

The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned
community newspaper
Est. 1902

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

December 2023
Edition 430



CEO pulls pin after shire election

New shire president to oversee council search for replacement

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY will get a new shire CEO next year following the recent election of a new shire president and deputy.

Current Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst informed Toodyay's new council last month that she had withdrawn her earlier request to renew her employment contract when it expires next year.

It follows an October 21 shire election which saw the highest-polling candidate – new Shire Deputy President Shelly Dival – win office with a high-profile campaign for change.

Ms Haslehurst had informed the previous council in September – as required by her four-year 2020 contract – that she wanted to renew her employment contract next June.

Councillors voted 7-1 on October 2 to recognise the “high rating” of Ms Haslehurst's performance based on an annual independent review by Perth firm Price Consulting.

The motion was opposed by Cr Mick McKeown after a dispute with former shire president Rosemary Madacsi over meeting procedures.

Cr McKeown gained the support of Toodyay's two new councillors five weeks later to defeat Cr Madacsi 4-3 in a secret ballot for the presidency which was held in the council chamber at a special meeting two

days after the October shire election.

Former shire deputy president John Prater – who was re-elected after a 10-year absence – joined Crs Dival and Steve McCormick to vote for a new president.

Ms Haslehurst gave formal notice two weeks later that she had withdrawn her request for a new employment contract.

Councillors noted the new advice last month and directed Ms Haslehurst to seek at least three quotes from independent consultants to help find a new shire CEO.

It was proposed that President McKeown be the principal liaison between the recruiting agency and the council, with office support from Ms Haslehurst's executive assistant.

Extra costs and fees – including a new CEO salary package – would be considered in the council's mid-year budget review.

The recommendation was moved by Shire Deputy President Dival and carried 7-0.

Ms Haslehurst later declined to comment to *The Herald* about why she had withdrawn her request for a new employment contract.

The former York acting CEO was hired in 2020 to replace discredited former Toodyay shire CEO Stan Scott against whom 15 adverse findings were tabled in the WA Parliament after a year-long State Government inquiry.

Ms Haslehurst was required to implement major administrative reforms arising from the inquiry, manage faulty financial software contracted by her predecessor and budget for hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual loan repayments for a largely unused recreation centre built by the former council.



Christmas 360 owner Sean Byron displays a fundraising Anzac apron and oven mitt.

Bid to stop alleged bullying defeated

A BID to stop alleged bullying, abuse and denigration of Toodyay shire councillors and staff was defeated 4-3 at a council meeting last month.

The alleged behaviour was claimed to have caused staff resignations and sick leave, and prompted people to be too fearful to speak.

Former shire president Rosemary Madacsi raised the allegations in a notice of motion at the November council meeting.

She said councillors and staff had for a long period of time been subjected to unacceptable behaviour that would not be tolerated anywhere else in the community.

People who could not control their anger had used the council and staff as a punching bag.

“We have lost a lot of staff, and some of that has definitely been due to this,” she said.

“I have been intimately involved in seeing what has been going on and it has caused a lot of internal stress and sick leave.

“There is a belief that you can kick the guts out of people if they upset you.

“Why are we tolerating it?”

Cr Madacsi said angry, abusive behaviour was also causing people with something to say to feel too timid to speak up.

“We are allowing certain elements of the community to control the rest of the community's ability to speak, and that is a very sad indictment of us,” she said.

“We have seen what has happened, we have heard what has happened and we have seen the consequences of what has happened.

“It's not acceptable, as far as I'm concerned, in any civilised society.”

Cr Madacsi said all written correspondence to councillors and staff containing “adverse reflection, denigrating or abusive content” should be “recorded and not dealt with”.

Writers should be informed and given an opportunity to resubmit their correspondence “without the offending material”.

An administration report to the council said vigilance was needed to assess the content and tone of incoming correspondence.

“The risk is insignificant, however this report mitigates the risk,” the report said.

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Santa's Anzac gifts to fill RSL stocking

Mary Tucker

SANTA is paying a special visit to the Toodyay RSL this year.

Toodyay's Christmas shop will donate a quarter of proceeds from its sale of Anzac gifts towards a new local RSL headquarters.

The gifts include Anzac Day aprons, oven mitts, tea towels and leather wallets embossed with the diggers' rising sun badge worn on army slouch hats.

Local RSL members thanked Christmas 360 store owners Sean Byron and Simon Kohler for their generosity.

Veterans are fundraising to develop their new Clinton Street site for use by veterans, their families and local community groups.

Coming events this month

Toodyay Farmers Market
Sunday 17 December 9am - 1pm

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The Toodyay Herald

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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, Richard Grant, Judy Morrissey, Sean Hefferon and Allan Gregory.

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

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Noon Friday
January 19**

STORY DEADLINE

**Noon Wednesday
January 22**

DISTRIBUTED

**Thursday
February 1**

Please note our email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

Ink in our veins

Roger Simms

CHRISTMAS greetings, dear readers. May you have a safe and happy summer.

In this, my farewell column for *The Toodyay Herald*, I'm raising a glass in tribute to country newspapers, our own local rag in particular.

That's not because *The Herald* has allowed me to scribble musings on Page 2 for the past 24 issues.

It's because the paper, in my opinion, is a hugely valuable district asset — indeed a beacon among community efforts to keep country townships alive and well.

So many towns in Australia have been left without their own newspaper because for decades now the cost of production coupled with shrinking returns, has sunk the most determined local publishers.

Mastheads still in circulation are likely to be part of company-owned chains, with journalistic staff working out of a central office to cover several circulation areas.

The result is often shallow news reporting, with few stories digging into local issues and the rest relying on government and corporate press releases.

You still see good journalism practised in the country, especially in bigger towns where the newspaper office and reporters are part of the scene, such as in Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Bunbury and Albany.

But once the product has the look and feel of something produced out of town, to locals it's not the real deal.

Once upon a time, country newspapers were the flagship product of family-owned printing businesses.

Between editions, job printing kept the old flatbed presses humming, turning out everything a town needed from wedding invitations to company stationery and stock sales reports.

But most importantly, the weekly newspaper was a reflection of the town's personality — it put life in the word 'local'.

In 1962 I got the chance to work as a reporter for such a business — the *Great Southern Herald* in Katanning.

The owner was the editor, employing three printers, an office manager, an assistant and two journalists.

It was a busy place, but then those were the days when towns enjoyed stable populations and country commerce thrived in step with farming fortunes.

Gnowangerup, 60km south-east of Katanning, was the home of another, now extinct but still fondly remembered, country chronicle — *The Gnowangerup Star*.

The Star was the last family-owned regional newspaper in WA.

It was launched in 1915 by Augustine Walker, whose son Isaac, aged just one at the time, went on to take over the editorship in 1944 and stay in the job till his death in 1998.

Isaac's widow Margaret carried on production with sons Rod and Bill until increasing overheads and dwindling support made closure inevitable.

The demise of *The Star* in 2003 saw the last bastion in WA of hot-metal printing skills — born in Korea in the 13th century — put to the sword 700 years later.

At its end, *The Star* was the only paper in the state still being produced with hot metal, all the characters that formed all the words printed in each edition were created by the operator of a Linotype machine which poured molten metal into tiny moulds to



Hot metal type in a compositor's forme.

compose sentences and paragraphs one letter at a time.

It's not that long ago that the entire Australian newspaper industry, in a revolutionary and painful adjustment, completed its divorce from hot metal and embraced the computer.

Hanging up their inky printers' aprons for the last time were thousands of Linotype operators, compositors and engravers among others, as journalists took control of production from their keyboards.

If the early upheaval held out the promise of big savings and bigger profits for newspapers it was short lived.

The same digital power behind computerised print was arming newcomers — media platforms — to grab a huge share of newspaper advertising revenue.

And we all know what happened.

Today those platforms and all things digital have thrived in a global expansion and offer bewildering choices of news and information sources, places to buy and sell, places to Google and places to gossip.

Anyone can now access them from anywhere — instantly.

Small wonder regional newspapers have felt their foundations shift.

But under the same banner of adaptation and invention that has seen so many rural communities fight back against hard times, some smaller newspapers, backed by volunteers, are saying "We're not dead yet".

And the reason is simple: People will always want local news. And are happy to sit down with a newspaper in their hands to read it.

With *The Toodyay Herald* we have a publication leading the way in this revival.

The Herald's not-for-profit model is simple: a founding society of interested, committed people, a steering committee, keen correspondents, and a professional journalist to lead volunteers and edit the paper.

The result is a publication that has proved its worth with an expanding circulation and advertising support.

So here's to *The Herald* — and a thought for a New Year's resolution: Why not join *The Herald's* volunteer team?

You can learn a lot and the work can be fun.

The only qualifications the job demands are an interest in the community and an itch to know what's going on.

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

| January - February 2024 | | | | | | |
|--|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
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| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | Feb 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| The Herald office is closed from December 7, 2023 until January 16, 2024 | | | | | | |

Coondle virtuoso creates magic from serenity

Mark Roy

THE PURE, plaintive notes spiral upwards, suffusing the high-ceilinged room with liquescent melody.

Closing my eyes, I'm transported by these meditative and uplifting sounds.

I could be anywhere – the Philharmonie de Paris, the Albert Hall, or a Viennese cathedral.

The music ends and I'm back in a sunlit room atop a hill in Coondle, where international virtuoso violinist Rupert Guenther is allowing me a glimpse into his life's work as a composer, teacher, concert artist and mentor.

Rupert has performed with Beatles' producer Sir George Martin, Olivia-Newton John, Demis Roussos, John Farnham, Anthony Warlow and members of Frank Zappa's band, to name a few.

A classically trained veteran of the Viennese Chamber Opera, he is just as adept at wrangling an electric violin in a hard-hitting blues band as he is performing solo recitals in the stillness of a museum.

With 30 years' experience presenting classical, ambient, world music and blues on stages across Australia, Europe, UK and the USA, and with a brace of albums under his belt, it would be fair to say Rupert has more than one string to his bow.

Sitting and chatting at the kitchen table with Rupert and his partner Tanya I get the impression he is not your typical showman or attention-seeking rock star.

"I have known a few," he says with a grin, "but I'm fortunate in that the people I work with are generous and humble and talented."

Rupert's words on music and teaching come from a place of quiet contemplation, a wellspring of deep consideration.

"To me, music is all about humanity," he reflects. "Playing music is a passport to participating in each other's cultures, a way of learning from and sharing with each other."

He speaks passionately about his music academy in Wangara, with its focus on holistic learning.

"A holistic education, in any context, is where one side does not cut the other down – we don't try to achieve excellence at the expense of mental health, and we don't try to achieve recognition at the expense of our own quality as a person," he says.

"If you don't have time for reflection in your life, your chances of moving people with your music are about zero."

Many Toodyay locals will know Rupert from his poignant rendition of *The Last Post* on Anzac Day.

And while he modestly cites a chronic shortage of buglers as the reason for his presence at the Dawn Service, demand for his appearances at these iconic events has grown steadily over the years.

"We started at a primary school in the Perth hills, then a dawn service at Kalamunda for 5000 people, then one at the military barracks in Swanbourne," he says.

"The violin brings a certain emotional content, but the bugle has a special place – it was involved in the battlefield and signifies respect for those who lost their lives."

Born in Melbourne, Rupert came to Toodyay in a roundabout way, landing in Perth in 2007 after a stint at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

"I was down in Fremantle every second day, busking or doing little gigs and stuff, doing a lot of world music – it was fun," he says.

He and his partner Tanya eventually settled in Toodyay, in this "little oasis where the plains meet the hills".

"I love these old historic towns – that was a kind of coincidence in a way – but we are really enjoying living here, living on the land, waking up and it's quiet.

"There is time to ponder things."

Or to borrow a descriptor from one of Rupert's many online videos:

Quietness is discovered to have always been there – we just had to stop and listen to it.

This quietude has been the secret of the saints and mystics throughout time, who through years of seclusion and meditation practice could attain a deep stillness.

An opportunity to reset your own inner compass to your heart and dial down your inner volume levels to quiet.

Rupert grew up in what was, musically speaking, a strictly classical household.

"Mum and dad only played classical music on the record player," he remembers.

"But suddenly a big brother or sister will bring home a Beatles record, and then Creedence is on the stereo, and mum and dad are saying 'Turn that down'," he chuckles.

It was on weekends, while staying with his older sister and her university friends in Carlton, that Rupert got his first taste of what we would now call 'world music'.

"We'd go to a little falafel joint or Indian



Rupert Guenther performs his 'A Thousand Years In One Breath' concert. Photo: Fiona Birt.

takeaway or something, and what happens when you walk in the door is you hear the music of that culture," he says.

"Chinese and Arabic music, African and Lebanese music – it was very rich."

Rupert's prodigious musical ability and dedication to study soon led him to the Austrian capital, Vienna.

"It was on invitation from one of the great teachers and a wonderful opportunity to play in orchestras and operas in the city where the music was written."

He likens the experience to seeing original paintings by the great masters.

"To play with musicians whose teachers' teachers go back in a direct line to Mozart, Beethoven, and Haydn ... it was a potent experience of that classical tradition."

Rupert's solid musical training held him in good stead on his return Australia, finding plenty of work as a "sideman to the stars".

But his musical direction changed following a chance meeting with legendary Australian keyboard player Allan Zavod.

Rather than taking payment for some recording sessions, Rupert took the jazz great up on his offer of lessons in improvisation.

"He said 'your playing's good but your improvising sucks,'" Rupert laughs.

"It was life-changing – my whole professional career did a 180. I had a sort of epiphany and started playing all my own classical music."

He began drawing inspiration from his surroundings, and recently performed a site-specific series of four classical concerts for the Western Australian Museum, thematically based on the exhibits: astrophotography and the night sky, ancient Egypt, the archaeology of planet Earth through time, and the migration of humanity.

"Big themes, and these are multimedia works with a huge, six-metre screen and me doing a narration and playing music," he says.

His works are also inspired by landscapes and histories, including his own.

"Everything is affected by your life story," he points out. "They say everyone really paints a self-portrait when they paint, and there's a lot of truth in that."

"Your life story is in all your work as an artist – the wonderful and the difficult phases."

Rupert walks with a cane, the result of a horrific car accident when he was young.

"I got very badly damaged, it's a life-long thing," he says. "I don't feel sorry for myself by a long shot, but it changes your life – you end up being more of an introspective kid, you don't play the sports, so you end up doing music."

Self-esteem and well-being are at the centre of Rupert's teaching.

"It doesn't matter whether I'm talking to an orchestral player or a session muso in a rock band, it's about how can we make this a positive, nurturing experience for everyone."

Both Rupert and Tanya have a lifelong background in meditation, with Tanya a qualified psychotherapist and counsellor.

"We teach meditation and we run retreats," Rupert says.

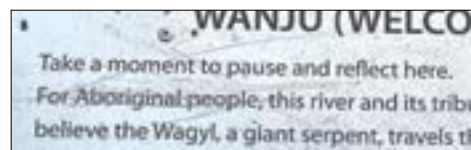
"As an artist it goes hand-in-hand, it's a search for self, it's looking beneath the surface of things."

Rupert likes to look at the non-material, humanistic side of things, "what some might call the spiritual".

"I wake up and I listen to the news, and in terms of education I ask 'What are we doing? And what could we do differently?'"

"I think they're good questions."

Racist vandal attacks Toodyay Friends of the River display



A RACIST attack on a public plaque at Millards Pool will cost about \$500 to repair.

It follows a similar attack in August at Redbank Pool where an Aboriginal display was damaged at the heritage-listed site.

In the latest attack, one of 10 plaques installed by Toodyay's Friends of the River on the Bilya Walk Track was damaged.

It was the only plaque dedicated to Aboriginal culture, and the only parts of it vandalised were the words "Aboriginal people" (pictured above) and a Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation logo.

As with the Redbank Pool vandalism two months earlier, it looked like car keys or a screwdriver were used to deface the plaque's two mentions of the word 'Aboriginal'.

Toodyay Friends of the River Project Officer Greg Warburton said he believed the same person had carried out both attacks.

The plaque was recently installed by the volunteer organisation to help generate more community understanding of the significance of the Avon River to indigenous people and their connection to it.

Damaging it was an act of "wanton vandalism," Mr Warburton said.

Friends of the River hoped to replace the damaged plaque next year but Mr Warburton said he feared it might be vandalised again.

The plaque was funded by Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management in conjunction with the Shire of Toodyay and was damaged in the first week of November.

Darren West MLC

Wishing you a Merry Christmas & a safe & Happy New Year

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Darren West MLC

The Toodyay Herald

Duty of care

SERIOUS allegations of councillors and staff being bullied have been raised publicly at the Shire of Toodyay.

It was claimed at a council meeting last month that staff resignations and sick leave have caused shire productivity to suffer.

It was also alleged that people were reluctant to raise matters of public concern for fear of being bullied.

All employers are required by law to prevent bullying in the workplace.

The law is less clear if the alleged bullying stems from outside the organisation.

Elected members will always be subject to public criticism and personal abuse – that goes with the job.

But what about attacks on workers that include bullying, abuse and denigration, as was alleged at last month's council meeting?

Does an employer have a duty of care to protect its workers from being exposed to incoming letters and emails that cause them to feel too ill to report for duty or continue working?

Three veteran councillors, including a former shire president, claim this has been happening repeatedly at the Shire of Toodyay over a long period of time.

Local government is a small community, and word soon gets around about how different councils manage their affairs.

Our shire has already suffered the public notoriety of a State Government inquiry that uncovered chronic dysfunction under a former council and previous CEO.

His replacement's decision last month to withdraw her request for a new contract after recent shire elections suggests the job of finding another suitably qualified candidate may be difficult.

Not seeing a need to do anything about it suggests the new council doesn't care.

Goodbye

THIS edition of *The Toodyay Herald* will be my last as editor.

I leave after 10 years knowing that I have had the immense good fortune to meet so many wonderful people from all walks of life, and the pleasure of living and working in what must surely be one of the best rural communities in Australia.

It has been a rollercoaster ride over the years, including a thwarted editorial coup, a shire advertising ban and angry public attacks on my professional credibility.

But *Herald* circulation has risen 60 per cent in the past decade and, as they say in the newspaper business, if half the readers like what you do and the other half hate it, then you must be doing a good job.

I'd like to think so.

Along the way I have made many good friends and – inevitably – a few enemies.

None of it was personal.

I was just trying to do my job properly and I carry no grudges – life's too short for that.

Goodbye everyone, and good luck.

Michael Sinclair-Jones
Retiring Editor

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

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The way we were – This photo of the Toodyay cricket team from a bygone era shows Mervyn Fawell (second from left, back row), Herb Fawell (third from left, back row) and Bill Cook (second from right, back row). Bill Donegan is the tall player at the rear, and Roy Donegan is holding the bat. The other players are unknown but the second from left in the front row is thought to be a member of the Wroth family. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

LETTERS

No longer a peaceful town

AS RESIDENTS of our beloved Toodyay for the past 20 years, the changes in the last 18 months to two years have been many.

Our once quiet road is now a race track with speeding cars and trucks not abiding by the 60 km/h zoning.

The mine that is going ahead will most certainly impact on our valuable flora and fauna in a very negative way.

We have been in mining for many years and have seen the impact on the environment and the damage it causes no matter what the mining companies say.

The train frequency has increased ten-fold 24/7 and has become very intrusive now to those who live nearby.

There are many newcomers to Toodyay which unfortunately means that it is really no longer a peaceful country town but rather a suburb of Perth.

This is called progress. So sad.
Name and address supplied

Museums champ departs

AFTER 10 years' service, Margie Eberle is leaving her position as Museum Curator and Cultural Heritage Officer at the Shire of Toodyay. During these 10 years, our museums have grown to be a major asset for Toodyay and WA.

On behalf of all the volunteers at the museums, I would like to give a big thank you to Margie for the guidance and friendship she has given us. We wish her well in her new position.
Barry Keens Toodyay

No money for Christmas, so what did she do?

Janie's Christmas

Terri Watson

CHRISTMAS was almost here and Janie was dreading it.

Her dad died when she was a baby, so she and her Mum lived with her Grandma.

Times were hard and, at 12 years old, she'd come to realise the sacrifices her Mum and Grandma had made for her.

Janie had stopped believing in Santa two years ago, and for Christmas she got things she needed – not things she wanted.

Mainly it was clothes, shoes and a new school bag but that was OK because Mum and Gran had good taste.

Janie was miserable because she wanted to give Mum and Gran a gift to show her appreciation but she had no money.

She thought of making something but supplies cost money.

Janie sat in her room moping and even forgot her daily visit with Mr Jones next door.

Mr Jones was old and Janie visited him every day to see if he wanted anything done.

He never did, but Janie loved listening to his stories about the olden days.

That night she couldn't sleep, tossing, turning and searching for inspiration.

But sleep, inspiration didn't come.

After doing her jobs around the house next morning Janie suddenly remembered old Mr Jones.

"Oh my gosh," she thought, "he'll be wondering if something's happened to me."

She bolted out the door and over the fence to Mr Jones' house.

"I'm sorry I missed yesterday Mr Jones," she said, "but I've got things on my mind."

"I can see that Janie, tell me all about it," he said.

"Well, I'd really like to give Mum and Gran

something special for Christmas to show them how thankful I am for all they do for me, but I've got no inspiration and no money," Janie said.

"Hmm," said Mr Jones, "your Mum and Gran aren't the kind of ladies that bother much about material things so it would have to be something special from your heart."

"I suppose so, but I haven't the money to buy anything," Janie said miserably.

"Well Janie, promises are free," Mr Jones said.

"Now off you go and have a think about it and I'm sure you'll come up with something."

Janie couldn't sleep that night, and tomorrow would be Christmas Eve.

She tossed and turned, thinking about Mr Jones' words 'promises are free'.

What could he mean?

She rose early next morning and after clearing up after breakfast, Mum said to her, "Janie love, don't forget you promised to help Gran and me get ready for Christmas today."

"Sure Mum," Janie said.

Then it hit her – that was it.

She gave her Mum a kiss and hug and said "I've just got to see Mr Jones for a minute and I'll be right back."

She ran so fast she almost fell over the fence.

"Mr Jones, Mr Jones," she yelled excitedly, "I've got it."

"I knew you would, sooner or later Janie," he said. "I think you'll find everything you need in my desk."

"Thank you very much Mr Jones," said Janie, "I have jobs to do at home but I'll be back this afternoon. By the way, what time is your son coming to pick you up for Christmas?"

"Well," said Mr Jones, "they are going away for Christmas this year."

"What a shame," said Janie.

"Oh well," he said, "it'll be peaceful without

those rowdy twin boys of his."

Janie was hatching a plan.

After she'd helped Mum and Gran with Christmas preparations, she asked a special favour of them.

She was delighted when they both agreed.

Over the fence she went and sat at Mr Jones' desk, busily cutting, colouring, stapling and writing.

After she'd finished, she bade Mr Jones goodbye and wished him a Merry Christmas.

Next morning Janie bounded out of bed and eagerly unwrapped her presents, being grateful for and loving each one.

Mum and Gran were surprised to find a gift for each of them under the tree.

They both opened them and looked at Janie with tear-filled eyes.

"Oh Janie love," said Mum, "this is the best gift I've ever had."

"Same here," said Gran, hugging Janie tight.

"Janie's Book of Promise Vouchers", said Mum, "what a wonderful thought."

Each voucher had the promise of extra jobs and favours and the last voucher in each book was for love, hugs and kisses forever.

Suddenly there was a knock at the door.

Janie opened it and there stood Mr Jones.

"Janie," he said, "you left this envelope without a name on it on my desk."

"Oh my gosh," said Janie, "I forgot to write a name on it."

"Well, Mr Jones," she said, "it's for you."

"Oh, thank you Janie. Can I look at it now?"

"Of course Mr Jones," she said.

Mr Jones opened the envelope and looked at the hand-written colourful note inside.

It read:
Mum, Gran and Janie request the pleasure of your company for Christmas dinner. There will be good company, good food and you'll have a good time – that's a promise.

Underground mining added to Julimar open-cut plans

UNDERGROUND mining has been added to Chalice Mining plans to build a huge new superpit and ore processing plant in Julimar. The Perth-based miner told the Australian Stock Exchange last month that underground mining to a depth of more than a kilometre was being investigated.

This follows the discovery of new ore at depth and was “in parallel” with a two-kilometre-wide open pit planned to a depth of up to 800m on Chalice-owned farmland between Keating Road and Plunkett Road.

Chalice described it as a potential “opening play” for a much bigger 28km-long mineral province in the Julimar Conservation Park.

The company said it planned to “valley fill” the storage of hundreds of millions of tonnes of waste material and was also investigating “dry structure” options.

Chalice shares fell to a new low of \$1.39 at the end of last month after peaking at \$7.92 in May – a 78 per cent drop in value.

Chairman Derek La Ferla told last month’s annual general meeting of shareholders at Perth’s five-star Westin Hotel that it was clear that market expectations had not been met.

He described it as a “difficult” period in which Chalice had been “impacted by the challenging market conditions facing exploration and development companies”.

Chalice was in discussions with a “strategic partner” that had lodged an expression of interest in September, Mr La Ferla said.

Early local harvest disrupted as unusual heat prompts fire bans



Harvest bans prompted by last month’s hot weather disrupted this year’s early local harvest, forecast to be much smaller than last year’s record crop due to an unusually dry spring. This photo by Linda Panizza shows canola harvesting near Nunile. More Page 15.

Historic Toodyay convent to become ‘luxury’ tourist resort with pool

TOODYAY’S heritage-listed Mercy Convent at the town’s main entry is to be revamped as a “luxury” short-stay tourist resort.

The iconic site is currently zoned “mixed business” and forms part of the historic Roman Catholic Church precinct which dates back to 1863.

The precinct was recently subdivided and

sold as separate lots.

The 18-room, two-storey brick building, built in 1903, was originally occupied by Franciscan monks.

New owner Kinross Creasy Investment Pty Ltd plans to restore and convert the building into four “luxury short-stay rooms with ensuite”, a one-bedroom studio called The

Laundry and a separate “holiday residence for the owners”.

An upstairs chapel on the west side will become a main bedroom with an ensuite.

A maximum of 10 guests will be allowed to stay at a time, with a maximum of two guests per room.

The precinct will have a 1.2m wrought-iron

street fence with brick piers, a 1.8m brick wall around an 8.8m pool with the remainder proposed as 1.8m timber-lap fencing.

The Toodyay Shire Council last month approved the development application with conditions recommended by the WA Heritage Commission and support from the Toodyay Historical Society.

Alleged bullying blamed for resignations, sick leave

Continued from Page 1.

CR DANIELLE WRENCH told last month’s meeting that it was time for the council to act.

“Some community members show their ire against us – and, of course, they have the right to do so – but it crosses the line by actively engaging in behaviour that is not fair or appropriate to our staff.”

Cr Charmaine Duri said the council had a duty of care to ensure that shire staff were not being bullied verbally or in writing.

In answer to a question on duty of care, Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said that she, as the council’s only employee, was the person responsible for the health and safety of all other shire staff under her direction.

“The council can give me the tools to be able to do that more easily,” she said.

Cr John Prater opposed Cr Madacsi’s proposal.

I really don’t see the need for it,” he said.

“What are we going to do?”

“Are we going to wipe Facebook out as well – where are we going with it?”

“We’re bigger and better than that.”

Cr Steve McCormick said trying to police Cr Madacsi’s proposal would be “quite futile because of the diverse range of communications we now have”.

“I think it’s a real minority where there’s a lack of respect and I don’t think it’s worth building policy around it,” he said.

“Isn’t it a reflection on the person who shows a lack of respect, not the shire?”

President McKeown said the shire code of conduct did not apply to the public, and standing orders applied only to the council.

“We can’t apply that to life,” he said.

“We are obliged under the Local Government Act to represent the interests of all members of the community, not just the polite ones.”

“I don’t think we can tell people how to write to the shire.”

Cr Madacsi’s motion was lost 3-4, with Crs Madacsi, Wrench and Duri for, and President McKeown, Deputy President Shelly Dival and Crs McCormick and Prater against.



Historic convent to become tourist resort.

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Local cops offer support for Toodyay's ageing population

Police Beat

With Sgt
Jamie Boryczewski
Toodyay Police Station



Local police breath test motorists in Stirling Terrace.

TOODYAY's ageing population is planned to benefit from a new safety program being rolled out by local police.

It encourages residents with dementia, autism or other cognitive impairments to wear identity bracelets to help get them home safely if they go missing.

The bracelets can help save local residents with memory loss from being lost for hours, particularly if they don't remember their own names or where they live.

It also helps police to avoid being diverted from law enforcement work to extensive searches where there may be few if any clues to a missing person's whereabouts.

Toodyay has an unusually high proportion of older residents compared with average ages elsewhere in Australia.

Australia's 2021 national census showed that nearly half of all Toodyay residents were between 50 and 74 years old.

This figure is nearly double the 28 per cent of all West Australians and all Australians in the same age group.

Dementia Australia says cognitive impairment is the second leading cause of death in the nation.

It is more common in people older than 65 and involves changes in the human brain that can start to develop from middle age.

Health statistics show that more than 1.5 million Australians – nearly six per cent of the nation – were caring for an estimated 400,000 people with dementia, including 46,000 in WA last year.

That number is expected to grow to 108,000 in WA over the next 35 years.

Researchers estimate that six out of 10 people living with dementia will wander at least once.

WA police have partnered with the Australia Medic Alert Foundation to start Safe and Found WA which promotes the use of identity bracelets to help quickly find and return missing people to their homes.

Each bracelet is stamped with a unique number that links to a secure database that lists the wearer's name, address and any medical conditions that may need attention.

The bracelets also include a police phone number for people to call if a wearer with memory loss goes missing or is found on the street with no other clue to their identity.

The database includes a recent photograph of

the person and a behaviour profile with details such as a wearer's favourite places that can be used to help to find them.

Safe and Found ID and bracelets cost \$49 a year (\$39.20 for Seniors Card holders) with funding assistance options available.

The not-for-profit program can be joined online at www.safeandfound.org.au or by calling 1800 882 222.

In addition, Toodyay hosts a monthly 'Memory Café' where carers and people with dementia can meet informally in a locally supported social network.

It is held from 10am to noon on the second Tuesday of every month at the Toodyay Bakery in Stirling Terrace.

The atmosphere is casual, no bookings are needed and participants can drop in or leave whenever they choose.

The program is supported by local police who regularly attend to offer support and advice.

We urge everyone affected by dementia or

other similar cognitive impairments to consider using Safe and Found WA to help police in their work and protect vulnerable community members from harm.

Local crime rate falls

TOODYAY residents are to be congratulated for a relatively quiet November with no serious issues to report.

Arrests, infringements and cautions are down 20 per cent since last year, mainly due to increased community vigilance.

We welcome that support because it greatly helps us to keep everybody safe.

And if you see an officer in the street, why not stop to say 'hello' to acknowledge their work and help make them feel welcome.

If you see anything that may be suspicious, please call police on 131 444 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 and we can follow it up with further local inquiries.

There is no need to give your name and address – callers can remain anonymous if they prefer.

Suspicious activities can include seeing a lot of people coming and going from an address in a short period of time which could suggest a dealer selling drugs.

Vehicles seen being driven slowly past properties for no apparent reason could also signal criminal intent.

Please call us straight away rather than post your sighting on Facebook – we monitor social media periodically but by then it might be too late to catch an offender and the trail may have gone cold.

Your timely assistance can be vital to help keep our community safe.

We're never far away

I WOULD like to remind people that the front counter of the Toodyay Police Station is open for public inquiries from 9.15am to 4pm Monday to Wednesday every week.

Outside those hours, an office intercom on the wall can connect callers to a police assistance centre in Perth, or people can ring 131 444.

A locked front door doesn't mean we aren't working – local officers are busy every day, including on weekends and public holidays, carrying out law enforcement duties and other important police work.

I would also like to thank local resident Bruce Guthrie and his partner for pruning and maintaining the roses in the Toodyay Police Station front garden.

This is in addition to the regular gardening work done by prison inmates to help keep our street frontage neat and tidy, as mentioned in last month's column.

Buckle up for Christmas

THE FESTIVE holiday season is a time to take extra care to keep your property safe.

Thieves know that gifts are being stored under Christmas trees and will target unlocked doors and windows to gain entry while occupants are asleep or absent.

It is also a time to take extra care on our roads, especially during the festive drinks season.

WA's annual holiday traffic blitz starts officially on the Thursday before Christmas Day until the first week of January when double demerit points will apply but in Toodyay our blitz began on Friday November 30.

We will be out on local roads testing motorists for drink and drug driving as well as for wearing seatbelts and using mobile phones or texting while driving.

The aim is to keep everyone safe over the holiday break.

We at the Toodyay Police Station wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and we'll be back in February to tell you how it all went.



Safe and Found bracelets can help police find people who may be missing.

Children can also benefit from safety bracelets

Safer Toodyay
Safe and Found WA

SAFE and Found WA is an initiative of our State police force in partnership with the Australian Medic Alert Foundation.

There are frequent reports of people becoming confused about their whereabouts, with family or carers reporting them as lost or missing persons.

The situation may occur with children, those with diagnosed medical problems, or 'more mature folk' wandering and becoming lost.

Safe and Found WA membership requires a Lost Person Behaviour Profile together with a recent photo, which is stored on the police database, should a member be reported missing or lost.

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

More information can be given by phoning 1800 882 222 or checking the website of safeandfound.org.au.

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

Police 131 444
Report graffiti 1800 442 255.
goodbye graffiti.wa.gov.au.



Know thine enemy: the psychology of scammers

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

SCAMMERS are selfish people who do not care who they hurt.

It helps to get inside the minds of such people to understand the kaleidoscope of causes for their scamming behaviour.

Narcissistic personality disorder is common in people who lack empathy.

Scammers are well versed in psychological manipulation, and skilled in pushing others into emotional states where reason and logic go out of the window.

Techniques include appealing to your sense of compassion, building a sense of trust, or pushing you into a sense of panic.

Scammers are quick to find and exploit new ways of tricking their targets, finding it an easy way to make money.

In their minds, everybody is a target.

The 'traditional' hallmarks of scams, such as poor spelling and poor English, are becoming less common as scammers resort to new tools such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to perpetrate their scams.

The newer scams are becoming increasingly difficult to spot at a glance.

It now takes more time and effort to identify scammers' handiwork.

As Thomas Jefferson said, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."

Best deal for local Tradies

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

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Tanker can now take water from rivers and dams

Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Peter Brennan

BRIGADE members have responded to 13 callouts in the past month.

Nine calls were to grass and scrub fires, two to rubbish fires and two to vehicle fires for a total crew deployed time of 72 hours.

During the winter months, our 12.2 bulk water tanker underwent repairs and an upgrade at the Frontline workshops in Malaga.

The drafting capability upgrade means that not only can we refill the vehicle's 11,500-litre water tank from hydrants and standpipes but can now also fill directly from rivers, dams and other water sources without the need to use an intermediary pump.

Upon its return, several members, along with Community Emergency Service Manager Rob Koch, drafted water from the Avon River to test the system and develop operational instructions on its use.

A broader training session for other brigade members was undertaken at the town's Stirling Terrace fire station last month.

During this session we validated both our operational instructions and the ability to draft from a water source.

Further, we found while drafting from a water source we could divert the flow to another firefighting vehicle, even while deploying and using a firefighting hose from the 12.2 should self-protection be needed.

This improves the tanker's effectiveness in its primary role of refilling fire-fighting vehicles on fire grounds.

During the reporting period, some members volunteered to take out the 12.2 bulk water tanker to top up emergency water tanks around the shire to place us in a good position for this summer's fire season.

My thanks go to those volunteers who gave



Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade members check the drafting capability of their upgraded 12.2 water tanker.

up their personal time to complete this task.

Emergency water tanks are not for public use but to support local fire services during an emergency.

My sincere thanks to new members across our brigades who completed their initial training and who will join us on the fire ground this summer.

Thanks also to Rob Koch and the trusty team of trainer assessors who give of their time to run these courses.

By now you should have your fire plans in place.

We remind motorists of the need to pull over safely to allow emergency vehicles with flashing lights and sirens to safely pass.

Too often our vehicles are ignored by other road users when local volunteer firefighters attend a callout.

Just remember, the property we save may well be your own.

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

It's Christmas time in Toodyay again!

The time of year for Christmas is still the same, but the year that we travelled to get to December has been a very different one for the World.

Christmas for me was so special, I would stay awake and look out of the window looking for the Reindeer and Sleigh filled with presents. This was very hard growing up in Christchurch New Zealand, where there was daylight saving, and it was not dark until 9.30pm.

A big thank you to all the customers both in store, online and overseas. You have made it a great year and we can only thank you from our hearts for your ongoing support.

Whatever Christmas is to you, whether it is a big day to enjoy the company of family and friends, or just a day with your feet up, with presents and lunch or dinner with loved ones. Please set a place at the table for loved ones no longer here as you never know who is still with us in their own special way.

A Nativity scene set in pride of place, or the biggest Christmas tree you can fit in, or the lights on the house or front gate are all part of what we do to enjoy the day and we are glad we could help you with your Christmas needs.

The team at Christmas 360 wish you all the best and I give special thanks to them all for the great help they give to make the shop what it is to this day.

On Santa's good list are: Val, Sharon, Judy, Nolene, Vicky, Pete, Sam, John, Christian and my great husband Simon.

Merry Christmas Toodyay, from Sean Byron

Open 9am – 5pm
every day till Christmas
113 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay
Phone: (08) 9574 5884
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EMERGENCY SERVICES

One of three St John Ambulances based in Toodyay.

Hospitals mask up as Covid infections on the rise

St John Toodyay Sub Centre
Monika Williams

WA HEALTH authorities are strengthening hospital mask-wearing requirements in response to an increase in COVID-19 infections.

All visitors, staff and patients must now wear surgical masks in hospitals, particularly in high-risk areas including haematology, oncology, organ transplant, renal dialysis and around vulnerable patients in critical care settings like intensive care units.

We will need to wear masks in the emergency departments of hospitals as well.

Congratulations to Paul Harrington and Michael Morgan for being admitted as Members of the Order of St John.

After a rigorous selection process, successful applications are sent to the UK for ratification by the Order of St John Grand Council and King Charles III.

Paul and Michael join previous Toodyay recipients of this prestigious honour in Glyn Harrington, Daphne Lee, Lyn Somers, Sandy Smith, George Murray and Pam Tennant.

A huge thankyou to Daphne, Lyn, Monika, Tessa, Ron, Brian, Pam and Claire who pitched in to give the subcentre a good pre-summer clean.

Nuala's amazing breakfast of bacon, eggs and juice with freshly baked buns from the local bakery was what was needed to entice the vollies out of bed early on a Saturday morning.

We would like to remind everyone to stay safe on the roads these holidays as our crews have been busy this month attending to a few jobs including motor vehicle accidents.

Our crews attended 38 cases and travelled 1806km last month.

We are always looking for volunteers, so if you are interested, please visit Administrator Debbie at our office or call 9574 2390 to register your interest.

16 lesions detected by screening bus

Toodyay Lions Club
John Pearce, Past President

ANOTHER busy year for the Toodyay Lions Club is nearly over.

We undertook many fundraising activities in 2023, with proceeds going to those in need in our community and to disaster relief.

Our two biggest fundraisers by far were the annual Jumbo Auction and manning the gates for the Toodyay Agricultural Show.

Proceeds from the Jumbo Auction were donated to the Toodyay District High School Youth Care Program, the Shotokan Karate Club and Kimberley floods relief.

A detailed explanation of our assistance in flood relief can be found on the Toodyay Lions club webpage.

One of our donations from the Ag Show proceeds was to the Lions Cancer Institute.

Lions is the largest community service organisation in the world, providing a number of invaluable services to the public

free of charge.

Last year the hearing screening bus came to the Ag Show.

This year the skin cancer screening bus came to town, screening 74 people and detecting 16 lesions – one of which was life threatening – with 12 referrals for GPs for follow-up.

We take this opportunity to thank all the Friends of Lions who assist our members in undertaking these large projects, without whose help our involvement would not be possible.

A special mention to the members of the Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bushfire Brigade who assisted in manning the gates at the Show.

The forecast is for a long, hot summer, and we thank all our first responders for their invaluable role in serving the community.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.



Lions Club skin cancer screening bus in Toodyay this year.

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Brekkie with the boys.

Moondyne Men go from last to first

Moondyne Men Inc
Graham Hill

BIG NEWS this month with a change in our monthly breakfast and committee meeting times.

The meetings will now be held on the first Saturday of each month, not the last.

Our next breakfast for members and members' guests will be on Saturday January 6 at 8am for 8.30am at the RSL Shed on Clinton Street in Toodyay.

Treasurer Barry has requested the change to align with our new accounting system.

The Moondyne Men are gearing up for a full festive season with our Christmas Dinner

at the Toodyay Club on Thursday December 7 and the Toodyay Christmas Street Party on December 8.

The team is also looking forward to helping out with Australia Day Celebrations on January 26 next year.

To accommodate all members the Shed will be open normal hours over the festive season.

As the year draws to a close it only remains for me, on behalf of the Moondyne Men, to wish you a merry Christmas and a safe and healthy new year.

For contact details see *Where and When*, Page 28.

Fineries, fascinators and a flavoursome feast



Local menfolk show their form on Melbourne Cup day.

Bejoording Community News
Information Bay (By Bee)

AND THEY'RE off...

We were all as colourful as the competing jockeys and just about as fast.

Once again there was another great turnout for Melbourne Cup day at the Bejoording Community Group.

Not only did the women have hats and fascinators but quite a few of our menfolk dug out their hats and fineries too.

We had a sweepstake doing the rounds, a fruit punch and a variety of nibbles to keep us going until the main race, which was followed by a magnificent feast.

The menu was planned in advance and we bought our favourite dishes to enjoy.

With so much food we had left-overs the following night at our regular Shed Night.

That's where we welcome everyone in the

community: come as you please, stay as long as you like, bring your children, visitors and friends – the more the merrier.

Our President Barry Grey has recently retired.

Many of you know him as the Antenna Man, out there servicing Toodyay and surrounds for many years.

The exact number of antennae I can't say because as I write this we've yet to celebrate his milestone at one of our gatherings.

Suffice to say we wish him well and hope he and Alison can get away for some long-overdue visits to friends and family.

Enjoy this next phase Barry, be sure to keep off the ladders and we'll shout you a Coke next week at the Shed.

I'd better keep this brief this month but we'll have more shenanigans to share with our readers next time.

Keep safe and stay hydrated.



Not to be outdone, the local ladies show off their Melbourne Cup glad rags.

Remembrance Day attracts twice as many this year

Toodyay RSL Sub Branch
Max Howard, President

REMEMBRANCE Day 2023 was a huge success with the Toodyay community showing its support in Poppy Day sales.

Double the usual number of people turned out for our November 11 service.

My thanks to the Toodyay Community Singers for their performance of the national anthem and to RSL members who assisted on the day.

Our widows' Christmas function was held on Sunday December 3 at the Toodyay Club.

In last month's *Herald* our former President Lou Kidd gave our sub-branch's thanks to Dr Michael McGuinness on his retirement as a dentist.

I would also like to thank Michael for his outstanding support of the sub-branch over a long period of time.

We hope Michael has a long retirement and we wish him all the best.

The RSL sub-branch's annual scholarship

for two local Year 10 students has now been changed to a scholarship for two Year 9 students.

This opportunity is open to all Toodyay Year 9 students who are at any WA school or are being home-schooled.

Students are expected to research veterans from Toodyay who did not return from a conflict.

This year, Toodyay District High School student Clive Millett was awarded a five-day, all-expenses-paid trip to Canberra to visit the Australian War Memorial and other sites.

More information on this topic will be in the next *Herald* in February.

Any student who wishes to know more can contact me at avon.hill@bigpond.com.

Finally, I would like to wish all members of the Toodyay community a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Thank you for your continuing support throughout the year and we look forward to seeing you in 2024.



Toodyay Shire Deputy President Shelly Dival lays a wreath on Remembrance Day.

TOODYAY BAKERY

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



FESTIVE SEASON TRADING HOURS

Toodyay Bakery will be closed from 3pm

24th December 2023 and reopens 7am on the 16th January 2024.



A right royal singalong Popular bush dance set to be annual event

Bolgart News
Pam McGill

Toodyay Music Club

Jenny Edgecombe

THE YEAR'S end is always a busy time. And although we missed some regular performers who had other commitments, the Music Club's November audience enjoyed a super program of songs both old and new.

For our warm-up, we cheerfully belted out a variety of well-known songs including *Knock on Your Door*, *Mull of Kintyre* and *I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing*.

Members had chosen the theme 'Royal and Aristocratic Titles' which was taken on with gusto by our performers, with many and varied interpretations.

We had kings and queens, princes, lords and ladies in a variety of styles ranging from thought-provoking to purely comical.

Anne's *Bonnie Dundee* was a stirring song to start proceedings, a call to battle based on a poem written by Walter Scott.

Brian's rocking rendition of *King Creole*, although quite different to his usual style, was much enjoyed.

Raglan Road, sung beautifully by Collette, was a haunting Irish folk song of the 1960s, based on a 1940s poem by one Patrick Kavanagh.

For those wondering how it related to the theme, it does speak of the Queen of Hearts.

Victoria contributed *From a Jack to a King*, a very popular choice.

Jenny brought the tone down somewhat with the loathsome *Jenny*, the *Bubble Gum Queen*, but made up for it with *Tulsa Queen*, an evocative song about a train of that name.

The evocative *Song of the Mira* formed part of Joe's offerings, such lovely lines as, "Can you imagine a piece of the universe, more fit for princes and kings?"

It was altogether a delightful afternoon.

Our December meeting will have a festive air, with the option for members to include Christmas seasonal songs amongst their items.

For details see *Where and When*, Page 28.

A DANCE held by the Bolgart Progress Association in the Bolgart Memorial Hall two months ago is set to become an annual event.

Music was provided by DJ David Dew from Konongorring with guests coming from Darlington, Northam, Nunile and Bejoording.

Demonstrations of square dancing were a hit with everyone, with attendees enjoying ballroom dancing and classic country rock.

With the CWA ladies supplying a delicious supper, everyone had a wonderful time.

Bolgart Primary School hosted the Bolgart Bush Christmas Markets this year on November 26 at the Bolgart Memorial Hall and surrounds.

While the day was on the warm side, there were plenty of wonderful stalls, the children loved having their faces painted and the Christmas shopping was great.

Well done to the event organisers and the CWA ladies who provided a lovely morning tea.



CWA ladies at the Bolgart Dance (from left) Betty Lockyer, Pam Meston, Bernice Clarke, Pauline Pinker, Dianne Edmonds and Norma Waters

Bolgart Hotel was the venue for the Melbourne Cup luncheon on Tuesday November 7.

The great crowd on the day enjoyed a

lovely three-course menu.

Best Hat was won by Nolene Kaszanski and Best Dressed by Julie-anne Vucemillo.

Bolgart Hall was the place to be for Victoria Plains Seniors Bingo Fun kindly funded by the WA Council on the Aging for last month's Seniors Week.

It will be held from 10am to noon on Friday December 8 with morning tea and refreshments provided.

Please RSVP to Katrina on 9628 7004 by December 6.

Seven ladies travelled to Kalgoorlie for the Goldfields Ladies Open over the weekend of November 10-12.

Serena Syred and Pam Meston came 11th in a big field of 171 ladies for the 4BBB on Friday.

Pam Meston placed 12th over the two days, and Vivienne Camerer was second on the Sunday with 41 points.

Congratulations girls.

Merle Manuel and Pam Meston represented Methodist Ladies College (MLC) in last month's Combined Independent Girls Schools contest at Royal Perth Golf course.

A total of eight schools participated, with Penrhos Kobelya winning the day and MLC runners-up.




At the Bolgart dance are (from left) Sue Ludemann, Gus Clarke and Bernice Clarke.

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*TBCs apply.

Cadets' close Rotto encounters of the quokka kind

Toodyay District High School
Kim Anderson, Principal

WHAT a fantastic year 2023 has been for Toodyay District High School.

So many things happened over the year, starting with the P&C receiving the Active Citizenship Award at the Australia Day Awards ceremony.

Other highlights include school camps such as the Year 10 Retreat at Woodman Point, Wilderness Adventure Hike, Year 6 Camp, Cadet Camps and Country Week.

Incursions and excursions included the Kaboom Music incursion, Astronomy Night, Bilya Koort Boodja visit, NAIDOC week town trail walk, TAFE career taster, Tournament of the Minds, Mini Beast Incursion, Reptile Awareness Incursion, Zero 2 Hero Leadership Forum in Perth and the Perth Scorchers visit.

The inaugural Science Fair was a great success and will be held every year if possible.

Bright new things in 2023

THE UNDERCOVER area was refurbished with new skylights, LED lighting, outdoor carpet and the installation of a new audio-visual and performance system.



Cadet group enjoying some downtime at Rottne Island.

We have a new parent/communication system, a new cubby house for Early Childhood and a new PA system throughout the school.

A big thankyou to the P&C, volunteers and businesses for all of their help and donations that made it possible for the school to purchase and install these great new items.

Cadet Camp

TOODYAY DHS Cadets enjoyed their last camp for the year at Rottne Island at the end of November with Toodyay DHS Chaplain and Cadets Unit Leader Doug McGhee.

We had our biggest camp ever, with 63 cadets attending.

Despite the hot conditions, the cadets enjoyed the camp, with much swimming to cool off, as well as snorkelling, bike riding, a hop-on hop-off bus tour and fishing activities.

Cadets also cleaned up rubbish as part of their community service, making Rottne Island even more beautiful.

They were blessed to see a humpback whale or two up close on their ferry ride home, flapping his flipper above the surface of the water to wave to us.

We also had many close encounters with friendly quokkas.

A big thanks to our lifeguard Hope Kavanagh for helping with water supervision, which was essential.

Hope, a Police Cadet who is going on to the Police Academy next year, shared her story with our cadets.

Thanks also to James Holmes, Pratik Shah, Karyn Dymond, Martina Bretshneider and Gabby Elkins for supervising the camp.

This little Piggy mascot went to school

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

LOCAL bank manager Kirsten Barrack and bank mascot Piggy were given a warm welcome at a school assembly last month.

Toodyay District High School expressed its sincere thanks to the Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank branch manager for the generous financial support the bank provided the school this year.

Thanks to a huge injection of \$45,000, Toodyay District High School P&C was able to undertake a much-needed refurbishment of the school's undercover area, including repairs to the roof, new sky lights, new LED lights, outdoor carpet and the installation of an audio visual and performance announcement system.

The new system is a fabulous addition to the school's assembly space and to the various events and gatherings held there.

At the assembly on November 14, the year twos' energetic and entertaining performance of *Milkshake* had students, staff and parents up dancing.

It was lovely to see the whole school together, having some fun and benefitting from the improved facilities.

The P&C also contributed \$11,304 to the refurbishment, bringing the total amount spent to \$56,304.

At the term four meeting on November 7, members approved a donation of \$9000 to the school to buy student work books for the school's literacy and numeracy programs in 2024.

This donation will enable students to have a workbook at their own level, which will support their individual progress in literacy and numeracy.

The P&C will also be donating \$3000



Bendigo Bank mascot Piggy receives thanks for bank's financial support of the school in 2023.

towards a trailer to support the school cadet program and other activities such as the hike and camps.

The P&C and its supporters have once again made a significant financial investment in improvements to school facilities and improved access to resources and opportunities for students.

With our community's continued support, we look forward to doing it again next year.

If you'd 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 see *Where and When*, Page 28.



Lunchtime chess at Toodyay District High School.



Jump on board for free school bus

Public Transport Authority

FIRST-time school bus users in Toodyay areas are invited to jump on board the big orange bus in 2024.

The Public Transport Authority's School Bus Service provides a free bus service to eligible children in regional WA.

First-time orange school bus users in regional areas are invited to register their children to access these services in 2024.

Children who are starting school for the first time, changing schools, or changing their home address need to have their details registered with the service before they can use the bus.

Children who already use an orange school

bus and are not changing their arrangements do not need to re-register.

Students not registered before December 15 might not be able to access the service in the first weeks of the 2024 school year.

Parents who leave it too late to register their child may find that the new service can't service their stop until later in the term when routes and timetables are reviewed and amended.

Where it isn't possible to provide a dedicated bus service, the School Bus Service offers a conveyance allowance to help manage the cost of taking children to and from school each day.

Parents should complete an application online at www.schoolbuses.wa.gov.au.

VACANCY - Administration Officer



Opportunity!... to become Administration Officer for the Toodyay Agricultural Society (Inc.)

The Toodyay Agricultural Society is responsible for staging the highly regarded Toodyay Agricultural Show. The organizing committee consists of 15 committed members who are assisted by the Administration Officer whose tasks include the following:

- Drafting and circulating the notice and agenda for monthly committee meetings and the annual general meeting
- Preparing the meeting room on the second Monday of each month
- Minute taking and circulation of minutes to members
- Handling correspondence
- Responding to telephone enquiries
- Maintaining a current membership register
- Liaising with external bodies, sponsors and community groups
- Providing clerical support for the executive and committee

We are looking for someone who has internet access and is competent with email and word processing skills. The ability to liaise with internal and external contacts in a pleasant and confident manner is essential. Training will be provided to the successful applicant, who will not assume full responsibilities until confident to do so. This is an honorary position and provides the opportunity to be part of a great team and experience a wide range of tasks, while networking with suppliers, sponsors, local government and many others.

Should you wish to have an informal chat prior to making your application please contact TAS President Bruce Shenn – T: 0427 991 486

Applications should be emailed to: toodyayagsociety@gmail.com

Closing date: January 26, 2024

Market could go up, or down, or stay the same, according to



'It's been a big year for numbers, with the usual trends going upwards, downwards and even sideways'
NORMAN FLAT



GOT 15 MINUTES TO BURN?

READING THIS ARTICLE WOULD HAVE COST YOU ABOUT 15 MINUTES.

Not using this time to create your bushfire plan instead could cost you so much more.

[My Bushfire Plan](#)



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...even sideways, the statistical equivalent of going to the bank on a Tuesday. ...equally riveting report on the growth of grass, which experts anticipate will be green.

Bingo calls at Ida's Hideaway

Ida's Hideaway
Ann Sinclair

IDA'S Hideaway has seen loads of enjoyment and laughter recently as participants play social bingo.

The fun takes place at the Baptist Church on Stirling Terrace, next to the Dolly Foxgloves café.

We would love to see lots more new faces for an entertaining afternoon of fun, games and a delicious afternoon tea.

Hope to see you there, Saturdays 1-4pm.

Golden opportunity for prospectors

ARE YOU a local prospector with a nugget of a tale to tell?

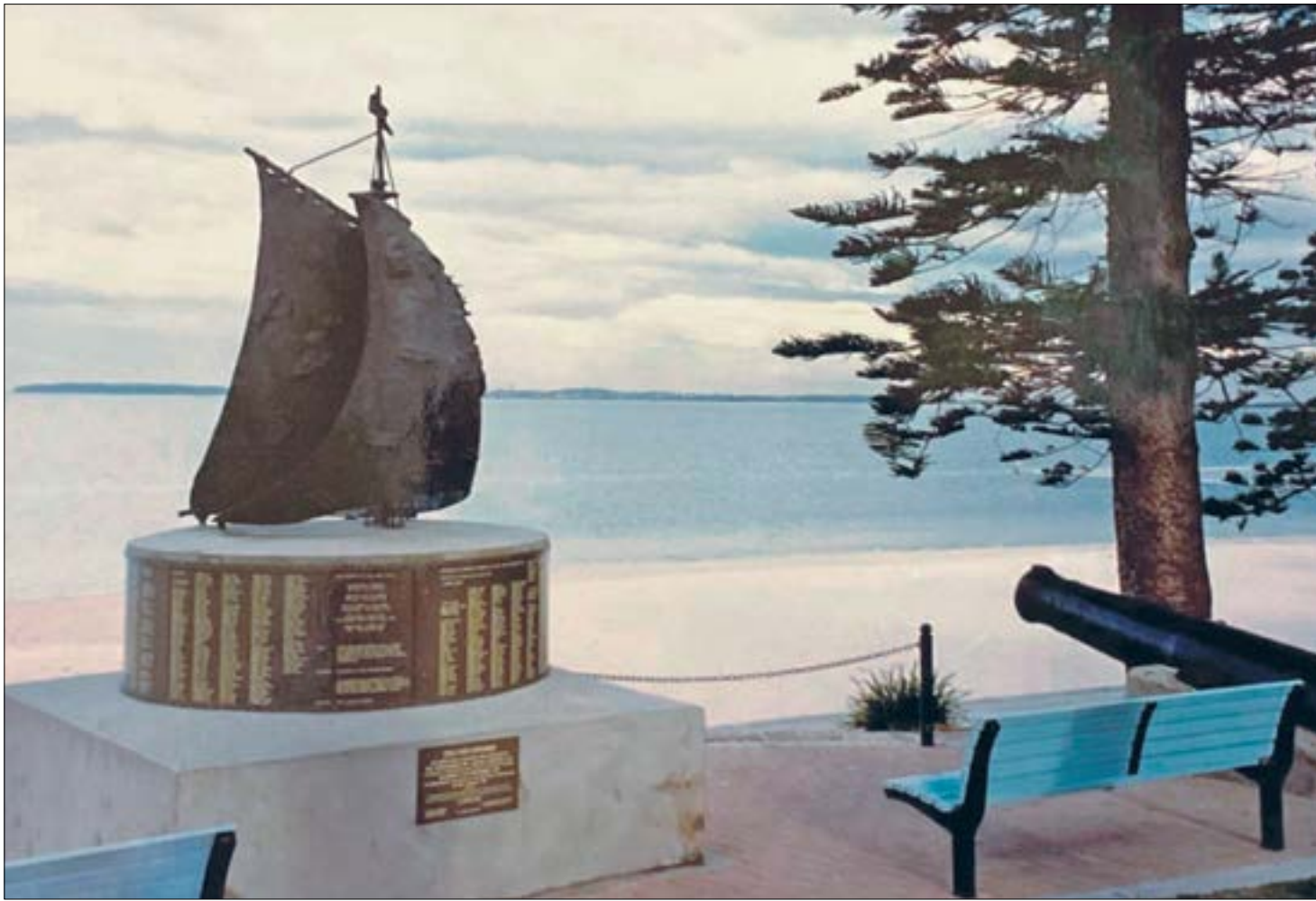
Aussie Gold Hunters is on the lookout for passionate prospectors from WA to share their unique stories on this successful show.

Casting Director Graeme de Vallance said his team was eager to connect with individuals who embody the true spirit of Aussie gold hunting.

"We believe that the people of Western Australia have incredible stories to tell," Graeme said.

With 40 million-plus viewers in more than 125 countries, the casting call is a chance for locals to share their stories with a global audience.

If you reckon you have the golden touch, visit the application portal at www.goldhuntercasting.com.



Bicentennial monument at Brighton-le-Sands commemorates the arrival of the British First Fleet in Botany Bay in 1788. Photo: Robyn Taylor.

The case of the octopus in the plum tree

Toodyay Historical Society
Robyn Taylor, Vice President

A POPULAR part of our monthly meetings is when one of our members gets invited to be guest speaker.

The talks are recorded as part of our Oral History program.

For our last meeting I was asked to be guest speaker.

Like a number of our members, I have lived more than the biblical quota and covered a lot of ground over the years.

So, I titled my talk 'From Botany Bay to WA: nature, art and old buildings'.

These were my childhood passions while growing up in the seaside suburb of Brighton-le-Sands on the western shore of Botany Bay, just south of Sydney.

They were to have a strong influence on my choice of university subjects and subsequent careers in Perth as a teacher of fine arts and historian in the heritage field.

Richard and I moved to Perth in 1978 after overseas travels and study and bought an apartment on the edge of Kings Park.

While living there we witnessed the destructive January 1989 bushfire.

I was on study leave completing my doctorate, and realising I needed to put my brain into another space before work, I started recording the Park's recovery in an art journal.

In 2001 we moved to Toodyay in a spur-of-the-moment decision.

We fell in love with an old house with wide verandahs and views over the town.

There were groups involved with history and the environment, so I joined up.

Returning to childhood, my home was minutes from the beach.

Our 'workers house' was behind the grand 1887 Brighton Hotel, and with its remnant gardens and fountain the place held endless fascination for me, as did the remaining two-storey terrace houses built for the well-to-do and their servants.

Thomas Saywell, the developer, was unusual in his belief that a sea-side resort should be accessible to all classes, so semi-detached workers houses were built as part of the Saywell Estate.

Other places within walking distance were an old picture theatre, the huge 1928 Brighton Baths, 'the largest in the southern hemisphere', and a Pleasure Pavilion converted into a roller-skating rink.

However, Botany Bay was the main attraction.

It teemed with marine life and a wealth of sea shells.

Beach combing was a popular past-time.

One of my early endeavours at being 'a naturalist' was to bring home an octopus that I found inside a rubber flipper.

I hung it in the plum tree to examine after the Sunday roast.

I still feel guilt for forgetting about it and Dad having to bury it in the garden.

Art including Art History, was my favourite subject at high school.

I wanted to be an artist and was accepted into the Julian Ashton Art School.

Unfortunately, my parents couldn't afford the fees.

After languishing at home, I applied for a junior clerk position with the head office of CSR Limited (Colonial Sugar Refinery).

This was simply because I recognised the logo from the sugar bags in my father's grocery store.

I was trained to be a stenographer, then after

marriage and discovering I had matriculated, I studied part time while working at the University of NSW.

'Such is life', to borrow a famous saying. You never know where life can take you.

At our end-of-year sundowner we farewelled Margie Eberle as the Shire's Museum curator and heritage officer.

Margie made an outstanding contribution and luckily for us she promises to remain a member.

Our 2024 planning meeting will be held on Sunday January 21 from 2pm, followed by a sundowner at St Stephen's Hall.

Bring a plate to share.

For contacts and details see *Where and When*, Page 28.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER (Shared)

The Shires of Toodyay and Victoria Plains are seeking a dynamic and motivated individual to work with both Shires to achieve environmental outcomes.

Hosted by the Shire of Toodyay, this is a shared role that will lead the development and implementation of a Biodiversity Strategy, provide advice, and promote environmental sustainability within the local governments' jurisdictions.

Applicants must have proven relevant knowledge and experience, excellent time management skills, and be great communicators. A commitment to working in a team environment to achieve continuous improvement is essential.

A base salary of \$72,000-\$76,000 per annum plus superannuation is offered. Other benefits include additional superannuation contribution and income protection.

Application packages are available at www.toodyay.wa.gov.au or www.victoriaplains.wa.gov.au; or by contacting the Records Officer on 9574 9300 or via email to records@toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Applications should be marked "CONFIDENTIAL – Environmental Sustainability Officer" and forwarded:

- 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; or
- Via Seek.

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

The Shires of Toodyay and Victoria Plains are Equal Opportunity Employers that value and respect diversity in the workplace.

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



Carols by Candlelight at the Factory

The Factory Toodyay Baptist Church
Jenny McDougall

THE JOY and excitement that Christmas brings is beginning to bubble up.

Come and share the good news with our Carols by Candlelight event, Saturday December 16 at 6pm at The Factory, 18 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

The good news of Christmas is that even when the world or our circumstances change, the message of Christmas remains.

Christmas is about the birth of God's son, Jesus, and how he came to give us love, hope, and joy.

This is good news worth celebrating.

Our Christmas Eve service is on Sunday from 10.30 to 11.45am.

On Christmas Day we will celebrate between 9 and 9.45am.

Sunday November 26 was our Harvest Festival; a thanksgiving service to thank God for his provisions.

At the end of the service, garden produce and other items brought to the service were donated to Roz of Toodyay Locals Care.

One of our guest speakers last month was Toodyay District High School chaplain Doug McGhee.

It was great to hear and see the positive impact his work is having with the children, staff, and parents.

As the year comes to an end, the Toodyay Baptist Church wishes the community of Toodyay and surrounds a wonderful joyous Christmas and a safe and blessed new year.



Celebrate the wonderful

However you celebrate, whoever you're with, may your Christmas be merry, always.

From the Community Bank Toodyay team.

During the festive season our branch will be closed Monday 25 & Tuesday 26 December, reopening Wednesday 27 December at 9:30am.

 Community Bank · Toodyay & Districts 9574 4077

 **Bendigo Bank**

These Shows don't just fall into place

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Alison Wroth

ON BEHALF of retiring President Bruce Shenn, committee and Toodyay Agricultural Society members, we would like to thank you all for supporting this year's 169th Toodyay Agricultural Show.

It has become harder than previously to organise any type of event prior to and after Covid.

It is also harder with the weather to pull them off satisfactorily and make a profit.

This is why we appreciate the loyal community support, backing and funding to keep our annual Show running.

This year's Show was exceptional on an extremely hot day – we hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

Our sponsors are definitely worth their weight in gold because without them, new ideas might not be able to be presented.

Sponsors enable us to follow through with dreams for a bigger, better Show.

This is worth all the effort on the day and we send our heartfelt thanks to all sponsors, big or small, who support us throughout the year and even after the Show.

We now look forward to next year's historic 170th Toodyay Show and the Show Ball, giving us all the opportunity to get dressed up, hit the glorious Town Hall and celebrate the history of the Show.

We do need some interested people who would like to assist us on the organising committee for the big Show next year.

A few people are leaving the team. They have served their time well with us and we will miss them terribly.

It was the final year for organising the Show for Debra Andrijich, Sarah Simonetti, Bruce Shenn, Kate Steeples, our admin officer Frank Farmer and life member Kerry Knowles.

Kerry's absence from our committee will be very noticeable, both with not having her smile at the meetings, but definitely experience and words of wisdom gained in a variety of positions over the years.

As you can see, we will need quite a few positions filled this year at the table in 2024.

However new individuals bring new ideas, skills and support for the future and our Show.

We are hoping the new elected committee after our AGM in February 2024, will be keen to set to work to organise an agricultural Show that is highly commended near and far as the autism friendly Show for entertainment, trade displays, child involvement and local produce, both agricultural and craft; in our buildings that were built for purpose; at the most historic and scenic Showgrounds in the State.

Of course all the community love the Toodyay Show but sometimes, we just require more bodies to get the job done.

These Shows don't just fall into place people; as you know they have to be planned, which takes time, support and teamwork.

However the satisfaction at the end of the day is well deserved, especially with watching the fireworks.

So come and give the committee a go.

For anybody who is interested in joining one of the best committees around and helping to organise the 170th Toodyay Agricultural Show and a Show Ball as well come along to the brick Youth Hall at the Showgrounds on Monday February 12 2024 at 7.30pm for our AGM.

All committee members are to be or to become members of the Society and to say you will enjoy yourself is putting it mildly.

Spread the load, take on a job that you are skilled in and the event that we plan will be one for the history books.

To wind up this year, we wish you Peace and Happiness this Christmas.

Feed price hots up after poor season

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Frank Panizza

HOT, WINDY and dry conditions have plagued the local harvest season so far, with the challenging weather set to continue into summer.

Dangerous fire weather conditions are causing frequent harvest bans.

Harvest started early this year primarily because of the dry and hot end to spring.

Despite the challenges, many farmers have reported average yields, most saying the yields are a little better than they expected.

Grain prices are above long-term averages, with only canola lagging due to weakness in the global oilseed market.

Statewide the 2023 season has been below average, with the total WA grain crop reaching an expected 14.5 million tonnes, well below last year's record crop which exceeded 25 million tonnes.



Local farmer harvesting canola in late afternoon light.

The poor season has forced up feed grain and hay prices.

There is high demand for fodder such as hay, oats and lupins to supplement the poor condition of summer feed on offer in paddocks.

Oat and lupin prices are high, both nearing

\$500 per tonne.

Hay prices are similarly high with hay supply expected to be tight in autumn.

There is already keen interest for agistment for sheep and cattle farmers from the Wheatbelt.

Lupin and barley stubbles are the most sought after as they offer the best feed value for livestock.

Livestock prices are still low for sheep and cattle, with the Federal government's talk of phasing out the live sheep export trade cited as one of the causes.

Recently, during federal Parliamentary question time, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese scoffed at the assertion that Government chatter around live exports could contribute to a decline in the value of livestock.

The prime minister's dismissal of the concerns of farmers and the consequences of a ban on exports, has further heightened fears about what our sheep industry will look like in the future.

The long-term nature of the management of a sheep enterprise and the years of planning that goes into the business is not well understood by the government.

Farmers will take a cautious approach to restocking, giving consideration to what ewes to keep for lambing if the industry is due for a future shake-up.

Harvest is likely to finish early this year, assuming it continues at its current pace, however road users are reminded to be aware of the increased movement of farm machinery and grain trucks on our road network.

Let's keep our Show bar's historic character



Interior of the historic Show bar.

Alison Wroth

ANYBODY who attended the Show this year would have noticed that the historic bar building was fenced off because a building inspection report deemed that the structure is unsafe.

The Shire of Toodyay considered demolishing it because a builder could not be found to carry out the repairs in time for the October Show.

Even though the Show has now passed, with the date of next year's Show as a goal, we are moving on with endeavouring to save the building.

Considerable discussions about it have occurred between the shire and the society since 2018.

Due to the historic nature of the bar and other Show buildings built by previous members, current members believe repairs are better than demolition.

Converted from a wool shed in 1963, the 'Liquor Booth' or Terrace Bar building has character and has earned its place at the Showgrounds.

Many believe that the 'historic atmosphere' of the Show is one of our main attractions.

We have never strived to have modern amenities like other societies and on the most scenic and historic showgrounds in the State even the oldest building can still be repaired and maintained.

We have received many individual offers of assistance from tradies, farmers and anybody willing to hold a hammer or make cuppas for morning tea when busy bees were held.

That is what our community is about, everybody coming together to help us put the old Show bar back on her feet.

It was these many locals who along with visitors to the Show have fond memories of the reunions, camaraderie and great times experienced under those awnings, or watched the evening's fireworks from the best viewpoint on the grounds.

Timing to repair the building is important at this stage because next year is our historic 170th Toodyay Show – one to be celebrated.

To not have our bar building would be disappointing to members and the Toodyay community in general.

We feel a strong responsibility for this structure and find it hard to imagine the grounds without the building standing.

It is in our interests that it be repaired and we will employ all necessary diligence to see this happens in a timely manner.

We have put a proposal to the shire to be discussed at this month's council meeting.

We have offered to obtain quotes, oversee the project timeline ourselves, engage a registered

builder and endeavour to seek any possible financial assistance.

We heartily support the fact that history comes in all forms, and the Showgrounds bar is a fine example of that.

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AVON VALLEY WATER CARTAGE

For all water requirements



Jamie Ratcliffe 0418 904 525

jamie_r@live.com.au



Local lathes a'turning

Avon Woodturners
Hamish Dobie

*It was two weeks before Christmas, and in Santa's shed,
The wood elves were fretting, their hearts filled with dread.
Production was way down, wood in short supply,
The foresters were on strike, and time's flying by.
The Head Elf knew Santa had put trust in his team,
And the orders for wood toys were as big as he'd seen,
"Who can help us?" he thought, "to make all these wood toys,
We can't disappoint all the girls and the boys."
He called to his workers, "Have you any ideas?
We can't have Christmas morning with children in tears."
Then out came a voice from way down the back,
"The lads down in Toodyay will give it a crack!"
"A good thought" said Head Elf, "I'll give them a call.
I wonder if Max Heath is still on the ball."
And with that said, he went off and phoned his contact,
And explained that production was way off the track.
"It's OK!" said Max Heath, "We'll help you, don't worry,
I'll gather the boys and explain the reason for hurry."
So, a few minutes later the lathes were all turning,
The boys were so fast you could almost smell burning.
Dave Doye checked the output to make sure it was right,
The toys and gifts piled up, it was a wonderful sight.
Two Peters and Terry, John, Rob and Barry.
They loaded Santa's sleigh up with all they could carry.
Young Todd, the 'pen' man, Hamish and Doggy,
They worked round the clock and were getting quite groggy.
And then Max cried "We've finished! Santa's order is done!
Now it's time for us lads to ease off and have fun.
It's Christmas, it's time to have hope and some cheer."
So, they all sat beside him and had cake and some beer.
From Avon Woodturners, to all far and near,
We wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

The more we knit, the hotter it gets

The Crooked Needle
Jean Melhuish-Hill

SPRING has finished and summer has started early, which will slightly inhibit the number of blankets that get knitted or crocheted.
As the blanket gets bigger, the crafter gets warmer with it all sitting on their lap.
But I am sure it will not deter the stalwarts of our group.
I also think Christmas is on its way.
The shops and media are busily advertising the delicacies and possible gifts for the season.
Our own Carol Barlow has been busy with all sorts of Christmas decorations, doilies, napkin holders and cushions.
When asked, she had not yet decided whether they were for herself or for gifts.
She is heading off to the cooler climes of Germany for a few weeks but will be back in town for what I expect will be another warm Christmas.
Our Snuggle Bunny Challenge completion date has been moved out to mid-December.
So, to see our endeavours you will need to follow our article in the February edition of the Herald.
I have been working on a couple of Sashiko runners.



Christmas crafts by Carol Barlow.

These were my first attempts.
I did find it very therapeutic to select various

coloured threads, stitch along the pattern design lines then finally make it into something useful.
The New Year will see me starting a more complex design for my next project.

Old cotton reels steal the show in Christmas wreath

Ragbags Quilting Group
Kerry Gregory

ANOTHER busy year has flown by.
The Ragbags Group had one more sewing day on November 29 followed by a Christmas lunch in Bolgart on December 6 before going into recess until February 7.
Despite occasional low attendance it has been a memorable year with some members achieving unprecedented clear-up rates of UFOs and an astounding number of scrappy



Australian flora table runner for Christmas by Kerry.

quilts completed.
Now it's the usual push to finish projects in time for Christmas giving.

There is something quite festive about trying to finish the hand-stitched binding of a project before wrapping it and going to bed on Christmas Eve.

Ragbag members were invited to a sewing day at Parkerville during the month, with three ladies attending an enjoyable sewing session, with about six ladies undertaking piecing projects on their sewing machines.

As with our group, not everyone at Parkerville was sewing.

Some ladies were card-making, festive-decoration crafting and tapestry stitching.

Participating and exchanging views and ideas is what it's all about – and it is so very beneficial for our mental health.

Our hosts were most hospitable and we enjoyed a lovely all-day tea and coffee and were captivated by the range of items exhibited for Show and Tell.

These included the usual quilts, table mats and runners, but also a number of very impressive large Christmas decorations including a 60cm Santa and Nutcracker figure.

The item that stole the show for me was a Christmas wreath made entirely from sewing notions – old cotton reels of bright colourful threads, a tape measure, thimbles and small scissors – quite ingenious really.

So it remains for me to wish you one and all good health and good cheer and a safe and happy Christmas.

Be kind and look out for one another over the hot holiday period, with best wishes for the new year.

For more information see *Where and When*, Page 28.

The craft ladies celebrated Christmas on Friday December 1 with lunch at the CWA Hall.

Members bring along a variety of goodies for the table with Jan Walters, Annette Millar and Glenyce Bosnjak looking after the table set up and decorations (handmade of course) in readiness for lunch.

Santa will also pay a visit with some homemade gifts.

We will have our last craft meeting for the year on Friday December 15 and recommence meetings on Friday January subject to works on the CWA Hall being completed.

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

For contact information see *Where and When*, Page 28.

Lucky Mal gets his wheels balanced

Toodyay Masonic Lodge
Michael Tock

TOODYAY Freemasons would like to thank the following local businesses who donated prizes for our October Show raffle:

- Toodyay Tyres – free wheel balance;
 - Toodyay Hardware and Farm – Soda stream, gutter wand, two pruning shears;
 - Christmas 360 Shop – Santa and ski box decorations, Christmas crackers and serviettes;
 - Uniquely Toodyay – black cockatoo cushion;
 - Colin and Ruth (Bee Happy) – honey and beeswax;
 - Fire station – two leather stubby holders;
 - Wroth family – vintage sign, wheelbarrow;
 - Dolly Foxgloves Cafe – \$25 voucher for morning tea, peppermint magazine; and
 - Alicia's Restaurant – \$150 lunch voucher.
- Winning ticket blue F49 was purchased by Mal.

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Shane LOVE MLA

Your State Member for Moore

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
A SAFE CHRISTMAS AND A
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

T: (08) 9927 2333 | E: MooreElectorate@mp.wa.gov.au



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