

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.

February 2024
Edition 431

New Australian citizens in a land down under



From left: Toodyay Shire President Mick McKeown and new Australians: Erika Toth, daughter Gina, Patrick Chesters, Nuttakan Stevens, Samuel Provick with local MLC Darren West.

Shire in hot water over creek crossings

Sean Hefferon

LAST month the Shire of Toodyay received two notices of prosecution from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage acting on a complaint and after a subsequent investigation alleging breaches of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

A week after receiving the notices, a Special Council Meeting approved expenditure of up to \$15,000 to obtain legal advice and representation.

The shire faces a fine of \$50,000 if the allegations are proven.

These allegations relate to shire works undertaken in early 2023 to repair crossings on Toodyay Brook at Picnic Hill and Glendearg Road, as well as the Boyagerring Brook crossing near the Toodyay District High School.

In April 2023 the Herald reported on local real estate agent, Tony Maddox being charged under WA's Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 for building a culvert and a crossing

over a winter creek on his property to allow access to his home.

When Mr Maddox's charges became public, the Shire of Toodyay was unable to confirm if the same law applied to the same creek, Boyagerring Brook, as it had upgraded a similar crossing near the Toodyay District High School.

At the time Toodyay Shire CEO Suzie Haslehurst said that the shire would act to seek advice from the State Government.

The CEO has since said that advice was sought and made no further comment due to the current prosecution.

The shire awaits legal advice on the current matter, hence the CEO and Shire President, Mick McKeown were unable to confirm what due diligence was done prior to the shire works to ensure compliance with the Act.

Whether or not the shire will plead guilty or fight the charges awaits legal advice.

The CEO could confirm that some current works including regular maintenance of the Newcastle footbridge had been placed on

hold as the shire was awaiting feedback from the traditional owners of the area in which the bridge is located.

The CEO is also liaising with the shire's insurers on this matter and should legal advice be to proceed to a fully defended trial will be updating council and seeking approval for further expenditure.

There have been past prosecutions of local governments for breaching Aboriginal heritage laws including the Town of Port Hedland in 2022 resulting in a fine of \$8,000.

Two contractors, engaged by the shire to undertake the repair work are also facing charges.

Simon Wacura, owner of WacWil Landscaping and Earthworks, said he was engaged to repair the Boyagerring Brook crossing in 2023.

Paul Sutton, owner of Avon Concrete, was contracted to undertake crossing repairs at Picnic Hill and Glendearg Road which were completed in February 2023.

The State alleges that the shire and its

contractors, "altered and/or damaged Avon River Aboriginal Heritage site 15979, without either the authorisation of the Registrar of Aboriginal Sites or the consent of the Minister".

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Coming events

Toodyay Farmers Market
Sunday 17 March, 9am - 1pm

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Toodyay

The Toodyay Herald

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

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Many thanks to the volunteers who helped produce this edition of *The Toodyay Herald*: Joseph Fernandez (Legal), Peter Ruthven, Richard Grant, Judy Morrissey, Allan Gregory and Michael Sinclair-Jones.

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

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**Noon Friday
February 23**

STORY DEADLINE

**Noon Monday
February 26**

DISTRIBUTED

**Thursday
March 7**

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Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

A life of questions

Dr. Christian Mauri

I ASK questions for a living.

As a kid I was the most curious person on the block, always wanting to know your favourite dinosaur, food, and colour.

The questions changed as I grew older, though my fascination with asking never wavered.

As a young man I discovered sociology and journalism and was smitten by the prospect of asking questions professionally.

Now I'm in the business of capturing the life stories of people and organisations.

I've interviewed sheep shearers and beekeepers, hardworking immigrants and their grateful children, community leaders who have no idea how to explain their work to their friends, and aging siblings as they prepare for the passing of a parent.

Over the next few months, I'll use this column to share with you some of the beautiful stories I've had the honour of hearing.

A lot of the stories people share are of their proudest moments.

These are the extraordinary highlights that sit like trophies at the front of the memory.

Other stories are cautionary tales – embarrassing experiences that took years to blossom into cherished lessons.

The best stories, in my opinion, are the ordinary, deeply relatable ones.

Like precious minerals in a stream, you'll notice these when the light of awareness strikes just-so, but they are easily overlooked.

My hope for this column is to help you spot your own observations as they hatch.

To encourage your awareness of life's little moments.

I promise that, if you join me in learning to love life stories, they will be that much more likely to reveal themselves to you and return when called.

Maybe you'll even be inspired to take more of an interest in the humans around you.

With that in mind, let's start this first edition with three tips for asking questions.

Tip #1. The little questions are the best ones. Think of the question, "What song does your dad sing when he's plodding around the kitchen?"

It might take a little time to recall an answer to this question, but there is most likely an answer to be had – it isn't vague.

And, yet, between you and me, the purpose of a question like this is not to extract a fact.

It is to get the ball rolling – to serve as an appetiser.

The point, in other words, is to coax memory out of its cave and into the daylight.

If asked just-so, it can recall more than just the image of your father dancing.

It also recalls the kitchen in your second house and the smell of apricot chicken.

It gives you the opportunity to either agree with the word "plodding," or to correct me (and thus engage more) by recalling how fit your old man was.

These little domestic questions are unthreatening, multisensory, and conversational - they are the opposite of the big question.

Tip #2: Questions fly in packs. Most people tend to think in terms of "top answers" and "number 1 moments."

You'll know when this is happening because they will stall and say something like, "It's too hard to choose."

This is why it helps to shift expectations away from the "single best answer," and embrace the reality that questions fly in packs.

From there you can let the tangents open before you (I promise, it is in the weeds that the gems are found).

Perhaps the memory of dad singing "Living on a Prayer" in the kitchen will bring to mind the times he'd sing it in the Volvo while going on camping trips.

From there you might recall that your dad, while a dreadful singer, was a world-class fire-builder.

What would you talk about around the fire with your dad?

Let your questions fly in packs, hold your arms out and wait. The answers will alight.

Tip #3 Questions brew. Every new year I create a game of questions to help people reflect on the year gone by.

Questions like, "Who is a new friend you made?" and "What is a promise that was kept?"

Sometimes people will answer right away although more often they'll need time to think about it.

Party game fun aside, the purpose of these questions is not to collect answers rather to encourage awareness.

Realising that they cannot remember how they made a mate in 2023, the person is now more likely to spot such an occasion in 2024.

Not recalling a single promise, they are more likely to hear the next one leave their lips, and thus more likely to take pride in its keeping come 2025.

The question, in other words, is not a purchase, but an investment.

It is like planting a seed so that you can appreciate the sprout at a later date.

For the many fine brewers that live in Toodyay, it is like preparing a homebrew to enjoy with mates further down the track.

Play the long game. Let your questions brew.

FEEDBACK

Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

Suggestions and comments are welcome
 please forward to: feedback@toodyayherald.com.au
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The Toodyay Herald

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

February - March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Feb-01	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	Mar 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Australia Day builds on 60,000-year legacy

Sean Hefferon

THE Australian story begins at least 60,000 years ago.

Australia Day commemorates the day Captain Arthur Phillips raised the Union Jack flag in Sydney Cove.

It is a day that celebrates the history and achievements of the Australian people, but many see it as a day of mourning and a day of invasion by the British settlers.

In Toodyay the public holiday was marked by a community breakfast at the recreation centre followed by a citizenship ceremony and a presentation of community citizen of the year awards.

The very first citizenship ceremony in Australia was officiated by Ben Chifley 75 years ago in Canberra.

Since that first ceremony more than six million people have taken up Australian citizenship.

This year there were 320 citizenship ceremonies across the continent and more than 15,000 people became Australian citizens.

Toodyay did its bit with Australian



Suzy Urbaniak OAM

citizenship conferred upon four local residents.

All came from different parts of the world, and varied backgrounds.



Craig Stewart AFSM

All now become part of the Australian story.

Community Citizen of the Year Awards were presented across four different categories.

These awards recognise people and groups that have made a significant contribution to the community.

The young citizen of the year nominees were Clive Millett and Jayden Hansord (winner).

The community group of the year nominees were Moondyne Men and Toodyay Locals Care (winner).

The citizen of the year nominees were Robyn Hansson, Jaqueline Lucas and Michael Morgan (winner).

The senior citizen of the year nominee was Linda Kirslake (winner).

All nominees are to be congratulated for the hard work, time and passion they put into

the community as volunteers.

The Honourable Darren West MLC said at the Toodyay Australia Day event that volunteers are the lifeblood of the community and that the town has a long history of volunteering – something to be proud of.

Volunteers also helped coordinate the Australia Day Toodyay Parkrun and even on what was a hot day an enthusiastic crowd took to the run.

The local parkrun has its first anniversary on February 24.

Australia Day Honours

Two local residents made the Australia Day 2024 Honours List.

Suzy Urbaniak of Toodyay was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for service to secondary education.

Ms Urbaniak first worked as a geologist in the mining industry and then successfully transitioned into education.

She has been recognised nationally and internationally for the programs she has developed and delivered including CoRE (Centre of Resources Excellence).

The CoRE program has been taken to regional and rural schools in the Wheatbelt including Merredin, Beacon and Koorda.

Local man Mr Craig Stewart from Moondyne was awarded an Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM).

Developing a passion for emergency services as a volunteer with Toodyay Central Bush Fire Brigade in the fire prone Wheatbelt region, Mr Stewart has become a sought-after voice on the direction of bushfire management in WA.

Mr Stewart joined the Toodyay Central Fire Brigade in 1998 before becoming the fire control officer for the Shire of Toodyay in 2010.



Toodyay locals turned up for a breakfast and to welcome new Aussies to the area.

Shire faces court over Aboriginal Heritage Act

Continued from Page 1

The Aboriginal heritage sites includes tributaries such as Toodyay and Boyagerring Brooks.

The Avon River and its tributaries were identified to the State Government in 1999 as sites of special significance under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

A prosecution "statement of facts" described the site as having "mythological value and is the Waugal's home."

"The Waugal is a mythical serpent. It is believed that any alteration to the Waugal's home could scare it from the water causing the water to dry up and cause harm to surrounding environment and people."

The prosecution alleges in relation to the Toodyay Brook works that four crossings were repaired.

"The repair work involved placing rocks within the bed and banks of the Brook using machinery, the laying of reo and concrete topping, the removing of rocks, gravel and dirt to unblock the pipes.

"Trees within the site boundary were pruned and stabilising sand was placed on top of the rocks (Stabilised Sands can be either natural or recycled sands that are blended with specific ratios of a cementitious binder such as cement or stabilment)."



Tony Maddox at the Boyagerring Brook crossing near the Toodyay District High School.

Mr Sutton said he was second generation in providing concreting, kerbing and drainage works and had been doing so through his business Avon Concrete since 1984.

Avon Concrete has done work over the years for many local governments in WA, major companies, as well as in Aboriginal and communities including Jigalong.

He said that Avon Concrete was working under shire direction when doing the crossing repairs.

"Never had a court case for bad workmanship or any breaches of law for work done."

"Shires are getting loaded up with more environmental and clearing considerations and now Aboriginal heritage considerations and what it does it costs more money.

"Shires are stymied by government regulations which flows down to contractors".

He said he had not known that Toodyay Brook was covered by Aboriginal Heritage laws.

Under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 in section 62 there is a special defence of lack of knowledge.

"In proceedings for an offence against this Act it is a defence for the person charged to prove that he did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known, that the place or object to which the charge relates was a place or object to which this Act applies."

The shire and contractors have their first hearing on these matters at the Northam Courthouse at 10am on 26 February 2024.



Local park runner heading to the finish.



Darren West MLC

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Darren West MLC

The Toodyay Herald

Shire faces court

THE NEW year started with a bang for the shire when it received two notices of prosecution for alleged breaches of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

Two local contractors engaged by the shire also face prosecution.

The prosecutions relate to work in 2023 on crossings at Toodyay Brook and Boyagerring Brook.

The Department of Planning Lands and Heritage said last November, "All landowners, be they freehold, leasehold, licensee, invitee or citizen, at large have one simple obligation: that is to not knowingly damage an Aboriginal cultural heritage site, which has been the law since 1972."

The Avon River and all its tributaries are a Registered Aboriginal heritage site.

When it comes to the recognition and protection of Aboriginal heritage, we can always do better.

Local real estate agent Tony Maddox faces court this month on a similar charge for building a crossing on his Nunile property.

Power cut

LAST month residents in Toodyay and the surrounding area endured the longest power cut in living memory.

A sustained heatwave followed by a thunderstorm and severe winds tested Western Power's network and it came up short.

Climate change forecasts show for the Wheatbelt the frequency of very hot days is expected to increase, and heatwaves will get longer and more intense.

More heatwaves and more power cuts – not a combination anyone would order.

The thunderstorm left many residents unable to call triple-0 for emergencies.

Telstra insists "nothing to see here" – and Emergency WA, the state's official source for emergency information, recommends that if you cannot make a triple-0 call to drive to your nearest police station.

Good advice, however, for many residents like the elderly this may be impossible.

Reliable access to emergency services is critical and the Telco providers and government need to get their act together.

The Toodyay Cup is back

TOODYAY is a tourist town and to leverage our proximity to Perth we need to host regular events that showcase our great corner of WA.

In the past the race has attracted large crowds with many visitors overnighting in Toodyay – some perhaps nursing a sore head after a day at the races.

Racing WA Chief Racing Officer David Hunter said: "The Toodyay Cup is a highlight in the local social calendar, and I look forward to seeing the crowds return for a unique day at the races."

The Toodyay Race Club and the shire have a mutual interest in the event being successful.

The shire will also need to ensure that its drawdown on financial reserves for event related works doesn't jeopardise other priorities.

Sean Hefferon
Editor



Toodyay Volunteer Fire Brigade circa 1953. Back row: Max Lee, John Gregson, Andy Woss. Middle row: Larry Cook, Alan Lloyed, Laurie Chitty, B. Thompson, Ray Snow, D.Haywood, J.Peace. Front row: Keith Campbell, Eric Patten (Captain), Ron Lee.

LETTERS

Tit-for-tat prosecution?

SO NOW, in addition to the prosecution of a local business person for breaching the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (AHA), the Shire is now possibly in breach of the same.

Not sure where all this has come from... but it is not Aboriginal people initiating or leading either prosecution.

Even though Aboriginal people unfortunately cop flak.

Just like European heritage, Aboriginal heritage needs protection, both of which are covered by Acts.

But these current prosecutions seem to be more about tit-for-tat, rather than concern for heritage.

I think it has the potential to get out of hand as most landholders across the Wheatbelt will be in a situation where, unintentionally, they might have breached the Act.

Many landholders have never known about the Act.

Surely, it's time to draw a line, start afresh and create positive awareness and education of the AHA in our region.

Helen Shanks
Toodyay

Stunning stars

MY WIFE and I moved to Toodyay 14 months ago and it's a wonderful place to call home.

Being on the outskirts of the world's most isolated capital city, we are blessed every clear night with a stunning star show.

In the winter we explored the river, with the bird hide being a highlight discovery.

We have been proud to introduce our town to our family and friends, each getting the Tour de Toodyay, of the pub, the pool and the bakery.

Entertaining has become such a joy; we are investing in a new fire pit and brick paved entertainment area.

We have weathered both extremes of Toodyay's hot summers and the still, icy winter mornings.

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.

Somehow, we still manage to find peace every day, by simply staring across these wide-open valleys, edged by tall eucalypts or sneaking a float in at the pool.

We look forward to another year of peace at home in Toodyay.

Joshua van Helsdingen
Toodyay

One step at a time

WEEK 50 this Saturday which means we're almost at our 1-year anniversary for our Toodyay based parkrun otherwise known as the Newcastle Park parkrun.

Don't let the name fool you as anyone can join in and you don't have to be able to run, as walkers are more than welcome.

Our event takes place from Newcastle Park every Saturday at 8am.

Bring your dog, your kids, your friends and partners.

It's about getting out and about, getting those endorphins working while having a chat and encouraging others.

Parkrun is a 5 km course and register for free online, which generates a unique barcode just for you.

Once you complete the course (at your own pace), your barcode is scanned, and you receive an email with your finished time.

The hope is that participants will be inspired to come again.

Once you've come to our humble group, you'll want to come back as we have a reputation as being one of the friendliest groups around.

If you are not sure about making the full 5km, consider doing half the distance or volunteering to see what it is all about.

We have a regular turnout of locals, along with many tourists from different vicinities in Perth driving up for the day to browse the local shops and eateries after working up a sweat with us

So be daring and come and join us, you are guaranteed to get some exercise, a few

smiles and actually have a good time
What more could you ask for?

Dani Xuereb
Toodyay

Team effort

FIRSTLY, I would like to thank the Toodyay community for my nomination and award in the Shire of Toodyay's Australia Day 2024 celebrations.

I am just one of many, many volunteers in our community who provide essential services and help our town thrive through many local organisations.

There are currently 51 other dedicated volunteers in the Toodyay sub-centre of St John Ambulance.

I'd like to acknowledge that responding to emergency call-outs at all hours of the day and night is always a team effort from both frontline volunteers and many who work behind the scenes, who are often not publicly recognised, including our families.

Congratulations to all the other nominees and award recipients in this year's celebrations.

Michael Morgan
Nunile

Community spirit shines

CONGRATULATIONS to everyone involved in the Toodyay Australia Day celebrations; a well put-together and run event.

The Shire President spoke well and his inclusion of the pioneer effort and modern Australians in his acknowledgement was very welcome.

Equally, the CEO did a good job; I think we'll come to regret losing her.

Well done to the award winners and the nominees, and welcome to the new Australians that became citizens.

Allan Henshaw
Toodyay

"Thank you
Toodyay Herald,
that ad worked
wonders"



Wheatbelt Clinical Psychology
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Richard Taylor
Clinical Psychologist

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Shire votes 4-2 and the Toodyay Cup is back in town

Sean Hefferon

TWO Special Council Meetings were held late last month.

The first meeting considered items that had not been dealt with due to the adjournment of the December 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting.

The December meeting was adjourned when two elected members and an executive manager left the meeting to attend to the fire emergency that had commenced earlier that day.

A number of items were considered at the first meeting including a proposal from the Toodyay Race Club seeking Shire support for various remediation works that would enable the Toodyay Cup and Picnic Race Day to occur on 22 September 2024.

Key to the proposal's success was the Shire agreeing to fund the replacement of the roof and guttering over the Tote and horseshoe public bar area.

The proposal and the Shire officer's recommendation in respect to it was debated in council.



Out of the starting gates at the Toodyay Races.

The Shire officer's recommendation included that Council confirms support for the return of the Toodyay Cup and Picnic Race Day to the Toodyay Racecourse in 2024 and that up to \$200,000 be allocated

from the Asset Development Reserve for this work and that other funding sources were investigated to support the Shire's contribution.

The current balance of the reserve is just

over \$600,000 with \$145,000 committed to other projects – including the Bejoording Fire Station.

Council debate focused on a number of areas such as Shire financial priorities and the benefits of the Cup returning to Toodyay.

The council voted 4-2 in favour of the recommendation so the Toodyay Cup and Picnic Race Day is back.

In the second meeting part of the Shire officer's recommendation was for Council to authorise the CEO to engage legal advice and representation up to a maximum of \$15,000 relating to two notices of prosecution that the Shire has received under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (*story front page*).

Chalice to cut costs by 40 per cent

Sean Hefferon

CHALICE Mining, due to weak market conditions, is to cut costs by 40 per cent in 2024.

Amelia Walker, Chalice Communications Manager said the "reduction in expenditure is to maintain the Company's strong financial position and ensure the Gonnevillie Project progresses on schedule.

"To date, activity at the Gonnevillie Project site has been focussed on resource drilling largely staffed through contractors.

"We therefore do not expect Chalice's reduced expenditure to have a significant impact on Toodyay."

Chalice estimates that there will be approximately 1200 peak jobs during construction and 500 jobs during operation.

Residents in the Julimar area near the proposed mine site said Chalice had been in contact about the pending reduction in some project work.

Local resident Karen Chappelow owns a property alongside the project site.

She and her partner bought their property nine years ago for their retirement and with plans for chalet accommodation including accommodation for art and pottery classes.

Her retirement plans have, in her words, "been ruined" ever since Chalice arrived next door.

She said they are "waiting for Chalice to do the right thing" and that "we were there before them".

Loss of power causes widespread chaos

Sean Hefferon

HUNDREDS of Toodyay houses and businesses were left without power last month, some for several days, during a sweltering State-wide heatwave.

The power loss was due to a severe thunderstorm with winds of up to 100kmh on January 16 that hit the Perth Hills, Wheatbelt and Goldfields.

The storm knocked down transmission towers, power lines and trees, and damaged property.

Western Power reported that at its peak the power loss left 34,000 customers without power.

Damage to the network in the Wheatbelt region included 182 poles damaged and a further 46 from a fire in Wongan Hills.

Lightning strikes and bushfires were the main culprits for the power loss significantly damaging the power network.

In Toodyay the generator at the shire depot took a direct lightning strike.

No power means no air conditioning and for Toodyay residents a swim at the local pool would have provided relief from the heatwave during the power outage.

No power also meant that the water filtration system at the pool could not be used so it was closed during the outage.

Local businesses were hit hard by the power loss, including IGA Toodyay.

IGA manager, Adrian Eisenhour, said it was the longest loss of power he had ever experienced.

Items from IGA sections including the freezer, meat, dairy, deli, instant meals, fresh fruit were thrown out due to being spoiled.

He estimated extra costs in the order of \$150,000 due to spoiled stock.

Stock has to be replenished as well so the financial cost of the power cut to IGA Toodyay is significant.

Mr Eisenhour said that a store generator may be an option for future incidences and this would be for head office to consider.

Damian Davis of Toodyay Hardware and Farm said his business closed when the power was first lost and then tried to reopen the next day – but with no air conditioning and cash sales only had to close again.

He said the outage led to a spike in generator inquiries, he could have sold a dozen when the power was out.

The hospitality sector in Toodyay wasn't spared the effects of the power loss either.

The Toodyay Bakery after a much-needed break over the Christmas period – reopened on January 16, shutting hours later when they lost power.

Roz Davidson of Toodyay Locals Care said that the Fiennes Street charity lost all its perishable food.

"We lost over 100 ready-made meals as well as food that would have made another 500 meals".

The power loss also led to a breakdown in communication systems.

Most households and businesses were left without basic phone communication or internet access.

People living in Toodyay and surrounds were unable to call triple-0.

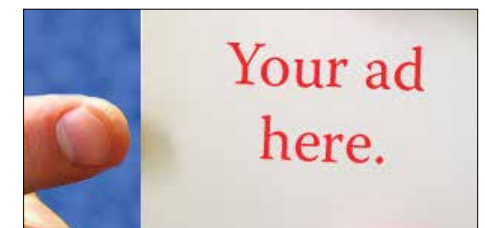
The local fire brigades were kept busy during the power loss with several fires including in Bindoon and Chittering.

The lack of mobile phone reception made it difficult to contact volunteers.

The longest power loss in local memory reinforces how critical a reliable source of power is to our country lifestyle in the Wheatbelt.



A plume of smoke from a fire started by lightning strike. Photo Clive Millett.



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17 year old allegedly drove at 180km/h

Police Beat

With Sgt
Jamie Boryczewski
Toodyay Police Station



Police Beat Toodyay Police Station

FROM a local policing view the recent Christmas period was good with traffic offences down compared with the previous year.

That said, a local resident was recently charged with two counts of reckless driving where it will be alleged the driver was found to be travelling at 180km/h in an 80km/h zone.

The 17-year-old driver, not long with his driver's licence, had his motor vehicle impounded and is to appear in court soon.

The above serves as a reminder that if you speed not only do you put yourself and others at risk, you are breaking the law.

It pays not to speed.

With the current hot weather, it may also be tempting to leave the car running and air conditioning on as you quickly duck into the shops and attend to other tasks.

No one likes to jump back into a hot car however leaving an unoccupied car is an offence and as unlikely as it is in Toodyay – increases the risk of opportunistic car theft.

Looking after each other in a small town like Toodyay is obviously important and the recent power cut emphasised that.

Keep an eye on your neighbours, especially the elderly, and if you haven't seen them for a few days or perhaps the bins haven't gone out – go and check on them.

It will put your mind at ease and your neighbour will appreciate you looking out for them.

In terms of numbers, overall crime in



CCTV cameras are a good deterrent against thieves.

Toodyay was down 17 per cent in 2023 compared with 2022.

This is due to a community focused town culture and I'd like to think a proactive local police team.

Still please remain vigilant – CCTV or alarms (or both) are worth considering as they are a good deterrent against criminal behaviour.

Deterrents may not be enough, however, if you are posting your whereabouts on social media.

Burglars do browse social media to target properties that may be vacant due to the owners being on holiday.

In regard to the last month's power cuts, for Toodyay Police it was business as usual.

We were still able to operate in the shire and communicate via radio.

Northam Police Station was our base

during the power cut and all calls were being logged in Northam and dispatched to Toodyay.

The front desk at the Toodyay Police Station, is attended from Monday to Wednesday between 8am to 4pm.

Outside those hours the station door will be closed but officers are available and can be contacted on 9574 9555 or 131 444.

On a final note, if you are sharing the roads with our vehicles or other emergency vehicles with flashing lights and sirens, please keep left and let us pass.

Illegal shooters not welcome

Safertoodyay
Desraé Clarke

TRESPASSERS and illegal shooters are not welcome on rural properties.

If a property owner requires shooters it is advisable to use experienced people from reputable associations or ask for references from property owners who have previously used these people.

State firmly that dogs, including small ones, are not to be brought on to the property.

The latter are as much a menace to stock as large animals.

Place 'No Trespassing' and 'Private Property' signage on boundary fences, access roads to paddocks and the main property entrance.

If trespassers are found illegally on the property, take as much information as possible such as vehicle type, colour, the number of people and, if possible, the registration; if met face to face, politely ask the intruder to leave.

Worried stock, stock losses, broken fencing, gates open or tampered with, unfamiliar vehicle tracks, fuel theft and unfamiliar dogs on the property denote a problem.

Contact the Police or CRIMESTOPPERS on 1800 333 000 as soon as possible with as much information to assist with the enquiry.

This information could very well be a much larger operation than one property; there may be other property owners in the district experiencing similar problems.

Toodyay Police: 9574 9555
CRIMESTOPPERS: 1800 333 000

It takes a long time to change email

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

IT IS not unusual for people to have more than one email address, but you may have one email address that you use with your bank, clubs and organisations, the Australian Taxation Office and friends and relatives.

If you have a business, you may also have your email on your web domain.

There may be many reasons for changing your email address.

Your Internet Service Provider (ISP) may stop providing email services and hand your email address to another organisation that charges you for the privilege.

You may be being swamped with spam and want to use a different email address.

If you have a business and change the name, you may also want to change to a new domain name, meaning you have a new email address.

Whatever the reason, it pays to plan the changeover.

A changeover period of at least 15 months is a good idea.

Planning for two years will allow for mishaps.

It can help if you make a list of all your financial institutions (banks, credit card providers, pension funds), health providers (doctor, dentist, pharmacies), other providers (solicitors, service garage, insurance agencies), State agencies (Driver and Vehicle Licensing) and emergency agencies (ambulance, vehicle recovery).

While most organisations are excellent at recording your email address when you first sign up, they can be less than efficient when it comes to making changes to your email address.

The reasons for such failures are too numerous to describe here.

Even if the organisation's web site tells you that you have been successful in changing your email address, this may not be the case.

It pays to check that every organisation has made the change correctly by examining your new inbox at appropriate intervals.

It can take a lot of dogged persistence to get every organisation to do the right thing.

Sports / Events / Results
Read it in the Toodyay Herald
news@toodyayherald.com.au

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

An unrelentingly hot dry summer for our firies

Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Peter Brennan, Captain

IN OPENING, I want to pay tribute to the outstanding efforts of farmers to our bush fire-fighting capability in Toodyay, a task they have been undertaking since 1851.

By 1963 there were forty-nine three-four man teams established and spread across the shire which would later become the foundation building blocks for the brigades we have today.

During the summer harvest months our farmers are particularly on alert for fires and are often first on the scene.

On December 20 we received a callout to a significant fire at Julimar in very hot and windy conditions.

A potential disaster was averted due to the rapid response of farmers, local volunteer fire crews and air support in the form of water bombing assets.

Given the conditions it was a miracle that the fire was stopped where it was and that no lives or homes were lost.

Furthermore, DFES staff were very quickly on the scene to take on incident management, followed by some farm bulk water units, local bulk water carriers, other brigades from outside the shire, both shire and contract machine operators, Police, St John Ambulance, the SES and later the Salvation



Craig Stewart AFSM, refilling the tank.

Army catering truck.

It was truly an all-round thorough team effort.

Many thanks to our CESM Rob Koch, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Craig Stewart, Deputy Nick Griggs and our Fire

Control Officers for the role they played during this incident.

It is a privilege to work with this leadership group and our fellow brigade teams.

By the following morning the fire was contained with both local and outside crews then spending another six days mopping up and patrolling.

I remain extremely proud of our Toodyay Central members for their rapid response on day one crewing our three trucks, and those who backed up a second shift into the night.

Most of these people then worked through multiple shifts, with some coming home from work to then spend eight hours on the fire ground before heading back to work the next morning.

A truly amazing effort which they, like all Shire Brigade volunteers, give willingly to the community.

One of six Toodyay Shire fire brigades to attend, Toodyay Central alone put in 336 volunteer hours on this fire ground which in the end resulted in a very weary team leading into Christmas.

Unfortunately we were to have no rest due to 15 callouts covering Christmas Day through to January 17 which resulted in another 352 hours out in hot dusty conditions, some out of Shire.

My sincere thanks to all our volunteers for their valuable time and unwavering dedication to the community.

As a result of the Julimar fire we have received a number of enquiries about joining the brigade which we are following up.

Remember, if you see smoke call 000, keep yourself informed at <https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au> and listen to ABC radio.

Your safety is your responsibility so please don't rely solely on Facebook for updated information.

Enact your fire plan if necessary (three plans are necessary, one stay and defend if this is an option, two leave early or when DFES tells you to and three caught away from home).

Finally, if you are sharing the road with our vehicles please move to the left, let them pass and stay safe.

We get them started young at Coondle Nunile brigade



Never too young to learn about volunteering.

Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Chris McDonald

HI ALL, Chris from Coondle-Nunile fire shed here to let you know what has been happening at our fire shed over the last few months.

In December last year we had a bore installed at our fire shed.

This will enable our onsite water tanks to be filled much more easily than having to truck water from town.

Also installed is a below ground hydrant for crews to train with.

Crews have turned out to several fires within the shire during the last couple of months.

Our 3.4 urban tanker was at the recent Toodyay Christmas Street party training up the next generation of fire fighters.

Thanks to those members who turned out for this event and helped to support our

community in a different way.

If you are interested in meeting some new people who live and work in Toodyay, we meet at the fire shed every Friday night at 5:30 pm.

We can be found on the Bindi-Bindi-Toodyay Road, next to the old wheat bin.

New members are always welcomed.

It only takes a couple of weekends to do the basic training for you to become a trained bushfire fighter.

If you wish to increase your skills after this there are lots of different courses.

We do monthly refresher training as well.

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

To find out how to join and for more information, go to dfes.vol.org.au/.

Check out Toodyay Shire fire information page to help you get ready for the current bush fire season <https://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/resident-services/fire-information>.

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

Trades & Services email: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

St John

Upcoming first aid courses

HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid
Course type: Accredited | Duration: 1 day in class + Online learning

Price: \$170.00

When: Thursday 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



Understand first aid
Learn about first aid theory and action plans



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



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[St John First Aid Training](#)

St John Ambulance (Western Australia) Ltd. RTO Code: 0392

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Ambos busy with bushfires

St John Sub Centre
Monika Williams

WITH bushfire season upon us it has been a busy December for St John Ambulance.

It was all hands on deck to provide ambulance standby crews to our Emergency Services as they battled a blaze which burnt through hundreds of hectares in West Toodyay, Julimar and Coondle.

We thank those volunteers for their efforts. Preparations for the Subcentre's 80th birthday continue, starting with the

completion of the painting of the building giving it a new lease of life.

The Celebration Committee has been busy planning displays and organising memorabilia and has set a date for celebrations to take place on Saturday 31 August 2024.

The ambulance volunteers completed a total of 21 jobs covering 1062 kilometres in the month of December.

Our Community Transport Services took 14 patients to their medical appointments.



The newly painted front of the St John Sub Centre Administration building on Stirling Terrace.



The St John Sub Centre Administration building on Stirling Terrace before the painting upgrade.



The annual Christmas party at the Bolgart Hotel.

Party time in Bejoording

Bejoording Community Group
Information Bay (By Bee)

HAPPY New Year.

It seems such a long time ago since we were wishing one another Seasons Greetings and celebrating the start of another new year but we say that every year, come January ... Where did the time go?

Our annual community Christmas party was held at the Bolgart Hotel last year with a great turnout of members and some visitors from 'down the hill' and even one from Queensland.

The Christmas feast was delicious and plentiful; a big thank you to the chef and bar staff at the Bolgart.

As so often happens in Bejoording someone decides that we need to have another impromptu outing, so the word goes out and before you know it, we have enough to warrant using a bus.

So off to the Bolgart Hotel we are going for a second visit in as many weeks.

The whole of the front bar was taken up with customers and the locals must've thought they'd been taken over, the conversations and laughter could be heard at the General Store.

The Events calendar for 2024 will be decided upon within the next month or so as will our first meeting of the year.

New residents of the area are welcome to attend and find out just how we 'tick' out here.

It's a great opportunity to meet your

neighbours and to share stories, helpful hints and swap ideas about living in a rural setting.

It's so important to stay connected as the feelings of isolation can quickly descend into loneliness, especially when we have to stay indoors during these hot summer months.

Therefore, coming up to the Shed on a Wednesday evening, 6pm onwards, will ensure that you're able to enjoy a happy and healthy existence and be a part of this unique community.

For contact details see *Where and When* on page 28 this edition.



Plenty of people to warrant hiring a bus.

Bushfire reduction grant for Toodyay shire

Emergency Services WA

THE SHIRE of Toodyay has received a grant of \$215,000.00 from the Mitigation Activity Fund (MAF) as part of a program supporting 24 local governments to reduce bushfire risk in their communities.

The funding will help these local

governments create new firebreaks and carry out planned burns when conditions are suitable.

First introduced in 2017, the MAF supports local governments so they can manage high-risk areas of the State.

It is available to those with an endorsed Bushfire Risk Management Plan.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

The Shire of Toodyay is currently seeking experienced, dynamic, and highly motivated people to join our team across a range of roles:

- Coordinator Infrastructure Projects (full-time)
- Communications Officer (part-time)
- Cultural Heritage Officer (full-time)
- Traineeship – Toodyay Community Resource Centre
- Environmental Sustainability Officer (shared)
- Ranger (full-time)

Applicants must have proven relevant knowledge and experience, excellent time management skills, and demonstrate high-level initiative. A commitment to working in a team environment to achieve continuous improvement is essential.

More information – including job descriptions and application packages for each role – is available on our website at www.toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Application packages are also available by contacting the Records Officer on 9574 9300 or via email to records@toodyay.wa.gov.au. Applications should be marked "CONFIDENTIAL" and forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay:

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

Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

Please Note: Canvassing of Councillors will disqualify. Successful applicants are required to obtain current Federal Police



SHIRE OF TOODYAY

TENDERS ARE INVITED

Tender No.: TEN 94-02/2024

Provision of Bush Fire Mitigation Works Program in and for the Shire of Toodyay in Western Australia.

Deadline: Monday 19 February 2024, 2:00pm (AWST)

Tender documents and contract requirements are available from the Shire of Toodyay Tenderlink website: www.tenderlink.com/toodyay.

Tender enquiries: records@toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Tenders can only be lodged using the E-Tendering portal: www.tenderlink.com/toodyay.

Submissions will NOT be accepted in any other form.

All electronic submissions must be clearly named with the Tender No. and lodged by the specified closing date and time.

Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Bolgart's social calendar overflows with awards, bowls and a farewell

Bolgart Community News
Pam McGill

School News

BOLGART School hosted their end of year concert and awards evening in the Bolgart Town Hall, making connections between the school and community.

A big thankyou to the Bolgart Progress Association for allowing the event to be held there.

Presentation Night Awards Winners were:
Senior Room – Bolgart P&C Most Consistent Effort Award –Ethan Uriarau.

Senior Room – Steven Martin MLC Endeavour Award – Lilly Stewart.

Senior Room – Sandra Carr MLC Academic Excellence – Isola Croeser.

Junior Room – Bolgart P&C Most Consistent Effort Award – Harper Smith.

Junior Room – Steven Martin MLC Endeavour Award – Harley Judson.

Junior Room - Sandra Carr MLC Academic Excellence – Gilbert Matthys.

Senior Room – Mooditj Award – Levi Smith.

Junior Room – Darren West MLC Citizenship Award – Nicholas French.

Senior Room – Darren West MLC Citizenship Award – Isola Croeser.

Junior Room – CWA Arts Award – Rocket O'Sullivan.

Senior Room – CWA Arts Award - Brodey Whiteaker.

Senior Room – Star Award – Ethan Uriarau.

Senior Room – Albert Clarke Memorial Award – Levi Smith.

Students and staff farewelled teacher Renee Skehan after teaching for seven years in Bolgart, five years in the Senior Room and two years in the Junior Room.

Renee will be missed by everyone, and is wished the best of luck in the future.

Best of luck to all students for the start of the 2024 School Year commencing on Wednesday January 31.

Country Women's Association

BOLGART CWA Ladies held their well-attended Christmas lunch at the Bolgart Hall on Friday December 15.

Tab Scape provided the lunch which was enjoyed by 30 ladies.

Thank you to Kim and Trevor for making sure an enjoyable afternoon was had by those attending.

Ladies Bowls

LADIES Gala Day was held on December 8 with 56 Ladies attending.

A good day weather-wise, great bowls were played with a few laughs along the way, the food was delicious, a big thankyou to Jenni and all her helpers and all the members, for food donated, raffles etc..

Thank you to all the very generous sponsors, without them these events do not get held.

Winners were from Northam – Dot Glass, Jenny Becker, Fay Withnell, Lee Eaton

Runners-up from Goomalling – Nola Chattaway, Dee Haywood, Daphne Schell, Deb White.



From left Northam: Lyn James, Lorna Bloomfield, Jenny Treasure, Lynda Coxon. Goomalling: Nola Chattaway, Daphne Schell, Deb White, Dee Haywood. Northam: Fay Withnell, Lee Eaton, Jenny Becker, Dot Glass.

Third from Northam – Lynda Coxon, Jenny Treasure, Lyn James, Lorna Bloomfield.

Christmas Lunch Windup was enjoyed with a fun morning of bowls, followed by a delicious luncheon, then to top it off gifts were given out to all those attending.

Congratulations to Sarah Wallis from Bolgart and Nicole McInnes from Calingiri on winning the Shire of Victoria Plains Christmas Lights competition, both looked fantastic.

A good crowd attended the New Year's Eve Party at the Bolgart Hotel. The night was enjoyed with the band T/Bone Uncut supplying the music and dancing the night away.

Well done to the Bolgart Ladies Golfers who participated in the Festival of Golf Ladies Classic at the Vines.

Two teams of fours participated with the team of Therese Chitty, Serena Syred, Joy Hamilton and Alison McGuinness winning the Best Visitors and the team of Nolene Kaszanski, Sharon Jones, Pam Meston and Lynne Marcelli came in runners-up visitors.

Birthday wishes to Jenni Knowles who celebrated her 60th Birthday on December 9.

Farewell to Nancy Holmes

A LOVELY lunch at the Bolgart Hotel was held to farewell Nancy Holmes who has been a resident of Bolgart for 47 years.

Nancy has been involved with the community for all these years and will be missed so much.

We wish you all the best for your move to New Zealand to be with your family.

We have received a letter from Nancy, which is reprinted here –

“Farewell To Bolgart

“It is with a heavy heart that I am leaving WA but unfortunately family circumstances dictate that.

“I am needed in New Zealand to take care of my terminally ill daughter.

“I have loved living in Bolgart for the past 47 years.

“Firstly I would like to thank all who supported me in my endeavour to beautify the town.

“I would like to especially thank Doug McGill for his considerable knowledge of hardware and for being always ready to help, and Brian and Gwenda McGill, both wonderful community members.

“It is Gwenda's research and expertise in writing that has produced most of the

historical articles written from time to time.

“Many thanks to Alan and Kathy Tree for their caring and for all of the odd jobs Alan did for me.

“As I have always been keen to see the betterment of the town I am delighted to see the improvements to both the Bolgart Caravan Park and the Memorial Hall.

“Many thanks to the Progress Association and to Barbara Mottershaw for finding grants, then acting to secure them to achieve these results – well done.

“Thank you to everyone for your wonderful friendship.”

Nancy Holmes



From left, Nancy Holmes, Dianne Edmonds.

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School welcomes new Principal and four more teachers

Toodyay District High School
Tonia Demeur

A NEW school year is about to start and is sure to be exciting with some new faces amongst our students, staff and leadership team.

At the end of last year we farewelled Kim Anderson who led the school with vision and relentless energy across Semester 2.

Mr Anderson moves onto a position with the Wheatbelt Regional Education Office as well as some consultancy work with the South Australian Government.

Mrs Sharon Anderson will fill the position of Principal.

She comes with decades of experience in



Aerial view of Toodyay District High School.

both the public and private education sectors in educational leadership and, having been at TDHS for the past four years as Deputy, knows the school well.

Other new faces include Ms Renee Skehan, a highly regarded teacher who has spent the last seven years at Bolgart Primary School.

Mark Donnelly joins us from Dowerin District High School and brings expertise in Primary Science as well as a creative and manual arts background.

Mark's arrival has meant our Secondary students now have a wider range of electives from which to choose.

Shelly Maes did some work with us last year, but officially joins our team, leading our Pathways programmes in Secondary as well as some Deputy Principal work.

She has taught in six different countries and has leadership experience in remote Western Australia.

Finally, Lauren Vandermuelen joins us as a Primary teacher, having extensive teaching experience in several schools in WA.

Like Ms Maes, she was with us at Toodyay last year and loved it so much that she wanted to stay.

We launch the year with some exciting whole school learning activities as we foster one of our key drivers - a sense of belonging.

We also launch our new three-year strategic plan.

As a school we are excited to embark on actioning the plan as the whole staff was involved in its creation.

2024 is set to offer our students rich and rewarding opportunities for learning and engagement.



Members of the Toodyay DHS School Council at a meeting in 2023.

Role to play on Toodyay School Council

Toodyay DHS School Council
Kelly-Anne Murray, Chairperson

DO YOU value the role that Toodyay District High School has in providing a quality education for students in the district?

Can you help to enhance the education

provided by the school by being a member of the School Council?

Nominations for a two-year membership term on the School Council, commencing in April 2024, are now open.

As a member of the School Council you can:

- Assist the school to determine and meet its objectives, priorities and general policy directions;
- Assist the planning of financial arrangements required to meet those objectives;
- Evaluate the school's performance; and
- Promote the school in the community.

Membership of the School Council includes parents, members of the community, staff and students, working together to further the interests of all students at the school.

Interested community members are welcome to attend the first meeting of the School Council in March 2024 to see what it's all about.

Take up this opportunity and you will be rewarded knowing that your contribution will directly benefit students, their families and the broader community.

For if our school succeeds, so does our community.

If this sounds like something you can be a part of, please phone Toodyay District High School on 9578 2000.



Governor to open the Toodyay Show

Toodyay Agricultural Society (Inc)
Alison Wroth

THIS year Toodyay celebrates the 170th Toodyay Agricultural Show at the Showgrounds on Saturday October 5.

Being a centennial year, tradition dictates it will be a very special event so starting on the right foot, the official opening ceremony will be performed by the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM.

The future of agricultural shows depends not only on the strength and purpose of the current members, but also on the experience of past generations which is in abundance in our town.

With this combined strength we intend to make both the show, and the traditional centenary Ball which precedes the main event, 'Show-stoppers'.

Looking back over the decades, where in my youth I was a volunteer, and then later a member of the organising committees, huge changes have taken place.

We have had to keep up to date with modern technology to attract each new generation of showgoers, whilst at the same time never losing sight that the show is a family affair and relies on families, both old and new, and visitors returning year after year.

The show is so sentimental to many of our locals that it is definitely something which has to be continued and valued into the future.



His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM.

Watching the fireworks from the terrace bar or the oval banks, show rides, farm animals, reunions and the lovely ambiance created in the evening are definitely memories to be cherished.

We endeavour to add to the many attractions on offer each year, but we also must acknowledge, that for past generations, the ancient showgrounds are an attraction in their own right.

The historical Lee Steere exhibition

pavilion and purpose-built display yards, the terrace bar and wool shed have a great sentimental significance to many locals and we need to value this history and promote it into the future.

Back to the present, we are always on the lookout for the support of willing members keen to help out with this historic event, and our AGM in February will be the ideal opportunity for you to put your hand up to join the organising committee.

If you are thinking about coming along or becoming a member, please consider these thoughts before you make the leap.

Know why you want to be involved in the best, and one of the oldest Ag Societies in WA and what your contribution will be.

There will always be a shared purpose on the TAS committee which brings members together working as team.

Have confidence in your own ability, sit back, understand the jobs ahead of us and we'll get busy.

Our AGM will be held at 7pm on Monday February 12 at the Youth Hall in the showgrounds.

If you would like more information or an agenda and meeting papers, please email toodyayagsociety@gmail.com.

All are welcome to attend, but only financial members are eligible to nominate for committee position.

Drinks, cuppas and nibbles will be available before and after the meeting.



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Light-hearted puns when power failed in 1924

Toodyay Historical Society Inc
 Robyn Taylor, Vice President

FINDING inspiration for this month's column came in a flash while resting in the dark during the massive power failure that recently hit the Wheatbelt.

Lasting over 24 hours during January 16-17 and with communication to the outside world being cut-off, it was a very strange experience.

On the other hand, it meant a welcome break from all kinds of media, batteries couldn't be recharged, while providing a good excuse to curl up with a good book by a window and ignore the chores that required electricity.

Not so good, given the extreme heat and humidity following the violent storm on the Tuesday, the lack of power meant no ceiling fans or air-con to provide relief.

The cooling effects of cold showers didn't last long enough.

This must have been how it was in the days before electricity, except they had their sources of light provided by oil and kerosene lamps.

Take note to buy a couple.

Over the years Beth Frayne, our President and researcher extraordinaire, has been researching and writing the history of Connor's Mill, one of the Shire's museums located on the corner of Piesse (former



Team of horses hauling power poles into position. (Photo: Courtesy, Toodyay Shire Museums, 2008.52).

Clinton) Street and Stirling Terrace.

The mill has a fascinating history, starting as a flour mill built in 1870 for former convict Dan Connor who became a wealthy entrepreneur.

The following has been extracted from some of Beth's essays on the subject that were published as instalments in our newsletter Duidgeana.

In July 1919, the Toodyay Road Board offered a 20 year concession to Gilberts Ltd to install an electric lighting plant next to the flour mill, then owned by Charles M. Lukin.

The Board retained an option to purchase the plant after 10 years.

"The following October, the Toodyay Electric Lighting and Power Company Ltd was created to run the service.

"By the end of that year, the gas engine and the light poles had arrived, electric lighting systems installed in residences and the power shed was under construction."

The Toodyay Convent of Mercy was reported to be the first in line for connection.

By February 1920 the Toodyay electric lighting plant was almost ready to provide current.

According to an article in *The Toodyay Herald* (7 February 1920), "Most business houses in town have been connected up, whilst a very large number of private residences have the light on, and are now ready for the current..."

"On Sunday February 15, St Stephen's Anglican Church was able to hold an evening Harvest Thanksgiving service led by Rev John Mason."

The Herald reported, "It was brilliantly lit for the first time."

This was followed by a Harvest Social and Dance on the following night in the Town Hall. Not all went smoothly.

The Toodyay Herald had fun with its puns when reporting the following in the 19 July 1924 issue.

"Street Chatter (By 'The Barber's Cockatoo'): "Strike a light!

"Toodyay's troubles these days are light ones, aren't they?

"Whatever the fault is down at the power house they're keeping it dark.

"Still, let's all be light hearted, even if our outlook is at present on the dark side.

"We must remember that total eclipses only come once in a while."

Our recent planning meeting has produced an exciting line-up of events and excursions for 2024.

Our first excursion on Sunday February 25 will be lunch at the historic Duke Hotel in Duke Street Northam.

A calendar is being finalised for distribution to members.

Monthly meetings: third Wednesday at 7pm in St Stephen's Church Hall.

Contacts: See *Where and When*, Page 28.



Power House shed next to the Mill. (Photo: Courtesy, Toodyay Shire Museums, 2012.30).

Landscaping plans ahead for Clinton Street

RSLWA Toodyay Sub-Branch
 Mary Tucker

THERE is a lot of enthusiasm and excitement at the RSL Sub-Branch as we move ahead with plans for the development of our Clinton Street premises.

This is just a mini 'progress report' to let you all know what has been completed, what tasks are near completion and what are on-going.

A group of volunteers have cleared the rear of the block of debris and rubbish.

It is looking really good and ready for the next phase.

The preparatory electrical work has been completed.

A Feature and Contour Survey has been completed to be followed by the design of the building and its surrounds.

It would be great to have volunteers to help with the clearing and landscaping of the front of the property as street appeal is very important.

It is hoped to make a plan for planting flowers and shrubs, painting a mural and improving the fencing.

The finished building will be made available for the use of community groups.

It would be great to have input from interested community groups so their ideas can be considered during the design stage of planning.

Of particular interest is the forming of a community garden for all ages and the establishment of a youth group.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the committee or send a message via PO Box 521, Toodyay.

The next two Ordinary General Meetings will be held on Thursday February 8 at 1800 and Thursday April 11 at 1800 at Clinton Street.

I hope to welcome you there.

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Even the lathes were way too hot to handle

Avon Woodturners
Hamish Dobie

JANUARY'S return to the woodturning shed on January 14 after the end of the holiday season was short lived, as the temperature soared above 40 degrees, and even the equipment and lathes were too hot to handle (plus the chocolate biscuits melted).

The Gods were against us again on the following Wednesday, as the severe storm that rocked us all knocked out the power.

So we finally commenced our New Year on Sunday, January 21 and began our preparations for the March visit of our fellow WA clubs for our Avon Weekend Workshop.

Avon Woodturners hosts the workshop every two years and the event is held in the Memorial Hall, where expert woodturners do demonstrations and there are displays of woodcraft made by many of the attendees, which are then judged.

There are also several suppliers that set up stalls for the attendees to purchase all they need to keep them occupied and therefore give some peace and quiet to their other half.

Personally, I find watching the expert woodturners producing a finished product in no time, while chatting away to the audience, is like watching an ace snooker player score a maximum break.

It inspires me to keep playing, although I struggle to hit a ball at the far end of the table.

The chosen object to be made at Weekend Workshop is a walking stick.

This may sound a little mundane, but with the cream of the WA woodturners entering their efforts, I'm sure there will be many and varied examples, some highly decorated, some way out and some rugged and sturdy and ready for heavy use.

Many of the visiting woodturners are getting on in years, so this may turn into a self-help session.

The Weekend Workshop is on Saturday, March 16 and anyone can attend for a small door fee.

Who knows you might come along, convince a turner to part with his pride and joy and swagger home with a truly one-off walking stick.

If you feel that you want to try out woodturning in a friendly and non-judgemental place with the welcome bonus of coffee, biscuits and cake, then pop down to the Woodturners hideout at Shed 1, at the Community Depot on Railway Road on Wednesdays and/or Sundays from 9am until noon.

All you need to do is bring along your best joke and a sense of humour.

Or you can contact me, Hamish Dobie, on 0423 115 204 for more information.



2024 Western Australian finalists in the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award. From left Jay Page, Mandy Walker and Nicola Kelliher.

Wheatbelt women finalists in Rural Women's Award

Department of Primary Industries
Jodie Thomson

THREE inspiring wheatbelt women have been selected as the 2024 Western Australian finalists in the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award.

Jay Page is a Northam apiarist who aims to focus her passion for bees into expanding school education to raise awareness of sustainable bee production, as interest in recreational



beekeeping increases.

Bolgart business advocate Mandy Walker is focused on designing a business model that will enable wheatbelt engineering businesses to collaboratively participate in the defence industry supply chain.

Wandering Farming Champions not-for-profit chair Nicola Kelliher intends to channel her skills from 'Farmer on a Plate' to deliver scalable events to highlight the role of farming families in food providence.



The WA winner announced in March 2024 will receive \$15,000 to realise their plans, and professional development training.

The award is supported by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), the Rural, Regional and Remote Women's Network of WA, CBH Group and Westpac.

The WA winner will go on to the national AgriFutures Rural Women's Award, to be announced in September 2024.

Mavis and the Toodyay CWA celebrate 100 years

Country Women's Association
Vivien Street

2024 is a landmark year for the CWA of WA and therefore for our Toodyay Branch too.

It is the centenary year of the formation of the Country Women's Association in WA and we will be joining in the celebrations to mark the occasion.

We have an extra reason to celebrate because the day we have chosen as special is the birthday of our member Mavis who turns 100 this year.

April 19 will be the day of our new roof official opening and thankyou celebration, our 100th birthday cake for Mavis and the CWA of WA and our welcome to our many supporters, local and far flung, who have helped to keep our CWA group and hall viable.

Please help us to spread the word to any past members of CWA who may wish to celebrate with us.

In our 97th year there are so many women who have contributed to our branch in so many ways and this is the year we would like to acknowledge them.

Mark the date on your calendar: April 19 from 10am until 1pm for morning tea and a huge thankyou for the support we have received over all these years.

All are welcome.

If you are new to Toodyay come along and see part of the history of our branch which prides itself on its long association with the town and has had many talented and hard-working members volunteering their time and enthusiasm to improve the lives of rural and city women.

Friendship, connection and support have been the reason for many to join CWA.

Through our 100 year history we have assisted in disaster relief, provision of health and education scholarships for rural areas, advocacy for improving safety on roads and railways and fund raising for a huge range of causes, local and overseas.

Above all the 2000 strong membership of CWA of WA support each other and their communities with 126 branches throughout our state.

All are working tirelessly to improve the lives of those less fortunate and especially those in

need in rural and remote regions where services are more difficult to access.

It goes without saying that we are still famous for scones and jam and these should be on the menu for April 19 too.

But we are far more than that.

Throughout the year we hope to attract new members and at our planning meeting in January a few ideas were suggested to aid us in making joining the CWA attractive.

Keep your eyes peeled for news of upcoming events and please feel free to come along and meet us at any event we hold.

We hold two meetings a month.

The second Thursday of the month at 10am is an informal coffee morning where craft or other activities are involved and this year we

hope to have outings as an added bonus.

More formal meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month, at present at 10am, but a vote at our AGM in February may change this to a 1pm meeting.

Times will be in *The Toodyay Herald* as soon as this is finalised.

All are welcome to join us.

New names and telephone numbers may appear in the next edition but in the meantime please contact Margot on 9574 2823 or 0405 067 591 for hall bookings.

We meet in the CWA Hall on Stirling Terrace next to the garden centre.

There is plenty of parking on Charcoal lane and easy access to the hall from there.



An example of a walking stick with a turned handle.

Herald courtyard available for community use...

contact Judy

courtyard@toodyayherald.com.au



CARETAKER

Hobby Farm Caretaker Required
Full time
Gidgegannup, Perth WA

We have a small hobby farm in Gidgegannup and we are looking for someone to takeover from our current Caretaker who is retiring.

We are looking for a general all-rounder with experience in the following;

- General Garden Maintenance
- Orchard Care
- Tending to Chickens
- Experience with small farm equipment - use and maintenance
- Experience with irrigation and minor pump repairs
- Property Maintenance and upkeep

The position would be suitable for someone with past experience on small farms. There is an opportunity to live on the property for the right candidate.

For further information or to apply for the position please submit your cover letter and resume to kathy.white@directplasterboard.com.au

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Group for musicians to get together online.

A place for musos to connect

Wheatbelt Musicians Group
Sean Hefferon

THE Wheatbelt has deep musical roots however this isn't apparent from a quick glance.

Toodyay itself, back in the day, was well known for its folk festival which attracted musicians from far and wide for many years with acts such as Tiddas and the Whirling Furphies being some of the many bands that entertained hundreds of festival attendees.

As long-term locals know, the festival then moved to Fairbridge and live music in the Wheatbelt has well, gone a bit quiet.

The musicians remain – in the Wheatbelt that is, one just has to listen for them.

Perhaps they are knocking out notes to an appreciative audience of alpacas in Coondle or jamming the blues in a garage in Goomalling.

Then there are the lapsed players, the hobby players, singers, adult learners, students who play music and their parents, local staging and sound production, venues, duos, trios, local music teachers and professional musicians.

A diverse group of folks no doubt – united by a love of music.

Until now however, there hasn't been a place for such folks to connect.

Now there is. The Wheatbelt Musicians Group has been formed as a place to network, find other

musicians, put a call out to start a band or jam together and advertise concerts and shows or teaching.

It's an online group which you will find on Facebook and it has hit on something – now at 111 members barely a week from launching.

From little things big things grow and what was a germ of an idea in Coondle is now a group of locals with a shared love of music.

What next?

Do we dare dream that a folk festival may be reborn?

The Music Club was *Rockin'* around the Christmas Tree

Toodyay Music Club
Jenny Edgecombe

IT ALWAYS seems slightly strange to be singing about snow and sleighs in the heat of December, but members do enjoy re-visiting the carols and Christmas songs we grew up with.

Having said that, we started our singalong with a popular song that was only written in 1970 by José Feliciano.

This was, of course, *Feliz Navidad*, which has become a Christmas staple over the years.

Anne often brings us a delightfully different item.

Kids nativity play brings seasonal joy

The Factory
Toodyay Baptist Church
Jenny McDougall

CELEBRATING Christmas 2023 was special, with the performance of the children's Christmas Nativity Play, and the Carols by Candlelight evening.

A wonderful evening for all involved.

2024 looks to be an exciting year. With the school holiday over, our activities start up.

Women's bible study Wednesdays (Joy 0432 470 771).

Men's monthly get-together at Wendouree Café (Steve 0488 594 768).

Kid's Church Sundays 11 -11:30am.

Feel welcome to come join us.



The children performing the Christmas Nativity Play at The Factory, Toodyay Baptist Church.

This time it was the charming poem, *Cuddle Doon*.

It is not a Christmas piece, but it certainly reminded me of childhood Christmas Eves when my siblings and I found it very hard to sleep.

The King Must Die, presented by Maurice, provided a most dramatic interlude.

Victoria and Jenny, accompanied by Joe on guitar, combined to present several Christmas classics, including *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree* and *Mary's Boy Child*.

Joe gave us the lovely Australian Christmas song, *Christmas With You*.

He was also in demand as an accompanist, providing backing for Jenny's items, in addition

to Collette's beautiful singing of *The Parting Glass*.

There is one song that Jenny always sings at Christmas time, namely, *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*.

This year was no exception.

The afternoon featured a tea break, with time for a chat and some Christmas goodies.

Our February meeting will be a theme day, with items relating to Water.

This will be held on Saturday February 10, starting at 1pm.

You are welcome as a performer or audience member.

For more information, call Joe on 0400 862 694.

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Moondyne Men lift more than their weight in World Championships

Moondyne Men
Graham Hill

WELCOME and Happy New Year from the Moondyne Men.

We now have over 40 active members and the diversity within the group is amazing.

We received Christmas greetings from our International member Bob Smillie in Scotland and a visit from our North-West youth member Randy who was visiting during the school holidays.

Our motorcycle group participates in a weekly ride on Wednesdays and we have a 'Strength Building Team' competing at World Class events.

Recently at the International All Round Weight Lift Association competition three of our members competed against competitors from the United Kingdom and USA in the Weight for Age competition.

The results were outstanding.
The world Weight-Lifting Competition

results:

1st in weight for age, 95-100kg for under 70's - Peter Phillips.

2nd in weight for age, 95-100kg for under 70's - Charlie Carabott.

1st in weight for age, 70-75kg for under 77's - Fossil Reeves.

World Champion - All Round Weight-Lifting Association Competition - Fossil Reeves

Fantastic results showing the true diversity of the Moondyne Men.

But you don't have to be a biker or lift weights as it is not all work and no play.

If you are looking to join a progressive, proactive men's group come and join us for tea and coffee and a good chat.

We meet Monday and Thursday 8.30am to noon at Toodyay RSL Shed, Clinton Street Toodyay.

For more information please contact Colin on 0424 195 003.

We are truly "Men Looking After Men and the Community".



From left, Charlie Carabott, Fossil Reeves and Peter Phillips with their trophies



Roz Davidson and donor board

Free washing for homeless and clothes

Toodyay Locals Care
Sean Hefferon

TOODYAY Locals Care (TLC) has recently made available a free shower, toilet and washing machine for homeless people and other vulnerable community members.

The new community service is provided with the kind support of many organisations and individuals including Toodyay Hardware, Shane Love MP, and the Toodyay Historical Society.

Roz Davidson, the founder of TLC said that the service is free, open 24/7 and is in the shed behind TLC at 20 Fiennes St – so it can be used discretely and you just turn up – no need to book.

She said the washing machine is free to use and detergent, clothesline and pegs are provided.

Anecdotally, she said there were around 50 homeless people in the local area – including those who are couch surfing or sleeping in their car.

The service, as well as the various other supports provided by TLC, including free food and clothing, was also accessed by

people affected by the recent Julimar bushfire in December 2023.

We all need a bit of TLC at times – and Toodyay Locals Care assists in meeting community needs.


The numbers are impressive and in December 2023 TLC supported the community in various ways including by distributing a total of 997 three course meals; providing 300 meals at their recent Christmas Long Table lunch, assisting with catering for three wakes and an 80th birthday party.

TLC has been a part of the Toodyay community for the last eight years and now has 35 volunteers to assist in the community.

TLC volunteers help the community in a variety of ways including cooking delicious and nourishing food that is given to those in need, sorting out clothing and food donations and driving community members to medical appointments.

It would be fair to say that TLC has gone from strength to strength over the years and is now very much part of the community fabric.

Toodyay Locals Care.



The Lions Club of Toodyay Inc.

COMMUNITY

JUMBO AUCTION

Saturday March 23rd 2024

We Serve


The Toodyay Lions Jumbo Auction is on again for 2024! Come along and join the fun – and maybe pick up a bargain.
Auction will commence at **9am sharp, on Saturday, March 23rd**, at the **Toodyay Showgrounds Oval**.
Gates open for viewing at 8am. A \$2 buyers' ticket is required for all bidders.

Information for sellers.

- Sellers' donation is \$5 per lot, plus 10% commission on sale amount.
- Please fill out a Sellers Registration Form, available at Tony Maddox Real Estate, Toodyay Real Estate, Toodyay Home Hardware, MAKIT Hardware, the Toodyay Op Shop, or online at www.facebook.com/ToodyayLionsClub.
- Delivery of Sellers lots will be on Friday March 22nd, from 8am. No lots will be accepted on the day of the Auction.
- **All items not sold must be removed by the owner and all purchased lots must be removed by the buyer by 5pm on Auction day.**
- No old TVs or computers please.
- Sellers with more than 10 lots (20 maximum) are accepted by prior arrangement only. For these, or large or expensive items, please advise by Thursday March 21st - Steele Williams on 0497 337485, Peter Edwards on 0418 342199 or John Pearce on 0427 742248.

The Toodyay Lions Club takes no responsibility for Lots after the fall of the hammer, when sale goods become the buyers' responsibility.

Food and drinks will be available for purchase at the Auction.
No dogs are permitted on the Oval during the 2 day event.



Beneficiaries Include: Toodyay Youth Care Council, Forget-Me-Not Cafe and Toodyay Locals Care