



## Be AWARE of animal welfare in emergencies

The Shire of Toodyay has recently enhanced its Local Emergency Management Arrangements in relation to animal welfare. This project acknowledges the funding contribution of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) via the All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) program.

We would also like to thank the members of the Local Emergency Management Committee for their contribution to the further development of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements, and their ongoing commitment to emergency management in the Shire.

Animal welfare in emergencies is a topic of consideration for many Toodyay residents. Animal owners and carers are responsible for the welfare of their animals – however, in the event of an emergency, when the capacity of those animal owners is exceeded, other agencies including the Shire will assist where they can. Visit [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au) for more information and for assistance with developing a 'Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies' of your own.

## eResources to the rescue this festive season

While the Toodyay Library ladies are looking forward to their time off over the festive season, we know our doors being closed isn't the best news for everybody – especially with hot weather on the way that warrants afternoons spent in air-conditioned comfort, accompanied by a good book. If stocking up on reading material before the break isn't an option for you, don't worry...eResources are the answer!

With only your library membership, a smart device and an internet connection, you can access our amazing range of free entertainment platforms that go beyond just books: **BorrowBox** (books and audiobooks), **Libby** (books, audiobooks and magazines), **Hoopla** (books, audiobooks, magazines, movies, music and more) and **Kanopy** (movies and documentaries). Simply download the apps from your phone or tablet (via the App Store for Apple users or the Play Store for Android users) and follow the prompts to set up your account, and you'll be browsing and borrowing in no time.

Having an issue with an eResource? Check the help section of the app you're using, view our how-to guides at [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/community-visitors/libraries/resources.aspx](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/community-visitors/libraries/resources.aspx), or give us a call before we close for the year on 9574 9325 – we're always happy to help.



# SHIRE NEWS



## Visitors Centre makeover for community and customers

Toodyay Visitors Centre has undergone an exciting refurbishment to round out 2023, aimed at enhancing the overall customer experience.

This renovation project reflects our commitment to providing a welcoming, engaging environment that aligns with the expectations of the town's diverse visitor demographic.

Proud to champion the spirit of community and entrepreneurship, we actively support local small businesses and artisans through the

products and resources available at the Centre. Recognising the invaluable contributions these groups and individuals make to our vibrant country community, staff have dedicated themselves to forming strong relationships that go beyond business.

We are sure the Centre's refurbishment will significantly increase visitor satisfaction and create more memorable experiences centred on information, inspiration, and discovery. Next time you're in town, why not stop by? You don't have to be a tourist to enjoy all it has to offer.

## An event-full year at the CRC



What an extraordinary year it has been at the Toodyay CRC – our first full year under Shire management. We feel very appreciative looking back on the past twelve months, having had the privilege of serving the Toodyay community we love. In fact, we had so much fun, we had to share some highlights with you before 2023 comes to a close.

We kicked off the year with January's Summer Splash Party – an excellent escape from the heat featuring water pistol battles, a giant tug-of-war, an epic obstacle course, and a terrific toddler area. Then came our livestream of the opera "Carmen", showcasing talented Toodyay performer Emma Pettemerides; and our Local Business Sundowner, which provided a fantastic platform for local business professionals to connect and engage with one another.

Highlights of our school holiday programs included the Paint-and-Plant-a-Pot Workshop, Minecraft Day, VR Night, and Stand-Up Comedy Workshop. Through SOCK Week in June, we promoted and raised awareness for

road safety; while our Be Connected lessons empowered numerous local seniors to embrace online connectivity. We also held some wonderful events in collaboration with community partners: the Halloween Disco with Toodyay District High School P&C, the Healthy Foods for All Abilities program with Foodbank, small business workshops with RSM Business Local, and Get Online Week with Good Things Foundation.



We can't wait to bring more events and initiatives to Toodyay in 2024. If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see on our calendar, please contact us on 9574 5357 or email [crc@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:crc@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

## Make a bushfire plan while you can

Just 15 minutes might save your life this bushfire season – that's all the time it takes to make a plan that will better prepare you, your family, and your property for the high-risk months to come. DFES' My Bushfire Plan app and website helps you make the critical choice of leaving early or staying to defend. It includes important prompts including what to do with pets, what is needed to evacuate,

and how to ensure everyone in your household knows the plan and their role. Here in Toodyay we know all too well how devastating bushfires can be, and how essential it is to prepare for the possibility. So don't wait until it's too late – visit [www.mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au](http://www.mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au) or download the My Bushfire Plan app to make your plan today.

## Christmas Closure of Shire Offices



Shire offices will close for 2023 and reopen for 2024 as follows:

**Administration Centre, Development Services and Depot:** Closes 4.30pm, Thursday 21 December 2023; opens 8.30am, Tuesday 2 January 2024 (Rangers available 7 days on 9574 9370)

**Toodyay Library:** Closes 5.00pm, Thursday 21 December 2023; opens 9.00am, Tuesday 2 January 2024

**Community Resource Centre:** Closes 2.30pm, Thursday 21 December 2023; opens 9.00am, Tuesday 2 January 2024

**Visitors Centre and museums:** Closed Christmas Day (Monday 25 December 2023), Boxing Day (Tuesday 26 December 2023) and New Year's Day (Monday 1 January 2024); Visitors Centre open 9.00am-3.30pm and museums open 10.00am-3.00pm all other days; normal hours resume Tuesday 2 January 2024

We wish the entire Toodyay community a happy and safe festive season.

## Black Cockatoo conservation efforts boosted by funding



*Carnaby Crusader, Dean installing a tube in the treetops.*

October saw eight Black Cockatoo nesting tubes installed across three different reserves in the Shire, for a wildlife conservation project funded by Birdlife Australia.

Dean Arthurell of Carnaby's Crusaders – a not-for-profit supporting the recovery, breeding and habitat preservation of these endangered birds – used a system of ropes and ladders to situate the tubes high in specially-selected Wandoo trees. These tubes mimic internal tree hollows, providing Black Cockatoos with safe breeding spaces that eliminate the risk of use by other birds.

This conservation project is an important one for the Shire, given the shortage of natural nesting hollows available for the area's iconic Carnaby, Baudin and Red-tailed Black Cockatoos. With other artificial nesting boxes located on private land, all species will benefit from increased breeding opportunities.

The Birdlife Australia funding that made this project possible also includes ongoing monitoring of breeding activity.



# Gonneville

## Project Update



### Cockatoo Hollow Test Program

Chalice recently commenced a project with Carnaby's Crusaders to investigate the suitability of artificial hollows for nesting by Carnaby's Black Cockatoos. Carnaby's Crusaders is a citizen-science-led organisation run by passionate wildlife carer Dean Arthurell, working to create and install nesting hollows to support the conservation of Carnaby's Black Cockatoos.

Chalice is supporting a partnership between Carnaby's Crusaders and leading environmental experts at Syrnix Environmental, to monitor the use of nesting hollows over time. As part of our Gonneville Restoration Project, Dean and Syrnix have installed 10 hollows on Chalice farmland that will be regularly monitored. Dean and the team from Syrnix will also be investigating black cockatoo breeding behaviour and habitat use in the Julimar region. This initiative hopes to equip Carnaby's Crusaders with scientific data to support the ongoing development and deployment of these hollows as an effective conservation tool. This work will also inform Chalice's strategies to protect biodiversity across our project areas and contribute to scientific knowledge gaps related to the species.

Our environmental team was thrilled to meet their new neighbour earlier this week (see above right) - It's great to see that the hollows are being used by the cockatoos so quickly after install.

### Gonneville Project Activity

The Gonneville Project is now in the Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS) stage, which will include more detailed investigations into the mine plan and infrastructure such as power, water and logistics.

This move to PFS also marks a greater focus on desktop studies, and as a result we expect there will be a reduction in exploration activity at the Gonneville site. This slowing of activity is typical in the mine development timeline. Adjustments will include a reduction in the number of drill rigs, less Chalice staff at site and a decrease in traffic on local roads surrounding the project area.

### Julimar Exploration Project Activity

Elsewhere, we also expect the next stage of drilling will soon recommence at the Julimar Exploration Project. The Julimar Exploration Project surrounds the Gonneville Project and covers a portion of the Julimar State Forest as well as farmland. This early-stage exploration is being progressed separately to the development of the Gonneville Project, which is contained to farmland.

This exploration is governed by a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) which sets out strict environmental management and monitoring requirements. Importantly, all drilling will be constrained entirely to existing access tracks and non-vegetated areas to avoid impacts to the environment. Access to the State Forest remains open to the community.

We will continue to provide further updates as this work progresses.

### Chalice in the Community

The Chalice Community Investment Program recently funded an exciting new initiative by the Toodyay Community Resource Centre, to host stand-up comedy workshops for local kids, facilitated by Australian comedian Anthony Lamond.

The stand-up comedy workshops encourage confidence and resilience in participants, and help to build their creativity and public speaking skills.

Chalice site staff also enjoyed attending the Marsupial Mammas and Pappas quiz night in November. Two Chalice tables joined the fun at this fundraising event, learning more about the wildlife rescue work of the Marsupial Mammas and Pappas organisation. Chalice have been supporting their important work since 2021, and site staff receive ongoing training thanks to Brian and his team.

Marsupial Mammas and Pappas do crucial work rescuing and caring for injured and abandoned animals in the local regions; fostering, rehabilitating and releasing them wherever possible. Learn more about them on their Facebook page:

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



### Chalice Pop Up Office Hours

For our final day in the Toodyay Pop Up Office of 2023, we will be open for extended hours from 8.30am to 2.30pm on Thursday, 21 December. Pop past for a chat and a cuppa with Kate.

We will then be closing for two weeks over Christmas, reopening on Thursday 11 January 2024 (8.30 - 11.30am).

We wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas.



#### Talk to us

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

#### Chalice Pop Up Office

Open 8.30am - 11.30am Thursdays  
Shop 5, Charcoal Lane, Toodyay

#### Visit our website

To read our Info Sheets visit:  
[www.chalicemining.com/community-information-sheets](http://www.chalicemining.com/community-information-sheets)



ENVIRONMENT

Peggy the wombat is being raised by our friend Natalie Guy in Tasmania.

## Contrary to rumours, we are still alive and kicking

**Marsupial Mammals and Pappas (Inc)**  
Brian Foley

DESPITE rumours to the contrary, Marsupial Mammals and Pappas (Inc) are alive and well.

There has been some turmoil within but this is being resolved.

With more than 60 members statewide there will always be some disagreement: some will resign others will stay.

At this time of the year wildlife rescue organisations are overloaded with animals.

If you have thought of looking after native animals, now is your chance.

After training you can become a registered wildlife rehabilitator and take care of an orphaned joey, bird or another species.

A joey came in with a fractured tail, which we suspect was caused by it being pulled from its pouch by the tail.

If you need to remove a joey from the pouch of a dead kangaroo please seek advice first.

Fledgling sparrows, pink and -grey galahs and 28 parrots were among the admissions in the past month.

Three bobtails were received with injuries from dog attacks, but none could be

saved.

Please keeps dogs and bobtails separate – it never ends well for the bobbies.

We are still getting reports of injured kangaroos being left to die a horrible death.

If your car hits an animal, take it off the road if it is dead, but if it is not then call someone.

Last week I got a call at 10:30pm for a kangaroo on Nunile Road.

It was paralysed but alert so I thank the caller that it did not have to wait until morning.

We have been notified that our grant for \$27,000 to purchase fencing panels and other materials has been successful.

These will allow the construction of pre-release pens, mainly for kangaroos and possums.

The animals stay in the pens for four to six weeks before the enclosure is opened to allow them to leave.

If you would like to release hand-raised kangaroos onto your property then please make contact and we can discuss the requirements.

A reminder to put out a shallow dish of water to help the animals over these hot periods.

Place a stick or stones in the dish to allow our reptiles and birds access and an escape passage.

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

# A roof over our heads for many years to come

**Country Women's Association**  
Dixie McKenzie

IF YOU read Viv's article last month you'll have seen where she said the roof would be renewed by the time this month's *Herald* was issued.

Our CWA Hall does have a new roof and guttering after Joshua and Daniel were at last given the go-ahead by our Shire Council.

Our roof was completed in the hottest of conditions by Daniel and the team.

So sorry fellows that you were unable to start when initially stated, before the hot weather arrived.

Thank you to your team for the fantastic efforts – the hall will now survive for many more years to come.

Our thanks also to everyone who contributed to making this possible.

On November 1 Toodyay CWA members hosted 30 members from around our area at an information session run by CWA head office representatives on proposed changes to the CWA Constitution.

It was a most informative session.

Toodyay was one stop on a whirlwind tour as the presenters travelled the state to inform members of the changes.

Our ladies decorated the room and provided a scrumptious afternoon tea.

It was pleasing to see ladies from different branches discussing changes and having their concerns addressed.

We have a number of upcoming events on our calendar.

Come along to the Christmas Street Party and see what marvels the ladies have created for this event.

Toodyay CWA branch are catering for afternoon tea for Handel's Messiah and are looking forward to listening to the choir.

January 11 is Planning Day at CWA, where items and happenings for the coming year are plotted and planned, starting at 10am.

If you are new to town or interested in finding out what our group is involved in, contributes towards and fundraises to support, come along, you will be most welcome.

We would like to invite any past members or family of past Toodyay CWA members to please phone President Kathy Haynes on 0439 975 396 or Secretary Gina Butler on 0447 268 762 to register for our Grand Centenary opening in April 2024.

Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

## Spun out from a stash of leftovers

**Toodyay Spinners**  
Gail Williams, Secretary

THIS photo shows what you can do with all those bits that are left over from previous spinning projects.

Looking through the 'stash' Gail has chosen those bits that go together then woven them into this soft, silky scarf.

If you would like to learn how to spin Toodyay Spinners would like to teach you.

See *Where and When*, page 28 for contact details.



Gail's scarf made from bits and pieces from her stash.

## Have a song in your heart this Christmas



Toodyay Community Singers at last month's RSL Remembrance Day ceremony.

**Toodyay Community Singers**  
Anne Millar

THE COUNTDOWN has begun.

When the *Herald* hits the streets it will be just 18 days until Christmas as we gear up for an amazing celebration at our Christmas Street Party on December 8.

The Toodyay Singers will once again be in the thick of it, thrilled to be part of this

festive extravaganza.

If you've got a love for singing and want to be a part of our merry crew, this is your chance.

Whether you're a fresh face in the community or a longtime local, if you've got a tune in your heart come and hang out with us at the CWA Hall on Stirling Terrace.

For dates and times see *Where and When*, Page 28.



# Upcoming first aid courses

**HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid**

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

**Price:** \$170.00

**When:** Thursday 8 February - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Saturday 24 February - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Thursday 14 March - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Saturday 20 April - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Thursday 16 May - 8:30AM - 4:30PM

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



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ENVIRONMENT

# Trial-and-error garden means survival of the fittest

**Toodyay Garden Club**  
Jan Ackroyd

SUMMER has hit early this year as we start our watering routines to keep our gardens green for the festive season.

Last month we were invited to visit Libby and Tony Patrizi's beautiful garden at their 200ha property in Gidgegannup.

Driving in on the sweeping paved driveway led us past a dam and extensive parkland with mature deciduous trees to their large home.

The front courtyard area featured a beautiful, curved stone retaining wall on one side, a garden with a feature tree in the middle of the circular driveway, roses across the front of the house and immaculately manicured lawns.

Libby told us they moved to the property 20 years ago and some of the garden had been established by the previous owners.

The parkland's large collection of deciduous trees no longer require watering.

There is an abundant supply of water from a spring-fed dam nearby and she has the garden reticulated.

Libby loves native plants, so most of the new gardens that she has established are planted with these.

She buys tube stock and also propagates from

her existing plants.

It's a trial-and-error garden, and anything that doesn't survive doesn't get planted again.

I think we can all concur with that protocol.

Vegies – well, they are just too hard for Libby and she is happy with her chickens, horses and the cattle they run.

After a leisurely morning tea on the lovely, covered deck area overlooking the back garden and paddocks beyond, we took a walk around the gorgeous garden with Libby, staying on for a picnic lunch by the dam.

It was a delightful end to a special garden visit, warmly hosted by the most gracious and welcoming Libby.

Our last meeting for the year will be a visit to a local garden in Toodyay followed by our Christmas lunch at the Pavilion in the Showgrounds.

We have had a great year with wonderful venues to visit.

For this we thank Judy, our events organiser, together with all our hard-working committee members who contribute their time towards making the Garden Club such a success.

We look forward to another great year in 2024. Until then, we wish everyone a very happy and safe festive season.



The circular driveway approach to Libby and Tony Patrizi's house in Gidgegannup.



A section of the garden at Libby and Tony Patrizi's Gidgegannup house.

## Bigger, better roads may not always be safer

**Safe and Scenic Toodyay Road**  
Beatrice Laufer and Andrew St John

A RECENT report by the State Auditor General has highlighted the fact that despite spending more than \$1 billion over 10 years on road improvements, WA traffic deaths and injuries remain virtually unchanged and unacceptably high.

The report to the WA Government details shortcomings of the Road Trauma Trust Account (RTTA), funded by speed and red-light camera revenue which totalled \$127 million last year and is expected to keep increasing.

The trust account partly funds planned improvements to Toodyay Road, presumably guided by the fact that between 2010-15 Toodyay Road had the worst death toll in the Wheatbelt.

Our campaign has acknowledged the shocking state of Toodyay Road undoubtedly contributed to its poor safety record, and improvements were clearly required.

In the case of Toodyay Road, the former Federal Government was persuaded by a dubious Main Roads WA business case to tip in a lot more dollars.

This will handsomely support the State agency's desire for a bigger, better Toodyay Road with more passing lanes, extensive realignments and more large-scale land clearing.

Yes, we need major highways for a healthy economy, and it has to be accepted that death and serious injury will occur on high-speed roads.

The strong link between death, injury and speed undermines the goal of a zero road toll, and the latter is therefore unattainable at speeds in excess of 100km/h.

However, as we move away from freeways and major highways onto lesser thoroughfares such as Toodyay Road, the supposed value of bigger and better runs into serious problems, as evidenced in the Auditor General's report.

It is scathing about organisations that administer the Road Trauma Trust Account, highlighting various deficiencies which match our experience over the last three years.

A key failure identified in the report is whether any RTTA-funded road safety project actually delivers its promised benefits.

Project self-assessments do not include safety outcomes – only whether the work was finished on time and on budget.

This strongly accords with Main Roads' desire to promote the efficiency of the grand engineering ideology evidenced in its annual reports.

The Road Safety Council – one of two bodies that administers the RTTA – does not study past performance when considering whether funding should be renewed.

This highlights one of our own concerns about how the Killed and Seriously Injured Index (KSI) is used by Main Roads to justify improvements.

We drew attention in the early days of our campaign to that fact that from 2015-20, the KSI fell from a higher figure in the previous five years.

Since nothing occurred to change the state of the road, the decrease was attributed to various other initiatives such as driver education campaigns, but this has been studiously ignored by Main Roads.

We acknowledge that the fall may be a statistical anomaly – we need to see updated figures for more recent years.

Our attempts to get this information from Main Roads have been met with silence, which only contributes to our belief – echoed in the Auditor-General's report – that much of our State's road safety policy is not sufficiently driven by outcomes.

The report also identifies conflicts of interest within the Road Safety Council which recommends projects for RTTA funding to the Minister for Road Safety.

The council appears to include representatives of organisations such as Main Roads that also receive money from the RTTA.

This reflects our early criticism of the Community Reference Group, which Main Roads said was a valid forum to discuss how Toodyay Road could be improved.

It contained many unstated but obvious conflicts of interest, serving as a rubber-stamp for Main Roads engineering designs to make Toodyay Road faster.

We accept that not everyone shares our concerns about how large-scale roadworks affect our roadside environment.

The road or trucking lobby in particular will not be satisfied until its members are allowed to drive at 100 km/h on all roads.

But leaving vested interests aside, surely the rest of us want safer roads designed according to policies that actually deliver safer roads when completed.

We need to find new ways to reduce the risk of death or serious injury on roads where speed is not paramount.

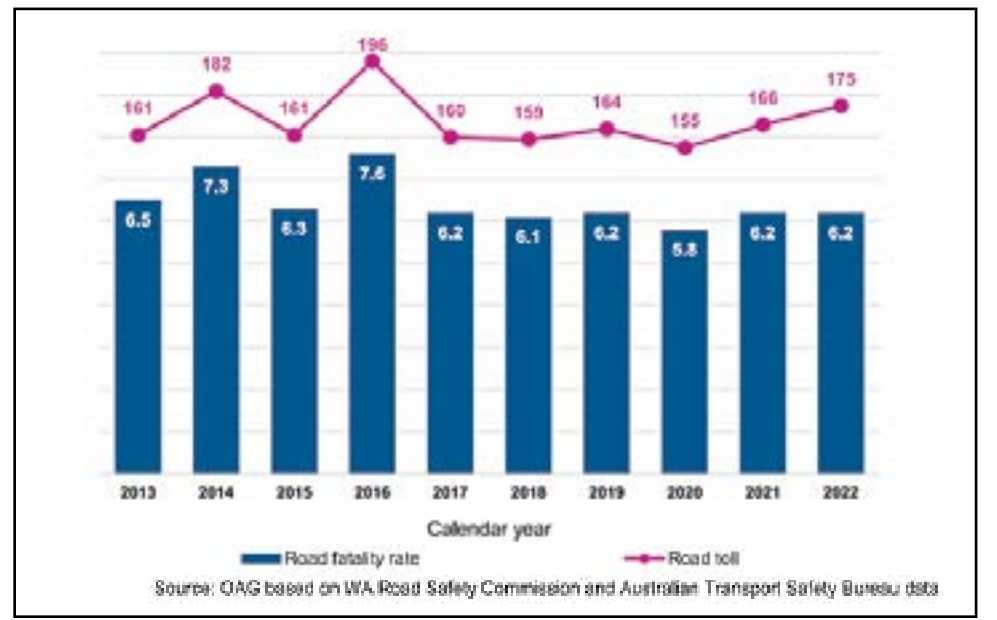
These include combining sustainable road design principles with strategies to address driver behaviour.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**TOODYAY THEATRE GROUP**

Invites all members and interested parties to our AGM on Thursday 1st of February 2024 at 7:00pm at the Toodyay Memorial Hall. It is important for you to have your say towards the future of the group. All office bearers will be elected on the night.

*See you all there.*



Graph indicates the number of lives lost per year and solid bars indicate the annual rate of fatalities per 100,000 population. Source: Office of the WA Auditor General.

ENVIRONMENT

# What a thrill it was to see the nets being opened

**Toodyay Friends of the River**  
Bridget Leggett

OUR CELEBRATION breakfast, AGM and planning meeting concluded the formal program for Friends for 2023 with a convivial and productive morning beside the Avon River in Duidgee Park.

Annual Reports from President Jenny White and Project Officer Greg Warburton highlighted just how much we have achieved in 2023.

Their reports make for interesting reading, and can be found on the Friends' notice board, outside Drummond House next to the Bendigo Bank building.

Most of the management committee are continuing in their positions for 2024, with Jenny White leading the Friends again this year.

Thank you Jenny for your great work. Ongoing committee members are delighted to be joined by three new members – Sharon Boxall, Hugh Rayner and Nalini Robertson – giving us a great combination of experience and fresh ideas.

The one notable change was the retirement



South-western snake-necked turtle (*Chelodinag obloonga*). Photo: Nikkola Palmer.

of Desraé Clarke as editor of our newsletter, *Biddip*, with Nikkola Palmer taking over that role from the beginning of 2024.

Between them, Desraé and Wayne Clarke have edited and produced all of the issues of

*Biddip*, spanning 25 years.

Their contribution was warmly acknowledged by all present at our annual general meeting.

The health of the Avon River is monitored by WA Department of Water and Environmental

Regulation officers at several points, including Toodyay, every three years.

Data was collected last month, with officers inviting the Friends to observe as nets were pulled to see what had been caught.

What a thrill to see not one, but four large, healthy, south-western snake-necked turtles (*Chelodinag obloonga*) along with a number of juveniles.

They didn't take long to swim away once released.

The turtles were caught in pike nets with specially designed, home-made floats at the ends to accommodate air-breathing animals – and they work well.

Accompanying the turtles was a seething collection of shrimps, a good number of small native fish including the western hardyhead (*Leptatherina wallacei*) and the Swan River goby (*Pseudogobius olorum*), a few gilgie (*Cherax quinquecarinatus*) and one leech.

Two invasive species were also recorded: the eastern gambusia (*Gambusia holbrooki*) and the yabby (*Cherax destructor*).

It was a fascinating, successful and informative morning.

The river condition monitoring schedule is comprehensive, with data collection going far beyond the 'catch'.

Field officers are required to draw a cross sectional diagram of the river and its adjacent banks at the sampling point, showing the local vegetation.

Water quality assessment is done on site, potential pollutants are noted, and samples taken away for further analysis.

A photographic record of the area is part of the schedule, taken with waterproof cameras and a state-of-the-art drone, which gave us an amazing view of the river as it was flown up and downstream.

In 2024 we celebrate our 30th year and plan to have a number of special events, the first of which will be a community forum in March, appropriately themed around waterways.

We would like to thank all our volunteers and supporters for a great year, and look forward to continuing our work together.

As the hot weather sets in and the festive season approaches, may you all enjoy time with family and friends and have a safe summer

## Saving the skins of our sneezing skinks

**Python Watch**  
Desraé Clarke

IT IS during the warmer months of the year that the upper respiratory tract infection raises its ugly head to attack bobtails and blue-tongued skinks.

Reports are generally received over the summer months of February, March and April.

The respiratory infection presents as an animal 'flu'.

The skink sneezes with a bubbly discharge coming from its nose, mouth, and eyes.

The mucus from the eyes gradually seals them preventing the animal from searching for food resulting in the skink becoming lethargic from starvation.

At this stage the body appears emaciated with the spinal shape obvious and the normally rounded and plump tail noticeably flattened.

This is a sign of its impending death.

If a skink is found as described it will have a chance of survival if taken to a wildlife carer as soon as possible to be treated with appropriate antibiotics.

If possible, wear gloves to lift the animal onto a towel, or such like, and contact Brian on 0419 933 721 or Robyn on 0417 173 283 or Kanyana wildlife on 9291 3900 for advice.

It is so rewarding to see such an unwell creature survive with appropriate treatment.

Kanyana wildlife is located in Lesmurdie and is happy to accept any wildlife admissions from people travelling outside the Toodyay area or when Marsupial Mammals and Pappas wildlife care is at capacity.

We often collect from the veterinary centres located in Mundaring and surrounds.

To learn more about bobtails and especially upper respiratory tract infections please follow the page at facebook.com/kanyanawildlife.

The Toodyay Naturalists' Club is always



An infected bobtail. Photo: Kanyana Wildlife.

pleased to receive reports and photographs of anything of interest in natural history.

The observation will be entered on the database for future reference, with the contributor's name.

For contact details see *Where and When* on Page 28 of this issue.



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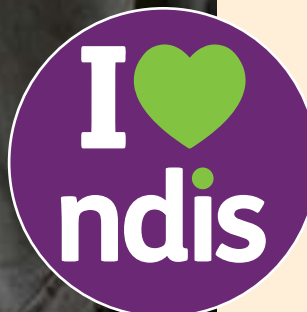
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# Christmas comes early for Gidge groups

EMRC Local Community Groups

LOCAL community and sports groups in Gidgegannup are feeling the Christmas cheer after receiving grants from the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council.

The council is supporting community programs with grants of up to \$3000 for projects that provide direct benefits to the local community.

This year the council extended the pool of funds and awarded seven community groups grants totalling \$16,900.

Grant winners include Gidgegannup Basketball Club, where children and families participate at all skill levels in the game while learning values such as respect, teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship.

Gidgegannup Scout Group, which has provided developmental opportunities to local youth for more than 25 years, will upgrade camping and hiking gear.


They have created a friendly group which involves youths, families and adults in the

Gidgegannup region.

A grant for Gidgegannup Junior Football Club will pay for new equipment to aid the development of our junior Bulldogs.

The Gidgegannup Men's Shed set up after the Wooroloo bushfires in 2021 will use their grant to help deliver a 10-week course led by local artist and accredited teacher Jan Pitman to explore the use of art to relieve stress and explore creativity.

Other groups to receive funding include the Parkerville Playgroup and Roar.



**ADVERTISE WITH US**

ENVIRONMENT

# Timing is critical so please get your seed orders in now

**Toodyay Seed Group**  
Bethan Lloyd

WE'VE kicked off our major seeding exercise and will continue throughout this month and January.

If you're planning on planting next year, get your orders in now for revegetation projects.

This will ensure you have a broader selection rather than waiting until 2024 when you may be disappointed.

Over the past few months we have been harvesting seeds as they ripen.

For instance, Hardenbergia seeds are held in pods that split and release their seed once dried.

Timing is critical for these seeds and others such as Acacias.

Hakeas, on the other hand, keep their

seeds until after a fire, or when the pod is separated from the plant and left in a bag in the sun, eventually splitting open to reveal two papery seeds per pod.

Some hard seeds such as Acacias require soaking in hot water to break the seed coat, while seeds from species such as Hakeas, Eucalyptus, and Melaleucas germinate without any treatment.

Some seeds undergo an extensive process for germination.

For instance, the purple flax lily (*Dianella revoluta*) produces attractive purple fruit that is removed to aid germination.

This seed is soaked for several days until it ferments, then put through a coarse sieve to slough off all the flesh, with a finer sieve underneath to catch the seed.

It then needs to be soaked in smoke water to assist germination further.



Mouse ears (*Calothamnus rupestris*) capsules shedding seed.

Certain plants such as kangaroo paws need their seeds soaked in smoke water, usually overnight.

Fine seeds that resemble dust are mixed

with sand to avoid sowing too thickly and sprinkled on the surface of the pot.

Larger seeds are covered according to their size.

After sowing, the seeds must not dry out, so we have the sprinklers coming on three times a day.

Sometimes high temperatures can inhibit germination, so a run of 40-degree days can spell disaster.

Remember if you want plants for 2024, get a form by emailing me on [bethanlloyd\\_8@msn.com.au](mailto:bethanlloyd_8@msn.com.au).

All those who had plants last year, please return pots to Makit Hardware as we recycle the pots.

If we get them back we can keep our prices down.

## Several sightings of fluffy bundles of awkwardness

**Toodyay Naturalists' Club**  
Desraé Clarke

ALTHOUGH in the November *Herald* we stated the Nats were to have a day at the Kaarakin Rehabilitation of Black Cockatoos Centre, the visit did not come to fruition.

The day was forecast to reach 37 degrees on that day – far too hot for the birds.

Kaarakin staff decided to cancel as they would not be able to bring the birds out of their protective area.

New arrangements will be made for the members to visit this unique centre.

With the close of the year the registering of sightings continues.

It is so pleasing to receive data on natural observations.

Of late there have been several excited people reporting nesting willie wagtails.

The fluffy bundles progress to demanding youngsters and finally to the first awkward flying attempts.



Young willie wagtails. Photo: Lyn Phillips.

It is amazing that a pair may have several broods in one season.

As the year winds down the club is planning for 2024.

An informal planning meeting was held at a member's home Saturday December 2 with suggestions and discussions over a 'bring and

share' afternoon tea.

The first meeting for the forthcoming year will be Saturday February 15. Because there is no excursion for the first two hot months of the year, January and February, we hope to use the Anglican Church Hall from 7pm.

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

Our environment matters at the Toodyay Herald...

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

**Join the Chalice team**

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## ENVIRONMENT



Western spinebill. Photo: Sharon Richards.

## A staple diet of nectar and insects will fit the bill

### Bird of the Month

Desraé Clarke

THE WESTERN spinebill is found in the lower southwest of the state from Jurien Bay to Israelite Bay.

It is up to three centimetres shorter than its Eastern States cousin, but has the same fine, long, down-curved bill, which makes it easy to identify.

Colouration of the western species also differs slightly.

The male has a black crown and mask, a noticeable white eyebrow and a small white patch beneath its chin.

A rich chestnut colour covers its throat and chest and continues in a band across the nape.

Below the chestnut area is a narrow white band, then a black one.

The remaining underparts are buff, with the upper body mainly olive-grey.

During flight its outer tail feathers are noticeably white.

The female is plainer in colour with a rufous neck and nape but without the banding of the male.

Breeding is from September to January.

The cup-shaped nest, which may be located in low shrubbery or a small tree, is made from shreds of bark and grass stems bound with spiders web.

It is often lined with the woolly flock from zamias.

One or two eggs are laid, white with a slight buff or pink colouring, sparingly spotted and blotched with chestnut or purplish brown.

Incubation is mainly by the female with the male assisting with the upbringing of the young.

The Western spinebill is found in shrubby bushland, Banksia and heath areas, terrain that holds the red and green kangaroo paw, one-sided bottlebrush species, Grevillea species, the hairy jug flower plant, all plants that support a high nectar intake.

The species, which feeds on a staple diet of nectar through a long, tubular tongue, will also take insects.

The call of the Western spinebill is a high staccato and metallic piping call.

The species is not common in Toodyay but is nonetheless found in the district.

The Toodyay Naturalists' Club always welcomes observations of natural history interest.

A photo is also greatly appreciated.

Adding information from the community to the data base is important, as it gives an overview of the health of our local biodiversity.

To add your information to the sightings email [info@toodyaynats.org.au](mailto:info@toodyaynats.org.au) or phone 9574 5574.

# Members astounded by gecko find

## Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance

Desraé Clarke

TOODYAY'S Julimar State Forest encompasses a diversity of ecosystems and landscapes.

Within this diversity there is a variety of herpetofauna including species of lizard, python, monitor, snake, gecko, goanna, dragon and turtle, all important as part of the food chain in the Australian environment.

The Julimar Forest has an amazing variety of landscapes.

Sandy soils, rocky outcrops, moist areas, low heath, ancient, smooth-barked wandoo together with rough-barked marri and the smaller, many-stemmed jarrah provide homes for the inhabitants of the forest.

A well-known resident of the area is the southern carpet python (*Morelia spilota*).

This beautiful reptile can climb high into the wandoo canopy to catch birds such as ravens and green parrots, using its phenomenal speed to ambush its prey.

Hollows in large, broken-off branches of the 300 to 400-year-old powderbark wandoos provide habitat for the carpet python.

Look up and you may see the shiny body of this exceptional creature.

A second python found in the area was the woma or sand python (*Aspidites ramsayi*), but it has not been sighted in these areas since the 1950s.

There have been two suspected sightings but without a photo to make a definite identification.

The woma is very occasionally sighted around the Monkey Mia area.

The woma may yet be re-discovered within the large acreage of Julimar Forest.

It is a large species, soft brown in colour with darker brown irregular bandings.

The same species in the north of the state is a golden colour with brown bandings.

Its preys on rabbits and small mammals but it is primarily a reptile-feeder.

The woma does not have the heat-sensing lip pits of the carpet python.

When Toodyay Naturalists Club members were on an excursion in the forest, club patron John Dell mentioned that geckos lived in crevices in the bark of trees, especially in powderbark wandoo.

As he made this statement he moved to a tree, pulled back a small piece of bark from the tree trunk and resting there was a tree dtella gecko (*Gehyra variegata*).

The members were astounded.

The southern shovel-nosed snake (*Brachyurophis semifasciata*) is a small, stout reptile of up to 33cm from snout to vent with a stout 3cm tail.

It has brownish-red colouring with darker bandings that do not encircle its body.

It feeds exclusively on reptile eggs, using flat, blade-like teeth to penetrate the shells before consuming the collapsed egg.

The egg matter is digested, and the shell passed as waste.

This beautifully coloured, harmless little snake is found in cracks in the soil, beneath rocks, stumps and rubbish or among leaf litter in sandy Banksia woodland.

The southern blind snake (*Ramphotyphlops australis*) favours leaf litter in areas of sandy soil.

It can disappear amazingly quickly into soft sand with a few quick wriggles.

Its second means of protection are its body glands which produce a nasty odour.

This quaint creature has bullet-shaped ends but does not appear to have a head.

Close inspection reveals two tiny black eyes and a tiny flicking forked tongue which denotes it as a snake.

The southern blind snake also lives in termite mounds.

Not much is known about this snake as it spends much of its time underground.

Burton's legless lizard (*Lialis burtonis*) is a great favourite.

This handsome creature has a snout-vent length of up to 30cm but its slender tail can be one to one-and-a-half times this length.

Its long-pointed snout and squared-off tongue are decisive indicators, as it lacks the forked tongue of most snake species.

Colouration may be rusty brown, pale grey or cream.

The pale grey specimen has a black stripe from its head through its eye, running the length of the body and tail.

The western bearded dragon (*Pogona minor*) favours rocky outcrops on which it rests in the sun.

This reptile, with a snout-to-vent length of 5.5cm, has a long slender tail and is quite agile in climbing trees and shrubbery.

Three monitor species are found within Julimar: the large, heavily built Gould's monitor (*Varanus gouldii*); the slender, dark-coloured black-tailed monitor (*Varanus tristis*); and the southern heath monitor (*Varanus rosenbergii*).

Gould's monitor loses its bands as it ages but is recognisable from its white or yellow tail tip.

It favours sand areas with litter and digs burrows with a series of entrances.

The main prey of all three species is vermin.

The skink is represented by the bobtail (*Tiliqua rugosa*) and the smooth, shiny-scaled and broad-banded sandswimmer (*Eremiascincus richardsonii*).

This nocturnal skink escapes predation by diving into loose sand, moving rapidly as if through water.

There are at least 37 species of reptile in the Julimar Forest – there are possibly many more.

It would be a wonderful surprise to re-discover the beautiful woma – with an accompanying photo for identification.



Carpet python. Photo: Lou Kidd.

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## WHERE AND WHEN

### ART & CRAFT / HOBBIES / HISTORY

**Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association**  
Third Saturday Old Engineer's Quarters next to Northam Railway Museum, Fitzgerald St Northam 10.30am. 9622 5932.

**Avon Woodturners Group**  
Every Sunday and Wednesday, Toodyay Junction, Railway Pde 9am-noon. Hamish Dobie 0423 115 204.

**Morangup Social Craft Group**  
First and third Tuesday monthly, Morangup Communityw Hall 10am-12:30pm

**Ragbags Quilting Group**  
First and third Wednesday monthly, St Stephen's Hall 10am-2.30pm. 9574 4503.

**The Crooked Needle**  
Friday morning craft \$3.50 CWA Hall Stirling Tce 9.30am- noon. Jan 0407 083 079, Annette 9574 2332.

**Toodyay Community Singers**  
Thursdays, CWA Hall, Stirling Terrace from 5-7pm.

**Toodyay Historical Society**  
Third Wednesday monthly (not Dec) St Stephen's Church Hall, Stirling Tce 7pm. Drummond House open Saturday 10am-noon (next to Bendigo Bank, Stirling Tce). Research Centre open by appt. Beth Frayne 9574 597, secretary.2j.ths@gmail.com, www.toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au

**Toodyay Miniature Railway**  
Easter Saturday, thereafter first and third Sunday monthly until Nov. Mark, President 0424 281 770.

**Toodyay Spinners**  
Every Wednesday; first and third Saturday monthly Parker's Cottage, Showgrounds 9am to noon. Gail Williams 9622 3411.

**Toodyay Theatre Group**  
David Mitchell 0400 283 425.

### CHURCHES

**Anglican Church**  
Sundays St Stephen's Church 10am.

**Catholic Church**  
Saturday Vigil 5pm. Wednesday Adoration 4.10pm, Benediction 4.20pm, Mass 5pm. northamcatholicchurch@iinet.net.au. 9622 5411.

**Catechesis Group**, ages 3-12 School terms Tuesdays 4.30-5.30pm. St John the Baptist Church, Stirling Tce. Sharon Pegrum 0466 430 979. sharonpegrum@outlook.com.

**Bakers Hill Fellowship**  
Sundays Bakers Hill Primary School Music Room 10am. Pastor Peter Booth 0417 945 725.

**Toodyay Baptist Church**  
Sundays 18 Stirling Tce 10.30am. Joy 0432 470 771.

**Uniting Church**  
St Stephen's Church 10am.

### EDUCATION / PLAYGROUPS

**Bizzy Bees**  
Pre-kindy for 3-year-olds. Toodyay DHS. Jessica Donovan 0407 128 105.

**Toodyay District High School P&C**  
Tuesday of Week 5 each term TDHS staff room 5.30pm. Kelly-Anne Murray 0406 585 716. search 'Toodyay DHS P&C' on Facebook, write to Toodyay District High School P&C at PO Box 1624, Toodyay WA 6566. email pandctoodyaydhs@gmail.com.

**Toodyay Playgroup**  
Tuesdays, Thursdays 9-11am. Wednesdays Bubs Play 10am-noon. Jessica Donovan 0407 128 105.

### EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Bejoording VBFB**  
Third Friday monthly 5.45pm, Bejoording Fire Shed.

**Coondle-Nunile VBFB**  
Second Saturday monthly October-April, June, August 5pm, Coondle Fire Shed.

**Morangup VBFB**  
Third Saturday of the month, 3 Wallaby Way, Morangup 5.30pm. Sharon Gamble or secretarymvbfb@gmail.com.

**St John Morangup Sub Centre**  
Volunteering, first aid kits, Benefit Fund memberships, 48 Wallaby Way, Morangup. Monday and Wednesday 8am-4pm. 0418 741 971.

**St John Toodyay Sub Centre**  
Volunteering, first aid kits and refills, Benefit Fund memberships, general enquiries, 120B Stirling Terrace. 9574 2390. Emergency call 000.

**Toodyay Central VBFB**  
Second Tuesday monthly Toodyay Fire and Emergency Services Centre 7.30pm.

**Toodyay State Emergency Service**  
Fourth Tuesday monthly 3 Wallaby Way Morangup. Jeff Venn 0438 490 331 toodyayseslocalmanager@gmail.com.

**Toodyay Volunteer Fire and Rescue**  
First Monday monthly, Toodyay Fire and Emergency Services Centre 7.30pm.

### ENVIRONMENT

**Avon Valley Environmental Society**  
Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Centre, 269 Fitzgerald St, Northam. Third Friday monthly, noon. Janet Wilkinson 9574 5947.

**Earth Solutions - Avon Valley**  
Second Tuesday monthly (not Jan) Old Northam Railway Station, 425 Fitzgerald St Northam 6pm. Karen Ducat 0438 223 886.

**Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance**  
Julimarforest@gmail.com.

**Marsupial Mammals and Pappas**  
Wildlife Rescue Brian Foley 0419 933 721.

**Safe and Scenic Toodyay Road**  
Andrew St John. sastr.com.au.

**Toodyay Friends of the River**  
Second Sunday monthly or following Monday, 9am (winter); 8am (summer). See TFOR noticeboard outside Drummond House. 0429 984 482.

**Toodyay Garden Club**  
First Thursday monthly, 10am. Hamish Dobie, President 0423 115 204, toodyaygardenclub@gmail.com for venue or Judy on 0437 077 875.

**Toodyay Naturalists' Club**  
Third Saturday monthly. 9574 5574, info@toodyaynats.org.au.

**Toodyay Seed Group**  
Toodyay Junction, opposite Shire depot. Email bethan\_lloyd8@msn.com.

### FESTIVALS & EVENTS

**Toodyay Agricultural Show**  
www.toodyayagsociety.com.au

**Toodyay Farmers Market**  
Third Sunday monthly, 0429 984 482, toodyayfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

**Toodyay Moondyne Festival**  
moodynecommittee@gmail.com.

### HEALTH

**Australian Breastfeeding Association**  
Second and fourth Tuesday monthly, 3 Elizabeth Place Northam 10am-noon. Third Tuesday monthly Toodyay Playgroup noon-2pm. Louise 9574 0229.

**Child Health Clinic**  
Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Bree Byfield. 9621 0100

**Forget-Me-Not Memory Café**  
Second Tuesday monthly, Toodyay Bakery. 10am-noon.

**Mr Perfect**  
Toodyay Mr Perfect BBQ first Sunday monthly from 10.30am to 12.30pm at Duidgee Park. mrperfect.org.au also Mr Perfect Community Group on Facebook.

**Toodyay Medical Centre**  
Stirling Terrace. Monday-Friday 9am-4pm. 9545 7101. Pathology Mon-Fri 9am-1pm.

**Toodyay Men's Shed**  
Monday, Thursday, Saturday Harper Rd 8.30am-noon. Secretary 0499 403 830.

### JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

**Liz Boston, JP**  
lizboston3160@gmail.com, 0428 742 349 Leave message if no answer.

**Jacquie Lacy, JP**  
januaryjac@gmail.com. 0429 959 179.

### MUSIC

**Toodyay Community Singers**  
Thursdays CWA Hall, Stirling Terrace 7pm. Anne-Marie Millar 0408 364 918.

**Toodyay Music Club**  
Second Saturday monthly, CWA Hall 1pm. Joe 0400 862 694.

### SENIORS

**Autumn Club**  
Wednesdays, Toodyay Sports Pavilion 1-4pm. Glenyce Bosnjak 9574 4587.

**Butterfly Cottages**  
Second Thursday every two months. Jenn Nock butterfly2j@gmail.com.

**Fitness and Fun for the Over 55s**  
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays Youth Hall, Showgrounds 9am.

**Ida's Hideaway**  
Saturdays Toodyay Baptist Church, Stirling Terrace 1-4pm. Ann Sinclair 0407 775 459.

**Silver Chain Social Centre**  
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays Toodyay Community Centre 78 Stirling Tce. 1300 650 803.

### SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

**Air Force Cadets 708 Squadron**  
Fridays school term, 12½-17yrs AAFC Building J1, Northam Army Camp Great Eastern Hwy 6.30-9.30pm. 708squ@cadetnet.gov.au.

**Bejoording Community Group**  
Wednesdays Bejoording Community Centre Bejoording Rd 6pm. Barry Grey, President 0428 742 149.

**Country Women's Association**  
General meetings fourth Thursday monthly, coffee mornings second Thursday monthly, 10am CWA Hall. Bookings Margot Watkins 0405 067 591 or 9574 2823.

**Moondyne Men**  
Mondays, Thursdays RSL Hall, Clinton St 9am-noon. Colin Bird, Secretary 0424 195 003.

**Morangup Progress Association**  
Chair Daryl Cooper chair@morangupmpa.com.au. www.morangupmpa.com.au.

**RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch**  
Saturdays May 13, Jul 15, Sep 9 (AGM), Oct 7, Dec 9 2023. RSL Shed, Clinton St 1pm. Bob Wood 0412 681 794.

**Safer Toodyay Inc**  
Meetings announced in Herald column. secretary@safertoodyay.org.au, 9574 5574.

**Toodyay Lions Club**  
First and third Tuesday monthly, Freemasons Hotel. Clint Fricker, Secretary 0423 226 898.

**Toodyay Masonic Lodge**  
Fourth Thursday monthly, Masonic Hall Fiennes St 7.30pm. Mick Tock, 9622 8990

**Toodyay Red Cross**  
Second Monday Feb, May, Aug, Nov Anglican Hall 1.30pm.

**Toodyay RoadWise Committee**  
Second Wednesday monthly, Toodyay Police Station 9.30am. Bob Neville 0419 853 160.

### SPORT

**Avon Valley Adult Riding Club**  
Fourth Saturday monthly Feb-Nov, Northam. Tina 0499 030 177.

**Avon Valley Shotokan Karate Club**  
Wednesdays Youth Hall, Showgrounds. Peewees 3.45-4.30pm; Juniors 4.30-5.30pm; Seniors 6-7.30pm. avonvalleyshotokan@gmail.com.

**Mortlock Pony Club**  
First Sunday Feb-Nov, Goomalling. Tanzi 0427 859 493.

**Toodyay Bowling Club**  
Ladies Thursdays 8.30am. Liz Sullivan 0429 311 256. Men Fridays 3pm. Andrew Watson 0418 269 773. Mixed Winter Bowls Thursday 12.30pm. Liz Sullivan. All welcome.

**Toodyay Golf Club**  
Mixed comp Sundays noon; Ladies Wednesdays 1.30pm. Liz 0429 311 256. Men's scroungers Thursdays 2pm. Bruce 0417 028 089.

**Toodyay Soccer Club**  
Mondays 4-5.30pm terms 2-3, ages 5-15yrs. toodyaysoccer@gmail.com.

**Toodyay Tennis Club**  
Tuesdays winter social tennis, Toodyay Recreation Centre, 9am unless raining. Members \$4, visitors \$8, includes morning tea. Racquets available. 0433 510 416, Facebook @toodyaytennisclub.

Send Classifieds and Public Notices advertisements to:  
advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTS

### For Sale

COMMERCIAL 2 Door Fridges  
1 Vintage Crown Branded Double Door Orford Australian made - Not suitable for food \$990.00 ONO.  
1 Black NORSK 1000 ltr energy efficient. 2 years old - still has warranty with the supplier. \$1550.00 ONO  
Both fridges are in full working condition and are sold as is. No warranty offered on Crown Fridge.  
Email toodyaybottlemart@outlook.com.au if you require any more information.

### Situations Vacant

TOODYAY Medical Group is seeking a casual receptionist. Must have experience in reception work - preferably in a GP practice. Please email practicemanager@toodyaymedicalgroup.com.au.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Annual General Meeting

TOODYAY Agricultural Society Inc. 2024 Annual General Meeting. To be held at the Youth Hall, Toodyay Showgrounds at 7pm on 12 February 2024.

### Death Notices

KIMBERLEY, Joseph Charles (Rooster) 10.2.1947 - 11.11.2023. Son of Edgar and Pearl (both Deceased). Husband of Joy (Deceased). Father of Lorraine, Grandfather of Ebony and Jasmine.

Long time friend of the Docherty and Rowles families. Rest in Peace Joe.  
Ann and Syd.

### Executors of the Estate of the Late

#### Lola Ferguson

ALL CREDITORS, we are formally notifying of any outstanding claims against the Estate of the Late Lola Ferguson formerly of 196 Chidlow Street, Northam, and also formerly of Bethavon. To be lodged within 30 days of date advertised. Contact details: hooked@wn.com.au psandje@bigpond.com

## Toodyay Rainfall

Recordings and average commenced on 1/1/1877

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2019	1.8	0	5.8	15.4	8.7	125.7	128.4	66.3	13.4	15.2	6.0	0	386.7
2020	0	31.6	9.8	6.4	38.2	48.9	43.7	61.8	30.2	5.9	48.8	3.5	328.8
2021	0.03	17.3	137.3	11.1	121.7	30.4	154.2	70.3	39	61.6	2.2	0	645.13
2022	31.7	4.5	14	30.9	36.8	43	42.7	151.1	44	15.6	12	5.1	431.4
2023	0.1	0	54.9	29	21.8	74.3	42.4	19.8	32.3	2.9	7.4		284.9
<b>Average</b>	<b>12.10</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>19.50</b>	<b>23.30</b>	<b>54.90</b>	<b>77.10</b>	<b>101.60</b>	<b>60.40</b>	<b>35.40</b>	<b>24.70</b>	<b>12.70</b>	<b>8.80</b>	<b>402.80</b>

**BRAIN TEASERS**



**Combo Crossword**

1		2	3		4		5		6	
7							8			
		9								
10					11					12
13			14					15		
16	17						18			
					19					
20								21		
			22							

- ACROSS**
- 2 Strengthens
  - 7 Was dressed in
  - 8 Treaty
  - 9 Always
  - 10 Women's underwear
  - 11 Black Sea peninsula
  - 13 Brainy
  - 16 Helpful tool
  - 18 Young adult
  - 19 Religious symbol
  - 20 A factory
  - 21 Measure out
  - 22 Provided money

- DOWN**
- 1 Testing saliva
  - 2 Part of body
  - 3 Revolutions (abb)
  - 4 Going around
  - 5 A season
  - 6 High point
  - 12 Looked after
  - 14 Completely cover
  - 15 Levelled off
  - 17 Eager
  - 18 Large book

**Cryptic Clues**

- ACROSS**
- 2 Something holding things together for couples
  - 7 Donned clothes slowly eroded
  - 8 Agreement to stop last part of play . . .
  - 9 . . . in reversed scene always
  - 10 Bars treatment for supporters
  - 11 Felony before a great battlefield
  - 13 Letting line move showing mental capacity
  - 16 Run round to obtain a handy device . . .
  - 18 . . . quite enough to show a young person
  - 19 I direct steering to religious symbol
  - 20 Move in confusion with grinding machine
  - 21 Measure a limiting mark
  - 22 Financially backed amusement with last word to reporter

- DOWN**
- 1 Large mop with container good for testing racehorses
  - 2 Run animal round in front of the body
  - 3 Starting round each vein soon increases the speed of engines
  - 4 Distribution of issues in movement of one's blood
  - 5 The time of the year for water source
  - 6 Came out in the highest part
  - 12 Was present at first due date ten composed
  - 14 Flung round after eastern swamp
  - 15 Levelled with first woman and small boy
  - 17 Keen to start as victory is due
  - 18 Volume written to setter here

**Sudoku**

Sudoku is based on the logical placement of numbers. Sudoku doesn't require any calculation nor special math skills; all that is needed are brains and concentration. Every number from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine columns, nine rows and the nine 3x3 boxes.

**Easy**

	4			1			2	8
	6	8				7		
1				7				
				8		9		
8			2		5			4
	3				7		6	1
		4			6	2	8	
			4					
		1		5				3

**Hard**

	4			1			2	8
	6	8				7		
1				7				
				8		9		
8			2		5			4
	3				7		6	1
		4			6	2	8	
			4					
		1		5				3

**Crosscode**

Crosscode is a logic puzzle. Each letter is a number. Begin by guessing the first word and placing the additional letters into the crosscode. Keep guessing words/letters until completed.

17	6	18	24	16	1	16	2		23	9	17	18	23	26	
1		11		21		6			24		23			7	
5	7	18	16	22	1	22	4		11	21	22	T	26	6	24
7		8		6		19		21		16		6			24
1	22	6	11	23		21	14	10	1	21	7	23	17	4	
25		11				24		18		7					1
	24	6	11	18	24	13		17	18	16	22	6	24	16	
6		16		2				20		15					2
16	18	22	7	24	18	17		18	2	6	16	20	4		
3			6		18			11			17			25	
21	24	20	26	6	23	22	24	18		20	24	R	18	16	6
4		17		11		6		22		4		1			18
1	24	21	16	6	25			19	6	17	20	21	11	6	25
16		23		16				7		17		6			17
2	7	6	23	22	23			12	24	1	6	16	25	17	4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	M	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	T	23	R	24	25	26

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

**Notes**

**Puzzle solutions Page 30**

**YOU'RE PREPARED  
BECAUSE WE PREPARED**

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Chowing down to a hearty Yuletide feast might not be such a good idea for Fido.

## Don't give your furry friends a Christmas bellyache

**Heartlands Veterinary Clinic**  
Dr Ashlee Clare

CHRISTMAS is right around the corner and for most of us this means chaotic last-minute shopping trips and an exorbitant amount of leftover food.

For our canine pets this can often mean some extra-special mealtimes which might include what we call "the dreaded Christmas ham".

Which brings us to the topic of pancreatitis, or inflammation of the pancreas, an organ which secretes enzymes to aid in digestion of food.

In pancreatitis these enzymes start to digest the pancreas itself leading to inflammation that is extremely painful and potentially life-threatening.

What does this have to do with the Christmas ham, you ask?

Ham is a common cause of pancreatitis in dogs during December – but don't be fooled, it's not the only one.

Any high-fat foods such as sausages, bacon or cheese are common culprits, and we see pancreatitis year-round.

Pancreatitis can also be caused by obesity, sudden changes in the fat content of diets, and by other underlying diseases.

Common symptoms to look for are vomiting, a painful tummy, diarrhoea, loss of appetite and lethargy.

Luckily you can reduce the risk by avoiding feeding your dog table scraps or other food that may be high in fat, by maintaining a consistent diet and keeping your dog at a healthy weight.

Please feel free to contact us at Heartlands Veterinary Hospital if you would like more information or are concerned about your pet.



VETERINARY CARE & 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

**FOR LARGE & SMALL ANIMALS**

ACROSS THE AVON VALLEY AND WHEATBELT



**Heartlands  
Veterinary Hospital**



**Heartlands Toodyay**

98 Stirling Terrace TOODYAY WA 6566

**08 9574 5055**

Consulting Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:30pm, Saturday CLOSED

**For After-hours Emergencies only 0418 264 423**

## Blokes regret being too busy to spend time with the kids

**Warrior Wellbeing**  
Regional Men's Health

OUR TEAM at Regional Men's Health talk to a lot of blokes, but equally importantly we do a lot of listening.

We often hear older men regretting not spending more time with their kids, or 'I spent my life busting my guts working and missed out on a lot of the little things'.

Life can be a double-edged sword, and I respect those men who saw their primary role as the breadwinner, and prioritised their work with the best interests of their family in mind.

The downside is these men were quite often too preoccupied with work to be able to commit time to the kind of family moments we now consider fundamental.

My partner did an amazing job giving birth to all three of our children at home (under the supervision of an experienced midwife) and I was actively encouraged to be involved through all stages of the pregnancy and birthing process.

This stands in stark contrast to the experiences of men from my grandfather's era, who were often sidelined.

Modern family structures vary, with no set rules on who does what.

Women have historically been considered the carers and nurturers, but they may also have careers.

Are we equally accepting of men who show a nurturing and caring side as well as a commitment to their careers?

Finding this balance can be difficult.

Spending time with the kids is a priority for many blokes and I believe some of the most enjoyable and rewarding times comes from being in their company.

Don't get me wrong: we all have times when we're challenged (and our patience tested) and sometimes our ability as a father is questioned.

We need to be aware of time spent on work and with our partner, and manage that time



It's important for Dads not to work too hard, so we can also explore our own passions and interests (self-care).

Here are some tips for fathers or father figures:

- Don't be afraid of everyday tasks with your child; changing nappies, bathing, and feeding are all important bonding opportunities;
- As your kids grow, get to know them and take an interest in their passions, interests, hopes, dreams and schooling;
- Talk to your kids, ask them how their day was, tell them about your day; and
- Reading together is one of the simplest but most beneficial things we can do.

There is a saying if we spent twice as much time and half as much money on our children we would all be better off.

Keep it simple: time and presence are the most precious gifts.

To those men who may carry feelings of regret, guilt or loss about what they missed out on with their children, don't forget that any guy can be a dad, but it takes someone special to be a father.

Even if our children are now adults don't forget every child, no matter what their age, seeks the approval of their father.

Tell our kids today that we're proud of them and we love them.

## Margie goes, but Phil back soon

**Volunteers of Toodyay Museums**  
Barry Keens

WE ARE saddened that Margie Eberle, our curator, left last month to take up a new job in Perth.

We wish her well in her new role and thank her most sincerely for guiding us in our varied roles at the Old Gaol Museum.

We continue to keep the Museum open every day, except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

We have missed having Phil due to his recent car accident and hope he will be back with us soon.

Barry has had a hip replacement joint so has not done much this month, with the heavier burden carried by everyone else.

We would welcome inquiries from prospective volunteers for Front of House duties at the Old Gaol Museum.

We are again pleased to supply Toodyay Locals Care (TLC) with funding for 25 lunches at the Christmas Long Table Lunch.

Get a voucher at TLC, or on the day if there are any left.

All inquiries to the Visitor Centre please. We wish all our potential and past visitors a merry Christmas and offer a warm welcome at our Toodyay Museums.

## It's going to get hotter for longer this summer

WA HEALTH is urging Western Australians to prepare for a long hot summer.

With the combined effects of the El Nino and the Indian Ocean dipole, early indications from the Bureau of Meteorology are that the State could be in for hotter than average days and nights, occurring more often and lasting for longer periods this summer.

WA's Chief Health Officer said it was important the community took the State heatwave warnings seriously with the potential for heatwaves to have a significant impact on human health.

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HEALTH



Passion, mission, vocation and profession are the sausage in the sandwich of life.

# Japanese concept offers pathway to wellbeing

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

WHEN it comes to relationships, Tracy Chapman hit the nail on the head with her 2015 hit song *Give Me One Reason*.

The frustration grows in each verse of the song about a relationship gone adrift.

One reason was all she wanted, and one gets the feeling that with it, the relationship would have been saved.

Research shows individuals with a strong sense of purpose in life generally have better mental health and wellbeing.

This isn't to suggest that the meaning of life is as simple as "42" (with a nod to the famous line from *Deep Thought* in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*).

But rather, having a reason for being, a purpose, becomes one's personal compass.

After all, when we cut back to the bare essentials, we all long for a fulfilling life.

The Japanese concept of *ikigai* can offer a helpful pathway to finding one's reason or purpose.

The concept originates in Okinawa, an island prefecture in Japan known for its high number of centenarians.

Google 'Blue Zones' for an informative deep dive into the five regions in the world where

people live longer, healthier lives.

*Ikigai* can be translated as 'to live (*iki*) and reason (*gai*)' – that is, a reason to live.

Finding one's *ikigai* is like sailing in a certain direction while understanding your purpose, ensuring you have a clear direction in mind.

Finding your *ikigai* is akin to assembling a jigsaw.

Each piece is important and when combined, they provide the full picture.

The magic of *ikigai* is at the convergence of four fundamental components: passion, mission, vocation and profession.

Passion is what you love. The stuff you do that in the doing you lose track of time.

Mission refers to what the world needs and what you can offer to fill that void.

It's about identifying the gap and working out how your passions or skills can fill it.

Vocation is what you're good at – your skills. Profession is what you can be paid for.

It's the practical side of the equation.

Visualise these components as overlapping circles, much like the sections in a Venn diagram.

At the centre, where each area overlaps, is your *ikigai* – your reason for getting up and where you should focus your efforts to find ultimate fulfilment.

Want to know more?

The book *Ikigai: The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life* by Albert Liebermann and Hector Garcia is a great starting point.

The Toodyay Mr Perfect BBQ is all about community, connection, and a good feed.

You can find us down at Duidgee Park on the first Sunday of each month from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

SPORT

# New broom ready for a clean sweep of the field

**Toodyay Race Club**  
Stephen Ferguson, Chairman

THE TOODYAY Race Club has a new-look executive and committee.

Stephen Ferguson was elected as Chairman at the annual general meeting in November, with Stirling Thomson filling the role of Vice-Chairman.

Dianne Whitehouse and Geoff Appleby continue as treasurer and secretary while three new members – Liz Ferguson, Theresa Paris and Stephen Cook – join Dave Flaherty, Sean Fitzgerald, Adam Pearce, Phil Wilson and Adrian Wood who were all re-elected to the committee.

The shake-up was necessary following the resignation of Chairman John Prater in August.

John, who had served as President (a role later known as 'Chairman') for 18 years, resigned after deciding to stand for the Toodyay Shire Council in October.

Club members were delighted when he was elected.

We wish Cr Prater well and thank him for his many years of dedicated service to the Toodyay Race Club.

Led by Stephen Ferguson who served as

Vice-Chairman for eight years, the new team is a great mix of experience and enthusiastic new blood, all working cohesively to ensure the Picnic Race Day and Toodyay Cup return home to Toodyay next September.

Meetings between the Shire administration and the club have been constructive.

After a site visit by recently appointed Executive Manager of Infrastructure, Assets and Services Charles Sullivan, representatives of the club were invited to make a presentation to councillors at a workshop in early December.

The club is heartened by the Shire's constructive efforts to work with us to resolve various infrastructure issues.

We are confident that when we meet with Councillors they will approve and support our innovative strategy to return racing to Toodyay in 2024.

As this will be the last *Herald* for 2023, I take the opportunity to wish all members of our community seasonal greetings and a safe, happy and prosperous 2024.

And when you get your 2024 diaries in your Christmas stocking, go to the page for Sunday September 22 and write 'Toodyay Picnic Race Day'.

Happy Christmas.



Home straight action at the Toodyay Race Club.

## Lui to stay as Elders acquires local agency

ELDERS Real Estate has announced the acquisition of Country Realty Toodyay as it continues to expand its operations north-east of Perth.

Country Realty Toodyay is an established real estate agency led by Lui Marcelli.

Mr Marcelli said their focus was on the community and people of Toodyay and surrounding townships.

"I'm delighted to be partnering with Elders to continue to provide remarkable real estate advice and service to the Toodyay community," Mr Marcelli said.

Elders WA State Real Estate Manager Drew Cary said the November 27 acquisition was an excellent arrangement for both parties.

"The opportunity brings together the local expertise of Country Realty Toodyay with the expansive network and resources of Elders," Mr Cary said.

Elders has been operating in the agribusiness and real estate sectors in Australia for more than 180 years.

# Leave your nerves in your shoes at the door

**Avon Valley Shotokan**  
Nat Kielbasa

A NUMBER of karate students are thrilled to be joining a team on a trip of a lifetime to Japan next year.

The 15 students have shown dedication in their study, trained with effort and helped others in lessons.

In a unique opportunity to experience Japanese culture, our students and sensei will stay at a Japanese dojo for two weeks.

School-aged students will stay with Japanese families and visit school with their host's children.

Congratulations to the students and an enormous thank you to Shihan Bainbridge for his efforts making the trip possible.

Grading was held on December 3 at Hombu Dojo.

Congratulations to all students for your superb efforts on the day, we are proud of all of you.

For those who earned a new belt these will be presented at the club challenge.

Christmas is approaching fast and our club will hold a demonstration and burger stall at the Toodyay Christmas Street Party.

Come grab a bite to support our students, say hello and ask any questions you may have about karate.

On December 9 we will hold our Club challenge and Christmas party at the Clackline Dojo from 3pm.

There will also be a Christmas raffle to be drawn.

Thanks to our local businesses there are loads of goodies in the baskets.

Tickets are three for \$5 and can still be purchased on the day.

Spectators are always welcome to join.

If you are feeling festive, wear your most creative Christmas hat on the day for a chance to win awesome prizes.

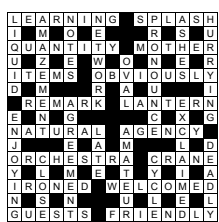
Merry Christmas everyone.

Have a relaxing and safe holiday and we look forward to seeing all students, old and new, in the new year.

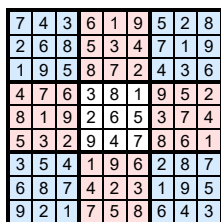
## Puzzle Solutions



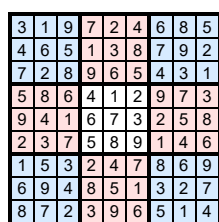
Crossword



Crosscode



Sudoku Easy



Sudoku Hard

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### Principal's Pen

WOW. The hot weather just hit us all! Who can remember a November week with over 40 degrees temperatures. So, I guess we are now all ready for January, February, and March. Roll on 2024. We are ready for you!

**State of the Market** - Unbelievable, the magic number is now well under 5000 properties, last week we hit 4574 properties. The lowest figure for 30 years! What does this mean? Simple, still a huge demand for houses and a lot less to choose from so what would you think is happening to prices? I will let you all decide that one.

**The Court Case** - Well still no response from the state prosecution on our questions, just a simple "we will respond in due course" so I guess we will just have to wait. Certainly messes with your sanity! But hopefully for all of WA we can all get along and enjoy our own properties. More to come in February edition just before the trial.

**More News**

**Auctions** - We are now working all around the wonderful state of WA auctioning properties for all the local shire councils. So far shire of Harvey (Binningup), shire of Coolgardie and Kambalda, shire of Cue, shire of Yalgoo, shire of West Arthur, shire of Cuballing, shire of Pingelly and more coming! Kalgoorlie, Kondinin, Denmark and Tambellup next year. We are doing some kms but love travelling our state.

**Clearing Sales** - The Toodyay Road sale was a great success. Very happy seller and some very happy buyers and some tired staff! Now time for a little rest (yeah right!).

**Now! Inside the Office**

**News flash, news flash, news flash!** - Our wonderful Jo just got married!! What a stunning bride she made and the lucky groom was Wayne Tarry. Just a minute isn't that Jemma's dad you ask? Sure is and when they said their vows there wasn't a dry eye in the crowd. What a truly beautiful couple and they got married on the farm! So that is why I was working so hard at the farm to get it ready for the wedding.

**Now the Team**

**Zonelle** - Our receptionist has just realised how busy our office is! She is crazy because she is still here but doing well and fits in with the girls.

**Jemma** - Just lost her dad to Jo, or did she just gain a wonderful step mum. I think she is very happy and on the wedding night very drunk... but by Tuesday she was back to the most professional PM ever.

**Jo** - I mean, Mrs Tarry is just the happiest person in the world! Hopefully we will have some wedding photos on our website for you all!

**Faith** - Back from her week away, that became 2 weeks away and back running again. Doing an amazing amount of work and still smiling. We love our Faith.

**Jess** - Well Jess has been with me on the auction trial as well as doing all the sales admin, so just a wee bit busy and nearly finished her course. Watch out Sam, she's here!

**Sam** - The most unbelievable worker any business could have! He just can't stop selling properties. Everything he touches turns to SOLD! Sams the man!

**Tony** - Phew, the past few weeks have been busy but if you drive past the farm you will see the results. Nature has returned. From a sandy, silted up dry creek bed it has become a beautiful park with bird life galore, turtles, small minnows, kingfishers, willie wagtails, cockies and a mass of ducks. If you want to see nature at work come and sit quietly on one of the park benches, you will be amazed as I am. Love that farm.

Until next month. Tony Maddox

**Who are we? What do we do? What can we do for you?**

**Thinking about selling your house? - Thinking about buying a home?**

**Thinking about buying an investment property and need efficient**

**property managers? - If you said yes to any of these, then we can help you!**



# Merry Christmas

to you all from all the staff here at Tony Maddox Real Estate



[www.asktonym.com.au](http://www.asktonym.com.au) Telephone: **08 9574 2917**

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