

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,
Woorloo, Wundowie, Gidgegannup and local districts.

December 2022
Edition 419

Local farmers work round the clock to reap another bumper harvest



This year's grain harvest is in full swing in Toodyay as local farmers work long into the night under floodlights to reap what is expected to be another bumper crop. Many are working extra hours to catch up on a delayed start to the season caused by last month's unusually cool and wet conditions. Photo: Frank Panizza, full report Page 11.

Racecourse in doubt after odds lengthen against repairs

THE FATE of Toodyay's historic racecourse is in doubt after an engineer's report found that major repairs are needed to make it safe before punters can return next year.

Toodyay Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said the cost was "much more" than an earlier estimate of \$100,000 to replace a leaking roof over the main betting area.

This year's races were scratched and the running of the Toodyay Cup moved to Belmont after the local betting and public bar area was deemed unsafe for public use.

The facilities are owned by the shire and leased to the Toodyay Race Club.

Cancellation of this year's September races prompted the shire to order a structural engineer's report which highlighted a number of electrical, plumbing and structural defects.

Repairs would require "significant cost", Ms Haslehurst said.

The club said in May that it planned to resume local racing next year, but this may now be in doubt.

It said at the time that it had spent thousands of dollars on maintenance over several years but had no money to pay for major repairs.

The main roof was beyond repair, gutters were rusted and new electrical equipment had been wrecked by heavy rain in April.

A Herald inspection of the damage revealed that the clubrooms, members' bar and jockey changerooms also needed repairs.

Continued on Page 3.

Talks underway for replacement doctors as medical centre shuts

Michael Sinclair-Jones

AT LEAST one doctor with local experience is understood to have applied to the Shire of Toodyay to help re-open town's Alma Beard Medical Centre early next year.

The local GP surgery was forced to close at the end of last month after the Northam-based Wheatbelt Health Network announced in August that it could no longer afford to keep the centre open due to rising costs.

Local blood tests and physiotherapy services have also ceased, and patients now have to travel 27km to Northam for the next nearest available treatment.

The Shire of Toodyay says it has begun talking to applicants who wish to re-open the medical centre and work locally after it advertised tenders for new contracts last month.

Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said she could not say when local GP and other services might resume.

This would depend on the outcome of negotiations which were due to start in the final week of last month.

Re-opening the medical centre was discussed at a councillor workshop on November 18 and debated behind closed doors at a council meeting a week later.

Councillors voted 8-0 for Ms Haslehurst to "open negotiations with proponents regarding the terms of an agreement".

They directed her to report back on the "outcomes of negotiations" by no later than January 31 next year.

The talks would include what business model the shire should adopt for the centre to reopen.

Ms Haslehurst said the shire owned some of the medical centre's equipment, including patient beds, computers and furniture.

The centre would not be left bare when the Wheatbelt Health Network moved out.

The service provider had not been charged rent to use the shire-owned medical centre building.

Negotiations with replacement GPs would include whether the shire should continue to offer rent-free premises under any new contract.

Other considerations might include free housing, a car or other incentives.

No federal or State funding was available to help pay these additional costs, which the shire said were falling increasingly on regional local government councils such as Toodyay.

Ms Haslehurst said the shire had told the WA Government that it was unfair to expect

regional ratepayers to subsidise local doctor services that city people took for granted.

"For instance, you don't get the Town of Claremont subsidising local GPs," she said.

Mr Haslehurst said the shire wanted to keep as many local medical services as possible.

Coming events
Toodyay Farmers Market
Sunday 18 December 9am - 1pm

this month

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COUNTRY REALTY

The Toodyay Herald

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

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

All advertising should be emailed to advertising@toodyayherald.com.au. Editorial contributions and photographs should be emailed to news@toodyayherald.com.au.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

MEMBERSHIP

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THANK YOU

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

ADVERTISING

RATES - NO GST IS APPLICABLE

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

STORY DEADLINE

DISTRIBUTED

Noon Friday
January 20

Noon Wednesday
January 25

Thursday
February 2

Please note our email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

The loveliest game of all

Roger Simms

HERE comes summer and with it, of course, the game that legendary English critic the late Neville Cardus called the loveliest and the best – cricket.

The serious stuff of the 22/23 season opens with a five-day Perth Test between Australia and the West Indies.

For lovers of the longer form of the game, Tests are the highlight of the summer calendar.

But on the other side of the country last month, I was privileged to witness another seasonal highlight – the unveiling of the nation's top junior cricket talent at a six-day championships series for 12-year-old boys and girls.

Run by School Sport Australia, the event was to have been held in Shepparton this year but that cruelly flooded part of Victoria was in no shape to host it, so Ballarat stepped in.

The historic city proved a fine venue despite the fact that for the first couple of days it turned on weather you might expect to dissuade even footballers from taking the field.

Rain came in sheets, bringing hail on occasions and a maximum temperature on one day of just 10 degrees.

But with brisk movement of the covers and switches to more suitable grounds, the organisers kept up with the schedule.

There were seven teams in the boys' division — one each from WA, NSW, South Australia, Queensland and the ACT and two from Victoria.

The same states were represented in the girls' competition but with only one team from Victoria.

I happened to be there because my grandson, Jack Jenkins, was picked in the WA team.

His father, John, was held up getting away from Perth so I accompanied the lad on the trip over.

It was exciting to see the boys' skills on display (I saw only a little of the girls' teams because they played at different venues.)

Most of the bowlers, both pace and spin, were impressively on target in line and length.

And for the most part the batters showed evidence of some concentrated training, such as restricting drives to the "V" in the early overs.

Not so good was the limited take-up of opportunities for singles.

But then most young players love to hit the ball hard and ignore chances to nudge it away to take a quick run.

Fielding was also of a high class and there were many brilliantly achieved run-outs.

But cricket, as we know, can be a cruel game.

To quote Cardus: "... a dear, lovely, game that can stir us so profoundly, that can lift up our hearts and break them".

There were inevitable mistakes at the crease and early dismissals.

These were accompanied by intense disappointment, especially given the burden of expectation brought on by the new and weighty experience of playing for one's state.

I was impressed with WA coach Luke Green's care of the boys with his early moves to console and reassure.

There were obvious differences in the levels of the boys' physical development.

Some of the lads, especially the lean taller bowlers, looked well above their age group and were already moulding a fully grown figure.

Others clearly were not yet at the level of strength that adolescence brings.

But that proved to be no bar to the display of talent.

Despite the maturity of stroke play, bowling and fielding, when the teams shook hands at the end of each game, the cheeky

grins on the boyish faces under the caps left no doubt – these were still 12-year-old kids having fun.

Viewing the closing ceremony from my seat in the historic grandstand at Ballarat's beautiful Eastern Oval, I mused over my introduction to cricket 68 years ago on the all-asphalt surrounds of the old Perth Boys High School in James Street.

It was a tough beginning that left me with a searing memory of the hardness of a cricket ball.

I reckon I could have done with a bit of mentoring from someone like Luke Green.

School sports programs have been conducted in Australia as long as schools have been established.

Interstate competitions can be traced back to the 1920s.

School Sport Australia was formed in 1981 to act as the parent body for all school sport.

Many young West Australians, including Cameron Green, Cameron Bancroft and Teague Wyllie, have made their way through junior championship ranks to find success in senior and professional cricket.

Next year's 12s championship will be held in Darwin and details of selection trials will be out later this month.

For the record, the WA boys were one of four teams that finished the Ballarat matches with four wins and two losses.

They played Queensland in a final for the bronze medal and just failed to run down Queensland's score of 175 from 40 overs.

It was pleasant mingling with the 100 or so parents and grandparents who made the trip to Ballarat.

I chatted with the father of an Indian boy in the NSW team about the prospects of more Indian and Sri Lankan players making the Australian Test teams in the future (boys of those ethnic backgrounds were well represented at the championships).

He thought they could definitely get there on talent but would need to put an extra effort into physical development.

Parents socialised happily, standing in attentive clusters and displaying the usual intensity of concern and anxiety for their offspring in junior sport.

We grandparents, a smaller cohort, were similarly engaged.

I chatted during the final match with seniors John and Lyndy McCathie, from North Queensland, sharing information on our grandsons and wondering where they might end up.

Lyndy sought me out after the final with a picture she'd taken of my grandson and hers shaking hands after the game.

"Keep this on file," she said with a smile. "You might be looking at two future Test players."

Nice to think so.



Eyes on the future –WA's Jack Jenkins and Calem McCathie from Queensland.

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

January - February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January	2	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	February 1	2	3	4

The Herald office will be closed from December 1 2022 until January 10, 2023

Snooker, the strap and a drunken judge

HE WAS born lucky, says Michael Sinclair-Jones, gazing at the panoramic view from the front of his bushland home perched on a high hill above the scenic Avon Valley.

"Throughout life, I have always been lucky to land in the right place at the right time – and who could now ask for more than this?" he says, watching an eagle soar overhead.

It's been a long road from the grimy back streets of post-war London to dusty Toodyay where the veteran scribe and his award-winning camera have become a familiar sight, including as a drunken judge in the town's annual Moondyne Festival.

Michael says becoming editor of *The Toodyay Herald* was the greatest stroke of luck of all after a chance meeting at the Cola Café 10 years ago.

"The previous editor and I were talking about something else and he told me later that he was thinking: 'I wish he'd take my job' while I was looking at him and thinking 'I wish I had his job'," Michael recalls.

"Eventually I went to see a *Herald* committee member with a carefully prepared speech about how to increase revenue and circulation by making the paper more attractive to readers.

"He listened carefully, and when I finished speaking there was a long pause.

"Finally, all he said was: 'We don't want any sex ads' and that was it – I got the job."

Michael's luck began in 1950 when his Anglo-Indian parents fled a violent civil war to start a new life in England.

"It was a far cry from the life they had enjoyed in India under British rule.

"My arrival must have been traumatic because they were used to having servants do everything for them, including wash, cook and nurse babies."

Michael remembers an idyllic childhood even though food was still being rationed, fresh fruit and meat were scarce, and large areas of London still lay in ruins.

He did well at primary school, passed his English 11 Plus exams and won a place at Wimbledon College, a rigidly disciplined Jesuit grammar school.

He learnt to play rugby and sing in the school choir but was hopeless at obligatory Latin and French classes and not much better at anything else.

Winter coal fires were choking London with dense, killer smogs, prompting a doctor to tell Michael's heavily asthmatic father that



It's been a long road to Toodyay for Herald Editor Michael Sinclair-Jones. Photo: Mark Roy.

if he didn't leave, his health would suffer.

Michael's family – now bigger with two young daughters – became '10-Pound Poms' and emigrated to Australia in 1963.

"I was 12 and it was my second lucky break," he says.

"I was struggling at school and seemed headed for a life of suburban drudgery, like in the 1966 Kinks' song *Dead End Street*."

Michael's Catholic parents were required by their faith to send him to Clontarf, a boarding school for orphans that also took in day boys for the only religious education his family could afford near their new war service home in Manning.

It was a baptism of fire," Michael recalls. "Clontarf was run by rough-tempered Irish Christian Brothers who ruled with the strap – half the class got belted every morning and I quickly learned to stay out of trouble.

"Most of my classmates were orphans, wards of the state, kids abandoned by their parents and Aboriginal kids from Broome

who lived at a mission run by priests on the other side of the Canning River.

Fear of corporal punishment caused Michael to top his Junior Certificate exams as school dux and earned him a Commonwealth secondary scholarship to Aquinas College.

There he won two rugby trophies and a Commonwealth tertiary scholarship with Leaving Certificate distinctions in maths, physics and English, the latter with an unusually high score of 90 per cent.

"That's when the wheels fell off," he recalls.

"My father had died the year before – going to Australia didn't save him – and a family friend said I should study architecture, which turned out to be a really dumb idea.

"I blew my tertiary scholarship in the first year and the only thing I learned was to play snooker, go to nightclubs, watch bands play Jimi Hendrix and drink vodka."

Michael sat home with the flu in July 1969 to watch the first Moon landing instead of

attending lectures and decided at the end of that momentous week to leave home and work in the bush pegging claims for a small mineral exploration company.

A few months in field camps in York, Perenjori and Meekatharra led Michael to Kalgoorlie where he got an office job as a junior clerk in the Goldfields Water Supply.

His new workmates showed him how to use an old photocopier out the back and got him to prove his new skills by making secret copies for them of a very rude story about a young woman named Chastity.

It earned him a regular lunch-hour invitation to play snooker in a typically seedy journo hangout in a basement saloon directly across the road from *The Kalgoorlie Miner* newspaper office.

"We played doubles with two cadet journalists they knew from school, and when one of them got called up for National Service, he said I should apply for his job, which I did," Michael says.

"And that's how I got into journalism – through snooker ... and rude stories."

Michael quit his water supply job but there was a hitch at *The Miner* so he got work playing bass guitar, rather badly, in a local nightclub band and went back to labouring in the bush north of Leonora.

"I was also sleeping in my Volkswagen Beetle, pinching milk from doorsteps for breakfast and parking evenings outside a Hannan Street fish shop where a girl I knew who walked home from work each night would buy me 10c worth of chips, which was quite a feed in those days," he recalls.

"The newspaper job eventually came good but it lasted only a year before I got fired because a local State politician didn't like something I wrote and leaned on the editor to sack me – it was that kind of town.

"The journalists' union secretary flew up from Perth, read the riot act to my gutless former boss and got me not only a transfer to *The West Australian* newspaper but also six weeks' holidays and a pay rise.

"My luck was holding out."

Michael married in 1972 and after five years doing everything from reporting bikie rape trials and royal commissions to chasing cyclones and working until dawn at State Parliament, he and English-born wife Jan moved to Kent to work and drive around Europe for a couple of years in a camper van.

While he was away, a Perth Trades Hall official sued *The West* for a story Michael had written about a union power struggle.

The West offered him his old job back, a free air ticket home and another pay rise which he accepted and the case was quietly settled out of court, no questions asked.

The marriage didn't last but his luck still held.

He joined Perth's brash new *Western Mail* newspaper in 1981 for which he travelled to America, Canada and Christmas Island before returning to *The West* in 1988 to become *Inside Cover* editor and Deputy Chief of Staff – and win two media awards.

And the luck continued.

Continued on Page 7.

Racecourse in doubt after repair costs hit the roof

Continued from Page 1.

MS HASLEHURST said the shire had written to the race club about "a number of issues of concern in relation to risk".

"We will also get our own insurers to inspect the building," she said.

The track is used for racing only once a year for the running of the Toodyay Cup.

Ms Haslehurst said there had been no shire contact with Racing and Wagering WA about the future of the historic race track.

She said the shire met Toodyay Race Club representatives at the end of last month and presented them with a list of the "more urgent repairs" that needed to be done before racing could safely resume.

The club had agreed to respond with a presentation to a February meeting of the Toodyay Shire Council.

One option was to give ownership of the land to the race club.

However, the club has said previously that

the shire – as owner of the buildings – was responsible for repairs, which the club said should be completed before any handover.

Toodyay Race Club Chair and former shire deputy president John Prater said the club would consider its options before making a presentation to the council in February.

The Toodyay Race Club was founded in 1865 and celebrated its 150th year in 2015.

The popular country racecourse is one of the oldest in WA.

Perth infections surge as Wheatbelt cases rise more slowly

PERTH COVID-19 infections increased by 15 per cent last month while new Wheatbelt cases continued to rise at a much slower rate.

Several Toodyay residents reported falling ill in November – some worse than others – but weekly infections across the Wheatbelt increased by only one to 147 new cases in the seven days ending November 20.

WA Health Department figures showed that Perth case numbers rose by 1111 to 9490 – a 15 per cent increase over the same period.

A 'fourth wave' of the virus is expected to peak across Australia this month but be shorter and less severe than previously.

There were 75 new WA hospital admissions – including one directly into intensive care – during the seven-day period, and 14 people aged 75-99 died.

The Wheatbelt infection rate for same period was 193 per 100,000 people, compared with 381 in the city.

Re-infections accounted for 16 per cent of all new cases overall, compared with 13 per cent the previous week.

State health officials said only a third of all West Australians had received a recommended fourth dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

ADVERTISEMENT

The McGowan Labor Government is working hard to keep Western Australians safe during emergencies – particularly from the ongoing threat of bushfire



We have secured a large aerial tanker, based permanently in Western Australia, taking our strong bushfire response to the skies during the height of bushfire season.



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MEMBER FOR AG REGION



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The Toodyay Herald

Fourth time lucky?

IT HAS become unfashionable to talk about it any more.

Been there, done that.

Few would care to revisit some of the crazy conspiracy theories that threatened to wreck our community not so long ago.

Well, it's back – not as bad as before – but this time without closed borders to protect us.

We're talking of course about the so-called fourth wave of the COVID-19 virus which now appears to be upon us.

Perth case numbers are again on the rise – as they are in the eastern states – and country areas such as Toodyay are expected to follow suit in coming weeks as the summer holiday season begins.

Thankfully, there is less stigma now about mask wearing, and those who do so should not be mocked.

The last present anyone might want for Christmas is to be banged up at home with a nasty cough, too crook to celebrate New Year.

The latest outbreak is expected to be shorter and less severe than previously.

More people are now vaccinated, but only a third of all West Australians have received a recommended fourth dose.

Our busy tourist season is winding down which means fewer visitors carrying the virus from Perth.

However, it is noticeable in local cafés that some visitors arrive coughing and spluttering with scant regard for others.

We can't be responsible for what others do but it makes sense to protect ourselves as best we can.

Last race on card

SADLY for local punters, we may have seen the last running of the Toodyay Cup at our town's uniquely scenic racetrack.

Buildings have fallen into disrepair, there is no money for repairs and those in charge are now blaming each other for our popular racetrack's demise.

The land is owned by the State Government, the title is vested in the Shire of Toodyay and the property and all its fittings are leased to the Toodyay Race Club.

The buildings are owned by the shire.

This year's races were scratched because the main structure was found to be unsafe.

The club says the shire has sole responsibility to repair its own property and the shire says the club should have spent past takings on it and not let things get so bad.

The main problem appears to be that what was previously considered to be 'OK for a bush track' is now regarded as an unacceptable public liability.

Alas, it may take a miracle run to get another winner past the post.

Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor

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

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The way we were – This undated photograph shows a four-horse team being used to harvest what looks like a wheat crop on the Twine farm at Yulgering, where the homestead was claimed to be one of the oldest in the Calingiri area. The horses are pulling a Sunshine Harvester and driver is thought to be James Sturgess. Writing on the back of the photograph says the Yulgering property in the Shire of Victoria Plains was owned by "the Murphys" in 1904 and bought by "the Twines" in 1906. A homestead was built after the owners lived initially in a bush camp. The "Stone family" bought the property from the Twines in 1923. Photo and details: Newcastle Gaol Museum and WA Heritage Council.

LETTERS

Donkey Crossing horseplay

I WOULD like to pass on my appreciation to the dedicated soul who choreographs the stuffed ponies and horses on the Northam-Toodyay Road near Donkey Crossing.

You know the ones?

They respond to whatever is the topical current theme, with a sometimes-cryptic display that engages passing traffic with pantomimes of current events.

They are active around big events such as Christmas, Easter, the Avon Descent, Anzac Day and on it goes.

Last year I was amused when the horses stood at the fence watching people go past on Melbourne Cup Day.

Recently they all disappeared with a sign saying "Gone Fishing", only to be seen down on the river, fishing poles in hoof.

I have been watching these creatures for years and they bring me great amusement.

Does anyone else notice them?

To whoever is responsible, a big thanks.

Wayne Fletcher
Dumbarton

Speed limit claim 'incorrect'

AN ARTICLE in the October edition of *The Toodyay Herald* stated in relation to Toodyay Road funding "the major justification for spending more than \$100 million is the supposed benefits that accrue from allowing traffic to travel at 110km/h".

As Chair of Toodyay RoadWise Committee and having been involved since 2015 in community-based advocacy for improving traffic safety on Toodyay Road I wish to respond with some clarifying facts.

The State Government conducted a comprehensive road safety audit on a 40km stretch of Toodyay Road from near Noble Falls to Toodyay in 2014.

This followed pressure from the Toodyay RoadWise Committee and residents, backed by local WA Nationals MP Shane Love and the Shire of Toodyay.

The Main Roads WA audit of Toodyay Road safety showed four people had died as a result of six head-on crashes in the previous five years.

The same period showed 45 "run off road" crashes, with 15 listed as being of "hospital severity".

Fifteen crashes were listed as "hit tree".

The audit showed that "run off road" and "head-on" crashes were priorities that needed to be addressed.

The State Government responded soon after in 2014 by reducing the main Toodyay Road speed limit from 110km/h to 100km/h, and to 90km/h for the final 10km stretch

between Lovers Lane and the Toodyay townsite.

Main Roads WA has given no indication that the speed limit will return to 110km/h after the planned upgrades are completed.

The audit also revealed traffic safety deficiencies at every Toodyay Road intersection within the Shire of Toodyay.

The State Government is responsible for maintaining Toodyay Road and has listed the intersections for future upgrades.

To assert that the "major justification" for money being spent on Toodyay Road to make it safer is "allowing traffic to travel at 110km/h" is clearly incorrect.

Bob Neville

Chairperson, Toodyay RoadWise Committee

Killer cats

CATS are natural killers.

People who believe their fussy little darlings can do no harm are wrong.

We catch cats on our Toodyay property.

Some kill birds and native wildlife.

As required by law, we call a shire ranger who takes the cat to check if it is registered, sterilised, micro-chipped, identified with a collar and tag and has an owner.

Feral cats are promptly eliminated as ought to be the case.

Households are permitted to own three 'legal' cats, but some people keep more and allow them to have the run of the land – and wildlife.

Cats are killers even when their owners abide by the law.

In the ACT, cats are required to be housed outdoors in cat-friendly, environmentally sound enclosures or kept indoors at all times – they are not allowed to run free at all.

Several shires are working on similar action plans.

Studies show that feral cats in Australia eat about two billion reptiles, birds, frogs and mammals and more than a billion invertebrates per year.

Mammals are the most common prey, with more than a billion killed by feral cats every year.

Pet cats are responsible for the deaths of an additional 390 million mammals, birds and reptiles annually.

Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

estimates that in just one day, millions of Australian cats kill approximately 1.3 million birds, 1.9 million reptiles, more than 3.2 million mammals, three million invertebrates and at least 250,000 frogs.

Iconic examples of their victims include native marsupials such as two species of pig-footed bandicoots, the lesser bilby, the Nullarbor dwarf bettong, the desert rat-kangaroo, the broad-faced potoroo and native rodents, including at least four species of hopping mice, two species of rabbit rat, and the lesser stick nest rat.

Cats have also been primary agents in the extinction of island-based birds such as Australia's Macquarie Island parakeet and the Macquarie Island buff-banded rail.

Many native species – for example, the greater stick-nest rat and banded hare-wallaby – now exist only in areas that have remained cat-free.

These include some islands and inside recently fenced enclosures.

Australia's feral cat numbers are estimated to range from about two million to more than six million in wet years when prey becomes more abundant.

It is estimated that every feral cat in Australia kills about 740 native animals annually – and there are millions of them.

Pet cats become feral if they stray or are dumped, while others behave like feral cats, including on farms and pastoral stations.

Owners clearly need to be more responsible day and night for their furry darlings.

Those who feel a community responsibility to protect our native wildlife need to be more active about managing cats lest we lose ever more of what is still alive on our lands.

Figures quoted are based on research published by the CSIRO and other sources.

Monika Zechetmayr
Toodyay

Thank you

ON THURSDAY October 20 my parents travelled from Perth to attend a funeral in Toodyay.

While parking their car they had an accident.

They would like to extend their thanks to a local couple who assisted them until family members could attend.

Many thanks.

Virginia Shelton
Toodyay

The Toodyay Herald team would like to thank our readers and advertisers for their support throughout 2022, and wish them all a joyful Festive Season.

Shire aims for stronger voice to be heard

President's Pen

Rosemary Madácsi



ANOTHER busy year is ending in which we worked hard to deliver the Shire's 2018 community vision of a "vibrant rural community that respects our environment, celebrates our past and embraces a sustainable future".

This vision covers five areas – Social, Business and Jobs, Natural Environment, Built Environment and Governance.

So, what has been done?

We focused on improving community wellbeing and connection by changing the culture of the shire through respect and a collaborative work ethic and being more direct and open, and admitting mistakes.

We pursued a policy of strong financial management and accountability and made a concerted effort to keep each year's rates as low as possible.

The shire's community sponsorship program was based on merit and accountability.

We also supported Noonga Kaartdijin First Nations programs at Red Bank Pool and 'Our Truth Telling' displays at Newcastle Gaol Museum and Pelham Reserve.

We re-activated our town's CCTV video security cameras, saved the Toodyay Community Resource Centre from closing, restored the historic St John the Baptist Cemetery on Pelham Hill and are currently negotiating to restore Toodyay's GP services.

A more conducive environment for economic development is being developed by loosening red tape and implementing better policies to simplify development approval processes.

The shire is working with economic stakeholders to support innovation by negotiating local educational and training opportunities, and advocating to connect these to employers, preferably locally.

We acknowledge the contributions of the Toodyay IGA store, the Christmas Shop and

the Victoria Hotel in sustaining a favourable economic climate for Toodyay.

Our natural environment is being protected by liaising with Chalice Mining over its Julimar mineral prospect and with other large shire stakeholders to improve outcomes that benefit the whole community.

This also involves lobbying State agencies such as the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety to improve the management of current and future threats.

We have ensured Toodyay is represented on vegetation offsets for development applications and taking part in roadside verge advisory committees.

We are finalising a Biodiversity Strategy which includes interconnected vegetative corridors and conservation of water bodies.

Roadside verge management policies have been revised and we are working towards a Water Sustainability Plan.

There will also be firmer extractive industry provisions, including better reporting and accountability.

Reserves management, biosecurity programs, environmental pest control and a regional corella control program are also important areas being developed.

Pest-borne diseases are being monitored through State provisions, with emphasis on pet containment to reduce risks to humans, stock and native fauna.

The Shire's built environment has undergone a comprehensive asset review, including a structural report on the racecourse.

Syred's Cottage in Bejoording was donated back to the family for restoration.

Other shire land that serves little purpose is being sold and the proceeds put into asset reserves.

Our road program is under review after numerous setbacks this year due to supply shortages, resource limitations, bad weather and native vegetation appeals.

The shire has also budgeted for a new roadside tree pruning program.

Two new fire stations were opened at Coondle and Julimar, and the number of firefighting tanks that can hold 47,000L or more of water was increased to 29.

A community standpipe for domestic use was installed in Stirling Terrace and funds

have been sought for new water tanks at the Toodyay Recreation Pavilion.

The shire plans in the New Year to upgrade the children's playground in Newcastle Park to accommodate children with disabilities and install a drink fountain to be generously donated by the Toodyay Op Shop.

New swings are coming to Duidjee Park, where new footpaths have been installed.

Governance is being constantly improved through staff and councillor training and seminars and a critical review of how the Shire leads and operates through industry benchmarks.

This includes reports of the Office of the Auditor General and Department of Local Government on the Shire's performance.

The shire is seeking community feedback through Catalyze, online surveys and communications, as well as through workshops and concept forums and publication of monthly Agenda Notes containing Councillor questions and answers, posted on the Shire website.

Continued on Page 7.

Relief for grain harvest

THE WA Government has announced a major expansion of grain handling at Northam following local farmers' fears that part of this year's expected bumper harvest may need to be dumped on the ground because of freight bottlenecks.

They say much of last year's crop is still stuck at Northam and buyers are paying higher prices for grain from elsewhere.

Agriculture Minister Alannah MacTiernan said grain handler CBH had bought a 105ha site at Northam to boost WA export capacity to three million tonnes a month over the next decade.

The State had contributed \$200,000 for road and rail design, Ms MacTiernan said.

The new site is 20km east of Northam at Avon Industrial Park on the Great Eastern Highway and WA's east-west rail link.

CBH says it is using four temporary sites there to receive grain, and was building five more to handle this year's harvest.

These would be converted to permanent storage under a \$4 billion plan to expand WA grain handling over the next decade.

The new 'Meenar' facility would include new rail sidings and grain loaders.



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Four 'avoidable' road deaths anger cops, stun volunteers

Police Beat

With Sgt Dave Flaherty
Toodyay Police Station



MULTIPLE recent crashes and fatalities on local roads are testing Toodyay emergency service volunteers and angering local police as drivers continue to make bad choices.

Ironically, the carnage on local roads comes after Toodyay police launched a traffic safety blitz on October 1.

Officers not only had to attend four tragic fatalities but also inform close relatives their loved ones were now dead.

All these fatal crashes were avoidable. The catastrophic rollovers and collisions seriously injured several others who required multiple emergency airlifts to Perth hospitals.

The actions of a Bakers Hill woman who filmed one of the crash scenes while driving only added to police frustration.

The driver was stopped and fined \$1000 and penalised four driver demerit points for using her mobile phone to take a video as she drove past.

Survivors of three of the crashes – most of them innocent parties – will have to live with the physical and mental trauma of these tragic events for the rest of their lives.

A small section of Goomalling Road near the Irishtown turn-off in Wongamine was the scene of three fatal accidents in a few weeks.

The worst involved a 30-year-old woman with six children travelling with her who died behind the wheel of an eight-seat Kia Carnival 'people mover'.

The woman, who had recently moved



Police and emergency services volunteers attend last month's head-on crash which killed a female driver and injured six children.

to Dowerin from Perth, was driving to the city for a family outing at about 6.20am on Wednesday October 26 when her vehicle veered to the wrong side of the road before a bend, crashing into an approaching cement truck.

Two of six children aged between one and 14 years old were critically injured, with four others hurt.

Those who needed critical care were airlifted to Perth Children's Hospital in two RAC rescue helicopters.

The 58-year-old cement truck driver was unhurt but taken by ambulance to hospital for a precautionary assessment.

Emergency crews from Northam, Perth and Toodyay attended the scene.

Scattered wreckage from the impact (pictured), causing the road to be temporarily closed to traffic while police investigators

assessed the damage and likely causes.

A single-vehicle rollover at about 11.30pm a few days earlier on the same stretch of Goomalling Road claimed the life of a male driver in his 30s.

The sole occupant was ejected from his Holden ute which came to rest upside down (pictured) in a nearby paddock where it caught fire and was gutted.

The driver was burnt in the fire.

Another single-vehicle accident on the same stretch of road at about 7.20pm on Saturday November 5 resulted in the death of a 37-year-old female passenger in a Kia Sorrento.

She suffered critical injuries and died at the scene.

A 34-year-old male driver and 37-year-old second female passenger were seriously injured and taken to hospital by St John Ambulance volunteers.

The vehicle rolled several times after veering off the road into soft gravel on the passenger side, causing the driver to over-correct their steering and lose control of the vehicle.

A fourth fatal traffic accident only four days later – this time on Toodyay-Bindi Bindi Road near Picnic Hill Road in Coondle – resulted in the death of a 23-year-old female passenger.

She was travelling in a white Toyota Hilux which collided with a white Mitsubishi Triton at about 9.25am on Wednesday November 9.

A 68-year-old man driving the Toyota was airlifted to Perth with serious injuries.

The 27-year-old male driver of the Triton received minor injuries and was taken to hospital by ambulance volunteers.

The female passenger died after the vehicle she was travelling in veered into the path of the oncoming Triton.

A week later at 6.30am in almost the same place another head-on crash resulted in another roll-over.

Thankfully this time there were no serious injuries.

A woman is due to appear in the Northam Magistrates Court after local police charged her with careless driving.

All serious crashes involving death or serious injury are taken over by the WA Police Major Crash Unit based in Perth.

The current road safety blitz includes more than 1000 vehicle stops for random breath testing for alcohol and 65 for saliva tests targeting drugs during a total of 161 hours of high police visibility during local road patrols.

Despite all these efforts, bad driving decisions mean crashes keep happening.

Heightened patrols have resulted in three drink driving offences, five drug driving (or failure to comply with testing) charges, three reckless, careless or dangerous driving charges, 40 speeding fines, 117 cautions, 15

arrests or summonses to appear in court for various traffic offences and three vehicles were seized.

As a result of the repeated exposure to serious road trauma and other critical incidents, a special session was arranged in Toodyay to offer psychological and pastoral support for our community first responders.

Responding to a single fatal car crash can be confronting.

Being called out to multiple fatalities in such a short time is not normal and can be simply too much.

Repeated exposure to trauma can cause people to relive the events in their minds, with inability to sleep, self-doubt, a crisis of confidence and feelings of guilt that they could have done more to save lives.

A psychologist from the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services, a WA Police chaplain and senior emergency services managers from Perth and Northam attended the Toodyay session to show support.

If you get the chance to say thanks to our fire crews, ambos or local police officers, it can make a big difference to the people who are out there to look after you.

Anyone involved in, helping at, or witnessing a crash can get free help if needed.

Road Trauma Support WA provides information, support and counselling to anyone affected by a road crash.

This also includes families and friends of the people involved.

For more information, call 6166 4688, or email admin@rtswa.org.au.

After such a horror run, let's all please make a concerted effort to drive safely over the Christmas-New Year holiday period.

As the old saying goes – "better to be a little late that to be dead on time".

We'll be out in force over the holiday season and it will also be double demerit points for road traffic offences, so please drive carefully and for those who get one, enjoy your break.

We wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas and happy New Year.



A burnt wreck from a fatal single-vehicle accident on the Toodyay-Goomalling Road.



A driver died when he was thrown clear from a Holden ute which landed upside down in a paddock and caught fire in Wongamine.

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New bracelets help find missing people

Safer Toodyay
Desraé Clarke

WHEN people become confused about their whereabouts, friends and carers often need to report them to police as lost or missing.

They could be children with diagnosed medical problems or more mature folk wandering and becoming lost.

A recent initiative between WA Police and the Australian Medic Alert Foundation, the Safe and Found program can be of invaluable assistance in this situation.

Safe and Found stores a detailed behaviour profile together with a recent photo on a secure database which can be immediately accessed by police should your friend or

family member be reported lost or missing.

A Safe and Found ID bracelet is engraved with details and a personal identification number which is given to police if a search call is made.

For more information call 1800 882 222 or visit safeandfound.org.au.

The author of the November Safer Toodyay article on School Leavers and Leavers week celebrations was written by Jessica Daniels. This should be noted as it is part of her accreditation with Holyoake.

If there appears to be a suspicious situation that requires investigation call Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or crimestoppers.com.au.

Police: 131 444, Report graffiti: 1800 442 255 or goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au.

The sweet smell of success

WHAT do you do when it smells like something has died in *The Herald* office?

First things first – head count the staff. All accounted for and all still breathing – phew, it must be something else.

Check the floors, under the desks, in the cupboards, all the hidey holes. Nothing.

Next step, deodorise and vacuum carpet. The smell is still there – and the flies are dropping like flies.

It must be either in the roof or under the building.

So who you gonna call? Pest controllers. Morris Pest Control arrived on the due date and got started quickly and efficiently.

The team thoroughly checked the roof space and found nothing.

Cupboards were moved, floorboards lifted and the culprit was finally found.

There's one bunny who won't be seeing Easter this year.

Not all heroes wear capes.

Fantastic job guys – everyone at the *The Herald* can now breathe easier.

Crumbling crossing repaired ahead of gated upgrade

PLANS to install a controlled pedestrian crossing with gates at Toodyay Railway Station are reaching the end of a design stage and nearing completion.

WA's Public Transport Authority (PTA) says that in the meantime, an existing bitumen crossing that was crumbling at the edges has been repaired.

The work required the crossing to be closed to pedestrians for three days at the end of last month.

Passenger rail services were not affected. Local residents with gophers, wheelchairs and prams have complained that the bitumen pathway across the town's busy east-west rail link is dangerous.

They feared tumbling off the crumbling edges onto the track and being unable to get out of the way of approaching trains.

The crossing is also used by children.

The PTA said a year ago that a controlled crossing with gates and an audible warning signal would cost about \$1 million.

There was "no solid timeframe" for the upgrade to be done, a spokesperson said.



Toodyay Station pedestrian crossing was closed three days for bitumen repairs last month.



Community resource centre re-opens at new site

Willow Hitcher staffs the Toodyay Community Resource Centre's new home next to the Alma Beard Medical Centre in Stirling Terrace. The Shire of Toodyay took over the centre's operations and re-opened it last month in the new shire-owned premises after rising debt under volunteer management forced the centre to close for several weeks in August.

Bullet-proof vest needed for newspaper job

Continued from Page 3.

THE High Court's 1992 Mabo decision re-wrote Australian Aboriginal land rights law and landed Michael a job as national communications manager in the newly created National Native Title Tribunal, which was based at the Federal Court in Perth.

He criss-crossed the nation during the next three years to explain the contentious new laws to packed, sometimes hostile town hall meetings, local government assemblies and land rights groups while taking media calls seven days a week from 5am to midnight.

The gruelling travel regime finally took its toll in 1996 when Michael was hospitalised with a back injury after spending a week working at a former Aboriginal penal colony on Queensland's Palm Island, which at the time had Australia's highest murder and HIV infection rates.

"You'd better wear a bullet-proof vest," a Townsville Airport taxi driver told Michael when he heard where he was going.

While convalescing, Michael's union offered him work to help organise that year's WA Media Awards.

He also spent a year teaching journalism at Curtin and Notre Dame Universities.

It was during this period that Michael was approached by senior media colleagues to run for WA union secretary, which resulted in a bloodless coup that put opponents' noses out of joint but led to major reforms.

"I'm proud of the fact that in my 10 years there we secured for WA members some of the best wages and conditions in Australia and helped to reduce workplace bullying

in some of the state's biggest newsrooms," Michael says.

Another lucky job switch saw him work a further three years as media manager at the University of Western Australia before an internet romance lured him to Toodyay and the rest is history.

The romance didn't last but Michael fell in love with Toodyay, and *The Herald* became his heart and soul, augmented by a belated return to music, though "there's still a long way to go there," he says.

"Being a newspaper editor in a small town is a tough gig because – unlike in the city – everybody knows who you are.

"It's no secret that we have emerged from a long period of local government conflict that made regular front-page news.

"And it's also no secret that some people hate my guts because of it, which is an occupational hazard in my line of work.

"I generally bear no ill will towards people who disagree with what's in *The Herald*, though some take it personally and have resorted in the past to personal abuse.

"There's an old saying that if half the readers like what you do and the other half hate it, then you must be doing a good job.

"I'd like to think that's the case with *The Herald* but that's for others to decide.

"For me it's not just a job but a way of life, a calling, like what Catholics call a vocation, not that I'm any kind of saint – far from it.

"But I know that whatever the future holds, I will always be a writer and I am eternally grateful to the people of Toodyay for allowing that to happen."

Shire aims to make big noise to attract more attention

Continued from Page 5.

A STRONG voice where it counts has been a hallmark of our efforts this year through constant advocacy with key stakeholders on vital issues that affect our Shire.

A concerted effort to have our community voice heard has resulted in Toodyay represented in all key road, biosecurity and environmental advisory groups, including the Rural Water Council.

In addition, Toodyay has driven conversations on the importance and weight

given to local road traffic issues including the need for a new town bypass, reduced speed limits and other traffic safety measures.

We have lobbied Federal and State Government Ministers on issues such as local GPs, road and disaster relief funding; pest control on State-managed land and adequate resources to manage biosecurity.

As an extremely busy 2022 draws to a close, we plan in the New Year to continue to advocate strongly on your behalf to advance the interests of our local community.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Water bombers battle bushfire on Nardie hillside

Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Peter Brennan

WATER bombers and fire crews battled a rapidly spreading blaze in steep terrain at Mount Nardie last month.

Early decisions and an outstanding effort contained the fire before nightfall, with mop-up crews working throughout the night and into the next day to totally black the area out.

The blaze was one of two call-outs the Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade (VBFB) attended since our last *Herald* article.

Both were started by machinery. The latest call-out was at 1.27pm on November 15, with a report of smoke on the Toodyay-Northam Road at Dumbarton.

Our crews and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Nick Griggs arrived promptly to find trees, scrub and part of a paddock ablaze.

Prevailing weather conditions meant the fire was spreading quickly up the steep hillside of Mount Nardie, beyond the immediate reach of firefighting vehicles.

Early decisions by Deputy Chief Griggs with support from Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Rob Koch brought in water bombing helicopters,



Water-bombers fill up at Millards Pool to fight last month's Mt Nardie bushfire.

machinery, and crews from brigades outside the Shire.

It was stunning to see how quickly all Shire brigades turned out.

A big thankyou must also go to Department of Fire and Emergency Services staff at Northam and to their crews who later came from Perth for the overnight task of blacking-out and mopping up.

Toodyay Central VBFB members spent 37

hours across four shifts on the fire ground from initial arrival to final mop-up.

It is fitting to acknowledge the efforts and quality of our local management team in Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Craig Stewart, his deputies Nick Griggs and Grant Scobie, our CESM Rob Koch and our Fire Control Officers.

A look through local Bush Fire Brigade history shows that from the early days of just

farm units, Toodyay has been well served by those who have been willing to take on leadership roles in the local bush fire fighting arena to develop the capability we have today.

Beginning with the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Keeble Lee in 1954, followed by Doug Wood 1974-1980, Max Heath 1980-1981, John Dival 1981-1990, Brian Wood 1990-2004, Murray McBride 2004-2014 and Craig Stewart 2014 to present.

The chiefs have had great support from their deputies including Brian Wood 1981-1990, Murray McBride 1990-2004, Max Chitty 1992, Tony Taylor 1996-2003, Alan Knapp 2005-2011, Torben Bendtsen 2007-2008 Brian Wood 2007-2013, Mark Briggs 2011-2014, Craig Stewart 2014, Mick Rogers 2011-2015, Rowan Hunter 2015-2020 and Nick Griggs 2020 to present.

It is now very timely to remind everyone to pull over safely and allow emergency vehicles with flashing lights and sirens to safely pass.

Our vehicles are often ignored by other road users when attending to a callout.

Remember, the property we save may be your own.

Finally, we wish the Toodyay community a very merry Christmas and a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.



Our first Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Keeble Lee (above left) was followed by Doug Wood (above right), Max Heath (below left), John Dival (below right) and (far right, from left) Brian Wood, Murray McBride, and Craig Stewart.



Busy ambos confront tragic call-outs

St John Toodyay Sub Centre
Pam Tennant

THIS year has gone by so quickly and so much has happened at our sub centre.

November was a busy month for all of us, with our volunteers having to cope with some real tragedies.

Previous articles have covered most of our activities, from moving our administration back into the old St Vinnies building, to welcoming a new community paramedic, upgrading equipment, new volunteers, new community transport drivers and continuous training for all.

There were 46 call-outs during the month and our vehicles travelled almost 1400km, with community transport drivers taking 19 patients to medical appointments in

Toodyay, Northam and Perth.

Machaela completed her emergency medical technician qualification and joins Jayne who passed earlier in the year.

Congratulations to them both.

Our building on Stirling Terrace will soon have a new look with painting underway.

Provide First Aid courses will be held monthly in 2023, with dates to be advised in February's *Herald*.

We urge you to take extra care of yourselves and others over the end-of-year break, drive safely and don't take any unnecessary risks.

Our volunteers will be available as usual over the holiday period, 24 hours each day, seven days a week. We will be very happy if we are not needed.

We wish all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Western Power offers money to help fight fires

WA volunteer bushfire brigades will benefit from funding grants to support firefighting capabilities during the bushfire season.

Each year, Western Power invites volunteer bushfire brigades within its network service area to apply for direct funding.

The funding is for items and other services that are not able to be purchased via the State Government's Emergency Services Levy.

The funding aims to help volunteer bushfire brigades to purchase additional firefighting equipment such as water pumps, thermal imaging cameras and chain saws, all part of ensuring brigades are able to safely and effectively carry out their firefighting activities.

Last year, Western Power provided funding to 34 successful grant recipients across its service area.

Chidlow Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and Woolooloo Volunteer Bushfire Brigade were both allocated funding to assist with facility upgrades following the devastating Woolooloo bushfire.

Jupiter takes us down Chinese rabbit hole

Astronomy
Kim Angus

AS WE skip across the asteroid belt we find the first of the big boys, Jupiter.

As the third brightest object in the night sky, we have been aware of Jupiter for a long time, with observations by Babylonian astronomers dating back to 800 BCE.

It is claimed the Chinese astronomer Gan De even reported a 'small star' in alliance with Jupiter, visible to the naked eye, around 365 BCE.

If this was one of Jupiter's moons, his sighting predates Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei's discovery of Jupiter's four largest moons by nearly two millennia.

Long before the time of Gan De, around 2000 BCE, Chinese astronomers found Jupiter takes about 12 Earth years to complete its orbit of the Sun.

More accurately 11.86 years, this period named *Sui* or 'year' is the basis for the 12 Earthly branches of the Chinese zodiac, which is coincidentally the same number of divisions as our Western zodiac.

If you wish to make your own observations of Jupiter, it will rise during the day on Sunday December 4 and set at about 1:30am the following morning along the same plane as the other planets but further west than Saturn.

December is also a good month to look at Mars, which will be at its brightest, closest and most visible on Thursday December 8.

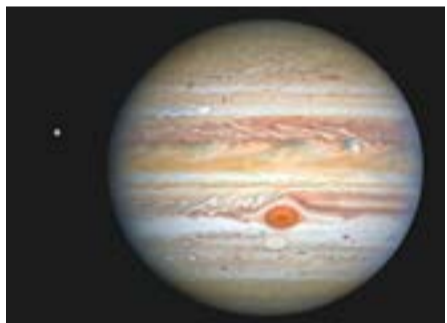
Around Tuesday December 13 we have the Geminid Meteor Shower, one of the major showers.

Wednesday December 21 brings the Ursids, a minor shower – with the new moon creating a darker sky, you might get lucky.

With the New Year come the Quadrantids, peaking around Wednesday January 4.

Then Chinese New Year on Monday January 23 sees Jupiter and its *Sui* moving us into the Year of the Rabbit.

With the weather warming up and the holidays upon us get out there and enjoy the wonders of the universe.



Jupiter and icy moon Europa (left) seen from Hubble Space Telescope. Photo: NASA.

Bolgart students shine at Toodyay Show



Pictured enjoying lunch at Guildford Hotel (from left) Jan Rochford (née Martin), former school teacher Greg Mansell and Maria Mansell (née Stuyt).

Bolgart News
Pam McGill

School News

AS IN previous years, students displayed a number of artworks at the annual Toodyay Agricultural Show.

These pieces of art are a culmination of work by the students over the course of the year.

They self-select the ones they are most proud of and wish to have displayed.



Last month's Melbourne Cup best hat competition was by Doris Martin.

A fantastic effort was put in by both students and staff.

Awards

Aussie of the Month - Ronan Howe and Lilly Stewart.

Merit Certificates - Junior Room - Matilda Clarke and Harley Judson.

Senior room - Isola Croeser and Tyler Page.

Guilford Hotel was the venue for old classmates who attended the Toodyay Primary School in the 1950s.

The Christmas get-together is held annually, with a good group of people attending, including ex-teacher Greg Mansell who taught at Toodyay Primary School in the 1970s and married local lady Maria Stuyt, who is a class member of the above group.

It is always a great catch up, with plenty to talk about.

Congratulations to Arne and Sara Wallis on the arrival of their daughter Arianna on October 24, weighing 6½lb (2.9kg).

A beautiful little sister for Arthur.

A great crowd enjoyed a delicious three-course meal for the Melbourne Cup luncheon at the Bolgart Hotel.

Thank you to Craig, Wendy and staff for

hosting the lunch and supplying prizes for the best dressed, won by Jenni Knowles and best hat, won by Doris Martin.

Best dressed dog went to Sherbie.

The raffle was won by Dale McGill.

Bowls News

Congratulations to the team of Dale McGill, Jenni Knowles, Merle Manuel, Deb Campbell on winning the Dowerin Gala Day.

Golf News

Conratulations to Pam Meston on coming third in the Goldfields Ladies Golf Open and to Joy Hamilton for being runner up on Saturday.

A group of ladies from Bolgart attended the three-day annual event which proves popular every year.



Best dressed Jenni Knowles (left) with Wendy Stevenson and Sherbie at last month's Melbourne Cup Luncheon.

Remembrance Day draws big crowd

Toodyay RSL Sub-Branch
Bob Wood

OUR LOCAL Remembrance Day stall last month outside the Toodyay IGA store was well-supported, for which we thank the whole community.

Special thanks go to the Toodyay Bakery and Op Shop for their inspiring window displays.

Our November 11 Remembrance Day Service at Anzac Memorial Park was held in near-perfect weather with a good attendance of about 85 adults and many children.

This was followed by refreshments at the Freemasons Hotel.

Trish Young led the Toodyay Community Singers and the Toodyay Youth Choir in a moving choral contribution to the service.

Our annual Toodyay RSL Christmas lunch, to support local military widows, will be held at the Toodyay Club on Sunday December 4.

All seats have been sold and if it sounds like fun – which it usually is – please make a note in your diaries to book ahead for next year.

On behalf of the Toodyay RSL Sub-Branch, let me say thank you for all your support through the year and we wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.



A large gathering attended Anzac Memorial Park last month to remember those who died protecting our nation.

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Priceless Local Support

Christmas is here again. This year has been the start of the "new normal" and yet again we have had great support from Toodyay locals & visitors alike.

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

Once again, thanks for the support in 2022 and may 2023 be a better year for all of us.

To Simon, Mum, Sharon, Judy, Nolene, Vicki, Sam & Mike – you are certainly priceless – thanks so much, I could not have done it without you.

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

Have a great Christmas and stay safe.

Christmas 360

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

Toodyay Road construction recommencement an important road safety milestone

By **Mohammad Siddiqui**,
Regional Manager, Main
Roads Wheatbelt Region

Construction of a 740m section of the Toodyay Road Upgrade, between Clackline-Toodyay Road and Northam-Toodyay Road, is underway. This follows the award of a construction contract for the works to Highways Construction in October. Completion is scheduled for April 2023.

This relatively short section of the overall Toodyay Road Upgrade project will see the traffic lanes in each direction widened, as well as a wide centre lane, sealed shoulders and audible lines. This is consistent with the completed section of the project immediately to the east of the works area and meets Australian Standards for regional roads.

It is unlikely that this section of the project will have a significant impact on road users. Two-way traffic will be maintained for the majority of the construction period, though a temporary speed reduction to 60km/h will be in place for the safety of our construction crews working in close proximity to the existing road. Road users are encouraged to drive with care and be aware of the signage in place.

The recommencement of construction on this project is an important milestone for the Toodyay community, but also for road safety in the Wheatbelt Region. Statistics from the Road Safety Commission show that the Wheatbelt continues to have the highest per-capita rate of killed or seriously injured-rated (KSI) crashes in the State.

809 people were killed or seriously injured on Wheatbelt roads between 2017 and 2021. In 70 per cent of these crashes, a single vehicle ran off the road and either rolled over or collided with a roadside object.

For Main Roads and the Western Australian Government, these figures remain unacceptable. Each fatality on a Wheatbelt road results in significant personal trauma for the families of those affected, as well as our tightly-knit communities, our incident response agencies and emergency services.

In addition to the huge personal, social and health impacts of road trauma, the economic cost of each death on WA roads has been estimated at over \$7 million. The average cost of each hospitalised injury is over \$300,000. The State Government's Road Safety Strategy for Western Australia – 2020-2030 notes that road trauma costs Western Australia approximately \$2.4 billion every year.

The Safe Systems Approach adopted by State and Federal Governments, acknowledges that people will make mistakes and crashes will continue to occur.

However, our goal is that no-one should die or suffer life changing injuries as result of a crash. To achieve this, we are putting in place the necessary infrastructure to lessen the impact when crashes inevitably occur. In the case of Toodyay Road, the Commonwealth and State Governments have provided the funding to enable important upgrades to take place.

In recent months, some local community members have questioned the necessity of the Toodyay Road Upgrade project on the basis that the number of KSI crashes on the road is declining. While this downward trend is pleasing, road users must remain vigilant as 30 KSIs have occurred on this road in the decade to 2021, and the conditions remain relatively unchanged (with the exception of the two sections of road upgraded as part of this project). These conditions include narrow lanes, unsealed shoulders, limited sight distances at intersections, lack of safe overtaking opportunities, steep drop-offs as well as large trees within metres of the road. With vehicle numbers expected to increase over time, it is likely that other serious incidents will occur in the future unless these risks are addressed.



Construction is underway on a short section of Toodyay Road adjacent to Coorinja Winery

Your questions answered

Following our previous Toodyay Herald article in October 2022, a number of questions have been raised by members of the community. These are our responses to key themes.

Q: Why is this upgrade necessary?

A: The Wheatbelt section of Toodyay Road has an unacceptable safety record. In the decade between 2011 and 2021 there has been 81 crashes, and 30 of these crashes have resulted in death or serious injury. Concerns raised by the community have included the lack of passing lanes, the absence of right turn pockets at key intersections, inadequate intersection design, ageing infrastructure and poor geometry. With vehicle numbers expected to increase over time, it is likely that other serious incidents will occur in the future.

Q: Is the project just about facilitating faster truck journeys?

A: While the project will enable more efficient

movement of freight on Toodyay Road, it will also significantly improve safety by reducing the conflict between heavy and light vehicles through wider lanes (4.5 m), improved sight distances and safer overtaking opportunities.

Q: What is the size of the proposed cut at the intersection of Sandplain Road and Salt Valley Road and why is this design necessary?

A: The Sandplain Road and Salt Valley Road intersections are located close to the crest of a hill. This results in inadequate sight distances for drivers seeking to access Toodyay Road from both Sandplain Road and Salt Valley Road. The requirement for a cutting in this location is necessary to improve the geometry and increase driver visibility. The depth of the proposed cut is 6 metres at its deepest point. This design was modified extensively following feedback from the community, with the cut depth reduced by 50% as

result (from 12 metres in the original design to 6 metres today). This has also enabled the project to retain a significant number of established trees.

Q: When will construction of the Sandplain Road and Salt Valley Road section begin?

A: Subject to procurement and finalising services relocations, construction of this section will begin in the second half of 2023.

Q: What will be the signposted speed limit once the project is complete?

A: 100km/h.

Q: Has Main Roads closed all consultation with the community?

A: No. We continue to engage actively with the local community and are available to discuss the project with interested community members on an ongoing basis.

Further information

To find out more about the Toodyay Road Upgrade or to provide feedback, please contact us on 138 138 or via email enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au

Scan the QR code to subscribe to updates and read more about the project



Australian Government



Farmers work around the clock after weather delays harvest

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza

UNUSUALLY cool, wet conditions last month have continued to cause headaches and delays for farmers throughout WA, including in Toodyay.

The unseasonal weather has caused long delays in harvest programs.

Many farmers are frustrated at not being able to make planned inroads into what is expected to be another very good harvest.

Programs have also been delayed for obviously sound reasons by recent harvest bans on warmer days.

Farm safety is always a serious issue around harvest time.

A Goomalling farmer died recently after he was thrown from his vehicle while helping to fight a fire started by lightning on a neighbouring property.

Police said the 57-year-old man received serious burns and was airlifted to Fiona Stanley Hospital where he later died.

A coroner's report is being prepared.

Please be aware and take particular care during this busy time as delays put added



A Nunile farmer stands on a harvester to complete last-minute checks. Photo: Frank Panizza.

pressure on farmers to 'get stuff done' before Christmas.

Volunteers from Toodyay Central, Julimar, Coondle-Nunile and Morangup bush fire brigades helped 'black out' embers on the

burnt Goomalling property to enable local fire fighters and other volunteers to continue this year's harvest for the deceased farmer's family.

Apart from the risk of fire – including from

lightning strikes – fatigue management is also paramount.

Whatever the situation, we urge all farmers and workers to put their safety first.

The canola harvest is usually first to finish but many local growers are not even halfway through it, let alone with cereal crops such as barley and wheat.

Most farmers like to complete their harvest by Christmas but many fear they will not be finished until early January.

January tends to be very hot – which is not ideal – and can cause more harvest bans.

This year's slow, stop-start harvest has in some ways been a blessing in disguise for the state's beleaguered grain handler CBH.

Grain still stored from last year's big harvest had threatened to clog up the movement of this year's crop for export.

The slow pace so far has allowed CBH to move more of last year's grain to port, thus relieving pressure on rail networks and storage sites such as at Northam.

Grain prices for all varieties have slipped in recent weeks for several reasons.

The expected big harvest means importers are happy to sit back and buy grain only when it suits them.

A 120-day extension of a "grain corridor" between Russia and Ukraine has settled nervous buyers, tempered demand, and stabilised prices at least in the short term while those two countries remain at war.

Turkey and the United Nations last month brokered a deal with Russia to allow Ukraine to resume grain export through the Black Sea – which Russia controls – to mostly poorer countries.

Ten million tonnes of mostly corn, wheat, barley and canola have been shipped mainly to Africa, the Middle East and Asia since the war began last February.

Meanwhile at home, Toodyay's harvest, when it finally gets into full swing, will see a marked increase in the number of trucks and oversized farm equipment travelling – often at low speed – on local roads.

Please be mindful of this when driving in our shire, particularly on rural back roads where road surfaces and limited visibility may not be ideal for high-speed driving.

Let's please make it a safe and happy Christmas for everyone, and we'll see you all in the New Year.

Research digs up forgotten local graveyard

Toodyay Historical Society Inc
Robyn Taylor, Vice President

TOODYAY now has another cemetery to add to its collection of final resting places.

The St John the Baptist cemetery was established on 5 May 1864 on Newcastle Town Lot 76.

This came after the town was gazetted in 1860 and the building of the Roman Catholic Church on the corner of Stirling Terrace and Hammersley Street in 1863-64.

The church and cemetery were separated in 1887 when the railway line was extended through town.

It's hardly surprising so few people know about this old cemetery which is about 100 metres off Duke Street on the left as you drive uphill to the Pelham Reserve Lookout.

Apart from the new sign, don't expect to see anything apart from bushland, walk tracks and a magnificent view over the Toodyay townscape and beyond.

The last remaining wooden headboards, such as one for former Pensioner Guard Francis Kirk, were likely destroyed when a bushfire swept through the area in 1945.

At least Kirk's Cottage still stands – it can be found in Stirling Terrace next door to Herald House.

The last recorded burial was in 1897.

Surprisingly there are 66 people listed who are known or believed to have been buried

there, which makes it a substantial graveyard.

We owe a great deal to three principal researchers who uncovered the names and details for each burial: Shire Museum Curator/Cultural Heritage Officer Margie Eberle, and Toodyay Historical Society members Beth Frayne and Adam O'Neill.

Relevant facts for each burial are recorded on a new sign created with the help of Outback Graves Markers.

There are many well-known family names and if you want to delve into information sources, references are available on our website at toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au.

There is no off-road parking at the cemetery but it's still worth visiting this quiet spot, which can be reached by walking along one of the trails after parking at Pelham Reserve.

The sign was officially unveiled last month by Margie and Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst.

Continuing the theme of past lives, member Greg Warburton entertained us at last month's society meeting with a brilliantly illustrated talk titled 'Who do I think I am?'

It was not about Greg at all but his colourful and at times mysterious ancestors.

He talked about them against a vast historical landscape in which they were participants including major wars such as the Battle of Waterloo, the Crimean War, two World Wars, and their arrival at the Swan River Colony in 1930 on board the sailing ship 'Rockingham' in 1830.

Greg's sense of humour and fast-paced presentation provided an entertaining and informative start to our meeting.

Members are invited to our planning meeting at 2pm on Sunday January 22 in St Stephen's Anglican Hall in Stirling Terrace.

Please bring a plate for afternoon tea and your suggestions for excursions and events for the coming year.

Meetings are held at 7pm on the third Wednesday of the month in the Anglican hall.

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

The postal address is PO Box 32 Toodyay WA 6566.

Membership is \$15 per annum.

We wish *Toodyay Herald* readers, the editor and staff our very best wishes for the festive season and hopes for a peaceful and safe 2023.



Toodyay Historical Society members at St John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery with a new sign naming 66 people known to have been buried there. Photo: Margie Eberle.



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- Trade Certificate
- Sound welding and fabrication skills.

Electrician

- Experience with preventative and corrective maintenance and repairs to bulk handling equipment, including conveyors, fixed and portable machinery as well as fault finding PLC controlled equipment including elevators, conveyors, trippers, and dust systems.
- Trade Certificate
- Current WA Electrical Licence.

Maintenance/ Civil Worker

- Background in general maintenance and building repairs as well as ability to operate machinery such as Skid steer, Front End loader, EWP and MC truck.
- MC truck licence.

All Role requirements

- Ability to work at heights, in confined spaces and in areas of high dust concentration.
- Possession of a High-Risk Work Card; DG, CV, LF, WP or RB desirable.
- Possess a HR drivers' licence (desirable).
- Willing to relocate or live in Northam or a nearby town

CBH offer a range of employee focused benefits aimed at ensuring a healthy work life balance, including:

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To start your CBH journey, visit our Careers website at <http://careers.cbh.com.au/>

and select one of the above roles to submit your CV. To speak to someone about this role, please contact us on (08) 9237 9600.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

WHILE STOCK LASTS

Volunteers to serve xmas lunch with all the trimmings

Toodyay Locals Care (TLC)
Roz Davidson, Coordinator

IMAGINE a Christmas lunch of turkey, duck, ham, yabbies and prawns with all the trimmings, followed by pavlova, trifle, and a cheese platter or plum pudding if you prefer, all for \$12.50 a head.

This is what is on offer at this year's Toodyay Locals Care Long Table Lunch on Christmas Day at the Toodyay Club.

The lunch is open to anyone, with bookings preferred.

You can book in writing via our Facebook page or via text message to 0427 744 352.

Our hard-working TLC volunteers will happily serve your choice of goodies from those on offer, plus a selection of salads.

We will also have a Christmas tree surrounded by gifts for all attendees.

Over the past year, TLC has provided more than 1000 meals to local community members in need, transported hundreds of people to medical appointments covering more than 65,000km.

We have helped people to move furniture and delivered 23 donated single beds.

Medical support equipment such as shower chairs, wheelchairs, and walkers have also been donated and shared, along with many items of clothing and linen.

I wish to thank the many volunteers and community members who have supported Toodyay Locals Care over the past 12 months.

Special thanks go to Charlie and Alison Wroth for the use of their premises and to Dean and Amanda Carter for the donations that allow us to continue to operate.



Moondyne Christmas at the CWA Hall.

Moondyne Men tuck into pig on a spit

Moondyne Men
Graham Hill

SERGEANT Dave Flaherty was guest speaker at the Moondyne Men Breakfast held on the last Saturday in October.

Dave told us of the benefits of living in a town like Toodyay, including a low crime rate, security cameras throughout the town, and a diligent team of police officers providing our residents with a feeling of security.

Unfortunately, several critical road accidents have occurred recently, and we must never forget our team of first responders – police, ambulance and fire services – and show our support.

The Moondyne Men have been busy helping Shirley from the Toodyay Op Shop

and doing a repair job for Frank from the Toodyay Agricultural team.

The Men are looking forward to assisting at the Toodyay Street Christmas Party on Friday December 2 and the Moondyne Festival (from whence our name originated) in the New Year on Sunday May 7.

On November 19 the Moondyne Men held our end of year Christmas party at the CWA Hall with catering by Wendouree Cafe.

This included pig on a spit along with other delicacies.

Our thanks to Maria and the Wendouree team, and well done to the Moondyne ladies who set the tables for the night of festivities.

A feature of the evening was the Certificates of Appreciation awarded to Linda Kerslake from the Toodyay Op Shop and Alison Wroth from the Toodyay Agricultural Society.

The evening also featured several in-house awards of autographed M&M confectionery.

With four new members joining us this month, our membership continues to increase.

We are heading towards 40 active men who look forward to tea, coffee and maybe a cake on any Monday and Thursday from 8.30am-noon and breakfast on the last Saturday of each month at the RSL Hall, Clinton Street, Toodyay.

Look for the Moondyne Men banner.

On behalf of the Moondyne Men team I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a healthy and safe New Year.

If you are looking to join a proactive men's group, come and join us.

For more information ring Colin on 0424 195 003.

Rattle and hum for Yule Log

Avon Woodturners
Hamish Dobie

IT WAS the week before Christmas
And all through the shed,
The Woodturners made gifts
For the Big Night ahead.

There were all kinds of items,
From egg cups to pens,
From fruit bowls to platters,
Made from old fruit wood ends.

Polishing and sanding,
The work must go on,
The turners were standing
At lathes 'til they're done.

At last Max Heath called it,
"We've worked like a dog!"
Then Dave Doye interrupted,
"We forgot the Yule Log!"

"Christmas' not Christmas
Without a Yule Log",
And he went out to find one
With his trusty old dog.

He came back with Rob Pearce
And a big piece of gum,
And soon the shed echoes
As machines rattle and hum.

At last it is finished,
Preparations complete,
The lads are all proud,
But not a sign of conceit.

The Yule Log's delivered
And Christmas is here,
So now we can settle,
And enjoy a cold beer!

Have a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy Hogmanay (New Year) from all the team at Avon Woodturners.

We are always pleased to welcome anyone who would like to try their hand at woodturning, whether it be young or old, man or woman.

No experience necessary (like me) as we have an experienced trainer on site at all times.

We'll take a break over Christmas, so please come along in January, on Wednesday or Sunday morning, 9am until noon, and start the New Year with a new, rewarding hobby.

Call Barry on 0401 359 511 for a chat.



The Christmas Yule Log.



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"My advice to people with symptoms is, get to your doctor, don't think you're wasting their time."

- Sarah, Margaret River





Starlight Camp by Jules Bulleid.

Emotions express the difference that separates art from craft

Arts Toodyay
Karen Chappelow

ART AND craft are closely linked and entwined.

The term 'arts and crafts' is often banded about as one discipline or activity, but they are not the same thing.

Art is a form of expression and an application of the imagination and creative skill serving an aesthetic purpose trying to

Museum ramps up access with shingle sales

Volunteers of Toodyay Museums
Barry Keens

AS WE approach the end of 2022, we can look back on a good year at the Old Gaol Museum.

With new volunteers joining the team we are now more able to cover most days of the week.

While we do have a break on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, we welcome visitors throughout the school holidays.

We are proud to have been able to purchase two ramps for the museum courtyard purely from our shingle sales.

The ramps will make access easier for visitors with wheelchairs, strollers and walking aids.

We will be buying another one to finish off the installation.

We have also returned to the Farmer's Market with shingles and shingle products, so please support us as all funds are used for museum or community projects.

Just a reminder that all Shire of Toodyay residents have free admittance to The Old Gaol Museum and Connor's Mill.

Opening hours are 10am to 3pm, seven days a week.

emphasise ideas and feelings.

Visual art forms use technical proficiency and creativity to translate ideas and emotional power into a visual format.

Art is highly subjective, what one person considers to be art may not be considered art by someone else.

Art is a uniquely human expression of creativity.

It is a complex and sensitive experience that reveals a deep understanding of the human condition and a reflection of our inner psyche.

Art helps us understand our past, people who are different from us, and ultimately, ourselves, keeping our culture alive.

It plays an important role in the way we interpret our world around us.

A craft or trade is traditionally a hobby or an occupation that requires skilled workers to produce an item.

Crafts can include weaving, carving, pottery, embroidery, macrame, beading, sewing, quilting, and many other forms, using learned skills and techniques, mostly for decorative or functional use and easy to reproduce, it uses skill and available products to produce a useful end product.

The well-known British philosopher RG Collingwood says that "the craftsman knows what he wants to make before he makes it".

Art, on the contrary, expresses emotion. Craft does not express emotion.

This is one of the main differences between art and craft, and one of the reasons there is a varying degree of price differences between the two.

I will endeavour to tackle how value is determined in my next piece.

In the meantime, have a safe and happy Christmas, shop local, buy local come for a look, a chat and see what is going on in the heads of your local artists.

<https://www.artstodyay.com>.

The gallery is at The Toodyay Manor, 82 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay and will be open every Friday – Sunday from 10am.

Follow us on Instagram @artstodyay.

A whopping \$80,000 raised for local school projects

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

DID YOU know that our group and its supporters were able to invest \$80,175 in the town's local school this year?

On behalf of the our committee I express sincere thanks to the students, parents, volunteers and school staff for all that they have contributed this year.

It was our biggest year yet with construction of new nature playground, basketball court area landscaping and seating projects.

In addition to these two projects we've supported a range of school activities and events, including a volunteer-run canteen service two days per week, a stall and sausage sizzle at this year's swimming carnival, a Mother's Day gift stall, Easter raffle, faction carnival stall and sausage sizzle, Father's Day gift stall, the school open night sausage sizzle, Halloween disco, the school's garden club and we have driven 'containers for change' collections.

We raised \$15,000 all up through canteen and fundraising activities.

Also, we've donated \$1000 to the Year Six school camp, \$450 to bus hire for an interschool athletics carnival, \$810 to a Fairytale Farm excursion for kindergarten to Year Three students, \$1382 to purchase decodable books for primary school students, \$5000 to purchase new furniture for secondary classrooms, \$11,470 to complete basketball court landscaping and

seating, \$59,863 to build an inspiring nature playground and contributed \$200 to Year 10 graduation celebrations.

That's a whopping \$80,175 that we and our business and community sponsors have contributed to the school this year, making a difference for current and future students for years to come.

Sincere thanks go to the Toodyay and Districts Community Bank, Chalice Mining, Toodyay Op Shop, Toodyay Lions Club, the Shire of Toodyay, Transwest WA, Midland Brick, WacWil Landscaping and Earthworks, Mobile Concrete Services, WCS Concrete, Avon Skip Bins, All Go Contracting, Bunnings Northam, Toodyay IGA, Toodyay Tyre and Exhaust, Toodyay Real Estate and all who supported us with financial and in-kind donations of goods and services.

As we turn our attention to planning for next year we're pleased to announce a strong start with sufficient funds to support an improvement project and for donations to school activities and resources – yet to be determined.

Our meetings are open to everyone and we invite families, staff and community members – even the kids get to come along.

If you would like to know more about how you can support our group and the school, please contact Kelly-Anne Murray on 0406 585 716 or email pandctodyaydhs@gmail.com.

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



Meet the 'Little' P&C, showing that you're never too young to make a contribution.

DRAFT LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

Directional Signage and Signage Within Thoroughfares

At its Ordinary Meeting on 26 October 2022, Council resolved to advertise a Draft Local Planning Policy – Directional Signage and Signage Within Thoroughfares.

The objectives of the draft policy are:

- To provide guidelines which will assist in the regulation and control of directional signage within the Shire of Toodyay
- To ensure signage serves the purpose of directing traffic rather than being a means of advertising
- To avoid the proliferation of signage within thoroughfares

Your feedback on this draft policy is encouraged and welcomed. It can be viewed online at www.toodyay.wa.gov.au; or at the Shire Administration Centre and Visitor Centre during business hours. Submissions should be lodged via records@toodyay.wa.gov.au or addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566.

Submissions must be received by **5.00pm, Friday 23 December 2022**. Any submissions received will be considered as part of the determination process and will be publicly available in the Council Agenda.

All enquiries should be directed to the Development and Regulatory Services Department via records@toodyay.wa.gov.au or by calling 9574 9340.

Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



DRAFT LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

Non-Habitable Structures

At its Ordinary Meeting on 26 October 2022, Council resolved to advertise a Draft Local Planning Policy – Non-Habitable Structures.

The objectives of the draft policy are:

- To achieve a balance between providing for various legitimate storage needs of residents and minimising any adverse impacts non-habitable structures may have on the locality
- To establish guidelines for the assessment of proposals to place shipping containers or other similar relocatable storage units on land within the Shire of Toodyay

Your feedback on this draft policy is encouraged and welcomed. It can be viewed online at www.toodyay.wa.gov.au; or at the Shire Administration Centre and Visitor Centre during business hours. Submissions should be lodged via records@toodyay.wa.gov.au or addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566.

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Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Historian chimes in on town's unusual Memorial Hall clock

Toodyay Probus Club
Norm Green

MEMBERS enjoyed a trip to the Gravity Discovery Centre near Gingin last week.

It is a very interesting place to visit and a little out of the ordinary.

There is a Cosmology Gallery, an Observatory, a Solar System Walk and more, including a good restaurant.

Our guest speaker for November, Ian Phillips from York, gave a rundown of the historic clocks and bells of the Avon Valley.

Ian also does clock tours in York. Have you noticed the clock face on our Toodyay Memorial Hall is unique?

Usually a clock face has 12 segments of five divisions each, making up 60 minutes going by the minute hand.

Going by the hour hand, each of these five divisions takes 12 minutes.

However on the Toodyay Town Hall clock these 12 segments have only four divisions each, meaning each division takes 1 1/4 minutes on the minute hand, and 15 minutes on the hour hand

Another thing we learned is that bells made by Metters do not have patterning around the perimeter.

We remember Metters as makers of wood stoves but didn't realise they made bells as well.

Ian's enthusiasm for his subject made it most enjoyable.

Recently we contacted our local radio station 2J2Air to request that our promotion be announced every hour instead of every quarter of an hour.

Members thought it a bit too often, and it has not resulted in any new members.

Don't marketers insist that advertising pays?

As we face the start of a new year, the usual problem will present itself at the Annual General Meeting: having a committee to carry us forward.

It is frustrating that this happens continually, as I am sure all clubs will agree.

Retirees often want to sit back and relax without having to worry about contributing



The Toodyay Memorial Hall Clock face has 48 divisions rather than the usual 60.



London's Big Ben shows how things are usually done.



Toodyay Youth Choir led by Trish Young perform at last month's Remembrance Day service.

Youngsters give voice to Remembrance Day

Toodyay Youth Choir

TOODYAY'S Remembrance Day service was celebrated this year with the uplifting voices of the Toodyay Youth Choir.

The choir, made up of students from Toodyay District High School and surrounding schools, was invited by the Toodyay RSL Sub-Branch to perform at the ceremony.

It was a wonderful opportunity for young singers in Toodyay to show their respect for the service and sacrifice of others as the

town commemorated 104 years since the Armistice ended the First World War.

After a warm welcome by the RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch Secretary, the choir joined the Toodyay Community Singers to perform *The Call*, the *National Anthem* and *Just Jealous of the Angels* at the service.

If you'd like to know more about the Toodyay Youth Choir, or are interested in joining them to perform Christmas songs at the Toodyay Street Party on Friday December 2, please contact Trish Young on 0418 925 975.

Cast members sought to tread the boards on cruise ship

Toodyay Theatre Group
Tanya Stuart

ANOTHER dramatic year is nearly over for the Toodyay Theatre Group.

A huge audience enjoyed our successful *Robin The Hood* pantomime in June.

We were scheduled last month to present *Secret Women's Business - Not in the Mood* but too many cast members came down with the dreaded Covid virus.

Having to postpone until Saturday December 3 at short notice was a bittersweet moment for many.

Ticket holders were notified and given tickets for three weeks later.

Those who couldn't make it - including some tourists from the Eastern States - received refunds.

On the positive side, cast members have recovered well and are able to perform.

Many ticket holders were grateful for the change of date because they could now come along and watch this extremely funny show.

Tickets for the Saturday December 3 show are available through trybooking.com.

The committee has been working hard behind the scenes preparing for next year's upcoming events.

Our annual general meeting will be held at 7pm on Tuesday February 7 in the Toodyay Memorial Hall.

Past and present members, life members and those interested in aspects of theatre are welcome to attend.

We will be looking for a new and dynamic committee to keep bringing great theatre entertainment to Toodyay.

We will conduct a free acting workshop

for people aged 16 and upwards from 9am to 1pm on Saturday February 4 in the Memorial Hall.

This workshop is for those who always wanted to tread the boards, learn stagecraft, meet new people, or just have four hours of free fun.

There are limited places, so get in early by registering your interest on 0409 181 404.

Theatre is not just about acting - we are always looking for artists, carpenters, people interested in set design, costume design, sound and lighting and for backstage and front of house support.

It is so exciting to see the product of your work on show and the frenzy as we lead up to a performance.

We experience the tension, tears, nerves, laughter and fun as we bond together as a theatre family.

The first production for 2023 will be *Mango Fever* - a hilarious comedy with many twists and turns set on board a cruise ship.

For our regular theatre patrons, you might even see glimpses of our past productions in the mix.

The show will be performed on the weekend of June 17 and 18 (Matinee) and Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24.

Auditions (for people aged 15 and over) will be held on Tuesday March 14 from 6-8 pm at the Memorial Hall, with both new and experienced members welcome.

We are looking for a big cast, so why not come along and have a go?

Please ring 0409 181 404 to find out more.

The Toodyay Theatre Group would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

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Email: jack@ringacivil.com

Phone: 0400 263 864
Website: www.ringacivil.com

TOODYAY BAKERY

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

FESTIVE SEASON TRADING HOURS
Toodyay Bakery will be closed from 3pm 24th December 2022 and reopens 7am on the 17th January 2023.

Hats off to gardener Eleanor as Annette takes over

Country Women's Association
Vivien Street

OUR OCTOBER meeting fell on a lovely sunny day appropriate for our floral spring hat competition.

Judith and Dixie provided flowers for the table and for a blind auction which Vai won.

We had a good turnout of spring hats to brighten up proceedings.

To further enliven the meeting, Eleanor, who has worked on our CWA garden for the last 10 years, called in to say her goodbyes and to introduce us to our new gardener Annette.

Both were welcomed and thanked by Vice President Judith, and Eleanor was presented with a small gift of appreciation.

Hours of unseen work have gone into improving the garden and the results speak for themselves.

We are happy that Annette has agreed to carry on Eleanor's good work.

We all trooped out into the sunshine under the bottle brush tree to have a photo taken with our spring hat creations.

Thanks to Annette for taking the photo you see here.

This month's fun competition for a 'Crazy Hat' has lots of scope for the imagination.

You will have to wait until 2023 to see the results in this paper.

By then our fundraising efforts for a new roof will have been boosted by our produce stall at the annual Christmas Street Party on December 2.

You will find us somewhere on Stirling Terrace amidst jars of pickles, chutneys and jams, with plenty of home baking to tempt you.

Members are hard at work preparing for this stall and we hope for a not too warm and wind-free evening.

We are busy making arrangements for our own Christmas get-together and will finalise plans at our November meeting.

This will be the last meeting of the year and, as well as 'Crazy Hats', members have been asked to bring toiletries to fill the bags made over the year.

These are then sent to CWA State Office to be distributed to men, women and children whose circumstances have left them in distress, homeless or unwell.

Christmas is a difficult time for many families so instead of our usual Secret Santa gift giving we have decided to bring items to make up a hamper which can go to someone less fortunate than ourselves.

Next year we will be meeting in January to make a start on planning the calendar.

Already ideas are forming towards fund raising events and enjoyment.

We will hold our AGM in February and look forward to another year of CWA activities.

Thanks to all those who have supported Toodyay Country Women's Association in so many ways throughout 2022.

We are lucky to have a very generous community and we appreciate the help we have been given in big ways and small by Toodyay people and those further away.

Happy Christmas and a hopeful and Happy New Year from all of us.

Hall bookings can be made by ringing Margot on 9574 2823 or 0405 067 591.



Award winners (from left): Teddy James with Robbie the Robot, Lee King with Cuddle Bunny, Glenyce Bosnjak with Mr Squiggle and Cindy Harders with a cute little lady.

'Lovability' ranks first for charity gifts

The Crooked Needle
Jean Melhuish-Hill

NOVEMBER brought the conclusion of our Toy Challenge with ladies making a variety of gifts to go to worthy children's charities.

We had Priscilla in a tutu, Mr Squiggle, Robbie the Robot along with Paddington Bear, Oscar and Olivia Otter and a number of other beautifully made toys.

They were made with great care and affection knowing they were going to become a beloved friend of a young child.

Our judge Enid Lowless knows all the tips and tricks, having spent years making children's toys.

The four awards were not ranked in terms first, second and so on, but were about the lovability, joy and entertainment for the children.

It was a great effort from all and I am sure the new owners will appreciate them.

During the month we have worked on Christmas gifts ranging from quilts, shawls,

and blankets to decorations, baskets, towels and clothes.

I wonder where we all find the time to create all these with other family, farm and work commitments.

We will be thinking about what we can do next year for both individual and group projects.

I am sure there will be a number of great ideas in the mix.

Due to maintenance works at the hall, our group will break after the last meeting on Friday December 16, returning Friday January 27.

The noise level that week will be extreme with all the catching up to be done.

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 at the CWA Hall in Toodyay from 9.30am to noon.

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



The Country Women's Spring Flower hats. Left to right Maxine, Eleanor, Evelyn, Gina behind Dixie, Viv and Margot. Photo Annette Muller.

Vocal chords flexed for street party

Toodyay Community Singers
Anne Millar

ON OCTOBER 8, the Toodyay Community Singers participated at the Toodyay Agricultural Show which we all enjoyed.

Congratulations to the show committee for a fantastic event.

We also joined with the Toodyay RSL Sub-branch and Toodyay Youth Choir on

November 11 to pay respect and honour the fallen from the WWI.

By the time this goes to print we will have performed at the Toodyay Community Christmas Street Party.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Toodyay Community Singers and the Toodyay Youth Choir performing at Anzac Memorial Park.

John Lennon's words ring true for Christmas

Ragbags Quilting Group
Kerry Gregory

WHEN we say "where has the year gone" I think we were all busy getting out and about this year making up time lost to Covid isolation.

Some of us have been on holidays, catching up with friends and family, on shopping forays for fabrics, excursions to the Toodyay Show and Friendship Days, and suddenly the year is almost over.

So here I am in a rush to complete projects started with the best of intentions for end-of-year Chris Cringle lunches and Christmas gifts.

I believe it was The Beatles' John Lennon who said "life is what happens while you're busy making other plans".

In the midst of efforts to get these projects done my favourite sewing machine stopped operating properly (like me, the problem may be age-related) but fortunately I have a spare.

Although it not as well equipped, I may just



Christmas gifts crafted with patchwork and quilting.

meet my deadlines.

With the warmer weather a few more ladies are attending our Wednesday gatherings and it is terrific to see the beautiful projects they are

working on.

I sincerely hope to see everyone again next year with their summer articles, produced on those hot days when it's ideal to sew inside.

The Ragbags Quilting Group Christmas lunch is on December 7, after which we will be in recess until Wednesday 1 February 2023.

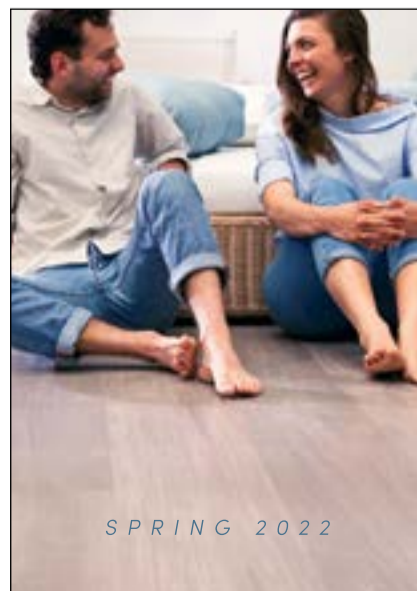
Be kind to one another, and I extend my best wishes to quilters, their families and our community for good health and good cheer during the holiday season.

New members are welcome to join us for our regular gatherings of the Ragbags group.

Bring some Show and Tell items and some handwork, your machine and current project or any craft work being undertaken.

We meet at the St Stephens Anglican Church Hall, Stirling Terrace, Toodyay from 1 February 2023 and the first and third Wednesday of each month between 10am and 2pm.

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



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Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 11th December 2022
6pm - 7pm with supper to follow
Toodyay Baptist Church
18 Stirling Terrace

Christmas carolling fun followed by a bring-and-share supper for everyone!

Christmas Day Service 9-10am
All Welcome

