

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.

**July 2025
Edition 447**

Jayden to compete against the world's best



L-R: Shane, Jayden and Corbin Hansord. The Morangup trio competed recently at the Australian Dragon Boat Competition in Penrith, New South Wales. Jayden travels to Germany in mid-July to represent Australia in the 17th World Dragon Boat Championships.

Sean Hefferon

DRAGON boat racing and the Wheatbelt may seem like a bit of an odd couple.

Not at first blush, fitting together.

But they do and the Hansord family from Morangup are making sure of that.

And for that the youngsters in the family can thank Nan (Susan).

It was Susan that first got into dragon boat racing – and at 68 years-of-age she is still paddling strongly.

And from there the family passion for dragon boat racing flourished with Shane hopping on board, then Jayden and now Corbin.

This Hansord trio have not long returned from the Australian Dragon Boat Championships held in Penrith, New South Wales.

They were part of the WASPS – that's the Western Australian State Paddling Squad –

and returned with a swag of medals.

As many in the Toodyay community know, Jadyen will soon be competing overseas.

Linda Anderson, the administrator of the Mandurah Dragon Boat Club gave some of the backstory of Jayden's journey up the ranks of Dragon Boat racing.

She said that Jayden has been a member of the Mandurah Vikings since late 2023, following in the footsteps, along with his younger brother, of his Nan and Dad.

"Jayden has risen through the ranks of the Dragon Boat elite in a very short time competing in his first National in Perth in 2024, followed by his second in Penrith only a few months ago".

Jayden set a goal quite early that he wanted to represent Australia in the ultimate competition, the World Championships in Germany.

Toodyay the event centre

THE SECOND half of 2025 is a busy one on the events front in Toodyay and the surrounding area.

The events on offer present residents and visitors with a wide range of choices.

The 2025 Avon Descent, Western Australia's iconic river event flows through Toodyay on the weekend of August 9 – 10.

On that same weekend the Lexus Melbourne Cup will be in Toodyay for viewing.

The Transcend Ultra takes place on August 16 and offers a variety of events for the trail walker or runner.

Events include a kids' dash of one kilometre with other distances (for the big kids) ranging from a six-kilometre trail run up to the 65 kilometre ultra run.

Continued on Page 5.

Continued on Page 3.

Coming events

**Toodyay Farmers Market
Sunday July 20**

**Christmas in July
Saturday July 26
this month**

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| classifieds | 26 |
| emergency services | 7 |
| environment | 21, 28, 29 |
| health | 30 |
| public notices | 28 |
| puzzles | 27 |
| sport and leisure | 31 |
| trades & services | 22-25 |
| where & when | 26 |

**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. Editorial contributions and photographs should be emailed to news@toodyayherald.com.au. **Photographs** for publication should be at least 500kb in file size to ensure quality reproduction in the newspaper.

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

MEMBERSHIP - Membership of *The Toodyay Herald* is available at \$15 (\$12 concession) per financial year, with members entitled to free advertising worth \$15 annually. Please send your name, phone number and residential, postal and email address with your membership fee to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566 or leave it at 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, Susan Pearce, Madison van Helsdingen, Joshua van Helsdingen and Rashelle Predovnik.

ADVERTISING

David Palmer 0417 097 825 or advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

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
July 25**

STORY DEADLINE
**Noon Monday
July 28**

DISTRIBUTED
**Thursday
August 7**

Please note our email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au
Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

Accuracy is what the community wants

The Outsider

THE SHIRE President's otherwise informative piece in the *Herald's* June edition surprisingly failed to mention the recent fire at the Opal Vale landfill site located at Hoddys Well.

It seemed an odd omission particularly as there was a Hazmat General warning issued to the public and the Shire's Chief Bushfire Control Officer had been onsite with DFES to monitor the fire.

Many Toodyay residents will recall that the tip which is used to retain rubbish from the Perth metropolitan area was opposed by the community and Toodyay Shire.

However, as often happens when residents oppose a potentially detrimental development, the Shire was overruled by the State and the tip was opened in 2019.

The May Council meeting started with the Shire President Cr McKeown outlining Public Question Time rules including ordering the public not to speak in the gallery and to turn off mobile phones – except for Emergency Services.

Whilst this instruction may assist in maintaining order there are many people such as carers who may need their phones on, so perhaps the public gallery could be asked to place phones on silent?

Many questions during the meeting were taken on notice – which isn't to suggest that taking a question on notice is a dodge – as no-one likes to receive an off-the-cuff answer either.

It's important that questions are answered accurately – and accuracy is what the community wants from the shire.

Throw in transparency and accountability as well.

Still, too many questions on notice may make one question how informed our elected leaders are.

The Shire advertised differential rates using a minimum average increase of 2.2 per cent, widely interpreted in the community as a certainty.

It needs to be pointed out that during the May meeting, when the council approved the advertising of the differential rates, the Shire President stressed council was 'not setting the rate' – a statement echoed by the CEO Aaron Bowman.

The 2.2 per cent figure may prove unrealistic

given the cost increases facing the Shire.

Let's not forget that this increase was decided before a budget was set and before council had completed their full suite of budget workshops.

The Shire also appeared to have gained an extra 800 rateable properties compared with last year.

How do we know this?

Only because of a question from a community member that had the shire officers fiddling with their calculators and checking the numbers (after the May meeting).

But no matter (some may say), that particular document being the 'Statement of Objects and Reasons for Differential rating 2025 – 2026' with the 'extra 800 rateable properties' was endorsed by council at the May meeting.

A document that the shire has since admitted was incorrect due to double counting of the minimum rate properties – that glitch may have caused a rush of high blood pressure at The Old Courthouse on Fiennes Street.

June has ended.

Has anyone noticed \$500,000 worth of grading roads and working on drains as spruiked by the Shire President in the *Herald* a couple of months ago?

One matter unlikely to be spruiked is the recently received Independent Auditor's Report into the Shire's finances.

That report must have bounced across the old tennis courts opposite the Shire offices and come to a crashing thud on the CEO's desk.

The report was given a "Disclaimer of Opinion" (2023/24) by the Auditor – meaning an opinion couldn't be given as the 'financial report was submitted for audit purposes without complete and accurate records'.

A back down the rabbit hole experience perhaps for the Shire after the 'Qualified Audit' (2022/23) signalled ongoing recovery from the software debacle.

The three-page Audit Opinion can be found in the June council meeting documents.

The Closing report and associated documents are marked Confidential – a directive that the shire states was made by the Auditor General.

Toodyay's quirky garden art



Leoni sent in this photograph that shows her handmade wind chime. The longest pipe is more than three metres in length it fits the bill of 'quirky'.



If you drive along the Northam Road you will likely have seen the above menagerie. A diverse and quirky group that seems to move around.



Best deal for local Tradies

The Toodyay Herald offers the best exposure for Tradies. Circulation of 5000 copies each month and growing!

Trades & Services email: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

David Sims is a man that wears many hats

Rashelle Predovnik

IF YOU try to describe David Sims, you'll quickly run out of labels: cowboy, rodeo champ, horse wrangler, butcher, boxer, business owner, sheep dog trainer, sheep shearer, author and the kind of grandad every kid wished they had.

But it's not the list of hard-earned titles, and competition wins, he's gathered over a lifetime, that makes this 76-year-old Toodyay retiree so remarkable.

It's his storytelling, the way it brings his past back to life, raw and real.

It's the way Dave spins a yarn – like twisting fleece into fine wool – that pulls you into a bygone era of Australian life and it's a world not for the faint-hearted.

Dave was born in Port Pirie in South Australia "just out of wedlock", he quips.

His early life wasn't easy in an era where single mothers faced significant social stigma.

But his mother did eventually marry his father, who was in the army, and he became the eldest of seven children in a family that worked in outback stations.

Dave's love of horses began as a young boy growing up around stockmen.

"They were always around the station," he recalls.

"But Malcolm, the horse musterer, was my hero.

"There's no such thing as horse-whispering but he had a way with horses.

"It's more about knowing when to put pressure on and when to back off.

"And it's something you pick up by watching and doing."

Dave may have started his working life carving meat as a young butcher's apprentice, but it was his love of horses and the thrill of the rodeo that drew him down a different path.

He embarked on his rodeo journey at the tender age of 15 because he says he just had a passion to do it.



Toodyay local Dave has had and continues to have a life well lived.

"I decided to be a cowboy at a rodeo at the Royal Show watching Norm Devine do a victory lap – he was the WA champion cowboy."

Dave won his first bronc ride in Northam in 1967, and pocketed prize money that was double his weekly wage as an apprentice.

But it's a sport where danger rides with you and Dave was once knocked out for 24 hours.

"I woke up in Northam Hospital on my 18th birthday."

In the '70s, he moved to Northam, joined a shearing team and tried to build a business

breaking in horses.

He spent a decade learning the ropes as a farmhand, managed a thoroughbred stud, and in the '80s, opened a shearing supplies business with his then-wife.

It was a successful venture that ran strong for 21 years.

Dave isn't one to sit still. He built a home, ran a small merino flock, kept breaking horses, and even spent time in the United States as a wool classifier.

When his 14-year-old son Roy wanted to learn boxing, Dave rolled up his sleeves to train him at home.

He said boxing had also been a passion for him when he was a kid.

"Growing up, you had to learn to fight," Dave explained, remembering his run-ins with the school bully.

And Dave didn't pull any punches when he realised Roy had the same passion for boxing.

He found a good coach in Perth, drove him there every week and eventually his commitment paid off.

Roy was an exceptional young boxer who became a junior state champion.

Roy's boxing success became a turning point for Dave who was invited to coach at Northam PCYC, where he spent the next 21 years training young boxers – some novices and some on their way to becoming future champions.

His dedication earned him a PCYC life membership.

Now, David is putting pen to paper and writing a book about his life – not for fame, but for family.

He's a proud dad of two and grandad to six, a family man with a big heart who's determined to pass down the family's legacy, and lessons hard-learned.

Like a wild rodeo ride, life has thrown him off balance more than once.

But through it all, David's resilience and humour have been steady reins – helping him to hold on and bounce back.

"I had a pretty traumatic start," he says, "But looking back, I see what a wonderful life I've had.

"The journey may have started off on a dusty old bush track but I hit the black top of the bitumen and things are good.

"I'm calling my book *A Fortunate Life*, even if someone beat me to the title."

Through every story, Dave weaves in a lesson, offering up hard-won wisdom.

So, it's only fitting to end with one of his favourite sayings, a quiet motto that's guided him through life's wildest rides:

"If the gate doesn't open, don't force it – you weren't meant to go there."

Testing himself against the world's best paddlers at 18 years of age

Continued from Page 1.

Linda stressed "Jayden has been ticking off his goals through focus, determination, courage and dedication".

Along the way he has competed in the Mandurah Vikings Grand Prix regatta series for two seasons.

"He has also on occasion captained a combined junior crew, and has done it in a calm encouraging manner, with some pretty young and inexperienced little paddlers", Linda said.

All up, a superb effort, considering that to maintain a competitive edge Jayden (and his family) have to travel down to Mandurah to participate in training.

After all, I'm sure you've noticed that the Avon River is hardly in full flow and even when it is, it's not necessarily inviting for dragon boat racing.

Brandenberg in Germany is, however,

very inviting and that's where you'll find Jayden Hansord with his mum Kylie later this month.

It's Jayden's first overseas trip and what an adventure it will be as he competes in the 17th World Dragon Boat Championships.

He will be testing himself against the best in the world as part of the Aurora's Australian u18 team.

Kylie will be standing on the shores of the Beetzsee to cheer him on.

By the time you read this article Jayden will be heading to Brisbane for a final training session with the Australian team before the group travels to Germany.

Jayden reckons that, "Mum will keep everyone posted by social media," – and that's a sure bet.

Dragon boat racing and the Wheatbelt?

They go together – just ask one of the Hansords.



Jayden (top left) with his team mates at the Mandurah Vikings Dragon Boat Club.

Darren's hitting the right chords

Sean Hefferon

SINGER-songwriter Darren Gillis has been announced as a finalist for the Indie Country Music Association (ICMA) in the category 'Best Male Artist'.

The results will be announced at the 2026 Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Being in the running for accolades is fast becoming a habit for the musician who when he isn't writing songs and strumming his guitar works as a police officer.

Last month, he attended the Western Australian Music (WAM) Awards as a

nominee in the "Top 5 WAM Song of the Year - Outstanding Regional" category for his track "Cuss the Black Dog."

A song that focuses on mental health and pushing through the bad times to reach and cherish the better times.

Darren didn't take out the top prize but said, "I'm still very honoured to be a finalist," adding, "We will never know how close it was, but the judges said it was a very close outcome."

He has a local connection to Toodyay through family in the area and looks to settle in the Wheatbelt town in the future.

Local bakery continues to nurture young talent

Sean Hefferon

THE TOODYAY Bakery isn't just a great spot for a cuppa and a pastry – it is also known to be a place where young talent is nurtured.

Which can only mean even tastier bread, pies and other delicious morsels.

And so, bakery apprentice Jono Yates went forth to test his breadmaking skills against the best in the business – at least in Australia.

Last month saw Jono back in Sydney as a Western Australian representative for World Skills 2025.

The event, run by WorldSkills Australia is the nation's largest vocational education and skills excellence competition.

Over three days in Brisbane, top regional competitors from across the country came together to showcase their skills against industry peers on the national stage.

Jono has been to a few of these competitions now (and brought back a swag of awards) and this year he was honoured to carry the WA flag at the opening ceremony.

He didn't get the win this time round but no doubt the experience has honed his bakery skills.

Jason Marion from the Toodyay Bakery had this to say about his talented apprentice,

"Everyone at the bakery is very proud of Jonathan making it to Brisbane for the World

Skills 2025 event.

He is off to Sydney in July to showcase his skills at the Baking Excellence Awards run by the Baking Association of Australia.

Jonathan finishes his apprenticeship at the end of June and I'm hoping he will stay with us for a few more years."



Jono at World Skills 2025.

The Toodyay Herald

Community heartbeat

IN TOODYAY vibrant threads of community groups and local heroes weave an inspiring narrative.

These groups and individuals infuse our town with resilience, hope and a sense of belonging.

Life can be tough and is often sadly too much for some, therefore it is vital to recognize these local legends and the groups that uplift them, for they embody the spirit of cooperation and altruism that should define us.

Community groups are the backbone of rural life, offering a platform for residents to connect, collaborate, and contribute.

Whether it's a volunteer firefighting brigade, a local sports club, or an arts and craft group that brings joy to the community, these groups foster a sense of identity and pride.

They remind us that we are never alone in our struggles rather, we are part of a larger fabric, woven together by shared experiences and mutual support.

Take, for instance, the local volunteer firefighter often balancing a full-time job and family commitments yet dedicates time and energy to protecting their community.

They inspire others to contribute, showing that heroism is not reserved for the extraordinary but is often found in the everyday choices of ordinary people.

Likewise, in the sporting arena, local athletes can become icons of perseverance and teamwork.

They teach valuable life lessons of discipline, resilience and the importance of working together towards a common goal.

Their successes on the field or on the water resonate beyond the confines of competition, motivating others to pursue their passions.

When we celebrate these local heroes, we encourage a culture of aspiration and ambition that echoes throughout our town.

Furthermore, the links between our community groups cannot be overstated.

It is not uncommon for one group to support another, creating a network of solidarity that amplifies their impact.

One only has to consider the partnership between the Toodyay Football Club and Toodyay Locals Care where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

This collaboration fosters an environment where everyone can thrive, reinforcing the idea that we are stronger together.

Local volunteering demonstrates the strength of this community spirit.

Volunteers are often unsung heroes and their selflessness helps cultivate a culture of empathy and compassion.

Toodyay is adorned with the contributions of local heroes and community groups.

They inspire us to be the best versions of ourselves, reminding us that being true to oneself often lies in serving others.

Let's celebrate these champions and commit to nurturing this community spirit.

Together we can create a legacy of compassion, resilience, unity and trust.

Sean Hefferon
Editor



The way we were – This photograph of an unknown person standing on Toodyay Railway Bridge on 18 July 1917 during a flood was sent as a postcard to Toodyay shearer Lionel Lloyd while he was serving overseas in World War I. Lionel was born in Toodyay and at age 41 he enlisted for the Great War. He also served in the Boer War in South Africa (1899-1902), tried unsuccessfully to enlist again for World WarII and died in 1950. Photo: Newcastle Gaol Museum; additional information provided by Beth Frayne, Toodyay Historical Society..

Community grant funding gets the council nod

Sean Hefferon

LAST month's council meeting saw several community groups benefit from the Shire of Toodyay's 2025/2026 Community Grant Funding round.

The grants will help ensure Toodyay's event calendar for the next 12 months will have something for residents and visitors alike.

Arts Toodyay received funding that will help support the group's annual art exhibition, a local Arts Trail and art workshops.

Chelle Ellery, Secretary of Arts Toodyay said the funding is game changing for the local group that celebrated its 20th anniversary this year.

The Arts Trail also opens up tourism possibilities for the Toodyay area with the last such event being interrupted by Covid in 2020.

Toodyay local Helen Shanks was to lead the 2020 Arts Trail which would have been its fifth event.

"This much enjoyed winter weekend invited visitors to follow a map, meet local artists in their studios and offered a treasure trove of creativity, characters and conversation," Helen said.

"I'm thrilled that now with fresh energy, the Arts Trail will be winding its way through Toodyay once again."

The Moondyne Festival was also a grant recipient with the council approving funding support of \$15,000 for each of the next three years – up from \$10,000 per year previously..

Neville Hoypoy, chairperson of the festival committee said, "Without the shire's full support the festival will be cancelled."

He added, "It is becoming increasingly difficult to find volunteers so we have to find a paid workforce to help us".

The fledgling Toodyay Triathlon Club is looking forward to hosting Toodyay's first community triathlon event which is planned to be an all ages and abilities events for children, youth and adults on 8 March 2026.

The event is closer to reality now that the club has received an allocation of \$3,000.

Club President and founding member, Kelly-Anne Murray said, "The club aims to encourage locals to be active, to try something new and to challenge themselves

to achieve a goal whilst creating social connections and a sense of belonging within out community."

She hopes the Toodyay Come and Tri event will become an annual event for locals and visitors to Toodyay.

The successful shire grant application puts TTC closer to their goal of running the event, but they await the outcomes of three other grant applications.

The Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation received \$4,500 in funding that will support *Boodja Waangkiny: The Land Speaks* initiative, which includes updating a short cultural video that highlights Toodyay's natural landscapes through a Noongar lens and creating a portable display wall banner featuring bush flora.

Robert Miles, Chairman, said, "This grant helps us keep sharing our story.

"We want people to see Toodyay not just as a place of natural beauty, but as a living cultural landscape with ancient knowledge and meaning.

"It's part of our truth-telling – helping others understand Noongar connections to Boodja (land). We're proud to keep these conversations going, especially here on our country."

Other grant recipients included the Toodyay Agricultural Society, Lions Club Jumbo Auction, Youthcare and the Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association (swap meet event).

Shire officers assessed each grant application against a number of criteria including whether the application if successful would 'contribute to the vibrancy and quality of life in Toodyay' and 'attracts visitors and generates economic development'.



Toodyay's iconic Moondyne Festival is a key tourism attraction for the Wheatbelt town.

THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD
ASSURANCE | TAX | CONSULTING

RSM

Helping you to take charge
of change

210 Fitzgerald St, Northam WA 6401
T 08 9622 2822

Melissa Ruge, Assistant Manager
E Melissa.ruge@rsm.com.au
Your local accountant Melissa visits
Toodyay CRC each month

Keiran Sullivan, Partner
E Keiran.sullivan@rsm.com.au

rsm.com.au/northam

| 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 | 23.8 | | | | | | | 117.3 |
| Average | 17.20 | 17.30 | 15.50 | 26.10 | 54.80 | 57.04 | 81.70 | 60.40 | 35.40 | 24.70 | 12.70 | 8.70 | 411.54 |

The Toodyay Herald invites you to have your say in our letters page. Please email news@toodyayherald.com.au with your full name, address and phone number. Letters less than 300 words about topical local issues are preferred. The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length, grammar, punctuation and legal reasons. Publication of letters is at The Herald's discretion.

Macca is recognised for making a difference

Between You and Me
Mick McKeown, Shire President

IAN MACGREGOR, the Captain of the Toodyay Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service was recognised in the recent King's Birthday Honours List.

Mr Macgregor was awarded an Australian Fire Service Medal. The Medal recognises those who have continuously served others and made a difference in their community.

The Minister for Emergency Services, Mr Paul Papalia said that Ian MacGregor had "demonstrated exemplary leadership and resilience in his role as Captain at Toodyay Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service, notably introducing a multi-agency debrief to allow a space for emergency services personnel to address their mental health following a tragic road crash in the Wheatbelt involving several injured children.

"Mr MacGregor's ability to recognise the emotional toll such a tragedy can have and creating a supportive, inclusive environment has had a lasting impact on both his brigade and the broader emergency services community".

I have worked alongside Ian Macgregor for over twenty years and must say that it has been a privilege to do so. Well-deserved Macca.

At the June Ordinary Council Meeting, Council considered support for two upcoming events in the Shire of Toodyay.

Council unanimously approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the Shire and Tarmac Events WA for a motor rally in Toodyay.

There have been rallies in Toodyay for a number of years and the Memorandum will allow Tarmac West to run their motor rally in Toodyay from 2025 to 2029.

The Memorandum clearly sets out the undertakings and responsibilities of the Shire and Tarmac Events.

Important tasks of the Shire will include inspecting the roads prior to the event, completing a mailout of information provided by the event organisers to affected residents, and support to promote the event.

The Memorandum also outlines responsibilities of the Shire and Tarmac West related to community engagement and consultation, sponsorship recognition, and post event evaluation.

Council also unanimously approved a proposal from the Toodyay Race Club for hosting rodeos at the Toodyay racecourse.

The rodeos will feature a range of family-friendly activities, traditional rodeo competitions, and live entertainment.

Up to 6,000 people are expected at a daytime rodeo and 3,500 at a nighttime rodeo.

It is anticipated that some of the attendees would stay overnight, either at the various accommodation providers around the Shire or by camping on the racecourse grounds.

The Race Club has proposed that the first rodeo will be held on Saturday November 15.

Council also voted unanimously to approve earthworks by the Race Club at the racecourse.

The works, on the land inside the racetrack are to create an events arena to make it more suitable for equestrian and rodeo events.

The earthworks will be at the Race Club's expense.

The Race Club is not requesting any financial or in-kind contribution from the Shire for either the earthworks or the proposed rodeos.

These rodeos will provide a positive economic and social contribution to the local community and attract both residents and visitors to our region.

I expect to see a start on the works any day now. Congratulations to the Toodyay Race Club for this initiative.

Continuing on matters equestrian, the Lexus Melbourne Cup is on its way to Toodyay.

In late May, the Melbourne Cup Tour for 2025 was launched at Flemington Racecourse by Michelle Payne, the first woman to ride to victory in the 'Race that Stops a Nation'.

The first stop on the Tour was New York City and the Cup is now back touring in Australia.

The Melbourne Cup Trophy will be in Toodyay on Saturday of August 9.

This will be the chance of a lifetime for us to see the 18-carat gold trophy and to share in the magic of Australia's most iconic race in Western Australia's most iconic town.

Keep an eye out on the Shire Facebook page for more information regarding this exciting event.

Toodyay's event calendar is a scrumptious buffet of experiences

Continued from Page 1.

The Ultra is the full experience of the Avon Valley traversing its entirety.

The course takes you from Walyunga National Park, up to Jumbuck Regional Park, down to Bells Rapids, through the Paruna Wildlife Sanctuary and Avon National Park until the finish line on private land at Cobbler Pool, near Toodyay.

Trail running is one of the fastest growing sports internationally and is a possible inclusion in the 2032 Olympics.

August 24 sees the Avon Valley Shotokan Club host the 23rd USKU International Karate Championship in Northam.

The Tarmac West Rally is to be run in Toodyay and the surrounding area on September 20.

The rally event has been part of Toodyay's event calendar for the last 20 years.

The following month on September 28 will have the crowds gather at the Toodyay Race Club for the Annual Picnic Day horse races with the feature race being the Toodyay Cup.

The race day has proven popular for both locals and visitors ever since the first race back in 1865 at the (then) Newcastle Race Club and then the Toodyay Race Club from 1918 onwards.

October 11 is when the Toodyay Agricultural Show comes alive, again a popular and historic event.

2025 saw the Show celebrate its 170th anniversary.

At last month's council meeting elected members voted to approve the "hosting of up to four rodeo events per year (including overnight camping and live entertainment) at the Toodyay racecourse ground by the Toodyay Race Club Inc."

The first rodeo is planned for November 15 with more to follow.

The Toodyay Farmers Market continues to be a feature on the event calendar falling on the third Sunday of each month.

Other pending events include Christmas in July and Toodyay's Annual Christmas Street Party – the latter an appropriate bookend for 2025.



Who is hanging out for the iconic Toodyay Agricultural Show on October 11?



Happy Days are here again. Winners are grinners at the annual Toodyay Picnic Day races.

Trevor and his team doing a good job

Toodyay Tidy Towns
Greg Warburton

THIS year marks 10 years since Toodyay won the National Tidy Town and Sustainable Communities Award.

Although not as dynamic as it once was, activities continue and this is especially evident with the huge improvements seen with our parks and garden areas.

Thanks go to our own Tidy Towns Gardener Trevor and his team.

Other recent town improvement activities by the Shire include the removal of aging installations at the old basketball court in Fiennes Street.

There is a plan to landscape and beautify the site as an extension of ANZAC Park.

Volunteer litter collections are ongoing.

A large amount of roadside rubbish was recently removed from the section from Stirling Terrace to the Northam turn off.

A Tidy Towns operative has also been seen doing regular litter patrols around the town area especially Charcoal Lane car park, the Post Office and IGA areas.

The gardens in front of the supermarket have been greatly improved with the removal of dead plants and the addition of more mulch by the Shire.

Local litter legend Patricia creates an inspiring sight as she picks up litter while riding her Goffer.

We are so fortunate to have our dedicated Containers for Change operation, our wonderful, award winning Waste Transfer Station and an amazing team making a big contribution to Toodyay Tidy Towns.

Unfortunately, the litterers and dumpers continue to break the law so the task of keeping our town and roadsides clean will be ongoing.

Enquiries about Toodyay Tidy Towns – Greg 0429009425.

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

Impounded luxury car used to drive road safety message

Police Beat

With Sgt
Jamie Boryczewski
Toodyay Police Station



BEING respectful and responsible when online, texting and sending emails is worth reflecting on.

It's just doing the right thing and there are penalties if a person is found to be "using a carriage service in a way that reasonable persons would regard as being, in all the circumstances, menacing, harassing or offensive."

The "service" can include a fixed or mobile telephone service, an internet service, or an intranet service.

For the use of the carriage service to be criminally offensive, the degree of offensiveness must be serious and must involve more than mere hurt feelings on the part of a reasonable person.

The maximum penalty is three years imprisonment.

There's a message in the above for people who perhaps like to push the limits (or more) on social media pages as well as a message for page moderators to monitor the page they administer appropriately.

Moving to brighter matters Toodyay police hosted students from the local high school as part of a "vocational awareness day" on June 20.

The aim was to give students (of which there were more than 20 in attendance) insight into what policing is about.

The team also had recruitment packs available and the WA Police Maserati was on hand as a road safety message.

You may have read that police seized the 2017 Maserati Quattroporte sedan earlier this year from a repeat traffic offender who had failed to give way at an intersection.

The luxury car is now covered in police signage and bears the slogan "This is what happens when we put our foot down."

June 5 saw local police attend a property in Morangup to assist officers from the Department of Primary Industries execute a warrant in relation to livestock.

A property inspection also found firearms and ammunition that were not secured which is an offence.

As a consequence, an individual has been charged with failure to secure firearms and ammunition and appears in court in August.

Should you have firearms and/or ammunition on your property please ensure they are properly secured.

June 22 saw a local man who had been banned from the Victoria Hotel for poor behaviour return to the pub resulting in his



Toodyay District High School Emergency Services cadets visiting the local police station. The luxury Maserati was on hand for viewing and many cadets showed an interest in joining the Police Force in the future. Photo: Douglas McGhee.

arrest for trespass.

In terms of traffic safety, a vehicle was stopped in Toodyay last month for a vehicle check with the driver subsequently drug tested.

He tested positive for Methamphetamine and was charged with driving under the influence of an illicit drug and is due to appear in court on August 25.

Finally, a plea to all of the four-wheel

drivers out there.

When you head into a local forest for a bit of off-road driving be prepared so that you aren't, for example, caught out if bogged.

Have adequate recovery gear, a plan and inform someone of your route and planned return time.

Perhaps even consider having the contact details of a local towing company in your mobile phone as well.

Watch out for credit card trickery

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

IMAGINE that you have just spent some time doing a quiz.

At the end the web site asks you for a small credit card payment \$2.95.

That amount may seem quite small, but it can be the thin end of a nasty financial wedge in your bank account.

A timer may also be shown on the web page to put you under more pressure to pay.

There are two steps you can take to reduce your risk.

The first is to read everything on the page requesting payment.

You may find a statement about recurring charges, possibly in a small font.

The second is to do an Internet search for reviews on the organisation.

Any adverse comment should be seen as a red flag.

This is an example of something called a



Online shopping can have credit card traps. Photo: A. Shkraba.

"subscription trap".

These traps affect about three quarters of Australians, and cost around \$1,261 a year each.

Regularly checking your credit card statement is a second line of defence.

Where to hide the spare house key?

Safer Toodyay
Desrae Clarke

IT IS always difficult to decide where to leave a spare key to the house or apartment.

In times past it was not unusual to leave the house key beneath the door mat, behind a potted plant and many other hidey-holes, in case the owner was out, and a friend or family member visited.

This practice was often used by family to have access to enter the homes of elderly family to check on their well-being.

Hardware stores carry a great range of 'key boxes'.

A key box is a small box structure that can safely house a key or several keys.

It measures 12 to 14cms high and 8 to 10cms wide and 2 to 4cms in depth.

It is very compact.

Where should the key box be placed?

The preferable place to be set up is in a secure area with little, or no visitor traffic.

A 'high traffic' area would be at the front



Hiding the sparekey under the doormat isn't a good option.

door or porch, or a visible gate entrance.

The key box is fixed to a flat, wall area with screws and preferably in a covered area but within reach, that is, not too high.

It is set up with the owner choosing a personal identification number (PIN).

The number combination can be given to people the owner chooses.

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Police | 131 444 |
| Crimestoppers | 1800 333 000 |
| Toodyay Police | 9574 9555 |

TOODYAY

MRB 10905

Tyre Service

New 4X4, Truck, Motorbikes & Tractor

Repairs Exhausts Balancing Suspensions Wheel Alignment



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

Council meeting fields questions and more besides

LAST month's council meeting saw a change to the Public Question Time Procedure with all questions required to be submitted to the shire prior to the meeting.

This changes a longstanding practice where questions without notice from the floor could be asked.

After question time the council considered a range of matters including receiving the audit report from the Officer of the Auditor General.

The report gave a Disclaimer of Opinion in relation to the 2023/2024 financial year as the 'financial report was submitted for audit purposes without complete and accurate underlying records'.

The draft Audit Opinion is available in the June meeting attachments.

The shire's current leadership team were employed in the 2024/2025 financial year and the council in its current form started in October 2023.

Council endorsed by absolute majority the officer's recommendation concerning the 2025/2026 community grant funding.

The community groups to benefit from the funding were the Toodyay Triathlon Club, Arts Toodyay and the Noongar Kaartidijin Aboriginal Corporation.

The funding grant for the three groups was \$13,250 meaning this allocation was to be included in the draft 2025/26 Annual Budget.

Council also noted the 'new proposed funding commitments via agreements valued at \$79,000.

These funding commitments are to support local community programs and events starting in the 2025/26 financial years.

Applicants for this funding included: Moondyne Festival (\$15,000), Toodyay CRC (\$25,000), Lions Club Jumbo Auction (\$1,000), Toodyay Agricultural Society (\$25,000), Youthcare school chaplains (\$10,000) and the Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association swap meet event (\$3,000).

Another item included the renewal of the partnership between the Shire of Toodyay and Tarmac Events WA Pty Ltd, in relation to the Tarmac West Rally.

Council approved the officer's recommendation for a new Memorandum of Understanding between the shire and Tarmac Events for the period 2025 to 2029.

The Toodyay Race Clubs submission for earthworks at the local racecourse to create an events arena suitable for equestrian and rodeo events was endorsed unanimously by council.

The earthworks to be undertaken on the land inside the track is at the club's expense.

Additional matters for council consideration at the June meeting included a report into the transaction card policy, IT health check, monthly financials, delegation review and a financial management review (risk assessment and improvement plan.)

Confidential matters included reports into the Toodyay Medical Group and the renewal of the extractive licence for Austral Bricks.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Brian thanked for 60 years of protecting the community

VBFB Toodyay Central
Peter Brennan

IN HIS report to the Toodyay Central VBFB Annual General Meeting, Captain Will Hort highlighted the dedication that our volunteers put into protecting the Toodyay community and the support they get from their families.

Will’s words were certainly amplified two weeks later at the Toodyay Emergency Services Dinner when a number of volunteers across the Shire received awards.

From our brigade, both Desrae Clarke and Brian Wood, who have had a deep connection to the history of our brigade, were acknowledged.

Their recognition reminds us that we have much to be grateful for to the early pioneers of the Bush Fire Brigades including work that they did in continuing to strive for improving structures and equipment for the benefit of the Toodyay Community.

They were part of a small team, who in some part, played a role in guiding the transition of bush firefighting and the development of early local policy, procedures and brigades.

In these early times spouses played an integral role from radio operators, committee positions, firefighting and organising and delivering meals.

Toodyay Central VBFB’s establishment began with the former Red Hill Brigade.

In the late 1980s, the brigade consisted of officers Brian Wood, Michael Wood and Vern Ferguson.

The rest of the members were farmers and there was no formal brigade structure.

The Shire of Toodyay, under the guidance of its first ranger, David Street (1987), conducted an annual Bush Fire Preparedness Day.

This was to educate residents of the newer subdivisions in Toodyay about fire safety.

As the number of people attending these days began to dwindle, a new form of education was necessary.

In November 1990 David ran a Basic Fire Fighters Course at the Shire and Brian Wood took over the Chief Bushfire Control Officer (CBFCO) position from John Dival.

Following that course Wayne Clarke suggested to David Street and the officers of the Red Hill Brigade that it needed to expand its membership.

A well-attended meeting was held in June 1994 at the Toodyay Racecourse.

A call for volunteers went out and in October 1994 interim officers were elected.

Desrae Clarke and Barbara Johnson agreed to take on public relations and later Brian Wood again accepted the CBFCO position, a role he held until October 2004.

By December 1995 discussions occurred to merge the Red Hill and Central Brigades.

It was resolved that following the April 1996 AGM, the name Toodyay Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade be adopted.

Both Wayne and Desrae Clarke have remained engaged with the brigade for 35 years with Wayne serving as a fire fighter, fire control officer, committee chairman and secretary and Desrae assisted for many years with public relations, preparing meals and supporting brigade activities.



The Department of Fire and Emergency Services awarded Brian Wood a 60 Year Certificate. Brian is pictured above with his wife Maureen at the recent emergency services dinner.

Congratulations to Desrae for receiving her Bush Fire Brigade 35-year Long Service Clasp.

Congratulations go to Brian Wood who commenced his firefighting commitment in 1965 then followed in his father Doug’s footsteps (CBFCO from 1976–1980).

Brian served as a fire control officer for 23 years, Deputy CBFCO for two terms Oct

1981 – Sep 1990 and Oct 2007 – Sep 2013, and as the CBFCO for 14 years.

Brian’s commitment to bush firefighting was acknowledged in July 2007 when he was awarded life membership to the brigade and this year, DFES acknowledged his commitment with a 60 Year Certificate.

Well done, Brian.

The pace may have slowed but the fire callouts continue

VBFB Coondle Nunile
Aurelie Zimmermann, Secretary

THE RECENT wet weather has provided much-needed relief over the past weeks.

Not only for the landscape but also for those of us on the frontline.

While the downpours have slowed the pace, they haven’t stopped the calls.

Between two drops of rain, we have dealt with trees set alight by smouldering burns, escaped burn-offs that didn’t go quite to plan, and even vehicle fires.

Each callout reminds us that while the fire danger may ease, the job is never done.

Despite the warmth of the fires, the cold weather sometimes got the better of us, making it a challenge during those early morning calls.

But as always, our crews rise to the occasion, showing the same commitment and teamwork no matter the weather.

Our new training officer, Bill Fletcher, hit the ground running by running training on maps, tanks and egress tracks.

Once the theory was complete, it was time

for practical with both trucks on the road.

We drove around the area, navigating between strategic tanks, hydrants and standpipes.

The training also included using radio features to help determine our location.

It was an informative session with participants learning something valuable that day.

Finally, to keep up with Coondle’s tradition of good times and good food, the day ended with a barbecue.

The Emergency Services Dinner took place late May.

This yearly gathering is an opportunity for all emergency services personnel to meet and enjoy social time outside our usual interactions.

Sincere thanks to Ian MacGregor (Toodyay VFRS Captain) for once again putting in the effort to make this event a success.

Funded by a grant from Volunteer WA and LotteryWest, a crowd of 125 enjoyed a lovely meal prepared by Toodyay Locals Care and served by Toodyay Netball Club.

Many thanks to Hokulani Farm in Coondle for providing the gorgeous florals that were used as centrepieces, and to Shane MacGregor

and Keavan French for their help in setting up the room.

To everyone who contributed behind the scenes, this event could not have happened without your support.

We are all deeply appreciative of the time and effort you put it in and of course, thank you to all who attended. Your presence made the event truly special.

The Coondle team is always looking for new

team members.

Being a member has many benefits, such as learning new skills, knowledge, giving back to the community and meeting like minded people.

We meet every Friday from 5pm at the fire station located at 775 Bindi Bindi - Toodyay Rd near the old wheat bins.

If you are unsure if firefighting is for you, you are more than welcome to come and see us or email coondle.nunilebfb@gmail.com.

Staying safe during flu season

St John Ambulance Toodyay
Monika Williams

AS THE cooler months roll in so too does the yearly surge in flu cases.

An effective way to curb flu transmission is to stay home when feeling unwell.

If you’re experiencing symptoms like fever, sore throat or fatigue, rest up and avoid close contact with others.

Getting a flu shot remains the best way to protect yourself and those around you.

Local clinics and pharmacies are offering flu vaccines free of charge to many vulnerable groups, including the elderly, young children and individuals with chronic conditions.

Spotting the Signs of an Emergency
CALLING an ambulance at the right moment speeds up access to care and ensures critical help reaches those who need it most, fast.

You should call an ambulance immediately if you or someone nearby is experiencing:

- Chest pain or tightness
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Sudden numbness or weakness, especially on one side of the body
- Severe bleeding that won’t stop
- Seizures or sudden unconsciousness
- Serious burns, injuries, or suspected broken bones
- Symptoms of stroke (e.g. drooping face, slurred speech, arm weakness)

It’s best to call if someone is rapidly worsening, even if unsure what’s wrong.

If the person can safely be transported and the situation isn’t time-critical, driving to hospital may be appropriate.

However, when minutes matter – such as in suspected heart attacks, strokes, or breathing crises – *always call Triple Zero (000)*.

Ambulance crews are trained to begin life-saving treatment on the way to hospital.

Choosing to wait or drive in a panic could delay care in the most precious window.

When you dial 000, the operator will guide you with calm, clear questions.

Stay on the line and know your location.

If safe, stay with the person needing help.

Remember, your local Toodyay Sub Centre is not a manned station.

For an ambulance, call 000 and a crew will be sent to where help is needed.

The Toodyay Volunteer Ambulance officers responded to 64 calls through May and June, travelling 3940 kilometres in total.

Last month our Community Transport drivers have also taken 14 clients to their medical appointments in the Wheatbelt and in Perth.

St John WA – Toodyay Community Transport offer reasonably priced transport to medical appointments for clients in our community.

If you would like more information, please phone the office on 08 9574 2390 and have a chat to Debbie.

Upcoming first aid courses

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

Price: \$180.00
When: 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

St John Ambulance (Western Australia) Ltd. RTO Code: 0392
St John Ambulance Western Australia Ltd - ACN 165 969 406; ABN 55 028 468 715

A makuru story: keeping warm on country



Dudja Waangkin
(Toodyay Yarning)

Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

AS MAKURU (winter) settles over the Toodyay valley with its cold boorong (rains), dudja (mist), and southern maam-marang (winds) - we reflect on how Noongar moort (families) kept warm, nourished, and well through the heart of winter.

It was a time of challenge and resilience, when deep knowledge of boodja and strong family bonds ensured survival as Noongar lived in tune with the land's rhythms.

As Djeran (late autumn) gave way to Makuru, the signs of change were clear.

Softening earth, cooling winds, and the return of rain stirred preparations.

Families began gathering resources and readying camps before the cold fully set in.

Extended families travelled their moort-boodja (family lands), camping near kep-wari (waterholes) and in resource-rich areas.

These weren't just sleeping spaces - they were living areas for cooking, storytelling, socialising, and resting.

Everyone had a role, from fire-keeping to food preparation.

Shelter and Fire: Shelter was essential.

Koornt (mia-mia) were built with bark, branches, leaves, and grasses - prepared and waterproofed in readiness for Makuru.

Camps were placed above flood lines and away from winds.

A kaarla (fire) always burned, providing warmth, light, and a place for cooking.

A "keeper of the fire" ensured it never died.

Smouldering materials like Mangatj (banksia) and Balga (grass tree) helped keep coals alive through the rain.

Across the valley, caves and kaarta-kich (rocky outcrops) gave natural protection from harsh weather.

Families sometimes used them as temporary camps during storms or while travelling across Country.

Clothing and Warmth: Warmth was also worn as Noongar people wore booka, kangaroo skin cloaks with fur turned inward for insulation and waterproofing.

These were used as bedding too.

Babies were wrapped in soft bark or skins and kept near the warmth of fire.

In very cold conditions, bark or grass was wrapped around the feet, and extra small fires were lit to help warm the camp.



A welcome fire on a cold wintery night.

Food and Preparation: While Makuru is cold, it's also a season of abundance.

Families hunted yonga (kangaroo), koomal (possum), and kwenda (bandicoot), often using booyi (smoke) to flush animals from hollows.

Root vegetables like djubak (bush potato) were easier to dig after rain.

Kwolak (grains) were stored from warmer seasons and some daatj (meat) was dried to ensure additional food security.

Bush Medicine: Colds and aches were treated with bush medicine.

Marri (red gum) sap was used for sores, cuts and stomach issues and Eucalyptus leaves were crushed with steam and inhaled.

Oils from Wonnil (peppermint tree) helped with colds, and smoke from Mungart (jam tree) and other smaller plants was used in healing and cleansing.

Even minga (insects) were medicine.

The formic acid released from ants acts as a natural antiseptic helping to kill bacteria and fight infection.

They were sometimes crushed and applied to wounds or used in smoke to cleanse and protect the body.

Winter Reflection: Makuru was a time to be close to shelter, share, and care.

As bilya (rivers) swelled and land renewed, families deepened their ties to each other and boodja.

Every act, from building shelters to preparing food, reflected respect for Country and communal living.

Despite the cold, it was the warmth of fire, family, and cultural knowledge that carried Noongar people through.

Website: www.noongarkaartdijin.com.au

Our environment matters at the Toodyay Herald...



news@toodyayherald.com.au

Catch up with mates at the market

Toodyay Farmers Market
Sue Wakka

WHAT a great market.

The weather was cool with a touch of moisture, but the day turned out well.

Not too cold not too hot and plenty of people out and about. All round, it was a steady day with plenty to see and do.

With a few new additions, this market proved to be popular and offered variety which we strive for.

With Christmas fast approaching and the pressure mounting to get a unique gift that has been beautifully handmade, we are lucky to have some wonderful stallholders that offer this option.

Whether you want a gift for that someone special or to maybe spoil yourself, come and check out what the markets have to offer.

There are plenty of items handmade for the kitchen, bathroom or kitchen.

These include goats milk soaps, natural oils, tea or perhaps a drop of wine or gin.

There are also chilli rubs, jam, honey, and veggies to collect as you wander around the market with a coffee in hand.

Enjoy the atmosphere.

Catch up with friends.

Browse the book swap.

Enjoy the music.

Let the kids play and check out the local Marsupial Rescue Group.

Every month we have a community group come to the markets, with volunteers available for you to find out more.

Watch our Facebook page to see who's coming next.

We are always on the lookout for new stallholders.

However, some areas are full and we are mainly looking for produce including bread, cheeses, fruit and vegetables.

Please note: we are a dog friendly market but your fur baby must be on a 1 metre lead.

We ask that they are on their best behaviour.

We would love to see you at the next Market which is on Sunday July 20 from 9.00am to 1.00pm in Stirling Park.



The Toodyay Farmers Market is a great place for a wander and a shopping experience.

Time to focus on winter gas safety

AS THE cooler weather sets in it is important to ensure household gas heaters are recently serviced and used correctly.

"Faulty, poorly maintained or misused gas equipment can cause a build-up of potentially lethal carbon monoxide gas," WA's Director of Energy Safety, Peter Stewart, said.

"Carbon monoxide is known as the 'silent killer' because it is an invisible, odourless

and tasteless gas.

"This is a good time of year to check your gas heaters as you may be bringing appliances out of storage or using them for the first time in months."

Air filters, airways, fans and burners can become blocked by lint and dust while gas heaters are in storage over summer.

This can cause overheating and burner problems that produce carbon monoxide.

"If it's been more than two years since your gas heater was serviced, or if it's showing signs such as discolouration or difficulty relighting, contact a licensed gas fitter," Mr Stewart said.

"A licensed gas fitter can check appliances for blockages, overheating or burner problems and they can also look at whether a room has adequate ventilation.

"A room with a bayonet for a gas heater should have two permanent, unobstructed ventilation openings - one close to the floor, the other close to the ceiling.

"Don't use exhaust fans or kitchen rangehoods at the same time as an open-flued heater because this can draw carbon monoxide into living spaces."

Outdoor gas appliances should never be used indoors or areas surrounded by patio blinds or other enclosures.

Mr Stewart urged users of gas equipment to be aware of warning signs of carbon monoxide poisoning, which range from flu-like symptoms, such as headaches, weakness, fatigue and nausea, through to vomiting, seizures and collapse.

"Try to get into the open air and seek medical attention immediately," he said.

"It's important to emphasise that gas appliances are safe if they are in good working order, used correctly and in a well-ventilated area."

For other gas safety tips, visit demirs.wa.gov.au/gas-safety-home or to search for a licensed gas fitter.

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

A delicious chance for beef cakes to make a man cake

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Leisha Smith, Social Media

IT IS coming to schedule time and we are all getting a tad excited.

Now that we have a fresh generation of volunteers at our disposal, things are looking quite different.

We are welcoming these alterations and we trust you will too. Change is as good as a holiday, no?

We will now be working with show-day online and you can only imagine how happy everyone is to be playing around with their new toy.

This system is a bit of a game changer.

If you were to talk to these ladies about the show, there is no way you will manage to avoid hearing all about it.

We have been discussing getting the schedules printed, hopefully in August.

I hope everyone is busy considering what they might enter into the show.

I have been hearing all about this "man cake" and I'm disappointed to report this cake is made by a man and not made out of



Which local man will get lucky and get the Best Man Cake award at the 2025 Toodyay Agricultural Show?

a man, or even in the image of a man.

I gather it'll be fun on the day to observe men flocking around with the cakes they have made.

No pressure lads.

We are bouncing around the idea of doing a tutorial on how to do an entry of your wares, including a video for those that cannot make it.

This will take out the guesswork and we will keep you updated.

If you pop down to the Toodyay Farmer's Market this month on July 20 you'll see our smiling faces.

We are keen to chat about all things show related, so please stop by if you have any questions or want our autographs.

Just kidding, but I'll still sign your t-shirt if you desire.

You may have noticed a Facebook event has been generated.

Not by yours truly, your social media extraordinaire, because technology said no that day.

Our President, Karen, who apparently hates having free time, had to create it on my behalf.

If you're going to be a Karen, be this one.

If you have spotted our recent campaign, it's great to announce that we will be sponsoring our newest Young Sheep Handler, Bronte Harvey, on her new learning experience.

We are looking forward to hearing how this goes.

It is an honour to be able to put our youth forward for such a fun opportunity.

Photos please Bronte.

Finally, the biggest of shout-outs to our biggest supporters is in order. All assistance is deeply valued.

Rio Tinto, Chalice, the Toodyay Shire, Bendigo Bank, and recently the Toodyay Op Shop being our biggest support team.

It's never too late to donate and your support is appreciated.

Lions crusade against darkness



1970 Lions glaucoma detection clinic. Photo: Lions Save Sight Foundation.

Lions Club Toodyay
Heather McNamara, Secretary

DID YOU know the Lions Save Sight Foundation has been in WA since the 1970s?

It all began at a Albany convention where the Lions Clubs of WA agreed to form this significant foundation.

A key motivation for this was a statement by Helen Keller in 1925, "I appeal to you Lions, will you not constitute yourself knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness."

A powerful statement for its time.

Since the early 1970s the foundation has become a world class volunteer entity in ophthalmic care and has led the way for prevention and treatment of eye disease.

Today our foundation is run by a Board of Directors representing Lions members elected within Western Australia.

These elections take place and are endorsed every year at our convention held in October.

In WA we have four Directors, a District Chair and a 1st and 2nd Vice District Governor.

If you are interested in any of our foundations join our Lions Club.

We also have a representative from the Lions Eye Institute as a Board member with the necessary ophthalmic knowledge and support.

This serves as a link between our Board and the Lions Eye Institute.

The Foundation works on a calendar year with elections for Board positions held in December.

The Lions Save Sight Foundation provides funding for research and equipment for the world class scientists conducting ground-breaking research projects.

This is coordinated through fundraising and donations from the WA community.

Since the foundation began it has funded many projects and given over \$5.6 million to the Lions Eye Institute.

A tremendous effort in this space.

On your Toodyay Lions front we have had a quiet period and are heading into our next Lion's year with our Changeover night scheduled in July.

At this event we will be inducting a new member, presenting our Toodyay Lion of the Year award and welcoming our new leadership team for 2025-2026.

We are also have the Lions Skin Cancer Screening bus in Toodyay during November.

Keep a look out for the date and how to book, but for now I say thank you for reading my articles.

I hope you have enjoyed these, and they have provided you with an insight to what we do, not just locally but across Western Australia.

I am taking a break and next month we have Lion Clint, taking over as our article writer.

PURSLOWE
TINETTI
FUNERALS

Call us for a free booklet to help you organise your future

Plan
YOUR
Goodbye
YOUR WAY

Burials & Cremations in Country & Metro Areas. Pre-paid Funerals & Bonds Available

100% WA Family Owned. Phone Rob & Dianne Tinetti 08 9622 1411



AUSTRALIAN
FUNERAL
DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

info@ptfnortham.com.au 264 Fitzgerald St Northam www.purslowetinettifunerals.com



**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**

Local branch celebrates 98 years of community service

Country Women's Association
Elizabeth Mansom

THE TOODYAY branch of CWA of WA celebrated its 98th anniversary in June.

Toodyay was one of the early country branches to be formed.

Nungarin, is the oldest and held its first meeting in June 1927.

Esperance celebrated its 100th last October and we have just received an invitation to Quairading's 100th.

As in the past we invited surrounding branches to help us celebrate and 54 people crowded into our hall which had looked quite spacious until then.

People were asked to dress brightly.

Rose had butterfly slacks, Viv wore a knitted patchwork coat of many colours and Elizabeth had turquoise splashes courtesy of her hairdresser and nail salon.

Even Nettie, who spent the day on the bench in Charcoal Lane, was wearing her new colourful patchwork skirt.

The Hat Bar and Boutique very generously gave us a bracelet to use as a door prize.

The draw had one very delighted winner and a lot of disappointed non-winners.

The day before our function, Bolgart CWA held a cancer morning tea.

Unfortunately, Toodyay CWA could not make it, but the Bolgart ladies reported a good day with 14 more attendees than planned.

The State Conference was in Albany June 25-27 but our branch was unable to attend.

Donnybrook was our proxy and Jennacubbine carried our banner in the parade.

The motions on which Donnybrook will vote for us are mainly financial this year.



Left to right: Pamela, Margaret, Elizabeth, Vivien, Val, Netti, Kathy and Lorelle relaxing after our busy Friendship Day.

There are proposals to increase the allowance for State President and State Treasurer, both very onerous positions, with the latter overseeing a \$12 million budget.

Our members were only too happy to agree to an increase.

On June 19 Viv, Rose and Elizabeth drove to Tammin for their annual WA Week lunch.

We always leave early when going to Tammin so we can browse their Opshop.

As always, we left with full bags and promised to call again next time in town.

The Tammin CWA building is currently undergoing renovations, so the Lesser Hall was set for a luscious hot dinner.

The Shire President gave a short talk on the activities of the Shire.

This was followed by a very interesting presentation by the President of Women in Farming.

This organisation is open to any woman with links to rural, agricultural and related business.

We drove home feeling very well fed but unfortunately not a raffle prize between us.

A branch project this year has been knitting squares for blankets.

So far Kathy is the queen of not just

squares, but blankets having completed two. Each blanket requires 54 squares.

We have set aside the coffee morning in August to sew accumulated single squares.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1pm for a general meeting and on the second Thursday of the month at 10am for a relaxed coffee morning.

Our hall is air-conditioned and accessible for walkers and gophers via Charcoal Lane.

We do ask if you come in a gopher, you leave it on the veranda as they can become a hazard inside the hall.

Margot takes the hall bookings and can be reached on 0405 067 591

We look forward to welcoming you.

Weeds require constant vigilance



Although seeding is completed local farmers and their loyal offsidiers remain vigilant and on the lookout for weeds and pests that may damage crops.

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Kirsten Carrington-Jones

SEEDING has been completed, and farmers now get to sit back, relax and watch their crops grow.

Ha – if only that was the case.

Just like a flower or vegetable garden, we are on the lookout now for weeds and pests that may damage crops.

Most cropping paddocks will have been sprayed to reduce weeds prior to seeding and will be monitored throughout the growing season for any weed competition.

The weeds compete with the crop for moisture and nutrients and, in some cases, the weeds may be large enough to prevent sunlight getting to the crop.

There are several ways we manage weed competition. The choice of crop type and sequence of rotation impacts the ability of the crop to out compete weeds.

Cereal crops are generally more competitive than canola and lupins.

Oats are generally the most competitive followed by barley and then wheat.

Farmers plan their rotations of crops in paddocks to "clean up" the paddock with more competitive crops every few years.

For example, they might sow barley in a paddock to try to stamp out a weed burden, despite canola being potentially worth more than barley.

A healthy crop is much more likely to outgrow weeds and if it established quickly the canopy of the crop reduces sunlight reaching the ground beneath which makes it harder for weeds to grow.

Getting a good canopy can be managed in several ways:

- The type of crop and variety.
- The amount of seeds sown per hectare and the spacing of crop rows impact how competitive the crop will be.
- Crops that are sown at a right angle to the direction of sunlight mean the weeds are in the shade of the crop and have more trouble growing.
- Time of sowing has a big impact on crop competition.
- A good amount of moisture whilst there is still warmth in the soil provides the crop with an ideal environment to out compete weeds.

Pests and diseases are further enemies that farmers are looking for.

We will be looking for signs of pests nibbling the crop or watching out for pests setting up house in the plant or in the soil.

Some types of pests have changed in WA due to use of broad-spectrum pesticides in the past, retention of stubble and minimal tillage, increased planting of more vulnerable crops, such as canola.

Also, drier conditions stress crops and makes them an easier target for pests and diseases.

The more common pests that we are looking for are aphids, red legged earth mite, cut-worms, armyworm, weevils, slugs, snails and mice.

We monitor for different pests at different times of the year, which can involve traps, looking at the leaves, or digging in the ground.

Neighbours alert one another that they have spotted a specific pest and more specific monitoring is done.

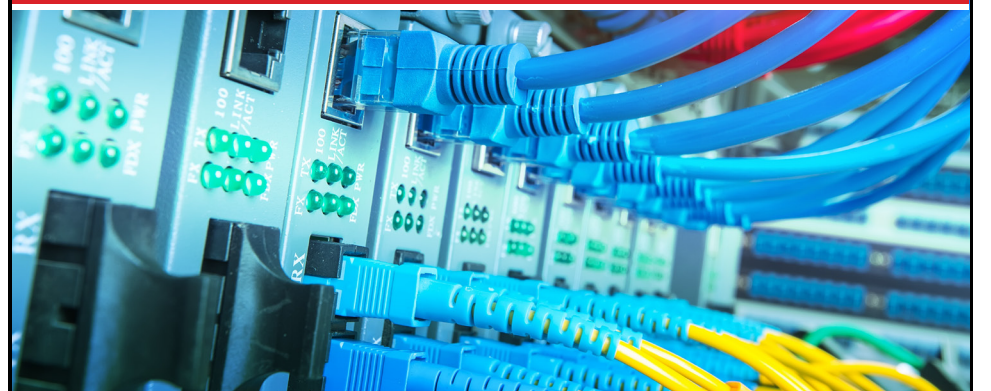
Often baiting, spraying and other controls are done by a group of farms together, which is the most effective way to tackle many pests.

So, in between sipping coffee on the verandah, we are keeping half an eye on our crops.

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

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

Phone : 6364 0682

Email : support@absoluteit.com.au

Website : www.absoluteit.com.au

Local community group sharing out the love

Toodyay Locals Care
Dave Miller

THE PARTNERSHIP between Toodyay Locals Care and the Toodyay Football Club has given a huge boost to both organisations fundraising.

The extra funds have enabled TLC to continue to provide vital services to the most vulnerable in our community.

TLC provides thousands of meals at no cost each year to those that are finding it difficult to make ends meet.

There is always something to eat in the fridge at 20 Fiennes Street as well as a hot shower and laundry facilities.

If you would like to get involved in what we do at TLC call Roz on 0427 744 352.

The extra funds have been generated through the hard work of our volunteers.

It has been a fantastic team effort and all of us are proud of what we have achieved.

Now comes the best part.

\$11,000 is going to be distributed between nine Toodyay organisations.

These are Avon Valley Shotokan Karate Club, Toodyay Forget Me Not Café, Toodyay Mr Perfect BBQ, Toodyay Netball Club and Toodyay Kindergym.

Along with Toodyay District High School Breakfast Programme, Toodyay Soccer Club, Toodyay Junior Football Club and Marsupial Mammals and Pappas.

Each of these very worthy organisations plays an important role in our community.

I haven't reported on our chooks for a while but I have an important update.

Legendary Ken, TLC's amazing handy type guy, has completed the girls new expanded residence.

Some of the TLC team have dubbed it the "Chook Mahal" due to its monumental construction.

It doesn't matter much what it's called, thanks to Ken the ladies have a safe and comfortable home.



Toodyay's Forget Me Not Cafe (above) and the Avon Valley Shotokan Club (below) are just two of the local groups benefiting from the generosity of Toodyay Locals Care.



St Joseph's School, Northam

WHOLE SCHOOL OPEN NIGHT

- Both Primary and Secondary Campuses will be open to everyone: current and prospective.
- We invite you to pop in, have a look around, meet our staff and some of our students.
- Get to see what our students have been doing in class.
- Our new uniform will be on display.

Thursdays

July 31, 2025

Time

4:00pm - 7:00pm

Primary Campus: Lance Street

Main gate is off Uralia Tce

Secondary Campus: Wellington Street

Next to the Catholic Church

www.sjsnortham.wa.edu.au



The Anzac Parade 2024 marches down Toodyay's Stirling Terrace.

Our membership is a broad family

RSL Toodyay Sub Branch
Max Howard, Secretary

IT HAS been a mixed month for members.

We have been finalising our eagerly anticipated bus trip to the Nungarin Military and Machinery Museum next month.

We are also in the process of applying for our building licence.

On a sad note, June has seen the passing of two of our valued members – Michael Cox and Dave Barlow, both after a courageous battle with illness.

There seems to be a lot of confusion amongst veterans when it comes to joining the organisation such as the RSL and for those who are not service members on how to become an Affiliate member.

Veterans do not have to serve overseas to join as a service member with the RSL.

Once you have joined (past or present), the ADF or any allied forces throughout the world, such as the United Kingdom, USA, Canada, New Zealand, etc you are entitled to join the RSL as a service member.

This also includes Reservist forces in

Australia and all of those countries.

If you belong to any Emergency Services in Australia such as the Police Force, Fire Brigades (which also includes Shire Bush Fire Brigades), St Johns Ambulance volunteers or other emergency fields you can join as an Affiliate member.

This is also applicable to any person who has had a relative serving or who has served in the Defence Force in Australia or any countries mentioned above.

We welcome new members to come and join us.

In RSL Sub-branches a group of people are elected to form the "Executive" which manages the affairs of the Sub-branch for the year.

The Executive usually is made up of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Events Co-Ordinator, and Membership Officer.

Currently we also have a Building Project Manager whose role is to oversee the new building which we hope will be completed by this time next year.

Any queries about joining please contact any person of the Executive.

Mr Spock - 'live long and prosper'

Staying in Place Toodyay Districts
Hamish Dobie

LIVING in your home becomes more important after you retire.

You spend more time there.

No more travelling to work, slogging all day and travelling home, sometimes travelling through rush hour traffic before you reach the sanctity of your home.

As the years pass, your home becomes more like your castle.

Maintaining your castle takes effort and, if your health allows, you can maintain this castle with minimal outside help.

You must exercise both physically and mentally to keep yourself in the condition that is required to keep the castle and not allow the walls to crumble.

Last month I stressed that physical activity goes a long way to keeping you fit and healthy.

It helps reduce the chance of falling.

You can pick up an information sheet, "Strength Exercises to Support your Walking" from the Toodyay Medical Group.

The exercises are designed to improve your balance.

Falls don't only physically harm the elderly, but the shock can also affect them mentally.

Keeping your mind sharp is as important as keeping your body in shape.

Read, do puzzles, take interest in current affairs, interact with other people, do whatever you can to keep your mind active.

At Staying in Place Toodyay Districts (SIPTD) we want everyone to stay fit and healthy and enjoy life in their later years.

Unfortunately, there are some who, for various reasons, can't maintain their health and need help to keep living in their home.

This is where SIPTD can help.

You may be eligible for an Aged Care Package from the Federal Government to provide you with support in the home.

Some of the services include cleaning,

gardening, home modifications, meals, transport, nursing care and mobility aids.

There may also be assistance to attend community groups and local activities.

The Federal Government planned to bring in changes on July 1, but the legislation had a few problematic areas, hence implementation has been delayed until November.

This will allow SIPTD time to become fully cognisant with the revised legislation and align our existing and future clients with the upcoming changes while in the meantime, SIPTD continues to grow.

With growth comes further opportunities for local people to assist local clients by becoming paid contractors.

I believe that everyone has a skill and that skill can be put to use to assist those in the community who need help to maintain a good standard of living in their home.

Your particular skill may be to sit, listen and share time with a client.

Try thinking of an elderly person you know who appears to be struggling with daily life and put yourself in their position.

They may be trying to remain independent, but a little help can make their life a lot easier.

Helping others can be rewarding and it gives you a feeling of satisfaction.

If you think you or your partner may be eligible for a Home Care Package, or if you are interested in becoming a Support worker, please contact:

Case Manager, Staying In Place Toodyay Districts 0494 085 790 casemanager@stayinginplacetooday.org.au.

Web: <http://stayinginplacetooday.org.au>.
Facebook: Staying In Place - Toodyay.

Our environment matters at the Toodyay Herald...

Crafting friendships

The Crooked Needle

Jean Melhuish-Hill

A NUMBER of ladies attended a craft Friendship Day at Darlington.

If you are new to craft or have not attended one of these events a little explanation may be required.

Friendship Days are hosted by either an individual or perhaps a couple of craft groups as a fundraiser with other groups invited to come along.

A few craft suppliers were invited as well as craft sales from the host group, and on this occasion a plant stall as well.

Our two cars of Toodyay crafters arrived at 9.30, allowing us to have a look at some of the suppliers' stalls and catch up with other ladies that we may have met before.

Approximately 150 ladies attended and on being welcomed to the event a beautiful Devonshire Tea was served.

A raffle ticket or two and a fair bit of socialising is involved.

Everyone brings something to work on and making your way through the room looking at what other people are doing is really worthwhile.

You see some amazing work and get new ideas for your next project.

You also bring along some of your completed crafts for Show and Tell.

A brief description of the item and how it came about is relayed to the attendees while the item is being displayed.

On this occasion there were a number of ladies who had quilted or sachiko jackets which the owners modelled.

That was another wow moment.

At this event lunch was supplied and we had a choice of 8 homemade soups with fresh bread.

There were plenty of seconds.

The raffle had about 100 prizes so nearly everyone had something to take home.

For those who had not won a prize the unsold plants were added to the draw.

Our table was exceptionally lucky with the prizes.

If you haven't had enough to eat, afternoon tea is then served.

All home-baked goodies from cannolis to cupcakes to slices and shortbreads.

At the end of a most amazing day some \$4,500 was raised for the group's chosen charity.

If you ever receive an invite to attend a Friendship Day it is worthwhile even if you are not a crafty individual.

If you are new in town or find yourself with some free time, pop along on any Friday, 9.30 to 12 noon.

See if we can interest you in a new craft or you may be able to share one with us.

For contact information please see Where and When.

Yarn with pizzazz

Toodyay Spinner and Weavers

Chris Stokie

TOODYAY Spinners & Weavers have had another enjoyable month.

During a meeting this month Judy M modelled a shawl she had recently finished.

Judy spun the wool and then knitted the pattern of "Clare's Working Shawl".

This was from the Outlander TV series.

It certainly does look warm, comfortable



Judy's Outlander Shawl.

Tooday quilts to be displayed at major exhibition

Ragbags Quilting Group

Kerry Gregory

AS I WRITE this month's article with the rain and wind lashing the windows it is most definitely the weather for a warming fire and quilting.

It is a comfort to have beautiful fabrics and fabulous designs to hand, and the opportunity available to get cracking on a project or two.

Maybe even something you are planning to enter in the Toodyay Agricultural Show, this year on 11 October 2025.

Should you need any inspiration there are plenty of wonderful events happening.

These include the Bunbury Patchwork and Quilting Group biennial quilt exhibition.

This was held during April.

I am reliably informed it was a triumph of their members' designs and artistry.

The WA Quilters Association (WAQA) Quilt West 2025 Exhibition will be held at Robinson Pavilion, Claremont Show Grounds from July 31 to August 3.

This event will feature a display of quilts from Toodyay Ragbags members and

Toodyay historical quilts.

The Regional Tour of WAQA Stitched and Bound exhibition continues and will be in Manjimup in July, then up to Geraldton Art Gallery from Friday July 25 to Sunday August 10.

It will then go to the Courthouse Gallery and Studio in Port Hedland during September – October.

If you are travelling north, it is well worth a detour to check out the colours, compositions and techniques of these stunning contemporary quilts.

Closer to home will be the York Society Art and Craft Awards September 26 to 29.

There is always the inspiration found at our many regional shows and Dowerin Field Day.

There is plenty of time, so get yourselves enthusiastic about some of your wonderful fabric stash and get into stride to produce a quilted project or two for exhibiting at the 2025 Toodyay Show and help us once again make it a really stunning success.

As mentioned last month, my coastal boat shed inspired pair of doors that screamed

"pick me" are a work-in-progress and will likely just be finished in the nick of time.

Definitely not prize worthy, but they have taken me well out of my comfort zone.

I have enjoyed the creative challenge and will definitely submit it as a wall-hanging.

New members are very welcome at the Ragbags Group.

Join us for a cuppa and a chat.

If you wish, bring along your blocks and sewing machine, some handwork or craft activity being undertaken.

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

Lately many members have comforting knitting on their laps.

I am reminded of my dear Mum when I see their lovely garments.

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

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Bring your lunch - we use the back door.



Several of the exhibitors and quilts which will be featured at the West Australian Quilters Association Inc Quilt West Exhibition.

and practical to wear.

Carol W had spun up some orange fibre but then decided it needed a bit more pizzazz, so she then plied it with another fibre with interesting "lumps and bumps".

The result looks both novel and bright and we look forward to seeing what she knits from it.

A number of the group members will attend the Chidlow Spinners Spin-In Day.

They are looking forward to a great day of sharing craft ideas, friendship and snacking.

A reminder to all members, the Toodyay Spinners & Weavers Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday July 19 commencing at 10 am at Parkers Cottage.

Toodyay Spinners & Weavers meet 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 always welcome and we would love to meet you..

Please feel free to drop in and meet the group for a coffee and a chat, whether you wish to learn new skills or just enjoy your current wool crafts in a friendly group environment.

RINGA CIVIL

WE SPECIALISE IN:

- Sewer and storm water drainage
- Sand & gravel supply
- Mains water, gas and power
- Trench excavation
- Rock pitching and breaking
- Filling and leveling
- House pads
- Septic tank & leach drain Installation

& ALL SITE WORK NEEDS

PLEASE CONTACT: Jack Wood
Email: jack@ringacivil.com

Phone: 0400 263 864
Website: www.ringacivil.com

Shed workshops are kept busy by members and outside projects

Toodyay Men’s Shed
Barry Keens

WE WOULD like to thank The Toodyay Farmers Market for giving us space to have an information stall at the June Markets. We were able to show what the Shed is about and talk with men that showed an interest in what we do. The response was very encouraging and it seems some have already paid us a visit. We cater for men from 18 to 80+ years. Those who wish to chat over a coffee or cup of tea or would like to use either of our two well-equipped workshops are welcome. Pictured are Jerry, one of our members, on the left with Spencer a young man who needed workshop space for a project we

could help him with. The workshops are kept busy with outside work as well as projects for our members and Toodyay Community. Members can use the workshops for personal projects and somebody is always available to help if needed. This month we finished two small jobs. We also carried out necessary maintenance to some of our equipment, talked a lot and drank coffee and tea. Do you need meeting or party space? The Shed has space for over 50 people with full catering facilities. The Shed is open from 8.30 to noon Monday, Thursday and Saturday. Drop in for a chat, a drink and good company. Contact 0499 403 830 for more information.



Jerry and Spencer working on a project in one of the well-equipped Shed workshops.

Waste-sorted at free workshop

Tanvier Fowler

A NEW roadshow is hitting the Wheatbelt to help local communities take the next step towards a waste-free future. Starting in Toodyay on August 2, the roadshow will deliver free workshops to six regional towns including Merredin, Brookton, Narrogin, Katanning, and Moora. This roadshow introduces practical techniques to help the community reduce waste and aim for a waste-free future. Led by long-time community advocates Jenny Hanna and Tanvier Fowler, these workshops will cover all the good stuff including composting, worm farming, food preservation and household waste sorting. “Waste solutions in regional WA need to be community-led and practical,” says Jenny. Wheatbelt households don’t have a green waste bin, and in some areas, there’s no kerbside collection at all. If you care for your community and environment and are concerned by the amount of plastic in everyday life, now is the time to get involved. The workshops focus on what is achievable, learning new skills, and having fun at the same time.

As a community pooling our knowledge, we can learn the next steps in reducing waste and living a healthy life. Email wastesorted@permaculturewest.org.au for details. Follow permaculturewest.org.au on social media or look out for posters around town. This project is supported by a WasteSorted Community Education Grant, delivered with support from Lotterywest, the Waste Authority and the WA Government.



Creative waste recycling.

Winter weather great for woodturning

Avon Woodturners
Hamish Dobie

AT THIS time of year when wood becomes a topic of conversation, it is normally “where, when and how much?” It is for firewood. Many locals have wood burning stove and I am one of them. However, this weather provides the ideal temperature for working on wood lathe and our brand new lathe is working brilliantly. It got off to a slow start as no-one wanted to be the first to use it and get it dirty. It was similar to when you buy a new car and polish it after every time you use it. Our newest and youngest turner is going great guns and his enthusiasm is having a beneficial effect on the rest of the members. He is showing a great deal of ability and is already putting some of us to shame. It just goes to show that wood turning is not only for older people but can be enjoyed by people of any age. A bit like lawn bowls, but without the beer between ends. Avon Woodturners group is growing and we have welcomed several members, both male and female in the past year. However, it’s not such good news for

another group. We received word from West Australian Woodturners Association that because of the end of lease of their premises with no chance of renewal, the Gosnells group are being disbanded. This is a big group and many members have their own equipment at home. However, the group does have a large amount of club equipment and our group may be lucky in picking some up. Let us hope we’re successful and that one club’s misfortune is another’s opportunity. One final thought. If you are planning to keep your fire stoked by cutting up that old jarrah log or any other wood you have had in the shed for years, before you fire up the chainsaw, inspect the wood. It may be ideal for turning. Your donation to Avon Woodturners would be appreciated. The Avon Woodturners are located at Shed 1, Community Depot, end of Railway Road, Toodyay. We meet on Wednesdays and Sundays from 9am until 12. For more information, please email hamishd2701@gmail.com, or call 0423 115 204.



This wood could be used to keep the winter cold away or for some creative wood turning.



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 Ambulance (Western Australia) Ltd. RTO Code: 0392

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





SHIRE NEWS



SHIRE OF TOODYAY NOW OFFERS ELECTRONIC RATES NOTICES

To register, contact us at **08 9574 9300** or **records@toodyay.wa.gov.au**

AVON TAXI SERVICE

THE TOODYAY Visitor Centre is pleased to announce a partnership with the Perth Hills Taxi service. Examples of services that Perth Hills Taxi Service can provide to Toodyay include wheelchair taxi, airport transfers, FIFO early morning transfers or medical transfers. FOR MORE information on this partnership, **call the Visitor Centre at (08) 9574 9380.**

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER 2025

THE SHIRE has appointed the Western Australian Electoral Commission to conduct its election by postal vote. IF YOU are a **resident of a rateable property** in the Shire of Toodyay and are enrolled on the State electoral roll you are automatically enrolled on the corresponding local government roll by the WAEC. If you are not already on the State Electoral Roll and meet the eligibility criteria, or if you have changed address recently, visit the Western Australian Electoral Commission website at this link: <https://www.elections.wa.gov.au/enrol-vote> to check your details or to **enrol online.** IF YOU are a **non-resident owner or occupier of rateable property** in the Shire of Toodyay, you may be eligible to vote. **Non-resident Owners and Occupiers including Body Corporates** UNDER the Local Government Act 1995

and the Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997, you can vote if:

- *You own rateable property in the Shire but live elsewhere.*
- *You lease or occupy rateable property and have a right of continuous occupation for at least 3 months.*

TO CLAIM your eligibility, forms are available on the Shire's website at the link below. <https://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/council/local-government-elections.aspx> FORMS are also available from the Shire office at **15 Fiennes Street Toodyay WA 6566.** THE DEADLINE for when forms can be received is **5pm 22nd of August 2025.** AS THIS election will be conducted by **postal vote** ballot packages will be mailed to all eligible voters. For more information, contact the Shire of Toodyay on **(08) 9574 9300.**

CELEBRATE THE MAGIC OF THE SEASON AT TOODYAY'S INAUGURAL CHRISTMAS IN JULY

The Shire of Toodyay invites the community to embrace the winter spirit with our very first **Christmas in July**, taking place on **Saturday, 26th July from 4pm to 8pm along Stirling Terrace.** Enjoy a festive evening filled with cheer as Federation Square, Memorial Hall and surrounding businesses transform into a winter wonderland. Dress in your best Christmas costume and join the fun in a town-wide search for **13 mischievous elves** hiding in plain sight! For those who prefer to soak up the atmosphere, a **snow machine** will be setting the scene with flurries of festive magic.

With something for everyone, this is a family-friendly event you won't want to miss. Come along and experience the joy of Christmas – winter-style – right here in Toodyay.



TRAILS IN TOODYAY

AS WINTER settles in, Toodyay transforms into a lush, vibrant paradise. With the cooler weather comes a burst of life — wildflowers, grasses, and native plants springing up across the landscape, turning our much-loved trails into breathtaking natural corridors. WHETHER you're a weekend wanderer or a seasoned hiker, there's no better

time to explore the beauty our region has to offer. **But don't forget** — with July's rainfall, our trails can get a little slippery. Be sure to lace up with sturdy, weather-appropriate footwear before heading out. So, grab your jacket, charge your camera, and experience Toodyay at it's winter best — nature's putting on a show, and you're invited.



EXPLORE MORE: AVON VALLEY ALLIANCE UNVEILS NEW TOURISM WEBSITE

THE AVON VALLEY ALLIANCE – a partnership between the Shires of Toodyay, Goomalling, Northam, York, and Beverley has officially launched a brand-new tourism website designed to showcase the region as one of Western Australia's must-visit destinations. BUILDING on years of collaboration, including the creation of brochures and regional maps, the Alliance has taken the next big step by bringing the Avon Valley experience online. The new website, www.theavonvalley.com.au, is a one-stop destination for travellers looking to uncover the charm, history, and natural beauty of this unique part of WA. VISITORS can now access everything they need to plan the perfect escape –

from event listings and accommodation options to local attractions and travel tips all in one place. Whether you're organising a weekend retreat, a road trip through the countryside, or a longer holiday, the Avon Valley website offers inspiration and practical information at your fingertips. TO CELEBRATE the launch representatives from the Shire of Toodyay joined fellow Alliance members at an official event held in York earlier this month. DISCOVER what makes the Avon Valley a true gem in WA's tourism landscape visit www.theavonvalley.com.au and start planning your next adventure today.

