

# The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned  
community newspaper  
Est. 1902

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

October 2022  
Edition 417

## Medical Centre to stay shut for months

Shire unable to find new doctors in time to prevent November 30 closure

Michael Sinclair-Jones

A BID to allow doctors to remain in Toodyay until at least February has been rejected.

The Wheatbelt Health Network (WHN) confirmed instead that it will quit the Alma Beard Medical Centre on November 30.

The Shire of Toodyay asked WHN last month if it could delay leaving until February while the shire advertised for new doctors.

According to a shire report last month, the request was declined four days later.

The shire had earlier agreed to a WHN request for a three-week delay in publicly announcing the shock closure while its Northam-based CEO was on leave.

Next month's removal of GP services in Toodyay means local physiotherapy and pathology services will also cease.

Local patients will instead have to travel to Northam or Midland to see a GP or access other medical services such as blood tests.

The shire has been unable to find new doctors in time to keep the busy centre open.

It had provided WHN with free rent worth \$38,500 a year and also paid for medical centre power, water and other costs.

The shire had also paid for fit-out expenses when WHN started leasing the ratepayer-owned medical centre in 2012.

Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst reported to last month's council meeting that WHN would retain patient records but had agreed to transfer them free of charge to new GPs.

She said one GP had contacted the shire about operating locally as a private business "with significant support from the shire".

Two others living in Toodyay had also said they would be interested in working locally.

The shire had been contacted by allied health service providers, including for physiotherapy treatment.

The Wheatbelt Primary Health Network had offered to help the shire assess GP credentials and proposals.

Ms Haslehurst said the shire's previous 2012 contract with WHN did not fit any of the four business models provided by



### Toodyay's new summer swim season kicks off with a record-breaking splash

PERTH visitors (from left) Molly and Finn McGuire and Toodyay cousin Connor Russell were so excited to be first in the

pool this swim season that they were waiting at the front doors for it to open. Toodyay Recreation Centre Manager

Beck Foulkes-Taylor said Saturday October 1 was one of the busiest days on record since the pool was opened in 2019.

medical support agency Rural Health West.

Most remote WA local government authorities owned their own general practices which were operated by a principal GP.

The Shire of York did not provide any

subsidy or support for local GP services, while Northam and Chittering provided minimal support in the form of a rental subsidy.

Continued on Page 3.

### Pet torn from woman's arms in savage IGA dog attack

TWO large unregistered dogs were declared dangerous after biting rescuers. See Page 6.



Toodyay local Tom Kress with two German contestants in 'Farmer Wants a Wife' at the markets.

### German TV crew films Farmer Wants a Wife at Toodyay Market

REALITY TV came to Toodyay last month when a German video crew visited the September 18 Farmers Market to shoot local scenes as a backdrop for the popular international hit show *Farmer Wants a Wife*.

Cameras and microphones recorded Toodyay resident Tom Kress and two German contestants stroking rescued animals, surrounded by curious onlookers.

Crew members were reluctant to talk because they said it was "confidential".

However, one said they worked for German TV company RTL and travelled all over the world doing similar work.

Australia's SBS Channel advertises *Farmer Wants a Wife* as an international German language TV series.

#### Coming events

Toodyay Agricultural Show  
Saturday October 8

Toodyay Farmers Market  
Sunday October 16

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# COUNTRY REALTY

# The Toodyay Herald

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

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

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

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

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# Solemn pomp

## Roger Simms

ONLY the British could have put on such a stunning display of reverential pomp as the world watched on September 19.

Only London could have staged it.

In scale and impact this farewell to a beloved Queen must surely top the list of history's royal funerals.

Every moment was followed world-wide by millions - from the sombre majesty of the service in Westminster Abbey to the sorrowful tolling of Big Ben and the slow-march of an unforgettable procession.

Perhaps the most lasting image among many will be that of the 142 Royal Navy seamen pulling Queen Elizabeth's crown-topped coffin on a gun carriage as they marched in tight-knit block formation along historic London avenues.

Add the stirring music, both in the Abbey and throughout the procession, and the colour and style of so many famous British military uniforms and a magnificent spectacle was complete.

Two thousand people - kings, presidents and prime ministers among them - packed the Abbey.

Four thousand military personnel, including servicemen and women from Australia and other Commonwealth countries, took part in the procession.

This was a masterpiece of organisation that spoke first to the love and esteem in which the nation held their Queen, but also to Britain's strength and accomplishments as a traditionalist democracy.

The sub-text to the world was: Look what we can achieve when the occasion demands it.

Some in Britain today would point to Brexit and say the country has embraced too much tradition for its own good.

But whatever the highs and lows of the country's political journey since Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne in 1952 - and there have been 15 changes of government since then - there is no doubting her reign was an unshakable cohesive asset.

Despite an overhanging shadow of colonial exploitation, Britain remains a much-admired focus of freedom in an increasingly authoritarian world and can point to a legacy of democratic stability among Commonwealth countries and to its own multicultural and open society.

It wasn't an army, a police force or dictatorial decrees that had Britons out in the streets expressing their grief and waiting for so long for a chance to say goodbye to their Queen lying in State.

Hard-line national leaders can only dream of such a show of affection from the populace.

Australia's ties with Britain are deep-rooted.

Britain shares in the story of our spectacular growth and achievements as a young nation - and also in that story's darker chapters of Aboriginal mistreatment and injustice.

It seems then, that we truly are at a crossroads in history as Queen Elizabeth's passing invites renewed interest in whether Australia should become a republic and we also deliberate on how best to secure Constitutional recognition for Aboriginal people.

On that second issue, your correspondent finds it shameful to think back to his schooldays in Western Australia in the 1950s and to memories of ways in which Aboriginal people were sidelined in the community.

But especially to history books that limited Australia's story to a convict settlement beginning followed by chapters about settlers, explorers, sheep and gold.

Our Prime Minister, Mr Anthony Albanese, has said Australians should vote in a referendum on the proposed Aboriginal Voice to Parliament before considering whether or not to end ties with the monarchy and become a republic.

Either way, both questions call for a well-informed vote, with honesty, empathy and transparency the bywords of the preparation phase.

They will be huge steps in Australian history - we need to get them right.



*The late Queen Elizabeth II at her 1953 coronation in London's Westminster Abbey.*

## Shire takes over community resource centre

THE EMBATTLED Toodyay Community Resource Centre (TCRC) is due re-open later this month under new management and premises in Stirling Terrace next to the Alma Beard Medical Centre.

Toodyay shire councillors voted 7-0 at a special meeting last month to adopt a rescue plan that will see the shire take over running the centre, pay off its debts and draft a new business model to secure its future.

The centre was forced to close at rented premises next to the Christmas shop in August after starting the new financial year with a \$52,000 deficit following a discovery that it had underpaid current and former staff for at least the past four years.

The shire will become the centre's new owner and transfer its staff to local government jobs at the new shire-owned site.

Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said \$107,000 a year in federal money paid to the centre's previous volunteer management to run the centre would be transferred to the shire.

Federal money supported than 100

community resource centres in WA, of which 14 were run by local government councils.

Councillors were told that the TCRC's August closure had placed significant extra demand on shire staff and resources at the Toodyay Public Library.

The library had only one public computer and could not meet increased local demand for public internet access and other services.

The closure meant also that after-school activities were no longer available for younger people living in the shire.

Councillors agreed to cover the centre's current financial liabilities up to a total of \$47,500 and amend the new shire budget in a mid-year review.

A proposed new TCRC business model would be presented to the November council meeting.

Former TCRC manager Nicole Coleman has started a new job at Toodyay Club, which re-opened its doors last month with a series of events after closing in July due to ongoing financial losses.

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

October - November 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4	5

# Toodyay's Three Amigos have Beth to map the trail

By Ed Watson

THERE are many layers to what breathes life into a community, especially in a small town such as Toodyay.

Some families go back a long way in local history, others move here from the city to retire and some simply drift in and stay because they like what they see.

Some newcomers choose to play an important local role by becoming closely connected to their adopted community.

Toodyay is fortunate to have among them a librarian who has joined forces with a historian and an archivist to be affectionately dubbed 'The Three Amigos'.

Well-known local resident Beth Frayne is one of those Amigos, and I recently had the pleasure to sit down with Beth to learn more about her personal story.

Her librarian nature may want me to tell it with a listed chronology of dates and events, as she herself has done with a 116-page personal record of her life.

But there is a bigger story to tell.

Many local people know Beth through her work with the Toodyay Historical Society, Toodyay Naturalists' Club, Shire Museum volunteers and Toodyay Tidy Towns, just to name a few of the pies Beth has had her finger in.

She is also a regular performer with the Toodyay Community Singers at events such as the town's annual Moondyne Festival and knows a thing or two about ceramics.

So let's go back and follow her path to Toodyay.

Beth was born in Perth and spent her early days as a happy-go-lucky kid whose parents liked to travel locally.

She excelled at school.

At age 16, Beth, her family and friends hit the road to WA's Eastern Goldfields and south via Lake King to Esperance.

This was the first of many 1970s adventures for Beth's family, who later used a family-built caravan to extend their travels.

Beth won a Commonwealth Secondary Scholarship at Mt Lawley Senior High School where she joined a band of school librarians and decided to pursue a career in that profession after matriculating in maths, physics and chemistry.

The first step was being awarded a four-year cadetship by the Library Board of WA.



Toodyay librarian Beth Frayne at home in her and husband Bob's beautiful native garden.

It also marked the start of a life of further travel and adventure as she worked toward becoming a cataloguer at WA's State Library in Perth, starting as a clerk in the so-called "Living Death that is Cataloguing" section.

Her diligence and hard work led to many adventures around Australia and overseas.

Beth gained undergraduate entry in 1973 to study for a degree in Applied Science (Library Studies) at the former WA Institute

of Technology, now Curtin University.

Working through semester breaks enabled Beth to afford to travel every year during her four weeks of paid annual civil service leave.

She enjoyed her first flight to Brisbane – in those days still a relatively expensive prospect for many West Australians – to visit other family members.

She travelled also at the end of her third year of tertiary studies to Britain and

Europe with four other students, a lecturer and a group of business students to explore countries such as France, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden.

Beth continued to gain high academic achievement while studying at work but her twenties and thirties also fired a creative spark with a three-year foray into ceramics.

The mid-seventies saw Beth promoted to full-time assistant librarian (cataloguer) at the State Library.

Gaining her degree signalled a change.

Beth dropped the ceramics course and replaced it with wine appreciation and horticulture, resulting in the creation of Beth's first native garden – still a rarity in Perth at that time – at her parent's home in Yokine.

Travel, work and family were always a big part of Beth's life, as was horticulture.

The gardens Beth and her sister Kaye created at their homes in Tuart Hill and Noranda were stepping stones to the vegetable and native garden Beth later grew at her Toodyay home, which remains dotted with remnants of her ceramic days.

The eighties brought another decade of change when her father died in 1984.

More travel with the family around New Zealand and another European jaunt with sister Kaye provided Beth with some much-needed downtime from her busy life.

Beth met Englishman Robert Reece, they bought a house in Morley, redesigned the gardens and married.

Dogs, Land Rovers, travel, work and a move to Greenmount all happened over this busy period but after five years together, Beth and Robert decided to part company.

More time passed and more continents were explored before a chance meeting in 1997 in Nedlands at an UWA Extension English country dance course introduced Beth to another Englishman, Bob Frayne.

Travel continued but with a little less luxury because Beth's new partner was more of an 'out of the car boot' traveller.

It was around this time Beth was introduced by Bob to the joys of backpacking.

The nineties opened new doors for singing, travel and moving to Bob's place in Melville which already had a lovely native garden.

Beth was appointed bibliographical services team leader at the State Library's Battye Library in Perth, joined a second choir and got divorced from her previous husband.

The year 2000 heralded more new beginnings.

Beth and Bob married, sold the Melville house and decided to move to the country.

Bob liked Toodyay, and already owned an 1890s house in the town.

In 2001 the couple moved into a flat in their current home at Bideford House in Drummond Street to begin a major renovation of the whole house.

Beth became a weekday Avonlink commuter but decided in 2003 after 31 years at the State Library to scale her work back to part-time base-level cataloguing at the University of WA Library.

*Continued on Page 5.*

## Former Toodyay Lions footy star scores more top Perth honours



Kieran Hug (centre) at West Coast Eagles.

FORMER Toodyay Lions footballer Kieran Hug (28) has continued his winning ways by taking out this year's League Players' Player Award at Perth Football Club.

The talented midfielder moved to the Perth Demons at the start of this year's footy season after winning the West Coast Eagles' Fairest and Best Award in the WA Football League last year when he was the Eagles' leading goalkicker in the WAFL competition.

Kieran's family live in Toodyay, and he played with the Toodyay Lions from aged eight to 16.

The young footy star played at every age level in the Mortlock League and attended Australian Sports Football Camps during school holidays.

The Toodyay Lions are affiliated with the Demons, and Kieran was selected at age 14 to attend the Perth club's development squad before leaving Toodyay to join the Donnybrook team to advance his career in the SW Football League.

Though the Demons didn't make it to this year's finals, Kieran ended the year on a winning note with his latest players' award.

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## Ratepayers may have to cough up more for doctors

*Continued from Page 1.*

A REPORT to last month's council meeting said that a suitable GP business model for Toodyay had yet to be decided.

She told *The Herald* later that it would take at least four months for the shire to advertise and establish a new GP clinic in Toodyay.

The shire was currently in the process of drafting documents and advertising tenders based on professional health services advice.

It was also continuing to lobby Federal and State Governments to raise awareness of the "increasing impost on regional local governments to provide GP and allied health services".

The council had not budgeted this year to fund new GP services beyond the existing subsidy provided to WHN.

Any additional cost may require the council to consider amending its recent 2021-22 budget which was adopted in August.

Ms Haslehurst said any significant subsidy to attract new doctors to Toodyay may require rate rises.

If this was the case, she recommended that ratepayers should first be consulted to determine if they wanted to pay more to keep local doctors and other health services operating in Toodyay.

# The Toodyay Herald

## An inconvenient truth

LIKE the winter mists that give our town its name, the lush green valley in which we live is veiled in hidden secrets.

Toodyay was certainly a “place of plenty” when the first English settlers arrived here 191 years ago.

The fledgling Swan River Colony was on the brink of financial ruin and its desperate inhabitants were starving.

The discovery of fertile soil on the Avon Valley floodplain triggered a massive land grab that had speculators in London scrambling for a slice of the economic pie.

Within the first 10 years, all the land from Bolgart to Katrine was carved up into government grants or sold to wealthy businessmen to grow livestock and crops.

Local history books are filled with details about who owned what, and how they fared over the years that followed.

Those who already lived here are largely ignored except to be described by settlers as thieves and murderers who needed to be taught a lesson.

The opening chapter of a book published by the Shire of Toodyay at the town’s Visitor Centre hints at infanticide and cannibalism among people who authorities described as “primitive” and “barbaric”.

Massacres of ‘First Nations’ people were common throughout Australia in the first 100 years of colonial occupation.

Official records show that massacres occurred in WA too, and not just at the infamous ‘Battle of Pinjarra’ – a slaughter of men, women and children camped by a river who were ambushed at dawn by heavily armed troopers and settlers led by Governor James Stirling, after whom our town’s main street and a park are named.

Investigations are now underway into claims that at least two massacres occurred in the Avon Valley also.

The aim was to exterminate opposition, punish resistance and transport the worst ‘offenders’ in chains from old Newcastle Gaol to Rottne Island Gaol – the ‘Quod’ – where more than 370 men and boys died of violence and disease in brutal captivity.

So why is this relevant now when it all happened so long ago?

Some of our great-great grandparents were alive when these atrocities occurred, and those families who survived have every reason not to forget.

WA’s prosperity is built on the misery of others who were exiled to squalid reserves on the edge of towns such as Perth, Northam and most likely Toodyay.

That’s why the new ‘Our Truth Telling’ display at Toodyay’s Old Newcastle Gaol in Clinton Street is a must for anyone who wants to find out what really happened.

Only then can old wounds be healed.

Michael Sinclair-Jones  
Editor

## Wheatbelt Clinical Psychology

94 Stirling Terrace Toodyay WA 6566

### Richard Taylor Clinical Psychologist

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The way we were – Flared pants and big hair were the fashion 41 years ago when a special Sunday Times Blanket Appeal Train carrying more than 800 passengers stopped in Toodyay for a three-hour visit on 26 July 1981. It was one of the biggest-ever passenger trains to stop in Toodyay and visitors scrambled down the railway embankment to enjoy a picnic lunch and various town attractions as part of a new display on the life and exploits of legendary Toodyay bushranger Moondyne Joe at historic Connor’s Mill in Stirling Terrace. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum, additional information Toodyay Historical Society.

## LETTERS

### Hefty shire pay rises

OVERHEARD conversation in the Post Office of a couple of Hi-Vis-wearing hard-working chaps:

“What’s going on when the rates are going up, rubbish collection costs up and it looks like we will lose the Community Resource Centre.

“Then the councillors have voted themselves a 17.4 per cent pay rise and administration staff are to get a 15 per cent pay rise.

“Our nurses can’t get an increase like that, and I couldn’t dream of a pay rise of just five per cent.

“When money’s tight and costs have blown out, saving should come from the top.”

And I agree – for a shire burdened by debt, hefty pay increases are not the solution.

Kerry Gregory  
Dewars Pool

### Marvellous Moondyne Men

HENRI and I wish to say a big thankyou to the Moondyne Men for coming to our rescue when we needed help to move into our new house.

We are very grateful as at the time Henri had just come out of hospital, I was not well and we were unable to move our heavy tools, pot plants and stands.

The Moondyne Men came in force – trailers, utes, big smiles and a huge willingness to help us.

They jumped in and the job was done – we are extremely grateful to receive such help.

Family and friends from Toodyay also helped with our move, so a big thankyou to them also.

Toodyay shows its strength again in community members helping each other.

Charmeine and Henri Duri  
Nunile

### Playing chicken with trucks

MY HUSBAND and I were visiting elderly friends in Toodyay recently when a huge semi-trailer truck roared past our cafe table, seemingly only inches from my elbow though in fact it was a couple of metres away – still way too close for comfort.

The noise was deafening, and heaven help anyone who may have stepped into its path to cross the road from behind the umbrellas and parked cars.

What’s going on?

My friend said she read in *The Toodyay Herald* that land has already been bought for a new truck bypass behind the school but the plan was scrapped because people in another part of the shire didn’t want it.

Where does that leave elderly Butterfly Cottages residents who have to risk their lives to go shopping in gophers, not to mention children walking to school?

Surely road safety must be the priority.

It is upsetting to think that old folk, children and mums pushing prams have to play chicken with huge trucks every day, right in the centre of your lovely town.

Chris Wilson  
Armadale

### Aerial intruder

I WAS hanging out a load of washing in my backyard recently when I heard what sounded like a large swarm of bees.

I looked up and was surprised instead to see a small drone with a camera hovering directly overhead.

I live on a 5-acre (2ha) bush block where the nearest house is about 70 metres away.

The aerial intruder appeared to have approached from the opposite direction, stopped to hover over the rear of my house and then flew off to land out of sight on the far side of my neighbour’s property.

I texted my neighbour to ask if it was his and got the reply “Yep. Won’t happen again.

Just trying out for holiday shots”.

I later learnt that it is illegal under federal aviation law to fly a drone less than 30m from other people (this one looked closer) or over or above other people’s heads.

Drones are classed as aircraft and it is illegal to shoot at them.

Australia’s Civil Aviation Safety Authority says to check if shire councils have adopted local laws to protect owners of private property from aerial intrusion.

I suggest this is something our Shire of Toodyay should consider doing.

Name and address withheld

### Disgusting mess

WHAT a wonderful entry statement for visitors coming into town on the Bindi Bindi Toodyay Road.

There were 13 potholes on a 10km section. Large trees were either reduced to long stumps or destroyed completely and the remains left there.

Drains were placed too close to the road with one higher than the surface, two together and the road was patched up in one spot.

Why was this disgusting mess considered necessary?

I suppose contractors were paid without the job being checked.

And guess who’s going to pay for this environmental disaster?

Bob Kermode  
Coondle

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.

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## Increased demands on shire driven by higher community expectations

### President's Pen

Rosemary Madácsi



SHIRE budgets bring an annual raft of questions and confusion, so it is a good time to revisit local government activities that differ between metropolitan and rural councils and according to size.

A belief that larger organisations have greater workloads is essentially true.

However they also have correspondingly larger budgets and bigger workforces.

Rural shires, except some with larger towns, have far smaller budgets and workforces.

Local government councillors and employees must learn to multi-skill to meet the growing demands created by higher State and community expectations.

Rural shires have to become highly versatile and require much more of their staff as well as councillors, who pick up most of the cost of doing their job.

These demands are not asked of any other area of government, though all are covered under the same legislation and receive the same level of scrutiny.

In all other areas of government, superannuation is paid, associated costs are met, fuel is reimbursed, and childcare and clothing allowances are offered.

State politicians without ministerial responsibilities are far less personally accountable, receive full indemnity and continued to be financially remunerated even after they leave office.

That simply isn't possible in Toodyay if we believe in supporting our community by keeping shire costs down.

It means that income can be sacrificed to sit on council, and fuel and other costs can be a considerable burden.

To keep rates low, there have to be trade-offs and rationalisations.

Councillor remuneration was increased in this year's budget from 75 per cent to 85 per cent of the amount allowed for a Band 3 council such as Toodyay.

Councillors unanimously supported a larger rise for the Shire President and Deputy to make their percentages more equitable because work demands have increased dramatically since 2019.

According to popular myth, this may seem generous, compared with previous councillor remuneration, for attending a few meetings a year.

However, it is a myth based on out-dated knowledge and a poor understanding of the practical application of everyday councillor responsibilities.

Much more time and knowledge is required of today's councillors than ever before.

Local government reform has brought new pressures and councillor training is now mandatory.

The is a much larger demand on councillors to attend workshops and meetings that require considerable extra work to deliver the increased level of governance and financial oversight that is now deemed essential.

Monthly attendance at Ordinary Council Meetings is simply the tip of the iceberg.

As Shire President I sit on nine committees and am also a deputy State Councillor who

always advocates strongly for Toodyay.

Each meeting involves complex agendas and attachments that can run to hundreds of pages of detailed information.

Reports to council are now standard for all meetings that I attend, including weekly operational meetings with the Shire CEO.

My fuel costs for attending meetings and community appointments exceeded \$7000 in the 2020/21 financial year.

I have also paid my own costs for accommodation and other incidentals in the three years I have been Shire President.

So why sit on so many committees?

The answer is that Toodyay needs to have its finger on the pulse to be considered for funding, and to gain those advantages we need to be able to lobby and advocate.

To put it simply, we need to be where the action is to best advocate for our shire's interests.

To further reduce costs, we are rationalising shire assets that have associated rates and upkeep costs.

Local sport alone operates at five different locations – the golf club, bowling club, showgrounds, Fienness Street tennis courts and the shire's new recreation centre.

Then there are shire-owned public buildings and other amenities.

So questions need addressing – how can we best serve our sporting clubs and provide what they need in a cost-effective manner with a fair share of ratepayer contributions?

How do we meet the needs of our children, youth, disabled people and aging population?

What services and investments are essential for our social and economic fitness, and what about local doctors?

This is why we adopt strategies and ask for community feedback, to best plan for today and our future.

All of this requires considerable staff and councillor time as well as planning and money, and we haven't even touched upon the traditional local government areas of rates, roads and rubbish.

But life can still throw curve balls despite careful planning and budgets, and the diligence of councillors and staff.

Local government is simply a larger version of your household – careful planning and budgets can be thrown into disarray if the unexpected occurs.

In the financial year that ended on June 30, our roadworks program incurred an unexpected additional cost of \$52,200 – 11.5 per cent more than budgeted – when our road clearing permits were appealed.

The cost of responding to appeals and the effect of delays is difficult to ascertain without more time and information.

Contributing factors include days lost due to moving into the wet season, mobilisation/demobilisation to other sites, momentum lost, unscheduled clearing, procurement of materials, availability of contractors etc..

A rough estimate of the total cost of the delays was about \$231,500.

Roadworks projects have limited periods in which they can be done.

You have to allow for variations in weather between August and the following April to achieve the best efficiency.

As a result, our road construction crew needs a further six months of the new financial year to complete last year's works.

Simple actions can create untenable pressures to deliver.

## Self-confessed 'list tragic' learnt her skills in State Library's 'Living Death of Cataloguing'

Continued from Page 3.

BETH overcame cancer, did some contract archival work, kept travelling and has devoted a large amount of time and effort into the Toodyay community.

Although an active participant in several different volunteer community roles, it's Beth's work with the Toodyay Historical Society that is her main driving passion.

The extensive information she has collected, compiled and catalogued continues to generate many inquiries, including from overseas.

Where does Beth stop?

As a self-confessed 'list tragic', she spends much of her spare time compiling lists and databases.

These include historical information about colonial convicts, local government folk, World War 1 and 2 service personnel and lately, cemeteries and their residents.

If you have local historical information to contribute or need some for yourself, the historical society's extensive website is a treasure trove of information.

You can be pretty sure that what Beth doesn't know or can't be found in archives or online probably doesn't exist ... yet.

CASK.



## Mining rate rejection leaves \$200,000 budget black hole

Michael Sinclair-Jones

STATE rejection of a new Shire of Toodyay rate to pay for damage caused by heavy mining trucks on shire roads has left a \$200,000 black hole in this year's budget.

The State said the new rate was several times higher than ever before charged in WA and that councils did not normally adopt budgets without first getting State approval to charge more than twice their lowest rate.

Councillors voted 6-0 in August to raise rates by 3700 per cent on 'unimproved' farmland covered by 36 local mining tenements, increasing it from 0.014170c in the dollar to 0.541912c.

The higher rate aimed to cover the cost of year-round repairs to gravel and other roads damaged by heavy mining traffic, including in Julimar where Chalice Mining owns nine farms and operates 10 mining tenements.

The same roads are used by local farmers to transport hundreds of tonnes of grain for the shire's annual harvest and to cart bulk hay, wool and livestock to market.

Councillors voted 8-0 in May to adopt the new mining rate in this year's shire budget

and sought State approval on July 15.

The shire was still replying to queries from State officials on August 10 when councillors voted 6-0 to adopt a new 2022-23 shire budget that required miners to pay \$200,000 a year to cover road repair costs.

It was not until September 3 – more than six weeks after the initial shire request and a week after an August 31 statutory budget deadline – that officials rejected the new rate.

Councillors then voted 6-0 at a Special Council Meeting on September 28 to appeal against the State Government decision in the State Administrative Tribunal in Perth.

They also voted 6-0 to reject a bid to postpone the new mining rate until 2023-24. Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst later told *The Herald* that the decision to appeal the State decision was based on legal advice.

She said the shire was currently reviewing its 2022-23 budget and talking to Chalice about road maintenance contributions.

"They're being receptive," she said.

WA Local Government Executive Director Tim Fraser said the shire needed to "re-arrange" its rates in a way that did not require ministerial approval.

## COLLECTORS AUCTION

*Of Interest to Collectors & Investors*

### Local Collectors' Realisation Liquidation

350 - 400 Lots No Reserve  
Sunday 27th November 2022  
11am CWA Hall  
Stirling Terrace, Toodyay

Viewing Times:  
Saturday 26th November  
12noon to 5pm  
Sunday from 9am

### Items for sale include:

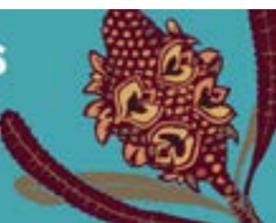
Coins and Bank Notes, Crystal, Glassware, China, Cutlery, Ash trays, Cigarette lighters, Framed Prints and Artwork, Silver and Silver Plate, Old Books, Old Bottles, Vases, Studio Pottery. Shed contents including Collectable Old Hand Tools etc. Too numerous to mention



Absentee Bids Accepted

Enquiries: 0407 928 500

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



# Pet torn from woman's arms in IGA dog attack

Michael Sinclair-Jones

SEVERAL people were hurt and a small dog badly mauled by two much bigger dogs outside the Toodyay IGA store last month.

A woman was holding her small white pet in her arms near the supermarket entry at about 10am on a Wednesday morning when she was rushed by two big black dogs.

The attackers pulled the woman's pet from her arms and began mauling it on the ground.

The distraught owner was scratched and bitten on her hand and arm as she tried to fend off the bigger dogs.

Shocked bystanders were also injured when they tried to help.

A passing Shire of Toodyay ranger – who was also reportedly bitten – was able to rescue the injured dog from further harm.

It was rushed to Heartlands Vet Hospital in Stirling Terrace, underwent emergency surgery (pictured far right) and was recovering at the end of last month.

The two attacking dogs were captured at the scene of the attack and impounded.

Shire security camera footage showed them running unrestrained (pictured top right)

across Piesse Street towards the IGA store.

Toodyay Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said the two attacking dogs had separate owners and were unregistered.

They had escaped from a property where they had been confined and were not on leads when the attack occurred.

The shire was in the process of getting the two animals declared dangerous and issuing both owners with fines.

The owner of the mauled dog and people who were bitten and scratched while trying to rescue it received minor injuries.

The owners of the impounded dogs would each be fined \$400, and \$200 per dog for allowing them to roam free.

They would also each be required to pay an annual \$50 fee to register a dangerous dog, and the additional cost of fitting the two dogs with clearly marked dangerous dog collars and muzzles (pictured lower right).

Ms Haslehurst said dogs that had been declared dangerous were required to be confined to a "stringent confinement area with sufficient signage".

Dangerous dogs outside a confinement area were required to be muzzled at all times.



Above: Two unregistered dogs run towards the IGA store where they attacked a woman's small pet. Below: The injured dog during surgery. Below left: Dangerous dog collar and muzzle.



# Loaded shotgun costs husband a night in Perth lock-up

## Police Beat

With Sgt Dave Flaherty  
Toodyay Police Station



A SPATE of local firearm offences included a serious incident last month in which a loaded shotgun was produced during a domestic dispute between a Toodyay married couple.

A male – who had been drinking throughout the day/night – was arrested at the property by local officers and spent a night behind bars at the Perth Watch-house.

The incident occurred late at night at a local property about 10km from the Toodyay townsite.

Police received a phone call from the man's wife, who said she was "very scared and needed help".

She was urged to leave the house as soon as possible, if safe, while officers attended and arranged to meet her at a safe location.

The woman explained that her husband had produced a loaded shotgun while they were

having an argument in the home.

Police went to the house, encouraging the male to leave the house, where he was arrested.

A search of the house by police located the shotgun and ammunition.

The man was taken without further incident to the Toodyay Police Station where he was interviewed and charged.

Bail was refused and the man was driven to the Northbridge-based lock-up where he was held in custody overnight.

He was released on conditional bail next morning after he appeared before a Perth Magistrate and was ordered to return to court at a later date.

At a subsequent appearance the man pleaded guilty to firearms-related offences and was fined a total of \$2500.

His unlicensed shotgun and ammunition were forfeited by the court and sent to Perth for destruction.

The incident serves as a reminder to all local gun owners that firearms are required by law to be licensed and securely locked in legally approved cabinets.

Owners who break the law may find it harder to gain future access to firearms.

If you own a gun, please ensure it is licensed, correctly secured and used only for approved purposes – the safety of others depends on it.

### Grog-free driving

TOODYAY motorists are to be congratulated for not drink driving during last month's Kings Birthday holiday long weekend.

Local police conducted more than 300 random breath tests in and around our shire during the recent four/five-day public holiday break.

Not a single motorist tested positive for drink driving locally, and the number of motorists who lost double demerit points due to other traffic offences was quite low.

The usual holiday blitz started the preceding Thursday and ended late on the Monday.

Disappointingly, two drivers tested positive for driving while affected by illicit drugs.

One was a male visitor from Perth and the other a female driver from Toodyay.

Both were middle-aged and tested positive for using methamphetamines.

On the whole, incidents of drug driving in and around Toodyay have fallen in recent years, which is good for all of us.

Like preliminary breath tests, preliminary drug driving tests are undertaken roadside.

Drivers displaying poor driving or unusual behaviour may be subject to both types of tests, and others can be at random.

Drug testing by use of an oral swab assessment takes slightly longer than breath testing, and motorists are required to wait until the tests are complete or they commit a further offence.

In previous years, indicators of drug use on tested motorists returned high results.

It is pleasing to say that the figure now is about one in 10 – even more pleasing if it was zero.

The likelihood of being stopped by police and subjected to a random breath or drug testing is definitely higher in small towns like Toodyay because there are fewer roads on which to travel as well as a greater concentration of policing services.

Local motorists appear in general to have changed their bad driving habits with fewer positive readings overall, which helps to keep our roads safer.

Well done to everyone.

Cop: Didn't you see the speed sign?

Driver: Yes, sadly I didn't see you though.

### What's it like to be a cop?

POLICE will have a bigger presence at this year's Toodyay Agricultural Show on Saturday October 8 – not necessarily to catch crooks but to show more of what they do, how they can help and how you or a family member can join the WA Police service.

Attractions will include mounted police on horseback, a drug detection dog from the WA Police Canine Unit and a puppy in training to help find missing people by tracking scent.

Also, on display will be two police motorcycles from the State Traffic Unit that children can sit on for photographs.

Recruiting officers from Perth will be

available to answer questions about police service careers and entry requirements.

They will be joined by two current recruits currently undergoing training to talk about what it's like to become a copper.

There will be plenty there for the kids and plenty also for adults, as well as fundraising merchandise to support Police Legacy.

Please stop by for a look and a chat – there's bound to be something of interest for everyone of all ages.



Mounted police in Stirling Park.

## Best leave those sunnies alone when driving

Safer Toodyay  
Desraé Clarke

IT MIGHT take only be a second or two, but if you reach across to reach for something like your sunnies in the glovebox while driving or look in the rear-view mirror to check your make-up, you're not looking at the road ahead.

And if you try to eat or drink anything, that means that one hand is not on the steering wheel.

Regardless of the distraction, if you glance away for just two seconds while driving at 100km/h, you miss 55 metres of road.

Anything that occupies your mind, such as a mobile phone call or even chatting with passengers can distract you from the main task of driving safely.

Hands-free phone calls may be legal and convenient but is your mind occupied by the conversation or concentrating on the road?

# TOODYAY

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Nunile muster aims to boost volunteer ambo service

**Toodyay St John Ambulance**  
Stew Greenan and Pam Tennant

AMBULANCE volunteers from six regional subcentres held their inaugural 'Vollie Muster' last month.

Volunteers from Bullsbrook, Bolgart, Goomalling, Morangup and Wundowie got together with members from Toodyay at Alma Farm in Nunile for two nights of socialising, learning, great food, astronomy and maybe a beverage or two.

Such events aim to bring local and wider community volunteers together to provide a better service to the public.

Becoming an ambulance volunteer is a great way to give something back to your local community.

You'll make friends, learn new skills, become more confident and add value to your community.

Why not pop into your local ambulance subcentre to find out more.

More information can be found at [stjohnwa.com.au](http://stjohnwa.com.au) or see our advertisement below.

Our committee and office bearers remained unchanged and one new committee member was welcomed at our Annual Review Meeting last month.

We attended 489 call-outs in the last financial year and our ambulances travelled just over 28,500km.

Four new Community Transport Service drivers were welcomed during the year and they transported 170 clients over a total of 25,000km.

Toodyay Operational Officer George Murray retired last year after contributing more than 40 years' service to our community.

Happy golfing George.  
Mike Irvine retired from being on the road after 28 years but has taken on the role of sub centre maintenance officer.

Thanks to a very generous donation a wheelchair has been ordered for the Community Transport Service.

The wheelchair will greatly benefit clients who are sometimes required to walk long distances to attend medical appointments when visiting various hospital departments.



Nobody went hungry over the weekend during open-air training at last month's ambulance 'Vollie Muster' at Nunile.



YOUR LOCAL SUB CENTRE NEEDS

## VOLUNTEERS

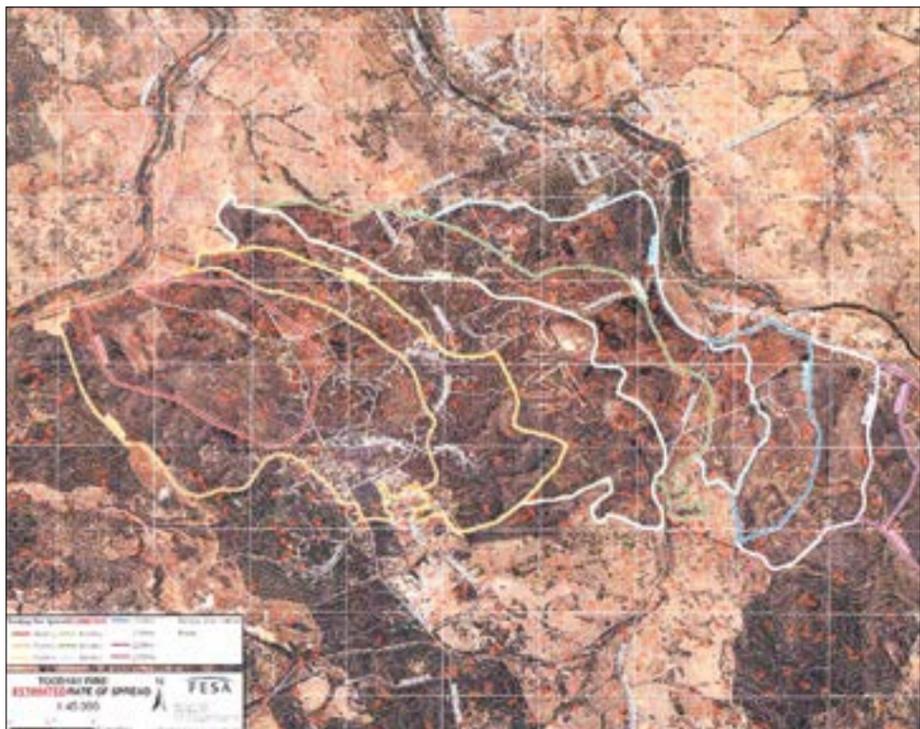
**Are you retired, semi-retired, a mum or dad working from home or have spare time during the day?**



**St John**

The Toodyay St John Sub Centre is seeking volunteers who could be available especially for day shifts. We offer excellent training, support, the famous green uniform and the opportunity to volunteer with a great team.

If you want to help your local community, please contact Pam on 0429 555 409



This map from the FESA report on "The Investigation of House Losses in the Toodyay Bush Fire 29 December 2009" shows how quickly the fire spread.

## You have only five minutes in which to save your family

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

AS THE hot summer bears steadily down on us the time for fire preparations is now.

The Prohibited Burning Period begins November 1 so firebreaks in the Shire of Toodyay should now be in place with properties being cleared up to reduce risk.

Check your rates notice and you'll find the shire has included valuable information on firebreaks and planning for fire events.

We strongly encourage all householders to take time to read this information and hold a family five-minute chat.

These prior plans and decisions make all the difference as time runs out.

To survive a bushfire you must be prepared to make your own decisions and not rely on someone else telling you what to do.

You can't outrun it and you can't outlast it. Your best chance of surviving a bushfire is to plan what you will do when one comes your way.

Ensure you have a backup plan if you intend to defend your property.

Every summer our brigade members across the state turn out to real-life examples of how fast bushfires can move.

The above photo, taken from a FESA report into the 2009 Toodyay bushfires, provides an insight into the speed and ferocity.

Following the first 000 call at 12.57pm the local community was issued a Watch and Act advice.

At 1.30pm an Emergency Warning was issued after first responders advised the fire was travelling extremely quickly in a south-easterly direction.

The temperature at the time was around 42°C with a 41km/h wind driving the fire.

The fire started near River Road south-west of Folewood Road, on the north-west side of the area circled on the photo with a red line.

The outer rim of that line represents the edge of the fire at 2pm.

Each subsequent coloured line represents the fire edge in one-hour increments from 2pm.

By 11pm the fire had reached the Northam Toodyay Road near the Dumbarton Road intersection.

It is evident the fire covered a lot of ground in the space of just 10 hours.

Firefighters brought it under control by 2am the following morning, with crews spending the next 10 weeks mopping up.

So please, act now by taking five minutes to discuss the three W's with your family or neighbours:

- WHEN will you know to leave,
- WHERE will you go, and
- WHICH way will you go?

## New Julimar station boosts firefighting capability

JULIMAR Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade's new fire station was officially opened last month by State Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson.

The state-of-the-art facility was built with a \$547,100 grant from WA's Emergency Services Levy and Shire of Toodyay funds.

It boasts new training facilities, cleaning areas for firefighters and their personal protective equipment, and future potential to house bigger emergency vehicles.

Money from the State Government's WA Recovery Plan was used to build an on-site water tank.

The brick-built station has been designed to also function as a Level 2 Incident Control Centre to help coordinate emergency services responses to significant bushfires and other emergencies.

The scope of the new facility enables local volunteers to deliver enhanced firefighting service to the local community.

Julimar currently has 52 active members who previously worked out of a smaller metal shed built nearly 30 years ago.

## Local trade training gets \$2m boost

TAFE students and local businesses will be amongst the first to benefit from the recently completed \$2 million upgrade to the Central Regional TAFE Northam campus.

The revamp adds a newly built metals and construction workshop to a modernised trades training facility.

The new learning environment is industry standard, which will help students meet the needs and expectations of employers and industry by graduating job-ready.

The upgrade also includes a reconfigured classroom layout that maximises space

and provides a computer laboratory, extra classroom and six additional welding bays.

The project, designed by T&Z Architects and constructed by AE Hoskins Building Services (both WA companies) is part of the WA Government's \$215.8 million rollout of improvements to TAFE facilities statewide.

In opening up opportunities for people to get quality training close to home,

The upgrade to the Northam TAFE will ultimately bolster the region's workforce and help local businesses access the skilled workers they need.

**Best deal for local Tradies**  
The Toodyay Herald offers the best exposure for Tradies to the Avon & hills, circulation of 4250 copies each month and growing

Trades & Services email: [advertising@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:advertising@toodyayherald.com.au)



Skye Tucker, Clive Millett, (Michael Woodford and Sarah McGlasson on train), John Dalglish, Eden Coleman, Doug McGhee, Jasmine Duckworth, Cameron Norrish, Jordan Wacura, Lulu Spooner, Jayden Hansord, Tay Williams. Photo: Doug McGhee

## A walk on the wild side

**Toodyay District High School**  
Doug McGhee, Chaplain

AS CHAPLAIN at Toodyay DHS I have the privilege of leading our Wilderness Adventure Program and seeing our young hikers grow.

Our school is proud of our kids, and I'm sure their parents are too.

Big congratulations to: Jasmine, Eden, Lulu, Skye, Sarah, Jordan, Michael, Jacob, Tay, Jayden, Clive and John for completing the 65km hike to Dwellingup.

These amazing young people led the expedition, taking care of their own cooking, camping, and necessities for survival.

Our young hikers also created a beautiful community around the campfire, cared for each other during the struggles, and had lots of laughs each day.

One young hiker said: "On the hike I learnt that I can do it if I set my mind to it."

"It was a good experience to be out in the bush with nothing except for what you had in your backpack."

"The hike was full of fun and laughter, and I got closer to people in five days than I have

my entire time being here."

Congrats also to Kerry Fletcher and Cameron Norrish on completing the hike and forming a great staff team that kept our kids safe through all the ups and downs and chilly mornings.

Every time we do these hikes we see so many positive changes in the personal character of our young hikers that we just have to keep doing them.

But the mountains don't get any smaller.

Thank you so much for the support of the Toodyay community as you trust us to lead these hikes and other personal growth programs.

Thanks also to our sponsors: the Toodyay Op Shop, Bendigo Bank and Toodyay CWA. We couldn't do it without you.

We will be having our Celebration Night in October, where our school, families and the community will celebrate the achievements of our young hikers.

We will see the video of the hike, hear the stories, and make presentations to our hikers.

Now we can all enjoy the comforts of home: hot showers, home cooking, warm soft beds and flushing toilets.

## Serena's garden parties raise \$7650 for breast cancer care

**Bolgart News**  
Pam McGill

SERENA Syred hosted a lovely annual morning tea at her Bejoording home last month to raise funds for WA Breast Cancer Care.

Her garden party raised \$2600, which is fantastic.

The food was beautiful, the weather great and everyone enjoyed Serena's lovely garden.

Everyone's generosity was much appreciated for this very worthy event.

Serena's garden parties have raised more than \$7650 over the past three years – a fantastic result.

Nearly 30 campers and caravans visited Bolgart for last month's Kings Birthday holiday long weekend.

Some stayed in the town's caravan park and others camped on the town oval.

They came from all over and had an enjoyable time.

Locals and visitors supported a Bolgart CWA cake stall which raised \$790 – a wonderful effort – thanks to everyone who contributed.

Congratulations go also to Natalie Syred who was awarded a framed certificate for her 65 years in CWA – what a great achievement.

A Father's Day lunch and evening meal at the Bolgart Hotel provided delicious meals enjoyed by all who attended.

Congratulations go to Regan Clarke on winning the one per cent Redlegs Award and Third Fairest and Best Award at last month's Perth Football Club League Medal count – Barry and Steph are very proud parents.

### School awards

AUSSIE of the month – Madeline Cotter and Rocket O'Sullivan.

Merit Certificates – (Senior Room) Rhys Whiteaker and Yuuki Yasumura.

(Junior Room) – Chase Burns and Nicholas French.

### Golf

The Lyn Marcelli Trophy was won by Nolene Kaszanski on 35 points, runner-up Joy Hamilton with 34 points.

The Syred Cup 27-hole event was won by Joy Hamilton on 50 points with runner-up Serena Syred, 47 points.

The Gross Winner was Renae Syme on 22 points, the AM winner was Merle Manuel with 18 points, and PM winner Pam Meston, 18 points.

The Marion Colmer Memorial Trophy was won by Jenni Knowles with -3 on a countback from Nolene Kaszanski and Joy Hamilton, both also on -3.

The St Gertrudes Cup sponsored by the Benedictine Community was won by Nolene Kaszanski with 28 points, the runner-up was Jenni Knowles on 26 points, and the Gross Winner was Renae Syme on 13 points.

The Closing Day Adele Ludemann Memorial Trophy, Hidden Partners, was won by Jenni Knowles and Vivienne Camerer.

We thank the Ludemann family for continuing this trophy – Adele was a very valued club member.

### Seasonal Winners:

Eclectic winner – Joy Hamilton, sponsored by Vivienne Camerer.

Nearest to Pin No 6. – Joy Hamilton, sponsored by Bernice Clarke.

Best Second No. 8 – Therese Chitty, sponsored by Trees Café.

Long Drive No. 13 – Renae Syme, sponsored by Kevin, Merle and Darren Manuel.

Putting competition – Joy Hamilton, sponsored by Dianne Edmonds.

Consistency Award – Joy Hamilton, sponsored by Nolene Kaszanski.

Congratulations to all winners, especially to Joy, who has had a fantastic season – very well deserved.



From left: Renae Syme, Serena Syred, Joy Hamilton, Pam Meston and Merle Manuel.

## Bandaged finger a showstopper

**Computer Safety**  
Phil Hart

FACIAL recognition on your device can be extremely useful when it works.

It can also be a nightmare when it fails.

It can be all too easy to forget your password if you are in the habit of using facial recognition to log into your device.

The facial recognition app can also appear so rapidly that you do not get an opportunity to enter your password.

A change in ambient light can also cause difficulties, so using your device in a different location can cause it to fail completely.

Even aging can cause facial recognition to struggle (bit.ly/3qy06ld).

You can end up being locked out of your device.

When this happens, you have the option of losing everything on your device or getting support from a specialist.

Windows users can create a password reset disk.

Windows 7 instructions can be found at cnet.co/3eL1sWW.

Windows 8 instructions can be found at bit.ly/3eKbbgv.

Windows 10 and 11 instructions are at bit.ly/3BaWr1B.

That is something best done sooner rather than later.

Fingerprint scanners are generally reliable, but they can be problematic if your finger has a cut or a burn (bit.ly/3DwspIA).

Having a bandage on the finger is a showstopper.



**HLTAID003**

**St John**

# “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)






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## Jam-packed month with a sizzle

### Toodyay District High School P&C Association

Kelly-Anne Murray

WHAT a jam-packed month we've had.

Along with the sports carnival sausage sizzle, Toodyay Fairytale Farm excursion, Father's Day gift stall, and School Open Night sausage sizzle, P&C representatives also attended a WA schools conference.

The school's annual sports carnival kicked off on August 26 with students, parents and staff cheering on participants.

The carnival was held at the Toodyay Recreation Centre, where parents enjoyed seating close to the action and a kiosk for refreshments.

Thank you to everyone who contributed baked goods or bought from the P&C refreshment stall, and to canteen volunteers who prepared another scrumptious sausage sizzle lunch.

In a fairytale ending, we raised a remarkable \$370 – that's a lot of \$1 treats.

We were pleased to fund an excursion to Toodyay Fairytale Farm on September 1, a beautiful spring day.

Primary students from kindergarten to year six enjoyed a story and literacy activities with Mrs Davey before meeting some friendly goats and an alpaca.

Students had time to wander around the farm exploring the fairytale stories and nursery rhyme exhibits.

Thank you to all staff who helped arrange the excursion and transport by bus.

Turning from fairytales to Fathers' Day, the P&C's gift stall on September 2 provided students an opportunity to buy an affordable gift for the father figure in their lives.

To all the families who donated or purchased a gift, thank you; your contribution helped to raise \$596 for the school.

Toodyay District High School held an open night on September 8, welcoming parents and community members to visit the school and students' classrooms.

It was delightful to see the thought and effort students and staff made to present their classrooms.

It was clear the students took pride in sharing their work with their parents, and the parents found joy in sharing this with their children.

The P&C sausage sizzle at the end of the school day raised \$318.

Each year the Council of State School Organisations (WACSSO) invites all P&Cs to attend its annual conference.

Our President and Treasurer were honoured to represent Toodyay District High School P&C at this year's conference with its theme 'Strengthening the Road to Resilience'.

We proudly displayed student artworks and shared the experiences and successes of our team of P&C volunteers.

Contact Kelly-Anne Murray on 0406 585 716 or email [pandctoodyaydhs@gmail.com](mailto:pandctoodyaydhs@gmail.com).

You may also message via the facebook page – search 'Toodyay DHS P&C', or write to Toodyay District High School P&C at PO Box 1624, Toodyay WA 6566.



Historical society members examine remnants of an old Coondle road. Photo: Beth Frayne.

## Roadworks bury history

### Toodyay Historical Society Robyn Taylor, Vice President

NAVIGATING a visit to metropolitan Perth can be a challenge these days as the cityscape seems to be constantly changing.

The guiding light of a familiar landmark is often snuffed out as roadworks demand detours and new buildings obliterate the old.

Travelling along Riverside Drive towards Elizabeth Quay is a case in point.

The Bell Tower is so overshadowed by new developments it's easy to miss it altogether.

Once a focal point for the Barrack Street jetty, it now seems redundant.

For those of us who live in rural regions, these kinds of changes generally happen more slowly and gracefully.

It's usually the memories of those born here, and historical records that reveal the locations of early settlement.

Some remain part of existing buildings while others are reclaimed by bush.

Colonial and subsequent settlements that displaced the Noongar people can lead to the erasure of these deeper traces of habitation.

Fortunately, many Aboriginal place names have been retained and when translated indicate the features of a place.

Colonial explorers and surveyors often learnt these names from their Aboriginal guides and committed them to maps as a means of identifying locations.

Toodyay with its varying pronunciations and meanings is an example of this, with 'place of plenty' now being shared with the more recently revealed Noongar meaning for Duja as a 'place of mist'.

With our many misty winter mornings, the latter meaning is apt.

Historical society member Jenny Edgecombe, who lives in Coondle, has an ongoing passion for exploring the history of this area.

In August she led an excursion around parts of the former Coondle Estate that are accessible from the road.

We met near the junction of the Bindi Bindi-

Toodyay and Coondle West roads where Jenny showed us the remnants of an old road which had been constructed using 'pudding stones'.

According to Rica Erickson's 1974 history 'Old Toodyay & Newcastle', Coondle is an Aboriginal name meaning 'stones', but we don't know what kind of stones it refers to.

The first land grants in this area were assigned in 1836: Avon Location 1, consisting of 7,000 acres, became known as the Coondle Estate; Avon Loc 11, later named Woodendale; Avon Loc. 1A, the Norman Estate, and Avon Loc. 5, the Byeen.

With our increasing awareness, it is disconcerting to know this land was assigned to colonists under the convenient assumption it was unoccupied.

Ironically, the Coondle Estate's long history of absentee ownership allowed the government to resume the land in 1897 and open it for subdivision into farmlet blocks ranging from 20 to 667 acres.

Over time amenities were built: the Coondle Provisional School (1897); Culham Hall, (1899), used by the Coondle and Nunyle communities until Coondle opened its own hall in 1927; tennis courts; a solid cement cricket pitch; a community sheep dip; and Fawell's Cash Store on Church Gully Road.

As Jenny's research into Coondle is ongoing, she would be delighted to talk to those with knowledge of the area.

In place of our monthly excursion, Donegan's Cottage will be open for Toodyay's 168th Agricultural Show.

There will be displays on the verandah and members are encouraged to drop by, have a look and join in the fun.

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

The postal address is PO Box 32, Toodyay WA 6566.

Website: [toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au).

Membership is \$15 per annum.



Kindergarten and pre-primary students at Toodyay Fairytale Farm.



Mrs Anita Davey with students enjoying the Fairytale Farm outing.

## Bulging at the seams with action-packed entertainment

### Toodyay Agricultural Society

Alison Wroth

OCTOBER has arrived with great speed as we organise the 168th Toodyay Agricultural Show.

The great news is we are fully booked with a variety of trade stalls this year, so expect a show bulging at the seams ready to cater for your interests.

Weather can be fickle this time of year, so we hope Mother Nature does the right thing for us on Saturday October 8.

Even the best event comes down to whether the day is suitable to bring out the crowds.

We have extended our sponsors' tents, entertainment and community stalls further out onto the main oval.

For those of you who are keen, the official opening will begin at 10am at the main stage.

This adjoins the equestrian area which will have Handy Pony back again this year to guarantee activity on the oval all day.

This year's entertainment covers a huge range of attractions for people of all ages, including free activities in the Kids Zone from 10am to 3pm.

Our entertainment program will be available to you as you enter the gate.

On offer this year is an incredible WA Police Force display, sideshow alley, the Royal Australian Navy Band, Ivan and his sheep dogs, baby animal farm and camel rides, just to mention a few attractions.

The RAC Rescue Chopper Simulator will be supporting our local emergency services volunteers as they provide a spectacular 'accident scenario' in front of the grandstand.

The wonderful look of the showgrounds makes the day special in itself; so thank you to the Shire of Toodyay team who work hard every year to add that extra bling for show day.

With the upgrade and maintenance of the children's section in the Lee Steere Exhibition Hall and Terrace Bar, the shire's in-kind support over many years, along with that of our many supporters both big and small, shows what our community is made of.

Support from Toodyay Bendigo Bank will enable us to stage amazing fireworks displays at show days over the next three years.

We offer heartfelt thanks for their support, and from Chalice Mining which enables us to fund all the community groups who help to keep the event running smoothly.

Elders Northam is sponsoring the family-friendly Terrace Bar for the first year, which looks a treat with its wonderful furniture and lighting.

Dunnings Fuel, Morgan's Feed Supplies, Toodyay Op Shop, Makit Hardware, CSBP and Act Belong Commit all know the history of the Toodyay Show and without these major sponsors, local businesses, community groups

and individuals – some who have supported the Show for years – we as a committee would not be able to pull the show together every year.

Toodyay Cricket Club is opening the Terrace Bar at noon and our auction of donated produce begins at 6pm, just before the day winds up with a fireworks display at 7.30pm.

Fingers crossed for a fine day.

On behalf of myself as president and my wonderful committee, good luck with your entries and I hope you enjoy a breathtaking 168th Toodyay Agricultural Show.

See you all there.



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# Truth telling begins journey towards healing



Local Noongar Elder Uncle Ben Taylor cleanses the old gaol site in a traditional smoking ceremony at last month's 'Our Truth Telling' launch.

## Our Truth Telling

Helen Shanks, Project Coordinator

CALLS FOR Aboriginal First Nations truth telling are growing louder in Australian politics and here in Toodyay the healing process of truth telling has begun.

Last month's launch of a new 'Our Truth Telling' display at Toodyay's Newcastle Gaol Museum marks an important advance for local Aboriginal people in the long journey towards national reconciliation and healing.

It follows new reports of two separate massacres of Aboriginal men, women and children in the Avon Valley region amid the turmoil described in the museum display.

The journey of truth telling is long overdue and one that Aboriginal people have been seeking for more than a century.

It began with the large-scale dispossession of cultural lands in the 1800s when generations of Aboriginal people were exiled to the margins of Australian society.

Decades of exploitation, racism and discrimination led to WA's 1905 *Aborigines Act* which empowered the State to forcibly remove "nearly white" Aboriginal children from their traumatised parents, often to be never seen again.

Aboriginal people first gained national recognition of their existence as people of their own country in Australia's historic 1967 referendum.

The call for cultural healing and truth telling gained impetus with WA's 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody which exposed the fatal impact of entrenched social, cultural and legal attitudes towards indigenous Australians.

The long journey took a ground-breaking step

forward in 1992 when Australia's High Court rejected the legal fiction of "terra nullius" – "land belonging to no one".

The historic judgement recognised for the first time in Australian law the existence of Aboriginal native title rights and interests based on traditional law and custom.

It gave rise to new Federal and State laws to give practical effect to those rights and sparked intense public debate across the nation about whether more needed to be done to address the court's decision.

The Australian Human Rights Commission's 1997 *Bringing Them Home Report* on the country's stolen generation described the ongoing trauma and lasting social impact caused by the forced removal of up to a third of all Aboriginal children from their parents between 1910 and 1970.

A 2016 national State of Reconciliation report said "historical acceptance" was needed for reconciliation to occur.

"Historical acceptance refers to all Australians understanding and accepting agreed facts about the wrongs of the past, and their historical and contemporary impact," the report said.

"Historical acceptance includes making amends for these wrongs and ensuring they are never repeated.

"For the purposes of this report, the general 'wrong' referred to is the dispossession and marginalisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as a result of colonisation.

"This general wrong comprises many 'wrongs', ranging from armed conflict and massacres to active policies to segregate and assimilate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples."

It is clear from these findings that historical acceptance cannot occur without truth telling.

Sydney journalist Bruce Elder's 1988 book *Blood on the Wattle* identified 75 sites across Australia where Aboriginal people were massacred.

He said military massacres of Aboriginal people were the dominant feature of first settlements in each of the new Australian colonies.

Further studies have increased the number of massacre sites – including in Western Australia

– to more than 100 different locations.

The University of Newcastle is engaged in a new study "Colonial Frontier Massacres in Australia, 1788-1930" to identify and record each of those massacres online.

It says massacres continued into the 1920s and were used as a deliberate tactic to contain and eradicate Aboriginal resistance.

Hundreds of Aboriginal men, women and children were killed, often while sleeping in bush camps, after being ambushed by armed soldiers and vigilantes on horseback.

The study includes a map, timelines and information about 42 frontier massacres that occurred between 1788 and 1930, including two in the Avon Valley region.

Australian local government leaders, including from WA, met in 2019 to discuss the importance of truth telling and what local councils could do about it.

It led to the 2021 adoption of a Shire of Toodyay Reconciliation Action Plan.

A permanent Truth Telling display at the shire's Newcastle Gaol Museum in Clinton Street was proposed by the local Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation and the shire's museum curator.

The parties partnered to record Gnulla Karnany Waangkiny (Our Truth Telling) display which is now a fixed installation at the Newcastle Gaol Museum.

Research is now currently underway into a senior Elder's report that their great grandfather had described the massacre of a large family of Avon Valley Noongars.

A report of a separate local massacre of Aboriginal women is also being studied.

Details of local massacres will be added to our Truth Telling display if sufficient evidence exists and can be verified.

This is our local journey towards healing.

We encourage everyone to visit the museum to discover more about the truth of what happened in our beautiful valley and learn how its original Noongar inhabitants lived and cared for the land we now share.



## Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

WE JOINED the Shire of Toodyay last month to celebrate our new Gnulla Karnany Waangkiny (Our Truth Telling) project with a cultural event attended by 150 people at the Newcastle Gaol Museum precinct.

The project's 18 installations promote awareness of Noongar traditional life and highlight the dark history of Noongar people since colonisation.

The collaborative approach is a wonderful example of two cultures working side by side to express the importance of truth telling, and what it means as part of the journey towards healing.

"Today is part of our truth telling before our healing," corporation chairman Robert Miles told guests.

"We need to understand that what was seen as settlement by the British was a full-scale invasion for Aboriginal people.

"Nearly all our history has been written from the colonists' view.

"This museum project is speaking from the Noongar people's view."

The celebration included a beautiful *Welcome to Country* by Elder Uncle Ben Taylor and Sharmaine Miles, didge by Elvis (Murricherry) Moody, heartfelt speeches by local State MP Sandra Carr, Shire of Toodyay CEO Suzie Haslehurst and corporation members Kai Shanks and Patrick Miles.

Speeches were followed by a powerful Smoking Ceremony conducted by traditional owner Rodney Garlett and a Noongar Keeninyarra Kabori by Trevor Stack with the Gya Ngoop dance troupe and an ancient song.

A Noongar delegation then held a private ceremony inside the museum to spiritually cleanse the area and begin the healing process.

We thank Helen Shanks for overall coordination on behalf of the corporation and shire. Helen, together with Robert Miles, will present the project this month at a WA Local Government Association forum in Perth attended by representatives from all over the state.

For further Noongar information, please visit [www.noongarkaartdijin.com.au](http://www.noongarkaartdijin.com.au).

## More volunteers sought

Volunteers of Toodyay Museums  
Barry Keens

CULTURAL events and increasing numbers of visitors kept volunteers busy last month.

New volunteers are always welcome, including to help on Thursdays or weekends.

We invite everyone to morning tea at the Old Gaol Museum from 10.30am Monday October 17, with guided tours until noon.

The Museum opens every day from 10am to 3pm. Admission is free for Shire of Toodyay residents, Toodyay High School students and teachers.

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# Piper farewells Bolgart shepherd

**Obituary**  
Raymond Charles Martin

MORE than 100 mourners attended last month's funeral for the late Raymond Charles Martin, of Bolgart.

They were treated to the sound of bagpipes playing *Amazing Grace*, performed by Ron Thom of the Kalamunda Pipe Band.

The piper stood on the slope of a hill surrounded by green fields on the top side of Culham Cemetery, north of Toodyay.

This followed a beautiful, heartfelt service conducted by family friend Edna Carr at St Stephen's Anglican Church in Toodyay.

Piper Ron played the same tune as the funeral cortege left the church for Culham Cemetery.

Ray Martin was the son of the late Henry Arnold Martin and Lucy Barbara Martin (nee

Syred) and the youngest of a family of five sons and a daughter.

He attended old Bolgart Primary School before leaving at age 14 to work as a shepherd on his parent's sheep farm west of Bolgart.

It was a time when the noxious plant species York Road Poison was rife in the area and killing livestock.

Ray rode his bicycle 22.5km each day from his parents' home east of Bolgart to their West Bolgart farm.

After attending a Bolgart dance at the age of 29, he realised there was more to life than shepherding sheep and began a 10-month courtship with a member of the fairer sex.

Ray and Doris Waters – the daughter of Albert and Gwladys Waters, of Dewars Pool – were wed on 29 October 1960 at St Stephen's Church in Toodyay.

Doris was to find during their courtship while on weekend visits to Ray's mother's home that she was to soon master the art of poison grubbing, stone picking and mallee root picking.

She was amused to find that Ray always carried in the back of his ute, steel posts and netting for temporary fencing to set up poison-free areas to house his sheep.

Two daughters and three sons (including twins) were born in the first seven years of their marriage.

The farm became Ray's in 1965 but he sold it in 1988, bought a transportable house the following year and moved to Bolgart.

He completed an external study course in wool classing in 1994 and gained a certificate as a wool classer.

Ray worked the next 16 years as a wool classer and retired at age of 80 when his health began to deteriorate.

He had worked over the years on other local farming properties and also acted as caretaker of the local golf course.

Ray entered an aged care facility in Northam in 2016, where he lived for almost six years.

He passed away peacefully at the age of 92, leaving his wife, five adult children, 12 adult grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren to mourn his loss.



Piper Ron Thom at Culham Cemetery.

## Bye-bye Frankie, the Badger is back

**Bejoording Community Group**  
From the desk of The Badger

SADLY our much-loved four-legged member Frankie has moved on to his spiritual home in the sky.

He had a great life, acres to romp around, a dam to swim in, a sister named Blondie to play with, things to chase, a ute to travel around in and owners who doted on him.

Frankie will be missed by the many in the community who befriended him.

He didn't suffer, he simply used up the window of opportunity he'd been born with.

Our Friday night footy tradition has expanded to any night with a finals' series game, and after that I guess any pathetic excuse will do for a Friday gathering somewhere.

It's always fun whatever the excuse.

Our regular correspondent has been dragged away by his employer for an extended period, so the old Badger has been resurrected from his peaceful retirement.

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

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

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

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

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



Toodyay Moondyne Men.

## Toodyay embraces Moondyne Men

**Moondyne Men**  
Graham Hill

SINCE we formed six months ago, the Moondyne Men have been really impressed with our acceptance and support as Toodyay's premier men's group.

The way the people of Toodyay have embraced our group is really appreciated, so we would like to list some of the people that have supported our formation:

- Toodyay Agricultural Show,
- Bendigo Bank,
- Sue Cartledge,
- *The Toodyay Herald*,
- Toodyay Locals Care,
- Makit Hardware,
- Moondyne Festival Committee,
- Shire of Toodyay,
- Toodyay Op Shop,
- Toodyay RSL.

We have been able to carry out several tasks to help our town's general population and trust that in return you will support the people who support the Moondyne Men.

A special mention must go to the Toodyay RSL who came forward in our time of need and gave the Moondyne Men a roof over their

heads and a place to meet.

We must mention Sue Cartledge who allowed us to collect firewood from her property.

This enabled us to deliver trailer loads of cut wood to people not able to get out or afford firewood over winter.

We don't suggest it is all work and no play at the Moondyne Men.

We always enjoy a coffee, chat and good company at our weekly meetings and breakfast on the last Saturday of each month.

I must also mention the support received from our secretary Colin and treasurer Barry.

While all our members are on the committee, it is sometimes necessary for some of our team members to undertake additional tasks.

To any men thinking of joining the Moondyne Men, please come along to any meeting on a Monday or Thursday from 9am to noon at the RSL Hall in Clinton Street, across the road from Anzac Memorial Park.

You can enjoy a tea or coffee and meet the team or join us for breakfast 8am to noon on the last Saturday of each month.

For more details, please call Colin on 0424 195 003.

We are "Men Looking after Men and the Community".

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<p><b>\$120</b></p> <p><b>FORTNIGHT PACK</b></p> <p>500g Beef Mince 1Kg BBQ Sausages 1Kg Chicken Drumsticks 1Kg Chicken Schnitzel 1Kg Beef &amp; Veg Rissoles 1Kg Crumbed Beef Sausages 1Kg Lamb 4 1/4 Cutlets 1Kg BBQ Steak</p>	<p><b>\$150</b></p> <p><b>FAMILY PACK</b></p> <p>500g Rindless Bacon 1Kg Beef Mince 1Kg BBQ Sausages 1Kg Beef &amp; Veg Rissoles 1Kg Crumbed Beef Sausages 1Kg Lamb 4 1/4 Cutlets 1Kg BBQ Steak 1Kg Crumbed beef Schnitzel 1Kg Marinate chicken Cutlets 1.5KG Leg of Lamb</p>	<p><b>OTHER PRODUCTS</b></p> <p>Local Honey Local Condiments Gluten Free Sausages Preservative Free Ham Free Range Eggs In-House Smoked Bacon</p>

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## TENDERS ARE INVITED

**TEN90 02/2022**

**Provision of General Practice and Allied Health Services at the Alma Beard Medical Centre, Toodyay**

**Deadline: Thursday 3 November 2022 at 3pm**

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For tender enquiries: (08) 9574 9300 or by email: [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

Tenders can only be lodged using the E-Tendering portal: [www.tenderlink.com/toodyay](http://www.tenderlink.com/toodyay)

Submissions will NOT be accepted in any other form.

All electronic submissions must be clearly named with the Tender name and number, and lodged by the specified closing date and time.

Suzie Haslehurst  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

# Mouse bait drone heralds future for broad-acre farmers

**Toodyay Agricultural Alliance (Inc.)**  
Frank Panizza

COOL and mild weather conditions have continued into spring.

Consensus amongst local farmers is that 2022 is better than last year, with spirits generally high.

Waterlogging was common last year but not so this year.

Crops and pastures have fared very well, and farmers are looking towards an above average year, barring any frost or heat events over the next few weeks.

Grain and livestock prices have fallen over the last few months.

Canola has fallen the most, from \$1100 in June to below \$700 last week.

Barley and wheat have also dropped as well but not to the same extent.

Industry commentators believe that grain buyers are "sitting back" and are comfortable with the "positions" they already have.

"Positions" are grain the buyers have already contracted from farmers, some at a much higher price than is being offered now.

A very large Australian crop, and the possibility of another record crop in Western Australia, has tempered the appetite of grain buyers to hold more grain.

Problems with shipping logistics and a large carryover from last year is further adding to the bearish sentiment.

Bolgart Rural Merchandise owner Mr. Lester Snooke hosted a drone demonstration on his property recently.

The demonstration was of an emerging class of drones that can carry payloads more applicable to agriculture generally.

The drone demonstrated could carry up to 30kg of product to apply to a farmer's paddock, in this instance grain to replicate mice bait.

Mice bait applied for broadacre crops is treated grain which is applied at a very low rate, usually one kilogram per hectare.

During the demonstration the drone was able to apply, independently from any



*Bolgart Rural Merchandise owner Lester Snooke (left) and Elk Fish Robotics principal Frank King at last month's agricultural drone demonstration day. Photo: Frank Panizza.*

intervention from a human, the entire 25kg load accurately over 25ha in less than 12 minutes.

Once the task was completed the drone returned to the start point to be re-filled.

Mr. Snooke stated, "robotic and autonomous vehicles like these are the future of agriculture".

He added, "I can see one day teams of

these machines working together covering large areas applying herbicides, fertilisers or baits accurately and safely".

Technology such as "green on green", a camera-based system whereby a computer is able to detect a green weed in a green crop, is already a reality.

"Green on green" technology will allow a boom sprayer, or drone, to detect and

spray individual weeds and not spray the surrounding crop.

The resultant saving in costs, as well as cutting the use of herbicides, is a welcomed development.

As always in Australian agriculture innovation has been the key.

From the stump jump plough to mindless machines carrying out our work.

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# An Aladdin's Cave of local art treasures

Four Artists/Two open studios  
Margot Watkins

IF YOU happened to visit some studios in the Southern Art and Craft Trail in the school holidays and missed that something special you will have another chance to find it right here in Toodyay.

Two studios will be open on October 29 and 30 from 10am until 3pm and are overflowing with wonderful new artworks from the last few years.

Walking into Despina's Studio at 104 Stirling Terrace is like stepping into an Aladdin's Cave. Colourful textured artworks adorn the walls, tables and ceilings.

You may love or hate it but you cannot ignore creativity.

Despina's playful and curious attitude and inspiration comes from the everyday world bringing a joy to make the ordinary world extraordinary.

She is also sharing her space with Perth based artist Lee Brooks and Clare Johnston from Mount Helena.

Lee draws inspiration from her surroundings for her mixed media sculptures, textiles, paintings and collages and has recently been involved in various arts events in Toodyay.

Clare designs beautiful bags and aprons, inspired by nature, using hand and machine embroidery.

On the other side of the line but not too far away, is Margot's studio.

No matter how many times you visit, there will always be something you haven't seen.

At 11 Nottingham Road (corner Harper Road and walk up the hill) her mud-walled studio is full of unique paintings drawings and sculptures, slow-stitched vintage fabric collages, wool rugs, and wall hangings.

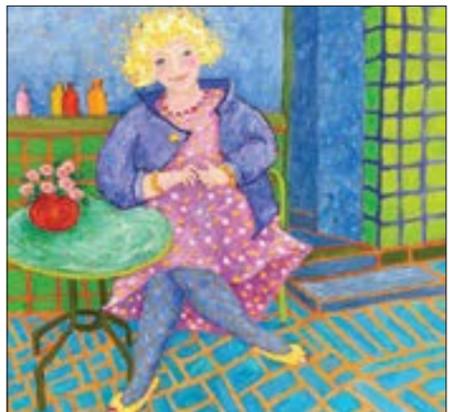
Margot loves to repurpose materials and works creatively with many themes and mediums.

For a fabulously inspiring weekend (with bonus retail therapy in time for Christmas), please add the dates to your calendar and visit us from 10am to 3pm.

For more information, please contact Margot on 0405 067 591 or Despina, 0435 121 058.



Doors open for Girl in Window.



A Toodyay Treasure.



Adding colour to Poppies.

# Bags full of ideas to meet the challenge

The Crooked Needle  
Jean Melhuish-Hill

LAST month saw the conclusion of our Bag Challenge.

We had 17 entries covering everything from toiletries and makeup bags to carry bags, shoulder bags and wine bags.

We even had a shoulder bag made from two tea towels – flexible, holds a lot and costs little to make.

Some of our others were crocheted, sewn, embroidered, knitted and decorated.

You can recycle just about anything.

One of the ladies used the waist of a pair of jeans and another used a hessian bag adding doilies, buttons, beads, embroidery and hand-woven panels.

You can even use your thread ends (threads cut off your machine while sewing) to make a beautiful evening bag.

This group of ladies are highly skilled and extremely imaginative.

The next challenge is a child's toy of some description which is due for completion at the end of next month.

It could be a doll, a teddy or other animal and with this group I won't be surprised at entries that fall way outside of my basic ideas.

These will all be donated to charity in time for Christmas.

Cindy Harders has been working on a variety of crochet items, including shoulder bags, pot holders (I want that pattern), baby blankets and some blankets for the adults as well.

And then there are our Toodyay Agricultural



Stunning bags made for our Challenge.

Show entries which I can't say too much about but you can have a good look in the Show pavilion on Saturday October 8.



Recent works by Cindy Harders.

There will be entries from the ladies in patchwork and quilting, hobby crafts, needlework, floriculture, home produce and fruit and vegetables – and I may have missed a few.

It will be another busy month and Christmas is almost round the corner.

I am sure there will be some very lovingly made gifts given to family and friends.

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 morning 9.30am to noon at the Toodyay CWA Hall in Stirling Terrace.

For more details, please call Jan on 0407 083 079 or Annette on 0428 804 666.

# Local MPs urged to support free WA ambulance services

Country Women's Association  
Viv Street

LAST month was relatively quiet with only one outing to Midland for a Northern Areas Group meeting.

It was an interesting and informative day with a talk about how to cope with an Alzheimers diagnosis by having a plan in place before cognitive ability diminishes.

A quiz kept members alert and they came home well-fed and well-informed about CWA branch affairs in our area.

The wider CWA membership is this year putting some effort into one of the matters raised at our recent annual conference – WA ambulance service funding.

Our campaign aims to make ambulance call-outs free of charge for all Western Australians and to ensure that all rural and remote sub-centres are fully funded.

WA has 160 regional ambulance centres with most staffed solely by volunteers. Only 16 regional centres operate with professional St John Ambulance paramedics as well as volunteers.

Regional ambulance volunteers are required to raise their own funds for essential medical equipment, maintenance, new ambulances and sub-centre upkeep.

This is in addition to responding to emergency call-outs day and night as well as regular ongoing training.

Pensioners are entitled to free ambulance transport but others not covered by private health insurance or St. John Ambulance cover can expect to pay hundreds of dollars for an ambulance call-out.

St. John Ambulance insurance is not available for city residents.

CWA members have started a state-wide petition and are writing to local MPs to draw attention to their campaign.

Toodyay CWA members plan to send their own letters this month giving our particular reasons why free ambulance transport is important to our local community.

We urge you to do the same – the more letters the better.

An MP who receives 20 or more letters from their electorate is obliged to table them in parliament.

I know we all appreciate the hard work done by our local Toodyay and Morangup ambulance volunteers who give so much of their time to care for us.

This is a way we can thank them.

St. John Ambulance volunteers will be on duty at the Toodyay Agricultural show on Saturday October 8.

Also on duty will be the indomitable Netti to watch over our CWA display in the showground pavilion.

Come and cast your eyes over our year's activities.

We continue to add to our Roof Fund and wish to thank all those who have helped boost it, including a generous donation from local real estate agent Tony Maddox after we provided catering for a recent Shire of Toodyay land auction he held in our hall.

We also contribute in a tiny way at our monthly meetings by charging a small fee to enter a monthly fun event.

Last month's theme was 'Come dressed as a

song' in which members used their imagination to give us all a laugh.

'Sadie the Cleaning Lady' was a wonder to behold.

Talking of which, we were disappointed that our hall was left in disarray after a recent weekend event.

Our rooms are used by many different groups – please leave the hall as you find it, clean and tidy.

Sadie was not the only one shocked when we saw the state of the floor and the chairs and tables not stacked away.

Our hall may be elderly but it still deserves to be treated with respect.

Last but not least, our next produce stall will be held outside the Toodyay IGA store on the morning of Saturday October 29 with proceeds to go towards our Roof Fund.

We start at 9am and if you want to buy some CWA goodies, we will be there until midday or until supplies run out.

We meet in the CWA Hall in Stirling Terrace at 1pm on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Members also meet for a 'coffee' morning at 10am on the second Thursday of the month.

We welcome all newcomers, with parking and wheelchair access from Charcoal Lane.

For CWA Hall bookings, please call Margot on 9574 2823 or 0405 067 591.

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Toodyay Community Singers enjoy a recent 'Sip and Sing' evening.

## Singers tune vocal chords for Show

**Toodyay Community Singers**  
Anne Millar

WE HAVE been busy organising final rehearsals for this year's Toodyay Show on Saturday October 8.

This follows a social night of sip and sing a couple of weeks ago, when we sang what

we liked and had a casual sing-along.

If you are new to the community of Toodyay, enjoy singing, and see this article before 7pm, you are welcome to join us from 5pm Thursday October 6 at the CWA Hall in Stirling Terrace.

Otherwise, you will be able to see us on the main stage at the Show, starting at 1.30pm.

## Glorious spring colours inspire our busy quilting fingers



Last year's patchwork and quilting display in the Toodyay Showgrounds pavilion.

**Ragbags Quilting Group**  
Kerry Gregory

SPRING is definitely here with all the glorious colourful blooms in paddocks, the bush all around Toodyay and in home gardens.

The same wonderful range of colours shows in our quilts because a great proportion of quilting fabrics have always been inspired by nature.

Is it any wonder we go a little crazy sometimes when we visit quilting shops?

The fabrics are so beautifully arranged with the whole spectrum of rainbow colours enticing us to spend money on armloads of material that just have to be bought and taken home.

Now that the weather is warming and the recent wave of COVID-19 appears to have abated, it is lovely to see more ladies attend our gatherings.

I'm afraid we get a little noisy sometimes.

The ladies have not been idle during the year and have paraded some truly lovely, colourful quilts and other hand-crafted items as Show and Tell pieces for us all to admire.

It is fabulous work from some very talented ladies.

The Toodyay Agricultural Show on Saturday October 8 will be upon us by the time this article appears.

Good luck with your entries, have fun participating and please remember last month's judges' check list.

I'm sure many items previewed at our meetings will win awards.

New members are very welcome to join our regular Ragbags gatherings.

Bring some handwork, your machine and project or any craft work you are doing.

## Military intelligence expected to be a fascinating topic this month

**Toodyay Probus Club**  
Norm Green

TENS of thousands of Probus members across Australia celebrated Probus Day on Saturday October 1.

This date also acknowledges the United Nations' Day of Older Persons, highlighting the important contributions that older people make to society.

Probus has been providing fun and friendship to retirees for over 46 years.

Nationally, Probus Clubs provide the opportunity for retirees to socialise with fellow retirees in their local communities, have fun and foster new friendships.

There are more than 1400 Probus Clubs across the country where retirees participate in a variety of regular activities, join in trips and outings and listen to interesting guest speakers.

One such outing, hosted by the local Toodyay Probus Club in November, is a trip to the Gravity Discovery Centre near Gin Gin with accompanying morning tea and lunch.

Tours of the facility are provided.

While nominally all about astronomy and astrophysics, the Gravity Discovery Centre also has displays featuring bio-diversity and indigenous culture.

This month we have a guest speaker, Stuart Usher, whose topic will be "Military Intelligence".

Wow, what a subject. That ought to be fascinating.

We now have a banner that is erected outside the Freemason's when we are within at our gathering.

If you would like to join, please contact us by email to [toodyayprobus@gmail.com](mailto:toodyayprobus@gmail.com) or call Joan on 0417 171 606.



Claire and Maurice Ball, Judith Walton, Helen Kevern, Joan Bath (President), Pat Yandell, Colin Yandell (Secretary), Jan Ackroyd, Prim Allen, Bel Rowe, Fred de Rooij (Treasurer).

## War whoops accompany Running Bear

**Toodyay Music Club**  
Jenny Edgecombe

OUR Annual General Meeting, held immediately prior to last month's regular gathering was short and sweet, with no new business requiring discussion.

The current members of executive and committee were re-elected and then it was time to move on with the day's singing.

Now that the COVID-19 risk level is lower, we have resumed the warm-up singalong sessions with great gusto.

This month's session featured some particularly enthusiastic war whoops during *Running Bear*, which rather startled the visitors who had come along.

Individual items came next, with the usual fascinating mix of styles and eras.

The passing of the great Judith Durham was marked by Peter with *A Gift of a Song*.

Another recent passing was marked by Anne, with the rollicking *My Johnny Lad*, reminding us that there can be a range of

reactions to such events.

Caledonia's *Been Everything to Me* was a sweet and moving song presented by Collette.

Later in the programme she joined Brian for a most delightful rendition of *By the Light of the Silvery Moon*.

Spencer may have spent his early life in England, but he has formed a great affinity with the Australian bush, this month presenting the moving tale of *The Ringer and the Princess*.

*The Duck Song* is more recitation than song, but it has its own fascinating rhythm.

Jenny presented it with gusto, then provided harmonies in Joe's lovely renditions of *Plaisir d'Amour* and *Steal Away*.

Don't forget our usual change to the third Saturday for the October meeting, to allow members to attend the Toodyay Show, so our next session will be at 1pm on Saturday October 15 in the CWA Hall, Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

For information call Joe on 0400 862 694.



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# Poetry festival is a battle of the bards

WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinnners Association

THE 2022 Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival will unleash a war of words when it hits town early next month.

The state's leading poets will do battle to claim the title of WA Performance Champion at the festival, hosted by the WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinnners Association.

In addition to the intriguingly named "Poets' Brawl", the title will be contested in poetry and yarnspinning performances at the Toodyay Memorial Hall in Stirling Terrace on November 5-6.

Entry to all festival events, including performances and workshops, is free.

Residents and tourists will have the chance to hear the bush poets' latest and greatest compositions along with some more traditional works from yesteryear.

The topics range from outrageously funny to thought-provoking and serious.

The award-winning songwriter Connie Kis Andersen will get the festival action going with a voice training workshop at the CWA Hall from 1.30pm Friday November 4.

Attendees should bring a thumb drive for a copy of her comprehensive notes.

A variety concert and bush dance will light up the Toodyay Memorial Hall from 7-10pm Saturday November 5 in a family-friendly event featuring local artists.

Toodyay Lions Club members will be up early Sunday morning catering for a Bush Poets Breakfast starting at 7.30am.

After breakfast there will be walk-up poetry and the ever-popular "Poets' Brawl", where contestants must pen and present a one-minute poem on a given topic with little notice.

WA Bush Poets is pleased to run this festival at no cost to patrons thanks to the generous support of the Shire of Toodyay and the local community.

Toodyay Op Shop, Makit Hardware and Toodyay Caravan Park have all provided valuable financial support.

The WA Government makes a major contribution to the festival with sponsorship from the RoadWise road safety program.

The 2022 Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival runs Friday to Sunday November 4-6.

For the full festival program and more information visit [www.wabushpoets.asn.au](http://www.wabushpoets.asn.au) or call association president Bill Gordon on 0428 651 098 or email [president@wabushpoets.asn.au](mailto:president@wabushpoets.asn.au).



Award-winning songwriter Connie Kis Andersen is conducting a voice training workshop at the CWA Hall as part of the Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival.



From left: Avon Woodturners Hamish Dobie, David Doyle, Max Heath and Rob Pearce swap yarns.

## Turning to new skills and tall stories

**Avon Woodturners**  
Hamish Dobie

I'D BEEN in management for nearly 40 years and in all that time I'd never really been involved with any 'hands on' groups.

I'd belted in a nail or two and done repairs around the house, but the opportunity to actually make something rather than just buying it didn't often arise.

There were always more pressing things to do and time was always short.

Moving to Toodyay after I retired I had a 'man shed' for the first time and a load of tools, many of which I seldom used.

After a few months of marginal attempts at making things for around the house, my ever-resourceful wife suggested I join a local craft group where more experienced people

might show me the ropes, with more useful and aesthetically pleasing results.

To tell the truth, she just wanted me out of the house to allow her some peace and quiet.

I took myself along to the Avon Woodturners, where I was made welcome on the first day and every day since.

Members come from various walks of life and the tall stories told around the table at morning tea varied wildly, with no-one challenging their validity.

As for actual woodturning, there is a designated trainer on site and no shortage of sage advice as you gain experience in the craft.

In the past year I've turned various logs, branches and wood blocks into candle sticks, pots, bowls, pens, rolling pins and the like.

If a project doesn't go as planned, there

is no condemnation by the other members, with a fire pit just outside the shed to hide the evidence.

I am pleased to report my wife appreciates the pieces I have made.

I've also found that a finished item is a more personalised gift to give someone, and they seem delighted – at least to my face.

If you find yourself at a loose end, want to learn a fresh skill and make new friends while creating useful objects in wood, please come down to the in Avon Woodturners, Shed 1 at the Toodyay Community Depot in Railway Road near the shire recycling depot, on Wednesdays or Sundays from 9am until noon.

We look forward to welcoming you – and hearing even more tall stories.

### ENVIRONMENT

## Chalice pegs more claims as minerals search widens

**Avon and Hills Mining Awareness Group**

CHALICE Mining expanded its tenements in Julimar and West Yilgarn in late August, by lodging 17 new exploration applications for nickel, copper, cobalt and platinum group elements.

The company now holds a massive 8000sq km of land in the potentially resource-rich area known as the West Yilgarn Craton in WA's South-West.

Salvado Resources, Southwest Metals, GE Resources and Pbx Aus also pegged recent tenements in the area but as a 'first mover', Chalice clearly has the lion's share of land where the so-called 'green minerals' are located.

Chalice announced last month that it expected to complete its Gonville Scoping Study in Julimar later this year.

This is the first stage of assessing the viability of extracting minerals and usually includes a preliminary mine plan.

The Gonville study is looking at "a 'smaller starter' mine concept as well as a larger bulk mine concept".

Chalice is also investigating "several alternative development scenarios including open-pit and underground mining methods (and combinations of



Drill core sample results are part of scoping studies to determine a mine's economic viability.

both with various mining equipment sizing considerations)".

The scoping study is followed by pre-feasibility and feasibility studies to determine how the minerals will be mined and processed.

### Annual General Meeting

AHMAG financial members have received

the latest newsletter ahead of our AGM at 10am on Sunday October 16 at the Toodyay CWA Hall in Stirling Terrace.

Members who have not completed a registration form and not received a newsletter can call 9574 7166 to request a copy.

A new secretary will be required after the AGM and those interested in preserving our environment and lifestyle are encouraged to step up.

In the meantime please stay in touch at [facebook.com/avon/hills](https://facebook.com/avon/hills) or write to PO Box 111 Gidgegannup WA 6083.

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