

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, Wooroloo, Wundowie, Gidgegannup and local districts.

May 2024
Edition 434

Drums beat at Anzac Day Parade



Last month's Toodyay Anzac Day Parade winds along Stirling Terrace on its way to Anzac Memorial Park. More photos and stories Pages 8 and 9.

\$8.6 million drought relief package 'not enough' — farmers

Sean Hefferon

AGRICULTURE Minister Jackie Jarvis has announced an \$8.6 million drought relief package for WA farmers and rural communities.

"We know the current dry conditions mean rural communities across the state are struggling," she said.

Primary producers are facing near record dry conditions and WA has just come out of its warmest summer since records began in 1910.

The package includes \$2 million in hardship grants and \$4 million in interest free loans for farmers affected by the drought.

The financial hardship grants will support farmers to cover the costs of water, transportation, and stockfeed, and will be capped at \$5,000.

Interest free loans for up to \$25,000 per business covering these areas are also available.

No repayments are needed in the initial two years of the loan, but it must be repaid in five years.

The State Government will also provide \$1.5 million to extend the Community Water Supplies Partnership Program to more regional communities, with grants to establish or improve their non-potable water supplies.

Up to \$100,000 can be provided for each off-farm community water supply project, developed by local government or community groups on a co-contribution basis.

The funds are partly to future-proof farming operations and can be spent on infrastructure to increase drought resilience such as new water tanks as well as public amenity projects in regional towns.

Kirsten Carrington-Jones, chairperson Toodyay Agricultural Alliance, thinks the funding package, "may provide a small amount of assistance to WA farmers impacted by recent weather conditions".

However, she "can't help but compare the \$8.6 million assistance package for farmers producing food, to the \$300-odd million provided to the nickel industry which provides less value to the State than our

grains sector".

She acknowledged that some assistance is "better than none".

At this stage eligibility to access these funds has not been published.

Geoff Pearson, WA Farmers livestock section president thinks the funding doesn't go far enough.

He questions whether the funding is a band-aid solution given the large number of affected farms that are in crisis.

Continued on Page 5

The Colditz mapmaker

LT.JACK MILLETT was an incorrigible escape artist, making two escape attempts from German prisoner of war camps during World War II.

For those efforts he was placed in Colditz Castle regarded as the ultimate military prison at the time, or a super prison.

It was the Alcatraz of the Nazi Third Reich for prisoners of war.

In his time in this super prison, he became known as the Mapmaker of Colditz.

He instead chose to use his technical drawing skills and natural aptitude to draw the maps needed by other prisoners to escape across Germany to neutral Switzerland or Sweden.

For more about the Jack Millett story and his Toodyay connection see Page 8.

Coming events

Moondyne Festival 5 May
Toodyay Farmers Market
Sunday 19 May, 9am -1pm

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The Toodyay Herald

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

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

MEMBERSHIP - Membership of *The Toodyay Herald* is available at \$15 (\$12 concession) per financial year, with members entitled to free advertising worth \$15 annually. Please send your name, phone number and residential, postal and email address with your membership fee to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566 or leave it at the office, entry via Duke Street Toodyay.

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PRODUCTION

Editor: Sean Hefferon
 Sub-Editor: Sean Hefferon
 Graphic Layout: Sandra Harms
 Admin/Advertising: Heather Appleby

DISTRIBUTION

The Toodyay Herald has a distribution of 5000 copies, with copies delivered to letter boxes in Toodyay, and Morangup. Copies are also available at roadhouses and businesses in Toodyay, Northam, Bolgart, Bakers Hill, Calingiri, Clackline, Gidgegannup, Goomalling, Wooroloo and Wundowie.

Printed by Colour Press Pty Ltd

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped produce this edition of *The Toodyay Herald*: Joseph Fernandez (Legal), Richard Grant Judy Morrissey, Jean Witcombe, Andrew St John and Allan Gregory.

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Noon Friday
May 24**

STORY DEADLINE

**Noon Monday
May 27**

DISTRIBUTED

**Thursday
June 6**

Please note our email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

Lessons from a lifelong nurse

Dr Christian Mauri

LAST June, I was put in touch with a nurse of sixty years named Peta.

Her comprehensive biography, *A Girl Called Peta*, was published in 2021.

Her life story, in other words, is already written (and may be televised one day).

Rather than retelling her biography, she wants me to distil her wisdom as a lifelong nurse into a book for nursing students.

It must be short enough for them to read on the train to the university and hospital.

It must be helpful enough for them to put into practice and share with their peers.

Over dozens of walks and lunches, we talked about life, death, and nursing.

I think I've finally narrowed it all down to three core lessons, across three chapters.

Contrary to our plan, we've both become convinced that these lessons are valuable to more than just nurses.

And so, with Peta's permission, here you are – three abridged lessons from a life of nursing.

Lesson 1 – It's okay to hold hands.

HUMAN contact matters to humans.

Peta remembers when it was normal to hold the hand of frightened patients.

She'd rub the aches and pains of people in bed and tell them it would be alright.

One night, forty years ago, a man came in after coming off his motorbike.

His bones were protruding. The bleeding was terrible.

Peta pulled a chair to the top of his bed and stroked his hair, whispering to him.

This, of course, had nothing to do with the success of the surgery.

But in the letter that he wrote to the hospital, months later, he singled out the nurse he remembered as he faded in and out.

He said she helped him through it.

In another story, a man about my age (thirties) suffered a dreadful brain injury.

Now he lives between sheets and seats, breathing through a tracheostomy tube.

Every week – last week, this week – Peta visits the young man to massage his feet and whisper the Lord's Prayer.

She takes her time to do this.

Medical efficacy aside, she swears you can see the appreciation on the man's face.

I've been there to see it first-hand.

What's more, I've seen the appreciation on the faces of his mum and dad.

They love Peta for her nursing. I think we all would.

Lesson 2 – Don't hide death and dying.

PETA has been a palliative care nurse for longer than I've been alive.

She's seen dozens of people off.

And yet – perhaps due to our culture – it took me from July to February to really understand where she was coming from with this lesson.

According to Peta, when a person is nearing death and accepts it, their profundity gets dialled up to eleven.

They take on the perspective of a bird's eye view (or an angel, if you ask Peta).

Not everyone of course. Many of us are medicated to oblivion.

Perhaps just as many live in denial of death – insisting on "fighting this thing" – right up till it takes them.

Sadly, lots of us maintain our faculties, and accept our fate, but don't get visited.

All of this, according to Peta, is a shame.

For we can mourn a person's loss *with* them before they go.

We can learn from their grace and share our gratitude.

And they can be grateful in turn for our company.

But only if we are all there for it.

As you can imagine, there is a lot to this lesson. It's a matter of life and death.

It concerns palliation, medication, grace, morphine, dignity, science, nature, and our relationship with life's unavoidable fact.

I told Peta that Toodyay is God's waiting room. She liked the idea.

Lesson 3 – Please write an Advance Health Directive.

YOU'VE heard of a Will and Testament (WT). But have you heard of an Advance Health Directive (AHD)?

The WT covers what happens after you die.

The AHD covers what happens when you are no longer able to express yourself.

Notice how, while the WT is typically a "late-life" matter, the AHD can cover the treatment of the young man who suffered a dreadful brain injury.

Through her long career, Peta has seen many people – too many of them young – go through catastrophic injury.

Unable to express themselves, it falls to the spouse to say what they would have wanted: to live or die or linger in-between.

What then if the father disagrees? After all, he's known his boy all his life.

And what of the mother? The siblings? The mates?

It's perfectly possible for one person to be told one wish in one setting, while a second person is told something else in another.

But they are all convinced in their heart, that they know what their loved one would ask if they could speak for themselves.

And so regrettably, they argue and fall out.

And the victim lives on, neither here nor there, at great expense.

All this can be avoided if you just fill out your AHD.

It must be specific to your State.

It is a gift to your loved ones, measured in the grief and conflict it will save them.

Why wouldn't you?

It can be done in less time than it takes to order and eat a parmi on a busy Sunday at the pub.

Please, please, please write an Advance Health Directive.

Sub-editor wanted

The sub-editor is part-time and assists the production team by sub-editing the content and accuracy of articles before monthly publication.

- A journalism or communications background preferred, not essential.
- Experience in copywriting, proofing, sub-editing desirable.
- Excellent understanding of English, particularly grammar and spelling.
- Attention to detail is important as is the ability to be flexible and a team player.
- Skilled in MS Word, Office 365.

The volunteer sub-editor may suit someone working part-time or wanting to get back into the newspaper industry or give back to the community.

How to apply:

Please send a cover letter and CV to: editor@toodyayherald.com.au
Closing date: 5pm Friday May 11

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

MAY - JUNE 2024

The office will not be open from May 8 until June 18, 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4
May-05	6	May 7	8	9	10	11
Jun-16	17	Jun-18	19	20	21	22

Will Chalice mine leave an unwanted legacy?

Doug Blandford
Environmental Earth Scientist

I READ with interest the article by Sharon Richards (*Toodyay Herald*, March 2024) where local fauna is at risk through lack of control of feral predators.

The article exposes a much deeper problem facing protection of the natural environment, not only globally, but across Australia and specifically here in Western Australia.

A case in point being the ceased mining projects in the Northern Territory namely the Rum Jungle and Ranger Uranium mines, as well as the Lake George Mine at Captains Flat in New South Wales.

These mines may be termed "Legacy Projects", that is, someone else is cleaning up the mess.

Mining at Rum Jungle occurred from 1953 to 1971 and the environmental statements at the time gave a rehabilitation period of 15 years.

The minerals making up the ore were uranium, copper, lead, cobalt, nickel, and zinc.

A lack of clearly defined corporate responsibility led to the mine becoming one of Australia's most polluted environments.

This was due to the oxidation of sulphide minerals and the consequent development of acid mine drainage, resulting in the release of acid and metals into the East branch of the Finnis River.

Not surprisingly this mining operation leaves a legacy of acid mine drainage and downstream heavy metal contamination of surface and groundwater.

It is 53 years since the cessation of mining at Rum Jungle and it is important to note the owners of the mine consistently denied any responsibility for rehabilitation.

In early 2022 the final cost of rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine site was re-estimated at between \$1.6 billion and \$2.7 billion.

Fast forward to 2024 and rehabilitation is still ongoing.

In Western Australia, the state government has recently diluted the watch-dog powers of the Environmental Protection Authority, in an effort to fast-track mining approvals.

But in pursuit of what?

Tens of millions of dollars in royalty payments are at stake for the State coffers if Chalice Mining is unable to develop the Gonnevillie and Hartog prospects located 70km north-east of Perth.

It should also be acknowledged that mining is an integral and essential part of life in the 21st century.

Most of us drive motor vehicles, relying on them for work and relaxation, use telephones and computers, enjoy rapid communication with the rest of the world, fly off to distant places, cruise the Australian coast or just bask in the luxuries that our advanced technologies provide.

So, what is the cost?

If environmental costs are not accurately defined, along with appropriate management, remediation, and mine closure protocols, then the financial burden of rehabilitation leading to mine closure will be astronomic.

As an example, you cannot retrofit an acid mine drainage management program to an operating mine ten years down the track.

As a first priority, it would be reasonable to consider environmental costs that have a direct effect on human health, and the health of all organisms.

Such effects are defined in scales of time and space, corresponding with the potential severity of the effect and must include immediate and long-term consequences.

These are defined as the zone of environmental influence at regional and statewide levels.

For example, mercury contamination from the Lake George mine site at Captains Flat has extended approximately 24 kms downstream towards Lake Burley Griffin in the Australian Capital Territory via the Molonglo River.

There are a number of issues that are at the forefront of direct environmental effects, including air pollution and water pollution,

The geology of the original Gonnevillie discovery is publicly documented, and we know acid mine drainage, resulting from the oxidation of sulphide ores and waste products producing sulphuric acid, will be a major issue in long-term management requirements.

It will be extremely challenging to seal the floors of tailings dams and waste rock dumps to prevent acid mine drainage into the surrounding environment due to the structural characteristics of the underlying geology.

Once acid mine drainage water gets into local aquifers and drainage systems, it will be there for a very long time.

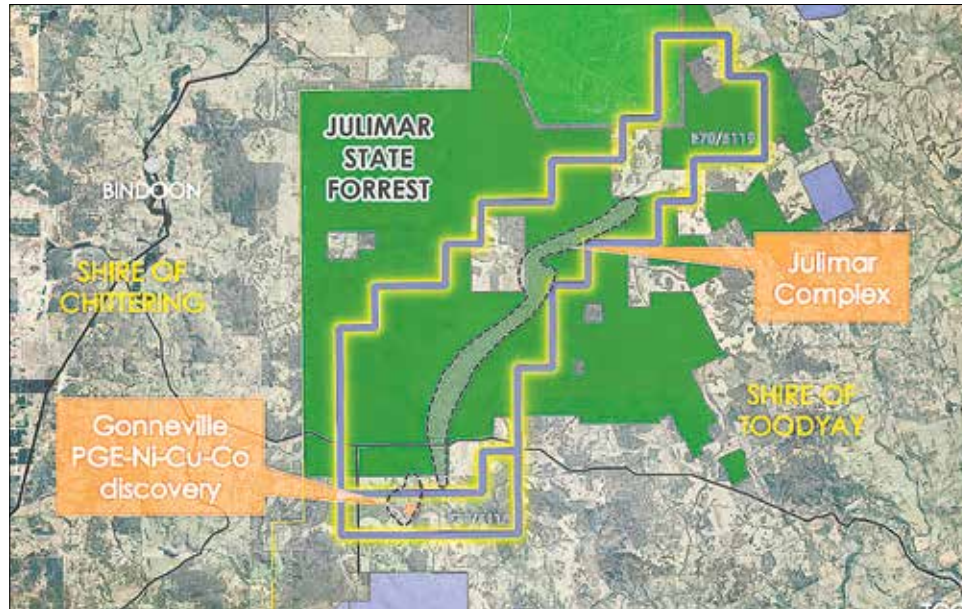
In terms of a potential hard rock mine at Julimar, water should be listed as a critical

natural resource, and every effort should be made to protect this rapidly diminishing resource from pollution and contamination.

It will be a brave law-maker in the WA Government that would approve a mining project that has the potential to result in long-

term contamination of local and regional surface and groundwater systems.

Don't forget that our environmental watchdog probably won't be going in to bat for us. *Continues in June edition. Toodyay Herald.*



Julimar tenement map.

Local mine to be reviewed at 'highest environmental level' – EPA

Sean Hefferon

BEFORE the Gonnevillie Project can be developed, an environmental assessment is required under State and Commonwealth legislation.

The WA Environmental Protection Authority recently closed a seven-day public comment period in response to the project proposal to build the Gonnevillie mine.

The environmental umpire conducts environmental assessments impacts in five stages with the first and now closed stage being the referral of a proposal to the EPA.

More than 740 public submissions were received by the EPA with many calling for the highest-level scrutiny of the proposed mine.

Should the green metals mine get the go-ahead, up to 940ha of Chalice-owned farmland on the southern edge of the Julimar State Forest could be cleared.

The ASX-listed company has confirmed that the mine operation would be kept out of the State Forest.

The Gonnevillie Project hosts a mix of critical minerals being palladium, platinum, nickel, copper and cobalt.

Mine construction is estimated to start in 2027 and has an expected cost between \$1.6 billion and 2.3 billion.

The construction workforce would be around 1200 at its peak with some living onsite.

Proposed mining operations are due to begin

in 2029, with a projected mine life of 25+ years.

Should the green mine become operational it is expected the bulk of the 500 workers would come from Perth with a portion also being drawn from local shires including Toodyay.

Access to water is critical to the project and is expected to draw water from the Alkimos desalination plant which is planned to be completed in 2028.

The water will be transported via a 54-kilometre-long pipeline from the plant to the mine site.

Chalice is yet to determine whether the mine will be open cut or underground.

On April 22 the Environmental Protection Authority published its decision to assess the Gonnevillie Project at Public Environmental Review level.

The decision stated the proposed mine may have potential significant effects including on "air quality from emissions during construction and operation, greenhouse gas emissions, flora and fauna from land clearing and ongoing operations, soil quality from disturbance of soil structure, acid sulfate soils; inland waters from changes to hydrological processes."

In addition the Gonnevillie Project has the potential to disturb Aboriginal cultural heritage places and values, as well as affecting amenity and recreational use.

Chalice states the assessment and approvals process are estimated to take around three years to complete.



Bird is safe when cat is indoors.

Cat control lacking

Sean Hefferon

THE SHIRE of Toodyay Local Cat Law 2024 is under review and is expected to come to Council within two months.

The Shire of Northam cat law includes a clause that states, "a cat shall not be in a public place unless it is under effective control".

Toodyay does not have an equivalent clause and states pet cats are restricted from prohibited areas such as Pelham Reserve.

The local laws fall under WA legislation, in this case the Cat Act 2011.

Under section 82 of the Act a local law is able to adopt the text of a "local law of any other local government."

Further, "the text may be adopted wholly or in part, or as modified by the local law."

Brian Foley from the Toodyay wildlife care group, Marsupial Mammals and Pappas, said that "cats are absolutely an issue" and that every week the group would receive injured birds and small marsupials that have suffered from a cat attack.

He wasn't aware of the Northam Cat Law and thinks that the Shire of Toodyay should follow suit.

Mr Foley said that pet cats should be kept indoors or in cat runs as even when placed in a backyard they can get out.

The Australian Veterinary Association agrees, "the fact is, the more time a pet cat spends safe at home, the less risk of injury or death from road accidents, fighting, and disease."

A pet cat kept safe at home can live up to four times longer than a cat left to roam, according to the Association.

Indoor cats have lower rates of infectious diseases, some of which can be spread to humans. For example, the cat-borne disease toxoplasmosis can cause illness, miscarriages and birth defects in humans.

The Biodiversity Council estimates that one third of Australian households have at least one pet cat, that the majority of these cats are able to roam, and that they can kill animals up to 4kg in size.

In addition, on average 186 animals (mammals, birds and reptiles) are killed per roaming cat per year.

There are 338 pet cats registered in the Shire of Toodyay, however, pet cats under six months do not need to be registered; and there would be cats over six months of age that remain unregistered.



Darren West MLC

Here to Help

185 Fitzgerald Street Northam
96211 999

darren.west.mp@mp.wa.gov.au

 Darren West MLC

The Toodyay Herald

Vote for Toodyay

OUR LITTLE town is a finalist in the 2024 7NEWS Top Tourism Town Awards.

Toodyay is one of only 19 towns from across WA to be named.

What great recognition and imagine if we go all the way and get the gong?

Success would mean a boost for the local economy, and a win for Toodyay would also be a win for the Wheatbelt.

I reckon we have a fair chance of a good inside run to snatch the top tourism award.

After all, we are only a short drive or train ride from Perth which is convenient for visitors wanting to experience all Toodyay has to offer.

One experience is the Newcastle Goal Museum where the story of Avon Valley bushranger Moondyne Joe began.

This local legend is now remembered in WA's premier colonial festival in Toodyay.

Our museum is also where visitors and residents can reflect on the national award-winning Gnulla Karnany Waangkiny (Our Truth Telling) exhibition.

A stroll along the Noongar Trail provides further insights into our local Indigenous culture, an experience worth enjoying.

Toodyay during wildflower season is also special with bursts of colour in town as well as in surrounding nature reserves.

It is also a great place to reconnect with nature by walking on local trails to take in the views of the attractive scenery and wildlife.

Apart from the history, heritage and nearness to nature, we have many events to attract visitors.

These include the Avon Descent, Moondyne Festival, Toodyay Picnic Races and Farmers' Market to name a few.

Then there's the Transcend Ultra Trail Run from Walyunga National Park to Cobblers' Pool – for those who like to run through the Avon Valley.

Throw in historic hotels, art studios, alfresco cafes and a local winery and we have much to offer in a tidy town package.

It is an offering worthy of a tourism award at state level and do we also dare dream of a win at the national level as well?

The public has a say in which towns get the gong so get your vote in for Toodyay.

Local footy's back

GREAT to see the Toodyay Lions score wins against the Dalwallinu Bulldogs and Goomalling Blues in last month's footy season opener.

Sean Hefferon
Editor

Wheatbelt Clinical Psychology

94 Stirling Terrace Toodyay WA 6566

Richard Taylor Clinical Psychologist

Foundation member
Australian Clinical Psychology Association

Bulk Billing/Private Health Funds/Telehealth

0427 447 190

business hrs

PUBLIC NOTICE

Toodyay Community Garden

A meeting of interested and enthusiastic community members is invited to discuss a commitment to the future development of a community garden in the Toodyay townsite.

Meeting to be held at the Toodyay Community Resource Centre on Sunday 25 May at 2.30pm.

Enquiries phone Gary on

0428 924 100



Convict 9574 (Greg Warburton) enters Toodyay's Moondyne Colonial Village, complete with general store, dry goods and textiles, blacksmith, woodturner, bicycle shop, "swaggies camp" and Jarrah Celts performing on the stage. (Photo courtesy, Beth Frayne).

LETTERS

Bad old days return

OPEN, transparent, accountable and a 'change of culture'.

Those were the solemn promises made by those who put themselves forward in the October Council elections and subsequently for the various positions on that Council.

So, how's that panning out?

I'll skip the chicanery about the use of the old tennis courts because that's still playing out as the Moondyne Men desperately seek a home.

Instead, I'll just have a peek at the process for the selection and appointment of the Independent Community Member for the selection panel for the new CEO.

The Shire advertised and stated the criteria which an applicant was required to meet and gave a cut-off date by which applications were to be received.

As an applicant I had an interest in who else might apply so I was fairly well aware that there were three applicants.

The time dragged on with no notification of who might have been successful until it was announced at a Council meeting that a person who had not been an applicant was asked if he would take on the role and had been appointed.

At the next Council meeting I asked whether the application of the successful candidate had been put in before the cut-off date.

The Shire President answered by saying that the wording of the advertisement read "should be submitted no later than..."

I then asked whether the laid down criteria had been met and the question was taken 'on notice'.

The question only required a simple 'yes' or 'no', so not particularly difficult.

Eventually I received a letter from the Shire stating that "All information pertaining to the CEO Selection and Recruitment Committee of which this question relates, is confidential".

So much for openness and transparency, and with an answer like that an average person could be forgiven for thinking there was something to hide and that the essential criteria had not been met.

So, it looks like, even at this early stage, that "openness, transparency and accountability" have been put into the "too hard basket".

But the good news seems to be that the promise of "cultural change" has been

achieved – right back to where it was in the bad old days.

Oh, and we the failed applicants have still to be notified that we were unsuccessful.

Allan Henshaw
(former Shire President) Toodyay

No cash from cashed up banks

CASH payments are to be stopped by the banks which gain billions of dollars from their customers and investments but are unable to service rural areas – allegedly due to not making sufficient profits from us non-city people.

I know many people here are upset by reduced bank services.

If you are concerned about this despicable action, write today, before it is too late.

Address your concerns to the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Reference Committee: Inquiry into Bank Closures in Regional Australia.

Submissions can be sent to this address: RRAT.Sen@aph.gov.au.

I wrote a few weeks ago with several points of concern and offered a reality check.

My submission has been considered and accepted for publication by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee.

If you do not voice your opinion, your concern will never be known.

If you write, preferably now, your voice will be heard and the more people voice their perception of discrimination, some action may result from this.

Monika Zechetmayr
Toodyay

New home for radio gear

A NOD of appreciation to those who over the years supplied local radio content, put together the 'groovy', sometimes 'ancient' music tracks for us to dance to in our homes and sing along in our workshops and made us smile.

Thanks to those who allowed us to put infrastructure on their private property and the then Shire CEO, Council and staff who helped out.

The Toodyay Radio 105.3 committee was formed and ran over seven years.

Our inaugural team was inspired by a special fun human, our Alan and his Bonnie.

We had a good innings and much knowledge was gained.

Thank you to our advertisers who stuck with us and helped pay the bills.

Although we had advertisers and listeners there were not enough volunteers and sadly life caught up with our team.

Recently I have been asked a lot about what happened.

Less than 12 months ago the 105.3fm committee handed over a fully functioning radio station, advertisers, and an up-to-date working studio to a new committee.

Unfortunately, the committee was unable to keep the station running and it closed.

It was a surprise to discover the donated and purchased gear in the station was up for sale and/or would be sent to the dump.

I am therefore pleased to advise Toodyay listeners, advertisers and those who have inquired, that Len Anderson, who was one of the main contributors to the station, has found a home for the radio station equipment.

It's going to a new community radio station starting up in Bridgetown – which is a brilliant outcome.

We wish them all the best with their new community radio.

That's all folks.

Paula Greenway
West Toodyay

Swimming comes to an end

THE SUMMER swimming season ended for the winter months on the last day of April.

During this hot long summer, the pool has been a wonderful way of staying healthy in mind and body.

A pool is essential with increasing hot summers and it's important children and older people too can learn to swim.

As I write this the summer is refusing to depart and I am swimming up until the closing day and I hardly missed a day all summer.

I am looking forward to the pool opening again in October.

For those less hardy than me the ability to bring the temperature up at the beginning and end of the swimming season would no doubt bring in a few more patrons at these times.

This is probably essential if the shire wants to get the best value out of the pool.

All the pipe work is installed for this to happen, and grants are available to get this work completed, it just needs someone to get it done.

I also look forward to learning how the shire will manage the pool now Clublinks has ended their contract.

Meanwhile many thanks to the staff who have worked at the pool keeping it going over summer.

Bethan Lloyd
Toodyay

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

'Nail in coffin' says livestock president

Continued from Page 1

Mr Pearson said the drought is placing pressure on feed and water – with the added lack of ability to market.

"This could be the nail in the coffin for some producers," he said.

Ms Carrington-Jones reiterated these pressures noting there is little feed for sale, and when feed is advertised it disappears in hours.

"Livestock farmers are faced with a weak export market, minimal farmer to farmer trade and in WA the situation has been exacerbated by the Albanese government's move to shut down live export.

"This means that it is extremely difficult to sell sheep and cattle for above the cost of production.

"In some cases, there is simply no market at all, which has led to some farmers culling livestock as they aren't able to feed them."

Further, whilst the drought package is welcomed, "it is not going to fix the current state of the livestock industry in WA."

Lachlan Hunter, Central Wheatbelt candidate for The Nationals WA also welcomes the fact the Government "has finally acknowledged the dry season" and calls for immediate financial support for farms who have been carting water or need stockfeed or assistance to destock.

Sheep prices have crashed by up to 75 per cent compared to previous years placing added pressures on producers.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry said the significant fall in livestock sale yard prices was driven by a large increase in supply and a fall in demand.

It said the "sudden" shift to drier seasonal conditions following consecutive La Nina years had contributed to the increase in supply.

"The subsequent lower availability of pasture to feed animals has increased the relative cost for farmers to hold their cattle and sheep, thereby increasing their incentive to turn-off livestock," a spokesperson said.

The drought conditions are expected to test the resilience of communities and local mental health and wellbeing groups will receive funding of \$875,000.

Funding of \$250,000 will go to the Blue Tree Project, \$250,000 for the Grower Group Alliance, \$175,000 to Regional Men's Health as well as \$200,000 for Rural West to extend its farm financial counselling services to small businesses in drought impacted towns.

Long hot and dry periods are expected to become more common as a result of our warming climate.

Vandals again target railway station



More vandalism at Toodyay railway station.

THE TOODYAY railway station was vandalised early last month with extensive damage to several sections of wall cladding.

The station has been vandalised on a number of occasions prior to the most recent incident.

On April 12 the Public Transport Authority spokesperson David Hynes said that the repairs to the station were completed with an

estimated cost of labour and materials being \$8,000.

A heavier, thicker wall cladding was used to minimise future vandalism.

The PTA of WA confirmed that the department does not have CCTV cameras installed at country train stations – as is the case with the local station.

The Shire of Toodyay stated that cameras near the station are "under consideration".

Shire cameras in the business district were previously installed on Western Power light poles without permission so were disconnected by the electricity provider.

Toodyay police have advised that the vandalism is being investigated.

Unhappy residents attack 'hazardous footpath'

RECENTLY the Shire of Toodyay commissioned Downer EDI Works Limited to construct a shared pathway at Jubilee, Connor and Toodyay Streets.

The 2023/24 Budget papers show an allocation of \$280,000 for these works.

Last March, the Shire made a progress payment of \$110,000 to Downer.

However, residents who live adjacent to the footpath works are unhappy with the new pathway stating that it presents a trip hazard because of its uneven surface and that the finish is "poor".

A resident stated that she was aware that some locals with mobility scooters were reluctant to use the freshly made pathway due to its unevenness and sections where it dips onto a stormwater drain lid.

Other residents point to the sections of recently laid pathway that had been torn up and left in the bush alongside Toodyay Street.

One local said that the concrete had been poured during Toodyay's spell of hot weather when temperatures went up to 45°C.

In hot weather, the main concerns are cracking of the surface due to rapid drying and potential loss of concrete strength due to inadequate curing.

Visual inspection of a section of pathway on Toodyay Street late last month verified resident concerns.

The cracked path surface was obvious, as

were the uneven joints.

In some sections of the path additional concrete had been smoothed over the cracked surface.

A Shire of Toodyay spokesperson said some remediation work is to be done on the pathway including surface finish and removal of debris.



Toodyay Street footpath slopes down onto a stormwater drain lid.

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Bottlemart supports the responsible service of alcohol. Specials available from Wednesday 1st May until Friday 31st May 2024 or while stocks last. Price includes GST. Images are for illustrative purposes only.

PICK UP

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T-junctions always demand careful attention

Police Beat

With Sgt
Jamie Boryczewski
Toodyay Police Station



Police Beat
Sgt Jamie Boryczewski

TRAFFIC safety is top of the list for the local police team and we are targeting alcohol and speed, so please do the right thing.

Paying attention to road conditions and other vehicles is critical for a safe journey.

Also be mindful of how you position your vehicle at T-intersections, especially with long vehicles turning corners.

Recently there was an accident at the corner of Stirling Terrace and Harper Road in the Toodyay townsite.

A truck towing two trailers was turning into Harper Road with an SUV waiting to turn right.

Clearance was lacking so both vehicles connected – unfortunately.

The dashcam photograph with this article was taken moments before contact.

We had one burglary reported last month involving a house under construction on West Toodyay Road.

Entry into the house was by way of an unlocked window.

A neighbour reported the incident which reinforces the benefits of keeping an eye on neighbouring properties.

CCTV footage is always handy as well, but wasn't available in this instance.

The matter is under investigation and if you can assist, please contact Crime Stoppers WA on 1800 333 000.

Many readers would be aware that the Toodyay train station was vandalised last month.

The damage was extensive with wall cladding on the rail side of the station smashed in.

This incident is being investigated and police are working with a local suspect yet to be processed.

It appears that others may have been involved as well although this is yet to be confirmed.

The individuals in question are aged in their mid-teens and when we dropped



Truck and car collision at the corner of Stirling Terrace and Harper Road.

them home, apart from their parents being surprised by our presence, some did not know their children had been out.

Local police have also been dealing with breaches of Violence Restraining Orders.

One local male has been charged with a Violence Restraining Order breach and is to appear in court in May.

Victims of domestic violence are urged to come forward for support.

Domestic violence can be hard to prove and is part of a larger problem of family violence – patterns of behaviour that are meant to coerce, control and create fear in an intimate relationship or family environment.

It can include physical as well as sexual, emotional and psychological abuse and it doesn't necessarily have to be an assault.

For information about or assistance in obtaining a family related Violence Restraining Order contact your nearest court, which in the Shire of Toodyay is Northam Court and their number is 9622 1035.

Support can also be obtained by calling Crisis Care on 1800 199 008.

A final matter relates more to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services where people are lighting fires which breach the Fire Restriction Period.

Unfortunately, with repeated breaches by certain individuals it has got to the point where local police are monitoring the situation and will take action if required.

Please contact the shire should you need a permit to burn during a Fire Restriction period.

Easier way to report illegal dumping

SaferToodyay
Desraé Clarke

THIS IS a repeat article to encourage the community to report the illegal dumping of demolished building materials and asbestos.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulations has joined forces with Crime Stoppers WA to combat this prohibited activity.

This partnership will result in an easier way for the community to report illegal disposal by phoning Crime Stoppers WA on 1800 333 000 or by searching 'Crime Stoppers WA' on-line.

The matter will then be directed to the Department's investigators.

The Western Australian community is asked to report any activity around unlawful dumping to Crime Stoppers; the reporter will remain anonymous.

Crime Stoppers WA – 1800 333 000.
Toodyay Police – 9574 9555 or 131 444.
Goodbye Graffiti – 1800 44 22 55.



Report illegal dumping.

Credit card misuse easy with recurring payments and direct debits

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

CREDIT card misuse is not only limited to fraud.

It also covers use by others, usually family members, that you neither intended nor expected.

A surprise can also happen when you set up a direct debit that happens only once each year.

It is all too easy to forget about annual recurring payments, and to forget that you and others might inadvertently use in-app purchases.

There is also the risk of over-spending (see: bit.ly/4azcXbP).

A family member may be spending your money unwittingly (see: bit.ly/4a9tymG).

While a quick glance at the total amount owing on a statement might offer some comfort, checking every transaction gives much more reassurance that you are not being ripped off.

It also helps to guard against fraudsters.

You can check for recurring payments and direct debit authorisations by logging into your bank's website.

You may need to do some detective work on any transaction that you do not recognise.

Contacting the merchant is a first step. If your merchant cannot help you, then talk to your bank.

If the transaction turns out to be the result of fraud, then turn to your bank for help.

If it turns out to be a family member, then some delicate diplomacy might be needed.



Check credit card spending regularly.

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Sports / Events / Results
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EMERGENCY SERVICES

62 years' service rewarded for volunteer duo from Toodyay

St John Toodyay Sub Centre
Monika Williams

A TRADITIONAL ceremony held by St John invests members who have gone over and above their duty to the organisation or community into the Order of St John.

Investiture is a formal event welcoming or promoting staff and volunteers to the Order of St John, a global royal order established under the authority of Queen Victoria in 1888.



Toodyay Ambulance volunteer Michael Morgan was unable to attend the investiture ceremony but is shown here receiving a Toodyay Australia Day award for Citizen of the Year.

The event was led by the WA Governor, Honourable Chris Dawson AC, APM, who was installed as Knight Commander of the Order last year.

This year, two of the volunteers from Toodyay, Paul Harrington and Michael Morgan were recognised for their outstanding service and invested as Members to the Order of St John.

Collectively, Paul and Michael have given 62 years of service to the community.

A membership to the Order of St John is a recognised honour under the Australian Honours System and presents itself as an excellent opportunity to pay tribute to the extraordinary members of the SJWA community, past, present and future.

There are more than 600 St John Order Members in WA.

Candidates are nominated by their peers and are considered by a committee, with each nominee receiving royal assent from his Majesty King Charles III.

Congratulations to you both and thank you. It has been another busy month in our sub centre with the recruitment of five new officers and welcoming back two long time volunteers who had been away on holidays.

We also congratulate two of our volunteers who are about to commence higher training to become Emergency Medical Technicians after completing the compulsory 12 months of volunteering as an Emergency Medical Assistant and 60 hours of patient contact.

The ambulance crews attended 34 jobs covering 2580 kms during the month of April and the Community Transport Service transported 29 clients to their medical appointments.



Toodyay Ambulance volunteer, Paul Harrington receiving Order of St John from the WA Governor, Honourable Chris Dawson AC, APM.

Local restricted burning period extended to mid-May

Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Peter Brennan

THE RESTRICTED Burning Period has been extended up to and including May 14.

Given current weather conditions a further extension is possible so please check the Shire's website for updates.

Once the Restricted Burning Period does end and you decide to conduct a burn at home ensure you are aware of the conditions around you.

Wear the correct clothing and footwear, have available a good rake which allows you to maintain the fires perimeter and most importantly, have a good reliable water source available.

Please be vigilant when burning and don't be that homeowner who gets distracted and has their fire go out of control – all it takes is a gust of wind.

We regularly attend such fires when wind gusts have occurred, and the homeowner has been distracted.

Remain vigilant at all times and remember, those who turn out to your fire call are all volunteers who put their own family activities on hold to respond to your call.

As you may be aware, there are five Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades and one Volunteer Fire Rescue brigade in the Shire of Toodyay.

In the last 11 months Toodyay Central VBFB has responded to 84 call outs which is 26 more than last season.

As a consequence, our members contributed over 1330 hours to fires attended and a further 840 hours dedicated to training, stand-downs, weekly crew changes, meetings and admin.

When costed at the Australian Bureau of Statistics volunteer rate per hour our volunteers have provided 2170 hours and over \$104,160 worth of service to the Toodyay community.

When duplicated across all the other brigades the contribution of your community volunteer fire crews is significant.

So please, when burning during the unrestricted period, manage your burns responsibly, have the right equipment and ample water on hand.

Don't be distracted and when the burn is completed, ensure the fire is actually out and then recheck for hot spots in the burn area the next day.



Take great care when burning once the Restricted Burning Period has been lifted.



Upcoming first aid courses

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

Price: \$170.00

When: Thursday 9 May - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
 Saturday 15 June - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
 Thursday 15 August - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
 Saturday 26 October - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
 Saturday 30 November - 8:30AM - 4:30PM

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



Understand first aid
Learn about first aid theory and action plans



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



Injury management
Treat and manage injuries in interactive training scenarios.



Ready to make a difference?
Book a first aid course with us



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

Three R's of waste management promoted to protect environment

WHEN it comes to waste management the message from the Shire of Toodyay is that we all have a part to play.

Minimising and even eliminating waste by using the three R's of waste management: reduce, reuse and recycle is a good starting point to reduce one's environment footprint.

The shire offers recycling options including the Containers for Change, where you receive a 10-cent refund for each accepted drink container returned.

Printer cartridge recycling is also available with collection points at the shire administration office and the library.

Mobile phones are covered as the shire has linked with MobileMuster to offer to residents a mobile phone recycling service.

MobileMuster is a voluntary recycling scheme certified carbon neutral and government accredited and is backed by the Australian telecommunications industry.

In 2022-23 MobileMuster collected Australia-wide 96 tonnes of mobile phone parts for recycling, the equivalent benefit of saving 405 tonnes of mineral resources.

More than 89 per cent of mobile phone materials can be recovered and reused.

To recycle old mobile phones collection points are the administration office, Toodyay Waste Transfer Station and the library.

The transfer station is operated on behalf of the Shire by Brodwest and is located on Railway Road, Toodyay.

The opening times are 8am to noon seven days a week except for public holidays excluding Kings Birthday and Labour Day.

Recycling facilities are available at the station and the shire recommends recyclables are sorted before dropping them off at the station as directed by the contractor.

A range of clean, sorted recyclables are accepted free of charge including e-waste, green waste for chipping, glass, used oil, gas bottles and scrap metal.

Commercial and industrial waste, such as wheel tyres, are not accepted.

In November 2022, the facility received an award for e-waste recycling (for being officially the largest recyclers of eWaste materials per capita in WA)

In 2021, 16,593kg of eWaste left the Toodyay Waste Transfer Station; that's an average of 3.75kg per person.

The Shire is also a member Council in the Household Hazardous Waste program managed by the WA Local Government Association which recovers electric and lithium batteries from the waste stream.

Every year just over 900 tonnes goes to landfill in Northam compared to about 250 tonnes that is recycled at the transfer station.

There has always been good support of the waste transfer station from local residents.

Community members often assist by tidying/sweeping up the drop off site after use.

If you are looking to purchase an item for reuse then the transfer station is a good option.

There would be more than a few houses in Toodyay that have been furnished by recycled items purchased from the station.

The transfer station also supports school projects and community groups.

While there are always challenges, Mr Broderick commented that the station is "Running just fine."

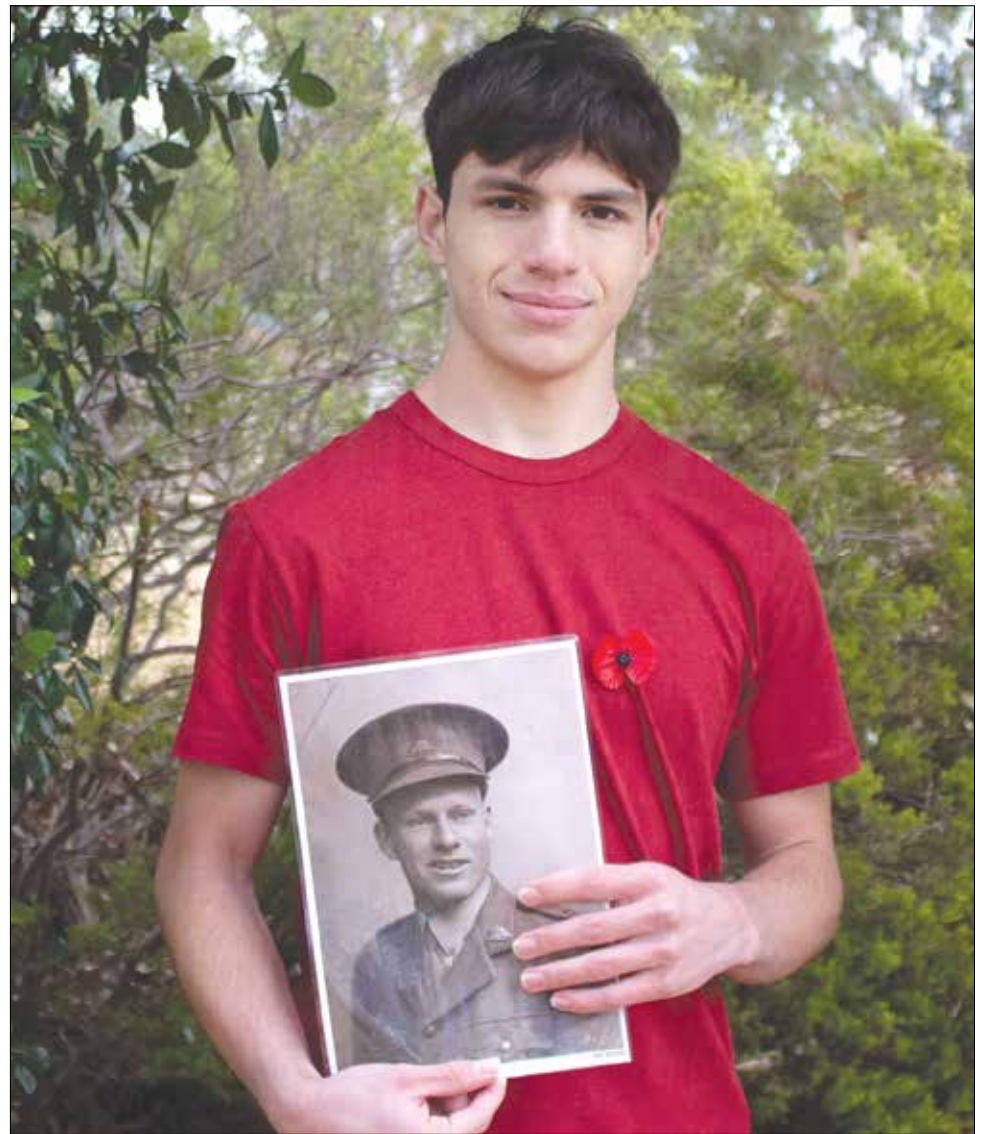
"We have good direction from the Shire and the transfer station suits the population size and amount of waste".

Further, in referring to the community, "People show a bit of pride in the place".

Illegal dumping around the shire continues to be a problem.

When the Shire receives reports about illegal dumping it has to remove the items – this is a cost to ratepayers so everyone is urged to be responsible with waste disposal.

All the more reason when it comes to waste management to focus on the three R's and to use the Toodyay Waste Transfer Station.



Toodyay local Clive Millett with a photograph of his great-grandfather Lieutenant Jack Millett.

My great-grandpa Jack – the Mapmaker of Colditz

Clive Millett

I WOULD like to pay tribute to my great-grandfather, Jack Millett, who served with the 2nd/11th battalion from 1941 to 1945.

During his time in WA prior to the war, Jack had joined the army reserve.

This meant he was an officer by the time he joined his unit in North Africa and went to battle in Italian-occupied Libya and Tobruk.

The battalion was then sent to Greece, where they were pursued relentlessly by German troops, until they were forced to evacuate to the island of Crete.

The respite from battle lasted only until hundreds of German paratroopers were dropped from gliders and the island was soon overtaken.

Captured and sent to the Oflag VI-B camp in Germany when he was caught digging a tunnel from his hut, Jack was sent to a more secure prison in Bavaria.

Already with a reputation, he was at once recruited to join the escape committee.

In June 1943, after many weeks of tunnelling, he went out under the wire along with 65 men, who escaped in the most famous mass break-out of WWII.

On the run for five days, he was quickly tracked down by the Nazi's using Alsatian dogs.

All of the escapees were recaptured, but

not before they had tied up more than 50,000 German police and soldiers for a week in the search.

Jack was not only a repeat offender but was also identified as the draftsman who provided the men with tiny maps showing the way to ports and borders.

This skill had Jack sent to the POW stronghold of Colditz Castle, which was considered escape proof.

As the only WA officer among the 800 POWs at Colditz, he continued his activities making maps for the 32 prisoners who managed to escape, he forged keys to the food storage areas and helped construct a glider hidden in the Castle attic – which was intended to be used to sail over the wall.

In 1945 American forces reached Colditz, and not seeing the POW sheets flying from the windows, the Castle was hit by artillery, some pieces of which Jack brought home.

He later said it had been a disappointment that he didn't get a chance to use the glider.

Known as 'The map-maker of Colditz' – Jack Millett is remembered not only for his courage in action – but also his famous ingenuity while serving as a POW to help his fellows escape.

Vale Jack Millett – and all those men and women whose deeds inspired and continue the spirit of ANZAC.



Shire of Toodyay waste transfer station.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Dying trees increase high fire risk

Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Chris McDonald

AS MOST of you are aware the lack of rain so far this autumn means fire conditions are still at high risk despite the drop in temperature.

It is important to wait until there is some moisture in the soil before burning off any piles of rubbish.

It is most likely that there will be an extension of the restricted burning season until there is a significant increase in soil moisture count.

Also of concern is the number of trees that are dying from the prolonged heat during summer which will increase the fire risk as we move towards next season.

Please be aware of the hazards of these trees on your property and start planning ways to manage this risk.

Coondle-Nunile VBFB also had our annual general meeting last month with two changes to our leadership team.

A big thanks from all members goes out to Su Anderson who has retired as secretary after several years in this important role.

Aurelie Zimmermann has stepped into this position, as well as being the official cake maker for the station: good luck Aurelie.

Tavis Teale has stepped down from the role of Lieutenant, thanks Tavis for undertaking this important responsibility.

Daniel Hearn has put his hand up to take up this vacant spot.

We know Dan has a wealth of knowledge in bushfire fighting and look forward to his support o our members.

Members are now attending various training programs to improve their skills for fighting bushfires in your shire.

If you are interested in becoming a bush firefighter come down to the Fire Station when we meet every Friday at 1700 hrs.

Check out Toodyay Shire fire information page to help you get ready for the bush fire season at:

<https://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/resident-services/fire-information>.

SHIRE OF TOODYAY

Bush Fire Control Officers

Pursuant to Section 38 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, the Shire of Toodyay advises appointment of the following persons as Bushfire Control Officers for the Shire of Toodyay.

Craig Stewart (Chief Bush Fire Control Officer), Nicholas Griggs (Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer 1), Robert Koch (Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer 2), Garry Forsyth, Kim Maddrell, Ian MacGregor, Charles Wroth, Robert Scobie, Greg Warburton, Shayne Willcocks, Joseph Tenardi, Ebony Francis.

Tabitha Bateman
Acting CEO



We wish to be worthy of their great sacrifice



Top left: Sgt Jamie Borycewski, Toodyay Police Station. Top right: Lachlan Hunter, Central Wheatbelt candidate, The Nationals WA. Below: Multiple generations of veterans and locals pay their respects on a cold morning at Toodyay's Anzac Memorial Park.



Above: Anzac Day Parade. Below left: Toodyay District High School Choir performing "In the Silence" under the guidance of choirmistress Ms. Shuang Allaga. Below right: Toodyay RSL President Max Howard delivering the Anzac dedication at the Dawn Service.



Lest we forget

OVER 400 people faced a cold morning to attend this year's Dawn Service at Toodyay's Anzac Memorial Park.

Local violinist Rupert Guenther played the *Last Post* as cadets lowered flags to half-mast.

The Anzac Dedication was read by Toodyay RSL President Max Howard.

"At this hour, on this day, in 1915, ANZAC received its baptism of fire and became one of the immortal names of history.

We who are gathered here think of comrades who, then and since, fought for freedom on land, sea and in the air, but did not return.

It is fitting that we should keep this vigil together, in remembrance and in gratitude.

We feel them still near us in spirit.

We wish to be worthy of their great sacrifice.

Let us therefore, once again dedicate ourselves to the service of the ideals for which they died.

As the dawn is even now about to pierce the night, so let their memories inspire us to work for the coming of a new light into dark places."

After the Dawn Service a Gunfire Breakfast was served at the Wicklow Shearing Shed by the Toodyay Lions Club.

The main Anzac Parade then started mid-morning from the Toodyay Memorial Hall finishing at Anzac Memorial Park for the morning service.

Douglas McGhee, Toodyay District High School Chaplain recited the Prayer of Remembrance which in part states:

"We also think of the war in the world at the moment, and we ask for peace, and protection for those who are suffering.

Help us to be grateful and be peacemakers today in our Toodyay community, to stand for justice and kindness, so that we would honour our soldiers and their sacrifice."

The Ode was read by Max Howard and the national anthems of Australia and New Zealand were sung.

After the morning service a large crowd gathered at the Toodyay Club for lunch and refreshments.

Lest we forget.

Birds play important role in spirit and physical world



Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

NOONGAR culture has a deep respect for djirda (birds) and the role they play within the spirit and physical world.

Many djirda are considered messengers on Noongar boodja (country).

Four of these are highlighted here.

Djidi Djidi (Willy Wagtail) is considered a messenger and protector of the land.

It signifies the presence of spirits or ancestors, and its behaviour and calls are

often interpreted as messages or omens in Noongar culture.

Djidi Djidi can lure people to the bulyits (little hairy people) who are mischievous beings inhabiting the bush.

After dark you should not go out of the circle of camp fire light.

Wardong (Raven) hold significant symbolism, often associated with intelligence, resourcefulness and trickery.

It is believed the Wardong possesses knowledge of both the physical and spiritual worlds.



Djidi Djidi (Willy Wagtail).

Noongar people may interpret its presence and behaviours as omens, guiding them in decision-making.

Wardong are also considered custodians of cultural stories and feature in traditional teachings.

Kulbardi (Magpie) hold cultural significance as a symbol of family and community.

Its boastful singing each morning is to remind everybody of their important role in creation.

Their distinctive behaviours are often interpreted as messages from the spiritual realm – guiding and warning.

Kulbardi's black and white plumage represents a balance between light and dark, and good and bad within the natural world.

Darlmoorluk (28 Parrot) is known as the 'happy guardian and protector of camps' symbolising communication and social interaction.

Its vibrant colours and playful nature bring joy and harmony to the environment.

Darlmoorluk's behaviour and calls may be observed as changes in weather or other environmental cues.

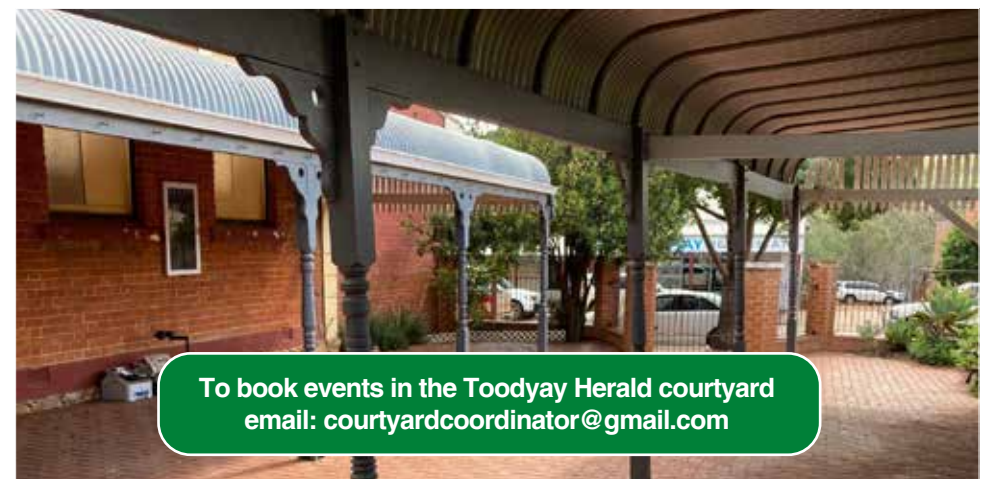
Darlmoorluk remind us of the interconnectedness of all living beings and the importance of community.

We are seeking a sponsor to cover costs towards the Djirda information sign that will go up at Pelham Reserve.

If you would like to help, please contact Helen our volunteer Trail Project Coordinator at noongarkaartdijin@gmail.com.



Kulbardi (Magpie).



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197 DUKE STREET, NORTHAM

Bolgart welcomes new teacher, and cricket goes off with a bang

Bolgart Community News
Pam McGill

School News

STUDENTS from Bolgart Primary, Calingiri Primary and Yerecoin Primary Schools recently participated in the Cricket Blast Cup at the Calingiri Sports oval.

The students had a great time joining in mixed teams and doing a round robin of cricket games throughout the day.

Teams included the Sixers, Heat, Hurricanes and Scorchers.

Well done to the Sixers who were the overall winners.

A big thank you to Melinda Williams from WA Cricket and Jarrod Patmore for helping on the day.

Welcome to Mrs Shelley Fenney as the full time permanent teacher in the Junior Room.

Mrs Kerry Penrice will be teaching fulltime in the Senior Room while Ms King is enjoying her long service leave.

Awards

AUSSIE of the Month - Ethan Uriarau and Harley Judson.

Sportsmanship Award – Lilly Stewart.

Merit Certificates – Arvea Croeser, Bobbi Allen, Sophia Uren and Zoey White.

Bowls

FINAL fixture for the season with Mixed Championship Pairs followed in the evening by our Annual presentations and wind up dinner.

Winners 2024

LADIES Singles Champion – Jenny



Championship Club Singles winners: Jenni Knowles and Todd Meston.

Knowles, runner up Deb Campbell.

Mens Singles Champion – Todd Meston – runner up Ian Woods.

Ladies Club Championship Pairs – Dale McGill and Vivienne Camerer – runners up Jenni Knowles and Serena Syred.

Mens Club championship Pairs – Ed Ludemann and Justin Edmonds – runners up Geoff Ludemann and Dick Campbell.

Ladies Club Championship Triples – Jenni Knowles, Linda Veltman, Pam Meston –

runners up Dale McGill, Serena Syred and Lynn Sarcich.

Congratulations to everyone.

Congratulations also to Jenni Knowles on winning the League Champion of Champions held recently in Toodyay.

This is a first for Jenni, and a wonderful achievement to finish the season off with.

The Bowling Club AGM was held recently and office bearers elected for the 2024 season are:

President: Ian Woods

Vice President: Serena Syred

Secretary: Pam McGill

Treasurer: Nolene Kaszanski

Mens Captain: Neville Clarke

Ladies Captain: Jenni Knowles

Ladies Vice Captain: Serena Syred

Golf News

THE LADIES started the 2024 season off with five keen golfers in hot, dry conditions.

Thankyou to Therese Chitty for sponsoring our opening day.

The competition was Stableford Hidden Partners and the winners were Pam Meston and Vivienne Camerer with runners up Joy Hamilton and Pam McGill.

April 18 was Luanne Martin Trophy Stableford with the winner being Pam McGill and the runner up Pam Meston.

Condolences are extended to the families of Myrtle Kingston, who recently passed away at the age of 104.

Myrtle lived most of her life on a farm in Bolgart, until she moved to Mandurah.

She was involved in sport and events and was an active community member.

Work and study opportunity in the kitchen for Year 10 student Kelly



From left, Deborah Quartermaine, Shelly Maes, Sharon Anderson, Kelly Thomson and Tay Williams.

Toodyay District High School

Tonia Demeur

CONGRATULATIONS to Kelly Thomson, Year 10, who has been offered an apprenticeship as a chef with the newly opened Toodyay Hotel.

Employers most often take on much older students for apprenticeships so this outcome is almost without precedence.

Kelly will undertake her apprenticeship by attending her workplace one day each week, completing her TAFE requirements on another day at school, while simultaneously completing her Year 10 studies.

She will be a very busy girl but what a delicious reward with great prospects.

Kelly's success came after a thorough interview process which included preparing and serving morning tea, impromptu, to Principal Mrs Sharon Anderson and Ms Shelly Maes, Deputy Principal and Pathways Co-ordinator.

Both said witnessing Kelly in this setting was a humbling experience for them.

Tay Williams, a Year 10 student, was

equally impressive spilling not a drop of tea or coffee, demonstrating the capability of our students.

He will complete a traineeship with the same business whilst attending school.

It is unusual for Year 10 students to be offered these opportunities so this is a coup for our school.

Our already successful Work Experience programme has been reimaged, with students in Year 10 now enrolled in Work-Place Learning, normally reserved for Year 11.

Across the year in each of terms two and four, students will complete more than 55 hours in work placements, gaining credit, ahead of time, towards their WA Certificate of Education.

I am not sure there are too many other schools in the state that enable this; and our Year 10s may not realise just how lucky they are.

We extend enormous thanks to all businesses who support our programme, and to Deb and Morgan at the Toodyay Hotel, who have made Tay's traineeship and Kelly's apprenticeship possible.



Men's Club Championship Pairs Ed Ludemann (left) and Justin Edmonds.



Ladies Golf. From left: Pam Meston, Nolene Kaszanski, Vivienne Camerer, Pam McGill, Joy Hamilton.

Knockdominie scandal ended first magistrate's career

Toodyay Historical Society Inc
Robyn Taylor, Vice President

IN LAST month's column brief reference was made to Rica Erickson's draft history on Toodyay's Resident Magistrates, the first being Captain Francis Whitfield who was appointed in 1838, although the year 1839 is also given.

The following is based on Rica's draft, her book 'Old Toodyay & Newcastle' and other sources.

To recap, Captain Whitfield was a veteran of the Napoleonic Wars and had retired to Ireland with his family.

Instead of a pension he was offered a large grant of land in the Swan River Colony.

The Whitfields arrived in Fremantle in May 1830 with nine of their children and settled in Guildford where he selected a portion of his grant entitlement and was appointed Guildford's Resident Magistrate.

In 1836 Whitfield joined James Drummond and the Anderson partners in exploring the Avon Valley with the help of a Canning River Aboriginal named Babbing.

It was through Babbing that Drummond learnt a particularly favourable place in this region was named Duidgee (Toodyay).

In his account of the expedition Drummond wrote that Duidgee 'was a favourite haunt of the natives, no doubt on account of its natural productions.'

This is the likely explanation behind the name Toodyay becoming referred to as 'a place of plenty', while in the Aboriginal language it meant a misty place.

Whitfield transferred his land entitlement for 4000 acres on the Avon River that became known as Knockdominie.

Although he was later appointed Resident Magistrate for Toodyay he continued to



One of the early cottages built on Knockdominie, c.1838. Photo: Wayne & Desrae Clarke, 2005.

live in Guildford while his sons developed the land grant.

Needing a good road to the property, Whitfield had taken a party of workmen to clear a road through the bush.

The mysterious death of the two bullocks he had borrowed led him to undertake a post-mortem.

It revealed the animals had eaten large amounts of a pea flower (*Gastrolobium trilobum*).

Whitfield suspected this was the same plant that killed stock on the route to York

and in an attempt to alert others to its danger he pinned specimens to the parlour room curtains in Guildford.

Unfortunately, his warning wasn't heeded.

In 1839 Whitfield and his wife moved to Knockdominie but within a year Whitfield was involved in a domestic scandal that brought an end to his professional career, his reputation and social standing.

A maid who worked for the household was an orphan named Jane Green who had come to the colony through the Children's

Friend Society and had been placed under Whitfield's protection.

One night not feeling well Jane retired early to bed early.

When Mrs Whitfield went to check on her she found Jane had given birth and had hidden the dead baby that showed cuts to its neck.

Whitfield and his sons were implicated in the subsequent Court hearing.

The public was sympathetic to Jane's plight and according to the story that appears in the Old Courthouse Law Museum, Jane's lawyer argued that 'Jane could have been in a delirium and unaware of her actions as a result of childbirth.'

Rather than being convicted with murder, Jane was charged for concealing the body of the child and given a lenient sentence on Rottnest Island.

While her story ended more happily with marriage to John Bell and a new life in East Rockingham, Capt Whitfield ended his days alone in a hut at Knockdominie where he died in 1857.

On Sunday May 26 we will be joining the Toodyay Friends of the River for the launch of their 'West Toodyay Wander'. Details will be sent out to members.

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

For contact details and meetings see *Where and When* page 28.



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Nanna bingo, car wash and book week ideas

Toodyay District High School P&C Association
Dani Xuereb

WELCOME back to Term 2.

First up for P&C items is our annual Mothers' Day Stall on Friday May 10.

It's always an exciting event for the kids to buy something beautiful for the special ladies in their life.

If you have any creative ideas or donations to contribute, please let us know.

We aim to have a gift available for every student to purchase and take home.

On Tuesday May 14 we have a committee meeting at 5:30pm in the school staff room and we will be discussing fundraising ideas such as Nanna Bingo, a Car Wash, Book Week and Garden Projects.

Do you have any ideas or possible fundraising opportunities?

All the money raised through the P&C goes back into the school, helping with learning tools, camps, sporting events, incursions, excursions and generally trying to give our kids and teachers more opportunities and enjoyment for school life.

We have a great team but could always do with some more members – as we know, many hands make light work.

Last but not least – we need to fill the role of P&C president, hence are looking for someone to oversee meetings and help with community connection.

If anyone is interested in taking the lead in this, please get in touch with Dani X, Heather Mc or Tash H.

Anyone is welcome to join us, if you would like to help on a stall or bring some fresh ideas we would love to see you there.

Let's go Drummond.

Sheep prices collapse as feed prices skyrocket

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance Inc
Frank Panizza

Drought-like conditions continue in our shire and throughout most of the grain growing areas in Western Australia.

Farmers and residents alike are staring skyward or more likely now, at their devices, for at least some hope of rain.

Unfortunately, there seems little relief from the dry and windy conditions in the short term.

Water resources are now a very real concern.

The very dry and bare paddocks are evident throughout our shire and many parts of the wheatbelt.

Sheep prices have collapsed due to farmers offloading sheep for which they have no dry pasture or have low water supplies or are just not prepared to pay the current high prices for hay and other feed supplements.

This is especially the case with older ewes. During April the WA mutton saleyard indicator was about 80 cents per kilogram carcass weight.

This is well below the indicator 12 months ago when the levels were near \$3 per kilogram.

Saleyard prices for any off-spec livestock are at a heavy discount to better quality finished animals -- termed trade weight.

Prices particularly for mutton are at a very marked discount compared to prices being seen in saleyards in eastern Australia.

All of this is because of the weather conditions we are experiencing in our state.

Farmers with stock that are not in good condition are offloading them at whatever price they can get.

Of course, breeding stock will have to be maintained and kept for replacement.

Some of the most rain deficient areas in Western Australia are in the extreme south western corner.

Information recently posted on the BOM



Local farmer dry seeding canola.

website revealed that some areas around Busselton to Walpole are the driest ever recorded over the last six months.

Long range forecasts by BOM and other metrological authorities worldwide are still suggesting a wetter than average winter for Australia including Western Australia.

Forecasters appear to agree that the El Nino event has ended, albeit a weak and short-lived event, and that a return to neutral conditions should prevail.

Some are suggesting a La Nina event later in the year which heralds cooler and wetter conditions particularly in eastern Australia.

Local farmer Ed Ludermann, spent last Saturday churning over 110 years of rainfall records to discover that since 1913 (the year records for Wattening were commenced) to discover that there have been 27 years with

less rainfall to the end of April than this year.

However, in those 27 years the average May to October rainfall was 315mm or just below the overall average of 360mm.

This statistic at least gives us hope for better times ahead.

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

Minister praises Toodyay cadets



The Toodyay District High School Cadets with James Holmes physical education teacher, Youth Minister Hannah Beazley and Principal Sharon Anderson.

Toodyay District High School Cadets

Tonia Demeur

RECENTLY our Principal, Sharon Anderson, physical education teacher James Holmes and several of our cadets were featured in an article posted by WA Youth Minister Hannah Beazley on her social media account.

Celebrating Youth Week, she was keen to see our amazing cadet program in action.

The Minister posted on social media that:

"We are extremely proud of our

Cadet Program and it is great to see it acknowledged like this.

"As we continue to celebrate YouthWeek I'm thinking about all the amazing cadet units across Western Australia who make up our fantastic Cadets WA Youth Development Program – like the Toodyay Emergency Services Cadets.

"I had a great time visiting these dedicated young people recently.

"The cadets program enhances the wellbeing of young people and helps to develop a sense of community service and civic responsibility."

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Enthusiastic Perth visitors join in singalong session

Toodyay Music Club
Jenny Edgecombe

THE APRIL meeting was enjoyed by all, even though our numbers were smaller than usual this month.

We were very pleased to welcome some Perth friends who plan their regular day trips to the Avon area to coincide with our meetings.

They tell us that they are not performers, but do enjoy the music and the happy atmosphere.

Anne started the individual items with a song that resonated particularly for members of the original Toodyay Folk Club: the plaintive *Fields of Athenry*.

Love Shine a Light was a favourite song chosen by Jenny.

This song was written by Kimberley Charles Rew.

For those with long country rock memories, he was a member of Katrina and the Waves.

The song actually won the Eurovision Song Contest in 1997.

The feeling of nostalgia was continued by Joe, who included the haunting Joni Mitchell song, *Urge for Going*, in his set.

Following the remaining individual items from members, we shared the usual convivial afternoon tea, with plenty of conversation.

We made the most of the extra time after the break to hold an extended singalong session from the skiffle books, ably led by Spencer.

Our visitors joined in with great enthusiasm. All in all, it was a delightful afternoon's entertainment.

The May meeting will take place at the CWA Hall on Saturday May 11, starting at 1pm.

This meeting will feature a theme, with most songs relating to the topic of friends.

You are welcome to join us as a performer or audience member.

For more information, call Joe on 0400 862 694.



Moondyne Members with local State MP Darren West, (centre) at the recent Meet and Greet meeting and sausage sizzle.

Volunteers to tackle chicken coop, horse ramp

Moondyne Men Inc
Graham Hill

THE MOONDYNE Men continue to enjoy their new meeting venue at the Toodyay Community Resource Centre.

This was further boosted on April 23 by a visit from local State MP Darren West.

Darren held a meet and greet morning with the Moondyne Men providing a sausage sizzle.

As a mark of respect, the Moondyne Men deferred their meeting on April 25 to allow all members to attend the RSL dawn service, the march and ceremony on the morning of Anzac Day April 25 2024.

In a further commitment to community service the Moondyne Men will be assembling the Pioneer Village in the preparation for Toodyay's major event, the Moondyne Festival.

We have an ongoing commitment to make this event the success it always is.

We will be involved with the setup and pack

up before and after the day.

On May 9 we will be having a guest speaker from Regional Men's Health.

Terry Melrose will speak to us on eating habits, harmful behaviours and keeping active.

The Moondyne Men look forward to hearing about men's health and attitudes.

We have two major projects to complete in regard to a horse ramp and a chicken coop for some local residents.

On May 5 look for our gazebo out the front of the Toodyay Hotel.

Come and say "Hello" and pick up bottled water, fruit and a program of the days event.

If you are looking to join Toodyay's primary, proactive men's group come and see us any Monday and Thursday between 8.30am - 10.30am and also join us for a free breakfast on the first Saturday of each month at the Community Resource Centre, 65 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

We look forward to meeting you for a tea, coffee and great company because we are men looking after men and the community.

For more information, please contact Colin on 0424 195 003 or see details on page 28 under *Where and When*.

Giant results in Lions Jumbo Auction



(Left to right) John Pearce, Lions Club Auction Coordinator, Max Heath, Toodyay Youth Care Council, Roz Davidson, Toodyay Locals Care, Rachel Oliver, Lions Club President and Angi McClusky, Forget Me Not Café.

Toodyay Lions Community Jumbo
Auction

John Pearce, Auction Coordinator.

THIS year's auction was one of our most successful with total sales increasing from \$7,444 to \$26, 824 and our bottom-line jumping from \$2,722 to \$7,500.

Giant results for the Lions Jumbo auction, that was held on March 23.

In the lead up to the event we promoted it differently to the 2023 auction via the use of our road signs, and *Toodyay Herald* advertising.

We even ran a *FaceBook* campaign, that included interviews with our beneficiaries, auctioneer, as well as promoting some of the auction items.

Our main auction goals from 2023 were to increase the number of people attending the auction and to increase the average sale.

We reached those goals with buyer numbers increasing from 66 to 118 and sellers grew from 26 to 48.

We also sold three lots for more than \$1,000 and the average lot value increased from \$32.20 to \$121.27.

This was one of our most successful auctions in memory.

Our donations also grew from last year and included 33 lots of donations from community members and local businesses.

Items included bales of hay, loads of gravel, sand and water, hardware and power tools and stock feed, to name a few.

Each of these items sold over the reserve price.

As a club we would like to thank our volunteers 'Friends of Lions' for their assistance on the Friday set up and on the day with auction scribing and running sheets back to the office, we could have not done this without you.

Now, for our beneficiaries, who included Toodyay Youth Care Council, Forget-Me-Not Café and Toodyay Locals Care.

We held a thank you morning tea on Sunday April 14,

Thank you CWA, the food was sensational for all involved and we were pleased to present each with a donation of \$2,500.

Thank to you to our sellers and bidders on the day and the community for a memorable auction.

And not to forget our auctioneers Tony Maddox and Adrian Gamble for an entertaining day.

If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do within your community, drop by one of our meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Toodyay Hotel at 6.30pm and like us on *FaceBook*.

Handmade better than shop-bought

Avon Woodturners
Hamish Dobie

JUST recently my wife and I had a visit from friends that we hadn't seen for quite some time.

After a couple of days of catching up, and showing them the attractions and history of Toodyay, they were back on their way.

Before they left, my other half gave them a little gift of a small wooden vase that I'd turned at the Woodturners.

Their reaction surprised me.

They were really delighted (and I was embarrassed) with the vase, then it made me realise they appreciated it far more than a "shop-bought" gift, because they knew I had taken time to make it.

I then thought back on times when I'd received something that had been made by the one giving it.

I still have some of these gifts and, when I look at them, it instantly takes me back to the moment I received it, where, when and from whom.

I rate myself as a novice woodturner, and there are several who are far more gifted than me, however it makes me want to carry on turning when an object I made can produce the response we received from our friends.

When you are parents of a small child and

they present you with a painting, or something similar, you really appreciate the effort they put into it, and years later you might find that same painting safely tucked away in a drawer somewhere in the house, and it brings back fond memories.

Giving a gift that you've made yourself as an adult can evoke the same response from the receiver.

Some of the things that you can create by woodturning are relatively simple to complete and, with a bit of practice, you could make something to present to a friend that they will be delighted to receive.

We are always seeking potential woodturners to join the gang, and this is a great opportunity to learn a new skill and make gifts for your friends.

We are located at Shed 1, the Community Depot at the end of Railway Road, and are there on Wednesdays and Sundays from 9 until noon.

If you are interested, we are happy to show you around the workshop, do a little demonstration and have a chat over morning tea.

You can contact me on hamishd2701@gmail.com or call 0423 115 204 for further information.

Tips to turn out cute cuddly toys

Avon Woodturners

We have been fortunate enough to secure the well-known woodturner, Frank Dymond, to come and do a demonstration of his skills in making Cute and Cuddly Toys on Sunday, May 26.

Everyone is welcome. Many will be interested to witness the process in how, starting with a piece of wood, a woodturner can quickly produce a 'cute and cuddly toy'.

The event will begin at 9am at Shed 1, Community Depot at the end of Railway Road, Toodyay and will be followed by a barbecue.



The Gift. The little turned vase.

Toodyay CWA and Mavis celebrate 100 years under new roof

Country Women's Association
Vivien Street

THANK you to everyone who made our triple celebration on April 19 such an inclusive and happy occasion.

We celebrated one hundred years of the Country Women's Association of WA, the hundredth birthday of our member Mavis Rowles, and gave thanks and acknowledgement for our hall roof in one action packed morning.

There were so many people attending that we almost needed a bigger hall.

It was wonderful to welcome community members and groups, our major sponsors from the Toodyay Shire, CWA State Office and Chalice Mining, sister CWA branches and CWA members past and present.

It has taken months of planning, plotting and preparation behind the scenes to bring this day to fruition and huge thanks must go to our Toodyay members who worked so tirelessly to get all in place on the day.

The catering team should get a special mention for their hours of baking and their organisational skills on the day, even more so as they catered for an event the following evening.

Kathy Haynes our Toodyay Branch President led proceedings and we more or less managed to keep to the program.

Our major sponsors were presented with a plaque which will be a permanent reminder of their generosity.

The CWA is proud to have had a presence in Toodyay since 1927 and both Chalice Mining's Kate Verkulen, Toodyay Shire's Wes Sutton and CWA of WA State President



Anne Gething (left) and Mavis Rowles cut the Centenary and 100th birthday cake.

Anne Gething, reflected on this as the plaque was 'unveiled'.

Anne Gething, along with CEO Trish Langdon, presented Mavis Rowles with a very special and the first of its kind award.

A living legend plaque for her 71 years of service to Toodyay CWA as well as her 100th birthday.

Anne and Mavis cut the joint birthday cake as Happy Birthday was sung twice.

Five of our Toodyay members were then ambushed and presented with Loyal Service badges by Anne and Trish for their 10 years or more of service to our branch.

Our branch has also decided to install a bird bath as our contribution to the Centenary year and this will soon be installed in the front garden.

Anne, Trish and Kathy opened it before group and branch photos were taken and guests were at last able to enjoy refreshments and chat.

It was a very special day and now we have a few days to recover before our next big catering event at the Moodyne Festival on Sunday May 5.

Come in for refreshments from 10am onwards and enjoy the quiet of the hall amidst the mayhem outside.

Last year Moodyne Joe was captured in our hall with the constables alerted by our ladies so we will be on the lookout for him this year.

Our next meeting will be at 10am on May 2, our usual April meeting having fallen on Anzac Day.

Coffee morning this month is on May 9 and a trip to Bindoon is planned so meet at the hall for 9am.

Please join us.

We welcome new members.

Thanks to Wayne Rowley the official CWA of WA Centenary Year photographer for the photos in this article.

For contact details and hall bookings see *Where and When* on Page 28.

It took nineteen quilters to create this huge school fire quilt



School Fire Recovery Fundraising Quilt.

Ragbags Quilting Group
Kerry Gregory

SINCE writing about comfort quilts and community quilts for worthwhile causes, I've had a number of terrific conversations with ladies in town reminiscing about such quilts, with some very memorable ones noted.

These include the 'Toodyay Quilt' on display in the Library, the '150 Year Quilt at the Agricultural Show' and past patients of the late Dr Richard Walkey who displayed his '50th Birthday Quilt' at his surgery.

The quilt featured this month is huge and was made as a fundraising raffle quilt when the community pulled together to assist with the recovery and restoration of amenities at the school following the fire in 1993.

The raffle was won by Mrs Van Sheridan.

A group of 19 ladies produced this wonderful quilt consisting of 30 traditional sampler blocks each of 30cm square, using several fabrics repeated within the blocks, giving it a lovely colour palette.

The article is beautifully finished with

detailed hand quilting.

I'm told the ladies had a great time chatting and laughing, as they sat in a circle, each quilting the section in front of them, and signing a small stamped block on the reverse with their names for posterity.

The names of the quilters are: Robin Thompson, Marian Pitcher, Suzanne Vickery, Sheila Puppin, Heather Mettam, Sooty, Alice Bailey, Lynlee Chitty, Kaye Chitty, Dorothy White, Carol Davidson, Rosemary Breese, Peggy Martin, Aileen Westbrook, Marion Radoni, Glenys Chitty, Lyn Bolton, Vera Smart and Laurel Taylor.

It is hoped that this fabulous quilt will be on display at the Toodyay Agricultural Show this October.

New members are very welcome to attend the regular gatherings of the Ragbags group; a cuppa and a chat are assured.

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

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



Major Sponsors for our new roof fund. (Left to Right) Anne Gething, CWA of WA State President, Nick Gajewski, Kate Verkulen, Chalice Mining, Wes Sutton, Toodyay Shire and Kathy Haynes, Toodyay CWA President.

School Chaplain Doug gears up for South-West youth camp

Toodyay YouthCare Council
Vivienne Freeman

TOODYAY YouthCare AGM was held on 23 April 2024.

The following members were reappointed: Chairperson, Max Heath, Vice Chair/Secretary Vivienne Freeman, Treasurer Maggie Parsons.

We welcomed new members to the Committee - Jenni Carlin, Margaret O'Sullivan and Hamish Dobie.

New members are always welcome.

Our School Chaplain, Doug McGhee, had a busy first term again, including a cadet camp with 55 students taking part.

It was pleasing to see Doug and the cadets marching in the parade here in Toodyay on Anzac Day.

Preparations are under way for the next camp to be held in the southwest and the

new large camping trailer will be well used in the future.

Of the 800 government schools in WA, 635 have a school chaplain.

Thanks to our supporters, local Toodyayites, Businesses, Clubs and our Shire.

Tickling the vocal cords for Moodyne Festival

Toodyay Community Singers
Anne Millar

THE TOODYAY Singers rehearsals are in full swing and we will be performing at the Moodyne Festival on Sunday May 5.

As always, we put out a call for new members - additional voices are always welcome.

If you are new to the community, enjoy singing and would like to be part of community events please come along to the CWA Hall in Stirling Terrace between 5pm and 7pm on Thursday evenings.

We would love to see you there.

Wu Tao
the dancing way

Wu Tao classes now available in Toodyay

Classes at St Stephens Hall start on Monday 6 May 2024



Day class 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Evening class 5.30pm - 6.30pm
Cost \$20 - casual

Contact: Catherine de Vos
0457 379 596