

# 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.

December 2021

Edition 408

## Shire gets State tick of approval

Michael Sinclair-Jones

THE STATE Government has commended Toodyay's new council for its response to 23 adverse findings tabled in the WA Parliament last year after a 20-month formal inquiry.

The findings detailed seven years of civic dysfunction that cost Toodyay ratepayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in unlawful spending, futile court cases, unethical conduct and conflicts of interest.

Investigators found that former Toodyay civic leaders failed to properly manage a previous CEO whose contract was terminated by a majority of new councillors after he took three months' extended sick leave on the morning of a council meeting early last year.

WA Local Government Director General Lanie Chopping said the findings "were distressing to residents and ratepayers".

She said she was "confident that the shire can restore good governance" through reforms submitted to the State Government for departmental approval.

"The shire's commitment to improve its procedures throughout this difficult process is commendable," she said.

A formal inquiry into the shire and its culture was ordered by Ms Chopping's predecessor, former director general Duncan Ord, after official departmental criticism of the former CEO's performance and lack of understanding of legal matters.

His refusal to inform the council of the criticism was followed by a weekend email attack on former Cr Di Granger, prompting her resignation only four months after she defeated former shire leader David Dow by an absolute majority in the 2017 elections.

Last year's inquiry report to State Parliament recommended that Toodyay's new civic leaders adopt a "review action plan" to address the adverse findings.

The plan was completed last August after a review by former City of Perth Commissioner Andrew Hammond.

It was approved by the department in October and requires ongoing meetings between the shire and senior departmental officers, starting this month.

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### They've done it again – Australia's best apple pie

TOODYAY Bakery pastry chef Jodi Johnston (above left) and 3rd-year apprentice Oliva Jarquin have done it again – Australia's Best Apple Pie for the second time in three years. "I was stoked," Jodi said when her creation

won last month's Great Aussie Pie national competition in Sydney.

The recipe includes local Bravo and Granny Smith apples, almond-based frangipani and special cinnamon swirls that

give the pastry case its unique appearance.

"We had a few trial runs to get the overall look right," Jodi said.

Toodyay's multi-award-winning duo bake 24 of Australia's best apple pies every day.

#### Coming events

Christmas Street Party  
Friday December 17, 6-9pm

Farmers Market  
Sunday December 19

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## WA chief warns of heightened fire danger as unusual heat forecast after wet spring

HEAVY winter rains delayed the start of this year's fire season but increased undergrowth and an unusually hot summer are likely to increase the bushfire risk in many parts of WA, the State Government has warned.

The 2021 National Seasonal Bushfire Outlook predicts an above-average risk for Perth and large parts of the Midwest, Gascoyne, Pilbara, South-West and Great Southern regions.

High moisture levels in South-West soil and vegetation have enabled emergency services to conduct fire mitigation activities throughout spring.

However, above-average summer temperatures are forecast and high grass fuel loads have increased the bushfire risk.

*Continued on Page 7.*



At least 86 homes like this were destroyed in last summer's catastrophic Wooroloo bushfire.

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# COUNTRY REALTY

# The Toodyay Herald

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

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

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

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

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## DISTRIBUTION

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Many thanks to the volunteers who helped produce this edition of *The Toodyay Herald*: Joseph Fernandez (Legal), Peter Ruthven, Richard Grant, Allan Gregory and Warren Naseby.

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## NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE	STORY DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTED
<b>Noon Thursday January 20</b>	<b>Noon Tuesday January 25</b>	<b>Wednesday February 2</b>

# Yesterday, with eggs

## Roger Simms

EVER thought you could write a popular song -- a big hit, perhaps, something to put you on the path to musical acclaim?

Heaven knows, enough people seem to be doing it these days.

Open any newspaper or magazine arts section and you're bound to see some young thing -- guitar attached -- paraded as the latest singer/songwriter.

It's a crowded field but I've often thought about composing and, in fact, got pen to paper a few years back and got something down.

I called my song *It's All Right Now* and fitted the clichéd love-song lyric to an equally clichéd swing tune which in my dreams I imagined someone like American jazz pianist Fats Waller bringing to life in a New Orleans bar.

I'm at an age and musical stage where I'm at one with legendary US band leader Duke Ellington's *It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)*.

Well, *It's All Right Now* is in the bin right now and is destined to remain there.

No one ever got to play or sing it but I didn't need them to.

As much as I wanted to believe in it, I could tell it was a dud, an imitation, a pastiche.

It would have flat-lined in 1940 when Fats and the Duke were in their prime, let alone in 2021.

And there'll be no more repeat efforts.

I'll stick to my modest musical identity as hobby fiddler, occasional busker and bush-band side man.

I wouldn't raise the subject at all except that the great Beatle Sir Paul McCartney has written a book telling how he came to write his songs -- the words and music that shaped such a big chunk of 20th century popular culture.

I feel a bit of a bond with Sir Paul and it's got nothing to do with my love of Beatles music, his compositional talent or my lack thereof.

It's the fact that we're the same age -- both born in 1942, with me the older by four months.

About the time he was picking away on his first guitar in Liverpool, I was rosining my bow for violin lessons half a world away in Mt Lawley.

Damn -- I picked the wrong instrument.

Our paths came close to crossing in Melbourne in 1964 when the Fab Four at the height of their early fame made their wildly popular tour of Australia.

I'd been taken on as a reporter on Melbourne's *Age* newspaper and it was all editorial hands on deck to cover the arrival of Beatlemania.

Some 35,000 people, mostly teenagers, packed Melbourne city streets to catch a glimpse of the superstars.

My old friend and colleague, novelist Robert Drewe, another WA journo to go east about that time, had the luckiest assignment that day.

As the *Age's* civic affairs correspondent, he got to cover the Beatles at close range, joining them at the Lord Mayor's reception at the Town Hall.

Well, time flows by and today, by his own reckoning, Paul McCartney has written hundreds of songs.

I've only got *It's All Right Now*, and look what happened to that.

Still, anyone out there interested in having a shot at a musical composition will find Sir Paul's book, *The Lyrics*, encouraging and revealing.

He says that anyone interested to learn about his life should read his lyrics, which might reveal more than any single book about the Beatles could do.

"One thing I've always managed to do, whether at home or on the road," he says, "is write new songs.

"Some people, when they get to a certain age, like to refer to a diary to recall day-to-

day events from the past, but I have no such notebooks.

"What I do have is my songs -- hundreds of them.

"They span my entire life because even at the age of 14, when I acquired my first guitar in our little house in Liverpool, my natural instinct was to start writing songs.

"Since then I've never stopped."

Working with another person on a song is a good idea, he reckons.

He and fellow Beatle John Lennon would tune up their guitars and "have a ciggie, drink a cup of tea, start playing some stuff, look for an idea".

But some ideas were strictly solo.

The melody for the Beatles smash hit *Yesterday* came to Paul in a dream.

It was 1965 and he was staying in the Asher family's house in London's Wimpole Street (Paul and Jane Asher became engaged in 1967 but they never married).

"A very small attic room with one window," he writes.

"A garret. Perfect for an artist. Somehow I had a piano in there.

"Somewhere in a dream I heard this tune.

"I fell out of bed and the piano was right there.

"I now had some chords. And to solidify it in my memory I blocked it out with some dummy words: Scrambled eggs, oh my baby how I love your legs, scrambled eggs."

And from that rough cradle sprang the song many consider Paul's best: "Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away ..."

Talk about the stuff of dreams.

I wonder whether the great American lyricist Johnny Mercer (*Autumn Leaves*, *Laura*, *One More For The Road* and so many more) fleshed out any of his songs with dummy words.

Probably.

Mercer was bound to have had false starts before he pinned down that ingenious verse in *The Midnight Sun* in which he rhymes *palace* with *chalice* and *aurora borealis*.

Still, most of Mercer's lyrics are so romantic it's hard to believe the words didn't leap straight from his head via his heart.

Another of that ilk whose work abounds in the Great American Songbook is Cole Porter, the urbane showbiz conqueror of Broadway who wrote both words and music for his many hits, including *Anything Goes*, *Night and Day*, *I Get A Kick Out Of You* and perhaps his greatest composition *Just One of Those Things* in 1935.

The guy was so prolific it's hard to imagine he ever had trouble finding the right words.

Was there ever a wittier songsmith?

How about the words of *Baby I'm The Bottom You're The Top* from the 1934 musical *Anything Goes* or *Brush Up Your Shakespeare* from *Kiss Me Kate*?

English playwright, actor and composer Noel Coward (*Someday I'll Find You*, *Room With a View* and *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*) is one I'd put in the same league.

On the theme of rhyming song lines here's one of my all-time favourites from the 1948 film *Paleface*.

It starred US comedian Bob Hope, whose character, a tenderfoot Easterner, pleads with his ladylove (Jane Russell) to abandon the gun-toting life of the Wild West and head to more civilised pastures.

He complains in the Academy Award winning song *Buttons and Bows* that *my bones denounce the buckboard bounce and the cactus hurts my toes ...*

So amusingly visual and memorable -- the song's writers were Jay Livingston and Ray Evans.

Well, I've got to put this column to bed.

All these thoughts of clever lyrics are getting to me.

If I'm not careful I'll be tempted to pull *It's All Right Now* out of the bin, dream up a new tune and start thinking about scrambled eggs.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5

# Injured biker's tattoo sticks in veteran ambo's mind

Geoff Appleby

A MOTORCYCLE rider lying badly hurt on Julimar Road sticks in the mind of veteran Toodyay St John Ambulance volunteer Mike Irvine as he recalls his 20 years working to save other people's lives.

The injured rider had a suspected broken ankle, possible internal bleeding, severe gravel-rash on his bare arm and was lying on the ground in a highly agitated state.

"When we approached him he was almost maniacal, lying on the ground trying to examine his arm," Mike recalls.

"He was pleading with us to reassure him that his new tattoo had not been scraped off."

Mike says it showed "that some people are so focussed on a particular thing that they can't see the wood for the trees".

The former globe-trotting Pilbara mine site electrician recently decided that though he is still fit and active, he no longer feels physically strong enough to be an 'on call' ambo and has taken himself off the roster.

However, he still volunteers at the Toodyay ambulance depot in Stirling Terrace and has taken on the arduous role of building maintenance officer.

Of his former active role, Mike says "when you are called out on a job you never know what situation you may find yourself in".

"We usually work in two-member teams and it is essential that you are able to fully support your partner," he says.

"Applying CPR for long periods and carrying stretchers, especially when you can't get the ambulance close to the patient, requires high levels of fitness.

"Eventually you have to be realistic about your age and your own capabilities.

"It is not fair on your partner if you can't pull your weight."

A fifth generation Fremantle boy, Mike was brought up in an environment where, by necessity, fairness, caring and sharing were second nature.

"We shared a three-storey house with my grand-parents living on the top floor, my aunt and uncle with their three kids in the middle and we lived on the ground floor," he recalls.

"We had thirteen people living under the same roof.

"I was too young to remember a great deal about the house except that we were a close-knit family.

"When I was six we moved away from the family to an area known then as 'Snob's Hill' which was within 100 metres of Fremantle Prison.

"The new house was a good deal more spacious.

"It was built in 1893 and there was a plaque on the front wall which read 'TL 693' indicating that it was originally a 'transport labour' house.

"The prison surrounds were our playground and because several of my mates' fathers worked in the prison we occasionally had access to places where we should never have been.

"I remember vividly when I was nine having the noose put around my neck and being made to stand on a crate in a mock hanging.



Veteran Toodyay ambo Mike Irvine spent 20 years helping to save lives in ambulances like this.

"Obviously I survived."

Mike has always had the wanderlust and after leaving school travelled the state from Kununurra to Esperance and made a brief sortie over the border to visit Darwin "just to have a look around".

"I loved the mining towns in the Pilbara but you don't get to spend a lot of time looking around because they were 'company' towns," Mike said.

"Unless you had a job, you were soon moved on."

However, his chosen career path led him back to the Pilbara in later years.

"I eventually settled down after my travels and was lucky to be offered a five-year apprenticeship with electrical contractor, A. C. O'Brien.

"After I got my ticket, I spent the next six years travelling around various mine-sites as a trouble-shooter working on electrical infrastructure.

"I've got fond memories of working in and around company towns such as Shay Gap and Goldsworthy, many of which are no longer there."

Mike met his future wife Jackie during this period.

She hailed from Cornwall in England and they married and started a family, living not very far from Mike's roots in Fremantle.

Because Jackie had family in England, the UK became a regular holiday destination and a stepping stone to explore Europe.

Being a gregarious couple, they travelled throughout Malaysia and Indonesia between UK visits, and to Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, two of their children had moved to Toodyay and, after living in or close to Fremantle for more than 50 years, Mike and Jackie decided that Toodyay was the ideal town for their retirement.

They locked their passports in a drawer and

moved to Toodyay at the end of 1999.

Life in Toodyay, however, was not all plain sailing for the Irvine family.

The couple were hit by a double tragedy when, within weeks of their daughter dying, their eldest son was killed in a sky-diving accident.

It took a while to recover from that double blow but Mike's voluntary work with St John Ambulance kept him very busy and eventually the wounds started to heal.

"With 20 years on the road with St John, I have seen and experienced a lot of grief and sorrow, especially where children are involved, but sometimes there is a lighter side," he says.

"I remember in my early days in Toodyay being dispatched to a motorcycle accident.

"When we got there, the rider wasn't in too good a shape but the air-ambulance had been called.

"While my partner attended to the injured man I went to open up the ambulance to get

some equipment.

"As soon as I started to pull the ambulance door open it fell off into my hands.

"Luckily for us the RAC rescue helicopter landed and took the injured man to hospital.

"Once the patient was safely on his way I tried but was unable to re-attach the door so I just tossed it in the back of the ambulance and we headed back to base.

"Meanwhile the rumour mill was in full swing and when we got back I had the task of convincing everybody that we had not crashed the ambulance and that we were not both being flown to hospital."

Mike said there were many positive initiatives during his time with St John Ambulance in Toodyay but probably the most significant contribution to saving lives was a Main Roads WA decision (in January 2014) to lower the speed limit on Toodyay Road from 110km/h to 100km/h.

"When I first started going out on calls, it appeared that every other crash on the Toodyay Road was a fatality," he said.

"However, when the speed limit was lowered, fatalities on that road became the exception rather than the rule."

Asked what he and Jackie will do now that he is winding down his contribution to St John, Mike said he didn't reckon it would be a problem.

"We've got ten grand-children and nine great-grand-children and that is enough to keep anybody busy," he said.

"They are scattered between Toodyay, Midland, Rockingham and the Eastern States.

"However, I have always enjoyed fishing, I could always work on my golf handicap and there is still plenty for me to do at the sub-centre.

"Jackie has several hobbies and also volunteers with the Red Cross in Northam.

"I am sure that we will manage."

Mike says his philosophy is that "life is about working out the things that are important to you and defending them".

"It's all about sorting out your priorities," he says, recalling the crashed motorcyclist and his tattoos.

"My priorities are simple – family, friends and community.

"I hope that I will be able to take care of them all for many years to come."

## State says recent council elections 'a fresh start for moving forward'

Continued from Page 1.

THE SHIRE plan to address the inquiry's adverse findings includes departmental-approved councillor training in:

- meeting procedures,
- dealing with conflict,
- CEO performance appraisals,
- financial management,
- local government procurement, and
- accountability.

A letter tabled at last month's council meeting showed that most of Toodyay's nine councillors have attended most of the courses, which were completed in October.

Four councillors – Shire President Rosemary Madacsi, Deputy President Beth Ruthven and Crs Phil Hart and Susan Pearce – attended all of the courses.

Cr Mick McKeown attended two courses – CEO performance appraisals and financial management – and was listed as an apology for two more.

Cr Ben Bell was the only currently sitting councillor who did not attend any courses.

He was reported as being granted a leave of absence for two of the courses and listed as an apology for a third.

It is understood business travel commitments outside WA and Covid-19 quarantine restrictions prevented Cr Bell from attending the recommended training.

New Crs Danielle Wrench, Charmaine Duri and Steve McCormick were elected two months ago and are yet to undertake similar local government training.

State Local Government Executive Director Tim Fraser wrote to the shire last month that "it is encouraging that most councillors participated in the training offered".

He said it "will hopefully lead to improved governance".

"The newly elected members may also provide a fresh start for the council in moving forward," Mr Fraser said.

In a separate file note, Mr Fraser wrote that legal advice sought by the shire was protected by legal and professional privilege.

"As such, it is not normally released publicly," he said.

"Councils need to be able to seek legal advice to assist them to make decisions and that such advice is provided on the basis of legal professional privilege."

Mr Fraser invited Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst to "share this advice publicly".

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# The Toodyay Herald

## The right to say no

THIS newspaper supports the right of every individual to refuse to be vaccinated. Concerns that rushed vaccines may have untested long-term side effects are reasonable and understandable.

But those who exercise that right must be prepared to accept the consequences.

These include social restrictions to protect the safety of others, including many vulnerable older residents in Toodyay's ageing population and others with pre-existing illnesses and disabilities.

Re-opening our borders will allow Covid-19 to enter WA and become community transmissible, as it has in the eastern states and overseas.

Hundreds of visitors to Toodyay every weekend guarantees it will arrive here too.

The WA Government says it wants 90 per cent of residents fully vaccinated so that those who contract the virus don't get seriously ill and require hospitalisation.

But there are some in Toodyay who see it as a global plot to take over the world.

They support others who propose to sack governments, hang prime ministers and jail judges for life in public show trials.

Really?

What kind of people talk like that?

We can learn to live with this deadly virus if we are prepared to make personal sacrifices for the greater good of the whole community.

Surely that's what being an Australian is all about?

## A Christmas gift

IT'S been a rough ride, but our shire seems to have turned a corner.

After years of civic dysfunction and costly division, our local government seems to be back on an even keel.

Shire workers and staff can now look forward to a well-earned Christmas break.

It was not without pain.

Our civic leadership has been purged of elements that cost ratepayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in bitter struggles that tore our community apart.

We are left with a legacy of debt but – in the words of a senior State official on Page 3 – our new council looks well placed to make "a fresh start for moving forward".

Thank goodness.

As we approach Christmas and an uncertain New Year, let us be guided in all things by the universal message of Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All.

Merry Christmas everyone, and may you all enjoy a safe and prosperous New Year.

Michael Sinclair-Jones  
Editor



The way we were – Toodyay Tennis Club members pictured ready for action in 1934 (rear, from left) Jack McCluney, Joe Wilshire, Tom Dawson; (middle row) Les Haymes, Mrs Brewis, Beryl Haymes, Ev Thompson, Mrs Purser, Dorrie James, Peter Lee; (front row) Edie Lee, E. McCluney, Mrs James, Alma Leonard, Mrs Costello, Muriel Lee and Clarrie Haymes, with youngsters Brian and Irene Lee (children of Charlie and Edie Lee). Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

## LETTERS

### Burst the bubble

A FEDERAL Election is looming and a date is expected to be announced soon.

What a year it has been.

How surprising to discover in the 21st century that workplace laws, regulations and codes of behaviour don't exist in the workplace of Australia's highest office.

Or if they did, nobody with authority saw any need to apply them, or that 'rules' supposedly designed to protect workers in our national parliament are so weak that no action can be taken to prevent breaches.

I am shocked.

The courage of outspoken victims Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins prompted tens of thousands of supporters to rally at a Women's March for Justice last March.

It took last month's damning report by federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins for all that happens in the 'Canberra bubble' to be officially revealed.

It found that one in every three women working in Federal Parliament reported that they had been sexually harassed.

The term 'Canberra bubble' initially had two meanings – one given to it by the Prime Minister who regarded complaints as gossip that nobody really cared about.

The other view was that 'what happens in Canberra stays in Canberra'.

Ms Jenkins dispelled that politically self-serving myth in one fell swoop with her damning Australian Human Rights Commission Report *Set the Standard* tabled in Federal Parliament last month.

The contents are shocking – a sad indictment of years of neglect and lack of strong parliamentary leadership.

The Prime Minister's job is to do something about it, and I say bring on the election because it will be one of our most important for decades.

Toodyay's electoral boundaries have changed, and local member Christian Porter – who stepped aside as Federal Attorney General last March after denying allegations of sexual misconduct – says he will not recontest the next Federal Election.

A redistribution of electoral boundaries has seen Toodyay move from Mr Porter's former seat of Pearce into Durack, which has a sitting member that Toodyay voters know very little about.

The Prime Minister said recently that he wanted to see a kinder, gentler parliament.

Most of us, would like to see a kinder, gentler world.

Australians are limited in every other workplace by the amount of alcohol they can drink on the job (usually none) and they

are expected to adopt and apply workplace organisational values (respect).

By definition, leadership starts at the top, and actions speak louder than words.

I look forward to better leadership from our next batch of elected federal representatives in 2022.

Helen Shanks  
Toodyay

### Ambo training tops

I RECENTLY attended the Provide First Aid Course training at the St John Toodyay sub centre as a prerequisite for the role of community transport driver.

I have been a trainer in the above qualification and was interested in how the training would be delivered and assessed.

I would like to congratulate the sub centre committee.

The course was very professionally delivered with all performance criteria and essential skills addressed and assessed by the trainer.

The training that I saw met all the standards set by the Australian Quality Training Framework.

I was pleasantly surprised to have afternoon, morning tea and lunch provided by two delightful volunteer members – Daphne Lee and Lyn Somers, thank you both.

Each participant was provided with a first-aid kit – a marvellous contribution by the committee and, together with the catering, a true point of difference in the provision of first-aid training.

I thoroughly enjoyed the day.  
Toodyay Shire Cr Susan Pearce  
Hoddys Well

### Feral pigs run amok

NOW THAT summer is upon us with crops being harvested and water holes drying up, we can expect to see increasing impacts of feral pigs throughout the shire.

Large numbers of pigs that were hiding in canola crops during spring can now be seen moving from forested areas to open paddocks in the north-west part of the shire.

Landholders and firebreak contractors are reporting large numbers of feral pigs along the Avon River downstream from Toodyay.

Damage to waterway banks and vegetation by these destructive feral animals can be so extensive that it looks like an earth moving machine has run amok.

Feral pigs spread weeds and disease, damage crops and property infrastructure, and compete with native animals.

Toodyay Friends of the River applauds the efforts of private land holders and the Shire of Toodyay to control feral pigs.

Conventional traps and new hi-tech remote monitoring have proved effective at selected sites.

However, feral pigs are prolific breeders and the sheer weight of numbers will require persistent control efforts.

We encourage the Toodyay community to report any sightings or evidence of feral pigs along the Avon River to mypestguide@agric.wa.gov.au or ring 1800 084 881.

Dr Robyn Taylor, President  
Toodyay Friends of the River

### Where trees are weeds

AS A RESIDENT of Toodyay who uses the Sandplain Road and Salt Valley Road intersections with Toodyay Road daily, I observe many near-accidents.

It is with that background that I question the intent of all activists, environmentalists, Safe and Scenic Toodyay Road members and Shire of Toodyay Environmental Advisory Committee in their efforts to delay the planned roadworks for this disastrous section of road.

We continue to delay, ignore and stifle improving Toodyay road safety at our own peril.

A road death will occur due to unsafe road conditions and it will be on all of our heads.

This is not if, but when.

Road safety from a road construction sense is about several things, including:

- Road vision – we have to remove more vegetation from all our roads to make them safer. This is happening all over the state. A tree in the wrong place is a weed.
- Road width – many of our roads are not the correct width from road verge to road verge. Traditionally many of our roads are still single-lane road criteria, with a double-lane road built on it. A civil lawsuit against a local shire and/or Main Roads will happen.
- Straightening roads where possible.
- Making road gradients more even.
- Sufficient passing lanes in hilly, high traffic areas.
- Making road intersections safe.

The Sandplain Road and Salt Valley Road intersections with Toodyay Road, like many others, could not be built today because they are of unsafe design/location.

Ongoing opposition and not applying common sense to improving road safety could possibly lead to loss of funding for these works, and loss of life.

It has been delayed long enough – let's get the job done.

Owen Catto  
Toodyay

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



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Toodyay Rainfall													
Recordings and average commenced on 1/1/1877													
YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2019	1.8	0	5.8	15.4	8.7	125.7	128.4	66.3	13.4	15.2	6.0	0	386.7
2020	0	31.6	9.8	6.4	38.2	48.9	43.7	61.8	30.2	5.9	48.8	3.5	328.8
2021	0.03	17.3	137.3	11.1	121.7	30.4	154.2	70.3	39	61.6	2.2		645.13
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

# Relative calm after turbulent year ends

**President's Pen**  
Rosemary Madácsi



CHRISTMAS is nearly upon us all and another year is coming to completion.

We have achieved some significant outcomes as a community and have and are facing some significant challenges.

The Shire has completed its Inquiry governance review with a positive report.

Our community has been relatively unaffected by Covid-19, though some of our neighbours have not been so fortunate.

Council and the organisation have dealt with some tough challenges to repurpose the organisation – some staff have left, others have come, and council dynamics have changed following local government elections in October.

We are now emerging from a turbulent time to a period of relative calm and consolidation.

A difficult budget was managed well without a loss in services, with investment made possible in the works budget, emergency services and reserve funds.

Every department experienced considerable

disruption, including Assets and Works which had to deal with significant storm damage earlier this year and key staff resignations.

However, excellent funding was secured, and freight road maintenance and drainage mitigation works are underway in addition to our normal works program.

Corporate and Community delivered a sound budget and are finalising a superior and more relevant Enterprise Resource Planning system after a Synergy to Datascape transition during a period of staff changes during the budget planning period.

Planning and Development have nearly closed the gap in managing an unprecedented flood of development applications and property inquiries after being left with only two officers following the Manager's resignation to take up a new appointment elsewhere.

Toodyay is prospering with strong visitor numbers and bumper crops.

Covid-19 vaccinations are progressing well with 70 per cent of shire residents receiving their second dose by the end of last month.

However, let us consider the challenge Covid-19 has raised for many in our community, including the impact on employment and all that flows from that.

Like most of the big decisions in life, it distils down to personal choices that are not

without consequences.

Let us support each other and remember that we all evaluate the information to hand as best we can in context of our personal situations, experiences and philosophies.

Let us have quiet, intelligent conversations and respect our neighbours.

The other important challenge is Chalice Mining's exploration activities since March last year, resulting in its Julimar discoveries and the purchase of nearby farming properties and Avalon Homestead.

It is clearly apparent that the community has a divided opinion about the merits and presence of mining within the shire, particularly in the Julimar State Forest.

The shire has had regular engagement with Chalice for project updates and to strongly convey the position of the local community as defined by Members Policy M.6 Dealing

with Mining Proposals.

That the Toodyay community's very strong interest in and commitment to preserving the local environment is clearly articulated.

Negative impacts on the community and other local industries such as agriculture and tourism must be eliminated or minimised to be as low as reasonably practical.

Benefits to the community are to be maximised, and appropriate social offsets provided so that the result is a net community benefit to the electors, ratepayers and residents of the Shire.

In the New Year, I will begin a series of face-to-face conversations with residents in the town and main subdivisions about mining, planning and other local matters.

It's time to talk, and everyone is welcome provided that respect is shown for the rights of others who may hold contrary views.

## Hazardous waste dumped illegally

ILLEGAL dumping of hazardous waste in vacant bush has cost Toodyay ratepayers more than \$2000 in recent months.

Five 220-litre (44-gallon) drums contaminated with waste solvents were illegally dumped in Keating Road, Moondyne, about 25km west of Toodyay.

The illegal dumping was reported to the Shire of Toodyay environmental health department on September 13.

Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said samples from the dumped drums and surrounding soil were sent to a Perth chemical laboratory for analysis.

They were found to be contaminated with styrene, xylenes and ethylbenzene, as well as plasticisers, fatty acids and naphthalene.

Correct disposal by a commercial contractor cost the shire \$2000.

A second incident reported to the shire on October 1 involved the dumping of two sheets of asbestos in Woodlands Road, Nunile.

The hazardous waste was removed to the Northam tip at a cost of \$117 after the shire obtained an earlier commercial clean-up quote for nearly \$900.

Anyone with information about illegal dumping should contact shire Environmental Health Officer Sean Cope during office hours on 9574 9300 or email him at records@toodyay.wa.gov.au.



Waste solvent dumped in Keating Road.

State environmental laws ban the unauthorised dumping or discharge of any kind of waste, including household waste.

The WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation investigates and prosecutes illegal dumping offences.

The maximum penalty is \$125,000 for corporations and \$62,500 for individuals.

A Mirrabooka man was fined \$5000 last month and ordered to pay undisclosed legal costs for dumping furniture and other household waste in bushland on Perth's northern fringe last year.

A Jandakot man was fined \$6500 in August and ordered to pay more than \$400 in costs for dumping a trailer load of waste in a bush reserve in Wattleup.

The department said illegal dumping can be reported to the State Pollution Watch hotline on 1300 784 782 or WA Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.





## TOODYAY BAKERY

Would like to thank all our loyal customers for their support throughout the year. Jason & Cassie, together with their staff, wish you all a happy and safe holiday season.









**FESTIVE SEASON TRADING HOURS**  
Toodyay Bakery will be closed from 3pm 24th December and reopens 7am on the 18th January 2022.

### Request for Public Comment

**Proposed Holiday Accommodation - Tiny Chalets (x5)**  
**Lot 2 Goomalling Toodyay Road, Dumbarton**

The Shire of Toodyay has received an application for a proposed holiday accommodation, which will consist of five (5) tiny chalets at Lot 2 Goomalling Toodyay Road, Dumbarton.

The operator Tiny Cabins, is a company that supplies and operates holiday accommodation cabins in Western Australia on large lots with the purpose of providing the opportunity for people to be immersed in nature, typically for short one to two-day breaks.

The development proposal is as follows:


- This application proposes five 'Holiday Accommodation' cabins which will incorporate modern architecture with natural materials.
- A maximum of two guests would be allowed per booking with the standard duration of a booking being two nights.
- The cabins are designed to be energy and water efficient holiday accommodation units that focus on providing guests with the opportunity to connect to the natural environment.

Your views on the proposed holiday accommodation are encouraged and welcomed. The proposal is available for inspection at the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre, Old Court House, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay, during office hours. The proposal is also available for viewing on the Shire's website at [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au)

Submissions on the proposed development may be addressed in writing and lodged with the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96 Toodyay 6566, by **4.00pm Monday 10 January, 2022.**

Further information on the above proposal is available by contacting the Shire's Development Services on 9574 9300.

**Suzie Haslehurst**  
Chief Executive Officer



# Running commentary as man attacks police station

## Police Beat

With Acting Sgt  
Gary Ferguson  
Toodyay Police Station



OFFENDERS will usually do anything to avoid police stations but in Toodyay last month someone with a large hunting knife tried to kick down the front door to get in.

Not only that but while he was destroying three protective screens the man was pressing an after-hours call button at the front door and shouting so that Perth police listening at the other end could hear exactly what he was doing.

The man was yelling into the voice grille that he would keep kicking the screen door and side panels until someone let him in.

The incident occurred at 7pm on a Saturday evening while the station was unattended – local officers were busy attending to another police job elsewhere.

The metropolitan-based call centre called Northam police who drove to Toodyay to find a Perth man aged in his 20s waiting outside the broken security door.

He appeared to be affected by alcohol and said he wanted to get out of Toodyay because he didn't feel safe.

There was no Saturday night taxi service or public transport and he didn't know how to leave the town, he said.

The man was arrested and taken to Northam, where he was charged with criminal damage.

A police search of his backpack found a large hunting knife.



Can you help police identify the occupants of this black Holden Barina? it was stolen from Toodyay overnight on Sunday November 21, pictured later the same day at a service station in Lexia when the occupants drove off without paying for fuel.

The broken security screens were too badly damaged to be repaired and had to be replaced at a cost of \$4300.

### Have you seen these two?

POLICE are looking for a thief who stole a black Holden Barina (pictured above) from the driveway of a house in Westview Place in the Toodyay townsite.

The stolen vehicle was later spotted in Perth when an unidentified couple stole petrol from a service station in Lexia in Perth's northern suburbs.

Police believe the car may also have been used in a burglary in the Scarborough area.

It was stolen overnight in Toodyay on Sunday November 21 after its keys were removed from the house.

The car was used later the same day to steal petrol from the service station when it was driven away without paying.

Police describe the female driver photographed at the service station as being of "solid build" and wearing a white T-shirt and sunglasses.

She did not leave the vehicle.

A male passenger entered the service station shop and was captured on video security camera footage (left).

He is described as aged in his mid-30s, about 180cm tall and dark skinned with dark hair and wearing a black baseball cap, white hooded

jacket, black Nike shirt, blue shorts and black joggers.

Anyone who may have information that can help police identify the pair is urged to call the Toodyay Police Station on 9574 9555 or WA Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

### Twice in one night

TWO Toodyay motorists were charged with alcohol-related driving offences in two separate incidents that occurred on the same Friday night last month.

The first involved a single-vehicle crash at about 11.30pm on Railway Road in West Toodyay.

Police arrived to find that the vehicle had crashed through a fence and travelled across bush and scrub before coming to rest on a railway access track.

The driver had left the scene but he was found about an hour later on Julimar Road.

Police established that the man aged in his 20s had driven the crashed vehicle and took him to Toodyay Police Station.

He underwent a breath test which showed a blood alcohol content of 0.136 per cent – just 0.014 per cent below the legal threshold for the more serious offence of drunken driving.

The man was charged with driving with a blood alcohol content in excess of 0.08 grams per 210 litres of blood.

In the second incident, a woman aged in her 30s was stopped by police in Stirling Terrace for a random breath test.

She blew in excess of 0.08 and was charged.

In both cases, the alleged offenders were served with immediate driver disqualification notices and summonsed to appear in court.

### Here pussy pussy

CATS are giving local police a headache.

A dispute between neighbours has resulted in local officers being required to investigate an alleged abduction – of a cat.

The townsite pet has gone missing and the owner is claiming foul play.

Shire of Toodyay rangers are also involved.

Anyone who knows anything about an allegedly abducted cat should contact the Shire of Toodyay ranger service on 9574 9370 which is available seven days a week from 7.30am to 5pm or they can email the shire at records@toodyay.wa.gov.au.

### No holiday for cops

IT WILL be all hands on deck at the Toodyay Police Station over Christmas and New Year.

Police will also be at full strength in Northam, Wundowie and across the Hills and Central Wheatbelt, as well as in Perth.

We want to ensure everyone has a safe and happy holiday and will focus our attention on speeding and drink driving.

Double demerit points will also apply.

If you want to enjoy a few drinks over the festive break, please plan ahead to ensure – if necessary – that someone else is driving.

Don't leave it to the last minute to find yourself stuck with a few drinks under your belt and no safe way to get home.

The last thing you want this Christmas is a hefty fine, suspended licence, smashed vehicle or worse, and we don't want to see that either.

All of us at the Toodyay Police Station want to thank our *Police Beat* readers for their help and support throughout the year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Police are seeking help to identify this man who was a passenger in a black Holden Barina stolen from Toodyay on November 21.

## Misinformation wars can be deadly

Computer Safety  
Phil Hart

LIKE all technologies, social media can be used both for good and for harm.

Good happens when people read information that benefits them.

Bad happens when people are harmed by what they read.

The people around them also receive consequent benefit or harm.

Misinformation about Covid-19 results in harm, including – in some cases – death (see [bit.ly/3n0Sve9](https://bit.ly/3n0Sve9)).

While some people can readily identify misinformation when they see it, not everybody is blessed with that ability.

People spread misinformation for a variety of reasons.

There are conspiracy theorists who feel that they benefit personally from spreading their beliefs: [bit.ly/3qhy3aQ](https://bit.ly/3qhy3aQ).

Others enjoy spreading misinformation out of a sense of malicious intent: [ampr.gs/2ZaKCJV](https://ampr.gs/2ZaKCJV).

People who spread misinformation include social media influencers, lawyers, charlatans and liars.

The Center for Countering Digital Hate has identified 12 people who are most active in the world for spreading Covid-19 misinformation: [bit.ly/3mQQYam](https://bit.ly/3mQQYam).

Even the link above has been falsely marked as harmful, possibly by people who fear being exposed as spreaders of misinformation.

If that link does not work for you try [tinyurl.com/2dtk57yc](https://tinyurl.com/2dtk57yc).

When looking at conflicting sources of advice, it can be helpful to look at the person or people giving the advice.

Is it a celebrity with no medical training?

Is it somebody with a history of making false claims?

Is it somebody who has not looked at the whole picture and is frightened of the risks of vaccination while ignoring the risks of contracting the virus?

Is it somebody who has spent years in the study of medicine?

These are the sorts of questions it is useful to have the back of your mind whenever you read anything about the Covid-19 debate.

A guide to identifying and dealing with misinformation and fake news can be found at [vz.to/3EVE7K0](https://vz.to/3EVE7K0).

More information about the psychology behind conspiracy theories can be found at [bit.ly/3BU6MgK](https://bit.ly/3BU6MgK).

## Online criminals target xmas shoppers

SaferToodyay  
Desraé Clarke

AS WE enter another Christmas shopping spree, please take care when considering online purchases because cybercriminals also look forward to increased festive spending.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre <https://www.cyber.gov.au> has issued the following warning:

Cybercriminals target online shoppers to steal their personal details and money by 'selling' products that don't exist.

Personal details and payment information are requested, and malicious software (malware) can be installed on your device.

To stay secure, go to the Online Shopping Checklist for easy-to-follow advice on how to shop safely online.

Cybercrime victims are advised to visit ReportCyber.

If something seems to be suspicious or 'out of the ordinary', it is recommended that you call Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 as soon as possible or visit [crimestoppers.com.au](https://crimestoppers.com.au).

Other useful contacts are:

- Police 131 444,
- Report graffiti 1800 442 255, and
- [goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au](https://goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au).

# TOODYAY

MRB 2339

## Tyre Service

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## EMERGENCY SERVICES

# State chief honours local firies with 27 awards

**Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**  
Peter Brennan

MEMBERS hosted a very successful Open Day at our Stirling Terrace fire station early last month.

Visitors received important fire planning handout packs and were able to inspect fire fighting vehicles, drone equipment and a fire incident training game.

Brigade members were also on hand to answer questions.

The day's key event was a presentation by WA Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm of service awards to 27 past and present Central Brigade members.

The awards ranged from five years' service to a 30-year Long Service Medal clasp for Wayne Clarke and a 55-year Long Service Medal clasp for Brian Woods.

Both Wayne and Brian were instrumental in forming the Central Brigade in 1996, and both later held prominent positions within the brigade and in the Shire of Toodyay bushfire management structure.

The award ceremony was followed by an outstanding morning tea made possible by a dedicated brigade team and family members.

Very much in our thoughts on the day, were all those who had played a role in fighting bushfires over the years, beginning with farmers before brigades were formed in the shire.

Their legacy paved the way for what our shire's five volunteer bushfire brigades have become today.



State Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm (left) with Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade members after the presentation of 27 service awards at last month's Open Day. Photo: Heather Brennan.

As in the beginning, dating back to the first local firefighters in 1851, our community relies each year on committed members who dedicate themselves to protect life and property from bushfires.

Our crews are always extremely well supported by their families and auxiliary members.

Also at the presentations were Toodyay Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst, Central Brigade Lieutenant and Shire Councillor Mick

McKeown, Toodyay Community Emergency Services Manager Rob Koch, WA Fire and Emergency Services Department staff from the Northam office, Toodyay Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service members, and representatives from other Toodyay volunteer bushfire brigades.

A recent recruitment drive enabled us to welcome five new volunteers to our team.

With grateful thanks to local volunteer trainers who ran some extra courses, all new

members will have completed their initial training in time to join our ranks for this summer's bushfire season.

All Toodyay residents should by now have prepared their properties and put fire plans in place in case of an emergency.

If you have not already done so, please take the time now to hold a family Five-Minute Chat.

Remember, your best chance to survive if a bushfire comes your way is to have a backup plan if you intend to defend your property.

So please, act now and take five minutes to discuss it with your family or neighbours.

How will you know when to leave, where will you go, and which route will you take?

We also remind everyone of the need to pull over in a safe manner to allow emergency vehicles with flashing lights and sirens to pass safely.

Our vehicles are often ignored by other road users when attending call-outs.

Please remember, the property we save may well be your own.

Finally, we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.

## More call outs in busier year for Toodyay ambos

**Toodyay St John Ambulance**  
Pam Tennant (Chair)

YOU MAY have seen recent media reports about St John Ambulance operations in Toodyay.

Your local sub centre wants to reassure everyone that it continues to be here for the community with a team of dedicated and trained volunteers who are proud of their commitment to the community.

While we acknowledge challenges faced some years ago, the sub centre continues to maintain high standards and move forward positively.

Money the sub centre receives from ambulance services and first aid courses is kept in this community.

It helps not only to maintain and improve the local ambulance service but also provides:

- a Community Transport Service,
- a network of defibrillators in the community,
- free First Aid Focus to school students, and
- support for a school cadet program.

I also want to remind everyone that our wonderful volunteer ambulance officers will be available throughout the holiday season to attend call outs.

If you have an emergency medical problem, please call 000 and we will be on our way to you.

This year has been challenging but we have been so fortunate that the Covid-19 virus has not visited us yet.

From January to last month, local ambulance officers attended 418 emergency calls and vehicles travelled 24,317km.

The same period last year saw 391 calls and 38,451km travelled – we were busier this year but travelled less.

Monthly first aid courses at the Toodyay sub centre have been well-attended.

Volunteers also conducted a Toodyay District High School cadet program which will continue next year.

A visit to the Toodyay sub centre by a State parliamentary inquiry into the delivery of ambulance services in WA was well-attended by many local members.

We have gained seven new officers who

are now all qualified as emergency medical assistants after a successful recruitment night and other applications.

We are also well equipped for the New Year with four new drivers for our Community Transport Service.

Our sub centre administration office has moved into the old St Vinnies building in Stirling Terrace.

This has freed up sub centre space to provide a 'quiet room' for volunteers returning from call-outs and volunteers from other areas to stay overnight when on call.

The new office was not quite finished at the end of last month but is looking good and working well – be prepared for more improvements in 2022.

Each of our three ambulances is now equipped with a Corpuls Monitor which is the latest advance in monitoring patients during transport to hospital.

The monitors can also communicate with St John Clinical Services staff in real time, enabling our volunteers to have direct contact with specialists if needed.

Many of you already know that former Toodyay sub centre administration officer Carolynne Haigh left us last March and was ably replaced by Debbie Tunnicliffe.

It is not an easy job to take on with many competing demands, but Debbie seems to be managing extremely well and we are very glad she chose to join us.

We have also provided first aid posts at most community events this year, ranging from Toodyay Lions footy home games to the Music Festival and Moondyne, and many other events.

We will also be at Toodyay's annual Christmas Street Party on Friday December 17.

A number of volunteers have retired as active ambulance crew members.

They include Mike Irvine (*see Profile Page 3*) who has now taken on the role of building maintenance officer, Steve Hinkley who became our stores officer, and George Murray.

Some volunteers have left to travel but say they may return later.

Looking forward to the New Year, the sub centre will continue to host monthly first aid

courses, supply first aid posts to community events, seek to recruit more volunteers and continue to update equipment to ensure our volunteers are well resourced.

A local committee elected last August continues to ensure that our sub centre operates to a high standard of governance.

We will always be there for you in times of emergency.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope you all stay well and safe during the holiday season.

## Commissioner urges fire plans

*Continued from Page 1.*

STATE Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm said it was critical that all residents adopted an emergency bushfire plan to deal with any threats that may emerge during the next few months.

"Rainfall in recent months has increased fuel loads, which has increased the risk for areas with woody vegetation such as the South-West Land Division," he said.

"Everyone should develop a bushfire plan now.

"If you are threatened by a bushfire, preparation will help you make sound decisions, such as when to leave, where to go, and how you will get there.

"More than 90 per cent of our State is bushfire-prone.

"All it takes is one hot windy day to cause a fire to escalate.

"Everyone should stay aware of the conditions in their area and visit Emergency WA for current alerts and warnings."

To create an emergency bushfire plan for your home or business, please visit mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au.


**HLTAID003**

# “Provide First Aid”

**Next one day courses**

**To be held on**

**Saturday 19th February 2022**

**St John, 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 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.**

For further details phone:

**9621 1633**

Email: [firstaidwheatbelt@stjohnwa.com.au](mailto:firstaidwheatbelt@stjohnwa.com.au)

**Free first aid kit for all participants**



EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Nunile ‘particularly bad’ as Toodyay fire season starts

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

WHERE the hell did the year go? It has been an interesting one to say the least.

We were lucky in Toodyay not to have a major fire but crews spent considerable time out of the district, especially at last February’s catastrophic Wooroloo fire.

This year could well be different with so much spring growth around.

Like most of Toodyay, the Nunile area is apparently particularly bad.

Curing is a little late but please all be aware of the problems around.

If you have not prepared your property and a fire starts – even if not on your block – your insurance will be null and void.

Coondle/Nunile volunteer fire crews have been busy training, and a couple of burns were good training exercises.

We also had a couple of call-outs but so far – at the start of this month – they were not too bad.

Our recent wet season caused a Maxtrac recovery board to remain buried in mud after our 2-4 tanker got bogged during one of the burns.

We may see quite a bit of this kind of action this summer.

Other training at Coondle put new members through appropriate courses that now qualify them to use brigade vehicles and enter firegrounds.

We have about 30 qualified members, including quite a few who need careful guidance while they gain fireground experience.

It was some good news that firefighters will at last get more support from the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services with a new hardship scheme for members who may need help.

This is long overdue, especially for volunteers.

There has always been a chaplain but the new scheme will also consider financial problems – it’s about time.

At our last meeting, Captain Nick raised the importance of vehicle checks, which are done every Friday.

All members need to do them to be familiar with the equipment and know where it is stored so it can be accessed quickly.

A Christmas barbecue will be held after our next meeting.

It will be good for us to all get together, though the rostered volunteers will need to restrain themselves a little.

Also, at the last meeting after a lot of thought from myself and a yarn with Captain Nick, I have decided it is time to hand over this column to somebody else.

I haven’t a clue how long I have been doing these *Herald* notes.

Jane Grant has stood up and will take over from me – thanks, Jane.

Unless they are sick of me, I hope to remain involved with the brigade for some time yet.

So, with little else to say, we at Coondle/Nunile Bush Fire Brigade wish one and all a very Merry and safe Christmas and New Year. Please take care and help us to enjoy the festive season with very few call-outs.

For the final time – Max J Heath.



New Julimar Fire Station construction complete and now being fitted out for action.

## Hello possums – who caused that fire?

**Grant Scobie**  
Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

FIRES can start in amazingly diverse ways.

We have the usual suspects: sparks from metal working; cigarette butts; illegal fires; arson; etc..

The other night on Toodyay West Road we had a possum.

The lovely creature had obviously got a bit too close to live wires on a power pole and it all went a bit bang, fizz, whoosh.

The ex-possum was discovered on the ground next to the pole, where sparks caused by its demise had started a small fire.

Luckily (and it was 1am), people who lived near the pole heard the bang and were able to get to the fire before it burnt more than a couple of square metres and used a fallen branch to stop it spreading any further.

And they called 000 as well.

Thanks to their quick action, we avoided a potential fire in the river – a situation that’s not enthusiastically appreciated.

These people were vigilant and practical – a wonderful combination.

One of the firies who attended had only recently finished his firefighter training and was so new that his helmet was still pristine white and his jacket (not just the reflective stripes) glowed in the dark.

That won’t last long. He is joined by 23 new members, a huge number for this time of year and absolutely great news for Toodyay.

For the fourth time this year, Toodyay’s local volunteer trainer/assessors (TAs), gave up two of their weekends to get these new people qualified as active firefighters.

It must be mentioned that not all the firies trained are from Toodyay – local TAs also train firies from elsewhere.

It’s great that we can get these people up-to-date prior to the festive summer season.

And Julimar brigade members will be festive by heading to Toodyay’s annual Christmas Street Party starting at 6pm on Friday December 17.

Watch as we bring Santa into town and come on up to the Bendigo Bank where both our vehicles will be.

There’ll be games and gift bags for the kids while parents can have a look over the trucks and get to know their local firies, find out what they do and maybe buy a raffle ticket or two.

Look out for our flashing blue and red lights and come spend some time with us.

This month’s meeting will be the next evening, followed by a bit of a Christmas

celebration (except, of course, for the duty crew who’ll have to stay tidy).

Members and guests are asked to bring something to share.

Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade conveys to all of Toodyay best wishes for the season and hope we don’t have to see any of you other than at social gatherings or at the shops (or Christmas Street Party).

## Always plan ahead in case things get out of control

**Bejoording Volunteer Bushfire Brigade**  
From the desk of The Badger

THAT’S it for another year – at least for this column and any shed social events.

For the brigade, however, it’s carry on as normal.

An active roster, a momentary heart rate increase when an SMS comes through which might be fire-related, and that rush to drop everything, grab your bag of PPC/PPE and dash off to the fire shed.

Our thanks to all those members who attended callouts during the year.

We wish you all an event-free season or at least only minor events during the summer peak and remind everyone that safety comes first.

Have a terrific Christmas everyone, hopefully without incident, and a healthy and safe New Year.

We are now in a total fire ban period.

The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to be vigilant and careful when operating any machinery capable of sparking a fire.

Remember to always plan and prepare for fire and have a clear contingency strategy in place should things get out of control.

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

Advice is free but getting it wrong can be expensive.

If you have any questions remember you can contact Captain Lawrence Hayward on 0447 253 320 or the Badger on 0414 250 484.

Please leave a message if we’re not there. For emergency fire assistance always call 000.

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The Toodyay Herald offers the best exposure for Tradies to the Avon & hills, circulation of 4250 copies each month and growing.  
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Tenders Close: 4.30pm Wednesday, 22 December 2021



## More than 600 local residents remain unvaccinated

MORE 600 Toodyay residents are estimated to have no vaccine protection against the global Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic.

A further 1100 local people are estimated to have only partial protection.

National public health figures published on November 28 for 137 WA local government areas ranked Toodyay as having the 16th lowest record for fully vaccinated residents.

No figures were available for a further 49 WA country shires and towns.

The State Government says borders will remain shut until 90 per cent of West Australians are fully vaccinated.

WA will then move from excluding the virus to allowing community transmission within the state, including in Toodyay.

Overall, 70 per cent of Toodyay residents were reported to be fully vaccinated, with 82.7 per cent having received their first shot.

Another 44 people were fully vaccinated at a two-day free pop-up clinic in Toodyay Memorial Hall at the start of this month.

Country vaccination rates are reported to be generally lower than city rates.

Nedlands topped the local government list with 95 per cent fully vaccinated, followed by Cambridge 92.9 and Claremont 92.3.

In regional WA, only Mingenew had a higher rate of 94.8 per cent fully vaccinated.

The Pilbara had Australia's lowest fully vaccinated rate of about 37 per cent.

## Masonic Lodge members learn history of VC bravery



Visiting Victoria Cross historian Tony Banner, from Albany, (above) explains the history of Australia's highest military award in a recent talk to Toodyay Masonic Lodge members in the town's historic Freemasons Hall in Fiennes Street. Mr Banner is building Australia's biggest Victoria Cross museum outside Canberra with a Hall of Valour, Armoury and Military Memories Hall in Albany.

## Local anti-vaccination protesters addressed by hypnotist

Michael Sinclair-Jones

A POLITICAL party that proposes to hang Australian prime ministers for treason and jail judges for life is attracting support from Toodyay residents who oppose Covid-19 vaccinations.

About 30 people attended a weekly meeting of the Toodyay branch of the AustraliaOne party at the Toodyay Community Resource Centre in Stirling Terrace earlier this month.

It was addressed by a professional hypnotist from Yallingup who said his audience would regret not making an extra effort to attend Perth "freedom rallies" if crowd sizes were not big enough to stop Covid-19 restrictions.

The AustraliaOne party claims vaccinations are a global plot to control people's lives.

In a recent video, AustraliaOne leader Riccardo Bosi said Prime Minister Scott Morrison, former prime ministers and other Australian politicians would be hung for betraying their country "when we get in".

Mr Bosi, who describes himself as a former Australian Army special forces lieutenant colonel, said he would reinstate capital punishment for treason and use sedition laws to jail Australian judges, military chiefs and bureaucrats for life without parole.

"All the portraits of the traitorous prime ministers will have big red stencilled letters across them saying 'hung for treason, hung for treason jailed for sedition or whatever,'" Mr Bosi "promised" in his video.

"We will leave them up as an object

lesson for kids when they visit Australian Parliament House that the people control this nation, not the Chinese Communist Party, not the billionaires, but Jacko and Narelle in a ute with an oversized Australian flag saying 'get stuffed, this is our country, not yours.'"

When asked if there was enough rope, Mr Bosi said "given the size of some of those politicians, we're going to have to borrow an arrester cable from a US aircraft carrier, so we'll do it."

Mr Bosi stood unsuccessfully for a Queensland Senate seat in 2019.

He said Australia's military chiefs were cowards and – if found guilty of sedition – "I'm gonna hang ya".

Australia's leaders would face public "Nuremberg II" trials and "punished if found guilty, as will the media – it will be a ripper."

Mr Bosi described Masonic Lodges as a "satanic blood cult" and claimed Australian babies were being aborted at birth in five out of six states and sold as "medical waste", for which "doctors should be hung".

On Australia's relations with China and Indonesia, Mr Bosi said "we have to intimidate our neighbours militarily so they will be nice to us" – Russian President Vladimir Putin would be "a friend".

A flyer for this month's branch meeting in Toodyay called it a "casual get together".

"It is not a recruitment drive, rather the building of a local support network to see us through the anticipated next round of challenges," the flyer said.

"We have made great connections with many like-minded people looking for support and information in our community.

"You are not alone – there are more of us than you think."

The flyer provided no names or contact details for local organisers.

The meeting was addressed by Yallingup "life coach" Ken Robshaw, who introduced himself as a "hypnotist and mentalist".

Mr Robshaw's website says he uses "mentalism and hypnosis" for "Recruiting, Educating and Motivating the Right people".

"Ken's amazing skills (he uses a unique

combination of Hypnotherapy, Mentalism, NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming), Personality Profiling and Psycho-Cybernetics) enable him to access your subconscious (sic) mind," the website says.

Mr Robshaw told people at the Toodyay meeting that a global "battle for minds" was being fought in World War III in Australia.

He urged those present to make an extra effort to attend Perth "freedom rallies" to avoid later regrets that they didn't take part.

AustraliaOne organisers said next day they were not authorised to speak to the media.

The party website has no contact numbers,

### Request for Public Comment

#### Proposed Child Care Premises Lot 452 Drummond Street, Nunile

The Shire of Toodyay has received an application for a proposed Child Care facility to be constructed on Lot 452 Drummond Street, Nunile for Jordan River Developments Pty Ltd.

The development proposal is as follows:

- This application proposes 43 children and 8 required staff members plus parking calculated at 1 bay per 5 children.
- Operating hours: Monday-Friday 6am-6pm, Saturday 6am-2pm, Sunday closed.
- Total number of parking bays provided is 16 bays. Additional provision for motorcycle and bicycle bays is also proposed.

Your views on the proposed Child Care facility are encouraged and welcomed. The proposal is available for inspection at the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre, Old Court House, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay, during office hours. The proposal is also available for viewing on the Shire's website at [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au)

Submissions on the proposed development may be addressed in writing and lodged with the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96 Toodyay 6566, by 4.00pm **Monday 10 January 2022**.

Further information on the above proposal is available by contacting the Shire's Development Services on 9574 9300.

Suzie Haslehurst  
Chief Executive Officer



**Priceless local support**

Christmas is here again. This year has been one of the strangest to date with many challenges which we have survived with the love and kind thoughts of Toodyay locals and our visiting customers.

You can't put a price on such support and we all are blessed to live in WA

I would like to wish you all the best for the festive season and may you have a great rest with family and friends over the holiday period.

Once again, thanks for your support in 2021 and may 2022 be a better year for us all.

To Simon, Mum and the girls – you are certainly priceless – thanks so much, I could not have done it without you.

God bless and hugs to you all from Simon, Val, Sean and the crew at Christmas 360

*Christmas 360*

Open 9am – 5pm every day till Christmas,  
113 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay Phone: (08) 9574 5884  
Email: [info@christmas360.com.au](mailto:info@christmas360.com.au)

## Gasket, Piston, Coil and Pump – time for walkies

### Bejoording Community Group News

From the desk of the Badger

EVERY morning I head out for a walk with four parts of an automotive engine – Gasket, Piston, Coil and Pump.

Actually, their names have been changed to protect their owner but in real life they are similarly named dogs.

The four of them run amuck and have a great time jumping in and out of dams and ditches.

Their proud owner has a couple more automotively named dogs at home and if, or when, he breeds another litter we may end up with a complete engine.

It's all a part of the fun of living in Bejoording, especially the ability to walk respectfully through farmland and be close to nature.

People who live outside the metropolis that Toodyay is becoming are blessed to be surrounded by such beautiful country in every direction.

With summer well on the way there will be some very hot days to come but early morning is always a good time for a long walk.

Afternoons are for shady relaxation with a cool drink and in my case a good book. Have you noticed how much quieter it is on those hot afternoons?

Even the birds have a shady snooze. Once the Community Group has had its annual Christmas Feast on the last Wednesday before the big day we will close down until early February.

Wishing all our members, the whole Bejoording community and all our readers in the rest of the shire a very merry and happy Christmas, and a terrific 2022.

Your monthly reminder:

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

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

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

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

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

# Spaghetti tower, bee pots and code breakers



Melbourne Cup luncheon (from left) Waveney Jones, Rose Taylor (both from Calingiri) and winner of the best-dressed lady Bernice Clarke (Bolgart).

### Bolgart Community News Pam McGill

YERECOIN and Calingiri School came down to Bolgart School for Maths Day.

Students made up teams from all schools and rotated through 80 activities.

Students in the undercover area played with volume, battled it out at Finska and problem solved how to cross a river.

In the Technology Room, students built a spaghetti tower, played with bee pots, and had to solve clues to crack a code.

Overall, the day was successful after a false start a week earlier; everyone had fun and won prizes at the end of the day.

November 11 was of course Remembrance Day.

It is an important event which gives us all an opportunity to stop and remember those who have served or are currently active members of our Australian Defence Force.

These people freely give and gave of themselves to ensure that Australia continues to be the free and democratic nation that we all call home.

Students and staff at Bolgart Primary School wish to thank the wider community for allowing us to participate in this event.

Oliver Clarke and Alexander Edmonds recently put in the physical work to plant an Algerian Oak Tree in Bolgart's Pioneer Park.

Hopefully, this tree will grow to full 20m height and provide a wonderful 10m shade canopy.

Students would like to thank the Bolgart Progress Association for giving the school the opportunity to participate in this important event.

Hopefully, the tree will settle into its location well and thrive.

In years to come, these students will be

able to say, "I was there when that tree was planted".

#### Awards

Aussie of the Month: Josephine and Evelyn Edmonds.

#### Merit Certificates

Senior Room: Eowyn Moore and Joshua Cotter.



Plaque for Brian (Ned) McGill.



Bolgart Sports Club President Phil Syred (left), and Brian (Ned) McGill with plaque (above left) mounted on Sports Club Bar.

Junior Room: Madeline Cotter, Nicholas French and Cameron Uriarau.

### Leggo League Innovation Project Trophy Winners

Josephine Edmonds, Brodey Whiteaker, Tyler Page, Oliver Clarke, Noah Clarke, Mason Clarke and Elise Edmonds.

Halloween was a big hit for quite a few families of friends with their children wandering around town 'trick or treating'.

There were some very interesting and 'scary' costumes, but those who went along thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Bolgart Hotel held a Melbourne Cup Luncheon which was well attended by many ladies and men from surrounding towns and other visitors.

A complimentary glass of champagne was given on arrival and a delicious three-course meal served later – a big thankyou to Craig and Wendy.

Bernice Clarke won best-dressed lady. An enjoyable day was had by those attending.

Brian (Ned) McGill was presented with a sports club bar plaque in recognition of his many years of volunteer work for the Bolgart Sports Club, Bowling and Golf Clubs – congratulations Ned.

A group of Bolgart ladies golfers travelled to Kalgoorlie for the Goldfields Ladies Open.

After an amazing three days of fun, great hospitality and new friendships, Pam Meston was runner-up in a very large field of players – congratulations Pam.

Bowls commenced at a mixed opening day in October, with trophy donors Adrian and Dianne Edmonds.

Winners were Justin Edmonds and Waveney Jones, with runners-up Derek Gardner and Deb Campbell.

The Ladies Championship Club Triples was won by Dale McGill, Pam Meston and Pam McGill, with runners-up Merle Manuel, Nolene Kazanski and Lyn Sarcich.

The Leila Hogg Memorial Trophy for the Ladies Championship Club Pairs was won by Lyn Sarcich and Pam McGill, with runners-up Merle Manuel and Deb Campbell.



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Pam Meston with her trophies, gold nugget necklace and golf bag.

## Wonderful bunch ends happy year

**Toodyay YouthCARE Council.**  
John White, Secretary

AS YOU'LL read below, this has been a full and fruitful year for Toodyay District High School Chaplaincy.

Wow – it has been a big year for us.

There isn't one single thing more to say about 2021 – it's been a mix of people and programs, day-to-day chats and challenges and in the end, happy, healthy and growing kids.

Our graduating Year 10 students asked me to take a special photo of them in the school courtyard for their 2021 School Yearbook.

When I printed the photo, I looked at them with pride and I thought "what a wonderful bunch of young people".

Looking at each of them, I remembered the special times we had together over the years and felt like a proud dad watching his kids grow up.

I remembered them on Country Week, on several cadet camps, on our wilderness hikes and on weekend youth excursions, just to name a few and, of course, in all the daily things that happen at our school.

We will soon celebrate our young Leavers with end-of-year presentations and wind-up events.

Then we will shift our focus to 2022.

What will we do next year?

Some things similar, some different, and we will grow our next bunch of young leaders of our school.

I was privileged to be asked to nominate one young lady for a 2022 school leadership position after seeing her perform so well as a wilderness hike leader.

It was an honour that she thought of her chaplain as a source of encouragement to help her fulfil her potential to lead our school.

May you and your family have a blessed Christmas, and a New Year full of new life.

*Doug McGhee (Chaplain)*

### Council thanks

SPEAKING on behalf of the YouthCARE Council, all that remains is for me to say thank you Doug for your committed service to the Toodyay District High School community.

Thank you also people of Toodyay for your support for our excellent school; thank you Breakfast Club volunteers (we still need a few more), food suppliers, raffle prize providers, raffle ticket sellers, Friends of Chaplaincy for your donations, Shire of Toodyay, Bendigo Bank, CWA, Toodyay Lions Club and Op Shop for your generous financial support.

YouthCARE is a whole of community effort and you've done yourselves and all of us proud. Thank you.

With significant financial support also provided by State and Federal governments and YouthCARE Head office, we are pleased to be able to retain chaplain Doug for 2022.

We wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas.



Toodyay District High School Year 10 class of 2021 pose for their yearbook photo.

## Moodjar (Christmas Tree) blossoms signal start of Birak bonar (summer)

**Noongar Waangkiny**  
Sharmaine Miles

KAYA noonuk (Hello everyone). NOONGAR people have understood, flourished, harvested, managed and preserved our unique flora and fauna across WA's South-West boodja (lands) for more than 45,000 years.

Many species of local flora and fauna were destroyed or gravely endangered, particularly by expansion along the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan) and Guguljar (Avon) bilya (rivers), Toodyay Brook and settlement of the wider Avon catchment area.

It is encouraging that revegetating the environment is now on all our agendas.

Governments and many community groups such as Toodyay Friends of the River and Avon Valley Environmental Society support positive change in working for the health of the Derbarl Yerrigan and Guguljar bilya

and are a strong voice for the surrounding environment.

With our special Christmas season upon us I would like to mention the Noongar Moodjar (Christmas Tree or Nuytsia Floribunda).

When you see orange and gold flowers (see top right) appear you can almost guarantee that the weather is starting to heat up.

The flowering of the Moodjar is an obvious sign that the bonar (season) is changing from Kamarang around October and November to Birak bonar around December and January.

The Moodjar tree is an important spirit tree for Noongar people.

It is in full bloom during Birak (the first summer of the six Noongar seasons).

Celebrations are held during Birak to honour the spirits of ancestors and the continuation of cultural lore and traditions.

This month I have listed some of well-known local flora for you to learn and enjoy.



- Moodjar – Christmas Tree
- Kwel – Sheak
- Balga – Grass Tree
- Yanjet – Bullrush
- Djaawit – York Gum
- Birdak – Bottlebrush
- Mindalong – Wattle

*While we acknowledge the Shire of Toodyay covers Whadjuk, Yued and Ballardong people's country, the information here is in good faith based on Ballardong language and culture. Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation endorses the work of the author, being a Ballardong Elder on Ballardong country and we understand differences in language and meaning across the wider Noongar Nation*



Yued leader Robert Miles with a newly flowering local Moodjar (WA Christmas Tree).

## Noongar cultural heritage trail starts to take shape

**Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation (NKAC)**

LOOKS like 2022 is going to be a fantastic year to showcase and highlight Noongar cultural heritage across Toodyay Valley.

The corporation is thrilled that a Shire of Toodyay LotteryWest funding application has been approved and we can start a Gnulla Karnany Waangkiny (Our Truth Telling) project at Newcastle Gaol Museum.

This project is a collaboration between the corporation and the shire and sits within the shire's reconciliation action plan.

It will engage research expertise, historians, Aboriginal Elders and others to reclaim Noongar voices to show traditional life, acknowledge displacement and unjust treatment of Noongar people and explain how Aboriginal people have participated in everyday life and contributed since European settlement in the Toodyay Valley.

More details will be provided as the project gets underway.

In addition to the museum project, the corporation has installed two more on-country information boards.

These are the Gnulla Boodja (Our Country) information at Pelham Lookout and a new sign under Newcastle Bridge to highlight the wider area as 'A Spiritual and Mythological Wagyl Place' to be installed this month.

These signs, along with artwork at Redbank Pool – Gnulla Moort (Our Family), a sign at the town's burial ground and three more in early planning will form a Noongar Heritage Trail.

It is hoped that Noongar Heritage Trail brochures and an online map will be ready for the 2022 visitors' season.

While the trail can be a simple self-drive or walk tour, the corporation views the trail as an area of economic opportunity that all Aboriginal Noongar-owned businesses can use

to share Noongar heritage and culture.

A local Toodyay-owned Aboriginal business will offer support in tourism expertise for other Aboriginal start-ups in 2022, so it is exciting times ahead for the wider Toodyay region.

You can keep up-to-date with corporation activities via our Facebook page, and in 2022 through our planned website.

Chairperson Robert Miles wishes everyone a safe and joyous Christmas season and we look forward to communicating with you during 2022.

## Kids' gifts sought – but no teddy bears please

**Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry**  
**Bob Schrader**

THE CHAMBER has launched this year's campaign to collect new presents for Toodyay's disadvantaged children who otherwise may not get a gift under this year's Christmas tree.

The campaign is simple and very in which to participate.

We are asking the Toodyay community to provide where possible, a small (new) gift, unwrapped and suitable for boys or girls aged between two and 16 years.

There are two collections points – the Toodyay Op Shop and Makit Hardware with a Monday December 13 cut-off date.

Toodyay Locals Care volunteers will wrap and distribute the gifts to families.

Thank you to all those people who have donated in previous years – your generosity is very much appreciated.

Please note that we already have enough teddy bears and other stuffed toys and do not require any more of them to distribute.

## Request for Public Comment

### Proposed Holiday Accommodation - Tiny Chalets (x9) Lot 200 & 400 Woodendale Road, Nunile

The Shire of Toodyay has received an application for a proposed holiday accommodation, which will consist of (9) tiny chalets at Lot 200 & 400 Woodendale Road, Nunile.

The operator Tiny Cabins, is a company that supplies and operates holiday accommodation cabins in Western Australia on large lots with the purpose of providing the opportunity for people to be immersed in nature, typically for short one-to-two-day breaks.

The development proposal is as follows:

- This application proposes nine 'Holiday Accommodation' cabins which will incorporate modern architecture with natural materials.
- A maximum of two guests would be allowed per booking with the standard duration of a booking being two nights.
- The cabins are designed to be energy and water efficient holiday accommodation units that focus on providing guests with the opportunity to connect to the natural environment.

Your views on the proposed holiday accommodation are encouraged and welcomed. The proposal is available for inspection at the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre, Old Court House, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay, during office hours. The proposal is also available for viewing on the Shire's website at [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au)

Submissions on the proposed development may be lodged in writing addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96 Toodyay 6566, by **4.00pm Monday 10 January, 2022.**

Further information on the above proposal is available by contacting the Shire's Development Services on 9574 9300.

**Suzie Haslehurst**  
Chief Executive Officer



# Familiar family names mark local government history

**Toodyay Historical Society Inc**  
Robyn Taylor

MANY of us were probably unaware that this year marked the 150th anniversary of local government in Western Australia.

It's something worth thinking about as many of the benefits that we enjoy today are the results of local governance.

To celebrate this milestone, Shire of Toodyay Museum Curator Margie Eberle and Toodyay Historical Society member Beth Frayne collaborated to start a Toodyay Local Government Virtual Portrait Gallery.

The large undertaking was based on Beth's earlier research to establish the names of previous councillors for the shire's honour boards.

The following is based on various sources, mostly from Margie's recently published digital essay 'Local Government in Toodyay' and Beth's invaluable chronologies.

The fledgling Swan River colony struggled during its early years but small towns were established throughout the state over a period of time.

To quote from the entry on Local Government in the Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia, 'The first step was the Towns Improvement Act 1838, the first form of local government in Australia.'

'It provided for the establishment of town trusts, composed of Justices of the Peace and all proprietors of allotments held in fee simple [put simply, the owner's name appears on the title deed], and a general trust for rural roads.'

Because of the small populations, these trusts struggled, unless they became part of the major WA towns such as Fremantle, Albany and Guildford.

Perth became a city council in 1858.

Town trusts became more secure in 1871 following the Municipalities Act 1871, and the Road Districts Act gazetted in January that year.

This divided the State into 18 Districts, one being the Toodyay Road District.

The first election for Toodyay Road Board members was held in February 1871.

The family names will be familiar to many of you: Dr Arthur Growse, Lionel Lukin, James Dempster, James Everett, Daniel Connor, Frederick Roe and James Twine.

Though now much smaller in area, Toodyay once extended north to include New Norcia, south to Morby Cottage (now in Northam), and west to cover part of the coastline north of Lancelin.

Toodyay is one of the few WA local government entities that retained its original name.

The town of Newcastle lay within the Toodyay Road Board district and established

its first municipal council in September 1877.

It met in various venues before moving into the purpose-built Newcastle Council Chambers, now the foyer of the town's Memorial Hall, which was officially opened in 1899 by WA Premier John Forrest.

The town struggled with a small revenue base and a decision was made in 1912 to amalgamate it with the Toodyay Road Board.

Newcastle had by then changed its name to Toodyay largely due to postal confusion with Newcastle in NSW.

Toodyay Road Board offices were relocated on 1 January 1959 from the former Mechanics' Institute (now the Toodyay Public Library) to the restored Court House in Fiennes Street.

Passage of the Local Government Act 1960 caused all Road Districts to become Shires with a president and councillors, which became effective on 1 July 1961.

The 'Toodyay Local Government Virtual Portrait Gallery' currently consists of 126 individual biographies, some with photos.

These are showcased in digital and hard copy form, the latter of which can be viewed at the shire office in Fiennes Street.

Our Environmental and History Centre in Drummond House next to the Bendigo Bank in Stirling Terrace will be open from 6pm during Toodyay's annual Christmas Street Party on Friday December 17, with members and visitors welcome.

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

Our postal address is PO Box 32 Toodyay WA 6566 and our website address is toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au.

Toodyay Historical Society membership is \$15 annually.



Newcastle Municipal Council 1901 in Twentieth century impressions of Western Australia. P.W.H. Thiel & Co, 1901, p.704: 1. J.T. Wood, 2. J.A. Wroth (Town Clerk), 3. C.G. Ellery, 4. W.W. Hasson, 5. J.G. Bird, 6. H. Davey, 7. E.G. Hasson (supplied by Dr. Robyn Taylor).

**Our environment matters at the Toodyay Herald...**

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Merry Christmas

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas. To our much loved customers, thank you for your continued support. We appreciate every one of you for shopping locally. Happy new year and best wishes from all of us at Makit.

Carolyn, Peter, Debbie, Jeff, Mike, Dave & Dorian

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# School Colour Run raises \$5000

**Toodyay District High School**  
David Ball, Principal

THE SCHOOL year is quickly coming to a close.

Congratulations to everyone for their role in making last month's Toodyay Colour Run another huge success.

Photos of happy smiling students say it all.

A big thankyou to Mr McCallum for the huge effort in coordinating the day, and a huge thankyou to our Parents & Citizens Association volunteers who prepared canteen lunches.

The event raised more than \$5000 for our school – well done Toodyay community.

Our Pre-Primary and Year 6 students have had a very chilly block of swimming at our new pool.

I would like to say a big thankyou to the swimming instructors who attended the school on rainy days for dry practice rather than see our students miss out.

Well done everyone for working together.

I am looking forward to all our upcoming school events and seeing as many families as possible attending and supporting their children.

As the year ends, I ask all parents to be mindful of the public health practices that we all need to continue to stay safe.

Please continue to encourage washing of hands regularly and use of hand sanitiser.

Our end-of-year presentations and awards will be on Tuesday December 14.

There are no health restrictions this year so the event will be for all to enjoy.

Our library looks wonderful with recent installation of the returns desk.

Thank you to our school P&C and a generous donation from Chalice Mining for making it happen.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our fabulous Year 4 teacher, Ms Brie Rose.

Ms Rose was recognised by the rest of our staff for her hard work and dedication to students in winning the Inland Lighthouse Network Staff Member Award.

She accepted her award in Wongan Hills last month, together with recipients from across our 19 network schools.

Well done Ms Rose.



Toodyay DHS Year 4 teacher Brie Rose, winner of the Inland Lighthouse Network Staff Member Award.



Year 1 students learn about agriculture in a share-farmed wheat crop from local farmer Tyrone Murray.

## Students get taste of share-farm activities

**Toodyay District High School**  
**Parents & Citizens Association**  
Kelly-Anne Murray, President

THE P&C has invested in a 30-hectare share-farmed wheat crop at Blink Bonny farm to raise funds for school improvements.

This has been made possible by the efforts of local farmers Tyrone and George Murray and the support of sponsors Toodyay and Districts Community Bank, Toodyay Op Shop, Elders Northam, CSBP and Candeloro Farms.

Students from Years 1 to 3 visited the farm last month to see and learn about local agriculture.

They watched farmer Tyrone Murray use a tractor to stack large hay bales in a shed.

They then crowded around silos to learn the difference between canola seed and wheat grains before filling their pockets with wheat during a walk through the crop.

There were smiles and excitement as sheep dog Rosie was put to work bringing a mob of sheep into the yards, and at a demonstration of shearing/crutching of a couple of ewes.

The excursion was a great opportunity for students to learn about local agriculture and what it produces.

Student thankyou notes showed that they thoroughly enjoyed the farm tour and hope to visit again soon.

A special thankyou goes to Simon Harrington for providing bus transport for the students.

In other news, we were incredibly lucky to have sunshine for last month's colour fun run.

Kids wasted no time soaking up the colour while they ran an obstacle course and raised funds for their school.

Once again, our refreshment stall was packed with delicious, sweet treats for students, staff and parents to enjoy.

Thank you to everyone who donated baked goods or helped at the stall and school canteen.

Without the time and energy of parents and friends who donate and volunteer, we would not be able to support the school and our students.

Last month's Term 4 meeting of association members acknowledged the success of this year's fundraising activities.

Students raised funds through reading at a Wildlife Warrior Readathon in October.

Association members approved donations of \$500 to purchase new decodable readers and put \$1500 towards a kindy to Year 6 wildlife excursion.

We look forward to meeting Ranger Red and his critters in coming weeks.

Turning our attention to the New Year, we anticipate the long-awaited resurfacing of the primary school basketball court and completed installation of shade sails during the school holidays.

How exciting it will be to have a new surface (and fewer grazed knees at play time).

The focus will be on planning for improved play spaces and school grounds when school returns next year.

These include new seating, shade and garden elements surrounding the basketball court and a nature playground in the primary play area towards the front of the school.

If you have ideas for these spaces, please get in touch.

We are looking for contractors who can quote on works such as retaining wall/seating, shade sails, paving, garden landscaping and nature play areas.

If you can recommend someone, we need to hear from you.

We welcome the input of students, parents, and staff to plans for school improvements, so please join us or get in touch with suggestions.

You can support our activities any way you choose.

Please contact Kelly-Anne Murray on 0406 585 716 or you can email [pandctodyaydhs@gmail.com](mailto:pandctodyaydhs@gmail.com), send a message via our Facebook page – search 'Toodyay DHS P&C' – or write to Toodyay District High School P&C at PO Box 1624, Toodyay WA 6566.

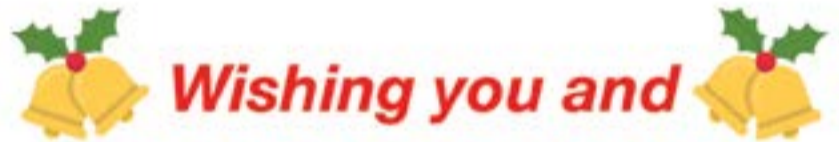
Our committee members are: President Kelly-Anne Murray 0406 585 716; Vice-President Heather McGlasson 0418 930 721; Secretary Heather Clarke 0412 866 463 and Treasurer Dimity Boggs 0438 097 022.



Toodyay Year 2 and 3 school students joined by (at rear, from left) Daphne Lee, Donna Lee, Tyrone Murray, Aaron Candeloro, Kirsten Barrack and Chris Wood.

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**Wishing you and your family a happy and safe festive season. Merry Christmas**

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**TRE**  
REAL ESTATE

# Politics exciting, but sometimes brutal and humiliating



Former Premier Colin Barnett chats with Toodyay Probus Club members.

**Toodyay Probus Club**  
Norm Green

MEMBERS enjoyed the company of former WA premier and Toodyay landowner Colin Barnett as last month's

guest speaker.

Colin did not disappoint.

The story of his entry into politics and time spent serving our state in several different ministries was fascinating.

As too was his stint as State premier.

Colin is currently the longest-serving WA Premier in the past 60 years.

His achievements include new hospitals commissioned and others rebuilt.

Politics was exciting but at times brutal and humiliating, he said.

However, Colin said he had no regrets and found it an honour to be able to serve the people of Western Australia.

Our meetings are held at the Freemason's Hotel courtesy of the owners who supply us with tea and coffee-making facilities for the end of our meetings.

This is typical of the warm hospitality of the Freemason's Hotel and the club cannot thank them enough.

We have meals there several times a year and they are efficiently presented and very well received.

We would also like to thank Pieter and Rinell Vermeulen of Toodyay West for the continuing production of The Limes

lime cordial, which continues to be a very popular gift for our guest speakers.

A group of Toodyay Probians travelled last month to the 'big smoke' to visit His Majesty's Theatre for a performance of *Morning Melodies*.

A local group called 'The Milford Street Shakers' took over after Covid-19 restrictions stranded the original performers in the eastern states.

They were very good and I don't know why they weren't the original band since they are based here.

Anyway, they made a good impression.

We will skip January and hold our next meeting in February, which will be our AGM.

Hopefully, we will have some response to requests for nominations for office bearers.

If you want to join, please contact club President Joan Bath on 0417 171 606 or email joanbath@bigpond.com.

## No jolly swagmen or billabongs as Santa never made it into Darwin

**Toodyay Music Club**  
Jenny Edgecombe

LAST month's meeting turned out to be especially enjoyable.

With a theme featuring songs written by Australians, you would be excused for thinking, 'Ho hum, lots of jolly swagmen, no doubt'.

I can confirm that in fact that not a single billabong was mentioned.

Members had obviously picked songs close to their hearts and many of our performers talked about what their particular choices meant to them.

Collette's choices included a gentle song titled *Tradition*, written by her son after his travels in the Pilbara.

Her delicate rendition seemed just right.

On our theme days I have come to expect that Maurice or Joe might throw in a song from left field, but this month it was Brian's turn.

Although the lyrics were written by an English woman, many people might be surprised to learn that the lovely music for the nostalgic *Bless this House* was composed by Australia's May Brahe. It was inspiring to hear a Judy Small song included in the program.

Anne had picked Nellie Parker's *Lament*, with its great tune and even better lyrics – check it out.

Jenny was in a whimsical mode when searching for something new, which resulted in her choice of *Eating on the Plane*, penned by that great Australian wordsmith, Robyn Archer.

There is often an interesting angle to Maurice's song choices.

This time it was *One Perfect Day*, inspired by his associated memories of listening to news of the fall of a particular British Prime Minister when that song was popular.

Bernard Carney is one of WA's great songwriters.

Joe ensured he was not forgotten with the grim Rottnest lament *Devil's Island*, followed by the more light-hearted *Stories of the Island*.

The Darwin cyclone – where were you on that day?

I happened to be on a cruise and nobody at first believed rumours sweeping the ship.

Anne's choice of *Santa never made it into Darwin* reminded us of the horror of how that extraordinary event suddenly disrupted Australian life.

The evocative lyrics of *Tenterfield Saddler* should always appear in a list of Aussie songs, and Bonnie obliged – it has such evocative lyrics.

Our report should end on a pleasant memory, and what could be better than Victoria's choice in the lovely *Raining on the Rock*?

This month's meeting will no doubt have a festive touch, so sing seasonal songs if you wish, and of course there may be some of Jenny's traditional gingerbread bikkies.

As always, there will be no meeting in January but please mark your New Year calendar that we will be back in force on Saturday February 12.

Meanwhile, we hope to see you for this year's final meeting starting at 1pm on Saturday December 11 at the CWA Hall in Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

Talk to Joe on 0400 862 694 for more information.



Colin Kendall presents former premier and Toodyay landowner Colin Barnett with a gift pack of locally made cordial from The Limes after his Toodyay Probus Club address.

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After 21 joyful and happy years serving the wonderful customers of Toodyay and surrounds and the broader Avon Valley Lyn and Andrew have now retired.

It has been our privilege to be of service to you all. The loyalty customers have given us will always be fondly remembered.

We have happy memories of customers dancing down the aisle to our music and having many laughs together.

Our sincere thanks to you all.

Lyn, Andrew and Tuoeoy

*We wish you all a Happy and Joyous Christmas and all the best for the future*

# Hearty cooked breakfasts are among many member benefits

**Toodyay Men's Shed**  
Graham Hill

A HEARTY cooked breakfast of bacon, eggs, sausages, tomato and beans is served on the last Saturday of every month.

This is just one of the many benefits of being a Toodyay Men's Shed member.

While we are not a service club and can undertake only small projects within the ability of our members, we still seem to find plenty to do.

Refurbishment of a seat for the CWA ladies and Jenga blocks for children at the Toodyay Farmers Market are just two of several Toodyay Men's Shed projects this year.

Our markets team enjoyed a reasonable day last month but we expect a big crowd on Sunday December 19.

Come along to our marquee to buy a freshly

cooked egg and bacon sandwich from your friendly Men's Shed chefs.

We recently welcomed several new members.

If you are thinking of joining a great team of likeable gentlemen, call in and see us at 5 Harper Road (near the Toodyay Railway Station) on any Monday, Thursday or Saturday from 9am to noon, or ring our secretary on 0408 871 406.

We thank all those people who supported us this year – Bendigo Bank, Toodyay Community Op Shop, Freemasons Hotel, IGA, Toodyay Markets, the RSL and *The Toodyay Herald*, along with many individuals.

Finally, may we at the Men's Shed wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.



*Hungry Toodyay Men's Shed members tuck into a monthly big brekkie.*

## Christmas carols on the cards for town's annual street party

**Toodyay Community Singers**  
Anne Millar

CHRISTMAS is coming and once again we are in full rehearsals for Toodyay's annual Christmas Street Party on Friday December 17, starting at 6pm.

We hope for a big turnout.

It follows last month's performance at the Toodyay RSL Remembrance Day service which was held on November 11.

New committee members were elected at last month's AGM and we look forward to the New Year.

We will take a short break over the festive season.

Please watch this space for a Toodyay Community Singers revamp when we resume next year on Thursday February 3.

Rehearsals are held at 7pm on Thursday nights in the CWA Hall on Stirling Terrace. New members are always welcome.



## Shire signs up to support traders

TOODYAY and Northam are among more than 50 WA local governments that have signed up to a State Government scheme to support local small business.

Participants agree to work with and support local small businesses as customers, stakeholders and suppliers.

They will report their activities twice

a year to the WA Business Development Corporation.

It includes 'buy local' campaigns, online platforms to connect small business owners and reducing red tape.

The Shire of Boddington (139 small businesses) and City of Perth (12,009) are the latest signatories.



*Toodyay Historical Society President Dr Robyn Taylor with her recent National Trust medal.*

## Toodyay historian awarded National Trust medal

**National Trust of Australia**

TOODYAY historian Dr Robyn Taylor was one of two winners of the Margaret Feilman Medal awarded at last month's WA National Trust Annual General Meeting.

The medal is awarded for meritorious achievement or service in heritage and is considered WA's only award of its kind.

Dr Robyn Taylor and the other winner, Judy Williams, were thanked for their enormous contributions to the protection of and access to WA's heritage.

The award is named after Margaret Feilman OBE, a founding member of the National Trust of Western Australia.

Robyn has worked over the past 25 years on a wide range of projects across the state, including conservation plans and assessments, municipal inventories, heritage advice, guided walks, conference presentations and public lectures.

She joined the National Trust in 1982 and served on the WA National Trust Council from 1993 until her recent retirement – a total of 28 years, during which time she served as both Vice Chair and Vice President.

The elected positions demonstrate the high regard in which she has been held over many years.

Robyn – who holds a Fine Arts PhD with specialist interest in Perth interwar architecture and design – was recognised for her longstanding commitment to heritage, particularly for an archive she created after Toodyay's devastating 2009 bushfires.

She is a long-established and experienced professional historian, heritage consultant, art and architectural historian, and curator with expertise in public art and art history.

Robyn has also published a number of journals, conference proceedings and an Australian Dictionary of Biography and Historical Encyclopaedia of Western Australia and is a joint author of *Toodyay Homesteads* with Rika Ericson.

After the 2009 bushfires, Robyn prepared a comprehensive record compiling oral histories, photographs, media stories, official reports, and photographs of mementos and artworks from fire-affected properties.

Copies of this important archive are now kept by the Toodyay Historical Society and held in the Shire of Toodyay Museum archive.

Robyn was an inaugural WA Heritage Councillor from 1991–93 and has been

a member of the Professional Historians Association (WA) since 1993.

She has been the association's Vice President since 2016 and edited its newsletter from 1995 to 2002.

Robyn has also been a member of the History Council of Western Australia since 2003 and Toodyay Historical Society since 2001, including stints as President and Vice President.

She has also been a member of the Society of Architectural Historians (Australia and New Zealand) since the 1980s and a member of the International Council on Monuments and Sites since the 1990s.

Robyn was presented with a Champion Award for the Year of the Built Environment in 2004.

It acknowledged her "excellence in the field for championing improvements in the way we plan, design, construct and operate our built environment".

In 2011 Robyn was awarded a High Commendation in the WA State Heritage Awards for outstanding contribution to heritage by a professional in the heritage industry.

She continues as a valuable member of the National Trust Classification Standing Committee and her commitment as a volunteer was recognised with a 25-years plus WA Volunteer Service Award by the WA Department of Communities in 2020.

**All seems quiet, but looks can be deceiving**

**Arts Toodyay**

ALL HAS appeared quiet on the Arts Toodyay front but looks can be deceiving.


Behind the scenes things are moving along – hopefully early in 2022 Toodyay shopping district will be welcoming a new edition – Arts Toodyay Artist Gallery.

Keep watching this space.

In the meantime, to whet your appetite Arts Toodyay is holding an Artist Market, at Coorinja Vineyards (see below). All your Christmas Gifts for that special loved one will be at a one-stop Market Place.

For more information, please contact secretary.arts.j2@gmail.com

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## Artist's Christmas Market

11th December 2021, 9am to 2pm at

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