

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.

October 2024
Edition 439

Victorious Toodyay Lions prove winners are grinners



After a 15 year drought the Toodyay Lions Reserves snare the premiership with a convincing win over the Goomalling Blues by 54 points. More on Page 35.

Wheatbelt roads a shocker – survey

Sean Hefferon

ACCORDING to a Main Roads Western Australia survey Wheatbelt residents are the most dissatisfied of any region with the conditions of their road network.

These results are from a Community Perceptions Report that was conducted by Metrix Consulting on behalf of Main Roads. Over 1400 members of the public were surveyed across Western Australia with results categorised into eight areas with seven being regional and one being metro.

The annual survey is conducted with a random sample of the public and the 2024

survey provides a maximum margin of error of ± 2.6 per cent at the 95 per cent confidence interval.

This margin of error suggests that providing the same survey to a larger population would reflect the same or similar results.

In the survey that was released in May 2024, the regions rated Main Roads' overall performance lower than residents in the metro area.

The Wheatbelt scored lowest against the other regions and the metro area in relation to road safety with 38 per cent of Wheatbelt survey participants being dissatisfied with road safety.

By comparison only seven per cent of metro participants were dissatisfied in regard to road safety.

The numbers for the Wheatbelt do not improve when it comes to community perceptions concerning road maintenance.

In terms of road maintenance, 59 per cent of survey participants from the Wheatbelt were dissatisfied with Main Roads' performance and 41 per cent were satisfied.

This particular survey result has been trending downwards for the Wheatbelt since reaching a peak in 2022.

By contrast 85 per cent of metro participants were satisfied with road maintenance.

Local State Labor MP Darren West was contacted by *The Herald* for comment in relation to the Main Roads' report and said: "The Cook Government has invested more into regional WA roads than any other Government before us.

"Both road construction and maintenance have been impacted by labour shortages and associated challenges since the COVID 19 pandemic and we continue to work through these.

"Funding has been allocated for significant upgrades to Toodyay Road, some of which have been completed".

Toodyay Shire President Cr Michael McKeown, said to *The Herald* on September 27 that the shire had not considered the report and questioned its findings.

The annual report shows that for the last seven years the Wheatbelt and Goldfields-Esperance regions have scored poorly on the survey in relation to road safety and maintenance.

Continued on Page 5.

A big day at the Toodyay races

THE TOODYAY Cup made its return to the Avon Valley on September 22 when the Toodyay Race Club hosted its first meeting at the local race course since 2021.

An estimated crowd of 3000 racegoers attended the course on what was a sunny Spring Day to see the return of family-friendly picnic-racing to the Avon Valley.

The efforts of the club and community volunteers to put the event on paid off with good odds as the friendly crowd enjoyed the warm ambience of the country race event.

The smiling faces and colourful fascinators

on the heads of frocked up ladies were almost matched by the glammed-up besuited blokes crowding around the bar.

Which is to say the fashions in the field went off like a firecracker with a good dose of humour (and strutting) thrown in.

As for the cup.

The Toodyay Cup that was won by a horse named Zaza Rock – and he did – as did his jockey and owners.

Tod Johnston and PeaceLove then had the crowd dancing as the sun went down.

More on Pages 8 and 35.

Coming events

Toodyay Agricultural Show
Saturday October 5, 9am - 9pm
Farmers Market
Sunday October 20, 9am - 1pm

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The Toodyay Herald

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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, Allan Gregory and Laraine Brindle.

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Noon Friday
October 25

STORY DEADLINE

Noon Wednesday
October 28

DISTRIBUTED

Thursday
November 7

Please note our email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

‘Opportunity dances with those already on the dance floor’

Dr. Christian Mauri

THE AUTHOR Kurt Vonnegut was asked by his wife why on earth he'd walk to the post office to buy a single envelope.

Why wouldn't you save yourself the trip by ordering it online?

Why buy one when you can just as easily purchase a hundred or a thousand?

The answer, for Vonnegut and for all of us, is because walking to the post office presents a little adventure.

You might pass an old friend or curious natural sight on the way – there might be attractive people in line at the post office.

The walk is an exercise in getting up and out and doing 'ness – it is a move in the dance of being alive.

We are, as Vonnegut liked to put it, “dancing animals.”

Vonnegut's answer reminds me of a quote painted on the restroom wall of my old university tavern: “Opportunity dances with those already on the dance floor”.

After years of capturing life stories, I recognise the wisdom in those words as everyone has a story about serendipity, good fortune and dumb luck.

It could be meeting your future spouse at a party you reluctantly attended.

Or making a new friend on the day you decided to catch the train instead of drive.

Or walking to the shops out of boredom and... Fill in your own example here.

The dance floor can be at the back of the bus or in the corner of a crowded kitchen.

It is rarely, if ever, on the couch at home (though perhaps the internet has changed this to some vanishingly small degree).

From the unimaginable to the pleasantly unexpected, it all happens out there on the dance floor beyond the couch and screen.

Here's a few stories to show you what I mean with the first being the unimaginable.

Three years ago I interviewed a Swede named Adam who as a young man loved skiing so much that he dreamed of living in the Alps.

This dream was a response to the genetic Swedish fear of turning into your parents and having a safe and uneventful life.

So, Adam and his mate hatched a brilliant idea involving setting up a French language school in the Alps, living on campus and then skiing all day.

So what if they couldn't speak French and knew nothing about starting a language school?

That's a dance floor problem. With the help of friends who could write in French, they sent letters explaining their idea to every university in France.

What do you think happened next?

The answer, of course, is nothing for

ages....but at least they were on the dance floor.

One day a poorly written letter arrived on the desk of a university president named George.

George was about to retire from his position and he had the power and nothing to lose.

“Who are these boys?” thought the old university president.

“What naivety! What youthful fire! Why not see what happens?”

George was the last of a species of university president long extinct today.

Modern enough not to be ruled by class, old enough to recall a time before the bean counters and their bureaucrats took charge.

George called the boys in for a meeting and just as he expected it went hilariously badly. However, he agreed to the venture shortly after.

There's more to the story than I can cover here. It's a big inspiring doozy.

Suffice to say that Adam enjoyed his time in the Alps and has since spent his life and fortune paying forward George's good will by championing blue sky ideas.

Lives have changed because two young dreamers sent an audacious letter to an old president who thought, “Sure, why not?”

I know what you're thinking.

Such a story is too unusual to count for anything so here's a more pedestrian one for balance.

I once found a driver's licence and posted online for its owner and not for the first time or the last, the online responses were discouraging.

Why would you seek the owner when you can just drop it at the police station?

Some commenters were outright angry and confused that someone they've never met would be so idiotic.

Think laughing and angry emojis.

These are Vonnegut's wife responses.

The owner of the licence was delighted when I connected with him.

If we cross paths again, on a bus, at a party, or the other side of the planet, it will be an encounter thrumming with good will.

He even said he'd pay it forward.

This certainly beats a trip to the cop shop for all involved.

I have countless stories along these lines.

There's Kim, who went to a café to read for a change and had an artist ask to paint the portrait that now hangs in her kitchen.

There's Jay, who decided to walk to the charity shop to donate old clothes in person, only to save (and later adopt) the Dachshund, Milly, before she got flattened on the road.

There are all the dancing animals.

They are off the couch, offline, and out there, buying envelopes in the spacious world, right where opportunity can see them.

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Jeff brings new energy to Toodyay

'Life's about stories' – Jeff Bullock

Sean Hefferon

EVERYONE has their own special history, everyone has a persona that supersedes the world of social media, something deeper.

Jeff Bullock has always been interested in these stories believing they strengthen the connectiveness of the community and that these stories are the building blocks on which our future should be built.

"Everybody's got stories to tell and everybody's got something that makes them unique, something to offer."

Born in Perth, Australia, Jeff spent a good part of his childhood in England near Dorset to spend time with his extended family.

He would return to Perth, to complete his schooling and met his childhood sweetheart and his future wife, Lana, at Lake Joondalup Baptist High School in Perth.

Now married they have two children, a son (Luke) and a daughter (Sophia) – 16 and 13 respectively.

After studying international business and marketing at university, Jeff threw himself into an eclectic variety of roles all sharing a common thread of constantly looking to innovate and improve how things are done.

He's had a range of what you might call regular jobs along the way and believes that every moment in any role is valuable experience to take to the next.

In his early years, jobs included being a drillers offsider and a plumbing services scheduler for a home building group in WA.

However, most of his learning was with fantastic mentors as a national business development manager for an industrial safety company.

A slightly restless soul, he has always tended toward making his own decisions and has favoured running his own shop.

His first was a software business when he was 18 with that experience leading to businesses in wholesale printing and packaging, marine galvanic corrosion, small fun enterprises here and there and now most recently for the last 12 years his boat workshop.

This workshop, called RIB Rescue, is a business that repairs and refurbishes rigid inflatable boats. It is the largest of its kind in Australia and Jeff credits his amazing team of staff with everything.

He runs his business with the same ideals he abides by, focusing on high-quality materials and excellent customer service.

However, what he does for a living isn't as important as the philosophies he lives by.

His love for family, the environment in which he resides, and what he can contribute to the community is paramount and has



The Bullock family at the Toodyay Cup: (L to R) Luke, Jeff, Lana and Sophie.

always been an important aspect of his life.

Outside of business he did a charity climb of Mt Blanc in France as a founding member of a foundation that has now raised millions for childhood cancer as one of the original Telethon Adventurers.

He is also clearly a fan of the *Back to the Future* movies and built an identical replica of the Back to the Future truck for Marty McFly and "it's my pride and joy", @backintimebuild.

Jeff also imagined a future where the family could spend more time in the country and out of the city rat race.

His passion for picturesque, charming towns ignited a three-month caravan adventure and while many would flock to coastal destinations, Jeff, having seen his fill of the ocean, instead opted for the tranquil allure of the countryside.

His journey took him through the heart of New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria where he sought out the hidden gems and rural charm that more touristy and overcrowded areas often overshadow.

He said it was on that trip that he started thinking one thing we don't have in WA is a huge population and we don't have an environment conducive to moving too far away from the city.

"So, I started look within, you know, roughly an hour from Perth for somewhere, an investment.

"But for somewhere to tick, scratch the itch, if you like for living in the country.

"And there's a number of different towns and the usual suspects turned up.

"Nothing was quite right."

It was only after passing through Toodyay on a prospecting trip that he thought this could be the place – a thought that became a reality when he then purchased a property here.

Of the many places he visited, Toodyay

stood out, left a mark on him and now he wants to return the favour by leaving a mark of his own as Toodyay represents his future and the future of his family.

The town's character is something he not only wants to be a part of but also something he wants to help grow and evolve while maintaining everything he loves about it.

"What some people don't realise is the finite nature of what you've got here, town wise anyway, you've got such a perfect picturesque town, which will attract visitors and attract people to live here.

"What you've got is actually pretty special."

Wanting to contribute back to Toodyay Jeff is always willing to help out a fellow neighbour, be it by striking up conversations with strangers, sharing stories, or removing tree stumps.

He believes in proactive development and encourages local business owners to seize opportunities and adapt to demographic changes, advocating for controlled growth that preserves the town's unique character.

"The problem I see is that you get that change regardless, you get development, whether you like it or not, that's a fact."

Through his travels and his unique upbringing, Jeff understands change is inevitable and believes in having an active role in that change, of directing it in a way that maintains the core integrity of the community.

His philosophy is to influence that change but in a way that is balanced.

"I don't sit there, and you know, on the porch, rocking back and forth getting angry about things I see.

"I would rather develop something with others to be what it needs to be and what it could be and what it should be."

For Jeff preserving everything he loves about Toodyay, its small-town atmosphere,

the beautiful scenery, and the feeling of belonging is important to him.

Knowing that nothing stays the same forever, he hopes to maintain a semblance of what makes Toodyay so special.

Jeff hopes that in the future his children and grandchildren will always have a place to call home, a place that resonates with them the same way it does with him now and to give them a place to not only call home but will always feel like home.

"You just chip away, you come up here, create your memories, play with your kids, build some stuff, and then years roll by."

The quality of those years is very important to Jeff and his family.

Invest in the future, build with the future in mind, "and that's exactly how things should be done".

And as time passes by, as changes occur, and as people live and move about in their daily lives, more and more stories are made.

More stories are created that can and should be shared.

As Jeff says, "I am living life for the stories and not the riches. I say g'day to strangers and I love to help anyone anytime.

"Hard work never killed anyone, and life's simplest pleasures are the best."

Missing the bus

UP UNTIL 2020 children from Toodyay and surrounding communities were able to travel by school bus directly to Swan Christian College located in Middle Swan.

Parents had been paying \$16 per day to the private bus operator to ensure their children could attend the co-educational Christian private school where annual tuition fees can range from \$4000 for Kindergarten to \$9000 for Year-12.

For many parents the availability of the bus service was one of the factors that tipped them into opting to send their children to the Christian college where students are "encouraged to unlock their true potential, build meaningful relationships and be a part of our flourishing community".

Now that the bus service has ceased parents take turns to carpool their children to and from the school – a challenge with many parents working fulltime.

Local parent Matt Williams has two children at the school and believes there are at least 10 or 12 more children in the Toodyay area also attending Swan Christian College.

Public transport options from Toodyay to the Middle Swan college are also limited.

Comment has been sought from Swan Christian College but had not been received by the date *The Herald* went to publication.

Differing views

LAST month's *Herald* reported that the shire plans to raise six per cent more in rates revenue this financial year.

This is almost double Australia's inflation rate, as reported in our lead story.

New Toodyay Shire CEO Aaron Bowman has contested this, saying that the average rate rise for individual property owners is five per cent or an "increase in the rate in the dollar from 2023/24 of 5 per cent".

A pensioner's *Letter to the Editor* in this month's *Herald* says their rates have risen by 18.6 per cent – see *Page 4*.

Mr Bowman also challenged last month's *Page 1* story 'New Toodyay Shire CEO keeps Swan Council seat' which said "Toodyay Deputy President (Shelly) Dival declined to comment on whether she had sought clarification from the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) about giving the Shire of Toodyay's top job to an elected member from another council".

Mr Bowman said this was incorrect because in a meeting with the *Herald* last month "she (Cr Dival) advised she could go through the questions the *Herald* had previously emailed, which were then not subsequently asked, at no point did she decline to comment".

The *Herald* in fact sent a follow-up email to Cr Dival about WALGA but her written reply did not answer the question.

DOING WHAT'S RIGHT FOR WA

ADVERTISEMENT

The Cook Labor Government is delivering to Seniors:

- ✔ Delivering the Cost of Living Rebate to \$107 for singles and \$160 to couples paid annually to WA Seniors Card members.
- ✔ Reintroduced the Seniors Safety and Security Rebate scheme, a program cut by the former Liberal-National Government. The scheme allows WA Seniors Card members to claim up to \$400 after the purchase of eligible home security, fire and electrical safety items.
- ✔ Invested more than \$6.3 million to continue delivering the WA Seniors Card Program. Providing discounts on goods and services to help seniors with cost of living.
- ✔ Delivering \$4.5 million in initiatives to support WA Seniors through the implementation of WA's first An Age-friendly WA: State Seniors Strategy 2023-2033.
- ✔ Investing \$10 million towards initiatives to prevent and support victims of elder abuse.

Darren West MLC

Member for Agricultural Region

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Authorised by Darren West



The Toodyay Herald

Trifecta

Toodyay Cup

SUCCESSFUL events can strengthen community and the Toodyay picnic race meeting did just that last month.

The races have a rich history dating back to 1865 when, as it was known then, the 'Newcastle Races' were held.

Over the years the popularity of the races seemed to match the economy with the 1890s gold rush in WA seeing three events a year at the local racecourse.

Only to hit the doldrums with the Great Depression Years where the "poor man's racehorse", or Whippet racing was substituted in the absence of horseracing.

Fast forward to 2020 when the race meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 and then moved to Belmont in 2022 because of safety concerns.

You could make an argument that the Toodyay Shire council was reluctant to open the wallet to replace the dilapidated roof over the main betting area and bar.

Yet shire assets need to be maintained and as any landlord knows if a roof needs replacing the owner replaces it.

The start of 2024 saw a new direction from council and a race club committee that had the drive to bring the Cup back.

The next challenge is to see the racecourse used for more events throughout the year.

Toodyay footy

SEPTEMBER was great with Lions smashing their opponents coast to coast.

It was delicious to see the Brisbane Lions dismember the Sydney Swans, although substituting the latter say with a Victorian team would have been even better (Collingwood comes to mind).

Closer to home the Toodyay Lions reserves served it up to the Goomalling Blues and took home the premiership.

Both good games, though that probably depended on the scarf you were wearing.

The Herald also appreciates the monthly articles from the local Lions and looks forward to more of the same next season.

Toodyay paper

NEWSPAPERS asking questions, fancy that.

The local paper serves the community by asking questions and would not be performing its duty if it did not, even if some disagree.

People who step-up into community leadership roles are to be commended for doing just that but there's no free passes.

Scrutiny comes with a public role and is what the community expects.

The Herald will continue to ask questions though not at monthly media briefings with the Toodyay Shire President Cr McKeown because they have ceased at his request.

However, in a welcome move Cr McKeown is to contribute a monthly article to the Herald.

After a 12-month hiatus the President's Pen returns for local readership from the November edition of the Herald.

A good move and one that the community will welcome.

Sean Hefferon
Editor



The way we were – this large two-storey boarding house once stood in Duidgee Park near Harper Road. It is pictured surrounded by floodwaters from the nearby Avon River in 1955. The structure was originally built to house Monger's Store in the early 1860s and demolished in September 1968. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum.

LETTERS

Feral pigs on the march invading creek lines

THERE is a feral pig problem in Toodyay.

As young people with interest in the agriculture sector, my cousin and I are concerned about the severe damage we discovered yesterday to several areas on our family farm.

The farm is located in Hoddys Well and is surrounded by bushland, steep hills and some rocky terrain.

The ground had lots of trenches, and many trees had been dug around and damaged.

The pigs are following the creek line.

The damage indicates there are many pigs in large groups and we would like to know what the Toodyay Shire is doing to control this feral problem.

We have an idea on what to put in the traps but is it possible for the shire to provide them?

We love our Toodyay community and don't want to see it destroyed.

Torah Pearce and Finn Pontifex (aged 10)
Hoddys Well

A huge post-accident thank you to Toodyay St Johns volunteers for their help

I WOULD like to take this opportunity to thank the Toodyay St. John's volunteers for the help and professionalism they showed when I had my accident on August 6.

As I am a member of Toodyay Volunteer Fire and Rescue, I know there is very little thanks that comes back.

So, I once again say a huge thank you. Take care and stay safe.

Mick Rogers
Coondle

Friends of Point Peron salute Sandra Harms

I WOULD like to recognise former Toodyay Herald graphic artist Sandra Harms' contribution to our local landcare group Friends of Point Peron.

Since founding of the group in 2006, we never had a publicity flyer but now have a great one thanks to Sandra and her colleague Ieva Tomsons.

Sandra offered to lay out our first flyer free of charge.

Her work was beautiful, clever and tastefully laid out.

Thank you, Sandra; your work lives on.

James Mumme OAM
Friends of Point Peron Convenor
Shoalwater

Above-inflation rate rises like highway robbery

THE WESTERN Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) defines Rural Residential zones to be those areas where lot sizes are one to four hectares.

The WAPC also defines Rural Smallholding as those areas where lot sizes are generally four to 40 hectares.

Almost all the lot sizes in Morangup are around 10 hectares in size.

They are also classified by the Toodyay Shire as being Rural Residential and this misclassification has a direct impact on rates.

Inflation in the second quarter of 2024 was 3.8%.

A sample of rate rises for Morangup range from 6.8 per cent to 17.9 per cent, the average being more than triple the overall inflation rate.

I see the current Council as having engaged in highway robbery.

Phil Hart
Morangup

Pensioners hit hard by 18 per cent rate rise

I WOULD like to register my concern regarding our rates increase this year.

Our rates went up over \$333, an increase of 18.6 per cent.

I don't know how the Shire of Toodyay can justify this increase and as pensioners we don't know how we are going to pay this increase.

The government gives us a cost-of-living increase and the Shire has taken all of that plus more.

Maureen Burnham
Morangup

Concerns about shire firebreaks in Morangup

THERE are a number of Shire owned 'strategic' firebreaks in Morangup, which have not been maintained for some time.

If our firebreaks looked like what I have seen we would receive hefty fines (and rightly so).

Do we want a repeat of the 2009 bushfire in Morangup?

Name withheld by request
Morangup

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 stating "Letter to the Editor" in the email subject line.

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
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

Our environment matters at the Toodyay Herald.
news@toodyayherald.com.au

Toodyay Rainfall

Recordings and average commenced on 1 January 1907

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2019	1.8	0	5.8	15.4	8.7	125.7	128.4	66.3	13.4	15.2	6.0	0	386.7
2020	0	31.6	9.8	6.4	38.2	48.9	43.7	61.8	30.2	5.9	48.8	3.5	328.8
2021	0.03	17.3	137.3	11.1	121.7	30.4	154.2	70.3	39	61.6	2.2	0	645.13
2022	31.7	4.5	14	30.9	36.8	43	42.7	151.1	44	15.6	12	5.1	431.4
2023	0.1	0	54.9	29	21.8	74.3	42.4	19.8	32.3	2.9	7.4	2.0	286.9
2024	9.8	4.5	0	7.8	43.5	53.2	77	85.3	18.7				299.8
Average	12.10	14.30	19.50	23.10	54.80	76.90	81.70	60.40	35.40	24.70	12.70	8.80	424.40

Many risks associated with proposed mining

Clair Medhurst

Retired mining lawyer, former co-convenor of Residents for Responsible Mining, member of Avon & Hills Mining Awareness Group Inc.

AS CHALICE Mining attempts to introduce a large-scale nickel, copper and platinum group elements (PGE) project into the Shires of Toodyay and Chittering, communities and environmental advocates are growing concerned about the potential environmental, social and commercial impacts.

At the heart of these concerns is the proposed mine's location on the Darling Escarpment adjacent to the Julimar Forest in the Avon and Brockman River catchments, areas of critical environmental importance.

The project threatens not only local ecosystems but also the health of the broader environment and the community.

The region is home to several threatened and endangered species and some may not survive large-scale mining.

While the company promises economic benefits, the long-term risks to biodiversity, the local economy, and social structures may outweigh these short-term financial gains.

Here's why the community should take these risks seriously.

Environmental Impacts

JULIMAR Forest which sits right next to Chalice Mining's proposed initial open-pit operation, and is the focus of the company's second stage of mining, is part of the internationally recognised Southwest Australian biodiversity hotspot.

This forest hosts an array of native plant and animal species, being the habitat for several endangered species including the Western Ringtail Possum (critically endangered), Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (endangered), Chuditch (vulnerable) and the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (threatened).

Forest degradation through hydrological disruption from mine dewatering, 24/7 noise and dust, and light pollution from mining operations could disrupt breeding patterns and force wildlife into unsuitable habitats contributing to their extinction.

Another critical concern is the Avon and Brockman River catchments which serve as key water sources for local ecosystems and human communities.

The catchments feed the Swan River system and are integral to the health of the region including Avon National Park.

Nickel and copper mining pose a risk of water pollution through tailings which are the by-products of mining that often contain toxic chemicals such as sulfuric acid and heavy metals.

Even with advanced containment technologies, tailings can leach into surrounding soil and water systems over time, posing a long-term risk to ecosystems and human health.

Waste dumps proposed by Chalice Mining also create a risk of acid run off into the



Photograph of an open pit mine in the Darling Ranges - indicative of the scale of such mining operations. Photo: Clair Medhurst.

catchment, threatening critical habitats for waterbirds and fish populations.

Social Impacts, Commercial Risks and Long-term Viability

TOODYAY and Chittering have long been treasured for their peaceful rural settings, agricultural productivity and natural beauty.

Attempting to retrofit industrial mining into the area will alter this way of life bringing with it major social disruption.

Increased traffic from mining vehicles, noise pollution and dust are just the beginning and are already being experienced on properties near Chalice Mining's exploration activities irrevocably altering the character of these close-knit communities.

Chalice Mining's proposal includes procuring water supply via a new multi-million-dollar pipeline from Alkimos.

To be clear, this level of investment makes it inevitable that the initial Gonnevillie mine will be the first stage, with mining extending into the Julimar Forest to underpin the feasibility of Chalice's investment.

Tourism is another major economic driver in the region.

Visitors are drawn to Chittering and Toodyay's picturesque landscapes, agricultural/farm-to-plate experiences, peaceful environment offering outdoor activities such as stargazing and bush-walking close to Perth.

Turning the region into an industrial mining zone will irrevocably change this experience, deterring tourists, driving away lifestyle investors, reducing income streams for local businesses and negatively impacting tourism investment and the local economy.

The negative impact on land values could be significant.

Damage is already occurring through the lengthy exploration and feasibility process undertaken by Chalice since 2020 placing

Toodyay and Chittering in planning 'limbo' until at least 2030.

Agriculture has been the backbone of the economy in Toodyay and Chittering for generations.

Local farmers rely on clean water, healthy soils and stable climates to produce crops and raise livestock.

Mining jeopardises these essential resources.

The competition for water, contamination risks, and the potential for soil degradation all pose threats to the viability of local food-growers.

Aluminium-rich dust from mining activities will settle on food crops, pastures and rooftops, affecting the quality and yield of agricultural produce and the safety of drinking water.

Mining especially nickel mining, is a notoriously volatile industry.

Global commodity prices fluctuate based on factors outside local control and communities bear the brunt.

Prime examples are BHP's WA Nickel projects, recently closed for at least 3 years, and the Ravensthorpe Nickel mine, recently closed for the third time since opening in 2009.

Communities that become reliant on mining find themselves facing economic hardship when prices drop or when the mine closes.

By contrast, agriculture, tourism and lifestyle investment, when managed sustainably, offer more consistent, long-term economic stability.

These industries can support communities for generations, providing a steady source of income without the boom-and-bust cycle that characterises the nickel industry.

Chalice Mining's first stage Gonnevillie project is currently going through a

feasibility study, including an environmental assessment via a Public Environmental Review (PER) process overseen by the State's Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

Some residents of Chittering might remember going through this process before – a record-breaking three-year PER was undertaken from 2010-2013 in relation to proposed bauxite mining.

In the end the proponent, Bauxite Alumina JV, withdrew from the process due to overwhelming opposition from the local community.

In 2019, during the process of updating Chittering's Local Planning Strategy, the WA Department of Mines determined that the Chittering/ Toodyay region should become a mining province, despite its unique environmental values and fast-growing popularity as an agri-tourism and lifestyle destination.

The EPA decided on a PER process for Chalice Mining's Gonnevillie project in March 2024

The EPA assessment process is not yet 'active' but when it is, it is important that concerned residents in Chittering and Toodyay participate by attending public forums and making written submissions.

In the meantime, the Chittering and Toodyay communities are becoming used to the continuing PR campaign by Chalice Mining via their regular newsletters which profess concern about issues such as Jarrah dieback – even though mining is the biggest cause of dieback spread in the southern Darling Ranges – and publicising donations to community groups.

This is the same PR campaign that the Bauxite Alumina JV used in the 2010s.

Conclusion

THE RISKS associated with Chalice Mining's proposed nickel/copper project adjacent to the Julimar Forest in our river catchments are far-reaching.

Some impacts, such as industrial noise, dust and increased traffic are already being experienced from exploration activity over the past five years.

From the potential destruction of critical habitats for endangered species to the contamination of vital water sources and the disruption of local economies, the costs of this project will be borne by the environment and the people who live in the region for generations.

It's time for a serious conversation about whether the short-term economic gains of mining are worth the long-term environmental, social and commercial costs.

The Toodyay and Chittering communities made their views very clear about this back in the 2010s and they deserve better than to be transformed in the 21st century into yet another casualty of industrial exploitation.

Let's protect our biodiversity, preserve our rural way of life, and secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

'60 per cent of road fatalities occur on regional roads..only 20 per cent of population lives there'

Continued from Page 1.

The metro area survey results for the same seven year period show higher levels of satisfaction in both categories.

Northam Shire president Chris Antonio did give an opinion on ABC Radio on September 18 about the Main Roads survey and said that "Great Eastern Highway is in a shocking state and that is what the survey is telling us."

He said that the region "gets forgotten" being an opposition seat at least at the state level although things will be a bit different at the federal level with the new electorate of Bullwinkel which will be a marginal seat.

The Nationals WA were approached for comment and the below is attributed to Lachlan Hunter, Candidate for the Central Wheatbelt and former WA opposition leader Mia Davies MP (and candidate for Bullwinkel):

"The latest survey results from Main Roads once again show that Wheatbelt roads are the worst-performing in the state when it comes to road safety and maintenance".

They added that, "Sixty per cent of WA's road fatalities occur on regional roads, even though only 20 per cent of the population lives there".

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Overall	85	82	85	89	86	87	82
Metro	90	86	88	95	91	92	88
Goldfields-Esperance	40	31	44	54	45	37	45
Great Southern	71	51	58	58	71	56	51
Kimberley	77	78	84	83	81	86	85
Midwest-Gascoyne	77	70	77	70	72	84	69
Pilbara	77	78	81	81	78	74	68
South West	72	80	88	79	88	88	85
Wheatbelt	41	55	60	52	41	50	41

Table above shows levels of community satisfaction relating to road maintenance by region. The data is taken from the 2024 Community Perceptions Survey that is conducted by Metrix Consulting on behalf of Main Roads WA.

Matt Moran, Liberal candidate for Bullwinkel said "roads are an issue in the Wheatbelt" and he "has spent many years driving through the Wheatbelt and the state of the roads is a concern" adding "road safety and road quality needed to be looked at".

In answers to questions from *The Herald* concerning local road funding Aaron Bowman, Toodyay Shire CEO said "actual" shire expenditure for the 2024/25 year is budgeted to increase by 12 per cent.

Shire supplied figures show that for 2023/24 funding received was \$3.09 million with total spending on shire roads being \$4.4 million.

For the 2024/25-year funding is budgeted at \$1.98 million and forecast expenditure is decreased to \$3.45 million compared with the 2023/24 year.

The shire's contribution is \$1.31 million and \$1.47 million for each of the above years.

The WA government announced on September 6 that "it will spend an additional \$32.5 million over the next four years to boost safety on regional roads across Western Australia".

This funding covers local government roads works including shoulder widening and sealing.

\$400 fine for flashing blue lights not worth pranking your mates



ambulance service.

Also, when you hear sirens or see flashing lights in your car mirror please move over and be vigilant.

The issuing of 18 speeding infringements in September was of concern with most incidents occurring on main local roads.

Six motorists provided a positive drug test (methamphetamine and cannabis) as a result of random drug testing: local police are targeting drug driving.

From a policing perspective the Toodyay races went well as did the Boshack Rodeo and the local team thanks all attendees.

Over the recent long weekend we conducted 720 random breath tests resulting in only one positive result, an outstanding effort and we thank the community for this.

Two positive drug tests that weekend and

eight infringements issued for people driving an unlicensed vehicle were of concern.

A motor vehicle crash resulting in injury to another person can be catastrophic, particularly if the driver causing the crash is driving an unlicensed vehicle as third-party insurance would not cover the injured party.

This means the driver of the unlicensed vehicle is liable for costs.

Also, if you are going bush in your 4WD please tell someone and be prepared with recovery equipment and communications (UHF, radio/mobile).

Last month we received a call from a driver lost in Julimar Forest.

We had to ping her mobile signal to get a rough location and while all turned out well a bit of preparation goes far.

Regarding crime there was one attempted

burglary last month whereby an individual accessed a property in West Toodyay.

Fortunately, the barking from the owners' dogs as well as the driveway alarm scared the individual away.

The owners reported the incident to police and it goes to show that vigilance goes a long way in preventing crime.

With spring upon us the team is getting green thumbs with sprucing up the garden out the front of the station, all part of doing our bit to help maintain Stirling Terrace.

We also give a thank you to Bruce Guthrie who offered his expertise to prune the roses out the front and he did a great job to boot.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you at the Toodyay Agricultural Show where we will have a stand and giveaways, so please do drop by for a chat.

TRAFFIC management kept the local police team on our toes last month.

Earlier in the month we noticed a driver on the Northam to Toodyay Road with a lightbar in their windscreen, the light bar when turned on flashed blue lights – resulting in a \$400 fine for the driver.

Please leave flashing lights to authorised vehicles such as the police, fire brigade and

Press 1 for English, 2 for Chinese 中国人

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

THERE seems to be an increase in Chinese scam robocalls that usually start with "Press 1 for English, 2 for Chinese".

Pressing 1 terminates the call, while pressing 2 connects you to a speaker of Cantonese or perhaps Mandarin Chinese.

The Australian Federal Police has put out a scam warning for both the Australian public and international Chinese students.

Scam is a crime according to the Australian

Competition & Consumer Commission.

Caller numbers are often displayed with caller identification but scammers use fake numbers or numbers belonging to other people.

It can be tempting to ignore scam calls as being no more than a time-wasting nuisance. This can lead to under reporting of scammers' efforts.

ScamWatch has a web page that you can use to report scam calls. It is at bit.ly/4e4oHFe.

Reporting scams helps all of us.

Name change a sign of the times

Sean Hefferon

THE NAME change of the Freemasons Hotel to the Toodyay Hotel is all but done with the new name now hanging from the front of the heritage listed building on Stirling Terrace.

For locals with an affinity for the old hotel name the Freemasons sign has been retained and can be found displayed on the pub's wall.

The local watering hole has had a few names since its original licence starting as the Newcastle Hotel in 1861 then owned by William Tregoning a local publican.

A year later Tregoning sold the pub to Thomas Mead of Northam who changed the name to the Freemasons' Hotel – this was due to a name-clash with another Newcastle Hotel just up the road (that hotel was subsequently renamed the Toodyay Tavern).

The naming of the Freemasons' Hotel back then had nothing to do with the secret society that is the Freemasons with its origins in medieval guilds and rituals of ancient orders.

Not that you would necessarily know if a Freemason did drop in for a beer.

Fast forward to 2024 to that recent name change which has caused some local chatter,



The new sign outside what was the Freemasons Hotel.

over the bar and on social media.

For many locals the newly named Toodyay Hotel will remain the Freemasons.

Other locals support the name change and point to the promotional benefits for the town in having a pub with the same name.

Changes to council meeting schedule for 2025

LAST month council considered the 2025 Council Meeting Schedule.

Council meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month and start at 1pm.

The recommended schedule proposed a 5.30pm start time from October 2025.

Cr Prater's alternate motion was meetings be held on the fourth Thursday starting at 5:30pm from February 2025 onwards.

Agenda forums and briefings would start at 5.30pm but on the second and third Thursday of the month respectively.

He said the new time allows community members working fulltime to attend meetings and potentially run for council.

That the later start time should not wait until after the next ordinary election and that a Thursday meeting added an extra day for councillors to read the meeting agenda.

Cr Madasci spoke against saying the new

schedule was "quite sudden" and people had commitments under the current schedule.

The Thursday meeting clashed with her role at the Wheatbelt Development Commission where she represents local government.

The motion was passed 4-1 with Crs C Duri, S McCormick, M McKeown, M Dival and J Prater for and Cr R Madasci against.

Other meeting schedules have also changed, namely the monthly meetings between the Herald and Toodyay Shire Presidents and CEOs that have been in place for several years.

At last month's meeting Cr McKeown said the Herald asked more questions than others in the community; the meetings have now ceased.

Cr McKeown said he would contribute a monthly article to the Herald.

Starting from November, titled the President's Pen, after a one year hiatus last being published by Cr McKeown's predecessor.

Budding writer interviews local school teachers

Max Brockliss, Year 6

I HAD the opportunity to interview two teachers at Toodyay District High School – one who has worked at the school for one year (Mr Donnelly, primary science) and another who has worked at Toodyay for thirty-eight years (Mr B, design and technology).

Both teachers have worked remotely with locations varying from Warrakurna Regional Community School to Southern Cross and other places in between.

When I asked them what they found to be the most rewarding part of their job, they both enjoyed the same things, but Mr B commented that he also felt he was influencing students' lives.

Both spoke with passion about their work.

Mr Donnelly said "One of the biggest challenges for teachers is getting work close to where they want to live.

"My first job was in the Central Desert for the Ngaanyatjarra Lands School."

He didn't actually want to be a teacher, but was so good at training people when

he worked in construction that someone suggested he consider a teaching career.

He also wasn't very good at science and maths in high school; that shows me that if you work hard, you can achieve anything.

Away from school, he enjoys time with his son and looking at cool rocks in the river.

Mr B's passions are cooking and mechanics.

He decided to teach woodwork because he loved his own woodwork teacher when he was at school.

I also asked Mr B if he could teach any other subject besides cooking and woodwork, what would it be?

He said, "I would like to be a science teacher as I like learning about life", and admitted that he finds keeping up to date with new teaching concepts and new technology the most challenging aspects of the job.

Finally, the most important question of all: How many coffees do you have a day?

Mr Donnelly has six coffees a day but he doesn't have them very strong and Mr B only has two at most.



MRB 2339

Tyre Service

New 4X4, Truck, Motorbikes & Tractor

Repairs Exhausts Balancing Suspensions Wheel Alignment



Lot 20 Stirling Tce
9574 4499
tyres1@iinet.net.au

House keys lost

SaferToodyay
Desraé Clarke

ONCE again, I hear about the loss of keys and this time it was my friend's house keys which she left in a taxi.

On arrival home she used a hidden house key but the loss of her second key worried her to a desperate point of putting chairs, tables and pots and pans at all entrances.

She was unable to contact the taxi driver and got so worried she is getting new locks.

A suggestion is to have on your person the two required keys, such as the house and vehicle keys, and necessities such as the cards needed on your time away from home.

Police 131 444
Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 or crimestoppers.com.au

Northam pub finalist in awards

Australian Hotels Association (WA)

A LOCAL pub has been named as one of the finalists for the 2024 AHA & Coca-Cola Hospitality Awards for Excellence.

The Rec in Northam has been nominated in two categories – Family Dining Award Regional and Casual Pub Dining Award Regional.

The awards will be celebrated at the Gala Ball to be held on Monday November 11 with the winners to be selected from 530 nominations over 40 award categories.



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

EMERGENCY SERVICES

'Firebreaks should be in place'

Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Peter Brennan

THE PROHIBITED 'No Burning' season begins on November 1, so by now fire breaks should be in place and properties cleared up in preparation for the coming hot summer.

Properties of less than one hectare (2.47 acres) do not require a fire break as such but residents on these properties must ensure the fire hazard has been reduced.

Properties over one hectare must have fire breaks, with different requirements between 1 and 200 hectares and over 200 hectares.

You are required by law to carry out the fire prevention activities listed in the Fire Break Notice on your properties.

It is important that these requirements are understood, carried out, and maintained from **November 1 to April 30** and the fire break must be cleared of flammable material, three metres wide and four metres high.

The Toodyay Shire conducts inspections and penalties apply for non-compliance.

For information go to the shire website.

Once on the shire home page go to 'Resident Services', click on 'Fire Information', then on 'Fire Break Notice'.

You will see the following 'A Fire-Break Notice is mailed annually to ratepayers, advertised in *The Toodyay Herald* and can be downloaded from here.

Click on the word 'here' on the website if you have not received the information via the rates notice package.

This link details your legal responsibilities and fire safety information.

Remember, fire breaks do not just provide breaks between vegetation areas but, importantly, are safe zones along which firefighting appliances can travel.

If we can't access an area, we cannot fight the fire.

Furthermore, firefighters will not endanger themselves or the appliances if the property has not been prepared sufficiently.

The Julimar fire on 20 December 2023 showed properties can be saved through the combined efforts of resident preparations and those of firefighting ground and air assets.

The efforts of all firefighters at this incident were outstanding.

Please take your responsibilities seriously as your efforts leading up to the fire season may not only save your property, but also your life.

FIRE-BREAK VISUAL COMPLIANCE GUIDE



Visual guide to understand firebreak requirements.

Crews busy preparing for the fire season

Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Aurelie Zimmermann, Secretary

THE LAST month has been quiet on the front line but very busy at the brigade.

A few weeks ago, volunteers undertook refresher training on basic important skills.

The crew reviewed several procedures, including drafting water from a tank, hydrant set-up and pump operations.

In addition, the VFRS and St John Toodyay undertook a car fire exercise with bush fire brigades invited to attend.

These regular catch-ups are an important part of staying up to date with procedures.

We also held our annual raffle last month which raised much needed funds.

Many thanks to the businesses, groups and individuals who donated to the raffle, the community for their support and the



The willing volunteers of the Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade who sold raffle tickets last month, together with the awesome prizes on offer.

volunteers who gave their time.

Congratulations to all winners and we hope you enjoy the hampers.

The brigade wishes to acknowledge the contribution of Chris McDonald who decided to put down the pen.

Thank you, Chris for keeping the brigade in the community spotlight and all the best.

As the weather warms up, now is the time to review or put in place your bushfire plan and update it regularly as needed.

Planning and having a clear strategy for fire is the safest approach.

Do not leave decisions until the last minute as delay has consequences, not just to people and their loved ones, properties or livestock, but also to the fire crews.

Be aware the restricted burning period starts on October 1 and to keep up to date with the restrictions, head to the Toodyay Shire website under residents' services.

As the fire season starts brigade vehicles will be on the road more often, so please remember to share the road, move to the left if safe to do so and let them pass when displaying emergency lights.

If you have the time the brigade is always looking for dedicated people to join up.

Being a member has many benefits such as learning new skills, gaining knowledge and meeting others.

You also get to contribute to making our community safer by protecting it.

We meet every Friday from 5pm at the fire station located on the corner of Bindi Bindi-Toodyay Rd and Coondle West Road.

Training is provided and so is catering on those days.

If you were still undecided these are all good reasons to take that step to become a volunteer firefighter.

Local St John volunteers celebrate 80 years of service

St John Toodyay Sub Centre
Monika Williams

EIGHT decades of service to the community were celebrated on August 31.

The ambulance service, which started in 1944, spent 40 years operating out of sheds in town before building their permanent base on Stirling Terrace in 1983.

The busy sub centre attends an average of 415 callouts a year as well as running a Community Transport Service.

We also provide a first aid post at community events and deliver first aid education in the community.

At the August 31 event, SJWA Board Chair Sally Carbon thanked some of the longest serving members in attendance.

Including George Murray (43 years), Paul Harrington (41 years), Lyn Somers (40 years), Daphne Lee (40 years) and Pam Tennant (29 years).

The local ambulance, bush fire brigade and rescue service then met to undertake a simulated rescue (simex) training exercise.

The simex consisted of a driver and children trapped in a car which was involved in an accident with the ambulance crew then tasked to manage injuries.

This was followed by the extrication process performed by the rescue service.

A fire starting in the car after the patients were freed was put out by the fire brigade.

The training exercise went well and lasted just over an hour.

Macca did a great job organising the teams and we look forward to more training simexes in the future.

Our sub centre annual review occurred on September 17 and we welcomed new members to our committee.

Monika Williams succeeded Pam Tennant as the chairperson and Pam was nominated into the position of vice chairperson.

Kerrie Carter joined the team as the Treasurer and Brian Warrener and Aldo Lamas joined as new committee members.

We thank our previous members for their contribution over the past few years, it is very much appreciated.



Daphne Lee and George Murray cutting the 80th anniversary cake.



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 First Aid Training



Kambarang is the season of birth



Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

KAMBARANG, the Noongar 'season of birth', is upon us typically falling around October.

The land bursts into life as the rains recede and the weather warms.

Nature awakens around us in this time of renewal, abundance, and transformation, marked by vibrant carpets of wildflowers.

The Toodyay valley becomes a display of colour with the retreat of the cold weather – yellows from the Mungart (Jam-tree), blooming Mangatj (Banksia), Djubak (Orchids, with their edible roots), and the Balga (Grass-tree) starting to flower.

Soon, the brilliant orange of the Moodja (Australian Christmas Tree) will appear, whose flowers not only herald the coming heat but also hold spiritual significance for Noongar people.

Ceremonies and Family Gatherings
ONCE the Moodja tree blooms, Noongar families traditionally gathered for ceremonies offering spiritual blessings for their ancestors. These large gatherings served social and spiritual purposes, reinforcing cultural identity and community bonds.

Creation stories were re-enacted, cultural practices were celebrated, and seasonal knowledge was passed down to younger generations.

These moments were significant for conducting important negotiations and exchanges, ensuring cultural continuity and shared wisdom.

Traditionally, Kambarang was a time of connection with family and the land.

The spiritual and cultural gatherings fostered a deep relationship with moort-boodja (family lands) as families followed

the rhythms of the environment.

Food Sourcing and Abundance
THIS season also marked a time for gathering in larger groups to source food.

Swamps and wetlands offered an abundance of Djilki (Freshwater crayfish), Yerderap (Duck), and Yarkan (Turtle).

Forested areas nearby provided Noorook (birds' eggs) and fledgling Moyitj (Bronzewing pigeon).

As Kambarang was the season of birth, bush and waterways food was plentiful and this abundance nourished the Noongar community.

Return of Life
AS LIFE returns to the land, so too do the animals.

Noorn (Snakes) and Yoorn (Bobtail) emerge from hibernation, and young Djirda (Birds) call out for their parents to feed them.

The Koolbaradi (Magpie) becomes protective of their munga (nest), filling the air with their defensive calls, while the valley itself resonated with birdlife and new beginnings.

An invitation

Toodyay Men's Shed
Barry Keens

WE ARE looking forward to the Toodyay Agricultural Show on October 5 and we will have a stand.

You can have a cuppa and find out more about what we are and what we do or just chat and take the weight off your feet.

Generally, we meet at The Shed from 0830 to 1200 hours Monday, Thursday and Saturday each week when we sit and talk, drink tea or coffee and work on community and private projects in our two workshops.

Visitors are welcome to call in for a chat and find out what membership of our Men's Shed can do for you.

We are currently working on various garden benches, machinery upgrading, de-nailing and sorting donated timber and maintenance of our premises.

Our Shed is at 5 Harper Road Toodyay, (The Old Shire Works Depot) and our secretary can be contacted on 0499 403 830.

Toodyay Picnic Race Day returns to the Avon Valley



'Fluffy butts getting excited as new pen built'

Toodyay Locals Care
Jacquie Lucas

YOU MAY recall last month that our silkies were getting ready for the State Silkie Show. One chicken came second in her class; they looked so clean and fluffy.

The fluffy butts are getting most excited as a new covered bird and vermin proof pen is being built around them.

Around the house our storage areas are starting to look spick and span again.

It takes time to process the generous donations we receive and to distribute household goods and furnishings or deliver to other charities such as Shalom House.

Please remember it is worth giving Roz a call if you have furniture or furnishings to donate, or if you need some of these items.

We may not be able to store large quantities, but you would be amazed at the number of times people coincidentally ring with a need, and then someone else rings with a supply.

Three large postpaks of beanies, scarves, gloves and socks that were made by our wonderful volunteers have been sent to the Punma Community for distribution.

If you have time and yarn to spare why not create blankets, or clothing for us to distribute?

If you have the skill, but need some yarn please contact Roz on 0427 744 352.

Please remember to send a text if no answer as Roz "Don't do voicemails", thank you.

We are very sad that our days at The Toodyay Club have reached a conclusion.

We would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers who have put in hours of work over the past couple of years.

We could not have done this without the support of the club management team.

As we still need meals in our fridge/freezer, "Carrots" will now be at the Showground Pavilion on Thursday mornings at 9am instead of at The Club.

For those wondering what this means, it is where our team of catering volunteers come together in meal preparation.

Broccoli, mushrooms, eggs, silver beet, potatoes, parsley, and onions are now being cropped from our community garden and are being used to make meals for the fridge.

We are now a registered charity and

Spring day lifts voices higher

Toodyay Music Club
Jenny Edgecombe

A BEAUTIFUL spring day lifted the spirits of club members in September, especially those who were lucky enough to drive past drifts of the lovely pink everlastings on the way to the monthly meeting.

The 'skiffle' singalong session included an enthusiastic rendition of an old favourite, *Cotton Fields*.

Maurice contributed the dramatic *I Am I Said*, followed by the atmospheric *Play Me*.

He also played guitar and supplied spine-tingling harmonies for Collette's lovely singing of *Galway Shawl*.

Collette reminded us of her versatility as a singer, moving easily from folk songs to the comical with her 'medical' version of *My Favourite Things*.

Jenny had been unable to attend the July meeting so was determined to present the songs she had prepared for the Pests theme featured then including the ditty, *I'm a Lonely Little Petunia in an Onion Patch* and the folk song, *It's a Long Way Back Home*.

By mid-afternoon, we are always ready to do justice to the amazing afternoon tea treats supplied by members.

Anne arrived during the break, and later contributed a truly stirring version of *Amazing Grace*, using Spencer's tenor guitar.

One of Joe's chosen songs was *Streets of Forbes*, a grim tale of the last days of the bushranger Ben Hall.

Some of our members would have recognised this Makem and Clancy song from the old Toodyay Folk Club days.

Upcoming Meetings: There will be no Music Club meeting in the CWA Hall in October, but we will be back in November.

For more information, please call Joe on 0400 862 694.

are working on the next step of getting deductible gift recipient status.

If successful we will be able to provide tax receipts for donations – watch this space.

We always need volunteers with wide skill

sets, to ensure the smooth running of TLC.

Did you know that if you are unemployed and over 55, you may be eligible to volunteer for 15 hours a week instead of meeting a job application quota?

You can contact Centrelink to determine suitability for your circumstances, and then talk to us about how we can assist.

Finally, a thanks to everyone, in whatever capacity, who helps keep TLC running.

Advertorial

Heritage and Multicultural Festival 2024

Northam Army Camp Heritage Association

THE ACT Belong Commit Northam Heritage and Multicultural Festival 2024 is set to be an exciting celebration of history, culture, and community.

Taking place on October 27 from 10am to 3pm, the festival spans three key locations: Bernard Park, Bilya Koort Boordja, and Central Regional TAFE.

This year's theme, "Military, Migrants, and Music", offers a unique opportunity to explore Northam's rich heritage.

Highlights include a WWI living history

camp hosted by the Westralian Great War Living History Association and the WA 10th Light Horse Regiment.

Attendees can also view a collection of vintage military vehicles from WWII.

The Festival will also focus on the migrant experience, marking 75 years since displaced persons arrived in Northam after WWII.

Central Regional TAFE is the venue for "Telling the Migrant Story", featuring award-winning authors sharing these untold histories.

At Bilya Koort Boordja, the National Archives of Australia (NAA) will offer guidance on how to explore your family's

history through their resources, including post-WWII migration records.

NAA staff will be available from 10am to 3pm to assist.

The day will feature music and dance performances from various cultural groups, including Highland dancers and Japanese drummers, bringing more vibrancy to the event.

Proudly supported by the Northam Army Camp Heritage Association, Shire of Northam, Regional Events, Healthway, Lotterywest, and the Office of Multicultural Interests, this is an event not to be missed.

Free entry for all.

ACT BELONG COMMIT
Northam Heritage and Multicultural Festival

Face Painting
Food Trucks
Military Displays
Family History
Pipe Bands
Kids Zone
Dancing
Music

27 October 2024
10am - 3pm
Bernard Park, Northam

Literary Festival
9am - 1pm
Northam Central Regional TAFE

www.nachamulticulturalfestival.com.au

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
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OUT_39812755, 26/08/2024

Netti and young Teddy will be at the Toodyay Agricultural Show – do say hello

Country Women's Association
Vivien Street

IT HAS come to Netti's attention that a certain CWA teddy bear assumed her name in the last edition of *The Toodyay Herald*.

As happy as she is to see Teddy well represented as the face of Toodyay CWA, Netti wishes to claim her name back and emphasise she has never been a bear, nor is she as hairy, and she has been a loyal CWA member for many years.

She and young Teddy will be at the Agricultural Show this month jointly celebrating the centenary of the CWA of WA as well as Toodyay CWA's 97th birthday.

See if you can tell them apart.

The show will feature memorabilia from the State Office archives as well as our own 100th birthday celebrations for Mavis Rowles and Bolgart's wonderful day of recognition for their centenary.

This last month has been filled with invitations and events to mark the centenary, some of which we have attended.

Mostly it has been a month of planning and catching up on jobs including finalising plans for our Giant Jumble sale on October 19.

Notices have gone up around town and feelers put out for those who would like to hire a table to sell their own jumble.

We have been going through our own cupboards to see what we can sell to raise funds for our branch.

Those who book a table keep their takings and we hope for a variety of stalls and plenty of customers to support us all.

Scones will be made for the day to boost our funds and the spirits of stall holders.

Congratulations to Jennacubbine CWA, the school children and the Northam Agricultural Show organisers who put such an effort into featuring the CWA last month.

Our display at the Toodyay Agricultural Show will be modest in comparison but please take time to study it and appreciate the many services the association and your own local branch have provided over the last 97 and 100 years.

Our branch is proud to be only three years away from our centenary and we welcome anyone who would like to be part of this wonderful group of women where friendships are made, support offered in so many small ways and where fun and service to the community go hand in hand.

Maxine gave us a wonderful and wide-ranging talk on the elves, trolls and 'Hidden People' of Iceland this month.

It is no surprise that with their long cold dark winters, their dramatic scenery and their isolation their beliefs in unseen creatures living alongside them are strong.

This belief stresses respect for nature so is a force for good.

Elves are still said to be seen and are always shown respect.

Roads and bridges have been re-routed so as not to intrude on sacred elf territory and tiny elven houses are placed in certain spots to remind travellers to respect the country and the elves who inhabit it.

Certain rocky outcrops are believed to be trolls caught out in the sunshine and turned in an instant into part of the dramatic scenery.

They are the creatures of the dark and are mostly not to be annoyed lest awful things happen to you.

This whole other world has been a wonderful tourist boost in Iceland, adding to its attraction alongside its glorious scenery.

I am saving the story of the Icelandic Father Christmas until the November issue when you can shield your children's ears or terrify them with the original Icelandic Christmas visitors whom children were threatened with unless they behaved.

CWA meetings are held every fourth Thursday at 1pm and coffee mornings on the second Thursday of the month at 10am.

We welcome new members.

The CWA Hall is next to the Garden Centre in Stirling Terrace with parking in Charcoal Lane and disabled access to the hall from there.

If you would like to book our air conditioned hall, please call Margot on 9574 2823 or 0405 067 591.



Netti has already chosen her outfit for the Toodyay Agricultural Show.



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Historic 170th Toodyay Agricultural Show almost here – and blokes please bring that Man Cake to be judged

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Alison Wroth

OCTOBER has arrived with haste, more so if you are organising the 170th Toodyay Agricultural Show.

We are hoping that Mother Nature does the right thing for us when it comes to the weather on Show day.

I hope you have plenty of entries in and I'm sure the competition in that Man Cake and down in the Wool Shed will be intense.

Great news is that we are fully booked with trade stalls, providing a variety of ground space this year, so expect an event bursting to cater for your interests.

Continuing with a successful plan, we have extended our sponsors tents, entertainment and community stalls further out onto the main oval so if you are keen please be there to welcome the WA Governor for the official opening at the main stage at 10am.

You will see the presentation of the finished 170th Toodyay Show Quilt, to be given to the TAS President by representatives of the Toodyay Craft Groups.

The entertainment we have this year covers a variety of attractions and the programme will be available as you enter the gate so remember to grab one.

We have the attractions sorted around the showgrounds on the oval, in the main stage, Terrace Bar area and market place, and head for the sports pavilion if you have an interest in vintage motorbikes and homebrew.

Many competitions will be available including "guess the length of the rusty fence" and "the weight of the steer", with incredible prizes for the winners.

The Toodyay & Northam Community & Districts Bendigo Bank has been a great sponsor enabling us to put on the show fireworks and we hope this can continue.

Heartfelt thanks for their support go to Chalice Mining, who enable us to pay for all the community groups who take on the tasks that keep the event running smoothly.

Dunnings Fuel, Morgan's Feed Supplies, Toodyay Op Shop, Makit, CSBP, Shire of Toodyay and Rio Tinto all know the history of the Toodyay Show.

Without these sponsors, local businesses, community groups and individuals, we as a committee would not be able to pull the show together every year.

Toodyay Cricket Club is opening the Terrace Bar at noon and our auction of donated produce begins at 6pm, just before the fireworks wind up the day at 7.30pm.

On my own behalf as Chief Steward good luck with your entries and the committee hopes you enjoy and celebrate the history that has made our 170th Anniversary Toodyay Agricultural Show what it is.



A few photographs from The Herald's collection of the 2023 Toodyay Show. Make your own memories at the 2024 event.

Where is this in Toodyay?

FIRST reader to state where this photo was taken gets a bakery pie and coffee on the editor.

No one got the goods last edition with a vague photo snip of Connors Mill.

Send your guesses to: editor@toodyayherald.com.au. Brendan from Toodyay was the lucky recipient back in August when he guessed correctly re the Christmas 360 pic.



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'Magnificent buildings ... were tumbling down like nine-pins'

Toodyay Historical Society Inc
Robyn Taylor, Vice President

AN UPDATE of Toodyay's list of heritage places is currently underway.

See 'Shire News' in the September issue of *The Toodyay Herald*.

This list was originally named the Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places that followed the Proclamation of the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990.

This state was the last mainland state in Australia to have a Heritage Act.

For those new to WA, or too young to have experienced the heyday of 1980s heritage activism in WA, read on.

There was no legal protection of the valued heritage places up until the Act and the creation of a Heritage Council.

Magnificent buildings in Perth's Central Business District (CBD) were tumbling down like nine-pins to make way for shiny new government and corporate structures.

As a result, Perth was rapidly losing its cultural and architectural history.

To quote from the Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia, (UWA Press, 2009, pp.438-39): 'Heritage debates focus on things we value enough to pass from one generation to another and arise from tensions between cultural and economic values.'

'Legislation for the protection of heritage represents formal expression of underlying cultural values.'

People still bemoan the destruction of the old colonial Barracks (1863) at the top of St George's Terrace to make way for the Kwinana Freeway.

The loss of the Esplanade Hotel (1898) near the foreshore is still regarded as tragic and unnecessary.

However, public protests resulted in the beautiful central arch of the Barracks being preserved and today it stands proud looking down St Georges Terrace.

Not an ideal solution by any means, but perhaps symbolic of cultural values triumphing over economic ones.

Several groups campaigned to save places of value in Perth.

For example, the Art Deco Society for

inter-war buildings, the Heritage Protection Group, and the Palace Guards that stood up for the retention of the Palace Hotel (1897) on the corner of St Georges Terrace and William Street.

The Palace was a popular watering hole for journalists working nearby in Newspaper House, then home of *The West Australian*.

It was saved, but its interior magnificence was converted into a banking chamber with Bond's tower looming behind it.

The Perth Technical College (1910), also on the Terrace, is the physical embodiment of many of WA's education institutions such as the Western Australia Institute of Technology (WAIT), now Curtin University.

Its preservation was assisted with the efforts of The Castle Keepers, named for the

prominent square tower over the entrance.

To promote the cause, graphic design students from WAIT undertook a project 'The Forgotten Castle' as part of their art history unit.

The project combined visual and historical information that celebrated the foundational role of the college in the development of the visual arts in WA.

The students organised a good bottle of red for the exhibition opening with the label design based on one of the building's art nouveau leadlight windows.

This former technical college sits on prime land so not surprisingly was given a 'commercial refurbishment' while retaining its 'Federation Free Medieval' facade.

For an insight into those wild days of 1980s

WA Inc Google 'Perth Technical College'.

Closer to home a number of old cottages and shops in Toodyay's Stirling Terrace have undergone refurbishment.

With the help of the shire's heritage guidelines, their character has been preserved adding to the ambience we enjoy walking down our main street.

This month we will not be having an excursion. However, we will be participating in Toodyay Agricultural Show.

Our next excursion: Saturday October 26, 10.30am, Syred's Cottage, Bejoording.

Bring morning tea/lunch to share and location details will be advised soon.

Monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday at 7pm in St Stephen's Church Hall. Contacts: See *Where and When* page 31.



Stirling Terrace, Toodyay. Photo: Robyn Taylor, 2018.

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Please obey pilots escorting wide loads

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Kirsten Carrington-Jones

CROPPERS in Toodyay are probably resigned to the fact that our growing season has reached the end for 2024.

If we do receive any rain at the end of this week it is likely to be minimal and not make a significant impact on yields.

As people will have noticed, canola crops have shed most of their flowers and will be ready to swath in the coming weeks.

Grain prices fluctuate; the graphs look a little like an ECG sometimes.

As I write this article prices of most grains are slightly higher than the same time in 2023, but lower than mid-2024, and much lower than the heady days of 2022.

Aside from producing the physical crops, farmers also need to estimate their yields and quality and then try to choose the best time to sell grain...aka...the peak in the market.

Some sheep farmers will be shearing between now and December.

Others would have shorn in autumn.

Choosing shearing times depends on a variety of things including availability of shearers, logistics in individual farms (for example croppers may not want to shear at the same time as they are harvesting), cashflow, management of flies and lice and management of the best cut of wool.

Wool production is influenced by seasonal conditions, time of lambing (for the ewes) and nutrition.

Wool prices have also fluctuated in the past decade, with the last round of wool sales closing slightly down.

There is some thought that a reduction of sheep numbers may lead to an increase in wool prices, but this simple logic can be thwarted by numerous factors.

The Perth Royal Show has changed over the years and become more commercial, but it is still a stage for farmers to show their wares.

Farmers enter various types of produce in different categories to compete against other farmers from around the state.

Cattle, sheep, alpacas, wool, horses, sheep-

dog trials, poultry and pigs are just some of the farm produce on display.

The show has been a meeting place for farmers since 1834.

If you can drag the kids past sideshow alley there is a lot to see and learn about agriculture and regional WA.

Haymaking will be in full swing by the time you read this and that will be the beginning of an increase in the number of farm implements being driven on the roads between now and the end of harvest.

Please obey the pilots who are escorting these vehicles; they have the authority to direct traffic and make these directions in the interest of all road users.

There was a nasty incident in Northam recently where a driver ignored the pilot which resulted in damage to vehicles and personal injury.

We thank you for being patient, driving slowly and following directions and a few minutes delay means we are kept safer.

We all want to see in the New Year in good health.

Toodyay Show history at local museum

Volunteers of Toodyay Museums.
Barry Keens

WE HAVE completed a display outlining the 170 year history of the Toodyay Agricultural Society.

The display contains many photographs, some of which have subjects' names.

If you come and see the displays and can identify other people this would be much appreciated.

Pictured is one of the display boards ready for hanging.

The Old Families of Toodyay Exhibition from the Old Gaol Museum has been removed from display.

Toodyay Museums are open daily from 10am to 3pm and Toodyay Shire residents have free admission.

Don't forget that Saturday October 5 is the Toodyay Agricultural Show from 9am finishing with the fireworks display at 7.30pm.

We are still actively seeking more volunteers to act as "front of house" at the Old Gaol Museum and enquiries can be made at the Toodyay Visitor Centre or calling 95749830.

It is very interesting being a volunteer and an enjoyable way to spend a few hours greeting visitors.



One of the new hanging boards for the Toodyay Agricultural Society Display.



Take note of Pilot vehicles escorting wide loads, and follow their instructions. It's only a minute or two of your time to ensure safety for all road users.



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'Gidge Ag Society invites all Herald readers to come and see what we offer'

Gidgegannup Agricultural Society
Jean Witcombe

THE GIDGEGANNUP Show is on Saturday October 26 and the Gidge Ag Society invites all Herald readers to come and see what we have to offer.

Entries in the Australian Rustic Farm Art Award Competition will be on display.

This annual award was created after the 2021 Wooroloo fires to show respect to community members recovering from the devastation.

CWA Gidgegannup members will have a marquee at the show as they celebrate the centenary of the community organisation.

Over in the livestock area, Gidge 2024 is hosting the premier goat show in WA,

featuring Dairy, Boer, Angora and Pygmy Goat classes.

The probably world-first, Pygmy Goat Kid Dash will give you several opportunities to watch these little charmers racing to their next bottle of milk.

Talking of milk, the Gidge Show is holding judging classes for house cows, with decisions more on attitude and temperament than most standard cattle competitions.

The WA Farriers Association hosts its WA Championships over the Friday and Saturday, so there will be an opportunity to watch the magic of metal being forged into highly specialised shapes by talented men and women farriers working over red hot fires.

For more please see the 2024 Gidge Show

Schedule and the October Gidgegram, via the Gidgegannup Info website.

Tickets can be purchased at the gates by EftpoS payment or purchased online through

www.eventbrite.com.au.

We look forward to welcoming you on October 26 for what will be a very special day for everyone.



One of the metal sculptures which was displayed at the Gidge Ag Show last year. What might you see this year?

Ragbags ladies getting excited about displaying articles at Show

Ragbags Quilting Group
Kerry Gregory

OVER the last month I've done little sewing or quilting activities, when I should have been full tilt finishing at least two quilting articles for inclusion in the Toodyay Agricultural Show (TAS).

The reality was I had been feeling pretty under the weather, having contracted a chest infection and finished up in hospital for four days with pneumonia, from which it has taken me weeks to recover.

As a consequence, I have resolved that I shall complete my half-finished quilt and wall-hanging as a priority before commencing any further quilting projects over the summer, then I'll be well ahead of the game in plenty of time for the 2025 TAS (famous last words).

Fortunately, the Ragbags ladies have all been very industriously completing articles for the show, and I'm sure with such a wealth of terrific items for exhibition once again this year, the quilting display will be fantastic.

Good luck ladies. Many of our members engage in other craft activities throughout the year including embroidery, knitting, crochet and other hobby crafts.

I look forward to seeing many of those items in the displays at the show as it makes for a colourful and interesting spectacle.

New members are very welcome to join

the Ragbags Group regular gathering.

Bring along your blocks and sewing machine if you wish, some handwork or any craft activity being undertaken. The Ragbags Group meets at the St Stephens Anglican Church Hall, Stirling Terrace, Toodyay on the first and third Wednesday of each month between 10am and 2pm, (we use the back door as it's too cold to have the big front one open) and bring your lunch.



Bright and colourful scrappy quilt from Karen.

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