

The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned
community newspaper
Est. 1902

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

February 2023
Edition 420

Local doctors set to return

Michael Sinclair-Jones

DOCTORS are set to return to Toodyay at the end of next month.

Toodyay shire councillors voted 7-0 at a special meeting this month to accept a new contract with a general practitioner to reopen the town's Alma Beard Medical Centre on Monday March 27.

This follows a shock decision by the Northam-based Wheatbelt Health Network to close the town's only surgery last November.

Councillors voted to offer a free five-year deal – same as previously – for doctors to resume providing medical services at the ratepayer-owned facility.

Tenders were advertised before Christmas after the shire obtained advice from WA health authorities on how to proceed.

A confidential draft "General Practice Agreement" was endorsed behind closed doors on the afternoon of February 1, just three hours before this edition of the *The Toodyay Herald* went to press.

The incoming doctor is expected to employ other GPs part-time to ensure an adequate level of patient care at the normally busy practice.

The council agreed to pay an undisclosed annual subsidy to the new doctor, who will be required to report back to the shire annually on "practice activities".

The new doctor will have exclusive use of the medical centre, with furniture, internet and computers provided by the shire.

Building insurance, building maintenance and upkeep of the grounds will also be funded and managed by the shire.

Patients' records will remain the property of the shire upon termination of the new contract, "subject to legislative requirements such as the Privacy Act".

The cost of power, water and other utilities will be shared equally between the doctor and the shire.

Councillors also agreed to offer a 100 per cent rates subsidy on any property "purchased by the doctor for the practice".

They agreed to consider providing a vehicle to the new doctor at the end of the first year of the new contract.



Toodyay's two newest Aussies welcomed at revamped Australia Day celebrations

A new seating arrangement, live classical music, more breakfast options and free espresso coffee added a fresh dimension to this year's January 26 Australia Day

celebrations in front of a large gathering at the Toodyay Recreation Centre.

New Australians Chandre Stewart (above left) and Edith Botica took the oath of

allegiance before the announcement of this year's Australia Day Awards (see page 17).

The event also featured a new Indigenous theme. More photos pages 3 and 7.

Big changes to town as leading businesses get new owners

TOODYAY has undergone a major shift in local business ownership with the recent sale of the town's only supermarket and at least one of its two remaining historic hotels.

The IGA store and Victoria Hotel have been bought by a Perth-based company which owns similar IGA stores in Glendalough, Darch and Meekatharra.

Freemasons Hotel owners John and Stella Pearce said their historic pub was currently under offer from business interests that *The Herald* understands may have Toodyay connections.

Former IGA store and Victoria Hotel owners Dean Carter said he and wife Amanda sold their supermarket business and pub to focus more on local farming.

The Carters bought the Victoria Hotel six years ago with plans to spend at least \$2.5 million to upgrade the run-down property, which reopened in 2019 after extensive renovations and the construction of new rear accommodation units.

Mr Carter said the couple had bought a second farm near Toodyay.

The IGA sale was for the business only – not the building and land which the couple retain, while the Victoria Hotel sale of land, buildings and business did not include an empty former tea shop next door, which the couple still own.

Mr Carter said he was 61 years old and wanted a change in direction.

Continued on page 9.

Train suspected of sparking big bushfire as residents flee

POLICE are investigating whether a passing train sparked a big bushfire which caused dozens of Toodyay residents to flee their homes to safety at the end of last month.

The fire was first reported at 4.45pm on Monday January 30 in the Cobbler Pool area after a series of hot days and total fire bans. Multiple ignition points were reported along the east-west rail link between Cobbler Pool and West Toodyay.

All Toodyay volunteer fire brigades were quickly called out, followed by about 200 firefighting units from surrounding shires and Perth.

The full-scale emergency included use of continuous streams of firefighting helicopters and aerial water bombers.

Continued on Page 7.

Coming events

Twilight Farmers Market
Saturday 18 February 5.30pm - 8.30pm

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For buying, selling or renting we get the job done **9574 4200**

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

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

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 Julie Hoy Poy, Jim Scott.

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

DISTRIBUTION

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

Printed by IVE Group

THANK YOU

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

ADVERTISING

RATES - NO GST IS APPLICABLE

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

Full Page: Mono - \$696.00; Colour - \$747.50.

Setup size: 260mm wide by 400mm deep.

Half Page: Mono - \$348.00; Colour - \$399.50

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Quarter Page: Mono - \$174.00; Col. - \$225.50.

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Specifications

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A 10% discount will apply for full page and half page bookings for a term of six months or more and a 5% discount will apply for full page and half page bookings and for a term of three and five months. Where a long term discounted booking is cancelled by the client, the *Herald* reserves the right to back-charge the full rate on all discounted advertising bookings.

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

STORY DEADLINE

DISTRIBUTED

Noon Friday
February 17

Noon Wednesday
February 22

Thursday
March 2

Please note our email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

Spotty sense

Roger Simms

IN CASE you missed it, Common Sense – that venerable, long-serving adviser to humankind – died during the holidays.

A death notice in *The Times* newspaper of London mourned his passing and reported that not many attended the funeral because so few realised that he was lost.

The obituary ticked off a few key examples of life lessons old Common Sense was able to teach:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- The early bird catches the worm;
- Life isn't always fair; and
- Maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple and sound financial policies, the obituary observed.

Don't spend more than you earn and always depend on reliable strategies – adults, not children, are in charge.

Well-intentioned but overbearing regulations had been the start of Common Sense's undoing, the obituary said.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

He slipped further when teachers were required to seek parents' permission before applying sun lotion or dispensing an aspirin but were unable to tell parents when a child became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

It lost the will to live when churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

And so the lament went on before concluding:

"Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents Truth and Trust, by his wife Discretion, by his daughter Responsibility and by his son Reason.

"He is survived by four stepbrothers:

- I know my rights,
- I want it now,
- Someone else is to blame,
- I am a victim."

Poor old Common Sense.

And poor old humanity, to judge by this piece of hyperbole.

I had a laugh, sympathised with the author's frustration with the more absurd aspects of postmodernism and moved on.

But I got to thinking.

What is common sense when you boil it down?

And why has it got artificial intelligence baffled?

A clinical definition might follow the line that common sense is sound, practical judgment concerning everyday matters, or a basic ability to perceive, understand and judge in a manner shared by most people.

Wordy, but covers the territory.

A more common-sense approach might adopt a course I remember a judge following when stumped for a definition of pornography: "I find it hard to describe but I know it when I see it."

The judge was proving the point that common sense is often at odds with expert opinion.

Then, of course, you have the aphorisms – thousands of them.

American writer Ralph Waldo Emerson penned a good one: "Common sense is genius dressed in its working clothes."

And Voltaire (or was it Mark Twain?): "Common sense is not so common."

History has chimed in countless times on the subject.

In a pamphlet entitled *Common Sense*, English-born philosopher Thomas Paine told revolutionary American colonists in 1776 that simple facts, plain arguments and common sense would suffice to place the rights of the people above the rights of King George.

And we all remember the hand-me-down advice from parents and grandparents.

My grandfather would tell me: "Don't spoil the ship for a ha'p'orth of tar."

Work that one out, kids.

While some would agree with Voltaire that common sense is not spread evenly among humanity, most of us might feel grateful that when you put humanity up against the growing ranks of ever-smarter and perhaps ever more ambitious robots, we've got a critical advantage with our stored stocks of common sense.

Artificial intelligence, despite its brilliance in computing, can stumble badly in the face of such simple realities as water is wet, things fall when you drop them and everyone has or had a mother.

Such unteachable fragments of common knowledge can throw the smartest of algorithms off course and make them susceptible to unpredictable and unhumanlike errors.

For example, a quality-control computer at a car factory diagnosing the blotches on the body of a new Chevrolet as measles.

Or take the problem of the snowman by the side of the road: how do you teach a self-driving car that the snowman won't walk out into the car's path?

Melanie Mitchell, a professor of computer science at Portland State University, says that even the best of self-driving cars are challenged by different objects encountered on the road such as a flock of birds, say, or a couple of paper bags.

"Perceiving obstacles that no human would ever stop for, these vehicles are liable to slam on the brakes unexpectedly," she says.

"Rear-ending is the most common accident involving self-driving cars."

On the other side of the safety coin is the challenge of programming a computer to recognise that a ball bouncing on to the road may very likely be followed by a running child.

Yes, AI could do with common sense if only to quell sci-fi fears that without it a computer programmed to make paper clips, for example, may end up doing so ceaselessly and converting everything in its path to just that product.

Or one designed to make us all happy might start handing out cash.

But don't bet your house on that.

FEEDBACK

Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

Suggestions and comments are welcome

please forward to: feedback@toodyayherald.com.au

or post to: PO Box 100, Toodyay WA 6566

The Toodyay Herald

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

February - March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 29	30	31	Feb 1	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	March 1	2	3	4

Free breakfast kicks off Australia Day celebrations



Pass the sauce mate.



Classical music quartet entertains large Australia Day audience.



Healthy fresh fruit brekkie.



New Toodyay Australia Day honour board unveiled.



From left: Citizen of the Year nominee Wendy Austin, Local MP Sandra Carr and Senior Citizens of the Year Wayne and Desraé Clarke.

‘Cricket star is right – it’s time for a change’

Darren West MLC
Member for Agricultural Region

IT’S TIME to change the date.

For only the 30th time last month, Australians in every State celebrated our national day on Thursday January 26 with a public holiday, free breakfasts, citizenship ceremonies and Australia Day Awards to honour our leading community members.

National festivities were first celebrated in 1935 but held on different dates in different parts of Australia until 1994, when all States and Territories agreed to make January 26 our national day.

It was chosen for when the First Fleet of convict ships landed in Sydney Cove in 1788 and the country’s new military rulers proclaimed Australia to be a British colony.

Their arrival had a massive impact on the first Australians who had lived here for millennia.

As the Sydney colony grew and spread throughout NSW and beyond, this impact became greater until it was felt right across the continent.

For Aboriginal people, January 26 is a “sorry” day that many refer to as “Invasion Day”.

It has led to growing calls over the past decade or so for Australia’s national day of celebration to be moved to another date that is less offensive to Aboriginal people and more inclusive of their culture.

I can see no downside to this change and find it difficult to understand why it might be opposed.

People like me who attend a variety of local Australia Day celebrations because of our public roles will notice that Aboriginal people are rarely present at such events.

This to me diminishes the character of the event and somewhat defeats its purpose.

A ‘change the date’ debate ignites in the run-up to each new Australia Day and takes the shine off a day that should fill every Australian’s heart with pride.

Many prominent Australians have joined the call for change, and few more eloquently than Australian Test all-rounder Ash Gardner who is an indigenous player.

She said in the run-up to last month’s Australia Day that playing international

cricket on January 26 “did not sit well with me as an individual but also the people I’m representing”.

I think we should respect Ash’s view.

I’d be interested to know if any other countries celebrate their national day on a date that its indigenous people find offensive, appear reluctant to engage in, and want changed.

Not only do I think we should change the date, I think that it is inevitable.

Growing numbers of local government councils and businesses agree.

Large mining companies last month offered their workers an option to swap the Thursday January 26 public holiday for the Friday rather than require them to return to work

for one day before the weekend.

I suspect this change will take some time to become more widespread, so in the meantime why not move Australia Day to the last Saturday in January and make the Friday a long weekend public holiday?

Or celebrate Australia Day on the last Sunday in January and make the Monday a public holiday?

Australia Day would still fall on January 26 every seven years or so, but it would avoid a mid-week break and the disruption it causes to many businesses.

A long weekend break at the end of January could also mark the end of the annual summer holiday season when many Australians return to work or study.

There will no doubt be a range of views and opinions about changing Australia Day but an interim arrangement could be adopted until an alternative date is agreed, either by referendum or legislative change.

As a proud Australian, I’d be happy to celebrate our national day on any date other than January 26.

I would prefer Australia Day to be celebrated by all Australians, especially our First Australians.

This small but important change can be a big step forward on the road to National Reconciliation as we strive to make our wonderful country even better.

I believe it’s the right thing to do – let’s get on with it and change the date.

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.

✓ We have three new Emergency Rescue helicopters ready to go from Bunbury and Jandakot.

✓ Don't leave it too late. Work with us to get your bushfire plan ready now. Go to www.mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au

Darren West MLC

MEMBER FOR AG REGION

(08) 9621 1999

Darren.West.MP@mp.wa.gov.au

Authorised by D West 185 Fitzgerald St Northam WA 6401.



The Toodyay Herald

Why do we have to pay?

A THREE-MONTH gap in Toodyay doctor services has highlighted the urgent need for government action to repair our nation's broken health system.

It's no good for Federal and State leaders to bang on about how we are all one nation on Australia Day while voters in the bush are treated like second-class citizens when it comes to seeing a doctor.

It was only through hard work, determination and good luck that our local shire has been able to organise new doctors when other WA rural councils have failed.

Toodyay's new doctors are expected to start on Monday March 27

But that's not the job of local government.

What's the point of taxpayers having to fork out two per cent of their hard-earned wages on top of income tax to pay for a compulsory Medicare Levy when they can't even get to see a local doctor in their own town?

We are lucky – other towns are not.

The argument that it's only a 20-minute ride from Toodyay to the next nearest GP service in Northam doesn't wash when there is no local public transport to make it a cheap and easy alternative.

Not everyone can drive, and families with only one car are left stranded at home if that vehicle has to be used for work elsewhere.

Toodyay's local federal member – a Liberal – was silent when asked after last November's shock Toodyay medical centre closure what she intended to do about it.

She blamed the State Government instead.

A new Labor Federal Government is now in power but our voice is not being heard in Canberra.

Questions need to be asked in Parliament and examples given of how years of neglect have contributed to this current debacle.

That's our local Federal member's job.

Toodyay is in a big enough financial mess already after a former local Liberal member engaged in a cynical vote-buying exercise that plunged our shire into record debt for a big recreation centre that nobody really wanted – they just wanted a pool.

The political bribe was swallowed hook, line and sinker, and Toodyay ratepayers face paying the price for the next 20 years.

Our shire's new leaders now have to contend with sacrificing more local ratepayer funds – this time for an undisclosed annual doctor subsidy – that most city ratepayers don't have to bear – just so we see a doctor in our own town. It's enough to make you sick.

Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editor



The way we were: Toodyay Fire Brigade and emergency service personnel in a victory parade on 10 June 1946 to mark the end of World War II the previous year. Some participants are standing on the back of a truck in long coats and top hats. The lead vehicle is a fire brigade truck with three firefighters in uniform with brass helmets. The truck's hose wheel is decorated with streamer flags and an ambulance brings up the rear. Victory Day was celebrated with a procession from Newcastle Hotel to the Toodyay Showgrounds, where this photo appears to have been taken. This picture was published on Page 1 of The Toodyay Herald four days later. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

LETTERS

Carters bid farewell

IT'S WITH mixed emotions that we say thank you and goodbye.

We are so grateful for the opportunities our businesses have given us and this wouldn't be possible without you, our loyal customers.

Our businesses couldn't have operated without you, so thank you for your support over the years.

We have made many life-long friendships along the way.

Thanks to all our amazing staff, past and present who have helped us run and grow our businesses into what they are today.

Your commitment and loyalty doesn't go unrecognised and is much appreciated - we couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you Toodyay.

Dean & Amanda Carter
Toodyay IGA
Victoria Hotel Toodyay

Flawed thinking

IN THE December *Herald* Mr Bob Neville took the Safe and Scenic Toodyay Roads (SASTR) campaign to task for asserting: "the major justification for spending more than \$100 million is the supposed benefits that accrue from allowing traffic to travel at 110 km/h".

SASTR wholly rejects that criticism and believes Mr Neville is either missing the point or misinterpreting what we have been consistently saying about this program to improve Toodyay Road.

Everyone, including SASTR, knows and understands the need to improve the road from a safety perspective.

But if it was just about safety, as Mr Neville argues, the road could be improved through far less expenditure, as has happened in the metropolitan section of Toodyay Road using road treatments that Main Roads WA (MRWA) data shows is the most cost-effective way to improve safety.

However, in order to respond to the need expressed by some in the community for "more passing lanes", MRWA has had to spend a whole lot more money.

We can debate whether we really need the number of passing lanes that are being planned in a relatively short distance of road, particularly given the degree of environmental destruction that is necessary.

But the real issue is that federal funding was necessary to justify such expenditure and a business case had to be prepared in order to attract such funding.

SASTR has obtained that business case through an FOI request and carried out a detailed review.

It states that the investment in improvements to Toodyay Road will realise, and we quote: "Travel time improvements of 20 per cent along the route through an increase in the posted speed to 110km/h and the provision of passing lanes".

Such figures are arrived at using economic modelling, a technique with which this author has had some experience, and the numbers generated are predictions.

What is often not stated is that there is considerable error associated with such predictions and it is of some interest that in a presentation to Toodyay Council some years ago, travel savings from Perth to Toodyay were quoted as five minutes, not 20 per cent of travel time.

Leaving aside the flaws of economic modelling the key point here is to ask how is it possible for an organisation to attract funding based on a model or scenario that will not actually take place in real life, namely a speed limit of 110km/h?

We are slightly heartened that Mr Neville and his RoadWise Committee are not in favour of increasing the speed limit and MRWA has also since confirmed that the speed limit will remain at 100 km/h, thereby it would seem, undermining its own economic argument.

So, the business case for improvements to Toodyay Road seem to be a particularly egregious example of flawed thinking that looks at pure economics without consideration of other factors and the fault does not only lie with the funding applicant but also the organisation approving the funding.

The fact that more than 1200 people largely from the local community have signed our

petition against the planned improvements, together with more than 4000 people online, would suggest that SASTR is amongst many who believe we, and our environment, deserve better from our governments!

Andrew St John
Safe and Scenic Toodyay Roads

Road barrier to wildlife

I WAS recently visiting your pretty town and had to rescue a native critter due to the badly designed road guards there.

An echidna was stuck against a road guard that is attached at ground level on the busy road to Perth, trapping small animals (see photo).

It would be much better if the guards were raised as they usually are, allowing small animals to go underneath to safety.

I emailed the local council but aren't sure who is responsible.

I wondered if a little publicity may help. Here's a photo of the animal trapped before we moved him off the road.

Leanne Lance



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.



The Law Reform Commission of Western Australia

Call for submissions – review of Western Australia's sexual offence laws

The Attorney General, the Hon. John Quigley MLA, asked the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia (LRC) to review WA's sexual offence laws.

The LRC is examining issues including the definition of consent, the defence of mistaken belief in consent, the directions given to juries in sexual offence trials, our substantive sexual offences and their maximum penalties.

The LRC is to provide advice and recommend any necessary reforms to the Attorney General.

The LRC has published Volume 1 of a Discussion Paper and a Background Paper. The Discussion Paper outlines options and poses questions about changing our sexual offence laws. The LRC commissioned the Background Paper from experts to help the LRC and the public understand the issues in this area of law.

Volume 1 of the Discussion Paper and the Background Paper are both available on the LRC's website: www.lrc.justice.wa.gov.au

Individuals and organisations can provide a submission on one or more of the options and questions in Volume 1 of the Discussion Paper and Background Paper. Submissions on Volume 1 close on 17 March 2023. For information about the various ways to make a submission please visit www.lrc.justice.wa.gov.au

From February 2023 the Commission will hold consultations with reference groups and any organisation or person who wishes to contribute to law reform in this area. To register your interest in attending a consultation please email lrcwa@justice.wa.gov.au

For more information visit www.lrc.justice.wa.gov.au

DOI: 12540



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Driver fatigue suspected in two Bejoording crashes

Police Beat

With Acting Sgt Kevan French
Toodyay Police Station



DRIVER fatigue appears to have contributed to two crashes in Bejoording last month when unaccompanied drivers involved in single-vehicle accidents ended up smashing their cars on the Toodyay-Bindi-Bindi Road.

In the first incident, a 4WD vehicle veered off the road and hit a tree at about 6am on January 2 in a 90km/h zone while the driver was returning from dropping off a passenger at Perth Airport.

The front of the vehicle was extensively damaged but there was no sign of the driver when Northam police were called to the scene.

The registered owner was traced to a Bejoording address where he was visited by police less than an hour after the crash.

He was found to be uninjured and breath tested for alcohol with a negative result.

In the second Bejoording crash, a 21-year-old Northam woman rolled her vehicle at about 2.15pm on January 14 in a 110km/h zone while heading east on the same road.

Her vehicle drifted to the side of the road, she over-corrected and the vehicle ended up on its roof.

The woman suffered minor cuts and scratches and was taken by St John Ambulance volunteers as a precaution to Northam Hospital, where a police breath test for alcohol produced a negative result.

Teenage driver charged

DASH cam footage of a teenage P plate driver approaching another vehicle on the wrong side of Coondle West Road has



The teenage P plate driver of this vehicle was charged with driving on the wrong side of the road.

resulted in a charge of careless driving.

The teenager was driving with green P plates issued to new drivers six months after they pass their driving test.

An oncoming driver captured video footage of the teenager's vehicle being driven towards him in the same lane after rounding a bend on the wrong side of the road.

The teenager then swerved his vehicle back into the correct lane to avoid a head-on collision.

The oncoming motorist uploaded video footage of the incident to a police website which resulted in an investigation and the teenager being charged with careless driving.

Provisional drivers charged with careless driving (driving with undue care) risk a fine and having their licence cancelled for three months.

Local residents concerned about traffic safety are understood to have been lobbying for the unmarked road to be painted with a centre line.

Bulk diesel thefts

TWO thefts of bulk quantities of diesel fuel are being investigated by local police.

In the first incident, 500 litres of diesel fuel were stolen from a Hoddys Well quarry on the Clackline Toodyay Road.

The fuel was drained from loaders and

water trucks overnight between January 8-9.

A gate was cut to gain entry and locks were cut on a sea container to siphon fuel from machinery.

The stolen fuel was worth \$1250.

The second theft occurred at the Midland Brick quarry in Morangup Road over a weekend between January 6-9.

About 600 litres of fuel worth \$1300 was stolen from trucks and machinery.

Police believe the two thefts may be related.

We are also urging local farmers not to leave their vehicles unattended in paddocks as the summer harvest draws to a close.

It is an invitation to theft and it is recommended that CCTV video security cameras be installed if possible.

Summer campfire reported

A DELIBERATELY lit summer campfire at a Coondle property last month attracted police attention after smoke was reported to the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

All outdoor fires in the Shire of Toodyay are banned between November 1 and March 8.

The fire had been lit in a fire pit by a man aged in his late 50s who was reported to shire rangers for a follow-up investigation.

Don't be surprised if there is a fire and police turn up if you lit it yourself.

There are also big penalties for arson and for not being in control of a fire.

In another incident, police attended a house where a scrub fire appeared to have been smouldering for a few hours before flaring up and attracting attention.

There were no suspicious circumstances but an investigation was conducted anyway.

Local police now regularly attend fires to rule out any criminality.

Arson is regarded as a serious crime that can result in a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

A reward of up to \$25,000 is payable for information supplied to police that leads to a conviction for an arson-related crime.

If patch of ground looks as if a fire may have been lit deliberately, samples are collected and sent to a Perth laboratory to find out if an accelerant such as petrol started the fire.

Forensic investigation can also determine if a fire was started by a carelessly discarded cigarette butt.

Suspected arson or any other suspicious behaviour should be reported to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.



Morangup fuel stealing, padlock cut from fuel cap.



Morangup fuel theft site



Hoddys Well fuel theft site.



Illegal Coondle summer campfire.

T O O D Y A Y

MRB 2339

Tyre Service

New 4X4, Truck,
Motorbikes &
Tractor

Repairs
Exhausts
Balancing
Suspensions
Wheel Alignment

Lot 20
Stirling Tce

9574 4499

tyres1@iinet.net.au

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Evacuation centre opened in big bushfire alert*Continued from Page 1.*

THE BUSHFIRE burnt out of control for two days but light winds enabled it to be contained without damage to homes, crops or livestock.

A small amount of grazing land was reportedly burnt out.

The fire was contained by Tuesday night and mopping up and further containment is due to continue well into this month.

Volunteer firefighters remained wary that fresh winds may cause it to flare up again.

No forced evacuations were required but the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services warned residents in the Cobbler Pool area and parts of

Julimar, West Toodyay and Coondle to be prepared to leave their homes or defend their properties.

An evacuation centre was set up at Toodyay's Memorial Hall on the first night of the fire.

About 15 people attended in the early evening but left for dinner and did not return.

The evacuation centre was closed at about 2am after most residents returned to their homes or spent the night elsewhere.

WA's Strike Force Vulcan police arson squad is investigating the cause of the fire and urges anyone with information to call Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

Terrific team spirit at fire shed**Bejoording Volunteer Bushfire Brigade**

From the desk of The Badger

IT'S BEEN a good start to the year with Brian Rigby returning from injury, our most recent member Dave Cowell settling in and getting real-world experience, Pete Christianson and Lawrence Hayward proving you can't keep the older generation down and Doug Colfer and Col Hoffman dependable as ever.

We also welcome Richard Marshall, new to our community, enthusiastic, and in the process of induction and training.

Considering the heat and regular strong winds, brigade activity has been quieter than expected.

Let's hope the season stays this way.

This time last year, having lost members due to Covid restrictions and injuries, we were feeling a bit diminished, but we never let the needs of the Shire down.

Now we are energised and there's a terrific team spirit.

A recruitment banner will soon be erected on Bindi-Bindi Road at Bejoording, so maybe we'll have more to celebrate as the year continues.

Throughout January we have kept a steady routine of meetings, training and housekeeping which kept members engaged.

Our next regular meeting and training session will be at the Shed on Sunday February 5 at 2pm.

Finally, a big thanks to Lawrence Hayward, one of the most experienced fire fighters, trainers and captains in the region, for continuing as acting captain.

The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to be vigilant and careful when using any tools or vehicles that have the potential to cause a fire.

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

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

Advice is free but getting it wrong can be expensive.

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

Leave a message if we're not there.

**Toodyay Citizen of the Year
Sandra does an amazing job**

Toodyay Community Citizen of the Year Sandra Cousins (left) with Sandra Carr, MLC

St John Toodyay Sub Centre

Pam Tennant

CONGRATULATIONS to Sandra Cousins, our wonderful Community Transport Service Coordinator, who was the deserving recipient of the Citizen of the Year award at the recent Australia Day celebrations.

Sandra does an amazing job arranging transport to medical appointments for clients.

Her attention to detail ensures all clients get to their appointments without problems.

It sounds easy but having taken on the role on occasions to enable Sandra to have a short break, I can assure you that it isn't.

Congratulations also to our Volunteer Development Officers, Wendy Austin and Michael Morgan on their nominations for Citizen of the Year awards.

Work has progressed on the sub centre buildings, with the old storage shed at the rear

of our office being renovated so we can safely store our records.

The building, which houses our administration office and Toodyay Hair Studio, will soon receive a long overdue exterior repaint.

Many of our volunteers, and those from other sub centres in our region will get together over a weekend in the near future.

These musters are an opportunity for us to get to know other volunteers in a casual atmosphere, where training and other presentations are also arranged.

Our post-Christmas dinner was held in January at the Wendouree Café.

We would like to thank Maria and her team for providing fabulous food.

It was a great evening enjoyed by all who attended. Good to see Abdul back helping out.

'Provide First Aid' courses resume this month – the dates and other details are advertised in *The Herald* each month.



Central Brigade members ready for action..

**You are just two courses away
from being a fully fledged firie****Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**

Peter Brennan, Captain

HAPPY New Year Toodyay, we trust that everyone had a peaceful Christmas and we wish you all a happy, safe and prosperous 2023.

Toodyay Central personnel had a busy Christmas period with 15 callouts between December 10 and January 10 compared with only six during the same period last year.

So far, callouts for the season number 44 compared with 28 to the same point last year.

Eight could be classed as major, 15 have resulted in stand downs, with 21 minor.

Three were vehicle fires, five rubbish fires, three reports of smoke, one aircraft incident and the remainder bush fires.

Furthermore, 15 of the callouts this season were out of Toodyay Shire to assist other brigades.

The frequency of callouts continues to put a strain on our volunteers with most doing multiple shifts on the fire grounds.

We are a small but dedicated group of

individuals – however, we do need more new members to bolster our ranks.

Being a brigade member has many benefits including mateship, new skills and knowledge, and contributing to the safety and protection of the whole community.

You never know, one day those skills and knowledge may save your own property.

Without new members a time may come when we have no-one to answer the call, and that would be a sad day indeed.

This is the time of the year to consider membership as training courses start soon.

You only need to complete two main courses to be qualified to come on the fire ground.

Subsequent courses can then be undertaken to improve your knowledge.

So please give serious consideration to joining.

We will be at the Toodyay Farmers Market in March so take the time to come and speak with us or alternatively you could drop into the Toodyay Co-located Emergency Facility at 67 Stirling Terrace on a Friday evening between 5.30–6.30 pm.

We look forward to meeting you for a chat.



St John

HLTAID003

“Provide First Aid”

**Next one day course
To be held on
Saturday 18th February 2023**

St John, Stirling Terrace Toodyay

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

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

For further details phone:

9621 1633

Email: firstaidwheatbelt@stjohnwa.com.au





Toodyay Club Manager and Treasurer Tad Ochman pours a cold beer at the club bar.

Volunteers bring local club back from the brink

Toodyay Club
Steve Andrijich, President

FEBRUARY marks four months since the Toodyay Club reopened after last year's sudden closure without notice.

I am pleased to say that after four months,

of hard work, the \$50,000 debt has been paid off.

People aired many rumours about what went wrong and why, about how it reached the point of financial crisis where the staff and committee walked away, with nothing done to resolve the issue.

We called a public meeting to gauge member interest in saving the club or losing 120 years of history and service to members.

This showed support to keep the club going, but the only way forward was for it to be run by volunteers.

At a second public meeting members unanimously voted in nominees for the committee.

We needed to start work and sell stock to keep the power and water on, but we had no money in our account.

As none of us had ever worked at the club a Friday 'soft' opening helped us gauge what to do and how to do it.

Roz Davidson and her team committed to doing the opening night dinner.

I don't think any of us thought it was going to be as big as it was, with the bar flat out, kitchenhands run off their feet and members signing up on the night.

Everyone was exhausted afterward but there was excitement and hope.

We hit the ground running with regular Friday night dinners.

After some time the \$8500 debt to The Vic bottle shop was paid off.

This was thanks to the success of an Italian night with guitarist Nathan Cole, a Saturday Grand Final on the big, new TV, karaoke, live music including Eurokats and Paul Davies, a

sheep on the spit, a pool competition, and the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank function.

November's sold-out Melbourne Cup Lunch, dinner and auction night was an overwhelming success, raising more than \$10,000. A huge thank you for all the donations and all the purchases.

In December, the club hosted the RSL Christmas lunch, Toodyay District High School Year 10 graduation and dinner, the Shire of Toodyay staff Christmas dinner, and the Toodyay Fire and Rescue Christmas dinner.

Thank you to Roz and her team for providing all meals at the events and sincere thanks to our bar staff for their time every weekend since our opening.

Thank you to the committee and to all who volunteered or donated.

This huge achievement would not have been possible without you.

Works on all four lights over bowling greens are complete, so Bare Foot Bowls will begin next month with the assistance from The Toodyay Bowling Club.

Register your interest in person at the club or email: toodyayclub@bigpond.com.

Thanks to local sponsors more than \$1500 prize money is up for grabs over this six-week event.



WHAT IS A FIREBREAK?

A fire-break is a strip of land that has been cleared of all grass, shrubs, trees and other combustible material to provide a (3) metre wide by four (4) metre high 'fuel free' area

Fire-breaks are intended to allow safe access for property occupiers and emergency/ firefighting vehicles, and may also help to stop or slow the spread of a low intensity fire.



Do your house and shed/s have fire-breaks?

If your property is over 1 hectare, your house and shed/s require a fire break to be run around them within 15 metres from the external walls.

A number of fires that have escaped from sheds this year (2023) would have likely been stopped if a fire-break had been installed and maintained around the building.

Are your fire-breaks maintained?

If you have any questions about installing or maintaining fire breaks on your property, please contact The Shire on 8574 82111 or visit <https://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/resident-services/fire-information>.

Warming up for the year to come

Bejoording Community Group News
From the desk of The Badger

IT's been a relatively quiet period since our Christmas party with the shed closed for most of January and many members on holiday or otherwise pre-occupied with visitors and family.

Some of us missed Wednesdays at the shed so much that we opened informally in mid-January for our collective sanity.

The Shed continues to be the focal point for meeting, greeting, spreading news, celebrating key moments and happenings, and planning events.

With such a small, spread-out community we are lucky to have this facility.

A few good, fun social events have taken place with gatherings at people's homes, no names needed, but thanks to those who threw on a social turn.

Due to a lack of children in our community right now we cancelled the annual Christmas Party with Santa, but there was an excellent turnout for the grown-ups at the Freemasons for a Christmas dinner.

I am writing this before we meet for the first time on Wednesday February 1 but we will have our usual robust planning discussion

for the events to come in the year.

Some past events that have been held regularly are likely to fade away as our demographic changes.

As mentioned, there are currently few children around, they've all grown up, some of us are ageing, a few members have moved away and some new ones arrived.

It makes for a healthy community when some program changes are made.

Watch this space.

It was a good end to the year, so here's looking forward to an equally successful 2023.

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

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

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

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

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

Everyone working hard to achieve desired results

President's Pen

Rosemary Madácsi



LAST month's Australia Day celebrations under a big marquee at the Toodyay Recreation Centre was well attended.

Staff changes to the layout enhanced the atmosphere, and local residents, visitors and guests enjoyed improved breakfast choices, including espresso coffee.

It was a pleasure to welcome new citizens Chandre Stewart and Edith Botica to Toodyay and to acknowledge this year's Community Citizenship Award nominees and winners who have all contributed so much to our community.

The level of personal contribution was highlighted by the address of Australia Day Ambassador Jan Standen on grandparents raising grandchildren, an often unrecognised contribution.

My thanks go to Shire staff, councillors and volunteers for making it all possible.

My appreciation also goes to this year's special guest, The Hon. Sandra Carr MLC (Agricultural Region), whose tribute to Toodyay's leadership in reconciliation with local Ballardong, Yued and Whadjuk communities has been recognised in local government as a very successful model.

That is who we are – a community with a strong identity that gets on with the job to solve our problems and assist where we can.

We as a local government aim to embody that approach as councillors and staff work to provide the best outcomes for our community.

Give us a problem and we will look to find a solution.

The result is balanced budgets, a new home for the Toodyay RSL, retained Toodyay Community Resource Centre services and concerted action to restore local medical services.

Despite previous staff changes and an enormous amount of work arising from a State Inquiry and Datascape installation, we are now achieving desired results.

The measures taken to improve finances,

governance, compliance and assets are now achieving the desired results.

The same desire for fair, community focused outcomes is being concentrated this year on producing solutions for the Shire's currently under-used new recreation centre and the rundown buildings at the Toodyay Racecourse.

Recent sales of unused Shire-owned properties have provided the means to consider upgrading Shire accommodation because revenue from asset sales can only be used for assets.

Since the advent of COVID-19 and the stimulus incentives, Toodyay has had very little rental accommodation available.

The question is, should the Shire replace high maintenance older buildings and with newer options?

Recent sales of unused Shire-owned properties have provided the means to consider upgrading Shire accommodation because revenue from asset sales can be used only for other Shire assets.

Toodyay has seen an extreme shortage of rental accommodation in the past two years.

The question is should the Shire replace its high-maintenance older accommodation with newer options?

Meanwhile, it has been a pleasure to see the community settle and a reduction in the level of angst expressed on Facebook and the nastiness that gripped the community for several years.

While we accept that genuine frustration will always exist in any local community, it is refreshing to see a new maturity in public debate and in how issues are discussed.

This marks a welcome change from belligerence and misinformation which tarnished reputations, stifled progress and inflicted unnecessary suffering.

For a great little community in a beautiful place, it was sad to see the self-interest that drove this behaviour and the damage it caused.

To rebuild we need to continue to make a conscious effort to change.

We as a local government won't always get everything right.

Mistakes can be made, people get tired and forecasting outcomes can be perilous.

But we as a Shire are committed to being truthful, as transparent as possible, admit to shortcomings and get the best outcomes we can.

Change is possible and it is happening.

Chalice to pay as new mining rate quashed

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY councillors have adopted a revised 2022-23 shire budget after the State Government rejected a new mining rate to pay for increased damage to local shire roads.

A new shire agreement with Chalice Mining is expected to pay for the shortfall.

Ministerial rejection required the State Administrative Tribunal to quash the shire's new mining rate adopted last August and for the council to revise its 2022-23 budget.

The State Government said re-advertising the revised budget for public comment was "not considered necessary" if the "reasons and objects for proposing differential rates" were consistent with those previously advertised last year.

The overall outcome remains the same, and Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said Chalice – which is developing what it calls a "world-class" mineral deposit in Julimar – had agreed to pay the increased cost of local road repairs.

Roads used by local farmers to transport crops, livestock and other bulk materials were being damaged by heavy mining traffic, with ratepayers having to foot the bill.

All other 2022-23 rates adopted last year remain the same, and most ratepayers will not see any difference in their payments.

Chalice will now pay the same 'UV (Unimproved Value) General' rate of 0.014170c in the dollar as properties used for "residential and/or minor rural pursuits".

Councillors voted on August 10 last year – 21 days before an August 31 budget deadline imposed by the State – to adopt a new mining rate to pay for road repairs.

Ministerial approval had been sought on July 15.

Councillors agreed at the time to amend the budget if the new rate was rejected.

The Minister's office did not respond until September 5, when the new rate was rejected for being more than twice the next highest rate in the council's 2022-23 budget.

Councillors agreed this month to adopt a revised budget and send new rates notices to the owners of 35 local properties covered by mining and mineral exploration leases.

They also agreed to forward their revised 2022-23 budget to the Minister's office by the end of this month.

The \$152,715 drop in shire revenue for road repairs is expected to be covered by a new "road maintenance agreement" with Chalice.

"All conditions have been discussed and generally agreed with Chalice personnel," Shire Corporate and Community Services Manager Tabitha Bateman reported to this month's special council meeting.

"The first Chalice-initiated maintenance grade was completed in December."

'I am, you are, we are Australian'

Australia Day address
Shire President Rosemary Madacsi

ON AUSTRALIA Day we pause to reflect, to respect and to celebrate this nation.

To reflect upon the Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples, the world's oldest living culture.

To acknowledge the irrevocable disruption the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove in 1788 brought with the settlement of unceded lands 235 years ago.

To reflect on the hardships endured in this unfamiliar and unforgiving land by those early colonisers – many transported under harsh colonial rule to a land far away from all they loved and knew, never to return.

To reflect upon the subsequent waves of immigration, of adventurers and refugees alike, seeking safety, better lives or fortunes.

Yet, whatever the reason, each person was



Toodyay Shire President Rosemary Madacsi delivers last month's Australia Day address. a story of struggle and triumph, and each contributed to shaping Australia into one of the world's great multicultural nations.

Today, regardless of where we come from, the faith we follow, or the language we grew up speaking, it is kindness and tolerance that is the common language and the basis of resilient communities.

It is mateship that embodies the Australian spirit.

So, I ask all who can readily do so, to take off your shoes and feel the earth, in a simple act of respect for Country and the Cultures here, that through their custodianship have held this land in high regard throughout the millennia.

Today we celebrate our nation's place in the world – a proud, ancient, multicultural nation built on shared values that allow us to enjoy the freedom and opportunities that other nations aspire to.

We are one but we are many, and from all the lands on earth we come.

We share a dream and sing with one voice – "I am, you are, we are Australian".

We're all part of this story.

New owners plan big changes at IGA supermarket, Victoria Hotel

Continued from Page 1.

"IT WAS a big decision but money isn't everything," Mr Carter said.

"We wanted something that was different and less busy."

The new IGA store operator and Victoria Hotel owner is WA private company Guru Brothers Food and Liquor Merchant Pty Ltd.

The company secretary was overseas last month and unable to be contacted by *The Herald* for comment.

New IGA store and Victoria Hotel General Manager Peter Douglas, said the new owners were Australians who lived in Perth.

Mr Douglas said the new IGA store owners planned to modernise the supermarket and offer a bigger range of fresh products, similar to those at their "flagship" store in Darch.

Toodyay shoppers would be offered "a lot more fresh meat with more specials advertised locally on Facebook", Mr Douglas said.

There will be more products on the shelves and a lot more WA fresh fruit and vegetables.

More gluten-free and vegetarian food would also be available.

However, there had been a delay in obtaining a Lotto licence to continue selling tickets from the store because the sale had gone through faster than expected.

The company had applied to Lotterywest in Perth but Mr Douglas said he did not know how long this would take to process.

The next nearest Lotto outlet is in Northam.

All IGA store staff had been retained under a company policy of continuing to employ local people.

The same applied at the Victoria Hotel, where Mr Douglas said all existing staff had been retained.

He said the new owners planned to develop the Victoria Hotel to "make it more of a local destination and central hub for the town".

"We like Toodyay and think it has a great future," he said.

"We want the town to grow."

Toodyay Locals Care founder Roz

Davidson said the IGA store's new owners were continuing to donate food for local homeless people, without which the charity service could not survive.

The Herald was unable to contact potential buyers about the Freemasons Hotel sale.

One of the two hardware stores also changed hands last year, as did Wendouree Café which reverted to its original name after it was renovated and re-opened as Amy's Café a few years earlier.

BONUS SQUEALING PIG TOTE BAG

BONUS ANY 2 FOR \$30

WHEN YOU PURCHASE ANY 2 BOTTLES OF 750ML SQUEALING PIG WINE. (EXCL. PINOT NOIR) 750ML

\$14.99 EACH

VASSE FELIX CLASSIC DRY WHITE & BROWN BROTHERS PROSECCO 750ML

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CODRUM BUNNABERG 100% GORDON'S GIN 700ML

\$34.99 EACH

TAILS COCKTAIL PASSIONFRUIT MARTINI 500ML

INSTORE TASTING AVAILABLE

DELIVERY OR PICK UP AVAILABLE

DOWNLOAD THE APP OR GO TO SHOP.BOTTLEMART.COM.AU

\$51.99 EACH

MILLER GENUINE DRAFT OR MILLER CHILL 24 X 330ML BOTTLES

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SUNTORY -196 VARIETIES 6% 10 X 330ML CANS

START AT Bottlemart

TOODYAY LIQUOR STORE

SHOP 1, 105 STIRLING TERRACE TOODYAY PH: 9574 2653

Bottlemart supports the responsible service of alcohol. Specials available from Wednesday 1st February until Tuesday 7th February 2023 or while stocks last. Price includes GST. Images are for illustrative purposes only.

Can artificial intelligence reveal historical truths?

Toodyay Historical Society Inc
Robyn Taylor, Vice President

AT A RECENT meeting we briefly discussed how technology is advancing so fast that familiar ways of researching history on the web may be replaced by new more sophisticated search engines.

A recent example, known as OpenAI (artificial intelligence), was presented as a new option for data access by our President Linda Rooney who has become familiar with AI in her quest for personal and work-related knowledge.

Apparently by keying in a question, as we do with Google, the results are fast and more expansive in AI's coverage of existing bodies of knowledge.

The response is given in friendly non-technical language with the aim, or "mission", according to OpenAI research and deployment company, "to ensure that artificial general intelligence benefits all of humanity".

The topic was raised in light of the imminent threat of heavily reduced funding to the National Library of Australia.

The \$13 million cuts herald the end of funding for Trove after June this year.

Trove is a hugely popular, free online portal that provides access to more than six billion records.

Its digitised Australian newspapers date back to 1803. Most go up to 1954, with some covering more recent times.

Trove has an estimated 22 million visits a year, with many using it for family-related research.

It has been created through the efforts of many institutions and community



A photo of the Newcastle Herald Printing Office (now an art therapy studio) in Stirling Terrace found on Trove that was published in the newspaper on 23 December 1905.

organisations across the country and is free, so it's not surprising there is an uproar from these groups and anyone who benefits from using Trove.

For specific information about Trove

go to <https://trove.nla.gov.au/about/what-trove/trove-content>.

A brief discussion followed at our meeting about the need for historical researchers having access to copies of

original documents, and not simply relying on potted summaries, often the choice of lazy students who leave assignments to the last minute.

Fortunately, Wikipedia has improved immensely over the years and its articles are generally fully referenced, which is very useful for those needing to locate other sources.

Much of this discussion boils down to the importance of searching for and finding the truth, what actually happened, why, what gets left out, and who benefits from the telling.

E. H. Carr's 'What is History' has been a basic text for beginners since time began – 1961 to be more precise – and much of what he wrote then is pertinent today.

'Truth Telling'? It's taken a long time for Australia to accept the fact there is much more to our story.

Being familiar with OpenAI, Linda asked the question: 'Trove is an Australian history research tool, do you have all the data that Trove has?'

The friendly answer:

"I am a large language model trained by OpenAI, and while I have access to a wide range of information, I may not have all the data that is available on Trove."

"Trove is a digital library and archive that is operated by the National Library of Australia, and it contains a vast collection of historical documents, photographs, and other materials that pertain to Australian history."

"If you are looking for information that is available on Trove, I would recommend visiting the website directly."

Coming up: THS members may be assisting a 10th Light Horse training event in Toodyay on Saturday morning, February 26. Watch out for notices.

Monthly meetings are held on the third Wed at 7pm in St Stephen's Church Hall.

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

Website: toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au. Membership is \$15 per annum.

Facebook 'admins' accountable for damaging claims

Phil Hart

ADMINISTERING a Facebook group may sound glamorous but it can be hard work.

It helps to have at least two 'admins' in case one is suspended for any reason.

Different sites have different rules for managing groups.

Some groups don't seem to care what gets published, while others take truth and common sense more seriously.

All reputable sites publish guidelines for moderators.

Facebook's guidelines can be found at bit.ly/2Cg2cur.

They usually contain common elements, including that moderators (or 'admins') are accountable to group members for their actions and decisions.

This means responding openly and respectfully to legitimate concerns raised by aggrieved group members.

Explaining why posts have been deleted or members penalised will help a group to function more effectively.

Transparency also provides an opportunity for further discussion if group

members disagree with a decision.

Administering a group with fairness and equity reduces the chance of members feeling victimised or voiceless.

It also reduces the 'echo chamber' effect that serves to perpetuate myths and further spread damaging misinformation.

Consistent decision-making and correct application of group rules will increase confidence and trust within the group.

Recognition and respect for members' different values, knowledge and skills can create a constructive group dynamic that benefits all members.

On the other hand, allowing a Facebook group to spread unchecked misinformation can be socially destructive.

Pharmaceutical treatments not backed by randomised double-blind trials or lacking sufficiently large epidemiological studies should be regarded as misinformation.

False claims that hydroxychloroquine can prevent COVID-19 is an example of potentially lethal misinformation.

All moderators have a responsibility to check if false claims are being used to hijack group discussions and disrupt

community cohesion.

Physically impossible claims such as 5G mobile phone networks causing cancer and microchips being concealed in vaccines should be blocked as misleading nonsense.

False claims by opportunists such as deregistered UK physician Andrew Wakefield that mumps, measles and rubella vaccines cause autism should also be blocked.

These are often accompanied by demands to "do your own research" and a rejection of scientific evidence that often ends in abusive slanging matches.

Failure to discourage misinformation suggests a hidden agenda.

A study reported by the American Society for Microbiology found that nearly eight in 10 adults believe in at least one false statement about COVID-19 or are unsure about it.

The damage this causes within communities can be found at bit.ly/3Qmd6qe.



APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Retrospective Culvert Crossing (Dam) Lot 403 Goomalling-Toodyay Road, Nunile

The Shire of Toodyay has received an application for an existing culvert crossing (dam) constructed without approval at Lot 403 Goomalling-Toodyay Road, Nunile.

Your views on this culvert crossing are encouraged and welcomed. The proposal is available for inspection at the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre, Old Court House, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay, during office hours.

The proposal is also available to view on the Shire website: www.toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Submissions may be addressed in writing and lodged with the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay 6566, by **4:00pm on Thursday 2 March 2023**.

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

Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Proposed Dam Relocation Lot 3506 Harvester Drive, Toodyay

The Shire of Toodyay has received an application from Main Roads WA (MRWA) for a dam relocation at Lot 3506 Harvester Drive, Toodyay.

Approval is being sought to relocate an existing dam at the above address due to Main Roads requiring land from the property for the purposes of the Toodyay Road Upgrade Project.

The new dam is proposed to be approximately 833m² in surface area (31m x 27m) as a gully catchment design. This will replace the existing dam of approximately 1700m² in surface area (52m x 33m).

Your views on this proposed dam relocation are encouraged and welcomed. The proposal is available for inspection at the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre, Old Court House, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay, during office hours. The proposal is also available to view on the Shire website: www.toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Submissions may be addressed in writing and lodged with the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay 6566, by **4:00pm on Thursday 2 March 2023**.

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

Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



High tea, champers and Gala Day bowls

Bolgart News
Pam McGill

Tina Meston's 50th

TINA Meston celebrated her 50th birthday in the Bolgart Hall in December with a beautiful afternoon high tea with plenty of champagne to enjoy.

Relatives and friends appreciated the cakes and savouries presented on serving plates and everyone had a great time.

School News

BOLGART Primary had their end of year concert with awards presented to students.

This was a great night for the parents, grandparents, relatives and friends who attended.

Awards presented:

Senior Room: Bolgart P&C Consistent Effort Award: Isola Croeser.

Senior Room: Steven Martin MLC Endeavour Award: Rocket O'Sullivan.

Senior Room: Sandra Carr MLC Academic Excellence Award: Harrison Wallis.

Junior Room: Bolgart P&C Most Consistent Effort Award: Harley Judson.

Junior Room: Steven Martin MLC Endeavour Award: Tyler Page.

Junior Room: Sandra Carr MLC Academic Excellence Award: Nicholas French.

Senior Room: Mooditj Award: Harrison Wallis.

Junior Room: Darren West MLC Citizenship Award: Annabelle Clarke.

Senior Room: Darren West MLC Citizenship Award: Ethan Uriarau.

Junior Room: CWA Arts Award: Dakota Tregenza.

Senior Room: CWA Arts Award: Brodey Whiteaker.

Senior Room: Science Award: Harrison Wallis.

Senior Room: Albert Clarke Memorial Award: Tyler Page.

Congratulations to all students who received an award, and best of luck to those who will be leaving to continue their next level of education at their chosen schools.

CWA News

Bolgart CWA ladies held their Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Bolgart Hotel in December.

The beautiful smorgasbord of cold meats, salads and prawns and a dessert was prepared and served by Craig, Wendy and staff. Thank you all.

Bowls News

LADIES held their Gala Day on December 8 with 14 teams from Goomalling, Northam, Bindoon, York, Muckinbudin, Toodyay, Moora, Beverley, Cunderdin and Mundaring.

The weather was kind to us and the food delicious. Thanks to our caterer Jenni Knowles and all the girls who supplied food and helped on the day and most importantly thanks to all our generous sponsors for this day.

Winners: Chris Vanderende, Karen Bryan, Ali McPherson, Cheryl Dickerson from Moora.

Second place: Heather Boyanich, Robyn Higgins, V McLean and R Gibson.

Third place: Carol Ashworth, Sian Smith, Janine Robinson and Lepi Tadman from York.

Our Christmas wind-up was held on Thursday December 15 and was a fun day to finish 2022. Everyone enjoyed lots of laughs and good fun.

Winners: Waveney Jones, Pam Meston, Deb Campbell and Nolene Kazanski.



From left: Sisters Melissa Collicott, Brenda Clarke, Tina Meston and mum Veya Due (seated).



From left: Sue Ludemann, Lyn Somers and Bernice Clarke at December CWA luncheon.

Sigh of relief as holidays end

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

I HOPE students, families and staff are refreshed from the holidays and excited to begin a fabulous new school year at Toodyay District High School.

As students and staff settle into new classes, welcome new classmates and meet new staff, parents are collectively taking a sigh of relief that the school holidays are over.

Meanwhile, the P&C committee and its members are already making plans for activities, events and projects that will improve access to resources and enhance facilities for students and staff.

Did you know the Toodyay DHS P&C and our supporters invested \$80,175 into the school last year?

Such a substantial contribution will make a difference for students for years to come.

To keep serving our school community as well as we do, every year we need parents and residents to become P&C members for the school year.

Being a member is easy - return a membership form and pay \$1. That's it.

You don't have to come to meetings, join the committee or even volunteer - although students will benefit if you do.

If you would like to be involved and can spare an hour or two now and then, there are plenty of ways you can support the P&C.

The canteen, which operates Mondays and Fridays, relies on volunteers - especially on Fridays - to help with recess and lunch orders.

We also host a calendar of fundraising events such as cake stalls, sausage sizzles, gift stalls, and raffles, support the school garden club, and hold a Halloween disco.

You can help in any way you choose.

Our variety of contributors strengthen the positive impact we have.

We're pleased to announce we are starting the year off strongly with sufficient funds to support an improvement project and donations to school activities and resources.

To have your say in what the P&C supports please join us at the term 1 meeting on Tuesday February 28 at 5.30 pm.

P&C meetings are open to everyone - school families, staff and community members - even the kids can come along.

For more information contact Kelly-Anne Murray on 0406 585 716 or email pandtoodyaydhs@gmail.com.

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

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Hottest *Bunuru* is the season of adolescence



Noongar Kartijin Aboriginal Corporation

DID YOU know Noongar people traditionally hunted and gathered food according to six *bonar* (seasons)?

Seasons are determined by the weather patterns and nature around us.

Seasons, whether long or short, tell us which animal and plant resources are plentiful at those times.

Noongar people always had a deep understanding and appreciation of the local environment, from where fresh water could be found to the methods of catching and preparing bush foods.

The men would hunt large game for meat and skins while the women and children would gather plants and eggs or hunt smaller reptiles.

For Noongar people, the bush was a gourmet delicatessen where we harvested many types of *Yurenburt* (berries), *Kaarda* (goanna), *Bardi* (witchetty grubs), *Yongka* (kangaroo), turtles, and birds' eggs.

It is an important part of Noongar custom and lore to take only what you need from nature in order to maintain biodiversity.

By eating foods when they are abundant and in season, natural resources are not depleted and will still be available for the next year.

There are two 'summers' in the Noongar seasons.

The first summer is *Birak* (around December and January).

It is the season of the young, and early in *Birak* is the mosaic burning time.

Birak season sees the rains ease up and the warm weather really start to take hold.

We have now entered the second 'summer' of *Bunuru* (around February and March).

Bunuru is the season of adolescence.

It's the hottest time of year with little or no rain and continual hot easterly winds.

Some parts of *boodja* (country) are abandoned for lack of water.

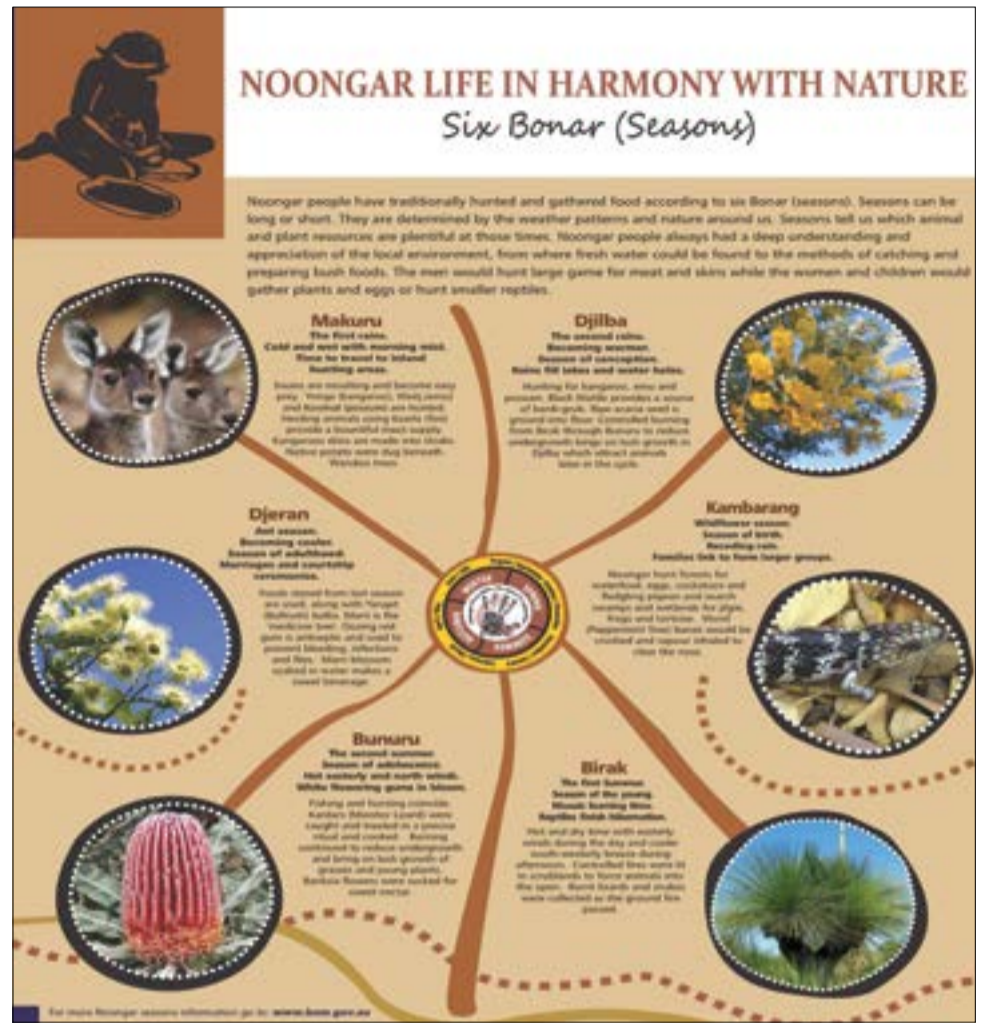
Traditionally *moort* (families) would get together in large numbers around permanent water sources to hold annual gatherings.

The Corporation is currently drafting the wording to create a large 'Six Seasons' information board to be placed in the central business area of town.

This will form part of the developing Noongar Trail, with 11 locations, to be launched by May 2023.

We look forward to sharing this with locals and visitors to our town.

For more local information you can check out the NKAC Facebook page or our website at www.noongarkaartdijin.com.au.



Display board depicting the six Bonar (Seasons).

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Service: Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm, Weekends Closed



A harvested canola paddock lays idle in a January evening. Photo: Frank Panizza

Record harvest eclipses last year's bonanza

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza

TOODYAY farmers have again helped break WA records with grain receivals eclipsing the 2021 total.

Most local growers are returning from a break away from their farms after a long but good harvest.

The latest Grain Industries of WA estimate puts this year's tally at just over 24 million tonnes.

While the harvest is still ongoing in some southern areas of the state, recent dry weather will see it completed shortly.

The record-breaking effort came with its own challenges.

Farmers usually like to finish harvesting by Christmas, however this year many were still harvesting into January.

The state's primary grain handler Co-operative Bulk Handling (CBH) was under enormous strain during harvest.

Transport logistics, breakdowns, high grain

receivals per day and grain storage shortfalls caused headaches and frustration for growers and CBH staff alike.

Early closure of grain segregations due to lack of storage space forced growers to cart grain to other receival points sometimes more than 100km away.

Full bins and closures pushed the problem south to areas where less of the crop had been harvested.

The cascading effect had to be managed by CBH in difficult circumstances.

In the author's case we delivered grain to seven different receival points.

Grain yields on local farms were good with most farmers enjoying near best-ever yields.

Despite areas of waterlogged crops and some reports of minor areas of frost most were happy with the result, especially following a good year in 2021.

Agriculture has still not escaped the effects of inflation, however.

Fertiliser prices have fallen a little since the large hikes last year.

The price rises were caused by the war in Ukraine disrupting supply from major fertiliser-producing countries Russia and Belarus.

Farm equipment costs have risen sharply over the past 12 months.

The price of new farm machinery has risen alarmingly – by as much as 30 per cent. – since the onset of Covid.

The hefty hike has increased secondhand value with some farm machinery worth as much as the item cost new, even if it is 10 years old.

Grain handling equipment such as field bins and chaser bins are good examples.

Farmers are however looking forward to 2023 with cautious optimism.

School Council looking for new members

Toodyay DHS School Council
Kelly-Anne Murray, Chairperson

DO YOU value the role that Toodyay District High School has in providing a quality education for students in the district?

Can you help to enhance the education provided by the school by being a member of the School Council?

Nominations for a two-year membership term on the School Council, commencing in April 2023, are now open.

As a member of the School Council you can:

- Assist the school to determine and meet its objectives, priorities and general policy directions;

- Assist the planning of financial arrangements required to meet those objectives;

- Evaluate the school's performance; and,

- Promote the school in the community.

Membership of the School Council is composed of parents, members of the community, staff and students working together to further the interests of all students at the school.

Interested community members are welcome to attend the first meeting of the School Council in March 2023 to see what it's all about.

Should you take up this opportunity you will be rewarded with the knowledge that your contribution will directly benefit students, their families and the broader community.

When our school succeeds so does our community.

If this sounds like something you could be a part of, please contact Toodyay District High School Principal Mr David Ball on david.ball@education.wa.edu.au or call 9578 2000.

Best deal for local Tradies

The Toodyay Herald offers the best exposure for tradies to the Avon & hills, circulation of 4250 copies each month and growing

advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Visitor Centre Tourist Information Officer Weekend Hours with Penalty Rates

The Shire of Toodyay is seeking the skills and talents of an enthusiastic, dedicated, and highly motivated professional to join us in the role of Tourist Information Officer.

A key member of the Visitor Centre team, this person will provide quality front-of-house services to enhance the weekend visitor experience and promote the local area and its attractions.

This role is a casual position with a minimum of ten hours per weekend. Applicants must be customer-focused and energetic communicators with excellent time management skills.

To attract the right candidate, the Shire is offering attractive payment rates. Other benefits include professional development opportunities, uniform allowance, additional superannuation contribution policy and income protection.

Application packages are available on our website: www.toodyay.wa.gov.au; by phone: Records Officer 9574 9300; or by email records@toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Applications should be marked "CONFIDENTIAL – VISITOR CENTRE – TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICER" and forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay:

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

Applications close **4.00pm, Friday 10 February 2023.**

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

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

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



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2022 Workshop Attendee

Moondyne Men go Highland route

Moondyne Men
Graham Hill

THE MOONDYNE Men are proud to announce their first International Member.

Bobby Smillie from Stirlingshire in Scotland has been inducted as Moondyne Men Attaché to Scotland, beginning his duties immediately upon return to Stirlingshire.

In true Moondyne Joe tradition, Bobby was caped in a cloak and tomahawk with Secretary Colin and Committee Member Owen performing the ceremony.

The Moondyne Men look forward to following the progress of our Scottish chapter.

On a more serious note, the Moondyne Men enjoyed helping out at the Australia Day Celebrations and on an earlier occasion helped Pam Chapman with a storage move.

Pam rewarded the team with a magnificent cake.

We have a busy few months coming up with projects every month until June 30, at which time our AGM will be scheduled.

The Moondyne Team are looking forward to assisting with car parking at the Boshack Rodeo, Toodyay Fibre Festival and of course our main event for the year, The Moondyne Festival.

As chairman, I am continually amazed by

the goodwill and reputation gained by the Moondyne Men team and the appreciation shown for the various tasks we complete.

But it is not all work and no play. We meet every Monday and Thursday 8.30am to noon and enjoy tea, coffee and cake along with jovial interaction.

We also have a breakfast meeting on the last Saturday of each month, all at the RSL Hall, Clinton Street, Toodyay.

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

For more information ring Colin on 0424 195 003.



From left: Secretary Colin Bird, Moondyne Men Attache to Scotland Bobby Smillie, and committee Member Owen Webb.



'Thank you' cake from Pam Chapman.

Applecross honour for slain Toodyay nurse

RSL Applecross Sub Branch
Helen Pickering

TO HONOUR a group of extraordinary women, the Applecross RSL commemorates an event every year on the second Sunday in February at a memorial at the Point Walter Reserve in Honour Avenue, Bicton.

Perth Sister Vivien Bullwinkel was the sole survivor of a group of Australian World War 2 nurses, including Toodyay Sister Alma Beard, who were massacred by Japanese soldiers at Indonesia's Bangka Island on 12 February 1942.

The army nurses who had earlier refused to leave their patients in Singapore, were threatened with court martial and ordered to be evacuated on the SS Vyner Brooke as Japanese forces advanced on the former British stronghold.

Their ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft two days later, strafed and bombed, and sank off the shore of Bangka Island north of Sumatra.

A number of civilian passengers and children lost their lives in the sinking, along with 12 Australian nurses.

The survivors swam to shore over the following hours and the nurses who arrived first lit a bonfire to act as a beacon to guide others still in the water.

This group was approached by a Japanese patrol and forced to walk into the shallows where they were shot in the back.

Vivian Bullwinkel, standing at the end of the line, was shot through the hip and feigned death among her slain colleagues until Japanese soldiers left the scene.

Without her survival, this story would have been lost to history.

Of the other nurses who made it ashore and were interned for the duration of war, eight lost their lives in captivity and only 24 made it home to Australia.

This year's commemoration starts at 9.45am on Sunday February 12.



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Memorial opened last year at Toodyay's Alma Beard Medical Centre.

Canberra trip on offer for new student scholarship

Toodyay RSL
Bob Wood

A NEW scholarship program is one of several projects and activities underway this month.

One of the many casualties of the COVID-19 pandemic was our Sandakan scholarship, which had previously enabled some 15 local students to visit the infamous death march sites in Borneo.

We have been searching for an alternative scheme to dovetail with the students' educational syllabus – one that offers opportunities not readily available otherwise.

Working in conjunction with the Toodyay District High School and supported by the Toodyay Shire and the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, we are launching a new scholarship this month.

Participants will research life stories of Toodyay residents whose names appear on the town's honour roll.

Call for budding writers to enter story competition

THE WHEATBELT Writers Short Story Competition is calling for entries from previously unpublished budding writers in the Wheatbelt of Western Australia.

The competition is organised by Wheatbelt Arts & Events (WAE) to run in conjunction with The York Writers' Festival on 18-19 March 2023.

Unpublished writers are invited to submit a fictional story on any subject.

The story must be between 1200 and 1500 words. There are two categories: 17 and under and Over 17.

The prize pool is \$1000 consisting of:
Winner 17 and under – \$250
Second place 17 and under – \$50 to spend in Barclays Books, York
Winner Over 17 – \$500
Second place Over 17 – \$200 to spend in Barclays Books, York

WAE is grateful to all sponsors for their support launching this competition: Botanicalia Café + Gallery Shop York, Patechnica Gallery – arts & artifacts York, Barclay Books York, Hope Farm Guesthouse York.

Entries close on Monday February 20. To enter, email competition@yorkfestival.com.au to register your name.

Pay your \$10 entry fee by EFT to Wheatbelt Arts & Events, Inc., BSB: 633 000, Account: 159 838 380.

Use 'Competition' and your surname as the reference.

Please submit your entry by email to competition@york.wa.gov.au before Monday February 20.

After gathering information and fashioning a life story, they will present their research to a selection panel who will select the two best entries.

The winners will then be rewarded with an exciting trip to Canberra to visit the Australian War Memorial and other significant venues.

This access to War Memorial resources will further benefit their research, which is to be published in a volume to be retained by the school with a copy held by the RSL.

We aim to build a comprehensive library of all Toodyay servicepeople who tragically lost their lives during WW1 and WW2.

In other news we are awaiting a land transfer so we can move ahead our premises project. This is well underway but not yet finalised.

Finally, last year we created a memorial to Sister Alma Beard in the grounds of the medical centre building.

Sr Beard of 2/13 Australian General Hospital was born in Toodyay at 'Tellmell', the family farm in 1913.

She was shot as a prisoner of war at Bangka Island in 1942 at the age of 29.

We will hold a brief service at the memorial from 10am Thursday February 16 to commemorate the anniversary of her death.

All those who wish to attend will be most welcome.

The return of the green comet

Astronomy
Kim Angus

WE skipped the asteroid belt last time and I promised you Jupiter's moons this time but coming events mean jumping to our solar system's Oort Cloud.

We are expecting a visitor from there early this month that may be visible to the naked eye.

Comet ZTF (C/2022 E3) is making a pass through the inner solar system, and its nearest approach to Earth at around 68 million kilometres will be on Thursday February 2.

The ZTF designation comes from the Zwicky Transient Facility, the first to spot it.

The 2022 in the more formal name comes from the fact it was first sighted last year.

Astronomers are scrambling to make observations and learn more about this object which hasn't been in our neighbourhood for about 50,000 years.

The Oort Cloud, thought to be its origin, is a bit of a mystery.

Way out at the edge of the Sun's gravitational influence, the Oort Cloud is thought to be a collection of material left over from when our solar system formed.

It isn't a solid object but a collection of

objects up to 20km in diameter whizzing around in interstellar space.

When US spacecraft Voyager 1 reaches the Oort Cloud in another 300 years, its power supply will have passed its use-by date.

Halley's Comet is also thought to have originated in the Oort Cloud but is now a short-period comet, effectively captured by the gravitational forces of the gas giant planets, with an orbit of 75-79 years.

Comet ZTF should be easy to spot with a pair of binoculars or even the naked eye if you are in the right spot.

Unfortunately, we aren't in the right spot to see the greenish aura emitting from the kilometre-wide ball of dust, rock, and ice at its closest approach.

The best chance will be on Saturday February 11 when you should be able with binoculars to see the comet near Mars.

The keen can hop onto a site like theskylive for more information about when it will be visible above the horizon.

Maybe the cosmic visitor will put on a spectacular show, or maybe it will be a fizzer – it's not like we know what it did last time.

Good luck, and maybe next month we'll get back to Jupiter's moon.



Comet ZTF (C/2022 E3) photographed with a greenish aura on December 25 by Dan Bartlett.

Ship ahoy – actors and crew needed

Toodyay Theatre Group
Barry Vause

THE TOODYAY Theatre Group will be launching auditions next month for our new show "Mango Fever".

Anyone interested in being part of the show, either treading the boards or behind the scenes, please come along on Tuesday March 14 from 6pm to 8pm.

"Mango Fever" is a locally produced comedy written and directed by local playwright Tanya Stuart.

The play is set aboard a cruise ship and full of twists and turns.

So, please come aboard and join the fun as we set sail with our new show on June 17, 18 (matinee), 23 and 24.

The Toodyay Theatre Group will kick off 2023 with an AGM at 7pm on Tuesday February 7 at the Toodyay Memorial Hall.

All existing and future members are welcome.

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Noisy session picks up threads

The Crooked Needle
Jean Melhuish-Hill

OUR TEAM has missed seeing each other on a Friday, with the hall undergoing general maintenance.

It was a very noisy session on January 27 as everyone caught up on who had been doing what, both personally and from a craft perspective.

We have had a number of birthdays, many have travelled interstate and overseas, and other ladies have been busy finishing off projects that were started but never finished as well as the new projects.

Over the past couple of years Cindy Harders has been working on a number of quilts, getting them to the point of having them quilted.

She is very pleased with her recent efforts having the quilting completed and the bindings put on and finished.

She has also been busy with a beautiful crochet wrap for her daughter Krasinda who lives in the US.



Crochet wrap modelled by Cindy Harders for her daughter in the US.

It is now winging its way to the States. I am sure Krasinda will love it as much as we did. Lee King had an important birthday for her grandson, a Harry Potter fan who is five.

So, at short notice Lee started crocheting a soft cuddly version of Harry Potter. It looked brilliant and her grandson really loved it.

Carol Barlow has also been in quilting mode with two beauties completed. She used applique and embroidery techniques to create the quilts and also completed a beautiful embroidered bag.

Maxine Walker finished a knee blanket, some face washers and a beret. I would like to try a beret to see if it suits me.

Robyn Warrenner has done a brilliant job painting my herb pot. While I was on holiday Robyn painted some unique designs on my planter and sealed it against the weather. It is now sporting some basil seedlings, thyme and coriander seeds which are yet to raise their heads.

Gail Squires has also been making new dining and kitchen accessories including placemats, coasters, bowl holders, napkins,



Harry Potter crocheted by Lee King for her Grandson's birthday.



Herb planter painted by Robyn Warrenner.

table runners and hand towels. Brenda Smith, who has been on the sick list, has finally completed her 50 Sunbonnet Sue applique squares. All she has to do now is add in the plain panels, wadding, backing, quilting and binding – not a small task.

There are many more projects that have been undertaken for gifts, charity, or entries in our Agricultural Show in October.

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 Jean on 0419 869 927.

Twilight markets back this month

Toodyay Farmers Market
Sue Wakka, Publicity Officer

WE ARE opening this year with a Twilight Market on Saturday February 18 with all your favourite stallholders and a few new ones.

It's going to be a great evening with good food and plenty to see.

Come on down and take a peek at the range of goodies available.

There is always great music and on occasion demonstrations from local clubs.

There is also a book exchange, where you can buy, swap or donate books.

Maybe you would like to become a stallholder or get involved.

If you want to book a stall to get the word out about your community group, get in quick because allocations go fast.

We are looking for stall holders who can sell fruit, vegetables, cheese or bread. If you have excess fruit and vegetables and would like to sell them at the market please contact us.

Markets will be held on the third Sunday of the month from March onwards.

We are fortunate to have the support of the Toodyay Shire.

For further information check out our Facebook page prior to each market or email us at toodyayfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

See you at the market February 18 from 5.30pm to 8.30pm.

A few brain cells left after silly season

Avon Woodturners
Hamish Dobie

THE SILLY season has passed, and despite the loss of some brain cells during the overindulgence of Christmas and New Year, the woodturning crews are back at their lathes, some with new ideas, some finishing what they started last year.

We welcomed two new members recently, Richard and Todd, but still have the odd empty seat around the coffee table so feel free to come along and try your hand at making something useful out of wood that would even impress your mother-in-law.

There are always experienced woodturners on site to help and instruct if you have no previous experience.

Todd is our first junior member and it's refreshing to have a young lad show an eagerness and natural affinity for woodturning.

Thanks to a welcome donation of wood late last year and to the hard work of Barry, who cut and organised shelving for the donation, there are plenty of different woods just waiting to be turned into something useful.

The fun is in the camaraderie and, even though your first attempt at woodturning might produce something only your mother would love, there is no criticism.

You may find yourself to be a natural.

It's 10 months until Christmas, so you have all that time to produce all the presents you need, taking the last-minute pressure away, while having fun doing it.

Barry embarked on some self-help work in November.

He has a dodgy knee, thanks to the occasional mishap on a motorbike, so he turned a walking stick for himself.

He made such a good job of it that he's been getting requests to make more.

As for me, I've made a gavel (a small wooden hammer) and just need to turn the sound block.

Once complete I'll be set up for the committee meetings of my other club.

Avon Woodturners is located at Shed 1, Community Depot, Railway Road, Toodyay.

Just drive along Railway Road to the end, and we're on the left.

The shed operates on Wednesdays and Sundays from 9am until noon.

We welcome anybody who comes along to try their hand at woodturning, male or female, young or old.

Variety is the spice of life and there is certainly variety in the woodturners' members.

You can call Barry on 0401 359 511 if you want to find out more – or to ask him to make you a walking stick.

Oh, and finally, we are always looking for good mature wood, so if you have some you might think suitable, let us know.



Sunbonnet Sue applique panels ready for the next step by Brenda Smith.

AUDITIONS

MANGO FEVER!

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY TANYA STUART
A HILARIOUS COMEDY ON BOARD A
CRUISE SHIP FULL OF TWISTS AND TURNS.



Tuesday 14th of March 2023
6pm to 8pm
Toodyay Memorial Hall
Experienced and new members are welcome

If you can't make this date and still want to join us or would like more information
Please contact: Tanya 0409 181 404

Show dates: 17th, 18th (Matinee), 23rd, 24th June 2023



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Audit and Risk Committee

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 December 2022, Council authorised the CEO to advertise expressions of interest (EOI) for participation in the Audit and Risk Committee.

The Audit and Risk Committee assists Council's fulfilment of oversight responsibilities concerning systems of risk management and internal control; and the entity's processes for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations, including the code of conduct, financial and performance reporting, and auditing.

Information relating to Council Committees, including an expression of interest form, is available on the Shire website: www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/council/council-meetings-committees/council-committees.

Expressions of interest for participation in the Audit and Risk Committee are encouraged and welcomed. EOI forms should be lodged by email to records@toodyay.wa.gov.au or by post to Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566, by 4.00pm, Tuesday 28 February 2023.

For further information, please contact the Shire on 9574 9300.

Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

