zio Remus was a great horse to own and it lived to age 32.

"It will be great coming back for this year's

Cup to remember his win - we're really looking forward to it," he said.

This year's Toodyay picnic races promises to be another classic big day out for locals

and visitors in one of Australia's most picturesque country racetrack settings.

Channel Ten sports presenter Tim Gossage will again host the event, which includes free entertainment for kids, the annual Myles Wilson Dash for Cash, Fashions in the Field prizes totalling more than \$6000 and live music by Tod Johnston's ever-popular regular Toodyay Cup band Peace Love & All That Stuff.

Return bus transfers are available through Moshtix, and the AvonLink passenger rail service will run a special Saturday return trip from Midland to Toodyay, with bookings through Transwa.

Gates open at 11am, the first race starts at noon and entry is \$25 for adults (ID required) and free for those under 18 (must be accompanied by an adult).



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Roving Badger scents his home sweet home

Bejoording Community Group
From the desk of The Badger

AS MY 10-week sojourn in England and Wales comes to an end it's time to reflect on what I'm looking forward to returning to.

Absence has certainly made me wistful for all things Toodyay and Bejoording; it's also been a great opportunity to think about what I've come to appreciate and value since I moved here from Perth only four years ago.

Let me start in Toodyay, not perhaps as old, but as much a village community as any I visited in England and, within an Australian context, just as pretty.

I've missed the friendly faces and excellent service at the two hardware stores, the bakery, the supermarket, the library, the op shops, the post office and the pharmacy.

These are the places I use most often, but generally it's the same in all of Toodyay's small businesses.

I've missed that I can park anywhere in town with ease and not be harassed by parking attendants and neo-nazi wheel clampers.

I certainly value the tidiness and street appeal of the town and the effort the community makes to keep it that way.

In small towns and villages bad reputations get around very quickly and there's a distinct lack of negativity in Toodyay.

Up in Bejoording I've missed my super community where nobody is judgemental; where someone is always there with a helping hand; where there's always the next social event to look forward to; where

friendships come easily; where so much is spontaneous and where everyone is valued for something.

More generally I've missed the weather, harsh at times but mostly consistent; I've missed the big skies with that unique West Australian blue, and the sense of openness and freedom; I've missed the peace and quiet and the beautiful vistas that seem to be around every bend as you drive through the district and the gorgeous sunsets and stunning starlit night skies.

I've come to really appreciate the sense of belonging that has taken over my whole being since moving here.

When I migrated to Australia more than four decades ago they were calling it 'the lucky country'.

Let me tell you emphatically, even after enjoying my 10 weeks back in the UK, it most certainly is and I suspect we live in one of the luckiest parts of it, but don't tell too many people.

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, 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 250 484.



Women's Champion Pam McGill (centre) with sponsors Pip and Lester Snooke from Bolgart Rural Merchandise who donated trophies.

Bolgart students fly off to Australian history class

Bolgart Community News
Serena Syred and Nolene Kaszanski

A LOVELY afternoon was spent at Wyening Mission celebrating Petrina King's 50th birthday.

Friends from near and far enjoyed a sumptuous grazing table by Rustic Events.

On October 31, our senior room students will be departing to Canberra for five days of historical education.

This has been kindly funded by various businesses and the students have been fundraising all year for this worthwhile excursion.

A great time was spent in Canada by Callen, Annette, Samuel and Leah Syred. They caught up with Annette's relations in Calgary and Seattle.

Golf News

ON THURSDAY August 20, we had a fantastic field of 50 starters for the Edmonds Cup.

Congratulations to our own Vivienne Camerer who won with 40 points. Winner of the Gross was Margaret Nothdurft from Moora. Runner up on a countback from Vivienne was Northam's Lesley McPherson.

The men played in their championships and Fairlea Cup over the weekend of August 19-20.

Justin Edmonds was the winner of the championship with a total gross score of 157. Runner up was Bryan Crane with 163.

The winner of the Fairlea Cup was Mark Travers with Nett of 133. Runner-up was Geoff Ludemann with a nett of 135. Congratulations to all winners.

Congratulations also to Pam McGill who won the women's championship over three

rounds with a score of 275. Runner-up was Joy Hamilton with 277. The winner of the nett event was Merle Manuel with a score of 213. Deb Campbell was runner-up with 221.

A huge thank you to our sponsors Bolgart Rural Merchandise and Lester and Pip Snooke for their very generous donation of trophies.



Mark Travers, winner of the Fairlea Cup.

Allan crafts memorial urns with much love and care

Avon Woodturners

Max J Heath

HI FROM the Woodturners at Toodyay Junction.

At last, we appear to be getting somewhere with our building.

We have been told the occupancy certificate has been issued but, at the time of writing, it has not been received.

We had to get in touch with a building surveyor and were given the name of Caillam Bruyne who was involved with the original project. He has been most helpful.

Lately, there has been quite a bit of action with woodturning and, with the show coming up, members have been trying to get into turning their entries.

One of our members Allan Bartlett and his wife had some bad news early in August when both Glynne's parents passed away.

Allan is crafting two beautiful urns for their ashes and this is being done with a lot of love

and care. Our thoughts go out to you both.

Work on our annual raffle prize is well under way and we hope to raffle this before Christmas - believe me it would make a great Christmas present for someone.

On the last Sunday of August some members of the Avon Woodturners club ventured to Chittering to demonstrate at the Taste of Chittering event.

The weather was magic and a good crowd attended. We had considerable interest and were pleased with the day.

Several give-away items were crafted and some smiling people went on their way.

We normally have our meetings on the fourth Sunday but as this was the same day as the Taste of Chittering it was decided to have a mid-week barbecue lunch and meeting.

A report on our recent AGM will be published in next month's Herald.

Well that's about all from the woodturners for this month and so, as RoadWise says, - don't drive tired.



*Toodyay Community Resource Centre
invite you to attend their*

Annual General Meeting

To be held at
Toodyay Community Resource Centre
111 Stirling Terrace Toodyay
on 29th September 2017 at 6pm

*Join us in the Conference Room at the
Centre for a Sundowner
The meeting starts at 6.30pm*

RSVP 20th September for catering purposes

Are you interested in being a pivotal member of our Committee?

Committee positions are available.

Call into the centre and collect a nomination form or give us a call on **9574 5357** for further details.

Boot out your old treasure

Morangup Play Group

AS AN incentive for everyone to have a spring clean, Morangup Play Group will be hosting a car boot sale on Sunday, October 8 at the Morangup Hall.

You can clean out all those unused and unwanted items from the shed, the back of the kitchen cupboards and the toy boxes and make some cash.

There are limited bays available inside the hall, but plenty of room outside.

Sellers can be admitted from 8am at \$5 per bay and buyers are welcome from 8.30am for a gold coin donation.

There will be a sausage sizzle, cool drinks on sale, with tea and coffee also available.

To book a bay call 0402 788 201 and if you want to pick up a bargain, put the date in your diary now.

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