

# 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.

September 2022  
Edition 416

## Shire fights to save doctors

**Shock medical centre closure to leave Toodyay with no local GPs, blood tests or physio**

Michael Sinclair-Jones

HIGH-LEVEL talks to attract new doctors to Toodyay are underway after last month's shock revelation that the town's medical centre will close by the end of November.

GP service provider Wheatbelt Health Network announced at the end of last month that it would cease operating in Toodyay "no later than November 30".

Toodyay's medical crisis was due to be raised with Federal National Party leaders at a state party conference in Perth last month and at a WA Local Government Association State Council meeting on September 8-9.

The Northam-based Wheatbelt Health Network provides Toodyay with two part-time GPs and one part-time nurse practitioner who operate as independent contractors.

Each of the three practitioners sees up to 40 patients a day, and hundreds every week.

The medical centre also provides physiotherapy services to up to 20 patients a week, and dozens of Clinipath Pathology blood and other tests for illnesses such as cancer and other infections.

The not-for-profit business employs one nurse and two reception staff who will get an option to move to the network's 'Super Clinic' in Northam by the end of November.

Toodyay's GP service has operated rent-free for the past 10 years at the Alma Beard Medical Centre in Stirling Terrace, which is owned by Toodyay ratepayers.

The shire first realised last May that the centre might close when the Network declined to sign a contract for a new lease after operating on a month-by-month basis when a previous lease expired in 2017.

There has been a high turnover of Toodyay doctors in recent years, with some reportedly leaving after disputes with management.

Wheatbelt Health Network CEO Catherine Milliner – who took over in August last year – said running the centre "has become even harder as a result of reducing incentives for doctors to work in regional areas and the increased cost of living and wages with no corresponding increase in the Medicare rebate".

The Federal Government pays a rebate to



A CHILD is snatched to safety as a powerboat careers out of control into a crowd of spectators at the 'Super Chute' rapids a short distance downstream from Cobbler Pool during last month's Avon Descent river race through Toodyay. Photo: Clive Millett. More pictures Page 9.

### Dramatic near-miss in wet and wild Avon Descent river race

A WEEK of torrential rain and surging rapids resulted in a dramatic near-miss at a popular spectator point on Day Two of last month's annual Avon Descent river race through Toodyay.

A powerboat came speeding around a tight bend toward the aptly-named 'Super Chute' rapids just past the Cobbler Pool overnight campsite a few minutes after

noon when the driver lost control of the two-man craft.

Its metal hull appeared to leap out of the water onto rocks covered with spectators, narrowly missing a child who was snatched to safety from the airborne boat as others (pictured) backed away to avoid being hit.

The boat then slid sideways back into the river, tipping out the lead crew member into

the fast-flowing torrent.

He was able to scramble back on board a short distance downstream without further mishap to resume the race.

Nobody appeared to be hurt in the incident and no injuries were reported at the scene.

More photos Page 9.

subsidise the cost of GP services, some of which are bulk-billed at no cost to patients and others for which doctors charge a 'gap fee' to offset unreimbursed costs.

The Federal Government increased its Medicare rebate in July by 65c to \$39.75 for a standard GP consultation after freezing the rebate for six of the previous nine years.

Australia's Royal College of GPs said the rebate should be \$80 to keep pace with

inflation and warned that such a small increase would further accelerate the loss of doctors from rural and regional Australia.

Toodyay Shire President Rosemary Madacsi, who is the WA Local Government Association's Avon Zone representative, said she would raise Toodyay's doctor crisis at the association's next State Council meeting in Mandurah on September 8-9.

Continued on Page 9, Letter Page 4.

### Toodyay Club reopens

THE beleaguered Toodyay Club will hold a 'grand reopening' under new management at 3pm on Friday September 2 after rising debt forced the premises to close in mid-July.

The club will host a new bowling tournament which starts on Saturday September 3.

### Storms bring down tree, floods roads but farmers happy



Last month's storms caused this large tree to fall into the Duidgee Park children's playground.

AN UNUSUALY wet and stormy August caused local flooding and a big tree to crash into a children's playground at Duidgee Park last month.

Nobody was injured.

It was the only serious storm damage reported to Shire of Toodyay emergency staff but police were called to rescue a large dog stranded in an abandoned car near flooded Katrine Bridge (see Police Beat, Page 6).

Local farmers say the rain, interspersed with sunny days, has helped to boost crop and pasture growth without the waterlogging that hampered access to paddocks during last year's growing season.

More in Toodyay Agricultural Alliance report, Page 13.

#### Coming events

Toodyay Farmers Market  
Sunday September 18

#### this month

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| classifieds        | 28         |
| emergency services | 7          |
| environment        | 21, 27, 30 |
| health             | 31         |
| letters            | 4          |
| public notices     | 28         |
| puzzles            | 29         |
| sport              | 31         |
| trades & services  | 22-26      |
| when & where       | 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](mailto:advertising@toodyayherald.com.au). Editorial contributions and photographs should be emailed to [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au).

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

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of *The Toodyay Herald* is available at \$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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 Sandra Harms, Beth Ruthven,  
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## PRODUCTION

Editor: Michael Sinclair-Jones  
 Admin/Advertising: Heather Appleby  
 Design/Layout: Sandra Harms

## DISTRIBUTION

*The Toodyay Herald* has a distribution of 5000 copies, with copies delivered to letter boxes in Toodyay, and Morangup. Copies are also available at roadhouses and businesses in Toodyay, Northam, Bolgart, Bakers Hill, Calingiri, Clackline, Gidgegannup, Goomalling, Wooroloo and Wundowie.

Printed by Rural Press

## THANK YOU

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

## ADVERTISING

### RATES - NO GST IS APPLICABLE

The cost of a casual display advertisement is \$4.35 per column cm (NB Column width is 61.5mm.)

**Full Page:** Mono - \$696.00; Colour - \$747.50.  
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**Quarter Page:** Mono - \$174.00; Col. - \$225.50.  
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**Page Nomination Loading:** Front page - 100%, Back page - 50%, Centre pages / Page 3 - 25%, other pages - 10% (based on mono price).

**Advertorial:** Must be accompanied by purchase of quarter page advertisement (text 200-300 words) \$65.00.

Colour advertisements of a size not listed above incur a \$51.50 surcharge with the exception of the Trades and Services section. A one-off setup fee (artwork fee) may be charged for advertisements which are not print ready. Advertisers, please supply a postal address for accounting purposes and the number of issues in which you would like your advertisement to be included. Accounts are issued every month with payment required within 30 days. Payment may be made by post, EFTPOS or at the *Herald* office.

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## NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

| ADVERTISING DEADLINE        | STORY DEADLINE                 | DISTRIBUTED           |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Noon Friday<br>September 23 | Noon Wednesday<br>September 28 | Thursday<br>October 6 |

## Please note our email addresses

Advertising: [advertising@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:advertising@toodyayherald.com.au)

Articles and stories: [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au)

## The coffee shop test

### Roger Simms

DON'T sit down to think about what to write – sit down to write about what you've been thinking.

That was one of the best pieces of advice I picked up over five decades in the newspaper business.

The old timer who passed it on had deadlines in mind in the pre-computer, pre-mobile phone days when reporters always carried loose change in their pockets to use in public phone boxes – two pennies in the early days.

You have to think how to write your story while you're finding the phone box, he told me.

You can't dictate your story over the phone to a copytaker back at the office if you've got nothing to say but ums and ahs.

How true that would prove.

But you don't need to be a tyro reporter to benefit from that tip about writing.

There's nothing worse than sitting down with a blank piece of paper or squaring off with a blank screen and finding your thoughts equally barren.

Better to engage the gears of the mind on topics beforehand.

Don Smith, an old editor of mine on *The West Australian*, had his own variation of this technique.

Whenever he ran into a mental roadblock over some difficult feature article he was writing he would take a break and say "I'm handing this over to George".

George, he would joke, was his automatic pilot upon whom he would rely to come up with just the right phrase to break the barrier.

It might take George a while, but he always seemed to come through –sometimes waking his boss with a Eureka moment in the middle of the night.

Needless to say, Don was the kind of bloke who could always see the funny side of life, indispensable in coping with the pressure of running a newspaper.

As you may know, *The Toodyay Herald* is a community based, not-for-profit newspaper published largely through the work of volunteers.

Recently I've been helping editor Michael Sinclair-Jones guide some of our volunteers in writing and editing news articles.

Without wanting to turn this column into a boring journalism lecture, I'd like to offer readers my simple blueprint for writing news or writing anything really if you want it to be read.

Give your work the coffee shop test.

People chatting over coffee have no trouble swapping news and passing opinions.

That's because they go straight to the words that matter: I've got the job; we're extending

the house; the shire put up our rates; the road's blocked.

Jobs, house, rates and roads are concrete nouns – real, everyday things that matter to people.

Whenever you allow unnecessary abstract words to get between readers and the things they're interested in, you're running the risk of sounding vague and uninteresting.

Consider this sentence: The accident was caused through the dangerous nature of the spot, the hidden character of the side road and the absence of any warning or danger signal.

Sounds reasonable but get rid of the abstract words "nature", "character" and "absence" and the sentence gains vigour: The accident happened because the spot was dangerous, the side road was hidden and there was no warning.

Examples of other abstract words that get in a writer's way are "amenities", "issues", "developments" and "facilities".

Perfectly legitimate English words but also vague terms that could stand for just about anything.

That's why they are so often used in advertising and press releases when the authors set out to promote or conceal.

We need to use words that stand for things – ideas, objects and feelings.

So, the next time you set out to write something, may I suggest you run your sentences through the coffee shop test.

Is this what I would say chatting with friends? Would they know exactly what I mean?

William Shakespeare's 16th century language can sometimes be hard to follow but he knew the power of strong nouns.

Here's the opening lines of his famous Hamlet soliloquy followed by a rewrite in abstract-laden jargon by the English essayist Arthur Quiller-Couch (1863-1944).

*To be or not to be — that is the question.  
 Whether tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
 The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
 Or to take arms against a sea of troubles  
 And, by opposing, end them.*

And the Quiller-Couch version:

*To be or the contrary. Whether the former or the latter be preferable*

*Would seem to admit of some difference of opinion;*

*The answer in the present case being of an affirmative*

*Or of a negative character;*

*According as to whether one elects on the on hand*

*To suffer the disfavour of fortune, albeit in extreme degree,*

*Or to boldly envisage adverse conditions*

*In the prospect of eventually bringing them to a conclusion.*

I think you'd agree that the Bard wins hands down – pass the coffee please.

# SUB-EDITOR

A vacancy exists for an experienced journalist interested in volunteering to help produce *The Toodyay Herald* each month, with a two-month break over the Christmas/New Year holiday season.

The position will ideally suit a retired journalist who enjoys keeping abreast of local news and events, and who wishes to continue practising their professional skills to benefit the Toodyay community in a friendly, supportive newsroom

The position attracts a monthly honorarium.

Experience in use of InDesign and PhotoShop software desirable.

### Duties include:

- File, format and sub-edit raw copy from contributors
- Page layout
- Photo editing
- Headline writing
- Proof reading
- Online publication

## The Toodyay Herald

*The Toodyay Herald* is a not-for-profit newspaper produced by volunteers.  
 For more information, please contact: [editor@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:editor@toodyayherald.com.au)

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### Office Hours are from 9.30am - 12.30pm on highlighted days

#### September-October 2022

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



# The ground shook, then they rocked the world

By Ed Watson

TUCKED away on a quiet little block on a dead end in Cobbler Pool Road live a hard-working couple who have put Toodyay on the world stage by turning out dozens of unusual, hand-made guitars for buyers in America and Germany.

It represents a new niche for traditional local artisan woodworkers Viv and Dave Street who also make award-winning furniture, including for royal visitors.

Their latest success followed a visit to Australia by acclaimed US blue-roots musician Justin Johnson who now sells their 'Little Crow' guitars on his popular YouTube channel, which has 1.35 million subscribers.

The finely crafted instruments include two special Toodyay-made 'Justin Johnson Signature Guitars' among the dozens of six, four and three-stringed instruments that the couple produce in their crowded tin shed.

The ground shakes when heavy goods trains roll past, as it did when Viv and Dave first met in Mandurah.

They say you know you've found 'the one' when it shakes your world.

In this case, it was during the coastal town's mid-1980s canal building boom.

Dave, a surveyor from South Africa, first noticed English Viv when she had just started a new career as a vibrating roller operator with a local roadworks crew.

You don't need much imagination to figure there may have been tension when Viv's vibrating roller rumbled past Dave's delicately poised survey instruments.

Angry eyes met one day and, as they say, the rest is history – even with such a literally shaky start.

And quite a history it has been for this Cobbler Pool couple since those dusty days in 1985.

Dave migrated from South Africa some years earlier and had travelled much of Australia in his outdoor job.

Along the way, he discovered a love for woodworking – something he had never put his hand to but soon found that he had a natural feel and eye for the craft.

In this he was encouraged and mentored by fellow South African and master craftsman Neil Erasmus in Canberra.

Dave eventually moved with Neil and his family to Perth where Neil and Dave's business won acclaim at the Perth Furniture Fair and secured a commission to produce furniture for a Royal visit to Government House in 1988.

Though not formally trained, Dave carries the mark of a seasoned professional by being able to count only to nine and a half on his fingers.

Working with wood took second place to surveying for earning an income but things would eventually change.

Viv on the other hand was from the sunny climate of Northumberland in the north of England near the Scottish border.

Before meeting Dave, Viv had gone back home to visit her family, returning to Australia to marry and start a new life.

The marriage didn't work out and Viv found work as a roller operator on the construction site in Mandurah where she and Dave met.

The couple decided to set up their own woodworking business in Kalamunda producing small pieces of handcrafted furniture.

The quality of Dave and Viv's work soon found its way into Canberra's Bungendor Wood Works Gallery, and the couple continue to supply furniture to it and a number of other galleries.

With a growing business and bills to pay, Dave supplemented their income with small



Furniture makers Dave and Viv Street at their Cobbler Pool workshop with a left-handed electric guitar made with a WA sheoak fretboard.

surveying jobs often with Viv performing the job of chainman.

Viv sometimes acted as Dave's safety harness, holding onto his legs while he dangled from the door of a small Cessna aircraft.

Aerial surveys of stockpiles around Kwinana were exciting but clearly lacked safety guidelines, so more effort was needed on the furniture business.

With business now growing, 1992 saw a move over the hill to Mundaring's industrial centre which became home to their new Ironwood Studio, which reflected their use of reclaimed iron and wood to make quality furniture.

It was a great place to grow as they lived and worked on the premises and supplied furniture to galleries all over Australia.

But as Mundaring grew so did the industrial area, which attracted interest from unwanted night guests.

Crime had arrived, the industrial area grew more crowded, so the search for a new home began.

After wandering casually around the backblocks of Toodyay in early 2005, Viv and Dave came across a "for sale" sign on Cobbler Pool Road.

They fell in love with the block and a new chapter began.

It wasn't all butterflies and unicorns though – getting power onto a property can be a challenge in itself but finding a busy interstate railway line between you and Western Power added a new dimension.

With a little bureaucratic juggling and some lateral thinking, the modern world arrived to light up their new world.

A new workshop and home grew around an old cemetery that remains on the land.

That's how a great story might end, but there was much more to come.

A chance meeting with another wood worker found Viv and Dave throwing their skills at a new venture – building solid-body

electric guitars from local hardwoods.

Dave, drawing on his early years playing in garage bands, his knowledge of wood and the encouragement of rock-blues musician Shane Dilorio through his YouTube channel, began the next venture.

The right mix of electrics, wood and skill gave birth in 2012 to Little Crow Guitars.

When Justin Johnson toured Australia in 2014, Dave became aware of the cigar box guitar and roots revival scene and contacted Justin with a view to showcasing Ironwood Studio's range of roots-based instruments.

Thus started a collaboration that now showcases Viv and Dave's hand-made guitars to the world.

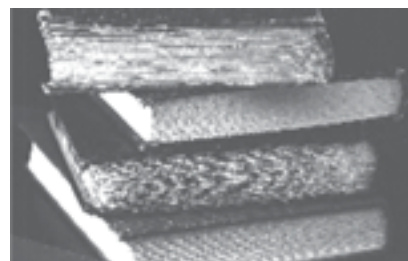
The couple have made about 120 three, four and six-stringed electric instruments that sell mostly in America and Europe, as well as in Australia.

Their success has brought a new appreciation for the creative opportunities that wood can offer and generated a new and unique passion for their work.

Viv and Dave love what they do, they do what they love – and it shows.

## COLLECTORS AUCTION

*Of Interest to Collectors & Investors*



**Viewing Times:**  
Saturday 17th September  
12noon to 5pm  
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**Local Collectors' Realisation Liquidation**  
350 Lots No Reserve  
Sunday 18th September 2022  
11am CWA Hall Toodyay

Items for sale include:

Crystal, Glassware, China, Framed Prints and Artwork, Silver and Silver Plate, Old Books, Nazi Era Pieces, Old Bottles, Coins and Bank/Notes, Furniture, Piano, LP Records, C.1930's 2300 x 2300 x 400 Tasmanian Oak and Glass Display Cabinet ( Viewing by appointment, as we only want to move it once), Oak Leadlight Writing Desk, Old Phones, Vases, Studio Pottery, Vintage Port and Shed contents including Old Hand tools, Metal Wheels etc. and Collectables, too numerous to mention.

Absentee Bids Accepted

Enquiries: 0407 928 500

(All your Christmas gifts @ one place)



## Last-minute bid to save community resource centre from closure

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY councillors were holding an emergency meeting at the start of this month in a last-minute bid to prevent the permanent closure of the town's cash-strapped community resource centre.

The centre shut its doors for a week at the end of last month, warning that it may not have enough money to re-open.

It faces a \$30,000 debt for unpaid wages after discovering – along with other similar not-for-profit organisations elsewhere – that staff had been underpaid under the wrong industrial award for at least four years.

Permanent closure would cost the jobs of

three current resource centre employees.

Manager Nicole Coleman said six staff had been underpaid, with a potential \$64,000 fine for each award breach.

As *The Herald* went to press, Toodyay shire councillors were meeting to consider an urgent report from Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst on how to save the centre.

It is understood that one option may be for the centre to move from privately-owned rental space in Stirling Terrace to shire-owned premises elsewhere.

Toodyay Shire President Rosemary Madacsi said the council would consider all options to keep the centre open for continued use by the community.



# The Toodyay Herald

## Doctor dilemma

LAST month's shock announcement that the Wheatbelt Health Network will stop providing doctors to our town by November 30 has thrown Toodyay into a spin.

The only small mercy is that the local pharmacy says it will stay open despite anticipated losses from fewer prescriptions.

The Shire of Toodyay is fighting to keep its Alma Beard Medical Centre open, and local State MPs are united in support.

Problems exposed by Toodyay's doctor crisis are being replicated right across rural Australia and go all the way to Canberra.

Our federal health system is broken. At its heart lies the failure of successive Federal Governments to properly fund our nation's Medicare health insurance system.

Medicare grew out of the 'Medibank' health reform introduced by former Labor prime minister Gough Whitlam in 1974.

It aimed to use taxes to provide universal health care for all Australians but was blocked in the Senate and lasted only a year.

Former governor-general John Kerr sacked the Whitlam government in 1975 and Medibank was partly dismantled by successive Coalition governments.

Labor prime minister Bob Hawke revived it as 'Medicare' in 1984 but the scheme never fully returned to its original intent.

A gap between the cost of providing GPs and funding them has widened over the years to the point where doctors now say the system is unworkable.

Their national body says the federal Medicare rebate should be \$80 per GP visit instead of currently less than half that amount after a 65c increase in July.

The profession says regional and rural Australians are being hardest hit, as we are now seeing in Toodyay.

Basically, it comes down to money – but who will pay?

Our State economy is pumping, but COVID-19 has left our nation \$1000 billion in debt and Canberra is strapped for cash.

Maybe the best that hundreds of Toodyay patients a week can hope for is no more free bulk billing and paying \$40 a time for every doctor visit as local authorities scramble in a desperate bid to fill the void.

This is not good news for older Toodyay residents – many with chronic ailments – or younger families moving to our town.

It is now up to Federal and State MPs to take urgent action to fix this mess, and that needs to happen fast.

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](mailto: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.

## Searching for the right staff?

You need to advertise in the classifieds, it's easy  
email: [advertising@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:advertising@toodyayherald.com.au)



The way we were – Students and staff attend a school picnic at the Toodyay Showgrounds to celebrate WA's Centenary year in 1929. The photo was originally donated by Frank Somers Twine, possibly prior to 1983 and was taken before the grandstand, fencing and small outhouses at the Toodyay Showgrounds were destroyed by fire in December 1933. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

## LETTERS

### Put down the pitchforks

THE DAY started out normal and then I received a phone text message with a screen shot of a media release about the closure of Toodyay's Alma Beard Medical Centre.

When I got home, the first thing my partner Simon said to me was "don't reply to all the Facebook comments" because he was worried that it might be too upsetting for me.

I read all the comments, replied to one and noticed one thing in common about the Shire of Toodyay.

This may be the only time in history that I will stand up and say that this time "it is not the shire's fault".

I am thinking "what would my former partner and much-loved Toodyay doctor, the late Richard Walkey, do to help calm people's heightened levels of anxiety about this?"

Well, the truth is we all need to know why the medical centre is closing and why we could never get anyone to come to Toodyay to work as a permanent doctor.

Here are some facts as I see them. There is an Australia-wide shortage of doctors which goes back to the days when Kevin Rudd was Prime Minister (2007-2010 and 2013).

Doctors can earn much more money in the hospital system in the Perth metropolitan area than in regional WA or prefer to work in practices with a back-up hospital nearby.

Doctors prefer country practices to be fitted out and walk-in ready but Toodyay is not like that – it would cost up to \$200,000 to bring our town up to a level to suit accreditation for a GP practice to receive sufficient payments to subsidise income.

Country doctors expect to be provided with a car and house, and for the shire to guarantee their income until the practice can generate a minimum income of \$250,000 a year, which could increase if a couple was to come.

A GP practice requires staff, pathology services and a practice manager.

The Federal Government's Medicare bulk billing scheme does not cover operating costs – these can be recovered only by charging patients an additional 'gap' fee.

When Richard and I had the Toodyay practice,

it showed a billing loss against running cost of \$120,000 a year based on wages for nurses – it would be more now.

Practice income comes from a variety of sources such as billings, practice incentive programs, service incentive payments, hospital billings and payments for after-hours services (not many doctors will do that).

Other billing can include shared treatment plans with other service providers such as for foot care or stress counselling, which are high paying and operate over many visits.

For a new Toodyay doctor to walk in now, there is no history of services to enable these payments to occur, so income would be down for two years until history and patient numbers increase – another negative for attracting doctors to the area.

In addition, not all doctors want to work as country GPs, and even though the distance to Perth is relatively short, it can have many setbacks.

To be the partner of a doctor in any area also has its challenges.

Another negative is burn-out, which is a big problem for country GPs if they are the only doctor in town.

I have my own views about whether Toodyay can get a doctor in the short term but the main point of this is to offer some facts based on my own personal experience.

Please put down the pitch forks because the shire is not in the wrong.

They may not have the money to fix all our problems, but it is up to ratepayers to decide on that.

Sean Byron  
Toodyay

### Moodyne Men to the rescue

RECENTLY, as a representative of *The Toodyay Herald*, I received a phone call from an elderly local resident.

She needed a locksmith because she had locked a set of keys into a vintage desk and couldn't open it.

As far as I was aware, the closest locksmith would have to come from Midland, so it would be expensive for her.

I rang a member of the Moodyne Men, thinking that one of them would have the expertise to help, and so it was.

Thank you to Colin Bird for helping out a local – this is what the Toodyay community is all about.

Heather Appleby  
Toodyay

### Shire rescues oxygen driver

I WOULD like to thank the Shire of Toodyay for coming to my rescue.

I left home on a Wednesday last month to drive to town, and part way up an access road I discovered trees over the road.

Turning around, I foolishly went along a track and ended up getting my car bogged.

As I am on oxygen, I was stuck. A ring around to get help resulted in the shire coming to my rescue.

I am very grateful to the office and the workers for their help.

Helen Evans  
Coondle

### Extracts 'fee' not a donation

IN THE past, to enter the parking at Extracts Weir for the Avon Descent a car/driver (a car can't give, thus it is the driver) was asked to give a \$2 gold coin donation.

This time, we were asked to give a \$10 donation at the entrance to the parking area.

Ten dollars is not a donation, it is an entrance fee – what was the money going to be used for?

Monika Zechetmayr  
Toodyay

### Let the girls in

I READ about a spat between members of the Toodyay Men's Shed and a breakaway group that calls itself the Moodyne Men.

Someone on Facebook suggested that maybe the women of Toodyay could get on board and start their own 'Women's Shed'.

Now wouldn't that be something? It seems Toodyay's big new Men's Shed doesn't get used all that much, which is a great shame.

A recent Toodyay Men's Shed flyer I picked up starts with "A Shed is a place for Men, who have, for their own reasons, become isolated from the community, isolated by distance, work and simply want to talk and interact with other men."

"It is a place to congregate in a safe non-judgmental environment to talk, read, play card games or use the therapeutic workshops."

Really? I thought it was a place where blokes could have a bit of fun making things with tools they may lack at home, chat to each other about life in general, perhaps learn a few new skills and maybe just get away from their wives for a bit of male company to talk about bloke stuff.

I reckon there's probably a few women in Toodyay who might feel the same way – in reverse, of course.

I've heard there are successful Women's Sheds in other country towns – some in the same buildings as blokes, though they meet on different days – and I wondered why Toodyay couldn't make greater use of its Shed to reach out to more locals.

Maybe the girls can knock a few heads together.

Frances Lawson  
Toodyay



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# Rubbish, rates and fees rise

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY residents will pay higher fees and charges, and most rates will increase by an average of 3.05 per cent in a new Shire of Toodyay budget adopted last month.

Councillors have voted themselves a 17.4 per cent pay rise overall, and administration staff salaries will rise by 15 per cent.

The cost of household rubbish collections will rise from \$241 to \$259 a year, along with price increases for a range of other shire fees and community services.

The council voted 6-0 (Shire President Rosemary Madácsi and Cr McKeown absent) to adopt the increases after attending four months of budget workshops.

However, the shire was still waiting at the end of last month for State Government approval to strike a new mining rate to raise \$200,000 to repair local roads damaged by mining trucks and other heavy equipment.

If the new rate is rejected, the shire says it will examine other ways to pay the shortfall.

The shire budget follows a 7.6 per cent increase in the national consumer price index to March, three bank mortgage rate increases since May and a Federal Government warning that inflation is likely to worsen.

These and other pressures – including the COVID-19 pandemic – have caused local house prices to soar and created a rental property shortage which has hit low-income Toodyay families with higher rents.

New shire fees include a 150 per cent increase from \$200 to \$500 for the Toodyay Theatre Group to use the shire-owned Memorial Hall – reportedly the group’s first rent increase for several years.

The Toodyay Football Club will pay 13 per cent more to use the Showground sports oval and pavilion with the fee rising from \$750 to \$847 a year, and the Toodyay Tennis Club will pay four per cent more, from \$2750 to \$3000 a year, to use new courts at the Toodyay Recreation Centre.

Tennis club use of shire-owned premises in Fiennes Street for which it pays a peppercorn rent expires next February.

The council has set a small operating surplus of \$10,000 in its \$14.4 million shire budget, with about half raised from rates and the rest from grants and other income.

The council budgeted for a similar small operating surplus last year and has not run an operating budget deficit since 2017-18.

As reported two months ago, minimum rates will remain the same as last year at \$1351 per property, and the overall rates take will increase by 2.5 per cent, as set by the shire’s 10-year long term financial plan.

However, shire wages will increase 15 per cent to \$4.3 million, which Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said was due to staff award pay rises and the addition of a part-time communications officer and a depot trainee.

She said outside workers were paid under a separate enterprise bargaining agreement which was currently under review.

Toodyay’s wage costs were comparable with other similar shires at about 55-60 per cent of total rates revenue, with some other shires higher at about 70 per cent, Ms Haslehurst said.

Councillor sitting fees and allowances will rise by 17.4 per cent overall.

The new rate for a shire president is \$4600 a month, the deputy gets \$1940 and seven other councillors get \$1270 each.

The pay rises are 15 per cent less than the top rate for shires the size of Toodyay and “acknowledges the significant commitment and voluntary service of elected members within their communities”, the shire said.

Land rates will be payable in full on October 12, with an option to spread payments across four quarterly instalments.



# Shire ‘adjusts sails’ to weather the shock of stormy seas

## President’s Pen

Rosemary Madácsi



OUR community has been shocked by recent news that several key services are struggling to remain open or are leaving.

What is happening?

Well, quite a bit.

As US pastor and author John Maxwell said “the pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The leader adjusts the sails.”

This is how we are doing it.

The withdrawal of Wheatbelt Health Network doctor services from Toodyay was a surprise.

The community provides a purpose-built and outfitted surgery, does not charge rent, pays power and water bills, and maintains the building, carpark and grounds to support a medical service to the community.

We do not have an available Shire house to accommodate a doctor, nor are there currently any rentals available in town.

Further financial support may require a rate increase, so we are actively lobbying other bodies, seeking interested service providers and considering options if we can’t attract a doctor to our town.

The Toodyay Community Resource Centre recently announced its possible closure with an explanation provided to the community.

We are working closely with the centre to find a way to support and retain the service.

At the racecourse, buildings are being assessed by a structural engineer and a plan of action will be developed to restore and reactivate events following the cancellation of this month’s Toodyay Picnic Races.

If the engineering report finds that the buildings are too damaged or expensive to

repair, the future of the racing complex will be discussed with the community.

Swimming attendance at the Toodyay Recreation Centre is growing and pool heating options are being investigated by centre manager Clublinks to extend the swimming season into colder months.

However, our town’s other new sports facilities are not being used enough and it will take a community effort to change this.

We pay to operate and maintain the centre and must also pay back a \$5.5 million State loan to buy the land and build its facilities.

The more our rec centre gets used, the more these costs will be reduced.

Finally, the Toodyay RSL after many years is about to gain a permanent home on the corner of Fiennes and Clinton Streets, directly across from Anzac Memorial Park.

An earlier Shire agreement to lease the former parks and gardens depot to the RSL left unresolved problems for both parties.

The Council agreed in July to give the land cost-free to the RSL on condition that if the RSL later decides to sell the property, 30 per cent of the proceeds – less reasonable sale costs – will be paid back to the Shire.

RSL WA has accepted our offer.

Local RSL members are now free to raise funds to build new premises, the Shire has been relieved of additional costs and ratepayers are assured of a return should the RSL later sell the land.

This is a positive outcome for all.

A highly active program of Shire advocacy is currently underway across a range of important areas.

We are working to reduce the costs of health care to country councils like ours.

Costs that are rightfully the responsibility of Federal and State Governments have gradually been shifted to local government.

This is not sustainable.

We are lobbying to secure an agreed local government contribution as a combined approach with other Wheatbelt shires.

We are also lobbying the State Government to build a new Toodyay heavy haulage bypass north of the town.

This is important because Dewars-Pool Road and Bindi-Bindi Road form part of the State Government’s agricultural lime sand ‘AgLime’ Route 1 from Gingin to Northam.

Although a Toodyay bypass was included in this construction program, it was removed in late 2016/2017 in favour of the current temporary route through the town via Harper Road and Hamersley Street.

Meanwhile, the CBH grain handling cooperative has announced the permanent closure of its Bolgart grain receival bins.

Alternative options for grain growers are the Calingiri bins – at considerable extra cost – or the Avon bins in Northam.

The addition of an estimated extra 300-700 heavy truck movements through our town each season is not acceptable.

On another important front, a Shire hand-over of ownership of several key local roads to Main Roads WA continues, although it is a very lengthy process.

We are also making strenuous efforts to increase State and Federal Government funding for Shire-managed local roads.

Roads are partly funded by a Federal Government fuel excise charged at the bowser, and we are seeking a bigger contribution to help pay costs.

Toodyay is actively adjusting our sails to meet these challenges.



## Best deal for local Tradies



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RAC rescue helicopter at Julimar farm prepares to fly injured boy to Royal Perth Hospital while ambulance volunteers and police stabilise his condition after a car roll-over.

# Farm joyride ends in chopper mercy dash

**Police Beat**

With Acting Sgt Gary Ferguson  
Toodyay Police Station



A FARM joyride by two boys in a boggy Julimar paddock last month resulted in a 16-year-old passenger being airlifted to Perth with suspected back injuries and a 15-year-old driver treated for shock in Northam.

Their car rolled over after hitting a rock, causing the driver to be knocked unconscious by the impact while the front-seat passenger was thrown from the vehicle.

Neither was wearing seatbelts. Police and ambulance volunteers rushed to the scene after receiving an emergency call about 20 minutes after the roll-over.

Nearby tyre tracks showed that the vehicle had been doing skids on waterlogged ground when it hit a rock and rolled over, causing serious damage to the bodywork.

The 15-year-old driver regained consciousness to find himself wedged over the top of the dashboard in a horizontal position under a partly shattered windscreen.

He climbed from the wreck to find



Wrecked car from which a 16-year-old boy was airlifted to Royal Perth Hospital last month.

his companion lying face-down and unresponsive on the ground nearby.

It took about 20 minutes for the pair to be missed by others at the farm who began a search and called for help when they saw what had happened.

Police and ambulance volunteers arrived but found the ground too soft for medical equipment to reach the injured boy.

A second ambulance with 4WD capability

was diverted from safety duty at that weekend's Avon Descent river race, and the RAC helicopter called.

The 16-year-old passenger was revived, given warmth and shelter from rain, and treated for back pain.

He was airlifted to Royal Perth Hospital and spent three nights being treated for soft tissue pain and a possible shoulder injury.

The 15-year-old driver was taken to Northam Hospital and treated for shock and concussion.

## \$6500 WhatsApp scam

A FAKE plea for money on the popular WhatsApp free online message service has cost a Toodyay mother \$6500.

The 'Mum and Dad' scam, which has cost Australians a total of \$2.3 million this year, typically involves a person claiming to be the daughter of a parent who stays in touch

with their adult children on WhatsApp.

It involves several text messages and claims by the 'daughter' (example pictured lower left) to have accidentally lost their mobile phone by dropping it in a toilet or by some other seemingly plausible reason.

The 'daughter' claims her bank won't accept her new phone number to access her online bank account to pay an urgent bill such as for emergency car repairs or a mortgage repayment.

The "daughter" texts the parent with a request for a loan, after which she and the money disappear.

The WhatsApp scam never includes voice calls which would reveal a thief's true identity through the sound of their voice.

There is little local police can do about it other than to urge people be extremely cautious about all requests for money, even if they seem at first glance to be genuine.

It would be best to use a phone call, video chat service or some other reliable means to first verify the true identity of the other person before agreeing to send money.

## Flood rescue

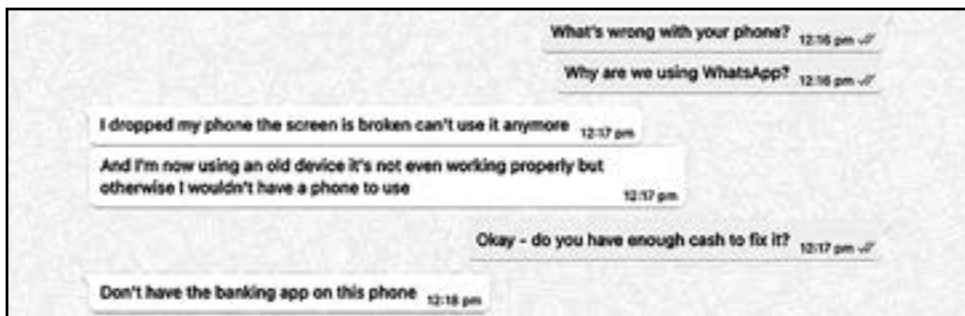
TWO officers had to brave chilly floodwaters last month to rescue a large bull mastiff stranded in a car at flooded Katrine Bridge.

An 80-year-old driver abandoned the vehicle in misty conditions after attempting to cross the flooded bridge at about 7.30am on a Thursday.

He left the dog in the car and waded about 15m to safety after rising floodwaters reached the top of the vehicle's wheel arches.

He called for help, and two officers and a tow truck arrived from Northam.

They waded out to the car to rescue the dog and carry it to safety.



'Mum and Dad' WhatsApp scam text message.



This is the scene that greeted police when they arrived at flooded Katrine Bridge last month.



A police officer carries 30kg bull mastiff Max to safety.

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## EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Trauma calls keep ambo volunteers busy

St John Toodyay Sub Centre

Pam Tennant

TRAUMA calls were again the majority of the jobs for our volunteers in August (at the time of writing).

In responding to 37 calls, our ambulances travelled nearly 2000km last month.

Our Community Transport Service drivers were also kept busy in July, with 17 patients taken to medical appointments.

At last month's sub centre meeting, new suction equipment was demonstrated and we will be purchasing three of these units – one for each of our ambulances.

These machines are battery operated and are much better for the patient and easier for our volunteers to use, when required.

Our new Community Paramedic (CP), Stew Greenan is on leave for a month and Tim Dunlop will be acting in his role.

Tim was recently the Onslow-based CP so working in our area of the Wheatbelt is different, with both Northam and Midland Hospitals within easy reach.

With Onslow being isolated, and over 70kms from the Great Northern Highway,



Thermal blanket used to treat a child in a simulated emergency. Photos: Michael Morgan.

call-outs in that area can take hours of volunteer time, if the job is not within the town.

Some readers may remember that the



Ambulance volunteers treat 'injured' patients in a simulated joint services emergency.



Fire and Rescue volunteers use the Jaws of Life to free an 'injured' occupant from a car wreck.

## Bejoording bunch tucks into hearty lunch at Badger's Burrow

Bejoording Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

From the desk of The Badger

SEIZING the opportunity of a quiet time the Bejoording crew held a social lunch including wives and partners last month.

It's many years since we all got together for something other than formal meetings, training and call-outs.

The weather was perfect on the day, chilly but very sunny and no wind, and the outdoor entertainment area at Badger's was perfect for the job, sitting around the open fire.

Only one member couldn't come, he was away on business, so the turnout was excellent.

We all got to know each other much better, especially newer members, and much credit must go to Mrs Badger who turned on an excellent spread of food allowing for all tastes and diets.

We all decided to make it an annual affair about this time of year.

The camaraderie among our members is excellent and it brought home why we are always able to field a crew even though we are very small.

Small we may be but we always get the job

done – that's our new motto.

It's a good month when that's the only significant event to report.

When it comes to fire risk there's no such thing as complacency.

When you speak to friends and neighbours remind them of the indoor fire risk, especially in the winter.

It's just as real as bush fires in the summer. The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to be vigilant and careful when using any tools or vehicles with the potential to cause a fire.

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

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

Advice is free but getting it wrong can be expensive.

If you would like to express your interest in joining us and would like a no commitment discussion, please contact Captain Lawrence Hayward on 0447 253 320, or the Badger on 0414 250 484.

Be sure to leave a message if we're not there.

Our next meeting and training session is on Sunday September 4 at 2pm at the shed.

## It's time to think about fire breaks

Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Peter Brennan, Captain

We have commenced refresher training after monthly meetings in the lead-up to this year's summer fire season.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday September 13 at the co-located Emergency Facility (fire station) at 67 Stirling Terrace, commencing at 7pm.

Several members were recently presented with service awards.

Our congratulations go to Brian Wood who received a fourth clasp to his National Medal for 35 years' service, Tim Blanc who received both his 15-year National Medal and a first clasp for 20 years' service, and Mick McKeown, Kevin Hug, Mike Devlin and John White who received their 15-year National Medals.

Paul Thompson and Bobbie Jones each received Department of Fire and Emergency Services Bush Fire Brigade Long Service Medals for 15 years' service, and Bronwyn King and Heather Brennan each received five-year service medallions.

It's that time of the year again.

Unrestricted burning is due to finish on Friday September 30 before we move into the spring restricted period which runs annually from October 1 to October 31.

Anyone wishing to burn during a restricted period will require a permit.

October is also the time for owners to get their firebreaks and properties prepared for the coming fire season.

Firebreaks don't just provide breaks between vegetation but also act as important safe areas for firefighting crews and must meet criteria set by the Shire of Toodyay.

The rules require firebreaks to be maintained from November 1 until April 30.

Shire rangers will conduct inspections, and failure to comply with requirements can result in penalties.

Firebreak information will be included with this month's shire rates notices and is also available online at [toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://toodyay.wa.gov.au).

Extremely useful fire information can be obtained by clicking on 'Resident Services' in the drop-down menu.

All property owners are urged to take special note of the width, condition and height clearance required for firebreaks to enable firefighting vehicles to access them safely and help better protect your property.



St John

HLTAID003

## “Provide First Aid”

Next one day course  
To be held on  
**Saturday 15th October 2022**

St John, Stirling Terrace Toodyay

This is a general one day course that would benefit all those at work, home or for leisure. the course provides an excellent grounding in first aid and will enable you to perform appropriate first aid procedures and basic life support skills.

This unit satisfies training requirements across a range of community and workplace settings.

For further details phone:

**9621 1633**

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





# Star light, star bright, the first star I see tonight – is more likely to be a planet

**Astronomy**  
Kim Angus

A NURSERY rhyme many may remember from childhood continues last month's theme:

*Star light, star bright,  
The first star I see tonight,  
I wish I may, I wish I might,  
Have this wish I wish tonight.*

But did you realise that for a decent chunk of the year the first "star" you see is actually the planet Venus.

Venus is the second-brightest object in the night sky after the Moon and is named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty.

It has been referred to as both the Morning Star and Evening Star, with some past observers thinking it was two different stars.

However, the ancient Babylonians already knew it to be a single object 3400 years ago. The reason for the confusion is simple.

Venus – the second rock from the Sun – is nearer to that celestial object than us.

So like with Mercury, we can see Venus from Earth only near sunrise and sunset, and never in the middle of the night.

And also like Mercury, we can't see Venus when it is too close to or directly in front of the Sun because of solar glare.

Italian scientist Galileo Galilei developed the first astronomical telescope in the early 1600s and saw for the first time that Venus showed phases like the Moon.

This led him to believe that planets like Earth orbit the Sun, which got him into big trouble when the Catholic Church condemned the idea as a heresy for which people could be tortured.

In 1627, German astronomer and mathematician Johannes Kepler worked out that the next transit of Venus would occur in 1631 but his calculations were rough, and he was unable to predict that it would not be visible in most of Europe.

Kepler also predicted there would be another transit in 1761, and a near-miss in 1639.

English astronomer Jeremiah Horrocks corrected Kepler's calculations and realised that there would indeed be a transit in 1639, which he managed to observe.

While most people began to accept that planets orbit the Sun they had no idea of the size of things and distances involved.

Various scholars tried unsuccessfully to work this out over the next 100 years until 1769 when English Captain James Cook set off on a voyage of discovery into the Pacific Ocean with instructions to measure the transit of Venus from Tahiti in June 1769.

He, a British astronomer and a Swedish naturalist all took their own telescopes and the crew included botanist Joseph Banks, after whom Australia's banksia trees are named.

Scientists in London were disappointed

with the results which varied because of turbulence in the Earth's atmosphere.

But Britain's Admiralty didn't really care because having completed the observation, Cook then opened his sealed orders for the second part of the voyage – and no prizes for correctly guessing where that took him.

A brief note to anybody hoping to see the next transit of Venus – it isn't due for another 99 years.

As for seeing our bright neighbour more closely, the European Space Agency Solar Orbiter is doing a fly-past on Saturday September 3.

Meanwhile, early risers in Toodyay should be able to see Venus shine brightly near the eastern horizon just before sunrise.

At least the first star you see tonight is guaranteed not to be a Roman goddess.



A representation of 18th Century English explorer Capt. James Cook's observation in Tahiti of the 1769 transit of Venus during his historic voyage of discovery to eastern Australia.

## Legacy of service to the Toodyay community

**Lorna Chitty Obituary**  
Suzanne Pescetti

LORNA Chitty passed away peacefully on the 10 August 2022 at Glenmore, Dewars Pool where she lived for more than 50 years.

Lorna came to Toodyay in May 1961 as a single parent of two children aged four and two-and-a-half to take up a position as a live-in housekeeper and nanny for recently widowed Dudley Chitty's four-year-old son and his late wife's three teenage children.

As Lorna was a city girl who lived in Fremantle where there was deep sewerage, running water in the house, a gas stove and electricity, you can imagine her shock when she arrived in her new home late at night with Dudley and her children.

Glenmore had no running water, a wood stove, electricity from a 32-volt generator and a can toilet that was located 25m away from the house.

The toilet was halfway between the house and the pig sties and, to top it off, squares of newspaper were being used for toilet paper.

One can only assume that the toilet was built there so that you couldn't tell if the smell came from it or the pigs.

But for Lorna this job meant the world to her because there were no social welfare payments in those days and it was an opportunity to keep her children safe with a roof over their heads.

Dudley would never ask anyone to do anything that he wasn't prepared to do himself.

He contracted polio as a child and survived with no welfare or handouts, just hard work clearing the land on his knees by hand because polio had affected his legs.

When he asked Lorna to go up to the paddock one day to help him pluck the wool off dead sheep she accepted even though it was not in her job description.

As a housekeeper, she knew there would be a good reason for him to ask her to do it and there was – wool was returning one pound for a pound of fleece which was an extraordinarily high price and unheard of at the time.

The romantic in me would like to believe that this was when the couple fell in love, but the truth is that I don't actually know.

What I do know is that they married on the 30 July 1965 and remained together until Dudley passed away in 1998.

Lorna was a very active member of the community, which included her membership with the Toodyay Bowling Club, the CWA and local volunteer firefighters.

She baked for and served at cake stalls in front of the Victoria Hotel to raise money for the various clubs in the town.

It was nothing for Dudley and Lorna to be working in the paddock until late in the day, then come home and glam up to go to a cabaret where she would dance all night.

Dudley would be extremely sociable and entertaining because polio prevented him from dancing.

Lorna and Dudley were always one of the first to buy tickets to attend either cabarets or balls because they were the most sought-after events in the town.

After Dudley passed away, Lorna lived mostly in the house that she and Dudley had in Safety Bay, returning to Glenmore every 4-6 weeks only when the weather was cooler.

Lorna offered Dudley's son an opportunity to continue to farm Glenmore at no cost to him for the benefit of his family.

In 2013 Lorna decided to sign over Glenmore to her children because the homestead built in 1856 needed major restorations, which her daughter undertook and completed in 2019.

With Glenmore restored, Lorna once again returned to the homestead to live until the end of her days.

Lorna's funeral was held on August 18 and her ashes will be placed with Dudley at Culham so they can be together forever more.

## Data hackers can make it a risky business in the Cloud

**Computer Safety**  
Phil Hart

CLOUD storage as we know it today started around 30 years ago (bit.ly/3zJbU8m).

Personal uses include storing photographs, documents and music.

It can also be used for backup purposes.

When used for sharing, it covers things such as Gmail, exchanging large files with other people and sharing documents for group editing.

Cloud storage is also used by large companies to hold your personal details.

While cloud storage is relatively reliable, the provider MySpace lost 12 years of user files in 2015 (bit.ly/2U8I3n3), losing millions of songs, photos and videos (bit.ly/3AkaBhC).

Cloud storage can also be hacked.

Personal data was extracted from Facebook sometime before August 2019 using the social media giant's own technology (n.pr/3Qv1ikQ).

Ironically, cybersecurity firm Cognyte accidentally exposed five billion records for at least three days in May 2021, exposing names, passwords and email addresses (bit.ly/3AhOKaG).

The passwords you use to access your cloud storage are also a weak point.

A determined hacker can crack a six-character password in three and a half days (bit.ly/3Qs9Vwu).

Some providers will lock your account if you have too many failed login attempts, but this protection is currently rare.

Using two-factor authentication can help

to protect your data from prying eyes (bit.ly/3PnNAP2).

Even if you use a strong password, hackers will resort to using social engineering to attack the people working for the provider and can sometimes get at your data that way (bit.ly/2GLm9B).

And while it might not have happened yet, there is always the risk that a provider may go bankrupt.

It can pay to plan for how to manage things if your cloud data gets stolen or lost.

On a completely different topic, please be aware that the hackers will be out in force next month trying to steal your financial credentials by impersonating the Australian Taxation Office. If in doubt, call the Australian Taxation Office yourself.

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## Sports

Events/Results

Read it in the Toodyay Herald

news@toodyayherald.com.au





# Thrills and spills in wet and wild Avon Descent through Toodyay



Going, going – gone. A chilly river dip for this pair at Extracts Weir



Checking the score at Newcastle Bridge.



Prop blades churn air at Extracts Weir.



Umbrellas up on a wet and wild day at this year's Toodyay International Food Fair.



Thumbs up after a dunking at the Super Chute. Photo Clive Millett.



Happy paddler reaches Newcastle Bridge after four-hour marathon – next stop Cobbler Pool.

## Pharmacy to stay if doctors go

Continued from Page 1

PRESIDENT Madacsi said the shire was working on several fronts to find an alternative doctor for Toodyay but the responsibility belonged to State and Federal Government, not local government.

Local State Labor MP Darren West agreed, saying Toodyay had a big enough population to sustain a local doctor service but he had a “fundamental issue” with local government being required to provide it.

It was costing shires like Goomalling hundreds of thousands of dollars a year.

“It’s a Federal Government responsibility to provide doctors and the State’s responsibility to provide services,” he said.

Doctors were in short supply everywhere, and he would talk to the State Government’s WA Country Health Service and the shire about what could be done.

Local MP and WA Nationals Deputy Leader Shane Love said he would raise

the issue with Federal Nationals Leader David Littleproud, Senate Leader Bridget McKenzie and other colleagues at this month’s WA Nationals State Conference.

He said it was untenable not to have a doctor in Toodyay, particularly with so many older residents needing access to a local GP and other medical services.

Other towns such as Dongara, Dalwallinu, Bindoon, Gingin and Three Springs all had doctors.

“This needs to be raised at a higher level of government but at the moment it’s been left to the shire,” Mr Love said.

Toodyay pharmacy co-owner Philip Carr said any GP closure in Toodyay would affect business but the pharmacy would stay open.

“Patients who see a GP in Northam still need to get their prescriptions filled, and many have repeat prescriptions,” he said.

Clinipath Pathology did not respond to Herald calls for comment.

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For further information contact: Damien Leeson on 0428 291 028



# Scar Trees create 'history book' of traditional places

**Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation**

SCAR trees and ochre are a couple of interesting topics that we would like to highlight this month.

Noongar people traditionally marked trees with scars to identify special places and to obtain bark for shelter, tools and food.

Trees were scarred when bark was removed and moulded over a fire into a curved shape.

Most were usually made from hardwood trees such as gums, mulga or mallee.

Cultural scar trees are generally well over 100 years old and are viewed as a history book of an area.

Many host trees are ageing and dying and are being replaced by younger trees.

This makes scar trees an important link to the past for traditional owners on Boodja (country).

Some scar trees can mark sites of ceremonial significance and are also important markers for traditional song-lines.

One use for bark that many people would know about is the Coolamon, an Aboriginal carrying vessel with curved sides.

These were traditionally made by the Maaman (men) and used by Yorga (women).

Uses included cradling babies, gathering and carrying food, collection of seeds and crushing grain to make food.

A Coolamon is carried either on the head or under the arm.

If carried on the head, a ring pad made from possum or human hair string, twisted grass or feathers was placed on the head to help support the carriage of the Coolamon.

To preserve and protect the Coolamon it is rubbed with fat to keep the wood in good condition.

Natural clay ochre was one of the most important and valuable trading items for Aboriginal people.

An iron oxide pigment, it is found in a range of colours, ranging from white, through yellow to red and brown.

Toodyay ochre areas include a registered heritage site in the north of the shire that produces a light-coloured ochre.

Soft ochre rock would be crushed into a



Corporation Chairman Robert Miles and directors Bernie Green and Patrick Miles inspect a traditional Scar Tree in Toodyay's Pelham Reserve.

powder and then mixed into a paste, usually with water, but sometimes using saliva or the fat or blood of emu, possum or goanna.

The paste was then used for a variety of artistic and decorative purposes, including to adorn people's bodies during cultural celebrations and decorating wooden and stone implements.

Men's body paint patterns differ from those

used by women.

Specific designs would often reveal relationships to a family group, social position, tribe, precise ancestors, totemic fauna and tracts of land.

Here in Toodyay and the Victoria Plains region, ceremonial Kobori (corroboree) with ochre is known traditionally as Doordaroo kening.



## Mums on the wagon can avoid brain-damaged babies

**Safer Toodyay**  
Jo-Anne Woodruff

THE importance of being alcohol-free during nine months of pregnancy is highlighted every year on the ninth day of the ninth month.

This year's international Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day is on Friday September 9.

Women who are pregnant or planning a pregnancy are urged not to drink alcohol based on research findings that it can harm their unborn child.

Breastfeeding mothers are also advised to avoid alcohol.

Alcohol acts as a poison on the nervous system – even small amounts can have a big impact.

It can damage an unborn child at any time, even before pregnancy is confirmed.

Drinking alcohol during pregnancy can cause miscarriage, stillbirth and permanent damage to a developing baby's brain.

It causes learning difficulties, memory loss, behavioural problems, difficulty in decision-making, inability to understand basic instructions and behavioural difficulties.

If you are pregnant or know someone who is planning a child, please consider this extremely important information – it could help prevent a lifetime of very sad consequences for entire families.

For further information online, visit:

- [holyoake.org.au](http://holyoake.org.au)
- [alcoholthinkagain.com.au](http://alcoholthinkagain.com.au)
- [nofasd.org.au](http://nofasd.org.au), or
- [nhmrc.gov.au](http://nhmrc.gov.au).

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Last month's opening celebration.

## Combined school effort showcases Toodyay's local community spirit

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

CELEBRATING achievements is an important part of recognising the valuable contributions that volunteers, community organisations and businesses make to our local community.

It's about saying thanks to all involved and showcasing achievements when we work collaboratively to garner support from businesses and community organisations.

We invited community members, sponsors, staff, students and volunteers to celebrate the official opening of the school's nature playground last month.

We gathered in the rain to recognise the project's many contributors and thank all the sponsors and volunteers involved.



Year 2 students Myla Cottam and Brianna Murray open the new school playground by pumping water into the creek bed.

After a welcome and acknowledgement by student leaders, Toodyay District High School Principal David Ball spoke about the importance of play in student development and expressed thanks on behalf of the school to the P&C and all contributors.

We acknowledged major sponsors and supporters, including the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Challice Mining, the Toodyay Op Shop, Toodyay Lions Club and the Shire of Toodyay.

Collectively these sponsors donated an impressive \$50,000 to the playground.

We also received the equally valuable support of many businesses, including Transwest WA, Midland Brick, WacWil Landscaping and Earthworks, Mobile Concrete Services, WCS Concrete, Avon Skip Bins and All Go Contracting that supplied materials and in-kind services.

Local volunteers put in a total of 245 hours during construction to give students an inspiring space to play for years to come.

It's difficult to put an exact dollar figure on the value of these in-kind services but we estimate that the contribution of voluntary labour, materials and services enabled project savings of between \$30,000 and \$50,000.

Most importantly, this collaboration of volunteers, local businesses and community groups demonstrates the deep commitment our community has to our local school and its students.

It was a truly collaborative effort and we are sincerely grateful for the support which helped to create such an inspiring nature playground for our students to enjoy.

To find out more about us, please call Kelly-Anne Murray on 0406 585 716 or email [pandtoodyaydhs@gmail.com](mailto:pandtoodyaydhs@gmail.com).

You can also leave a message via our P&C Facebook page or write to us at PO Box 1624 Toodyay WA 6566.

## Benny Hill number stirs some unusual mental pictures

**Toodyay Music Club**  
Jenny Edgecombe

WHEN members chose fruit and vegetables for the theme day in August, I knew we would have a great deal of fun in choosing our songs.

I was not disappointed, as you will read later in this report.

First, though, club members often choose to note the passing of great figures in the music industry.

This month, Moya chose a lovely tribute to the late Judith Durham with *When Will the Good Apples Fall*, a song that immediately recalled Judith's enduring presence in Australian music over the years.

Peter lifted our spirits after this with the popular *Home Among the Gum Trees*, which enabled some cheerful audience participation while maintaining the fruit and veg connection.

Phil's visits to the club are always welcome, as members enjoy his blues style of playing and singing.

This time his contribution included a blast from the past in *Ramblin' on My Mind* as a tribute to a friend who had died recently.

Anne presented the lovely *Soon I'll be Dreamin' in Broome*, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Meanwhile, back at the fruit and veg stall, Brian and Collette presented a most entertaining skit, with immortal lines such as *A Turnip for the way you always Turn Up Late*.

Joe's *Broken Hearted Lover's Stew*, a Benny Hill number, also conjured up some very unusual mental pictures.

Eileen's *Cherry Blossom Time* was a delight, but my vote for most beautiful item of the afternoon was her rendition of *Little Green Apples*, with Maurice supplying harmonies in the chorus.

Tongue Twister of the day was Spencer's delightful *Baked Bean Man* song.

Your correspondent's voice had disappeared for the day but hopefully the audience will not

mind some more fruit and veg songs at our next meeting.

It will be a theme-free musical session this month when we meet at 1pm on Saturday September 10 in the CWA Hall, Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

Please call Joe on 0400 862 694 for more details.

## Harley and Ethan score Aussies of Month

**Bolgart News**  
Pam McGill

### School News

AUSSIE of the Month was awarded to Harley Judson and Ethan Uriarau.

Merit Certificates awarded to:  
Senior Room - Levi Smith and Brodie Whiteaker.

Junior Room - Archer-Rose Glenie-Thomas and Lara Tregenza.

Deepest sympathy to Doris Martin and all families on the passing of your much-loved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

### Golf News

BOLGART Men played for the Fairlea Cup and their Championships over the weekend of August 13 and 14.

The 2022 Men's Champion is Todd Meston and runner-up is Callen Syred.

Round 1 Winner: Callen Syred.  
Round 2 Winner: Todd Meston.

The Fairlea Cup winner was Richard Walker and runner-up Theo Camerer.

Congratulations to all the winners.

Ladies 2022 Champion (Gross winner) is Joy Hamilton and runner-up is Serena Syred.

The 2022 Nett winner is Joy Hamilton with runner-up Serena Syred.

Congratulations to all the winners.

Thank you to Lester and Pip Snooke from Bolgart Rural Merchandise for their generous, continued sponsorship for Men's and Ladies' Championships.

The Kath Travers Memorial Trophy was contested on Sunday August 14, and the winner was Serena Syred and runner-up Pam Meston.

Thank you to the Travers Family for their continued Sponsorship.

Six ladies travelled to Goomalling for their Open Golf Day competing for the Slater Cup.

Congratulations to Joy Hamilton on winning the Cup and to Therese Chitty for winning the Veterans' event.



Fairlea Cup Winner Richard Walker

## Donors pave way for disabled students

**Toodyay District High School**  
David Ball

OUR school community would like to thank the Shire of Toodyay and Midland Brick for donating the full cost of a new path leading from

the school undercover area to the road opposite the Toodyay Recreational Centre.

The brick paving is a welcome addition for all students, parents and staff using the Toodyay Recreation Centre, especially those with disabilities who need a flat surface to travel on.



From left: Caragh Sinclair from Midland Brick, Toodyay Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst, Toodyay District High School Principal David Ball and Nathan Blackwell, also from Midland Brick



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# Time flies 12 minutes faster at historic oddity

**Toodyay Historical Society Inc**  
 Robyn Taylor, Vice President

HAS ANYONE had a close look at the double-faced clock attached to the facade of our town's Memorial Hall?

Apart from not giving the same time on both sides of the clock, the hands appear to be stuck on one side and the two clocks show only 48 minutes to the hour, not 60.

There are four minutes between each Roman numeral – I counted to make sure.

Can anyone explain this oddity?

This fascinating revelation came from our Society's guest speaker Ian Phillips from the York

Society who gave a talk at last month's annual general meeting about 'Bells and Clocks of the Avon Valley'.

Ian's research is extensive and will be published shortly in a book that will provide social and historical perspectives on the subject.

As he pointed out, there is hardly a town in the Avon Valley region that does not have a public bell or clock in its history.

Bells historically were timekeepers before everyone had watches and clocks – they tolled the deaths of kings and queens, alerted the public to dangers such as bushfires, and until recent times in Toodyay a school bell would ring across the valley to hasten tardy students.

St Stephen's Anglican Church still rings its bell

to announce that services will begin in 15 minutes. Being made of hard durable metal such as brass and iron, bells certainly stand the test of time, pardon the pun.

This is just as well because some fell out of nearby trees where they were hung for want of a more elegant solution, or from being rung too vigorously on special occasions such as New Year's Eve.

This happened in 1913 at the old St John the Baptist Catholic Church in Toodyay.

Does anyone know if this bell is the same as the current one being used across the road in the 1963 St John the Baptist Church?

Ian has been trying to find out. Early bells such as those used for convict depots can be identified by a broad arrow, a symbol for government property.

There were rung to mark particular times, such as the end of a day's labour building roads and working for farmers.

The broad arrow is also used on land title maps to denote crown land.

Not all old bells came from England as is often assumed – some were made locally.

The name of Fred Metters and Co of Perth, which we associate with wood stoves, can be seen on a number of bells, such as the one at St Stephen's.

This bell was donated in 1919 by Lionel Boyd and Isabella Lukin in memory of their son Sgt Harry Lukin who was killed in action in World War One.

The bell tower in Bolgart was built by the local good folk in the late 1990s to promote their town.

It was an inspired, tongue-in-cheek response to Perth's long and controversial process of building its own bell tower at the river end of Barrack Street to house the 14th century bells from the St Martin-in-the-Fields in London.



Bolgart's tongue-in-cheek response to Perth's controversial Bell Tower was made from recycled materials and unveiled 1999. Photo: Ian Phillips.

## Extraordinary local women honoured for selfless service to community



Pictured from left: Father Konrad Gagatek, Sisters of Mercy Carmel Daley, Roberta Dillon, Eileen (Anne) Mc Vittie and Jo (Teresima) Dillon, and David Wade.

### Sisters of Mercy, Toodyay

Anne Panizza

A CELEBRATORY thanksgiving Mass was held on Sunday July 24 at Toodyay's St John the Baptist Church to honour the Sisters of Mercy and their 119 years of selfless service to the Toodyay community and surrounding areas.

The Mass was celebrated by Father Konrad Gagatek and was attended by past and present parishioners, former St Aloysius school students and other visitors.

Mercy Sisters Carmel Daley, Roberta Dillon, Eileen (Anne) McVittie and Jo (Teresina) Dillon

travelled from Perth and Bunbury as special guests of honour.

Sisters Roberta, Eileen and Jo had all previously lived at Toodyay's former Mercy House Convent.

An honour board recording the names of all the Sisters of Mercy who served the Toodyay community was unveiled by Sisters Carmel and Eileen.

Afternoon tea in the CWA Hall was greatly enjoyed by everyone.

It was a very special day to honour some extraordinary women who for more than a century gave so much to Toodyay and asked for nothing in return.



Only 48 minutes to the hour shown on Toodyay's Memorial Hall clock in Stirling Terrace. Photo: Robyn Taylor.

Bolgart pipped Perth in completing its bell tower first.

The official opening took place in November 1999, attracting a large crowd to Bolgart, including the WA Premier at the time, Richard Court.

This month's event will be a busy bee at Donegan's Cottage starting at 7am on Friday September 30 to spruce up the inside and surrounds for the 168th Toodyay Agricultural Show the following Saturday.

For more information, please email secretary.2j.ths@gmail.com or Robyn Taylor at rdtaylor@iinet.net.au (9574 2578), or Beth Frayne at toobide4@iinet.net (9574 5971).

Our postal address is PO Box 32 Toodyay WA 6566, and you can visit us online at toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au.

Membership is \$15 per annum.



Artwork by Kirk Garlett

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# Who can top tomato sauce to produce another winner?

**Toodyay Agricultural Society**  
Alison Wroth

THERE'S now only one month to go until our historic 168th Toodyay Agricultural Show on Saturday October 8.

Congratulations to our Schedule Coordinator for putting together this year's Schedule, which was posted with entry passes and meal vouchers to society members last month.

This year's show schedule is now publicly available for a \$2 donation to us at the Toodyay Visitors Centre, Makit Hardware, Toodyay Public Library and the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank in Stirling Terrace.

To save wastage, only 300 copies were printed but – as in previous years – the show schedule and entry forms can be downloaded from toodyayagshow.com.au.

If you want an actual booklet to keep for posterity, be quick to grab one from the outlets listed above.

Entry forms with a bank receipt of your fee deposit can be emailed direct to our Show Recorder, which saves time for everybody.

Or you can still lodge entry forms with the correct money in a sealed envelope at the Toodyay Visitors Centre in Piesse Street.

Entry forms will be accepted up to noon Saturday October 1 but we urge everyone to please lodge their entries early.

Online ticket sales are not being offered this year, but bank and credit cards can be used at the main gate to buy entry tickets.

You can also use your cards to buy drinks at the Terrace Bar or to withdraw up to \$100 in cash at the nearby treasurer's office.

Each year's Show is made possible only by valued support of our major sponsors.

These include Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Chalice Mining, Dunnings, Elders Northam, Toodyay Op Shop, the Shire of Toodyay, CSBP, Morgan Feed Supplies, Deepdale

Dorpers, the Lee Steere Family and other local individuals and businesses.

Without their combined support, our 168th Toodyay Agricultural Show would struggle to maintain the high standard that local community members and visitors have come to expect.

The show schedule promotes prize donors and new sponsors in glorious colour, and on behalf of myself as president and the committee, our heartfelt thanks to you all.

The competitive streak swells up in many of us as Show time nears and we reach for that wooden spoon, knowing it is the time to practice a fresh batch of scones, that yummy Show cake with no burnt edges or the President's Favourite Recipe, which this year is a delicious date, walnut and brandy cake – one that doesn't sink in the middle.

The household head (or so he thinks) can always give the Man Cake a try.

The wise will first give it a few tries in their quest for legend status, as winner Jack Lee discovered last year with his secret ingredient – tomato sauce.

We've all got plenty of time to practice and if you bake a cake that you believe can win that TAS Best Exhibit Sash, freeze it and enter – just be sure to totally defrost it on Show Day so it isn't still crunchy inside.

Our stewards will hold a pre-Show meeting at the Youth Hall in the middle of this month, followed by a lovely morning tea.

Going through the judging file to review what needs to be done when exhibits arrive helps us

once again get into Show mode.

I will advertise the date soon and let our stewards know via our Facebook page and by email.

Remember to mark Saturday October 8 on your calendar as a date to catch up again with all your old friends and maybe make some new ones.

You can enjoy the Showgrounds from the Youth Hall veranda where Garden Club members will be busy in the nearby kitchen serving morning and afternoon teas.

If you wander down to the Sports Pavilion, Toodyay Locals Care will be there to serve you all day.

Society members will be able to present their show vouchers to Roz for a free Cuppa and cake.

All Show-goers can look forward to a lively program of entertainment, a dramatic simulated car smash with the Jaws of Life cutting open a wrecked vehicle to rescue 'injured' passengers.

The RAC Rescue helicopter simulator will be integral to the scenario and will also be on hand to give show-goers a 'virtual' experience of flying on an operational mission in the 'chopper'.

Also at the Show will be the Elders Terrace Bar, food vans of every description, trade displays, side show alley prizes and rides – some scarier than others – kids' showbags full of lollies, a Scitech Wonderland, horses in action with a difference and a spectacular Bendigo Bank-sponsored fireworks display at 7.30pm to close out our biggest day of the year.

See you all at the Show.



Sarah-Jane Simonetti designed the cover of this year's Toodyay Show booklet which contains everything you need to know about entries, prizes, sponsors and what's on – see main story for outlets.

## Australia's first electric tractors coming in four years



Nunile canola crop in full bloom, looking towards the Toodyay townsite.

**Toodyay Agricultural Alliance**  
Frank Panizza

AN OUTBREAK of wet weather in August has boosted crops and pastures for local farmers.

The official rainfall recording for August for Nunile, eight kilometres east of the Toodyay townsite, was 147mm – more than double the last month's 61mm average.

Crops and pastures are more advanced than the outbreak of very wet conditions last year, which has prevented the widespread waterlogging of paddocks that was so evident in 2021.

Fine dry weather has been beneficial for crop and pasture growth.

Local farmers are now finishing up weed-spraying programs, tending to livestock duties and completing firebreaks.

Many were able to spend a day away from the farm to attend the annual Dowerin Field Days that are held in the last week of August.

The usual array of farm equipment and machinery was on display, with keen interest shown in new technologies.

A noticeable new theme is the gradual acceptance by WA farmers of the need to adopt procedures to meet net zero carbon emissions at some point in the near future.

Carbon farming is becoming a more frequent discussion, albeit with some trepidation.

The largely unknown effect on agriculture is causing concern, and misinformation and rumour are not helping the situation.

Some fear that large polluters such as oil, gas and energy companies will simply buy carbon credits to offset emissions, as they have the financial clout to do so.

This may leave agriculture in an invidious situation of having to buy carbon credits or give up part of their farm to gain carbon credits from planting trees for carbon sequestration.

John Deere, the world's largest machinery

manufacturer, recently announced plans to release Australia's first battery powered tractor in 2026.

The company has labelled the event as a "monumental shift" in primary production.

"Electrification and autonomous equipment help business reduce CO2 emissions, improve safety and bolster productivity," Australia and New Zealand production systems manager Steph Gersekowski said.

There were "all outcomes which strongly align to John Deere's overarching goal to deliver a fleet of intelligent and connected machines to help the industry become more sustainable, productive and efficient."

It is likely that the first battery powered electric farm tractors will be used in horticulture.

Large tractors and trucks will still need to use diesel fuel for the foreseeable future.

There is a lot of work to do to ensure that agriculture is fully informed and ready for challenges ahead.

## Max turns over his pen to new secretary Barry

**Avon Woodturners**  
Max J Heath

THINGS have been going along quietly at woodturning.

In starting we would like to give our best wishes to Rob Pearce who has not been well of late – you are in our thoughts Rob.

Last month's Annual General Meeting started with a breakfast followed by the meeting, with not a lot on the agenda.

The meeting decided to buy an air purifier for the shed for the sake of everyone's health.

We are also looking into a better filter system for our dust extractor to make it work more effectively.

It was also decided to look into buying a visual screen for training reasons and to display at the monthly Toodyay Farmers Market so people can see what we have at the shed.

We will seek a grant from the WA Woodturners Association for this item.

All positions at the AGM were declared vacant and I was once again elected convener.

Barry Squires was elected secretary, Hamish Dobie has taken on the role of treasurer, and Terry Hood will once again be equipment and safety officer.

The meeting was followed by a working bee and a lot was sorted out after we found the crate containing previous minutes and other records.

Everything was filed and properly organised and a good clean-up resulted in the mending of items that were not working to enable them to return to working order.

Some turning has been done on projects for next month's Toodyay Show on Saturday October 8, which is sneaking up on us.

Other turned items are also going well.

This will be the last Avon Woodturners article from me because new secretary Barry Squires will take over the role next month.

Please remember that everyone is welcome to come and see us and have a coffee on a Wednesday or Sunday morning at about 9am.

We are at the Toodyay Junction Community Depot on Railway Road past the shire recycling depot.



Turner David Doye works with a lathe.



## Pre-harvest Meetings

The pre-harvest meetings are an opportunity to get involved with the planning for your local sites and hear about any important changes for the coming harvest. We encourage and welcome everyone to come along and provide input.

| Date       | Time    | Location                    | Sites                                   |
|------------|---------|-----------------------------|---|
| 22/09/2022 | 9AM     | KELLERBERRIN REC CENTRE     | KELLERBERRIN / DOODLAKINE/ KODJ KOODJIN |
| 22/09/2022 | 1PM     | CUNDERDIN CRC               | CUNDERDIN / TAMMIN / WATERCARRIN        |
| 23/09/2022 | 9AM     | MECKERING SPORTS CLUB       | MECKERING                               |
| 23/09/2022 | 1PM     | GOOMALLING COMMUNITY CENTRE | GOOMALLING / JENNACUBBINE               |
| 27/09/2022 | 10:30AM | AVON CONFERENCE ROOM        | AVON                                    |
| 27/09/2022 | 3PM     | CALINGIRI SPORTS CLUB       | CALINGIRI / BOLGART                     |
| 28/09/2022 | 10AM    | QUAIRADING CRC              | QUAIRADING / YOTING / MAWSON            |
| 28/09/2022 | 3PM     | YORK REC CENTRE             | YORK / GREENHILLS                       |

For more information, contact your local CBH office or visit [cbh.com.au/harvest/pre-harvest-meetings](http://cbh.com.au/harvest/pre-harvest-meetings)



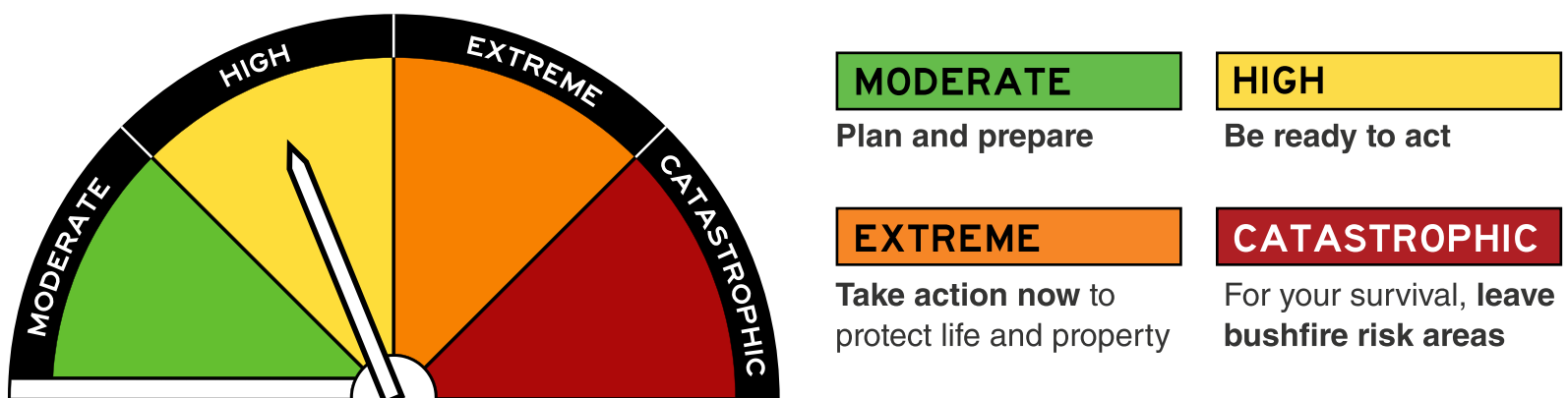
# Introducing the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System



Fire danger ratings describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start. They are important because they provide people with information so that they can take action to protect themselves and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires.

From September 1, Australians will have a simplified, action-oriented Fire Danger Rating System.

## The new Australian Fire Danger Ratings (AFDRS) levels are:



- ▶ The AFDRS will also introduce 'off' for those days where no proactive action is required by the community. On these days, you will still need to abide by local seasonal laws and regulations, but there is little or no risk of a fire that starts spreading in a dangerous or life-threatening way.
- ▶ The AFDRS is informed by one of Australia's largest social research projects which found that most Australians do not understand the current system, and would prefer a simpler, action-oriented set of fire danger ratings.
- ▶ The AFDRS is being implemented consistently across Australia and will mean that wherever you are across the country, you will be able to understand the threat posed on any given day and make appropriate decisions to keep you and your family safe.



## You'll need pucker-free borders to impress the judges



Gabrielle with a truly colourful, hand-finished scrappy quilt – it's what quilters do to use up scraps of leftover fabric.

### Ragbags Quilting Group Kerry Gregory

RECALLING last month's article on completing your UFO (unfinished object), some of them are looking pretty terrific and may just find their way to next month's Toodyay Show since time is fast running out to start new projects to exhibit.

I hope the quilting ladies of Toodyay are putting the finishing stitches to their work and – if you have the time – small items; jackets, bags, toys or cushions could be completed ready to exhibit.

It is worth mentioning the points to which quilting judges pay particular attention, including:

- No thread ends or marking lines visible,
- Smooth, straight, pucker-free borders,
- Binding even and filled with the quilt edge, and
- For presentation, a clean, lint-free quilt to grab the viewers' attention.

It really is an annual Show highlight for me to see all the beautiful, colourful quilts hung high

and proudly demonstrating the talent, skill and exceptional work achieved by our local quilters.

I urge you all to enter a project or quilt – it's really good to participate and a great way to gain confidence in your work.

This year's Toodyay Show is on Saturday October 8.

The judges are very encouraging towards novice quilters and offer great insight and feedback when we think we're the only one with 'that problem' – they've seen it all.

It's not all about winning but adding to the spectacle of the day and being an integral part of this wonderful community event.

New members are most welcome to join us for our regular gatherings of the Ragbags group at Toodyay's St Stephens Anglican Church Hall, next to the Cola Café, from 10am to 2pm on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

A cuppa, good chat and laugh or two are assured.

## New songsters sought for community events

### Toodyay Community Singers Anne Millar

ANOTHER month has gone, and how quickly the year is passing.

Our singers are now rehearsing for next month's Toodyay Show on Saturday October 8 and to help commemorate Remembrance Day with our local RSL at Anzac Memorial Park on November 11.

If you're new to Toodyay and would like to take part in other community events such as the town's December Christmas Street Party, Anzac Day in April and the annual Moodyne Festival in May, please come along for a visit.

We are always looking for new singers to join our happy little group.

Evening rehearsals at this time of the year are held every Thursday from 5pm to 7pm at the CWA Hall in Stirling Terrace.



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## SHIRE OF TOODYAY NOTICES

### Shire of Toodyay Fire-Break Notice

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

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

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

#### Failure to comply may result in a fine or prosecution

##### 1. All land less than or equal to 1 hectare

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

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

##### 2. All land greater than 1 hectare

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Additional Restrictions during the Limited Burning Times

Pursuant to Section 24G(2) and Section 25(1a) of the Bush Fires Act 1954 and applicable to all persons, the burning of garden refuse and lighting of camping or cooking fires is prohibited within the Local Government district of Toodyay during the Prohibited Burning Period. Furthermore, pursuant to Section 24G(2) of the Bush Fires Act 1954 and applicable to all persons, the burning of garden refuse is prohibited within the Local Government district of Toodyay during the Restricted Burning Period unless a valid permit to burn has been obtained from a Fire Control Officer. Section 24C (Terms Used) of the Bush Fires Act 1954 contains definitions relevant to this notice.

#### Carrying of Fire Extinguishers during the Limited Burning Times

Pursuant to Section 27(3) of the Bush Fires Act 1954, and applicable to all persons, the Shire of Toodyay prohibits the operation of any tractor or self-propelled harvester without a fire extinguisher being carried within the Local Government district of Toodyay during the Restricted Burning Period and Prohibited Burning Period. Section 27(5) of Bush Fires Act 1954 and regulations 3 and 37(2) of the Bush Fire Regulations 1954 contain definitions relevant to this notice.

#### Operation of Internal Combustion Engine Model Aircraft during the Limited Burning Times

Pursuant to Regulation 38A(1) of the Bush Fires Regulations 1954, and applicable to all persons during the Restricted Burning Period and Prohibited Burning Period, the Shire of Toodyay prohibits the operation of any internal combustion engine model aircraft when for any day, or any period of a day, the fire danger forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology in Perth in respect of the locality of operation is "high" or above. Operation is permitted during forecast fire danger of "moderate" or below where; fuel load being over flown is less than 1 tonne per hectare or maximum 100 millimetres grass height; and a fire-break cleared of all inflammable materials 3 metres horizontally (wide) and 4 metres vertically (high) fully surrounds the over flown area; and three abled bodied persons with ability to extinguish a fire are present; and two fire fighting vehicles of capacity not less than 500 litres each with minimum 20 meters long 19 millimetres diameter hose capable of delivering minimum 120 litres of water per minute at 700 kilopascals are present.

The above notice does not withstand any other subsequent declaration made under Regulation 38A(1) of the Bush Fires Regulations 1954, or declaration of a Total Fire Ban.

#### Shire of Toodyay Bush Fire Control Officers

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

Craig Stewart (Chief Bush Fire Control Officer), Nicholas Griggs (Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer 1), Robert Koch (Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer 2), Garry Forsyth, Kim Maddrell, Ian MacGregor, Charles Wroth, Robert Scobie, Greg Warburton, Leon Couper, Wade McMillan, Ebony Francis.

**Suzie Haslehurst** – Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Toodyay



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# More than just scones and jam – but we excel in that too

**Country Women's Association**  
Viv Street

A GROUP of women formed Toodyay's first branch of the Country Women's Association in 1927.

They were without permanent premises and, after using rooms in the Town Hall (now Memorial Hall), they raised funds to open a CWA Rest Room in a former wine saloon on Stirling Terrace.

In 1938 the members started a building fund and bought a vacant block in Stirling Terrace for £40.

The following year they purchased the Coondle Memorial Hall which was dismantled and re-erected on Stirling Terrace.

Toodyay's new CWA Hall was officially opened in September 1939 by CWA State President Mrs Archie Burt, followed by a 'grand' dance and supper.

Many additions and improvements have since been made, and now 83 years later an equally determined group of CWA members are raising money to replace the hall roof and ceiling.

A produce stall on the morning of last month's Avon Descent river race through Toodyay helped increase our new roof fund by more than \$1000.

Thank you to all who contributed.

We had great support and some very generous donations from locals and visitors.

Our hall has served the community for all those years and we hope to keep it in good shape for the next generation of members.

We'll continue to provide a space for women to come together and connect.

Our State conference mentioned last month was themed Unity, Service and Gratitude, for which our organisation has strived since its inception in WA in 1924.

Reports from the conference organised by the



Dixie, Kathy and Julie-Anne set up our Roof Fund stall which raised more than \$1000 during last month's Avon Descent river race through Toodyay.

Bindoon Belles have been excellent.

This young group formed only four years ago made possible the first country conference for six years.

It is inspiring to know that the CWA is in good hands with many more, younger members joining.

State-wide, the CWA raised more than \$20,000 over the year for the Centre for Women's Health and Wellbeing with an emphasis on providing rural counsellors for regional people suffering from domestic violence.

Janice Standen, who is WA Senior of the Year and President of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, was the keynote speaker and approached the CWA of WA to form a community partnership to support and strengthen networks of grandparents in this position throughout the state.

Panels and discussions included a campaign to improve the visibility of trains on unmarked crossings, funding ambulance services in WA and an urgent request to all levels of Government to better fund biosecurity measures after of a recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease among livestock in Indonesia.

A motion to improve rail and road links between Perth and Albany was supported and

another was to protect owls by finding safe alternatives to anticoagulant rodenticides.

The Salvation Army had its emergency meals van on site and highlighted the role CWA members have played in supporting their work in times of emergency.

One hundred and seven branches from across WA were represented at the conference and we were proud that Gina and Julie-Anne, both first-time conference attendees, could attend as our delegates.

There is only one more outing this month, to a Northern Area gathering in Midland.

The purpose of these meetings is to provide an opportunity for local branches to get together to socialise and discuss anything of concern which can then be sent to our State Office to put to the CWA State Board.

We hold our monthly meetings at the CWA Hall on Stirling Terrace on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1pm, and a coffee morning on the second Thursday of the month at 10am.

Please come along and discover that CWA is much more than scones and jam – though we do excel in that too.

There is plenty of parking in Charcoal Lane at the back of the hall and wheelchair access down the side. For hall bookings please call Margot Watkins on 9574 2823 or 0405 067 591.

## Jumper jumps out of Carol's head

**Toodyay Spinners**  
Gail Williams (Secretary)

WHEN Carol Bennington was asked what she was going to make with yarn she was spinning, Carol replied "I don't know yet, I am sure the pattern will jump out at me".

Well, this (pictured) jumped out and has turned into a very interesting and warm sleeveless jumper.

I am sure that Carol will have a few more brainwaves in the future.

Toodyay Spinners would like to extend an invitation to anyone who wishes to learn a new skill.

Our members are well experienced in the crafts of knitting, crochet, spinning and weaving and are only too willing to teach anyone new who comes along.

We meet every Wednesday and on the first and third Saturday of the month at Parkers Cottage in the Toodyay Showgrounds.

Why not come along and join our group? You only need yourself.

We meet from 9am until noon.

If you would like to know more, please call secretary Gail Williams on 9622 3411.



Carol Bennington's "jump out at me pattern" which turned into a very interesting and warm sleeveless jumper.

## Secret Women's Business with The Toy Boys

**Toodyay Theatre Group**  
Barry Vause

We are taking a much-needed break while working on plans for a new production and will keep you posted as things progress.

In the meantime, we have secured the popular Secret Women's Business performers to return to one of their favourite venues – Toodyay Memorial Hall - with a brand new show titled *Not In The Mood*.

Secret Women's Business last entertained Toodyay in 2021 with great harmonies, solos, parodies and skits and will return with new band The Toy Boys.

The show will be led by well-known musical director Martin Meader.

Secret Women's Business will bring you an evening of sheer entertainment, from laugh out loud musical skits to inspiring songs that will stir the audience to join in.

It's a show with something for everyone that our group looks forward to hosting for one night only on Saturday November 12 from 8-10pm.

Tickets are available from TryBookings.

## Aboriginal weaving skills add to Robyn's repertoire

**The Crooked Needle**  
Jean Melhuish-Hill

WELCOME home to Robyn Warrenner who has recently completed a couple of years in Newman.

Robyn has been busy there helping in the community, feeding the kids, setting up craft groups, giving lessons and taking a few lessons herself.

Learning from Aboriginal women how to weave baskets of various shapes and sizes from local grasses added to Robyn's already extensive crafting repertoire.

Travelling from state to state with basket materials became a little bit of a problem with quarantine restrictions and similarly with gifts for overseas friends and relatives.

So, not one to be put off by this Robyn has devised some alternatives using rope, paper, material, wool, twine and glue.

Robyn joined the group some eight years ago and has an artistic flair.

A textile artist, her works include felting,

sculptures, spinning, weaving, quilting, crocheting and now basket weaving.

You may remember Robyn from her volunteer work at the Op Shop or modelling clothes at the Fibre Fest and Agricultural Show.

Born in Townsville and educated in Queensland, she moved to WA 20 years ago and made her home in Toodyay in 2002.

One of my first encounters with Robyn was the Christmas Craft group lunch where we all made a secret Santa gift for one of the other members.

The gift I received was crafted by Robyn and was a beautiful, felted bag and paper flower both of which I am still using.

Trish Haley is a newer member of our group and one of many dog owners.

Unfortunately her dachshund disappeared.

Trish, her husband and neighbours spent days looking for the dog with no result.

Had the dog escaped the yard and got lost? Gone off to die? They looked high and low.

Then, came a telephone call from the vet.

A lady had found a dog in one of the drains

near her home. Not sure how long it had been there she took the dog to the local vet.

Trish has been reunited with her pooch who was a little worse for wear but recovering nicely all due to the fact that the dog was microchipped.

One scan from the vet, check the ownership and a telephone call and the Haleys were reunited.

Trish would like to thank the lady who took her dog to the vet and encourage all pet owners to have their animals microchipped.

If you find a lost animal the vet or the local ranger can assist in locating the owner if the microchip is there.

Not long now to the Agricultural Show and the team is working on entries for various categories including craft, baked goods and floral arrangements.

If you are looking for a friendly group of ladies to exchange crafting ideas in a social setting, please come for a visit.

We meet each Friday at the CWA Hall in Stirling Terrace from 9.30am to noon.

For more information, please contact Jan on 0407 083 079 or Annette on 0428 804 666.

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