



## Play your part in protecting public property

We are encouraging all residents to keep an eye out for suspicious activity after a series of recent vandalism incidents in town, mostly directed at our public toilets. Duke Street's toilets are being damaged regularly, with tiles ripped off the walls and the toilets themselves blocked by toilet paper and other materials; while the newly-constructed Duidgee Park toilets have been continually graffitied. This building damage costs the community in more ways than one, and is certainly not appreciated by the Shire staff who have to clean and repair it knowing it likely won't be the last time. Please look after your public property, and if you encounter any vandalism be sure to let us know.



## Beware of the Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer!

Eighty Perth suburbs have now been quarantined due to the tiny, highly invasive Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer beetle, first detected in Fremantle in 2021. Carried in plant materials and wood products, it affects a wide range of introduced and native plant species, and there is no treatment except the removal of limbs or trees in their entirety. Extreme care is advised if taking wood, bark and plants from non-commercial sources that do not screen for the beetle. Small but mighty with very destructive capabilities, this pest could wreak havoc on the Shire's street trees, native vegetation, orchards and shade trees if given the chance. Here are a few preventative



## A festive end and fun-packed beginning for the CRC



Toodyay Community Resource Centre wrapped up 2023 – pun intended – with the Christmas Street Party, which drew enthusiastic crowds from near and far keen to participate in the festivities. The evening's very merry program included musical performances from outstanding local talents and a variety of stalls providing the perfect opportunity for some Christmas shopping. A sincere thank you goes out to all who dedicated their time and energy to make the event so special, particularly our sponsors:

## News from the Depot: What's Happening Where?

**Newcastle Park water fountain:** A new water fountain has been installed at Newcastle Park, thanks to generous funding from Toodyay Op Shop. Thanks also to Sean, Trae and Mitch from Fitzgerald Plumbing and, of course, our Depot maintenance crew



measures you can take to reduce the risk:

**Early detection and reporting:** Vigilance is key. Keep an eye out for small holes, sawdust-like frass, and wilting leaves on trees, as these are tell-tale signs of an infestation. Timely reporting is also essential.

**Quarantine measures:** Prevent movement of infested wood materials, as the beetle can easily hitch a ride on contaminated firewood or timber; and stick to the strict guidelines regarding the transportation of wood products.

For more information, visit [www.agric.wa.gov.au/borer](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/borer) or contact the Shire.

Chalice Mining, Toodyay Op Shop, Bendigo Bank, Toodyay Manor and Blue Moon Crystals.

Our January Summer Splash Party lived up to its name, with over 60 kids making their way through the giant inflatable obstacle course, becoming kings and queens of the bouncy castle, putting their strength to the test with a game of tug-o-war, and surprising their parents with unexpected water pistol battles. A big shout-out has to go to Elsie, who scored a sweet victory in the traditional lolly jar guessing game. Well done!

We look forward to seeing what the new year brings, and to putting on a range of exciting events for the Toodyay community to enjoy.

## Lone Ranger to be assisted by neighbouring Shire

The Shire's Ranger Services department has undergone some temporary restructuring following Ranger Wade's departure to join the WA Police. Leon, our last man standing

## Fond farewell from Toodyay library

This month, the Toodyay Library ladies say a sad goodbye to one of their own. After the better part of a decade on deck, working between the library and Shire Administration, Jas B is off on a new adventure: a.k.a. taking on a new non-library and non-local government role in Perth. She'll be missed by her colleagues, the countless patrons – regular and occasional – who have visited while she was with us, and of course all the "Dogs of Toodyay Library" (there are more furry four-legged members than you'd think). Best of luck for the future Jas, and don't be a stranger to Toodyay!



for getting it up and running for the community, including our many furry friends.

**Jubilee Street/Toodyay Street footpaths:** Works have commenced on the installation of shared pathways along Jubilee Street, continuing on from pathways installed on Reserve and Harcourt streets in 2023. Toodyay Street's footpath will soon be upgraded from Ferrocrete (gravel) to concrete – a project partly funded by the WA Bicycle Network, in conjunction with the Department of Transport and Shire of Toodyay.

**Charcoal Lane solar lighting:** The lane's solar lighting has recently been replaced.

**Depot activities:** Our construction crew is continuing work on the Julimar Road upgrade projects; maintenance crews have been completing drainage works, pot hole repairs and tree pruning across the Shire; and the Parks and Gardens team have dealt with various reticulation issues and continued to maintain all relevant Shire assets.



while Wade's replacement is sought, will be available Monday-Friday from 7.30am-4.30pm, with after-hours assistance to be provided by Rangers from the Shire of Chittering.

All calls outside of Ranger Leon's hours will only be responded to in emergency cases – e.g. stock on Shire roads posing danger, dog attacks in progress, aggressive dog wandering, and animals in immediate need of help. Call our regular Ranger number (9574 9370) after-hours and your call will be diverted to Chittering. Call 000 for all other emergencies, or if a Ranger does not efficiently respond to your animal-related emergency report

## 2024/25 Community Funding Program

Applications for the 2024/25 Community Funding Program are set to open early March (closing early April). More information will be available in next month's *Herald* and on all of the Shire's online platforms in the coming weeks – but to find out more or register your interest in applying for a grant now, please contact our Community Development Officer on 9574 9392 or [w.sutton@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:w.sutton@toodyay.wa.gov.au).

## Notice: Sale of Council Properties

At the Ordinary Council Meeting in March, four Council properties were approved for sale, with plans being finalised prior to the pending auction.

Lot 409 Church Gully Road, Coondle  
Lot 405 Coondle Drive, Coondle  
Lot 40 McKnoe Drive, Morangup  
Lot 75 Timber Creek Crescent, Toodyay

More details will be provided at a later date.



# Gonneville

## Project Update



### Local Voices Community Survey

Have your say in the next Local Voices Survey, open from Wednesday 14 February 2024.

Chalice has engaged Voconiq to deliver Local Voices – an independent, confidential community engagement program based on over a decade of research by Australia's national science agency, CSIRO.

A series of surveys will be conducted over the coming years to help Chalice better understand what matters most to your community, helping to inform our decision making as we consider a potential future mine at the Gonneville Project.

Following on from our initial anchor survey in 2023, this shorter 'pulse' survey takes around 5 minutes to complete and helps to identify priorities and gather deeper insights into community feedback.

For each completed survey, participants will have the option to allocate a \$5 donation to a local community group of their choice.

Whether you are new to Local Voices or have registered previously, head to the Voconiq website to get involved in the February - March pulse survey.



Visit [www.voconiqlocalvoices.com/chalice](http://www.voconiqlocalvoices.com/chalice) or scan the QR code with your phone camera.

### Community Funding

Applications are now open for funding up to \$10,000.

Chalice is committed to positively contributing to the local communities that surround the Gonneville Project. One way Chalice can contribute is through our **Community Investment Program**, which aims to support local initiatives and deliver long term benefits. When applying, applicants should consider the focus areas:



Environment



Education



Community Connection

Chalice's current focus areas for funding are the Shires of Toodyay, Northam, Chittering and Goomalling.

Applications for this funding round close March 31.



To apply for funding visit [www.chalicemining.com/community-investment](http://www.chalicemining.com/community-investment) or scan the QR code with your phone camera.

### Environmental Approvals Update

Chalice is preparing to start environmental approval processes, seeking approval for the development of the Gonneville Project - a potential new low-carbon green metals mine located on Chalice-owned farmland in the Shire of Toodyay.

Before a mine can be developed, a comprehensive environmental assessment of the Project is required by the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority (WA EPA) and the Commonwealth Department of Environment. Chalice will prepare an Environmental Review Document (ERD) that will provide details of the proposed mine, information about its potential environmental impacts and how these impacts will be managed. The ERD will also be made available for the community to review and provide feedback on the Project as it develops.

This information will then be used by the WA EPA and the Commonwealth Department of Environment to determine whether the Gonneville Project should be approved, and if so, what conditions should apply.

This work is at an early stage and we will provide further information on the approvals process and proposed development details over the coming months.

For more information on the environmental assessment and approval process, please visit the WA EPA website at [www.epa.wa.gov.au/pages/about-environmental-impact-assessment](http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/pages/about-environmental-impact-assessment)

Talk to us  
Email [community@chalicemining.com](mailto:community@chalicemining.com)  
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**ENVIRONMENT**



Brush-tailed Possum pictured during the night excursion to Julimar Forest in October 2024. Photo Ross McDougal.

## Amazing to find the vulnerable brush-tailed possums in Julimar

**Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance and Wheatbelt Avon Bird Group**  
Max Howard

A NIGHT survey of fauna in Julimar Forest was conducted on October 21 last year by members of both Julimar Conservation and Forest alliance (JCAFA) and the Wheatbelt Avon Bird Group (WABG).

Prior to darkness an excellent bird list was compiled by the group with 28 species being located.

A number of the endangered Carnaby's Cockatoos were spotted as well as a male feeding a female on six occasions.

On completion the female flew away and this behaviour means nesting was probably taking place on eggs at this time.

The male calls to the female who leaves the nest and flies to a nearby tree where the feeding takes place.

Our group was broken up into small teams covering different locations with some excellent observations.

Three Tawny Frogmouths, and two Boobook Owls were detected, along with the rare and endangered Woylie and Chuditch.

Even a Barking Gheko was observed on one of the tracks.

The birds mentioned above do a lot of their feeding in the surrounding farmland mainly for mice and rats so they are very helpful to our primary producers.

With the coming of the dawn they return to the forest for the sanctuary it provides.

However the most amazing find was

fifteen Brushtail Possums.

This Possum is classed as 'vulnerable' in Western Australia and numbers have been declining rapidly in the Wheatbelt Region, mainly through introduced predators such as the feral cat and fox.

Habitat loss also contributes to the decline as this species needs suitable hollows of old growth trees for protection during the day.

This is why places such as Julimar need the highest protection placed on it.

Both adult and young Possums still clinging to their parents were observed in the trees.

These sightings indicate successful breeding is taking place in the forest.

The Possum has a naked patch under its tail which grips the branches tightly; enabling a Possum to swing from its tail - as agile as primates.

Perhaps I can suggest Julimar may be the same as Goomalling town in past years, "the place of the Possum". Hopefully that will come to fruition in Julimar in future years if this remarkable forest is given the protection which it needs.

Over the past few months JCAFA has been monitoring fauna in the forest through cameras, moved regularly and placed at various locations.

These cameras have proved very successful in identifying other significant vulnerable species such as Tammar Wallaby, Brush-tailed Phascogale, and Quenda.

On the downside it also revealed introduced species such as feral pigs, wild cats, and foxes.

## Knitted trunks and tentacles



Some of the many entries from our Snuggle Bunny Challenge.

**The Crooked Needle**  
Jean Melhuish-Hill

HAPPY New Year to all.

The ladies finished our year with a Snuggle Bunny Challenge.

We had some 40 entries.

Some were knitted, some were crochet.

Some ladies used the same patterns as others but no two pieces looked the same.

Different colours, different yarns, different animals, clowns, ducks and even an octopus.

There will be some very happy young patients at the Perth Children's Hospital who will receive one of these cuddly toys.

We have been in recess over Christmas with our first gathering for 2024 on February 2.

I know for a fact that this recess has not stopped our avid crafters and even on one of our 40+ plus days with no power or air conditioning their crafting continued.

Well you need to do something to keep your minds off the heat.

If you are new in town or find yourself with some free time, pop along on any Friday, 9.30am to noon to see if we can interest you in a new craft or you may be able to share one with us.

For contact information please see *Where and When* on Page 28.

# Hundreds of French Knots in two-year labour of love

**Ragbags Quilting Group**  
Kerry Gregory

THE RAGBAGS ladies and friends enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch at Bolgart in December before our summer recess over December and January.

Everyone excelled themselves with handmade Kris-Kringle gifts exchanged.

What a torrid start to 2024 with unremitting heat, power and communication outages; things can only improve from here.

My quilting projects given as Christmas gifts were lovingly received and have caused quite a deal of on-going admiration, particularly for the Aussie Flora quilt, pictured.

The family receiving it is truly astonished by the hundreds of 'French Knots' embellishing the eucalyptus macrocapa flowers which, having embarked on the exercise, I had to continue to the end.

This was the reason it took me over two years to complete the quilt - a labour of love with the quilt, which I'm rather proud to have

completed, being a wedding gift.

I can't say I've turned the sewing machine on over the break, other than to take up the legs of a pair of long PJ pants to take to hospital in early January.

The nearest I have come to any embroidery was the long neat, zipper-like strip of sutures down my back from recent surgery.

All has gone very well with the surgery and I'm looking forward to 2024 being a very happy new year for everyone; I'm very happy to share my positivity.

New members are welcome to attend our regular gatherings of the Ragbags group in 2024; a cuppa and a good chat are assured.

Bring along some handiwork, your sewing machine if you wish, or any craft work being undertaken, we love to see your creativity and share your enthusiasm.

The Ragbags first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, February 7 between 10am and 2pm at St Stephens Church Hall.

For all other information, see *Where and When* on page 28.



Australian flora quilt by Kerry.

## Santa in beaut ute mobbed by children



The kids loved it when Santa arrived in his ute at the 2023 Toodyay Christmas party.



Stirling Terrace came alive when young voices started singing on what was a great day.

ENVIRONMENT

# Strange visitor hiding out on the patio

Toodyay Garden Club  
Jan Ackroyd



The Red Shouldered Stick Insect found on Jan Ackroyd's back patio.

THE TOODYAY Garden Club met in early December 2023 for our monthly garden visit followed by our Christmas Lunch - a fitting end to a wonderful year.

We were fortunate to be invited to Lynda and Rod Cook's garden on Telegraph Road.

As we have visited them in the past, it was lovely to see a few of the changes they have made to their pretty garden.

This summer started early with very warm temperatures and drying easterly winds, so keeping our gardens green can be a challenge.

Lynda and Rod have green fingers and their roses were looking beautiful, along with a lush area alongside the rear of the house filled with lovely shade-loving plants - a very visual cooling effect.

Christmas lunch was at the Showgrounds Pavilion and was well attended.

The Committee did a fabulous job in giving

the room a very festive feel, with hand-made table decorations and an authentic-looking fireplace (cleverly made with cardboard boxes, glue and paint by our youngest members, the Malone girls).

The food was delicious, thanks to the catering team headed by Sue, and the camaraderie and festive season spirit was

enjoyed by everyone.

Our photo competition for the 2024 Club Badge attracted a lot of beautiful entries this time and resulted in a three-way tie.

This was resolved by a show-of-hands and the winner was Heidi Malone - congratulations Heidi.

The Garden Club begins the year with a Sundowner in late February, where the Club provides a sausage sizzle and members bring salads and desserts to share.

This is followed by the AGM which will be held on March 7 at St Stephen's Hall.

There will be a change in some of the office bearers this year, so we need our members' support in attending this meeting.

We have a great program in place for 2024 and look forward to meeting up with everyone for some exciting garden visits.

Stay safe and cool.

As an aside to this report, I wonder if any of you have seen a *Tropidoderus rhodomus* commonly known as a Red Shouldered Stick Insect.

This amazing insect was found on our back patio and measures 20cm.

My research says it is seen on the eastern side of Australia, with no mention of it being here in the west.



The lush, garden at Lynda and Rod Cook's home.

## May exhibition planned

Arts Toodyay  
Kerrie Carter

PAST, present and future members are welcome to attend Arts Toodyay's monthly meetings.

Please join us on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6pm at the Toodyay Bowling Club.

Take the opportunity to meet the new Committee and hear about future events, including a May Exhibition with prizes on offer.

More details can be found on our Facebook page and website or contact the President at secretary.arts.j2@gmail.com.

The President and Committee of Arts Toodyay would like to thank the past contributions from the previous President (Graham) and Secretary (Tricia).

Their contributions to Arts Toodyay will be sadly missed.

## We're back on Song

Toodyay Community Singers  
Anne Millar

HELLO and welcome 2024.

The Toodyay Community Singers wish everyone a safe and happy new year.

To all involved in the recent fires I hope you are all safe.

Thank you to all the fire volunteers and all other organisations.

Our recent power outage certainly was an experience for all in the communities affected.

The Singers recommence rehearsals at the CWA Hall on Thursday February 1 from 5pm to 7pm.

We are once again hoping, to get some new faces to join our singing group, no prerequisite required, just enjoy singing and being part of Community events.



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ENVIRONMENT

# Government endorses watering down of environmental regulations

**Safe and Scenic Toodyay Roads**  
Andrew St John, Convenor

WELCOME to the new year from all at Safe and Scenic Toodyay Roads.

Regrettably 2024 has not got off to a good start for all those organisations like SASTR who are dedicated to trying to slow down the continuing and unnecessary destruction of the natural environment including that along Toodyay Road.

Late last year the State Government released the findings of a review it commissioned of WA's environmental approvals system and the WA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

The review containing 39 recommendations was not independent, did not include any community consultation and basically reduced the EPA and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to a rubber stamp.

According to the Premier the current regulations are holding back development of the State and hence the need for a revamped EPA.

While many in the community already feel that there is an inadequate protection for the



No wildflowers to grow on this Wheatbelt shire roadside – the sign indicates these are on show in Ravensthorpe only.

environment, the mining industry sees any objections to its plans to dig and despoil the land, no matter where, as unnecessary and a threat to business.

There is a desire by the government to become a green powerhouse from mining

all those minerals seen as contributing to a decarbonised economy.

But to allow all of this so-called green mining to proceed without impediment and adequate review is to ignore its damaging effects on the environment is unacceptable and decidedly ungreen.

The irony of widespread reductions in biodiversity – and other destructive effects on the environment - as a result of pursuing this so-called green economy seems to have entirely escaped government and industry alike.

There is of course a challenge to be faced about how we decarbonise our economy at sufficient speed in order to limit the degree of global warming.

It requires a balancing act, a part of which must be appropriate environmental safeguards, no matter that they may mean some delays.

The mining industry would have us believe that the WA economy will collapse if mining is not allowed to proceed unabated and without due review and the government has responded in wholesale agreement.

The effective ditching of all such safeguards, has unified environmental organisations of all types into universal condemnation and into planning a campaign to educate the public on the consequences including the highly deleterious effects on biodiversity.

What does this mean locally? Well it cannot but help Chalice to get the eventual approval for their open cut mine should they decide to go ahead with their plans.

As to the changes to Toodyay Road, Main Roads WA has already exploited the existing regulations to get their generous clearing permit and ignore any objections.

But a further emasculated EPA does not bode well for the preservation of roadside

vegetation throughout the Shire and beyond, on which SASTR continues to campaign.

We have previously drawn attention to the fact that a decade or more ago one of Main Roads goals was to preserve wherever possible, the vegetation along the roadside as a haven for flora and fauna.

No longer unfortunately, and whether it is Main Roads or local shires, we increasingly see scenes like the one portrayed in the photograph above.

This is not in Toodyay Shire but in one not too far away and is emblematic of a situation which is further contributing to reductions in biodiversity.

One wonders if those carrying out this particular example of wasted earth policy noticed the irony of the sign which now stands amidst this resulting desert?

It is advertising the local Wildflower Show. Meanwhile we continue our campaign to seek further changes to the planned improvements along Toodyay Road.

Following a brief encounter with the Assistant Transport Minister at the Toodyay Show he invited us to submit our concerns.

We are about to respond with our changes which would also save the Government and taxpayers some money as well as be less destructive on the environment.

Come and see us at the Farmers Market in February and hear what we are telling them.

Advertorial

## Local voices: diving deeper into community priorities



Voconiq's Community Engagement Coordinator, Steph Sparks, chatting about Local Voices.

paid envelopes will also be available for collection from the Bindoon, Toodyay and Northam Libraries and Toodyay Visitor Centre, once the survey opens.

Participants are reassured that Voconiq understands the sensitivity of the issues at hand and will ensure that confidentiality is maintained, with no personal information shared with Chalice.

Chalice and Voconiq will acknowledge survey participants for their time and insights through the Local Voices Rewards Program. For every completed 'Pulse' survey, participants have the option to allocate a \$5 donation to local not-for-profit groups registered in the Community Rewards Program.

Whilst there are several groups already registered, invitations are extended for additional community groups such as sporting clubs, school P&C's and community organisations to register and start receiving rewards at [voconiqlocalvoices.com/chalice/#Rewards](https://voconiqlocalvoices.com/chalice/#Rewards).

Your voice matters – have your say on Chalice and the Gonnevillle Project through the Local Voices survey.

CHALICE Mining has engaged Voconiq to come back into the local community in February with their Local Voices program - for a short 'Pulse' survey aimed at gathering further community feedback.

The Local Voices program was developed in collaboration with Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, and is a unique and confidential initiative that allows residents to inform business decisions through a series of short surveys.

The 'Anchor' survey in March 2023 provided insight into what matters most to the local community, with the Environment and Procedural Fairness emerging as key themes.

The shorter 'Pulse' survey will further explore these topics, seeking valuable community insights to inform decision-making for a potential future mine at the Gonnevillle Project.

The Gonnevillle Project is located on Chalice-owned farmland in the Shire of Toodyay, and has the potential to become a green metals mine that could deliver significant regional benefits.

Results from the Anchor survey can be viewed from the interactive dashboard via the Chalice Local Voices website at <https://voconiqlocalvoices.com/chalice/> results.

The 'Pulse' survey is open from February 14 for approximately six weeks, and community members are encouraged to complete the survey at <https://voconiqlocalvoices.com/chalice/>.

Community members who have not completed a survey previously can pre-register to receive the survey when it opens.

An invitation to participate in the upcoming survey will also be sent to those who previously participated and provided an email address.

Alternatively, paper surveys with reply



### We want to hear from you

Have your say on Chalice and the Gonnevillle Project with the Local Voices Survey

- ✓ Completing the survey lets Chalice Mining know what matters most to the community, and will guide planning of the Gonnevillle Project
- ✓ 100% confidential - surveys are delivered by Voconiq and your personal details are not shared
- ✓ Earn donations for local community groups for every survey you complete
- ✓ Complete the short survey online, or drop into the Toodyay, Bindoon, Northam libraries or Toodyay Visitor Centre to grab a paper survey

Your voice matters

Scan the code and have your say today:



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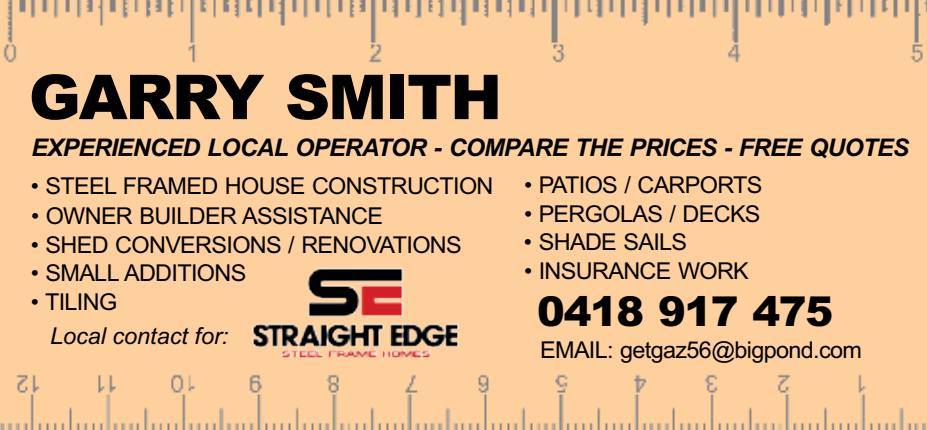
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ENVIRONMENT

**Mammas and Pappas step in as metro wildlife centre closes**



One of the joeys we now have in our care.

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

ALL THE best for 2024 to our members and those that take an interest in our group.

Marsupial Mammas and Pappas (MMAp) is your local wildlife rescue and rehabilitation group based in Toodyay but we cover a wide area.

We are leading up to our busy period with the new orphan joey kangaroos becoming viable in the coming months.

By using the term viable, I mean that we assess each one and generally the joey needs to weigh at least 250 grams so that the internal organs should be functioning to a point where they will survive being looked after by a human.

We put it down to a 'will to live'; you just know which are the fighters and those that have given up.

Injuries of course play a big part in this; broken bones we can fix but head injuries are extremely difficult.

Over the past two months we have mainly had birds arrive for care and bobtails with the 'bobbie flu'.

The bigger joey kangaroos in the 4kg range are difficult as they cannot be easily contained but by showing them love and attention they do come around after time.

You may have read or seen other media outlets that a Perth based Wildlife Centre was forcibly closed down and we were asked to take on the 21 joey kangaroos which were in care.

Most were not in the physical condition one would have expected. Some were euthanised

on first inspection while others have been euthanised after a Veterinary check.

I cannot say any more as this is an ongoing case with various Government Departments.

This number of kangaroos landing on our doorstep is unusual and require lots of support with feeding and medications.

Most are on four-hourly feeds five times each day so even if it took ten minutes to feed each one that is near to continuous feeding for one person.

A number of members have rallied around to form a roster for feeding, washing dirty pouches, medication when required and just trying to give them some love and attention they seek and need.

So thanks to Becky who has been the main rescuer and organiser and also to the various people who have supported us both practically and financially.

As you would realise it is expensive having this many animals coming in and requiring a high level of care and is a drain on our finances.

If you come across any injured native wildlife and you are unsure what to do, or if you want to be involved as a carer, please phone Brian 0419 933 721, or Becky 0499 077 739.

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We welcome donations at any time by EFT to Bendigo Bank 633000, account 175516319.

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**Toodyay Friends celebrate 30 years of caring for the River**

Toodyay Friends of the River Inc  
Bridget Leggett, Secretary TFOR

WE WILL be celebrating our thirtieth year throughout 2024 and have planned a number of special events in addition to our usual river care and walk track maintenance working bees.

We hope that many members of the Toodyay community will help us celebrate and come to one or more of these events.

Your first opportunity is on Saturday March 9, when we will be holding a Community Forum titled 'Waterways Wisdom' in the Toodyay Recreation Centre.

Speakers are still being finalised, but we anticipate a sharing of traditional wisdom, insights about the River Training Scheme and its long-term consequences and discussion on how we can wisely care for the Avon River now and for future generations.

This is the third successive year Friends have held a Community Forum in March, and based on past performance, it will be a really interesting and popular afternoon event.

In 2022 the 'Walk Tracks Forum' reached capacity in the CWA hall and in 2023 'Catchments, Carnabies and Chuditch' attracted over 50 people.

The forum is free and afternoon tea will be provided.

Further details will be posted around town and published in the March edition of *The Herald*.

In May or June we will be opening the West Toodyay Wander with a celebratory

event designed to showcase the Wander and the work of the Friends.

The idea of the West Toodyay wander came out of our first Community Forum and the Friends and the Shire have been working in partnership to make it possible.

To mark our 30th year, the Friends are sponsoring two photography prizes at the Toodyay Agricultural Show – one for adults and one for children.

The photographs will need to feature the Avon River.

Further information will be forthcoming, but meanwhile we encourage you all to have your cameras or mobile phones handy when you are near the river, in case you get the perfect opportunity to take that prize-winning photo.

The final celebration for the year will be a breakfast in December as close to the actual anniversary date as possible.

Again, we look forward to welcoming the community at this event.

During the year, you might also like to keep an eye out for the historical display, featuring Friends' achievements over three decades, which will be working its way around Toodyay.

Thanks to the support of Toodyay's St John's Ambulance Volunteers, Friends' first activity this year will be a first aid refresher.

The focus will be on resuscitation and the treatment of snakebite and will be conducted by Sharon Boxall, a St John Ambulance volunteer and trainer, and one of our Management Committee members.

Numbers will be limited to 20 Friends, with the possibility of a repeat training session if we are seriously over-subscribed.

Attendance will be by RSVP only and further information will be sent out to our members by email.

We would like to wish all Toodyay's Volunteers a safe and constructive year, and say 'thank you' for all you do for our community.



Friends of the River's new 30th year logo. Expect to see this everywhere in 2024.

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ENVIRONMENT

# Once-local python disappears from Toodyay area

**Python Watch**  
Desraé Clarke

PYTHON species in the Shire of Toodyay numbered three until the 1950's when reports ceased of the beautiful Woma (*Aspidites ramsayi*).

This reptile is thought to be extinct in the southwest of the state.

However, it is still found in the dry and arid areas of inland Western Australia, including a small area north of Geraldton.

The second of the python species to be found within our Shire is the Carpet Python (*Morelia spilota*), a well-known and popular reptile with its ability to kill mice and the black rat.

It has a small head, a visible 'neck' and can grow to a length of one and a half metres with some found to reach two metres in length.

The third python, Stimson's Python, is a small creature; its adult length is just over a metre.

As with the Carpet Python, it has a small head and the visible 'neck'.

It was thought earlier that the Stimson's Python was the Children's Python (*Morelia childreni* – named for English naturalist John Children) found in the north but the two

species are separate.

The scientific name is *Antaresia stimsoni*.

The ground colouring of this python may be pale brown, a fawn, or a whitish cream.

A 'blotching' of a darker brown, described as resembling 'rosettes', may be circular or oval.

Although the Stimson's Python is generally nocturnal (active at night) it may be found basking or foraging during the day.

Hollow logs, rabbit burrows, termite mounds and beneath large, flat pieces of rock are all sheltering places for this reptile.

Its diet consists of small rats, mice, small birds, and some lizards.

The Stimson's Python is not always as quiet as the Carpet Python and may bite if suddenly disturbed or threatened; it is not poisonous.

Sightings and photographs of all animals are greatly appreciated for the records of the Toodyay Naturalists' Club database.

It has been proven, repeatedly, that what may be common at some point in time may in twenty or thirty years, or even earlier, become extremely rare or be lost altogether as has feared to have happened with the Woma in the southwest of our state.



The Stimson's Python (Photo Bethan Lloyd).



The Cockatiel (Photo: Lyn Phillips)

# The Cockatiel is not a parrot

**Bird of the Month**  
Desraé Clarke

ALTHOUGH the Cockatiel is not normally found within our Shire one never knows what can be observed out of its range.

It has been sighted in the east of the Shire but is mainly found in semi-arid regions.

It can be found in the northern and eastern parts of the Avon River Basin.

This small bird, of about 29-32 cm, is a cockatoo.

It has formerly been described as a parrot and, although it has many similar features of wings and long tail, scientific evidence has classified it as a cockatoo and the sole member of its genus.

Its flight is extremely fast and direct and gives distinctive, loud and clear contact calls of 'whee-it, whee-it' while in flight.

The Cockatiel is a highly nomadic species with its movements influenced by rainfall and best feeding opportunity.

It comes to water to drink daily and is found along watercourses and, as a seed eater, around open grasslands within mulga habitat.

The male and female are predominantly soft grey in colour with similar markings although those of the male are much brighter; both birds have prominent white shoulders.

It has yellow cheeks, throat and forehead and orange-red ear coverings appearing as a splotch on the face.

Its erect yellow crest is tinged with grey, it has a brown eye and its legs are light grey in colour.

The female is much duller with a greyer head and crest.

The outer tail feathers and underwing are a pale yellow, finely barred grey, and the flight feathers have yellow/white flecks.

An unlined nest will be found in the hollow of a variety of dead eucalypt species especially in the River Red gum; it enters its nest tail first.

Breeding is from August to December with the laying of four to seven glossy white, oval-shaped, eggs.

Both parents share incubation over 18 to 20 days with the young fledging in approximately five weeks.

The Cockatiel is a seed eater and forages on the ground gleaning seeds of grasses, herbs and trees particularly seeds of Acacia (wattle species).

The Toodyay Naturalists' Club appreciates items of natural history interest that can be entered on its data base and recorded as sightings.

If it is possible to include a photo to accompany an observation it can help with a definite identification, should it be needed.

To contact the Toodyay Naturalists' Club email [secretary@toodyaynats.org.au](mailto:secretary@toodyaynats.org.au) or phone 9574 5574.

# Discarded tin can traps goanna and spider

**Toodyay Naturalists' Club**  
Desraé Clarke.

WITH the weather a hot beginning to 2024 club members will have met in the Anglican Church Hall for the first presentation of the year on 'bugs' given by a year 11 student.

It is so pleasing to have a member of the younger generation interested in natural history; details of Andrew's presentation will be given in *The Herald's* March edition.

The December 2023 Planning Meeting held for the forthcoming year has an interesting agenda including two weekend excursions, one in the wheatbelt and the second in the wetlands of the Peel/ Yalgorup area south of Mandurah.

The Toodyay Naturalists' members participate in two litter collections each year.

The first is to be held on the early March 'Cleanup Australia Day' weekend with attention given to Ferguson Road in the Julimar Forest; the second is on Saturday October 9th at Munyerring Springs also in the Julimar Forest.

Litter can have devastating results on wildlife with an example given of the following:

A Toodyay guy was just leaving his Julimar Road property when he witnessed the odd sight of a drink can moving about his fire track in the oddest manner with no wind or water to assist.

On closer inspection it proved to be a Racehorse Goanna with its head firmly wedged in the can.

He seized the can realising 'can surgery' with tin snips was required to release the unfortunate creature.

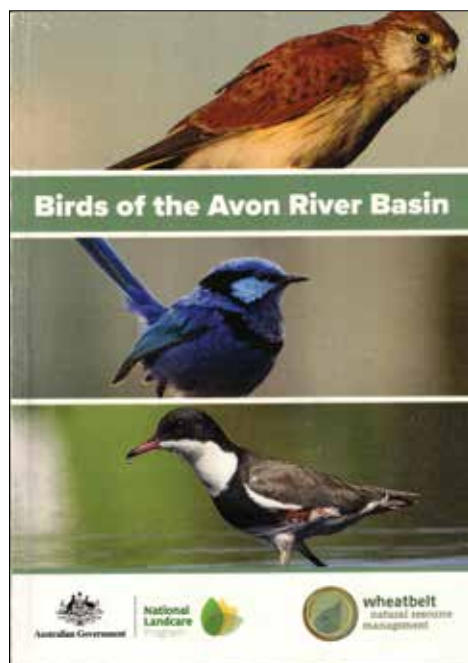
The Good Samaritan was also very aware that the little critter had long, sharp claws.

On the reptile's ultimate release the reason for the encounter was also the release from the can of a large spider and the prospective meal for the goanna.

Observations reported to the Nat's as the above are appreciated to add to data gathered and utilised as education for the wider community.

The March meeting on Saturday 16th has guest speaker, Max Howard, presenting on 'Birds of the Avon River Basin'.

The meeting will be held at the Anglican Church Hall commencing 7pm with enquiries to [secretary@toodyaynats.com.au](mailto:secretary@toodyaynats.com.au) or call 9574 5574.



Wheatbelt NRM publication 'Birds of the Avon River Basin'.

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## WHEN AND WHERE

### ART & CRAFT / HOBBIES / HISTORY

**Arts Toodyay**  
Fourth Wednesday of each month from 6pm at the Toodyay Bowling Club. Contact secretary.arts.j2@gmail.com.

**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 Community Hall 10am-12:30pm

**Ragbys 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@inet.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 Oct-Apr, Jun, Aug 5pm, Coondle Fire Shed.

**Morangup VBFB**  
Third Saturday of the month, 3 Wallaby Way, Morangup 5.30pm. Sharon Gamble or secretarymrvbfb@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 toodyayselocalmanager@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 Mamas 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**  
moondynecommittee@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.

**Butterly Cottages Association**  
Secretary: Cheryl-Jean. Contact email 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.

## Classifieds

### Situations Vacant

**Practice Nurse for Toodyay Medical Group**  
Toodyay Medical Group (TMG) is a privately owned organisation operating in Toodyay.

We employ, subcontract, and engage with general practitioners, practice nurses (both registered nurses and enrolled nurses), visiting physicians, allied health professionals and administration staff.

The practice nurse may be required to provide home assessments or supervision, mentoring and education as needed.

Essential Selection criteria:  
AHPRA registration as a registered nurse.  
Current Western Australian Driver's Licence.  
Current criminal record screening.

Current Working with Children Check.  
Primary healthcare or General Practice experience.

Continuing professional development.  
The Practice Nurse position is part time. The employer is flexible with casual or part time hours for an interested individual.

## Public Notices

### Annual General Meeting

Toodyay Football Club AGM will be held on 12 February 2024 at the sports pavilion, Toodyay Showgrounds, starting at 6pm.

### In Memorium

VALERIE It has now been 7 years since you left me, but I still miss you oh so much. I will never forget you as long as I live.

Memories from Elley - Greg

## The Toodyay Herald

### Ink in your veins?

Your locally owned community newspaper is looking for people from the print/publishing industry to help as volunteers in the production of what we believe to be Australia's only not-for-profit Newspaper.

If you are interested please email:  
secretary@toodyayherald.com.au

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

## Casual Liquor Retail Assistant

Retail Assistants (Retail & Consumer Products)  
Casual, 13 Hours a week \$25-32 per hour + After Hours penalty rates

The Toodyay Liquor Store is seeking a customer friendly person to fill a casual liquor position in our store. Previous retail experience with specific liquor industry experience preferable, however, not a requirement.

#### To be successful you will be:

- Checking goods inwards and outwards, and able to store stock efficiently
- Able to carry out moderate to heavy lifting
- Able to work weekends and nights
- Be friendly, team oriented and have a positive attitude
- To handle cash accurately and efficiently
- Must have an RSA

#### Skills advantage:

- Knowledge of POS Systems
- Previous Liquor Industry product knowledge

**Bottlemart**

Please email your resume to: [toodyaybottlemart@outlook.com.au](mailto:toodyaybottlemart@outlook.com.au)

**BRAIN TEASERS**

**Combo Crossword**

- ACROSS**  
 1 Told incorrectly  
 7 A compound  
 8 Motif  
 11 Motor part  
 12 Work list  
 14 Was untruthful  
 16 Type of fat  
 19 Beginning  
 22 Hit hard  
 24 Centre part  
 25 Alcoholic drink  
 26 Brought back to life

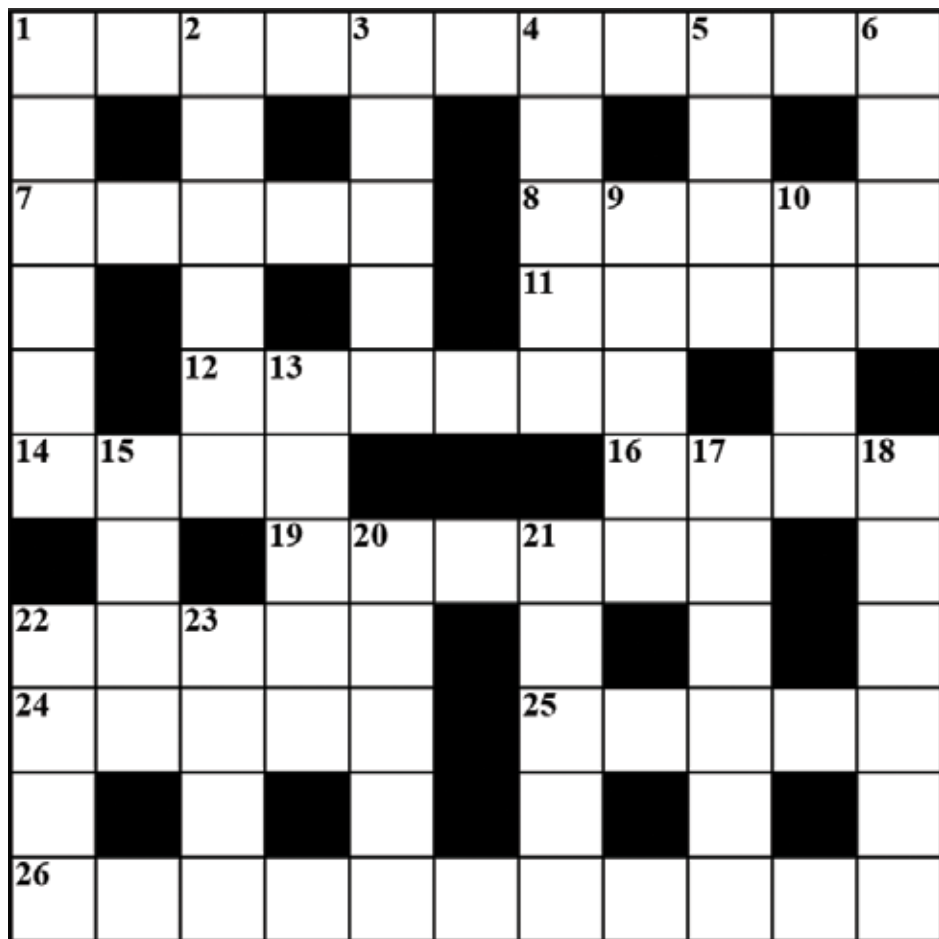
- DOWN**  
 1 By hand  
 2 Irony  
 3 Wants  
 4 Improper  
 5 Encounter  
 6 One colouring things  
 9 Farm animal  
 10 Extra  
 13 Smell  
 15 Not moving  
 17 Most distant  
 18 Light string  
 20 Speak  
 21 A fur  
 22 Singe  
 23 Fools

**Cryptic Clues**

- ACROSS**  
 1 Move is dim for mengiven wrong information  
 7 Inter new sodium compound  
 8 Short informal essay on my personal pronoun  
 11 Two-way spinning part of a machine  
 12 Nothing leaves malebird for a register of names  
 14 Told a fib in German ballad  
 16 Girl with the original fatty tissue  
 19 It's a start for a dismissed group  
 22 Cuff about a stupid young man  
 24 Man with cunning core  
 25 Seep out after blend for strong liquor  
 26 Deter curser newly raised from the dead

- DOWN**  
 1 Book with information relating to the hands  
 2 Air set display in use of ridicule

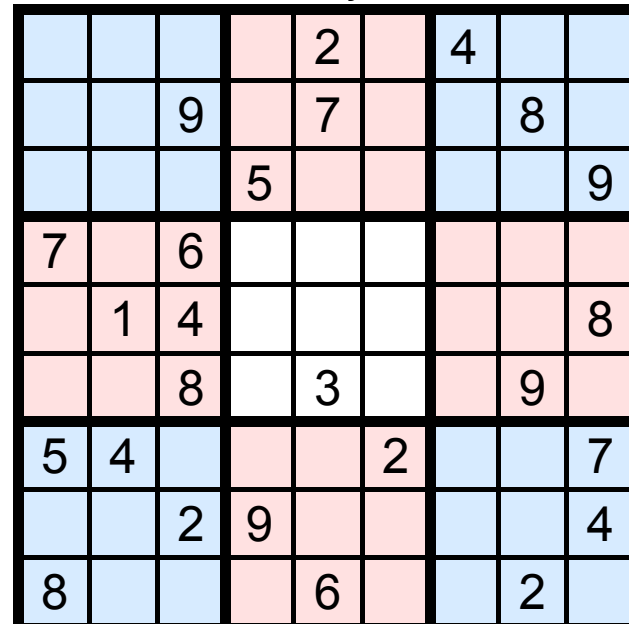
- 3 Desires necessities  
 4 Ring true about being considered improper  
 5 Encounter rising swarm  
 6 He changes colours in gaudy erotica  
 9 Working animal heard with raucous voice  
 10 NSW town loses direction in extra bit  
 13 Smell from nothing hard  
 15 Run motor slowly and do nothing elsewhere  
 17 Stout leading man moved to the greatest degree  
 18 They half-scan fine cord  
 20 Give audible impression when complete  
 21 Bales out fur from a type of weasel  
 22 Scorch in recharging  
 23 Originals of all fools seem simpletons



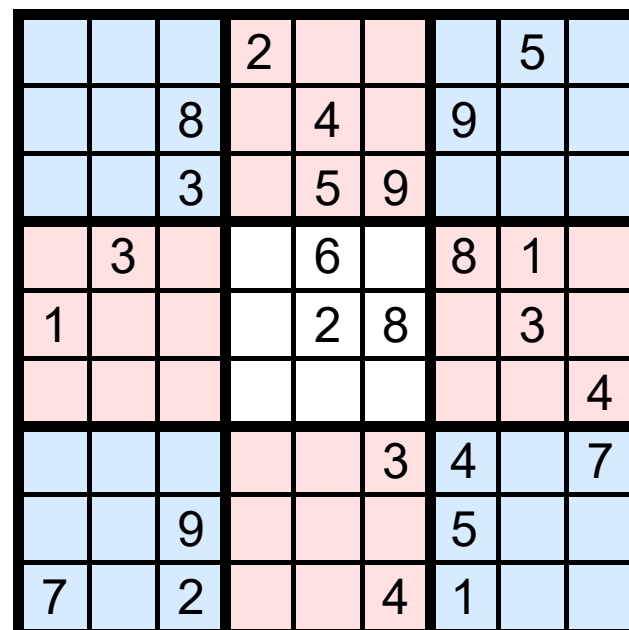
**Sudoku**

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.

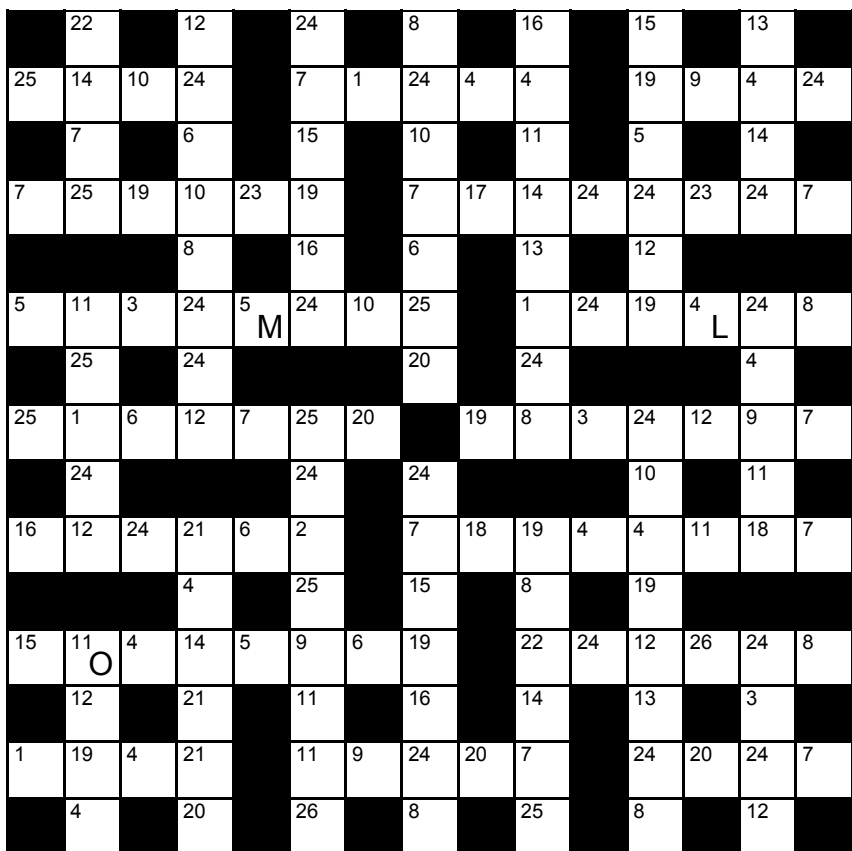
**Easy**



**Hard**

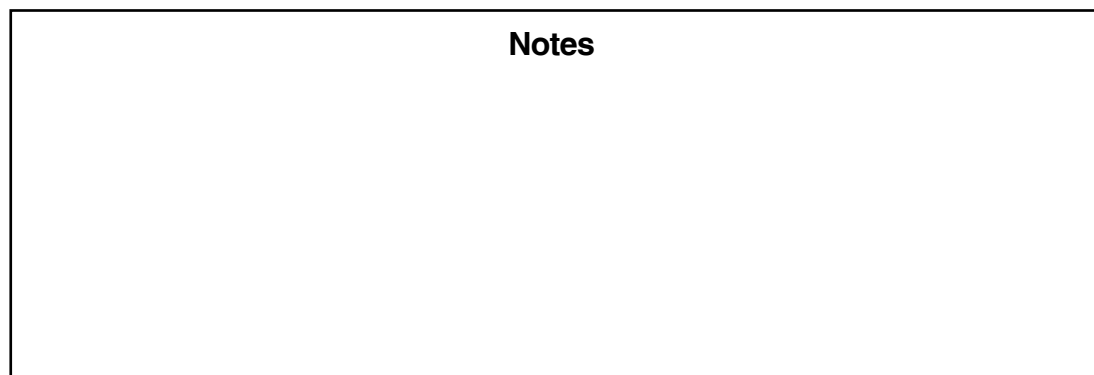


**Crosscode**



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.

**Notes**



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

1	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

**Puzzle solutions**  
**Page 26**

**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	2.0	286.9
2024	9.8												9.8
<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>

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**HEALTH**

Attendees at last month's first Toodyay Mr Perfect BBQ for 2024.

# Building community one Toodyay BBQ at a time

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

A NEW year is often a good time for reflection – not so much for resolutions (as for yours truly I do find them hard to keep).

The Toodyay Mr Perfect BBQ has grown from an idea when we moved to this great little town and we have cooked up nine monthly BBQs to date since we first placed the snags and onions on the hotplates in Duidgee Park in May 2023.

I reckon it's worth reflecting what this Mr Perfect thing is all about.

Men aren't perfect (I reckon there are a few partners who will agree with that).

For many of us blokes confronting our imperfections, our flaws, failures and vulnerabilities is challenging – and often doesn't occur until it's too late (think relationship breakdown, drug addiction, mental health

issues and the like).

We know that men have a hard time talking about their mental health, but it's important to remember that conversation (and listening) always helps.

Mental ill-health remains high among Australian men.

Up to 25 per cent experience mental ill-health in their lifetime, and 15 per cent experience mental ill-health in any 12-month period.

Studies reveal a significant association between loneliness and experiences of depression and suicidal feelings.

Mr Perfect is 'Mental Health's Mate', a grassroots "pre-crisis" charity that creates community connection by bringing men together at BBQs in local parks across Australia, to reduce isolation and encourage better mental health. The BBQs are free as the host provides the food (with vegetarian options) and non-alcoholic drinks.

# Take time to think about how much booze you need

**Warrior Wellbeing**  
The Regional Men's Health Initiative

WHEN a new year comes around it gives us a chance to focus on ourselves, our drinking habits and the importance of a healthy balanced lifestyle.

Speaking with a group of blokes about this, I asked them to have a think about their attitudes towards drinking to which one bloke replied, "I just love the taste".

This is a fair enough response, and it's also the same problem I have with my kids, who love ice cream and chocolate, but trying to teach them that you don't have it every day takes effort.

The fact that going alcohol-free for a month is seen as a challenge for many, highlights just how prevalent alcohol use is in Australia.

Alcohol is our most widely used and most accepted drug, and over time it has formed part of our Aussie culture and identity. Its use and associations are many, including advertising, sport, social occasions, celebrations and within the workplace culture.

Peer pressure does not only happen to teenagers.

Think of the last time you were encouraged to have a drink when you were not planning to.

As Joe E. Lewis once quoted "I distrust camels, and anyone else who can go a week without a drink".

There seems to be an underlying normalisation, glamorisation and justification for drinking which is also present in pop-culture, movies (The Hangover) and social media (my friend who posts 'its beer o'clock').

Now I am not saying I'm a shining light leading by example when it comes to abstaining from having a drink, my arm is often twisted a bit too easily.

We should all take the chance to think about our own individual drinking habits,

behaviours and attitudes:

- What example do I set when I drink?
- How often/how much am I drinking?
- Is it to relax?
- Is it to cope or deal with stress?
- Is it habitual or has it become a dependency?
- For those who do enjoy a night out, here are a few points to help reduce unhealthy drinking behaviours:
- What mood/state of mind am I in before I drink?
- Alcohol is a depressant but can also enhance negative behaviours i.e. anger, aggression and reckless risk taking;
- What sort of situation/crowd am I drinking with?
- Personal safety is up to us. Am I with people I know and trust in a safe environment or am I out with random individuals in a public space?
- Self-regulate by knowing your limits and plan ahead. Organise a designated driver, take a swag, don't risk it!
- Harm minimisation could involve having a decent meal before going out, serve finger food at parties and remember alcohol dehydrates so drink water before, during and after drinking alcohol;
- Having alcohol-free days is important. At least 2-3 days per week will show two benefits: 1, I can go without a drink, and 2, regenerative effects on the liver (along with many other health benefits).

I recently saw a creative post showing a picture of our political leaders with the caption *No matter who wins they will not fix your life, better plan on doing it yourself.*

Like a lot of things in life and especially alcohol, we can't expect governments and multimillion dollar ad campaigns to reduce the risk, control our use and fix alcohol related problems.

Moderation, awareness, responsibility, and balance is the key to our alcohol use.




Have you had any of these?

- Blood in your poo
- Blood in your pee
- Coughing up blood

If you have and you are over 40...

Tell your doctor

We have a better chance of surviving cancer and having more time with family and friends if cancer is found early.


Department of Health


For more information visit [findcancerearly.com.au](http://findcancerearly.com.au) or call 13 11 20

"I'm stoked I found my cancer early, so I can keep fishing, diving, golfing, and living the dream!"

- Damien, Geraldton

SPORT

# Toodyay Cup back on track

**Toodyay Race Club (TRC)**  
Stephen Ferguson (Chairman)

RACING and Wagering WA (RWWA) has confirmed that the 2024 Toodyay Cup will be the feature race when the Picnic Race Day returns to Toodyay on Sunday September 22 after a 3-year hiatus.

The Toodyay racecourse was closed down by the Shire of Toodyay in 2021 when an inspection report commissioned by the Shire deemed some buildings and infrastructure unsafe.

The racecourse, which is a Shire owned asset, is leased by the TRC on a 21-year lease which expires in October 2032.

Since the closure of the course, the Toodyay Cup has been run at the Belmont racecourse while the race club committee has worked determinedly to return the Cup and the Picnic Race Day to Toodyay on the traditional Monarch's birthday long weekend.

RWWA has been extremely supportive and will replace the inside running rail with a more durable plastic rail, and it will also provide scaffolding observation platforms for the stewards, replacing the three steel towers, which were also deemed to be unsafe, on the perimeter of the track.

By September there will be a totally new look at the course.

The Shire has now agreed to replace the roof and guttering over the Tote and horseshoe bar public area and will assist with other work.

The TRC will demolish the administration buildings, and the jockey's and steward's accommodation, and replace them with demountable buildings.

The TAB will provide a mobile Tote caravan to replace the old TAB counters and that will be situated next to the main bar where the old TAB was located.

We anticipate that the 2024 race day will be one of the best attended since our record crowd of 4,000 at the Club's 150th anniversary meeting in 2015.

RWWA, in acknowledgement of that possibility, has permitted the TRC to again use the racetrack crossing beyond the winning post.

This allows access to the inside of the track and gives the club far more options when planning the ground-space allocation.

So, it's all systems go for 2024.

There will be all the usual entertainments including the secure children's play area with bouncy castles etc..

The programme also includes fashions in the field, dash for cash and roving entertainers.

There will be lots of food vans, various other features, endless opportunities for local groups to fundraise and the band will of course play after the last race and into the night.

HEALTH

# Pets suffer heat stress

**Heartlands Veterinary Hospital**  
Dr Olivia Fruzynski

GOING into summer pet owners should be aware of the high temperatures that are coming to Toodyay and surrounds and the



Be aware of heat stroke in your animals during the hot summer weather.

# Busy year ahead for karate group



No need to worry if you are a visitor, we are all here to help our new members.

**Avon Valley Shotokan Club**  
Nat Kielbasa

TIE YOUR karate belt tightly and practise your loudest kiai (battle cry) because it is time for another busy and exciting year at the dojo.

By the time you read this, the karate term will have begun with much to look forward to including welcoming new members and learning new katas, tournaments, festival demonstrations, karate seminars in New



Sensei Mark and Shihan excited for the year to come.

Zealand and even a study trip to Japan for some students.

It is promising to be a fantastic and fun year.

While most of us have been chilling out and enjoying the holidays, superstar Sensei Kylie has been hard at work fundraising and finding sponsors for the upcoming trip to Japan to take some financial pressure off the participating students.

When there are events that involve only some students, the club's priority is to fundraise for these separately to be fair to all members of the club.

This is why we are so grateful to the businesses and individuals who have sponsored the Japan trip.

These include: Dazzling Marine Group, Geja Valley Contracting, Silver Back Farms, C Planke and Sons, Belingarni Fabrication, DM and DC Burton Fencing and Haulage Contractors, Meatmech, ProWeld and Elders Northam.

Thank you all.

We are truly blessed to live in such a supportive community.

In other news, we are currently holding a raffle to win a 38 litre Engel MR40F fridge/freezer valued at \$1000.

There are one hundred tickets (each costing \$20) so you have a good chance at snagging this prize for yourself.

If you want to know more or to buy a ticket please email Kylie at avonvalleyshotokan@gmail.com.

This is also the best contact to use if you need information about studying karate.

On February 25 we have a casual class training at glorious Lake Leschenaultia starting at half past ten.

This will be a relaxed environment for anyone keen to try out karate and costs \$20 – spectators are very welcome.

Feel free to bring a picnic (or your bathers to have a swim) and come join us.

We hope to see you there.

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



# tony maddox

## realestate

Your locally owned real estate

### Principal's Pen

One thing I am noticing, as you get older the years seem to go faster! Can you believe we are already in February, and we are still flat out in the office

**State of the Market**

The magic figure keeps dropping! We are now down to 3772 properties. So, guess what is happening to prices, the result is that it's a great time to sell.

**Auctions**

We have just completed successful auctions for the Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Kondinin. All properties sold under the hammer. Just doing the organising for Kalgoorlie auctions now! We are very busy in our state.

**The Court Case**

Mark the date on your calendars if you are coming to the trial; Thursday 22 February at 10am at Perth Central Law Courts. The state responded to some of our questions but not all of them. So, we have no option but to continue to trial as the state refuses to drop the prosecution. I just can't see what a prosecution will achieve, just a bigger divide between us all. I was hoping that we could all get along, obviously not. AND stop the press:

The Shire of Toodyay has also been summoned to court for the exact same thing. The school crossing over the Boyagerring Creek, The Picnic Hill Road Crossing and The Glendearg Crossing. Both over Toodyay Brook. Our rate payers might just be paying for legal fees for our own Shire! Government suing Government – Yes minister!

**Inside the Office**

**Zonelle**

What a treasure this girl has turned out to be and she puts up with all the other girls in the office. Well done.

**Jemma**

The wonderful Toodyay assistant PM she is just a huge asset to our office and loving her new role.

**Jo**

Bubbly, happy, smiling, laughing, I just don't know where she gets her energy. She just makes our office the happiest place to work in.

**Faith**

There is some very big news coming soon but I can't tell you yet. You'll just have to wait. In the meantime, she is flat out with PM and sales, what a huge amount of work this girl does.

**Jess**

Finished her licensing course and now on to selling and sales admin and helping the boss with the auctions! A very busy girl.

**Sam**

You just couldn't find a better worker then this guy! He is truly a gentleman with everyone he works for and he is flat out selling. Want something done ask for this busy man, "Sam."

**Tony**

Well, this is the month of the court case, I will be so glad when this is all over. I am just amazed that this has happened BUT the good thing is I have met some amazing locals that have offered some support. So out of every bad comes a good.

We have just started a "GoFundMe" page if you want to help <https://gofund.me/1bbff579>

I am still proud of what I have achieved on the farm. You are all welcome to have a look at the farm if your interested just give me a call 0408 926 497, and I'll show you the park!

Until next month, happy selling.

**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!**

## FOR SALE



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