

The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned
community newspaper
Est. 1902

5000 copies circulating in Toodyay, West Toodyay, Goomalling,
Bolgart, Calingiri, Morangup, Northam, Coondle, Hoddys Well,
Wattening, Dewars Pool, Culham, Bejoording, Nunile, Julimar, Bakers
Hill, Clackline, Wooroloo, Wundowie, Gidgegannup and local districts.

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Fibre Festival and Moondyne magic capture town spirit



Prosecutor Tom Findlay give the thumbs down to Moondyne Joe (Jacob Robertson) at his trial last month. Fibre Festival Junior Mad Hatter winner Matthew (above) and fashion parade.

Secret council backflip reverses CEO vote

Michael Sinclair-Jones

A SECRET council vote behind closed doors has allowed Shire CEO Stan Scott to keep his highly paid job for another year instead of losing it when his contract expires next month.

The extraordinary backflip, which was described the next day on ABC radio's *Breakfast* program as "very strange, sudden and unusual" (see Page 9) comes in the middle of a formal State Government inquiry into the Shire of Toodyay.

It caught some councillors by surprise after their 5-4 decision in March "to not offer Mr Scott a new contract of employment".

A government inquiry based on 'reasonable suspicion' local government laws and regulations were breached during Mr Scott's current and previous contract as shire CEO was announced last December.

It followed 10 months' official monitoring and a warning that the shire had shown "not only a lack of understanding of the provisions of (Freedom of Information) legislation but also a propensity to misinterpret other legalities and procedures".

Three Perth investigators were reported last month to be continuing their interviews with local ratepayers while gathering evidence for a report to WA Local Government

Department Director General Duncan Ord and State Local Government Minister David Templeman.

A spokesperson for the department said that the Shire of Toodyay remained one of five WA councils subject to an "authorised inquiry" ordered by the State under Section

8.3 of the Local Government Act.

The inquiry was "still underway and a report will be prepared in due course" the spokesperson said.

In a separate development, Mr Scott and Shire President Brian Rayner were found last year to have breached the Shire

Code of Conduct by publishing derogatory statements in the ratepayer-funded April 2018 *Toodyay Community Newsletter*.

Both have refused to apologise and told last month's council meeting that it had no power to order them to apologise.
Continued Page 5.

Quest to uncork winery cellar history



Two locally fired 'J-R' bricks used to build Toodyay's historic Coorinja Winery.

LOCALLY made colonial bricks marked with a unique 'J-R' recess or 'frog' indentation on their laying surface are being sought locally to help date an old cellar at Coorinja Winery, about 5km south of Toodyay.

Coorinja owner Michael Wood is keen to hear from anyone with other buildings made from similar bricks as his winery prepares to celebrate its centenary in August.

Mr Wood said the J R initials were used by colonial brick-maker John Riley, whose bricks have also been found in Culham.

He believed the bricks were made from local clay and baked in earth on the ground instead of fired in kilns.

Beth Frayne, from the Toodyay Historical Society, has written that J R bricks with a wide groove between the initials (left, above) were made before 1867, and those with a narrow groove (below) after 1869.

Toodyay Farmers Market
Sunday June 16

this month

classifieds	29
emergency services	7
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The Toodyay Herald

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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.

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Ol' Blind Joe

Shining a light

Stirling Hamilton

IT HAS come to my attention that some folks see *The Toodyay Herald* as being overly critical of the shortcomings of our esteemed local shire council.

Well heavens to Murgatroyd, to Betsy, and any other bewildered bystanders.

A little secret my wife Truth always tells me is that a journalist's prime duty is to dig, discover, deliberate and disseminate.

I've been observing local council matters for a decade now, writing for our paper and serving as a volunteer on successive *Herald* committees for seven years.

I can attest with all sincerity that I have never detected nor witnessed a hidden agenda of malice, prejudice or bias against anyone anywhere or at any time.

Digging, exposing and calling public figures to account is not for everyone.

It can ruffle feathers and make good burghers squirm but would the world be a better place if ostriches ruled the roost?

We consider ourselves a cut above the rest and strive to be the best damn little paper in these parts.

Circulation is up 60 per cent in five years while other local papers have gone bust – so we must be doing something right.

Now, one of the most mind-numbingly boring things you can do on earth is to spend untold hours studying council agendas and minutes.

Hidden craftily and inscrutably among ten thousand pages of crap you'll find an occasional nugget of gold and realise what our civic leaders are really up to.

Years ago I caught them slipping four little words "and leading up to" into a planning document.

It meant that if you subdivided a property, you no longer paid pro rata only for the frontage but also to seal gravel roads leading up to it.

Another debacle was 'omnibus' amendments where they were gonna make it illegal to have a spare truck or park up your sister's boat for bit, and loads of other nutjob rules and new regulations.

I wrote about it, dozens of people came to a public meeting and the shire backed down.

Councillors cried "we didn't know" because it was during an administration changeover.

But if a humble volunteer like yours truly could figure it out, why couldn't our elected representatives manage the same with heaps of supposedly well-educated, well-paid office dwellers to rely on for professional advice?

Tucked away in those dark impenetrable pages, I've also discovered how councillors over the years have been delegating more and more powers to shire CEOs.

I've watched these power plays for years and they ain't pretty as we saw when our council blew more than half a million bucks of ratepayer money pursuing former shire CEO Graham Merrick on a wild goose chase through the Perth courts.

Any council deliberations about CEOs always seem to be behind closed doors.

Us ratepaying peasants, electors and scribes are not allowed to be privy to the backroom deals that determine our fate.

Openness, accountability and transparency are not attributes that seem to be understood by most of our overlords.

Our shire won't even talk publicly to the peasants except through a ratepayer-funded monthly 'newsletter' that councillors have no say in even when it breaches their own code of conduct, as in April last year.

But don't hold your breath waiting for an apology because that's not how our civic leaders operate.

I feel like the proverbial 'stunned mullet' watching them parade as doyens of representative democracy.

I shall no longer lament the past though in my opinion, the sooner their shadows cease to darken these fair valleys, the better.

Pusillanimous

NOW, I'VE got bigger fish to fry despite the fact that my editor suffers from pusillanimous provincialism and doesn't think Toodyayites are ready for the big bad world beyond our shire borders.

I've spent thousands of hours studying warfare and the geopolitical manoeuvres occurring in the dark fog of the US hegemony machine.

America is the master of lying to get what it wants, especially in warfare.

It broke every treaty ever made with its indigenous citizens and provoked Mexico in 1846 so it could invade and steal more land.

It claimed in the 1898 Spanish-American War that the warship USS Maine had been blown up by Spanish saboteurs when it knew it was an onboard accident, and then stole the Caribbean Islands and Cuba.

It was no deal in Afghanistan when the Taliban wanted to offer up Bin Laden if no death penalty was imposed.

After 18 years of war and how many dead – and what about those weapons of mass destruction which went so well in Iraq?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu led the charge in demonising Iran while the US crippled Iraq and Syria for him and then gave him the Golan Heights, which is Syrian land.

Will Iran be the next to fall, fulfilling Netanyahu's dream of a Greater Israel no matter how many innocents die?

Saudi King Salman – an absolute ruler who commands immense oil wealth – and militant US National Security Advisor John Bolton seem hell-bent on provoking a potentially catastrophic war with Iran, which hasn't invaded another country for 250 years.

Watch them.

I love America more than any other country in this world; and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticise her perpetually – American playwright, novelist and activist James Baldwin (1924-1987).

Our environment matters at the Toodyay Herald.
news@toodyayherald.com.au



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June - July						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	July 1	2	3	4	5	6

Days of snaring rabbits for dinner and no electricity

Ieva Tomsons

IF YOU want to know anything about Bakers Hill, Allen Brockman (83) is a good place to start.

Of the town's 1118 residents, Allen has lived there the longest and can remember when Bakers Hill had just 10 families – the Ashmans, Oystens, Hoopers, Cooks, Biasons, Gumleys, Betts, Pumfrees, Hills and his own family the Brockmans.

Allen's father Frank arrived in town in 1934 during The Depression with a sugar bag of meagre possessions to make a living cutting railway sleepers.

As the second last of the seven Brockman children, Allen grew up when times were tough for many, in a family battling to make ends meet.

"I can remember being hungry most of the time," said Allen who was named after Sister Allen's Nursing Home in Northam where he was born in 1936.

The Brockman's original home was an old mud brick house three kilometres out of Bakers Hill before they built a cottage in town.

"It had two bedrooms, a kitchen and a veranda but by that stage only four of the kids were still living at home.

"My mother was a good gardener and my sister and I would go out snaring rabbits (to eat)."

Things started to look up for the Brockmans when Frank joined the army during World War II and the family received a regular income.

Educated at Bakers Hill Primary School and Northam High School, Allen readily admits that he didn't learn much so it's surprising to hear that he took on the task of researching and publishing the history of the local primary school from 1896 to 1996 in the school's centenary year.

"Primary school is a bit of a blur but during the war I vividly remember having to jump out of the school window (during an air-raid drill) to be caught by an older boy* and then running to the dug-out shelter."

Allen left school at 15 to work at the local grocers for six years before turning to labouring work at Gumley's timber mill



Allen Brockman has been collecting old farm machinery, tools and household items since the 1970s many of which came from farms in the Bakers Hill area.

just out of Bakers Hill.

By this stage Allen had met his future wife Jan from Wooroloo and they courted for six years before marrying in 1962.

Allen had already started to build the wooden house where the couple still live and he did it without any formal training in carpentry.

Recycling five old buildings, including the old Bakers Hill Post Office, Allen constructed the house from the inside out.

When Jan moved there in 1962, there was still no electricity in their part of town and their now cosy home was anything but comfortable.

"There were no windows or doors and I had to take down a sheet of corrugated iron

to let Jan's parents in when they came to visit," laughs Allen.

It was a busy time for the newlyweds who decided to go into the trucking business, buying two trucks which they ran as AAA transport – Anything, Anytime, Anywhere.

Allen was also cropping oats and wheat on his 300 acres (121 ha) in Clackline and he still continues to help farm his current property south of Bakers Hill.

From the 1970s to the 1980s Allen was running flat out.

With two young kids, a trucking business and farming commitments, not to mention volunteering in the local fire brigade, church, and cricket and tennis clubs, something had to give.

But before Allen had a heart attack in 1986, he had chalked up another major achievement – writing the history of Bakers Hill in 1979.

Researching *Bakers Hill, A Brief History* took a year and involved countless letters and phone calls to former residents as well as trips to various towns around the state.

"Someone had to do it, so I thought why not?"

A long-held ambition for Allen was to make his own wine which, unsurprisingly, he has.

In 1968 his farming neighbours were winemakers Evans and Tate and he helped them plant their vineyard in Bakers Hill.

Twelve years on, he decided to put in his own Cabernet and Semillon grapes and produced his first vintage three years later in 1983.

In the 1990s the Brockmans were producing 2000 bottles a year but when the licence to sell wine rocketed from \$125 to \$3000 a year in 2016, Allen decided to call it a day.

One thing Allen hasn't given away in his retirement is collecting old farm machinery, tools and household items and his shed is a mini museum overflowing with items from the past.

This historian and avid collector, however, does not view the past through a prism of unrealistic nostalgia for times gone by.

"My old mum said it best: 'There is no such thing as the good old days. I want to wake up, turn on the light and put on the electric kettle'."

* Eddie Seskas, *Herald* Page 3 November 2018.

Moondyne relives historic era



Colonial guards discharge a musket fusillade as temperance woman decry the evils of alcohol at last month's annual Moondyne Festival in Stirling Terrace. Photos: Peter Harms.



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The Toodyay Herald

Done in the dark

THIS newspaper has no problem with the current Toodyay Shire CEO being offered a 'temporary' new job when his current four-year contract ends next month.

A State Government inquiry into the Shire of Toodyay seems unlikely to end soon, and it may be better that he stays to answer any questions that may arise when the findings are made.

Evidence already exists that it is not only "outside people" who are unhappy with our shire's performance – as Shire President Brian Rayner claimed on ABC Radio Perth last month – but that the WA Local Government Department itself is worried enough to send in a team of full-time investigators who have been making detailed inquiries for the past six months.

Even if the inquiry ends in a clean slate for our shire, of concern to all ratepayers must surely be the manner in which last month's council decision was made.

As Cr Bill Manning – a former senior State Government commercial lawyer with years of high-level corporate experience – said at a council meeting in February, choosing a CEO is one of the most important decisions any council can make.

But last month's vote was done in stealth with no notice on the agenda paper, councillors were kept in the dark and ratepayers locked out of the chamber.

Plotters first had to defeat what amounted to a potential censure motion – with President Rayner delivering his casting vote after a 4:4 split behind closed doors – before the ambush was sprung.

State law governing councils "is intended to result in better decision making, greater community participation in decisions and greater accountability of local governments to their communities".

There was little sign of that last month. Rushing to do things in secret without due consideration is fraught with danger, and there may still be procedural questions to answer before the CEO can be offered a valid new contract – time will tell.

Of more concern in the run-up to fresh council elections in October is that public confidence in our shire – already fragile – has taken yet another battering.

When will they ever learn?

Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor



The way we were – this undated photograph shows an early 1870s workman's cottage in Folewood Road. The single-story brick and iron cottage with timber casement windows was built by Samuel Haggard and W Stevens and is regarded as an example of local Victorian architectural style and for its association with early settlers of the Toodyay district. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

LETTERS

Incredibly impressed by Herald

I RECENTLY picked up a copy of the May edition of *The Toodyay Herald* in Northam and have now read it cover to cover – almost.

Must say, I was incredibly impressed with the comprehensive content and comment, especially the articles taking the local council to task.

Keep up the good work.

As an acknowledged pedant, I was a bit confused by the back page advertisement of an auction with "bidding commencing at \$600,00".

Is the comma in the wrong spot or was an additional zero omitted?

John Maloney
South Perth

(Advertising content is responsibility of advertisers – Ed)

Hats off to tip staff

WE READ a lot about what is wrong with our little town, so here are a few words of good cheer.

At our local waste transfer station I always find the staff invariably cheery, helpful and polite.

An uplifting combination. Hats off to Rob Broderick and his friendly gang.

Nina Paterson
Toodyay

Beyond a joke

OUR SHIRE council is a beyond a joke.

The shire is under State Government investigation and you would think that our elected members would have the community forefront in their minds in every decision that comes to the table.

Why then have they done a complete backflip and rescinded their decision not to offer the current Shire CEO a new contract and instead want him to stay another year?

What has changed?

The current CEO was previously considered not good enough – and now suddenly he is. Councillors voted 6-1 on May 14 to employ a new interim CEO for six months to enable a new council elected in October to choose a new CEO early next year.

It would have given the community a reason to have new confidence in the shire and its administration while the State Government inquiry completes its work.

Brian Foley
Dewars Pool

Tow bar rail-jump heroes

I WAS saddened to read Larry Graham's letter in the May edition of *The Toodyay Herald* titled 'Windscreen carnage'.

My husband and I have only the highest praise for local Toodyay drivers.

Early in May we set off on a three-week caravan trip to the Wheatbelt.

As we crossed the railway line on Racecourse Road our van jumped off the tow ball and the tow frame came to rest under our car.

We were in pickle and tried without luck to get help from the RAC.

Then along came a strong young local driver called Corey who stopped to offer assistance.

He was followed by another Toodyay

driver called Murray who also pulled over to help us out of our predicament.

Together they managed to move the van and lift it back onto the tow ball.

We were so grateful for their friendliness and help and have told many people our story.

If anyone knows these two men, please make sure they get to read this.

Jane Gray
Hillarys

Patchwork road menace

HOW APPALLING that Larry Graham has to report in last month's letters page that he has suffered six broken windscreens over the past two years on Toodyay Road.

If you take a pleasurable drive from Stoneville Road West to Greenmount Hill along Great Eastern Highway, even with the roadworks going on presently, you get a consistent bitumen surface for a largely 80km/h speed zone roadway.

Surely, this is what we should expect to get in pavement standards for a major arterial road?

Toodyay Road is ostensibly a 100km/h speed zone with an ever-varying, lower standard (patchwork quilt) of inconsistent bitumen surfaces from Red Hill to Toodyay and we are still long awaiting funding to totally upgrade Toodyay Road from Morangup Road to the Toodyay townsite.

Do we need to ask which road is the safer road to travel and why hasn't the same consistent standard of pavement surface, as has been afforded Great Eastern Highway, been applied to Toodyay Road?

Are the Toodyay Road commuters being used by the Main Roads WA as 'guinea pigs' while they experiment with different pavement surfaces?

It has also been reported, I note, that it has been now more than 33 years since the Orange Route, the Perth-Adelaide National Highway (PANH) was announced.

I sincerely hope none of us was holding our breath while we've been waiting for updates on its progress.

I urge all Toodyay, Morangup and Gidgegannup residents to attend the Toodyay Road Liaison Committee Community Meeting at 6pm in the Gidgegannup Showgrounds Hall on Thursday June 6 to hear Main Roads WA staff explain the reasons behind the inconsistencies of Toodyay Road's lesser standard of pavement surface compared with Great Eastern Highway's, the PANH, and any other queries that have been raised.

Ross Carson
Gidgegannup

Trash mandatory fee

DEAR Toodyay Shire Councillors.

My name is Sue Bussell and my husband, Ric Jones, and I live in Morangup.

We are both disabled and have to use walkers to get around outside.

The agenda item for last month's council meeting regarding mandatory rubbish collection using wheelie bins is not possible for us.

At present, we fill the smaller rubbish bins and take them to the tip once a month in our van.

We manage the smaller, multiple loads that way.

However, it is not possible for us to push

even an empty wheelie bin with a walker down our long drive.

Rubbish truck drivers might, if they are very careful, be able to get down our drive to collect the bins from beside the house, but I doubt if they will.

At least our driveway is on flat land, which is better than a lot of the driveways in Morangup which can be both very steep and bumpy.

This is why so many people in our area do not use the shire rubbish collection service.

I suspect that this mandatory proposal is designed to increase the revenue for the rubbish collection contractor, not for the benefit of ratepayers.

To impose the fee for rubbish collection by them on ratepayers in Morangup who do not want it is adding insult to injury.

They should be paying us to bring the rubbish to our gates.

Please, dear councillors, do not accept the proposal.

Susan Bussell
Morangup

(Toodyay Shire CEO Stan Scott's recommendation last month to impose a new mandatory fee on all ratepayers on existing rubbish collection routes was deferred to the September council meeting – Ed.)

Micaile's last stop

DEAR people of Toodyay, it's Micaile's Petulengro's goddaughter here.

I wanted to express my heartfelt gratitude to all you folks and friends who are part of the rich diversity that is the community of Toodyay, a town abundant in history and folklore.

Micaile, a traveller, chose to settle in his beloved Avon Valley.

He experienced caring and acceptance, tolerance and cheeky humour from a community that is as unique, as he was.

Believe me I tried to coax him to join me back in the region where we first met, the far south west. No way...

Down there on the banks of the Avon River Micaile put down his roots.

In Kevin and Lesley, their family and Butterly Cottage staff and fellow residents, Micaile found another family, a home he was proud to be part of.

Thank you, from me and thank you from Micaile.

Catherine De Vos
Albany
(Story, Page 15)

Men's Shed draws new ticket

TO THE ladies and gentlemen of Toodyay who have supported the Toodyay Men's Shed.

After the Toodyay Men's Shed wood raffle in April was drawn the winner has not been able to be contacted.

After numerous attempts, the committee decided to hold a redraw as the fairest way forward.

From the remaining tickets a new winner, A Kidd of Julimar was picked.

We hope that Toodyay understands that this was a fair raffle and that we have done our best to find the original winner.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Fred Fellowes
Interim Secretary
Toodyay Men's Shed

The Toodyay Herald invites you to have your say in our letters page. Please email us at 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, grammar and punctuation.

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Bell refuses to apologise for *Facebook* posts

Michael Sinclair-Jones

A SERIES of *Facebook* posts by Cr Ben Bell criticising Toodyay Shire CEO Stan Scott over the past year has prompted a legal battle in Perth over whether Cr Bell should be required to apologise.

Cr Bell refused Shire President Brian Rayner's call at last month's council meeting to stand and apologise to Mr Scott across the chamber for criticising him on social media about a number of issues, including rate rises, legal costs and the shire budget.

Mr Scott filed several official complaints to the WA Local Government Standards Panel, which found that Cr Bell had committed six "minor" breaches of local government regulations by making "improper use of his office" as an elected councillor.

A further complaint of a "minor breach" against Cr Bell by Cr Paula Greenway was also upheld, although the panel said on May 14 that the complaint was dismissed and didn't correct its error until May 22.

Cr Bell said he could not stand in the council chamber and apologise because he had lodged an appeal against the findings



Part of a Facebook post by Cr Ben Bell on May 18 last year, the same date as a post that resulted in one of six WA Local Government Standards Panel rulings that Cr Bell is appealing against.

with the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT).

"I can't comment on matters currently

before SAT," Cr Bell said.

Mr Scott said he had checked with the SAT and Local Government Standards Panel and found "no information about an appeal".

The appeal period has expired," Mr Scott said.

However, a check of the SAT online public register by *The Toodyay Herald* two days later showed two appeals by Cr Bell.

The first lodged on May 20 – eight days before last month's council meeting – contests all six panel findings against him.

The second – lodged on May 22 – challenges the shire's decision to publish a "notice of public censure" in the shire's ratepayer-funded *Toodyay Community Newsletter*.

Cr Bell said the panel had ordered its findings to be published only in *The West Australian* and *The Toodyay Herald* – nowhere else.

The council agenda paper showed that the panel had ordered Cr Bell to publicly apologise to Mr Scott for six breaches of local government regulations.

Each required Cr Bell to say "I should not have acted in such a manner towards the

CEO and I apologise to the party concerned for having done so".

The shire also recently twice published a "notice of public censure" against Cr Bell in *The West Australian* newspaper, and one each in last month's ratepayer-funded *Toodyay Community Newsletter* and on Page 7 of this month's *Toodyay Herald*.

The *Herald* notice concerns Cr Bell's May 2018 *Facebook* criticism (left) of Mr Scott's decision to exclude 16 of Cr Bell's 20 questions from being answered at a council meeting that month.

Cr Bell criticised Mr Scott's performance, accused the shire of censorship, pointed to its lack of a communications policy and claimed a lack of shire openness and accountability.

Mr Scott complained to the Standards Panel that Cr Bell's post generated a number of community comments, "including several that were very uncomplimentary".

"Cr Bell even acknowledged in his post that he was adversely reflecting on the CEO, and was unapologetic," Mr Scott said.

"Even if the premise had been accurate, which it is not, discussion of the CEO's performance does not belong in the public domain and certainly not on *Facebook*."

"Regardless of whether there is any merit in his observations, and there is none, this discussion has no place on *Facebook* or in the public arena."

Mr Scott said Cr Bell's *Facebook* posts had "dishonestly misrepresented the shire and a fellow councillor on a range of issues and created significant community angst and backlash".

"As can be seen from some of the responses generated, there has been considerable actual damage to the reputation of the council and the CEO," Mr Scott said.

Cr Bell joins a small group of other WA councillors – including outspoken Capel Shire Councillor Michael Southwell – who say local government rules are "anti-democratic" and are being used to "stifle debate" and "silence councillors".

They say the same restrictions do not apply to elected members serving in State and Federal parliaments, and should not apply to those in local government.

President Rayner said he would inform the WA Local Government Standards Panel that Cr Bell had not followed its instruction to apologise.

Dow leads secret vote to scrap CEO job decision

Continued from Page 1.

THE SHIRE of Toodyay also failed to "meet expectations" or had "not done" what was required in eight out of 11 areas examined in a highly critical WA Auditor General's report on record keeping at four WA local government authorities tabled in State Parliament in April.

A motion by Cr Judy Dow to re-employ Mr Scott as interim CEO for a further 12 months next month did not appear in last month's published council meeting agenda.

Ratepayers in the public gallery were



Shire CEO Stan Scott (left), President Brian Rayner and Deputy President Therese Chitty discuss a confidential shire report during an adjournment in a debate behind closed doors about allowing Mr Scott to keep his job.

ordered to leave the chamber for two items of 'confidential business', including 'recruiting process and options for appointment of new CEO'.

The first item – a notice of motion by Cr Bill Manning that Mr Scott and President Brian Rayner apologise for breaching the Shire Code of Conduct last year – was excluded from the agenda by Mr Scott and President Rayner.

Cr Manning, seconded by Cr Ben Bell, moved a dissent motion against the exclusion. It resulted in a 4-4 deadlock, with Crs Manning, Bell, Rob Welburn and Eric Twine voting to reinstate the item, and President Rayner, Deputy Shire President Therese Chitty and Crs Judy Dow and Paula Greenway against.

President Rayner then used his casting vote to defeat the motion 5-4.

Mr Scott left the chamber when the second item – a confidential report by People and Projects Manager Tina Phillips about hiring a new interim CEO – was moved by Cr Rob Welburn and seconded by Cr Eric Twine.

It was lost 6-2 with only Crs Manning and Bell in favour after Cr Dow foreshadowed an alternative motion to offer Mr Scott another 12 months in the job.

President Rayner adjourned the meeting while he and Deputy President Chitty left the chamber to call WA Local Government Association (WALGA) compliance manager Tony Brown in Perth for advice.

Ratepayers waiting outside the shire building saw the pair through a window talking to Mr Scott in a side room about a confidential shire report marked in red that had not been given to the public gallery.

When the meeting behind closed doors resumed with Mr Scott still out of the

chamber, Cr Dow moved to revoke a 6-1 council decision carried in her absence on May 14 that the shire ask the Local Government Department and WALGA for a list of potential interim CEO candidates.

Cr Dow spoke from prepared notes and said she had already asked Mr Scott if he could stay for another 12 months.

She provided no prior notice to the council of her alternative motion before debate on it started behind closed doors.

Her motion to revoke the council's May 14 decision was supported by Crs Greenway and Welburn, who were joined by President Rayner, Deputy President Chitty and Cr Twine to pass it 6-2, with Crs Manning and Bell against.

President Rayner accepted Cr Manning's request that every councillor's vote be recorded in the minutes.

Cr Dow then moved her alternative motion, seconded by Cr Welburn, to offer Mr Scott a "temporary" CEO job for 12 months when his contract ends on July 22.

It was again carried 6-2, with Crs Manning and Bell opposed, and Cr Manning again asked that every councillor's vote be recorded.

President Rayner told *The Herald* he expected details of the CEO's new temporary contract to be considered at the next ordinary council meeting at 4pm on Tuesday on June 25.

Mr Scott's current contract includes a total financial package worth \$222,791 a year – reviewable annually – unrestricted private use of a local government vehicle – including during annual, long service and other paid leave – for himself and a spouse, five weeks' paid annual leave and all gazetted WA public holidays.

Pool and sport precinct public update June 22

MORE than \$1 million has been spent on the Shire of Toodyay's new Sport and Recreation Precinct being built by near the high school.

Shire President Brian Rayner told ABC Perth Radio last month (transcript Page 9) that the total project cost was \$14 million.

The shire will run a public information update on the project at the Toodyay Community Centre (next to Alma Beard Medical Centre) at 10am on Saturday June 22, followed by light refreshments.

RSVP Debra Andrijich by 5pm Monday June 17 on 9574 9392 or email events@toodyay.wa.com.au.

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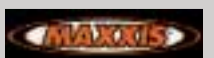
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Seeding time warning – paddock thieves on the prowl

Police Beat

With Acting Sgt Kevan French
Toodyay Police Station



THE ONSET of winter seeding for local farmers has prompted a police warning to secure all tools, vehicles and machinery left overnight in paddocks.

This follows an attempt to steal an \$80,000 New Holland tractor parked overnight in a paddock in Wundowie last month.

The tractor (similar to pictured) was to be used for seeding early next morning and had been left with its keys in the ignition.

“It was only luck that the battery was flat and thieves couldn’t start the tractor engine to drive it out of the paddock,” Toodyay Police Acting Sgt Kevan French said.

“However, thieves ripped out the GPS, which means the farmer wasn’t able to use his tractor for seeding until it was repaired.

“Police are checking fingerprints and DNA samples to trace possible offenders.”

Acting Sgt French said the Wheatbelt was notorious for machinery, diesel and tool thefts.

There had been about half a dozen reports of suspicious vehicles being seen near farms in the Toodyay area and surrounding districts in recent weeks.

“We’ve had night-time sightings of different vehicles – often seen from a distance – on public roads in Morangup, Coondle and near Cobbler Pool,” Acting Sgt French said.

“When owners turn on their lights to check, the vehicles speed off.”

Farmers could help police by keeping their machinery, and equipment secure if left overnight in paddocks, and by keeping records of serial, registration, chassis and engine numbers.

“We also monitor second-hand goods for sale on internet sites such as Gumtree and Facebook,” Acting Sgt French said.

“It takes a bit of time but does produce results.”

Early morning speed blitz

TOODYAY police were up at the crack of dawn last month to surprise several local motorists breaking the speed limit on their regular weekday morning commute to Perth.

“We had a few complaints about people



Thieves tried to steal an \$80,000 tractor, similar to this, left overnight in a Wundowie paddock.

driving too fast in the 90km/h zone between Coorinja Winery and Lovers Lane,” Acting Sgt French said.

“So, we did some early morning patrols starting at 6am in marked police cars and stopped about a dozen speeding motorists in the first week.

“The worst was doing 120km/h in the 90km/ speed limit zone while most were travelling at about 100km/h, mainly around 7am.

Acting Sgt French said the early morning patrols in marked cars continued for a second week and the number of speeding



It was instant forfeiture for this unregistered farm bike when it was stopped by Toodyay police.

motorists dropped to about half a dozen. “The message has got out that we can be anywhere at any time,” Acting Sgt French said.

“The Wheatbelt is still one of the most dangerous places in the state to drive, and that narrow, hilly, winding stretch of Toodyay Road is particularly dangerous.

“Don’t be surprised to see us on the road next time you are driving to or from work in Perth.”

One-way unregistered ride

A WEEKENDER who thought he’d sneak into town on an unregistered farm motorcycle to order some new tyres for his ute suddenly found himself without any wheels when he was spotted by police.

His bike (pictured) was immediately confiscated and if he wants to get it back, he’ll have to make a winning bid at a police auction in Perth.

The bike was one of three seized in a local police crackdown last month on unregistered trail and farm bikes being ridden on public roads.

“Section 800 of the Road Traffic Act states that if you are caught riding an unlicensed or unregistered motorbike, it is seized and forfeited to the State of Western Australia,” Acting Sgt French said.

“You can get a special licence for farm bikes if you want to cross a public road to get from one paddock to another but you can’t use it to ride five kilometres into town.

“If your bike’s not registered, don’t ride it on a public road or you’ll lose it.”

Over 65s lose most money to scammers

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

SCAMWATCH recently reported that scammers have been sending out more emails to unsuspecting people, with people over the age of 65 losing the most money.

The most obvious sign of a scam is if you get an email from a bank or a credit card company that you do not use.

But what should you look out for if the notification is from a bank that you use?

The first thing to do is to stop and think if you are expecting the email.

If it is a regular email saying that there is a statement awaiting your attention, and it does so without including a link, then it is probably legitimate.

If you want to download your statement, always type into your web browser the web address of your bank or other financial institution.

Some financial institutions include your statement as an encrypted Portable Document Format (PDF) attachment.

If your antivirus program is up to date, then opening an encrypted statement is reasonably safe.

Never click on a link given in the email. Never open an attachment if it ends with zip, exe, doc, docx or msi.

If the email includes anything about your account being locked, then it is a scam.

Scammers often go to a lot of trouble to make their emails look legitimate.

If you have any doubts about an email, call your financial institution.

If you want to forward any suspicious email to your financial institution, look at their web site or call them for advice on how best to do it.

Once you have forwarded it, delete it.

If you have accidentally clicked on a link or opened an attachment, call your financial institution immediately.

Happy surfing.

Eyes, ears solve crime jigsaw

SaferToodyay
Desraé Clarke

THE CRIMESTOPPER concept is almost 50 years old and started in the 1970s in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Crime knows no boundaries – it is national and international.

The Crimestoppers program operates on freecall number 1800 333 000, online at crimestoppers.com.au and with the link safertoodyay.org.au.

Our local police cannot be everywhere or take sole responsibility for detecting and preventing crime.

The community is the eyes and ears of the town and a powerful weapon that may report the last tiny piece of a crime jigsaw.

If unusual or suspicious activity is occurring, contact the Crimestoppers freecall number 1800 333 000 or 131 444; our local police number is 9574 9995.

If your call is answered by the Northam regional office, please do not hang up but provide them with your information.

The on-duty staff will assess the needs of the call and direct it to the appropriate area for action – your call is important.

As the founder of the British Metropolitan Police Service Sir Robert Peel said in the 1820s: “The police are the public and the public are the police.”

TOODYAY

MRB 2339

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EMERGENCY SERVICES



Coondle – Nunile volunteers and Toodyay Shire President Brian Rayner (Right) with their new fire-fighting Tanker.

Sand pad laid for new fire station

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Coondle-Nunile
Max J Heath**

HI TO ALL from Coondle-Nunile Bush Fire Brigade where a lot of things are happening.

Due to the lifting of permits for burning there has been a bit of activity for us because some people have been a little careless while burning off.

Although the incidents have been few in

number, more care needs to be taken while undertaking burning.

We do, however, realise that accidents will occur.

Remember volunteer fire fighters are just that – volunteers – and we all have businesses to run or jobs to attend to.

To drop what one is doing to attend something that should not have happened is a severe inconvenience.

The sand pad is down for our new fire station

and it is due to be finished by the end of the year.

There are still some concerns and it would be nice if we could have lights to warn oncoming traffic that we are entering the main road.

By the time this goes to print we will have our new 3.4 rural appliance which will only just fit into our current building and will inconvenience activities at the shed until we move into our new premises.

Now we have this unit, some of our fire fighters will have to be trained in the use of breathing apparatus.

At our last meeting, among other things, it was decided to have an honour board set up at the shed and also to purchase a new laptop computer for the brigade.

Confirmation has been received that we are able to have our Christmas in July at the Victoria Hotel instead of going out of town.

To finish up I would like to thank the Coondle-Nunile brigade for sponsoring Jane Taylor and partner Mathew to attend the WA Volunteer Awards function.

Jane recently nominated me for a volunteering award and I would like to thank her for putting the submission forward. (See story Page 10)

Bigger tanker for new fire station

THE COONDLE-Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade recently received a new 3.4 firefighting vehicle to replace a smaller 2.4 tanker that has served the brigade well for 18 fire seasons.

The new tanker is the flagship vehicle available to the WA bush fire service, funded by a State Government Emergency Services Levy which is added to annual local government rate bills.

The new 4WD-capable truck carries six crew and 3600 litres of water, including

allowance for a crew protection system.

Along with a new Coondle-Nunile Fire Station being built next to the wheat silos on Bindi Bindi Road, it represents a significant firefighting investment for the Coondle-Nunile area and surrounding districts.

The Coondle-Nunile Brigade is seeking new members – please drop in at the fire shed on Coondle West Road at 5pm on Fridays or call the Shire of Toodyay on 9574 9300 for more information.

Firies set to party in red, green, white

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Julimar
Alison Wroth**

WINTER has arrived believe it or not, but the rainfall totals look like they will be down compared with last year on hearing the long-term forecast.

When the seeding is completed and if the drenching rain begins to fall heavily every so often, farmers and locals in Toodyay will be happy and the weeds on the roadsides will begin to germinate and grow rapidly.

As we all know, if we get this rainfall, roadsides, reserves and around homes will soon

be covered with grass and unless we keep this 'summer fuel' under control, we will then be referring to overgrowth and the danger of fire when the hot weather arrives in summer.

Keeping this in mind over winter by spraying, trimming and mowing to keep the grasses at bay.

It just makes it easier when we are cleaning up in preparation for the fire season.

Our AGM will follow our General Meeting on Saturday June 8 at 6.30pm.

All nominations were made and seconded on forms that were hung in The Fireplace.

Hopefully all positions will be filled and some new faces in the brigade will take their turn at

throwing up their hands to do a job.

We are then holding the social occasion of the month with Julimar's Annual AGM After-Party with fun and games to look forward to along with yummy nibbles and drinks.

This event went down a treat last year, with incredible team games keeping everybody on their toes, so we all look forward to this year's AGM 'after party' to see if it outdoes the last.

Thank you to all involved in organising the evening.

These social events in our brigade help keep the morale high, which is a great thing.

Just remember to wear anything coloured red, green and white.

It does appear that my recent membership call has worked wonders with three new members joining recently.

Welcome Carol Leathley, Sue Casey and India Wroth.

Carol and Sue have joined our catering team and India as a fire fighter.

Congratulations must also go to Lucas, Dale, India and Kevin who have now all been issued with the right size Personal Protective Equipment after completing training and now join our ranks at Julimar as firefighters.

Now that the fire can be lit on Friday nights, if you have any reason to stand around a warm fire pit and meet new people, make sure it is at the Julimar fire shed.

Do not hesitate to come down to the shed on Julimar Road around 5.30pm onwards to mingle with a great group of people who during the summer will go out of their way to save your property.

We all hope to see you at the shed one evening.

New members add to brigade strength

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Bejoording
From the desk of The Badger**

APRIL and May continued to be warm and relatively dry months, so the fire risk remained high.

There were regular callouts for grass fires, though fortunately nothing too serious.

Most of these were small burn-offs and bonfires that got out of control due to the super dry conditions and the problem of even a light breeze, or fires that were left unattended by overconfident landowners.

Commonsense should tell you that fires and any level of wind don't go together.

In most cases more units than necessary are called out until the true fire condition is known, as it is better to be over-resourced than under-resourced.

When units are called out there is no 'wait and see' time.

Volunteers immediately drop what they are doing and leave their homes, their families, their jobs if possible, or their beds. They suit up into protective clothing and head for their fire sheds, and have often hit the road before being stood down.

On more than one occasion recently this has happened multiple times on the same day.

Spare a thought for our volunteers and their families and the inconvenience and disruption they suffer, when the cause is just a lack of forethought or care.

On the positive side of burn-offs, a number of farmers have utilised our brigade to help with controlled burns and we have been able to use these as training exercises for members new and old.

A number of new members, some with suitable licences to drive our fire unit, have made a big difference and once fully trained they will make the roster season much easier than it was this year where we suffered from a shortage of drivers.

Further to our last meeting it was agreed we would no longer conduct training on a Friday evening after the monthly meeting.

From now on there will be a training session on the first Sunday of every month, meeting at the shed at 2pm

The nature of the training and the length of time will vary with the numbers attending and the training topic, but we look forward to members attending as regularly as possible.

All fire bans have now been lifted, but the Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to remember to always plan and prepare before lighting any fire for any reason and have a clear contingency strategy in place should things get out of control.

Even at the safest times of the year a fire can pose a risk to people and property, whether it is burning off on your acreage or just a backyard bonfire, so please take care.

Our next meeting at the shed will be on Friday June 21 at 5.45pm.

Advice is free but getting it wrong can be expensive.

If you have any questions remember you can contact captain Barry Grey on 9574 2149, or The Badger on 0414250484.

Please leave a message if we're not there.

www.toodyayherald.com.au



Government of **Western Australia**
Local Government Standards Panel

NOTICE OF PUBLIC CENSURE

The Local Government Standards Panel has found that Councillor Benjamin Bell, a Councillor of the Shire of Toodyay, breached:

- (a) regulation 7(1)(b) of the *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007 (WA)* by publishing a Facebook post on 18 May 2018 relating to the inclusion of questions in an Ordinary Council Meeting and Mr Stan Scott the Chief Executive Officer of the Shire and one of Cr Bell's fellow Councillors.

In engaging in this conduct, Councillor Bell made improper use of his office as a council member.

The Panel censures Councillor Bell for breach of regulation 7(1)(b) of the *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007 (WA)*.

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No need to hit battling community with another rates hike

The Insider



Ben Bell

WINTER in Toodyay. Is there a better time of the year to catch up with friends?

Sitting around a fire with a drink in hand, talking about everything and nothing all at the same time is one of the simple pleasures that I enjoy about living in Toodyay.

For some reason, conversations around a warm fire tend to have a relaxed and natural flow to them.

No matter what the starting point though, any conversation ultimately finds its way to two topics, that of family and finances.

As many teenagers or twenty somethings (and their parents) can attest, finding employment in Toodyay is tough.

In fact, finding a job in Toodyay is proving so difficult that around one in four people aged under 25 ends up leaving our shire, presumably in search of full-time employment.

Unfortunately, it doesn't get any easier with age.

For example, one in three residents in their 40s have left Toodyay over the past five years, again in search of work.

Some may suggest that the departure of local skilled workers is a part of a larger trend witnessed across regional WA.

While this may be correct to a limited degree, people do appear to be leaving Toodyay at up to twice the rate of those in other regional WA towns.

As a result, Toodyay's population has declined significantly over the past six years, and this negative trend does not appear to be turning around any time soon.

In addition to difficulty finding employment, a declining population also has real and measurable negative effects on Toodyay property prices.

The more people that look to sell up and move from our shire, the more houses that come onto the market.

This naturally forces down house prices across our community.

The situation is further exacerbated by the current absence of a strong economic reason in the short term for new family to move to Toodyay.

For these reasons, job creation in Toodyay should be a key performance indicator going forward for the Toodyay Shire Council.

Recognising this, earlier this year I sought to kick-start local job creation courtesy of a motion to council encouraging large non-Toodyay based industries operating within the shire – such as BGC and Boral – to employ a percentage of their workforce from the local community for their Toodyay operations.

In the end, however, the council took a contrary view and subsequently voted down my proposals to start generating new jobs for local people in Toodyay.

This begs the question: what is the council's current strategy to address the increasingly important issue of local youth unemployment given that the shire has received a number of consultants' reports over the years noting that growing local employment is critical to attracting younger residents and increasing overall housing incomes?

The answer, unfortunately, is that it doesn't have one.

From my research, it appears that the council is hanging its hat on a notion that building a new recreation centre will attract young families to Toodyay.

This fails, however, to appreciate that it is the availability of secure, well-paid jobs – not new tennis courts – that will attract more families to Toodyay and lift the living standards and house prices of those who already call our community home.

This brings me onto the second topic discussed during those winter get-togethers – household finances.

It seems that every week a new report is released by a government body, bank or research agency that states West Australians

are continuing to go backwards financially due in large part to the weak economic climate that our wider state finds itself in.

The most recent Australian Government report concludes that typical WA workers have seen their after-tax annual pay rise by only \$21 a year for the past six years.

That means West Australians are on average bringing home only \$130 more a year than they did in 2013.

No wonder households across Toodyay may be feeling the squeeze financially – the incomes of many in our community appear to be going backwards.

This is why I continue to strongly advocate for no council rate rise this year.

The community can't afford it and the shire doesn't need the extra money.

After all, the extra money raised in last year's rate rise is still sitting idle and unallocated in our shire's bank account.

Not to mention that the Toodyay community has already endured huge rate hikes over the past five or more years that were well in excess of inflation.

Surely, therefore, a pause in rate increases is warranted this year in order to give the community a well-earned breather and ensure that the shire doesn't lump any additional financial stress on households that are already struggling to get on top of what appears to be a growing stack of bills.

To end on a completely different topic,

you may notice that the shire has drafted and published some apologies purporting to be from me in this edition of *The Toodyay Herald*.

I am reluctant to give this much oxygen because it is less a council matter per se and more about the CEO and some councillors seeking via the WA Local Government Department Standards Panel to shut down genuine community consultation and debate.

Interestingly, the panel did not rule that anything I said in various *Facebook* posts that form the basis of numerous complaints filed against me by the CEO was factually incorrect or erroneous, just that the CEO may have taken offence to them.

I suspect these ads – and comments published in recent editions of the shire's *Toodyay Community Newsletter* – are designed to distract community attention from the fact that the CEO and council are currently being investigated by State Government based on "reasonable suspicion" that the council and administration have been breaking the law since as far back as 2013.

This makes my alleged 'minor' breaches – including saying that the shire's proposed new communications policy would have given the CEO authority to manage the *Facebook* pages of all councillors, staff and shire volunteers was draconian – look insignificant in comparison, don't you think?

FEEDBACK

Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

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

The Toodyay Herald



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St John Ambulance

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One day course
To be held on Saturday 13 July 2019

St John Ambulance, Stirling Terrace Toodyay

This is a general one day course that would benefit all those at work, home or for leisure. The course provides an excellent general grounding in first aid and will enable you to perform appropriate first aid procedures and basic life support skills. This unit satisfies training requirements across a range of community and workplace settings.

Contact Carolynne for further details:
 Phone: 0428 957 600 or 9574 2390
 Email: Toodyay@stjohnambulance.com.au

Free first aid kit for all participants



Rayner struggles on ABC Radio to explain CEO backflip

May 29 interview* by ABC Radio Perth Breakfast Show presenters Nadia Mitsopoulos and Russell Woolf with Toodyay Shire President Brian Rayner (below) and Toodyay Progress Association Chair Larry Graham (bottom right) the morning after the council's surprise offer to re-employ CEO Stan Scott for another 12 months.



ABC Radio Perth Breakfast Show presenters Nadia Mitsopoulos and Russell Woolf.

RUSSELL: Well something very strange is going on at the Shire of Toodyay.

Recently the council voted not to renew the contract of their CEO Stan Scott when it ran out in July.

Now that is not overly unusual and it's not necessarily a reflection on the CEO's performance.

Sometimes councils and their CEOs just decide to go their own ways.

Nadia: But what's unusual is that last night they suddenly changed their minds and gave him another 12-month contract.

Now this is for a job that is worth more than \$200,000 a year and all of this while there is a departmental inquiry underway into the Shire of Toodyay investigating possible breaches of the Act and fresh elections are due in October.

So what's going on here?

Let's ask Brian Rayner – he's the Toodyay Shire President – good morning to you.

President Rayner: Good morning Nadia.

Nadia: Now why did the council change its mind about the CEO's contract?

President Rayner: No what actually happened was that council put out a council resolution last night that they would employ a temporary CEO and involve WALGA, the WA Local Government Association, to instigate the process.

It was \$2000 for the actual process to go ahead and council voted that they shouldn't pay \$2000 to WALGA to instigate the program.

There was also an alternative motion flagged at the same time that if this officer's resolution didn't get up that the alternative motion could be heard.

Nadia: So you didn't want to pay \$2000 to WALGA to go through the process of a new CEO but you were happy to pay over \$200,000 to bring back a CEO that the council had voted not to renew his contract?

President Rayner: Not quite right. We would still have had to pay up \$200,000 for a temporary CEO whether we got it from WALGA or whether we re-employed the current CEO.

Russell: So it was to save the \$2000 though you decided you would re-employ the current CEO.

President Rayner: Yeah, well that was more or less because we can do it in-house. We have the skills to draw up a contract for the current CEO provided the current CEO is of approval of their contract that's drawn up.

Russell: Now as we said at the outset about the CEO – and this is not a comment about the CEO at all – but you as a council had decided that you wanted to move on from this CEO?

President Rayner: That was voted back in March not to renew his contract, yes, but in the interim because of the inquiry which is by the Department of Local Government and that started on the 6th of December and then also we've had a ward review to coincide with the election coming up in October and council voted that they get rid of the wards.

We have four wards. We have north, south, east and west, and nine councillors.

We put up a resolution to the Department of Local Government board advisory that we would abolish wards and retain nine councillors and that would come up in the October election and there will be five vacancies.

Russell: How does that reflect on the role of the CEO?

President Rayner: The CEO, the people that councillors have voted for back in March believed that a temporary CEO be employed for a period while the inquiry was on and also the

new councillors in October if we employed a temporary CEO for six months.

Councillors in October that were newly elected or the current ones that re-sat would have a chance of employing a new CEO.

Nadia: But wouldn't it be fairer to have a interim one given that there is an investigation underway as well?

President Rayner: There's been no allegations or anything drawn against the shire by the inquiry so far.

Nadia: No, because the investigation is still going on.

President Rayner: Yes, it could be going like the City of Perth, go for two and a half years.

Nadia: Why is the investigation underway?

President Rayner: People outside the department and it is pushed by the paper and the Toodyay Progress Association that the Shire of Toodyay is not compliant with any of their rules and regulations and that's why they the outside people have asked for an inquiry into the shire and because the inquiry is conducted by the Department of Local Government that is what the process is.

Russell: And so since the last election has there been a significant change to personnel in terms of shire councillors?

President Rayner: Yes.

Russell: And has that impacted on the vote? I don't want to say in the confidence of the CEO but whether to employ him or not?

President Rayner: Yes, there has back in October 2017 we had four new councillors and one of them resigned after four months of employment as a councillor and then we had a long-standing councillor of 13 years due to her own personal reasons and health decided to resign so we had an extraordinary election in June last year and two new councillors were elected.

One of those councillors, one month after he was elected, applied for six months' leave of absence to work in the eastern states so he was not more or less participating as a councillor.

He was just a figurehead as a councillor more or less so he didn't attend meetings.

I think he attended one in December when he come back for Christmas and then he came back for the one in March when we voted to not renew the CEO's contract.

Russell: So if I've got this right, the votes were originally 5-4 in favour of removing the CEO and then with the new stock at the chamber it was 6-2 in favour of retaining the CEO?

President Rayner: Yes that's correct.

Nadia: Do you see how this just doesn't quite seem right if you just look at this from a ratepayers' point of view that demands transparency and accountability?

Surely you can see how people would be questioning why you don't renew the contract of the CEO and then suddenly decide and – putting your \$2000 aside – surely this can't be the only reason that you then say 'actually no, we will have him back'?

President Rayner: No, also in Toodyay at the moment we have four major projects in operation. The CEO has been across all those.

Nadia: Yes but it's not hard for a new CEO to get across projects, I mean transition periods are pretty thorough these days. I understand what you are saying, I probably just don't buy it.

President Rayner: OK well that was the view of the council, whether you buy it or not, that is the view of the council that because of the four big projects, which is the sport and recreation precinct project of about \$14 million, we have a new Nunile-Coondle fire shed which is \$450,000, we have a new re-roofing of the Newcastle Gaol with shingles on it which is a \$300,000 project and we've also got a \$300,000 project for renovations to the Morangup Community Centre.

So there's some big projects happening just this year and the CEO has been across all those and the council believe that it was better to have a person

across the board that knew exactly what was going on and they will be giving him a 12-month temporary CEO's contract provided the CEO and council can agree with that contract.

If he doesn't then we will go out to the open market again.

Russell: We really appreciate you explaining to us this morning – Brian Rayner is the Toodyay Shire President.

Toodyay sounds like it's got a pretty proactive period of growth coming up and it would be exciting to be out there – there's a lot going on.

Nadia: There's an interesting text that has come through that says "listen to you Nadia, it sounds like you've got the horse in this race".

Well I don't but I don't see any problem in asking questions when it comes to accountability and transparency.

Now I think this is rather odd when a council decides not to renew the contract of a CEO.

There are potential breaches being investigated – I'm not saying they may be related at all to the CEO – but an investigation is underway, and then you suddenly change your mind.

I think it is fair enough to ask some questions about that.

Russell: Yes and with people that had voted against the CEO now no longer in the council and supporters of the CEO – let's say – come in, it's worth looking, it's worth talking about.

Nadia: They spend ratepayers' money and I think that these questions need to be asked.

'Bizarre' shire decision blamed on 'personality politics'

RUSSELL: Larry Graham is a former state MP who is now the Chair of the Toodyay Progress Association and Larry we appreciate you being with us this morning.

Now how did you react to this news when you heard about it last night?

Larry: (laughs) Nearly as humorously as I reacted to President Rayner's comments this morning.

I mean look, this is sincerely a bizarre proposition.

What we had was, we had a council – let's go back a step, the Toodyay Progress Association doesn't focus on personalities, it focuses on policies, processes and procedures.

Now we have a council that decided some time ago the process is it was going to go through to hire or look for new CEO or to see whether they would hire the old one again.

They went through that and they actually got that right.

That didn't last one month.

They went through those processes and then they changed their mind, and since then it's just been bouncing off both extremes of the nonsense, and I suspect that a lot of the councillors are putting their personal friendships and their personal interests ahead of the community interest, and that deeply concerns me.

Nadia: What concerns you about that, why does that matter?

Larry: Well because the Corruption and Crime Commission last year put out a report to all shire councillors and said this is one of the reasons that it is warning all shire councils that it needs to take action to ensure that shire councillors understand the need to have robust procedures and put the public interest ahead of personal interests.

Now when the top corruption watchdog warns every council about that and then I see it happening I get very, very concerned Nadia.

Nadia: And we have seen the impact of personality politics in local government and look at the City of Perth, because that is the classic example where personalities got in the way of the job that councillors are supposed to do and that entire council got suspended.

Larry: Rank amateurs in the City of Perth – that's one of the things Toodyay does far better than the City of Perth I can tell you (laughs). Look, this is the genuine issue.

We have a Shire President who was not elected under the dodgy old ward system that we opposed and ultimately got rid of. He was elected uncontested.

The rest of the councillors who were on there in this little cabal that is voting this way disruptively have between them 3 to 5 per cent of the vote of ratepayers in the Shire of Toodyay.

Now that is not democratic and it's quite bizarre and they are accountable to nobody.

Now the power of CEOs is one of the fundamental matters that needs to be overhauled in the Local Government Act.

Nadia: On the flipside Larry Graham, a council is entitled to change its mind and so on reflection it could be that councillors have thought about it and said 'actually no, let's stick with it and we'll save \$2000 in the process' and some might listen and go 'and that's fair enough'.

Russell: We've seen local governments where there is sometimes a rusty cog in the machine, you know, and it might be that there is a councillor that was perhaps being irritable and that councillor is moved and will make for a smoother council?

Larry: Yep, Yep. Look, there is no doubt about that – all of those things happen in local government and councils are entitled to change their mind and I am really looking forward to hearing why our council changed its mind.

Now look you have to understand that the Shire of Toodyay – despite all the allegations that President Rayner made about who is doing what and how in the local newspaper and all of that nonsense – the Toodyay Progress Association put a series of matters before the Local Government Department and said these are concerning and need to be investigated.

The council was given the opportunity to refute all of those and could not do it, so the Government then launched an inquiry into the Shire of Toodyay.

This isn't a case of the Shire of Toodyay being 100 per cent correct and everyone else wrong.

There has already been a preliminary investigation that has shown that there are enough matters there that warrant investigation and there has been three investigators working full time since December.

This is not a trivial matter.

This is a serious matter and I make this point, our council since December, when the inquiry was announced, our council has still not met to discuss the implications of a formal inquiry into the Shire of Toodyay. Now that is bizarre behaviour.

Nadia: Hmm.

Larry: Yeah, it's bizarre isn't it?

They just haven't met to discuss why they are being formally investigated and you heard President Rayner saying that he has spoken to WALGA (WA Local Government Association) and WALGA had offered this up.

WALGA is the Local Government Association, it is not the regulating department.

Nadia: No, that is the department and Larry there are a few people texting the program saying that if you are so concerned why don't you, and you're an experienced politician, why don't you put up your hand for council?

Larry: Yep, that's a fair call, fair call.

There is a reason for that - it is quite simple.

The history of Toodyay for 40 years has been people going onto council and rotating councillors and CEOs.

It's got one of the highest turnovers of staff and councillors in the state and I made a judgment decision when I started the TPA that we could do better by being the voice of the community in the town and keeping the pressure on the council to deal with things professionally and properly.

As soon as you become a councillor you are controlled, restricted and you have different obligations placed on what you can and can't do.

That's a valid thing that people are putting forward but I am not going to do it.

We are going to run the Progress Association and we are going to keep pressure on the council to operate professionally.

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Left to right: Mia Davies MP, Mrs Ganapathiplackal Tom, Mrs Kellow, Mr Carrothers, Dr Mansour, Mrs Rezk, Mr Mansour, Mrs Mansour and Cr Antonio.

New Aussies from all around the world

IN LATE April, the Shire of Northam welcomed six new citizens at a citizenship ceremony conducted by Shire President Chris Antonio in the council chambers.

Central Wheatbelt MP Mia Davies attended the ceremony which inducted new citizens originating from Egypt, Canada, New Zealand, India and the Philippines.

“For many, becoming an Australian citizen will be one of the most memorable moments of their lives,” Mr Antonio said.

“I take great pleasure being the presiding officer for these ceremonies and witnessing the joy of the new citizens when making their pledges.

“On behalf of council, congratulations to

all new citizens, and we welcome you to our community”.

Councils conduct citizenship ceremonies on behalf of the Australian Government.

For more information on your local citizenship ceremonies contact the Shire of Northam.

Ethnic awards call for nominations

THE ETHNIC Business Awards Foundation is calling for nominations for this year’s awards.

The foundation supports and recognises the very large contribution of people from diverse backgrounds and promotes diversity and the enterprising spirit of the nominees, specifically those of migrants and indigenous backgrounds.

There are three categories – Small Business, Medium to Large Business, and Indigenous in Business.

Contact Clare on 02 9568 5022 or email clare@ethnicbusinessawards.com for more information.

Nominations close on Monday August 5.

Northam one-stop job centre

FREE practical advice is now available for jobseekers at Northam Jobs and Skills Centre in the Northam Campus of Central Regional TAFE.

The one-stop shop provides students, jobseekers and career changers with training, careers advice, apprenticeship and training information, help with job searching, and direct links to work.

The centre provides a comprehensive website resource that includes a jobs notice board, qualification lists and a course search feature.

To contact the centre at Lot 1 Hutt Street Northam ring 9622 6860 or email wheatbeltjtc@crtafe.wa.edu.au.

The Jobs and Skills WA website is available at jobsandskills.wa.gov.au.

Learner driver app lets you set and forget

THE DEPARTMENT of Transport (DoT) is making the recording of supervised hours easier for WA learner drivers easier.

The Learn&Log app provides a faster, more convenient way to record and submit the required minimum 50 supervised driving hours.

Learn&Log lets you ‘set and forget’ as there is no reason for learner drivers or their supervisors to interact with the mobile phone during the trip.

Learner drivers can submit their 50 completed hours directly to DoT with the press of a button.

Previously recorded paper logbook trips can also be transferred to the app.

Learn&Log can be downloaded free from the App Store or Google Play.

Everyone’s a winner as Max has a ball at state volunteer awards finals

TWO WHEATBELT residents were nominated in this year’s WA Volunteer Awards’ Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering category.

At the May 22 Awards ceremony at Crown Perth, Toodyay’s Max Heath and Wendy Williams from Goomalling were two of only three state finalists in the category which recognises years of tireless community service.

While Wendy pipped Max at the post for her 30-year volunteer commitment to promote the sustainability of her community, Max remains honoured to have made the finals.

“Being from the country they put us up and we all had a ball – so we were all winners,” said Max.

Wendy, a founding member of the Goomalling and Districts Development

Group, has contributed to the Primary School P&C, chaired the Goomalling and Districts Hospital Board and helped to raise \$200,000 to refurbish the hospital and establish a nursing home and multi-purpose service facility.

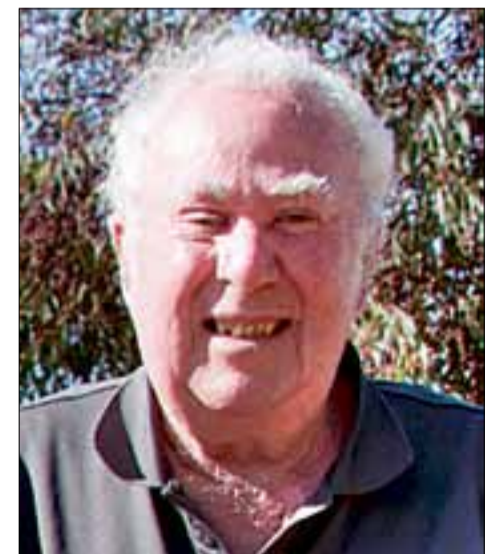
Max has been involved in almost every local volunteer group in Toodyay, starting in his teens with the local fire brigade and ambulance.

“I’ve been chasing smoke for 60 years,” laughs Max who was mainly recognised for his dedicated service to the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade but was also acknowledged for his contribution to the local school’s breakfast program, Lions and RoadWise.

Between them, Wendy and Max have clocked up almost a century of volunteering for their communities – a mighty effort indeed.



Wendy Williams.



Max Heath.

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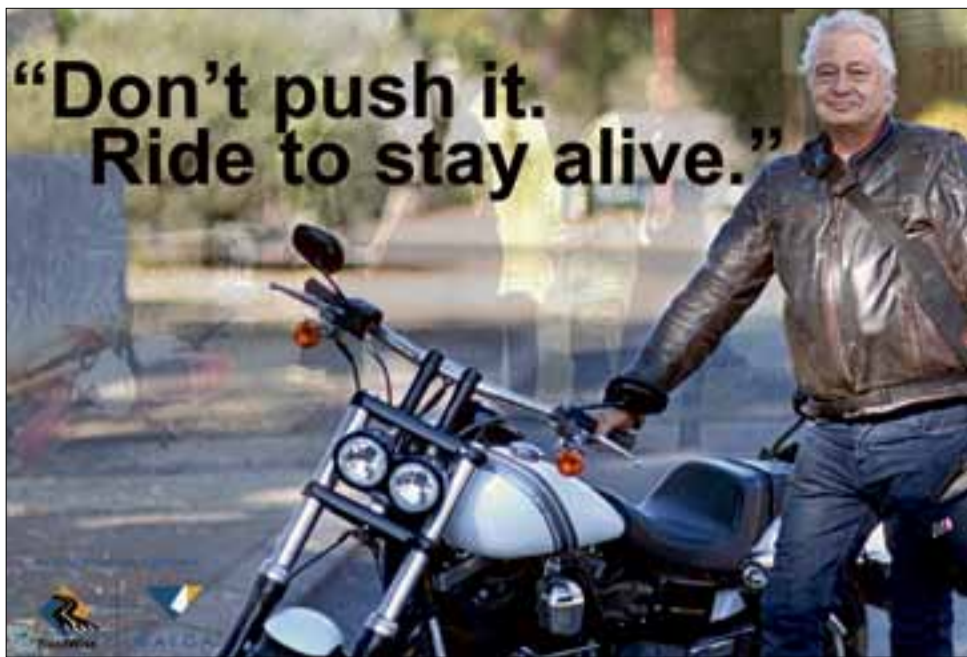
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Rev. Doctor Brian Ludlow is the latest community leader to promote road safety in the Wheatbelt.

'Born again' biker revs it up for Avon road safety

Cliff Simpson
Road Safety Advisor (Wheatbelt North)
WALGA

THE REV Brian Ludlow of Toodyay is the latest member to sign up to #Avonlocaldrivingchange, an initiative of the Shire of Northam RoadWise committee which encourages community leaders to promote road safety.

As a 'born again' motorcyclist, Doctor Ludlow spoke on Toodyay community radio in response to the numbers of motorcycle crashes in the Avon region.

"However good we are – or think we are – if we're honest, I'm sure most bike riders will have at some point had the shock of riding down a road and coming face to face with a terrifying and completely unavoidable hazard.

"Perhaps an oil spill, a honky nut, a fallen branch, a rock, or even a kangaroo having a

scratch – anything really.

"These are just our occupational hazards while riding in the country.

"Loose gravel is treacherous and can catch us unawares, even a long time after a road work is completed.

"After rain, bends or intersections can be lethal as we can lose traction before we know it.

"The faster you are travelling, the more dangerous loose gravel and other hazards become, because you have less time to react to the danger.

"We know that time also equals distance over speed – ergo, more speed means less braking distance.

"Being in control of the bike is what we all enjoy; my worst nightmare is the thought of dropping the bike in the middle of nowhere.

"My key message is that reducing speed lessens the danger. Don't push it," Doctor Ludlow said.

Northam dealers at the top of their game

NORTHAM new car dealers Leonie Knipe and Wade Robertson have been recognised at awards presentations as leaders in their field.

Mrs Knipe of Avon Valley Toyota and Avon Valley Nissan and Mitsubishi was named Telstra WA Business Woman of the Year and also won the WA Medium and Large Business Award at the recent Telstra Business Women's Awards.

Mr Robertson of Northam Hyundai was named as the top rural WA Car Dealer of the Year at the Hyundai Motor Company Western Region Awards on April 6.

Mrs Knipe, the daughter of Toodyay Cr Judy Dow and former shire president David Dow, was the state's first female dealer principal.

She employs a higher number of women in what has traditionally been a male-dominated industry and aims to build on promoting her dealerships to more female customers.

Mr Robertson attributes his success to listening to customer feedback, solid support from his staff and a relaxed style of service.



Wade Robertson.



Leonie Knipe.

Swap meet raises funds for hospice

Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association
Sylvia Bristow-Stagg, Secretary

THE AVON Valley Vintage Vehicle Association is an historic motoring club based in Northam since 1985.

Since 1993 the club has held an annual event to celebrate the history of vintage vehicles and motors.

The Northam Vintage Swap Meet is held on the third Sunday morning in February and with

its growing success now takes up all of Jubilee Oval.

As organisers, we run it as a community event involving local groups.

Much of the swap meet proceeds go to the Avon Hospice Palliative Care Unit for items of their choice.

Over the past seven years, the hospice has selected two oxygen concentrators, shower commodes and walkers and three wheelchairs and recliner/lift chairs.

This year the club presented four wheelchairs and six walkers to the hospice.



From left: Committee members Sylvia and Barry Bristow-Stagg, Jim Donovan with hospice workers, Yan Yi and Jenny, and Theo Bekkers.

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The Bilya Koort Boodja Centre for Nyoongar Culture and Environmental Knowledge is located on the bank of the Avon River in Northam. Photo: Robyn Taylor.

Conference uncovers painful truths in Aboriginal history

Toodyay Historical Society
Robyn Taylor

THE CANCELLING of our May excursion to the Sisters of Mercy Convent site where earthworks were in progress, gives me the opportunity to write about something quite different – a major and significant conference that recently took place in Perth.

Handle with Care was the theme of the WA State Heritage and History Conference and I was fortunate enough to obtain two bursaries, one from the Professional Historians Association and one funded by Lotterywest, for regional and remote participants.

A requirement that goes with a bursary is that you write articles about the conference and give credit to those who enabled you to go.

So, a big thank you to those who regularly buy lottery tickets. Your money helps to fund many good causes.

While broad as themes go, Handle with

Care focussed on difficult histories covering subjects as diverse as the 18th Century slave trade in England, the Bali bombing, and the Wadjemup Aboriginal burial ground on Rottnest.

How does a museum present these stories to the public? With honesty and respect.

The main focus was on emerging Aboriginal histories which are uncovering painful truths about events that have been part of oral tradition but largely buried in official documents.

One keynote speaker was Professor Lyndall Ryan whose team of researchers is locating massacre sites throughout Australia.

Through stories that have been passed down, substantiated by official records, journals and diaries, a large number of sites in eastern Australia have now been identified.

WA is still undergoing research and a very poignant paper was given about the Pinjarra Massacre, also known as the Battle of Pinjarra, by Karrie-Anne Kearing, a BindjarebYorga woman and community

leader who was born in Pinjarra.

The papers delivered at this conference made important contributions to what has long been considered Australia's one-sided incomplete history.

And what helped make the event so successful was the number of Aboriginal speakers who contributed.

A number of delegates from the eastern states reported that the conference could well be unique in Australia as they had experienced nothing like it before.

Overall the event was uplifting because it was felt that finally we are coming together to share and expand our stories.

Which brings me to Northam's Bilya Koort Boodja Centre for Nyoongar Culture and Environmental Knowledge that I discussed in the April column.

The dark stories are there, the forced removals and 'frontier wars', but there is also the sharing of what is unique about Nyoongar culture.

Regardless of the adversities, it is a resilient and adaptive culture.

What is also uplifting, is the fact that Aboriginal people are increasingly taking control of their heritage and sharing it, using the latest technologies in museum education.

Our end-of-month excursion will be on Sunday June 30 at 2pm at member Jane Taylor's heritage-listed cottage on Toodyay Road.

Members are asked to bring a plate for afternoon tea. Details to be advised.

Contacts: secretary 2j.ths@gmail.com; Robyn Taylor, rdtaylor@iinet.net.au, phone 9574 2578, or Beth Frayne, toobide4@iinet.net.au, phone 9574 5971.

Donegan's Cottage Research Centre in the showgrounds, opens Thursdays 1-3pm.

Postal address: PO 32, Toodyay WA 6566.

Website: toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au.

Books and displays at Drummond House, open on Saturdays 10am to noon.

Membership is \$10 per annum.



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Showjumping back in main arena

The Toodyay Agricultural Society
Alison Wroth, Vice-president

EXPRESSIONS of Interest in the jobs offered by the society for the week of the Show and on Show day itself are proving slow to attract responses this year.

We are unable to take on all of these jobs ourselves as a committee, so each year we advertise a variety of paid positions available to members of the community – an excellent fundraising opportunity.

So have a look at the *May Herald* advert or contact our admin. officer Geoff on 0476 918 601 if you are interested in finding out more or have a query regarding any of the jobs available.

We as a society prefer to look to our local community before approaching any outside bodies but if after the due date they are the only groups tendering, all positions and groups will be considered.

A thankyou must go to all the local residents and anyone else who supported our recent Mother's Day stall.

We had a successful weekend, raising a decent amount with our 'agricultural themed raffle' of sheep manure, hay, orange trees and seed potatoes, with which all of the winners were extremely pleased.

Receiving three new memberships was an added bonus for the society.

Heartfelt thanks go to Kerry, Judy, Colin (who sat there in the freezing cold, with a cold), Kevin, Nikki and David who took the time to sell tickets and laugh at my constant requests for coffee.

You are all legends in my eyes.

The Show Schedule will have a new cover this year as the time has come after having the same wonderful design since 1996.

Thank you to all the new businesses who have come on board with advertising and as trophy donors this year.

This added interest in the Show is great for the businesses themselves who get exposure on our website or just in the schedule; the support they give to the Show is immense.

The Equestrian section is once again going to include showjumping and children's games which are exciting and keep the oval busy and full of action for the entire day.

Thank you very much to the Mortlock Pony Club, based in Goomalling, who are supporting the society by supplying the jumps and are very keen to be involved in the games, which we look forward to having back at the Toodyay Agricultural Show.

So far our Gold Sponsors have come to the front and are showing us the way by supporting us financially as well as with produce.

Thank you so much to the Toodyay Op Shop ladies, Dunnings and Morgan Feed Supplies.

Without local businesses and individuals who have promised to join the team so we can organise the 166th Toodyay Agricultural Show, the committee would definitely have to look further afield as we have previously had to do, to keep the fireworks display going.

Definitely mark the Exhibitors Workshop on the morning of Saturday July 13 on your calendar for wonderful photography tuition and tips by judge Chris Kershaw.

Bring examples, if you want, to get ideas of what to do and what will or will not win you that Best Exhibit Sash.

See you at the Show.



A local farmer prepares his air seeder for the night shift. Photo: Frank Panizza.

Dry weather forces seeding changes

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza

THE CONTINUED dry weather has persisted right through May and is beginning to bite hard throughout Western Australia's wheatbelt.

Very dry conditions have been experienced right across the grain belt.

Local farmers in Toodyay have fared a little better, with April rains providing some soil moisture.

However, the very dry May has seen conditions deteriorate.

Most farmers in the shire have received less than 10mm of rain in May, well short of the Bureau of Meteorology's official average of 67mm for the Toodyay town site.

This is the lowest recording for the month of May since 2000.

The lowest recording for Toodyay was May 1949 which received a mere 1.5mm.

Interestingly, both May 1948 which received 2mm and May 1949 which received 1.5mm had relatively wet winter months following the dry May and hopefully 2019 will follow the same pattern.

The dry conditions have had a flow-on effect on the farms in our shire and good pasture feed now is almost non-existent.

All livestock are being supplementary fed.

Ewes with new season's lambs at foot are

receiving grain, hay or feed pellets.

Cows with new calves are also being provided with hay and other supplements.

As a local farmer said to me recently: "Hay sheds and silos are emptying fast."

If dry conditions continue into June, particularly for the northern and eastern areas of WA, livestock will be turned off farms which may result in downward pressure on saleyard prices.

Inevitable increases in feed grain prices can be expected as, even after rain is received, pastures will be slow to establish due to the colder weather and shorter daylight hours.

Most farmers within our shire will now have completed their seeding programs or are expecting to complete them within a week or two.

This will mean most seeding will have been done dry or in near-dry conditions.

Grain producers will have to rely on pre-emergent herbicides to control in-crop weeds this year, as an effective 'knockdown' of green weeds prior to seeding was not always possible.

The lack of rain in autumn has changed most of Western Australia's farmers' seeding plans.

Canola plantings have been reduced throughout the state and in some areas it has been dropped out of programs completely, with seeding in most of those hectares being replaced by barley and to a lesser extent, wheat.

Some sheep producers may have decided to set aside additional paddocks for pasture.

Cooee – more women needed to step up

Women In Farming Enterprises

Alison Wroth

MEETINGS are from now going to be taken back to the basic WIFE layout to discuss what truly matters; income, office management, health, farming with family, risk management and finance and the many life subjects that attach themselves to those headings.

Guest speakers will be off the template for a few months during this busy period, as we continue to endeavour to settle into a regular routine as well as attract membership to the branch.

Unfortunately, if we do not attract a regular attendance at our future meetings, I am looking at dissolving the branch; which in my eyes would be a personal failure.

The next outing for our members is a tour of the Wool Stores in Fremantle, including a sale of the fleeces.

Even if we are not in the sheep industry, this will be a very interesting day and we are

considering staying for the night before so the day is not rushed.

Excellent, a ladies' night at a swish hotel. The date is yet to be confirmed with the Primaries Wool Agent, Greg Tilbrook, who bought the initiative to all the WIFE branches, but we are looking at July or August.

Keep in mind the WIFE seminar at the Lake Grace this year.

As soon as I have more details, you will be the first to know.

New members with interests and ideas to keep the branch increasing in number are always welcome.

To answer a common query – you do not have to pay any WIFE fees until you attend three meetings so come along, bring a friend and you might surprise yourself by enjoying our company and rural interests.

If you would like a handout of the *Women in Farming Enterprises* flyer for Toodyay, there will be copies of this as well as our 2019 proposed timeline at every general meeting.

Real buzz at market

Toodyay Farmers Market

Sandra Cousins

THE BEES were a-buzzing at the May market because May was Honey Month and what a great market it was.

The weather was wonderful although the stallholders may have had their doubts about that when they were setting up on the frosty ground.

Last month some new stallholders joined us and proved very popular but unfortunately due to ill health a couple of our regulars were unable to attend.

The free book exchange run by the market committee is a great hit.

So, come on down and swap a book for free or for a small donation you may take a book without an exchange.

All money raised is used to make our market even better.

June Market day is Sunday June 16 but please look out for us outside IGA on Friday and Saturday June 14 and 15 for our wood raffle.

Please come and say hello and perhaps purchase a ticket.

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Herald volunteers say 'cheese' after a slap-up meal at the Victoria Hotel during last month's National Volunteer Week.

For Herald vollies, there is such a thing as a free lunch

VOLUNTEERING Australia celebrated 30 years of National Volunteer Week recently and the *Herald* took the opportunity to treat its volunteers to a slap-up lunch at the Victoria Hotel on May 23.

The *Herald* successfully applied to Volunteering Australia for a grant which made

the celebration possible.

Among the volunteers attending were former editor Grant Scobie, previous committee members and stalwart contributors Wayne and Desrae Clarke.

National Volunteer Week was the first collaborative attempt to promote volunteering

nationally and was first held in 1989.

It is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our community and to say thank you to the more than six million Australians who volunteer formally through organisations and

institutions, and the many more who volunteer informally.

Anzac trees get reprieve

Toodyay RSL Sub-branch
Bruce Guthrie

MAY HAS been a relatively quiet month for Toodyay RSL sub-branch following on from a very busy April.

I can report that our two Sandakan Scholarship winners have returned from Borneo and I am told the girls had a great time.

They have an understanding of the horrible conditions that was Sandakan in WWII.

Applications for the 2020 scholarship open on July 22 and we invite your considered application.

There will be more detail in the July *Herald*.

There is good news on the future of the two gum trees growing on Anzac Memorial Park.

At the shire council meeting held on May 28 council resolved "that council confirms that it has no plans to remove any trees adjacent to Anzac Park now or in the future".

The two trees previously in question are part of a stand of 15 lemon-scented gum trees now remaining which were part of a much larger group planted immediately after WWI to commemorate the loss of Toodyay men serving their country.

We have been advised of the showing of a movie in August titled *Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan*.

It will be shown from Thursday August 8 at Ace Cinemas in Midland.

Contact secretary Max for bookings and further information.

We wish all members and community a speedy recovery from illness. Have you had your flu injection?

The next Ordinary Meeting of RSL will be at 1300hrs on Saturday July 13 in the Memorial Hall.

Conscription returns for Korean War

This month's instalment of Toodyay RSL President Peter Brennan's history of the local sub-branch to mark this year's 100th anniversary explains how conscription and national service to meet Australia's defence needs in local regional wars created a new generation of service men and women in the 1950s and '60s.

THE OUTBREAK of war between North and South Korea in 1950 coupled with communist guerrilla warfare in the Malayan Emergency and the Viet Minh uprising against French rule in Vietnam appeared to threaten Australia directly.

Recruiting for the regular armed services proved insufficient thus Australia's Menzies Government re-introduced conscription which had ended in 1945.

The legislation had bipartisan political support.

National service was part of an Australian tradition since Federation in 1901, with volunteer forces for overseas service backed up by a pool of trained men in the Naval Reserve, the Citizens Military Forces and the Citizens Air Force.

In the first scheme from 1951 to 1959, national servicemen could nominate a service preference but in practice most were allocated to units near their homes.

The navy and air force gave preference to family of former personnel or members of cadet units, and overseas service was automatic.

A major change for the army was that national servicemen were given the option at call-up to volunteer for service anywhere overseas if war occurred.

Further training would have been needed.

World War II militia had been restricted to Australia and South-West Pacific territories 'associated with the defence of Australia'.

A Korean armistice was signed in 1953 and no new direct threats developed during that decade, so the basic role of national servicemen was seen as homeland defence.

In the first national service scheme between 1951 and 1959, all young men aged 18 were called up for training in the navy, army and air force.



1960s conscription notice.

A total of 227,000 served in 52 intakes.

National Service Instructors were drawn from all three services and most had World War II and Korean War combat experience.

While those in the first scheme did not see active service, national servicemen were on naval ships that visited Korean waters during hostilities and were at the 1952 British atomic bomb tests at WA's Monte Bello Islands and in 1956 at Maralinga in South Australia.

RAAF national servicemen worked on aircraft that had flown through atomic clouds.

National servicemen were placed on alert as part of a wider standby for active service during Britain's Suez crisis in 1956 but were not required to take part.

The Toodyay RSL Sub-branch held a special meeting in August 1963 to again consider the future siting of the town's War Memorial in Clinton Street.

The discussion this time was due to the memorial's pending separation from the town's main business area by the new standard gauge railway line being built between Perth and Sydney.

The proposed move never eventuated.

The following year, the sub-branch recommended to the Toodyay Shire Council that a new street from Clinton Street past the War Memorial to the new railway underpass be renamed ANZAC Terrace.

Later that year, the Government Names Committee officially designated the street as ANZAC Avenue.

Memorial trees were planted and landscaping undertaken by June 1967. The obelisk renovations were completed in early 1969.

Local sign writer Ken Howie and handyman Bob Robinson did the renovations.

Ken retouched the gold lettering, Bob tuckpointed worn brickwork, and poles were installed to floodlight the obelisk.

Toodyay Rainfall

Recordings are taken at The Toodyay Club on behalf of the Bureau of Meteorology in mm (recordings and average commenced on 1/1/1877)

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2008	0	10.8	9.8	76.8	38.2	62.8	146.2	8.4	50.6	43	31	3.4	481
2009	8	8	9	32.6	39.2	83.6	115	76.2	56.2	17.2	30.2	2.6	477.8
2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	69.4	36.2	12	3.4	7.2	21.4	149.6
2011	24.2	15.4	14.2	10.4	36.6	52.6	92	70.2	65	57.4	18.8	29.2	486
2012	0	42.3	0	11.8	23.6	106.2	13.8	51.9	59.7	3.6	52.1	29	394
2013	30.4	0	66.7	10.4	79.4	11.2	70.4	90.9	100.3	19.4	2	3.4	484.5
2014	0	2	3.8	62.9	71.8	58.2	103.7	38.4	41.6	53.2	21.4	0	457
2015	0.5	31.3	30.9	31.4	32.4	25.8	99.2	62.8	14.4	25.7	21.9	4.8	381.1
2016	114.3	0	73	64	54.4	57.2	94.7	77.8	34.7	33.2	1.8	27.4	632.5
2017	77.8	116.2	24.1	0	20.8	30.7	100	82.7	54.4	8.2	12.3	22.3	549.5
2018	90.6	9.8	0	4.4	45.2	51.9	118.7	129.5	6.9	48.5	0	0	505.5
2019	1.8	0	5.8	15.4	8.7								31.7
Average	11.50	12.50	20.00	26.20	66.40	97.80	101.60	79.60	48.00	31.40	15.00	9.40	519.40

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Ken Stivey

THIS month's *Local Spotlight* program will feature singer/songwriter Eleanor Frith, who will perform songs on fiddle and some originals on ukulele, along with a chat about the road that led to Toodyay.

The show will air at 10am on Tuesday June 11 and will be repeated at 9pm on Tuesday June 25.

Margaret Fox's classical music hour has been moved to 8pm Tuesday evenings and will be promoted on *What's On in Toodyay* and repeated in its usual Sunday morning slot.

Swooners and Crooners has moved to 1pm on Mondays.

If you belong to a non-profit community group, we offer free advertising for your meetings or events. If you would like to hear your business promoted on 105.3FM, contact us for info on our fantastic promotional package opportunities.

Program guide

MONDAYS: 11am *The Green Hour*; 8pm *Swooners and Crooners* and 2pm Jazz.

Tuesdays: 8pm *Hooked on Classics*.

Wednesdays: 11am *The Green Hour* (repeat); 8pm *Wide World of Folk* and 9pm *Blues*.

Thursdays: Noon *Wide World of Folk* (repeat).

Fridays: 11am *The Green Hour* (repeat); 7pm *Ready 4 Country*; 8pm *Ready 4 Retro Rock* and 9pm *Ready 2 Rock*.

Saturdays: Noon *Country* (old) and 1pm *Country* (new).

Sundays: 9am *Hooked on Classics* (repeat); Noon *Ready 4 Country* (repeat); 8pm *Swooners and Crooners* (repeat) and 9pm Jazz.

Daily: 10am and 3pm *What's On in Toodyay* community information.

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Toodyay Traders' Luke O'Hara presents the first prize to winner Rachel Ellis.

Local mum blown away by win

WHAT is fast becoming an annual tradition at Toodyay Traders, the free Mother's Day raffle was held on May 11.

The grand prize of a Stihl battery-powered blower was won by local mother Rachel Ellis – congratulations.

There were several other winners on the day thanks to the generosity of local businesses.

Graham Freeman and Val Cooper won

wine from the Freemasons Hotel and Russell Stratton won a dinner at the hotel.

The Toodyay Newsagency lottery ticket was won by Stella Pearce, Sue Watson won the Butler's gift pack and John Sylwestrzak the Christmas 360 gift pack.

Toodyay Traders would like to thank all their loyal customers for their support and attendance on the day and hope all mums had a special Mother's Day.

Book ahead to ensure future move to Butterly Cottages

Butterly Cottages
Margaret O'Sullivan

THE DAYS are getting shorter and the nights colder but we are still all hanging out for that good opening rain to fill water tanks, refresh gardens and give the break of the season for our farmers.

This past month has been a busy one at the cottages always with lots to do.

We sadly acknowledge the passing of one of our newer residents Micaile, who had not long joined the Butterly group but was well known by all for his love of the miniature rail, his little dog Benny and the Toodyay community. (See story top right).

Butterly Cottages Inc. provides affordable independent living units for our aged and with the popularity of this organisation, we urge anyone looking to find out more about tenancy or membership to write to PO Box 37 Toodyay WA 6566 or email butterly2j@gmail.com for further information.

There are currently 21 units within the three locations throughout town and for you to be considered as a tenant your application form must be submitted.

We have a waiting list consisting in part of some people sensibly looking towards their future years acknowledging they are not ready to move yet but wish to have all relevant paperwork submitted for when their circumstances may change.

If you are considering the possibility of becoming a tenant, I urge you to make inquiries now.

A very dedicated and hard-working group run this not-for-profit organisation and they are always looking for new members (\$5 per year), volunteers who may be able to assist with various tasks from fundraising, maintenance, catering, painting, gardening, just to mention a few and ultimately new committee members to become integral players in this great organisation.

If you are looking for some new community participation, I assure you, you will be very welcome.

Club gets down to the guts of bacteria

Toodyay Probus Club
Norm Green

MANY Toodyay Probus members escaped during May.

My wife and I escaped to New Zealand but made sure we came back for the Probus meeting.

However, many others did not have the same loyalty and we were down to nearly half of our usual number around the table.

This didn't detract from the evening as our guest speaker Ed Reid brought us some fascinating information in his topic, My Friends the Bacteria.

Ed is a retired microbiologist of some renown and many years' experience who also happens to be President of the Ellenbrook Probus Club.

Did you know that only seven per cent of bacteria are 'naughty'?

Or that by the time pigs are slaughtered 90 per cent of them have salmonella and that 85 per cent of chicken meat contains listeria?

Apparently the e-coli in our bowels produce vitamin K (an anti-clotting vitamin) and group B vitamins are also made in our bowels but alcohol kills them.

Final whistle sounds for Mini Rail's Micaile

Toodyay Miniature Railway
June Eastwood

OUR RAILWAY has lost its most colourful character with the sad passing of Micaile Petulengro.

For several years Micaile and Benny would be the first to arrive on a run day.

Driving the Witney's green engine Percy and with Benny firmly entrenched in the red caboose behind, Micaile would traverse the track to make sure there had been no vandalism or a fallen branch to impede the trains.

While others marched hither and thither setting up, Micaile regaled the members with the latest he had gleaned on a railway from some remote corner of the globe.

I think Antarctica was probably the only area he could not find a train and no doubt rued the fact dog sleds, penguins and those orange tractor affairs made it a most uninteresting place.

He would proudly recount how he had ridden on the machines doing repairs to the mainline and actually driving one.

While line repair crews were billeted at Avon Banks his greatest joy was to mingle and glean the very latest on proceedings.

He listened avidly as each train passed and thrilled to the special toots friendly drivers would give to acknowledge his passion.

Micaile's other love was to sit with Benny at his side and gleefully watch and listen as novices attempted to back in their newly acquired vans.

The dramas were an unending source of entertainment and he promoted the Miniature Railway to each and every person walking past his abode.

He was tickled to announce the latest addition to his dog Benny's Facebook page and sent to every corner of the globe a copy of the children's story written around the Toodyay engines which featured Benny prominently.

The Miniature Railway could not be more in awe of the fantastic effort of Lesley Hugg on Micaile's behalf.

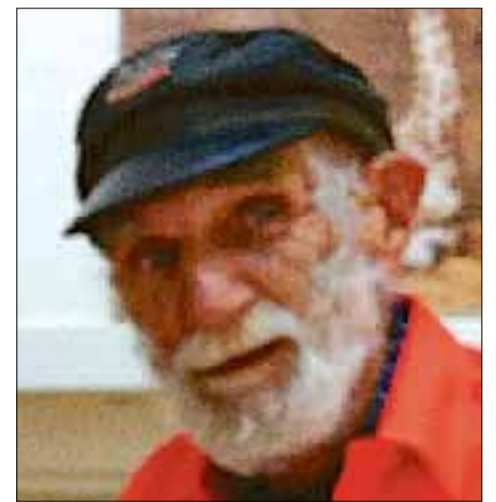
Lesley singlehandedly followed the trail of hard-to-establish paperwork, battled with the various government rules and departments and managed to negotiate with Thompsons Northam Funeral Parlour a most generous deal so that Micaile's wish for a cremation was achieved.

This meant his ashes could be scattered exactly where he wanted.

Where else but beside that east-west rail line and just a few at his other special place, Toodyay Miniature Railway.

We will miss the colourful tales of his many exploits.

If sometimes fact and fancy became a little intertwined, they were great stories and the run days will be poorer for his passing.



Micaile Petulengro.

Bill Gordon

HE WAS driving on the loco at the Toodyay Mini-rail A railway man for all his years, said his name was Micaile. His little mate rode with him, a big smile on his face, A terrier named Benny sat behind in pride of place.

WITH diesel running through his veins and coal dust in his hair, His love for all things railway would take him everywhere. A life lived on the train tracks from the Rockies to the plains, And then out to Australia, and those Pilbara iron ore trains.

MICAILE was born to wander, a Romany of old, Proud of his gypsy heritage with all the tales he told. The places he had been and seen, the people he had met. There always was a train close by, on that you're safe to bet.

HIS home is now in Toodyay, beside the railway line. He knows each train as it goes by, and if it is on time. The AvonLink to Midland with its city businessmen, Students to the big smoke and a tourist now and then.

THE famous Indian Pacific that spans the Nullarbor, CBH's fleet of grain trains taking harvest to the shore. Every time a train goes by a smile comes to his face, And here beside the line will be his final resting place.

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CWA gets busy for a hectic month ahead

Country Women's Association
Elizabeth Mansom

MAY PROVIDED members of Toodyay CWA with two very interesting functions and June looks like being just as stimulating.

On May 6 nine of us went out to Jennacubbine for International Day which this year focussed on Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Jenna is a very small branch so to cope with catering each vehicle arrived with a casserole or crockpot and the resulting lunch enticed many to return for seconds.

A riveting part of the morning was a talk by a local who had worked in PNG before and after Independence.

He and his wife both said they would return in a heartbeat if offered the opportunity.

At our May meeting we had a guest speaker and a visitor who is considering either starting a branch in a nearby town which has no CWA or joining an existing branch.

However, we possibly painted an unrealistic picture for them by putting on an outstanding afternoon tea (even by CWA standards) and a raffle with more prizes than people in the room; all this courtesy of our very generous members in aid of cancer.

The guest speaker was Sandra who works for Niagara Therapy, which members instantly associated with chairs.

Sandra did say she was often called 'the chair lady' but said there was far more to it than that.

It seems Niagara Therapy has been in Australia for 70 years and is fully Australian-owned within the Australasian region with a purpose-built manufacturing facility in Queensland.

The products are listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods so certainly not just chairs.

If you would like to know more, their website is niagara.com.au.

Our other visitor/potential member was also a Sandra and we look forward to seeing more of her in the future.

Recognition must go to Kathy, our vice-president, who sat in for president Maxine who was braving the outdoors in a tent.

Kathy is certainly a vice-president that



Toodyay Country Women members at the end of the Jennacubbine International Day. By then, Viv's headdress had gone a bit askew and had lost some feathers. From left: Meg Mills, Viv Street, Evelyn Oliver, Maxine Walker, Trish Chitty, Val Byron, Elizabeth Mansom, Maria Pepe and Judith Walton.

any president would feel confident leaving in charge.

Craft mornings on the second Thursday of the month have produced four fiddle rugs which have found a grateful home at the Avon Valley Residency in Northam.

We have now been asked to make fiddle cushions which will be scattered on the seating to provide sensory stimulation.

On Wednesday June 12 Val and Jen are going to Bolgart to take part in their branch's 95th anniversary celebrations.

As CWA in WA is also 95 this year this is a sterling effort on the part of women in a small country town.

Tammin is having their WA Week lunch on Thursday June 20, an event we always anticipate eagerly.

Four days later York is holding the annual Friendship Day.

The flyer promises two guest speakers,

the chief executive of the Royal Flying Doctor Service and our own Trish Chitty, the Community Coordinator for CWA, plus prizes, raffles and the usual luscious morning tea and lunch.

And last but certainly not least, on Thursday June 27 Toodyay Branch will celebrate 92 years of fun and fund-raising.

However, before the fun part we have to vote on motions to go before State Conference in July.

This year these range widely; appointing auditors, changes and amendments to the constitution, road safety and rural crime.

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

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

To book the hall please contact Glenys Clabaugh on 9574 5100 or 0427 478 325.

Syd calls bingo

Ida's Hideaway
Rae Vigar

WE ARE still going strong and I have had enquiries from people although, unfortunately, they have not arrived.

Our group meets in the Toodyay Community Resource Centre conference room, behind Richard's 360 Christmas shop, every Saturday from 1 to 4pm.

Come along and join in the fun. We have a great bingo caller in Syd and we have lots of laughs and chat.

We don't bite and will welcome you to our group.

For more information phone Rae on 9574 2356. Hope to see you soon.

Bets on for casino

Casino Bus
Rae Vigar

GOOD news – numbers are building for a trip to the casino on Monday, June 19.

After the last two attempts failed due to low numbers, hopefully this time we will make it. I for one, can't wait.

We leave at 9am sharp from the Toodyay Bowling Club and return home at 4pm from the casino.

For \$20 you will get the bus trip, a three-course lunch at Carvers and a keno ticket.

It's a great day out even if you don't play as you can always catch a bus into Perth for shopping.

For more information, or to book your place on the bus, phone Rae on 9574 2356.

Feast night was a dietician's nightmare

Bejoording Community Group
From the desk of The Badger

FOR ONE day at least, Bejoording is litter free.

The big event in May, held on the first Sunday, was our annual clean-up and log chop day.

Once again the community group members rose to the occasion with one group combing the roadsides for rubbish items, large and small, and the other cutting a solid supply of fallen timber for our communal fire pit.

Even with many members away on holidays, seeding commitments and on FIFO rosters, we managed to get a good team into hi-vis gear and onto the roads.

Not only were numerous bags of rubbish collected from our verges and easements, old wire, plastic, laminate and foam sheets, chemical containers, and the remnants of an old water tank were collected.

Cans, bottles and food containers are still the most numerous items and I often wonder who these people are who think there's a magic clean-up fairy every time they chuck something out of the car or truck window.

A great big thankyou to all who participated; you all did a great job and a good and satisfying time was had by all.

A big thankyou also to those families who have already hosted Friday night footy this season, and those who will do so soon.

This has now become an institution each footy season and is always a fun evening.

Our Feast Night in May could best be described as a dietician's nightmare – an 'everything deep-fried night', apart from some salad. The prawns were especially good.

You gotta be naughty sometime ... Thanks to Doug Colfer for his organisation.

Our much healthier annual Soup Night and air-hockey competition will have come and gone by the time you read this.

No wonder this small but vibrant community can celebrate a community group that's been going non-stop for 24 years later this year.

The community had a visit from the Shire President and CEO for a community briefing and their time and effort was appreciated, although we were a bit surprised when both referred to us at different times as 'Morangup'.

Anyway, they are coming back for another one soon, so no doubt they'll know where they are by then.

Your monthly reminder: We meet every Wednesday evening (except in January) at the Bejoording Community Centre which shares premises with the local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade in Bejoording Road.

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

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

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

If you want to know more, you can contact president Barry Grey on 9574 2149 or call The Badger on 0414 250 484.

Hope to see you soon.

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