

# 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.

July 2023  
Edition 425

## New laws cause mass confusion

### State refuses to delay start of stronger measures to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage

Michael Sinclair-Jones

AN ANGRY meeting of more than 300 farmers in Northam last month failed to delay the July 1 start of controversial new laws to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Speakers who objected to the new laws were loudly clapped and cheered in the packed Northam Town Hall by growers from as far away as Esperance and Pingelly.

The changes appear to have been rushed through without adequate public education or any clear indication of how they will affect hundreds of Wheatbelt landholders.

Local Aboriginal representatives say they should have been delayed.

One speaker at last month's packed Northam meeting claimed that the new laws would cost her "thousands and thousands of dollars to take out a tree" on her property.

"We have to face mortgage hikes, rate rises and now you want to add more costs – we are on our knees," she said.

Another said "people have worked hard to grub a reasonable living out of the ground and now everyone is shit-scared".

Toodyay real estate agent Tony Maddox

– who is being prosecuted for building an unauthorised crossing over Boyagerring Brook on his Nunile farm – received the loudest cheers and applause when he said the State Government should pay him compensation for taking away his right to do what he wanted on his own property.

Mr Maddox has pleaded not guilty to breaching a previous Aboriginal heritage law passed in 1972 and is due to return to the Northam Magistrate's Court on Monday July 10 to set a trial date after earlier court appearances in March and April.

A Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation representative at last month's Northam meeting said "I understand your pain but we want to work with you, not against you".

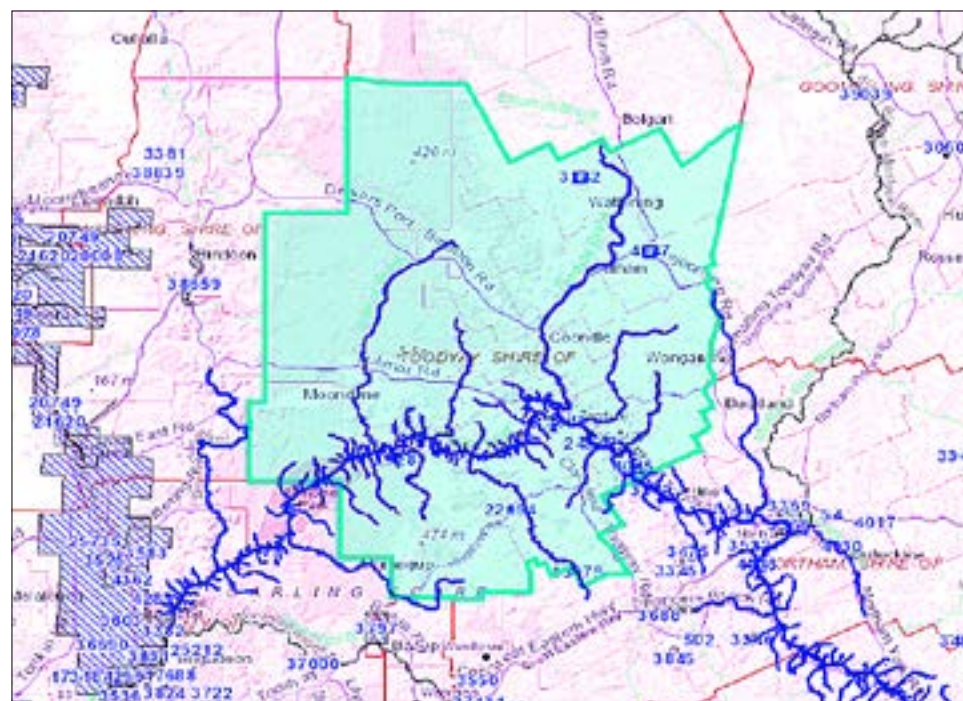
"Your land is your title – we don't want it back," she said.

"I live here, we are here, we all grew up here and we want to meet you to develop a rapport."

The 'education workshop' was conducted by the WA Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage three days before the new laws took effect and was one of 10 similar public meetings held throughout WA during a five-recent week period.

Three more public meetings are yet to be held – in Gidgegannup, Perth and Kalgoorlie.

Industry calls for a six-month delay were rejected by new WA Premier Roger Cook, who said the State Government would avoid



State map shows registered Aboriginal heritage sites in the Shire of Toodyay marked in blue, most of which are waterways.

a "heavy handed" approach to applying the new law over the next year.

Toodyay's Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation said it agreed that there should

have been a delay (see Page 9) to enable more people to learn how they might be affected by the new law.

A State Government speaker at the Northam meeting said most Wheatbelt landholders would not be affected.

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Letters, Editorial, Page 4.

## Visitors flock to Toodyay as Fibre Festival weaves its magic



Ivan Solomon and border collie Trish herd merino ewes through town in last month's Fibre Festival. Photo: Mark Roy. More Pages 5, 9.

### More iconic Stirling Terrace businesses up for grabs

TOODYAY'S colourful Cola Café is the latest leading local business to be offered for sale (see back page advertisement).

It joins the Toodyay Auto Centre and garden centre on the market after the Victoria Hotel and IGA store were sold last summer.

Wendouree Tea Rooms closed last month after the owners' death but will reopen Friday and Saturday nights after a sale fell through.

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### Coming events

Toodyay Farmers Market  
Sunday 16 July, 9am - 1pm

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# COUNTRY REALTY

# The Toodyay Herald

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<b>Noon Friday July 21</b>	<b>Noon Wednesday July 26</b>	<b>Thursday August 3</b>

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## Spiky thrill



An echidna on the author's Julimar bush block.

### Roger Simms

THERE are times, are there not, when nature's wonders reach out and hold you spellbound.

It's not always a powerhouse display – a brilliant sunset perhaps, or a mesmerising night sky.

Sometimes it's a chance encounter with something small, one of the shy and retiring characters in the Australian wildlife menagerie.

If you happened to see that wonderful ABC documentary *The Platypus Guardian* recently, you'll know what I mean.

It was the story of Peter Walsh, a Hobart naturalist, who wards off worry about a brain injury by exploring a suburban creek and making friends with a platypus.

This beautifully made film makes another powerful case for a greater effort on behalf of all Australia's rare and endangered fauna.

The platypus star of the show (named Zoom by Walsh) struggles to survive in a depleted habitat and at one point is found tangled in plastic.

But good stories need a happy ending, and this one closes with a much-relieved Walsh finding Zoom again after a major flood and an awakening among Hobart residents to the need to pitch in and clean up the creek and its surrounds.

A lasting image is the sheer joy on Walsh's face as he sits transfixed while Zoom clambers out of the creek and up the bank near him for what looks for all the world like a rendezvous.

British naturalist Jack Ashby, of Cambridge University's Museum of Zoology, tells of a similar close encounter in his book *Platypus Matters – The Extraordinary Story of Australian Mammals*.

On his first visit to Tasmania Ashby spotted "a ruddy brown ball about the size of a loaf of bread bumbling across a farm field".

He was ecstatic, he said, at finding an echidna and sat down to observe it.

"When a wild echidna – of its own free will – ambled up to me and rammed its face under my leg I didn't know quite what to do.

"It remains one of the most incredible wildlife experiences of my life."

Ashby says that, like their platypus

relatives, echidnas can be described as an amalgam of familiar and unique features.

They have a toothless pointy snout like a cross between a bird and an anteater.

They lay eggs like a reptile, have thick spines like a porcupine and a pouch like a marsupial.

Their front feet resemble spades and their hind feet point backwards.

They walk like no other creature on earth, as if at the behest of someone who is learning how to operate a remote-controlled robot, stopping and starting and changing direction every couple of steps.

In every respect, he says, echidnas are delightful.

I had my own one-on-one encounter with one of these marvellous creatures just a few weeks ago.

Walking the firebreak of our Julimar bush block, I heard a rustle, looked down and there was a ball of spines picking its way through leaf litter.

They're not the rarest of animals, I know, but it's still a thrill to spot one.

And we were alone – just me, the bush and the echidna. A special moment, I felt.

I watched as the spiny defence posture gave way to a slow uncurling and a sticky snout's resumption of a hunt for ants.

I walked on.

What was that line from a poem in one of my school text books about solitude?

I looked it up.

It was a poem by the prolific English writer Vita Sackville-West (1892-1962) who lived most of her life in the Kentish countryside and made rural folk a favourite subject of her verse.

Tallying the rewards of country life, she writes of "bookish townsmen in their dry retreats" who, in losing solitude, have lost:

"Something — an inward grace, the seeing eyes,

"The power of being alone;

"The power of being alone with earth and skies,

"Of going about a task with quietude,

"Aware at once of earth's surrounding mood,

"And of an insect crawling on a stone."

It's a sentiment that would resonate widely through rural Toodyay, I reckon.

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

### July - August 2023

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

# Mother Teresa volunteer survived Cyclone Tracy

By Mark Roy

BORN in Hawaii, with a frontline Qantas worker dad and Polynesian-Chinese hula-dancing mum, it was an odds-on bet that Sean Hefferon was destined to see a fair swathe of the world.

It would have been a winning bet too, because travel is indeed right up there at the top of Sean's list of favourite pastimes – along with bushwalking, camping, and community work.

He travelled much of the world with his family back in the day when the Australian airline's discount fares for staff were still a thing.

Then, after graduating from university, Sean's wanderlust had him backpacking across Europe and Asia for three years.

This included a spell as a volunteer at Mother Teresa's Kalighat hospice in India.

It says much about the man that he counts this hospice work as a travel highlight.

In later years, Sean took time away from his corporate role in human resources to return to Calcutta (since renamed Kolkata) for a second stint at the Kalighat hospice.

He also lent a hand to the Cambodia Foundation, delivering artificial limbs to a country where people in the outer provinces still suffer from the scourge of unexploded landmines.

The high seas also showed up on Sean's travel radar when he sailed in a global yacht race from Geraldton to Qingdao, in northeastern China.



Hawaiian-born Sean Hefferon is keeping busy running Toodyay's Mr Perfect BBQ, a grassroots charity that reduces isolation and promotes better mental health.

And, while living the life of a Freo local, he crewed on a yacht in the Fremantle to Bali ocean race.

But one of his most indelible memories comes from Australia, a few years after his family arrived on our shores from the United States, via New Zealand.

## Blown away

IT WAS Christmas eve, 1974, and the family had relocated to Darwin from their first Australian port of call in Sydney.

Sean remembers, as a child, sheltering under a table as the merciless might of Cyclone Tracy tore the roof off their single-storey Besser-block home.

"We were sitting in the dining room, and you can imagine the wind outside was very, very noisy," he recalls.

"You could hear things banging and exploding outside and I can still, nowadays, visualise our roof being torn off, the corners starting to peel away."

Dad ushered the family under their huge antique oak table, and they stayed there for several hours – mum, dad, Sean, his three sisters and brother, a great Dane and a cat.

"It was a bit uncomfortable, as you can imagine, with the great Dane taking up a lot of the space," Sean laughs.

"Come daybreak, the cyclone passed and we got up on the table to look around."

Cyclone Tracy had destroyed 80 per cent of the city, including their house, and had taken 71 lives, including those of their neighbours across the road.

Sean and his sisters were evacuated to Sydney "on an absolutely chockers Qantas plane" while his mum, dad, brother and the dog drove down in their battered and bruised Landrover with all the windows blown out.

## Tree change

THESE days, Sean and his wife Beck are among a growing number of Toodyay newcomers who are relishing the peace and quiet of the Avon valley lifestyle.

"Toodyay is great for us," Sean enthuses. "It's close to Perth and Freo and is a good base for camping trips in our camper van."

"We were looking to downsize, to simplify, and to focus our lifestyle."

A consultant in human resources, Sean also has experience as a psychologist and a rehab counsellor working in remote Indigenous communities in Australia's central desert.

"I'm able to work remotely, so I'm continuing to consult part-time," he says.

His wife Beck, a physiotherapist in amputee rehabilitation, is working on building a caseload in the local region – as well as taking time to further develop her artwork.

Sean is one of a burgeoning new band of urban professionals choosing to engage the fresh opportunities of a life outside the big smoke.

With the advent of high-speed broadband,

working remotely has long been a viable option in many fields, but we did not see a big uptake in Australia until the Covid era.

## Hammer and tongs

WHILE a Freo local, Sean was convenor of the South Fremantle Precinct, a community advisory body to local government.

He volunteers with Camp Quality, which assists kids living with cancer, and serves on the board of Bluebird Mental Health, who provide free support groups in areas of need.

He has hosted the Fremantle Mr Perfect BBQ at South Beach for the past three years, and is now taking up the tongs at Duidgee Park to host the Toodyay Mr Perfect BBQ each month.

It is clear that moving to Toodyay has not dampened Sean's enthusiasm for lending a hand.

He is still going at it hammer and tongs.

"Yeah, I'm a community representative on the Shire of Toodyay Audit and Risk Committee, and a member of Toodyay Friends of the River."

"I tend to get involved in the community where I live," he says, in what can best be described as a masterful understatement.

And when he wears the "Mr Perfect" apron at the men's mental health barbecue?

"It is intended as an ironic name," Sean says with a grin.

"We're just blokes, we're not perfect."

## Three separate Aboriginal bodies to process Toodyay heritage permits

Continued from Page 1.

STATE Engagement and Policy Director Cesar Rodriguez told the Northam meeting that farmers who sowed crops, ran livestock and repaired fences would not need heritage permits to continue existing activities (see *Toodyay Agricultural Alliance, Page 13*).

Landholders planning new works on properties larger than 1100sq/m would be required to carry out a "due diligence assessment" by checking online and using other measures to find out if planned works might affect Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Heritage sites included waterways and other specific places that were already registered with the State (see *Page 1 map*), and other areas where sites may exist but had yet to be registered or identified.

Mr Rodriguez said landholders wanting to carry out low-level activities in areas where heritage might exist would be required to consult a Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Service for an assessment.

WA Government guidelines say a fee of up to \$500 can be charged for this service, and a 'nominal' fee of \$100 for a permit.

Mr Rodriguez told the Northam meeting that low-level works permits could take up to 2½ months to be granted.

No Local Aboriginal Cultural Service bodies had been established anywhere in WA but existing registered native title bodies would assess applications in the interim.

The State Government has provided a total of \$10 million to set up these services, with each assessment body to receive up to \$300,000 to equip it with adequate staff and resources to process permit applications.

A map provided by Toodyay's Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation (above right) shows that the Shire of Toodyay contains three separate Aboriginal language groups – Ballardong, Yued and Whadjuk.

Mr Rodriguez said the Ballardong portion of the shire – an area that includes the Toodyay townsite and Nunile – was covered by the Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation, which has a mailing address in East Perth and representatives in Northam.

The corporation can be contacted on 0458 343 433 or [kaya@ballardong.org.au](mailto:kaya@ballardong.org.au).

The Whadjuk language group includes West Toodyay, Julimar and Cobbler Pool, and Yued covers Coondle, Dewars Pool, Bejoording and most of the State Forest north of Julimar Road.


Local landholders seeking permits for low-level activities in these areas should contact the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council in East Perth on 9358 7499 or email [reception@noongar.org.au](mailto:reception@noongar.org.au).



Map shows three different Aboriginal language groups in the Shire of Toodyay.



Sean's mum Sandy performs the hula dance at Hawaii's Fort DeRussy in the late 1950s.



# Darren West

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# The Toodyay Herald

## Sky not falling

FARMERS are angry, and rightly so. The introduction of new State laws to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage has been thoroughly botched.

Local heritage assessment bodies have yet to be formed and planned public meetings have yet to be held.

A further complication is that the Shire of Toodyay is home to three different Noongar language groups – Ballardong, Yued and Whadjuk.

Three different local Aboriginal bodies – two of which don't yet exist – will be needed to assess local works permits.

WA Premier Roger Cook refused last month to delay the start of the new laws for six months to enable all local people – including Toodyay's Noongar community – to be better prepared.

His actions have instead fuelled fear and distrust – and damaging claims that have served only to inflame community anger.

On the receiving end are local traditional owners who are working closely with the Shire of Toodyay to share their cultural heritage with the wider community.

As former local shire president Allan Henshaw rightly points out in his *Letter to the Editor* (opposite), it has also let the race genie out of the bottle.

It's not what is said but how it is said that can cause offence, sometimes unknowingly in ways that echo past sentiments that no longer have a place in contemporary Australian society.

Similar hurtful things were said 30 years ago when Australia's High Court ruled 6-1 in a landmark decision to recognise native title rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the nation.

Town hall meetings across Australia like the one held last month in Northam were filled with angry farmers, miners and townspeople who said the new laws were unjust and needed to be scrapped.

Former leading WA Liberal Senator Reg "Toe-Cutter" Withers saturated prime-time TV with grossly misleading political ads that showed a black hand dragging a dark curtain across a map of Western Australia.

The most common claim – one which has been revived in recent weeks – was that people's backyards were not safe.

It was all tosh. The sky didn't fall in, and most Australians continued their everyday lives without noticing any difference.

What we're seeing now appears to be history being repeated.

The State Government says most people won't be affected by the new laws, and this – like last time – may well be true.

However, until we know more about how the new laws will work in practice, nobody can be sure.

One thing for certain is that the WA Government has rushed into this without providing enough information and is now on the back foot trying to explain it to sceptical audiences across the state.

The devil may be in the detail.

Michael Sinclair-Jones  
Editor

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

## Wheatbelt Clinical Psychology

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The way we were – St Stephen's Anglican Church at the bottom of Stirling Terrace in 1953 during one of Toodyay's regular former floods. The big tree in the foreground is estimated to be more than 400 years old and still stands as a prominent town landmark across the road from Connors Mill. Severe flooding no longer occurs in the towns of Toodyay and Northam after the Avon River was gouged out and 'straightened' soon after this picture was taken. The State Government action caused unintended environmental damage that led to the disappearance of deep summer pools and the destruction of habitat for freshwater native fish such as cobbler, which formed a significant part of the diet of local traditional owners as well as sport for local recreational anglers. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

## LETTERS

### Race genie out of bottle

THANKS to politicians and activists Australia is now more divided than it's ever been.

In the West we have the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act and federally we have the Voice referendum campaign.

Both of these pieces of politics have engendered strong views and despite being implored to be respectful of each others' opinions, we seem to be headed for the gutter.

And that direction has been enthusiastically led by our political and civic leaders themselves.

It would seem that any questioning of the details and stance of these political pieces is met by as disrespectful and vicious put-down as possible.

Given the lead shown by the politicians is it any surprise that comment in social media is in a similar vein?

Any questioning of the scope, intent or procedures seems to be met with an unfounded accusation of racism, and that from some people that really ought to know better.

Having let this particular genie out of the bottle it will leave Australia the poorer – whatever happens to those two political pieces.

Allan Henshaw  
Toodyay

### Digging a hole for division

ALL THREE levels of government in Australia are promoting 'reconciliation' and the Senate has just passed a bill which will trigger a referendum on 'The Voice'.

If successful, the referendum will entrench in the Constitution as yet unspecified powers for Indigenous people.

Reconciliation is defined in the context of 'The Voice' as "At its heart, reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, for the benefit of all Australians".

Can somebody please explain how the new WA Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act is compatible with these objectives, and what benefit there is to non-Indigenous Australians in being required to pay Aboriginal consultants for permission to dig a hole on their own property?

Geoff Appleby  
Toodyay

### Fake news creates confusion

LAST month's Letter to Editor titled *All aboard, we're going to hell* commented on laws under WA's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021, saying "These everyday activities would include all ground disturbance to a depth of 50 millimetres (yes that's 5cm)". This was quoted as being copied from WA's

Farm Weekly magazine.

The statement is not correct, and *Farm Weekly* got it wrong.

I have contacted the magazine about the error and asked that it be publicly corrected. Misinformation such as this is concerning for farmers, miners and Aboriginal people alike, and in fact for all Australians.

The letter also went on to say it was "likely that everyday farming activities will be illegal" without the approval of a Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Service.

This also is incorrect.

In a recent opinion piece by WA Aboriginal Affairs Minister Tony Buti in *The West Australian* newspaper 'The hard facts on the new Aboriginal cultural heritage laws', Dr Buti said:

"Where there won't be any impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage, no approval is required.

"A farmer will not require approval to plant a crop, run livestock, replace a fence or other infrastructure ...".

The fact is that most local farming activities will be exempt under the new Aboriginal heritage protection law.

Land in our local Toodyay area used for crops, pasture and stock is likely to have destroyed any remnant Aboriginal cultural heritage through clearing, damming, grazing and cropping over many decades prior to the new the law taking effect.

What the Act does do is give Aboriginal people – for the first time ever – an opportunity to 'protect' what little remains of their centuries-old cultural heritage.

The State Government is the biggest WA landholder affected by the new law.

For all new land development and mining activities, there now is a three-tiered system for obtaining heritage approval.

This follows extensive public consultation over the past five years, including with WA agricultural and mining industry representatives.

Due to confusion and misinformation, I believe that a six-month extension prior to this month's implementation would have helped allay unwarranted fears and concerns.

We are all trying our best to preserve all forms of remaining heritage – both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal – in our historic region.

Helen Shanks  
Toodyay

### Amazon girl a real hero

WHAT is a hero?

We hear a lot about heroes these days.

It seems that almost everyone is a hero, even professional sportsmen and women.

The word seems to have lost its meaning.

Then, we see a story of four children, survivors of a plane crash, lost in the Amazon for over a month.

The eldest was a young girl, 13 years of age, the youngest a baby boy who 'celebrated' his first birthday lost in the jungle.

Somehow this girl, really only a child herself, kept herself, her sisters and baby brother alive.

She found them food, water and shelter, and probably carried the baby most of the time.

To me, this girl is a real hero.

Peter Ruthven  
Coondle

### Country cacophony

MOVE to the country they said, the silence will be deafening.

Well it was – until Chalice moved in.

Now, we have the unenviable drone of machines.

When asked how long was the operating time, one Chalice employee simply replied "24/7" – wow, and for that we should be grateful?

Can't wait until mining starts and the cacophony will drown out any peace we once had.

Karen Chappelow  
Julimar

### A splendid affair

CONGRATULATIONS to the organisers of the Fibre Festival.

Congratulations on the marvellous works displayed at the fashion show and elsewhere. Congratulations to all participants.

It was a splendid affair with the weather crowning the day.

Unfortunately, many a person didn't understand Eleanor's Cajun music.

Monika Zechetmayr  
Toodyay

## Our environment matters at the Toodyay Herald

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



# Toodyay leads on big-ticket national agenda

## President's Pen

Rosemary Madácsi



ABORIGINAL affairs have taken the limelight recently with the upcoming Voice Federal Referendum and the start of WA's new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021.

Everyone seems to have an opinion on the subject, and it has led to an inordinate amount of fear and frustration circulating in our community.

Regardless of people's individual views, our origins, ethnicity, history and customs form an important part of our individual identity, happiness and feelings about community inclusiveness.

Let us not lose sight of this as issues that concern us all are resolved.

On this note, it was a pleasure to attend our

local Reconciliation Breakfast in Toodyay last month and to help celebrate Philippine Independence Day in Northam.

It was a pleasure to experience the diversity, warmth and inclusiveness of Toodyay people.

Preparing for and addressing national conferences in Canberra and Cairns and holding talks with federal ministers and conference delegates about Toodyay issues kept me even busier than usual last month.

It proved to be a sound investment in time and I believe Toodyay acquitted itself well.

The Australian Local Government Association's national general assembly in Canberra was attended by 1100 local government leaders from across the nation.

It presented excellent opportunities to network with other local government leaders on common issues and meet relevant Federal Government ministers.

A Toodyay Shire Council motion to determine a cap for shire contributions to attract and retain local rural doctor services

was passed without objection.

It will now form a central part of national lobbying with the Federal Government in Canberra to achieve that objective.

I raised Toodyay's urgent need for a safer heavy haulage bypass with Federal Regional Development, Local Government and Territories Minister Kristy McBain.

We discussed the need to return this long-overdue project to the Federal Government's Roads 2040 strategic network plan.

This is an essential step towards removing a dangerous and potentially costly choke point on a major Wheatbelt freight route through Toodyay, make our town safer and protect our heritage assets.

I also raised the growing threat and cost of combatting feral pigs in our shire and a lack of funding for 'frontline' management.

Feral pig funding is currently limited to registered biosecurity groups or by imposing a biosecurity levy on ratepayers.

I said this was unacceptable because biosecurity is a State and Federal

responsibility and reiterated the damage and cost to local government and agriculture.

Apart from the \$100 million a year national cost to agriculture, feral pigs also devastate the natural environment and significantly damage local properties.

Another topic I raised was the importance of continuing Agriculture Supply Chain Initiative funding.

This assists WA farmers to get Australian grain to port within seven months of harvest and before northern hemisphere producers can enter the grain market.

If this can be achieved, it delivers \$30-50/tonne more to Australian farmers and, at \$30/ton, represents a \$450 million gain for WA growers.

Also raised by York and Toodyay was the need to plan further landfill sites east of the Avon River, given the threat to limited groundwater supplies in the Darling Ranges.

Further meetings were held with a senior Rural and Regional Health advisor to Assistant Federal Minister Emma McBride on rural doctor funding, and with Federal Infrastructure and Transport Assistant Minister Senator Carol Brown about a Toodyay heavy haulage bypass.

I then took a week's leave in Townsville during which I travelled to Cairns to attend a two-day National Feral Pig Conference.

This was an extremely productive conference and very relevant to the issues we face in Toodyay.

My presentation on the difficulties in communicating between stakeholders to obtain the cooperation and funding needed to address the problem on the front line was well received and supported.

It is sobering to note 75 per cent of transmissible human diseases originate in animals but the extent this occurs in feral pigs is unknown due to a lack of reporting, recognition and study.

However, 60 per cent of Cape York feral pigs are infected with diseases that can be transmitted to humans.

Apart from parasites, feral pigs can also carry potentially serious viruses.

Toodyay is currently monitoring for the Japanese Encephalitis virus which was first detected in Queensland last year and has now spread to feral pigs in WA's far north Kimberley.

## Freemasons Hotel re-sale falls through

Continued from Page 1.

THE COLA CAFÉ is being offered for sale as a business for \$285,000.

The building and land are also for sale for \$495,000.

Buildings and land occupied by the Toodyay Auto Centre and adjoining Toodyay Garden and Outdoor Centre are on the market for a total \$775,000.

The two businesses that lease the property are also for sale.

The garden centre is on the market for about \$95,000 including stock and equipment, and the adjoining vehicle repair workshop is selling for \$185,000 "walk in-walk out" after

several months on the market.

It is understood that prospective buyers had to withdraw cash bids because banks are reportedly reluctant to finance new business loans for country investments.

The historic Wendouree Tearooms was closed without notice last month and missed the Toodyay Fibre Festival (*below*) which brought a large number of visitors to town.

A sign on the Stirling Terrace cafe's front window reads "opening soon".

Much talk has centred on the fate of the heritage-listed Freemasons Hotel which also shut its doors without notice last month.

The pub and TAB betting outlet was sold last February to a company linked to the

family of former WA Premier Colin Barnett, who owns a rural property in Julimar.

New hotel manager Chilli Snider said there were two recent offers to buy the pub – including one from a "well-known hotel group" – but there was no agreement on a deal and the hotel was no longer for sale.

"The immediate intention is to restore the hotel and proceed as planned," Mr Snider said.

"Renovation works were always scheduled to take place mid-year.

"Given the venue has been fairly quiet lately, it was an opportune time to begin those works now.

"The renovations are cosmetic and not structural.

"They will consist of painting, fresh carpets and appliance upgrades, as well as a few surprises which people will have to wait for.

"Hopefully the venue will open to full capacity in time for the Spring season."

The town's other hotel – the Victoria Hotel – and local IGA store were sold to Perth business interests last summer.

## Toodyay Fibre Festival keeps bobbin' along



Robyn Petersen (centre) from Toodyay Spinners and Weavers with Megan and Liam Hamstra.

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## SHIRE OF TOODYAY

### Annual Electors Meeting

s.5.29 of the Local Government Act 1995

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 June 2023, Council determined to set the date for the Annual General Meeting of Electors as follows:

**Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2023

**Time:** 5.00pm

**Venue:** Shire of Toodyay Council Chambers, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay

All electors, ratepayers, and residents of the Shire of Toodyay are welcome to attend.

The order of business at this meeting will be as follows:

1. Declaration of Opening/Announcement of Visitors;
2. Records of Attendance/Apologies;
3. Confirmation of Minutes;
4. Annual Report 2020/2021;
5. General Business; and
6. Closure.

Copies of the 2020/2021 Annual Report incorporating the Audited Financial Statements will be available at the meeting, and beforehand as follows:

- On the Shire website:  
[www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/documents/annual-reports](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/documents/annual-reports);
- At the Shire Administration Centre: 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay; or
- By contacting the Shire on 9574 9300 to arrange a posted copy.

The Shire invites questions prior to the meeting. Please address any questions to the Chief Executive Officer and submit by **4.00pm on Friday 11 August 2023** via:

- Email: [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au)
- Post: Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566
- In person: Shire Administration Office, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please contact Maria Rebane (Executive Services) on 9574 9305.

Suzie Haslehurst  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



# Morangup bush drug lab busted

## Police Beat

With Sgt Dave Flaherty  
Toodyay Police Station



A CHANCE discovery by a park ranger has prompted a combined police effort to locate a criminal gang that has been manufacturing dangerous illicit drugs in the Avon Valley National Park.

The ranger discovered a makeshift drug laboratory in bushland hidden from the main tourist camping areas while on a routine patrol in the Morangup area.

The site consisted of a large cooking pot with a tap fitted at the bottom, at least two portable cooking rings and 8.5kg gas bottles, other tools and equipment and a hastily abandoned tent in a cleared area of bushland.

The cooking pot (pictured) contained a brown liquid with fibrous material which appeared to be used to produce an illicit drug called DMT (N-dimethyltryptamine).

Australia's Alcohol and Drug Authority says DMT – also known as 'fantasia' – is a "very strong psychedelic drug" that causes hallucinations and can produce "uncontrollable anxiety, delusions and psychosis".

The main ingredient is bark from the strawberry jam tree (acacia acuminata) which is common throughout Toodyay.

The ranger appears to have disturbed the criminals while they were making the drug



Drug cooking pot was still warm when discovered by Morangup park ranger.

because the cooking pot was still warm when he noticed the tent in a bush clearing and went to investigate.

The ranger called Toodyay police who attended the scene and also found copies of receipts and an abandoned mobile phone.

They contacted officers from the Drug and Firearms Squad in Perth who visited the site to examine the discarded equipment and surrounding area for vehicle tracks.

Staff from the State Government ChemCentre in Bentley also inspected the site and took samples for detailed chemical analysis.

Police investigations are continuing.

### Fewer test positive for drugs

DISCOVERY of the Avon Valley drug site reinforces the need for people to report any potentially suspicious activity to police.

There is an undercurrent of illicit drug activity throughout Australia, and Toodyay is not unique in that regard.

We see this in local random police traffic stops that produce positive results from drivers' saliva tests.

That in itself is on a downward trend in Toodyay, which suggests that our traffic law enforcement policies are working and that

our local roads are becoming safer.

Evidence suggests that there are very few dangerous illicit drugs circulating in Toodyay.

However, the discovery of the Morangup drug laboratory last month remains a cause for serious concern.

### Family violence support

BIG changes are underway at Toodyay Police Station.

Last month we welcomed two new officers to Toodyay in Sen. Const. Nicky Cresswell from Northam and Const. Ella Harnetty from Perth.

Sen. Const. Cresswell specialises in dealing with family domestic violence which continues to be a concern in the Toodyay area as well as elsewhere in WA.

Nicky has served as a police prosecutor in the Northam Magistrates Court and will bring a range of practical legal skills to Toodyay.

Toodyay people will also have noticed renovations underway at the Police Station.

Some of the interior is being redesigned, gutters have been replaced and a rear door has been relocated to make it safer.

### Off to the union

IN ADDITION to new staff, I have been seconded to work full-time at the WA Police Union in Perth to fill a board vacancy as the organisation's Senior Vice President.

Most police officers are union members, and I have served previously as an elected union delegate for this region, including in talks for current pay negotiations with the State Government.

My new role ends 4½ years as Officer-In-Charge at Toodyay Police Station.

I am pleased to say that we have been able to make massive inroads in reducing local crime.

Our strategies have reaped rewards across the board.

My view of the world as a serving police officer has been for the people of Toodyay to feel safe:

- In their homes,
- Walking the street, and
- Driving their cars.

We do lots of things – often behind the scenes – to achieve those goals, and if we can do those things effectively, that makes Toodyay not a bad place to live.

I am happy to say that the rate of crime in Toodyay has never been so low as it is today.

I will continue to live in Toodyay while working in Perth.

Northam Police Superintendent Rob Scantlebury will organise my replacement from within WA Police Force ranks over the next few weeks.

And finally, to end my last *Police Beat* column, I want to thank the people of Toodyay for their support during my time as Officer-In-Charge at the station, my staff who have served the local community with dedication and distinction over that period, and I wish everyone well for the future in this beautiful town of ours.



Tent used by criminals to manufacture illicit drugs in Avon valley National Park.

## Passwords are precious – and precarious

Computer Safety  
Phil Hart

PASSWORDS are the keys to your devices, your online services and your online assets.

Without them, you lose your social media accounts, you can lose control of your finances, and your devices can become nothing more than expensive paperweights.

It pays to take care of your passwords. Making sure your passwords never fall into the wrong hands is one matter.

Making sure you don't lose your own passwords is quite another matter.

It is often possible to recover your password or get a new one sent to you by your service operator.

But if you lose the password to your email and your email provider sends a recovery email to your email address then you will not be able to recover your password.

You become locked out of your own email account.

Some organisations will send an SMS as a recovery mechanism.

But when the SMS is valid for only 10 minutes and it can take up to 10 days for the SMS to arrive, you end up being no better off.

Recovering a password can take days or weeks, depending on the organisation, and may not even be possible in some situations.

There are some situations where recovering from lost passwords can cost hundreds of dollars.

There is no guaranteed method of safely storing passwords.

Nor will every method suit everybody.

Storing your passwords, even if encrypted and password protected, on just one device represents a single point of failure.

All it takes is for that device to be lost or stolen, or become corrupt, or reset to factory conditions, and all your passwords are gone.

Mobile phones are particularly susceptible to being stolen.

Having a backup copy of your passwords on a separate device, even if it is only a thumb drive, will help in most situations.

Keeping that backup copy up to date whenever a password is changed or added might seem onerous, but it can be a life saver.

Storing passwords in plain text is a mistake.

Scrambling the order of symbols that you use, or adding bogus symbols that only you know about, is one way around this.

Advice on creating strong passwords can be found at [bit.ly/3Nc00vv](http://bit.ly/3Nc00vv).

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# Nine pairs of hands make light work of archives

**Toodyay Historical Society Inc**  
Beth Frayne, Secretary/Treasurer

JUNE was a busy but fulfilling month for Society members.

As a significant local archive, we want to show off our collections and attract more helping hands to assist with the paperwork.

To that end, last month we hosted our first free Archives Workshop at our headquarters in Donegan's Cottage at the Showgrounds, inviting both members and the public to participate.

Although the turnout was modest, with only nine pairs of hands at our "hands-on expo", we did get our hands on another new member.

In preparation for the expo, we finalised our new two-tiered accessioning register.

The new procedures bring structural improvements to the organisation of our collections with descriptive keywords.

The precise location of items is of critical importance, especially as we transition to using more archival-quality containers.

This may mean one diverse collection is stored in photo albums, archival folders and boxes, or on a computer if in digital format.

We have also improved the workspace and storage areas, removed "dead" assets, and re-discovered collections that will delight us for years to come.

Thanks to the work of our members Adam and Margie and new members Sheena and Carolyn we have made significant progress in our archiving goals.

One of our significant treasures is our oral history collection, which preserves Toodyay's voices in various formats including cassette, CD, digital audio, and transcriptions.

At last month's general meeting we added to this valuable oral history collection with a recording of member Julie-Anne Vucemillo's illustrated talk on the three years she and her partner Lance spent on Christmas Island during the Covid era.

Following Julie-Ann's talk we had two fascinating Show and Tell sessions.



(From left) Milton, Faye, Jean, Beth and Don at the archives workshop in Donegan's Cottage. Photo: A O'Neil.

Ian showcased a Victor corkscrew and a Rodd baby christening spoon and pusher, while Wayne presented a family heirloom—a breathtaking Dunhill table light with an exquisite aquarium-like casing.

Visit the Toodyay Historical Society website for a link to a newly released, free-to-view Toodyay names lists.

We will embark on a day visit to Perth for tours of the Digitisation Centre of WA,

located in the Barry J. Marshall Library on the UWA Campus, as well as the Royal WA Historical Society headquarters and collections, nearby in Stirling House, Broadway, Nedlands.

The next end-of-month event on Sunday, July 30 is a tour of the current St John the Baptist Church (1962) in Toodyay.

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

Hall and all are welcome.

Our July feature speaker, Wayne Clarke, will discuss Safer Toodyay.

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 or write to PO Box 32 Toodyay WA 6566.

Visit our website [toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au). Membership is \$15 per annum.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

### Pets saved from house blaze

**Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**

Chris McDonald

OUR VOLUNTEER fires rescued two dogs from a burning home in West Toodyay last month.

On the first weekend of June our crews conducted burn-off training on Dewars Pool Road.

The exercise gave new members valuable experience of fire behaviour in real-world conditions while serving to refresh the skills of our more experienced crew.

This year vehicle recovery skills were not required.

During debriefing we received a call-out to a house fire in West Toodyay.

Crews quickly manned vehicles and turned out promptly to the emergency, rescuing two pet dogs that were inside the burning house.

The owners were not home at the time.

Crews from Toodyay Central, Julimar and Bejoording BFS, Toodyay VFRS and Wundowie VFRS also turned out.

All members worked proactively to contain and extinguish the blaze while looking out for dangers to themselves and others on the fireground.

Investigations are continuing into the cause of the fire, which may have been sparked by an electrical fault.

The event is a timely reminder to check your smoke alarms are operational.

In other news, Toodyay's volunteer bush fire brigades came together to treat the volunteer ladies at the Toodyay Op Shop to a well-deserved social outing.

Morangup, Central, Julimar, Coondle-Nunile and Bejoording crews treated the ladies to a lunch at the Victoria Hotel as a gesture of appreciation for their support over the past year.

A couple of members from Central and Coondle-Nunile were able to join them.

If you are considering becoming a volunteer firefighter, all the brigades in the shire are welcoming new members.

Check out [dfes.vol.org.au](http://dfes.vol.org.au) for more information.

### Eight new volunteers come on board

**St John Toodyay Sub Centre**

Pam Tennant

IT'S AMAZING, the activity that goes on in the background at your sub centre.

Monthly training, ambulance cleaning and maintenance, sometimes new equipment is fitted, crew meetings are held, ambulances and the storeroom are checked and restocked, monthly committee meetings, minor building maintenance, and the Community Transport Service continues to take clients to medical appointments.

In June our volunteers attended 28 calls with our ambulances travelling 1480km.

Following a statewide advertising campaign by St John, we have been fortunate to gain eight new volunteers, who have been undergoing induction to the sub

centre and training.

Many of them will now be accompanying our volunteer crews, in an observation capacity, to gain experience while completing their training.

If you require an ambulance and notice one of the crew wearing an 'observer' badge, you have just met one of our new probationers.

The badge means they are not yet qualified for patient care.

Monthly Provide First Aid courses continue at the sub centre (see advert at right) with the last course in November.

Places fill quickly, so if you have been meaning to do or renew your first aid certificate, don't wait, book in early.

As always, in an emergency, please call 000 and we will be there to help.



**St John**

## Upcoming first aid courses

### HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid

**Course type:** Accredited | **Duration:** 1 day in class + Online learning

**Price:** \$170.00

**When:** 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  
Saturday 25 November - 8:30AM - 4:30PM

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



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## Stolen handbag holds a swag of trouble

**Safer Toodyay**  
Desraé Clarke

THE loss of a handbag can mean more than lost belongings, it can mean a stolen identity.

A handbag in a shopping trolley can hold a driver's licence, credit cards, car keys, house keys, a Medicare card, health care card – all the things needed for your daily living, and all a thief needs to assume your identity.

This can create an immense amount of worry for the victim and a lot of work for police.

Recently my elderly cousin was going through the checkout of large suburban supermarket.

Reaching beneath her purchases for her purse she found it was no longer there.

She was devastated, having been the victim of the type of thief who will target shoppers while their attention is elsewhere.

These perpetrators act swiftly, often working with accomplices, and with a getaway car close at hand.

In this case, the outcome involved a long-distance round trip by taxi to collect a second set of keys to collect her car.

Thankfully, supermarket security staff watched over it while she was away.

As the thief had her personal information, including her home address, she also urgently needed to replace locks for her car and home.

She then needed to arrange the time-consuming replacement of her cards.

To further protect her car, she stored it away from her home until the locks were replaced.

Unfortunately, similar things have happened to three of my female friends.

There are several suggestions that may avoid the type of drama described above.

Leave any cards that are not required for a particular shopping trip at home.

Carry your credit card, driver's licence, car and house keys on your person while shopping.

Stay in control of your personal data at all times – it is precious.

Report any incident as soon as possible to the manager of the shopping complex, the police on 131 444, Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or [crimestoppers.com.au](http://crimestoppers.com.au).

# Going great guns on Goomalling greens

**Bolgart News**  
Pam McGill

### School News

A BIG thank you to the students and families from Bolgart who attended the Anzac Ceremony in Calingiri.

Students laid a wreath on behalf of the school. Mrs Mehl did a wonderful job creating the wreath on behalf of the School using native flowers and plants found in and around Bolgart.

Students enjoyed learning hockey skills and games while participating in a hockey clinic run by the Upper Great Southern Hockey Association.

### CWA News

BOLGART CWA held their luncheon at the Bolgart Hotel with members inviting guests to join in.



(Left to right) Dianne Edmonds, Betty Lockyer, Pauline Pinker and Brenda Clarke enjoy a CWA lunch at the Bolgart Hotel.



Mother and daughter Pam Meston and Nolene Kaszanski are all smiles after their efforts in the Goomalling Golf tournament.

An enjoyable time was had by all the ladies who attended the lunch.

Around 50 people from Bolgart, Toodyay, Jennacubbine and surrounds enjoyed a lovely spread prepared by the Bolgart CWA ladies for their Annual Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser for Cancer.

A total of \$1104.70 was raised for cancer research and support.

Musician Dave Prior provided Bolgart with plenty of laughs and music over two nights at the Bolgart Hotel.

Good crowds enjoyed the food and entertainment on Thursday and Friday.

Belated congratulations to Murray and Brenda Clarke on the arrival of their newest grand-daughter Holly Clarke, a little sister for Mia, congratulations to Nathan and Chelsea.

### Golf News

PLENTY of good golf is being played by our ladies lately.

Six ladies from Bolgart attended the Rural

Bronze Tournament at Goomalling, achieving some excellent results.

The tournament was held over three days, from Friday to Sunday June 23-25.

Our congratulations to Waveney Jones, Jenni Knowles, Serena Syred and Vivienne Camerer for coming equal fourth in the Canadian foursomes.

Congratulations to Nolene Kaszanski, runner-up in the 36-hole competition, and Noelene's mother Pam Meston who won the Super Vets.

Great result and good golf from our ladies.

The Club Day Stableford June 1 winner was Vivienne Camerer, with Waveney Jones runner-up.

Ruth Taylor Putter Trophy, June 8, Stroke Trophy donor Janet Cameron, winner Jenni Knowles, runner-up Vivienne Camerer.

Chalice Mining Trophy, June 15, Stroke, winner Jenni Knowles, runner-up Vivienne Camerer, third Serena Syred.

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# Thousands of years of knowledge helped shape the land

**Helen Shanks**

Coordinator, Truth Telling Projects  
for Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal  
Corporation

FOR MORE than 45,000 years, local Noongar moort (extended families) have lived in and cared for our beautiful Toodyay Valley.

It is a culturally rich area of fertile country with abundant food and fresh water.

The valley's inhabitants achieved a natural balance over thousands of years by living in harmony with nature.

Noongar families were highly skilled in hunting, gathering foods and camping at sites in the Avon Valley throughout the six seasons of the year.

They managed the land, observed cultural responsibilities and traded goods with Noongar families from other areas.

Noongar people have always been a connected society with sophisticated knowledge systems and structured cultural practices.

They were not the 'primitive people' that were described in official reports to London, contemporary newspaper clippings and letters written by early WA colonists, all of whom lacked any understanding of complex Aboriginal lore and culture.

Noongar people living in the Toodyay valley were far from this.

Like Aboriginal people across Australia, the carers of the Toodyay Valley had acquired a deep understanding of the land.

They developed that knowledge in complex ways to create a sustainable balance with the natural environment over the thousands of years of human occupation of the Toodyay Valley.

Noongar people believed that if you look after the land, it will provide for you – a fundamental value that still applies today.

Everything local Noongar people needed came from the land – food, water, tools, medicines and shelter from the elements.

They hunted and gathered traditional food according to the six seasons that determined all life in the Avon Valley.

Each of these seasons can vary in length and are determined by weather patterns and the natural elements of where they occur.

Local knowledge acquired over millennia identified which animal and plant resources were plentiful at particular times, and where they could be found.

Noongar families also knew where to find fresh water and how to catch and prepare bush food.

They used ancient firestick farming practices that were designed to herd game into particular areas, make them more easily accessible to hunters and stimulate new seasonal growth for food and pasture.

It also greatly reduced the risk of devastating bushfires by controlling forest



Noongar traditional owner Rodney Garlett conducts a smoking ceremony at Redbank Pool, which is a registered Aboriginal cultural heritage site on the Avon River near Extracts Weir.

growth to create English-style parklands, a feature that often puzzled early British explorers and which now no longer exists.

This was a highly effective technique, season by season, year by year, but was incompatible with the arrival of overseas colonists who seized the land to plant wheat and stock it with sheep using entirely different land management practices, including broadacre clearing and fences.

Forested areas were left to grow dense and wild except for firewood and timber to construct colonists' dwellings and fences.

Traditional Noongar practices were outlawed, thus depriving local families of traditional food and water and changing the very nature of the landscape in which they had lived for thousands of years.

National award-winning 'Truth telling' museum displays at Newcastle Gaol in Clinton Street and at Connors Mill in Stirling Terrace provide more information.

Noongar families moved across the Toodyay Valley according to the season, often using waterways to travel between seasonal food sources.

They ate fish caught by hand or in traps. Noongar fish traps have been identified at Red Brook in Morangup and at Millards Pool near Extracts Weir, and other fish traps are likely to have existed along the Toodyay Valley's many natural waterways.

Kangaroo, possum and other small mammals were traditional food sources in dense bushland, as well as goanna and birds' eggs throughout the valley.

Other food sources included seeds to grind into flour, nutritious bulbs from reeds, frogs and freshwater turtle in wetlands and

natural grasslands that were once plentiful until weirs were built and the Avon River "straightened" to prevent damaging floods in the towns of Toodyay and Northam.

Noongar camps for extended families usually consisted of several small huts in cleared areas away from the water's edge.

Traditional practices included sophisticated systems for trade.

This was a central part of Noongar life with trade routes criss-crossing the region to exchange goods, information, technologies and culture.

They were often 'mapped' out in songs known as 'songlines' to ensure that knowledge could be handed down from one generation to the next.

Goods such as kangaroo skins, ochre, shells, stone, timber, tools and medicines were commonly exchanged.

'Dreaming' songs that were considered to be valuable for spiritual, cultural and artistic worth were passed down from one group to another.

Tracks for trade routes were maintained by regular use, burning off and clearing.

Many tracks and songlines exist across the Avon Valley, including in Toodyay townsite area and along the Gugulja (Avon River) and Toodyay Brook, which runs parallel to the Bindi Bindi-Toodyay Road through Coondle and Wattening to Bolgart Springs, the winter

resting place of the Wagyl (spirit snake).

These ancient routes were severely disrupted by colonists who fenced off the land to grow wheat and sheep imported from England.

A registered heritage site exists near the Bejoording fire shed where local ochre was traded with visiting Noongar groups.

Denial of traditional access to hunting grounds and waterways, seizure of cultural sites and the forced exile of Noongar people from their natural homeland was immediate and culturally devastating.

Noongar people have complex lore and traditional customs.

The unwritten lore covers 'kaartdijin' (knowledge), beliefs, rules and customs.

It works with nature to protect animals and the environment and is handed down by Noongar Elders from one generation to the next.

It links also to kinship and mutual social obligations within Noongar communities for marriage, trade and custody of land.

Structured cultural practices include protocols to establish who can and cannot 'speak for country'.

A 'Welcome to Country' is an acknowledgement of the past, a mark of respect and provides a safe passage for visitors – it is a blessing to those present.

The 'Throwing of Sand' (or Balga Grass) into the river lets the Wagyl know of your presence and forms a part of caring for all people and the country on which they stand.

A 'Smoking Ceremony' is a traditional ritual of unity that cleanses and purifies a particular area and helps keep people safe while they are on Noongar country.

Noongar spirituality lies in the belief of a cultural landscape and a connection between the human and spiritual realms in which everything has meaning and purpose.

The Noongar world is a web of inter-relationships where people and nature are partners, and where the past is always connected to the present and future.

For local Noongar people, the Toodyay Valley is a place where their spirits and ancestors live.

It is within this cultural landscape that we can view and understand the importance for local Aboriginal people of WA's new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021.

Let us embrace this Noongar connection to country and all work together to protect and preserve its ancient cultural heritage.

More information can be found on the Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation website at [noongarkaartdijin.com.au](http://noongarkaartdijin.com.au).



Leyla (left) and Gypsy made a colourful splash at last month's Toodyay Fibre Festival.



## Get a taste for a CBH summer job.

Each year, CBH recruits harvest casuals to help us safely receive the crop from Western Australian growers and keep our sites moving.

With positions available across the Wheatbelt, working as a CBH harvest casual is a great opportunity to explore, live and work in regional WA for a short period of time while earning decent wages.

Applications open 3 July.

Apply today at [cbh.com.au/harvestcasuals](http://cbh.com.au/harvestcasuals)



# Most places exempt under new heritage law



## Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

NEWCOMERS to town may not know that the Shire of Toodyay covers a culturally unique location where three Noongar language groups meet – Yued, Ballardong and Whadjuk.

Noongar families have lived in the Toodyay Valley for more than 45,000 years in an area that is culturally rich and fertile.

Our group has recently been developing a Noongar Trail with 11 locations to promote greater awareness of our region's Noongar history and cultural heritage.

Several sites with information boards have already been completed and we expect to officially launch them in coming months.

The trail aims to be a tourist attraction for hikers and other visitors, which in turn will provide economic benefit for local traders.

We look forward to sharing more trail information with you soon.

The corporation wishes to comment on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 which took effect at the start of this month.

We understand and empathise with many landholders' concerns about the Act.

And we agree with those who said the start date should have been delayed to enable landholders to learn more about how the new law operates before it took effect.

All WA landholders, including government agencies, farmers, pastoralists, developers and miners, were already required by an earlier 1972 Act to seek approval for activities that could harm Aboriginal heritage.

This 51-year-old law is well known in the state's North-West but was never actively promoted in the South-West or Wheatbelt.

The new law provides Noongar people for the first time with a say in managing and protecting

their own cultural heritage at a local level instead of it being decided by politicians and bureaucrats in Perth.

Most farming activities are exempt under the new provisions, and most Toodyay landholders will never be affected.

No approval will be required on land where Aboriginal cultural heritage is not affected.

The State Government told a packed town hall meeting in Northam last month that farmers will not need to seek approval to plant crops or run livestock in existing paddocks or replace fences or other infrastructure – farming will continue as normal.



Elder Robert Miles explains Noongar culture to local school students at Red Bank Pool.

New land developments and activities along waterways and in other places where Aboriginal heritage could exist will require

landholders to undertake 'due diligence' before seeking permission to proceed.

The process is similar to that which applies under environmental law.

The Toodyay region contains 14 registered Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, and applications for 10 more have been lodged with the State Government.

We will place more information about this at [noongarkaartdijin.com.au](http://noongarkaartdijin.com.au) when it comes to hand.

Other local Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are yet to be formalised and may need to be taken into future consideration.

Registered sites include: all waterways and water sources, artefacts and scatters, fish traps, modified (scar) trees, hunting places, plant resources, grinding patches and grooves, mythological sites, natural features, traditional Noongar camp sites and meeting places, engravings, skeletal material, burial sites and an ochre site.

Aboriginal cultural heritage does not have to be registered to be a 'site'.

If landholders know of any Aboriginal artefacts on their property, please contact us so that we can register them for possible display in local museums.

[Noongarkaartdijin@gmail.com](mailto:Noongarkaartdijin@gmail.com) is the email address for such inquiries.

Our Toodyay-based corporation is unlikely to apply to become a Local Area Cultural Heritage Service (LACHS) to help assess development applications under the new law.

Most of WA's existing State-approved native title groups – including the Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation which addressed last month's Northam meeting – are expected to apply for that role.

However, we aim to be a point of contact for positive and constructive conversations about the new law and the value of what broader recognition of local Aboriginal cultural heritage can achieve for the Toodyay community.

To celebrate NAIDOC week 2023, the Corporation has set up a display in the front of Memorial Hall for people to drop in, take a look and learn about our area's local Noongar history and culture.

The display runs until Sunday July 9.

## Half a century of white water thrills and spills

TOODYAY will celebrate half a century of rocky whitewater rattling and rolling next month with the 50th anniversary of the Avon Descent.

The Shire of Toodyay is one of four local governments teaming up with the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council and Northam's Avon Descent Association (NADA) to run a fun-filled festival weekend around the iconic Western Australian sporting event.

Toodyay's International Food Fest will keep visitors enthralled and entertained on Saturday August 12, with Cobbler Pool the venue for the big anniversary celebration event on Saturday night.

First held in 1973, Avon Descent participants challenge the Avon and Swan rivers in a variety of paddle and power craft in an exciting, two-day challenge that spans 124km.

All four local governments will hold their own riverside events over the course of the weekend, offering a huge range of family-based activities and entertainment.

The string of festivals kick off in the Shire of Northam, with a special winter wonderland edition of the Bilya Festival on Friday August 11.

The enthralling power craft and dragon boat challenges, always a crowd favourite, will be on over the event weekend, as well as the Bond to Bayswater Belter.

The City of Swan's Avon Descent Festival and the City of Bayswater Finish Line Festival will bring the program to a rousing finish on Sunday August 13.

The 2023 Avon Descent will include a whole selection of shorter events to suit all levels of experience and ability.

# Hyundai TUCSON.

## Tomorrow wants its car back.

Imagine that

[hyundai.com/au/tucson](http://hyundai.com/au/tucson)

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 Monitor<sup>1</sup> and customisable powertailgate,<sup>1</sup> it's like driving tomorrow's car today.



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The Toodyay Pre-Primary class with their gifts from the Library staff.

## Stop, Look, Listen and Think on Toodyay pre-primary curriculum

**Toodyay Pre-Primary School**  
The Pre-Primary Team

ON MONDAY of Week 8, the pre-primary students enjoyed a visit to the Toodyay Public Library.

We practised our road safety skills crossing driveways and a road, with students remembering to “Stop, Look, Listen and Think” before crossing.

They also understood the importance of holding a parent’s hand to cross safely.

On our arrival we were greeted by librarians Linda, Carrie and Jasmin.

Linda gave us a library tour and the students marvelled at the rows upon rows of books on the shelves.

We were lucky enough to have Linda share three engaging stories with us in the children’s library.

Before leaving, each student was given a gift of a book from the library.

All pre-primary students are to be commended for their behaviour throughout the excursion.

Here is what some students had to say:

“Linda read us a book about a mouse and a strawberry!” – Tristan.

“I liked having a look around the library.” – Jesse.

“I liked the reading and having a look.” – Boston.

“Linda gave me a book about a dog.” – Mia.

“Linda gave me a book about a cat.” – Goldie.

Thank you very much to Toodyay Library for the tour.

We love our Lynley Dodd Books.

Parents who are interested in joining the library for free can simply visit and speak to the friendly librarians.

It is a fantastic resource for your children’s reading adventures.

## Banking locally brings benefits for local school students

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

WHEN you bank with Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, you directly contribute to the betterment of our local community.

One prime example of this support is evident at Toodyay District High School, where our local bank is sponsoring the P&C with \$450,000 to refurbish the school’s undercover area.

The Community Bank’s generous sponsorship will have an enduring benefit for the school’s 300 students, staff and families.

The planned refurbishment will transform the space into a more comfortable and inviting gathering area, fostering a stronger sense of belonging and pride within our school community.

With the additional contribution of approximately \$30,000 from the P&C, the total investment in this project will reach around \$75,000.

On their return from school holidays, students will enjoy a dry space with more natural light, warm and durable carpet to play on, a freshly painted canteen wall in shades of Toodyay DHS blue, canteen menu boards, a school notice board, new LED lights, and refurbished bench seating.

And that’s not all.

In term three we’re also planning to install a public address (PA) and projection system, and replace the glass lever doors with roller doors, if funds permit.

Students will be empowered to learn how to use the PA and projection system technology when facilitating assemblies and other school events.

The positive impact this refurbishment will have on school events and performances cannot be overstated.

Kindergarten and pre-primary students are also in for a treat in term three with the upcoming arrival of a magnificent new cubby house.

Thanks to the Toodyay Op Shop’s welcome donation of \$2500 and another \$2500 from the P&C, the school can bring this exciting addition to fruition.

Heartfelt thanks to Chris and Tash from Toodyay Tyre and Exhaust for covering the cost of removing a pile of truck tyres left over from last year’s construction of the nature playground.

Your ongoing support is invaluable.

To learn more about how you can support the P&C and our school, please contact Kelly-Anne Murray on 0406 585 716 or email [pandctodyaydhs@gmail.com](mailto:pandctodyaydhs@gmail.com).

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



Toodyay District High School undercover area before the planned refurbishment.

## Grey nomad turn a wooden compass?



Grey nomads heading away.

**Avon Woodturners**  
Hamish Dobie

AS THE welcome rains pour down on Toodyay and surrounds, and the grey nomads head north in convoys of caravans, the lads at the woodturning shed continue to work on their projects.

All except for one.

Max has joined the grey nomad exodus, with he and Millie setting off in search of warmer climes – but he seems to have mixed up his directions and was last heard of somewhere in South Australia.

Good on you, Max; maybe your next project will be a turned wooden compass.

Rob has turned his attention from walking sticks to making enough pens for an extended family.

Peter is making another segmented bowl to better the one that won Best Exhibit in the woodwork section at the Toodyay Agricultural Show two years ago.

Dave is doing what Dave does, completing his projects while surrounded by a mountain of wood shavings and sawdust.

With the arrival of the dreaded end of the financial year, we at Avon Woodturners are thankfully free from worry, only needing to check our financial records and equipment inventory.

I volunteered for the inventory before realising what I was letting myself in for.

There were not only lathes, but a plethora of tools and accessories to identify and count

– all, I am told, are needed for the completion of various turned “masterpieces”.

We are also asked to do special jobs sometimes, as was the case in a pirate’s leg, where wood borers had caused a structural failure.

A bit of turning and we soon had him up and raiding again.

Another happy customer.

There’s always coffee and biscuits (and sometimes cake) available when we need a break, and the odd empty chair for new members, or just curious visitors.

Come down to the woodturners hideout at Shed 1, the Community Depot on Railway Road, on Wednesdays and/or Sundays from 9 until noon, or you can contact Barry, on 0401 359 511 for more information.

**Best deal for local Tradies**

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

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY ARTIST'S MARKETS

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 - 10 to 4pm  
at Coorinja Vineyards (5914 Toodyay Rd)



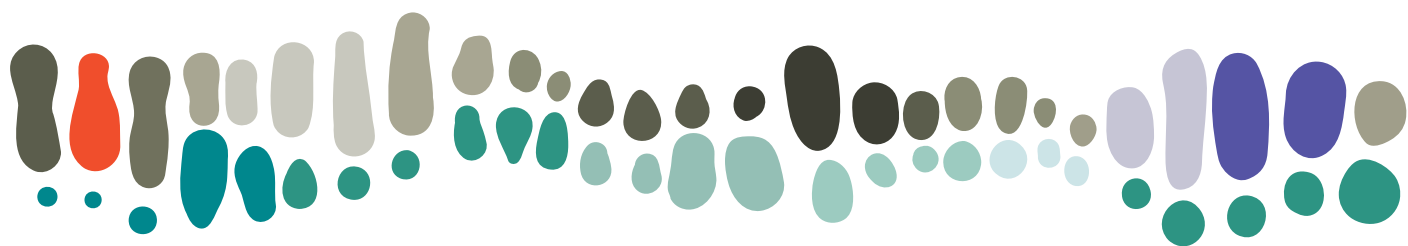
All items made by local artist.

Variety of mediums – pottery, metal sculptures, paintings and more



Enquiries – Graham 0438 919 932





# Laws to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage have been modernised

The new process makes it simpler and fairer, introducing practical exemptions for the first time.

Everything that land users are already doing now will be permitted under the new Act.

It has been illegal to harm Aboriginal cultural heritage for more than 50 years.

## **This won't change.**

If there is no impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage, no approval is required.

**A farmer will not require approval to plant a crop, run livestock, replace a fence, or maintain infrastructure on their farms.**

Homeowners do not require approval to install a pool, deck or garage on their properties.

Activities that are 'like for like' are also exempt.

Where new works are planned on large properties, landowners are required to check for Aboriginal cultural heritage before commencing works to keep protecting one of the oldest living cultures in the world.

If there is Aboriginal cultural heritage, some activities will require a permit, and others require consultation or an agreement with Aboriginal people.

It's time to improve and streamline how we protect and manage Aboriginal cultural heritage in WA.



**Find out what this means for you or to check if there is Aboriginal cultural heritage on your site, visit [WA.gov.au](http://WA.gov.au)**

# Confusing new law will have big impact on Toodyay

**Toodyay Agricultural Alliance**  
Frank Panizza

WINTER is here with a vengeance. Very cold weather has caught most of us by surprise after the last few winters, which were relatively mild. Persistent cold days in the low to mid-teens and frosty mornings have slowed crop and pasture growth. Pastures struggle with cold weather and short daylight hours. Warmer days next month will see pasture and crop growth rebound.

WA's new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 (ACHA) which came into effect this month has caused a huge amount of controversy around the state. Its introduction has caused statewide anger, confusion, disillusionment and frustration to many landowners. The new Act has some far-reaching consequences for all landowners, both large and small, freehold, leasehold and on government-managed Crown land.

Briefly:

- WA's new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 became law on July 1,
- Any landholding smaller than 1100 sq/m is exempt,
- It is now illegal to impact Aboriginal cultural heritage areas without authorisation,
- It is the landowner's responsibility to ascertain whether there are any Aboriginal Cultural Heritage areas on their property prior to ground disturbance – this can be checked online by the WA Government's Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System.
- New guidelines establish a three-tier system to determine if approval is needed prior to any ground disturbance,
- Ground disturbance is defined as any activity that disturbs the soil deeper than 50mm (two inches).

The likely outcome for farmers is that



Top-up fertiliser being applied to a Nunile canola crop.

most activities may be exempt under the "like-for-like" test. Like-for-like activities include planting a crop in an area that has been previously cropped, replacing existing fences, repairing or maintaining existing infrastructure such as roads, contours, dams, and stock watering points. Although this may cover most everyday farming activities, it does create an issue for any activity that is not identical to activities carried out previously such as:

- Tillage deeper than previously performed such as claying and deep ripping which are common WA soil amelioration activities
- New construction involving any soil

disturbance such as buildings, roads, or drainage,

- Cropping land previously used only for stock grazing, and
- Establishing a new tree plantation, or tree planting for salt mitigation or stock shelter.

Activities such as the listed examples will be subject to a process to gain approval. The approval process is set out in new guidelines which involve determining which of the three tiers of activity is likely to be involved. It is now incumbent upon all landholders who own property larger than 1100 sq/m to establish if any Aboriginal cultural heritage exists on their property before

they can carry out any new work that involves soil disturbance. This can be done by examining their landholding on the State Government's new online inquiry system. The interactive map shows many areas within the Shire of Toodyay subject to the new law. Most of the Avon River and its tributaries were already protected under a 1972 Aboriginal heritage law, as well as several areas not associated with the river and other natural waterways. A State-registered Aboriginal heritage site (4047) exists over a portion of the Bejoording townsite, including the entire area in which the Shire of Toodyay's Bejoording Bush fire brigade is located. There are several other such previously registered Aboriginal heritage sites in the shire, including a large area in Wattening (near Bolgart). The new law is likely to have a greater impact on the Shire of Toodyay than in most other WA local government areas in Western Australia. Primarily, the "like-for-like" exemption will not apply to 'lifestyle' bush blocks, which comprise about a third of all private landholdings in the Shire of Toodyay. Many of these blocks have not been previously cropped or developed other than to build residential homes and sheds. Any new activities such as establishing a new orchard, stock yards, tree planting, swimming pools and the like will not be exempt under the 1100sq/m rule. The new law has caused a great deal of concern, primarily among farmers and pastoralists who have packed recent meetings (see Page 1) to hear how the new law is supposed to work. In its rush to implement the new law, the new Cook Government has failed to appreciate or understand the concern and confusion it has caused.



## Toodyay International Food Fest



**Saturday 12 August 2023**

10am - 4pm

Celebrate the Avon Descent's 50th anniversary in picturesque Toodyay

- Live music across several stages
- 30 + food vans
- Children's activities and entertainment



**Freestyle Now Skatepark Competition returns as part of the Toodyay International Food Festival!**  
**Saturday 12 August 2023 - 10am-4pm**

With over \$3000 worth of prizes up for grabs, this competition is not to be missed.

Competitors will have the chance to score amazing rewards and recognition for their outstanding performances. Spectators are also in for a treat as they witness mind-blowing tricks and impressive displays of athleticism.

The event aims to bring together the vibrant skateboarding, scooter, BMX, rollerskating, and inline skating communities in Toodyay and beyond.

Whether you are experienced on wheels or just starting out, the **Toodyay Skatepark Competition welcomes participants of all ages and skill levels.**

**Registration is essential - use the link below or call Kimberley - Economic Development Coordinator at the Shire of Toodyay, 9574 2158**

<https://liveheats.com/events/142739/registration>





## Gonneville

# Project Update



### Environmental work at Gonneville

The Chalice environmental team have been busy with a program of baseline fauna surveys commencing this month. The surveys are conducted by teams of specialist zoologists and are designed to gather information on wildlife in the region.

This work includes targeted Black Cockatoo surveys and habitat assessments, along with monitoring of Chuditch in the region. This work will be used in our Gonneville Project studies to minimise and avoid impact to wildlife and the environment.

This round of surveys will complement and expand on the extensive surveys Chalice has already conducted, covering a ~6,000 ha area. Traditional Owners participate in environmental surveys together with botanists and zoologists. Future work includes insect and aquatics surveys.



Work also continues on our ongoing water monitoring program, which includes regularly testing groundwater and surface water samples. Chalice recognises that water is a critical, shared resource and these baseline surveys will help us deliver on our goal to ensure our future activities do not impact water usage for others.

We look forward to keeping you updated as this environmental work progresses.

### Cultural Heritage Update

Since Chalice began exploring the region, we have carefully managed our exploration activities under the Cultural Heritage Management Plans developed by Yued and Whadjuk Traditional Owners. This includes monitoring conducted by Yued and Whadjuk representatives before a drill rig can be mobilised in the Julimar State Forest. The role of the monitors is to confirm that our drilling activities are taking place within areas that do not contain any cultural heritage sites.



Chalice recently hosted a certificate presentation to acknowledge the work of Yued heritage monitors who participated in the Phase 1 Julimar Project exploration program. The event was held in Moora and allowed Chalice to thank the monitors for their hard work and enjoy lunch together.

### Chalice in the Community

Chalice is a proud supporter of local wildlife rescue group, the Marsupial Mammals and Pappas who rehabilitate roadside injured or orphaned animals. Our latest funding has helped provide the group with a new marquee, and we encourage you to visit them and learn more about their great work at the Toodyay Farmers Market.

As the winter months become darker, it is a timely reminder to be extra vigilant when driving at dawn and dusk when wildlife are more active. If you come across any injured wildlife and are unsure of what to do, call Brian 0419 933 721 or Robyn 0417 173 283 from Mammals and Pappas.



For more information on the Chalice Community Investment Program visit: [www.chalicemining.com/community-investment](http://www.chalicemining.com/community-investment)



Scan the QR code to read the Gonneville Project Info Sheet

### Get in Touch

Sign up to receive our Community Newsletter at [www.chalicemining.com/community-newsletter](http://www.chalicemining.com/community-newsletter)

### Visit Us

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

### Email Us

[community@chalicemining.com](mailto:community@chalicemining.com)

### Go Online

[www.chalicemining.com/community](http://www.chalicemining.com/community)



Colin Bird and Godfrey Harmer deliver our raffle prize to Jo and Paul Sutton.

## Loads of help – and loads more on our plate

**Moondyne Men**  
Graham Hill

THE MOONDYNE Men held their first ever Annual Dinner on Saturday June 10 at The Toodyay Club.

It was an excellent night, with Roz Davidson and her team catering to a crowd of some 50 people.

Our thanks to Roz and the Toodyay Club bar staff for their efforts.

The event was an opportunity for us to thank our guests, including representatives from the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, Toodyay Op Shop, Toodyay Agricultural Society and the Shire of Toodyay, for their support.

Last month's Toodyay Fibre Festival gave the Moondyne Men a chance to show their skill by assisting the committee in setting up and packing down this major regional event.

The weather was kind to everyone on the day and we were all pleased the event was such a success.

More recently the Moondyne Men have delivered several trailer loads of firewood to people in need, as advised by Toodyay Locals Care.

We also made a donation to the local Kinder Gym to assist with the purchase of new and replacement equipment.

Success also went the way of Jo Sutton, the lucky winner of a trailer load of dry and split firewood from the Moondyne Men Wood Raffle held on June 16 and 17.

The prize also included free delivery.

Speaking of free, the Moondyne Men hold a free breakfast on the last Saturday of each month and members and guests are welcome.

The next one is on July 29.

If you would like to become a member of Toodyay's most proactive and progressive men's group please join us.

On Mondays and Thursdays from 9am to noon at the RSL shed, Clinton Street, Toodyay there is a general get-together with tea and biscuits (or cake), so do drop in.

We are very privileged to meet at the RSL Shed and thank them for letting us have the use of such a great facility.

For more information feel free to call our Secretary Colin on 0424 195 003.

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



Our first annual dinner at The Toodyay Club.

# What can blokes expect at a Mr Perfect BBQ?

**Mr Perfect – More Than A BBQ**  
Sean Hefferon, Coordinator

MR PERFECT is 'Mental Health's Mate', a grassroots, pre-crisis charity that creates community and connection.

By bringing men together at barbecues in local parks across Australia, it helps reduce isolation and encourages better mental health.

I've been hosting these barbecues in Fremantle for the last three years, and have recently begun hosting here in Toodyay.

A question I am often asked is "What can I expect at a Mr Perfect BBQ?"

It's a fair question.

The barbecues are hosted across the nation in public parks.

In Toodyay we use the great facilities at Dudgee Park.

Usually there will be a Mr Perfect banner attached to a fence, between trees or tied to a shade structure.

The barbecue host is easily spotted (he's the bloke cooking at the barbie) and greets everyone and introduces people to each other.

The food cooked up is generally the basic sausages and onions served on bread.

That said, some barbecues can serve up a feast – at Fremantle we have had the occasional barbecued marinated occy.

It helps having Chef Kenny on the tongs. We try to cater for most, for example having vegetarian options as well.

Some Mr Perfect BBQs can be small affairs with a handful of people while others can be large community events.

As an example of the latter, Kalamunda hosted a great event last year with live music, face painting for kids and even people dressing up as Marvel superheroes – very much a family affair.

Clearly, the barbecues are not men's groups – we welcome children, partners, dogs and never turn anyone away.

Generally it is predominantly male, but it really does depend on each barbecue.

Conversations can range from work, families, hobbies, sports, through to life stories and challenges.

Some guests will decide to just listen and enjoy the company, food and connection and, hopefully, sunshine.

In my experience some real and powerful yet relaxed conversations have come out hosting these barbecues – as well as quite a few laughs.

The next Toodyay Mr Perfect BBQ is Sunday August 6 from 10:30am–12:30pm at Dudgee Park.

For more information head to [mrperfect.org.au](http://mrperfect.org.au). There is also a Mr Perfect Facebook Community Group.

## Full tummies and a fireside feast



A selection of the dishes enjoyed by all at the Casserole and Curry feast night.

**Bejoording Community News**  
Information Bay (By Bee)

WE ENJOYED a great turnout for our annual Casserole and Curry feast, which coincided with our mid-winter monthly meeting.

The variety of homemade dishes included beef and vegetable variations, including a steak and kidney casserole – popular with those who don't get it cooked at home because the cook doesn't like offal.

There was a chicken dish, curried sausages and even a vegan dahl.

Everyone tucked in and most went back for seconds.

It was lovely to gather around the fire after the feast with full tummies.

A big thank you to all our chefs.

Looking ahead to this month, our feast night theme will be Tacos.

In addition, we have a mystery AWD tour scheduled for the weekend of July 21 to 23, led by 'He Who Must Be Followed', the informative and engaging Kimbo.

It is a great time to be in the Wheatbelt, with early signs of crops and adorable four-legged babies bleating and bouncing around, a sight one never tires of.

Join us every Wednesday evening at the Bejoording Community Centre, on Bejoording Road, which we share with our local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.

Our 'come as you are' meetings are strictly casual, so come along from 6pm and leave when it suits you.

New members are always welcome, just rock up and someone will show you the ropes.

For more information you can contact our President Barry Grey on 0428 742 149.

### REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

#### PROPOSED EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY – GRAVEL LOT 22 CHITTY ROAD, HODDYS WELL

The Shire of Toodyay has received an application from Lundstrom Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd, on behalf of WA Gravel, for an extractive industry at Lot 22 Chitty Road, Hoddys Well.

Two different entities currently exist at Lot 22 Chitty Road: WA Gravel and A1 Gravel. The purpose of this application is to combine both entities under the name WA Gravel.

WA Gravel proposes to extract gravel from the 9.570ha site to a depth of between 3m-5m. The total volume of gravel to be removed is approximately 639,030 tonnes, equating to an annual gravel extraction volume of approximately 54,000 tonnes. The anticipated duration of the extraction program is 12 years.

Your views on this proposed extractive industry are encouraged and welcomed. The proposal is available for inspection at the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre, Old Court House, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay, during office hours. It is also available to view on the Shire website: [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au).

Submissions on the proposal must be made in writing to the Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay 6566, or via email to [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au), by **4.00pm on Monday 31 July 2023**.

Further information on the above proposal is available by contacting the Shire's Development Services department on 9574 9340.

Suzie Haslehurst  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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**LEADER OF THE NATIONALS WA**

# Braving winter chill in warm-up to centenary

Country Women's Association  
Vivien Street

TOODYAY Country Women's Association (CWA) celebrated the 96th anniversary of our formation at our branch meeting last June.

The Toodyay branch was formed three years after the CWA of WA held its first meeting at Nungarin, 99 years ago.

We had a guest from State office who chose this date to introduce herself and attend our meeting, unaware it was our birthday.

Megan DePiazz has joined the team at State office to assist with next year's centenary celebrations, travelling to as many branches as she can in the months ahead.

Morning tea and a warm meal, followed by a birthday cake made by Kathy, helped us get into celebratory mood on what was a cold morning.

Thanks to all who contributed.

At the meeting we discussed and voted on motions to be presented at the CWA State conference in Perth in July.

Two of our members will represent our branch at the conference and relay first-hand accounts of proceedings.

This year's conference theme is *Embracing Change*, both in the Association and in the community through advocacy.

While the CWA has been responsible for many changes for the better in the community, much of it goes unseen.

Branches across the state have been fundraising and raising awareness of local problems that need attention at a Government level.

June got off to a chilly start with our produce stall on June 3.

Despite layers of gloves, blankets, and hand warmers we still shivered the morning away.

However the cold did not deter customers, and we thank them for their support.

We added a good amount to the roof fund which is surely and slowly creeping up.

We are thankful to have received two grants in June and are awaiting the outcome of a third application.

Members last month awarded a certificate of appreciation to our secretary Gina in recognition of the great deal of work she put in to applying for grants.

We are grateful to the Toodyay Op Shop ladies for their generous donation towards a new stove and fridge.

Last month, with the help of many hands, it produced a big order of cupcakes, followed by baking for our Cancer Council *Biggest Morning Tea* in early June.

While attendance was smaller than we catered for, those present appreciated our two guest speakers who talked about cervical cancer and engaged in questions and discussion.

And while this interesting session went



Kathy baked a birthday cake for our 96th birthday.

way off topic, those who were there judged it to be the best coffee morning for cancer they had ever attended.

Despite the lack of numbers, our morning tea and raffle made a decent amount to send off to the Cancer Council.

It was a treat to join other branches for a Friendship Day at our sister branch, Bayswater.

They treated us to a three-course meal, a huge raffle and trade table.

The guest speaker was Dianne Franklyn, who some of us had heard at Caversham talking about grandparents raising grandchildren.

A passionate advocate for the cause, Dianne has accepted our invitation to speak to the Toodyay branch and community members on October 12.

We will advertise this event over the coming months, but if you know anyone in these circumstances please encourage them to come along.

Tammin's WA Week luncheon, held in mid-June, is a trip we always enjoy.

Each visiting car supplied a casserole to ease the load on Tammin members, and the choices for the three-course meal were many and delicious.

Another great day of meeting friends, puzzling over quizzes and vying for raffle prizes.

The Shire of Tammin CEO Joanne Soderlund gave an interesting talk and slide show which we all enjoyed.

Of course we managed a visit to the local op shop before the meal.

Many thanks to Bayswater and Tammin members for their well-organised days.

Our next Produce Stall outside the IGA will be on the weekend of the Avon Descent, Saturday August 12.

Bottling and preserving are already underway to stock the stall with treats to tempt you.

We are relieved July is a quieter month after

a busy May and June and hope to see you at the stall.

Our branch meets on the second Thursday of the month at 10am for a coffee morning, with different activities throughout the year.

Our general meeting is held on the fourth

Thursday of the month at 10am.

New members are most welcome.

Parking is in Charcoal Lane with easy access to the hall.

If you would like to book the hall please call Margot on 9574 2823 or 0405 067 591.

## Our quilting display proves a red-hot festival favourite



Karen's Best Exhibit Quilt from 2022 Toodyay Show, on display at the Fibre Festival, uses vibrant batik fabric to depict Aussie fauna.

### Ragbags Quilting Group

Kerry Gregory

THE morning of the Fibre Festival, Sunday June 4, heralded a cold but beautiful day, perfect for the crowds of locals and visitors strolling amongst the street stalls and exhibits along Stirling Terrace.

The Ragbags Group had a steady stream of

visitors checking out our display of quilts, table runners, knitting, crochet and embroidered items at St Stephen's Church Hall.

We received a number of complimentary remarks on the high standard and diversity of the quilting projects we exhibited.

A particular favourite with the many children who visited was the table of Christmas-themed runners, the 3D felt tree skirts and the 3D felt Gingerbread House, flanked by two teddies.

Many visitors snapped up bargains from our selection of items, including a couple of beautiful hand-stitched quilts, a tub full of wool oddments and a fair quantity of fat quarters at 'give-away' prices.

Raffle tickets for a basket of last summer's Toodyay preserves was popular too, although many people lamented that they no longer carried cash these days.

One of our local shire councillors won the prize, donating proceeds to Toodyay Locals Care Charity.

On a personal note, early this month marks 20 years since my husband Allan and I moved to Dewars Pool.

We have thoroughly enjoyed living and participating in the Toodyay community, blessed with a network of wonderful, supportive neighbours who've helped us navigate the challenges of our 'prickle farm' property and livestock.

With 10 years as volunteer firefighters, a long involvement with *The Toodyay Herald*, stewarding at the Agricultural Show Society and the friendship, support and mental health benefits of a group such as the Ragbags Quilting ladies, past and present, we have indeed been very fortunate. Thank you all.

New members are very welcome at our regular gatherings of the Ragbags group.

A cuppa, a chat and a laugh or two is assured. Bring some handwork, your machine and project or any craft work you are undertaking.

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

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