

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.

July 2022
Edition 414

Shire rates set to rise 3.05 per cent

Michael Sinclair-Jones

MOST Shire of Toodyay property owners can expect to pay an average of 3.05 per cent more in proposed new rate increases.

The increase would cause median rates to rise by between \$52 and \$246 across eight categories of local land use.

Last year's median rate increases were between \$82 and \$391.

This year's minimum rates are planned to remain at \$1351 – the same as last year.

A 3.05 per cent increase on a typical \$2000 rates bill is about \$60 a year.

Dollar amounts will be much higher for broadacre farmers and livestock producers on 208 properties bigger than 100ha who pay tens of thousands of dollars in shire rates every year.

Pensioners can claim rebates of up to half of the cost of their rates bills, capped at \$750 last financial year.

Holders of WA Senior's cards can claim rebates up to 25 per cent, capped last year at \$100.

The proposed rate increases are calculated to raise \$7.2 million this financial year – \$335,000 more than last year.

There was no rate rise in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

State reviews of land valuations may alter the value of individual properties on which shire rate increases are applied each year.

A special Toodyay Shire Council meeting on June 8 voted 7-0 (Cr Mick McKeown absent) to advertise the proposed new rates for 21 days for public comment.

Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said this was done on Facebook, online and on the shire website, and submissions had now closed.

The council decision came too late to advertise in last month's Toodyay Herald, Ms Haslehurst said.

This year's proposed rates include a new mining category which aims to raise an extra \$200,000 from 35 Toodyay properties.

Rates on rural land used for mining and exploration are proposed to increase from about 0.014c to nearly one cent in the dollar – by far the highest for any local land use.

The shire said previously that it needed to charge higher rates for mining to repair and upgrade local roads damaged by frequent heavy industry vehicle use, such as at Chalice Mining's Julimar worksite.

It is understood that at least one mining company operating in Toodyay was reportedly "not happy" with the proposed increase.

The shire said WA local government law required ministerial approval for the size of the proposed new mining rate, which will be sought prior to the council finalising its 2022-23 budget in coming weeks.

The proposed overall increase in rates revenue – taking into account unchanged minimum rates – is 2.5 per cent.

This matches the council's 10-year Long Term Financial Plan adopted in June 2020 which requires annual increases of 2.5 per cent for the next eight years.

Shire Projects Officer Maurice Werder told last month's special council meeting that leaving Toodyay's minimum rate unchanged at \$1351 left it still higher than the amount charged in most other shires.



Produce of the land – this newly sprouted Toodyay barley crop will produce the type of grain used to make beer and spirits all over the world. Full update on local season progress and impact of international events, including war in Ukraine, on Page 9. Photo: Frank Panizza.

National census results lag Toodyay real estate boom

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY'S recent housing sales boom appears to have overtaken latest Australian census results published last month.

The census partly pre-dates an influx of new home buyers after COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020 prompted many city dwellers to move to country towns.

Population shifts across the nation were boosted by increased business reliance on home-based work using new high-speed internet connections not previously available



One of several new homes being built in Toodyay's River Hills Estate near the school.

in rural locations such as Toodyay.

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures published last month show that the number of dwellings in the Shire of Toodyay grew by only 12 since 2016, a figure disputed by some local real estate agents who report unprecedented local sales over the past year.

It also casts doubt on a reported shire population growth of 162 since 2016 to a total of 4601 last August.

Dozens of new family-sized homes are being built in Toodyay's long-dormant River Hills estate near the town's school and rents have skyrocketed in the past year due to increased demand for local housing.

Census data collected last August showed median rents of \$285 a week in Toodyay, well short of this year's \$350 a week average, according to local real estate agent Tony Maddox.

He said the age of new people buying homes in Toodyay – especially in the past six months – was lower than five years ago, with many now aged in their 30s and 40s.

Continued on Page 3.

Winter's sad secret

Did you know that Toodyay has 50 homeless people – including children – some of whom live in tents and cars on cold winter nights.

More on Pages 2 and 3.

Coming events

Toodyay Farmers Markets
Sunday 17 July 9am -1pm

this month

classifieds	28
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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. Editorial contributions and photographs should be emailed to news@toodyayherald.com.au.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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Membership of *The Toodyay Herald* is available at \$15 (\$12 concession) per financial year, with members entitled to free advertising worth \$15 annually. Please send your name, phone number and residential, postal and email address with your membership fee to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566 or leave it at 92B Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

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THANK YOU

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

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE

STORY DEADLINE

DISTRIBUTED

Noon Friday
July 22

Noon Wednesday
July 27

Thursday
August 4

Please note our email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

Cosmic monster

Roger Simms

HAVE you been enjoying Toodyay's clear night skies of late? Done a bit of stargazing in the backyard?

It's a good time of the year to be casting the eyes heavenward and our neck of the woods provides ideal vantage points.

In fact, Toodyay's Pelham Reserve was listed by RAC member magazine *Horizons* recently as one of the best spots outside Perth for viewing the cosmos.

And if you look in the direction of the Southern Cross, you'll be roughly in line with truly ancient light being emitted from the surrounds of a recent Australian cosmological discovery – a supermassive black hole with a supermassive appetite.

The light is bright enough to be seen by amateur astronomers, but they would need a telescope 30 to 40cm across, according to Australian National University discovery team leader Dr Christopher Onken.

The fast-growing black hole named J1144 has the mass of three billion suns, scientists estimate, and gobbles up the equivalent of one Earth every second.

The ANU team made its find using the SkyMapper telescope at Siding Spring Observatory near Coonabarabran in NSW.

Dr Onken said the monster consumer was more or less halfway across the universe.

Its glowing surrounds are 7000 times more luminous than our own Milky Way galaxy, and the light we're seeing from it has been travelling to us for about seven billion years.

The ANU find follows a stunning photographic achievement by black-hole hunters using telescopes placed in pairs around the world.

They produced brilliant colour pictures of Sagittarius A, the black hole at the centre of the Milky Way, and the supermassive one at the centre of Messier 87, another galaxy that truly deserves the tag of being far, far away – fifty-three million light years, in fact.

The black holes themselves are not pictured because they release no light.

The telescopes pick up the circular band of glowing material surrounding them, which you may have seen in YouTube pictures.

The scientists are hoping to collect much more data to make a video of these bewildering phenomena.

Black holes are surely the most intriguing of astrophysical wonders.

They are, in short, a huge mass in an

infinitely small space, so dense that even light cannot escape from them.

Cross over what scientists call a black hole's event horizon, a kind of perimeter fence, and it's good night nurse.

They gobble up everything that crosses that line. No getting out.

Some black holes are moderately sized (in astronomical scales) and have the same mass as the stars from which they form when those stars go supernova at the end of their lives.

This happens when a star runs out of nuclear fuel and the core collapses, resulting in the giant explosion of a supernova.

Supermassive black holes, like the one at the centre of Messier 87, are the product of collapsed neutron stars, those made up of neutrons.

Oxford University astrophysicist Dr Becky Smethurst says these subatomic particles are as densely packed in such stars as they can go in a crystal-like structure.

When the forces keeping them apart are overcome, she says, the result is matter in its most dense form – “even though we don't quite know what it is yet.”

And massive means massive.

Messier 87 is a real monster – 6.5 billion times the mass of our sun – with a giant jet of gas and radio emission from glowing matter spiralling around it.

The length of the jet extends for millions of light years, according to Dr Smethurst.

“The expulsion of the gas occurs because pressure builds up around the black hole when it tries to accrete too much mass too quickly,” she says. “It gets too greedy.”

All intriguing stuff.

But for me, and I reckon for many backyard stargazers, too much science, like too much Marmite as they used to say, can spoil the flavour.

Our minds can do quite well on their own at such times, soaking up the sheer magnificence of the night sky, feeding the soul and framing our own explanations.

Carlo Rovelli, the Italian physicist with a philosophical bent, says in his book *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics*:

“We are made of the same stardust of which all things are made.

“Our desire for knowledge burns.

“Our frontiers of learning are in the most minute reaches of the fabric of space, at the origins of the cosmos, in the phenomenon of black holes and in the workings of our own thoughts.”

Homeless numbers double as more locals sleep rough

Michael Sinclair-Jones

THE number of homeless people in Toodyay has doubled this year, with more families living in cars, tents and sleeping bags, sometimes out in the open.

Local carer Roz Davidson said numbers peaked at 74 last month before falling this month to about 50 as nights grew colder.

One family with two children had moved into a shed in the Toodyay townsite after leaving a ramshackle house with mildewed walls that the landlord was selling.

“I have no idea how they keep warm at night,” Roz said.

Another person aged in their 70s was living alone in what Roz called an “abject hovel” in the Toodyay townsite.

She said about 25 homeless people – including 17 children – recently moved to Perth where more support services were available.

There were more homeless women – some

fleeing domestic violence – in Toodyay than there were men.

Roz said her Toodyay Locals Care group had given more than 25 free blankets and doonas to homeless local people last month.

The group also provided half a dozen two-person dome tents and seven single sleeping bags donated by local church members.

“I also gave away three solar mobile phone chargers that were donated,” Roz said.

Roz said that every morning she collected a supermarket trolley full of food that had reached its use-by date that day, donated by Toodyay's IGA store.

The donations included milk and fruit juice.

“I collected 30 litres of juice from there today” Roz said.

Store owner Dean Carter said this had been happening for three or four years.

“Better that than throw it away,” Mr Carter said.

Continued next page.

The Toodyay Herald

Please note that the Herald office will be closed until Thursday 28th July.

A passion for getting dirty helped Toodyay to grow

Ed Watson

RURAL towns dotted all around Australia drove the expansion of our country from the early days to what we enjoy today.

Many of these towns grew as they moved with the times.

Many small towns such as Toodyay began as outposts that serviced farmers in a centralised way.

As the communities grew so did the need for more diversity.

And as technology changed so did farming as agricultural machinery became part of a new petrol-driven world.

Local mechanics shops soon found their way onto the rural landscape to become a big part of small-town life.

Toodyay is one of those towns that grew from having just a butcher, baker and no doubt a candle stick maker servicing farms to needing the expertise of a mechanic.

Toodyay Auto Centre started its life in 1927 as a single-storey garage workshop.

It changed hands a few times before Russell Chrimes bought and established what is now Toodyay Auto Centre.

It combines the Chrimes family history of around 100 years with three generations of the Chrimes and Gearys adding to the story.

The last change of hands was in 2015 when Brenton Chrimes purchased the business from his father Russell.

And so a new chapter in Toodyay began.

Today the place is always busy with cars and bikes out the front, and there is always a smile and a wave if you catch Brenton out in front of the workshop.

Brenton grew up in Toodyay and, like his dad, was very hands-on and loved to tinker with anything held together with nuts and bolts.

If it had a motor this was a bonus.

Mechanics was in his blood and having attended Toodyay District High School from Years 1-10 and a brief stint at Northam



Brenton and Jess are no strangers to engine oil and grease in their busy Toodyay workshop.

Senior High School, Brenton decided to quit Year 11 and start an apprenticeship.

To nobody's surprise, Brenton chose to begin his apprenticeship at his father's Toodyay workshop.

His interest in motor sports became a passion and learning a mechanical trade gave

him a deeper understanding of his love for two wheels and getting dirty.

Brenton's love of bikes and dirt led to a lifestyle of competitive sport.

Some of his other earlier sporting interests – though probably not a highlight – came with the Toodyay Lions.

OK, Brenton admits he wasn't the most gifted player on the field but he did find his niche behind the bar mixing drinks and getting into the social scene.

Brenton, Jess and their three children have watched Toodyay grow with new and diverse people moving to the town, bringing change.

They include Toodyay's new recreation centre and swimming pool, which he gives the big thumbs up.

There's also a variety of local places to go for a decent coffee and feed, and an array of interesting new shops that have established themselves.

The change in local emphasis from farming to tourism saw subtle changes as good things began happening in Toodyay.

It has helped his business to grow and, as automotive technology evolves, his early

years of tinkering have helped him to meet the new challenges of computer-driven machinery.

As most customers would know, the business isn't just Brenton but includes Jess steering the ship from the front office, ably assisted by Rex, the furry four-legged Chrimes family member.

But not everything good came with change.

One downside to growth – at least from Brenton's perspective – is the increase in weekend trade.

"Where can I get a coffee without waiting two days," is often heard.

"Great for the town but too many people at times" Brenton adds, tongue in cheek.

Something that has changed, not just in Toodyay but seemingly everywhere is bullying on social media in school and around town which can affect us all.

Its effect on young families is noticeable, a worry for any parent and a big concern for Brenton and Jess with three teenagers.

On a lighter note, we can't talk about Brenton without mentioning the "Incident".

Many will remember the commotion when Brenton's prized 2J ute was car jacked and all hell broke loose in the main street.

It wasn't just the damage and commotion in Stirling Terrace that left its mark but State-wide TV news coverage which seemed distinctly alien to our sleepy little town.

Stuff like this just doesn't happen in Toodyay – does it?

When not getting dirty in his workshop or out riding bikes, Brenton spends time with Jess on their quarter acre town block either swinging a hammer, renovating the house or pottering in the garden.

Travelling and sightseeing are another passion when time permits.

As their children find their own feet and move out into the world, a shift in priorities and ideas are taking hold as plans to see more of what's on offer becomes a reality.

Fond memories of Darwin, and a chance to catch up with friends have given an incentive to head back in October just before the wet season and a pleasant change to cooler weather.

If you haven't yet heard, the biggest shift is the sale of Toodyay Auto Centre which opens up a new way of life for Brenton and Jess.

With no plans other than a sense of adventure, Brenton and Jess are excited about what the next stage of life will bring them.

Brenton said he knew that the time was right to sell and he was happy to hand the business over for someone else to enjoy and make their mark on the town.

"It's been a great 40 years but it's now time for a new adventure," he adds with a smile.

Religion takes a hit as Toodyay grows older

Continued from Page 1.

SOCIAL media posts indicate that low-income tenants displaced by the sales boom are struggling to find alternative accommodation because rents are now too high, causing some families to leave town.

About 43 per cent of Toodyay residents were reported to own their homes outright, compared with 29 per cent in the city.

A further 40 per cent had mortgages, and 11.5 per cent were renters.

About a quarter of all Toodyay households reported weekly incomes of less than \$650 last August.

Median mortgage repayments were \$1564 a month in Toodyay, compared with \$1907 in Perth.

Big rises in home loan costs – starting as early as this month – are predicted this year as Australia's Reserve Bank lifts official interest rates to fight rising inflation, now running at 5.1 per cent nationally.

Australia's official cash rate rose to 0.85 per cent last month and is predicted to hit 2.5 by the end of the year, adding hundreds of dollars to monthly loan repayments.

The overall picture painted by the 2021 census is that most Toodyay residents are still much older than their city cousins.

Last year's Toodyay median age was 54 compared with 37 in Perth, and higher than Toodyay's median age of 51 in 2016.

The census reported that about a third of all Toodyay residents were born overseas, with English-born residents the biggest component at just over 10 per cent, compared with Perth (8) and nationally (3.6).

A total of 136 shire residents (three per cent) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders, along with 42,023 in Perth (two per cent) and 813,000 nationally (3.2 per cent).

About 20 per cent of all Toodyay residents (823 people) did voluntary work through an organisation or group in the 12 months to August last year, compared with 15 per cent in Perth and 14 per cent nationally.

In health, the Census reported that 4.1 per cent of Toodyay residents (190 people) have cancer or are in remission, compared with 2.7 in Perth and 2.9 nationally.

However, only 0.3 per cent (16 people) have dementia – including Alzheimer's

Disease – compared with 0.7 per cent in Perth and the same figure nationally.

A total of 264 Toodyay residents (5.7 per cent) reported heart disease – including heart attack or angina – compared with 3.5 per cent in Perth and nationally.

Toodyay resident also fared worse in lung disease – including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and emphysema – with 126 cases (2.7 per cent) compared with 1.5 per cent in Perth and across Australia.

Mental health – including depression and anxiety – accounted for 438 cases (9.5 per cent) in Toodyay last August compared with 8.4 in Perth and 8.8 nationally.

About 470 Toodyay dwellings (26.7 per cent) were occupied by only one person, roughly matching Perth and nationally.

In religion, 2152 Toodyay residents (46.8 per cent) reported no religious affiliation – a big increase compared with 2016 when the non-religious total was 1536 (34.6 per cent).

Both major religions lost followers in Toodyay, with Anglicans dropping to 14.5 per cent (21 per cent in 2016), and Catholics 12 per cent (previously 16), reflecting similar trends in Perth and nationally.

Australia's total population last August was 25.4 million people, of which 2.1 million lived in Perth and 4601 in Toodyay.

Kids live in cars, tents on cold winter nights

Continued from previous page.

ROZ said IGA donations were used to cook 100 hot meals a week for homeless people.

"They get paid fortnightly by Social Security and come to us when they run out of money the following week," Roz said.

"Most people who come in the night are people in their 30s.

"Some come looking for food at two in the morning.

"We provide frozen cooked dinners in plastic containers which homeless people can cook in a microwave oven on our front veranda (in Fiennes Street opposite the Toodyay Freemason's Hall) or take to where they are sleeping that night."

Roz said most homeless women were "couch surfers" who stayed a few days or

weeks at the homes of friends or relatives before moving elsewhere, sometimes after arguments with their hosts.

Others lived in vehicles under car ports or parked out in the open.

One family living in a car included a mother with young children who went to hospital at the end of last month to give birth to another child.

Others lived out in the open in tents at secret locations to avoid discovery for fear of being told to move on by Shire of Toodyay rangers or police.

"Mostly you never see them because they stay under the radar and out of sight," Roz said.

About a third of Toodyay's homeless population were Aboriginal people.



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The Toodyay Herald

Sleeping rough

PERTH people have grown used to seeing big numbers of homeless people camped on city pavements, living in parks and sheltering overnight in public toilet blocks.

It has become so common a sight that most city people just step past them and look the other way as they go about their daily lives.

Previous generations will remember how homeless people were mostly displaced Aboriginal families living in make-shift fringe camps in places such as Northam.

These have now mostly been replaced by other Australians who, for whatever reason, find themselves with nowhere to live.

For some it's alcohol, gambling or drug dependencies, for others it's mental illness and for women in particular, it can be to escape domestic violence.

Skyrocketing rents caused by a pandemic-driven real estate boom (see Page 1) have been pricing low-income Toodyay families out of the local rental market.

For a struggling single mum with three young kids, the prospect of a new owner needing vacant possession of their family home or a big rent hike can be devastating.

Many Toodyay residents may be surprised to learn that our town hosts dozens of homeless people who sleep in cars, tents or anywhere else they can find shelter.

And it's not just one or two unfortunate souls who may be down on their luck.

According to local care provider Roz Davidson, at least 74 people – including several young children (see Page 2) – were sleeping rough in Toodyay last month.

None wanted to be in a *Herald* photograph or even reveal where they sleep for fear of being moved on by shire rangers or police.

But the fact they exist is evident by the 100 frozen meals a week handed out to those who have no other means of support.

Homeless people often look in winter for places where they can camp overnight near warm exhaust fans attached to buildings, always out of sight from passers-by.

Others sleep in vehicles parked under car ports or in flimsy tents out in the open.

It's hard to image what this must be like for families with young children when overnight winter temperatures in the Avon Valley plunge to near freezing.

Some homeless people survive on frozen plastic flatpaks of donated soup that they lay on brick paving in hidden courtyards to thaw in the winter sun.

Many live on fortnightly social security pensions that last for only a few days before the money runs out and they need to go searching for food.

Not having anywhere to live makes it impossible to lead a normal life.

There are no easy ways to address this sad state of affairs in our community – particularly for the kids – but it is incumbent on us to at least recognise the situation and look for ways to offer meaningful support.

Think of that tonight when you snuggle up in a warm bed after a hot meal and a cosy night in front of the TV.

Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor

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.

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING for cattle



Jean 0478 037 315
Jeremy 0450 366 530



The way we were – Big hats and long skirts were the order of the day at the Toodyay Tennis Club in 1912. Little is known about those pictured but the young girl and boy with the dark hat are thought to be Kit and Harry Ewels. The photo was taken before current tennis club facilities were built in Fiennes Street across from the Shire of Toodyay offices, and dense bush at the rear provides few clues to the location. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

LETTERS

Slick claims

IT IS good that we are having a debate in the letter pages of *The Herald* about an important development for the Toodyay community, namely the exploration for valuable minerals in the local area by Chalice.

If nothing else, it highlights one of the important roles of a vibrant community newspaper such as *The Herald* which is to allow local people to express their views on an important issue.

I write to suggest that this debate should not be about whether the mine is allowed to proceed but more about what the mine owners and the WA Government through environmental regulation will do to mitigate its adverse effects on all who live in its vicinity.

I believe the mine is effectively a done deal if Chalice can actually deliver what it is promising since no government of any political persuasion will easily forego the potential revenue, no matter where it is located.

As well as revenue, there will also be jobs, which – as both Alison Wroth and Frank Panizza wrote previously – are much needed in rural communities, including Toodyay.

Yet some words of caution are required. Miners are masters of what can be called “job boosterism” which is basically over-promising or frankly exaggerating the numbers of jobs generated by their industry.

But since it might be argued that some jobs are better than no jobs, it is important to focus on the possible downsides of mining in a rural area.

I view the comment that any protest against the mine is centred around protection of an endangered animal as simplistic and somewhat dismissive.

Just ask people who live close to a mine and they will tell you what they have to put up with – noise, air pollution, bright lights 24 hours a day, heavy trucking, etc. – the latter already having an impact in the Julimar area with the Shire of Toodyay having to grade locally affected gravel roads more frequently.

All of the above is not pleasant and far from the rural dream that drives many people to live in places like the Avon Valley.

But these are the realities and it's the community's responsibility, with the help of government, to ensure that these effects are mitigated by those running the mine.

Ms Wroth writes of Chalice being an eco-friendly miner, a view that is perhaps understandable when the company is engaged in a slick campaign to get the approval of the community, as well as that of government, to approve the new mine.

The real test of the miner's supposed eco-friendliness will be if it is prepared to spend some of the profits to mitigate the negative effects described previously, as well as be an adequate caretaker of the environment in which it is operating.

There are plenty of examples where mining companies have promised much but failed to deliver, leaving a much-tarnished environment that others are left to clean up.

Let's hope Chalice is different but rather than hope, we the community should be presenting a balanced and unified view on what we would like to happen and holding the company to account.

The fact that one resident thinks that objections to the mine are due to the effects on one animal suggests that we are far from that balanced position.

The level of debate needs to be more sophisticated, and the organisations concerned need to rise to this challenge.

Andrew St John
Toodyay

History erased

HOW SAD for Toodyay that shire councillors approved demolition of a character house in Telegraph Road which reflected our history.

I won't comment on what replaced it.
Mike Andrijich
Toodyay

Keep it clean

AS A person who has lived here for seven years, I know it is probably still too soon to call myself a local but I feel very comfortable in calling myself a good judge of cleanliness.

In those seven years I have never seen our town's roads, parks and reserves being rubbished in the way that they are at the moment.

As someone who works in reserve maintenance, I have seen a staggering increase in the amount of illegal dumping.

The convenience of 'free' Information Bay bins being used by some locals as a daily dump on the way to work is leaving genuine travellers passing through with no room for their rubbish.

Full bins eventually spill out and rubbish gets blown into our fragile waterways. Today I found a pile of cigarette butts tipped out of a car ashtray onto the ground only metres from a bin.

I hope we can pull together as a community to help re-create the “tidy town” image we once had.

The effort that one GW does on a weekly basis to keep this town clean has been highlighted during his recent absence – get well soon mate.

On the flip side, the amount of damage that a bunch of SC's can do to this town's ecosystems and reputation in a couple of months is staggering.

Keep it clean Toodyay.
Kai Shanks
Toodyay

Childish antics

LET'S talk about the Toodyay Men's Shed. We spent 11 years moving from place to place maintaining an atmosphere of “Blokes Supporting Blokes”.

Then the Shire of Toodyay granted us a place in the sun and with the help of Lotterywest and a grant of \$200,000 and some smaller grants amounting to almost

\$21,000 we built a wonderful place that is a credit to the town of Toodyay.

In addition, this was achieved with the hard work of our members to the value of \$105,000 in cash and kind, all of this from hard-earned money from wood raffles, clearing roads verges for the Shire of Toodyay, the Markets and other projects, over a period of 11 years.

We are a “not for profit” incorporated body and have been since 2009.

We now operate under the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 and the State Government handed down a constitution on the 19 November 2009 that was revised in November 2017 for us to follow.

Sadly, some of the members didn't believe that adhering to this constitution was necessary nor did they not understand the work required to follow the rules.

I could not let this stand and called them on it while inviting a solution.

Instead of fixing the problem, they childishly took their bat and ball and went home.

Now they are crying foul. Please do not let a few degrade our reputation and what many have built.

These are the facts, and as someone once said about journalists, “never let the facts get in the way of a good story”.

These facts are the best and only story. Remember that the truth does not mind being questioned.

A lie does not like to be challenged.
Fred Fellowes
Coondle

Dog attacks

I WOULD like to acknowledge the kind help my wife and I have received from the Shire of Toodyay Rangers in the last two weeks, Wade and Leon in particular.

On Tuesday June 14, I found two of my three alpacas, which I have had for 15 years, in the paddock, one dead and the other so badly injured we had to put him down.

The Ranger was certain it was a dog attack, probably by two big dogs.

I managed to find two new alpacas which needed re-homing and they arrived the following Sunday.

The next Wednesday I found all three dead and badly savaged in the paddock.

Once again, the Ranger was great but at the time of writing we have found no evidence as to which dogs may have been involved.

If anyone in the Coondle West area has any information, please contact me or the Rangers.

Richard Wilkinson
Coondle West

No more specs

THIS year's Old Spectacle Round-Up will conclude at the end of this month.

Donations should be placed in boxes provided around the town of Toodyay.

Thanks to all who contributed.
Patricia de Soto-Phillips
Toodyay

Advocacy takes centre stage in busy month at shire

President's Pen

Rosemary Madácsi



AMERICAN preacher Halford Edward Luccock was famously quoted as saying "No one can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it".

Well, Toodyay plays a tune particularly well for a small community with limited resources.

In June, council revised the ancillary buildings and sea containers policies to make them less restrictive.

A review of the Dog Policy was also passed for public advertising to better define animal care and establish under what circumstances people can be allowed to keep more than two dogs.

Advocacy for issues important to Toodyay took centre stage.

The case for a new Toodyay bypass was put to government ministers and Premier Mark McGowan's office.

Toodyay's much-needed bypass is no longer on their political or Main Roads WA agenda, nor is it considered large enough to be a federal Infrastructure Australia project.

A bypass road reserve was gazetted and purchased for a new route behind Toodyay's River Hills Estate several years ago and the project needs to be replanned and costed.

At this stage, we will advocate for only Stage 1 – a section from Bindi-Bindi Road to Goomalling Road – to provide a better chance of funding success.

Our aim to hand several key local roads to Main Roads WA will be a long-term project because Shire inquiries have revealed that no Toodyay roads are planned to be handed to the State in the next 10 years.

Please note that Main Roads WA is returning to undertaking road maintenance and some minor capital works in-house.

Anyone interested in sub-contracting or supplying Main Roads WA directly, should attend the meeting at the Bilya Koort Boodja centre at 2 Grey Street, Northam from 6-7pm on Monday July 11.

If you are not aware, management of WA's volunteer bush fire brigades is under

review to decide whether it should stay under local government control or move to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services – or become a hybrid system.

Our position is to retain the current system and support local governments having the option of participating in the Community Emergency Services Manager program with the full cost funded through the State Emergency Services Levy.

A mining tenement differential rate has been proposed, as tenements in Toodyay have historically been rated on minimum rates and assessed on broadacre farming valuations.

Elsewhere, mining tenement valuations are set by Landgate and the rates received are proportionally higher.

Property roadside maintenance has begun. Please do your part for bush fire and weed control but make an effort to protect native bush.

Need advice?

Contact the Shire Reserves Management Officer on 9574 9360 or use the Toodyay Verge Flora Facebook page to help you to identify plants.

Community strength is evident in the strong showing of volunteer groups and the contributions from local business and industry sponsorships within our Shire.

BGC (Midland Brick), a long-term, largely unseen contributor to the community and Chalice Mining, a relative newcomer, have made and are making a difference.

The emergence of our local Aboriginal first nation history, thanks to dedicated local volunteers, adds another enriching dimension to our history and tourism.

Red Bank on the Avon River near Extracts Weir, Pelham Reserve, Newcastle Gaol Museum, Connor's Mill and Duidge Park are excellent examples of this project.

So volunteer where you can, whether it be to supply a load of firewood or other supplies for those in need, lend a few hours to help Roz and her team at Toodyay Locals Care, take your offerings to Toodyay Op Shop or drop off unwanted furniture and shed items to the Shire Waste Transfer Recycling Station on Railway Road.

Please use our new Recreation Centre to help offset costs and support the Community

Resource Centre in Stirling Terrace to retain its facilities and youth programs – it all helps to keep the wheels oiled in your community.

Sadly, divisions can sometimes occur in long-standing community groups.

A recent fracture occurred in the Toodyay Men's Shed, which had received strong community support for public funding.

The facility is now being used by fewer men and a new group called Moondyne Men has formed and meets in the RSL shed in Clinton Street.

Recently, the Toodyay Tennis Club's Tuesday group is continuing at the Recreation Centre while other members have left the purpose-built facility to return to their former clubhouse and courts in Fiennes Street.

A previous agreement between the club and the Shire provides access to the old premises until next February.

Division suggests the approach to conflict resolution has failed and community interests and investment have taken second place.

We hope these two important groups will resolve their issues for the benefit of their community which has supported them.



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Lovers Lane drug crime suspected

Police Beat

With Sgt Dave Flaherty
Toodyay Police Station



PERTH drug and firearm police are investigating a report of suspicious behaviour in Lover's Lane after a local landowner spotted a vehicle parked there for no apparent reason at 2.30am last month.

A number of nearby trees on nearby private property some (pictured below right) were later found to be stripped of bark, prompting Toodyay Police to suspect illegal drug making activity.

Officers traced the car's owner to a metropolitan address and forwarded the information to Perth police for further investigation and surveillance.

The bark of the raspberry jam tree (acacia acuminata, or jam wattle) is used by criminals to manufacture the illicit drug DMT (Dimethyltryptamine) – a type of party drug similar to ecstasy.

Overdoses can cause agitation, sweating, increased blood pressure and heart rate, a dramatic rise in body temperature and potentially death, usually by heart attack or stroke.

DMT is outlawed in most parts of the world and illegal in WA to possess, use, manufacture, cultivate or supply.

Possession can result in a fine of up to \$2000 and/or two years in prison.

Suppliers face fines of up to \$100,000 and/or 25 years in jail.

Jam trees are a native species that grows commonly in the Toodyay area.

The trees grow to about five metres tall and live for up to 35 years.

Stripping the bark can kill the trees.

A police raid two years ago seized 4.5kg of the drug with an estimated street value of more than \$4 million.

Police said the seized drug was being manufactured in an illegal suburban laboratory for sale as pills that were commonly used by young people at music festivals and nightclubs.

Toodyay Police said anyone who suspected that local jam trees were being stripped should report sightings to local officers on 9574 9555 or call WA Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

"Information is king," Sgt Dave Flaherty said.

"Something you may have seen or heard – no matter how seemingly trivial or insignificant – may provide a vital missing link that can help police trace dangerous criminals, harming in our community.



A driver travelling towards Charcoal Lane crosses illegally onto the wrong side of Piesse Street to avoid a speed bump installed to improve safety at the busy shopper intersection.

"That's why it is important for people to contact us with information that can help keep our kids safe from harm."

Livestock checks

TOODYAY police are conducting routine checks on vehicles carrying livestock on local roads to ensure they are not stolen.

"Drivers are being automatically stopped to check that correct documents are being carried," Sgt Flaherty said.

"Local hobby farmers may not be aware of this requirement, but it's their responsibility to do the right thing.

"Livestock theft occurs in Toodyay but not as much as in surrounding areas.

"Correct documentation is needed, even to transport only one animal."

Horses are exempt from this requirement.



Jam trees in Lovers Lane stripped of bark for the suspected manufacture of illicit drugs in a clandestine laboratory.

The WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development says documents are needed to transport livestock to a vet, showground, breeding centre or event.

Fines of up to \$20,000 can apply.

This applies also to dead animals being taken to places such as rubbish tips.

Documents must be carried showing where the journey started and finished.

The property owner or manager must provide a waybill showing where the livestock came from and the name and address of the person receiving the livestock.

Documents must be completed in triplicate and all copies kept for seven years.

The requirements are designed also to protect biosecurity on WA farms.

"We will stop anyone we see carting livestock – even just a single sheep in the back of a ute – to check if they are carrying correct documents or to inform them about what they need to do," Sgt Flaherty said.

Costly detour

DRIVING on the wrong side of the road to avoid speed bumps can be costly, especially when captured on video security footage screened inside Toodyay Police Station.

The traffic offence is "very common" in Piesse Street (pictured at above 2.55pm on a Tuesday) outside the Post office.

The speed bump was installed to slow traffic approaching the busy intersection with Charcoal Lane, where shoppers – often with young children and prams – cross to the car park or places like Rosedale Village for elderly people on the other side of the railway line.

"It happens several times a day and needs to stop before someone gets hurt," Sgt Flaherty said.

The WA Road Safety Commission says the penalty for driving illegally on the wrong side of the road is \$150 and the loss of three driver demerit points.

Busy beat

TOODYAY police spent a total 510 hours patrolling local roads in the past 12 months.

A total of 2354 motorists were stopped for random breath tests, 70 were tested for drugs and 50 were sent to court after traffic stops.

A total of 203 motorists got tickets for speeding and four for using a mobile phone while driving or for not wearing a seat belt.

Split-second lapse leaves elderly shopper stranded

SaferToodyay
Desraé Clarke

IT HAPPENED in a split second.

My elderly cousin Judith had completed her shopping at a large suburban supermarket and was moving through to the checkout.

Reaching beneath her purchases for her purse to prepare to make her payment she found it was not there.

It was gone.

The purse contained cash, her wallet and credit cards, car and house keys, driver's licence, Medicare and pension cards.

She was devastated.

Thieves of this category watch shoppers who have their attention fixed on decision-making about what they plan to buy.

The perpetrators then act swiftly, often working with an accomplice, with a vehicle at the ready for a quick getaway.

The outcome of this drama was for Judith to catch a taxi a long distance to her home for a second set of car keys and then return to the shopping centre to collect her vehicle which was being cared for by supermarket security staff.

The thief had all her personal information, including her home address.

Because of this, she needed to urgently replace the locks on both her car and home, then arrange for the time-consuming replacement of credit cards, Medicare, etc., none of which happens overnight.

To further protect her car, she stored it away from her home till the locks were replaced.

Unfortunately, similar happenings as above have occurred to two of my lady friends.

Another friend of mine was accosted by a child demanding money at time of closing of a shopping centre while the mother was close by, directing the youngster.

When she refused to hand over any money, the child stepped back, charged and punched my friend heavily in the back.

There are ways to help avoid losing your personal property when shopping.

Leave at home any cards that are not required for shopping.

Carry your car and house keys on your person in separate pockets.

Be in control of your personal data at all times.

Report any incident as soon as possible to the manager of the shopping complex, call police on 131 444 or contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or at crimestoppers.com.au.



Supermarket thieves wait for shoppers to be distracted by purchases before stealing their money and cards.

Clogged up with annoying junk

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

SPAM as we know it today started in 1993 when 200 messages were inadvertently sent out to a news group (bit.ly/3xnT8IU).

It has since grown into a serious annoyance and is never going to go away.

There are many excellent online articles on how to deal with spam, complete with instructions (see nr.tn/3xKymy8, bit.ly/3MSZ8sE and bit.ly/39fWbnZ for example), to help you to decide how to manage it.

Many Internet Service Providers provide their own spam filters.

Your email client may also have a spam filter, sometimes known as a junk filter.

However, no spam filter is perfect.

Legitimate emails sometimes get marked as spam, and dodgy ones may get through without being caught.

Spam filters can usually be set to divert

incoming spam into a special folder, typically named "spam".

The diverting is optional.

If a spam filter is set to divert incoming spam, you should check your spam folder occasionally to see if any incoming email has been incorrectly marked.

This can be annoying, and easy to forget.

The alternative is have everything arrive unfiltered in your inbox.

The downside of that is having more emails in your inbox and needing to look at every email to decide whether or not it is spam.

Looking at the name of the sender can be a useful way to decide if an email is spam.

It is ultimately a matter of personal choice for which of these two ways suits you better.

You can experiment with setting your spam filter to divert what it sees as incoming spam and see how that works for you.

If you don't like it, you can always remove the diversion.

TOODYAY

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EMERGENCY SERVICES



Volunteers who played an integral role in forming and developing the Shire of Toodyay's five volunteer bush fire brigades (from left): Brian and Maureen Wood, David Street, Millie and Max Heath, Wayne and Desrae Clarke, John and Lois Dival, and Colin Kendall.

Farmers pioneered the way to fight Toodyay bush fires

Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Peter Brennan

EVER wonder about the history of the bush fire brigades that protect our community? It began locally in 1851 when the Toodyay Convict Hiring Depot was established.

Resident Magistrate Harris proposed that the 'Ticket of Leave' men stationed there should combine with local Aboriginal people to form a fire brigade which could be summoned by settlers who needed help.

By 1857, leading settlers in the district organised firefighting teams to take charge of their neighbourhoods.

Then in July 1909 the Newcastle (as Toodyay was previously called) town fire brigade affiliated with the WA Fire Brigades Association.

The inaugural meeting of the Toodyay Fire Brigade was held in November 1910.

The town brigade later became known as 'Central' and years later became the 'Toodyay Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service'.

By January 1924, a general meeting of the local Primary Producers' Association in the Toodyay Town Hall discussed ways to fight bush fires.

They agreed 'that a body of volunteers be organised to be controlled by one man, and he be paid an hourly rate from a fund raised by farmers and others.'

Local farmers met again in July 1954 to discuss setting up an effective Toodyay firefighting organisation.

They elected a chief officer and nine control officers to form small brigades of three to four men, mainly farm units, led by a captain.

Forty teams were established and spread across the shire.

Between 1956 and 1963, an additional nine small brigades were registered, bringing the shire total to 49.

By 1962, the town unit had the use of an 'Industrial Extracts Company firefighting unit 4 x 4' which was later replaced by an old ex-Army 6 x 6 Studebaker from which fire fighters used hose water, backpacks, wet sacks and branches to stop fires from spreading.

By November 1971, new registration

certificates were issued by the Secretary of the WA Bush Fires Board in a move that shifted the shire's previous 49 small local teams into 11 more robust brigades.

The new brigades were registered as West Toodyay, Wattening, Red Hill, Normans, Nanamoolan, Julimar South, Irishtown, Coondle, Central, Bejoording and Bindoon Road.

A new International 4x4 firefighting truck to replace the old Studebaker was handed over by the Bush Fires Board to the Shire of Toodyay at a ceremony on 22 July 1989.

David Street arrived in Toodyay in 1987 and became the shire's first official ranger.

He and Tony Taylor later became integral to Toodyay's bush fire response and support network.

David focussed strongly during 1988-89 on

scaling down the number of 'fire teams' across the Shire from the 11 to about six – including the Town Brigade – which is the number that exists today.

David also did his best to ensure Toodyay firefighters had the resources needed to be effective and were trained to a common standard.

Today's local volunteer bush fire brigades have much to be grateful for in the work of the shire's early firefighters.

They strived continuously to improve organisational structures, procedures and equipment to help keep the Toodyay community safe from fire.

They include spouses who play an integral role as radio operators, elected committee members, firefighters and in organising and delivering meals.

Cunning plan seems to involve a red light and piles of fill

Bejoording and Community Group News

Justin Dorigo

THERE is a common refrain heard at the social club.

Once the 110km/hr speed limit is hit beyond Toodyay, the worries of the big smoke are left behind.

However, there seems to be a cunning plan afoot from the local shire.

Anybody local could not have missed the piles of fill being collected.

Could it be some widening?

Some overtaking lanes?

It did seem to be a large job.

Alas, it was shoulder work for which we are all grateful.

Not to mention the fun that is being had playing the waiting game at the red traffic light.

The significant cost savings involved in not employing a stop and go person will undoubtedly be ploughed back into the Bejoording and surrounding communities.

Thus, Bejoording residents are both grateful for the diversion provided by the stop light and

the (eventual) improved road conditions.

This has all resulted in the opportunity to spend time reflecting as one gazes out on the countryside.

It does help to see past the construction to the bucolic rolling hills of Bejoording and surrounds.

But really, if this is the worst thing to happen to residents of the shire, as I have come to think of Bejoording, in a day, life must be pretty good.

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 Justin on 0416 435 345.

Hope to see you soon.



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FEEDBACK

Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

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The Toodyay Herald



Powerful 'Truth Telling' display reveals dark history of injustice

Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

WE ARE excited to announce that the 'Gnulla Karnany Waangkiny' (Our Truth Telling) display at the Newcastle Gaol Museum is now open and in time to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2022 (July 3-10).

The corporation and Shire of Toodyay have spent the past year coordinating the museum project under a joint reconciliation action plan.

The museum display consists of 15

permanent illustrated displays at the Newcastle Gaol Museum and two more at Connors Mill.

This has been a major collaboration to show the significant Noongar connection to this area.

Several displays describe Aboriginal traditional life and cultural practices, and one of the Newcastle Gaol Museum cells has 10 illustrated displays highlighting the dark history and unjust treatment of local Noongar people after British colonisation.

It is a powerful message with a strong

Noongar voice that delivers our history and understanding from a Noongar perspective.

Both museums are key locations on the developing 'Noongar Dudja Trail' that includes several other cultural information signs around town.

We invite all locals and visitors to visit the museums to learn more about our past.

Many people need to be thanked for helping to bring this museum project to fruition.

Foremost among them are corporation Chairman Robert Miles and the NKAC team who sought to have the truth told, as well as Elders who we yarned with.

We also thank the Shire of Toodyay for its continued support and engagement, Sandra Harms for her skilled graphic design work, Kai Shanks for being always available to do last minute jobs and Dr Chris Owen for his historical research.

We are especially grateful to Helen Shanks who managed this project from inception to completion and last, but not least, a huge thanks to the WA Government through LotteryWest for funding to enable this project to succeed.

Thank you all so much.

You can keep updated on our activities at www.noongarkaartdijin.com.au or visit us on Facebook at noongarkaartdijin.



Noongar corporation Chairman Robert Miles inspects new "Truth Telling" displays at Newcastle Gaol Museum in Clinton Street.

Noongar Waangkiny
Noongar words and yarning

Sharmaine Miles Ballardong Elder

We acknowledge the Shire area covers Yued, Ballardong and Whadjuk country. Information here is in good faith based mostly on Ballardong language and we understand differences in language and meaning across the wider Noongar nation

Makuru the winter season for hunting

Noongar Waangkiny

KAYA noonuk (hello everyone).

This month we highlight National NAIDOC Week (July 3-10) and the Noongar season of *Makuru*.

National celebrations for NAIDOC (which originally stood for National Aborigines Day Observance Committee) are held in the first week of July each year to recognise the history, culture and achievements of First Australians.

It is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about the history of the oldest, continuous living culture on earth.

To celebrate NAIDOC this year the local Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation has loaned its large display banners to Northam Regional Hospital where workers and visitors can learn about local Noongar culture and the Noongar seasons.

In addition, the corporation has worked alongside the Shire of Toodyay to finalise the *Gnulla Karnany Waangkiny* (Our Truth Telling) project at the Newcastle Gaol Museum in time to celebrate this year's NAIDOC Week in Toodyay.

For more information, see the main article on this page.

As you may know by now, Noongar people have six *Bonar* (seasons).

We are currently in *Makuru* – the fertility season when the weather is cold and wet.

Local Noongar people at this time of year always carried a smouldering branch of *Beera* (banksia) beneath their *Booka* (kangaroo skin cloak).

Here is a bit more *Waangkiny* associated with *Makuru*.

Marli (swans) begin moulting and, being unable to fly, become easy prey for hunters.

Yongar (kangaroo) were hunted.

Koomal (possums) were driven from tree hollows with smoke.

Karla (fire) was used for herding animals to provide a bountiful meat supply.

Bardi (witchetty grub) was available in abundance from the *Balga* (Grass Tree).

Djubak (native potato tubers) were dug from beneath Wandoo trees.

Kondil (Sheoak) is in full blossom and branches chewed to quench thirst.



Newcastle Gaol Cell in Clinton Street displays the dark history and unjust treatment of local Noongar people after British colonisation.

Bigger, Tougher, Smarter



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There's a new boy on the block heading our way

Astronomy
Kim Angus

LAST month wasn't particularly good for stargazers with lots of clouds and water vapour in the air so maybe the only thing you got a really good look at was the Moon.

Our moon is a natural satellite of planet Earth but there are an estimated half a million artificial objects in orbit today and only a fraction are usable.

They range in size from the International Space Station (ISS) to tiny flecks of paint that are causing a worsening problem.

The most obvious risk is of a collision – it does happen.

A 2007 anti-satellite test by the Chinese Government generated debris that destroyed a Russian satellite in 2013.

Also, in 2013 the Iridium 33 and the Cosmos 2251 satellites collided.

Now when these collisions occur, the satellites don't just disappear – they break into smaller pieces that continue to orbit the Earth at a considerable speed.

The lower a satellite's orbit, the faster it must travel because orbiting is simply falling towards a larger body but missing it due to too much forward momentum.

The International Space Station has a lowish orbit of 408km above the Earth's surface and travels at 7.66 km/s.

At that sort of speed, a collision with anything bigger than one centimetre in size can punch a hole through the station's hull.

During routine inspections, a hole was found in one of the ISS's robotic arms.

America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) tracks debris bigger

than 10cm that the ISS and many other satellites can dodge but anything sized between one and ten centimetres presents a real risk.

If you look at the night sky and see a bright light repeatedly flashing on and off along a straight line you are probably looking at a piece of space debris.

The bright flash is the sun reflecting off the object as it tumbles through space.



Moon over Toodyay photographed through a telescope using a mobile phone. Picture: Kim Angus.

Working satellites can also produce a flash of light but it tends to last about ten seconds and occurs only once because the satellite's orbital attitude is stable rather than tumbling.

This brings us to the next problem – skyglow.

Initial estimates suggest that this has increased by 10 per cent since 1960 and is unlikely to lessen anytime soon.

We are used to seeing light reflect off the Moon and even the very faint light coming to us from distant stars but now we have all this extra light reflecting off artificial satellites and space junk as well.

It affects astronomy by making faint objects harder to see, constellations harder to discern and generally mucks us about, but at least we no longer need to use stars to navigate and we know what is going on.

However, creatures other than humans also use the stars to navigate migratory routes or even just to figure out which way they are going, so we may be really messing with them – they can't use a Global Positioning System (GPS) instead.

Now with the war in Ukraine many of you may have heard of Starlink, a satellite communication system currently being used in that country to replace disrupted normal communications.

Starlink's benefits as an alternative global communications system are undoubted, and efforts have been made to reduce their impact with non-reflective coatings and by bringing them back down to predominantly burn up on re-entry in the Earth's atmosphere and hopefully place the remainder in a thoughtful manner – 30,000 satellites whizzing round our planet is an awful lot.

And this is just Starlink. OneWeb is putting up more than 6000 satellites and Amazon has plans to launch another 3000.

Light pollution already affects things from marine turtles to bogong moths, as well as other iconic Australian creatures such as magpies and tamar wallabies.

Another 40,000 lights whizzing around in the night sky (those three aren't the only players) could be a literal nightmare for many species.

Of course, there are other whizzing cosmic lights such as meteors and comets but artificial satellites affect all of the night sky every night – it will be interesting to see what effect this has on Earth.

Having mentioned comets, I may as well say a bit more about them especially as there is a new boy on the block – C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS).

Comets orbit the Sun but many have highly elliptical orbits that look more like a wobbly Spirograph than the neat orbits of our planets and their moons.

Now, comets like Halley's are short-period comets that take less than 200 years to go once around our Sun.

Their orbits may extend from beyond Pluto (six billion kilometres from the Sun) to inner planets such as Earth.

But there are also long-period comets that take more than 200 years to do a single lap with some taking a million years or so to orbit our Sun.

Some comets make their journey from beyond the outer planets and travel from the Oort cloud, which has never actually been observed but astrophysicists are pretty sure it is there.

The Oort cloud is a sphere of icy objects so far away that it didn't quite take part in the formation of our Solar System.

Short-period comets tend to travel in the same orbital plane as our planets but long-period comets can orbit in any direction.

C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS) is an Oort cloud comet discovered in May 2017 while it was still beyond Saturn.

This is a big comet with a core estimated to be roughly 19km in diameter (by comparison, Rottneist is 11km long by 4.5km wide) with a wide halo of dust that is 130,000km across – more than 10 times wider than the Earth.

The dust leaves a visible trail as radiation from the Sun warms a frozen mix of gases that form part of the comet.

Despite its size, this comet isn't expected to be visible to the naked eye but at its closest pass to the Earth on Friday July 14 you may be able to see it overnight from Toodyay with a decent pair of binoculars at a distance of 270 million kilometres.

The comet will appear below the Moon in the north-west near the deep space object M10 – a bright globular cluster of stars about 7200 light years away.

If you want to try to catch a glimpse, I suggest using an online star chart.

The Sky Live app names C/2017 K2 but others may show only M10, which may be enough to help you find the comet nearby.

Good start to local season amid rising concern over global food security

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza*

GREEN crops and pastures now surround our shire after timely rains transformed the landscape into a carpet of green.

Crops have emerged well and are thriving in mild conditions with no evidence of waterlogging which caused widespread difficulties last year.

Frosts have not been common either which has helped all crops and pastures to develop, though winter rainfall so far has been below average.

Local farmers are busy this month making use of the opportunity of milder weather to fertilise crops and spay paddocks for weeds.

World events are still affecting farmers in Toodyay and elsewhere with an inexorable rise in fuel prices causing concern, particularly for grain growers who make extensive use of mechanical equipment to sow, manage and harvest crops.

They use relatively large quantities of fuel compared with domestic consumers and, in addition, natural gas is used to make urea, a common nitrogenous fertiliser.

Flow-on effects of global energy price rises are causing very real concern, and ongoing war in Ukraine is still causing unpredictable volatility in grain markets.

Prices fell rapidly late last month as that volatility in equity markets spilled over into futures markets for grains.

Adding to the bearish sentiment is concern that food inflation caused by high grain prices will affect food security worldwide and lead to famine.

Speculation is rife that renewable fuel mandates which use grain and canola to convert to biofuels will be altered or dropped altogether to free up grain for food.

Most grain farmers I spoke to recently have serious concerns about cost blowouts and what farming will look like in 2023.

Meanwhile, livestock producers across the shire are enjoying a good start to the season, with timely rains and warm days encouraging pasture growth.

Bolgart farmer Phil Syred says ewes and lambs are in good condition, with lamb marking due to start early this month.

He says there have been no issues so far with parasites, but blowflies will be monitored as the weather warms up in the lead-up to spring shearing.

Phil will begin to work his clover pastures by removing grasses and broadleaf weeds to set up paddocks for cropping in 2023.

Margins remain strong for sheep producers with firm markets for wool and sheep meat.

As global uncertainty remains and cropping costs remain historically high, sheep continue to provide a relatively low-cost, low-input alternative land use for those prepared to run them.

On another front, WA farm safety is again in the news with 12 deaths in the past year.

These fatalities and a recent death involving farm equipment on a public road has become a very real concern for the community as a whole.

The State Government has introduced new WA industrial manslaughter laws which place significant responsibilities onto farmers and others.

The widespread ramifications of these new laws are generally not yet well known in the agricultural sector but training programs are now available.

Local farmers and other business owners are urged to seize this opportunity to understand and use the necessary programs and protocols to improve workplace safety.

*Assisted by Edward Ludemann.

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Life members leave for the Big Smoke

Bolgart News
Pam McGill

A FAREWELL tea was held at the Bolgart Sports Club last month to wish Brian (Ned) and Gwenda McGill all the best on their move to the city.

Brian and Gwenda have both been actively involved in a number of organisations and have been wonderful supporters and volunteers of the Bolgart community for quite a number of years.

Brian is a life member of the Bolgart Bowling Club and the Football Club, and Toodyay Agricultural Society.

Gwenda is a life member of the Bolgart Progress Association.

These are just some of the many organisations in which both have held elected positions.

Both were still active right up to their departure and will be missed by their many friends and relatives in the Bolgart community.

Bolgart Hotel was the venue for a social gathering for former Toodyay State School students dating back to the 1950s.

The group meets regularly throughout the year at various venues to catch up on days gone by and keep in touch.

Former Toodyay Covent school students also joined them, as well as others from that era.

A beautiful meal was enjoyed by everyone.

Bolgart Country Women's Association (CWA) members held their Birthday Luncheon last month at Tree's Cafe.

Kathy prepared a lovely meal that everyone enjoyed.

Local CWA members will also have a Biggest Morning Tea at the Bolgart Memorial Hall, starting at 10am on Wednesday July 13.

Everyone is most welcome.

For catering purposes could you please RSVP by Monday July 11 by text to Joan on 0439 951 879.

Monica Lee and Ozzie Osboine of Bolgart are

proud grandparents of their first grandchild, a beautiful granddaughter Billie Natalie Osboine to dad Jordan Osboine and mum Chloe Frazer.

Billie was born on June 1 and weighed 2.8kg – congratulations mum and dad.

Also, very proud grandparents of their first grandchild are Lindsay and Sue Watson of Bolgart.

Their beautiful granddaughter, Remi Rose Watson, was born to parents Robert and Kimberly Watson on June 25 and weighed 2.84kg – congratulations there too.

Congratulations go also to Scotty from the Bolgart Hotel for being a finalist in WA's best steak sandwich competition.

Scotty will travel to Perth for the final judging – best of luck Scotty.

School Awards

AUSSIE of the Month was won by Lilly Stewart and Ethen Uriarau.

Senior Room Merit Certificates were awarded to Ronan Howe and Levi Smith, and Junior Room Merit Certificates went to Harley Judson and Harper Smith.

Ladies Golf

Chalice Mining Trophy – Stroke. Winner Joy Hamilton, runner-up Serena Syred.

Bolgart Hotel Trophy – Stableford. Winner Alison McGuinness, runner-up Merle Manuel.

Ruth Taylor Putter – Stroke. Winner Serena Syred, runner-up Jenni Knowles on a countback from Joy Hamilton.

Travel Tree 4BBB Challenge – Stableford. Winner Waveney Jones.

Pam McGill Trophy. Winners Merle Manuel and Serena Syred, runners-up Jenni Knowles and Pam Meston.

Congratulations to Vivienne Camerer on being runner-up at Rural Bronze played at Riverview Golf Club in Albany.

Viv played two great rounds of golf over the Saturday and Sunday of the competition.



Toodyay's new Moondyne Men relaxing at the RSL shed in Clinton Street.

New Moondyne Men focus on supporting local community

The Moondyne Men
Colin Bird

THE MOONDYNE Men is a newly formed group of local men, looking after men and the community, a place for men to socialise for the benefits of social interaction and mental health.

The group was formed after the mass exit from another local group and the RSL has welcomed us to use of their Clinton Street shed as a meeting place.

We meet twice weekly from 9am to noon on Mondays and Thursdays to enjoy the social atmosphere of men telling tall tales and true from a sometimes legendary past, as well as life's experiences.

We drink tea or coffee, always have biscuits, and sometimes have cakes.

We have a cooked breakfast starting at 8.30am on the last Saturday of each month, followed by our monthly meeting.

We have three office bearers – a chairperson, secretary and treasurer – and everyone else is on the committee.

It enables us to always have a quorum for meetings and all our business is conducted openly and transparently for all members to see.

Our main focus, apart from social interaction, is the Toodyay community.

To date we have supported the Moondyne

Festival (hence how we got our name), we will assist the Toodyay Agricultural Society with Show car parking and will be a part of the Avon Descent/International Food Fair clean-up.

Our group was in the early stages of developing and not yet incorporated in time for this year's Moondyne Festival in May, so money we earned and received in donations totalling \$1420 was donated to Toodyay Locals Care to help feed and provide support for local homeless people.

Our application for incorporation was successful later in May.

Since then, we have established a Post Office box, email address, public liability insurance and have opened a bank account.

We also applied to the Shire of Toodyay for a start-up grant of \$1000 and are awaiting a response.

We are here for the good of our membership through men supporting men and the community.

We are one of the groups in town that is solely community based and not-for-profit.

We have no other agenda other than to be a place where men can meet and, where possible, to assist the community in any way that the skills and ability of our members can provide.

For further information please call Colin on 0424195003 or email moondyne.men@iinet.net.au.



Robert Watson with Remi Rose Watson.



School luncheon guests (from left): Hugh O'Reilly, Libby Kent, Glenda McIver, Greg Kent, Judy Drake-Brockman, Nick Trendos and Margaret Pemberton.

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City slickers serve breakfast to hungry Toodyay kids

Toodyay DHS Breakfast Club
Hamish Dobie

THERE have been many new families come to settle in Toodyay in recent years, including my wife and I.

I would like to share my own experiences and, perhaps offer some advice to others who may feel that their move here has made them realise how much such a move can change their lives.

We lived and worked in Perth for 32 years, including 17 years in Yokine, four kilometres north of the city centre.

I had always worked in management which meant long hours and occasional weekends.

My friends tended to be my work colleagues or people that I had met through work at some time or another.

I was happy to have a good group of friends with whom I had a lot in common.

I retired in January 2020, just as the COVID-19 pandemic was starting to affect our world and a couple of months later I went into isolation, as required.

It gave me plenty of opportunity to think about my situation.

I had retired with no work to return to, and therefore had no more daily interactions with the people I knew well.

I then realised that though I had lived in the same home for 17 years, I knew hardly any of my neighbours because they basically all led the same lifestyle as mine.

Like many others, my wife got laid off work because of COVID-19 and we soon both found that we were basically stranded and alone in the city.

Both of us had been brought up in the country, so we decided to move out of the city and return to country life.

We soon opted for Toodyay because it is a cracking little town with a good feel about it and it was also fairly close to the city.

After the normal turmoil of selling and buying houses and the initial settling into our new home we agreed that to be part of our new community, we had to get out and meet people.

This initially included our new neighbours and then perhaps volunteer our time for a good cause and get involved with some of the many local clubs.

After 18 months we now know most of the families in our street, many others in the town, and have become volunteers at several clubs, using our work experience to their advantage.

Life is good in Toodyay and we both agree that we would never want to return to city life – we feel we have integrated well.

So, for all the new families who have recently moved to Toodyay, my advice is to get involved and go out of your way to meet your neighbours.

You can volunteer your time to a wide variety of clubs where you can meet people and build valuable new friendships.

As for myself, I am a member of the Avon Wood Turners, the Toodyay Garden Club, a volunteer with the Toodyay Agricultural

Show and the Toodyay District High School Breakfast Club.

The school breakfast club is a good place to get started.

If you feel you can offer one or two hours a week, fresh volunteers are needed to replace those who have recently had to give up for one reason or another.

It would be tragic if this important service had to close because of a lack of volunteers because it benefits the children – some only five or six years old – who need it most.

The School Breakfast Club feeds children who arrive at school hungry and provides hot drinks on cold mornings before class.

The breakfasts are served on Mondays,

Wednesdays and Fridays during the school term, and take up about an hour each day.

So fellow newcomers, I hope you are able to share my satisfaction in moving to Toodyay and that you can also decide to get involved.

I look forward to meeting you somewhere in town.



Toodyay District High School choir.

High note for school choir and music program

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

TOODYAY District High School students are celebrating a generous donation of \$2956 from Toodyay Music Fest Inc, the organising body of the town's former music festival.

P&C members agreed to allocate the donation to the school's music program, including the popular student choir.

The choir has grown to 40 regular members who sing at assemblies and other formal school occasions.

We greatly appreciate the donation and look forward to students benefiting from improved opportunities to participate in the choir and music program.

From high notes to nature play – the time has finally come to clear out the old and make way for a new nature-inspired playground at the front of the school.

Imagine two forts to play from; a creek bed which students can pump water along; climbing and balancing structures made from natural logs, rocks and ropes; swings, a slide, and areas of free play where students can direct their own play every day.

We're incredibly excited to make this happen for local students.

We couldn't do it without the support of donors and sponsors, including Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Chalice Mining, Toodyay Op Shop and the Toodyay Lions Club.

To date our P&C has raised a whopping \$47,000 in cash donations for this project.

We have also secured support from material and service suppliers, including Transwest WA, Midland Brick, Vapour Plumbing and Gas, Mobile Concrete Services and Emerald Farms.

Now all we need is a team of volunteers to prepare the site and work alongside nature playground staff to construct the new play space during the July school holidays.

We will move sand, logs and rocks and install playground equipment with guidance from nature playground staff.

If you can help for a few hours or a day and would like to be part of making a dream come true for students, please contact Kelly-Anne Murray on 0406 585 716 or email pandctoodaydhs@gmail.com.

You may also send us a message via our Toodyay DHS P&C Facebook page or write to Toodyay District High School P&C at PO Box 1624, Toodyay WA 6566.

Music money to buy uniforms

Toodyay District High School
David Ball, Principal

OUR SCHOOL choir wishes to thank the Toodyay Music Fest for its kind and generous donation of \$2956.

The money will be used to purchase choir uniforms.

SHIRE OF TOODYAY

Draft Local Planning Policies and Policies for Public Consultation

At its meeting held on 22 June 2022, Council resolved to adopt for the purposes of advertising the following draft Local Planning Policies / policy:

LPP - Dams

LPP - Ancillary Dwellings

LPP - Use of Shipping Containers and Similar Storage Structures

Policy - Dogs

These draft policies form part of a current review of existing policies which is seen as an integral part of good governance. The objective of these policies is to provide guidance to Councillors, Shire staff, the community and applicants.

Local planning policies are guidelines used to assist the local government in making decisions under the local planning scheme. A local planning policy is not part of the local planning scheme and does not bind the local government to any application for development approval, however, the local government is to have due regard to the provisions of the policy and the objectives which the policy is designed to achieve before making its determination.

Copies of the draft policies can be viewed on the Council's website www.toodyay.wa.gov.au or by visiting the Shire of Toodyay's Administration Centre, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay.

Your views on the draft policies are encouraged and welcome. Written submissions must be received prior to 4.00pm, Friday 29 July 2022 by the Shire of Toodyay Administration, PO Box 96 Toodyay 6566 or by email: records@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Notice of Adoption of Local Planning Policy

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Clause 4(4) of the Deed Provisions in Schedule 2 of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* that Council resolved on 22 June 2022 to adopt the following Local Planning Policy:

Local Planning Policy – Advertising for Planning Proposals

Copies of the Local Planning Policy are available for inspection at the Shire of Toodyay's Administration Centre, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay and are also available for viewing on Council's website www.toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Further information on the above is available by contacting the Shire's Development and Regulation Department on 9574 9340.

Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



New Noongar 'Truth Telling' boards installed at museum



Shire of Toodyay Economic Development Coordinator Kimberley Darby with six Noongar seasons display at Connors Mill.

Volunteers of Toodyay Museums
Barry Keens

THE BEAUTIFUL sunny weather kept us busy last month with increased visitors to the Museums, Connors Mill and The Old Gaol.

Our new Gnalla Karnanny Waangkiny, (Our Truth Telling) exhibition with 15 story boards has been installed at the Old Gaol Museum in partnership with Noongar Kaartdijin Corporation (see Page 8).

Volunteers will be busy learning the stories.

There are also two new story boards in Connors Mill to replace others that needed upgrading.

We will be busy during the school holidays with kids' projects in conjunction with Toodyay's Visitor Centre.

Come see for yourself and remember that Shire of Toodyay residents and local school teachers are admitted free to both museums, which are open daily from 10am to 3pm.

Beautiful buildings with a dark past

We're still afloat – with floaties



Toodyay Historical Society at New Norcia. Photo: Linda Rooney.

Toodyay Historical Society Robyn Taylor, President

SEVERAL members enjoyed our early July excursion to New Norcia, staying at the Old Convent for two nights and exploring the delights of this remarkable place with its history of bright sunlight and deep shadows.

New Norcia is the only monastic town in Australia and surprises those who first come across it.

It's as if you have entered a place that belongs to another time, with buildings far removed from their origins.

New Norcia was established as a religious mission to convert nomadic Aboriginal people in the Victoria Plains region to the Roman Catholic faith, a purpose seen as noble at the time but now as misguided.

Under the leadership of Bishop Brady in Perth in 1846, a party of mostly Spanish Benedictine monks travelled to the area to build a monastery on the Moore River.

In order to secure funds and recruit new members for the mission, Bishop Brady sent Dom Serra to Europe, and Dom Salvado to Rome, where both were consecrated as Bishops before returning to WA.

Dom Serra became Bishop of Perth, while the mission at New Norcia was established under Dom Salvado.

The Church bought 2560 acres of land at new Norcia to augment an initial colonial

government grant of 20 acres.

By the 1880s, the New Norcia mission's pastoral empire extended to almost a million acres of leasehold land.

Small freehold blocks with springs and waterholes were provided with permanent water through the construction of large stone wells that are still evident today.

The mission flourished after much hard work and was virtually self-supporting with wheat crops, a flour mill, vegetable gardens, grape vines, olive groves and an apiary.

A small village developed with schools built for Aboriginal children, houses for their parents and a post office.

Colonists settled around the Benedictine monastery and schools were built for their children.

All the while substantial beautiful buildings were erected, including the monastery, a pro-cathedral (a church that temporarily serves as a cathedral), girls' and boys' colleges and a large hotel erected in the hope of a future visit by a papal delegation.

Bishop Salvado also made trips to Europe where he acquired religious art works, books and vestments that form part of the monastery collection.

This is part of the early establishment history of the place.

Its good and worthy intentions and sanctity are reflected in its quietly stunning architecture, gardens, and places for quiet reflection and prayer.

But its beauty was to be stained by dark events.

In the 1950s to 1970s, Aboriginal children were forcibly taken from their families by authorities to so-called orphanages at New Norcia.

Many were subject to terrible abuses that for too long remained hidden until they were exposed in more recent times as part of a national redress scheme in WA.

The work is ongoing while New Norcia continues to deal with its past and looks to the future.

New Norcia today offers a wide range of activities involving music, education, retreats and study weekends.

Historical information for this column was largely based on Rica Erickson's research and can be found in her 1974 book 'Old Toodyay & Newcastle' and 'Toodyay Homesteads, Past & Present', published in 2006.

Our next excursion on Sunday July 31 will be a visit to two heritage-listed homes in the Toodyay townsite.

One is a former pensioner guard cottage (c.1860) and the other a 1920 house with an inspirational interior.

Details will be sent to members.

Contacts: secretary.2j.ths@gmail.com, Robyn Taylor, rdtaylor@iinet.net.au, 9574 2578 or Beth Frayne 9574 5971 toobide4@iinet.net.au, or write to us at PO Box 32 Toodyay WA 6566.

Membership is \$15 per annum and our website is toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au.

Toodyay Community Resource Centre (CRC) Nicole Coleman, Manager

AS MANY of you may know, we have faced some significant challenges in recent times.

Our capacity to remain open much beyond the beginning of the 2023 financial year was very much in doubt.

Though we still have a long road ahead of us to ensure long-term financial sustainability, we are very pleased to announce that the immediate risk has passed, and we are still afloat – albeit with floaties.

We sincerely thank each and every one of our community members who have supported us – not a day has gone by where people haven't popped in to see how we are tracking or told us how devastating it would be if we closed.

We feel very valued.

Our attention now turns to increasing our revenue through varied income streams so that the risk of closure doesn't continue to affect us.

Aside from small price increases for our regular services, we are pursuing a number of ideas for new services that we may be able to offer – please keep your eyes peeled for when we can announce them.

Recent events include two marvellous buttercream cake decorating workshops conducted by Aurelie from Pretty Cakes in Coondle.

These booked out super-fast and were very much enjoyed.

Our Kids Club and monthly Movie and Morning Tea social events have been well attended, with movie-goers last month watching the sequel to May's movie – 'Death on the Nile'.

Our May raffle was very successful and raised more than \$900.

The last workshop we hosted in May was 'Financial How-To' for small businesses.

We are here to help businesses with training needs – please let us know what workshop topics you would like us to host.

We said goodbye in June to Jordyn, who has accepted a full-time position at the Bendigo Bank.

Our little team now consists of me as Manager, Kyla as Events and Marketing Officer, and Bree, who is completing a traineeship including a TAFE Certificate IV in Mental Health.

Pop in and say hi, check out our upcoming events, use our services, pick up a membership form or just drop by for a chat.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

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Granny's cacti can be kids' Show winners

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Alison Wroth

FLORICULTURE is always a major feature in the historic Lee Steere Pavilion, which is our main exhibition hall.

This year brings the addition of orchids to the hall and the return of hanging baskets – a feature which will be a sight for sore eyes.

I am looking forward as Chief Steward to receiving many entries in these classes.

Succulents and plants that our grannies grew around the corner of the house are still very retro in fancy pots.

An amazing variety of cacti and succulents continues to be very popular and provides an excellent opportunity for children to enter as floriculture exhibits.

Please enter your best efforts in this year's Show to stun the judge and see how you go.

If the season, pruning and parrots have been kind to you, your best roses will be ready to exhibit at the Show.

Please consider entering them ahead of time and get those entry forms in early.

Come on people, let's liven up the Floriculture Section and give our stewards some work to do.

Last year's heavy winter rains and water damage in the children's area required ongoing maintenance by agricultural society volunteers to help keep the Lee Steere pavilion in ship-shape condition.

The Shire of Toodyay has stepped up this year and we are grateful that they are providing funds for builders to replace box gutters to prevent future water damage.

Replacing them, however, represents only the tip of the iceberg.

The original Exhibition Hall was built in 1957 and the extension (Children's Section) added in 1960 which means the building officially celebrates its 65th birthday this year.

I'm sure the shire would be in full agreement when it comes to maintaining older or historic community buildings in our lovely heritage town.

Baking for this year's Cookery Section can be done anytime if you are busy – exhibits can be frozen.

Bread is a different story, however, and most regular entrants prefer to bake their loaves on the morning or late the previous night.

Either way, there is nothing like seeing lots of fresh hand and machine-made loaves on display – you can almost taste and smell them.

It's worth having a good think about entering this year's Cooking Section, with new classes providing a lot of variety to consider.

The 'Mens Cake' Section has proved to be really popular and produced some outstanding results.

The size of a cake or the number of cracks in it does not matter.

Any male creation with taste, presentation and no assistance from the boss will win the day – usually.

Get cracking guys because the winner will be held in legendary status forever after.

After the judging, you can leave your exhibits for our fundraising auction or take them home.

Our colour Show Schedule is going well and will make an excellent souvenir program.

All entry forms will be available in the schedule or can be downloaded from our website.

It is due to go to print this month, thanks to support from our admirable major sponsors in the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Chalice Mining, CSBP, Dunning's, Elders, Toodyay Op Shop, Deepdale Dorpers, the Lee Steere family, Makit Hardware and the Shire of Toodyay.

All agricultural society members will receive their copy in the post.

The print run is limited to 300 copies, so please grab them early when the schedule becomes publicly available.



RSL members were joined by Toodyay's Moondyne Men who volunteered to help plant new roses and build a footpath around the Anzac Memorial Park garden to avoid it being trampled by visitors.

Moondyne Men help plant RSL roses

RSL Toodyay Sub Branch
Bob Wood

OUR FIRST priority is looking after the interests of service veterans and their families and it is pleasing to note that a much-promised RSL Hub in Northam is now becoming a reality.

The new hub is a partnership between RSL head office and the Wheatbelt Health Network to provide medical and psychological support services for veterans living in country areas such as Toodyay.

It will be the first of a series of regional centres and is expected to open soon.

It means that Toodyay service veterans will no longer have to travel to Anzac House in Perth to gain access to support.

Our local RSL branch is also pleased to assist other Toodyay community group members when we can.

We were recently approached by former members of a local group that had found themselves homeless and in need of somewhere to have a chat and cuppa.

We were happy to open our Clinton Street facility to the Moondyne men who returned the favour by providing willing helpers to bolster our crew in carrying out recent upgrades across the road at Anzac Park.

For those of you who haven't visited for a while, there are now memorial plaques in the gardens for each and every one of our war dead.

New roses have replaced those trying to surrender, and a new pathway from the grassed parking area to the park has been created.

The plan is to avoid visitors having to tiptoe through the roses for events such as the annual Anzac Day Dawn Service.

While July is not our busiest month of the year, we shall be at the Farmers Market on Sunday July 17 and able to answer any questions.



Sample of work in the gallery, featuring Nicola C owners, Kat Ferguson, Karen Chappelow and Jo Duval.

Not just chaotic squiggly lines

Arts Toodyay
Karen Chappelow

IT'S NOT for everyone as far as tastes are concerned, but it is universal if you consider this style of art by its definition.

According to the Concise Oxford Dictionary of Art Terms, "implicit to abstract art is the notion that the work of art exists in its own right, and not necessarily as a mirror of reality".

God knows we get plenty of that in spades every day.

The art is non-representational and uses elements such as lines, shapes, forms, or gestural brushstrokes to invoke a deep primal response in the viewer.

Although an abstract painting may represent a physical object or a person, accurate depiction is not the purpose.

It is called abstract art because it is a deviation from that which seems real to our senses, i.e. our eyes.

Some abstract art relies solely on use of colours to convey feelings (colour paintings) while others represent the artist's moods and passions – think Jackson Pollock's seeming chaotic squiggly lines in *Blue Poles*.

Abstract art is also highly subjective. It is this subjectivity of the art that makes it so appealing to a wide range of viewers.

It is open to interpretation. The abstract artist is not married to the work.

The artist lives for the process of creating the art and not for the end product.

Art, for an abstract artist, is a form of self-revelation as much as it is for the viewer.

Famous abstract artists include Wassily Kandinsky, Mondrian, Pollock.

Arts Toodyay has its own abstract artists and some of their works are represented in our gallery.

Alexander Moore and Kat Ferguson are two of our artists with work that is guaranteed to evoke a range of emotions within the viewer.

Try it out; come and stand in front of one – see and feel it – you might be surprised.

You can see this abstract art and works by other artists at the gallery at the Toodyay Manor, 82 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay which is open from 10am Fridays to Sundays.

Follow us on Instagram @artstodyay

Marlon talks physio over Shed breakfast

Toodyay Mens Shed
The Scribe.

HELLO fellow Shedders.

A reflection on the hard work that went into what we have today.

Today our group are gladdened that many men are coming to our days of activities, and to participate in whatever they wish to do, be it a talk, have a coffee or a chance to use a machine that they are familiar with, and to join in and share with the other "Blokes".

Also, to some of our guys who have been unwell for a time, we wish you a speedy recovery.

Last month was a bit on the cool side but our doors are open and the welcome mat is out.

We enjoyed a breakfast at the end of last month with guest speaker Marlon, a local physiotherapist, who gave us his professional insight into men's health.

This was Men's Shed ethos at its best.

A couple of the guys have been away to the far reaches of our country in recent weeks. We look forward to their safe return and their company soon.

Meantime 'Stay Warm and Well'.

For Shed inquiries, please call the Secretary on 0499 403 830.



Shedders shift hay.

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Julimar Project Update



Update on roads

Ensuring local road conditions are safely maintained for the use of the community and our team is of utmost importance to Chalice.

Chalice recognises that increased traffic from our exploration activities have contributed to additional maintenance requirements, particularly on Keating and Plunkett Roads.

To date, Chalice has funded two additional road grades along Keating Road, and continues to engage with the Shire of Toodyay to reach a solution for ongoing maintenance of these roads.

As the Julimar Project is at an exploration-stage, the majority of Chalice traffic consists of standard vehicles with very little heavy haulage.

Each day, Chalice staff and contractors drive to site in light-vehicles or via a team bus. Heavier vehicles are used occasionally for transporting drill rigs, fuel deliveries and waste collection.

Chalice's engineering studies are currently considering plans for mine infrastructure, including future transport requirements. These studies will assess the potential traffic and transport related requirements over the life of a mine.

Our community consultation will increase as we better understand the outcomes of this work, including recommendations on how to manage any impacts to roads and local traffic.

In the interim, Chalice does not expect any significant increases to the current level of company-related traffic, and will provide detail once an agreement is reached with the Shire for ongoing maintenance of roads that are currently used for exploration activities.



Sign up for regular updates

To receive the 'Julimar Project Community Newsletter' in your inbox, subscribe at:
www.chalicemining.com/community-julimar-project
community@chalicemining.com

Joey Rescue Pouches

Chalice would like to thank local wildlife rehabilitation group 'Marsupial Mammals and Pappas (MM&P's)' for their recent supply of Joey Rescue Pouches for the Julimar Project site team.

These volunteer-made pouches come equipped with the required tools to keep rescued wildlife safe and warm before formal care can be applied. The pouches will be used in the event the Chalice team come across roadside injuries or orphaned animals.

Chalice is a proud sponsor of the MM&P's carers who rescue and rehabilitate marsupials, birds and reptiles so they can be released to the wild. If you find injured or misplaced, wildlife please call MM&P's on 0419 933 721.



Community

Chalice is thrilled to support two of Toodyay's junior sporting clubs for the current winter season.

The Junior Toodyay Soccer Club has used Chalice's funding to purchase a set of new goals for the team, while the Junior Toodyay Football Club have kicked-off with a new set of goal posts and much-needed footy equipment. We wish both the teams the best of luck for the season ahead!



Confronting Avon history at Ballardong centre

Country Women's Association
Vivien Street

LAST month's general meeting was a lively afternoon with much being achieved.

President Kathy Haynes welcomed new members Vai and Julie-Anne to our branch and six CWA members from Wanneroo.

It is always interesting to exchange ideas and see how other branches structure their meetings, and we all enjoyed the experience.

We hope to support some of their functions later in the year and continue the connection.

The competition of the month was to show a precious object.

These covered a wide range from jewellery to teddies, turtles to books, and sewing kits to embroidery.

The precious item chosen by Kathy was Mavis and this got the most applause.

Mavis, nearer 100 than 90, still runs our monthly quiz which bamboozles us every time even when we are told "it's an easy one".

Viv gave a talk on 'Our Sad History' with regards to our year-long study of Aboriginal Australia, which includes quite a confronting history in our Avon region.

As part of that study, a group of us visited Northam's Bilya Koort Boodja Centre for Nyoongar Culture and Environmental Knowledge the following week.

This is the place to learn about the Ballardong Nyoongar people and their culture, and to celebrate Avon Valley traditional owners.

A series of striking visual and audio displays led us through the seasons to learn about the lives and beliefs of the people who have lived here for thousands of years and how through better understanding their culture we can respect and value it.

It was a worthwhile visit and very informative.

Coffee afterwards to revive us for the drive back was a happy gathering too.

Gina, Evelyn and Maria travelled up to Tammin last month to attend their WA Week lunch.

The lunch is held every year to celebrate our wonderful state and was attended by ladies from wheatbelt branches.

Guests were welcomed by the Shire President and entertainment was provided by the Tammin school student leadership team.

Tammin CWA ladies served up a delicious three-course lunch which was followed by a guest speaker, raffles, door prizes and a lucky



Outside Northam's Bilya Koort Boodja Centre for Nyoongar Culture and Environmental Knowledge after last month's visit by Toodyay CWA members.

spot competition.

Four or five members were due to join the Gingin Koorunga CWA Yarning Circle late last month for a day led by Yued woman Marg Drayton who was born and raised on her traditional country and will share her knowledge with those who attend.

It was expected to be a special day.

Toodyay CWA also celebrated its 95th birthday with a shared lunch and guests from sister branch Bayswater.

We were asked to bring a school photo for the competition to see how much we have changed, or not, between then and now.

State Conference is in Gingin this month with members from 132 other branches represented.

Mark down Saturday August 13 and Saturday October 29 on your calendars so you can grab some delicious pickles, jams and marmalades plus other goodies at a CWA stall outside Toodyay's IGA store in Charcoal Lane.

If you are interested in joining our group, please feel free to attend our meetings at the CWA hall on Stirling Terrace on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1pm or join us on our coffee mornings, same venue, at 10am on the second Thursday of the month – you will

be most welcome.

There is ample parking in Charcoal Lane, an ACROD parking bay and disabled access to the hall.

For hall bookings please ring Margot Watkins on 0405 067 591 or 9574 2823.



Kathy Haynes chose Mavis Rowles as her 'precious item' for last month's Toodyay CWA member competition.

never saw a cow.

Collette's atmospheric *Song for Ireland* and Spencer's *Rolling Down the Moonbis* continued the mix of styles and subjects.

Joe and Jenny concluded the afternoon's entertainment with the haunting *Knockin' on Heaven's Door*.

As always, we shared a scrumptious afternoon tea during the break.

This provides a lovely opportunity to catch up informally with other members and visitors before we go round the circle again to complete the afternoon's performances.

Visitors are welcome to drop in to listen or to perform at this friendly acoustic music club.

Time permitting, performers may each sing a maximum of four songs – two before afternoon tea and two after.

Our next meeting starts at 1pm on Saturday July 9 in the CWA Hall in Stirling Terrace.

The theme is Beatles-flavoured to celebrate the band's approaching 60th anniversary, or a free choice.

For more information, please call Joe on 0400 862 694.

Musical mountains moved by acoustic performers

Toodyay Music Club
Jenny Edgecombe

THE SECOND Saturday of the month when Music Club meets sometimes seems to roll around very quickly, leading to a scramble for songs.

Fortunately, members' repertoires are increasing all the time, helped along by regular theme days when most of us try new songs for at least some of our choices.

Several members at last month's meeting presented a range of most enjoyable 'Hills and Mountains' songs intended for May's theme day which they were unable to attend.

In this vein, Maurice presented the well-known *Wolverton Mountain*, followed by Eileen with her plaintive rendition of the amusing song featuring the *Girl on Wolverton Mountain*.

Peter's stirring *Snowy Mountains* song *Watson's Crag* was another extra Mountains number last month.

Meanwhile, Brian had a variety of entertaining songs from the other Brian, who had a most amusing number about an old cowhand who

Music Fest wind-up provides windfall

Toodyay Music Fest Inc
Jean Melhuish-Hill, Secretary

IT WAS with great sadness that Toodyay Music Fest Inc. closed its operation last month but in doing so was able to provide a cash benefit to other local volunteer community groups.

All sponsorship funds were returned to donors, leaving just under \$9000 to distribute from fundraising raffles, sock sales and other merchandise.

Because it was money raised in Toodyay, we felt it should be donated to other local not-for-profit groups.

The three beneficiaries we chose were the Toodyay District High School Parents and Citizens Association, Toodyay Friends of the River and Toodyay's Marsupial Mammals and Pappas who each received \$2956.

Sharon Mills and I attended a Friends of the River meeting to present President Robyn

Taylor with funds which may go towards the group's Walk Tracks project which was discussed at a recent public forum.

Vicki Blankendaal and I met Kelly-Ann Murray and Heather McGlasson from the school P and C who will use the money to support the school's music program and choir.

I also met Marsupial Mammals and Pappas founder Brian Foley a number of their care recipients, including joeys, wallabies and a very friendly black cocky.

The Dewars Pool-based volunteer group also cares for reptiles, possums and birds.

Brian said much of their existing funds had been used in the past year.

Music Fest wind-up money would enable them to continue with their important work and buy special milk for feeding wildlife.

We know that all these donations will be put to good use.

David chimes in to preserve family memories

Avon Woodworkers
Max J Heath

HI FROM 2J Junction.

All is going well at woodturning.

Some members are making tomato knife handles and others are tackling lidded boxes as demonstrated by David Doyle while I was away.

Some good work has been achieved by all members.

In the meantime, David Doyle has been tackling the rebuilding of a wind chime that late member David Eyres crafted years ago and was still in the family.

His daughter Meagan asked us if it could be rebuilt and David Doyle was able to undertake the work.

Some of the original parts were used in the rebuild to make it more memorable for the family.

One of our members has been working on a platter to enter in this year's Toodyay Show in October.

This has been crafted from a jarrah burl and has come up quite well.

Other members are also busy turning for the Toodyay Show, trying to get some entries together.

Hopefully we will have a nice display.

Avon Woodturners have upped their donation to the Toodyay Agricultural Society for this year's Woodcraft Section.

Working bees will be the order of the day shortly as we have some unfinished jobs to do in the shed, including in our dust extractor room.

If anyone is interested owning a good, but older, tough lathe I believe we have one available for sale.

It belonged to a member who has moved to Perth and it is no longer needed.

Please call me on 0400 206 929 for more details – if required, the club can offer instruction on how to use it.

Well, that's about all from us woodturners for the moment.

If you think you could be interested, please come down on a Wednesday or Sunday morning for a look-see.

GOVERNANCE OFFICER (Full Time)

An opportunity exists for an experienced, dynamic, and highly motivated professional to join the team at the Shire of Toodyay, in the role of Governance Officer.

Located in the beautiful Avon Valley, only 55 minutes from Perth, Toodyay combines heritage, agriculture, tourism, and a diverse natural environment to create a unique lifestyle, blending country living with access to city amenities.

The Governance Officer will play a critical role in providing quality oversight of organisational governance, compliance and related organisational risk management of the Shire. Other key activities of this role include management of statutory registers, leases and agreements and leading regular policy reviews.

Applicants must have proven knowledge and experience, excellent time management abilities, analytical skills and have a great eye for detail. Commitment to working in a team environment to achieve continuous improvement is essential.

To attract the right candidate, the Shire is offering an attractive base salary of \$66,000-\$69,000 per annum, plus superannuation. Other benefits include professional development opportunities, uniform allowance, additional superannuation contribution policy and income protection.

Application packages are available on our website at www.toodyay.wa.gov.au or by contacting the Records Officer on 9574 9312 or email records@toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Applications should be marked "CONFIDENTIAL – Governance Officer" and forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay;

- By mail to PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566;
- In-person to Shire of Toodyay Admin Centre, 15 Fiennes Street Toodyay during opening hours;
- Via email to: records@toodyay.wa.gov.au or
- Via Seek

Applications close **4pm on Thursday 21 July 2022.**

Applicants must have the right to live and work in Australia.

The Shire is an Equal Opportunity Employer that values and respects diversity in its workplace.

Please Note: Canvassing of Councillors will disqualify. The successful applicant is required to obtain a current Federal Police clearance, pre-employment medical, and to provide evidence of all claimed qualifications prior to commencing employment.





St John Ambulance

“Provide First Aid” HLTAID003

**Next one day course to be held on
Saturday 20th August 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 general grounding in first aid and will enable you to perform appropriate first aid procedures and basic life support skills. This unit satisfies training requirements across a range of community and workplace settings.

For further details phone:

9621 1633

Email: firstaidwheatbelt@stjohnwa.com.au

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