

The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned
community newspaper
Est. 1902

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

June 2023
Edition 424

Thousands flock to festival as Moondyne magic keeps rain at bay



Overnight showers vanished as if by magic as Toodyay celebrated another successful Moondyne Festival last month. Photo: Clive Millett. Moondyne Joe's 'trial', Page 9.

Shire rates set to rise 7.2 per cent

By Michael Sinclair-Jones

PROPERTY rates in the Shire of Toodyay are set to rise 7.2 per cent.

Toodyay councillors voted 5-0 last month

Truth Telling display wins national award



Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation Chair Robert Miles explains Newcastle Gaol Museum's national award-winning Truth Telling display to members and Shire President Rosemary Madacsi (right). More on page 10.

to advertise the proposed new rates for public comment.

If adopted, the new budget measures will add \$140 a year to household bills for town properties that pay \$2000 in annual rates.

Toodyay farmers will pay about \$700 more on average farm rates of about \$10,000 annually, though some larger local rural producers pay much more each year.

Minimum rates will also rise by \$39 to \$1390 for the 2023-24 financial year.

Actual dollar amounts to be paid on most Toodyay properties may vary, depending on fluctuations in State land valuations.

Toodyay has six 'differential' rate categories based on land values set by an independent WA Valuer-General appointed by the State Governor.

Only five of Toodyay's eight councillors were present for last month's vote (Cr Phil Hart via videolink), which was carried by an absolute majority, as required by law.

It was passed without objection or debate. Cr Mick McKeown submitted an apology

for his absence, and others who missed the vote were Crs Steve McCormick and Danielle Wrench.

All councillors attended budget workshops after planning began last December.

Shire Corporate and Community Services Manager Tabitha Bateman reported that shire rates had increased by 8.6 per cent since 2019-20 but the Consumer Price Index had risen by 16.4 per cent – almost double the shire's proposed rate rise.

Shire President Rosemary Madacsi said the local government cost index, construction costs and external wage increases has also risen faster than shire rate increases.

Shire waste disposal costs were expected to rise by up to 48 per cent, and electricity charges – including for street lighting – faced an expected seven per cent increase.

"Additionally in the last year, the shire has experienced significant cost increases of 5-15 per cent for many contracts, materials and capital works," President Madacsi said.

Continued on Page 5.

New doctor signs lease to reopen medical centre

TOODYAY'S new doctor is expected to reopen the town's medical centre this month. Full story Page 3.

Coming events

Fibre Festival
Sunday June 4
Toodyay Farmers Market
Sunday June 18

this month

classifieds	28
emergency services	7
environment	19, 20, 21, 26, 27
health	30-31
letters	4
public notices	28
puzzles	29
sport and leisure	31
trades & services	22-26
when & where	28

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.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

President: Peter Ruthven
 Vice President: Allan Gregory
 Secretary: Andrew St John
 Treasurer: Heather Appleby
 Members: Sandra Harms, Beth Ruthven, Julie Hoy Poy, Jim Scott, Judy Morrissey

PRODUCTION

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 Colour Press Pty Ltd

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped produce this edition of *The Toodyay Herald*: Joseph Fernandez (Legal), Peter Ruthven, Richard Grant, Laraine Brindle, 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 385mm deep.

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

Setup size: 260mm wide by 190mm deep.

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

Setup size: 127.5mm wide by 190mm deep.

Page Nomination Loading: Front page - 100%, Back page - 50%, Centre pages / Page 3 - 25%, other pages - 10% (based on mono price).

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

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

INDEMNITY AND WARRANTY

Advertisers and/or advertising agencies upon and by lodging material with *The Toodyay Herald* for publication or authorising or approving of the publication of any material, **INDEMNIFY The Toodyay Herald Inc.** against all claims, demands, proceedings, costs, expenses, damages, awards, judgements and any other liability whatsoever wholly or partially arising directly or indirectly in connection with the publication of the material, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, indemnify **The Toodyay Herald Inc.** in relation to defamation, libel, slander of title, infringement of copyright, infringement of trade marks or names of publication titles, unfair competition, breach of trade practices or fair trading legislation, violation of rights of privacy or confidential information or licences or royalties or other intellectual property rights **AND WARRANT** that the material complies with all relevant laws and regulations and that its publication will not give rise to any claims against or liabilities to **The Toodyay Herald Inc.**, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, that nothing therein is in breach of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* or the *Copyright Act 1968* or the *Fair Trading Act 1987* or the defamation, consumer protection and sale of goods legislation of the States and Territories or infringes the rights of any person.

The Toodyay Herald accepts no responsibility or liability in relation to any loss due to the failure of an advertisement to appear according to instructions. The positioning or placing of an advertisement is at the discretion of the Editor.

COPYRIGHT

Where no charge is made for the preparation of advertising material, *The Toodyay Herald* will remain owner of copyright in the advertising material. Such advertising material may be reproduced only with the consent of *The Toodyay Herald* and upon payment of such fee as *The Toodyay Herald* may require.

©Original works are subject to copyright and shall not be reproduced without authority.

NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE Noon Friday June 23	STORY DEADLINE Noon Wednesday June 28	DISTRIBUTED Thursday July 6
--	---	---

Please note our email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

Diary of a dreamer

Roger Simms

A YEAR ago, when I turned 80, I got busy and started writing a memoir.

Sounds pretentious, doesn't it, but I wasn't setting out to record a life of fame and fortune.

Rather, I wanted to leave my four grandchildren an account of life as I've found it, with as many clues as I saw fit to disclose about my character and personality (you know – madman, misfit, mercenary, missionary, warrior, wimp. etc.).

I could see the four in the future contemplating their instincts, interests and ideas and wanting to know where they might have inherited some of their traits – perhaps the odder ones and weird bits.

Or possibly even some of their more useful characteristics such as a knack for doing some particular thing, a flair.

So, I tracked my life through the familiar stages of childhood – school, career, marriage, parenthood – and sprinkled it with glimpses, reflections and ponderings.

I mixed in my layman's views on politics, religion, philosophy and science.

I thought those too would help the grandkids see a little more of me, or perhaps see through me.

The three eldest are teenagers and have now perused my offering (the youngest at 12 is yet to finish it) and the reviews have been OK, though no one is raving or bothering me with follow-up questions.

Well, I can hardly blame them – the life of granddad scarcely suggests itself as a page-turner.

Still, interest may grow with time and encourage more closely focused readings.

Anyway, as I recover from my authorial toil, I've found myself pondering the balance between labour and leisure, between work and play.

You see, my story revealed that I am one of those people given to slackness.

I have form. A theme of putting things off, "she'll be right", runs through my tale and the title says it all: *Easy Does It*.

As I wrote in one chapter about, of all things, the challenge of flying model planes:

"Rushing things has been one of my problems – good ideas not put into practice with anywhere near the attention, planning and effort they demanded," I said.

And in another: "At school I just muddled along, amusing myself and doing the minimum – quite a bit of follow-through has gone missing in my life".

And in the last: "I've been a dreamer and for much of the time a lazy one to boot".

Lest you get the idea, dear reader, that I have idled my life away, let me say that my memoir sets out a reasonable record of effort and achievement.

My slackness has been tempered by a fair share of decent labour.

It's just that I've never had the ambition bug – not strongly, anyway.

In my working life when the day's toil was over and the contract fulfilled, I had little appetite for extras.

I set no targets for scaling the heights of promotion or career.

As long as I could care for the family, pay the mortgage and the bills, enjoy a holiday, life could be taken at an easy pace.

And I made the point to my grandchildren

in the memoir: "Materialism is a much more demanding taskmaster than it was in my day.

"Opportunities abound and the lure of exciting, high-earning careers seeds fresh crops of ambition.

"But there are big strains as well in chasing big incomes and that's the other side of the coin to keep in mind when weighing up the work and leisure components of life."

Then I hit the philosophy switch: "Don't judge every activity in life by a measure of usefulness," I wrote.

"Some things are just for fun, for letting imagination and joy take flight."

And I backed up my case with arguments from the great British philosopher Bertrand Russell (1872-1970).

At the height of the Great Depression in the 1930s, Russell wrote a book entitled *In Praise of Idleness*.

Millions of people had lost their jobs and Russell realised that society needed to do more than just confront a crisis of mass unemployment.

Human beings were more than just workers, and society needed to learn how to value leisure.

Now I wonder, looking back on my literary effort, did I overdo the message?

For a lot of people today, circumstances don't leave much time for taking it easy, and life for many is a full-time struggle.

And yet, all other things being equal, idleness has value, I reckon, a role to play beyond what some busy bees would say is simply wasting time and arguably evidence of a character flaw.

Researching my theme with the help of Dr Google, I came across US evolutionary psychologist Dr Nigel Barber, a man with some academic heft on the subject – and with views to lift the spirits of any troubled time waster.

Idleness, says Dr Barber, has profound benefits for our brains.

"We may experience moralistic feelings about the need to be active and productive," he writes, "but our brains operate differently.

"When we are busiest our brains are not necessarily doing very much.

"Conversely, when we take a break and engage in some mindless pursuit, our problem-solving brains kick into overdrive.

"Indeed, the problem-solving parts of the brain are found to be more active when we daydream."

Thank you, Dr Barber – time to put a full stop to this column and squeeze in a daydream before lunch.

YOU'RE PREPARED BECAUSE WE PREPARED

For your rural, business and individual taxation and financial solutions:

210 Fitzgerald St, Northam
 T 08 9622 2822
 F 08 9622 3577

Keiran Sullivan, Director

T 0419 965 015

E keiran.sullivan@rsm.com.au

rsm.com.au

THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD
 AUDIT | TAX | CONSULTING



Office Hours are from 9.30am - 12.30pm on highlighted days						
June - July 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 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	28	30	July 1
2	3	4	5	5	7	8

Up hill and down dale on a magical musical tour

Mark Roy

ANYONE who knows Toodyay knows it is home to a rogue's gallery of eclectic characters.

Hardly surprising for a town that each and every year gleefully celebrates the life and times of a recidivist prison escapee who dresses in animal skins and carries an axe.

But such are the idiosyncrasies that attracted Bourby Webster and her partner Gaëtan to their new perlieu in the Avon Valley.

"I am inspired by everyone I meet," Bourby gushes. "Toodyay is incredibly diverse and that's what makes it so rich."

"Every community is a jigsaw, and it's not complete without every piece."

It's worth noting Bourby is cut from something of an unusual die herself.

There can't be too many Oxford-educated former girl-band pop stars stamping about the Wheatbelt in gumboots and scarves, kickstarting symphony orchestras in their spare time.

Disarmingly describing herself as "an outdoorsy country girl", Bourby grew up in the Forest of Dean, a beautiful area in south-west Gloucestershire, nestled against the Welsh border, with the river Wye running through it.

Hers was an idyllic, "really Peter Rabbit" childhood spent in "a cottage under an oak forest, where we would have deer on the front lawn, badgers at the back gate, hedgehogs and bottles of milk on the doorstep".

She remembers bareback riding on her pony and family walks in the bluebell forest.

"Music was always part of our family, and my sister and I were encouraged to sit at the piano and tinkle," she notes.

After learning three or four instruments at a young age she added another string to her bow by taking her mum's uncle's violin down from the attic.

Two years later her friend Louise also began playing the violin, and with some encouragement from Bourby (or "hassling", as she puts it) Louise learned very quickly.

"We consumed duet books voraciously," Bourby recalls.

Every night after school the duo would work to conjure musical magic from these utilitarian sheets of notation.

"I'm so sure it sounded horrific – but to us it sounded great," Bourby chuckles.

It was Louise's father who, perhaps inadvertently, set Bourby on the business-minded path that was to shape her future musical career.

He suggested the pair "get out of the house, go down to the local railway station and see if they can make a few bob".

"So we put a violin case down," Bourby says matter-of-factly.

Their pocket money at the time amounted to 50 pence each per week.

"Then we earned eight quid each in an hour and thought, 'This is brilliant!'"

The pair were on a fast track to an education on audience psychology, human nature, and the power of performance.

"Just standing there looking bored didn't get anything, but if we smiled at people and moved a bit and had a bit of fun ..." Bourby gestures airily.

The duo learned putting a bit of money in the case meant punters were likely to put in a bit more.

And they learned not to put the case at their feet, as people didn't like invading their



Bourby Webster says Toodyay is everything she had hoped it would be. Photo: Mark Roy

personal performance space.

"If we put the case further away, loads of people dropped money in," Bourby says.

"Having a 'thank you' sign doubled our revenue."

These formative experiences in the music biz were to hold her in good stead.

"Those very early lessons from busking were pretty critical to where I am now."

In the noughties, Bourby played viola in the electropop-classical crossover quartet Bond, before leaving the limelight to found the Perth Symphony Orchestra in 2011.

While such musical ventures may sound a little highbrow to some, Bourby's mission and intention reflects the exact opposite.

She is as equally at home jamming with folk band in a hay shed as performing a symphony in a concert hall.

"The 'arts' is such a dirty word in Australia – it's been made into this snobby, elitist thing," she scowls.

The great tragedy, she says, is that "the Arts" is not seen as something for everyone, but rather for a select few.

A further tragedy is the way the "cultural cringe" label has stuck to Australian artists and audiences like the proverbial mud cake to a blanket after the Melburnian critic Arthur

Angel Phillips coined it nearly 75 years ago.

The label refers to the quintessentially Antipodean anxiety that our wild colonial efforts in the arts don't quite pass muster.

Which is, of course, complete nonsense – and Bourby is having none of it.

"It's in our human DNA to create – I mean why do we have rock art that is 40,000 years old if we didn't have that need to record what we saw, and to share that?"

A monumental shift is needed, she says, away from "the arts" being an elitist pursuit to something that every single person in every community can engage with.

"Everyone is looking to connect through music and discover each other," she says.

"Musicians have a natural curiosity about collaboration and integration, and we acknowledge our music is richer for it."

Armed with her newly founded RARE Events company, Bourby had planned a night of Vivaldi for the Toodyay community at the Memorial Hall.

However "a bit of a funding stuff-up" has put that erstwhile evening event on hold.

Bourby is still committed to delivering *The Four Seasons* to Toodyay – just maybe not this autumn.

Continued on Page 9.

Medical centre gets set to reopen



Everything looks ready to go inside Toodyay's refurbished and re-painted Alma Beard Medical Centre in Stirling Terrace.

Continued from Page 1.

TOODYAY'S new doctor is expected to reopen the town's medical centre this month.

Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said Dr Akeem Lawal – who worked in Toodyay last year – signed a new five-year lease last month.

This follows recent repairs to the shire-owned building, including plasterwork, painting and refurbishment.

Ms Haslehurst said the work was completed and she anticipated a re-opening this month.

A recent *Herald* inspection shows a new glass screen installed at the front desk in the patients' waiting room, walls repainted and other furniture installed.

Boxes of tissues have been placed in the reception area and waste paper bins nearby, ready for patients to use.

Dr Lawal was unavailable to confirm a start date but the shire said he wanted to make the medical centre "a more inviting space" for patients.

Toodyay's Alma Beard Medical Centre closed last November after the Northam-based Wheatbelt Health Network withdrew local GP services due to cost concerns.

The Federal Government last month announced a new \$3.5 billion Budget measure with a four per cent increase in Medicare rebates to fund GP services and increase bulk billing for patients.

ADVERTISEMENT

The McGowan Labor Government
delivering a strong future for the Wheatbelt

\$3 billion
to take action on climate change
and investment in energy and jobs

\$715 MILLION
to provide services and support
needed to bring the Wheatbelt back

Every WA household
will receive a
\$400 credit on their
power bill

\$2.7 billion
in additional health and
mental health investment

\$427 million in
additional funding
for regional road
projects

Follow me on Facebook to learn more

Darren West MLC
MEMBER FOR AG REGION (08) 9621 1999
Darren.West.MP@mp.wa.gov.au
Darren.West.AgRegion
Authorised by D West 185 Fitzgerald St Northam WA 6401

The Toodyay Herald

For whom the bell tolls

THE extraordinary story of how the most popular shire councillor in Toodyay history fell from grace in court last month is worth re-telling because of the ongoing impact it continues to have on our community.

Former Cr Ben Bell arrived quietly on the Toodyay scene in 2017 when he polled 211 votes in the now-abolished East Ward.

That year saw a record Toodyay voter turn-out which dumped an unpopular former shire president and set the tone for long-lasting council reform.

The newcomer fast became a prickly thorn in the side of former council leaders and now-departed senior shire employees.

He secured a big following through his monthly *Herald* column *The Insider* and clashed repeatedly with former shire CEO Stan Scott, who subsequently suffered 15 adverse findings against him after a lengthy 2019 State investigation.

In a small town like Toodyay where gossip spreads like wildfire, it was an extraordinary development that shook the established order to its foundations.

Former Cr Bell himself was ordered by the State to apologise in the council chamber for criticising the former shire CEO on *Facebook*, which he refused to do.

The Hoddys Well mining executive ran again for council in 2019 and this time topped the poll with 1126 votes – a record for Toodyay that still stands today.

He immediately set about campaigning publicly on *Facebook* to become the next shire president, using social media in a way not seen before in Toodyay, upsetting other councillors jostling for the top job.

The presidency is decided by a secret ballot in the council chamber, with support usually gained privately before the vote.

Airing it all publicly on social media was tantamount to public heresy.

Ultimately it backfired, and the firebrand candidate withdrew his nomination a day before the council ballot and then polled only one vote – presumably his own – in a second secret ballot for deputy president.

What his disappointed *Facebook* supporters didn't know at the time was that their man was also roaming the world trying to flog an alleged \$5 billion mining deal that turned out to be "false and misleading" (see Page 5).

Increasingly, he was absent from council meetings, failed to nominate for any council committees and finally resigned at short notice in January last year.

Bell was fined \$70,000 in the Federal Court last month, ordered to pay \$60,000 in legal costs and barred for two years from holding company directorships.

How a senior mining executive spruiking multi-billion deals in world financial capitals had the time or inclination to play small-town politics in tiny Toodyay remains a puzzle.

Perhaps we dodged a bullet.

Michael Sinclair-Jones
Editorial



The way we were – It was 77 years ago this month when Toodyay held a Victory Parade to mark the end of World War II a year earlier, in 1945. Toodyay men and women fought with distinction in Europe, the Pacific and Middle East, and many local families mourned the loss of loved ones while others returned scarred for life by injury and mental trauma after surviving terrible experiences such as death marches and internment in barbaric prisoner-of-war camps. The nurses on the float pictured above were part of procession started at the historic former Newcastle Hotel (now Toodyay Manor), ended at the Showgrounds and was reported on Page 1 of *The Toodyay Herald* on 14 June 1946. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

LETTERS

Serpent not a "myth"

MY NAME is Professor Peter Hancock and I am an anthropologist in the field of Aboriginal studies.

I've been following the recent Tony Maddox court case over his building of a driveway over Boyagerring Brook on his property and I have spoken to him about it.

However, I have to clarify the notion that the Waugal, which is named as evidence in the State Government prosecution case, is a "myth".

It is not.

It is a creation story passed down through millennia and all human cultures have them.

Across Australia, all Aboriginal language groups (about 320 of them) had creation stories prior to British occupation.

Most were similar and involved water and serpents.

Serpents are pivotal in Christianity, Islam and dozens of lesser-known creation stories.

The story of Adam and Eve tempted by a serpent to eat fruit from the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden is a classic example that exists in every Christian bible.

Please be mindful that words such as 'myth' are English words derived from ancient Greek and have no equivalent in any Aboriginal language.

Mr Maddox's case highlights the continual clash of language and culture.

In defining the Waugal as a mythical serpent, the State prosecutor, has erred – it is a creation story.

Explaining Mary and Jesus to Muslims can elicit the same incredulity – even hate, or worse.

The fact that the Northam magistrate and defence lawyer failed to challenge the prosecution's use of the term 'myth' is testament to widespread ignorance of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

By default, Mr Maddox cannot be held to account.

Dr Peter Hancock
Dewars Pool

(yes that's 5cm) on freehold and pastoral land more than 1100 sqm (the old quarter acre).

This *Farmer's Weekly* article seems very well researched by Mel Williams and I read it this way: if you have a farm, you won't be able to scarify for weeds with mechanical equipment, build stockyards, create watering points, install new fencing, rip or plough your land without a permit from a LACHS office.

If you want to establish a new farm, clear land, do contour cultivation, new forestry plantation, scarifying, ripping, new yard construction, watering points or infrastructure you will require "an approved or authorised plan" from a LACHS office.

We can only assume that any transgressors will be jailed and fined tens of thousands.

So, if you are a farmer, grazier or pastoralist, you'd better get a hard-working secretary on staff to process the application and pursuit of the myriad of permits and plan approvals that the LACHS offices will require.

It is likely that many of your everyday farming activities will be delayed for months pending approval.

And if you are a small land holder and you want to plant a lemon tree or sink a pine post to swing that important gate – don't get too excited – you'll need prior approval from your closest friendly LACHS office first.

The cost to taxpayers?

Estimates in the latest State Budget put establishment costs over the next four years at a mere \$77 million.

And a series of LACHS offices, when established across the state, a mere \$300,000 each annually.

If this bill does get up, one wonders if its full outline and penalties will be properly promulgated to all of the appropriate stakeholders.

The Handbasket just pulled in. All aboard, we're going to hell.

Gary Golding
Toodyay

Brunt of offensive chatter

I WOULD like to comment on two points raised in last month's *Herald* letters page.

In *Waugal non-existent*, the writer stated that "if the Wagyl is mythical it equates to nothing, since a myth is not real" ... and "their mythical entity is non-existent cannot feel, see or be..."

I feel it needs to be pointed out that all cultures and religions have a spiritual or mythological 'being', including Islam, Christianity, and Indigenous peoples.

All have mythology and protocols.

All aboard, we're going to hell

IF YOU own or manage any freehold or pastoral land of more than 1100 square metres in Toodyay you must read the "Cultural heritage worry" article in the *May Farmer's Weekly*.

If the proposed Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill gets up many everyday farming activities will be illegal without the approval of a "Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Service" (LACHS) office.

These everyday activities would include all ground disturbance to a depth of 50 millimetres

These are shown in sacred stories handed down through generations, and all have places where respect needs to be shown – whether it be in a church or mosque, sacred waterway or religious relic.

In a second letter titled *Embarrassed to be Australian* the writer asked, "how can it be that 3.2 per cent of the population (2021 census) can drive legislation about what amounts simply to a cultural myth ... and how can this myth impact on every waterway ...?"

Both letters refer to a State law passed by the WA Parliament decades ago to recognise 45,000 years of human culture and protocol.

There is nothing new about this.

WA's Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (AHA) is not designed to create barriers for land-owners.

The legislation recognises traditional cultural beliefs and practices to ensure that the country and its natural waterways are managed and protected for all West Australians and for future generations.

Healthy waterways with unrestricted flow is something we aspire to preserve, no matter whether you are Noongar, an environmentalist or a local farmer.

The Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation stated in last month's *Herald* that members had spoken with local real estate agent Tony Maddox who is being prosecuted by the WA Government for building a vehicle crossing over Boyagerring Brook on his property without seeking State permission.

"It is clear to us in those conversations that the AHA is a little-known law, and that land holders in the region may not have had any prior knowledge of the AHA until this case," the article said.

The corporation said many Toodyay properties were likely to have some form of artificial structure across waterways, and these would have been built with no intention of knowingly breaching State Aboriginal heritage law.

So, let's just reflect for a moment.

The complaint about the alleged Toodyay breach was not made by Aboriginal people – it was made by a neighbour.

But it's Aboriginal people (and their belief system) that have felt the brunt of offensive chatter here and on social media.

It seems to me that in all of this it's Aboriginal people who are reaching out with respect and kindness.

They are the ones who are hoping to see the case positively resolved and that it be used to promote cultural awareness rather than be seen as prosecution.

Helen Shanks
Toodyay

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.

Wheatbelt Clinical Psychology

94 Stirling Terrace Toodyay WA 6566

Richard Taylor
Clinical Psychologist

Foundation member
Australian Clinical Psychology Association

Bulk Billing/Private Health Funds/Telehealth

0427 447 190

business hrs

Toodyay Rainfall

Recordings and average commenced on 1/1/1877

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2019	1.8	0	5.8	15.4	8.7	125.7	128.4	66.3	13.4	15.2	6.0	0	386.7
2020	0	31.6	9.8	6.4	38.2	48.9	43.7	61.8	30.2	5.9	48.8	3.5	328.8
2021	0.03	17.3	137.3	11.1	121.7	30.4	154.2	70.3	39	61.6	2.2	0	645.13
2022	31.7	4.5	14	30.9	36.8	43	42.7	151.1	44	15.6	12	5.1	431.4
2023	0.1	0	54.9	29	21.5								105.5
Average	12.10	14.30	19.50	23.30	55.20	97.80	101.60	60.40	35.40	24.70	12.70	8.80	425.50

Truth Telling puts Toodyay on national reconciliation map

President's Pen

Rosemary Madácsi



TOODYAY is back in the limelight after winning a prestigious national award for its 'Gnulla Karnany Waangkiny – our Truth Telling' indigenous display at the Shire's historic old gaol museum in Clinton Street.

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of Toodyay museum curator Margie Eberle and the Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation, the display project won the National Indigenous Project Award in the 2023 Australian Museum and Art galleries Association Awards.

The efforts of Margie, Kaartdijin members and Newcastle Gaol Museum volunteers have helped to make Toodyay a leader in national reconciliation.

This project arose out of the inaugural Toodyay Reconciliation Action Plan: 2021-2023 as did the new projects of indigenous story-telling signs at Red Banks Pool, Duidgee Park, Pelham Reserve, the Showgrounds and the Noongar Boodja wall mural at the Toodyay Visitor's Centre in Piesse Street.

Our reconciliation plan has attracted strong local government interest with the Shire of Wanneroo the latest local government to visit and discuss the approach our reconciliation team took.

The second stage of the plan, the Reconciliation Framework: July 2023 – June 2026 was launched on Thursday 25 May.

This month, I travel to Canberra to represent Toodyay at the National General Assembly of the Australian Local Government Association.

The Association has accepted a Toodyay council motion "to place a limit on costs a local government should be expected to pay to attract general practitioner services".

I appreciate the support of the Avon Midland Country Zone of shire councils for this important trip.

Appointments have been made while I am in Canberra to meet Federal Government ministers and parliamentary secretaries to discuss the proposed heavy haulage bypass, the shifting of costs to local government to provide local medical services, and biosecurity support.

Also on this month's national agenda is the first National Feral Pig Conference in Cairns which I will address on behalf of the Shire.

Feral pigs are a significant problem in Toodyay because they wreck the natural environment and disrupt agriculture.

Thanks to the strong efforts of our Shire rangers and affected landowners, feral pig movements are being tracked by radio collars, and State agencies are assisting with testing for disease.

However, hunters and sporting shooters continue to hinder disrupt trapping programs by indiscriminate shooting that disperses pig groups.

Losing the opportunity to trap large numbers of pigs because of the actions of a few is not helpful for the wider community.

Toodyay has also developed a strong advocacy voice in major regional groups such as the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network, Regional Road groups, Avon Midland Country Zone, Avon Region of Councils, the WA Feral Pig Advisory Group, Rural Water Council and through deputy representation on the WALGA State Council.

Progress continues in talks with Challice Mining, the Toodyay Race Club over racecourse infrastructure and Toodyay Recreation Centre manager Clublinks, with benefits expected to emerge later this year.

Farmers' frustrations with how the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System affects burn permits in the 'shoulder season' were aired during Shire talks with the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Total fire bans are triggered by district weather conditions, and Toodyay falls within



Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation members, shire councillors and staff in the council chamber for the signing of this year's Toodyay Reconciliation Action Plan.

the Swan, Inland and North fire district because of the quantity of native vegetation present in those areas.

Total Fire Bans do not prevent harvest vehicle movements, only burning times.

Burn notices are assessed according to local conditions but cannot override total fire bans.

Good local news is that Local Morangup lad Frank Vinton, was a Stronger Communities Programme Round 8 winner for his school project to replace basketball backboards at Morangup.

Frank was assisted in his project by Wes Sutton, the Shire Community Development Officer – well done Frank.

Shire says steep rise in costs forces 7.2 per cent rates hike

Continued from Page 1

ROAD construction costs had increased by 14 per cent for asphalt and 30 per cent for bitumen.

The community expected shire assets to be maintained in a reasonable state and fit for purpose.

However, the shire was aware of the impact of rate increases on cost-of-living pressures.

"When making decisions about rate increases, the shire carefully weighs the need for additional revenue against the potential burden it may place on ratepayers," President Madácsi said.

"The shire strives to find a balance that ensures the sustainability of essential services while considering affordability for the community.

"Any changes will be considered in line with submissions received during

the advertising period or changes in State valuations before the budget is adopted."

Ms Bateman said the shire's 2023-24 budget was based on a seven per cent overall rate increase to raise \$7.5 million.

The shire had worked closely with mining companies to develop a maintenance agreement to manage additional costs.

This followed last year's State rejection of a new Toodyay mining rate, which was subsequently quashed in the State Administrative Tribunal.

The proposed new rate rise would generate an extra \$425,000 in revenue compared with the amount raised in 2022-23.

Ms Bateman said ongoing shire costs included \$100,000 in annual loan repayments for the Toodyay Recreation Centre.

The proposed new budget aimed for a break-even result, she said.

Helped by a jolly band of merry men

Toodyay Op Shop
Daphne Lee

WE OFFER a big thankyou to Toodyay's Moondyne Men for the tremendous job they did for us recently when our Op Shop closed

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4

Purse tugs at heartstrings

WE WOULD like to thank Toodyay for your hospitality last weekend at the Moondyne Festival.

We enjoyed it immensely.

The upshot on Sunday was that when we got home I realised I had lost or dropped my purse somehow.

We contacted anyone and everyone we could think of to no avail.

The Toodyay Police called and fronted up on the Wednesday with my purse that had been left on the front step of their Station that morning.

No details of who found it was left at the Station so we would like the *Herald* to publish this heartfelt thank you from us to the kind person who found it and handed it in intact.

Toni Carson
Gidgegannup

Still some kind people around

A BIG thank you to a wonderful young man who so kindly gave me a lift to Chidlow, where my car was parked.

Unfortunately I didn't get his name.

On Easter Monday I was stranded in Mundaring and wasn't sure if the bus was operating, being a public holiday.

I was going to enquire at the information office, but the young man said that he lived in Wundowie, so he could drop me off on his way home.

At the time he was having a coffee with friends at the corner coffee shop at the Coles shopping centre in Mundaring.

It is comforting to know that there are still some kind and unselfish people around.

Christine Withers
York

recently for extensive renovations.

This jolly band of merry men not only transported and stored all our stock but happily returned it all to the shop so we were able to resume business as soon as possible.

Without this help our renovations would not have happened.

We are truly grateful for all they did for us. Thank you.

We have received lots of lovely comments regarding the improvements from all our customers.

It was nice to know that we had been missed.

Please come and visit us, but remember we cannot allow dogs in the shop.

Ex-councillor fined \$70,000 for false \$5 billion claim

FORMER Toodyay shire councillor Ben Bell has been fined \$70,000 and banned from company directorships for two years for making false claims about an alleged \$5 billion mining deal.

The offences occurred while Mr Bell was serving on the Toodyay council and also cost his former employer \$450,000 in fines.

Federal Court Judge Craig Colvin ordered last month that Mr Bell also pays \$60,000 to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission in prosecution legal costs.

Judge Colvin said Mr Bell had made statements that he knew were "false or materially misleading" in London and Hong Kong in April and May 2018.

His conduct was difficult for a regulator to detect and the false statements were not immediately corrected when revealed.

The defendant had provided no explanation for his conduct.

Mr Bell apologised in writing to the court,



Former Cr Ben Bell admitted making false statements in London and Hong Kong over an alleged \$5 billion mining investment deal.

saying "my actions which resulted in these proceedings have caused me significant personal hardship and embarrassment."

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO IMPOSE DIFFERENTIAL RATES

In accordance with Section 6.33 and 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Shire of Toodyay hereby gives notice of its intention to impose differential rates and differential minimum rates on all rateable Gross Rental Value (GRV) residential, commercial, industrial, rural, and rural residential properties, and Unimproved Value (UV) general (including mining) and rural properties within its boundaries, during the 2023/24 financial year.

The differential rates are imposed based on predominant land use, as detailed below:

Land use category	Proposed rate in \$	Proposed minimum
GRV Residential	14.8676 cents	\$1,390.00
GRV Commercial	15.7555 cents	\$1,390.00
GRV Industrial	13.7874 cents	\$1,390.00
GRV Rural	13.7491 cents	\$1,390.00
GRV Rural Residential	13.0164 cents	\$1,390.00
UV General	1.5186 cents	\$1,390.00
UV Rural	0.8893 cents	\$1,390.00

The proposed rate in the dollar is calculated using updated Landgate Valuations to arrive at a consistent 7.0% revenue increase across all Land Use Categories.

The figures stated above are indicative, and are subject to change due to valuation variations and as part of Council's 2023/24 Budget deliberations. All rates in the dollar are provided on this notice as information to the community.

A document describing the objects and reasons for each proposed general and minimum rate may be inspected at or obtained from the Shire of Toodyay Administration Office, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay, during business hours. It is also available to view on the Shire website: www.toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Submissions regarding the proposed differential rates and minimums must be made in writing and lodged with the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96 Toodyay 6566, or via email to records@toodyay.wa.gov.au, by 4:00 pm on Friday 30 June 2023.

For further queries, please contact the Shire Project Manager on 9574 9300 or email records@toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Elderly rider crashes three-wheel motorcycle into wall

Police Beat

Acting Officer in charge
Sgt Shane Gray
Toodyay Police Station



PEDESTRIANS were astonished when an elderly motorcyclist with learner plates accidentally accelerated across Stirling Terrace last month and collided with a low stone wall next to the Freemasons Hotel.

The 72-year-old female rider was backing her three-wheel motorcycle into a parking bay outside Cola Café when her hand slipped on the throttle and her bike took off across the road.

Fortunately, there was no passing traffic on the Monday afternoon at about noon as she mounted the pavement on the other side of the street and crashed into the wall.

The impact threw the woman over the handlebars and she landed in the vacant block behind the wall, where surprised bystanders rushed to her aid.

The woman suffered a bad cut on her leg and was shaken but otherwise unhurt.

There was minor damage to the motorcycle, which had two wheels at the front where the impact occurred.

The woman said she was undeterred by her mishap and would get back on the bike when it was fixed.

Trapped arm leads to airlift

AN OFFICER who was called to the scene of the motorcycle crash in town after attending a job in Hoddys Well (*see next item*) came across a second, more serious traffic accident on his way back to Toodyay.

He was waved down by roadworkers on Toodyay Road opposite Coorinja Winery, about four kilometres from the townsite.

They had just seen a small van veer off the left of the road in the 40km/h roadworks zone and roll onto its side.

The vehicle had somehow run off the road and accelerated for no apparent reason – a phenomenon that police call “whisky throttle” when drivers encounter unexpected situations.

The van accelerated into a sandbank, ran up the side of a big rocky embankment and flipped onto its side.

The driver’s arm was trapped under the vehicle body and Toodyay Fire and Rescue Service volunteers were called to use hydraulic cutting equipment to free him.

Toodyay St John Ambulance volunteers also attended to help treat the injured driver.



A driver’s arm was seriously injured in this van rollover near Coorinja Winery.

The man’s arm was seriously damaged and an RAC rescue helicopter was called to fly him to a Perth hospital for surgery.

There were no other injuries, and no drugs or alcohol were involved.

As always, we urge motorists to be alert and aware when passing through areas where roadworks are underway.

In addition, the onset of wet wintry conditions means local police will be out checking vehicles to ensure they are roadworthy and comply with State traffic regulations.

This includes checks for bald tyres, faulty brakes, missing lights, frayed seatbelts, smoky exhausts and other potentially dangerous vehicle defects.

It’s not worth the risk of being hauled off the road for driving an unsafe vehicle – better to get it fixed as soon as possible.

Leave it to the law

ONCE again, we strongly suggest that rural landholders consider securing their sheds with locks and other devices such as video cameras to help deter thieves.

However, we urge owners not to confront intruders but to immediately call police on 000 or 131444 for help.

In one such incident in Hoddys Well last month, a rural owner confronted at least two would-be thieves who woke him at 2am while trying to steal a motorcycle from a farm shed.

The first offender dropped the motorcycle and ran off while his accomplice in a nearby vehicle allegedly tried to deliberately run down the owner.

It was a near miss and he was lucky not to be seriously injured.

Both offenders fled.

The site has been checked for forensic evidence as Wheatbelt detectives continue their investigations.

There have been a few thefts in the Hoddys Well, Clackline and Wundowie area and local people should remain vigilant.

However, on no account should anyone try to confront an intruder – it’s just too dangerous.

They might be armed with a gun, knife or some other weapon – even a length of steel pipe – and could inflict serious injury.

Leave it to police because we are trained to handle these types of situations and know what to do.

The best thing you can do is write down a description of the offenders and details of any vehicle registration numbers involved.

Send them to us and we will handle everything else.

They don’t shoot horses

OUR LAST item concerns a cow, a bull, a dozen sheep and a hungry horse.

The Morangup animals were surrendered to Shire of Toodyay rangers last month when they were left over from a deceased estate.

Contrary to what some people think, Toodyay shire rangers don’t go around shooting animals.

They contacted us for help, knowing that new Toodyay Sen. Const. Adam Robertson has extensive contacts in farming through his specialist expertise in agricultural law as well as his off-duty performances as a rodeo clown (*see last month’s Police Beat*).

He was able to find homes for all of the unwanted animals.

Local Sen. Const. Jodie Howard took the horse to her rural property for a check by a staff member from the Heartlands Veterinary Hospital in Stirling Terrace.

It was found to be malnourished and needing attention, which Sen. Const. Howard was happy to provide (*see photo*).

A permanent home for the horse has since been found with a new owner keen to spend some time and money on it in a loving environment.

A win-win situation for all concerned.



Sen. Const. Jodie Howard nursing the horse.

What you search is what you get, but you can mix it up

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

IT IS all too easy to accept the results a search engine presents to you while forgetting to ask the question “Why am I seeing this particular set of results and not another?”

Welcome to the world of “recommender algorithms”.

These are the behind-the-scenes rules that determine what you are shown, based on what sorts of things you look for and how long you look at them.

The rules also take into account personal details such as your age, gender and where you live.

Even your social media activity, such as posts, likes and dislikes, provides additional fodder for these rules.

Social media platforms leverage these rules and their knowledge about you to make money from targeted advertisements.

The longer they can keep you engaged, the more money they make.

Typically, these algorithms serve up more of what you’ve previously viewed or liked, creating “social bubbles”, as discussed in last month’s article.

However, being aware of these rules can give you the power to change what you are being shown.

You can’t readily hide your location without a VPN (Virtual Private Network) or something like the TOR (The Onion Router) web browser.

Providing a different date of birth may or may not have an effect, depending on the site.

But changing the sorts of things you search for will cause the “recommender algorithms” to follow your lead.

For a practical demonstration, try clearing your web browser cache and conducting sequential searches on YouTube for topics like Mozart, Beethoven, astronomy, and sidereal time.

This exercise will showcase how you can manipulate the rules to serve your different interests.

In a nutshell, unpredictability is key.

You never know what fascinating discoveries await you.

To delve deeper into the benefits and risks of recommender algorithms, you can read an article available at bit.ly/3pLKduh.

For additional information, please visit bit.ly/3IniZkd.

Remember, taking control of what you see online starts with understanding how recommender algorithms work and using that knowledge to shape your digital experience.

Tax time brings out the scammers

Safer Toodyay
Desraé Clarke

TAX TIME has arrived – and so have the scammers.

There are a few simple steps taxpayers can take to protect themselves online.

Only give out personal details, such as your birth date, to people you can positively identify and trust.

Ensure you are fully aware of your tax commitments and what to expect.

One of the most commonly reported scams is a phone call where the caller claims to be an Australian Taxation Office (ATO) staff member demanding payment for a tax debt.

It may be an email requesting identifying information or a fee payment to release a refund.

The email can replicate ATO branding in an attempt to make the interaction appear legitimate.

If unsure about an interaction you can call the ATO scam hotline on 1800 008 54.

Please forward suspicious emails to ReportEmailFraud@ato.gov.au

More information about protecting your personal information is available online at ato.gov.au/identitycrime or you can visit staysmartonline.gov.au.

Report any suspicious or worrying activity to Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or police on 131 444.

TOODYAY

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

Burn smart at your home or acreage

Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Chris McDonald

WE HAVE had several call outs for escaped burns over the last few weeks.

Please be careful when doing burns at your home or property.

It is worth checking the helpful guide from DFES called Burn Smart beforehand.

This web address will show the guide for planned burning by small landholders: www.dfes.wa.gov.au/documents/BurnSmart_Guide_2021.pdf.

This time of the year we are enjoying the cooler nights and crisp mornings.

Members have been attending various courses to improve their knowledge and skills fighting fires to keep our community safe.

We are holding our Annual General Meeting on 1 July 2023 at 5pm at the Coondle-Nunile Fire Shed.

If you would like to become a volunteer fire fighter, all brigades in the shire are looking for new people to join up.

Check out <https://dfes.vol.org.au/> for more information.



The mural on the wall of the St John Sub Centre

Ambulance display beckons volunteers

St John Toodyay Sub Centre
Pam Tennant

MANY Herald readers will have seen our newly installed mural on the western wall of our building adjacent to Toodyay Spice and Grill restaurant.

The design, by local artist Alison Downey, features the styles of vehicles which were used as ambulances since the first van in Toodyay in 1943.

Alison's design was converted into the mural panels by Compac Marketing, with plans underway to have this mural lit at night, which will greatly add to the feature.

Last month marked the retirement of one of our longest-serving volunteers.

Mike Irvine had been an ambulance officer for 30 years, and when he ceased that role he took on building maintenance for the sub centre.

There are always little – and not so little – jobs that need doing, and Mike has been on hand to get things fixed without delay.

On behalf of everyone at the sub centre, and the broader St John organisation, we salute you Mike for your outstanding and long service to your community.

We stepped up our appeal for more volunteer ambulance officers last month, parking one of our ambulances outside the administration office in Stirling Terrace.

This resulted in a number of enquiries about what is involved in being a volunteer and what steps are needed to join.

We followed this up with a display at the monthly Farmers Market on Sunday May 21, and received more enquiries.

Hopefully we will soon be welcoming many new volunteers to the Toodyay ambulance service.

Without Toodyay-based volunteer ambulance officers the wait for emergency assistance

would be longer.

Ambulances would have to travel here from Northam, Morangup, Wundowie, Mundaring or even further afield.

It may be that a Toodyay crew is already out on a job when a second call comes in, which is why we like to have a back-up crew.

If you would like to serve your community as an ambulance officer, please contact Debbie on 9574 2390, or go to the St John website stjohnwa.com.au/changelives for details.

You will be well-trained and supported should you decide to take on this role, and will work with an inspiring group of people, all of whom wish to assist our community.



Mike Irvine, who has just retired from the Toodyay St John sub centre, after 30 years' service.

Hundreds of hours spent fighting local bushfires



Captain Peter Brennan (left) presents Julian Little with Volunteer of the Year Certificate.

Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Peter Brennan

TOODYAY Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade has recognised the efforts of Julian Little, naming him Volunteer of the Year 2022/2023.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to John Morrissey and Brian Clarkson.

Between May 1 to 24 the brigade responded to 11 callouts and was stood down from four of these calls.

Two fires were unattended, one escaped into another property and one was a verge fire.

Overall our brigade crews spent 43 hours deployed to fires.

Once again, we make a plea to not leave fires unattended, as they can not only cause unnecessary damage to your property but can escape and cause damage to neighbouring properties.

Ensure an ample water supply is on hand, you have rakes and shovels and are wearing suitable clothing and footwear.

During May the brigade also held its annual general meeting, where the new leadership team was selected.

Peter Brennan will continue as Captain

with support from Lieutenants Will Hort, Ebony Francis, Mick McKeown and Brian Clarkson.

Captain Peter Brennan reported that during the previous 12 months, the brigade logged 58 calls, of which 19 resulted in a stand-down for Central and four were to vehicle fires.

Central members responded to fires in the shires of Toodyay, Northam, Goomalling and Chittering as well as the City of Wanneroo.

The most significant fires over the year were Mt Nardie (74 hours, November 15), Jennacubbine (48 hours, November 22), Jennacubbine (31 hours, December 23), Gabiminga Hill (55 hours, January 10), Bindi Bindi - Toodyay Road (42 hours, January 28) and Cobbler Pool (315 hours January 30).

Further, the brigade received a total of nine callouts for the 12.2 bulk water tanker only.

Overall, brigade members contributed more than 844 hours to fires attended and a further 748 hours to training, callouts that were then stood down, weekly vehicle checks, meetings and administration.

When costed at the Australian Bureau of Statistics volunteer rate per hour, Brigade volunteers provided 1,592 hours and more than \$76,416 worth of service to the Toodyay community.



Upcoming first aid courses

HLTAID0011 - Provide First Aid
Course type: Accredited | **Duration:** 1 day in class + Online learning

Price: \$160.00

When: Saturday 17 June - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
 Thursday 13 July - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
 Saturday 19 August - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
 Thursday 14 September - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
 Saturday 14 October - 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Where: St John Ambulance Toodyay, 120D Stirling Terrace, Toodyay WA 6566



Understand first aid
Learn about first aid theory and action plans



CPR and defibrillation
Practise CPR skills and how to apply a defibrillator.



Injury management
Treat and manage injuries in interactive training scenarios.



Ready to make a difference?
Book a first aid course with us

St John First Aid Training

St John Ambulance (Western Australia) Ltd RTO Code: 0292

Beekeeping display creates a buzz

Volunteers of Toodyay Museums
Barry Keens

WE HAVE been kept busy with the nice sunny weather bringing more visitors than usual for this time of year.

Sheena Hesse has returned from a short break and is back at the Old Gaol Museum as "Girl Friday".

We also welcome Carolyn Elphick who has joined the volunteers.

Carolyn is working on a collection project which will add more items of archaeological interest to the database.

The beekeeping display at Connors Mill is proving popular, particularly as visitors can listen to Sam Cook's story while at the Museum.

On the last Friday of the month we had a surprise visit from a group of people from VisAbility WA.

All these people are vision impaired and it was good to show them around the Museum and to also find out how we could accommodate them better.

We will be working on that.

Both Museums are open daily from 10am to 3pm, with Shire of Toodyay residents admitted free.



Members from VisAbility WA waiting for the bus to collect them to go to lunch in Toodyay.



(L-R) Serena Syred, Vivienne Camerer, Therese Chitty and Nolene Kaszanski with their trophies.

Raising a glass to our mums

Bolgart News
Pam McGill

BOLGART Hotel held a Mothers' Day luncheon last month with a great crowd of people in attendance.

Well done to Craig, Wendy and staff for delivering a delectable menu with an array of mouth-watering options on what was a lovely day for all.

Golf news

Ladies Jubilee Fours: Serena Syred and Vivienne Camerer; Runners-up Joy Hamilton and Therese Chitty.

Bolgart Hotel Trophy: Jenni Knowles; Runner-up Therese Chitty.

Golf WA 4BBB Stableford: Jenni Knowles and Joy Hamilton; Runners-up Serena Syred and Pam McGill.

Val Strange Beverley Open Day, Bolgart: Therese Chitty with 39 points; Runner-up Serena Syred with 37 points, Vivienne Camerer 0-29 handicap Nett Ferndale Tray 36 points, Best unplaced Visitor Nolene Kaszanski 36 points.

Thank you to the generous sponsors and wonderful hospitality.

Private zoo holds fascination for naturalists

Toodyay Naturalists' Club
Desraé Clarke

ON SATURDAY May 20, the Toodyay Nats members enjoyed a great few hours in perfect weather at the Western Australian Reptile Park at Henley Brook.

This private zoo holds an assortment of reptiles, including a species of python called the Woma (See *Python Watch*, page 21).

Other interesting reptiles were the black-headed python, an animal in the same family as the Woma, and a baby olive python in the vicinity of two-and-a-half metres in length.

Although not a reptile, the Park also has a male and a female dingo. They are quite majestic creatures with the facial features of a wolf.

The next monthly meeting for the Nats is a

weekend away at Kellerberrin to visit areas of the headwaters of the Avon River system and surrounding interesting landscapes on the first day.

On the second day we are proposing to meet Malcolm French, a Western Australian eucalypt guru.

Our accommodation is at the Kellerberrin Prev, a premises of great interest. It is also known as St Joseph's Preventorium built in 1926-28 by Kellerberrin publican Stuart Patterson and gifted to the Catholic Church as a preventorium.

The idea evolved following a 1920s visit to the United States where he found 'preventorium' were widespread.

The following information is drawn from previous Annual Reports of the Child Welfare Department:

"The Preventorium provides for the sick and under-nourished children of families in poor circumstances, to permit them to recuperate under ideal conditions.

"Children were taken from five to 12 years for a period of six months.

"There is accommodation for 16 boys and girls. "The institution is under the care of the Sisters of St Joseph". The operation ceased in the 1970s.

The Toodyay Nats are always eager to hear of observations of natural history from community members' observations of natural history; the observer is recognised in the data held by the Nat's.

It is so important to document this information for the future. To contact the club the email is info@toodyaynats.org.au, the website is www.toodyaynats.org.au or 9574 5574.

We're moving

The Toodyay Herald is moving this month to new premises at 111 Stirling Terrace (entry in lane behind Christmas Shop).

Our postal, telephone and email addresses remain the same (details Page 2).

Imagine that

hyundai.com/au/tucson

Hyundai TUCSON.

Tomorrow wants its car back.

BEST
MID-SIZE
SUV 2021

Highlander variant shown. 1 Available on the Highlander variant.

DL 29398

The Hyundai Tucson is so advanced that the future has come to take it back. With innovative technology like the Blind-Spot View Monitor¹ and customisable powertailgate,¹ it's like driving tomorrow's car today.



OPEN

Sales: Monday - Friday 8am - 5:30pm, Saturday 8am - 12pm, Sunday Closed

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

37 Fitzgerald Street Northam, Western Australia 6401

Tel: (08) 6600 6103 - www.northamhyundai.com.au

Patchy rainfall helps local seeding, but more needed

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza

FARMERS throughout Western Australia have finished or are close to finishing their seeding programs for this year's crop.

Rainfall in April and May was patchy at best and poor at worst.

Many areas have not had enough rain to get crops to emerge.

Areas further south around Quairading and Corrigin, and around Williams and Pingelly were the exception.

Persistent summer storms in these areas have left the paddocks with a full soil profile of moisture at seeding – an ideal situation for crop establishment.

Toodyay farmers have fared reasonably well, albeit with below-average rainfall in May, although much more is needed in the coming months.

Rainfall forecasts for the coming few weeks look more promising than the recent past.

Pasture paddocks have now been well eaten down by livestock, which means that supplementary feeding of hay and other fodder is now required.

Local sheep producer and grain grower Edward Ludemann recently attended a meeting in York to discuss Federal Government plans to phase out Australian live sheep exports to the Middle East.

His report is as follows:

Live export ban unrealistic

THE LABOR Federal Government has committed to ending Australia's live sheep trade but not in its current term.

Federal Agriculture Minister Murray Watt has committed to an orderly shutdown of the industry.

An independent panel has been formed to consult widely with stakeholders to examine the impact on farmers, businesses, trading partners and rural communities, and to look



A pre-dawn start at Nunile to complete seeding for this year's crop.

for opportunities for sheep industry growth.

The panel, chaired by former Murray Darling Basin Authority chief executive and senior public servant Phillip Glyde, recently held a series of WA public meetings from Moora to Esperance as part of its consultation process.

More than 100 people attended a meeting in York where farmers shared their frustration at the decision to end a legal and well-regulated industry.

They told the panel that in the event of a live export ban, they would likely reduce sheep numbers or quit the sheep industry entirely.

The flow-on effects on jobs and population would include less work for shearers, stock agents, truck drivers and others.

Our Middle East customers would still demand live sheep, which represents 55 per cent of the value of their total sheep meat imports.

Australia is one of many sheep exporting nations.

The decline in our sheep exports to the Middle East has been offset by increased volumes from countries such as Somalia and Romania.

The proposition that the 500,000 head currently being exported overseas can be processed locally is simply unrealistic, with WA abattoirs already at full capacity and struggling to attract and retain staff.

'I could feel the stress of the day drop away'

Continued from Page 3.

AFTER leaving the bucolic scenes of her childhood for the academic demands of Oxford, Bourby never really found the time to live rurally again.

That is until Covid claustrophobia struck.

Like so many others, Bourby and her partner soon began hankering for the wide open spaces.

Bourby and Gaëtan met while each was on tour.

After Bourby flew back to Perth, Gaëtan was in Florida, so in terms of time difference, they were at opposite ends of the earth.

"When it's midnight there it's midday here," Bourby laughs.

"You couldn't have had a longer-distance relationship. One of us had to give. Thankfully, I was just starting Perth Symphony, so he moved here."

But the pressures of life in the big smoke began to mount during Covid.

Bourby desperately needed hills, valleys, and the unique perspective that comes with an open vista.

"I literally googled 'For sale acreage WA'," she admits. "A place called 'Coondle' came up and I was like 'where the heck is this?'"

Originally they had been looking for a small place – one bedroom, one bathroom, one car bay – but upon visiting the region their expectations changed.

Coondle and Toodyay had everything the couple were looking for, with the added bonus of an Avon Rail Link and the prodigious performance space of Toodyay's Memorial Hall.

"We fell in love instantly, looking back across the valley to Toodyay," Bourby enthuses. "At that point something in me just went 'this isn't just going to be a weekend place, this is going to be home'."

"We worked out that when we come out at weekends we want to have our friends for a long, lazy lunch, we want to spend time in the community, we want to grow some vegetables.

"In Perth we're so busy we just need a bed, a shower, and a coffee machine."

So the homebuyers "switched everything", finding instead a house in Coondle as their main residence.

"Changing my house changed my life," Bourby explains.

"I wanted a place where I could feel the stress of the day drop away on the journey.

"Running the orchestra was an unbelievable workload, with challenges every single day.

"To come home to peace and quiet, and see that big sky, to have friendly neighbours say 'just pop in for dinner' is wonderful."

Gaëtan now has space for a larger recording studio, and with Bourby's penchant for performance simmering away, their house concerts for friends and neighbours are a bubbling hotspot of musical energy, a creative cauldron of collaboration.

Bourby says she has found the Toodyay community to be "everything I wished it could be".

"There is such an opportunity to connect even further through music, whether that's attending concerts or performances together, or playing together, or learning together."

Bourby has recently been involved in a number of performances with local Noongar singer songwriter Phil Walleystack, whom she describes as an amazing storyteller with a talent for engaging the audience.

"He doesn't even tell me what he's going to sing," she says.

"I use my ears and I use my heart, I listen to him and I play off him, and I love that kind of thing, where I can use the instrument to help tell a story."

As a singer, songwriter and performer, Phil is as down-to-earth as they come, and this kind of unpretentious individuality has a special place in Bourby's heart.

"Each and every one of us has something extraordinary to offer, and allowing everyone to be who they want to be is so important.

"Music is such a great way to express that – and a great leveller."

Moondyne magic draws thousands to town



The 'trial' of legendary bushranger Moondyne Joe in Stirling Terrace. Photo: Clive Millett.

RINGA CIVIL



WE SPECIALISE IN:

- Sewer and storm water drainage
- Sand & gravel supply
- Mains water, gas and power
- Trench excavation
- Rock pitching and breaking
- Filling and leveling
- House pads
- Septic tank & leach drain installation

& ALL SITE WORK NEEDS



PLEASE CONTACT:

Jack Wood
Email: jack@ringacivil.com

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



Toodyay Community Singers perform in colonial costume at last month's Moondyne Festival.

Singers get festive

Toodyay Community Singers
Anne Millar

THE TOODYAY Community Singers donned period costumes to sing at the Colonial Village for the Moondyne Festival.

Our efforts were greatly appreciated by the festival audience who requested we do an encore.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Moondyne committee for their successful festival.

We are looking forward to next year.

On that note we would like to thank the Jarrah Celts for the use of their sound equipment.

Next for the singers is the Toodyay Agricultural show on October 7, for which rehearsals are already underway.

A bit of trivia: the Toodyay Community Singers have been performing at various events in the area since 2008 and some of our original members are still an active part of the group.

We are always looking for new members.

If you are new to the Toodyay Community and would like to be part of the events that happen throughout the year, we invite you to come along on a Thursday evening at the CWA Hall on Stirling Terrace between 5pm and 7pm and meet us.

National win helps begin the healing process

Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

MAY was a busy and productive month.

We celebrated Toodyay's journey in the truth-telling conversation on Tuesday May 16 when the Gnulla Karnany Waangkiny (Our Truth Telling) exhibition at Newcastle Gaol Museum won the national *Indigenous Project Award* at this year's Australian Museums and Galleries Association Awards night in NSW.

This project is the result of a significant collaboration between Corporation members and the Shire of Toodyay.

Corporation Chairman Robert Miles thanked everyone involved.

"This project has been about 'reclaiming' the Noongar voice, acknowledging truth and beginning the healing process," Mr Miles said.

The Shire launched its second Reconciliation Action Plan at an annual national Reconciliation Week breakfast on Thursday May 25.

Reconciliation is about mutual respect and unity.

As with last year's inaugural plan, this launch was another proud moment for everyone involved.

So much has been achieved in the past 12 months.

We thank the Shire for its generosity of spirit and unwavering support for a plan that is more than just words.

A copy of the plan is published on the Shire website at toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Corporation directors Robert and Sharmaine Miles hosted City of Wanneroo representatives who visited Toodyay on Friday May 26 to learn more about our reconciliation action plan and award-winning truth-telling project to see what can be done in their own local government area.

May also saw more Noongar Trail information signs installed at various Toodyay sites.

One at Connor's Mill Museum titled *Mindalong - The First Flour* highlights traditional Noongar bread making.

It includes a historically significant artefact, a grinding stone known as a 'Muller', which was found in Coondle.



Historic Noongar grinding stone found at Coondle was used for making flour.

Senior Elder Uncle Ben Taylor led a smoking ceremony to heal the spirits of its ancestral owners before the grinding stone was placed in position in the new museum display.

Other new information now on display in Duidgee Park is an *Ancient Land* board which highlights traditional Aboriginal trade routes, song-lines, scarred trees and ochre.

We encourage you to take a look to learn more about traditional local Noongar culture and reflect on what life was like here nearly 200 years ago when British colonists first arrived in the Avon Valley.

A full Noongar Trail with 11 sites will be launched later this year.

We also received generous support from Toodyay community members last month who helped create and install local Noongar trail signs.

We are still fundraising and if you would like to help contribute to this significant community project please email Helen at noongarkaartdijin@gmail.com.

On another note, the Corporation is looking for space or a shared location in the Toodyay townsite to be used as a base for local Noongar enterprise projects, tourism opportunities, artwork and cultural sharing.

If you know of anything, please email Helen.

We get great satisfaction from sharing our traditional culture with other local residents as well as the many tourists from Perth and elsewhere who love to visit our town.

If you'd like to keep up to date with local Noongar events and activities, please follow our *Facebook* page or visit our website at noongarkaartdijin.com.au.

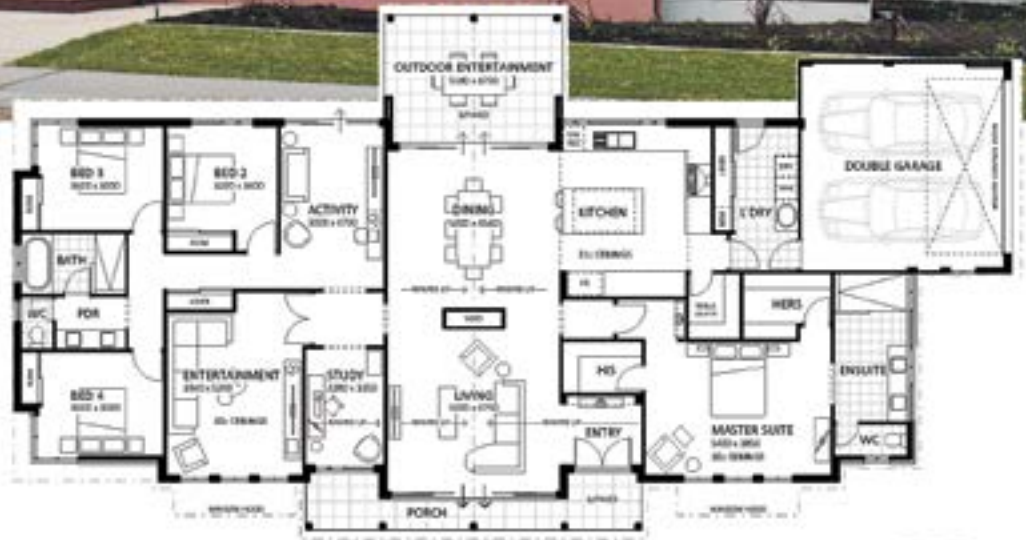


We understand.

You'll find everything your country-inspired lifestyle demands in this classic rural retreat.

Luxuriate in its big, comfortable spaces as you settle into the rhythm of the Western Australian landscape, with rustic bush poles, raking timber rafters and a feature fireplace, plus those spectacular floor-to-ceiling windows that capture views at every turn.

For more information call 6141 6810 or visit ruralbuilding.com.au



VISIT ONE OF OUR DISPLAY HOMES

THE JULIMAR RETREAT
7 Breakbank Drive, Bulbinook

THE DAINTREE RETREAT
16 Kookaburra Way, Vasse

Looking for design inspiration?
Explore our video gallery at ruralbuilding.com.au



OFFICE LOCATIONS | Albany | Bunbury | Busselton | Esperance | Geraldton | Perth

Improvements give students a shot at goal

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

TOODYAY DHS Parents and Citizen's Association held its term two general meeting on May 23 to further our vision to refresh the school's undercover assembly area.

Members approved a project plan to create a more inviting meeting place for gatherings of students, parents, and staff.

Planned improvements include repairs to the leaking roof, installation of outdoor carpet to the floor area, painting the canteen area wall, new menu boards, a new public address system and a professionally painted mural on one large wall.

Initial estimates indicate a project budget of \$40,000 to \$45,000, which will require improvements to be staged over two years.

The P&C will approach potential donors for a contribution to certain elements of the project, where possible.

We're very excited for the transformation that this project will bring for students, staff and families of the school.

In the meantime, students will benefit from a total of \$5,598 in donations to the school to purchase learning resources, provide curriculum-based excursions and improve student facilities.

Members approved donations towards MultiLit program resources including decodable readers and activity books to support the delivery of structured synthetic phonics programs for students in early childhood, primary and secondary years.

Donations were also approved towards excursions for students in Years 9 and 10 to the WA Museum, for the Year 3 class to visit Bilya Koort Boodja (Nyoongar Cultural Centre) in Northam, and for the recently held year 6 camp.

The P&C will pay for two netball or basketball rings for the primary school basketball court to allow junior primary students to improve their skills and have a real shot at goal.

Early childhood students (kindergarten and pre-primary) will benefit from partial funding for a new cubby house and support from the P&C to secure the remaining \$2,500 in costs.

The playground is currently without a cubby house, which limits the potential for creative unstructured play.

If you know someone or a community group that could contribute to this worthy purchase, please contact the P&C.

The much-loved Mother's Day gift stall raised \$701 for the school, and helped children to give a little something to their Mum on Mother's Day.

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

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

Back when a tea bag was a bag of leaves

Toodyay Historical Society Inc
Robyn Taylor, Vice President

THERE is a quote by American novelist John Updike, that appeals in its simplicity but can be hard to put into action:

"The sweetness of riddance".
There is satisfaction in having a toss-out of accumulated stuff that has taken up valuable storage space for far too long.

However, some things are suggestive of how things were in the past and may never be again.

At our monthly meetings we start with a session of 'Show and Tell' with two or three members bringing along items with a backstory.

Ian related how he was browsing through a second-hand shop and had been shown a collection of 'unused' Lan-Choo tea bags.

He couldn't resist adding these to his growing collection of memorabilia.

It turned out these were a bundle of brown paper bags with 'Lan-Choo' stamped on them.

They hark back to the days of grocery stores when produce came in bulk – in boxes, large tins and hessian bags.

The required amount was measured out for the customer, weighed on scales, then priced by shopkeepers who had to be good at mental arithmetic.

I wonder if it is possible to return to these practices that reduce foam and plastic packaging, by just purchasing the quantity we need?

Time will tell.

Robyn brought along a small collection of jewellery given to her by her schoolfriend Danielle Reinish (Danny) after they met at Brighton-le-Sands primary school in Sydney.

Danny and her family escaped from Prague, the capital of Czechoslovakia, at the time the Russians were taking over in 1948.

Many families moved to the West before the borders were shut.



Ian Stannard's collection of memorabilia: Lan-Choo tea bags, copper hot water bottle, washing board stamped 'Midland Junction', and scales for grading eggs. Photo: Beth Frayne.

Czechoslovakia was the last democratic country in Eastern Europe before coming under Communist rule.

The family jewels had been successfully hidden under Danny's soiled nappies.

Her family, along with many others from Eastern Europe, migrated to Australia, rebuilt their lives, and added cultural richness to our own.

But it wasn't easy for the children of migrants who knew they were different at an age when all they wanted was to fit in.

Such was Danny's story.
While I enjoyed the ways of her family and their 'exotic' cuisine, Danny felt embarrassment.

She preferred our traditional Sunday lunch of roast lamb and veg, while I loved to tuck in to her grandmother Baba's garlic-laden offerings.

May's end-of-month Sunday excursion for members was a 'Back to Bolgart' driving and walking tour with picnic lunch, as Beth wanted to

take photos of Bolgart's historic places to augment her recent historical investigations.

A peek into the Memorial Hall was a highlight.

Our next event, on Sunday June 25, is a free archives workshop for members and friends from 10am to 4pm at Donegan's Cottage, to show how we care for our collections.

Contact Beth, if you are interested, as space in the cottage is limited.

Monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm in St Stephen's Church Hall, when a member is featured as speaker.

Contact: secretary.2j.ths@gmail.com; Robyn Taylor, rdtaylor@iinet.net.au, phone 9574 2578; or Beth Frayne, toobide4@iinet.net.au, phone 9574 5971.

Our postal address is PO Box 32 Toodyay WA 6566; website: toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au.

Membership is \$15 per annum.

Every man and his dog enjoyed a day in the sun

Toodyay Farmers Market
Sue Wakka

WHAT a terrific day, with perfect weather, for another Farmers Market.

We were again able to support some of our highly valued community groups.

Toodyay's St John Ambulance volunteers were on hand to answer questions about their activities, with kids getting to see the inside of the ambulance as well.

Volunteers are an important part of this much-needed service, so get behind them.

We also had Marsupial Mamas and Pappas who work hard to look after injured wildlife within our region.

Bob was again vocal in attracting people to this very important group.

If you don't know Bob, get on down to the next market to find out who he is.

As always the wildlife carers need people to help, so please think about joining them.

The Safe and Scenic Toodyay Road Group, our local advocates for the protection of the environment along Toodyay Road, were also on hand to answer queries and discuss proposed road upgrades.

With new stallholders, this market proved popular and well attended.

There were a couple of vegetable and fruit stalls, along with meat, seafood, honey, chilli products, olive oils, wines, gin, and marshmallows – to name a few.



Visitors enjoy the range of goodies at the market.

There were some mouth-watering choices for breakfast and lunch, like a breaky burger, panini, waffles, Thai food and the popular coffee and ice cream.

Even the dog had a choice of treats – something for everyone.

This was a busy market with a lot of stallholders offering variety for all, with enjoyable music and plenty of people throughout the day.

If you would like to get the word out about your community group, please get in touch with us.

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

Check out the Facebook page prior to each market or join us by contacting toodyayfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

See you at the Market Sunday June 18 from 9am – 1pm.

ABN 62120839979

AVON VALLEY WATER CARTAGE

For all water requirements



Jamie Ratcliffe 0418 904 525
jamie_r@live.com.au



Agents for BONAIRE

Hannagan's **Hearth House** 1987 001857

Winter's here!
Stay warm and cosy in winter with Masport woodheaters and stoves

PLUMBING HEATING & COOLING
2 Gordon St Northam 9622 1462

Email: makin1@wn.com.au

- Gasfitter & Installer
- Gas Service & Maintenance
- Sewerage Plumber
- General Plumbing

FAX 9622 3877 • 2 GORDON ST, NORTHAM **9622 1462 or 9622 3468**



MURESK
INSTITUTE
CULTIVATING MODERN AGRICULTURE



SEEKING DIVERSE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR?

“ There is no shortage of opportunities for enthusiastic and hardworking young and mature people alike. No day is the same for me; the industry has taken me from Bremer Bay to Paraburdoo and supplied me with more experiences than you can throw a stick at.”

Lawson Harper, completed the Associate Degree in Agribusiness at Muresk Institute (pictured)

EXPLORE THESE COURSES TODAY

» **AUR30420 Certificate III in Agricultural Mechanical Technology**

Specialise in agricultural vehicles and equipment.

» **MAB40 Backpack and Boom Spray Combined skill set**

Obtain the mandatory licence to safely spray chemicals to meet Department of Health requirements.

» **AD-AGRIB Associate Degree in Agribusiness**

Acquire the technical and business skills needed in agricultural production, farm management and equipment consultancy and sales.

» **Novice Shearer and Wool Handler Training**

Learn a range of skills and techniques be a wool handler or 'learner shearer'.

FREE
IN '23

1/2
PRICE



For more information visit the Muresk website via the QR code or email Muresk@dtwd.wa.gov.au

RTO: 52790



Free fry-up feeds men's mental health awareness

Mr Perfect – More Than A BBQ
Sean Hefferon, coordinator

A NEW, grassroots mental health initiative for local men has started in Toodyay.

The first in a series of free barbecues for blokes was held in Duidgee Park last month, and the next is scheduled there on Sunday June 18 from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

The events, called 'Mr Perfect – more than a BBQ', invite men to get together for snags, chat and great company.

Toodyay newcomer Sean Hefferon, who moved to town from South Fremantle with wife Beck this year, has run similar events for men at Fremantle's South Beach.

Sean was recently appointed as a community representative on the Shire of Toodyay Audit and Risk Committee.

He describes the national Mr Perfect program as a "pre-crisis grassroots charity that runs park barbecues for men across the country to reduce isolation and create community and connection".

"As men, we downplay or dismiss mental health concerns, yet this culture of dismissal just kicks the can down the road," Sean said.

"As a man, I've been guilty of dismissing mental health issues in myself and others, which is not a badge I wear with pride.

"We Aussie men often reach for a beer when faced with difficulties, but I have learnt over the years that getting smashed doesn't solve anything – and the headaches are a killer."

Sean, who trained as a psychologist, said it was an established fact that social connections can help bolster mental health.

"Men who are connected are more likely to reach out for support by simply talking to others about what's going on in their own lives," he said.

On average, eight people – six men and two women – commit suicide every day in Australia.

Men are also twice as likely as women to develop a costly and addictive substance abuse disorder involving alcohol or drugs.



Sean Hefferon (in Mr Perfect t-shirt) with local men at the inaugural Sunday morning Mr Perfect BBQ at Duidgee Park. Photo: Wes Sutton.

Sean said depression was the most common mental health disorder among young Australian men and adults, with the rate steadily increasing with age.

"Studies reveal a significant association between loneliness, depression and suicide," Sean said.

"But 7 in 10 men don't reach out, and when a crisis occurs – such as a death of a close family member, relationship breakdown or financial difficulty – they lack social support for dealing with it because the groundwork has not been laid."

He said men's mental health issues had flown under the radar for too long.

"Maybe that's due to a perceived male 'need' to be independent or to 'compartmentalise' issues.

"And maybe it's also down to role models,

upbringing and perceived social norms and community expectations."

There was no pressure at a Mr Perfect barbecue to talk about mental health, he said.

"Rather, the aim is to provide a gathering where men can meet other like-minded men at an everyday social event such as a barbecue.

"We know that men have a hard time talking about their mental health but it's important to know that talking – as well as listening – always helps.

"Getting outside in fresh air and sunshine – or even under shelter in the rain – is healthy too, and the opportunity to meet new friends makes it a win-win experience."

Just talking to others could be tremendously helpful and therapeutic, Sean said.

"It can help men to deal with what may

seem to be insurmountable issues by hearing others talk about how they fared in similar situations and perhaps point them in the right direction for help and advice.

"Just knowing that you are not alone can be the biggest benefit."

The next Mr Perfect BBQ will include vegetarian options, water and soft drinks.

The barbecue is an alcohol-free event.

Sean said Toodyay Bakery supplied free sliced bread for last month's barbecue under a national program co-funded by corporate sponsor Zurich Financial Services Australia.

The organisation is seeking more Toodyay sponsors for local men's free barbecues on the third Sunday of every month. You can visit mrperfect.org.au, email sean.hefferon@iinet.net.au or call Sean on 0407 479 695.

Were you a student or teacher at Northam Senior High School?

Northam Senior High School Alumni
Norman Moore

A RECENT reunion of 1940s-1950s Northam Senior High School (NSHS) alumni has brought together around 50 schoolmates to catch up and reminisce about old times.

The NSHS Alumni came about in 2020, when a group of former students from the local high school resolved to establish the NSHS Alumni of former students and staff to formalise our involvement in the school's centenary celebration in 2021.

We are keen to contact former students and staff to help grow our database.

The Alumni group facilitates get-togethers and reunions of former students to reminisce about the "good old days" and catch up with former classmates.

We are actively engaged with the school, providing assistance and scholarships to the school where feasible and appropriate.

We commissioned a plaque to express the appreciation former students and staff have for the school's contribution to their lives.

The plaque was installed and unveiled in October 2021 on the front exterior wall of the school building as part of the centenary celebrations.

The Alumni organised a Centenary Dinner at the Northam Country Club in October 2021, a very enjoyable occasion attended by 75 alums.

The inaugural Annual General Meeting, held in association with the Centenary Dinner, was well attended.

The newly elected committee expressed enthusiasm for the future of the NSHS Alumni, and arranged for former student and historian Bill Edgar to write a history of the school.

His book *Northam Senior High School - A Century of Achievement and Change* was launched at a function held at the Applecross Tennis Club in May 2022.

We are grateful to Bill for the significant contribution he made to the centenary celebration.

All the books printed so far have sold. A reprint run can be arranged should there

be sufficient demand, so let us know if you require a copy.

The 2022 AGM, held in October, was well attended, with a new committee elected.

The committee has determined Decade Reunions should be arranged for past students and staff, beginning with the 1940s and 1950s.

These reunions are part of a desire to create opportunities for alums to gather and renew old acquaintances.

The 1940/1950 reunion at the Riverside Hotel in Northam on March 10 this year was attended by 50 alums and carers.

As many alums from those early decades were unable to travel to Northam, Raelene Mason and Gwen Bryden are contemplating another function in Perth for this group of schoolmates.

A sub-committee has also been appointed to organise a reunion for the 1960s group to be held next year. Details to follow.

It is proposed to invite all former School Captains and Head Girls to a get-together to reflect on our school days and to contemplate how we might assist the school in the future.

In 1999 the school was the beneficiary of a significant endowment in the will of former student Laurence Armstrong.

The aim of the fund was to provide scholarships for needy students to assist them in completing their secondary education.

The Alumni has been active in seeking to resurrect these scholarships and is in communication with the Education Department and the school principal to assist in the ongoing scholarship program.

This significant fund will become an important vehicle in assisting needy students well into the future and will properly recognise the generosity of Laurence Armstrong.

The attendance of former staff and students at functions will enhance the value derived from our fellowship and networking.

Please let us know if you are interested to be involved in our work, or if you have any ideas on projects we can get involved in.

Contact PO Box 1576, Booragoon 6954 or Norman Moore on 0417 926 326.

Refinance, renovate or just re-evaluate

With interest rates on the rise, there's never been a better time to review your home loan.

Enquire online at bendigobank.com.au/healthcheck or call your nearest branch on 08 9574 4077.

Community Bank · Toodyay & Districts

*Roy Morgan Single Source (Australia), December 2022. All loans are subject to the bank's normal lending criteria. Fees, charges, terms and conditions apply. Please consider your situation and read the Terms and Conditions, available online at www.bendigobank.com.au or upon request from any Bendigo Bank branch, before making a decision. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL 237679 (1676686-1734981) (05/22) OUT_28039634_20/02/2023



Gonneville

Project Update



Chalice in the Community

Chalice has had a busy few months in the local community, attending and supporting a range of events and groups.

The Chalice team participated in the Wheatbelt Futures Forum in Northam last month, which gave great insight into the opportunities and issues facing the region. The team also participated in the Bindoon Primary School 'Grow Yourself with Gratitude Day' earlier this year. Our environmental staff enjoyed chatting with students and parents about their knowledge of local animals and vegetation.

Chalice were proud sponsors of the Toodyay Moondyne Festival in May and also recently supported the Northam Toy Library to expand their selection of toys, allowing the group to provide better resources for local families.

We also wrapped up the first of our Local Voices community surveys. Thanks again to everyone who participated, and we look forward to sharing the insights over the coming months.



Get in Touch

Sign up to receive our Community Newsletter at www.chalicemining.com/community-newsletter

Blue Tree Project

The Chalice team painted a tree at Gonneville last month as part of the Blue Tree initiative.

The Blue Tree Project aims to help spark difficult conversations and encourage people to speak up when battling mental health concerns. By spreading the paint and spreading the message that "it's OK to not be OK", we can help break down the stigma that's still attached to mental health.

Chalice's Employee Assistance Program provides support for our team and families through access to mental health providers BSS Psychology. Well done to the Gonneville team and contractors who initiated this important conversation.

To learn more about the Blue Tree Project: www.bluetreeproject.com.au

Latest Community Funding Announced

Chalice was pleased to receive a record number of Community Investment applications for our February to March 2023 funding period. Chalice's Community Investment Program has been running since 2021, and is designed to provide funding to deliver positive long-term benefits and support local initiatives.

Our latest round of funding will help support over 14 different community groups and initiatives in the shires surrounding our Gonneville Project, including Toodyay, Northam, Chittering and Goomalling.

Our next application period runs from August to September 2023, and submissions can be lodged online from 1 August. Chalice is specifically looking to support projects that fall under our focus areas of Education, Environment and Community, up to the value of \$10,000.

To view our latest round of successful applicants visit:

www.chalicemining.com/community-investment



Want to learn more about the Gonneville Nickel-Copper-PGE Project?

Our newly updated Info Sheet covers all the key detail such as location, project stage and other FAQ's including employment opportunities and logistics.



Scan the QR code to read our latest Info Sheet

Visit Us

Chalice Pop-Up Office
Open 8.30am – 11.30am Thursdays
Shop 5, Charcoal Lane, Toodyay

Email Us

community@chalicemining.com

Go Online

www.chalicemining.com/community



Toodyay RSL President Max Howard (seated left) and Shire President Rosemary Madacsi (right) sign a land transfer agreement for the former shire parks and gardens depot in Clinton Street, watched by Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst and local RSL Project Officer Bob Wood.

All smiles on the home front as RSL secures title for new HQ

Toodyay RSL
Bob Wood

WEDNESDAY 24 May 2023 is a date that will forever be highlighted in the history of the Toodyay RSL.

After 103 years and seven months the Toodyay RSL can look forward to having a home of its own.

The journey began in January 1948 when the then members raised the money and purchased two adjoining blocks of land in Stirling Terrace.

The aim was to construct a hall and other buildings to serve as both a memorial and to support ex-servicemen and their dependants.

Efforts then went into accumulating funds in a building account.

Unfortunately, before those funds had become sufficient, the State Government established the new high school site on the far side of the river.

This required a bridge which would land on one of those blocks.

As a result, the land which had not been compulsorily purchased was transferred to the Roads Board, as it was at the time, and became the area now known as Newcastle Park.

In 1957 the resurgent building fund was donated to the Shire to assist in the renovation of the town hall on the condition that it be renamed as the "Memorial Hall".

For the next 59 years, the RSL met in the Lesser Hall but were not able to display any of their

collected memorabilia as the hall had to be kept clear to allow it to be let to other groups.

In January 2017 we wrote to the Shire expressing our interest in using the shed in Clinton Street.

This led to the Shire advertising for expressions of interest and by July of 2017 we had leased the shed for our use.

We first attempted to plan for a fit-out of the shed which would comply with all the public building regulations, but this proved uneconomic.

We then considered a number of other alternatives but were always drawn back to Clinton Street due to its proximity to Anzac Park.

For the last year we have been aware that the Shire wished to gift the shed and land to the RSL for which we are extremely grateful, but it has still been a drawn-out process to get to the formal signing of transfer documents.

In our 104th year in Toodyay, we, the members of Toodyay RSL, wish to say a very sincere "thank you" to the Shire, councillors and Toodyay community for your tremendous support over the years.

We look forward to being able to invite you to our new building in due course.

Some of that support recently came in the form of buying tickets in our wood raffles.

Our lucky winners this year were Michael Sinclair-Jones, Jenny Wilgoss and Warren Nazeby.

Thank you all for your support.

Our doublegees can split logs



Log-splitting team hard at work.

Moondyne Men
Graham Hill

THE Moondyne Men enjoyed being part of the team at another successful Moondyne Festival, helping set up and pack down various items and displays.

Our team also managed Checkpoint Charlie at the Freemasons Hotel and handed out free fruit and bottled water to passers-by.

We adopted our name "The Moondyne Men" from this festival and count it as our signature event.

Our other activities recently included an excellent effort by several team members who helped a local lady clean up her rental property at Coondle.

All the firewood for the RSL has also now been split and cut.

Many thanks to our helpers, especially "Double G" with his log splitter.

On May 25 the Moondyne Men enjoyed a bus trip to Merredin, visiting the Military Museum and taking lunch at the Ettamogah Pub at Cunderdin.

We are also looking forward to assisting the ladies of the Fibre Festival with their tables and chairs on Saturday and Sunday June 3 and 4.

However, the main event will be our first ever Anniversary Dinner, which will celebrate the establishment of the Moondyne Men which has now become the preferred men's group in Toodyay with a membership close to 40.

The group enjoys social interactions and creating an environment and sense of well-being by exchanging of stories, past and present, and having a general appreciation of one another.

We invite all members and prospective members to our free breakfast on the last Saturday of each month.

This feast of egg, bacon, sausage, hash browns, mushrooms, onions and toast is to be enjoyed by all.

If you are thinking of joining a proactive social group we meet every Monday and Thursday, 9am to noon, with the Saturday breakfast at the end of each month at the RSL Shed, Clinton Street, Toodyay.

For more information ring Secretary Colin on 0424 195 003.

Crash barrier design fails to protect motorcyclists

Brian Foley

IS THE safety of all road users being considered in new roadworks around Toodyay?

Our town can witness an influx of hundreds of motorcyclists of a weekend, yet safety barriers for riders are not included in the recent upgrade to a section of the Toodyay-Bindi Bindi Road.

After six months, the roadworks are complete – which no doubt comes as welcome news to those who prefer not to have their cars covered in gravel dust.

The project, funded by a Black Spot Programme grant, has reportedly come in on budget, meaning other roadworks will not be impacted by any cost overrun.

However, the new works lack any motorcycle protection barriers.

These barriers, which consist of an extra plate running beneath the W-beam, can be seen in new roadworks on Toodyay Road.

Our motorcyclist visitors often travel along routes where the speed limit is 110 km/h, for example when riding out from town along the Bindi Bindi Road to the Bindoon-Dewars Pool Road and on to Great Northern Highway.

I sometimes see them travelling past my place

well over this limit.

The omission of protection barriers for motorcyclists raises questions about the design and costing process.

The Curtin-Monash Accident Research Centre recommends motorcyclist-friendly guardrails be installed on routes popular with recreational riders.

An article published by *Oz Rider* in 2019 points out W-guardrails are not a good option to stop a sliding rider as "a motor-cyclist sliding along the ground can pass underneath a W-guardrail, or can hit a post".

Neither possibility is acceptable, as both can result in severe injuries, yet this is the situation on the upgraded section of Bindi Bindi Road.

After raising this at the Shire of Toodyay Council Meeting on May 24, I received the response that it was not a legal requirement, but additional safety measures can be considered if funds become available.

My concern is that no person is injured or killed in the interim by striking the support posts that would otherwise be covered by a protection barrier



New guard rails on the Toodyay-Bindi Bindi Road.

BAITING TO PROTECT NATIVE WILDLIFE

Under the Parks and Wildlife Service's *Western Shield* program, baiting to control foxes and feral cats occurs on more than three million hectares of conservation lands in Western Australia.

The baits used are toxic to introduced animals but not to native animals which have an evolved tolerance to the active compound (1080). All baited areas are signposted.

Baiting occurs on a regular and ongoing basis to protect endangered native animals including the numbat, western ground parrot and western swamp tortoise.



Attention pet owners: these baits will kill domestic dogs and cats. Baited areas must be considered dangerous for pet dogs and cats at all times.

For more information and maps on areas baited under *Western Shield* visit dbca.wa.gov.au/westernshield or contact your local Parks and Wildlife Service district office.

Western Shield is generously sponsored by Alcoa Foundation, Tronox and Western Areas.



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



Feel the satisfaction of creating your very own vampire deterrent

Avon Woodturners
Hamish Dobie

WOODTURNING was once the hobby of kings.

For many centuries, long before King Charles III set himself the target of saving the world from self-destruction, woodturning was a popular hobby with the royal houses of the German, Danish and French.

Even Peter the Great of Russia (recently made more famous by the Netflix series *The Great*) was an avid woodturner.

History records King Louis XV and his son, Louis XVI as keen woodturners and – if not for his sudden demise at the sharp end of a guillotine – Louis XVI

may have gone on to be well-respected and accomplished in the art.

Other famous woodturners include: Jimmy Carter, one term president of the USA and peanut farmer; Tom Selleck, of Magnum PI and big moustache fame; William H Macy, supporting actor for every movie, ever, and Homer Simpson, the 30-something character who's been 30-something for 30-something years.

Another interesting, if rather gory, fact is that Vincent Price used a lathe to turn wooden spikes to kill vampires in the movie *Last Man on Earth*.

I'm not suggesting you have to be a member of royalty, a president, an actor or even a cartoon character to become a woodturner.

However, if I've pricked your interest, make your way to the woodturners hideout at Shed 1, the Community Depot on Railway Road, on Wednesdays or Sundays from 9 until noon.

You can contact Barry on 0401 359 511 for more information.

Male or female, young or old – all are welcome to come along and try your hand.

Remember, if you find you are experiencing problems with vampires around your property, then the solution is in your own hands.

We have the wood and equipment available so that you can feel the satisfaction of having created your own vampire deterrent.



Lathe-turned salt and pepper mills.

Nostalgic songs of gnome sweet gnome

Toodyay Music Club
Jenny Edgecombe

AFTER an energetic singalong session to open our May meeting, featuring *Midnight Special* and *Knock On Your Door*, one might have hoped this month's theme, Reflections, would produce some restful, contemplative songs.

Moya's superb rendition of the contemplative song, *The Way We Were* followed the reflective line.

However, there was a considerable variety in other interpretations, ranging from Peter's delightfully comical offering *It's Not Much Fun Being a Gnome*, to Spencer's tragic tale of *Billy and Sue*.

Anne's songs, including the romantic *Harvest Moon*, evoked romantic memories of years gone by.

The lovely song *When We Were Kids*, presented by Spencer, returned us to lovely nostalgic memories of childhood.

It Was a Very Good Year was an excellent choice from Maurice, whose theme songs are always very thoughtfully chosen and presented.

Not all the memories in the songs were happy ones.

Jenny included an a cappella version of the rather grim *Stone Walls and Steel Bars* – reflections of a man remembering why he was in prison.

Eileen also reminded us that memories can be painful, with the sad but beautiful *You Don't Bring Me Flowers*.

Any gloom created by that song was balanced by her swinging version of *Magic Moments*, complete with some impressive whistling by Maurice.

Please come along and meet us next month, as performer or audience member.

Our next meeting is at 1pm, Saturday June 13 at the CWA Hall, Stirling Terrace, Toodyay. Talk to Joe on 0400 862 694 for more information.



(Left to right) Fitzroy Crossing's Azman and Tamala Vestergaard from Wildlife West with Toodyay Lions President John Pearce.

Local Lions help flooded Fitzroy

The Toodyay Lions Club
John Pearce

THE MIGHTY Fitzroy River runs through the town of Fitzroy Crossing.

In January this year massive rainfalls in the Kimberley resulted in widespread flooding in the area.

The previous highest flood level in Fitzroy Crossing came to the top of a concrete pad at the sewerage pumping station.

At its peak, this year's floodwaters were two metres above the pad.

After the Toodyay Lions Club annual auction on Saturday March 25 we decided some of the Jumbo proceeds should help people affected by these floods.

The Toodyay District High School Chaplaincy and Youth Care and our local karate club had been named as beneficiaries prior to the auction, but we also wanted to provide some support to people affected by the floods.

I rang my son Simon in Broome to help us locate a worthy cause in Fitzroy Crossing.

He told us of a remarkable woman who worked as a nurse at the local hospital, drove a bus for special needs children, and in her spare time operated a wildlife refuge for sick, injured, and abandoned birds and animals.

There is no vet in Fitzroy Crossing. With a band of dedicated helpers, Tamala operates the sanctuary on a voluntary basis.

She lives on one side of the river while the sanctuary is on the other.

Three weeks after our auction we travelled to Fitzroy crossing to meet her.

The sanctuary was home to 35 kangaroos (reds, wallaroos, and wallabies), 25 milk babies (joeys still living on milk), six owls, a kite and a bush turkey.

As the river rose the birds and animals were moved to higher ground.

More wild kangaroos ended up at the sanctuary as they retreated from rising floodwaters.

By the next morning the river was still rising so Tamala and her partner Azman decided to relocate all of the animals in their care to their business premises back across the flooded river in a dinghy.

The animals were sedated to make them easier to manage, with kangaroos transferred to a dinghy via a kayak while the river was in full flood.

During the crossing the pair dodged tree branches, pig, kangaroo and cattle carcasses, gas bottles and the odd washing machine.

It was exhausting work, but Fitzroy locals also came to help out.

On one crossing the propeller fouled on a submerged tarpaulin, and Azman was thrown out, having to fend off the circling, out-of-control boat to avoid being run over.

It took some time before Tamala, who had been sitting at the bow, could take control of the boat and help Azman back on board.

By the end of the second day all the birds and animals had been relocated.

At the peak of the flood the water level came right to the front gates of Azman's bus charter company – 1.3 km inland from the riverbank.

The kangaroos are currently housed in a spray paint booth until a more suitable location is found or they are released back into the wild.

After meeting with Tamala and hearing her story, we decided she and her team were worthy recipients of a share of the Lions auction proceeds.

A massive amount of time, money and effort will still be required to resurrect the wildlife sanctuary.

We also extend our best wishes from all the members of the Toodyay Lions Club and the community in which we live and serve.

We wish to acknowledge everyone who assisted us with the auction this year: Jess Corby, who organised our online promotion; our volunteers, who helped out on Friday and Saturday; our auction donors, sellers and buyers; the Shire of Toodyay for their support; and to Roz and her Toodyay Locals Care teams who catered on the day.

Special thanks to our auctioneers Tony Maddox and Adrian Gamble.

Tony has been a long-time supporter of our auction, for as long as I can remember.

Tidy win for the Gascoyne

Tidy Towns Committee
Greg Warburton (Chair)

GASCOYNE Junction has joined Toodyay in an elite group of National Tidy Towns Winners.

With its population of just 70, Gascoyne Junction must take the title for the smallest town to ever win it.

Other Western Australian winners are Wyalkatchem, Denmark, Collie and of course Toodyay in 2015.

The awards began in 1990 and every year attract an impressive range of entrants from all over the country.

Toodyay has an illustrious Tidy Towns history having won a wide range of categories and awards over several years.

Congratulations to Gascoyne Junction. We all know the huge effort that goes into entering the competition.

Although not as active as we used to be, Toodyay Tidy Towns and Sustainable Communities still has a presence.

Groups such as the Toodyay Naturalists' Club continue with their Adopt-a-Spot litter picks and several community members regularly pick up roadside litter.

Unfortunately, many residents and visitors continue to use our roadsides and bushland areas as rubbish dumps.

A CHANCE TO WIN

WIN

A \$30K VIP GIG EXPERIENCE



\$49.99 EACH



\$43.99 EACH



\$45.99 EACH



\$8.99 EACH



\$49.99 EACH



\$45.99 EACH



\$57.99 EACH

WIN A TRIP FOR 2 TO LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

TOODYAY LIQUOR STORE

SHOP 1, 105 STIRLING TERRACE TOODYAY PH: 9574 2653

START AT

Bottlemart

BOTTLEMART.COM.AU

© 2023 Bottlemart Pty Ltd. All rights reserved. Special offers from Thursday 1st June until Friday 30th June 2023 or while stocks last. Prices include GST. Images are for illustrative purposes only.