

# 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.

April 2024  
Edition 433

## Near record dry – and it ain't over yet

Sean Hefferon

THE AVERAGE maximum temperature for Northam in summer 2023-24 was 35.5°C which was 2.1°C above the mean temperature for summer (33.4°C).

Northam, about 20 km southeast of Toodyay, is the closest site recording temperature observations.

Western Australia had its warmest summer since records began in 1910 – with the statewide mean temperature being 1.90°C above average.

This heat was reflected nationally, where

statistics from the Bureau of Meteorology show Australia had its third hottest summer on record – marked by constant and widespread heat.

Not only was the 2023-24 summer hotter than usual, but rainfall was also below average in parts of Western Australia.

Toodyay recorded a rainfall total of 12.8 mm, about 70% less than the average (2000-01 to 2023-24) summer rainfall.

At the local level, the queues of drivers waiting at the Toodyay community standpipe to fill their 1,000 litre water pods are testament to the hot days that the Wheatbelt

has recently sweltered through.

The standpipe saw a daily average of 20 pods being filled between December 2023 to February 2024 – compared with 4 pods per day over the same period in the 2022-23 summer.

Water carters are stretched with Tony Boag of A2B Water Cartage saying that people are desperate for water after a dismal winter and a long summer.

Wait times for water carting supply is to 2-3 weeks which is longer than usual.

One Toodyay resident recorded a maximum of 50°C on a particularly hot day – before

placing the thermometer under the shade.

That day was February 2 where the Bureau recorded a maximum temperature of 45.2°C, the highest temperature in ten years.

The hot, dry conditions meant on-farm water supplies have dropped to very low levels, resulting in many livestock farmers carting water for their livestock.

Given the conditions, summer weeds haven't flourished, reducing the need for spraying – which is a positive.

On the other hand, doing workshop-based repairs has been particularly challenging for local farmers over what was a persistently hot summer with air-conditioned workshops a luxury most do not have.

The below average rainfall and hot dry conditions affected the 2023 harvest which was below average and, as Georgie Troup from the Toodyay Agricultural Alliance said, added to quite a few industry problems being thrown at farmers including a shortage of skilled labour.

The rainfall outlook for Toodyay and surrounds suggests the April-June forecast is likely to be below average and the Bureau forecasts an increased chance of an unusually dry spell of 110mm or less.

In the last 26 years Toodyay has experienced six summers with less than 1mm total summer rainfall – three of those summers had no measurable rainfall at all.

The recent long hot summer and minimal rainfall meant bushfire risk was heightened, and fires kept local brigades busy.

The Shire of Toodyay bushfire brigades have responded to 51 local fires since July 2023 – including the 20 December 2023 fire that started near Julimar Road in West Toodyay and burned for several days.

That blaze threatened several properties and saw the Toodyay Memorial Hall turned into an evacuation centre.

Local brigades also assisted out-of-shire incidents during the height of the summer with the bulk water tanker appliance called upon to support several incidents including in the Chittering Valley.

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Some of the 71 riders in Stirling Terrace Toodyay.

## Black Dog One-Dayer roars through Avon Valley

THE BLACK Dog Ride 'One-Dayer' is an annual one-day motorcycle ride held in more than 50 communities across Australia on Sunday 17 March 2024.

The local One-Dayer is called the Avon Valley Black Dog Ride and saw 71 riders meet at the Mount Helena Tavern before departing for a leisurely meander through valley back roads.

After a brief leg stretch at the Grass Valley Tavern the two-and-a-half-hour ride finished in Toodyay – with the total ride distance being 160km.

Riders, support crew, locals and dignitaries including State Opposition Leader and local MP, Shane Love, then enjoyed an afternoon of chat and camaraderie for a lunch, cooked by Toodyay Locals Care, and post ride refreshments at the Toodyay Club.

The Avon Valley One-Dayer, after a pause for a few years, has been back and running

since 2020.

Local ride coordinator, Wes Sutton, said, "After I signed up for the One-Dayer in 2018 and discovered the Avon Valley ride wasn't operating, I attended the Baldivis ride for a couple of years as it was the only ride out of Perth at the time.

"Recognising the need for a ride to accommodate those living in the eastern and northern suburbs, I approached Black Dog Ride and took on the role of Avon Valley coordinator."

Over the last five years the local One-Dayer has visited many Avon Valley townsites with Toodyay being a favourite for many riders.

Wes said joining the Black Dog Ride's One-Dayer was an enjoyable and meaningful way to help the organisation achieve its mission of starting conversations about depression and suicide prevention.

"More than 3,000 lives are lost to suicide in

Australia every year, and one in five Aussies will be affected by mental illness every year, with three million living with depression or anxiety," he said.

"The tragic loss of loved ones to suicide is what drives Black Dog Ride to build a community culture of awareness, inclusion and acceptance."

By participating in the event, locals helped to break down the barrier of silence and encouraged friends, family and colleagues to seek help to manage mental illness so they can lead a meaningful, fulfilling life.

Beyond Blue's lead clinical adviser Grant Blashki said the Black Dog Ride was an important way to raise awareness of mental health issues.

"Nine people take their lives in Australia each day, and three-quarters of those are men," Dr Blashki said.

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### Coming events

Anzac Day - Thursday April 25  
Toodyay Farmers Market  
Sunday April 21

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# The Toodyay Herald

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**SUBSCRIPTIONS** - Subscriptions are \$33 (postage and packaging) per year (11 issues). Please send a cheque to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566.

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## DISTRIBUTION

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## THANK YOU

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

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## NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Noon Friday  
April 19

STORY DEADLINE

Noon Wednesday  
April 22

DISTRIBUTED

Thursday  
May 2

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

## The generation game

Dr Christian Mauri

WHEN FLO, late in life, told her adult children about her marriage to their father, she bragged that she never saw him naked.

That would shock anyone under 40.

How is such modesty even technically possible when babies are being conceived?

The answer apparently, is darkness and the clever use of bedding.

What a faraway time that seems. How foreign.

Yet for some, norms like this are a living memory.

In a nursing home somewhere, the bedding trick might still be in action.

\*\*\*

When you write family stories, you see how much changes in a few generations.

Consider the above example. When Flo married Vern (a vicar at the time), creative modesty was something to be proud of.

A generation later, their son would skinny dip on his honeymoon.

Indeed, now unmarried couples all over the country walk around the house naked, draping their shame all over the cushions.

With enough time, the familiar turns into opposite land.

\*\*\*

Here's another example.

Flo and Vern chose suitably sensible names for their kids: Gerald and Joseph.

Two generations later, an entirely novel name appeared on the family tree, when a grandson renamed himself "Waterfall."

With that, a new precedent was set.

Whatever names came next, you can bet Flo and Vern wouldn't have picked them.

Here, the great-grandson "Zephyr." here, the great-great grandson "Azlan."

How will the next generation be named?

\*\*\*

One more example.

When writing family histories, I'm often supplied with beautiful handwritten letters.

Deciphering these takes time, as my generation grew up without cursive.

It looks like elegant nonsense.

I set aside hours to make sense of these texts - there is no rushing comprehension.

Like learning a new language, you must simply repeat the exercise and wait for the brain to make the required connections.

And it's my job to do this.

Imagine being Azlan - or any kid schooled electronically during the pandemic - and trying to read gran's letters.

Currently, you can go to an older person for help, and marvel as they read the ancient scratchings with no effort whatsoever.

Eventually, these translators will be gone, their literacy along with them.

In this sense, these letters, even if you keep them, are a little more lost each day.

While we've started this article looking back, change flows forward.

Have you spent time listening to teens conversing?

How much of their dialect flies over your head?

Much of their talk is born of convenience in an online world dominated by the youth culture of the United States.

Can you decipher their texts?

Would the words have the "correct" meaning to you?

Here we are, between the increasingly indecipherable cursive of the past and the inaccessible lingo of the future.

It's like living on an island in time, briefly revealed then swallowed by the sea.

How much changes, and how quickly!

\*\*\*

For the adventurous, and for the idle-but-curious, there is joy to find in all of this.

Personally, I like to look back to better look forward.

I do this by placing what I call "sociological bets" - basically a bet on what's likely to happen next, socially.

For example, do you think Australians walking around shirtless will become more, or less acceptable, in the coming decades?

Double or nothing. Do you think this will go only for men, or for women as well?

As people increasingly choose names based not on tradition, but whimsy, what names might appear on your family tree?

Do Australians still name their kids after royals?

(On this point, my sister-in-law cannot be the only teacher who noticed an influx of girls named "Khaleesi" following the success of *Game of Thrones*.)

In terms of language, will root-words still be the best way to decipher meaning?

Or will this be replaced by familiarity with online culture and typing conventions?

\*\*\*

If the past is a foreign country, the future is an alien planet.

We began this article with a funny story on what now seems outdated norms and values involving bed sheets.

Let's conclude with an invitation.

Consider what funny stories, how much literacy, and stunning changes that might be missed and forgotten when a limb on the family tree passes into history.

If there are letters, read them while they are still readable.

Write down your own stories and observations (and for posterity's sake, make it legible!).

Once your kids are old enough to care, pass it all on.

Embrace the joy of the sociological bet, not to cast doom and gloom, but to make an easy fiver at the expense of a mate (or fifty, adjusting for inflation).

## FEEDBACK

## Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

Suggestions and comments are welcome please forward to: [feedback@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:feedback@toodyayherald.com.au) or post to: PO Box 100, Toodyay WA 6566

## The Toodyay Herald



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

#### April - May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 31	Apr 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	27
28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4



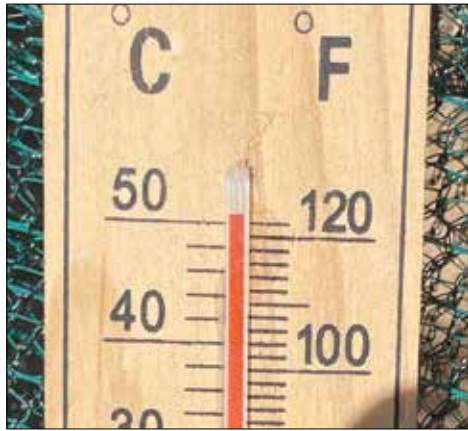
# Near record dry continues

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The effects of the extreme summer heat and dry spell can be seen in the sunburnt gardens of local residents.

Shire reserves dotted around the Toodyay area are also heat affected with very many dead or dying trees and frequent shedding of big branches.

Greg Warburton, Reserve Management Officer at the Shire of Toodyay, said that in the Rugged Hills Reserve a large section of vegetation is either dead or severely drought stressed and the trees most affected are immature Wandoo.



Thermometer showing over 50 degrees in the sun.

He said this could be due to the trees growing where there is underlying rock or shallow soil so they are the first to suffer; however, the larger ones seem fine presumably because they have their roots down further.

“In my 25 years in Toodyay I have never seen the effects of drought stress so bad”, Mr Warburton said.

The persistently hot summer affected Western Power and the heatwave conditions led to a significant power loss in January 2024 – a combined result of a severe thunderstorm, lightning strikes, and bushfires.

Hundreds of Toodyay houses and businesses were left without power, some for several days, during what was a sweltering State-wide heatwave.

It was the longest power cut in living memory for residents in Toodyay and the surrounding area.

The frequency of very hot days is expected to increase, and heatwaves will get longer and more intense in the Wheatbelt based on climate change forecasts.

Heatwaves are the leading cause of weather-related injury hospitalisations and deaths in Australia over the past decade, with the elderly, small children and homeless most at risk.

Waiting for the rain to fall may become something to look forward to in the summers ahead.



Pet cat “Chopper” eating a New Holland Honeyeater. Photo: John Read.

## Local cat law kicked down road

AT LAST month’s council meeting elected members voted on adopting the Shire of Toodyay Cat Local Law 2024.

The officer’s recommendation was that council adopt the law the purpose of which is to improve the permit conditions, definitions of nuisance behaviour, modification of penalties, and to continue to provide the Shire of Toodyay with measures in addition to those under the Cat Act 2011 to control the keeping of cats.

The matter was debated with Cr Madacsi proposing an alternate motion that the item be deferred because due to other pressing matters the local laws had not been given enough attention.

The officers recommendation was not supported and Cr Madacsi’s alternate motion was endorsed, 7-0.

The adoption of the proposed law is to be deferred to be brought back to council within three months – allowing councillors time to consider the matter.

Cr Adin Lang from the City of Fremantle who has championed tougher cat laws in the Perth metropolitan area has welcomed the pause and said, “The deferral presents an opportunity for Toodyay that must be taken to adopt a local cat law more fitting for their location and perhaps more in line with their neighbours in Northam”.

He added that Northam has one of the most robust cat laws in Western Australia which states, in part, “a cat shall not be in a public place unless it is under effective control”.

Cr Lang suggested that Toodyay can replicate the Northam law, “via a simple copy-and-paste and lead the way for all other

local governments.”

The proposed Toodyay Cat Law references prohibited areas – and if a cat is in a prohibited area the owner commits an offence.

Prohibited areas around Toodyay include Pelham and Coondle Reserves.

“Prohibited Areas are not enough to stop roaming cats, we know domestic cats are still roaming the streets and being caught in Prohibited Areas; to make real change, the Northam law needs to be followed,” said Cr Lang.

In country towns and rural settings, there is a lot less distance between where we find pet, stray and feral cats.

According to Dr Bruce Webber, Principal Research Scientist at CSIRO, “Allowing pet cats to roam in these regions increases the risk that they will contribute to the significant problem that is controlling feral cats in Western Australia.”

Pet cats that roam are also at a much greater risk of catching diseases and injury or death from snake bite, vehicle strike or dog attacks

Research by the Australian National University conducted for the Biodiversity Council, Invasive Species Council and Birdlife Australia showed that 71 per cent of pet cats in Australia are able to roam and that 78 per cent of those cats hunted.

It also showed that those cats did not bring home 85 per cent of the animals they killed.

There are now more than 5.3 million pet cats in Australia that bring great pleasure to their owners; however, Australia also has around 2.1 million feral cats and 700,000 stray cats.



The Easter egg hunt begins at Toodyay’s Duidgee Park with many choccy eggs scooped.

## Easter Sunday egg hunt thrills children

THE ANNUAL Easter Egg hunt in Duidgee Park was once again well-attended by local families and well organised by the Toodyay Volunteer Fire and Rescue.

Parking was at a premium for what is fast becoming a local Toodyay tradition.

Captain Ian “Macca” MacGregor from the Toodyay Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service said the event is to thank the families and the local community for their support of the volunteers.

It is also just a good fun, family event and the kids love the Easter Egg hunt, he said.

Volunteer fires kept the crowd fed with a sausage sizzle that was going “hammer and tongs” while the hordes of children waited patiently for the Easter Bunny to arrive.

On arrival, the children surged forward to a clearly generous Easter Bunny as handfuls of chocolate eggs were dished out.

The Easter Bunny had been very busy hiding the chocolate eggs so sought after by children with the treats hidden in the park playground and in trees.

Many chocolate eggs were also strewn across the park lawn much to the delight of the occasional parrot that would swoop in for a quick breakfast feed - or at least to inspect the shiny foil wrapped objects.

The Herald photographer managed to avoid stepping on any Easter eggs, although it was a close call.

Just before the egg hunt started a local fire went through some egg hunt rules with the hordes of children, clearly chaffing to start the hunt.

When he asked the children, “And where do you place the egg wrappers?”

They shouted back in unison, “In the bin”.

And with that the countdown began, the barrier was dropped and it was on for young and younger – with children racing across the park searching for, finding and then devouring the chocolate eggs.

After the dust had settled, and the chocolate wiped from little faces by doting parents, there was not a piece of alfoil wrapper to be found.

With the job done the Easter Bunny will be back again next year.



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Darren West MLC



# The Toodyay Herald

## Heatwaves and hot days

FOR 24 hours in mid-February, the 15 hottest days in the world were in WA.

Northam baked with a maximum temperature on February 2 of 45.2°C – the highest temperature in ten years.

People may not be aware the Bureau of Meteorology reports on temperature as measured in the shade.

On that baking day the temperature in the direct sunlight was over 50°C.

The heat was so intense and unrelenting birds dropped from the sky.

We expect hot summers in the Wheatbelt, this was something else, and the frequency of very hot days is expected to increase as are longer, more intense heatwaves.

We rightly focus on the threat of bushfires, and there also needs to be a greater recognition of heatwaves and extreme heat as a serious health threat.

A 2019 study found heat-related health issues are grossly underestimated – with more than 36,000 deaths between 2006 and 2017 attributable to heat in Australia.

Heatwaves are the leading cause of weather-related hospitalisations and deaths in Australia, the elderly, small children, and homeless at higher risk.

Heatwaves have been dubbed the silent killer because when a heatwave strikes it isn't visually dramatic.

Deaths of older people, especially those with pre-existing conditions such as heart disease, increase during heatwaves.

Mental health may also be affected during these extreme weather events.

A study published in the science journal *Nature* suggests a link between daily high temperature and suicide.

What can be done to reduce the effects of heatwaves and extreme heat?

At the individual level having an awareness of heat stroke is a good start – even better consider doing a local first aid course to learn how to avoid it.

Changing routines makes sense as well, best avoid the gardening, or start early.

Putting on a hat, and a bit of slip slop slap doesn't go astray.

We know this stuff, although not well enough, research predicts by 2050 heat-related deaths will increase five-fold.

Local government has a role to play beyond rates, roads and rubbish.

During the blackout last January public facilities in Northam were opened to give residents a chance to cool off.

The provision of more water fountains in Toodyay would reduce heat wave effects.

Developing cooler public places to address heatwave resilience is an action local government could take – shade sails over local playgrounds come to mind.

## One more thing

Shire of Toodyay CEO, Suzie Haslehurst, leaves her role on April 9.

Ms Haslehurst joined the shire in 2020 leaving a management role at York.

We thank her for her service and wish her well for the future.

Sean Hefferon  
Editor

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

## Wheatbelt Clinical Psychology

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Foundation member  
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The remains of the old Toodyay railway bridge across the Avon River on the Toodyay-Miling railway that closed in 1966. The old bridge was burnt down in July 1971. Photo: Courtesy, donated by B. Paterson, Toodyay Historical Society archives.

## LETTERS

### Race day worth it?

IS THE return of racing to Toodyay really worth up to \$200,000 of ratepayer funds?

That question was posed last month by Andrew St John.

He commented on various related issues and said, "Answers to these questions are the least the community deserves given the amount of expenditure." So here are the answers.

The title deeds specify the racecourse can only be used for recreational purposes.

Had the racecourse remained closed, the buildings would have deteriorated further, and would have cost far more to make safe for other recreation.

Mr St John said he, "Enjoys a day at the races, but the sad fact is we are a declining audience"; "Racecourses are closing everywhere"; and "Perth racing organisations are struggling to maintain two tracks when barely one is viable".

The sad fact is that little of the above is true.

Andrew may well enjoy a day at the races, but racecourses are not closing everywhere.

Racing is controlled by Racing and Wagering WA (RWWA), and it is thriving at both its Ascot summer track and the winter track at Belmont.

RWWA is hardly struggling with overall annual revenue increasing last year by \$4 million from \$383m in 2022, to \$387m in 2023.

Furthermore, RWWA is investing \$28 million in maintaining and upgrading its racecourses, with well over \$100,000 being invested in the Toodyay racecourse this year.

It is true that attendances at Ascot and Belmont have been fluctuating for several years, but this mainly because of online betting, Covid and economic reasons.

However, not so in Toodyay.

Toodyay picnic race day attracts an average crowd of between 3,500 and 4,000 depending on the weather, and after a two-year hiatus the target this year is 5,000.

That is more than the total Shire population, and initial indicators suggest the target will be surpassed with the take-up of 20 person bays in the long tent (eleven reserved already).

Returning to the "Up to \$200,000" of Shire funds—this is not new money, and in fact it should have already been spent on infrastructure maintenance.

The Shire is the proprietor of the racecourse and owns the buildings.

Despite a maintenance clause in the Toodyay Race Club (TRC) lease, the Shire is obliged to protect its asset, and allocates annual spending in its 'Long-term financial plan' (LTFP) and its 'Asset management plan' (AMP). Replacing the main roof, plumbing and electrical work are in the current LTFP and AMP.

It is hardly a massive subsidy compared to the annual \$1 million for the pool, which generates absolutely no income for the community.

Mr. St John asked if there is intention to repurpose the racecourse for other functions, and he mentioned the dilapidated nature of some facilities, commenting on animal welfare.

It is not possible under present arrangements to repurpose the racecourse.

The TRC constitution and its 21-year lease with the Shire restricts the Club to thoroughbred racing and sub-letting the course to equestrian clubs.

Some of the buildings are dilapidated and no longer fit for purpose.

The TRC will demolish these at its own expense and use demountable structures for race day.

The RWWA annual report provides prescriptive rules and guidelines for the welfare and treatment of animals, and in 2022, 676 racehorses were rehomed in its 'Off The Track' program.

Mr. St John's closing remark was, "At first sight betting this amount of money on a fading industry does not seem a smart use of our rates," the operative words being, "At first sight".

Toodyayites love their race day.

The event attracts thousands of visitors, which is the sole objective of the Shire's tourism strategy.

Many visitors stay for the weekend and return to explore our other attractions, and similar to the Toodyay Show, the value to local businesses is inestimable.

Geoff Appleby  
Toodyay

### Race Day was fun

I WAS surprised to read a negative letter in *The Toodyay Herald* about the picnic race day.

The local support for this event is huge, and I read that the money spent on the roof was already set aside in previous years and not spent then.

We went to the races in Toodyay in 2021 and it was the best event we have ever been to.

My wife got a prize in the fashion show and the kids had a great time.

I hope that the negativity doesn't spread and the races go ahead this year.

Simon Whitehead  
Julimar

### Shoddy driveway works

MY DRIVEWAY has been a mess for over four weeks, and I was originally left with a five-inch drop from my footpath to my driveway.

When I complained to the council the contractors shoveled some loose soil against the drop but left mounds of other loose soil and rocks.

I walked the whole street, and the work is really hit and miss.

Some sections are okay, but other parts are very poor quality.

I want my driveway fixed to a good quality but have no confidence this will happen.

If they just shove more soil against the footpath and smooth it down this will wash away with the first heavy rain.

A few locals I've spoken to are shocked by the quality of the work and a recent tradesman had great difficulty getting his trailer backed onto my property.

Barbara McCarney  
Toodyay

### Where to eat after 3pm?

TOODYAY opens new eating places like the former Wendouree with great food and service.

Other promising venues are busily under construction.

The sooner they open the better it will be as tourists (and locals) want to have access to these premises.

They can make money, but the problem with Toodyay is that by 3pm the sidewalks are rolled up.

Many tourists complain that they then have nothing to eat, except at the Vic.

They are tired of looking at an empty village street and would like more variety and action.

Yes, stores open early but any decent town has places open after 3pm and into the evening.

Wake up Toodyay, become pro-active.

Monika Zechetmayr  
Toodyay



## Sports / Events / Results

Read it in the Toodyay Herald

news@toodyayherald.com.au



# Shire case into alleged breaches adjourned until May

THE CASE alleging the Shire of Toodyay has breached the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 was adjourned last month.

The matter is now listed for May 6 at the Northam Magistrates Court.

This is the second time the case has been adjourned, the original listing being February 26.

The shire case relates to contracted works done 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.

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

*The Herald* sought comment from the State Opposition Leader, and local MP, Shane Love, regarding the shire case:

“While I am unable to comment on the particulars of this case, it will be of concern to many local governments to see a Shire

acting in good faith to manage their assets is now facing significant charges and a lengthy and costly court case”, Mr Love said.

He further states that the Opposition would seek a review into the present application of the Act and its regulations to ensure greater clarity for private landowners, shires, and contractors alike.

In addition to the shire facing prosecution, the two contractors engaged to complete the shire work are likewise facing charges with their case also listed for May 6.

On a related matter, the court case alleging Toodyay real estate agent, Tony Maddox, breached the Act, recommences for closing addresses on April 18 in the Perth Magistrates Court.

The case concerns Mr Maddox undertaking works on an existing crossing over the Boyagerring Brook, which runs through his Nunile property, without seeking prior ministerial approval.



Riders taking a break at Grass Valley Tavern. Photo: Black Dog Ride.

# Riders raise awareness of mental health issues

*Continued from Page 1*

“Important events like the Black Dog Ride help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and suicide and bring people together to start much-needed conversations.

“Fewer men than women seek support for their mental health and community events like this can really help reduce the sense of isolation people may feel.”

Black Dog Ride Australia General Manager Lawson Dixon said fostering awareness was the catalyst for encouraging help seeking behaviour and preventing suicide.

“We’ve been helping Aussies have conversations about mental health and suicide prevention for almost 14 years and we know that every conversation, every activity, every ride and every piece of awareness we help create has the potential to change lives for the better,” Mr Dixon said.

Funds raised from the One Dayer will help contribute to the Black Dog Ride Australia Community Grants program, which is focused on supporting initiatives that help people who suffer from mental illness, help prevent suicide, and raise awareness of both mental health and suicide prevention.

Local schools, clubs, community groups and individuals can also raise awareness of depression and suicide prevention and support the vital work of Black Dog Ride by organising local fundraising activities and events, all year round.

Black Dog Ride began in 2009 as one man, Steve Andrews, decided to take to the roads

on a month-long solo motorbike journey around Australia to help raise community awareness of depression and to create a national conversation so people living with mental ill health could feel able to talk about it and seek support.

He also raised some \$34,000 for the Suicide Call Back Service and engaged thousands of Australians with his message of awareness.

Steve’s constant companion throughout the trip was a toy black dog representing the *black dog of depression* which Winston Churchill so famously diarised.

Steve called his dog Winston and his ride, Black Dog Ride.

Since that first journey, Black Dog Ride has developed into a national suicide prevention charity involving thousands of Australian motorcycle riders who’ve raised more than \$2,200,000 for mental health services, fostering mental health awareness around the country.

Overall 6,000 riders took part in the 2024 One Dayer across Australia with \$270,000 raised in ticket and merchandise sales on line and via donation platforms.

Mr Dixon expects this total to be more than \$300,000 by the time all banking is complete from the 50 rides that occurred nationally, a post-covid record.

In WA, there were five ride locations (Avon Valley, Baldy, Busselton, Denmark, and Perth Metro) with a total of 742 riders.

The local One Dayer raised \$3,600.

# Jumbo auction a great success



Just part of the crowd of keen bidders at the Toodyay Lions Jumbo Auction.

THE TOODYAY Lions Jumbo Auction was a huge success last month with quick bidding the order of the day.

Local realtor and auctioneer Tony Maddox kept proceedings at a good clip, along with bidders as well with bid items being placed across the Toodyay Showgrounds Oval.

Auction items included bales of hay, a wood lathe, motorbikes, a tractor – and even a catamaran.

The auction crowd was in good humour when Mr Maddox said that he perhaps should

have bid for the set of metal files.

An auctioneer with a sense of humour, a generous crowd, and a great day made for an excellent outcome for the auction beneficiaries which included Toodyay Youth Care Council, Forget-Me-Not-Café and Toodyay Locals Care.

Peter Edwards from the Lions Club of Toodyay said that \$7,500 was raised which is twice the previous highest amount.

A great result for the auction organisers, the beneficiaries – and Toodyay.

# Temporary Shire CEO appointed

SHIRE of Toodyay council in a special meeting in chambers on March 13 voted on a resolution to appoint a temporary CEO.

The unanimous decision by council was to appoint Tabitha Bateman, Executive Manager Corporate and Community Services, as Acting CEO until a permanent CEO is recruited.

Council minutes from the meeting state

the “recruitment process for a CEO will take some time” – hence Ms Bateman’s appointment.

The current CEO, Suzie Haslehurst, commenced sick leave on the February 21 and leaves her role on April 9.

Her departure is to be by Deed of Release with the agreed settlement amount being undisclosed..

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# Crime prevention not to be ignored

## Police Beat

With Sgt  
Jamie Boryczewski  
Toodyay Police Station



We tend to find a couple of cars each week with the engine running and no-one to be found. This has happened, for instance, at the local Toodyay shops and Duidgee Park.

When that happens, to prevent any opportunistic theft we turn the ignition off and wait for the driver to return.

Best to turn the car off and lock it before going about the shopping and other activities.

On the subject of cars, with winter rain nearing, now is the time to do all the usual checks including windscreen wipers and tyre tread.

As always, drive to road conditions and ensure that your car is roadworthy.

The Firearms Buyback Scheme continues and if you have firearms you would like to hand in, please call 9574 9555 or attend in person to the Toodyay Police Station to make an appointment to bring in your paperwork and firearms.

With the above said we would like to introduce some of your local police team members to the community.

Ella Harnetty is a Probationary Constable having graduated from the WA Police Academy in early 2023.

After some time in Northbridge in the Perth metro area, Ella has been based in Toodyay for the last 12 months.

She particularly enjoys the community engagement side of her role.

Outside of work, Ella likes going to the gym – and enjoys the occasional Toodyay Bakery jalapeno pie.

She is a pretty decent swimmer as well, having participated in the Rottnest Channel Swim as well as competing at State and National level.

Jayla Smith is a Police Cadet and started in the local team last month.

She has just spent some initial time at the academy as part of her cadetship which itself generally runs for 6-8 months.

In her cadetship she will be receiving coaching and support from her senior team members.

THERE have been a number of burglaries at local farms and quarries of equipment and fuels.

While the investigations are ongoing, the importance of crime prevention measures such as CCTV and the reporting of out of the ordinary events cannot be underestimated.

This includes unusual motor vehicles coming and going or finding that gates that were locked when you left the business are unlocked on your return.

Leaving keys in machinery is also an invitation to opportunistic burglars.

As is the habit of leaving the car engine running while the driver nicks into the shops.



Jayla Smith – Police Cadet.



Ella Harnetty – Probationary Constable.

## Scammers fake security warnings

Computer Safety  
Phil Hart

PEOPLE have lost thousands of dollars to scammers posing as banks.

Tim Watkins lost \$222,000 in the first half of 2023 to a sophisticated scam that arrived as an SMS on his mobile phone bit.ly/49Pjr6k.

The scammer impersonated the telephone number of Tim Watkins' bank.

The scammer also used psychological manipulation to trick Tim Watkins into feeling that it was an urgent issue.

The BCU Bank has an article on how a phishing scam is targeting bank customers worldwide via search engines in the hope that people will enter their bank login details onto bogus websites bit.ly/48X7OJs.

Scammers manipulate search engines so that their bogus websites appear on the first page of search results.

They fake security warnings that appear on your web browser with the expectation of stealing your credit card details bit.ly/3TjPc0d.

The good names of retail outlets are also in the scammers' sights bit.ly/3Pojpu6.

Even mistyping a search term into a search engine can result in fraudulent websites being shown.

There are no guaranteed solutions, but there are things you can do to keep yourself safer.

If a message appears urgent take a deep breath, pause for a moment, and ask yourself, "Is this for real?"

If you are using a search engine, check what you have typed is correct.

Be suspicious of search results, and scrutinise each web address (URL) before you follow any link.

If you have any doubts about the web page that is in front you, you can always check any telephone numbers that are on it by using the white pages website bit.ly/43zmugV.

No, you are not being paranoid; these scammers really are out to get you.

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## Give your home regular safety checks

Safer Toodyay  
Steve McCormick

THERE are several tests, such as the following, that homeowners can perform to help maintain a safe home.

Smoke detectors: Every few months press the 'test button' on the outer casing to ensure it emits an audible alarm.

Keep in mind that smoke detectors typically have a 10-year life span, with the manufacture or expiry date normally found inside the casing.

RCD safety switches in the switchboard: Every few months press the 'test' buttons on the front of the devices to ensure they trip to

the 'off' position, and then switch them back to the 'on' position.

Gas fittings/lines: Make a solution of detergent in a spray bottle.

Spray the solution on LPG gas lines and fittings and look for bubbles, this will indicate potential gas leaks.

Hot water systems: Every six months exercise the temperature/pressure relief valve by lifting the handle a couple of times.

You should see and hear water passing through to the drain.

If you are not confident in performing these tests or find faults with any equipment, contact a licenced contractor for assistance.



Checking smoke detector.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Local wheatbelt school equipped with life-saving defibrillator

**St John Toodyay Sub Centre**  
Monika Williams

ON WEDNESDAY, 15 November 2023, the Western Australian Department of Education announced that Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) will be mandated in all public schools by 30 June 2024.

The St John Toodyay Sub Centre recently donated a defibrillator to local Wheatbelt school, West Northam Primary.

During a school assembly last week, School Principal Cheryl Prater received the AED from Local Community Paramedic Matt Trozzo and St John Toodyay Committee Member and Volunteer Ambulance Officer Michael Morgan.

The school and community are very grateful for the donation and would like to thank the St John Toodyay Committee for their generosity and support.

After serving for 13 years as a volunteer ambulance officer and Community Transport Service (CTS) driver, Bob Kermodie has retired.

Bob joined the ambulance service in January 2011 and was an active officer, going on regular roster duties and attending all manner of call-outs until October 2018 when he first retired.

During his time, he attended all training activities, maintained his scope of practice and helped with various duties around the sub centre.

In May 2019, Bob joined the CTS as one of the original drivers and I know many members of the Toodyay community have been grateful for his service.

All of us here at the Toodyay Sub centre wish Bob well in his second retirement from volunteering.

Francis Moran also retired from CTS this past month after volunteering for just under a year.

We thank him for his commitment to the local community and wish him well.

Three of our Volunteer Development



Community Paramedic Matt Trozzo (left) presents the defibrillator to the Principal of the West Northam Primary School, Mrs Cheryl Prater, with Michael Morgan (right).

Officers have completed their weekend training session to ensure their clinical knowledge and skills are up to organisational expectations.

These weekends are a great opportunity for our trainers to network with other trainers from various sub centres, and they often come back with useful ideas for their training sessions.

Recently we had an information night at

our sub centre and met with prospective volunteers. We are always looking for volunteers, so why not grab a friend and join together?

We have vacancies as Volunteer Ambulance Officers, Volunteer Support Officers, Community Transport Volunteers and Emergency Medical Responders.

We will teach you everything you need to know.

If you are interested and would like to know more, please get in touch with Debbie at our office on 08 9574 2390 or check us out online at [www.stjohnwa.com.au/changelives/volunteer](http://www.stjohnwa.com.au/changelives/volunteer).

Our Ambulance Officers travelled a total of 2778 kms attending 37 jobs. The Community Transport Service drivers took 13 patients to their medical appointments during the month of March.

## Shire permits now needed as restricted burning has started

**Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush fire Brigade**  
Peter Brennan

THE BRIGADE has received three call-outs since the last *Herald* Article was submitted, which is the same number as this time for the last three years.

A total of 39 crew hours were required to attend to these call-outs. One of the call-outs was for the second year in a row, to the Cobbler Pool camp area, where a campfire lit by campers and got out of control.

Thankfully there have been no other call-outs during the period. Weekend crew rosters continue to be maintained by our terrific team of volunteers.

As previously reported several new volunteers came forward after the December 20, 2023 Julimar fire.

On the weekend of March 23 and 24 a number of new members from brigades across the Shire completed the first of two foundation courses. Volunteers must pass these before they can go on a fire ground as a firefighter.

Well done to Matt Sofoulis and Steve Warner for this completion.

This month we have also said farewell to Tim Blanc who has left the brigade.

We thank Tim for his service and wish him well for the future.

The Restricted Burning Period commenced on March 16 and remains in place until April 30.

Remember, that during this period a permit must first be obtained from the Shire and preference is given to primary producers for crop preparation purposes.

Permits will not be issued for social occasions or burning of rubbish.

If a permit is granted, all conditions on the permits must be strictly adhered to.

Failing to obtain a permit or breach of permit conditions can result in fines or prosecution.

For more information on permits please visit the Toodyay Shire Website.

As the days begin to cool down it is a good time to get out on your properties or in the garden and commence our annual autumn clean-up of fallen leaves, branches, freshly shredded paper bark and other dead plant materials.

Some mulch at home, some take green refuse to the local tip to be mulched and some burn their refuse on site during the winter following the end of the Restricted Burning Period.

If your choice is to burn at home please ensure you are aware of the conditions around you, wear the correct clothing and footwear, have a good rake available which allows you to maintain the fire perimeter and most importantly have a good reliable water source available.

As an extra precaution you might consider putting a tarpaulin over your burn pile, then wait for it to rain.

Once the rain stops the pile can be burnt while the surrounding area remains damp.

Every year we attend fires where the homeowner is on site, but they have been temporarily distracted and a wind gust has taken the fire out of their control.

So please, remain vigilant at all times and stay safe.



## Upcoming first aid courses

### HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid

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

Price: \$170.00

When: Thursday 14 March - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Saturday 20 April - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Thursday 9 May - 8:30AM - 4:30PM

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



#### Understand first aid

Learn about first aid theory and action plans



#### CPR and defibrillation

Practise CPR skills and how to apply a defibrillator.



#### Injury management

Treat and manage injuries in interactive training scenarios.



### Ready to make a difference?

Book a first aid course with us

St John First Aid Training

**Restricted Burning Period – Permits needed now**





# P&C Committee seeks a President

Toodyay District High School P&C Association

Heather McGlasson

TOODYAY DHS P&C held their AGM on 12 March 2024 and we are pleased to announce the 2024 P&C committee:

Tash Hof – Vice President  
Heather McGlasson – Treasurer  
Dani Xuereb – Secretary  
Anita Davey, Danni Cottam, Rose Murfit and Mark Hearn – committee members

We are still in search for a president for 2024 Toodyay DHS P&C. If you could chair meetings, be a signatory on bank accounts, be the P&C spokesperson and also be the principal and staff liaison then we need you.

You will have an amazing bunch of dedicated committee members right behind you who will help with whatever is needed to make the experience fun.

Toodyay DHS P&C is looking at having fun this year with no huge projects.

We are wanting to have a Nanna Bingo where you dress up in your daggiest Nanna dress and suits, the Halloween Disco and possibly hold a food stall at the Boshack Rodeo.

If you are interested, please contact me on 0418 930 721 and we can have a chat and get the committee members together for a catch up.

We had a very successful cake stall at the swimming carnival and would like to thank all the family members who donated. We raised \$404.

A huge thank you to all the canteen volunteers who got the hotdogs out to all the children too.

IGA Toodyay donated our Easter Egg raffle this year. We made four baskets, and four very happy children took home a basket full of goodies drawn at the last assembly of the term.

This raised \$484 which is absolutely amazing.

Toodyay DHS P&C is very lucky to have the generosity of parents, staff and Toodyay businesses who help with volunteer work and donations throughout the year, and for that we are very grateful.

# Students face challenges and make lifelong friends



Students taking part in outdoor activities at the recent Year 6 camp at Bickley.

Toodyay District High School  
Tonia Demeur

## Year 6 Camp

ANOTHER successful camp was held for Year 6 students at the Bickley Outdoor Recreation Camp from March 11 to 13.

A special thankyou to the Toodyay Op Shop again for providing a very generous donation toward this camp.

The donation ensured the camp was accessible to all students.

During the three days, students participated in challenging outdoor activities that required team support, resilience, and perseverance.

Staff and students engaged in ways that fostered a sense of belonging and mutual respect.

Pep talks from fellow peers resulted in students being able to overcome fears and discomfort amongst lots of fun and laughter.

“I enjoyed Search and Rescue the best – it was thrilling.”

“We built a raft and raced them on the reservoir.”

“...we build new friendships and got to know people better.”

“Camp for me was about being brave and facing my fears while having a good time with all my friends.”

“I loved the Flying Fox; some people went upside down!”

“What I loved most about camp was that all year 6 students could learn more about each other’s talents and fears.”

“I enjoyed the High Ropes because I love climbing.”

“Everybody came back with new friends.”

“I enjoyed the Vertical Challenges. We had to climb 8 metres in the air with a harness on and touch a wood plank at the top.”

A big thankyou to our Year 6 families for ensuring their children were well-prepared.

All students arrived with the required items, and nobody lost anything.

Every student was punctual, respectful, tidy, and demonstrated great table manners; we have received accolades from all instructors and coordinators at Bickley Outdoor Recreation Camp facility.

You made us proud camp participants. Well done.

And lastly, appreciation is extended to the parent support on camp, Mr Chris Brockliss.

We cannot hold such successful camps without this help. Thank you, Chris, for generously devoting your time to support our students.

## Swimming Carnival

OUR ANNUAL Swimming Carnival took place on Friday February 23, and what a magnificent day it was.

The radiating heat saw a great turn out of students eager to make a splash.

Wearing their passion on their sleeve they were able to show their swimming prowess in the individual, relay and novelty events.

Team spirit was high with each faction cheering and encouraging their entrants from the bays.

Maximum effort and sportsmanship were on display all day.

The P&C provided a delicious selection of tasty treats at their cake stall and delivered a fantastic lunch for the students.

The Pool staff were extremely supportive throughout the lead up to our event and during the day.

Our parents and volunteers helped to adjudicate each race, and our school staff were all hands-on-deck making sure the carnival ran smoothly.

I would like to acknowledge the parent supporters who came to watch this year – the attendance was the biggest in my time at the school.

Without parent support these events are very hard to run and it makes the day much more worthwhile for the students when they have a cheer squad in the background.

Thank you to all involved.

The day culminated in an epic Parent, Teacher, Student relay that was won by the Parents—closely followed by the teachers.

Students, there’s always next year.

The overall winner of the Swimming Carnival was Drummond.

A big congratulations to all involved.  
*Mr James Holmes (PE Teacher)*



The school’s swimming carnival, held at the Toodyay Recreation Centre in February.

**TOODYAY CLUB**  
**OPEN DAY**

SUNDAY 28 APRIL 2024  
3PM - 7PM  
ODDFELLOWS ST

All welcome for a free day at The Club! Live Music

Old fashion game machine  
Lawn Bowls  
Billiards  
Darts  
Sausage Sizzle



# Bolgart local Phil Syred celebrates 70 years with family and friends

**Bolgart Community News**  
Pam McGill

## School News

DILIGENT students participated in a Clean Up Australia Day event, devoting their time to collecting litter from around the Bolgart town site.

The weather was manageable as the students tidied, and they found even more rubbish than last year's clean up.

They also collected cans for the P&C cash for cans project.

The experience proved to be enjoyable for the students, fostering many thought-provoking discussions about the assortment of things they found.

## Awards

CONGRATULATIONS to the Aussies of the Month Amy Zimmermann and Billie Larsen.

Merit Certificates go to Ethan Uriarau, Rocket O'Sullivan, Arthur Wallis and Cameron Uriarau.

## Phil's 70th

CHERISHED friends and family members came together at Bolgart Sports Club to

commemorate Phil Syred's 70th birthday.

The love and support from Phil and Serena's three sons and their families made the celebration all the more special for him.

The food was fantastic, and the beautiful cake was made and decorated by his daughter-in-law Annette.

A great night was enjoyed by everyone.

## Ladies Golf

LADIES golf will be commencing in early April, so any new members are more than welcome to come along.

For more info, contact Captain Nolene Kaszanski 0409 942 420.

## Bowls

WELL done to the men and women who competed in their respective Country Week bowls recently.

There were some great games played by the teams who participated.

Ladies held their closing day on Thursday April 14 with a fun day of bowls. It was the oldies versus the youngsters; the youngsters coming out on top as the winners.

A lovely lunch was shared after game.



Phil Syred cutting his cake celebrating his 70th birthday.

# WA Rural Women's Award winner for 2024 unveiled

AGRIFUTURES 2024 WA Rural Women's Award winner was announced on March 27. Congratulations Wheatbelt businesswoman Mandy Walker.

The award showcases the essential role

women play in rural industries, businesses and communities.

The prestigious award aims to celebrate and empower women in Western Australia's rural and emerging industries, businesses and communities.

Ms Walker runs a mechanical and engineering business in Wongan Hills with her husband. The business services agriculture, transport and mining sectors.

She is focused on paving the way for regional engineering businesses to participate in the defence industry, and she plans to begin with a pilot project targeting the Wheatbelt region.

Ms Walker will receive a \$15,000 business development bursary towards her project, and she will represent Western Australia at the national AgriFutures Rural Women's Award in August.

Other finalists were apiarist Jay Page, who aims to expand her bee education program from Perth schools to the Wheatbelt; and Farming Champions chair Nicola Kelliher, who wants to bring consumers closer to family farmers to better understand their food origins.

The award is supported by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Westpac, CBH Group and the Rural, Regional and Remote Women's Network of Western Australia



Mandy Walker.



Phil and Serena Syred's three sons, partners and children at Phil's birthday celebration.

"Thank you Toodyay Herald, that ad worked wonders"

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Joe and his gang roam the street, hassled by the coppers, floozies and bystanders.

## Cheer on Joe's gang, the floozies, coppers and a corrupt judge

**Moodyne Festival Committee**  
Jean Melhuish-Hill

ON SUNDAY May 5 the town of Toodyay celebrates its 40th year of the Moodyne Festival.

Between 9am and 4pm Toodyay will step back in time to celebrate the life and times of the iconic Moodyne Joe by hosting the Moodyne Festival Toodyay.

The highlight of the day will be the re-enactments bringing the infamous Avon Valley bushranger Moodyne Joe's various escapades and mock trials to life.

The festival is the premier colonial festival in WA and was first held in 1984 to celebrate the life and times of Joseph Bolitho Johns, better known as 'Moodyne Joe'.

The festival transforms the picturesque historical town of Toodyay into a lively all-day festival with the sound of song, dance, laughter and fun for the whole family.

The opening ceremony is at 10am and locals and guests are encouraged to dress in 19th century costumes for a colourful procession down the main street.

This is followed by a fun, colourful, energetic and noisy parade with street actors, stilt walkers, the town crier and much more.

Some period costumes are available for loan to wear at the festival and for details email [moodynecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:moodynecommittee@gmail.com).

Cheer on 'Joe's Gang' and the floozies, coppers, swaggie, and town crier as Joe is tried by a kangaroo court.

Watch as he is convicted by a corrupt judge and escapes with the assistance of local inhabitancy who love Joe.

One would say he was the WA equivalent of Ned Kelly or Robin Hood.

The festival will be held on Stirling Terrace Toodyay which will be closed to traffic from 8am to 4pm on Sunday May 5.

As well as the street entertainment,

there will be a variety of stalls, displays, performances and demonstrations.

Check out the 10th Light Horse display, Barn Baby Animal Farm, Western Australian Reptile Park or take a ride on the Perth Horse and Carts and Billy Carts.

Toodyay's own Nathan Coleman will be playing as well as the Pioneers Bush Band and Paul Davis Entertainment.

Avon-Fun Dance Club will be joining us as well as Zig Zag Community Arts.

Listen to Bush Poets, Australia's early settler's folk music that will include Irish, Scottish, Italian and English music, performed by various entertainers.

Enjoy once again the very popular Royal Australian Navy Band and Toodyay Community Singers.

The festival follows through the main town site to the beautiful Duidgee Park resting on the banks of the Avon River which will be filled with speciality craft and food stalls.

Events include log chopping, blacksmithing, historical tools restoration and of course the ever-popular Swaggie Camp.

Kids amusement rides and a visit to Moodyne Joe's cell at the old Newcastle Gaol Museum are also on offer.

The mini train ride at Duidgee Park is always a highlight of the day.

This event is packed full of family fun and kids' entertainment. Children will be delighted with face painting, balloon twisting, a petting zoo and old fashion games like hopscotch, sack race, egg and spoon, skipping, quoits and much more.

Make sure you don't miss this brilliant event suitable for all ages.

For more information and to view the events programme visit [www.moodynefestival.com.au](http://www.moodynefestival.com.au) or our Facebook page Moodynefestival, or Email Moodynecommittee@gmail.com



## Toodyay Agricultural Society Inc



**Chalice Mining is the 2024 sponsor of our 'Community Participation' program.**

**Local community groups, organisations, businesses and individuals are invited to register their interest in undertaking the following tasks at the 170<sup>th</sup> Toodyay Agricultural Show.**

Monetary remuneration will be donated by TAS for the following activities:

- **Exhibition Hall & Lee Steere Pavilion:** cleaning, prior to Monday 23 September
- **Facilities & Equipment:** assist with set-up, from 9.30am, Friday 4 October
- **Grounds Caretakers:** two people onsite, from 8pm, Friday 4 October to 6am, Saturday 5 October + from 9pm, Saturday 5 October to 6am, Sunday 6 October
- **Facilities & Equipment:** assist with dismantling, from 7am, Sunday 6 October
- **Gates:** staffing & operation, from 6am to 4.30pm, Saturday 5 October
- **External Parking:** at Toodyay, Connor & Jubilee Streets from 7am, Saturday 5 October

For the following opportunities the group will retain the profits from the activity and make a cash or in-kind donation (catering for volunteer lunch and judges supper or VIP morning tea) to TAS:

- **Sports Pavilion Tearooms:** organisation & operation, from 10am to 4pm, Saturday 5 October
- **Youth Hall Kitchen:** organisation & operation, from 10am to 4pm, Saturday 5 October
- **Terrace Bar:** organisation & operation, from midday to 9pm, Saturday 5 October

Please submit your Expression of Interest in writing, by 31 May 2024, to the Administration Officer.

Toodyay Agricultural Society Inc. (M) PO Box 362, Toodyay WA 6566 (E) [toodyayagsociety@gmail.com](mailto:toodyayagsociety@gmail.com)



**170<sup>th</sup> Show ~ Saturday 5 October 2024 ~ Toodyay Showgrounds**



# Respecting the knowledge and deep spiritual connection to water

Noongar Kartijin Aboriginal Corp.

AT THE Water Forum last month hosted by the Toodyay Friends of the River group, the Corporation presented on 'Water Knowledge'.

The Corporation highlighted the importance of waterways not only as a vital source of freshwater and food resource; but also being an integral part of traditional cultural activities; central to Noongar seasonal movements; important land-marks; and pathways for travel, trade and communication.

More about these and how Noongar clans fostered a deep sense of spiritual connection and environmental stewardship of waterways will be placed on the NKAC website in coming weeks.

In addition, last month also saw the launch of a local Aboriginal owned

business – Dudja Dreaming.

Robert Miles, who is also chairman of the Corporation is offering cultural services through awareness and immersive experiences.

At the launch event, at the Toodyay Visitors Centre, Mr Miles said "This is a proud moment for me and my family.

"It's something I've been working on for a while and it's finally come to fruition.

"I've got enormous faith in my tourism products and cultural services, knowing that I've done the work to get it to this point, and I'm excited about the journey before me".

With this new cultural service and the Corporations soon-to-be launched Noongar Trail, Toodyay will be a significant attraction for visitors to our town seeking both Aboriginal and European history knowledge and experiences.



Robert Miles presents "Water Knowledge".



Robert Miles, and Toodyay Visitor Centre team leader Michelle Duke at the Dudja Dreaming launch.

## It's all go for this year's Show and the Country Cocktail Dance

**Toodyay Agricultural Society**  
Alison Wroth – Chief Steward

EXCITEMENT plus is how the Committee is looking at this year's celebration of the 170th Toodyay Agricultural Show.

By our April meeting, the committee will hopefully pass the budgets required for the bigger than normal Show.

Apart from the main subcommittees, the budget this year has to cover the Cocktail Dance of 'Country Glamour' in August and of course the maintenance of our bar building.

These are both wonderful attractions in their own right.

Regarding the evening of 'Country Glamour' start to think of the bling and dresses girls. It's not too often that Toodyay Memorial Hall has the opportunity to shine.

Save the Date – Saturday August 31.

All subcommittees are beginning to get into the habit of sticking to the job timeline, making life easier to organise.

The people of Toodyay are so supportive in everything we do, including membership drives, fundraising, advertising and prize support for the Show schedule.

The Show would not be half the success it is without the support of the local community and this is much appreciated by us all.

As Chief Steward, I will be looking for

some new stewards again this year so please consider getting involved with the Show and assist by stewarding.

The 'Home Brew' section will be bought back this year in the Lee Steere pavilion.

I have been shown there is great interest in having this in the schedule again and it seems to be not only the men in the community who take this up.

So, if you do brew your own alcohol, prove it is prize winning and enter in the Show.

Already a lot of work has gone into the planning of the year for the celebration of our historic milestone.

The Governor is to open the Show, with possibly a fly over from Pearce Airbase and I have heard the ideas of returning the 'Tug-o-War' to the Showgrounds in the evening, which was a huge attraction back in the day.

We will have different attractions to entice everybody this year and are looking forward to the enjoyment it gives all ages.

For Expressions of Interest for available positions on offer at the Show, see the advertisement on page 11 in this issue.

It is an excellent fundraiser for any community group, big or small – only one day's work supporting both your own group and the annual Show.

Please apply early if you are keen.

If you have any queries, don't hesitate to contact me on 0437 099 960...

## Josephine Broderick celebrates her 90th birthday

Margaret O'Sullivan

A SURPRISE birthday party took place on March 19 to celebrate Josephine Broderick's wonderful milestone of 90 years.

The evening was filled with heartfelt messages from her family back in her homeland, Ireland, as well as with close friends and family who continue to love and support this beautiful woman.

It was a wonderful gathering with Josephine's daughter Anne travelling from Victoria to join her along with two of her sons Shane and Rob, their families, and loyal friends who have been an integral part of her life since she arrived here in Toodyay in 1954.

Josephine is a truly inspiring lady who has traversed many ups and downs throughout the years, all while establishing a loving family home here. Guided by her strong faith and unmovable motto of taking life "One day at a time", she continues to live her life with grace and dignity.



Josephine Broderick celebrating her 90th birthday with family and friends.

Government of Western Australia  
Department of Justice

# Make the change

**We're hiring Youth Justice Officers.**  
Make a positive difference in the community by helping young people turn their lives around.  
Applications close **22 April 2024.**  
Visit [www.justice.wa.gov.au/yjo](http://www.justice.wa.gov.au/yjo)

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION



# The dams are empty, the fields are dry and hot weather continues

**Toodyay Agricultural Alliance (Inc)**  
 Frank Panizza

I AM BEGINNING to sound like a broken record.

No Toodyay resident or farmer could be unaware of the very dry state of affairs in our shire, and in fact most parts of Western Australia.

Long queues of locals waiting to collect water from the water supply point located in Stirling Terrace is stark evidence of this.

Most dams that are runoff fed are dry and have been so for months.

One farmer stated that he had cleaned out nearly 20 dams on his property.

Spring fed dams and windmills on bores are saving the day.

Many farmers have used the opportunity to cleanout dams of mud, sludge and other debris.

A recent map produced by the DPIRD (Department of Agriculture) highlighted that the wheatbelt had less than 20mm of stored soil moisture apart from a few areas in the south-eastern part of the wheatbelt.

This contrasts with most of the grain growing areas in New South Wales and Victoria which have stored soil moisture levels exceeding 100mm.

Generally, conditions in Eastern Australia are looking good for the upcoming season.

Coupled with the good soil moisture levels from summer rains, the Bureau of Meteorology has recently forecast a return of a La Nina weather event which heralds a wetter and cooler winter and spring ahead.

A La Nina event generally affects Eastern Australia more than Western Australia.

The dry weather and the poor condition of dry feed is keeping livestock producers very busy with feeding livestock and overseeing dwindling water supplies.



Local dam being cleaned of dry mud. Photo: Stephen Cook.

Unfortunately, forecasts for rain in the short term are not looking promising.

Grain growers will decide within a few weeks whether to start to dry seed canola and other crops. Canola is suited to dry seeding as the seed is sown shallow, 12mm deep, which will germinate with as little as 10mm of rain.

Modern seeding equipment which sows with very little soil disturbance, creates a narrow trench which captures any rainfall and accumulates it directly over the seed.

This innovation, first developed in Western Australia, has allowed modern farming operations to extract the absolute maximum from any rainfall.

The old adage, "Necessity is the mother of invention," holds true.

The upcoming seeding season will lead to an increase in movements of trucks and oversize machinery on our road network.

All road users are reminded to be aware and patient when driving and overtaking these vehicles.

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ENVIRONMENT

# Exciting finds of rare birds in the Julimar forest

**Toodyay Naturalists' Club**  
Desraé Clarke

NOTED amateur bird specialist, Max Howard, was the Nat's March guest speaker.

Max is one of the three foundation members of the now 50-strong membership of the Avon Bird Group.

The publication, 'The Birds of the Avon River Basin' was featured in the February edition of *The Herald*.

Gathering knowledge on birds, and their interesting lives, has been Max's passion since he was a young 15 year old.

He heard the Duke of Edinburgh, who was visiting Western Australia at that time, speak of the importance of maintaining suitable habitats for wildlife in the metropolitan area.

Max was impressed and followed his interest that is now his passion.

In the week following the duke's visit *The Daily News*, the Perth afternoon daily paper at that time, featured articles on the various suitable habitats for birds around Perth.

Max's talk was sprinkled with snippets of knowledge that aren't typically featured in books, derived instead from his lifelong interest and observations.

One example given was that of learning the difference between the very similar-looking Collared Sparrowhawk and the Brown Goshawk.

The Sparrowhawk has a wide-eyed expression and an extremely long middle toe, whereas the Brown Goshawk has a lowered eyebrow that makes it look very angry.

The Square-tailed Kite and the Little Eagle appear similar, but the Kite has a white face.

Max spoke of exciting finds of rare birds

in the Julimar Forest that have not been seen for many years.

The Shrike-tit was a common bird in the 1980's but may have been absent for well over 20 years until the recent exciting find.

Max's presentation was inspiring.

He encourages the community to take time to observe birds. During observation note their movements and their assorted calls, and if you encounter a bird new to you, record the time of observation and the behaviour that attracted your attention.

The Nat's Club members would appreciate the information.

The 'Cleanup Australia Day' contribution from the Toodyay Nat's members was sadly very successful.

A whole 12 bags were filled with trash collected along tracks in the beautiful Julimar Forest.

A Nat's fundraiser will be held on Friday and Saturday April 5 and 6 at the front of IGA.

Feel free to drop by and have a chat with TNC members.

The next meeting will be held Saturday April 20 during an excursion to Narembeen.

A highlight of the weekend away will be an 'after dark' visit to the Wadderin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Enquiries are encouraged, contact us at [secretary@toodyaynats.com.au](mailto:secretary@toodyaynats.com.au) or call 9574 5574.

The Nat's Club members appreciate receiving community natural observations and photos.

As mentioned, there can be many surprises within our Shire.



Brown Goshawk at garden birdbath. Photo: Wayne Clarke.

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# Classical entry to the Old Courthouse impresses historians

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

LAST month we visited the Old Courthouse Law Museum in Stirling Gardens off Barrack Street.

The gardens create a magnificent setting for both this oldest surviving building in Perth, completed in 1837 and the impressive 1903 Supreme Court building next to it.

We were met by Toodyay's former museum curator Margie Eberle who gave us a personal guided tour.

The building was erected as a courthouse between 1836-37 and according to the outside plaque served many uses during the 19th century as a church, school, immigration depot, supreme court, house and store.

Between 1905-65 it was the State Arbitration Court and in 1965 it became the offices of the Law Society of WA.

The stone building is remarkable for its stark simplicity enhanced by the entrance portico; with its four fluted Doric columns that were added at a later date.

For centuries official buildings adopted classical architectural styles often referred to as Doric, Ionic and Corinthian. These styles gave them an air of authority and permanence and they were identified by the decorative detail of the capitals (top part) of the columns.

Buildings such as banks, libraries, courthouses, and centres of power and administration often embodied these architectural styles.

You will find examples throughout the Western world in particular and in places colonised by Europeans.

Our Society has a particular interest in this museum and what it stands for as we are embarking on the completion of a draft manuscript, 'The Eye of the Law. Resident Magistrates of Toodyay District', by our former Patron Dr Rica Erickson AM (1908-2009).

Borrowing from Rica's manuscript, the duties of a Resident Magistrate were to maintain law and order and keep the Colonial Secretary updated. These updates involved reports about the progress or otherwise of the district, including a census of the inhabitants.

The Toodyay Magisterial District



Members outside the Old Courthouse Law Museum. Left to right: Faye and Milton Baxter, Margie Eberle, Beth Frayne and Robyn Taylor. (Photo taken by museum volunteer Trish.)

encompassed a much larger land mass than it does today extending northwards from Northam to the Victoria Plains.

Although there would be a substantial increase in the district's population following the appointment of the first Resident Magistrate, the boundaries remained the same until 1903.

There were 11 Resident Magistrates for Toodyay. The first of whom was Captain Francis Whitfield, a veteran of the Napoleonic Wars.

He was appointed in 1839.

Whitfield's Crown land grant, named Knockdominie, is located on the right bank of the Avon River off the Goomalling Road.

Mount Knockdominie is a prominent feature that can be observed from the Millards Pool section of the Avon River, upstream from Extracts Weir.

Looking across through the trees you can see the remnants of some of the early buildings.

Future columns for *The Toodyay Herald* will include stories about Toodyay's early Resident Magistrates based on Rica's research.

Anyone with an interest in Toodyay's

history, from family historians to real estate agents, will be familiar with Rica's 'Old Toodyay & Newcastle'.

It was commissioned by the Shire of Toodyay and remains the 'bible' for all things historical about the region.

The book was published in 1974, 50 years ago, so we feel it is fitting to make 2024 a celebratory year about this amazing lady.

Rica was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1987 for her extraordinary work that encompassed many diverse fields.

She was not only a noted historian and genealogist, but also a highly regarded naturalist and botanical artist.

Our excursion on Sunday April 28 will be morning tea at Donegan's Cottage with member Colin Kendall as our feature speaker. Start time is 10.30am.

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

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

# Where have all the singers gone?

**Toodyay Community Singers**  
Anne Millar

ONCE AGAIN, our update for the month – still, looking for singers.

We participate in all the community events including the RSL Anzac Day Memorial service on April 25 and The Moondyne Festival on May 5.

If you enjoy singing and being part of our community, please consider joining us on Thursdays for rehearsals at the CWA Hall Stirling Terrace, between 5pm and 7pm.

# Old Gaol Museum a cooler place to be

**Volunteers of Toodyay Museums.**  
Barry Keens

WE ARE sad to announce the passing of Michelle Miller, who was a long-time volunteer at the Museum, and offer our condolences to her husband Geoff who was also a volunteer.

Our team has been able to provide front of house service for most days, but we do need to recruit two new volunteers for weekdays.

If you think you can help or want more details please contact Suellyn Lockett, our new Cultural Heritage Officer, at the Toodyay Visitor Centre.

We now have a portable air conditioner for the reception area at the Old Gaol Museum, which makes working on very hot days much more comfortable for us and visitors.

The sale of the Old Gaol Museum roof shingles has been steady through the summer, and we are also supplying craft groups in Toodyay and surrounding areas.

Shingles are always available at the Old Gaol Museum, Toodyay Visitors Centre and at the Toodyay Farmers Market on the third Sunday of the month from 9am-1pm.

There are so many uses for them so come and give them a try.

Bulk orders and planed shingles can be obtained by calling 0427 047 850.

# Moondyne men make temporary shift to Community Resource Centre



The good old days.

**Moondyne Men Inc**  
Graham Hill

ON MARCH 18 the Moondyne Men were advised to move from their meeting area at the RSL shed in Clinton Street.

The RSL needs the space to store old farm and other equipment destined to be auctioned.

The men must vacate the shed by March 28 and will have to move to temporary premises at the Community Resource Centre.

This is particularly disappointing as the application to use the old Tennis Club Rooms in Fiennes Street has still not been resolved by the Shire; even though an expression of interest was lodged in October 2023 by the Moondyne Men.

While the Moondyne Men will continue to be an organisation of Men Looking After Men and the Community, we look forward to the day we can have a permanent meeting place.

Our membership is over 40 with regular attendance at all meetings with even more attending our free monthly breakfast.

The Moondyne Men will continue to assist the community and anticipate our major event of the year, the Moondyne Festival, and other community projects in which we are also participating.

New meeting room as of Monday 1 April 2024 will be at the CRC, 67 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

Meeting times are Monday and Thursday 8am to 10.30am. Our breakfast and committee meeting is on the first Saturday of each month from 8am to noon.

We thank everyone who has assisted us in finding short term accommodation as we continue the search for a permanent place to meet.

For more information please contact Colin on 0424 195 003.

We are "Men Looking After Men and The Community".

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# MOONDYNE FESTIVAL

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The legend of Moondyne Joe, the Avon Valley's legendary bushranger transforms the picturesque historical town of Toodyay, Western Australia into a lively all day festival, the highlight of the day being the re-enactment of Moondyne Joe's various escapades throughout the town, his arrests and mock trials. Join in the fun with Moondyne Joe as he runs downtown, robbing shops, escaping custody and being a general menace.

**For more information about volunteering, loan costumes or street stall bookings contact:**

[moodynecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:moodynecommittee@gmail.com)

[moodynefestival.com.au](http://moodynefestival.com.au)

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

**Moodynefestival**



# The Crooked Needle farewells Tania – a lady with many talents

**The Crooked Needle**  
Jean Melhuish-Hill

DURING March we held a Good Luck Lunch for one of our long-standing members, Tania Harrison, who will shortly move to the



The Crooked Needle members enjoying the Good Luck lunch at Alicia Estate to farewell Tania Harrison.

seaside town of Lancelin.

Tania was one of the early members of the Toodyay crafting group, which she joined some 25 years ago when she moved to Toodyay.

Remaining an active member throughout this time she has also enjoyed card making, tai chi, and we found out at lunch she did belly dancing.

This was revealed by one of our senior members who I think may have also been involved in the activity.

Tania and her husband Ian, met while working in the mining industry and Toodyay was the spot that was midway between both their jobs.

Buying a property in Coondle they continued to work away until they returned to Toodyay 23 years ago when they started their family.

They were both involved in the Coondle Volunteer Fire Brigade with Tania also

helping the pre-primary and kindy groups.

She has also been involved in a mentoring program and the Toodyay Garden club.

With the loss of her husband just under two years ago, Tania has made the decision to move from her five-acre property in Coondle to her holiday home in Lancelin.

She will continue with her craft, join aqua aerobics and the bingo club all available within the Lancelin community.

To wish her luck on life's next adventure 24 of our ladies had a lovely lunch at Alicia Estate.

Friday craft was a bright, cheery affair with the girls getting dressed for the occasion.

There was lots of chatter and laughter at lunch.

We expect to see Tania from time to time when she comes to visit us in Toodyay or

attends one of our local festivals.

We will also be heading up the coast for a visit when she is settled in.

This month a number of the ladies pulled together small craft projects that we swapped between members.

It was great to see ladies trying new things and when they had a query or things weren't quite going smoothly, working together with the person who organised the project.

It will be great to see how they all turn out.

If you are new in town or find yourself with some free time pop along on any Friday from 9.30am to noon.

Come and 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.

## Vino exhibition a weekend for art

**Arts Toodyay**  
Tricia Chrimes

THE WHEATBELT has a growing number of hidden artists.

It appears that each shire has their own Arts Society, such as Toodyay.

Arts Toodyay has been in existence since 2005, and it is growing stronger with new members always welcome.

Before COVID-19, Arts Toodyay would hold their annual Vino Arts Exhibition at the Coorinja Vineyards.

Vino was the opportunity for artists to come together and display their works, making them available for purchase by the public.

This amazing event was put on hold with the arrival of COVID – that is until 2024.

Arts Toodyay is holding *Baby Vino* this year at the Toodyay Memorial Hall from May 10 to May 12, which is the Mother's Day weekend.

Morning tea at a café and then lunch at one of the hotels in the Wheatbelt, what a perfect way to celebrate this day.

Afterwards, spend time viewing the art at Toodyay's majestic Memorial Hall.

All works will be for sale over the exhibition weekend.

Research has revealed the many ways artistic expressions of all kinds can benefit us, from promoting healing to reducing stress.

Famous artists have also made this connection between art and well-being in the past.

"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." – Pablo Picasso.

"Art can permeate the very deepest part of us, where no words exist." – Eileen Miller.

If you are one of the Wheatbelt's hidden artists and require more information, please go to the Arts Toodyay website or our Facebook page.



Young members of The Factory, Toodyay Baptist Church re-enacting the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

## Congregation applauds children's Palm Sunday performance

**The Factory, Toodyay Baptist Church**  
Jenny McDougall

LAST Sunday, Christians around the world began their Easter services by celebrating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday).

Here in Toodyay, the children re-enacted Jesus' entry with waving palm branches and joyous singing; seated on the back of a donkey, with the congregation praising and singing, "Hosanna, blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord."

Hayley's baptism followed this service, and it was lovely to witness her faith and belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, her saviour and Lord.

On Easter Friday we shall gather to reflect on the love Christ has for us, as was

demonstrated through his sacrifice on the cross so that we may live. Together we will share the Passover Meal.

Easter Sunday will be a day of worship, celebrating the risen Christ.

The central message of Easter is the enduring love of God, and because of Christ we can be forgiven.

He came for one reason: "Christ died for sins once for all ... to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

May you welcome Him into your life during this holy season.

Please feel welcome to join us. Our Sunday service is at 10.30am, followed by a morning tea/lunch.

Children are most welcome. Creche (0-5yrs) and Kids Church (6-11yrs).

Contact: Joy Prangnell 0432 470 771.

ABN 62120839979

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