

# The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned  
community newspaper  
Est. 1902

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

August 2023  
Edition 426

## Miner struggles to win community trust

Environment a key issue but many know little or nothing about Julimar forest drilling

Michael Sinclair-Jones

MOST people don't fully trust Chalice Mining to act in the best interest of the local community, according to a new company survey of plans to mine Julimar Conservation Park and nearby farmlands.

More than 20 per cent of Toodyay residents said they don't trust Chalice "at all", another 18 per cent said they trust the miner only "slightly" and a further 36 per cent said Chalice can be trusted just "moderately".

Only a quarter (25 per cent) of all respondents said they trusted Chalice "very much" or "extremely".

To a question "I will not support a potential future mine in general regardless of what the company says or does", 56 per cent – the survey's largest response – said "not at all".

The company said the double-negative response was "actually positive" for Chalice.

It said mixing positive and negative statements in surveys was a "tried and tested" approach to limit bias and the response was "good/ positive" for Chalice.

The company said it was consistent with responses to another question which showed that 58 per cent of people were "moderately to extremely" supportive of mining on Chalice-owned private farmland south of Julimar Road.

"We are encouraged that 61 per cent of respondents have moderate to extremely high levels of trust in Chalice," the company said.

"This compares favourably with the level of trust in Federal and State Governments and is typical of the level of trust respondents have for the mining industry generally".

The company's "Local Voices" survey of 283 local residents in April offered a \$10 donation to local community groups for every response it received.

Chalice said it generated \$2476 in community donations after some people



### Brrrr, it's cold, but local crops survive frost as Ukraine War drives up prices

LAST month's cold snap is shown in this Nunile canola crop which was fortunately still too young to suffer any frost damage. Local farmers are watching Russia's war in Ukraine as attacks on Black Sea ports drive up grain prices. Photo: Frank Panizza. Full story Page 3.

chose to opt out of the donor offer.

The miner says it has donated a total of \$250,000 in two years to local community events such as the Moondyne Festival, Toodyay Show, International Food Fair and Christmas Street Party as well as to local volunteer fire brigades, the Country Women's Association, Marsupial Mammals and Pappas Wildlife, miniature railway, Toodyay Recreation Centre and sports clubs.

It provided a further \$4.73 million to Chalice contractors and "the local economy".

A recent statement to the Australian Stock Exchange valued the company at \$2.5 billion, with \$145 million in cash reserves.

Chalice announced a 50 per cent increase in the size of its "world class" Julimar deposit in March and a "strong option" to build a kilometre-wide pit to extract three million tonnes of ore on private land bounded by Keating Road, Plunkett Road, Beach Road and Julimar Road.

The company also announced "enormous growth potential" in a much larger area being drilled in Julimar State Forest, which is a State-registered conservation park.

"The need to decarbonise the global economy will underpin long-term demand for the green metals at Julimar," the company told an investor forum in June.

Chalice said earlier that it was seeking new partners to mine and process millions of tonnes of Julimar ore in future decades.

Last month's community survey results showed that only a quarter of respondents knew "much" or a "great deal" about Chalice's current exploration activities.

A third said they had "some" knowledge, and 41 per cent said they had "none" or only "a little" knowledge of it.

A total of 81 per cent of people surveyed said the environment was "very" or "extremely" important.

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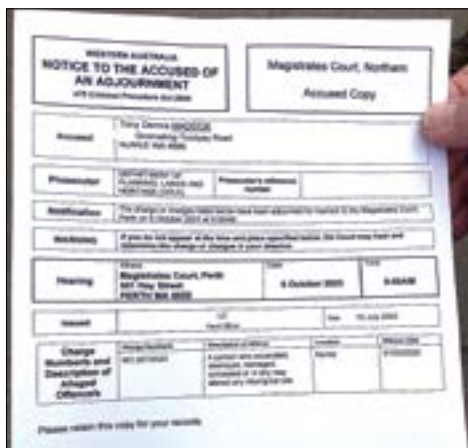
### Third food outlet shuts

TOODYAY'S Spice and Grill Indian restaurant is the third food outlet in the town's busy tourist precinct to close in recent weeks.

The former pizza restaurant shut last month, joining Wendouree Tearooms which closed in June and the Freemasons Hotel which shut the same month for renovations after sale talks collapsed.

Both Wendouree Tearooms and the Cola Café are also for sale.

## \$200,000 Wagyl trial cost feared



Defendant Tony Maddox holds an adjournment notice outside the Northam Magistrate's Court last month.

TOODYAY real estate agent Tony Maddox fears it may cost him \$200,000 in legal fees to defend a charge of breaching State Aboriginal heritage law on his Nunile farm.

Northam Magistrate Donna Webb last month adjourned the hearing to October 6 in Perth to enable a city trial date to be set.

Mr Maddox has pleaded not guilty to the charge, which carries a maximum penalty of nine months' jail and a \$20,000 fine.

He is being prosecuted by the State Government for building a vehicle crossing over Boyagerring Brook which flows inside his front gate and floods in winter.

The prosecution describes Boyagerring Brook and the Avon River generally as the home of the Wagyl, a spiritual being in the form of a serpent that represents a core belief in traditional Avon Valley Noongar culture.

Continued on Page 3.

### Coming events

International Food Festival  
Sat 12 August, 10am - 4pm

Toodyay Farmers Market  
Sun 20 August, 9am - 1pm

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# COUNTRY REALTY

# The Toodyay Herald

**The Toodyay Herald** is a free monthly newspaper published and owned by a not-for-profit incorporated association - The Toodyay Herald Inc. Contributions via email or on flash drive are preferred. There is no charge for articles that appear in the paper. **Deadlines** for the next edition are listed below with the paper on the streets in the first week of each month except in January when there is no edition. **All advertising** should be emailed to [advertising@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:advertising@toodyayherald.com.au). Editorial contributions and photographs should be emailed to [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au). **Photographs** for publication should be at least 500kb in file size to ensure quality reproduction in the newspaper.

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## DISTRIBUTION

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## THANK YOU

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

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

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

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## NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Noon Friday  
August 25**

STORY DEADLINE

**Noon Wednesday  
August 30**

DISTRIBUTED

**Thursday  
September 7**

## Please note our email addresses

Advertising: [advertising@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:advertising@toodyayherald.com.au)

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

## Bunting and bollocking

### Roger Simms

IF PERTH Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas is serious about bringing the Commonwealth Games to Perth in 2026 he might do well to take a leaf from the book of a former Lord Mayor and start recruiting volunteers.

The same goes for Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate who has pleaded with the Queensland Government to give him four weeks to come up with a plan to secure the Games, in limbo since Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews last month scuttled his State's undertaking to play host.

Back in 1958 when Lord Mayor Sir Harry Howard led a successful campaign to secure the 1962 Games for Perth, it was clear that much of the cost would have to be met by volunteers and donations.

The target required after State and Federal government support was £405,000 – about \$8 million.

More than 200 West Australians offered their time and talent on 19 committees and raised the money over three and a half years.

Games fever had taken hold. The world coming to Perth proved a bewitching idea for the world's most isolated capital city and the dream was seen as one to chase.

Sir Harry, who was knighted in 1961, saw the Games as a community exercise.

The city was prone to be deprecatory about itself, he said, and the Games — then known as the British Empire and Commonwealth Games — would allow it to find its true nature.

Sir Harry, who chaired the planning committee, won acclaim for the fund-raising effort but found himself offside with the Perth public by seeking to build the Games aquatic centre in Kings Park.

"Not on your Nelly," came the cry from the 'burbs, "Hands off our park", so the plans switched to Leederville and Beatty Park was born.

Anxious to know what the world thought of us, *The West Australian* and *The Daily News*, Perth's afternoon newspaper which closed in 1990, ran plenty of interviews with visitors as the Games drew near.

No detail was too trivial for media attention.

As a cadet reporter on the *West*, I was sent out to canvas international views on the quality of bunting strung up in St Georges Terrace to showcase the great event.

On Games opening day — November 22 — my assignment was finely tuned: covering incidents in the Perry Lakes stadium car park. I'm not sure what the paper expected.

Angry drivers caught up in a swirl of foreign language argument perhaps, or a show of Gallic frustration as visitors driving

on the wrong side bumped into each other trying to find a spot to park in the sweltering heat.

Yes, it was a stinker — 104 on the Fahrenheit scale, still in use in pre-decimalised Australia, or 40C today.

*The Daily's* front page headline set the scene: Giddy, Gaudy G'Day.

As the competition got underway, soldiers were called on to keep up a flow of water to athletes.

The Games were universally judged a success with 35 countries taking part and Australia finishing with 105 medals, ahead of rival England with 78.

James Coote, reporting for Britain's *Daily Telegraph*, slipped a backhander into a compliment: "The Games have proved that it is possible for an area as basically devoid of sports interest as Perth to stage the second-most important sports meeting in the world."

Then came a crack from David Frost's satirical UK TV show *That Was The Week That Was* with a skit on "a British athletics blues day" and a reference to Perth as a Biblical "Sodom and Gomorrah in sheeps' clothing."

Well, as they say in PR, any publicity is better than no publicity.

My own low-key reporting on the Games sparked up at the finish with a yarn of mass departure excitement.

There was an exodus of international and eastern states' visitors and, with planes and trains fully booked, I interviewed people leaving in buses, cars and trucks, and on motorbikes and even bicycles.

I had a nice lot of quotes for a story but I'd failed to make one important check.

In the paper next morning, next to my report suggesting that the only way to leave Perth that day might be on foot, was an advertisement from a shipping line offering berths to Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney — an early lesson in journalism basics.

I got the deserved bollocking from my newsroom chief of staff and got put to work on what is called in the trade a "straightener" — a second report on the big city exodus, this time with news of available shipping berths.

But back to Basil.

As costs mount for staging international sporting and artistic events, as they inevitably do, the lesson for civic leaders is to keep a finger on the pulse of public opinion as well as the budget.

Perth showed what can be done with community backing.

But if the public don't share the enthusiasm for a particular big spend, even as the backers spruik publicity and long-term benefits, community belief in value for money can prove fragile.



Perth Commonwealth Games long jump in 1962.

Office Hours are from 9.30am - 12.30pm on highlighted days						
August - September 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	Sept 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

# Shock decision to close Showgrounds bar

Michael Sinclair-Jones

DRINKS at this year's Toodyay Agricultural Show are likely to be served from a temporary tent because the historic Showgrounds bar has been declared too dangerous to use.

Roof supports are sagging, termites have eaten the floor and strong winds threaten the rotted timber-framed structure to collapse.

The dilapidated shire-owned terrace bar was due to be demolished after last year's Show but was still standing last month.



Floor bearers eaten by termites.

When the Toodyay Agricultural Society asked if it could be used again this year, the shire's insurers said it was too great a risk.

Councillors voted 7-1 last month in a shock move to "deconstruct" the building before this year's October 7 event.

They agreed to store the materials and liaise with the Toodyay Agricultural Society about what to do next year.

The shire has placed a padlock on the door and locked the society out of the building.

Cr Steve McCormick voted against the council decision, saying the bar could still be used this year and demolished afterwards.

He was required earlier to declare an "impartiality interest" in the debate because he is a member of the Toodyay Agricultural Society and Toodyay Cricket Club, which operates the Show bar each year.

"As a consequence, there may be a perception that my impartiality on the matter may be affected," he said, reading from a signed statement filed with the shire.

"I will therefore declare that I will consider the matter on its merits and vote accordingly."

He questioned whether the shire had obtained a "properly credentialled" report on the bar's condition.

The council was told that a "specialised



Rafter support beams sag under the weight of the metal roof.

company" was asked in May to examine structural defects.

It reported "rotted and termite-damaged uprights, tie-downs and rafter integrity, as well as bearer failure".

The shire then contacted five builders, resulting in a \$30,000 repair quote and a recommendation to demolish the building.

Society President Bruce Shenn emailed the shire on July 21 that there was not enough

time to repair the bar before this year's Show. He told councillors that he believed the bar was safe to use this year but that a marquee could be used instead.

"It would, of course take away from the ambience of the area," Mr Shenn said.

He told *The Herald* later that a temporary bar would be provided for this year's event.

The shire said removing the Show bar would leave a concrete base for a marquee.

## Frost, fog of war clouds outlook for local farmers

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance  
Frank Panizza

COOL and miserable weather continued to dominate local conditions last month.

Many farmers and residents have complained that this is one of the coldest Toodyay winters for many years.

Crops and pastures are still slow-growing and will continue to be sluggish until warmer days arrive in Spring.

Widespread frost – some on consecutive days – have dried local pastures.

It is unlikely to have harmed local crops because the frosts are too early so far to have caused any harm.

However, if frosts continue into next month's critical period during flowering and grain development, they can cause extensive damage.

Grain markets have again been thrown into turmoil.

Russia's withdrawal last month from the so-called 'Black Sea grain corridor' for grain shipments and subsequent deliberate missile attacks on Ukrainian ports and grain storage facilities have caused market uncertainty and grave international concern about global food security.

The grain corridor was brokered by the United Nations to allow safe passage of Ukrainian and Russian grain shipments from Black Sea ports to the rest of the world.

The deal had lasted more than a year despite complaints by Russian President Vladimir Putin that it had not met Russia's needs.

When he refused last month to extend the deal and then proceeded to attack the major Ukrainian port of Odessa, grain futures markets shot up in response.

Russia doubled down shortly after by declaring that any merchant grain ship could be considered to be carrying military equipment or arms.

Russia also launched missile attacks on inland grain facilities near the Danube River in the western part of Ukraine.

Its deliberate targeting of Ukrainian grain exports has drawn UN criticism, the spike in grain prices and threat to supply have caused grave international concern over food security in developing countries.

Ukrainian and Russian wheat – commonly called 'Black Sea grain' – is generally the world's cheapest grain.

Unfortunately, spikes in grain prices and supply problems have a real impact on some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

Australian grain prices have risen as a result.

Wheat and canola prices have risen by about 10-15 per cent in a short period, boosting confidence among local farmers

for another good season.

Any settling of Ukrainian war supply issues would remove the current market risk, which would most likely see grain prices fall to more average levels.

## Survey shows many don't trust miner

Continued from Page 1.

CHALICE Mining CEO Alex Dorsch said community consultation was integral to his company's approach.

"We are committed to being open and transparent with the local community at all times," he said.

"We are encouraged by the fact that the majority of respondents to our initial community survey support the potential development of a mine at Gonnevillie, which is located on Challice-owned farmland, given the significant benefits this would generate for local communities and the State.

"We will continue to broaden and improve our consultation with the community as we progress our project."

## Wagyl controversy moves to Perth

Continued from Page 1.

MR MADDUX says he did not know that Boyagerring Brook is protected by a 50-year-old Aboriginal heritage law when he built the vehicle crossing and an artificial lake.

He has instructed his Northam solicitor to brief a barrister to defend the charge.

Senior barristers can charge up to \$10,000 a day, while junior barristers' costs can start at about \$5000 a day.

The case against Mr Maddox is separate to new WA Aboriginal Cultural Heritage laws from July 1 which prompted mass protests by angry farmers in Northam and elsewhere.

The WA Pastoralists and Graziers Association says it is awaiting legal advice on a potential High Court challenge.

The association says the Maddox case could help a long-running battle against State control over farmers' property rights.

Association Property Rights Committee Chair Gary Peacock said it was a "long shot" but a member had offered to pay for a barrister's opinion on whether Aboriginal

heritage law had power over private land.

"We have great empathy for Tony and passionately support his case," Mr Peacock said.

"We support him morally."

Mr Maddox said he would pay for his own barrister when his case goes to trial and was told it may cost him \$200,000 in legal fees.

Northam lawyer Bernadine Heiderich told last month's hearing that nine defence witnesses would be called – the Perth court may need to set aside four days to conduct a trial.

The prosecution said via video link from Perth that the State had four witnesses and had anticipated a two-day trial.

Magistrate Webb said she might continue to hear the case in Perth because, as Ms Heiderich explained later to *The Herald*, the magistrate was transferring to the city court.

"You may not have seen the last of me," Ms Webb told Mr Maddox as he left the court.

The trial is expected to start in December or early next year.




Darren  
West MLC

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# The Toodyay Herald

## Corporate spin

CHALICE Mining may be sitting on a massive mining bonanza in Julimar but the Perth-based company still has a long way to go to gain greater local community trust.

The miner claims a trust level similar to that for governments and other miners.

However, a recent company survey of local community attitudes suggests more needs to be done.

Of particular concern is that nearly half of the 283 people surveyed said they knew little or nothing about Chalice's current mineral exploration program.

This is mostly beyond public view because evidence of the vast ore deposit discovered in Julimar is hard to spot while driving on local roads and forest tracks.

This may be because what Chalice tells the Australian Stock Exchange and global markets is different to what readers see in local leaflets and newspaper advertising.

The market reports contain detailed information about how many holes have been drilled, what they have discovered and economic projections about the huge wealth that lies beneath the ground.

On share values alone, the company is worth \$2.5 billion.

Most local people say the environment is "very" or "extremely" important but few would be readers of finance newspapers, mining magazines and online reports to know what is really going on in Julimar.

Chalice says it has spent \$250,000 in two years on donations to local not-for-profit volunteer organisations, which is welcome in our relatively small community.

We also welcome Chalice's monthly full-page *Herald* advertisements which help fund this newspaper to serve the local community with news and information.

The ads generally cover local community issues in much the same way that US mining giant Alcoa sought to gain public support in the 1970s for open-cut bauxite mining in the southern Darling Ranges.

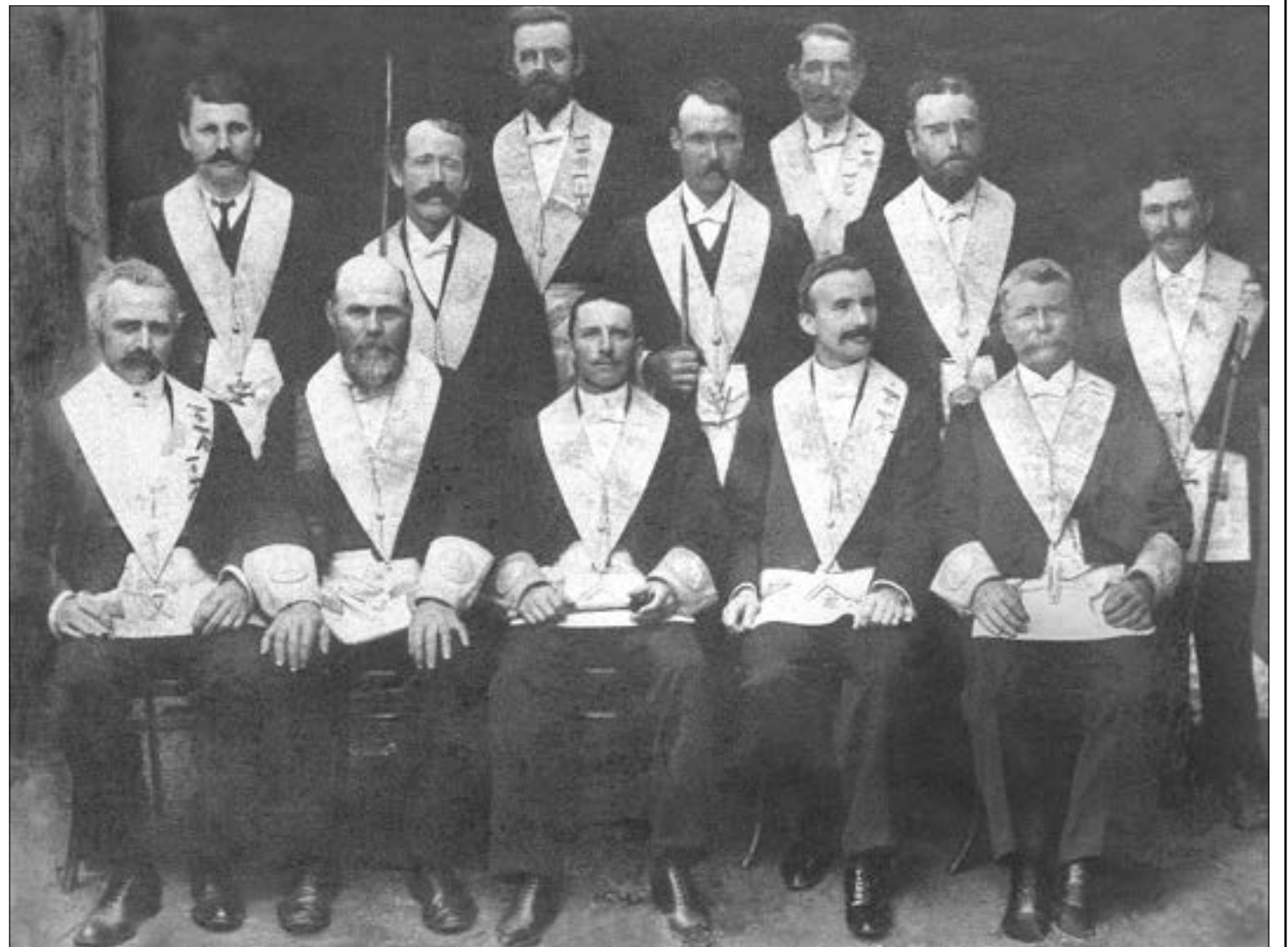
May was an exception when Chalice responded to an April *Herald* headline "Chalice flags open cut mine" which quoted extensively from a March statement to the Australian Stock Exchange.

Public relations is an integral part of any successful business, and Chalice has plenty of cash on hand – \$145 million according to latest reports – to get its message across.

If the company was more up front locally about its global corporate strategy, perhaps it would gain more community trust.

Ignorance is not always bliss.

Michael Sinclair-Jones  
Editor



*The way we were – This Freemasons Lodge photo dated 1908-09 shows local community leaders whose families pioneered farms and businesses in the Toodyay district more than 150 years ago. Some of those pictured would have had early settler parents whose historic family names continue to be prominent in the Toodyay community. They are (from left, rear) Treasurer and Past Master J. A. Wroth, Secretary H. Parker; (middle row) Senior Deacon F. Donegan, Tyler J. Thomas, Inner Guard J. Doust, J. Twine (no title provided); Junior Deacon J. Myers; (front) Director of Ceremonies and Past Master J. Somers, Senior Warden J. Lloyd, Worshipful Master W. Thompson, Immediate Past Master G. Vass and Junior Warden W. Beardman. Photo: Toodyay Freemasons Lodge.*

## LETTERS

### How's the serenity?

COUNTRY cacophony indeed (*July Letters*).  
"How's the serenity?"

I hope I'm not the only one old enough to remember that line from the great Australian cinematographic masterpiece, *The Castle* (1997).

Like Darryl Kerrigan in the movie, we bought our dream forest block in Julimar in 2015.

Since then, we have built our beautiful retreat and have spent many blissful hours with friends and family listening to the birds chirping, watching the red-tailed black cockatoos nest in the eucalypts and melaleucas, and following the spring growth, whole families of echidnas, emus, wallabies, kangaroos and endangered spotted western quolls in their natural habitat on our property.

However, that has all been threatened with the arrival of Chalice Mining.

Now we have ruined roads and drilling rigs less than a kilometre from our gate.

The rigs drill night and day, their planes fly directly overhead and their numerous employees gouge huge ruts in our gravel roads. How's your serenity, Chalice?

Kirsten Lambert  
Julimar

### Self-grandiose pomposity

GEORGE Bernard Shaw said, "Titles distinguish the mediocre, embarrass the superior, and are disgraced by the inferior."

This quotation would seem to be very appropriate following the latest shenanigans at the Shire of Toodyay with the addition of 'executive' to the titles of the managers, who collectively are to be known as the 'executive management group', with their departments becoming directorates.

This pomposity should certainly either distinguish or embarrass them.

Oh, and as an aside, our local government is now referred to by our administration as an industry.

The Local Government Act (LGA) was passed

in 1960 and the Road Board district became the Shire of Toodyay.

At that time the administration was arranged with three departments, finance, planning and works, each with a manager reporting to the Shire Clerk.

Later on, the Shire Clerk became the Chief Executive Officer and a few years ago the managers were designated under section 5.37 of the LGA as 'senior' employees.

This was done by resolution of Council because by doing so it gave Council some say in their hiring and firing.

However, although the senior employees have now been bestowed with the titles of executive managers, nowhere in the LGA are they mentioned.

Furthermore, not only do we now have informal executive managers, they are in charge of informal directorates, about which the Act is also silent.

One could be forgiven for assuming that their new importance would command a higher salary, but the question is can we now expect a higher level of efficiency and service from them and the staff under their control?

As an example, we will soon have a new Works Manager who will head the 'Infrastructure, Assets and Services Directorate' (Shire Depot).

The internal flow chart shows a very 'top-heavy' staff of an executive manager, a second-tier manager, five officers, a couple of coordinators and a dozen workers.

Will we now see mechanics working on shire vehicles in their fully equipped workshop, as opposed to the present practice of sending simple mechanical work out to sub-contractors?

Being on a roll, I would bet the next move will be to rename the executive managers as directors with the CEO as managing director.

Despite all this self-grandiosity, presumably the staff do more or less the same jobs that have been done since the days of the last Shire Clerk about 30 years ago.

He managed to adequately service our population of roughly of 4,600 with far less staff than we now employ, and without a 5 per cent to 9 per cent rate increase each year.

Geoff Appleby  
Toodyay

### Let there be light

I'M WONDERING if anyone has reported the broken streetlights in the IGA car park?

I would imagine someone has, as they have been out for some time.

Do we have any indication as to when these will be repaired?

It is very dangerous at night.

For us people that work late and need to go to IGA late, the lack of lighting is dangerous as when reversing you cannot see anybody walking in the dark.

I'm in a big four-wheel-drive and I nearly ran over someone even though I really took my time to make sure that the road was totally clear.

You can't see a damn thing, and it's only a matter of time before someone gets hurt.

It's an absolute disgrace that nothing has been done as I do know they have been out for some time.

It would be particularly dangerous, especially for elderly people that need to go to IGA or the takeaway next to IGA.

Even in the reversing camera you can't see a thing.

Name and address withheld by request.

### Icy oval

COLD winter this year so far?

You've got to believe it.

The early morning on April 15 saw the temperature drop below 5C for the first time.

From then until the end of July a weather station close to the Showgrounds oval has registered 14 days where the temperature has dropped below freezing, with the lowest being -3C on July 2 and the same again on July 16.

The odd morning of frost is to be expected but I'm sure that this long run of cold weather is very unusual.

It will be interesting to see, once spring starts and the warmer weather arrives, what devastation has been wreaked in the garden; what the frost has killed off and what has survived.

Allan Henshaw  
Toodyay

### Ambo help 'terrific'

GEOFF Brown and Gerri Kerr would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to Sandra and the team of drivers from St John Community Transport Service.

Our thanks to Bob, Bruce, Derek, John, Laurie, Pam, Rod, Sue and Tim for their terrific help in getting Gerri to Perth for her medical treatment over the past year.

Thank you so very much, one and all.

Geoff Brown and Gerri Kerr  
Toodyay

## Toodyay Rainfall

Recordings and average commenced on 1/1/1877

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2019	1.8	0	5.8	15.4	8.7	125.7	128.4	66.3	13.4	15.2	6.0	0	386.7
2020	0	31.6	9.8	6.4	38.2	48.9	43.7	61.8	30.2	5.9	48.8	3.5	328.8
2021	0.03	17.3	137.3	11.1	121.7	30.4	154.2	70.3	39	61.6	2.2	0	645.13
2022	31.7	4.5	14	30.9	36.8	43	42.7	151.1	44	15.6	12	5.1	431.4
2023	0.1	0	54.9	29	21.8	74.3	42.4						222.5

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

94 Stirling Terrace Toodyay WA 6566

#### Richard Taylor Clinical Psychologist

Foundation member  
Australian Clinical Psychology Association

Bulk Billing/Private Health Funds/Telehealth

0427 447 190

business hrs

# No evidence of wrongdoing as shire addresses audit risk

## President's Pen

Rosemary Madácsi



COUNCIL received the State Office of the Auditor General report upon the 2020/2021 shire's financial audit at the June 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting.

The report stated that "this audit opinion was disclaimed as we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial report as a whole, as the financial report was submitted for audit purposes without complete and accurate underlying records".

It further commented that there is "potentially a significant risk to the entity should the finding not be addressed by the entity promptly."

There was no evidence of wrongdoing detected in the financial records.

The findings have been acted upon and improvements made to limit risk.

Administration and Council have been, and are, fully informed on what is occurring and are liaising with the auditors, Office of the Auditor General and the Department of Local Government about the finances.

Are the shire's finances in disarray? No.

Were we able to meet regulatory reporting requirements? No, not before being audited.

Will we be able to shortly? Yes.

In 2019/2020 the project design was undertaken for a new computer system and transfer of information commenced.

Data was transferred in blocks of thousands of individual line items (figures), then separated in the new system.

A record of where the individual line items were transferred was not available and discrepancies between the two systems were found.

Despite extensive investigation by new staff and auditors, the errors have been difficult to isolate.

To complete an audit, the previous year's closing balance must match the following years opening balance.

A Disclaimer Audit Opinion has been issued for 2020/2021 because the audit could not be signed off due to an inconsistency with the closing balance for 2020/2 and the opening balance for 2021/2022 (incomplete data and accuracy).

The shire's 2021/2022 audit will also be issued with a Disclaimer Audit Opinion.

This is because the Office of the Auditor General unexpectedly informed 40 Local Governments with unfinished audits of a cut-off date to lodge their returns.

Toodyay could not meet the deadline because we were delayed with finalising our 2020/2021 audit.

Auditors and staff are now working back through the shire's 2021/2022 financials to determine an Agreed Opening Balance which will provide a starting point for the 2022/2023 and future audits.

On other matters, the shire-owned Clinton Street duplexes are being repaired and an asbestos roof is being addressed.

The CEO has vacated 19A, to provide needed officer accommodation, and 19B will be rented.

The Showgrounds bar has deteriorated.

The Toodyay Agriculture Society was informed last year that the shire-owned bar would be demolished after the October 2022 event.

When it remained, the committee requested its use for this year's Show in October.

A structural defect assessment was undertaken this year when the committee sought permission to use it for the 2023 event.

The report highlighted major structural defects and builders declined to undertake repairs.

An opinion sought from the shire insurer to extend its use for this year's Show, advised that, on the basis of the structural report, there was an indemnity risk.

Due to this advice, the structure will be dismantled to provide a site for a temporary bar at this year's Show, and the old structure's materials stored for a potential rebuild after that event in consultation with the Agricultural Society.

The Toodyay racecourse infrastructure was assessed as high risk following a consultant report and all public access to the shire-owned site has been denied since last year.

Conversations with the Toodyay Race Club to work with the shire to address a list of issues to restore the function of the area have occurred since.

The Club has now put forward a financial commitment towards repairs.

Council is waiting on the Club to indicate which tasks on the list they will undertake, so the approach to the remaining tasks can be planned.



# Smouldering banksia branches were carried for winter warmth

Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

THIS month we highlight traditional Noongar camp life before colonisation.

Camps were places of community and kinship.

Noongar moort (extended families) lived together, and communal activities were an integral part of daily life.

It was a gathering place where they lived in harmony with the land.

Extended families had dedicated karlerl (campsites) with certain rights to waterholes and springs.

Camps were typically set up near these sources of water and in areas of abundant natural resources.

Noongar camps were often temporary, allowing extended families to move back and forth across their dedicated land in response to seasonal changes.

Camps consisted of several small shelters constructed with materials readily available in the environment such as branches and sticks, including paperbark and balga or grass-tree rushes.

These structures provided protection from the elements while blending harmoniously with the natural surroundings, demonstrating a resourcefulness and deep knowledge of the environment.

Noongar would prepare their shelters at the end of Djeran season (around May) before the cold season of Makuru sets in.

They would add more bark and branches to ensure the shelter was sturdy and well insulated.

They would also strategically position their shelters to take advantage of natural features such as windbreaks and sunlight to further regulate the temperature inside.

Inside the shelter, sheoak branches would be laid to create a soft surface.

During winter a booka (kangaroo-skin coat) would be used for extra warmth.

An outdoor karla (campfire) would remain lit at all times.

During winter, Noongar people carried a smouldering branch of banksia beneath their booka as they moved from one area to another.

Often, certain family members were responsible for maintaining and tending fires.

Camps were kept clean and tidy, and carefully organised.

There were spaces for sleeping, cooking, storytelling, and socialising.

Members had specific roles and responsibilities that contributed to the camp.

Storytelling around the campfire was a cherished practice.



Smouldering banksia branches were carried in winter under kangaroo-skin cloaks.

Elders played a central role in passing down cultural knowledge, important lessons, traditions, and stories to younger generations, fostering a deep sense of cultural identity and belonging.

Men and women played different roles in hunting and gathering.

Extended family took on the responsibility of raising children who were gradually introduced to age-appropriate responsibilities within the camp.

Children helped to gather firewood, fetch water and prepare food.

These tasks not only helped children to develop practical skills but also instilled a sense of responsibility, self-reliance and respect for communal living.

Winter brought opportunities to collect bush foods such as tubers, seeds, and seasonal fruits as well as larger meat game.

It was a time for gathering and sharing resources, exchanging goods, and participating in ceremonies and dances.

Individuals with special knowledge of traditional healing practices played a crucial role as healers and custodians of medical knowledge.

They were highly respected and sought-after for their expertise in treating various illnesses, injuries and spiritual ailments.

The camps were also a hub for trade and social interaction between different Noongar groups.

All this was disrupted with the arrival of colonisers in 1836.

## OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

### Draft Local Planning Policy - Central Toodyay Heritage Area

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 26 July 2023, Council resolved to advertise the following draft Local Planning Policies:

- **Central Toodyay Heritage Area**

The objective of this draft policy is to assist property owners and the Shire of Toodyay to achieve good development outcomes in an important heritage context. It will provide an understanding of the qualities of heritage value, and ensure that additions or alterations to existing buildings and new developments complement the overall context and character of the area.

Your views on this draft policy are encouraged and welcomed. Copies of the policy are available for inspection at Toodyay Visitor Centre, 7 Piesse Street, Toodyay. It is also available to view on the Shire website: [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au).

Submissions must be made in writing and lodged with the Chief Executive Officer by post to the Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566, or via email to [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au).

Submissions must be received by **5.00pm, Friday 24 August 2023**.

Any submissions received will be considered as part of the determination process and will be publicly available in the Council Agenda.

All enquiries should be directed to Development and Regulation via 9574 9340 or [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au).

Suzie Haslehurst  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



## Shane Love MLA

Your State Member for Moore



T: (08) 9927 2333

E: [MooreElectorate@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:MooreElectorate@mp.wa.gov.au)

[ShaneLoveMLA](https://www.facebook.com/ShaneLoveMLA)

[www.shanelove.com](http://www.shanelove.com)

**LEADER OF THE NATIONALS WA**

# Herald story leads to Hoddys Well drug find

## Police Beat

With Senior Constable  
Kevan French  
Toodyay Police Station



LAST month's *Police Beat* story about an illegal drug factory in Morangup bushland has led to more of the banned substance DMT being found in Hoddys Well.

A cleaner saw last month's Page 6 photo of the dangerous hallucinogenic drug being manufactured in the Avon Valley National Park and contacted police after finding a similar-looking substance in rental accommodation in Hoddys Well.

The brown liquid was stored in a plastic bag left behind by a former occupant (see picture lower right).

DMT (N-dimethyltryptamine) is made from the bark of jam trees (*Acacia acuminata*) and can cause "uncontrollable anxiety, delusions and psychosis", according to Australia's Alcohol and Drug Authority.

The Hoddys Well find occurred in May but the cleaner did not realise what it might be until they saw a photo of the Morangup drug seizure in last month's *Herald*.

The bag was taken to Northam Police Station for examination and testing.

Toodyay officers are now checking to see who rented the Hoddys Well premises in the period leading up to the latest discovery.

It is yet to be determined if the two finds are linked.

Meanwhile, a man has been arrested and charged over the Morangup discovery after a park ranger found a mobile phone and a still-warm cooking pot filled with jam tree bark and liquid.

Other equipment at a secret location away from the park's main campsites included a tent, tools, cooking rings and gas bottles.

Toodyay police notified Perth drug squad detectives who obtained search warrants to raid houses in Ashfield and Karawara.

A 20-year-old Perth man was charged with three counts of manufacturing a prohibited drug and two of possessing cannabis, with 20g of the drug allegedly found in a sandwich bag alongside smaller amounts in a car.

It is fairly common to find jam trees stripped of bark in the Toodyay area, including in an old camping area off Lovers



Toodyay police are keen to hear from anyone who can help identify this vehicle and trailer to help local inquiries into several bulk diesel thefts.

Lane in Morangup, about 17km west of the Toodyay townsite.

Police are urging residents to be watchful and report any unusual or suspicious activity to Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

The maximum penalty for manufacturing or selling DMT or other similar prohibited drugs is a \$48,000 fine or four years' jail or both.

### Diesel thieves strike

BULK fuel thefts from rural properties continue to be a problem after 1500 litres of diesel were stolen from a locked tank at a Hoddys Well quarry last month.

Thieves also stole power tools from a nearby shed.

The theft occurred over a weekend while workers were away from the site.

The missing fuel was not noticed until late morning on the following Monday, after the ground had already been disturbed by other vehicles using the quarry.

Other bulk fuel thefts this year include:

- 700 litres at Calingiri;
- 470 litres from a property on the Calingiri-Goomalling Road;
- 1500 litres at Jennacubbine;
- Another 600 litres at Calingiri;
- 600 litres from Midland Brick at Morangup; and
- Another 400 litres from the Hoddys Well quarry in January.

Thieves appear to be using the current relatively quiet period after seeding to

target bulk fuel stores when not much farm machinery is being used and growers may not notice fuel thefts.

Police are investigating images (see picture above) of a car and trailer caught on camera near one of the theft sites.

As always, we urge rural property owners to be watchful, install CCTV cameras if possible and keep sheds and fuel supplies securely locked.

It's also a good idea to conduct spot checks on bulk fuel stocks during the winter lull and to report any suspicious activity to Crimestoppers.

We can't be everywhere at once and urge people to watch out for suspicious vehicles moving around their area with tanks on trays or trailers.

### Busy on the bridges

AVON Descent spectators are urged to avoid crowding West Toodyay Bridge and Newcastle Bridge this year to avoid injury and ensure safe traffic and pedestrian access.

The popular river race from Northam to Perth will be in its 50th year as it passes through Toodyay on Saturday August 12.

There are no footpaths on the relatively narrow West Toodyay Bridge, and previous years have seen crowds of spectators getting in the way of vehicles and risking injury.

Newcastle Bridge has a footpath only on one side and is commonly used by older residents in gophers who have struggled in past years to get past crowds of spectators

who get in their way, forcing them to risk tipping onto the roadway.

The race also draws large crowds to the town's annual International Food Fair in nearby Stirling Park.

If you are planning to watch the race from the bridges, please stay off the roadway and provide clear passage for other users.

There will be an extra police presence in town and along the Avon Descent route, including extra Wheatbelt Traffic patrols.

Motorists are urged to drive according to the conditions and to please observe any road closures.

### New police chief for Toodyay

A FORMER Northam plainclothes detective sergeant has been appointed to replace Sgt Dave Flaherty as the uniformed Officer-in-Charge at Toodyay Police Station.

Sgt Jamie Boryczewski is due to start in Toodyay at the end of this month after serving as acting police chief at Three Springs.

Prior to that, Sgt Boryczewski served as a detective sergeant in Geraldton.

He will bring well-rounded experience to Toodyay and plans to live locally.

Sgt Flaherty, who also continues to live locally, was seconded in June to serve as Senior Vice President of the WA Police Union in Perth.



Containers of a suspicious brown substance handed to police for DMT drug testing after being found by a cleaner in Hoddys Well.

## Bush ambo chief honours local heroes

St John Toodyay Sub Centre  
Pam Tennant

VOLUNTEERS from St John Toodyay were recognised for their service at an awards night dinner recently.

They were joined by other emergency service volunteers for the enjoyable dinner at the Toodyay Memorial Hall on Saturday July 8.

The Sub Centre was pleased that head of Country Ambulance Operations, St John WA, Justin Fonte was able to join us for the occasion.

Three of our volunteers – Nuala Ennis, Sharon Boxall and Mark Austin – received their Five-Year Service Ribbons at the dinner.

They were joined by Mike Irvine, who received a Certificate of Appreciation for his 29

years of continuous service to St John Toodyay.

During his service Mike spent more than 6500 hours on the road – that's actually in an ambulance helping people.

That is an extraordinary record.

Looking forward, our sub centre will be operating first aid posts at the International Food Fair on August 12 as part of the Avon Descent.

We will also have an interactive display at the Toodyay Agricultural Show on October 7 where we will also be providing our first aid services.

During July we attended 31 emergency calls and our ambulances travelled 1802km.

Our Community Transport Service took 24 clients to medical appointments.

## Pause to think before posting that rant

Computer Safety  
Phil Hart

A RECENT court case in Queensland has highlighted the dangers of engaging in defamation on social media.

In this case, it cost the person doing the defaming \$279,000.

The post was online for only about 90 minutes.

It's not only the people making defamatory posts that can be in trouble but also those who respond to posts with defamatory comments and moderators who fail to remove them.

Something is defamatory if it lowers or harms the plaintiff's reputation, holds the plaintiff up to ridicule, or leads others to shun and avoid the plaintiff.

The plaintiff does not even need to be explicitly named if the content of the post is sufficient to identify the plaintiff.

If what you have written falls into any of these three categories, it pays to pause and think before clicking the "send" button.

If what you are thinking of posting is contentious, it is better to sleep on it before posting.

If in doubt, consult an expert on the matter.

It does not matter if what you post is on the internet for only a few seconds.

Somebody could screenshot or save the web page, and that evidence could be used in court.

Action for defamation can also be taken against moderators for failure to prevent or remove the publication of defamatory material, which makes the role of moderator even more onerous.

And now for a disclaimer: this article is written and published in good faith, and should not be relied upon as legal advice.

Anybody seeking legal advice should make their own enquiries.

MRB 2339

Toodyay Tyre Service

New 4X4, Truck,  
Motorbikes &  
Tractor

Repairs  
Exhausts  
Balancing  
Suspensions  
Wheel Alignment

Lot 20  
Stirling Tce  
**9574 4499**  
tyres1@iinet.net.au

# Fixing up the track will be no picnic, but we'll get it done

**Toodyay Race Club**  
John Prater, Chairman

MAINTENANCE issues with the Toodyay racecourse infrastructure will again see the Toodyay Cup relocated to Belmont this year.

This decision has been made by the Toodyay Race Club committee following meetings with representatives of the Shire of Toodyay which leases the racecourse to the club.

Founded in 1865, the Toodyay Race Club ran up to eight summer race meetings each year for more than 100 years.

However, the thriving Toodyay Race Club was closed by the Turf Club in 1980s during a rationalisation of country racecourses.

As a result, the course was abandoned for several years until a group of enthusiastic locals rolled up their sleeves and restored the dilapidated infrastructure well enough to renew racing at the course.

After two years of hard work Toodyay was granted a licence to race once a year and the Picnic Race Day, featuring the Toodyay Cup, was born.

However, we again face the prospect of losing the facility.

If the course closes, there will never be a return to racing in Toodyay.

Quite simply, over the years the Shire's works department has carried out running repairs on the roof over the tote and horseshoe bar concourse when a serious leak has occurred.

But it is now at the stage where simple maintenance is no longer sufficient, and a new roof is needed.

Shire of Toodyay CEO Suzie Haslehurst wrote to the committee last November saying an external contractor's report on the defects and condition of the buildings stated the "premises is generally in a poor condition".

As a result, the club again faces a mammoth task of refurbishment.

The main reason the infrastructure has deteriorated is because it is pointless rectifying problems under a leaking roof while water damage continues to affect the repairs and facilities.

The iconic Toodyay Picnic Race Day has been one of the best-supported events on the

Toodyay social calendar for the past 25 years. It attracts an annual crowd of 3000, many of them visitors from Perth and surrounds.

Unless the Shire gives assurances that these major infrastructure issues, for which the Shire has made provisions, are sorted out urgently, then the future of the event is uncertain.

Since the original correspondence from the Shire, members of the committee have had a very constructive on-site meeting with Ms Haslehurst.

She has requested the club write to her so she may inform the council of the issues, and hopefully get the ball rolling.

We acknowledge the condition of the buildings is not perfect, but committee members have worked hard each year to prepare the course.

The infrastructure and the condition of the track have to satisfy the Chief Steward of Racing and Wagering WA.

This governing body is the arbiter that decides whether racing can be held safely.

Most years the initial steward's inspection resulted in remedial work being required before the race meeting, but the course has always been ready on the day.

Working with the Shire I am sure we can find solutions to satisfy the health and safety requirements and have the Toodyay Cup return to our Picnic Race Day.

The Race Club committee has a plan to address the majority of issues identified in the report.

It will mean a lot of hard work to renovate buildings, while some will need to be demolished and replaced with temporary structures.

There is nothing that is too difficult, but this cannot be done without a new roof.

Above all we need the backing of the community in supporting our quest to run the Toodyay Cup at the Picnic Race Day meeting in 2024.

If you care about the survival of the Picnic Race Day there are two things you can do.

Firstly, please email me at [japrater@hotmail.com](mailto:japrater@hotmail.com) to express your support.

Secondly, come along and help with a variety of maintenance jobs at a busy bee, any time after 8am Saturday September 16.



(From left) Pete Christianson, Richard Hazlewood and Doug Colfer make use of a leftover Christmas display in the Toodyay Memorial Hall during the emergency services volunteer awards night. Richard sits on the throne because he is the oldest brigade member.

## All our Christmases come at once

**Bejoording Volunteer Bushfire Brigade**  
From the desk of The Badger

WHAT a night.

The (now) annual dinner for emergency service volunteers seems headed for ongoing success.

Massive thanks and appreciation to the organisers, and full acknowledgement of the amazing job done by Toodyay Football Club to deliver more than 100 three-course meals, hot and fresh, in record time.

The whole event was a true celebration and recognition of the wonderfully selfless volunteers in our community.

Little old Bejoording Fire Brigade had three members acknowledged for their service with pins and medals.

Pete Christianson for an epic 25-year contribution, Doug Colfer well on the way

at 15 years, and relative newbie Richard Hazlewood, who is also on the way with five years plus.

The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade asks you to be vigilant and careful while using any tools or vehicles with the potential to spark a fire.

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

Fires can be a catastrophic risk to people, animals and property.

Advice is free, but getting it wrong can be expensive.

To express your interest in joining us for a no-commitment discussion, please contact Captain Lawrence Hayward on 0447 253 320, or the Badger on 0414 250 484.

Be sure to leave a message if we're not there.

## Raise a glass to our emergency volunteers



The truck detailing crew (from left, standing) John Morrissey, Steve Weston, Max Howard, Colette Gibbons, Geoff Smith, Brad Gardner, John Gibbons, Brian Clarkson and Peter Brennan, (kneeling) Nadine Beins, Tim Blanc, Will Hort and Dan Mason. Missing from photo: Heather Brennan, photographer, and Bobby Jones.

**Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**

Peter Brennan, Captain

SINCE the end of May we have thankfully received only two callouts.

One was to a structural fire and the other to a scrub fire.

On the Saturday July 8, several of our members attended a Toodyay Emergency Services dinner at the Memorial Hall.

Awards including commendations, service and national medals across all services were presented in this enjoyable evening arranged by Toodyay Police Station Sergeant Dave Flaherty and Toodyay Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Captain Ian MacGregor.

More than 120 volunteers and their guests attended, with representatives from across most Toodyay Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades, VFRS, Police, SES and both the Toodyay and Morangup St John Ambulance Sub-Centres.

A number of VIPs from the services were in attendance, including Darren West MLC and Shire of Toodyay chief executive Suzie Haslehurst.

The organisers express their gratitude to Chalice Mining and the Shire of Toodyay for their support for the dinner.

Special thanks to Toodyay Football Club who catered the dinner with a terrific three-course meal and a range of delicious nibbles on arrival.

Well done team.

As the daylight hours grow longer, the Brigade leadership team is reviewing its training refresher needs prior to the Restricted Burning Period which begins on October 1.

We undertook a general clean-up of the station on Sunday July 23, thoroughly detailing of the inside of our fire appliances.

A great turnout of our volunteers made quick work of the tasks.

Their activities were followed by a well-deserved barbecue lunch which was enjoyed by all.



## 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



**Understand first aid**  
Learn about first aid theory and action plans



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



**Injury management**  
Treat and manage injuries in interactive training scenarios.



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

 St John First Aid Training

St John Ambulance (Western Australia) Ltd RTO Code 0182

# Campfire cooking over hot coals in paradise



The second night campfire with evening meals being cooked over coals.

## Bejoording Community Group: Information Bay (By Bee)

THEY say, "There's no rest for the wicked" and that certainly applied to our locals last month.

We had a retirement, a couple of birthdays and then our community's annual four-wheel-drive camping trip.

First and foremost, congratulations are in order to Stephanie Slater on her recent retirement.

Steph has worn many hats while serving the Toodyay area over the years, including volunteer work.

At the time of publishing, Steph and her husband Lindsay are making new memories, fulfilling a dream of travelling around Australia in their caravan.

We look forward to hearing all about it on their return.

This month's birthdays did not pass unnoticed amongst our various celebrations.

Tony J had a bike ride and bonfire while

Mark B went for lunch at the Bolgart Hotel. Those of us in attendance enjoyed the conviviality.

Our annual four-wheel-drive camping trip, held on July 21 to 23, was well-attended, with about a dozen of us in vehicles of all shapes and sizes.

This year, our Supreme Leaders Kim and Darb took us 338km east of Bejoording to some historical sites in Yellowdine.

This included a water catchment system for steam engines, with canals and a water race shaped from locally quarried rocks.

We then drove south to Mount Palmer where we camped on the first night.

This little settlement was once quite a busy town and boasted a rather grand hotel built during the 1800s gold rush.

It is well worth a visit.

The façade still stands today, with a large brick-filled pit indicating where the cellar was hollowed out.

Our second night in the Goldfields was spent among the towering wandoo trees of

Dog Rock.

A large campfire allowed evening meals to be cooked over coals, with everyone enjoying a hot and hearty feed while some of us even had dessert.

Although winter still has us in its grip, we can still celebrate life in our little slice of paradise.

To borrow another expression, "we wouldn't be dead for quids".

Bejoording Community Group meets every Wednesday evening at the Bejoording Community Centre which shares premises with the local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade in Bejoording Road.

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

It's strictly come-as-you-are casual, with children welcome and fun events every month.

If you aren't yet a member, rock up and someone will show you the ropes.

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

## Veterans on lookout for tank, field gun

Toodyay RSL Sub Branch  
Bob Wood

THE LAST pieces of our premises puzzle are finally falling into place.

With the land on Clinton Street now owned by the RSL, we can apply for grants to cover the costs of establishing our own premises.

For this we are extremely grateful for the assistance of the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank and the Wheatbelt Development Commission.

The green shed, which has stood on the land for some 70 years, will be retained and repurposed a military equipment museum.

If anyone has the odd tank or field gun they wish to dispose of, we shall have just the place.

Meanwhile, we shall have a busy few weeks with our commemorative service for Vietnam Veterans Day on Friday August 18 and our usual contribution to the Dowerin Field Days on August 23 and 24.

On Saturday September 9 at 1300 we will hold our Annual General Meeting in the RSL Shed in Clinton Street, with opportunities for members to offer their energies to the committee at this exciting time.

In the meantime, this scribe will be away in Europe, including a visit to that most interesting of military installations, the Rock of Gibraltar.

During August and September, contact our president, Max Howard on 0475 724 233.



The ANZAC Memorial in Anzac Parade.

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# Our next generation of rural leaders

**Rural Ambassador Award 2023**  
**Alison Wroth**  
 Rural Ambassador Coordinator

THIS National competition is aimed at young entrants, between 20 and 30 years old, giving them the opportunity to meet and network with likeminded representatives from around the State who have a passion for living and working in their communities and sharing their love of agriculture.

This year, Toodyay Agricultural Society is proud to sponsor a mature and impressive young woman, Miss Tameka Baker, 20 years old, who grew up in Toodyay and was keen to represent our Society in the competition.

Completing her school education at WA College of Agriculture in Cunderdin, Tameka wants to share her personal insight into not only agriculture but the primary wool industry in particular by educating others and developing her skills as a leader.

Tameka has many interests, ranging from sport, woodwork, involvement in the competition shearing and wool handling circuit and, of course, horse riding in her spare time when she is not flat out working in the shearing shed, all of which keeps her pretty busy.

Tameka works as a full time Wool Classer, who definitely has the enthusiasm and drive for the agricultural industry, our community and the Toodyay Show.

Her confidence and the ideas that she has immediately impresses.

This makes her what the competition aims to discover every year, the next generation of rural leaders who have the desire to represent and promote their community, their region and the agricultural industry in which they work.

Regarding the competition, Tameka is Central Group's representative at the State Level judging of the RASWA Rural Ambassador Award at the Perth Royal Show in September.

We are all behind her. We have no doubts she will gain from this experience and so will we.

By the time the Toodyay Show comes



Tameka Baker, eldest daughter of Paul and Tanya Baker is Toodyay Agricultural Society's entrant in the Rural Ambassador Award.

around, the Committee will know the outcome.

You will see Tameka on Show Day at the Opening of the Show, and later in the Wool Shed, involved in the Sheep Shearing and Woolclassing display, drawing raffles and then shaking hands at the Trophy Presentation.

Congratulate Tameka when you see her;

she's doing the Toodyay community and her large group of family, friends and workmates proud.

If you want to experience the Rural Ambassador competition in 2024 like Tameka is, please contact our local Coordinators for more details:

Mrs Alison Wroth 0437 099 961, or Miss Sarah-Jane Simonetti 0400 911 376.

# Opposition slams changes to boundaries

OPPOSITION Leader and Nationals WA Leader Shane Love has slammed the proposed changes to the State Electoral Boundaries, stating that they are nothing short of an assault on fair representation for regional voters.

The West Australian Electoral Commission recently released the 2023 Proposed Boundaries which would see the seats of Moore and North West Central abolished and amalgamated into the seat of Mid West and the creation of another metro seat, Oakford.

Mr Love labelled the changes as an attack on regional democracy and said the proposed changes would leave regional communities voiceless and their concerns ignored.

"These changes mean when regional West Australians go to the ballot box in 2025, their voice will be lost," Mr Love said.

"Enough is enough.

"It is just two years after WA Labor stripped 18 regional members from the Parliament.

"Regional residents already face an uphill battle in having their voices heard due to the massive distances they have to travel.

"WA Labor is making matters worse, reducing the ability of our local schools, hospitals and communities to have their voices heard."

Mr Love said the changes come following WA Labor's submission to the commission, which outlined their plan to abolish another regional voice.

"WA Labor is destroying our democracy, sacrificing regional communities one at a time to concentrate all the power in Perth.

"Regional voters deserve to have their voices heard, their communities kept intact, and their representation safeguarded."

Shadow Minister for Electoral Affairs Mia Davies urged members of the community to provide their feedback on the flawed proposal.

"I cannot support a proposal that removes a regional Member of Parliament and further concentrates power to the major metropolitan city in the State," Ms Davies said.

"Our state's economy is driven by regional businesses and industry and needs representation in the Parliament that understands the challenges and opportunities to make this work.

"I urge businesses, individuals, local governments and community groups to make their voices and objections heard so the Commissioners understand some of the challenges diminished regional representation will create for the prosperity and future of our State."

# Local MP repeats call to delay heritage laws

Shane Love, State Opposition and WA Nationals Leader and MP for Moore

Shane Love, Nationals MP for Moore recently addressed the State Council of the Liberal Party regarding the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act.

He said that the WA National Party understands the value of Aboriginal cultural heritage, but the new Act is unworkable.

It is passing on thousands and thousands of dollars of unnecessary costs, onto private industry, private landowners and others.

It is also making life very difficult for small business and making things almost impossible for farmers to know what they can do next.

There is no proper structure in place for the rollout of this legislation.

Mr Love said that the Nationals were calling for a delay in the implementation of the legislation which has been denied by the government.

The education process put in place for 12 months has created more confusion and nobody knows what that means.

Anyone who has been to any of those so-called education sessions will know that many people leave more confused than when they arrived.

"I've heard of some communities where different presenters have arrived from the department and had a different story to tell,"

Mr Love said.

"If we are elected in 2025, we will immediately review that legislation to ensure that it is fit for purpose.

"We will ensure that it does what it sets out to do and does it in a way that doesn't cause unnecessary disruption to communities, unnecessary disruption to business and to all of the industries that make up our great regional Australian economy."

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## Dying to know

DURING August, adults at all stages of life are encouraged to improve their knowledge around choices for their end-of-life, and to take action by having conversations with the people most important to them.

Owners of Purslowe Tinetti Funerals in Northam, Rob and Dianne Tinetti, have managed their funeral home for 30 years and have a wealth of knowledge and experience to pass on.

They are offering free information sessions to discuss pre-planning for the one sure thing in life: death.

If you would like to organise a group you can call 9622 1411 or email [info@ptfnortham.com.au](mailto:info@ptfnortham.com.au).

Alternatively, you may prefer to request a free *Plan Your Goodbye* booklet to write down the important information required to carry out your wishes.



The Tinetti Family: Dianne, Hollie, Rob, Adene, Tina.

## Are we getting too flash for the Banana Cake?

Toodyay Agricultural Society Inc.  
Alison Wroth

AS YOU read this, the Toodyay Show Schedule and Program of Events will be at the printers and soon will be out to financial members.

Programs will then be available in town and for viewing on our modernised website <https://www.toodyayagshow.com.au/> to download forms or to contact coordinators or the Admin Office.

Early viewing of the schedule and or website, will perhaps motivate those of us, who have been growing those vegetables to get judges tips early on displaying them.

We will be featuring Judges' tips and ideas very soon on social media to give you the heads up.

For those who enjoy cookery, have a go at the President's Favourite Recipe or of course, all the 'legendary cooks in the kitchen' out there, you better start thinking of what recipe to bake for the 'Man Cake' this year.

The good old Banana Cake may just not get a mention as things are getting very flash in that class thinking of last year's winner and Best Exhibit.

Transperth has again scheduled a 'Show Special' train from Midland to Toodyay on Saturday 7 October, with excellent times of arrival and departure to suit all travellers and give any visitor to the Show, a decent day out.

To make a booking go to our website; [toodyayagshow.com.au](http://toodyayagshow.com.au) then hit 'contact', 'getting there', 'Avon Link'.

With luck it will be that easy with the new updated site.

Any problem, contact our Admin Officer to assist.

In the Children's Sections this year, we have added new classes to get the variety back and a bit of interest.

A few more 'Open' classes have been added to the groups, to make it easier to fit that exhibit in a class, for which previously the Stewards couldn't find a class.

There's one there now.

You will notice that if you have a budding green finger in your family, a few added classes to view.

I would like to thank our new Platinum Sponsor and partner; Toodyay and Northam Bendigo Community Bank for the commencement of their much-appreciated three-year support of our Fireworks display.

Both parties are keen to see this sponsorship, which greatly assists in providing a solid financial base for our annual Show, continue into the future.

As with our other major Sponsors: Chalice Mining, Toodyay Op Shop, Elders Northam Branch, Dunnings Fuel, Morgan Stock Feed, Makit Hardware and Farm, CSBP Fertilisers, Vernice Earthmoving and especially the Shire of Toodyay.

The new attractions and overall smooth running of the show would not be possible without their financial backing and in-kind support.

We also extend our gratitude to the local businesses and individuals who support our community Show by donating prize money and trophies, and by advertising in our Show Schedule and on our social media sites.

We have so many new businesses in the area that are advertising in the Schedule, with 'Show Stopping' adverts, it's great to see.

Please start thinking about the Show in the next few months.

We have been out there with the Committee members at our July Farmers' Market Stall and we have the upcoming Wood Raffle on Friday and Saturday, August 18 and 19 at the coldest place in town; the IGA Foyer.

With luck we will see you there, buying a ticket for a final trailer load of wood to keep you going and donated by Charlie Wroth.

Our fundraising is to assist in the purchase of assets that help us on the day with the smooth running of the event, as well as our ongoing maintenance at the grounds, endeavouring to help the Shire keep this wonderful historic Showground the best one around.

Call us to organise a free event in your town

or request a free booklet to help prepare for the road ahead.



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Find out Where and When we meet!

Don't forget to update your contact details on Page 28

# A celebration of learning and community events

## Toodyay District High School David Ball, Principal

TOODYAY District High School is abuzz with excitement as it prepares to host a series of engaging events that promise fun, learning and community involvement.

With generous support from the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank, the school is set to welcome families and community members to a month of enriching activities.

### Faction Sports Carnival

EXCITEMENT is building as students gear up for the Faction Sports Carnival on August 18.

They are diligently training to showcase their skills and sportsmanship during this exhilarating event.

Families and friends are encouraged to come and cheer on the participants as they compete in various thrilling sports activities.

### Open night extravaganza

TOODYAY District High School is delighted to invite all parents, caregivers and community members to its Open Night on August 24.

This lively event will showcase the talent and achievements of our students.

Join us for a night of exploration, interactive displays and engaging demonstrations as we celebrate the achievements of our school community.

The Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association will serve up a scrumptious sausage sizzle to tantalise your taste buds.

Don't miss the chance to connect with fellow parents and support the school.

### Empowering student leaders

TOODYAY District High School believes in nurturing strong leadership qualities in its students.

To achieve this, our Student Council Leaders will participate in the empowering "In Your Head" conference at the Perth Convention Centre on the September 6.

This conference aims to inspire and equip our young leaders with the skills and knowledge they need to make a positive impact on their school and community.

### Astronomy night

CALLING all stargazers and astronomy enthusiasts.

On September 14, Toodyay District High School is hosting an astronomy night that will take you on a cosmic journey under the night sky.

We welcome everyone from the community to join us for a mesmerising evening of celestial wonders and astronomical discoveries.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for this unique experience.

### Bendigo Bank donation

TOODYAY DHS extends its heartfelt gratitude to Bendigo Bank for their generous donation of \$45,000.

This significant contribution has been instrumental in refurbishing our school's undercover area, which now boasts a

fabulous indoor-outdoor carpet, providing a comfortable space for learning and gatherings.

### Public address system

OVER the school holidays, Toodyay District High School underwent a complete rewire of its Public Address system.

The new and efficient system ensures all classrooms are wired for sound, enhancing communication and creating a conducive learning environment for our students.

### Music and art enrichment

TOODYAY District High School is fortunate to have Emma Petteimerides, a talented opera singer and parent, within our school community.

She is working with our choir on a weekly basis this semester, bringing her expertise and passion for music to enrich the students' musical journey.

### The power of reading together

TOODYAY District High School emphasises the importance of reading and its benefits for children and their families.

Reading together fosters a love for literature, sparks imagination, enhances language skills and strengthens the parent-child bond.

We encourage all parents to engage in this enriching activity with their children, creating memories and setting a foundation for a lifelong love of learning.

Toodyay District High School welcomes the community to join us for these exciting events and to celebrate the collective achievements of our school community.

Together we create an atmosphere of growth, collaboration and support that empowers our students to reach for the stars.

For information about our events and school programs, contact us on 9578 2000.

## A new undercover space for students to play

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

THANKS to the generous donation of \$45,000 from the Community Bank Toodyay and Northam, Toodyay District High School students, staff and families started term three with a dry, warm and welcoming undercover area.

During the school holidays local trades and services were hard at work replacing roof tiles, refurbishing the bench seating and installing skylights, outdoor carpet and new LED lighting.

Our fabulous P&C volunteers painted the canteen wall in shades of blue, the school's colour, and installed new menu boards.

Already, the space is more comfortable and welcoming for students to play and for the school to gather for assemblies and events.

But we're not finished yet. The next step is to install a new public address and audiovisual projection system.

This refurbishment will make a big difference for the school.

Thanks to a \$2000 donation from the Toodyay Op Shop, along with another \$2500

from the P&C, the school has purchased a new cubby house for early childhood students.

The cubby has been delivered and we're in need of volunteers to assemble it on site.

If you can help, please get in touch.

The students are eager to play.

Looking ahead to term three, the school's calendar is jam-packed with activities, events and opportunities for students.

The athletics carnival will be held on August 18, followed by the school's open night on August 24, and the P&C Father's Day stall on September 1.

The P&C next meets on Tuesday August 15 at 5.30pm in the school's staff room and all are welcome to attend.

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



The Toodyay District High School undercover area before the renovations took place.



Toodyay District High School undercover area showing the newly carpeted area and other improvements.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### General Hand/Plant Operator (Full-time)

The Shire of Toodyay is seeking the skills and talents of an accomplished and motivated individual to join the team in the role of **General Hand/Plant Operator**.

Reporting to the Coordinator Civil Works & Maintenance, this role forms part of the team responsible for ensuring Shire roads, drainage, and other infrastructure assets are maintained in good order.

The Shire offers attractive working conditions and a friendly work environment. The base salary component for this role is \$62,000-\$70,000 per annum, dependent on qualifications and experience. Other benefits include support for professional development opportunities, uniform allowance, additional superannuation contribution and income protection.

To be selected for an interview, candidates will have proven knowledge and experience. A commitment to working in a team environment to achieve continuous improvement is essential.

Application packages are available on the Shire website at [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au); or by contacting the Records Officer on 9574 9300 or via [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au).

Applications should be marked "CONFIDENTIAL – General Hand/Plant Operator" and forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay:

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

Applications close **4.00pm, Friday 18 August 2023**.

Suzie Haslehurst  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Applicants must have the right to live and work in Australia. The Shire is an Equal Opportunity Employer that values and respects diversity in its workplace.

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



## OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

### Proposed Removal of Three (3) Lemon-scented Gums - Lot 3 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay

The Shire of Toodyay has received an application from C. Jean for the proposed removal of three (3) Lemon-scented Gums located at the Toodyay Catholic Precinct, Lot 3 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

The applicant is seeking approval for the complete removal of these trees, located in front of the building also known as "The Ship".

Your views on this retrospective application are encouraged and welcomed. The proposal is available for inspection at Toodyay Visitor Centre, 7 Piesse Street, Toodyay. It is also available to view on the Shire website: [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au).

Submissions must be made in writing and lodged with the Chief Executive Officer by post to the Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566, or via email to [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au).

Submissions must be received by **4.00pm, 21 August 2023**.

For further information on the above proposal, please contact Development and Regulation on 9574 9340 or via [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au).

Suzie Haslehurst  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**





# Laws to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage have been modernised

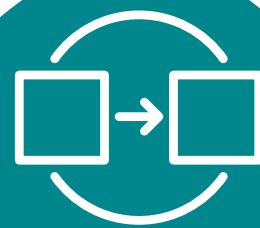
The new process makes it simpler and fairer, introducing practical exemptions for the first time. Everything that landowners are already doing now will be permitted under the new Act.



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, while others require consultations or an agreement with Aboriginal people.

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

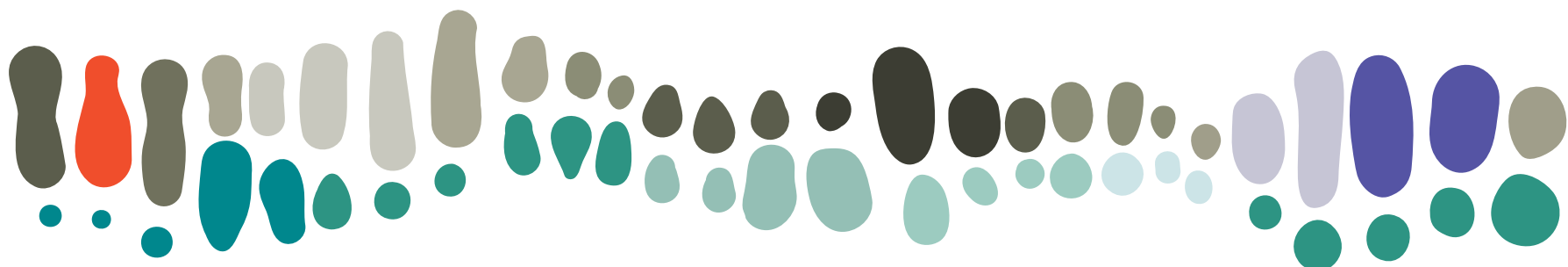
**This won't change.**

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

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 check if there is Aboriginal cultural heritage on your site, visit [WA.gov.au](http://WA.gov.au)**



# Early gadget to make lead shots for muskets found in shed

**Toodyay Historical Society Inc**  
 Robyn Taylor, Vice President

OUR JULY meeting was packed with interesting contributions by members, starting with our feature speaker Wayne Clarke and his talk on the history of Safer Toodyay Inc.

This is an organisation comprised of volunteers and representatives that from its inception sought to promote plans for 'a happier, healthier and safer community in which to live'.

Known as Rural Watch when Wayne and Desraé Clarke joined in 1990, it has evolved to become what it is today.

It was incorporated in 2011 as the Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee before the much simpler name



Early 19th century device for making lead shots for muskets. Photo Linda Rooney.

SaferToodyay Inc was adopted in March 2019.

Organisations represented include Toodyay Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Shire of Toodyay, the Toodyay District High School (including the Head Prefects), Bush Fire and Fire and Rescue Brigades, St John Ambulance, Butterly Cottages, Bendigo Bank, Chamber of Commerce, Holyoake (an alcohol and other drug prevention service) and Choose Respect.

Wayne's talk was followed by our regular show and tell session.

Don Carter showed a small, early 19th century gadget made of iron that had been hanging up in his shed until its very considerable value was discovered on the Internet.

It had been used to make lead shot for muskets.

Adam O'Neill showed some beautiful silver cutlery the Northam Hockey Club presented to his grandfather Vincent O'Neill and a family photo of the 1962 Northam hockey team, of which his grandfather was captain.

Ian Stannard, a seriously passionate collector of bank notes, brought along a facsimile of a \$25 Bank of Canada note depicting a very rare example of a double portrait of King George V and Queen Mary.

Robyn Taylor showed some of her favourite books to illustrate how Australia's history is now being taken back into 'deep time', and to provide a context for Bruce Pascoe's popular but controversial, book *Dark Emu* (see story on this page).

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at Stephen's Church Hall on Sunday August 6 at 2pm.

At 3pm, guest speaker Beth Frayne will delight us with historical vignettes gathered under the title 'Bogged up in Bolgart'.

Everyone is welcome and afternoon tea will follow.

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

Contacts: See Where and When, Page 28.



Bruce Pascoe's *Dark Emu* with recommended companion reading. Photo: Linda Rooney

## Dark Emu puts cat among the pigeons

**Book review: *Dark Emu***  
 Robyn Taylor

BRUCE Pascoe's popular book *Dark Emu Black Seeds: Agriculture or Accident?* certainly put the cat amongst the pigeons when it was published in 2014.

Last month, the ABC aired *The Dark Emu Story*, delving into the personal impact the book's publication had on Pascoe.

He said he had expected the book would be met with a backlash.

"I knew the whole area was volatile," Pascoe told the ABC, "and that asking people about Aboriginal accomplishment came with a lot of set reactions".

Though not scholarly, and criticised by some experts because of it, *Dark Emu* is nonetheless an exciting book because it is based on, and draws attention to, a wealth of information about Aboriginal life and achievement that has largely gone unnoticed.

Much of the knowledge is buried in colonial archives, reports and scientific publications not generally read by the public.

For example, Pascoe quotes from the 1839 diary of explorer George Grey, whose expedition boats were wrecked at Gantheaume Bay near Kalbarri.

The expedition party had to walk back to Perth and along the way Grey recorded that he saw "... frequent wells, some of which were ten to twelve feet deep [3-4m] and were altogether executed in a superior manner".

His observations included "fertile soil quite overrun with warran plants [yams], that were obviously harvested.

"It is now evident that we had entered the most thickly populated district of Australia that I had yet observed, and ... more had been done to secure provision from the ground by hard manual labour that I could believe it in the power of uncivilized man to accomplish," Grey noted.

Pascoe's sources of information are extensive, drawing upon works by distinguished scientists such as WA archaeologist Sylvia Hallam's classic 1975 work *Fire and Hearth: a study of Aboriginal usage and European usurpation in south-western Australia* and *The Biggest Estate on Earth. How Aborigines Made Australia* by Bill Gammage (2011).

Skilled historians can bring together the work of many specialists to make their findings intelligible and readable.

These include sociologists, linguists, geologists, botanists, astronomers, historians of art, along with archaeologists and anthropologists who worked in close collaboration with Aboriginal elders.

An excellent companion history to read alongside *Dark Emu* is Billie Griffiths' 2018 *Deep Time Dreaming. Uncovering Ancient Australia*.

It is a compelling story. Pascoe's gift has been to raise awareness of Australia's Aboriginal culture as the oldest continuous culture on Earth.

Recent advances in technology have now dated Aboriginal habitation to least 60,000 years.

The implications are far-reaching, providing a sense of pride and wonderment for all Australians.



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# Gonneville Project Update

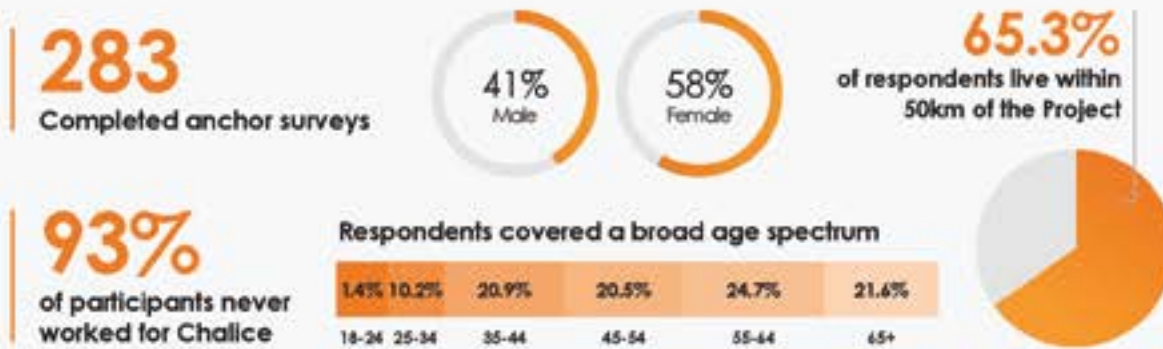
## Local Voices Survey Results

Chalice understands that community consultation will play a key role in all our planning and considerations for a potential future mine at the Gonneville Project, located on Chalice-owned farmland.

To help us better understand the needs, concerns and priorities of the local community, Chalice recently launched Local Voices to seek feedback through an independent and confidential survey program.

Results for the first survey have now been received. Thank you to everyone who participated.

### Demographics



## Here's a summary of what you told us is important

- Listen and Respond**  
Feeling heard, respected and that the company is responsive to community concerns.
- Community**  
A commitment from Chalice to community health and the future of the region.
- Environmentally Responsible**  
A commitment from Chalice to act in an environmentally responsible way and have measures in place to protect the environment.
- Regulations**  
Confidence that Chalice adheres to external regulations and has strong internal standards to ensure the company does the right thing.

## What we're doing with your feedback

Your feedback provides valuable insights into what is important to your community. Chalice is sharing these survey results across our business to ensure we understand and use this community feedback in our planning and decision making.

Over the coming months we will be rolling out a number of actions in response to your feedback from our first Local Voices survey. This will be communicated across our regular project updates, community newsletters and our company website.

We look forward to demonstrating these actions and encourage you to sign up to receive our updates at [www.chalicemining.com/community-newsletter](http://www.chalicemining.com/community-newsletter).

**Talk to us**  
Email [community@chalicemining.com](mailto:community@chalicemining.com)  
Phone 0487 371 961

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

**View the survey results**  
For survey results go to <https://voconiqlocalvoices.com/chalice>  
Learn more about Chalice's community contributions at [www.chalicemining.com/community](http://www.chalicemining.com/community)

## Some of the key talking points included

**Q: There is confusion that Chalice's activities will remove access to the Julimar State Forest**

**A:** Access to the Julimar State Forest remains open to the community.

**Q: There is confusion that Chalice is operating a mine in the Julimar State Forest**

**A:** There is no mine in the Julimar State Forest. Chalice is conducting low-impact exploration to test the area for minerals. The Gonneville Project is located on Chalice-owned farmland.

**Q: The community has a strong environmental focus**

**A:** Chalice recognises the environmental sensitivities of the region and are committed to exploring responsibly today, and developing a sustainable mine in the future.

**Q: The community is concerned about the impacts of Chalice's current and future activities on roads**

**A:** Chalice recognises your concerns, and are investigating all logistics options including both road and rail.

## How your community benefits

As a thank you for completing the survey, participants were able to nominate a community group of their choice to receive a \$10 donation through the Local Voices Rewards program.

**\*\$2,476 worth of donations were unlocked for local community groups from this first survey.** \*Some people decided to opt out of the rewards and not allocate funds.

## Have your say

A series of surveys will be conducted over the next few years. Have your say, and register for future surveys at [www.voconiqlocalvoices.com/chalice](http://www.voconiqlocalvoices.com/chalice)

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



This attractive fruit bowl can double as a begging bowl when the rates bill comes in.

## We're turning our thoughts to the Toodyay Ag Show

**Avon Woodturners**  
Hamish Dobie

THE RECENT cold snap has people thinking of burning wood instead of turning wood.

However, the stalwarts of the club have been busy turning exhibits for the forthcoming Agricultural Show in October.

The yearly show brings out the competitiveness in the members and old rivalries flare up.

We've had our AGM, done all the required reporting to our ruling body, the Western Australian Woodturners Association, so we are now free to get on with the turning.

Some of the more famous woodturners can sell their creations for thousands of dollars.

Although none of our members can claim to be in the same class, there is always the possibility that one of us will produce a masterpiece to sit with the best.

After all, an unseeded player won the women's final at Wimbledon.

We can always aspire to greatness.

The club members are always happy to do little repair jobs for people who drop in.

Recently we repaired a wooden wind chime for a lady, reproducing some broken parts.

When she came to collect it, she brought a cake and Anzac biscuits as a thank you.

I can confirm that they were delicious.

It's really important for every club to attract new members.

In my business life I always believed that if you don't grow the business, it will start to shrink.

Things never stay the same.

We are always looking for new members, men or women, young or old, so the club can maintain its membership and not fall by the wayside.

If you want to try something different, and get dirty doing it, give woodturning a go.

The Woodturning shed is located at the Community Depot on Railway Road, next to the busy railway line, so if you are also a ferroequinologist (train spotter), you'll be pleased you came.

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 me on 0423 115 204 for more information.

## The Avon will descend on our cheese scones

**Country Womens' Association**  
Vivien Street

THERE was plenty going on behind the scenes last month with CWA members preparing produce for our upcoming stall on the Avon Descent weekend.

We are hoping this year's stall, to be held on August 12 outside the IGA, will be at least as successful as the last.

A cold misty morning will ensure our freshly baked cheese scones will go like hot cakes.

All proceeds will again go towards our new roof fund.

Our branch is working hard to raise the money, securing two generous grants but missing out on a third.

We appreciate all the help we have been given to raise the amount we need.

Our monthly meeting is not until the day after the *Herald* deadline, but some news from the State conference is already filtering through.

The CWA of WA has moved to write to the Minister of Education asking for teachers to be required to serve a minimum of two years in a country school before being eligible for permanency in a State school.

The problems facing 'hard-to-staff' schools were discussed and a motion passed to request those schools be given the same entitlements as schools categorised as 'remote'.

Teachers in remote schools are not required to pay rent, power or water rates.

They are paid \$20,000 pa above their normal salary, with long service leave benefits, and in some cases their HECS debt is waived.

Such incentives could help schools in difficult and disadvantaged areas get the teachers they so badly need.

A last-minute change to the agenda was made so Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage Director General Anthony Kannis could attend to hear concerns and respond to questions about the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act.

With 108 branches from across the State in attendance it was no surprise that he was presented with 75 questions.

The lack of proper information about the heritage laws, combined with a degree of misinformation, means confusion abounds.

Mr Kannis has agreed to report back to the CWA of WA, which will be helpful in understanding the Act.

Those of you who frequent the CWA hall may have noticed a new recycling bin next to the rubbish bin in the kitchen.

Margot has compiled a helpful list of what should go where so we can all contribute to our recycling efforts.

By sorting carefully we can reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill.

CWA meetings are held at 10am on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

The second Thursday is a coffee morning where we plan activities, while the fourth Thursday is our monthly meeting, where we follow an agenda.

New members and visitors are most welcome at either meeting.

There is plenty of parking in Charcoal Lane, with ACROD parking for those who are a little less mobile, and easy access to the hall.

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

**Chalice is now recruiting for the following position:**



### Environmental Advisor (site-based)

We are seeking a motivated Environmental Advisor to play a key role in the environmental management of Chalice's development and exploration activities at the Gonnevillie Project.

The role will support on-site environmental risk and compliance management and approvals processes, and directly advise and support site personnel on a day-to-day basis, to ensure compliance with environmental policies, procedures, standards and regulations.

An exciting opportunity to join a dynamic team, based on site, located ~25km west of Toodyay. Local residents are encouraged to apply.

**For more information and to apply, scan the QR code or visit [chalicemining.com/employment](http://chalicemining.com/employment)**



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## It's sausages versus statistics in a mental health battle

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

STATISTICS on men's mental health make for sobering reading.

For example, the majority of men do not seek help for mental ill-health when needed.

Research conducted in WA shows the life expectancy gap between men with mental ill-health and the rest of the male population is around 16 years – you die younger.

Furthermore, death by suicide in this cohort is more than three times more common in males than females and twice as common in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males, than non-Indigenous males.

Also, around half of all men will experience mental ill-health in their lifetime, which is more than women.

But these statistics barely scratch the surface when you realise that more than seven in ten men don't seek help for their mental ill-health.

Ponder those numbers – especially the last one – seven in ten suffering mental ill-health.

It wouldn't be a stretch to suggest that men's reluctance to reach out and seek help, impacts not only the individual, but also families and communities.

Bombarded with messages from their culture or heritage, many men end up wanting to conform to a traditional masculine gender role.

As a result, men are trapped because they don't want to show weakness or vulnerability, especially when it comes to mental health problems.

Masculine stereotypes reinforce independence so, when a crisis hits, mobilising support is hard when you haven't proactively created supportive networks.

However, we know social connection plays an important role in mental health.

Social connections help form supportive networks, which can reduce stress and increase help-seeking behaviours.

At a Mr Perfect barbecue there is no pressure to talk about mental health.

Rather, the goal is to foster a community where men can interact with like-minded individuals around a socially acceptable and normalising task like cooking up a feed.

Perhaps through a humble Sunday sausage sizzle we can bring the seven in ten statistic down a little.

Community, connection and a good feed: that's what Mr Perfect is about.

The Toodyay Mr Perfect barbecue is the first Sunday of each month from 10.30am to 12.30pm at Duidgee Park.

This month the date falls on August 6. For more information head to mrperfect.

## Get those Christmas and birthday gifts ironed out

**The Crooked Needle**  
Jean Melhuish-Hill

SOME of our ladies have started on Christmas goodies already.

Carol Barlow has been busy with a quilt for her Dad's 90th birthday on July 25.

Carol started by selecting photos of her Dad and four generations of family that she wanted to include on the quilt.

Carol used 'Miracle Fabric Sheets' to create the photo panels.

These sheets load into a desktop printer, where you can position and output the photo as you would with paper.

Then comes the tricky bit.

You iron the sheet onto the fabric you are going to use, making sure it is centred and straight.

Rinse it in cold water for one minute, then air dry.

Carol has used various shades and patterns of blue fabric to create borders for the photos and navy fabric for the tramlines and binding.

I believe she also hand-made the birthday decorations to celebrate the occasion along with the mandatory birthday cake.

The group is continuing to work on lots of winter warmers, be they blankets, beanies, wraps or socks, along with some very nice embroidery and appliqué work.

Our Twiddle Muff / Blanket challenge is going well, with work due to be completed during August.

These muffins or blankets will be donated to The Residence in Northam for use by dementia sufferers.

These articles help to keep patients' fingers and minds busy.

Look out for next month's article to see how we managed and how many we created.

If you are looking for a friendly group of ladies to exchange crafting ideas in a social setting please come for a visit.

We meet each Friday morning at the CWA Hall in Toodyay, 9.30am to noon.

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



Carol Barlow's handwork on the quilt for her father's 90th Birthday.

## Don't forget to relax your fold marks

**Ragbags Quilting Group**  
Kerry Gregory

WITH only about nine weeks until our Toodyay Agricultural Show, it is time to start finalising our projects to enter in the various sections.



Examples of hanging strips and loops for exhibiting quilts for Show Day (ruler indicating edge of sleeve on same fabric.)

It is worth having a check list of details to remember before entering items in the Patchwork and Quilting Section.

When the judges are deciding between two or more quilts these little details can make all the difference.

The judges have come to expect a good

number of exemplary quilts from the talented quilters of our area and are excited to adjudicate the outcome.

If your quilt has been stored folded, hang it or lay flat for a while to relax heavy fold marks.

This allows the judges to view the design and pattern execution more easily.

Ensure your quilt is square, with sides even, when folded in half.

Dampening or washing sometimes allows the quilt to be pulled square, then dried flat.

Ensure there are no visible pencil or pen markings – sponge or wash as required.

Pet or cigarette odour can be off-putting, so air or wash if needed.

Remove any pet hair.

Stitch in and snip any loose threads.

The backing should complement the quilt top, and if you have to join fabrics, make it a feature.

For example, if the width is short by 30cm, cut the spare complementary fabric in half and add 15cm to each side, or cut the main fabric in half and add the spare 30cm piece in the centre.

Any leftover blocks may be attached decoratively as a feature to the back or used to edge the label.

Ensure there are no quilting pleats in the backing and any seams are straight.

Remember backing is seen when a quilt is partially flipped over.

Binding must be uniform, straight and filled, reaching the outer edge of the quilt.

Fabric joins should be without bulk, with corners mitred or neatly turned with discreet stitching.

To enable your quilt to be hung at the Show, don't forget to add a sleeve of approximately three and a half inches (9cm) deep across the top, just below the binding, as you would for a wall quilt.

A slip stitch will allow you to remove it later if you wish.

Alternatively position six to eight loops of similar depth fabric, pinned or hand stitched.

Remember the judges are not looking for faults so much as checking the execution and presentation of the quilts.

The smallest detail may make your project a standout winner.

Good luck.

New members are welcome at our regular gatherings of the Ragbags group, with a cuppa, chat and a laugh assured.

Bring along some handwork, your machine if you wish and project or any craft work being undertaken.

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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