

# 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.

June 2025  
Edition 446

## Residents stand their ground on public open space



Disillusioned Nunile residents are standing on the public open space that the Shire of Toodyay intends to rezone for housing. Photo: Sean Hefferon.

### Rashelle Predovnik

NUNILE property owners are ramping up efforts to have their protest heard with a petition to council opposing the shire's plans to build on public open space, create smaller lots and include social housing in the mix.

In March, the Toodyay council voted to release a scheme amendment for public comment, that would allow the shire to unlock 4.3ha of land for housing on a part of Lot 9508.

The shire owned lot is currently zoned as public open space, with the part to be rezoned bounded by Drummond St East, Murray Walkway and Jarratt Pass.

However the land borders the Riverhills

Estate, where many residents paid a premium for blocks overlooking land they were told would never be built on.

The remaining 9.8ha of the 14.1ha site is for the Toodyay Sports and Recreation Complex.

If Lot 9508 is rezoned to residential it will have a density coding of R20 and R35.

R20 means one house can be built per 450m<sup>2</sup> of land and two dwellings would be allowed on a 900m<sup>2</sup> lot.

The smaller R35 zones are intended for grouped dwellings, with a maximum of 19 units.

After extensive advertising, the public comment period seeking feedback closed on May 16.

That month, a petition with 48 signatures was handed to council, objecting to the proposal because it contradicted the town's 10-year planning vision to preserve the town's lifestyle and character.

The signatures came from houses on Rayner Loop, Lynn Lookout, Gadstone Pass, Drummond St East, Weedon Ent, and Tomkins Bend.

Petitioners said the R35 coding would allow 200m<sup>2</sup> and 300m<sup>2</sup> blocks to be created, which would urbanise Nunile.

Drummond St resident Kurt Rose said no one in the area was happy about it.

He said if he knew the site would become a housing estate, he wouldn't have bought his block.

"I would have moved to Chidlow and paid a bit extra and I'm pretty sure a lot of people would have bought elsewhere too."

Residents are also questioning the need to develop the shire's land at all, with a number of approved land releases already on the market, including one nearby.

*Continued on Page 3.*

## Locals to host world karate competition

AVON Valley Shotokan is to host an international karate championship on Sunday August 24.

The competition will see teams converging on Northam from all parts of Australia and the world to participate in the event.

*More on Page 35.*

## Moondyne Festival sees local scallywag run-free, again



Moondyne Joe (left) and his gang running riot through the streets of Toodyay town. Photo: Sean Hefferon.

### Sean Hefferon

ANOTHER Moondyne Festival saw the centrepiece of the show run free.

And not for the first time.

This in spite of the learned judge exclaiming on the stage outside Toodyay's Victoria Hotel that Joe is...

Guilty.

Guilty.

Guilty.

Cue the banging of the judge's gavel and the jeers of the partisan (Joe) crowd.

Joe invariably escapes anyway.

So it came to pass that at the 2025 Moondyne Festival Joe did just that – absconded again.

Which is pretty well what happened with the real Joe back in the day.

Some things don't change, after all.

*Continued on Page 14.*

## Coming events

Toodyay Farmers Market  
Sunday June 15

Sock Week  
Friday June 27

### this month

classifieds	30
emergency services	7
environment	29, 32, 33
health	34
letters	4, 8
public notices	30
puzzles	31
sport and leisure	35
trades & services	24-27
where & when	30

You can *rely* on Elders  
Toodyay for expert advice.

PHONE 9574 4200

124 STIRLING TERRACE, TOODYAY WA 4200

Elders



# 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](mailto:advertising@toodyayherald.com.au). Editorial contributions and photographs should be emailed to [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto: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 92B Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

President: Peter Ruthven  
Vice President: Allan Gregory  
Secretary: Anne Bouveng  
Treasurer: Liz Sullivan  
Members: Beth Ruthven, Julie Hoy Poy, Judy Morrissey, Susan Pearce, Madison van Helsdingen, Joshua van Helsdingen and Rashelle Predovnik.

## PRODUCTION

Editor: Sean Hefferon  
Sub-Editor: Verity Morgan-Schmidt  
Design/Layout: David Palmer  
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), Peter Ruthven, Beth Ruthven, Richard Grant, and Judy Morrissey.

## ADVERTISING

### RATES - NO GST IS APPLICABLE

The cost of a casual display advertisement is \$4.35 per column cm (NB Column width is 61.5mm.)

**Full Page:** Mono - \$696.00; Colour - \$747.50.

Setup size: 260mm wide by 385mm deep.

**Half Page:** Mono - \$348.00; Colour - \$399.50

Setup size: 260mm wide by 190mm deep.

**Quarter Page:** Mono - \$174.00; Col. - \$225.50.

Setup size: 127.5mm wide by 190mm deep.

**Page Nomination Loading:** Front page - 100%, Back page - 50%, Centre pages / Page 3 - 25%, other pages - 10% (based on mono price).

**Advertorial:** Must be accompanied by purchase of quarter page advertisement (text 200-300 words) \$65.00.

Colour advertisements of a size not listed above incur a \$51.50 surcharge with the exception of the Trades and Services section. A one-off setup fee (artwork fee) may be charged for advertisements which are not print ready. Advertisers, please supply a postal address for accounting purposes and the number of issues in which you would like your advertisement to be included. Accounts are issued every month with payment required within 30 days. Payment may be made by post, EFTPOS or at the *Herald* office.

## INDEMNITY AND WARRANTY

Advertisers and/or advertising agencies upon and by lodging material with *The Toodyay Herald* for publication or authorising or approving of the publication of any material, **INDEMNIFY The Toodyay Herald Inc.** against all claims, demands, proceedings, costs, expenses, damages, awards, judgements and any other liability whatsoever wholly or partially arising directly or indirectly in connection with the publication of the material, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, indemnify **The Toodyay Herald Inc.** in relation to defamation, libel, slander of title, infringement of copyright, infringement of trade marks or names of publication titles, unfair competition, breach of trade practices or fair trading legislation, violation of rights of privacy or confidential information or licences or royalty rights or other intellectual property rights **AND WARRANT** that the material complies with all relevant laws and regulations and that its publication will not give rise to any claims against or liabilities to **The Toodyay Herald Inc.**, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, that nothing therein is in breach of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* or the *Copyright Act 1968* or the *Fair Trading Act 1987* or the defamation, consumer protection and sale of goods legislation of the States and Territories or infringes the rights of any person.

*The Toodyay Herald* accepts no responsibility or liability in relation to any loss due to the failure of an advertisement to appear according to instructions. The positioning or placing of an advertisement is at the discretion of the Editor.

## COPYRIGHT

Where no charge is made for the preparation of advertising material, *The Toodyay Herald* will remain owner of copyright in the advertising material. Such advertising material may be reproduced only with the consent of *The Toodyay Herald* and upon payment of such fee as *The Toodyay Herald* may require.

©Original works are subject to copyright and shall not be reproduced without authority.

## NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Noon Friday  
June 20

### STORY DEADLINE

Noon Monday  
June 23

### DISTRIBUTED

Thursday  
July 3

## Please note our email addresses

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

# More money down the drain?

## The Outsider

IN THE May Herald the Shire President said an extra \$500,000 has been allocated for road maintenance (grading and drains) during May and June.

If that much will be spent in 8 weeks, then we should expect to see a huge amount of maintenance going on.

Unless of course most is going to the Toodyay – Bindi Bindi Road cost blowout?

The Shire President’s moment of glory at the April OCM resulted when a ratepayer raised concerns that their earlier question had been incorrectly recorded in the minutes of the March meeting and consequently remained unanswered.

The negative response from the President was to the effect that if an answer was given that was sufficient, even though in this case the questioner was concerned that the answer didn’t address the question.

Most questions were taken on notice, and as meetings are recorded there is no apparent reason why a question would not be correctly included in the minutes.

Also interesting in Public Question Time was the apparent unwillingness by administration to answer a question about several payment items to IGA (hundreds of dollars each time).

These were vaguely described as ‘Department Expenses’ but without any itemisation of those purchases.

An opaque description and insufficient for Councillors to judge the necessity for the transactions.

At the April meeting the Acting CEO repeated ‘that is the description’ several times – hence ratepayers are none the wiser about what our money is being spent on.

Moondyne was a brilliant success, perhaps despite, rather than because of the Shire.

Even with many external food vendors the local food outlets were crowded out which may not bode well for the Avon Descent without the Toodyay International Food Festival.

Worth remembering that if tourists have a bad experience on that day they may never come back to Toodyay – which could bring into question the much-vaunted focus on tourism by some Councillors.

Aside from all the other issues with amending the local planning scheme, I gather that the CEO intends to subdivide and sell rather than also develop the housing he intends for the land near the Recreation Centre.

It is never good for ratepayers when local governments enter the development arena with ratepayers’ money/large loans.

For example, look at the current financial state of the Shire of Coolgardie.

Or consider the huge amount spent by the City of Swan (where co-incidentally the Shire of Toodyay CEO is a Councillor) on the redevelopment of Midland Oval.

Or even closer to home the constant financial drain of the \$4.4 million debt hanging round our necks for the Recreation Centre.

And surprisingly (or not) the CEO is seeking higher density housing and removal of open space in Toodyay.

But he was inaugural chair of the Vines Residents and Ratepayers Association (VRRRA) forming the working group to fight against a similar amendment to the structure plan affecting the Vines where he himself lives.

VRRRA is reported as stating that it ‘would fundamentally and irreparably change the character and nature of the area forever’.

Just as this higher density housing may affect the ‘character and nature’ of Toodyay.

# Toodyay garden art: Max style



Longtime Toodyay resident Max Heath sent through the above photograph. The various items are far more than ‘odds-and-sods’. Rather for Max each item tells of a certain memory or a part of his life. Whether the memory links back to days at the once-family farm ‘Foggarthorpe’, days around the campfire or other life experiences. It doesn’t matter. For Max each piece represents a piece of his life - and that’s what matters.

## Where is it?

WELL, no takers for the last ‘Where is it?’.

That said, a bakery fan did say it was the Old St John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery site, but he was ok for a coffee.

This cemetery is up the top-end of Duke St (or put another way just off Duke St and on the slopes of Pelham Reserve).

According to the Toodyay Historical Society there are 66 people known to be, or believed to be, buried in this cemetery.

The cemetery was established in 1864 with the last recorded burial occurring in 1897.

But where are the labs this month?

This one should be easy.

First reader to say where this photo was taken gets a bakery coffee on the editor.

Send your best guess to:

[editor@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:editor@toodyayherald.com.au)



But where are the labs this month?



# Dave’s powered up by a coffee and lamington

Rashelle Predovnik

A HOT coffee and lamington from the Toodyay Bakery is how graphics guru David Palmer fuels up for a bustling production week at The Toodyay Herald.

Since accepting an invitation to join the team in July last year, Dave hasn’t looked back. Nor has he slowed down.

But Dave’s stamina is no surprise, as his second marriage brought together a blended family of eight kids, and now seven grandkids.

So how do you profile a laid-back creative guy who prefers to stay out of the spotlight?

A man who’s more of a listener than a talker? Simple.

Ask him about his community, because when it comes to his passion for local projects, events and issues, Dave really comes to life.

And it’s not a life without its twists and turns: particularly when Dave became a ‘single dad,’ with four young kids to care for, when his first marriage unexpectedly broke down.

A monthly newsletter he started working on, the Chidlow Chatter, was in its infancy, when he caught that curve ball, and 20 years on it’s still going strong.

In between fatherhood and keeping the Chatter running, Dave grew his own business, Greenman Graphics Print and Design, doing jobs for local clients.

Dave used to write articles for the Chatter until it got to a point where he didn’t have to, as regular contributors sent stories in.

Today, the Chatter ranges from 16 to 20 pages and Dave says he doesn’t have to chase up advertising.

“It just keeps plodding along,” he muses.

“It feeds itself – it just keeps going, and that’s what I found out about the Chatter.”

Dave prints 850 hard copies each month and these are delivered to houses in Chidlow and Mundaring.

“It’s an important community service in my view,” he says.



Dave with a coffee and lamington in hand and all set for a day in the Herald office.

It’s only now, looking back over the decades that Dave sees he was unintentionally making a record of history.

“The Chatter has created a strong sense of community and I’ve been watching the ebbs and flows and the changes,” he muses.

“I take photos of local events that create a photographic history for the future.”

Dave’s efforts have not gone unnoticed.

A local history enthusiast has obtained a copy of every Chatter that’s ever been made, so they can be archived as historical records.

Dave’s photographs document Chidlow’s changing landscape, like the jetty on the lake which has long gone, and new roads that have gone in.

Sometimes, when Dave drives around, he can see where he’s left a mark locally.

“The village green across the road from the pub used to be open land because it was a railway reserve,” he recalls.

“When I was involved in the Chidlow Progress Association we found out the shire had earmarked it for a village green – but in 30 or 40 years time,” he explains.

“So, we got onto them to find out what can we do to speed this up?”

“They worked with us and we got funding to put in the toilets and gazebo and plant trees.

“Now it’s used at Christmas time, for car shows, and people celebrate birthdays under the gazebo – it’s great.”

Last year, Dave’s reach into the community expanded to include putting together the Gidgegram – a 20 page publication, with 1,700 copies printed.

Run by a committee and published by the Gidgegannup Agricultural Society, the monthly newsletter is delivered free to residents within the Gidgegannup postcode.

Dave has decades of publishing experience, and some advice for aspiring self-publishers.

“Have a go – you don’t know until you try it,” he encourages.

“There’s more options these days to publish something.

“Even if you don’t know what you’re doing, you’ll learn and you can build what you’ve dreamed of.”

With Dave’s long career in publishing, stepping into a production role at The Toodyay Herald last year was an easy move.

He now looks forward to contributing to, and being a part of, Toodyay’s ever growing community.

So, what’s next for the multi-talented Dave at the Herald?

I can’t tell you where he’ll land, with ever-expanding job opportunities and a team who think he’s great.

But one thing’s for sure – he’ll have one simple request: “keep the coffee and the lamingtons coming.”

## Staff admit they can’t control who buys subdivided lots

Continued from Page 1.

According to the shire’s own planning strategy, Toodyay already has enough zoned land to yield nearly 4,000 additional housing lots.

The strategy estimates, a total population of 14,493 people could potentially be supported with the current stock of zoned land.

And that number far exceeds the shire’s projected population growth of 10,000 people by 2061.

Another parcel of land the shire owns, that was used for drainage and zoned for residential development, will be rezoned as public open space if the scheme amendment proceeds.

The petitioners argue the swap is a poor one: trading almost 10 acres of usable green space for a sloping, flood-prone patch of land less than a quarter of an acre in size.

Toodyay Shire President Mick McKeown said the community wanted the shire to focus on responsible growth and development, and this included improved access to housing.

He said council committed to work to enable access to affordable, sustainable and diverse housing options as part of its 10-year plan.

“Rezoning of part of the shire’s freehold property in Drummond St will allow the expansion of utilities, including scheme water and deep sewerage, into a new residential area to allow for future homes close to existing community facilities.”

Cr McKeown said funding made available to the shire for development was to help build affordable housing in Toodyay.

“But not, for example, to provide land to Homes West.”

But residents’ concerns their rural retreat may turn into a low-income housing hub were sparked when shire staff admitted at a public information session, they can’t control who buys subdivided lots.

The shire’s plans to make land available, aligns with a broader state government initiative to boost housing across rural towns.

Local governments are encouraged to apply for both state and federal funding to help them to do this.

Residents told *The Herald* they wanted to know more about the cost of development for ratepayers, with concerns the shire’s history of cost blowouts for big projects would be repeated.

It was also unclear how much funding support the shire would get from the state and federal governments, and what conditions were tied to that funding.

For Toodyay, another challenge will be balancing population growth with access to water, as the region is experiencing a drying climate.

Last year, the ABC reported Toodyay residents who used to rely on rainwater now had to get their water supplied by a local water carter.

Residents are standing their ground, on the land they were told was protected from development, but the decision to proceed with the scheme amendment (or not) is a decision that will be made by councillors at a future council meeting.



Drainage sump at the corner of Rayner Loop and Drummond Street East. The sump is on two levels and used to contain waterflow from Rayner Loop. This patch of shire-owned land is intended to be rezoned to public open space.

## Local groups helping the environment

WORLD Environment Day is celebrated on June 5 and encourages awareness and action for the protection of the environment.

The *Herald* approached two local organisations to discuss what they are doing in the environmental space.

Sharon Anderson, principal of Toodyay District High School pointed to the school’s Landcare program and how it benefits both the local environment and students.

The program, offered to students as an elective subject, has been in place since 2024 in partnership with Toodyay Friends of the River.

Under the guidance of volunteers Bethan Lloyd and Greg Warburton, Year 9 students participate in environmental activities in the Boyagerring Brook reserve that runs behind the high school.

Student activities that support the health of the waterway include water quality monitoring, weed removal and annual fuel reduction.

Robert Miles, Chairperson, Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation, provided an Indigenous perspective on World

Environment Day.

For Noongar people, caring for boodja (country) is both a cultural and spiritual responsibility.

Toodyay’s nature reserves apart from sustaining a high degree of native flora and fauna are also sites of cultural significance for “learning, ceremony and connection”.

The Noongar Trail, spanning 11 locations around Toodyay “shares cultural knowledge about the seasons, traditional practices and the connection between Noongar people and the environment”.

The corporation has more on-country initiatives pending including one led by Elders and cultural experts focused on ‘traditional bush and waterway foods’.

The creation of a yarning circle is progressing and will be a space for cultural sharing and environmental awareness.

“Healing our waterways and protecting biodiversity along the wetlands in Toodyay is not just environmental work – it’s cultural healing. When we care for Boodja, we care for ourselves and future generations,” Mr Miles said.

## Jessie’s acting journey continues

Sean Hefferon

Jessie Ward may have been born in Queensland but was very much raised in Toodyay, having been educated at the local school and then in Northam.

She has family living in Toodyay and the connection is strong.

Whilst she now spends much of her time living in Perth when she returns to the Wheatbelt town for her it is a homecoming and a return to her country.

And it was on country where Jessie found her love for acting, starting on stage at school assemblies.

It was this passion that saw her graduate from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts several years ago with a Certificate IV in Aboriginal Performance followed by a Diploma in Screen Acting.

Most recently Jessie was nominated in the category ‘Outstanding Performers in Supporting Roles’ at the Performing Arts WA Awards last April.

An accolade for her role in the Yirra Yaakin play ‘Brothers Wreck’ that celebrates the strong family bonds of Aboriginal culture by exploring the worst trauma a family can experience – in this instance, suicide and the journey toward healing and hope for family



Jessie on a visit back to Toodyay.

left behind.

If you follow the performing arts then you would have heard of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, a WA based company that supports Aboriginal theatre and culture and over 30 years has premiered over 60 new works across the globe.

No doubt there are more accolades in the future for Jessie Ward as she continues her acting journey.



# The Toodyay Herald

## Governance: Taken on notice

LOCAL councils are the backbone of community governance. However, recent observations paint a troubling picture of a body that regresses into hostility and combative exchanges – and not only during public question time.

The atmosphere in last month’s council meeting and previous ones, has been described by attendees as “toxic”, a term that carries with it a weight of concern for the health of our local democratic processes.

When the public attend council meetings they should find a space where their voices are valued and their questions are met with respect – in both word and tone.

Public question time, intended to foster transparency and accountability, often devolves into a belligerent environment.

Community members, who come forward with questions or concerns, can leave the meeting feeling dismissed or belittled due to how they perceive they have been treated.

This dynamic discourages participation and perpetuates a culture where community members are seen as disruptive rather than valuable contributors to the governance process.

A worrying aspect as well, is the tendency for questions to be taken “on notice”, promising to provide answers later.

While there are legitimate reasons to defer responses for later consideration, this practice, when routine can lead to frustration and disengagement among residents and ratepayers.

As a consequence they may also begin to perceive their local government as more focused on maintaining control than on serving the public good.

Furthermore, reports of infighting, lack of cohesion among councillors and governance issues create an environment harmful to good decision-making.

Only last week we had the peculiar situation where most of the council accepted an inaccurate list of accounts – after an officer admitted the list was incomplete.

How does that council decision meet governance requirements?

The community also still does not know when council first knew of the \$700,000 blowout on a key road project – yet it seems the shire has investigated itself and found the blowouts cause falls on past staff.

This fiscal bungle represents nine per cent of annual rate revenue.

Also, when councils are preoccupied with internal conflicts, the needs and concerns of the community may fall by the wayside.

This dysfunction not only hampers the council’s ability to operate with integrity and efficiency but cruels public trust in local government.

With council elections only months away this conflict and loss of trust may see residents that would otherwise step forward to serve the community, in fact, step back.

This would be a great loss for the community – so please do step forward.

Engage in local governance, attend council meetings, ask questions and hold your council to account.

Sean Hefferon  
Editor



After the darkness the sun shines through.



The way we were – Tommy and Tottie Ferguson ride a trap in Stirling Terrace in the early 1950s, with the Victoria Hotel in the background. Tommy and Tottie were reportedly dedicated Toodyay Show exhibitors. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum collection.

## LETTERS Shocked and deeply alarmed

WORKING across many of the most contentious issues in agriculture over the past two decades I’ve experienced my fair share of hostile and challenging meetings.

However, I must confess to being completely shocked and deeply alarmed at what I witnessed from the public gallery while attending my first Toodyay Shire Ordinary Council Meeting.

Barely hidden contempt for public scrutiny and thinly veiled hostility towards members of the gallery is not conducive to a respectful relationship between Council and community.

While meeting process is undoubtedly important, regarding members of the gallery as a nuisance to be silenced, controlled and managed, not a privilege to welcome and serve is deeply problematic.

Of even deeper concern was the demeanour of the attending councillors.

In a dynamic that was hard to pin down, the situation bore more of a resemblance to a chastising School Principal intimidating his students, rather than elected adults engaged in frank and fearless governance on behalf of their community.

One must ask – why and how has this become the case?

As a newcomer to Toodyay, I do not profess to have the answers to that. The old guard, the apparent factions and the personality disputes do not interest me.

But having worked at local, state and Federal levels across the country, I can say with some confidence that this is not the norm and should be of concern to all residents and ratepayers.

Local Government matters. Effective and transparent governance matters. Public scrutiny matters.

Most of us will rarely have the occasion to climb the marble staircase at Parliament House in Canberra, nor sit around meeting tables in Dumas House or attend Parliament here in WA.

Our touchstone for democracy is at a local council level.

This should be the place where questions and scrutiny are warmly welcomed, our future leaders are inspired and skills in leadership and public service honed.

We are all accountable for the way in which our local council operates. As with all things in life, the standard we walk past is the standard we accept.

So as ratepayers in the Shire of Toodyay, we must ask ourselves the question – just

what exactly are we prepared to accept?

As we pay our rates each year, what are our expectations around governance, strategy, ethics and conduct?

This is not about complaining, nit picking or engaging in irrelevant and ill-informed public commentary.

It’s about asking ourselves as a community, what exactly do we want from our closest level of Government?

Then, most importantly, deciding what we’re going to do about it.

The next OCM will take place on Thursday June 26. Will I see you there?

Verity Morgan-Schmidt  
Dumbarton

## Left feeling disappointed

AS A FIRST-time attendee of a Toodyay Shire Council meeting, I left not feeling more informed or empowered, but rather surprised – and frankly, disappointed – by the combative and controlling atmosphere in the room.

At the very start of the meeting, the gallery was told by Shire President Michael McKeown that we were not allowed to speak to each other.

This instruction was then extended to forbid *any* form of communication between those of us in attendance.

I had expected to observe respectful, open governance.

Instead, I felt as though ratepayers were being treated more like a disruptive nuisance than engaged members of the community.

Council meetings should be a forum for civic dialogue and accountability, not events where residents are silenced or made to feel unwelcome for showing interest in local affairs.

Public participation is not a threat to order; it is the foundation of democracy.

What struck me even more than the restrictive rules was the tone of the meeting itself.

In my view, questions from the public were often met with defensiveness or dismissiveness.

Rather than encouraging transparency and collaboration, the environment came across as guarded and, at times, combative.

I share this not to stir division, but because I believe Toodyay – and every small town in Western Australia – deserves local leadership that values and respects the community it serves.

We must ask: What message are we sending when the public is discouraged from even whispering to one another at a council meeting?

That said, I would still strongly encourage other residents and ratepayers to attend these meetings.

Your presence matters.

The more of us who turn up, observe, and ask questions, the harder it becomes for poor practices to go unnoticed.

Warren Cattell  
Dumbarton

## When will you fix it?

I WAS interested to read Toodyay Shire CEO Aaron Bowman’s response to a ratepayer question about massive cost overruns for shire roadworks on a section of Toodyay-Bindi Bindi Road in Coondle.

Mr Bowman – who is also a sitting councillor and failed mayoral candidate in the neighbouring City of Swan – has held Toodyay’s highest-paid shire job for more than eight months.

He wrote a whole page last month blaming everybody else for the budget-busting \$700,000 cost blowout after it was raised in Public Question Time by Toodyay farmer Charlie Wroth at the council’s April meeting.

Shire President Mick McKeown said there was nothing in shire financial statements provided to the council last December – four months after Cr Bowman started as new Toodyay CEO – to indicate a cost blowout.

Nor was there any mention at last month’s council meeting of an urgent need to repair a much worse 12km section of the Toodyay-Bindi Bindi Road north of Bejoording Road which lies wholly within the Shire of Toodyay.

The narrow, crumbling bitumen surface is now further falling apart after recent heavy winter rain.

It is a serious danger to all road users, particularly fully loaded road trains and semi-trailers carting grain, livestock, hay and other vital agricultural products that are the shire’s economic lifeblood.

Recently elected local WA National Party MP and Shadow State Minister for Agriculture Lachlan Hunter described photographs of the broken road surface published in last month’s *Herald* as “deeply concerning”.

I look forward to reading more from Mr Bowman this month about specific proposals and a timetable to repair this worsening death trap rather than blame game buck-passing and generic public statements about administrative processes and fiscal procedures.

Michael Sinclair-Jones  
Bolgart

Letters continued on Page 8.

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	21.6	22	1.9	345.3
2025	3.7	0	27	47.6	15.2								93.5
Average	17.20	17.30	15.50	26.10	54.80	76.90	81.70	60.40	35.40	24.70	12.70	8.70	431.40

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



# '27 years of outstanding service recognised'

**Between You and Me**  
Mick McKeown, Shire President

IN 2022, Council adopted a Bush Fire Preparedness and Resilience Strategies report.

One of the recommendations in the report was to upgrade part of Nottingham Road from near the intersection with Lukin Street to the top of the hill.

This was to allow an alternative egress route from Nottingham Road in case of bushfire.

When the Strategies report was written, the only exit from the part of Nottingham Road on top of the hill was by way of Retford Road onto Folewood Road.

Construction and sealing of the steep section of Nottingham Road has just been completed providing safer exit in an emergency.

Thanks go to the Executive Manager of Assets and Infrastructure Services and her staff who arranged for this project to be completed efficiently.

The 2022 Strategies report also addressed

the bush fire hazard for properties that rely on Toodyay West Road for egress, particularly properties in North Street, Cottage Street and Small Street.

The report recommended the construction of part of Fitzgerald Terrace in West Toodyay as an alternative option to address the hazard.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on May 22, Council resolved to commence the process of obtaining the necessary permits and necessary approvals to commence the construction project of Fitzgerald Terrace.

The cost of the construction will come from the Shire of Toodyay and a grant from the National Disaster Resilience Program which is a Commonwealth funded program administered by the State Government through the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

While on the topic of bush fires, I must mention that Toodyay Central Bush Fire Brigade awarded life membership to Craig Stewart, the Shire's Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (BFCO).

Craig has 27 years of outstanding bush fire service, of which he served ten as Chief BFCO.

Congratulations go to him for his leadership over many years.

Also, last month I mentioned the successful efforts of Shire staff in fixing the irrigation system at the Toodyay Showgrounds.

I should have mentioned the assistance given by Steele Williams whose local knowledge of the existing bore and irrigation system was invaluable in achieving the great outcome of being able to use bore water rather than paying Watercorp.

Thanks Steele.

Over the next few weeks work will also be undertaken at the Showgrounds to improve the lighting of the oval.

Local electricians Steve McCormick, Mick Giles and Simon McGlasson are leading a team of volunteers to relocate lighting towers from the redundant Fiennes Street tennis courts to the oval.

Aside from donating their time and skills, they have also arranged for donations of materials for the project.

The Shire is contributing to the job by providing the steel reinforcement cages for the concrete footings for the lights and

making a truck available to move the towers from Fiennes Street to the Showgrounds.

We will see activity from late May into June and in next month's column I will acknowledge all those who are contributing to this community driven project.

By the time you are reading this, an Emergency Services dinner will have been held on Saturday May 24.

The dinner is an initiative of Ian MacGregor, Captain of the Toodyay Volunteer Fire and Rescue Brigade.

The dinner is an opportunity for all emergency services personnel to get together socially and for fitting and deserved awards to be made.

Meanwhile, in June back at the Shire, officers and councillors will be occupied with developing the Shire budget for 2025-2026 through a series of workshops.

Western Australia Day occurs on Monday the June 2.

This will be the last public holiday for a while so if you are travelling on the WA Day weekend please take care on the roads and get back to Toodyay safely.

# Residents concerned by fire at controversial dump site

Sean Hefferon

A FIRE last month at the Opal Vale landfill site saw authorities issue a smoke alert for people in Hoddys Well, Morangup, Bakers Hill and surrounding areas in the Shire of Toodyay and the Shire of Northam.

According to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DEWR) air monitoring in residential areas did not detect gases from the landfill fire above health guideline levels.

Opal Vale is required to report fires at the Hoddys Well landfill site and David Stacey a spokesperson from DEWR confirmed to the *Toodyay Herald* that no other fires have been reported in 2025.

Stacey added that the department is evaluating the site's management practices and further inspections will be conducted to determine if

any remediation actions are required.

Local residents contacted the *Herald* to express concerns about the fire and potential damage to the protective liner that sits between the landfill rubbish and the water table.

The *Herald* sent questions about the landfill fire to Sam Mangione, the managing director of Instant Waste Management and owner of Opal Vale, but a response was not received before the newspaper's deadline.

The Opal Vale landfill site has been controversial ever since it was first slated to land on Toodyay's doorstep more than ten years ago.

Local residents and the Toodyay Shire objected to the tip's location but to no avail and it eventually commenced operations in 2019.

The tip site takes Perth rubbish with trucks travelling up Toodyay Road and then accessing the landfill site via Fernie Road.



Opal Vale landfill site on fire (file picture). Photo: Michael Sinclair-Jones.

## PARKERVILLE HALL

2170 Seaborne St,  
Parkerville

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 10AM-2PM**

Lunch included

**Cost: \$10 per person;  
\$25 per family**

# PROPHETICA

## AMAZING DISCOVERIES REVEAL THE FUTURE

International tensions and conflicts, political, social & economic uncertainty, environmental change; and the rapid pace at which technology continues to expand, are creating feelings of anxiety, leading many to wonder, "What does the future hold?"

**PROPHETICA is an Exciting, Eye-opening Prophecy Seminar**

International speaker, Gary Webster, has travelled the world extensively researching lost civilizations. He has degrees in archaeology, history, science and religion, and was also the editor of Archaeological Diggings, Australia's top magazine of ancient history and archaeology. Thousands have attended his engaging presentations that reveal the historical & prophetic accuracy of the ancient Biblical scriptures, the meaning of current events, and where we are heading.

### PROGRAM 1

#### LOST CIVILIZATIONS REVEAL THE FUTURE

Travel to Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Israel & Turkey to discover irrefutable evidence for a source that claims to know the future.

### PROGRAM 2

#### THE LAST EMPIRE

Discover an amazing 2500 year old prophecy from the cradle of civilization that predicted events taking place in the world today.

### PROGRAM 3

#### GLOBAL WARNINGS

See and hear an ancient prophecy that predicted the rise and fall of mighty empires, hundreds of years before they existed.

### PROGRAM 4

#### THE GLOBAL AGENDA

Journey to Patmos to hear an amazing prophecy about the coming global agenda, which will soon impact you, your finances and freedom.

**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME**

FOR BOOKINGS: **PROPHETICA.COM**

OR PHONE **1800 77 2020**

Discoveries in Prophecy



# Local team here for the community

## Police Beat

With Sgt  
Jamie Boryczewski  
Toodyay Police Station



THERE’S been some chatter on social media about the Toodyay Police Station hours so let’s tackle that matter first up.

The local station is open Monday to Wednesdays 8am to 4pm.

However, should the office be closed during those days that means that staff are either out in the community, on days-off or on afternoon shift.

We are not a 24/7 police station so if the office is closed call police on 000 in an emergency – this includes immediate threats to people or property or if a serious crime is in progress.

Contact police on 131 444 to report crimes that have happened in the past or when police attendance is required.

In terms of offences Toodyay police attended a domestic violence situation where a local man was charged with assault causing

head injuries.

The alleged assailant pleaded not guilty on May 12 and is awaiting trial.

On May 9 police conducted a vehicle search on Julimar Road where a drug utensil was found. The driver also did not have a car breathalyser unit (alcohol interlock) which is a requirement of his driver’s licence.

As a result, he has been charged as “not having authority to drive a motor vehicle”.

A local identity was also caught out on May 13 when he had his vehicle stolen from outside the Vic Hotel.

He had left his car keys under the car seat and as a result his car was stolen. However, after inquiries a male person was charged with stealing the vehicle.

The lesson here is to lock your car when not using it and to keep your car keys in a safe place.

Local police attended the annual Emergency Services dinner on May 24 which was a great event.

The team passes on its thanks to the dinner organisers and congratulate all award recipients.

For gunowners the state government gun buyback scheme runs until January 2026.



Toodyay Police Station is open Monday to Wednesday 8am to 4pm.

If you own a gun and would like to hand it in under the scheme, please come down to the local police station between Monday to Wednesday to book an appointment (first appointment at 10am, last at 3pm).

Bookings may also be made by phoning the station on 131 444.

On a final note, with the wet weather now here please do all the usual vehicle checks (including tyres, wipers).

Importantly, drive to road conditions and within the speed limits.

## Lock your car

Safer Toodyay  
Desrae Clarke

WHEN leaving your vehicle in a car park there may be signs of LOOK, LOCK and LEAVE in the parking area.

What do they mean?

**LOOK** –Have you taken the key out of the vehicle?

Check the surroundings for vehicle safety.

Remove interesting items that are visible from outside the vehicle.

These could include a camera, handbag, satchel, wallet, house or office keys.

**LOCK** – Are your vehicle keys safely in your hand?

Have the interesting and visible items been put safely away in the glove box, under the seats or in the boot?

Have the car doors and boot locked?

**LEAVE** - The vehicle is now ready to leave knowing that it is safely parked and locked with no items of interest visible.

Valuable contact numbers

Police	131 444
CRIMESTOPPERS	1800 333 000
Toodyay Police	9574 9555

## Tricks for safer files

Computer Safety  
Phil Hart

STORING passwords in a document or a spreadsheet is a convenient way of keeping track of them.

Keeping such a file safe and secure is essential to accessing the services you use such as shopping and online banking.

However, there are risks with this approach.

Having only one file copy means it cannot be replaced if it is lost or accidentally deleted.

Naming it “passwords” plays into the hands of hackers and storing it in the cloud, such as OneDrive, is asking for trouble.

Storing it as plain text is also risky.

Here are some tricks for improving safety and security.

First, use a deceptive name for the file.

Second, have three copies of the file, one on your C: drive (or D: drive if you have one), and two external drives, USB thumb drives or hard disks.

Remember to update these external drives when you change the file on your computer.

Third, encrypt the file when you first save.

Finally, make a note of both the name of the file and its password.

## Swimming pool has a ‘resort-like’ feel to it

Sean Hefferon

IT’S NOT very often that a public Wheatbelt swimming pool is described as having a ‘resort-like’ feel to it.

But that is exactly how Toodyay resident Pia Inverarity-Mitchell describes the local public swimming pool and it is a fair chance that many residents would agree with her.

The pool’s outlook over a vista of rolling hills does without much of a mental stretch allow for such a description.

Pia, who recently worked as the pool’s duty manager questions if the community could leverage the venues inbuilt advantages more.

More on leveraging the pool shortly, but Pia wondered if expectations had to be reconsidered given the pool’s relative newness.

“My belief is that when you start something new, it doesn’t matter whether it’s a hospital, a school, a pool or whatever,” Pia said.

“It takes about ten years to get self-perpetuating activities and I feel that people have probably been a little bit impatient”.

Toodyay’s public swimming pool operates on a seasonal basis and that brings challenges.

“It’s very difficult compared with metro



A pool with a view. Toodyay’s public swimming pool in the day’s early hours.

pools that are year-round. Here it’s stop start stop start.”

Like many in the community she is aware that the Shire of Toodyay has placed pool management out to tender.

She cautions, however, that the pool is relatively new and only just completed its second period of management.

The local pool had been managed by Clublinks up until late 2024 when Contract Aquatic commenced management for a fixed period over the 2024-25 season.

For Pia it’s early days and that when it comes to pool management there are different ways of doing it.

She points out that Belgravia Leisure is one management approach, another being Contract Aquatic that’s strictly a specialist in the area or you can have a sole operator.

“But in terms of management of the pool, look, any effort is a good effort and I think it’s always hard when you start something new,” she said.

In Pia’s view keeping the momentum that was gained over the recent pool season is key for the type of pool that it is.

Part of that momentum is in Pia’s opinion to use more of the outer pool activities particularly given that Toodyay is a tourist town.

“You need to jump in boots and all and get things going that’s a bit more novel than the usual situations for a swimming pool.”

She imagines that the pool could be a great location for a Friday night jam session noting the big music contingent in Toodyay.

The location of the Toodyay pool lends itself to being an event venue and Pia imagines that it could even be a great spot for weddings given the hills outlook.

Or pool parties with music bands.

Yoga on the lush pool lawn, birthday parties are other such ideas that Pia said are worth considering.

The potential for inland aquatics and related events leveraging the Toodyay community pool is perhaps barely tapped.



MRB 10905

# Toodyay Tyre Service

New 4X4, Truck,  
Motorbikes &  
Tractor

Repairs  
Exhausts  
Balancing  
Suspensions  
Wheel Alignment

Lot 20  
Stirling Tce

9574 4499

tyres1@inet.net.au



## Shire getting a vintage job done

Sean Hefferon

VINTAGE cars and markets go well together.

Don’t believe me?

Well, if you went to the market event hosted by the Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association last March at the Toodyay Showground, you’d be a believer.

A large crowd of locals and visitors became believers as they attended the March event in what was the first time the market was held outside of Northam.

The 2025 vintage market was a taste-test for the local community and Toodyay Shire, with both obviously finding the event whetted their appetite for more.

The shire is a believer and is in discussions with AVVVA with both parties to consider a 3 to 5 year agreement to host the vintage market in the town’s heritage showground.

Fred Singleton, AVVVA Secretary, said car club members have agreed to have the 2026 market in Toodyay on a date to be confirmed.

Local community groups benefited from this year’s event with representatives from

AVVVA recently presenting cheques to Butterfly Cottages and Toodyay Locals Care.

This funding support will assist these groups to continue their much-needed community services.



Walter Noppers, Treasurer of AVVVA and Dave Miller from Toodyay Locals Care. Photo: Fred Singleton - AVVVA Secretary.



## EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Burns kept crews on their toes but training paid off

VBFB Coondle- Nunile

Aurelie Zimmermann, Secretary

WE HAVE been very busy since the end of the restricted burning period.

Escaped burns not being sufficiently prepared are the biggest danger at this time of the year and we have tackled a range of small and large incidents across the shire.

This shows how important it is to remain vigilant and have the right equipment including a reliable source of water when burning off.

The abundance of incidents gave an opportunity to our newest recruits to experience their first taste of the fireground.

Those hours of theory and practical learning are used the moment the alarm goes off.

It is fantastic to see those new volunteers, attending quite a few turnouts.

The Annual General Meeting was held Saturday May 10.

Steve Tunnicliffe was re-elected as Captain for a fourth term, with the brigade having four lieutenants this year. Jamie Norgate and Daniel Hearn remain in their roles, while Bill Fletcher is treasurer and training officer.

Aurelie Zimmerman remains secretary, Kev Bowen stays equipment officer and Deb Bowen remains in her role as coordination officer.



The team at VBFB Coondle-Nunile turned out in numbers for the Annual General Meeting on Saturday May 10.

Well done all. The end of the season also means award presentation.

Our prestigious, yet ironic, "Stan Sutton" driving excellence award was granted to Daniel Hearn.

The Firefighter of the Year award was given to Aurelie Zimmermann.

Last month also saw Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering during Volunteer Week.

As we close the 2024/25 season the first

thankyou goes to our volunteers and their families for the support they offer, without which this adventure would not be possible.

Despite some difficult situations we have always met the challenge.

Like many other volunteer firefighters this year we have grown, learnt, sweat, stunk, laughed and remembered.

To the Coondle crew and Co thank you for your dedication and care.

Being a member has many benefits, such as learning new skills, knowledge, giving back to the community and meeting like-minded people and we're always looking for new members.

We meet 5pm Fridays at the fire station at 775 Bindi Bindi – Toodyay Rd near the old wheat bins.

If you are unsure if firefighting is for you, please see us or get in touch at coondle.nunilebfb@gmail.com

## 'May madness' with multiple escaped fires keeping volunteers busy

VBFB -Central

Peter Brennan

BETWEEN May 1 and May 24 the Brigade responded to sixteen callouts.

The Brigade was stood down from seven of these calls.

Disappointingly, several were either an unattended reignition, or an escaped burn, two of which had escaped into a neighbouring property.

Our volunteers spent 106 hours deployed to fires this month.

Once again, we make this plea to the community. Do not leave fires unattended.

Ensure you have an ample water supply on hand, have rakes and shovels with you and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

Fires that get away from property owners can not only cause unnecessary damage to your property but can also cause damage to neighbouring properties.

During May, the Brigade held its Annual General Meeting at which the new leadership team for the coming year was selected.

Peter Brennan was once again nominated as a Fire Control Officer.

Will Hort continues as Captain with support from Lieutenants Mick McKeown, Brian Clarkson, Kevin Sullivan and Brad Gardner.

We also gratefully thank John Morrissey (Chairman), Judy Morrissey (Secretary), Bronwyn King (Treasurer), Heather Brennan (Social Media / Secretary), Brian Clarkson (Training Officer) and Brad Gardner and Dan

Mason (Maintenance).

The AGM was very well attended despite turning out to three calls that day.

Captain Will Hort sincerely thanked our volunteers for their efforts this year and, in particular, their families for the outstanding support.

Without that support we would not be able to respond to emergencies as we have.

Will also paid tribute to those who filled leadership and committee positions during the previous year.

On behalf of the Brigade leadership team, Will acknowledged Lorraine Hort and Bradley Gardner as dual Volunteers of the Year for 2024/25.

Lorraine and Bradley were recognised for their significant dedication of time to turn-outs and other brigade activities, and for promoting a great team spirit.

Certificates of Appreciation were issued for David White, John Morrissey, Kevin Hug and Dianne Harper for their efforts this season and to long term member John White, who is departing Toodyay for the eastern states in the near future.

Finally, Will was honoured to advise that the Leadership Group had agreed to the award of a life membership to Craig Stewart, AFMS 116866, for 27 years of outstanding bush fire service, 10 years of which he has served as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

He congratulated Craig, saying that his leadership is appreciated and respected.

On Saturday evening May 24 a number of

our members will be attending the Toodyay Emergency Services Dinner at which a number of awards will be presented.

A roundup of the event will be in the July edition of the Herald.



Lorraine Hort receiving her 2024/25 Volunteer of the Year award from Chairman John Morrissey.



Craig Stewart, Chief Bushfire Control Officer, presenting the 2024/25 Volunteer of the Year award to Brad Gardner.

## Recognising a stroke: the types, signs and treatment

Monika Williams

A STROKE is a medical emergency that requires immediate attention.

It occurs when the brain's blood supply is disrupted, leading to potential long-term disability or even death.

Fast action makes the difference as each second counts when it comes to stroke care.

There are three main types of strokes with the most common form being the Ischemic Stroke which is caused by a blockage in the blood vessels supplying the brain.

A Haemorrhagic Stroke occurs when a blood vessel bursts, leading to bleeding in the brain.

The third main type of stroke is a Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) also called a "mini-stroke," where symptoms resolve within minutes or hours, but it's a warning sign of a potential future stroke.

The easiest way to identify a stroke is by using the FAST method.

Face – Is one side of the face drooping? Can the person smile evenly?

Arms – Can the person raise both arms? Is one arm weak or drifting downward?

Speech – Is their speech slurred or confused? Can they repeat a simple sentence clearly?

Time – If you see any of these signs, call emergency services immediately. The sooner

treatment begins, the better the chances of recovery.

Other symptoms may include sudden confusion, loss of balance, severe headache, or difficulty seeing in one or both eyes.

Some strokes occur silently, with only mild or temporary symptoms, but they can still cause serious damage.

What happens when a stroke is diagnosed?

When ambulance officers arrive, they will assess the patient's condition using the FAST method and other tests.

Once in hospital, doctors use CT scans or MRI scans to confirm a stroke and determine its type.

Blood tests, heart monitoring, and further examinations may follow with treatment depending on stroke type and how quickly the patient receives medical care.

So, acting fast saves lives.

Strokes can affect anyone, but risk factors include high blood pressure, smoking, diabetes, obesity, and a sedentary lifestyle.

Preventive measures such as maintaining a healthy diet, exercising regularly and managing medical conditions can significantly reduce the risk.

Most importantly, awareness and quick response can save lives. If you suspect a stroke, act FAST – calling emergency services immediately is the best chance for survival and recovery.



## Upcoming first aid courses

### HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid

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

Price: \$170.00

When: Saturday 14 June - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Thursday 21 August - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Saturday 4 October - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Thursday 27 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



# Council meeting sees many questions kicked down the road

Sean Hefferon

THE MAY Ordinary Council Meeting was perhaps extraordinary for the number of resident questions that were taken on notice.

Out of 34 questions asked at the meeting 'without notice', or forewarning, 14 were taken on notice – meaning the shire defers answers until a later time.

One question was deferred again after being taken on notice at the April meeting.

That question by local farmer Charlie Wroth asked when the council became aware of the \$700,000 blowout on the Toodyay – Bindi Bindi Road project.

This question was asked again by the Herald as an answer was not in the May council meeting agenda document.

The question remains unanswered.

As are others, including those from local resident Verity Morgan-Schmidt.

Noting the Environment Officer had resigned she asked how the biodiversity strategy was going to be implemented given the lack of a dedicated resource.

The question was taken on notice as was her next one that queried the shire's decarbonisation strategies given council's own documents state climate resilience is a key outcome under the strategic plan.

A question from the *Herald* concerned when Slaughterhouse Bridge was last inspected and whether it was a level one or two inspection: taken on notice.



*Slaughterhouse Bridge support undercut by water erosion. (May 2025).*

At the March council meeting a ratepayer asked whether the spray and seal design for the Toodyay – Bindi Bindi Road project had been completed per AUSROAD guidelines.

That question was taken on notice and a response given at the April meeting being that 'guidelines are not rules'.

Main Roads WA states the 'design of sprayed treatments is to be undertaken in accordance with AUSROADS Sprayed Sealed Design Method'.

When the *Herald* asked at the May meeting to clarify the method the shire followed in relation to the road project the question was ruled 'out of order'.

Beth Ruthven a former Toodyay councillor, asked why payments for a private rental property used by staff were not included in the April payment list.

The response was "payments for the current month appear to be omitted from the list".

A further question from Mrs Ruthven wondered if payments for other items had also been missed from the payments list.

The question was taken on notice.

After Public Question Time council considered a number of officer recommendations including that council 'receive' the list of accounts.

For the recommendation: Crs McKeown, Prater, Dival, Duri, McCormick with Cr Madasci against (Cr Wrench an apology).

In effect council voted to receive an inaccurate payments list after hearing earlier

in the meeting that a payment and possibly payments were not in the list.

The meeting also saw council approve the advertising of the 2025/2026 differential rate categories, rate in the dollar and minimum payments with Crs McKeown, Dival, Duri, Prater and McCormick supporting the officer's revised motion.

Cr Madasci voted against, arguing council was yet to receive a draft budget to 'set the rate' and council had just started budget workshops.

The Toodyay Shire CEO Aaron Bowman said the recommendation is not about setting the rates, it is only for advertising of the differential rates.

Shire President McKeown said council was 'not setting the rate today'.

Shire financials for the period ending 30 April 2025 show the debt on the Toodyay Recreation Centre totalled \$4.4 million.

Other matters covered at the meeting, included road projects in West Toodyay and the shire's explanation concerning the \$700,000 TBB Road project cost blowout.

The latter, signed off by the CEO, are in the May meeting minutes and point to actions of past shire staff as the basis of the blowout.

Ex-employees commented that they were dismayed at how matters had turned out.

*Letters continued from Page 4.*

## Expensive option chosen

I AM CONCERNED at the decision by elected members at the May Council meeting.

Council overturned an April 2023 resolution regarding the construction of North Street.

The original decision was an outcome resulting from a Fire Preparedness report suggesting a need for better fire access and egress and the decision included applying for fire resilience funding for the project.

Prior to that time a resident had subsumed the middle part of North Street into their property, blocking access through that section, and leaving a small remnant of North St at the top of Collett Way.

This action closed an alternative escape route leaving 19 properties with only one way out.

In April 2023, options were explored in depth and at the time the construction of North Street was the cheaper option and disadvantaged the least residents.

One property would lose the additional amenity it had gained by "assuming ownership" of North Street.

The 2023 decision also served natural justice in that the only disadvantage was to the one resident who had been obstructing the public thoroughfare and using it as their property.

National Disaster funding was obtained to improve safety via enhanced evacuation routes.

As a result of the council decision North Street remains divided and Fitzgerald Tce will be upgraded instead meaning five properties will be excluded and remain vulnerable.

One household retains the unlawfully private

ownership and use of the land.

As the Shire has a funding shortfall for a number of other urgent projects it seems odd that the original decision was overturned.

Particularly as in the Officer's report, the construction of North Street was the cheaper option.

*Susan Pearce*

*Toodyay*

*(Shire of Toodyay councillor 2019-23)*

## Cottage hospital idea

I AM PROPOSING a General Meeting, on June 22 at 7pm at the CRC meeting room.

The aim is to discuss the possibility of a Cottage Hospital here in Toodyay.

As a retired nurse and midwife, I have much experience and knowledge of how this situation would be of help to the community.

Please come and let us hear what you think about the idea.

It is not intended to be a Care facility.

It is a short-term, even respite facility, where people having had hospital procedures and are almost ready to go home, but not quite ready, can have a break in a non-hospital facility.

A facility where they can sleep well, enjoy non-hospital food, have visitors, days out, and regain strength. Sounds utopian?

Well, it just might be.

*Patricia de Soto-Phillips.*

*Toodyay*

## Bouquets for the festival

MY WIFE and I, as we do every year, visited Toodyay to take part in the Moondyne Festival.

What another great day it was.

Thankfully, but also sadly for the farmers,

the rain did not happen.

We were thrilled to be part of the Festival with many visitors, stallholders and organisers helping to make the day a great success.

In wonderful towns like Toodyay, the locals all look out for each other and willingly come together and support each other when needed.

The *Toodyay Herald* does a wonderful job, issuing interesting and enjoyable reading, reporting on all events about what is happening or taking place in Toodyay and surrounds.

My wife and I are already talking about and looking forward to next year.

*Frank and Kerry Cherry*

*South Lake*

## Volunteer gap filled for now

THANK you for highlighting in the May edition the great work volunteers do.

You mentioned the School Breakfast Program and added my contact number.

I am pleased to say I received a call from someone interested in becoming a volunteer.

Word of mouth and some cajoling of friends brought in two more which means the shortage of volunteers has been alleviated for now.

The School Breakfast Program is mostly run by retirees who give up time to help feed children who come to school hungry (apologies to the younger volunteers).

They also use their own funds to buy the foods not supplied by Foodbank or IGA.

I have been involved with the School Breakfast Programs since 2001 and know that many of the 500+ schools that are in the program across WA have parents that prepare and supply the breakfasts.

We currently have an average of 40 students at each breakfast; however, we do not have one parent volunteering to assist.

I think that is sad and worrying; children look up to their parents and learn by their example. This does not bode well for the future.

*Hamish Dobie*

*Toodyay*

## Moved by ANZAC Day

I HAVE recently moved from interstate to live in Toodyay and over the years, I have attended many ANZAC across Australia.

I attended and was moved by my first Toodyay Dawn Service and 11am Service

They were well organised and reverent to suit the occasion. The children's choir was a poignant touch to the 11am Service.

Thank you to the organisers and I look forward to attending next year.

*Pamela Hopcroft*

*Toodyay*

## Kudos and issues to address

THANK you to all involved for a fabulously organised Moondyne Festival.

The arrangements, displays, food stalls, entertainment, Wiggly Worm transports and the weather were enjoyed by locals and visitors.

Next 10c recycling. A big "Thankyou" to the Conleys for bringing their bottles from Perth and the Fitness Centre.

When donated to the Lions, these bottles add up and benefit our community.

Finally, a reminder that if you have a gripe about a Council/Shire issue, stop mumbling and pointing fingers.

Stop rumour mongering; address the source and tackle your issue/s.

Concerning Folewood Road, I recently came away with a positive experience discussing the road's "ravine-walking" problem.

Aaron Bowman (CEO) appeared open and honest about the Shire's problems with past neglect and this is putting aside the Shire's financial elephant, the Recreation Centre.

Having been an administrator of a large university in the USA of many years (and other work), I feel confident knowing when a person fibs you off or is serious.

It was an open hour-long conversation about the problems our CEO is facing to correct inherited problems.

Without an abundance of revenue and much work to be done he appears to be doing his best.

I say to those who are eager to throw around innuendos and critique, stop your whinging and get positively involved; give the man a chance.

Based on finances at year-end there may be a clean-up of the Folewood "ravine".

Then again, I listened to residents' questions at the May Council meeting.

I became aware of the repeat-conveyor belt-like-response to take resident questions "on notice" while most related to issues the Shire would have had answers available at the time.

No proper answers given by the President to questions raised without promises that the Shire has the answer at hand. I question the utility of the public question-process.

*Dr Monika Zechetmayr*

*Toodyay*

# Want to sell your Property?

## Make sure you get the right price!

List now and sell your property with GMAC Realty

Make  
FOR SALE  
into

SOLD

For honest no-nonsense service call Greg  
on **0407 124 175**

E: greggiddings@gmacrealty.net.au / Tel: Perth Office (08) 6110 4530

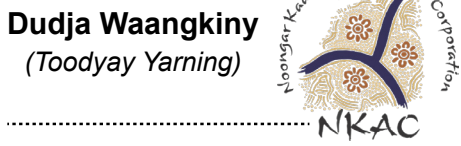
Greg Giddings  
Award winning GMAC Sales Rep.

**Greg Giddings is your local consultant for Toodyay, and has been very successful in the Avon Valley for over a decade!**

Free Appraisals



# Noongar six bonar (seasons): the rhythms of country



## Noongar Knowledge - Part 3 of 5

TRADITIONALLY Noongar moort (families) lived and sourced food on their moort boodja (family lands) guided by six bonar (seasons).

Seasons are not fixed by dates but shift in timing and length in response to changes in weather, plants, and animal behaviour.

This deep awareness of the natural world sustained families while caring for the land that sustained them.

The annual seasonal cycle begins around June with Makuru, the Season of Fertility.

From there, the seasons follow life’s natural progression: Djilba (Season of Conception), Kambarang (Season of Birth), Birak (Season of the Young), Bunuru (Season of Adolescence), and finally Djeran (Season of Adulthood) around April.

Each brings its own signs and opportunities, from returning rains and new growth to the

warmth of flowering trees and preparation for cooler times.

Noongar people adapted with each seasonal shift, moving within their family lands, changing food sources, and using fire to care for country. The availability of resources signalled the right time to act.

The guiding principle was always to take only what was needed, leaving enough for life to thrive.

This connection to country reflects a legacy of wisdom, care, and balance, a way of life rooted in observation and respect for the natural world.

It offers timeless insights for us all: to live more lightly, to listen to the land, and to walk in step with the seasons.

A snapshot of the six seasons: We have now entered Makuru:

Makuru: Winter rains bring fertility as families hunt yonga (kangaroo) and kwenda (bandicoot).

Cold, misty mornings strengthen family bonds, rains replenish waterways and gently nurture the land’s renewal.

Djilba: Rains continue and morning dew signals new beginnings as woodland birds begin nesting.

Families gather bush foods as the landscape

offers plenty, and winter slowly fades.

Everlastings bloom in late Djilba.

Kambarang: Acacias bloom, reflecting warmth and new life as families harvest warrany (yams) and kwondong, and hunt young animals.

Ceremony honours the land.



Robert Miles, NKAC Chairman, at location 3 on the Noongar Trail.

Later, the moodja blooms, symbolising spiritual significance, and the start of Birak.

Birak: Controlled burns renew land, flushing out djurrang (reptiles) and other wildlife.

As heat intensifies, families gathered near permanent water. taking fledglings, digging djubak (bush potato), and harvesting grains.

Bunuru: Intense sun and dry landscapes drew families to shallow, life-giving waterways for yanget (bullrush bulbs), yarkan (turtles), and djildjit (fish), as sustenance through the hottest season.

Djeran: New grass and flying ants signal renewal.

Families return to nearby bush to hunt, using fire to flush out game, and dry daatj (meat) for colder months ahead.

Family ties are strengthened through courtship gatherings.

To learn more about each season, visit locations 3 and 5 on the Noongar Trail.

For in-depth detail, visit the NKAC website: [noongarkaartdijin.com.au](http://noongarkaartdijin.com.au).

The corporation is drafting a ‘Dudja Waangkin’ (Toodyay Yarning) booklet that will include seasonal information.

This is expected to become available at the Visitor Centre in 2026.

# Bullwinkel seat is claimed by a nurse after a long election count



Trish Cook is the Federal MP for the new seat of Bullwinkel.

Rashelle Predovnik

A NURSE has claimed victory in the new seat of Bullwinkel, named in honour of WWII hero and nurse Vivian Bullwinkel, but her strongest opponent has signalled he’s not done yet.

Trish Cook’s triumph for the ALP, carries symbolic weight, but her Liberal challenger Matt Moran has pointed to a substantial swing away from Labor in the seat’s first contest, as a reason to try again.

Initially, the suburb’s distribution of the new seat favoured the ALP candidate with a 3.3 percent margin.

But this margin shrunk to 0.5 percent, following a neck-to-neck battle with her Liberal challenger.

The contest for the seat, which has 121,429

voters, was as riveting as the Melbourne Cup, with Cook and Moran nose-to-nose during a week-long count, in a race too close to call.

Bullwinkel spans across the shires of Beverley, Northam, Toodyay, York and it also picks up some of Armadale, Gosnells, Kalamunda, Swan and Mundaring.

The National’s candidate Mia Davies was a clear winner across the rural booths in Bakers Hill, Beverley, Northam, Toodyay, Wundowie and York on polling day - reaching as high as 52 percent in Northam East.

But she dropped to third place when the race hit a metropolitan stretch, and urban booth results rolled in.

Her preferences largely flowed to Moran, which helped him to buck a national trend that saw an ALP landslide.

Cook was ahead by 85 votes on Sunday 4 May, the day after the election, with over 90,000 votes counted.

On Monday, 5 May, Moran had inched ahead by 48 votes but by 6pm that same day Cook was ahead again by 50 votes.

On Friday, the ALP claimed victory.

The result has marked the end of a chapter for long-serving National MP Davies whose political career spanned 17 years.

Davies issued a statement on her Facebook page that acknowledged the contest was always going to be a challenge for the Nationals but she was a firm believer in the party’s approach to policy and politics.

Looking forward, Davies said she hoped to find something that would give her the same satisfaction she got from being a member of State Parliament.

But, unlike Davies, Moran hasn’t completely given up on a political career.

In a statement, Moran said he was proud of his campaign, which saw a swing towards the Liberal Party in Bullwinkel.

“We stood up for our bushfire brigades, for safer roads and we put our community first every step of the way,” he said.

Despite his loss, Moran said he would continue to fight for the people of Bullwinkel.

“I am driven by a strong sense of service, which burns brighter now than ever before,” he said.

“The true test of character is how you react when things don’t go your way.

“I will remain active in the community, and I hope to seek elected office again in the future.”

The dust is yet to settle and Cook won’t be sworn into the 48th Parliament until late July but she is already planning to work closely with the Toodyay Shire over the next three years.

The shire had a ‘wish list,’ that was shopped around to every federal election candidate for Bullwinkel, during the election.

It included \$1.8 million for shire staff accommodation, \$1.1m for sports oval lighting and \$250,000 to fund plan for Stage 2 of the recreation centre.

The shire also wanted \$1.5m towards the (\$7.5 m) cost of a one lane bridge as well as \$180,000 for toilets and \$80,000 for CCTV

cameras.

Ms Cook said she discussed the shire’s goals during her election campaign, and following her election, she was happy to continue those discussions.

The former Mundaring Shire councillor said she understood how local governments were advocates for their communities.

“I understand the Shire of Toodyay is a vibrant, diverse, growing regional township.”

Ms Cook, who was a nurse for most of her working life, said having quality healthcare close to home was something she was passionate about.

She said she was proud to commit to a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Mundaring that provided fully bulk billed extended hour healthcare for people in the Perth Hills and

surrounds.

Looking back over the election results, Cook said housing, access to quality affordable healthcare and cost of living relief were the top three Labor policies she felt resonated with voters, and ultimately won her the seat.

She now promises to work hard.

“I’m grateful for the support and trust the people of Bullwinkel have put in me to be the first ever member,” she said.

“I’ve advocated for patients my whole working life as a nurse/midwife, and for communities as a Shire of Mundaring deputy president and councillor of eight years.

“I will work hard to be a compassionate advocate for the people and communities of Bullwinkel as their Federal MP.”



# Upcoming first aid courses

### HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid

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

**Price:** \$170.00

**When:** Wednesday 26 February - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Saturday 12 April - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Wednesday 18 June - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Saturday 9 August - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Monday 20 October - 8:30AM - 4:30PM

**Where:** Morangup Sub Centre, 48 Wallaby Way, Morangup WA 6083



#### 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

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

St John Ambulance Western Australia Ltd - ACN 165 969 406; ABN 55 028 468 715



# REWARD

**Stolen from Lot 5/765**  
Bindoon-Dewars Pool Road

**2m x 2m Buddha statue water feature.**

Reward offered for safe return

**David Bates**  
**0409 380 066**





**BANK  
LOCAL**

Community Bank  
Toodyay & Districts

**A better banking  
experience.**

**Right on your doorstep**

We deliver the products and technology you'd expect from a big bank, plus the personal service you wouldn't.

Feel good about who you bank with. Try Bendigo.

**Find out more. Call us on 9574 4077 or search Bendigo Bank  
Toodyay & Districts.**

 **Bendigo Bank**



# Community group celebrates 20th year anniversary

Sean Hefferon

THERE’S an old proverb that states “Life begins the day you start a garden”.

And last month there was plenty of life, banter and joyfulness as over 100 people attended the 20th anniversary of the Toodyay Garden Club.

The anniversary event saw current and past members of the club partake in a boutique morning tea sponsored by the Toodyay Op Shop, Chalice Mining and Toodyay Bottle Mart.

Past club committee members were invited to the morning tea with 22 people returning to Toodyay for the event.

The club has previously celebrated the 5th anniversary; however, the 10th was affected by the fire that devastated Toodyay and Covid stopped the 15th anniversary.

“Making this year’s 20th pretty special and also because of the ageing population of some of our older long-term members,” said Judy Rowston, club committee member.

The delectable treats on offer and served up on vintage crockery included lamb and rosemary pies, mini lemon meringue and fruit tarts.

More than enough tasty morsels with lashings of tea and coffee for the celebratory event.

As attendees walked through the lush garden freshly installed in the foyer of Toodyay’s heritage Memorial Hall some may have reflected on the group’s origins.

Like many good ideas the notion of a garden club flowed over a few glasses of wine and a chat between friends.

Thus, Wendy Munckton, Janine Stacey and Sheena Hesse over an afternoon at Deepdale Garden and a tippie or two landed on the idea of calling a meeting to gauge interest in visiting local gardens.

The impetus coming after Wendy and Dave

Munckton hosted a successful event for the Open Garden Scheme

The first club meeting in March 2005 attracted 25 local people a number that grew to 65 a mere six months later.

Membership peaked at 118 in 2023 and is still over 80 members in the present day, making it the largest garden club in Western Australia and possibly Australia.

Not bad for a bunch of passionate green thumbs united by a love of gardening.

And club members do get to visit some of the best gardens that minds can visualise and hands can nurture.

Over its 20 years club members have also shown they are united in their love for the local community with various acts of generosity.

Ever sat on the park bench outside the old Mill? Donated by the Toodyay Garden Club.

As Judy Rowston said at the 20th anniversary celebration, “Over the past 20 years, we have held many busy bees as ‘random act of kindnesses’.

“We’ve shoveled and raked sheep poo, made Scarecrows for display at the Moondyne festival, held long table lunches, participated in Adopt a Spot through Bendigo Bank, held Gala Days donating the proceeds to St John Ambulance, donated two park benches to the people of Toodyay...”

And more besides.

And after all these years the club still meets on the first Thursday of each month, membership fees are unchanged since the first meeting in 2005 – and members still bring their own cup and chair to meetings.

In a sense that meeting over a few glasses of wine amongst friends has started more than just a much-loved club.

But also, a network of relationships, where club members grow, learn and create a stronger community.

And Toodyay is the better for it.



Ann and Tammi Copley - a smile is a wonderful thing.



All smiles at the check-in table for the Toodyay Garden Club celebration. The Memorial Hall’s foyer was turned into a lush green garden for the event.



Over 100 people attended the celebration including past club members of whom many had come back to Toodyay for the occasion.

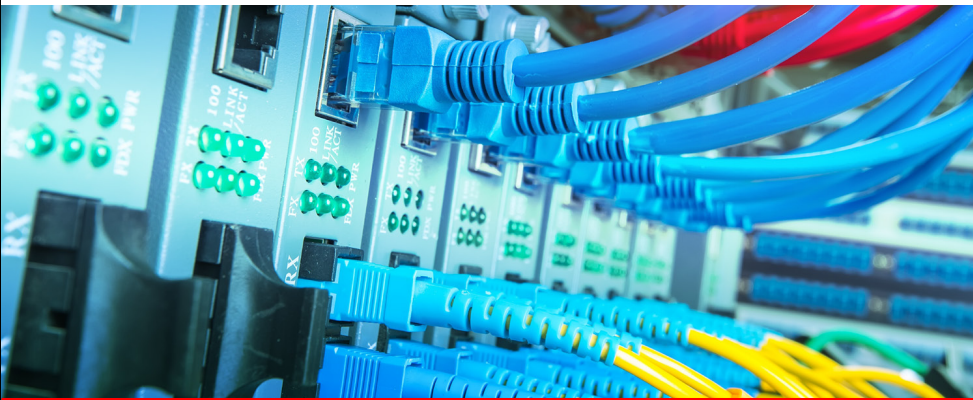


Most eyes (not all) were fixed on the hall’s stage as a number of speeches were made outlining the club’s history and reason for being.

## AbsoluteIT solutions

We have built, implemented and managed a wide range of IT business solutions, working directly with business owners or providing specialised assistance to IT departments.

Our role is to act as your outsourced IT expert, resolving issues and handling all of your IT requirements. We can support you remotely or on-site at your premises, depending on your needs.



Our services include

- ✔ Computer Hardware
- ✔ Network Consultancy
- ✔ Wireless Solutions
- ✔ Disaster Planning/Recovery
- ✔ Site to Site Links
- ✔ Thin Client Technologies
- ✔ Server Based Solutions
- ✔ Virus & Spam Solutions
- ✔ Backup Solutions
- ✔ Apple Solutions & Support
- ✔ Voice Over IP Systems
- ✔ Home Networking and AV Integrations

Phone : 6364 0682

Email : support@absoluteit.com.au

Website : www.absoluteit.com.au



# No spanners in the works in this arty garage

Sean Hefferon

MONTHS of hard graft paid off for Arts Toodyay with the local creative group hosting the *Art in The Garage* exhibition last month.

The event was held from May 9 - 11 in The Garage on Stirling Terrace, a venue kindly donated for the exhibition by Stirling and Wiz.

But there were no spanners in the works in this garage, or even in the event, which was a seamless activation of a space built in 1926 which first served the local community as the Toodyay Motor Garage.

After many different businesses perhaps a new event venue has been created in Toodyay?

Time will tell. However, what is clear is that the exhibition held in Arts Toodyay's 20th year was a great success with a large crowd enjoying the lush artwork on opening night – a night where conviviality flowed as steadily as the drinks on offer.

And the food – top notch (thanks LJ). Often when one goes to an art show opening the food can be Spartan like, that is, simple and severe with no comfort.

Not at this exhibition. The local and visitor interest in the artwork continued over the weekend with many pieces displaying the red dot of a successful sale.

The exhibition itself, was opened by recently elected Central Wheatbelt MP Lachlan Hunter, followed by an address by Sue Jarrad, Arts Toodyay President.

The opening saw a raft of award winners including local artist Beck Langmead who received the Toodyay Art Prize for her recycled pressed steel sculpture 'Stingray Fever'.

Ben Sherar was awarded Best Painting for his oil on linen piece 'Toodyay Ridgeline'.

The People's Choice Award was presented to Chelle Ellery for her painting 'Neighbourhood Dispute'.

Chelle was also awarded Highly Commended (Charlie and Alison Wroth Cup) for her art

piece 'River Road Crossing'.

'Black Dog Shroud' by Katie Sharples took out the prize for Best Drawing/Mixed Media.

Millie Murfit's 'Chain Link Vase' was awarded Best Sculpture/Ceramics with the Best Photography and Digital Art award going to Kimberley Gouges for her piece 'Reflection'.

Shirley Gillis received the President's Award for her painting 'River of Dreams'.

Local children were also in the talent mix with Lulu Sporyz receiving an award for Cyberpunk City (ages 12 -17), Mishka Wyllie Saunders for 'Scotti as a Cute Puppy' (ages 6 – 11) and Isla Prinsloo for 'Bird in Nature' (under 5).



Above (then clockwise): Beck Langmead with her sculpture 'Stingray Fever'; Ben Sherar gets a hug from Sue Jarrad for receiving the Best Painting award whilst Chelle Ellery looks on; the kids are alright with Lulu Sporyz receiving an award for 'Cyberpunk City'; great local art and venue, tasty food and refreshing drinks made for a successful Art in the Garage.

## Avon Drainage & Earthmoving

ABN 56 055 540 086 ACN 055 540 086



### EFFICIENT & RELIABLE SERVICE

#### Our Capability

- Carparks & Kerbing
- Complete Culvert & Floodway Construction (any size)
- **Culvert Resleeving**
- Drainage, Driveway Stabilisation, Rock Protection
- Site Works
- Bridge Removal, Culvert Replacement & Extensions
- Excavator Attachments: 600kg Compactor Plate, 4-in-1 Bucket, Rock Breaker.
- Rock Embankments.

**With over 40 years' experience, whatever you need, we've got you covered!**


#### CONTACT INFORMATION

PO Box 454, Toodyay WA 6566 | Paul: 0427 905 572  
**avonconcrete@bigpond.com** TA5929755

## Smith Family Reunion

### 200 years

Celebrating the arrival in the Swan River Colony on the Caroline, October 12, 1829 of Richard and Mary Smith with son Richard. Searching all descendants of John Thomas 1832, George William 1835, Alfred Charles 1838, Eliza (Clarke, Hughes) 1840, Naomi (Byfield, Mann) 1843, Hester (Moody, King) 1847, for photos and interesting stories for an intended publication and family reunion Sunday, October 14, 2029 at Northam.



**PLEASE CONTACT: Raeleen Mason 0429 950 359**  
Raeleen: rsm51@bigpond.com • Carline: chumfrey@hot.mods.au  
Shan: shan@callowarchitects.com  
Randall: r.smith@rmsmithandsons.com.au • Gary: gwb151@gmail.com



# ‘Wheely’ good sales at the festival

Toodyay Spinners & Weavers  
Chris Stokie

TOODYAY Spinners & Weavers held a successful stall at the Moondyne Festival.

The large crowd and the slightly cooler weather were very conducive to good sales of our lovely hand-crafted items.

Beanies, socks, scarves, jumpers and cardigans were all popular items.

A number of interested visitors stopped for a chat about the process of spinning.

Our newest member, Angeline, answered questions knowledgeably and demonstrated how this worked on her own wheel.

It is always great to be able to spread the



Judy's scarf.

word about this age-old craft.

During a meeting this month Judy showed us a lovely pink woven scarf she had crafted for her mother's upcoming birthday.

Denise brought along the jumper she had made for her husband.

The background blue is nicely set off against the colourful stripes.

These were made from left-over wool which she had previously spun for her own gorgeous, colourful cardigan.

The Toodyay Spinners & Weavers AGM will be held at Parkers Cottage, Saturday July 19 commencing at 10:00am.

The group meets at Parkers Cottage at the Toodyay Oval, every Wednesday from 9am to noon and on the first and third Saturday of every month from 9am to noon.

New members are welcome; please do drop in for a coffee and a chat.



Denise's jumper.

# Despina's art show has people buzzing with excitement

Dr Monica Zechetmayr

HOW DO ideas germinate?

How do they unfold?

How do they impact others?

Despina Weston is an artist, an entertainer of ideas and a holistic illustrator of life.

Despina's *Pollination Nation* exhibition was introduced by Lindsay Newland, Chairperson of the Avon Valley Arts Society.

Despina shared the origins of the idea for the BEE project with about 80 guests.

The presentation highlighted the multifaceted ideas for her vibrant and dazzling exhibition.

There are bees and humans in her exhibition, delighting visiting spectators.

She enlarged on the buzzing sound of powerful little beings collecting nectar with life affirming activities and also creating new life within the cocoon of the hive.

Despina told us people are like bees with a hub of work, travel, community and more.

After the idea germinated in her mind many people were asked to contribute.

A catalogue of participants' bee-ideas was available showing how she interpreted each person's bee-thoughts in her creations.

As Despina envisioned, contributors experienced their own emotions, passions, awareness of self, life and others.

The honey of the bees spread to the amity of understanding.

Mental unease and worries about socio-political insecurity can be countered by gaining insight into bees who provide an intuition of community.

It could refer to a transformation into co-operation, the identification of like-minded spirits, and overcoming unhealthy isolation.

A beehive is a harmonious work unit elemental to sustain a colony.

Bees can set up new homes and in a process of festooning, they thrive together as a unit, upgrade their community building, remaining strong and connected.

Many people look with concern at today's society with mental health at risk.

Instead of falling apart and living in isolation, bees teach us how to collaborate



'Pollination Nation' by Despina Weston runs May 24 to June 22, 2025 in the Visitors Centre, 2 Grey Street, Northam.

and collectively create new futures.

Despina lives up to her Greek name, meaning "mistress" or "lady".

The daughter of Demeter and Poseidon she brings forth awareness of earth and fertility, elements fostered by the various colourful forms of free expression.

Years ago, I exhibited in Melbourne and was told one can have only one form of artistic expression.

Despina defies this narrow notion, breaking constrictive conception and excelling in multiple artistic genres.

This is not a display for a rapid run through the works.

To comprehend the sensitivities and cognisance of the artists one needs to give time and attentiveness to each work.

A short look is insufficient to grasp the multitude of discernments shown here.

Congratulations to Despina for her idea and the people who responded to her call to her intimate colonising show.

The show will be open until the June 22 at the Northam Visitor Centre.

There is also the whisper of a book in the future in the pipeline.

# Once upon a time in a land far, far away...

The Anonymous Peasant

DEEP in the heart of the countryside there is a small and bustling little village.

Despite its sunny appearance and pleasant people, there is a darkness over the land.

The Baron.

He has seated himself upon a throne of villagers and is surrounded by his band of dark knights and his loyal henchman.

The villagers are at his mercy.

His henchman prowls the streets on his white steed, seeking to hand out fines and infringements in a need to serve his master.

Terrified by the endless fines and focus of the henchman the villagers hide in fear.

These gentle folk live at the Baron's mercy.

Will they receive another excessively

high rise in tithes this year; while living in a village so neglected it crumbles from white ants around them?

Will their children still have to bush wee at the little kids' playground, notably without any toilets or will the villagers' children simply burn due to the lack of protection from the scorching summer sun at every village park?

Whether it is simply another slip slop slap in the face from the Baron, a village scandal or story of social intrigue find out in the next episode of The Village.

If you have any stories, gossip, scandal or injustices about The Village that need sharing anonymously, please email or post a letter to ye olde *The Toodyay Herald*.

Your local voice in  
The Avon Valley!

HERE TO HELP

✉ lachlan.hunter@mp.wa.gov.au

**Northam Office**

☎ (08) 9622 2871

📮 PO Box 92

📍 Northam Boulevard,  
Fitzgerald St, Northam

**Merredin Office**

☎ (08) 9041 1702

📮 PO Box 66

📍 Old Town Hall,  
Mitchell St, Merredin

**LACHLAN HUNTER MP**

**MEMBER FOR CENTRAL WHEATBELT**

Authorised by L Hunter, Northam Boulevard, Fitzgerald St, Northam WA 6401.



# Floozies floozed and the worm wiggled down the street

Continued from Page 1.

And this years festival, perhaps the biggest ever, saw a crowd of 12,000 revellers (perhaps more) enjoying the good-natured fun that Moondyne is renowned for.

The Wiggly-worm did its wiggle down the town's main street.

Carriages full of little kids and some not so little kids worming down Stirling Terrace.

And Floozies floozed, well, everywhere they went.

The navy band got people dancing in the street and the Stilt-ladies walked tall as they do at every Moondyne.

The local pubs went off like a firecracker. What a boon for Toodyay.

And something different for Jackson Harvey-Bridges, this year's Moondyne Joe.

A role that he played to perfection albeit with sore legs the day after – such is the running that Joe does on festival day.

Running with the gang and running from the police.

Not bad for a bloke who with his young family only settled into Toodyay a few

months before this year's Moondyne.

He and his wife Jeanelle (who played a nurse during the festival) jumped into the spirit of the day boots and all.

For Neville Hoy Poy, chairperson of the festival committee, the success of the 2025 event was down to the hard work of the event volunteers including the planning committee.

He said, "The Moondyne Festival is undoubtedly the soul and pride of Toodyay.

"The goals of the festival are to promote Toodyay and the surrounding wheatbelt areas to increase tourism, economic growth, community engagement, and positive psychological and social experiences."

He points out that feedback from attendees, stall holders, entertainers and social media sites demonstrated that the 2025 Moondyne Festival achieved all the goals and was a resounding success.

For all the success of the 2025 event the festivals future is not assured with Hoy Poy saying that the festival needs to attract more young volunteers and funding issues need to be addressed.



Temperance lady outside the pub as drinkers look on. Sounds like a dry argument.



Moondyne Joe's trial gets underway outside Toodyay's Victoria Hotel.



Who's that driving the wiggly-worm?



Bootscooters getting their flooze-on.



Left - right - left. A trio of Moondyne coppers putting their best feet (or foot) forward.



A visit to the festival's Pioneer Village allowed one to step back into colonial times in Toodyay.



As the crowd watches on. Will the judge convict Joe (again)? Or will Joe escape?



Joe pondering life beyond the bars (when there is a bar behind him) as jailers just ponder.

## Moondyne festival gets rave reviews

WE WOULD just like to congratulate the Moondyne Committee and all the people involved with yesterday's festival.

LOVED the day, great entertainment, activities, fun, and community spirit. Best market I have attended and sales were great too

I WOULD like to congratulate you on another fantastic well-run festival. Loved it.

THANK you for the opportunity to be a part of your event with El Aleman Loco. We thoroughly enjoyed the day and appreciated the experience.

JUST wanted to say thank you for supporting us by having us at your event. It was incredible to see so many people.

BEING our first time at the Moondyne Festival we had awesome fun, good sales and lots of conversations with stallholders and the public.

WE HAD a great day! Thank you for a fantastic event and we look forward to applying for the 2026 show.

THANK you for a very entertaining day.

GREAT event, well put together and a pleasure to be part of... well done. I have to agree attendance was up this year and entertainment was excellent.

I'D BE keen to attend again in 2026. I appreciate all the effort the Moondyne team put into this.

## FOR SALE



**2006 VW Lt35 Campervan.**

Manual transmission. Fully equipped for off grid, with solar panels, 3 batteries and 3000W inverter.

Full length awning, outside tables/chairs, Roof Rack, new 12V fridge, gas stove, instant hot water. Inside and outside showers, flushing toilet, air conditioners, 2500cc diesel motor, 475,000Kms. Motor regularly serviced, tow bar, brakes serviced and upgraded.

**For more information call John : 0427 412 130**

### TOODYAY MEDICAL GROUP

81 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay WA 6566

#### PRACTICE NURSE VACANCY

TOODYAY Medical Group is a privately owned Practice operating in Toodyay.

We employ and engage with General Practitioners, Practice Nurses (both Registered and Enrolled), visiting Physicians, Allied Health Professionals and administration staff. The Practice Nurse is a part time role, TMG is flexible to casual or part time hours for interested individuals.

**Criteria Essential**

- AHPRA registration as a Registered Nurse
- Current WA Drivers Licence
- Current Police check
- Current Working with Children check
- Primary Healthcare or General Practice experience
- Continuing Professional development

If you are interested please contact the Practice on 08 9545 7101 or email: [practicemanager@toodyaymedicalgroup.com.au](mailto:practicemanager@toodyaymedicalgroup.com.au).



**DOWN WITH THE DEMON DRINK**

*A difference of opinion? Or just a couple of locals getting into the festival spirit?*



# Singers hit on a mini-theme

**Toodyay Music Club**  
Jenny Edgecombe

WE CHOSE a rather different approach for our Theme Day in May, with ‘Choose Your Own Theme’.

This resulted in a very enjoyable afternoon of entertainment as we were treated to a number of mini-themes.

Anne chose some moving songs about the hard lives of many women in past times.

# Singing out for our new voices

**Toodyay Community Singers**  
Anne Millar

THE YEAR is certainly flying.

Once again, the singers are calling for new voices. The singers have been part of the Toodyay Community for over 15 years and take part in all the community events.

Our next event is The Toodyay Agricultural Show in October.

If you would like to take part please join us on Thursday at the CWA Hall on Stirling Terrace from 5.15pm to 6.30 pm.

New voices always welcome.

# Cottages get their motor running

**Butterfly Cottages**  
Cheryl Jean

ON BEHALF of the Management Committee of Butterfly Cottages Association Inc., I would like to acknowledge the financial gift of \$1,100.00 from the Avon Valley Vintage

These included “Cockles and Mussels” and “Mary Parker’s Lament”.

Eileen and Maurice joined forces to present sets of two different songs with the same title. One of these titles was “Spinning Wheel” and another was “I’m Coming Home”.

Phil’s blues songs are always enjoyable. His blues theme was well-received, especially “Kansas City”.

Fresh back from her travels, Collette had chosen songs with a Sky theme, including a haunting rendition of “Fields of Gold”.

Jenny’s theme was Up to No Good and her songs ranged from hapless prisoner serving time for murder featured in “Stone Walls and Steel Bars” to a naughty American infant in “I Drive My Mommy Crazy”.

Collette’s lovely singing of “When You and I Were Young, Maggie” seemed even more poignant when she told us the tragic real-life story that lay behind it.

There were many other entertaining items in this enjoyable afternoon of song.

Joe wound up the day on a high note with a great rendition of “Hound Dog”.

**Next meeting:** 1 pm Saturday June 14, in the CWA Hall.

You are welcome to join us as a singer, guitarist (acoustic) or audience member.

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

Vehicle Association.

The Secretary of the AVVVA, Mr Fred Singleton, presented the cheque to committee members of Butterfly Cottages.

Mr Andy Boulton, a local Toodyay resident brought his red and white 1971 Dodge Challenger along for the occasion.



Butterfly Cottages receiving the big cheque.

# Crafting doors into exhibition quilts

**Ragbags Quilting Group**  
Kerry Gregory

SOMETIMES I believe I could run away and join a circus as a juggler.

I am forever juggling things which individually don’t seem significant or likely to take up much time; but ultimately they mean I frequently don’t get to attend to other more important or enjoyable matters.

As a juggler, I’m pretty good at backpack spraying the weeds around the tanks and paths while having a saucepan of dried fruit for a fruit cake on the simmer inside.

I also give the man of the house a hand to move or hold something at the sheep yards.

Then I walk past the side of the house to see that I’ve left my sewing machine on inside with the little light patiently waiting for my return.

I confess that only once in over fifty years of marriage have I resorted to throwing out a badly burnt dried fruit saucepan.

However, I have made a commitment to enter a small quilt for the WAQA Quilt West Challenge to be held in conjunction with the upcoming Quilt West Exhibition at Craft Alive in July.

The theme for this year is “Doors” which sounds ideal for reproducing as quilts.

I have a bit of a thing about photographing unusual doors.

I felt it was a topic I could enter.

Despite this being a busy time for us at home, chores and maintenance that were put off during the extreme and prolonged heat of last summer are now urgently calling.

I spent quite a few weeks, drawing up a couple of elaborate doors I loved from Saint Serin sur Rance in France and trawling through my fabric stash for suitable fabrics to suit the colours and style.

I then went to the coast last weekend and saw the most expressive pair of doors on a beach shack that just screamed “pick me”.

Cue more fabric stash hunting and a stylised drawing from a not-too-well focused phone photo.

I’m about to attempt what I’m calling a “free style quilt” with a limited pallet of colour and no given pattern to follow.

Now I know that this is how all the very accomplished Art Quilt craftspeople create their quilted masterpieces but as I’ve said before, I’m not an artist and I love the comfort of a pattern with instructions.

Given that I really need to have this project completed by the end of June I’m crossing everything and giving it a go, mostly at night.

As I always say about Toodyay Show entries, it doesn’t need to be a prize winner.

I’ll report next month if it turns out OK or a total dog’s breakfast and I’ve done my entry fee.

New members are very welcome at the Ragbags Group.

Bring along your blocks and sewing machine and join us for a cuppa and a chat.

If you wish, bring some handwork or any

craft activity being undertaken.

We love to see your creativity and share your enthusiasm with an informal Show and Tell of our projects.

The Ragbags Group meet at St Stephens Anglican Church Hall, Stirling Terrace, Toodyay on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10am and 2pm.

Bring your lunch.

We use the back door.



The handsome French door contenders who may still become quilts in time.

## WIN

### A \$30K PAY CHEQUE



**24 PACK**

**\$51.99 EACH**

CARLTON DRY  
24 X 330ML BOTTLES

**PURCHASE A SPECIALLY MARKED CASE OF CARLTON DRY BOTTLES OR CARLTON DRY 3.5% BOTTLES AND ENTER AT BOTTLEMART.COM.AU FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN.**

FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS, VISIT BOTTLEMART.COM.AU.

# Bottlemart

## There's more in store



**30 PACK**

**\$54.99 EACH**

XXXX GOLD  
30 X 375ML CANS



**10 PACK**

**\$51.99 EACH**

JACK DANIEL'S & COLA  
4.8% VARIETIES  
10 X 375ML CANS



**1 LITRE**

**\$61.99 EACH**

GORDON'S LONDON DRY GIN, JOHNNIE WALKER RED LABEL SCOTCH WHISKY, BUNDABERG ORIGINAL UP RUM, CAPTAIN MORGAN SPICED GOLD OR SMIRNOFF RED VODKA



**HOT PRICE**

**ANY 2 FOR \$25**

DEEP WOODS ESTATE MARGARET RIVER WINES  
750ML

TOODYAY LIQUOR STORE SHOP 1, 105 STIRLING TERRACE TOODYAY PH: 9574 2653

 **PICK UP**

 **DELIVERY**

 **FIND US**

 **GET THE APP**



Choose to Drink Wise.



Bottlemart supports the responsible service of alcohol. Specials available from Sunday 1st June until Monday 30th June 2025 or while stocks last. Price includes GST. Images are for illustrative purposes only.

WA\_JUNE\_25\_TH





Department of Transport

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

# Apply for your Regional Pensioner Travel Card

The Travel Card helps eligible country pensioners with the cost of fuel and taxi travel from participating providers.

To be eligible you must be receiving any of the following – a Centrelink Age Pension, Carer Payment, Disability Support Pension, or a Department of Veterans' Affairs Service Pension, Social Security Age Pension or Income Support Supplement and be living in an eligible regional location.

You can apply for a Regional Pensioner Travel Card at participating Australia Post outlets.



A005-25 MAY 2025

For more information visit [www.wa.gov.au/travelcard](http://www.wa.gov.au/travelcard) or call 1300 666 609.





# Gifts come in all sorts of packages

The Crooked Needle  
Jean Melhuish-Hill

OUR GROUP was fortunate to receive three suitcases of quilting fabrics, a donation from my sister in Adelaide who just couldn't see them go to the tip.

Some were cut, some had a sketch pattern attached and some were partly completed. Looking through the fabrics we selected a couple for group projects.

Some ladies took what they thought they could complete.

We had less than a shopping bag left and it was put in the cupboard for later.

When I was asked what to do with the completed items I suggested donating to charity, gifting to friends and relatives or even selling/raffling as part our fundraiser for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea in early July.

When the pieces were not complete by the patterns, they were added to, wadding inserted and backing found.

A number of quilts have been given to Northam Comfort Quilts for Cancer and we

sold our first one at the Toodyay Markets on Sunday May 18.

We still have more pieces to sell including table runners, wall hangings and quilts.

If you are looking for something, please pop down on Sunday June 15 and help us support the very worthy Cancer Council. We all have family members or friends who have been affected by cancer and three of our ladies are currently undergoing surgery and or treatment.

Cancer is indiscriminate about who it attacks and impacts both young and old.

It is great to see our group supporting those affected.

This has not stopped the knitting, crocheting or sewing that continues to keep minds and hands busy.

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

We may be able to interest you in a new craft or you could share one with us.

For contact information please see the Herald Where and When page.



Quilted wall hangings, table runners and quilts for sale with all funds going to The Cancer Council's Australia's Biggest Morning Tea.

# Inspiring future woodturners at festival

Avon Woodturners  
Hamish Dobie

THE MOONDYNE Festival was one of the best attended in recent years and the Avon Woodturners were right in the middle of it.

We set up a booth next to the Memorial Hall where members turned little knick-knacks, such as honey dibblers and tealight holders, which we then gifted to people who stood and watched them being made.

We appreciated the interest shown by some of the festival attendees, especially the young ones, who were fascinated by the working lathe.

Perhaps we've inspired some to become the woodturners of the future.

In fact, we are about to register our first junior woodturner member for some time.

Several of our members are really pleased about this as it will considerably reduce the average age of the club membership.

The following week we received an email from the shire telling us that they were changing the old padlock on the gate to our shed, but the new one would have the same code as the old one.

As the old lock was pretty stiff and hard to close, it seemed a good move.

However, when I got down to the shed on Sunday morning, there was a line-up of cars as not only did the code not work on the new lock, but that wasn't the lock that was securing the gate.

It seems that whoever had locked the gate previously had also had a problem with new lock and used an old lock with a key to lock up.

After much head scratching, I remembered that I'd been given an old set of keys a long time ago and after digging through the car centre console, I found them.

Seconds later the problem was solved, and we were free to make more sawdust again.

Time is flying and the Toodyay Agricultural Show will soon be upon us.

This is when friendly rivalry comes to the fore and all the turners will be chasing the prize for the best exhibit.

There will be some great outcomes and some not-so-great outcomes.

I am sure the bad language from the latter will be kept to a minimum because of the presence of the lady woodturners.

In fact, I strongly suspect that the ladies will be claiming most of the awards.

The Avon Woodturners are located at Shed 1, Community Depot, end of Railway Road, Toodyay, Wednesday and Sunday from 9 am until 12.

For more information, please email me on hamishd2701@gmail.com, or call 0423 115 204.

# Community spirit makes for a great festival

Moondyne Festival  
Jean Melhuish-Hill

OUR TEAM and stall holders had a crisp start to the Moondyne Festival on Sunday May 4.

The weather did the right thing with the sun shining, no wind or rain and, overall, a great day for the Festival.

This year we had 61 general and not-for-profit stalls and displays along with 24 food stalls and 30 entertainers.

The Navy Band was a big hit as always with the Police Band joining us for the first time to lead the parade and perform later in the morning.

It was exciting to have a number of new residents to Toodyay volunteer for the festival both in the lead up and on the day.

The fact that they were of the 25 to 50 age group was another advantage.

We look forward to their continued support in 2026.

There is a dedicated committee who work from October to May organising the details for the Festival and ensuring that everything is covered.

We are also supported by a number of local groups who help with setting up stages, chairs, gazebos, bins, perform in the street theatre and work at our entry points.

TLC ensures that our volunteers are all kept fed and watered.

The day was a great success.

If you are interested in finding out how it all comes together, would like to participate in our street theatre, or volunteer to help set up for the Festival please contact us via email moondynecommittee@gmail.com

Thanks to our Local Sponsors...

THIS year the Moondyne Festival had to replace some major sponsors.

We would like to thank our local businesses and individuals for their contributions which made the 2025 festival a continued success.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission, The Toodyay Op Shop and Double Barrel Entertainment were major contributors along with Lottery West.

We also received ongoing sponsorship from Tourism WA and the Shire of Toodyay



Rhiley and Mason on the job.

along with our other local businesses.

The combined contribution covered the shortfall needed for the festival.

Many thanks to Toodyay Real Estate, Exploration Caravan Hire, Tony Maddox Real Estate, Golden Arrow Pastoral, Darren West MP, Toodyay Dental, Avon Valley Water Cartage, Chieftain Music Club, Victoria Hotel, Allevare & Co Clothing, Toodyay Hotel, Kate & Ted and Blue Moon Crystals for your support.



Stilt ladies pulling faces.



Jeanelle and Jackson Harvey-Bridges.



enterprise

PLUMBING & GAS

PL7887 GF15191 BF2713

Let our trusted, reliable, and local professionals set the standard for plumbing and gas solutions from:

☒ Blocked Drains

☒ Water Filtration

☒ Emergency Service

☒ Gas Fitting

☒ Toilets & Taps

☒ Leak Detection

☒ Septic Systems

☒ Hot Water Systems

☒ Back Flow Prevention



1300 001 954

admin@enterpriseplumbing.com.au





# SHIRE NEWS

## RATES REBATE AVAILABLE: PENSIONERS/SENIORS

IF YOU are a senior or pensioner who owns and resides in a property within the Shire of Toodyay, you may be eligible for a concession on your Shire rates. IF YOU have an existing Pensioner or Seniors rebate, please remember to pay your rates in full by 30th of June 2025. FOR FURTHER information or assistance with the application process, please contact the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre on (08) 9574 9300 or email [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au). RESIDENTS are encouraged to make enquiries at their earliest convenience to ensure they receive any entitlements they may be eligible for.

## PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES

**PLEASE note** that our Planning and Regulatory Services Team have **moved** to the Administration Office on 15 Fiennes Street. They are **no longer** located at the Visitor Centre. HAVE any questions about property and zoning? Or do you need help with applications? Book an appointment with our Planning and Regulatory Services team to get your queries answered. Phone: (08) 9574 9430 Email: [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

## No more Camping at Cobbler Pool

AT THE April Ordinary Council Meeting, Council voted in favour of the Officer's Report to declare that camping is not permitted at Cobbler Pool. UNAUTHORISED and uncontrolled camping at Cobbler Pool was placing considerable strain on the environment. THE DECISION to close the area to camping also considered risk associated with fire (excessive call outs and difficult terrain for firefighters to operate in), the uncontrolled rail crossing on site, Ranger call outs for disputes between campers, and the Shire resources being consumed to remove dumped rubbish. SECTION 10 of the *Caravan and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997* outlines where a person may camp. As Cobbler



## COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE MID YEAR RECAP

CAN YOU believe it? We're nearly at the halfway point, and the Toodyay CRC is keen to recap some highlights from the start of the year! WE KICKED off with a fantastic January school holiday program, including the Stop Motion Workshop which taught young participants how to create short films with a technique that is over 100 years old. They used clay, paper, and Lego to make a great range of story lines and characters.

AN ARTIFICIAL Intelligence workshop recently enlightened local businesses on AI's intricacies, from definitions to prompting, aimed at supercharging productivity and creative solutions. EASTER came fast, but we ensured the April school holidays were a blast with one of the activities being our delightful Easter basket workshop. We sent the

kids home with a mountain of chocolate, giving parents the 'joy' of a sugar rush (our apologies!). WE'VE SECURED several new grants, paving the way for an exciting second half of the year, with youth engagement programs, National Science Week, and the much-anticipated 'SOCK Week' later this month!



## FLUORO FRIDAY

### SOCK WEEK 2025



On Friday June 27, dress up in your brightest clothing and accessories to promote SOCK (Save Our Country Kids) Week and remind people to drive safely.

Submit a photo of yourself in your outfit to [crc@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:crc@toodyay.wa.gov.au) or comment on our Fluoro Friday Facebook post on the day for your chance to win a \$50 voucher.

