

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.

October 2019
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Mighty Lions roar in nail-biter grand final



The Toodyay Lions celebrate their thrilling two-point Mortlock League footy grand final win after trailing Goomalling for most of last month's epic showdown. Toodyay lost three times to Goomalling earlier this year, including a heavy semi-final defeat two weeks previously, and lost big man Ben Jenkins to injury after the first term. Photo: Chelsea Phelps, story Page 31.

Rescue plan may save local day care centre

Michael Sinclair-Jones

A RESCUE plan for parents stranded by this month's shock closure of Toodyay's Great Beginnings day centre may enable it to stay open under new local management.

An announcement last month that the centre would close on Friday October 11 has dismayed local working parents who face twice daily round trips totalling 112km to the next nearest day care centre in Northam.

The closure also affects parents who use after-school care between 6.30am and 6.30pm when Great Beginnings buses their children to and from Toodyay District High School.

Continued Page 11.

They're off and running ahead of the 2019 Toodyay Cup



Race 2 jump at the start of the 1100m Vernice Handicap. Photo: Clive Millett, more Page 15.

Toodyay Agricultural Show
Saturday October 12

this month

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COUNTRY REALTY

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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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE	STORY DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTED
Noon Thursday October 24	Noon Tuesday October 29	Wednesday November 6

Please note our email addresses

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Ol' Blind Joe

Going Wobbly in Persia

Stirling Hamilton

OK FOLKS, it's twenty past one on a Sunday night and I'm not sure if I'm Arthur or Martha, but I've gotta get this piece in before daybreak or my name is mud.

One of the little-known chapters of history was the widespread famine in Iran (formerly Persia) during World War I.

After the Russian Revolution of 1917, Britain became the main foreign power in Iran and this famine, or more accurately 'genocide', was committed by the British.

A document in US archives reporting the widespread famine and spread of epidemic disease in Iran estimates the number of deceased to be 8-10 million during 1917-19, making this the greatest genocide of the 20th century and Iran the biggest victim of World War I.

Moving on, in 1953 the West chose to take out Iran's democratically elected President, Mohammed Mossadeq and installed the murderous Shah of Iran who raped and pillaged the country for decades in his service of Western commercial interests until the people got pissed off and revolted.

Hence it became an Islamic Shiite theocracy and told the West to leave its shores.

US Senator George Frisbie Hoar who served from 1877 to 1904 was right when he warned that intervening in other lands would turn the United States into a 'vulgar, commonplace empire founded upon physical force'.

Many people around the world see the US today as a reckless bully invading foreign lands.

Current intervention in Venezuela is such an example.

US foreign intervention has weakened the moral authority that was once the foundation of America's political identity.

The name 'United States' is now associated with bombing, invasion, occupation, night raids, covert action, torture, kidnapping and secret prisons.

In commentary by US officials and media, Iran 'violates' agreements.

The US merely 'withdraws' from them, feinting with remorse while drenched in blood.

This stance is reminiscent of a comment by anarchist writer and Wobbly activist T-Bone Slim: "Only the poor break laws — the rich evade them".

So the US and Saudi Arabia funded and armed Saddam Hussein with missiles and chemicals in Iraq in order to inflict a decade of destruction upon neighbouring Iran's people.

The thing is, Iran knows it can be hurt but not defeated.

Iran is a country of 83 million people with 1.6 million sq/km of formidable, semi-mountainous territory — almost three times more populous and four times larger than Iraq.

Now we have the Trump administration reprising former opponent Hillary Clinton's definition of Iran as an "existential threat to Israel" — which means that Iran's very existence as the main power that can materially and militarily resist Israel's hyper-dominance of the region is unacceptable.

That's why Trump also embraced Clinton's

call for the Iranian Revolutionary Guard to be designated a terrorist organisation.

What the Yanks demand is that Iran must cease its support of Hezbollah, the most effective frontline fighting force, which prevented the Israeli seizure of South Lebanon.

To gain US approval, Iran must abandon the Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese, and neuter itself militarily by surrendering all of its strategic weapons.

Iran must agree to become a country that can be bombed at will by Israel and the US, as parts of Syria are at the moment.

According to last year's Global Terrorism Index compiled by the Sydney-based Institute for Economics and Peace, more than half of the deaths caused by terrorists around the world in 2017 were a result of attacks by four groups: ISIS, the Taliban, the Shabab and Boko Haram.

Experts agree that none of these groups are sponsored by Iran.

The 'War on Terror' declared by former US president George W. Bush after the 9/11 suicide attacks on the US World Trade Centre in New York and the Pentagon has been fought against Sunni jihadist groups such as Al Qaeda and ISIS, neither of which are backed by Shia-majority Iran.

However, the US is funding these Sunni groups to destabilise Syria and attack Iran.

The US Government also uses its enormous economic power, including virtual control of the international financial system, to compel others to obey Washington's dictates.

None of this has even minimal legitimacy; the same is true of Cuba and elsewhere.

The world may protest, and last November, the UN General Assembly once again voted 189-2 to condemn the US embargo on Cuba.

Only the US and Israel voted against the resolution.

Iran could employ a combination of anti-ship cruise missiles, drones, submarines, small boats and mines to 'swarm' US naval ships in the confined waters of the Persian Gulf.

It could target US bases in the region with its arsenal of some 2000 missiles.

It could cripple US computer networks with cyberattacks and employ Hezbollah and other groups to stage terrorist attacks abroad.

It could send local militias armed with missiles and car bombs to attack the 19,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

It could tell the Houthis in Yemen to unleash a missile barrage against Saudi Arabia and it could order Hezbollah to fire 150,000 rockets and missiles at Israel.

But Iran is not some dumb kid in a baseball cap selling faded dreams.

The weird idea of the founders of the US Constitution that one might have 'decent respect to the opinions of mankind' has long vanished, and the pained bleatings of the world pass in silence.

"Fortunately there have always been men whose larger minds could adapt themselves to the truth instead of narrowing the truth to them." — American Unitarian minister, author, Abolitionist and soldier Thomas Wentworth Higginson (1823-1911) in an address titled *The Sympathy of Religions delivered at the Boston Horticultural Hall in 1870.*

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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October- November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Toodyay's Bolshy Diva pulls no punches

Ieva Tomsons

AS A LEADING disability advocate, Coondle resident Samantha Connor (52) criss-crosses the country every couple of weeks but tries to be back home on Thursdays to run scouting spin-off group Toodyay Troop.

This feisty redhead knows first-hand about living with a disability as she has the rare degenerative disease limb girdle muscular dystrophy and uses a wheel chair.

"I'm two years past my life expectancy already but I'm choosing to document myself as 'slowly living' as opposed to some others with the disease who blog about 'slowly dying'," jokes Samantha who rips into life at 100 miles an hour.

At a recent WA Parliament House rally opposing Voluntary Assisted Dying laws Samantha's confrontational style made the regular news bulletins. She regularly crosses swords while texting social commentator and euthanasia champion Andrew Denton and pulls no punches as a panellist on ABC TV's *The Drum*.

So what shapes a person who will rattle an over-size donation tin with 'Send Me to a Swiss Suicide Clinic' to highlight her concerns about the lack of legislative safeguards for vulnerable people in the assisted dying debate?

Samantha grew up in Thornlie and from an early age had an untenable relationship with her father who was a sexually abusive disciplinarian.

"I kept running away from home so when I was about 12 they shipped me off to Zimbabwe to go to a boarding school and live during the holidays with my godmother who was strictly religious."

For Samantha the imposed exile was a bonus. "It didn't faze me one bit; it was an adventure."

During her four years in Zimbabwe the seeds of campaigning for social justice were planted as she observed her white boarding school class mates' discriminatory attitudes towards black girls.

Samantha's father died when she was 16 and she felt free to return to Perth.

Soon after, her mother sold everything except the house and took Samantha and



Former Toodyay Herald editor Sam Connor fooled readers with her exclusive April 1 report on *The Whistling Turnip*.

her younger brother on a nine-month trip to Singapore, India, Holland, Switzerland and England.

On their return, Samantha completed Year 12 and immediately started working on a series of low-level clerical jobs before "falling in lust" with Peter Connor at 19 and having the first of their six children.

Samantha had been coming to Toodyay since she was a child to visit her naturalist aunt Dawn Atwell so the couple decided to buy a block in Coondle in 1988.

"We became members of the shed-dwelling community – no running water, a chemical toilet and a solar shower on the doorstep. It's probably the start of me being a scout leader. "It was a good community and we ran community sheep. Macca (David McCall) would shear, Chris Atkins was the slaughter and old Stacey Braishaw would put them in her chiller."

The Connor's had three kids by the time they married in 1991 at St Philip's in Culham and Samantha had landed a job as a real estate rep in Northam and started studying youth work externally.

During the 1990s Samantha covered a lot of ground. She had three more kids, worked for C Y O'Connor TAFE in Northam helping disabled people to use computers before lecturing in computing and teaching youth at risk.

Samantha became more and more involved with disability issues but also started volunteering for *The Toodyay Herald* in 1998 and served as its editor from 2007-2010.

"We had the usual fractious relationship with the shire but we had a lot of fun. I'd always sneak in an April Fool's Day article; one was *The Whistling Turnip* about a genetically modified turnip – a bit of a hoot."

As a scout leader she encourages the troop to not only become good citizens but uses her artistic talents to also get them involved in the arts.

Her most recent project with Toodyay Troop was to chalk life-affirming messages on Newcastle Bridge for last month's RUOK Day (See Page 16).

In 2009, Samantha and Julimar artist Bettina Scobie launched *Vino*, a flagship event for Arts Toodyay, which this month celebrates its 10th anniversary.

By 2010 Samantha was on the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability, lobbying hard for WA to become part of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

"Overnight we put together 100 stories from disabled people and (then Premier) Colin Barnett changed his mind and jumped on a plane and signed up to NDIS."

To increase the effectiveness of lobbying for disability rights Samantha was a founding member of the Bolshy Divas, disabled women who use left-of-centre social media and art to block reforms disabled people and their families don't want.

An honorary member of the Bolshy Divas is disabled WA Greens Senator Jordon Steele John who is in the thick of the current Royal Commission into People With Disabilities who, unlike the rest of the Divas, does not sport a lipstick tattoo on his bum.

"We (disabled groups) basically bullied them into having a Royal Commission; it was a huge win after years of fighting."

Samantha, who also advised the Regional Advisory Forum about rural disabled people's issues and was instrumental in lobbying for wheelchair access on buses, was nominated for West Australian of The Year in 2014.

Her CV includes an impressive number of advocacy roles but the one that takes *The Herald's* fancy is "Cat Herder, NDIS Expert Committee".

This is a woman who uses humour to address disadvantage and perhaps she said it best herself in her nomination for West Australian of the Year.

"The problem is not with disability but the attitudes of people towards disability, access and inclusion.

"I consider myself really lucky to live in a town where there is a real intent to include people with disability in everyday life. I want to work towards making discrimination a thing of the past."

VOTE FOR



Rosemary Madácsi

Independent and forthright
My agenda is our people don't receive the short straw

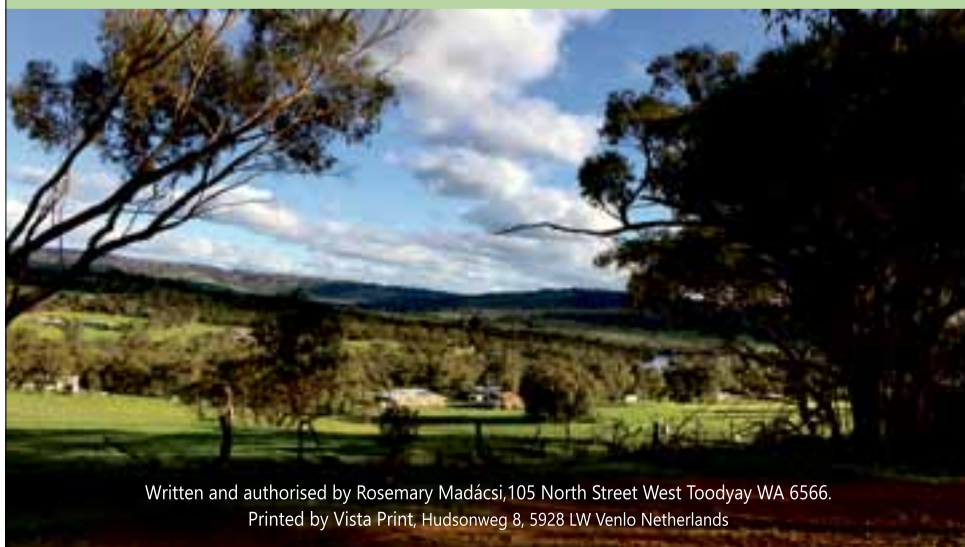


My focus is a Council that leads and rebuilds the community relationships.

That is strategically focused in building the community's vision of a vibrant rural community that embraces a sustainable future.

A community driven council with independent councillors focused on:

- Reducing debt
- Keeping rates low
- Building strong economic infrastructure
- Good basic facilities
- Conserving our environment
- Mitigating future pressures to the Shire



Written and authorised by Rosemary Madácsi, 105 North Street West Toodyay WA 6566.
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Nine contest 6 council seats

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY will gain at least four new faces on its nine-member shire council when a postal ballot for six vacancies closes at 6pm on Saturday October 19.

Three councillors have decided not to stand for re-election, leaving nine other candidates contesting six vacancies.

All Toodyay voters will for the first time be allowed to vote for all candidates regardless of where they live or own land.

The three councillors not standing again were among the six who voted for this year's

2.5 per cent rates rise and supported a secret council backflip to re-employ shire CEO Stan Scott for another year.

They are shire audit committee chair Rob Welburn and Crs Judy Dow and Rick Twine.

Cr Ben Bell and former Cr Bill Manning opposed both those decisions and are standing for re-election.

The poll comes as a log-running State Government inquiry into the shire council and its administration is expected to report its findings by the end of next month.

Continued on Page 8, election guide Page 5.

The Toodyay Herald

Closure must be averted

THIS month's closure of Toodyay's only day centre for children is a bitter blow for local working families.

The shock announcement that the Great Beginnings day care centre in Settlers Ridge is due to shut on Friday October 11 will make living in Toodyay much harder – if not impossible – for some local parents.

Though Toodyay also offers a limited amount of home-based child care, places are understood to be heavily booked.

For a community like Toodyay, the loss of its only day care centre is akin to the loss of the town's only bank, supermarket or police station.

This may seem less important to some older residents who form most of the shire's ageing population but how will local young parents cope with nowhere to leave their children while they work?

Some may find they have no choice but to leave Toodyay while others will find it harder to move here.

Our community's future depends on more young families coming to Toodyay, not driving them away with a lack of essential support services.

A rescue plan reported on Page 1 needs new statutory approvals that are unlikely to be granted before Great Beginnings shuts its doors and leaves town.

Herald inquiries indicate that the earliest date for a re-opening under new local management is early December.

This will most likely require greater take-up of the current 37 day care places at Great Beginnings, which is reportedly operating at only a third capacity.

It is understood the Perth owner of the land and building – which was leased to multi-national G8 Education – has offered rental assistance in the first year of resumed operation to help ease start-up costs for new local management.

It is understood also that the shire has offered to help with the approvals process needed to enable the centre to reopen.

However, it appears the shire has no money to offer direct financial assistance for this vital community service.

This is hardly surprising considering the shire spent \$700,000 spent on legal fees in the past four years, much of it wasted.

Even a small gesture commensurate with last month's council decision to give the Toodyay Masonic Lodge a \$718 discount on rates and rubbish removal could help.

Our community cannot afford to lose its only day care centre.

*Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor*



The way we were: Twelve girls from Toodyay's former Duke Street School attend an outdoor class in domestic science cooking uniforms. The table on the left has a primus stove under a Fowlers Vacola kit for bottling and preserving fresh produce, a basin and platters of fruit. The second one is laden with fruit-filled jars with labels. Behind the girls is a weatherboard building. Eight names are written on a separate sheet of paper attached to the photo: Janet Weir, Enid Wroth, Clarice Lloyd, Delcie Bird, Bertha, Dulcie Lindsay, Ida James, Blanche Leeder and Kath Butterly, after whom Butterly Cottage in Harper Road is named. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

LETTERS

Horse saga on the nose

HOW SAD to read Dave Wakeman is being harassed by the shire and a neighbour because of a horse in rural Toodyay.

I am sure there are rules in place but the shire has been known to play loose with the rules on occasions, which it is entitled to do.

For instance, some years ago two non-conforming businesses were allowed to operate within a short distance of each other in Picnic Hill Road.

One was approved after the usual application was lodged but the other was approved retrospectively because it was already operating when the shire became aware of its existence.

In comparison, an extra horse on a rural property pales into insignificance.

Among the conditions set out to allow the extra horse, I think the one to prevent manure leaching into groundwater was a gem.

I only hope our councillors don't realise there are quite a few sheep, cattle, horses and alpacas roaming around properties in Toodyay on which there are no controls for the prevention of their manure leaching into groundwater.

A lot of us will be in trouble when they do realise.

*Mike Andrijich
Toodyay*

World-class opera in Toodyay

CONGRATULATIONS to the organisers and supporters of Opera in the Valley – a world-class, sold-out performance by Emma Pettemerides supported by Tommaso Pollio and Harriet Marshall.

Ms Pettemerides sparkled with a glint in her dazzling eyes, engaging smile and ability to draw the audience.

The repertoire included arias from the *Marriage of Figaro* and *Die Fledermaus* and contemporary songs.

It was an absolutely entertaining evening

and an excuse to bring out the 'glad rags'.

The proceeds of the evening went to support the running of 2020 Toodyay Musical Fest.

Toodyay is extremely fortunate to have such an exciting talent as Emma Pettemerides within our community.

*Susan Pearce
Toodyay*

A real community paper

MY WIFE and I moved from Victoria 10 years ago and have lived eight of those years in the Avon Valley.

Just recently we had a two-day family reunion and enjoyed the sights, sounds and delightful meals of the Toodyay township and district while staying in several very-friendly B&Bs.

The general appearance of your town has improved so much in 10 years, a fact supported by Toodyay winning a Tidy Towns award.

Most of all, our group of 12 who are all Perth based, were amazed at the quality and depth of reporting on local issues and stories in your August copy of *The Toodyay Herald*; we all agreed it is a real community paper. Well done.

Our regards for a wonderful season, may the rainfall be plentiful and your publishing eternal.

*Peter and Catherine Ledger
Mundaring*

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.

Toodyay fuel prices 'unfair'

HEALTHY competition in Gidgegannup forces the local Shell petrol station to keep fuel prices down in order to compete with the Vibe service station across the road.

Without such, Gidgegannup would suffer the same monopolising price fixing that we see here in Toodyay.

What can be done to force Toodyay's two Shell outlets to be fairer to this community?

After all, the local servos should be a proud part of our community, not hold us to ransom.

As a frequent user of Toodyay Road, I simply buy enough fuel in Toodyay to get me to Gidge and save a fortune.

I'd love to fill up here and keep my money in the community.

Name and address supplied.

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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	125.7	128.4	66.3	13.4				365.5
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

Your election guide to what the candidates say

EIGHT of the nine candidates currently seeking election attended last month's Meet the Candidates public meeting organised by the Toodyay Progress Association.

Present were Cr Ben Bell, former Cr Bill Manning, Bruce Campbell, Brian Chambers, Bruce Guthrie, Phil Hart, Rosemary Madacsi and Sue Pearce. Beth Ruthven, from Coondle, was absent due to a family memorial service in Melbourne.

The candidates were allowed three minutes each to deliver an election statement, followed by questions from about 45 people present.

The meeting ended with a 90-second summary from each candidate.

Bruce Campbell

MR CAMPBELL said the "elephant in the room" was that he lived in Perth.

He said this was "a strength" for Toodyay because he could speak "face to face" with Government Ministers and agency heads about matters affecting the shire and local constituents.

Mr Campbell told *The Herald* later that he is renovating a fenced-off cottage with barred windows and a hand-written 'no entry' sign across the front door in Jubilee Street.

He said he stays in a hotel with his young son when they visit Toodyay every second weekend.

Mr Campbell said Perth family commitments would prevent him moving to Toodyay if elected but he would attend all council meetings and agenda briefings.

He said he could link Toodyay to Perth by promoting local produce and crafts in a 'pop-up' shop in Perth.

In his election statement, Mr Campbell said he would be "seeking to attract a new aged care facility development in the shire which would create local employment".

He supported "micro-brewery type enterprises in the shire, preservation of the historic football stand and showgrounds area (no residential subdivision of the oval) and full transparency of all shire expenditure by publishing such online".

He also supported "rate increase minimisation through the introduction of an initial plan to reduce shire expenditure by three per cent in 2020".

Mr Campbell, who is 45 next month, said he plans to retire in Toodyay.

Brian Chambers

MR CHAMBERS, from Nunile, was asked about his September 11 *Facebook* comment that "so far I have seen no (shire) dysfunction as the system as far as I have read is operating as required by local government requirements for the council and councillors".

"None of us likes rate rises, however the shire has to work within a budget and costs are still rising, so this may be inevitable if the shire is to be improved and projects kept going," he posted.

"I believe it is good that the CEO (contract) was renewed, rather than searching for another that is (an) unknown entity to the town."

In his election statement, Mr Chambers said he had lived in Toodyay for more than 29 years "and have gained some knowledge of community activities and future endeavours".

"Previous employment has afforded me experience in horticulture, management and company representation," he said.

"I have interest in the community, its environmental and ecological future, and can provide time and energy to improving issues within the community that concern Toodyay residents."

Mr Chambers told the meeting that he would "obviously like to keep the increases in rates down to a minimum and investigate ways for the council to become more self-sufficient".

"I would like to promote harmony – I am sure councillors have the best interests of the community in mind," he said.

Former Cr Bill Manning

FORMER Cr Manning, from Hoddys Well, said it was unfortunate that not much had changed in a dysfunctional council since his election in June last year.

"Councillors need to critically examine reports, ask the hard questions, seek more information and not simply be rubber stamps for the administration," he said.

"Instead of raising rates by 2.5 per cent each year, we need to look critically at expenses and see what can be reduced.

"I suggested to the council that the CEO report on how costs could be reduced by, say, 10 per cent but this fell on deaf ears.

"There is still too much decided behind closed doors.

"This should be done only when there is good reason to do so – there are too many documents crossing my desk stamped 'confidential' by the CEO."

In his election statement, former Cr Manning said he opposed rates increases in the last two shire budgets, trucking of raw materials on Saturdays, the re-appointment of the CEO and pay rises.

Former Cr Manning said his house was for sale and he planned to leave the shire, but this could take "some years" and there was still important "unfinished business" to do.

"This includes the outcome of the current State Government inquiry and the appointment of a new shire CEO next year," he said.

"It is up to others to judge how I have served on the council – I feel I have made a contribution and would like to keep doing this."

Cr Ben Bell

CR BELL, from Hoddys Well, said rates increases were a big issue for him because of the "large number of phone calls I get about it – it seems to be the overpowering issue in the shire".

"There is still too much waste in the budget," he said.

"You can still get everything you want with lower rates."

In his election statement, Cr Bell said he had "led the push to reduce unnecessary costs and spending in the shire budget" in his two years on the council.

"This enables the shire to allocate more money to improving vital infrastructure across the entire shire and fund more community activities while at the same time put downward pressure on rates," he said.

"I represent you and you know I am vocal on issues, so I take your ideas to the council and give you a very clear and very strong voice on the council.

"You can see by my track record how I perform in council, and I would like to do this for another four more years.

"Vote for me and you get a guaranteed independent voice on the council."

Phil Hart

MR HART, from Morangup, said Toodyay rates had risen 24 per cent in the past six years but household income had risen by only five per cent.

"I'd love us to stop wasting money on hopeless legal cases and spend it on the community," he said.

"The council ignored a 2000-signature petition last year not to raise rates.

"We can do better than that.

"I'd like to see greater transparency and more openness to public questions so that we can have a properly informed community."

Mr Hart said people wanted lower rates, more support for local businesses, less spent on lawyers' fees and more attention to shire infrastructure such as roads.

"For me, the council should be about listening to the community and working with you to meet community aims and aspirations so that we have a prosperous, inclusive, safe and sustainable Toodyay for the future," Mr Hart said.

In his election statement, Mr Hart said he "had a strong focus on financial accountability, rates, communication and the level of services available across the community".

"If elected, I will strive to ensure that Toodyay's local government consults widely with the whole community, is transparent in its operations, becomes truly accountable to the people that live and work here, and works to sustain our community into the future," he said.

"That is what I will work towards."

Susan Pearce

SUSAN PEARCE – who fought the Opal Vale landfill site near her Hoddys Well home – said she saw herself as an independent candidate.

"I have no affiliation to any groups or associations in the community," she said.

"I would undertake to preserve a rural lifestyle, work for sustainable development, review rates policy, develop careful financial planning and develop communication between the council and the community.

"Development and growth are needed but should not come at a cost to our lifestyle."

Ms Pearce said the fight to stop local landfill for Perth household waste had been lost but the process has been delayed by 20 years.

"There is a need to plan and promote businesses in our area and, if elected, I will work towards making the process flexible," she said.

"Jobs could be created and are needed to keep our youth in the community and provide employment opportunities.

"If elected, I will work closely with other councillors to review budget strategies and introduce efficiencies.

"One area I would like to explore is the use of shire vehicles for private use – it may be a drop in the ocean but would be a start.

"I have integrity and credibility and am willing to listen to you as a community and your concerns.

"The choice is left to you to vote for the people you feel are going to deliver the best outcomes for the Toodyay community."

Bruce Guthrie

MR GUTHRIE, from West Toodyay, said he was born 72 years ago and helped save the destruction of two tall trees bordering the town's Anzac Memorial Park at the corner of Clinton Street and Anzac Terrace.

"I have applied for the role of councillor because I am very interested in the future for Toodyay," Mr Guthrie said.

In his election statement, Mr Guthrie said "I consider the ability to listen to, analyse and act on community concerns as the prime skills required by a councillor, and I am disturbed these essential qualities appear to be lacking among some of our present councillors".

"My way forward is to promote a shire-friendly approach to planning, building and development, and to encourage community participation in all relevant decision-making," he said.

"I am very interested in supporting developers and to ensure the shire applies every effort to support these people.

"We need to encourage businesses both new and existing, and their support of employment for our community.

"Is there a place for a council role known as an economic development committee?"

"I am also interested in ensuring the ongoing support and development of volunteer groups, community organisations and community activities and programs.

"My interest in our environment is wide in both natural and built areas."

Mr Guthrie said his community service included as a Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade firefighter, St John Ambulance Brigade community transport service driver, Toodyay Agricultural Society committee member and active Australian military service (1967-68) during the Vietnam War.

Rosemary Madacsi

ROSEMARY Madacsi, from West Toodyay, said she was standing for election because "the council needs to do better".

Mrs Madacsi, a former Toodyay shire councillor 2011-2015, said the council needed to lead, restore community relations and bring the community's vision of a 'vibrant rural community that celebrates the past and embraces a sustainable future' into a reality.

"Our council fell into the trap of ticking boxes in the Community Strategic Plan without a clear understanding of what was required to secure our future," she said.

"Yes, stuff happens, trees get planted, repairs get done, roads get fixed – they tick a box but there is not the targeted action needed to achieve the vision the community wants.

"A lot of money gets used or wasted in the meantime.

In her election statement, Mrs Madacsi said Toodyay should be "the shire others envy but it is not reaching its potential.

"Yet it can, with a cohesive, transparent and dynamic council which is willing to identify and act on economies and introduce tight financial management rather than continually increase the burden on ratepayers," she said.

"We need efficient management, to reduce debt and build reserves, and purchase in an open market – not within the constraints of WALGA (WA Local Government Association).

"We can support low rates while investing in our community and economic infrastructure, environmental restoration and sustainable solutions.

"Failure to do so will cost this community dearly."

Beth Ruthven

MRS RUTHVEN missed the candidates' meeting due to a family memorial service in Melbourne but her election statement was read to the audience.

Mrs Ruthven said she had worked in financial institutions and the Australian Government before retirement, and was a qualified business studies teacher.

She posted on *Facebook* that she is an active member of the Toodyay community including 10 years as a bush fire brigade auxiliary and radio operator, 14 years proofreading *The Herald* and is a steward at the Toodyay Agricultural Show.

"I have a strong interest in financial matters and was a member of the Toodyay Shire Council Audit Committee 2012-2015 and again since early last year," she said.

"During that time I have become increasingly concerned by the performance of our council and local government.

"I believe that local government should be open, honest and accountable.

"I have no vested interests which could cloud my decision-making.

"If elected, I will do everything possible to listen to ratepayers, increase accountability and transparency, bring spending under control, reduce the rates burden and ensure compliance with legislation."

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Drugs cause 40 per cent of police work

Police Beat

With Sgt Dave Flaherty
Toodyay Police Station



Toodyay police chief sgt Dave Flaherty with seized drugs, a drug pipe and scales.

ABOUT 40 per cent of all police work in Toodyay is linked to illegal drug use.

Toodyay is a really safe place to live but we have an undercurrent of drug use that creates a constant problem.

Every week without fail, we find out about stuff going on that involves illegal drugs.

The flow-on from illegal drug use is that it causes other crime, such as stealing and assaults.

This is particularly the case with methamphetamines when users become addicted and constantly need more money to feed their habit.

As with elsewhere in WA, our community includes people who use methamphetamines.

A lot of society's domestic violence issues are also linked to drugs as it alters people's thought processes.

Toodyay police use street tip-offs, calls to Crime Stoppers WA (1800 333 000) and roadside random breath tests to detect illegal drugs.

Drugs are also discovered by chance during police inquiries into other matters, including when using search warrants.

Police may go to a house on another matter and see a drug pipe which then leads them to start asking questions.

In a recent case, police went to a house on a Julimar bush block to speak to the occupant about another matter and discovered 20 mature cannabis plants and 24g of dried cannabis.

We pulled up the plants but it was too much to fit into an ordinary police car.

A 4WD vehicle had to be used to take the plants to Perth to be burnt in an incinerator.

It's my view that there is more drug use now than in the 1960s when many people first started smoking cannabis and taking LSD.

There is also now a lot more drug law enforcement than ever but in many cases it is not working effectively.

While illegal drug use is an offence, I'm not convinced constantly arresting people is the answer.

We have to do more with education and rehabilitation to get people off and away from drugs.

It's not uncommon to come across people who use cannabis to treat chronic pain or depression.

But having or using illegal drugs is still an offence and our job as police is to uphold the law, without fear or favour.

We are always on the look-out to receive any information from the community about illegal drugs and we will always follow it up and charge the offenders if needed.

Truck blitz working

WE ARE seeing positive signs that our heavy-haulage road blitz is making big inroads into the previously high number of unroadworthy trucks being driven on local roads.

There has been a noticeable change in the standard of the trucks and they are now more roadworthy, and their drivers are behaving better.

Drivers and truck companies have learnt that we're not going away, and random checks will continue.

That makes local roads safer for everyone and we intend to ensure it stays that way with continued patrols on major bulk transport highways such as Toodyay Road.

Where are your kids?

WE URGE parents to know where their children are and what they are doing during the current two-week school holiday break.

While most kids are generally well-behaved, we will see an increase in minor damage offences in our parks and other

public places during school holidays.

Parents please ensure your kids know the difference between right and wrong and know what they are up to when out on their own.

Celebratory skippers

WE'RE now in the celebration season with last month's footy grand finals and Toodyay Picnic Races, and the Toodyay Agricultural Show on Saturday October 12 and Melbourne Cup on the first Tuesday in November.

If you intend to go out and enjoy a few celebratory drinks for these events, please organise a skipper to drive you home.

Don't drink and try to drive home afterwards because local police will be on the roads conducting random breath tests.

The aim is not to spoil anyone's fun but to help make the place stay safe for everyone and to ensure everyone gets home safely.

Plan ahead, organise a skipper and please don't drink and drive.

Only as a last resort, please

PEOPLE who need certified documents to be signed are asked to please try elsewhere first before coming to the police station.

Every week we get dozens of front counter requests to sign documents.

Some people get upset when they are told by the Customer Service Officer that there are no police officers at the station to sign their documents because they are all out doing law enforcement work.

Certifying a document may be a small task but when multiplied over and over again it consumes a large amount of valuable time and keeps police officers away from other more important law enforcement work.

Police are among 43 different occupations listed by the WA Justice Department list as qualified to sign certified documents for births, deaths and marriages.

Others include pharmacists, priests, Justices of the Peace, shire councillors and CEOs, post office managers, real estate agents, vets, accountants, bank managers, teachers, doctors, dentists, psychologists and chiropractors.

Toodyay has all these choices and we ask people to please try them first before coming to the police station for a signature.

Shire endorses safety plan for all ages

SaferToodyay
Wayne Clarke

THE TOODYAY Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2019-2029 was endorsed at the September Toodyay Shire Council meeting.

This strategic plan is a SaferToodyay initiative with the purpose of setting a clear direction for a holistic, whole-of-community approach to safety and crime prevention in Toodyay for the next 10 years.

The plan supports the Shire of Toodyay's Strategic Community Plan 2028 and includes support for the elderly and their safety issues, assistance to strengthen family cohesion and the encouragement of youth in building their own future.

SaferToodyay develops and supports projects based on the theme of 'local solutions for local problems'.

The SaferToodyay membership includes as many as 12 strategically focused organisations from within the local community - each with diverse missions - contributing to the development of a plan with wide-ranging benefits.

Many of the actions highlighted in the plan have already been accomplished but the plan has included these so as not to lose focus in the future.

The crux of the plan has been the work of a small subcommittee of SaferToodyay and was led by former Chair Allen Clabaugh and the nuts and bolts have been the work of Wayne Clarke.

SaferToodyay is grateful for the assistance the shire has provided to the plan's development and its acceptance that this plan belongs to the Toodyay community.

Further information: safertoodyay.org.au.

How to respond to Facebook abuse

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

FACEBOOK can be a great way to keep in touch with other people.

Unfortunately, it can also be a way for other people to abuse or threaten you.

While mild abuse can be ignored, every threat should be taken seriously.

Anybody who is mentally unstable enough to threaten you might also be unstable enough to carry out their threats against you.

All threats should be taken seriously and should be reported to the police and having hard evidence is crucial.

Taking screen shots is a good first step.

Make sure your screen shots are backed up to another device or to cloud storage such as Microsoft OneDrive or Google Docs.

If the threats are in Facebook's Messenger, download an archive of your chat. A guide to downloading your archive can be found at bit.ly/2Z1Bf9j.

Your archive might be quite large, so you might want to save it onto an external hard drive or a USB memory stick (or 'thumb drive').

Make a backup of your archive as well.

Print out the screenshots as they will come in handy when you first talk to people.

While it might be tempting to block your abuser, avoiding blocking them and gathering evidence against them is probably a better choice.

There is always the option of not responding to abuse and threats.

If you feel you must reply, avoid writing anything that might weaken your case in court.

Such replies should appear calm, reasonable and factual to anybody else who reads them.

You might feel devalued as a person but remember that you have every right to be yourself and it is your abuser who is devaluing themselves.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES



St John Ambulance volunteers outside the new sub-centre in Morangup.

Ambos up and running at new Morangup base

**St John Ambulance
Morangup Sub-Centre**
Amy Wittber

ST JOHN Ambulance has had volunteers based out of Morangup for more than 10 years.

Formed as a sub-branch serving under the Toodyay and Districts Sub-Centre, the volunteers have worked tirelessly to provide emergency services to those in both the local and surrounding areas.

Due to the volume of work performed by the volunteers in Morangup, the newly built sub-branch transitioned to a stand-alone sub-centre on July 1 this year.

The new building currently houses one ambulance, with the capacity for a second.

It is equipped with a kitchenette and a wet room, as well as two fatigue management rooms – a space for weary volunteers to get some rest during their shift.

As it was not originally intended to operate

as a sub-centre, further extensions have been approved to accommodate a training space for volunteers, a large storeroom and an administration area that will be open to the general public.

There are currently 22 volunteers serving at the Morangup sub-centre, but they desperately need more to fill their roster.

All St John Ambulance volunteers undergo emergency medical training, receive a full uniform and maintain their skills with monthly training nights.

The Morangup sub-centre is open on Tuesdays only, from 8.30am to 4.30pm for any billing or membership queries, to purchase first aid kits or enquire about courses.

If you'd like any more information about volunteering with St John Ambulance, or would like to take out a membership, you can contact the administration officer Amy Wittber on 0418 741 971 or email morangup@stjohnambulance.com.au.

Simulated accident spurs two volunteers to join up

**St John Ambulance
Toodyay Sub-Centre**
Carolynne Haigh

ON SEPTEMBER 14 we, along with Toodyay Fire and Rescue and the Toodyay Police, held an open day and carried out a simulated motor vehicle accident.

There were four patients involved, one of whom was travelling alone and believed to have been under the influence of drugs or alcohol and was trapped in the vehicle.

The other vehicle had three passengers including the driver, one of whom was thrown out of the vehicle on impact, the driver was trapped in the car as was the back seat passenger.

The police and fire and rescue teams worked together to ensure that the scene was as safe as possible from any other hazards, during which time the ambulance officers assessed the patients to determine their condition before the extractions began.

The first patient to be attended to was the one thrown out of the vehicle who was then transported out by the RAC rescue helicopter.

Focus then turned to the driver of the multi-passenger vehicle who had an open compound fracture and was also going into shock.

Fire and rescue crews carried out a quick

extrication practice with this patient.

In order to remove the rear patient, the jaws of life were used to peel back the roof of the vehicle; all the while the passenger, who was already suffering from a chemical burn, was being treated and cared for by the ambulance officers.

All hands were on deck to then slide the patient up onto the spinal board out of the vehicle and then into the ambulance.

The fire and rescue crews then moved over to the driver of the other vehicle.

This patient had been monitored the whole time by ambulance officers.

He was trapped in the vehicle with suspected spinal injuries and therefore was extricated on the spinal board through the rear window.

Those attending the open day saw our volunteers (ambulance and Fire and Rescue) and our police work together to save lives.

These exercises benefit everyone.

They bring together all the teams, giving them the opportunity to meet one another and gain some valuable practical experience.

They are also an opportune time for members of the community who might be thinking about volunteering to make a decision on the service they might wish to join.

For all that attended we thank you.

The day was a success for us, as we recruited two new volunteers to our sub-centre.

Mod cons coming to Coondle-Nunile

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

HI THERE from the old Coondle fire shed for what could be the last time.

I called past the new shed recently and had a look at what was happening.

Progress was going well and the painter was in.

It is an impressive looking building and seems to be practical but things don't always go to plan and we are bound to find some problem with it but it looks good at this stage.

I believe it will be equipped with all the new gear we need and I would like to think we can incorporate some of the items from the current shed as we will miss the character

we have at the old shed.

We are all thinking of Kevin Bowen who recently got injured while exiting the new vehicle and had to have an operation on his shoulder. We hope things are healing well Kevin as the fire season is upon us and you are needed.

We have started clearing out some of the gear we had at the current shed with a lot more to go yet.

Some tables have been donated to the Ragbags Quilting Group for which they were most appreciative.

A call went out from captain Nick to see if a barbecue would be in order on the last night that we could have our winter fire to stand around.

A number wish to attend and this will be the last time we can stand around the fire and tell tall stories and in some cases a lot of lies.

I know I keep harping on about it but if you haven't got your firebreaks done now you had better get onto it.

It is now too late to spray and removal of fuel will be difficult. Please do your bit as we can't be everywhere when a fire is on and we can't protect your place if it is undefendable.

We need your help so we can do our job safely.

Well that's about all from Coondle-Nunile for this month, so those that have done their bit to clean up we would like to thank you.

New team, new members working well

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

THANKS to our new captain, Brian Rigby, and his first lieutenant Lawrence Hayward, the training initiative on the first Sunday of the month continues to go well.

Our new members should all be trained and accredited by the time the fire season gets going.

The detailing of our truck was a big success and we raised enough funds to employ the assistance of some specialist detailers.

It was a great opportunity for new members, and some older ones, to empty every single cupboard and shelf on the truck, take stock of the wide array of equipment carried, some of which isn't used for every fire, and then to reload it onto the truck.

All active members now have a special hold-all bag in which a full set of Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) including boots and helmets will fit.

They can store these in their own cars, at home, or as many do, at the shed.

All agree they have added a new level of convenience to members.

Nothing else to report, except to remind members that the first Sunday of every month, at the fire shed, is training for an hour (or more if needed).

All active members are encouraged to attend as often as possible.

As you read this the next training session will be on Sunday November 3 at 2pm.

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 fires can pose a risk to people and property, whether

it's burning off on your acreage or a backyard bonfire, so take care.

Our next regular meeting is at 5.45pm, at the shed, on Friday October 18.

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

If you have any questions remember you can contact Captain Brian Rigby on 0417 984 324, or Richard Hazlewood on 0414 250 484.

Please leave a message if we're not there.



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State Government inquiry overshadows shire election

Continued from Page 1.

INQUIRY recommendations will be sent to Local Government Minister David Templeman for possible action.

It follows almost a year of Local Government Department monitoring of the shire and criticism of its performance before the Minister launched a formal inquiry last December.

Former Cr Manning resigned from the council last month while only half-way through his four-year term because he said all electors should have an opportunity to decide if he should stay on the council.

He and Cr Bell were both previously elected under a former ward system in which only voters in particular wards could vote only for candidates in their wards.

Former Cr Manning said councillors with two years left to serve under the old system should resign to enable all Toodyay voters to decide if they should to stay on the council.

It would "ensure greater legitimacy in the eyes of the electorate", he said.

Shire Deputy President Therese Chitty and Cr Paula Greenway said they would not resign because they were lawfully elected for four years until 2021.

President Brian Rayner – who nobody



About 45 people attended a 'Meet the Candidates' evening event organised by the Toodyay Progress Association at the shire civic centre last month.

voted for two years ago when he stood unopposed in the shire's now-abolished North Ward – also rejected public calls to face all voters for the first time this month.

The new council will hold a special meeting at 3pm on Tuesday October 22 for a secret ballot to elect a shire president and deputy for the next two years.

Seven new candidates include former Cr Rosemary Madacsi who served on the council from 2011 to 2015, Beth Ruthven who is a community member of the shire audit committee after previously serving on it 2012-2015, and Brian Chambers,

former secretary of the now-disbanded shire cemetery committee 1999-2003.

The four other new candidates are Perth resident Bruce Campbell who says he visits Toodyay every second weekend and stays in a hotel, Phil Hart (Morangup) Susan Pearce (Hoddys Well) and Bruce Guthrie (West Toodyay).

Former Cr Manning's Hoddys Well home is for sale and he plans to move interstate but says this could take years and there is "important unfinished business that I would like to see through".

An Australia Post mail-out of 3425 postal

ballot voting packages began late last month.

Voters have until 6pm on Saturday October 19 to return their marked ballot papers in pre-paid envelopes to the WA Electoral Commission (WAEC) in Perth or place them in a ballot box at the shire office in Fiennes Street, Toodyay.

Late returns can be lodged at the council chamber which will open from 8am to 6pm on the Saturday when the ballot closes.

WAEC Returning Officer Robert Dew said voters could tick up to six boxes next to candidates' names on the ballot paper.

Voters' selections had to be marked with a tick – not a number, or an X.

People could tick fewer than six boxes and their votes would still count.

However, ticking more than six boxes would cause the ballot paper to be declared invalid.

People who believed they were entitled to vote but didn't receive an election package in the mail or had lost their ballot paper could visit the shire to apply for a replacement.

Mr Dew said election packages would also be available at the shire chamber from 8am on the final Saturday of the election.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Combined clean-up effort empties fire station for refurbishment

Morangup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Morangup
Sue Maddrell

THIS month has been very busy at the station.

We had an early combined monthly meeting with Toodyay State Emergency Services (SES) members invited.

Community Emergency Services Manager Rob Koch and SES District Officer Matt Reimer attended to talk about the station's refurbishment.

A few new members have undergone initial training and are now ready to go out into the field and practise what they have learnt.

We look forward to seeing them on the fire ground – welcome Judy and Krystal.

A number of burns have been organised and completed with the two new female members joining in.

A horde of brigade volunteers and SES members worked together last month to empty the station for refurbishment.

Rob and Matt helped which was great. Everything had to go, apart from the trucks – more than 25 years of accumulated stuff.

We had to decide what to keep, what to archive, where it would all go and in what order to move everything.

Jeff thought four or five hours would be enough.

Most of us thought it would take longer but the promise of a barbecue spurred us on.

Jeff was right and many hands do make light work.

The barbecue was on by 1pm and the station was empty.

The brigade will once again have a stall at the Toodyay Agricultural Show on Saturday October 12.

Anyone wishing to donate cakes, jams and pickles can leave them at the Morangup fire station on Friday October 11 between 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

For any inquiries please contact Sharon Gamble on 9574 7012.

We would like to thank the residents

of Morangup who have kindly given a monetary donation to the brigade.

The brigade will still hold their meetings on the third Saturday of the month starting at 5.30pm.

Members will be notified by email if there is a change in venue.

For Morangup residents interested in attending please give Jeff a call on 0417 714 798 to find out if there are any changes.

Lighting the last winter fire at our old fire shed

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Coondle-Nunile
Max J Heath

Hi there from the old Coondle fire shed for what could be for the last time.

I called past the new shed recently and saw that progress was going well and the painter was in.

It is an impressive looking building and seems to be practical.

But things don't always go to plan and we are bound to find some problem with it, but it looks good at this stage.

I believe it will be equipped with all the

new gear we need and I would like to think we can incorporate some of the items from the current shed as we will miss its character.

We are all thinking of Kevin Bowen who was recently injured while exiting the new vehicle and had to have an operation on his shoulder. We hope things are healing well Kevin as the fire season is upon us and you are needed.

We have started clearing out some of the gear at the old shed, and there is a lot more yet to go.

Tables were donated to the Ragbags Quilting Group and they were most appreciative.

A call went out from captain Nick to see

if a barbecue would be in order on the last night that we can have a winter fire.

A number wish to attend and this will be the last time we can stand around the fire telling tall stories and, in some cases, a lot of lies.

I know I keep harping on about it but if you haven't got your firebreaks done now you had better get onto it.

It is now too late to spray, and removal of fuel will be difficult. Please do your bit as we can't be everywhere when a fire is on and we can't protect your place if it is undefendable.

We need your help to do our job safely.

Well that's about all from Coondle-Nunile for this month so to those who have done their bit to clean up, we thank you.

Firebreaks are your utmost priority

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Julimar
Alison Wroth

SPRING has arrived at last and the Julimar brigade has swung into action to prepare equipment, firefighters and sheds for the oncoming fire season.

Getting those firebreaks done is of utmost priority to all householders.

If the brigade cannot easily access your property during an emergency, with tree limbs or trees blocking the firebreak, gates too small or indeed impassable, it seriously impedes the firefighters' ability to defend your home.

Fire season is nearly upon us, so if you have anything to burn, piles of rubbish or any clearing around your house, achieve it quickly and then you'll feel secure once it is done.

With the lack of decent rain, the hills in the valley are beginning to dry and becoming fuel for possible fires in the hotter months.

This is the time when all families should go over their Bushfire Plan just in case the need arises.

If all households and family members know what to do in case of an emergency such as an approaching bushfire, it makes it far easier for both the family and the firefighters to manage.

Please consider sitting down with your family to tick the boxes of your Fire Action Plan and if you don't have one yet, begin to put one in place.

If you need any advice on fire control or are thinking of becoming a member of any brigade, come on down to meet us at the Julimar Fire Place on Friday evenings from 5.30pm.

You can discuss your concerns or wishes with any officer present like captain Wade Robson or any of our experienced firefighters would be able to point you in the right direction.

Do not think that any question regarding bushfire is silly. We are all just volunteers and members of the Toodyay community just like you.

Supper and a few drinks and chat among friends – what's better than that at this time of year?

Vote Susan Pearce for Toodyay Council

Your Vote for:

*Informed debate and
decision making*

Careful financial planning

Sustainable development

Undertaking to:

- Review rates policy
- Develop careful financial planning
- Represent needs and concerns of ratepayers and residents
- Open dialogue between the Council and the community
- Preservation of a rural lifestyle
- Teamwork to produce the best outcomes

A resident of Toodyay for 45 years, I am retired, and with my husband, Rob run a successful farming business.

I believe local government should be transparent, accountable and provide the community a voice to participate in council decisions.

I am passionate about sustainable growth, supporting local businesses, and protecting our heritage buildings and the environment. I offer honesty, leadership, integrity and credibility in all Council discussions and decisions.

Authorised by Susan Pearce, 740 Salt Valley Road, Toodyay WA 6566

Contact: 0427 957 425
Email: susanpearce740@outlook.com

No caretaker mode in land of the blind

Toodyay Progress Association
Larry Graham, Chair

AGEING pop-star Rick Springfield resurrected an old 16th century proverb when he sang *In the land of the blind the one-eyed man is king*.

While it is a pretty good song, the ancient message it raises is very appropriate to civic affairs in Toodyay.

To set the scene in the land of the blind, there are currently three councillors who are not contesting this month's election.

These three have a combined five per cent of the total shire vote from when they were elected two years ago under the now rejected ward system, and include a Shire President who no ratepayer voted for.

We have an interim CEO, one councillor on leave, one other councillor who resigned his seat last month to contest this election and a formal State Government inquiry result pending.

That is hardly the pinnacle of democratic excellence.

Regardless of which individuals are elected this month, our new council will consist of six properly and democratically elected councillors; two others elected with tiny votes and one who was appointed.

Given those circumstances, one would expect those in high places at last month's council meeting to rise to the occasion by recognising things will change inside a month.

All that was necessary was for our civic leaders to recognise that there is an election on and to act accordingly.

It is a bit of a no-brainer to say that councils should go into caretaker mode when elections are underway; it happens in a lot of places but not at the Shire of Toodyay.

Over a year ago our association suggested that the shire adopt a caretaker policy to apply during elections and sadly our elected ones did nothing.

The Shire of Toodyay is well behind the times because State and Federal Governments have all had caretaker provisions for years.

The State Minister for Local Government has told us that a review of the *WA Local Government Act* should change the law to make these provisions compulsory, and many other councils have voluntarily adopted a template policy endorsed by the WA Local Government Association (WALGA).

That WALGA policy tells us that we are in a caretaker period and then says that nothing relating to the employment, remuneration or termination of a CEO should be allowed on a council or committee agenda.

Not only should there not be any significant reports or recommendations on agendas, the WALGA policy also says when elections are imminent, CEOs should not even list these matters for discussion.

But our council ignored all that last month and had six matters on its meeting agenda.

None of them would have been there if there was a caretaker policy in place, which meant that our democratically dysfunctional council was making decisions that bind an incoming council later this month.

To make the meeting even more interesting, the Shire President broke Standing Orders to change the order of business of the meeting and then restricted the number of public submissions that anyone was allowed to make.

If it all ended there things would be considered pretty bad – but it does not.

Our association has attended nearly every council meeting for years and we do not recall WALGA ever addressing a meeting.

One candidate raises WALGA in their election material and suddenly they turn up at the council to tell us what a great job they are doing for the Shire of Toodyay.

Wars don't kill democracy, it dies when it is attacked from within and it is under attack; whether this is by ignorance or intent is irrelevant.

On these things, electors are the judge, jury and executioner, and they can deliver their verdict by voting in the current election.

Please make your vote count.

Our association's message to all the candidates is simple: go and read the *Local Government Act* and understand that you have put yourselves forward to represent "the interests of electors, ratepayers and residents of the district" and to "govern the local government's affairs".

Councillors are also lawfully charged to provide "leadership and guidance to the community in the district" and you cannot provide civic leadership and guidance by following.

As always, we point out that we are a not-for-profit, volunteer public advocacy group that has not and will not run, support or endorse candidates for elected office.



Action from this year's Moondyne Festival, which may be the last unless volunteers step up to help stage the event.

Moondyne future hangs by a thread

Toodyay Events Planning

TOODYAY'S much-loved Moondyne Festival will be no more from 2020 if additional volunteers do not step forward to join the current working group by the end of October 2019.

The AGMs for Toodyay Events Planning Inc. (Moondyne management committee) and Toodyay Music Festival Inc. were held sequentially at the Freemasons Hotel on September 16.

Despite the call for volunteers over the past few months, the turnout at these meetings was pitifully low.

Elections were held to fill the committee officers' posts that had become vacant and the Music Fest will therefore function for another year.

But both festivals need a secretary as of now, and both will need a coordinator for 2021.

At present, the Moondyne Festival only has its coordinator and is in urgent need of half a dozen volunteers.

In other words, Moondyne needs an entire working group willing to keep this hugely popular event alive – so people power has never been more important.

Dedicated volunteers are a significant reason why the Music Festival's future is looking brighter in spite of its unfortunate

cancellation this year.

A strong and proactive team working behind the scenes means the event is back on track for 2020.

By contrast, while this year's Moondyne proved one of the more successful events of recent years, the number of volunteers on the working group was at an all-time low.

There is an event coordinator in place for Moondyne 2020, but unless more volunteers join the working group by mid-October, Moondyne Joe won't escape gaol and make it to Toodyay for next May.

Festivals like Moondyne are part of Toodyay's 'life blood', offering enjoyment

to residents and tourists alike and provide significant trading benefits for many local businesses.

Moondyne has been held for many years, the Music Fest for fewer but both have developed event databases and working systems that allow their respective working groups to ensure each event runs like a well-oiled machine on the day.

Is tourism in Toodyay important to you?

Are these festivals important to you?

Does your business benefit from these festivals? Then please volunteer now.

For more details contact Tanya on 0409 181 404.

Free school holiday activities

REGISTRATIONS are now open for the Toodyay Community Program which has four exciting activities to enjoy from Tuesday to Friday October 8-11.

The free school holiday activities are suitable for all ages and abilities and are a great opportunity to get involved in the local community.

Food and drinks are provided so registration is essential.

Forms are available at the Toodyay

Visitors Centre, Toodyay Public Library, Toodyay Community Resource Centre or by emailing cdao@toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Local community groups have worked tirelessly to make this program a success – thank you for your support and our sponsors Toodyay Community Resource Centre, Shire of Toodyay and Scitech.

For further information contact Maddie Ross at the shire on 9574 9395 or email cdao@toodyay.wa.gov.au.

My VISION for Toodyay

Consultation/Communication

Accountability

Sustainability

Transparency

Your **VOTE** Philip Hart



Talk to me about your hopes for the future of Toodyay!

Phone: (08) 9572 9566 Mobile: 0413 834 322 Email: philhart.au@gmail.com

Facebook page: [Philip-Hart-Toodyay-Shire-Council-Candidate](#) Also in local Facebook groups

Authorised by Philip Hart, 1390 McKnoe Drive, Morangup, 6083

Bolgart bush markets back after 15 years

Bolgart News
Pam McGill

THE BUSH Christmas Community Markets are returning to the Bolgart Hall this year and will be held on Sunday December 1 after a 15-year absence.

This year's profits will go to the Goomalling-Bolgart St John Ambulance Sub-Centre.

The organisers are delighted by the enthusiastic response from locals and surrounding areas.

As previously the event has a bush theme featuring handmade crafts and homemade offerings for the festive season and there is an amazing range of gifts for all ages.

A highlight of the event will be the drawing of the raffle of a signed, numbered and framed photograph of West Coast star and Norm Smith Medallist Luke Shuey which has been generously donated by the Eagles Football Club.

Activities for children will include face painting, a colouring competition and a chat with Father Christmas. Buskers will add to the entertainment.

Parents can enjoy a Harley trike ride around town for a fun experience, and families may make an outing of it as morning teas and lunches will also be available.

The markets will be open from 10am until 2pm.

Bolgart Hotel and Trees Café will also be open.

Further details are available from Barbara Mottershaw on 0488 733 351 or Gwenda McGill 9627 5274.

Bolgart is very happy to see the return of one of their long-time residents Peter Mete.

Peter has returned from Queensland after being away for a few years.

School news

BOLGART School Merit Certificates were won by Noah Clarke, Madeline Cotter in the junior room and senior room students Davion Stanton and Tobias Moore.

Aussie of the month was won by Tyler Page and Jason Kingwell.

Senior room students are participating in the Western Power Circuit Breakers program.

Paul, the education officer, and Revana, an engineer, visited to explain what their roles are and to help with the coding.

The 2019 Calcoiart (Calingiri, Yerecoin, Bolgart) Carnival was held recently; congratulations to local runners-up Molly Snooke (Under-11 Girls), Michael Woodford (Open Boys) and Jenae Woodhams (Open Girls).

Bolgart Primary School Student Council hosted a community morning tea on September 17 which was attended by a good number of people who met the students and

learned what they are doing at school.

A beautiful morning tea was served, and the children were wonderful, showing the visitors around and explaining what was happening in the classrooms.

All the visitors had a great time – thank you to all the students.

Ladies' golf results

AUGUST 22 Marion Colmer Memorial Trophy: winner Vivienne Camerer, runner-up Pam Meston.

September 5 St Guertrudes Cup sponsored by New Norcia Benedictine community: winner Pam Meston; runner-up Jenni Knowles and gross winner Joy Hamilton.

September 12 Syred Cup 27 holes Stableford sponsored by Phil and Serena Syred, and Callen Syred CSBP: winner: Vivienne Camerer; runner-up Jenni Knowles and gross winner: Joy Hamilton.

Therese Chitty won the morning round and Waveney Jones, the afternoon.

A great crowd of 40 enjoyed a lovely meal by Debra and Dick Campbell at the Bolgart Hotel.



Ladies Syred Cup winner Vivienne Camerer.



Cup runner-up Jenni Knowles.



Cup Gross Winner Joy Hamilton.

Butterly needs a few Jacks and Jills of all trades

Butterly Cottages
Therese Chitty

THE BUTTERLY Cottages Inc. AGM will be held on Monday October 28 at 1pm at St Stephen's Anglican Church Hall.

Many thanks to all who bought tickets in the very successful raffle we ran on September 20-21 – we raised \$880.

The winners were: first, Jill; second, Anita; third, Tim; fourth, Gretta; fifth, Annie and sixth Kaylea.

Butterly is managed and run by volunteers and does not receive any external funding to operate and maintain its cottages so fundraising helps with maintenance and repairs.

If you have ever thought about helping a community group, Butterly is always looking for volunteers who are good at handyman jobs.

For further information contact our secretary Jenny at butterly2j@gmail.com.

BUSH FIRE STREET MEET

Coming to a street near you!



The Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades of the Shire of Toodyay, in conjunction with DFES, will be holding Community Bush Fire Information Sessions in a street near you in October. All residents are invited to attend their local meeting to discuss bush fire preparedness and safety for this fire season.

Come along to find out more about:

- Assessing the risk and preparing your property.
- How to have a 5-Minute Fire Chat
- What you should do in an emergency including alerts and warnings
- Fire Danger Ratings
- Contributing to your community by becoming a Volunteer Fire Fighter

Did you know?
29 December marks 10 years since the big Toodyay fire. It can happen again! Are you ready?

5 MINUTE FIRE CHAT

Locations & Times:

Bejoording – Friday 11 October 6pm, Bejoording Community Centre, 50 Bejoording Road.

Julimar – Sunday 13 October 10am, Dawn Atwell Reserve, Corner Julimar Road and Parkland Drive.

Toodyay Central – Friday 18 October 6pm, Race Course Carpark, Race Course Road Toodyay

Coondle – Nunile – Saturday 19 October 10am, Kane Road Water Tanks, Kane Road West Toodyay

Morangup – Saturday 19 October 4pm, Hill Place Reserve, Corner McKnoe Drive and Hill Place.

FREE BBQ and refreshments at all events!



Shire served hot curry

Bejoording Community Group News
From the desk of The Badger

IT'S TIME to feel a bit sad.

The Eagles didn't get into the final and our fire pit and home fires enter their summer recession even though the nights are still chilly.

At least the wildflowers are emerging at last, and from a novice point of view the crops around me look quite healthy.

Our curry feast night will be remembered because it was the night the shire luminaries came to visit.

On a positive note they brought a contributing dish and some other goodies with them which were much appreciated.

The Q&A session was quite robust and the councillors, CEO and senior staff members seemed a bit surprised.

We weren't just a bunch of compliant old retirees up here but a very active, albeit small community, passionately interested in the issues facing Bejoording and we had a good turnout including some locals who had never visited our shed before.

One of the councillors, or maybe it was the CEO, I'm not sure, was heard to mutter something about not realising they were coming into an ambush.

Hardly, but they did offer an open Q&A session and should expect people to talk about issues, not what's going right.

The hottest topics, as were expected, were rates, roads and expenditure.

We are pleased they came and they seemed to handle it with good grace but I suspect it

won't go down as their favourite community get-together for the year.

Nevertheless, we would be happy to see them all again next year; it's a good initiative.

On the social front Friday night footy is a true Bejoording tradition and a big thankyou to all of you who threw open your sheds, patios or man caves, lit your barbecues and open pit fires, served up plenty of tucker, and congenially hosted these enjoyable get-togethers, not only on Fridays but the occasional Thursday and Saturday too.

Friday nights especially are going to seem a little quiet for the next few months but it's always amazing how quickly the next pre-season games come around and I've no doubt that most weekends someone will find an excuse for a gathering somewhere.

Bathurst for example is one event that brings quite a few of us together at the shed in October; that's the Bejoording way.

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

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

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

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

If you want to know more you can contact president, Barry Grey on 0428 742 149 or call The Badger on 0414 250 484.

Hope to see you soon.



Toodyay Bakery's first-year apprentice Olivia Jarquin (left) and pastry chef Jodi Johnston bake a fresh batch of their national award-winning apple pies.

Toodyay apple pies judged Australia's best

TOODYAY'S local bakery had its best result ever, scoring four gold and three silver medals at last month's Great Aussie Pie Competition in Sydney.

Pastry chef Jodi Johnston's cinnamon swirl crust on her apple pie made it stand out from the crowd.

Toodyay baker Jason Marion said he was extremely proud of his team, which uses local produce wherever possible.

Their award-winning pastries, cakes and bread helped attract visitors to Toodyay and boost trade for other Avon Valley small businesses, he said.

Parents urged to support Toodyay day care centre rescue plan

Continued from Page 1.

HOME-BASED day care in Toodyay is reported to be generally fully booked.

Great Beginnings is part of an international chain of G8 Education day care centres in Australia and Singapore and has an Australian head office in Brisbane.

The company is understood to be closing its Toodyay centre because of low attendance rates and a lease on the privately owned site in Settlers Ridge expires next February.

A G8 Education spokesperson in Brisbane said all parents with children at Toodyay's Great Beginnings centre had been offered a

"transition plan" to switch to the company's next nearest day care centre, in Northam.

"It includes a fee discount," the spokesperson said.

Toodyay's four day care staff are understood to have been offered transfers to Northam.

However, Toodyay couple Karly and Brian Terry are negotiating with the Perth owner of the Toodyay site to take over the lease as a new locally owned business.

"We moved to Toodyay two years ago, we have two one-year-old boys and my wife has

more than 10 years' childcare experience," Mr Terry said.

"The centre has 37 places but only a third are filled and half of those are Toodyay after-school students.

"We hope to run the centre as a new business with similar fees and hours.

"It needs local support to be viable and we are looking for expressions of interest from parents to see if we can salvage the situation for them."

For more information, call 0410 201 068.



Vino Exhibition opens with splash

This year's Vino Art Exhibition opened at Toodyay's Coorinja Winery with a feast of colour and a superb selection of local works for sale. The three-day show attracted several Perth buyers.

Grab a bargain at October 13 car boot sale

Morangup Matters

Jo Hart

EVERYTHING is coming to life in Morangup – spring flowers abound and it's time to start all those summer veggies.

The restricted burning season is upon us so it is also time to wake up the EmergencyWA website and our other warning systems that we may not have used much over winter.

Coming up on Sunday October 13 we have a car boot sale at Morangup Hall (sellers 8am, \$10 per bay and buyers 8.30am, entry \$2 per person, families \$5).

Come along for some great bargains, there will be a sausage sizzle and cold and hot drinks.

Further information is available on the association's Facebook page at

facebook.com/morangupmpa/.

Exciting news for the community. Since of July 1 Morangup has its own St John Ambulance sub-centre.

For information on volunteering or membership contact the administration officer Amy Wittber on 0418 741 971 or morangup@stjohnambulance.com.au.

In response to community concerns the MPA is working towards a Rural Watch network for Morangup as these days, safety and security is an issue for all of us.

We also have our next regular community event, Cuppa and a Chat, on Sunday November 3.

Check out our Morangup Progress Association Facebook page facebook.com/morangupmpa/ where we regularly share items of local interest.

Adult Dance & Pilates Classes

Thursdays in the Anglican Hall TOODYAY

4.00pm-5.00pm or 7.30pm - 8.30pm - Pilates exercise

5.00pm-6.00pm - Classical Ballet

6.30pm-7.30pm - Ballroom & Latin American

ENROLMENTS & ENQUIRIES

Imelda BA Dance, APMA (Australian Pilates Method Assoc): 0408 328 501

✓ VOTE
BETH
RUTHVEN

FOR TOODYAY COUNCIL

If elected I will do everything possible to listen to ratepayers, increase accountability and transparency, bring spending under control and reduce the rates burden, and ensure compliance with legislation.

I have a strong interest in financial matters and was a member of the Council's Audit Committee from 2012-2015 and again since early last year. During that time, I have become increasingly concerned by the performance of our Council and local government.

I have been an active member of the Toodyay community and been involved in a number of local organisations.

I have no vested interests which could cloud my decision-making.

I believe that local government should be open, honest and accountable.

Written and authorised by Beth Ruthven, 895 Coondle West Rd, West Toodyay.

Night at the opera brings down the house



Music Fest committee members (from left) Steph Slater, Sharon Mills, Tanya Stuart, Shannan Smith and Vicki Blackendaal celebrate their opera success.

Merredith Lamb

WOW – what a fabulous evening it was.

A night of opera with Emma Pettemerides supported by Harriet Marshall and pianist Tommaso Pollio was everything and more than we expected.

Thank you Emma, Harriett and Tommaso. Some of the comments from the evening: “The best \$35 I have ever spent”; “A sensational evening”; “Let’s make this an annual event”; “Brilliant”; “What a fantastic evening” and, the accolades just kept on coming.

Special mention must go to Tanya Stuart who co-ordinated the event and her very capable and dedicated band of helpers.

Thank you to everyone who supported the night and contributed to the Toodyay Music Fest 2020 fundraiser.

The Memorial Hall looked resplendent. Grazing platters were set up at the back of the hall with tea, coffee and more grazing in the lesser hall.

The bar was open and patrons were able to purchase beer, wine and champagne.

The evening was a sell-out with the hall filled with 210 people who were treated to such wonderful music.

Emma performed some very memorable pieces including *Je Veux Vivre* (Romeo and Juliet by Gounod), duet from *Le Nozze di Figaro* by Mozart, *Vilja’s Lied* from *The Merry Widow*, *Summertime* (Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess*), *Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again* (*Phantom of the Opera* by Webber), *I Could Have Danced All Night* (*My Fair Lady*), *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* (*The Wizard of Oz*), a beautiful duet with Harriet Marshall singing *Flower Duet* (*Lakme* by Delibes) ending the evening with *Climb Every Mountain* from the *Sound of Music*.

The audience couldn’t let such an experience end without an encore and Emma came back to the stage to perform one more beautiful song, *Homeward Bound*.

It was a night to remember and enjoyed by everyone.

The raffle prize, worth over \$400, was won by Brian Chambers with second prize of \$260 going to Paula Bijoux.

Rumour has it that the Freeze Frame Opera

group, founded by Harriett Marshall, is headed to Toodyay for the Music Fest next year so if you were unable to get tickets for this performance, Emma will be back.



From left: Tommaso Pollio, Emma Pettemerides, Tania Stuart and Harriet (Hattie) Marshall.



Emma Pettemerides takes a bow.

Xmas street party December 6

Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Deb Andrijich

LAST week the chamber held a thankyou event for the sponsors of the *Toodyay Seasonal* videos.

Sponsors, along with chamber members and friends, enjoyed some light refreshments at the shire council while we watched the four videos.

Helen Shanks provided a detailed commentary for each video, thanking all our wonderful sponsors who contributed in many ways to help bring this project to fruition.

Special thanks go to our Helen Shanks, of Destination Toodyay for coordinating the video project.

Check out our *Facebook* page to view photos, details of all sponsors and of course links to the four seasonal promotional videos that depict our amazing town.

Don’t forget the date to put in your diary is

Friday December 6.

This is the date of this year’s Christmas Street Party when our community comes together to celebrate everything that is Toodyay.

We sincerely thank our sponsors that have already pledged support for this great event; the Toodyay Op Shop, Shire of Toodyay, Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Makit Hardware and the Toodyay Chamber of Commerce.

If you would like to be involved in this event or offer sponsorship or support in some way, please contact us at 2jchamber@gmail.com.

The next special event for all chamber members, (save the date) is Wednesday October 16 at 5.30pm at the Community Centre.

This is a business after-hours NBN presentation – what your business needs to consider and how to make the most of NBN with Q&A from an NBN expert.

Invitations will be sent soon via email and will be posted on our *Facebook* page.



St John

St John Ambulance

“Provide First Aid” HLTAID003

One day course

To be held on Saturday 9 November 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





Georgie Troup and Josh Johnson are conducting oat grain research in WA.

Toodyay farm trials broadacre irrigation

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza and Georgie Troup

WHILE the warm spring weather provides a great opportunity to be outside enjoying the fine days and mild nights, it doesn't provide the finish to the growing season that many farmers need.

The crops have flowered and are now starting to produce grain and the warm dry conditions make for stressed plants that are less likely to produce the plump grain that is milled for flour, malted for beer and rolled for porridge.

So it's likely that your friendly farmer next door is praying for some good rains and cooler weather, although Toodyay has fared better than areas to the north and east.

Did you know that the majority of grain produced within the shire is exported? With WA producing more grain than is used domestically, the remainder is sold through the global trade of grain.

One of the grain crops grown in Toodyay is oats, grown to meet high nutritional standards, which is then used in a range of food products from muesli bars to oat milk, and new research developing oat noodles, similar to udon noodles.

Growing high quality oats for human consumption is no easy task but local farmers and researchers are working together to provide solutions for oat growers across Australia.

Toodyay local Georgie Troup leads the oat grain research program at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) WA.

The department's oat grain research is achieved in partnership with the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) which is principally funded by a grower levy and Australian government contributions.

The research will provide farmers with

information on: variety performance – with new varieties available each year; optimal sowing date – whether to take advantage of a late summer storm to sow; and crop nutrition – how much nitrogen is required to produce high-quality, high-yielding oats.

This season Ms Troup has trials located from Coorow in the north to Gibson in the south with one of the trials located at Frank Panizza's property at Nunile.

"This trial has multiple sowing dates, with the first seeding occurring in early April and the second sowing date in early June," Ms Troup said.

"The earlier-than-usual sowing date is designed to provide information for farmers who may consider sowing early, as a strategy to try and avoid the unfavourable grain filling conditions we are currently experiencing."

But how did they get a crop up when we had little summer rain and very low soil moisture? Just add water – and plenty of it.

"We used DPIRD's new 20m boom irrigator to simulate a rainfall event of 20mm across part of the 6000m² trial.

"The irrigation is the easy part, the hard part is trucking the large equipment around the region to each of the trial sites and setting it up. The irrigator works brilliantly and we have had very good results.

"While it might seem odd to water broadacre crop trials, it gives us two seasons' results in one which means we can get answers sooner for multiple weather scenarios. Given the variability of our seasons, this is vital information," Ms Troup said.

The local trial site will be harvested in November, with results available to farmers via the Toodyay Agricultural Alliance in February 2020.

Stock up on small gifts at the market

Toodyay Farmers Market
Sandra Cousins

WHAT a wonderful September market.

Stall numbers were a little fewer than usual, but the weather was wonderful so we had plenty of people out and about.

If you would like to help boost stall numbers please come down and see us at the float next market day, Sunday October 20, and we can give you an expression of interest form or you can email toodyayfarmersmarket@gmail.com or call 0487 440 754.

We can also provide you with some information about volunteering. No contribution of help is too small and would be greatly appreciated.

This is perhaps a scary thought, but Christmas is just around the corner so, Sunday October 20 is a good time to start thinking about those little presents. Look closely and you may be surprised at the selection of gifts available.

Hope to see you there.



Some of the locally grown fresh produce available at the Toodyay Farmers Market.

CBH jumps on board for 166th Toodyay Show

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Alison Wroth

OCTOBER has arrived with great speed it seems this year, especially if you are organising the 166th Toodyay Agricultural Show.

We have all been saying the right things to whoever organises the critical weather for Show day, in the hope that somebody is listening and does the right thing for us.

October can be fickle sometimes, you can organise the best event and it comes down to if the day is suitable to bring the crowds out for a look.

Great news – we are fully booked with trade stalls and such a variety of groundspace this year, so expect a Toodyay Agricultural Show that is bulging at the seams all ready to provide you with whatever you ask.

Continuing last year's plan, we have extended our groundspace tents and community stalls further out onto the main oval, creating that wonderful walk through from the location of our main stage out from the goalposts onto the oval which will be the venue for the official opening at 10am.

Equestrians will have showjumping and children's games back again this year, so there will be activity on the oval all day.

The entertainment list we have this year covers a huge variety of attractions for people of all ages and includes free children's activities.

The program will be available to you as you enter the gate.

Dairy goats make a welcome return to competition this year, so head on down to the Sheep Shed to see them.

Sideshow alley, Ivan and his Sheep Dogs, Baby Animal Farm, Camel Rides and our Emergency Services will provide the crowd-attracting Road Safety Commission-sponsored 'accident scenario' in front of the grandstand.

The entertainment along with our continued maintenance in the Lee-Steere Pavilion Exhibition Hall, the fireworks and the general organisation of our Show – not to mention the huge amount of donated prize money that we give out to winners – is all made possible

through the sponsorship and support of our individual donors and our major sponsors.

This year we welcome CBH Group Grass Roots Fund who join our regular major sponsors, Dunning's Fuel, Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Morgan's Feed Supplies, Road Safety Commission, Shire of Toodyay and the Toodyay Op Shop.

Without these major sponsors, local businesses, community groups and individuals, some of whom have supported the Show for years, the committee would not be able to pull the annual Show together and provide you with one of the best country agricultural shows in the state.

Mind you, all of this is situated on the most scenic and historic showgrounds in WA.

A heartfelt thank you to all our supporters – the Show would not continue without you.

Toodyay Cricket Club is opening the bar at noon and our auction of donated produce begins at 6pm, just before the fireworks wind up the day at 7.30pm on Saturday October 12.

On behalf of the president and Toodyay Agricultural Society committee, good luck with your entries and I hope you have a wonderful day.

Gidge Show soon

Gidgegannup Agricultural Show
Jean Witcombe

THE 73RD Gidgegannup Agricultural Show takes place on Saturday October 26 and the schedule is available on the Show website gidgegannup.info/gidge-show/ and Facebook pages.

Entries for all classes close on Wednesday October 16.

Please note that because Gidgegannup is a restricted area for wifi coverage, there will be no eftpos facilities at the gates to this year's Show.

Entry will be by cash payment or tickets purchased on line at TryBooking.com.

✓ Vote Bruce Campbell For Toodyay Shire Council



***I love Toodyay!
I want Toodyay to
flourish whilst
celebrating its
unique character***

A vote for me is a vote for:

- Links to Perth via a Toodyay produce, services and crafts pop-up shop in Perth.
- Promoting Toodyay as the tiny house construction and residence hub of WA.
- Pro-development zoning for the town's southern edge.
- Attracting a new aged care facility development in the Shire to create local employment.
- Support for the establishment of microbrewery-type enterprises in the Shire.
- A Toodyay film festival featuring movies made in Toodyay, along with promoting Toodyay as a filming location.

- Preservation of the historic football stand and showgrounds area no residential subdivision of the oval.
- Full transparency of all Shire expenditure via publishing the information online.
- Minimising rate increases via an initial plan to reduce Shire expenditure by 3% in 2020.

I have a cottage in Toodyay, and regularly visit Toodyay with my 7 year old son. I have a family background in rural Western Australia from 1901. Presently my Aunt, Uncle and Cousin farm wheat, oats and sheep in the Arthur River region. My father surveyed the Standard Gauge Railway through Toodyay in 1965.

Please contact me on 0409 947 457 to discuss these points or your great ideas.

Authorised by: Bruce Campbell, 27 Harris St Beckenham, WA 6107.

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Under-the-radar histories emerge from the past

Toodyay Historical Society
Robyn Taylor

LAST month, representatives from our society attended the annual State Conference of Affiliated Historical Societies hosted by the City of South Perth Historical Society.

Once again, the conference proved how worthwhile these events are for networking and learning.

Each year the papers presented indicate history's expansion to become far more inclusive of other histories and stories that have either been under the radar or seen as the province of some other area of research.

The first speaker was Kerry-Ann Winmar, a Whadjuk woman, who shared stories about the earliest inhabitants of the South Perth area.

Kaylene Poon talked about the Chinese market gardeners who endured considerable discrimination as a minority group.

I couldn't help thinking how different it was for Toodyay's highly regarded market gardener Charles Soong Yocklunn who established the Evergreen Garden Orchard in the Toodyay Valley in 1913, after farming at Nardie.

Swan River Estuary conservation issues were passionately addressed by Catherine O'Neill on behalf of volunteers dedicated to the protection of the Milyu mud flats, while conservation issues relating to South Perth's built heritage were illustrated with an excursion to the 1930s Art Deco Cygnet Theatre (originally the Como).

South Perth was also home to the young author May Gibbs, whose father was a well-



Syred's Cottage, Bejoording, showing the large kitchen behind the cottage. Photo: Beth Frayne.

known artist, and other important artists for this state's artistic and cultural development.

A quick visit to the street where these artists built and furnished their homes in the turn of the 20th century Domestic Arts and Crafts style revealed modern wall-to-wall apartment blocks and two-storey mansions.

Such is progress and the changing landscapes in which we live.

The South Perth Historical Society's Museum is worth a visit to see its collection of the Gibbs' family artworks, and of course, reacquaint yourself with her gumnut babies Snugglepot and Cuddlepie.

September ended with a spring clean and picnic at Syred's Cottage at Bejoording.

What a fabulous tourist attraction this shire-owned place could be if only it was closer to town, or more usefully, bought by a heritage-minded cashed-up entrepreneur who could see its potential.

Toodyay lacks a rural farmhouse/museum that is open to the public with the added attraction of a café/restaurant.

A traditional breezeway separates the main house from the large kitchen which could be perfect for indoor eating if the weather was inclement.

A pizza oven would fit in nicely.

Otherwise, the spacious outside verandah and grounds just lend themselves to long summer lunches.

It's a pity this 1859 cottage, so authentic for its times, lacks 21st century conveniences such

as electricity, sewerage and running water; though surely these aren't insurmountable problems?

There is a water tank.

Donegan's Cottage will be open for the Toodyay Agricultural Show on Saturday October 12, with displays and items of interest.

The cottage and grounds will need a spring clean before the event and members will be contacted about lending a hand for this and helping out on the day.

Our not-to-be missed October excursion will be a lot of fun.

Old Freo boys Len and Milton will be leading the George Street Walk on Saturday October 25, starting from Guildford Railway Station.

The plan is to use the Fremantle Cat buses to get around, so not too much walking.

Details will be sent out to members. 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 on Thursdays from 1-3pm.

Postal address: PO 32 Toodyay. Website: toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au

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

Toodyay Historical Society membership is \$10 per annum.



Faye and Milton Baxter's take on US artist Grant Wood's classic 1930's painting American Gothic outside Syred's Cottage. Photo: Robyn Taylor.



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Mon - Fri 7am to 5.30pm | Sat 7.30am to 4pm | Sun 8am to 1pm

Thousands of punters flock to big day at the races



Plead The Fifth ridden by Ryan Hill wins the Toodyay Cup.



In the packed undercroft – Where's Wally?

Free headphones to stem memory loss

Forget-Me-Not Memory Café
Angie McCluskey

SEPTEMBER 10 was a memorable day at the Cola Café for people living with memory loss/dementia when Toodyay Lions Club presented Forget-Me-Not Memory Café with a generous donation of \$500.

The money will be used to purchase 11 Bluetooth stereo headphones with built-in FM radio, plus secure digital memory cards which will be distributed to community members who are living with dementia.

It is recognised that music can have a calm, relaxing effect on people living with dementia and is something that may be experienced and enjoyed throughout the progression of a person's cognitive decline.

Music has been found to stimulate parts of

the brain and studies have shown that music enhances the memory of Alzheimers and dementia patients.

A US study showed that memory test scores for Alzheimers patients improved when they listened to classical music.

Memory Cafés are somewhere people living with dementia, their friends, family and carers may socialise together in a safe non-judgemental location.

They are somewhere to share a cup of coffee, laugh and chat without feeling shunned or conspicuous, and spend some precious moments with others who are going through similar experiences.

To find out how to receive the free headphones, contact the Shire of Toodyay or Forget-Me-Not Memory Café at fmncafe@outlook.com.



In the VIP area (from left): Toodyay Shire Deputy President Therese Chitty, WA Nationals Party MP Jacqui Boydell, WA Nationals MP Martin Aldridge's Electorate Officer Lisa Logan and WA Nationals Leader and Toodyay Race Club Patron Mia Davies.



Cup-winning owners Ed Hogarth (left), John Rigby and Ivy Hogarth from Perth-based Goldlight Nominees Syndicate.



Epoxy resin turns into incredible bowl

Avon Woodturners
Max J Heath

Hi all from the 2J Junction and the woodturners. Things have been going along well at woodturning but numbers have been down a bit of late.

Still, things have been progressing towards completing show entries etc..

John Smart has attended and is as usual urging members for their entries.

We are progressing with our sign at the moment as this was part of our agreement to have a sign which acknowledges Lotterywest. A number of us recently attended the WA Woodturners Association AGM.

After a quick meeting and sorting out a few things the day carried on with some great demonstrations.

The first one was a small bowl turned down to about 2mm thick which the demonstrator decorated using a high-speed drill and cutting decorations into the wall of the article.

He had a lot more patience than yours truly but the result was remarkable.

Another article was epoxy resin turning. The demonstrator explained how he formed the blank piece and had different little pieces of tree nuts etc. inserted into the resin as well as different colours before the resin set. He then turned this into a bowl and the effects were incredible.

These workshops are well worthwhile attending but in a small town members usually are in a few organisations and are time poor and we just don't get to the workshops as often as we like.

While at the meeting which was held at Wandi south of Perth we investigated a lathe that Wandi club had had constructed for the use by persons with physical problems.

The lathe they had built was unsuccessful and the tried another idea with a chair but this also failed to achieve what was required.

Avon has been hoping to apply for a grant to do something like this for a number of years but it seems that if we are to achieve something we are going to have to design it ourselves.

This has given us food for thought and planning is under way to achieve a good outcome.

Well that is about all from the woodturners for this month and please remember – Don't Drive Tired.

Advertorial

Population growth impacts our future

SUSTAINABLE Population Australia is a non-political community group that has serious concerns with the present and future environment of this country.

Our objective is to promote urban and rural lifestyles and practices that are in harmony with the realities of the Australian environment, its resource base and its biodiversity.

Currently our nation adds one person every one minute and 22 seconds requiring new built infrastructure the size of a Canberra every year.

The totally unsustainable population growth of Australia is driven by the property developers, the consumer retail industry and 'the big end of town' and is resulting in conditions of us being 'over stocked'.

We wish to promote awareness that the survival of an ecologically sustainable population depends on Australia

maintaining its environmental resources. Humanity is now using the bio capacity of one and a half planets each year.

It is estimated that by 2025 two-thirds of the world's people may be experiencing water stress.

As one of the greatest drivers of Climate Change (Crisis) is population growth with its associated consumption, it is our aim to promote awareness of such and encourage policies of low fertility and low migration that will lead to the stabilisation, and then to reduction, of Australia's population.

Similarly, with more than 40 per cent of pregnancies world-wide being unintended, due to a lack of contraception, early marriage and low education that trap women and families in a poverty cycle, we wish to help promote policies that will lead to the stabilisation, then reduction of the global population.

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- CROP FAILURES, LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY AND HABITATS,
- CITY CONGESTION,
- INCREASING METROPOLITAN CROWDING AND SPRAWL.

CONCERNED?

Contact: Sustainable Population Australia WA

wa@population.org.au or 0477 002 821



✓ Vote Brian Chambers

Hello voters my name is Brian Chambers a resident of Toodyay for over 29 years.

We have a good choice from those standing for election. They all appear to have the Shire at heart and look to improve the lot for Toodyay.

I am standing for election to endeavour to ensure that Toodyay will survive the high costs laid on ratepayers, from infrastructure projects that are under way, and will not be too much burden on the ratepayers.

I will promote a harmonious and smooth united council working together for the benefit of the residents.

I believe that Toodyay has great potential, and it's up to us to find the answers to the problems that face Toodyay now and in the near future.

I will not make any great promises for the first few months as it will be a learning curve for me, and I need to get all the facts first from all sides.

The role of councillor is to agree on the best available proposals for our town. We are governed by rules and regulations, as is the CEO, and have to be sure we are abiding by the rules set out, not easy when, as I understand, a new set of rules are about to be unleashed.

I will do the best I can to keep costs down, research innovative ways to improve environmental and ecological concerns, whilst looking at ways to future proof our Shire.



Authorised by Brian Chambers, 539 Nunile Road, Nunile 6566.

Mini rail can learn from tunnel brakes disaster

Toodyay Miniature Railway
Vern Witney

WE CONTINUE to run with new ideas being thought up all the time.

Some of the ideas are good, others lack commonsense and slow things down.

This is alright until we get busy and need to move quickly and safely to stop being crowded in.

One of the latest ideas is to have a proper brake van on the end of trains, as in the old days when every train had a guard's van on the back end.

When something went wrong, the guard was able to apply the brakes.

This idea didn't work out during the war when the tunnel disaster happened.

A train being pulled by two steam locos stalled in the tunnel in Swan View.

It was night time and the grade up through the tunnel was one in 50, hence the need for two engines.

As you might imagine, taking one steam

engine through the tunnel was unpleasant with all the smoke etc., so how about taking two engines through?

The four men crewing the engines crouched down as low as possible, the drivers set the controls for full power ahead, then they all sheltered under wet jute bags in order to breathe.

All was going well, if you don't mind being suffocated, then the engines ran into a pile of chaff lost from a previous train.

All the drive wheels lost traction. There they were in the tunnel at a stand-still, with both locos belching smoke and fumes.

They managed to pull the lever to put sand on the rails to get traction, to no avail.

The crews were overcome with fumes, but one driver managed to set his loco in reverse before he too became unconscious.

The train rolled back out of the tunnel and gathered speed as it rolled down towards Swan View.

The signal man there had set the points for the train to run into the runaway dead-end siding, which is standard procedure in case trains rolled back.

The train stopped at the end of the siding, with the guard's van being the first to hit.

One driver was killed, while the others recovered after a while.

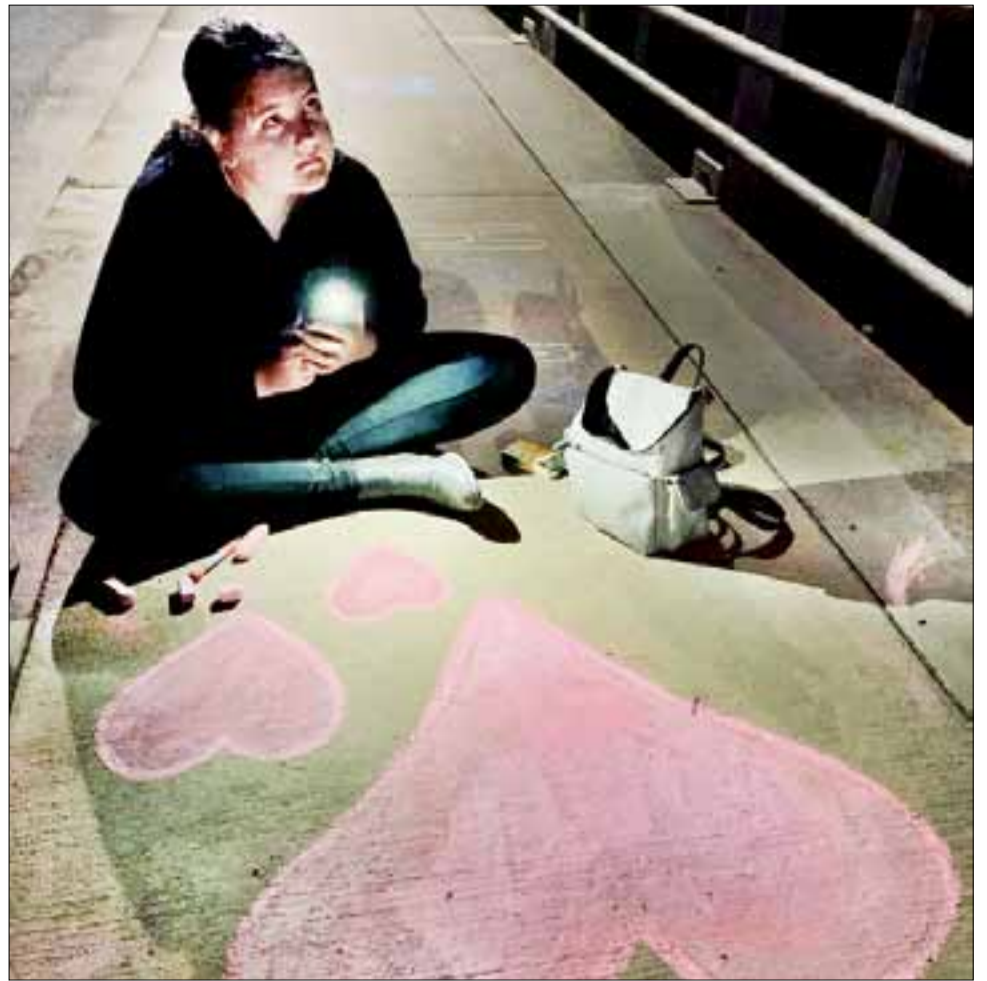
The guard should have been in the guard's van, but he had got out and was walking alongside towards the front of the train to see what was going on.

Had he stayed in the van, he would have been able to apply the brakes to at least slow things down.

Only eleven wagons were able to be towed away, the rest were wrecked.

Both engines stayed on the rails, but the rear one was badly damaged.

The tunnel was in use until 1966 when the Standard Gauge was completed, but after the disaster, an 'up' line was constructed so that trains only came down through the tunnel.



A Toodyay Troop member chalks up a message of love on Newcastle Bridge for RUOK Day.

Casino ride, lunch for \$20

Casino Bus
Rae Vigar

I AM STILL struggling to fill the bus but there have been inquiries from people in other towns and hopefully we will be taking a trip on Monday October 21.

We depart from the Toodyay Bowling Club at 9am and leave the casino at 4pm.

For just \$20 you get a trip to and from the casino, all you can eat lunch and a keno ticket.

For more information, or to book your seat, ring Rae on 9574 2356.

Kids chalk up RUOK messages

Toodyay Troop
Samantha Connor

OUR YOUNG people from Toodyay Troop met on the night before RUOK Day (September 12) to chalk positive messages on the footpath of the Newcastle Bridge to let people know our community loves and cares about them.

School camp was on so our numbers were down but the young folk who were there put in an impressive effort.

Thanks to the slightly wobbly young folk who were contributing and writing peace

symbols as we left the bridge.

Thanks also to the Shire of Toodyay for being willing to support youth projects and promote good mental health.

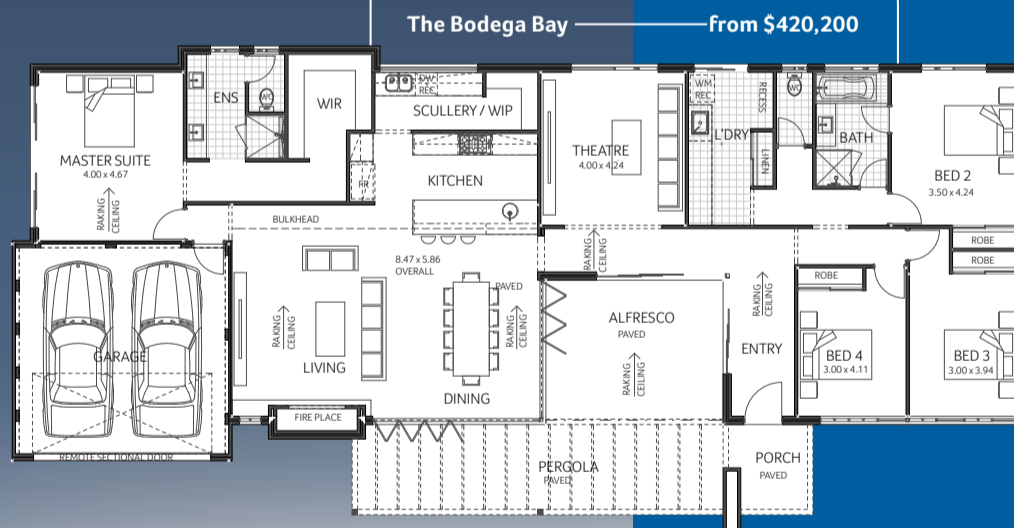
The origins of this project are in Let's Chalk About Mental Health, a suicide awareness project that is global.

You can find out more about it at facebook.com/search/top/.

Toodyay Troop planned a mental health and suicide awareness project for later this year and decided RUOK Day would be a great time to carry this out – well done to all of them.

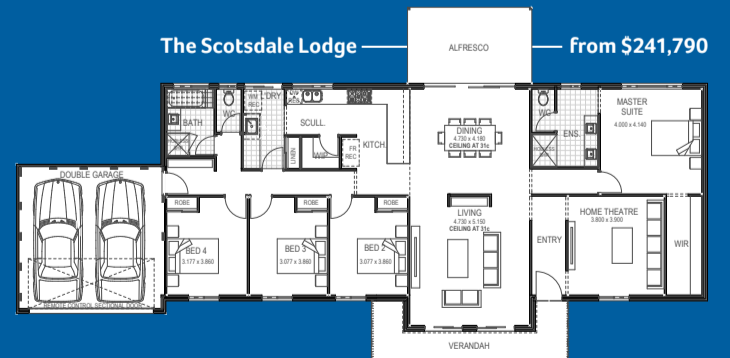
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