

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.

August 2025
Edition 448

Council approves an ambitious budget

Rate revenue forecast to
increase by 5.7 per cent,
asset sales of \$2.9 million,
rate rise of 2.2 per cent

Sean Hefferon

The Shire of Toodyay council has approved the 2025/26 budget that forecasts a rate revenue increase of 5.7 per cent generating over \$8.4 million in rate income – up \$460,000 from the 2024/25 financial year.

Overall, 2025/26 revenue compared with last year's budget is expected to increase by 16 per cent.

The budget approved at the July 24 ordinary council meeting includes an interim rate revenue provision of \$250,000 for properties that are to have their rating category updated.

Most shire residents can expect to pay an average of 2.2 per cent more in rates.

In dollar terms, this equates to, for example, an average annual payment of \$2,252 for properties classed 'residential' and \$2,050 for 'rural residential'.

July 30 data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows annual inflation for the year to end of June 2025 hitting 2.1 per cent.

This year's minimum rates are planned to increase to \$1495, up by \$35 compared with 2024/25.

Making up the budget numbers is the sale of shire assets including Connors Cottage, O'Reilly's Cottage, 108 Stirling Terrace and 19A & B Clinton Street.

The Clinton Street duplex has been used as accommodation for shire employees and contractors.

The shire is currently negotiating the sale of 108 Stirling Terrace to its tenant the Bendigo Bank.

The sale of these properties, some of which are heritage listed and assorted plant and equipment is budgeted at \$2.9 million in the 2025/25 financial year.

Shire debt is expected to increase by 6.7% by end of June 2026 due to a \$660,000 loan that is to go toward the costs of building a replacement fire station in Bejoording.

An additional \$226,000 is to be drawn from shire reserves to meet the forecast cost of \$885,000 for the new station.

Total shire loans at the end of June 2026 are budgeted at \$4,968,390.

Continued on Page 9.

Toodyay young achievers shining on

Sean Hefferon

HEARD the stereotype about the older generations bemoaning the youth of today?

The image of the old man shaking his fist at the clouds was made famous by the genius of the animated sitcom, South Park.

Admittedly, it's a funny and famous image that segues nicely into the counterpoint pejorative phrase sometimes used by the not so old of "Hey Boomer".

Here, however, in Toodyay there are many young self-starters whose achievements should render such superannuated fist shaking and callow phrases redundant.



David and Andrea Bird hope to have their eco-friendly non-toxic product back on the shelves in Toodyay.

Birds push for approval of eco-friendly rat bait

Rashelle Predovnik

A SMALL business is calling on the national regulator to change laws that class non-toxic baits as chemicals and puts poisons in the same category as a product made from ingredients safe enough to eat, that kills rodents but doesn't cause secondary poisoning.

The call for change comes in response to a definition so broad it lumps all rodenticides into one category.

The process is so complicated, according to David and Andrea Bird, it has thrown their once thriving small business into financial hardship.

That is to say, the youth are the leaders of tomorrow and Toodyay has, it would seem, a knack for growing youthful leaders.

Many of these young achievers fly under the radar, a Jindalee-like effect common for many achievers both young and old.

Most are happy to just do what they love and if that passion inspires someone to make every second count, then that's an added bonus.

As the writer Jack Kornfield said, "The trouble is that you think you have time."

Fully aware that time waits for no one, three young Toodyay locals continue to hone their craft with a passion that shines.

Continued on Page 3.

The Birds created an eco-friendly rodent bait named Mouse & Rat Kaboom, and sales grew rapidly through market stalls and by word-of-mouth.

It was well received as an alternative to toxic second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs), which also kills native wildlife if they eat the poisoned rats and mice.

That success prompted Mrs Bird to sell her product wholesale and by mid-2024 she had around thirty dealers across Western Australia, including Toodyay.

The couple then formed a company to trade under (Bivand) and they added a new product to their eco-friendly range.

Bivand began trading on 1 July 2024 and Kaboom caught the attention of IGA stores in Geraldton.

It also won the support of a bird rescue operation, who promoted it as an owl friendly way to control rodents.

But, in November 2024, the couple were contacted by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) who told them to stop selling the product because it wasn't registered.

Toodyay Hardware and Farm was Mrs Bird's first wholesale customer in 2021 and store owner 'Damo' recalls the product sold well until they were no longer allowed to stock it.

His records show a final sale of the product was in November last year, recalling that it

definitely worked, and was pretty popular.

Damo said Ratsak Naturals was an option made from natural ingredients, but they came under the ownership of a big multinational company Nippon.

Continued on Page 5.

Coming events

Avon Descent
August 9 - 10

Toodyay Football Club wind-up
Saturday August 16

Toodyay Farmers Market
Sunday August 17

International Karate Championships
Sunday August 24

this month

classifieds	30
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Elders

The Toodyay Herald

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August22**

STORY DEADLINE
**Noon Monday
August 25**

DISTRIBUTED
**Thursday
September 4**

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Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

Question time is an opportunity to engage with the public

The Outsider

THE ‘NEW’ rather draconian procedure for public questions at the June council meeting, made little difference to the number of questions.

However, it totally removed any opportunity for questioners to follow up with further questions for clarification or for anyone to ask a spontaneous question.

Only questions submitted several hours in advance on a specific form were accepted.

A number of questions were still taken on notice, although perhaps fewer than previously.

This process doesn’t really seem to provide a fair and equitable opportunity to ask public questions.

Accessibility to the process appears largely dependent on having skills in technology, reading and writing, or available transport or time to visit the shire office at least twice.

Anyone thinking of a question during the few hours prior to the meeting was excluded.

Anyone attending who needed to ask a follow up or spontaneous question, resulting from the response to them or someone else was excluded.

Anyone lacking the necessary technology or understanding to deal with the online form was disadvantaged by needing to attend the shire administration office to submit a handwritten form several hours earlier as well as attend the meeting (e.g. elderly or those living 25-30km out of town).

The entire complex process and acerbic responses to questioners seems likely to discourage potential questioners.

In recent council meetings attention has been drawn through public questions to two rather embarrassing errors that appeared to have gone unnoticed internally.

The first being the ‘double counting’ of some properties in the proposed rate setting information giving the erroneous impression that the shire had gained 800 extra rateable properties.

The second was in the updated resolution presented to council for advertising differential rates.

One of the categories had a rate in the dollar eight times that of last year due to a misplaced decimal point.

Both of these errors appear to have been addressed; however, ongoing public oversight remains crucial.

The right to ask questions publicly and expect transparency in responses is significant for local democracy.

These and other concerns raised by questioners over recent months (including items consistently missed out from monthly finance statements and cost over-runs unknown to council), along with the Audit Disclaimer Opinion from the Auditor General for 2023/24, don’t inspire great confidence in the rigour of internal processes.

The budget seems rather optimistic – the following points are based on the figures in the officer report and draft budget (July council meeting).

It appears to rely on expected revenue from the sale of assets (several buildings), a lengthy process that may take months, or more, for completion.

Half a million dollars is earmarked to ‘refurbish’ buildings.

How it might be distributed is unclear; maybe some will be used on deferred repairs from last year.

The \$600,000 allocated for ‘keyworker’ accommodation is puzzling, since the shire already owns a Clinton Street duplex slated for disposal.

It would be interesting to know the thinking behind selling the duplex rather than using it for ‘key workers’.

This is particularly interesting as part has been rented to non-shire staff in recent times so apparently not needed for ‘key workers’.

Some ballpark figures.

If your rates are \$2,500 the 2.2 per cent increase raises them by \$55.

This is a total increase in rate revenue of around \$460,000 over the previous budget.

This may not cover increased costs.

So, what will we lose?

Worrying for a community already struggling with the cost of living.

Toodyay colours of the morning



Above: Looking down onto the Toodyay race course. Photo: C.Rae. Below: Avon River and hill sunrise. Photo: S.Hefferon.



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Yarran's art gallery is a dream come true

Rashelle Predovnik

THERE'S a quiet power carried by Aboriginal Artist Arron Yarran – it's a presence marked by softness, calm and a rare gentleness that draws you in.

Yet beneath that gentle exterior lays a painful, personal story forged in hardship and resilience: there is so much more to this Nyiyaparli-Nyoongar woman than meets the eye.

She is living proof of the truth in the saying, *"Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength."*

Some of her story spills out in colour, onto canvas, where she paints both darkness and light.

Deft strokes, that depict struggles with mental health – and pushing through – and helping others to do the same.

Yarran has worked for over 30 years in the community as an artist, teacher and youth worker, and she has many stories to tell.

Yarran's passion to share the history of her people and their healing stories has featured in many exhibitions, over three decades.

During NAIDOC week she joined 15 independent first nations artists in an exclusive exhibition Wangening Bardip (Healing Stories) in Perth.

Each piece showcased Aboriginal people's philosophy of life and their connection to land.

You will often find Yarran behind a paintbrush, creating bold statements on canvas, in her gallery, MaOchre in Midland.

A huge vibrant mural adorns a vast wall on the Midland Gate Shopping Centre and it's just one of many murals the former lecturer of public art at Central TAFE has made.

Yarran is also set to leave her mark in Toodyay with an artist in residency secured at the visitors' centre.

The former youth worker is also thinking about her next community engagement project: how she can help truant school kids in Toodyay re-engage with school.

She muses about the workshops she should run to help them find their passion and realise their potential.

These life changing workshops are a passion project she has run for many years now.

Yarran's gallery in Midland – which she opened four years ago – was a long held dream come true.

But, her sanctuary is the home she bought in Coondle, a retreat nestled in nature.

Yarran had been looking for years and



Yarran at her gallery in Midland and she plans to have her works on display for sale at the Toodyay Visitors Centre where she will be an artist in residence.

when the property went up for sale she just knew it was right for her.

"It was just the feeling I got."

And that feeling was confirmed in a unique way, Yarran fondly recalls.

"On the day of my mum's funeral, I got a message that my loan was approved, so I thought 'yep, that was a sign'."

Yarran is keen to support other artists and she has signed onto the Arts Toodyay

committee.

Since 2005, Arts Toodyay has been nurturing creativity across the region, championing both emerging and established artists through exhibitions, workshops, events and vibrant monthly gatherings.

Its aims marry well with Yarran's community spirit and she has agreed to hold one of her workshops for Arts Toodyay.

Yarran has also opened up her gallery

in Midland to artists from all areas and backgrounds to share their works.

Beyond the walls of her studio and gallery, Arron extends her passion for art with the wider community, leading workshops, cultural activities and storytelling sessions across both metropolitan Perth and rural areas.

Professional training, and an interest in improving mental health, has helped Yarran approach people in a sensitive way.

Over the years, she has developed an awareness crafted by care and experience, to the point where she can identify specific mental health issues through observing the way people use colour and how they create art.

The great grandmother is also well respected in the community for the programs she delivers that help to train and support Aboriginal people.

Her strong background in teaching and youth work has shaped her ability to design and deliver meaningful programs, using art as a bridge to help young people reconnect with culture and find strength in creativity.

Unsurprisingly, she has been recognised for her art development programs across the state.

Through MaOchre Grassroots, Yarran delivers art, design, and mentoring programs to disadvantaged people and youth.

Yarran's programs have led to educational reintegration and employment for both young people and elders, and it's a legacy to be proud of.

Building on this success, Yarran's vibrant and culturally rich pieces continue to captivate audiences both at home and abroad.

Her artwork has been hung and sold in Germany, Switzerland, Perth, regional Australia, Paris and China.

More locally, the Toodyay Visitors centre will have her art for sale during her artist in residency, which is in the pipeline.

Her works are also available to buy online from Art Gallery Australia.

From gallery walls in Midland and international exhibitions, to grassroots workshops in Toodyay, Yarran continues to show us that art can do more than decorate – it can connect, uplift, and transform.

And in a world hungry for hope and meaning, that may be her most powerful masterpiece of all.

Three young achievers leading by positive example

Continued from Page 1.

Sean Heffernon

IN RECENT weeks Toodyay has seen a trifecta of young achievers getting their just reward for ongoing effort and perseverance.

Jonathan Yates a stalwart at the Toodyay Bakery brought home the award for Best Apprentice Baker in Australia and New Zealand at the Baking in Excellence Competition held in Sydney last month.

Since receiving his award Jono has also completed his apprenticeship so continues plying his trade now as a fully-fledged baker in Toodyay.

Importantly, Jono has also recently become engaged to Jordyn.

Congratulations.

Jayden Hansord, who also featured on the front page of the July edition of the Herald, is soon to return from the World Dragon Boat Championships.

He competed in the event held in Germany



Jono with his trophy an award that he credits to a great Toodyay Bakery team effort.

as part of the Australian under-18 team and will return with two bronze medals to add to his collection.

The Australian contingent came 6th on the medal count out of 34 nations that competed at the international competition.

Jayden's global feats add to an already impressive list of achievements including being named Toodyay's Young Citizen of the Year in 2024.

From baking to dragon boat racing to athletics, the recognition of local young achievers continues.

William James, a Year 8 St Joseph's student and Toodyay local, recently represented Western Australia at the prestigious 30th Annual Junior International Athletics Competition in Singapore.

The two-day event was held last month and saw young athletes aged 14 to 16 gather from across the region to compete.

William competed in several events including the 100m sprint, 4 x 100m relay and 200m hurdles.



Jayden is all smiles after winning his first international dragon boat medal.

He returned home with a silver and bronze medal, a superb achievement particularly as he is relatively new to the sport.

In the last year William won 12 athletics medals and also broke St Joseph's boys 100 metre record, a record that had stood for 37 years.

He credits his success to focused determination, a strong network and the support of his parents and club. Having access to the local recreation facilities also helped with his training.

William, also a member of the U13 team at the Toodyay Lions Football Club, said,

"I'm grateful for the support I've received from my family, sporting clubs, school, physios, and the broader Toodyay and Northam communities."

Reflecting on his recent Singapore trip, "It was great and a cool experience."



William after his successful competition in Singapore and no doubt more to come.

His sights are now set on qualifying for the Malaysian International Tour in 2026.

Jono, Jayden and William – three young local achievers leading by example.

Congratulations and well done.

Avon Descent August 9 - 10



A kayaker in the 2024 Avon Descent.

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The Toodyay Herald

Young achievers

GEORGE Bernard Shaw remarked, “Youth is wasted on the young.”

This quote captures the fact that many young people squander the opportunities that their youth affords them.

Yet, amidst this loss, we find shining examples of young achievers who remind us of the capabilities within our youth.

Take, for instance, Jonathan, recognised as the best bakery apprentice in Australia.

Then there is Jayden, a Young Citizen of the Year and now an international dragon boat racing competitor.

Finally, we cannot overlook the youngest of this trio, William who at 13 years-of-age has already competed in athletics internationally.

Yes, it is true that youth can be wasted; however, Jonathan, Jayden, and William remind us that it is also a time of profound potential and possibility.

These three young achievers embody the potential within the youth of Toodyay.

Their stories also inspire us to reflect on Shaw’s words and to consider how we can support and encourage the younger generation to embrace their potential fully.

Shire of Toodyay budget

AS THE shire acts to enable its new budget residents are faced with a mixed bag of financial decisions.

The modest rate rise of 2.2 per cent may seem manageable on the surface, yet it comes with a set of financial manoeuvres that may have community implications.

Take the planned sale of \$2.9 million worth of assets.

While the intention behind these sales may be to bolster the shire’s financial position, it raises questions.

If expected sale prices are not met, the budget could face big shortfalls, forcing the shire to make hard choices about future spending.

The budget’s capital expenditure is almost twice that of the past two years combined, raising concerns about the shire’s capacity to manage this significant spending increase.

How much of this work will be outsourced?

With materials and contracts expected to see a staggering 27 per cent increase in costs compared with last year, reliance on contractors could worsen financial strain.

The shire’s track record in meeting its capital works targets is a point of concern; in the 2024/25 year, it fell short of its goals by a sizable margin.

Additionally, while there has been a notable increase in grants, are these grants firmly secured, or do they remain contingent upon future approvals?

Furthermore, when considering the total impact of rising rates and service fees, households could face an overall cost increase of 5 per cent or more.

While the modest rate increase may provide some short-term relief, it is crucial for residents to remain vigilant and engaged in the decision-making processes that shape their community.

Ultimately, the budget presents opportunities and challenges.

By fostering transparency, accountability, and community involvement, the shire can address these challenges and ensure that residents’ needs are considered in financial planning and the provision of community services.

Sean Hefferon
Editor



The way we were – West Toodyay School circa 1902-1906. Back row (left to right): Henry Stewart, Sissy Boxall, unknown, Julie Lindsay, May Stewart, Daisey Ferguson, May Hutchings (teacher) holding Alma Worth, Ruby Lindsay, unknown, W.D. Keogh (teacher), Arnold Hutchings, Robert Waters, Bert Stevens. Middle row (left to right): Amy Mathews, unknown, H. Lindsay, Olive Strahan, Jack Mathews, John Waters, Herb Mathews, Fred Waters, Syd Hutchings, George Ferguson, Charlie Doust, unknown. Front row: (left to right): James Strahan, Eilcen Strahan, unknown, Grace Hutchings, unknown, Lennard Lindsay, Lionel Ferguson, unknown, Billy Geary, Tom Geary, unknown. Photo: Courtesy of Doris Martin.

LETTERS

Ag Show needs your help

OVERWHELMING dread and a sense of terrible loss came over me when I recently checked in with both the President and Patron of the Toodyay Agricultural Society (TAS).

It is not a good sign to hear that the committee is battling.

I realise we’ve been overwhelmed in the past but it does make it harder when the committee is down in numbers and the current members have limited capacity to undertake all the tasks required to meet set deadlines.

Unfortunately the situation is that TAS has reached crisis point for 2026 unless support is shown for the remaining committee members at next year’s AGM.

The TAS was established in 1853.

What does the community of Toodyay think when they hear that their beloved Toodyay Show with our scenic Showgrounds, colourful displays, entertainment, livestock, fireworks and of course the perfect venue for family reunions may not continue?

Is all that time, work and effort shown by so many over the years to be thrown away?

The thought is beyond belief to me and, as I write, the memories of my years on that wonderful committee, with many incredible people organising one of the most outstanding regional agricultural Shows come flooding back.

So, it is up to all of you to understand that next year a solid, skill-based group of individuals who appreciate and respect the history of our Show is desperately needed to nominate for the organising Committee.

Otherwise, she will fold.

Mrs Alison Wroth
TAS Life Member

Fruitbats caught on camera

WHO STOLE oranges growing outside Toodyay Manor on Stirling Terrace?

Your theft has been caught on camera.

Be expecting a call from our diligent police.

The owners have not had a chance to taste the oranges.

The photos will be a visual reminder.

Shame on you.

Tidy Town effort is the order of the day.

House holders, please tidy up around your house and where possible, sweep up the leaves on the footpath. These leaves are very good for the garden.

Not for the green bin

Patricia de Soto-Phillips
Toodyay

Thieves sabotage good work

IT HAS been rewarding to see the effort the shire gardeners have put in to bring life to some rather dull and neglected sites.

What a shame that there are some morons in the community who steal the new plantings.

Get a life and respect the work of others.

Barry Keens
Toodyay

Thankful for our sponsors

THE TOODYAY District High School Breakfast Club has been continuously operating for 14 years.

The Club provides simple, healthy foods to students who may not have had breakfast at home.

The number of students attending the breakfast club varies between 20 and 45 and can depend on the weather.

Breakfast Club is provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

In the past year we have expanded the choice of foods to compliment those foods provided by Foodbank.

IGA kindly donate Milo, a local honey supplier has provided honey, and we have had sponsorship from the Op Shop to enable us to supply buttered toast and spreads.

We thank these sponsors for making a difference to the health and wellbeing of those students who use the service.

Some of our students do not have the means to have lunch either.

The students at our school are the future of Toodyay and should be nurtured by their families and the community.

Sadly, this is not always the case.

I’m pleased to report that the Op Shop have extended their sponsorship, Toodyay Locals Care have become a significant sponsor, the CWA has become a sponsor and a kind individual has donated \$100.

This sponsorship allows the School Breakfast Club to not only continue the service but will allow us to work with the

school to provide emergency lunches.

Our heartfelt thanks go to these groups.

Your support is making a difference to the many students who use the service.

Thanks also to the wonderful volunteers who support this program.

Hamish Dobie
Toodyay

Much pride in our small town

I TRAVELLED east recently and at the Birdsville pub I saw David Littleproud, Federal leader of the National Party.

I saw him again at the pub at Windorah, so I introduced myself and in response to his question, said I lived in Toodyay.

He replied, “Toodyay. I love Toodyay. I could live in Toodyay. And the best bakery in Australia”. There you go.

Wayne Fletcher
Toodyay

Telstra tidies up

THE TOODYAY Telstra Exchange building on Duke Street has had a tidy up.

A Telstra subcontractor was spotted on August 1 doing a bit of weeding – on the rooftop of the exchange.

That is, the gutter garden that had been in place for who knows how long was being pulled up by the safely tethered ‘gardener’.

His colleague at ground level, Akash, told the *Herald* that he and Gaveesha (who was busily weeding the gutter) are engaged by Telstra to provide garden maintenance and cleaning services at exchanges throughout country WA.

Akash said they intended to be back in Toodyay on a regular basis to keep the local exchange looking tidy.

Telstra doing its bit for tidy town Toodyay.



Gaveesha on weeding duties.

Our environment matters at the Toodyay Herald...

news@toodyayherald.com.au

Toodyay Rainfall													
Recordings and average commenced on 1 January 1907													
YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2019	1.8	0	5.8	15.4	8.7	125.7	128.4	66.3	13.4	15.2	6.0	0	386.7
2020	0	31.6	9.8	6.4	38.2	48.9	43.7	61.8	30.2	5.9	48.8	3.5	328.8
2021	0.03	17.3	137.3	11.1	121.7	30.4	154.2	70.3	39	61.6	2.2	0	645.13
2022	31.7	4.5	14	30.9	36.8	43	42.7	151.1	44	15.6	12	5.1	431.4
2023	0.1	0	54.9	29	21.8	74.3	42.4	19.8	32.3	2.9	7.4	2.0	286.9
2024	9.8	4.5	0	7.8	43.5	53.2	77	85.3	18.7	21.6	22	1.9	345.3
2025	3.7	0	27	47.6	15.2	23.8	65.7						183
Average	17.20	17.30	15.50	26.10	54.80	57.04	79.16	75.77	29.60	20.47	16.40	2.08	411.42

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.

Shire and councillors worked hard to achieve modest rate increase

Between You and Me

Mick McKeown, Shire President

OUR JULY Ordinary Council Meeting was a busy one.

Council adopted the Shire of Toodyay budget for 2025/26.

Council was pleased to be able to adopt a budget that included a rate in the dollar increase of just 2.2 per cent.

The 2.2 per cent increase is less than the 2.9 per cent increase in inflation reported for Perth for the year just ended in June 2025.

It is also significantly less than the increases of 7 per cent and 5 per cent applied in Toodyay in the two previous budgets.

The 2.2 per cent is also lower than the increases of 6 per cent and 3.5 per cent adopted in the neighbouring Shires of Chittering and Northam.

Shire staff and councillors worked long and hard during the preparation of the draft budget to achieve this result.

Several workshops were held to help to identify how the work of the Shire could be done more efficiently and where ratepayer's

money could be saved.

For example, savings were included in the budget by reducing the use of consultants, and avoiding the costs of having to repeat Shire works by doing the job right the first time.

In addition to the modest increase in the rate in the dollar, the Shire will benefit from an increase in rates collected from properties where development was completed in past years but where the rating category had not been changed.

Council also approved a Memorandum of Understanding to work with the Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association to support the staging of the annual AVVVA Swap Meet event in Toodyay for a five-year period from 2026 to 2030.

This agreement follows on from a highly successful Swap Meet held at the Toodyay Showgrounds earlier this year.

The Marsupial Mammals and Poppas, the well-known group of volunteers that cares for injured wildlife, asked Council for approval for a lease of the old railway building at the Community Depot.

Council was pleased to agree to the lease,

subject to considerations of public submissions.

Once a lease is granted the Mammals and Poppas are looking forward to attending to injured wildlife, providing opportunities for work experience for school and veterinary students and for Centrelink clients to undertake voluntary work.

Council also approved a proposal from another volunteer group, the Toodyay Community Garden Inc. for a community garden near the Toodyay Railway Station, on part of the site of the Old Shire Works Depot.

Council also agreed to the lease subject to considerations of public submissions.

Once a lease is granted, the Toodyay Community Garden will be able to go ahead with their plans for the development of a community garden where the community can grow fruit and vegetables with sustainable practices and host gatherings, workshops and community events and work in conjunction with other community groups like the Moondyne Men and Arts Toodyay.

The Bendigo Bank provides a vital banking service to the Toodyay community and delivers essential Department of Transport

licensing service.

The Toodyay and Districts Community Financial Services Limited has offered to buy the Bendigo Bank property from the Shire of Toodyay.

This will allow the Bendigo Bank business to make further investment in the building and to be able to continue to provide banking services in Toodyay.

The proposed purchase is a sign of the faith of the Bendigo Bank in the future of Toodyay.

This proposed sale is also subject to consideration of public submissions.

Our congratulations go to two younger members of our Toodyay community.

Jayden Hansord won two bronze medals in the World Dragon Boat Racing Championships held at Brandenburg in Germany. The championships were contested by competitors from 34 countries.

Jonathan Yates, who works at the Toodyay Bakery, was announced as the Best Apprentice Baker in Australia and New Zealand at the recent Baking in Excellence competition in Sydney.

Well done Jayden and Jonathan.

Product sold as 'chemical poison free

Continued from Page 1.

He said if the Birds were able to get their product approved for sale, he would be happy to sell it again in his store.

"It's good to have more options on the market and nice to be able to support smaller WA businesses."

The Birds are now at odds with the APVMA who says their product needs to be registered as a chemical.

Mr Bird said being required to register their eco-friendly product, that had no chemicals, as a chemical was nonsensical.

It was also problematic, as Kaboom was marketed as 'chemical poison free'.

The Birds also discovered the cost of registering their product under the APVMA's chemical classification was more expensive than their small business could afford.

Mr Bird said Kaboom was specifically tailored to rodents and the solution was simple.

"Change the law to allow for products that are not based on 'traditional' poisons," he said.

"Putting a product that's safe enough for people to eat in the same category as a poison is ridiculous."

In a bid to get the APVMA to reconsider their decision, the couple contacted their Federal Member of Parliament, Melissa Price for help.

She wrote to the Minister for Fisheries, Agriculture and Forestry about their case, but the response was a 'copy and paste' of general information taken from the APVMA website.

Mr Bird said his argument with the APVMA was that their product was not a

chemical or pesticide.

"It's a food product," he said.

"Their response is that because it kills it must be a chemical.

"They seem to be fixated on chemicals and unwilling to recognise that there are ecologically aware solutions too."

The regulators directive to stop selling their popular product has been devastating to the West Australian locally owned and operating business.

Mr Bird has now had to try and find a job to support his family and with no local jobs in the Shire of Dowerin he's had to consider working in Perth, a four hour round trip.

Adding to his stress, Mr Bird said employment opportunities for someone his age were limited.

Currently, the Birds have a list of dealers across WA with stocks of Kaboom they are unable to sell.

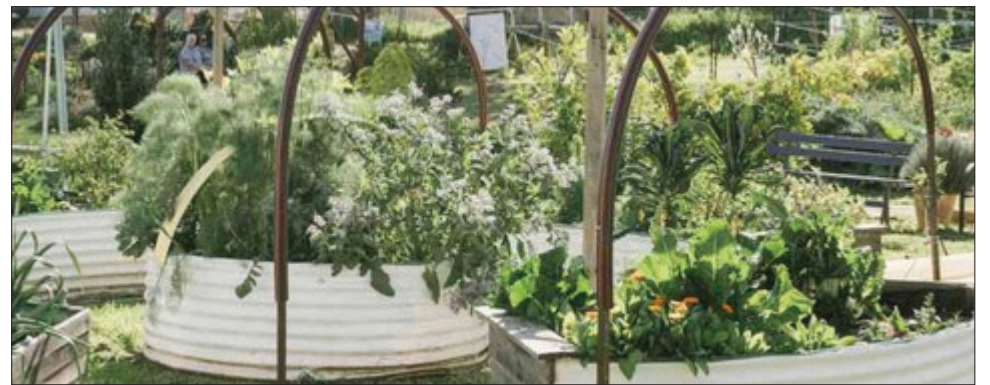
The APVMA has been reviewing the use of SGARs since 2021.

But the Birds say they can't rely on that review, as their product doesn't fall under the SGARs category, so it won't be included in the regulator's assessment.

With the APVMA's findings long overdue, councils across Australia have begun conducting their own reviews of the rodent baits they use; however, this is not on Toodyay Shire's agenda.

Toodyay Shire president Mick McKeown said the issue of secondary poisoning was not something anyone in the community had mentioned to him.

On reflection, he added, people in Toodyay might be concerned about secondary poisoning if it affected their pets.



A section of the Beverley community garden showing the raised garden beds.

'This is exciting news for our community'

Rosemary Madasci

TOODYAY is about to get its own long awaited community garden at the old shire works depot near the town railway station.

Toodyay Shire councillors agreed last month to publicly advertise the lease of 4000 square metres of vacant shire land to the Toodyay Community Garden Club for a \$300 a year "peppercorn" rent over the next 12 years, dependent on community comment.

This is exciting news for our community.

It realises a community need, first expressed more than 20 years ago when Gary Nelmes built a vegetable garden for the residents at Butterly Cottages.

Although well used, it was eventually replaced by parking and the pleasure and benefits it provided were lost.

In 2014, shire employee Karla Hooper and enthusiastic residents attempted to establish a community garden but failed due to the unsuitable sites available.

Move forward another ten years to February 2024 and residents led by Gary formed a new community garden group and incorporated.

Since, they have worked tirelessly to deliver a community garden and join other WA regional towns such as Beverly, Brookton, Dowerin, Goomalling and Merredin in

providing the broad benefits these bring to community.

Thoughtfully designed community gardens are valuable community assets.

They provide a place for people of different backgrounds, ages and abilities to connect, share knowledge, learn new skills or simply enjoy a cup of tea in a peaceful setting.

Centrally located, easily accessible community gardens create a sense of belonging and community spirit.

Whether to grow food, socialise, learn, unwind or exercise, there is something for everyone.

The restorative power of these gardens to mental wellbeing are globally recognised and form part of many community transformation and grassroots projects.

Globally many organisations now support these initiatives, an example being the 82 nation strong Associated Country Women and the Planting the Seeds of Peace program.

Importantly, it is recognised the practice of gardening has been proven to be a very therapeutic tool for those who have suffered trauma. It has been found to reduce stress, anxiety and depression and to improve psychological wellbeing.

Toodyay needs this, and so the adventure begins.

Santa, snow flurries and happy kids

Sean Hefferon

ON A WINTERY night, Toodyay's Federation Square and Memorial Hall came alive for Christmas in July.

The event had a much appreciated woodfire on the chilly night where people could keep warm whilst munching on a loaded hot dog.

A tummy-filling win for hungry folks and a handy fundraiser for Avon Valley Shotokan who cooked up the treats

Sean Byron and Christmas 360 provided the lower hall decorations and Santa Claus to bring cheer to young children and adults alike.

The event is the first of a number that the Shire of Toodyay is holding this financial year as a replacement for the 2025 Toodyay International Food Festival.



Santa snapped on his way to the festivities.



Getting amongst the fun and the snow.



Gathering around a warming fire.

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Avoid the slips and trips when watching the whitewater race

Police Beat

With Sgt
Jamie Boryczewski
Toodyay Police Station



WITH the Avon Descent just around the corner spectators are urged to be cautious when seeking vantage points from which to view the whitewater spectacle.

It's surprising how easy it can be to trip and slip when clambering over wet rocky ground, so take care.

Also please take care when crossing over what are likely to be busier roads than usual in the local area.

In terms of traffic management, we have had a reasonably good run up until the end of July – touch wood.

That said, on July 26 local police attended a motor vehicle accident on the Toodyay – Bindi Bindi Road just outside of Bolgart.

The driver was heading south when he fell asleep resulting in his car drifting to the left onto the gravel shoulder, crashing through several small trees and a boundary fence, finally coming to a stop in a paddock.

Luckily, there were no apparent injuries but he was conveyed to hospital as a precaution.



At the Avon Descent the spills are not always on the water so take care when rock-hopping for a good viewing spot to watch the action and avoid trespassing on private property.

The driver was charged with careless driving – a timely reminder to be aware of fatigue and drive to conditions.

Given the wintery conditions some drivers are tempted to leave their car engine running (probably to keep the heater on as well) so

Moving from traffic management to social media and specifically child exploitation material and sharing of such online.

Possessing and sharing of such material is an offence, even in the instance when a child shares an exploitative image of themselves to another person. It's still an offence.

With the increased focus on children's access to social media it is always a good time for parents to speak with their children about internet use.

Police recently had cause to arrest a man with a history of domestic violence, the day after he was released from prison.

He had been released on protective bail on the condition that he not contact his partner.

He duly attempted to see his partner, was arrested and charged with breaching his bail. He now remains on remand pending trial.

You may be aware that your local police team aims to get out and about so we are often driving around Toodyay and surrounding areas.

This is partly about maintaining a visible presence as well as helping us to identify potential risks factors.

These can include garage doors being left open seemingly with the homeowner nowhere to be seen.

So, a gentle reminder to keep garages locked when not using them and that goes for doors as well. Thank you.

Crime prevention better than the cure

Safer Toodyay
Desrae Clarke

MANY people fear becoming a victim of home invasion.

The Office of Crime Prevention has useful information: www.crimeprevention.wa.gov.au.

Tips on the site are simple and include:

Locking up the house whether you are at home or out. Home invaders may enter an unlocked back door while at home.

Install quality deadlocks on all external doors, window key locks and security screens so you can have windows open without fear of uninvited guests.

If out in the evening, leave lights on which would normally be on if you were at home and activate

alarm systems when leaving your home.

Consider installing movement-activated external lighting.

Put away tools, gardening equipment and ladders that could be used to gain entry to the home or sheds and lock garden sheds and garages.

Keep trees and shrubs trimmed to minimise hiding places available to the invader.

Mark property that you value with your driver's license number prefixed by letters of the state, e.g WA 1234567.

Photograph and record serial numbers of all property you value and keep this information in a safe place.

Special marking pens (ultraviolet) are available that allow you to mark your items without it being apparent.

Should your property become stolen and subsequently located, police can use a special 'black light' to show your details.

Crime prevention is everybody's business.

Police	131 444
Crimestoppers	1800 333 000
Toodyay Police	9574 9555

Our environment
matters at the
Toodyay Herald...



Scammers are cunning

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

THE SEASON of tax returns and tax refunds is upon us.

The scammers are now very busy trying steal your tax refunds.

They try to trick you into handing over sensitive information including addresses, phone and drivers licence numbers, passwords and your Tax File Number.

Scammers use email, telephone calls, voice mail, SMS and social media.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and Services Australia never send unsolicited SMS messages or emails with links or asking you for personal identifiers.

The number of scam emails has quadrupled in the last twelve months, and the financial losses have almost tripled.

It pays to be extra vigilant about emails claiming to come from the ATO.

If you in doubt, you can call them by phone.

If you need to access the ATO website for more information, it is always safest to enter the ATO's web address directly into your web browser.

Toodyay local has her good work recognised



Roz Davidson the founder of Toodyay Locals Care is up for an award. Roz has previously been recognised as a Toodyay Citizen of the Year.

Sean Hefferon

Audit minutes no longer published

Sean Hefferon

TOGETHER with its recent decision to ban public questions without notice at council meetings, the Shire of Toodyay has ceased publishing minutes of its Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, thus further limiting regular public scrutiny of shire finances.

Under government regulations the committee assists the shire in carrying out its functions relating to audits and financial management matters.

When asked by the *Herald* why committee minutes were not posted on the shire's website the response, signed off by the CEO Aaron Bowman, was that as the meeting is not open to the public there is no legislative requirement to publish the minutes.

Minutes of the committee had previously been available on the shire's website for community review from 2021 to the end of 2024 – an action taken after the WA State Government inquiry into the Shire of Toodyay.

The inquiry was launched in 2018 in response to a series of complaints about accountability and transparency and tabled its findings in 2020 including there was evidence that the then CEO Stan Scott didn't adequately discharge his duties and that the council under the leadership of Crs Brian Rayner and Therese Chitty failed to take positive action with regards to this.

A *Herald* review of 40 local governments in WA indicated that 30 publish audit committee minutes.

ROS DAVIDSON, well-known founder of Toodyay Locals Care has been nominated in the 2024 Western Australian Community Achievement Awards.

The awards celebrate those people who have contributed to their community, no matter how big or small.

Some parts of her successful nomination are below.

"The founder of Toodyay Locals Care (TLC), Roz has been involved in her community for 15 years advocating for equity, justice and support for the disadvantaged.

Despite facing personal challenges such as being a single parent and a cancer survivor, Roz continues to tirelessly work to champion the causes of others.

"The impact of Roz and Toodyay Locals Care (TLC) on the community has been profound and far-reaching.

"Thanks to the medical transportation services provided by TLC, individuals in need have been able to access crucial cancer treatments such as radiation and chemotherapy, ultimately saving lives and giving hope to cancer survivors.

"The provision of clothing, food, and access to shower and laundry facilities in the 24/7 ablution block has helped homeless individuals, helping to meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life."

Another Toodyay legend leading by example and helping to build community.

TOODYAY

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

A celebration of volunteering that leads with the heart



Toodyay's Monika Williams receiving the Volunteer Recognition Award from Karen Stewart.

ON SATURDAY, July 26, the Northam Country Club played host to the inaugural St John WA Wheatbelt North Volunteer Recognition Awards.

This will be an annual event dedicated to acknowledging the exceptional contributions of St John WA volunteers across the region.

This prestigious ceremony serves as a platform to celebrate individuals and teams who exemplify the core values of St John WA – Lead with Heart, Think Team, Make It Better, and Walk the Talk.

All nominees were nominated by their

peers and selected by an independent judging panel from an external district, ensuring a transparent and equitable recognition process.

The event highlighted the profound impact that volunteers have in enhancing the safety, wellbeing and resilience of local communities.

Awards were presented across four categories, each recognising excellence in a distinct area of volunteer service.

Community Transport Volunteer Recognition Award

Shared purpose drives these volunteers



Wendy and Mark are a dependable duo in the local St John Ambulance sub centre.

St John Ambulance Toodyay
Monika Williams

MEET Wendy and Mark, a local couple who have channelled their shared passion for community service into volunteer ambulance work.

Their journey began by chance but has grown into a partnership in both life and emergency response.

Their story shows just how rewarding volunteering can be.

Why not consider joining with a friend or partner and making a difference together?

Wendy and Mark share not just a home, but an ambulance, a purpose, and years of service after Wendy's journey began unexpectedly during a shift at IGA.

After treating a colleague who had a diabetic episode, she was encouraged by a customer, who turned out to be a St John CP, to consider volunteering.

Intrigued but hesitant, she attended an open day and signed up five weeks later.

Mark, after retiring from a 30-year military career packed with first aid experience, joined her two years later.

Now with 10 years under Wendy's belt and seven for Mark, they've become a dependable duo in the local subcentre.

Responding to emergencies as a husband and wife team brings unique dynamics, with both good and bad times.

With complementary strengths, their

routine is second nature.

Mark handles medications and observations as Wendy gathers patient history. Sometimes no words are needed.

"We work intuitively," Wendy shares.

Light-hearted exchanges like "thanks, love" or "thanks, honey" during callouts occasionally raise eyebrows, prompting explanations of their relationship.

Supporting each other through emotionally taxing callouts is essential.

"We rely on life experience and each other," Wendy says.

Heavy cases are processed together, sometimes shared with fellow volunteers for broader insight.

One of Wendy's most moving moments was dancing with a cancer patient in his living room to *Unforgettable* by Nat King Cole.

"He knew he wasn't coming back and it was a privilege to give him that moment," she recalls.

Volunteering together has strengthened their bond and given them another topic of conversation.

Friends and family often lean on them for medical advice.

Wendy recalls a memorable bus incident involving gummy bears that earned her applause from passengers, and pride from her son who declared, "That's my mum."

Their son, a former police officer, relates deeply to their frontline work.

In their town, they're familiar faces.

"When we go out, I look around and think, I've been to him, I've been to her," Wendy reflects.

They encourage others to give volunteering a try, but caution that it may not suit every couple.

"You don't have to always go out together. It's good to work with others and break the routine."

The journey has brought personal growth, including bringing Wendy out of her shell.

Wendy invests time in studying and updating her skills, even repeating her EMT course to keep up with changes.

Through it all, she's learned that resilience and open-mindedness are key in a close-knit community.

Wendy says "We work with a diverse group and come together when it counts."

"Doing St John's taught me I can do things outside my comfort zone and I haven't thought, I can't do this."



Left to right: Monika Williams, Pam Tennant, Lachlan Hunter (MLA Member for Central Wheatbelt Nationals WA), Nuala Ennis, Paul Harrington.

Winner: Anne Bouveng – *Toodyay*
Finalists: Bert Hollier – *Jurien Bay*, Leslie Lee – *Northam*

Volunteer Support Role Recognition Award
Winner: Terrie James – *Lancelin*
Finalists: Denis Lord – *Wongan Hills*, Ian Rennie – *Cervantes*

Volunteer Recognition Award
Winner: Monika Williams – *Toodyay*
Finalists: Emma Brooks – *Dandaragan*, Don Macpherson – *Wongan Hills*

Sub Centre Recognition Award
Winner: *Woodridge Sub Centre*
Finalists: *Lancelin Sub Centre*, *Wongan Hills Sub Centre*

Each award recipient was acknowledged for unwavering dedication, leadership, and commitment to community service through their involvement with St John WA.

The ceremony featured a formal lunch and an opportunity for reflection, appreciation,

and celebration among volunteers, staff, and community stakeholders.

St John WA extends its sincere gratitude to the event's sponsors, whose generous support made the occasion possible.

Sponsors included: Wespray Boomsprays, Yerecoin Traders, AFGRI Equipment Mukinbudin, Turquoise Safaris and Goomalling, Toodyay and Mukinbudin Bendigo Bank branches.

Northam Country Club, Yvette's Cakes and Grazing Tables and Amber Balfour-Cunningham also supported the event.

Congratulations to winners and finalists and thank you to St John WA volunteers for leading with heart and making a real difference across our district.



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EMERGENCY SERVICES

The annual deep clean was followed by a delicious lunch

VBFB Toodyay Central
Peter Brennan

OUR LAST report on fire callouts for Toodyay Central VBFB was in the June article which covered callouts in May.

We have since had two in June but we were stood down and a brigade closer to the incident address was directed to investigate.

This break has given us some much needed respite and an opportunity to concentrate on family.

The break has also given us the opportunity to reflect back on the previous fire season and take an indepth look at areas to improve.

As the daylight hours begin to become longer, the new leadership team has discussed and shaped a revised pre-season training program.

This will be managed by our Training Officer, Brian Clarkson.

This program will be well underway before the Restricted Burning Period commences on October 1.

On Sunday July 20, we undertook the annual deep clean of both our station (Toodyay Co-Located Emergency Facility) and all our appliances.

This involved scrubbing and washing of the station appliance bay floors, tidying up storerooms, removing all kit from truck lockers, cleaning and detailing both lockers and the insides of cabs.

Toodyay VFRS joined us to assist with the cleaning of the station while also giving their



A happy crew is one that does the annual deep clean of the station and all appliances in anticipation of a delicious BBQ lunch.

own appliances a good going over.

Overall, a terrific effort by both brigades.

The activity was then followed by a well deserved BBQ lunch organised by our Social Secretary, Heather Brennan, and cooked by Kevin Sullivan and James King.

Many thanks go to all members from both brigades who turned out on a cool day to achieve such a successful outcome with all jobs completed before the rain came.

Well done, team.

At this time of the year members take the time to consider future courses they can take

to improve individual knowledge and skill, as well as progress themselves within the brigade, should they wish.

It is encouraging to see a number have done so.

At this time of the year, we encourage anyone from our community who is interested in joining a bush fire brigade to make contact and ask questions about what training is required to become a volunteer.

The basic requirement once a member is accepted is to complete the two foundation courses, Bushfire Safety Awareness and Firefighting Skills, before they can deploy

on an appliance.

Both courses are both held over two days.

Courses available in the Toodyay Shire during the remainder of the year are Bushfire Safety Awareness August 2 and 3 and November 1 and 2.

Firefighting Skills will be held on August 30 and 31 and November 15 and 16.

If you are thinking of joining us, come along to the Co-Located Emergency Facility at 67 Stirling Terrace on a Friday evening at 5pm, or leave a message for Captain Will Hort on 0427 421 233.

July had no callouts but training remains a top priority



The training simulation helped the crews hone their skills, essential in the quieter season.

VBFB Coondle Nunile
Aurelie Zimmermann, Secretary

THERE isn't much to report from the frontline this month.

July brought a wave of frosty mornings and some solid rainfall, with no callouts to attend.

It's been a quiet and uneventful period, giving crews a well-earned break.

While winter conditions may feel safer, it's important to remember that fire safety precautions should not be relaxed.

Planned burns or property clean-ups during this time carry their own risks.

Cool temperatures can be misleading as fires can still start and spread under the right conditions, especially on windy days.

Always keep water nearby when burning off or enjoying a bonfire.

Winter is also a good time for your family to review your bushfire plan, ensuring everyone knows what to do and where to go in case of a fire.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) developed the "My Bushfire Plan" initiative to help individuals and families prepare for bushfire emergencies by creating a personalised, easy-to-follow plan.

You can create and update your plan online or via the app and access it anytime, even without internet, so you're prepared when it matters most.

It provides clear guidance on when to leave, where to go and what to take if a bushfire threatens your area.

Behind the scenes at the station, it's business as usual with training sessions and courses in full swing.

Last month's training focused on hoses, fittings, and using the rear deck monitor.

Members started with a theory session covering different types of fittings and hose rolling techniques.

This was followed by a hands-on exercise using the dividing breech, laying out hose lines, and practising pump operations.

The second exercise centred around the use of the monitor on the rear deck.

A three person crew, including a driver, worked together to simulate extinguishing a flank fire while following a designated trail.

Although the scenario was only a mock exercise, the aim was to give members practical experience with the monitor, improve coordination, and build familiarity with its operation in a controlled, low pressure setting.

As per Coondle's tradition, the training wrapped up with a hearty breakfast barbecue, enjoyed by all who attended.

Despite it being the quiet season, vehicle checks are still taking place every Friday.

This time of year is ideal for all members to familiarise themselves with the equipment and its location, keeping everyone prepared and confident in using the gear when the busy season returns.

It's great to see the younger generation getting involved and showing such commitment as they are the future of our brigade and will help carry it forward.

The Coondle team is always looking for new 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 get in touch at coondle.nunilebfb@gmail.com

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Who listens to the radio that’s what we want to know

Avon Districts Support Brigade
Heather McNamara - Captain

YOUR Avon Districts Support Brigade has been busy in the cooler months with training and consolidating our knowledge and skills. Recently we visited the DFES Communications Centre and the rescue helicopter to hear from the team and the critical care paramedics. As a group we operate and manage a regionally based Incident Control Vehicle. This plays a vital role in emergency response from Toodyay right through to Southern Cross. We are on the lookout for potential radio operators to join our team. Do you have good listening skills, the ability

to communicate messages clearly, along with good written skills for recording information? If you said yes, please contact us. In the words of one of our operators “being a radio operator is a vital role supporting our crews on the ground and is a fast-paced environment to work in”.It can be chaotic. The ability to be calm, think clearly, and make sound decisions to escalate queries is crucial. At shift end the feeling you have contributed to an efficient response is very satisfying. There are other roles our team undertakes. Mapping is a role that provides support to incident management teams by creating up-to-date maps with water sources, road closures and environmental considerations or assets to protect for our crews on the ground.

Crew Registration, known as T-Carding is key in crew welfare, protection and logistical support. You do not need emergency services experience but a willingness to be part of a team working alongside like-minded community members is critical. We understand that availability can vary. The brigade encourages all levels of participation and welcomes discussing what suits you best. All training is provided. We train on a Wednesday evening in Northam and undertake weekend training including scenarios, divisional exercises with other Incident Support Brigades and local crews. If you feel this may be of interest, give our Recruitment and Community Engagement



Radio operators are a key part of the team. Officer Nikki a call on 0408 947 753. You can also follow us on Facebook or email AvonICV@northam.wa.gov.au.

Key budget focus on infrastructure

Continued from Page 1.

A key focus of the new budget is on infrastructure hence capital expenditure is budgeted to increase from \$6.1 million last year to \$11.9 million in 2025/26. This expenditure includes \$5.6 million of grant funding up from \$3.7 million in 2024/25. Major capital expenditure projects include road construction (\$3 million), key worker accommodation (\$600,000), refurbishment of shire buildings (\$500,000) and the Batty Pass land development project (\$2.18 million). The latter project relates to a shire project to rezone a portion of freehold shire land in Nunile from public open space to enable a residential rezoning. Payments for materials and contracts are projected to rise by 27% (\$1.2 million) over last year’s actual costs. Toodyay Shire CEO, Aaron Bowman said this increase was due to an increased works program. The capex budget includes \$700,000 carried over this year for the Toodyay – Bindi Bindi Road project. Total income from shire fees and charges is forecast to increase by 25 per cent with income from a shire program defined in the budget papers as ‘community amenities’ increasing by 35 per cent. Mr Bowman, in response to a Herald question said that the bulk of this increase is in the rubbish bin collection service to better reflect

the actual cost (of that service). The 2025/26 fee for residential bin services increased by \$68 to \$352, up by 24 per cent. An additional residential bin increases from \$99 to \$267 and for an additional commercial bin the fee increases from \$122 to \$328. Fees for paying rates by instalments increase by \$2.50 and the interest penalty fee for unpaid rates increases to 11 per cent. Annual sporting club charge for the use of recreation facilities remains unchanged from last financial year; however, if a club loses its facility key it can expect to pay \$100 for a replacement. Funding for CCTV in Toodyay town, removed from last years budget has been reinstated for 2025/26 with \$150,000 allocated. The Toodyay Aquatic Centre can look forward to a new shade structure with \$15,000 set aside for this work. Shire employee costs are forecast to reduce by 3 per cent compared with last year’s budget. As at July 1 the shire had a fulltime equivalent workforce of 36.61 and an employee headcount of 39 excluding 15 casual employees. Cr McKeown, Toodyay Shire President, commented at the July council meeting that the rate increase was less than the 3.5 per cent and 6 per cent applied this year in the neighbouring Shire’s of Northam and Chittering. Adding, “shire staff and councillors have worked hard to prepare this budget and looked at how work could be done more efficiently and where costs could be saved”.



The Perth Integrated Events Team (PIET) aims to run the Tour of Toodyay in May 2026.

Riding along on my pushbike honey...

A WINTER morning last month saw a bunch of lycra-clad cyclists gathered for a warming cup of coffee at the Toodyay Bakery. The hardy bunch were up from Perth to assess Toodyay’s case for a cycling event. The weather seemed a bit anti-cycling on that morning so the Herald couldn’t help but strike up a conversation with the cyclists. Bakery-fueled, the hardy cycling group then headed out for a wet and windy exploratory ride around Julimar. Ian Wee, who heads up PIET, spoke with the Herald a few days after the cycling adventure.

PIET has been behind many iconic Western Australian events including the Perth Coastal Bike Ride and the Tour of Albany. Ian wants to see a big event and thinks that Toodyay’s closeness to Perth will help. PIET is aiming to be back in May 2026 and with three cycling distances being a Piccolo (40km), Medio (80km) and a Gran (100km). If the event takes off and PIET’s track (or cycling) record suggests that it will, then Toodyay may just become as renowned for its cycling events as it is for rolling hills, heritage buildings, a river and jalapeno pies (and more).



Pending due process the above Shire of Toodyay properties are intended for sale as part of the 2025/26 budget. Bottom left (then clockwise): 108 Stirling Terrace, Connors Cottage (5 Piesse Street), O’Reilly’s Cottage (98 Stirling Terrace), 19A/B Clinton Street. The below infographic highlights aspects of the budget (further details on the shire website).

Rate revenue up 5.7%

Average rate increase 2.2%

Asset sales \$2.9 million

Elected members cost up 3.4%

Total fees and charges up 25%

Shire employee costs down 3%

Key capex projects include:

CCTV \$150,000

Key worker accommodation \$600,000

Shire buildings refurbishment \$500,000

Road construction \$3 million

Bejoording Fire Station replacement \$885,000

Upcoming first aid courses

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

Price: \$170.00

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

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

Understand first aid
Learn about first aid theory and action plans

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

Injury management
Treat and manage injuries in interactive training scenarios.

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

St John First Aid Training

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

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Artwork shows the link between family and country

‘The area was once a thriving Karleri (family camp)’

Dudja Waangkiny
(Toodyay Yarning)



Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

NOONGAR MOORT (family) have lived and cared for BOODJA (country) in the Toodyay Valley for over 45,000 years maintaining a deep relationship with BOODJA, KEP (water), BONAR (seasons) and each other. This art represents Noongar MOORT life on BOODJA, reflecting the strong connection between MOORT and BOODJA. It was inspired by yarns with Elders as we sat near the junction of GUGULJA (Avon River) and Boyagerring Brook earlier this year after holding a sacred river blessing. The area was once a thriving KARLERL (family camp). An area rich in resources and sustained by cultural knowledge, family ties and seasonal rhythms. Here, an extended family lived closely with nature, sharing responsibilities and maintaining a strong connection to BOODJA. Families lived within defined MOORT-BOODJA (family lands) with rights to specific KEP-WARI (waterholes) essential for survival. Every family member held roles and responsibilities ensuring sustainability and harmony across generations. At the heart of the camp, the KAARLA (campfire) was kept burning day and night. Around it, the family gathered to share food, reflect on their day, strengthen bonds

and pass down KAARTDIJIN (knowledge) MUNGART (Jam Tree), KWELL (Sheoak), BIBOOL (Swamp Paperbark), MOITCH (Flooded gum) and MANGATJ (Banksia) surround the bush landscape, offering shelter, shade, materials for tools, and food. These are all essential to daily life. KOORNT (shelters), made from branches, bark, and grass, were carefully lined with KWELL needles and YONGA (kangaroo) skins for comfort. Inside one, a KABARLI (older woman) cares for a baby, showing the nurturing role of grandmothers. Nearby, YORGA (women) sit at the fire grinding KWOLAK (grain) with a MULLER (grinding stone) and preparing food, as a young girl listens and learns. A BOORDIYA (Elder) draws symbols in the sand while telling stories to the KULUNGA (children). This is teaching through observation, experience and connection to place. At the edge of the camp, MAAMAN (men) return from a successful hunt carrying DAATJ (meat) to share. Daily tools – GIDGIE (spear), WANNA (digging stick), YANDI (carrying dish) and BOOKA (skin cloak) are placed around the camp, and dillybags (woven storage bags with grains collected in an earlier season) hang from a branch, reminders of the skill, care and resourcefulness passed down through generations. The nearby BILYA (waterway) flows gently through the landscape, lined with YANGET (bullrush). Its bulbs were roasted and leaves used in weaving, and teeming with YARKAN (turtle), DJILJIT (fish), and YERDERAP (duck), reaffirming the lifeblood that connects people, water, and country. While this scene captures only a glimpse of daily camp life, much more activity unfolded across the seasons. Noongar society was supported by many



Environmental Art by Chelle Ellery for the Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation. This painting depicts an ancestor camp along the banks of the Boyagerring Brook in Toodyay an area that was once a thriving family camp.

Wood raffle drawn Toodyay Masonic Lodge Charlie Wroth

vital roles, including food gatherers, fishers, tool makers, fire-keepers, weavers, healers, midwives, trackers and ceremonial leaders. People prepared animal hides, gathered bush medicines and cared for others. Cultural knowledge was passed on through ongoing WAANGKINY (yarning, continuous guidance), BOORN WAANGKINY (message sticks), symbols, sand drawing, song and dance. Everyone learned by listening, watching, and doing every day, on Country. Each person played a part in keeping families strong and culture alive, with knowledge shared through practice, observation and deep listening on Country. This scene reminds us of the resilience of ancestors and the continuing perseverance and spirit of Noongar culture today.

WE HELD a successful wood raffle in July which was once again well supported by both the Toodyay community and visitors. Thank you so much to those who stopped for a chat or gave a donation. It all helps. With our minimal resources available, the funds raised over the two days will go towards the Toodyay DHS Scholarship that we provide each year and maintenance of our historic Lodge building. Congratulations to the winner, Meredith, Ticket No. Green A 94 who received a lovely load of split Jarrah wood. For further information about Freemasonry, please contact Mick Tock 0456 614 123.

TOODYAY ROAD UPGRADE

August 2025

Tender issued for construction – works to begin in late-2025

Major upgrades to Toodyay Road will begin in late-2025. This follows the release of a tender to industry for construction of the works between Dryandra Road and Clackline-Toodyay Road.



Upon completion in late 2027, the project will have upgrade the Wheatbelt section of Toodyay Road, significantly improving safety and efficiency. **Scope** Two sections of the Toodyay Road Upgrade, at Jingaling Brook and from Clackline-Toodyay Road to just west of the Toodyay townsite, have already been completed under smaller, stand-alone contracts. To improve efficiency, traffic management and staging, the parts of the remaining

elements of the project have been amalgamated into a single contract. The project comprises.

- The upgrade of Toodyay Road to meet current standards for regional roads.
- Various intersection improvements, including turning pockets and enhanced sight lines.
- Four new overtaking lanes.
- The replacement of the 85-year old Jimperding Brook bridge.

Rationale Collectively, the upgrades will reduce the likelihood and severity of crashes on a section of road with a very poor safety record. In the decade between 2011 and 2021 there were 81 crashes within the project area. Thirty of these crashes resulted in death or serious injury. The most recent fatality occurred in late 2024. Although crash rates

have fallen in recent years, the conditions that contributed to the earlier crashes have not changed. These conditions include narrow lanes, unsealed shoulders, limited sight distances at intersections, lack of safe overtaking opportunities, steep drop offs as well as large trees within metres of the road. **Timing** Main Roads has issued a tender for construction of the works. A contract for delivery of the project will be finalised in the winter months with significant site works to begin in the spring. Further information will

be shared with the community once the contract is awarded and a construction methodology is approved. The project is expected to take around two years to complete, with multiple crews working in various locations along the alignment. **Construction management** Main Roads and our nominated contractor will work to minimise the impact of these works on local residents and the travelling public. It is our intention to keep the Toodyay Road through-route open in both directions for as long as possible and minimise the use of detours and contraflow. We will liaise closely with local stakeholders and

residents living along the alignment to provide advanced notice of construction activity in the area. While vegetation clearing along the route is unavoidable due to the constrained environment, Main Roads has been liaising with local stakeholders and advocacy groups to reduce the impact as far as possible. This engagement has resulted in significant design changes, particularly at the intersection of Sandplain and Salt Valley Road where the depth of cut has been reduced by 50 per cent - from 12m in the original design to 6m in the final design. This will enable retention of several mature wandoo trees and cockatoo breeding trees.



Australian Government



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More information

To find out more about the Toodyay Road Upgrade project, please visit our project webpage <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/projects-initiatives/all-projects/regional/toodyay-road/> or contact us on 138 138 or via email at enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au

Local spotlight on living with a diagnosis of diabetes

Sean Hefferon

TOODYAY local Jordan Blenkinsop is one of over 350 local residents living with diabetes. He describes how he felt before he sought medical care back in 2020.

“My symptoms were terrible and so I went to Northam Hospital, got tested and was diagnosed within five minutes” with type 1 diabetes.

Before being diagnosed, I was experiencing excessive fatigue, drinking a lot of water, which I don’t normally do, going to the toilet a lot and just had no physical strength.”



Local farm worker Jordan Blenkinsop.

For Jordan the prompt to seek medical help hit him whilst doing farm work.

“I was 26 and working for Candeloro farms. “We were only a couple of weeks into seeding and I thought, this is weird feeling this tired and fatigued.

“So that’s kind of what really got me. “I couldn’t figure out what it was going on.” His diagnosis put him on a learning curve as well as made him rethink his diet so pastries are out.

“Definitely stay off the sugars, like cakes, it’ll affect my sugar levels over the next three days.”

Jordan uses a continuous glucose monitor on his upper arm that tracks his blood sugar levels and transmits readings to his smartphone every five minutes.

This allows him to assess his levels and the amount of insulin he needs to self-inject, essential in keeping his diabetes controlled.

Also essential is the support he receives at the Type 1 Diabetes Family Centre in Perth where he receives dietician advice and other support services.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease in which the pancreas stops producing insulin, a hormone essential for controlling blood glucose.

Without insulin, glucose accumulates in the bloodstream, leading to hyperglycaemia – abnormally high blood sugar.

Individuals with type 1 diabetes use insulin injections or pumps to regulate their blood glucose levels.

This condition commonly arises in children

and young adults but can develop at any age.

Type 2 diabetes is a chronic, progressive condition that impairs the body’s ability to use glucose for energy due to insulin resistance and insufficient insulin production.

As a result, blood glucose levels rise over time, starting with pre-diabetes and potentially worsening if not managed.

Research shows that early indicators of type 2 diabetes can appear over 20 years before diagnosis.

Management of type 2 diabetes varies from person to person and can include medications, measuring blood glucose levels, self-management support from a diabetes team.

Diabetic neuropathy which is a type of nerve damage is a common complication of diabetes and affects up to 50 per cent of patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

Symptoms of diabetic neuropathy include numbness or tingling in your hands or feet and if left untreated can lead to limb infections and ulcers.

Gestational diabetes may develop during pregnancy but typically resolves after childbirth.

It is detected with an Oral Glucose Tolerance Test between weeks 24 and 28.

Silver Chain is one of several providers in the Wheatbelt assisting people living with diabetes.

Renae Lavell, Executive Director WA for Silver Chain stressed the importance of self-management.

“Self-management plays a crucial role in maintaining long-term health, particularly for those living with chronic conditions such as diabetes.

“By adopting strategies like regular monitoring, healthy eating, physical activity, and adhering to treatment plans, individuals can significantly enhance their ability to manage symptoms and prevent complications.”

Diabetes WA also provides a range of support services for people living with diabetes including diabetes self-management programs, face-to-face workshops and free telehealth sessions with diabetes educators.

Accessing these services is by contacting the helpline on 1300 001 880.

The statistics concerning diabetes in Australia are alarming.

For instance, every eight minutes a person is diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, and diagnosis rates are rising among younger populations.

Since 2000, the number of Australians diagnosed with all types of diabetes has risen by 220 percent from 460,000 to almost 1.5 million and if current trends continue, that number could reach 3.6 million by 2050.

In Western Australia, diabetes is more prevalent in rural and remote settings (5.5 and 5.7 per cent of the population) compared with Perth (4.6 per cent of the population).

For many Wheatbelt residents, like Jordan, diabetes can be managed and life goes on.

Country music awards are coming up

ARE YOU a proud West Australian country music artist, songwriter or band?

Then it’s time to throw your hat in the ring for the 2026 West Australian Country Music Awards.

It offers recognition across a range of categories including Song of the Year (multiple genres), Emerging Artist, Group/Duo, Junior Artist of the Year and the always-popular People’s Choice Award.

Past Wheatbelt category winners have included some of WA’s rising stars, such as Darren Gillis and The Eastern Line.

Winners will be announced live during the 2026 Boyup Brook Country Music Muster.

Entries close Friday 15 August 2025.

For nomination guidelines and to submit your entry: www.wacountrymusic.com.au

Queries? hello@wacountrymusic.com.au



Darren Gillis with his WA Country Music Award.

Former CEO calls ban ‘most unusual’

Sean Hefferon

A NEW BAN on public questions without written notice at Toodyay Shire Council meetings appears to contradict Question Time at a majority of councils elsewhere.

Paul Maginn, Director of the University of Western Australia Public Policy Institute has questioned the newly adopted meeting procedures, which restricts residents’ ability to ask questions directly from the floor as a move that could diminish the public’s trust in local government.

Former Acting Toodyay Shire CEO Graham Foster (2012, and later Albany) called the ban “most unusual”.

The procedural change appears to run counter to a 2015 study by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government which found strong support for public participation in democratic engagement with local government.

Fifty-nine out of 62 WA local government councils contacted by the Herald last month said they allowed questions ‘from the floor’ or without notice at council meetings.

Shire President Mick McKeown did not respond to a *Herald* request to explain why the new restrictions were needed in Toodyay.

Maginn pointed out that two pieces of State

legislation guide local government being the Local Government Act 1995 and the Local Government Administration Regulations Act 1996 adding that local government orders then govern public participation at council meetings.

“Local councils have a little bit of leeway within there to prescribe the format of question time within their local councils.

“The bigger question always is, I suppose, is looking more deeply at the why behind certain councils doing it this way and why other councils are doing it another way.”

Noting how legislation sets aside a minimum of 15 minutes for question time Mr Maginn said it depends on how liberal or conservative you are in interpreting that guideline in legislation.

“If you draw a very tight boundary, 15 minutes, that only limits a certain number of questions and similarly, if you’re only allowing written submissions in advance of the meeting, you know, which must relate to something that’s generally on the agenda.”

Continued on Page 14.

Real action needed on farm safety

SHADOW Minister for Agriculture and Food, Lachlan Hunter MP, has used National Farm Safety Week to call for urgent and meaningful action on farm safety in Western Australia.

This follows an alarming increase in fatalities and serious injuries across the agricultural sector.

The 2025 Safer Farms Report showed that five people lost their lives on WA farms in 2024.

This is more than double the toll recorded the previous year with hundreds more seriously injured.

The national report found 72 people died on farms across Australia in 2024.

The rise in WA is part of a national trend.

Alarmingly, side-by-side vehicles overtook tractors and quad bikes as the leading cause of death for the first time with 14 fatalities recorded nationwide.

“Farming is one of the most dangerous industries in Australia.

“It’s not enough to tell people to ‘be careful,” he said.

Mr Hunter praised the efforts of advocacy groups like SafeFarms WA and Farmsafe Australia for continuing to drive cultural change in the sector.

“National Farm Safety Week should be more than a date on the calendar – it should be the catalyst for change that saves lives.

“Because when it comes to farm safety, complacency kills and second chances are never guaranteed.”

GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE

for the 2025 Avon Descent

lachlan.hunter@mp.wa.gov.au

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PO Box 92

Northam Boulevard, Fitzgerald St, Northam

LACHLAN HUNTER MP

MEMBER FOR CENTRAL WHEATBELT

Old school entertainment thrills a packed house of music lovers

Naomi Millett

LATE July saw another sell-out show at The Chieftain Club.

This time featuring Blues Deluxe warming the heart and soul on a near-freezing night in the valley.

Wheatbelt resident Kerry B Ryan, playing several guitars, with guest John Wilson on electric and double bass, presented a soulful program of folk classics by legends such as Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, T Bone Walker, Jimi Hendrix, Lead Belly, JJ Cale, Johnny Cash and Tony Joe White.

First recorded in the 1920s, but stemming from earlier days of slavery and oppression, the Mississippi blues encapsulate love, loss, heartache, struggle and hope.

These songs were lifelines for those whose lives were steeped in hardship and voices for the voiceless, speaking truths that could not be ignored.

Despite a century having passed, the emotions remain familiar.

Love still hurts, labour exhausts and dreams slip away.

Perhaps that's why twelve-bar blues are still appreciated by modern crowds today.

As Ryan put it, "our music isn't so much about promoting sadness as recognising life and getting on with it as best we can."

Laid back and dapper in waistcoats, hats and shades, Ryan and Wilson have been much-loved WA music fixtures for decades and jam together effortlessly.

Opening with a gritty, cowboy-themed classic on a bright acoustic, steel stringed guitar, Ryan's gravelly Dylanesque tones were in turn declamatory and introspective.

In faster, foot tapping numbers his rumbling riffs and forward driven chords emulated horses or trains hurtling across the dusty, open plains and dry levees.

With contrasting slower tunes, Wilson's simple rhythms and walking basslines recalled the plod of depressed feet or the dripping of bitter tears.

Later, his steady support of extended vamps allowed Ryan to exploit his nimble flights of melodic creativity on the fingerboards, a slide employed for glissando and vibrato effects echoing human utterances.

Brief intros to each of the dozen plus songs in each bracket covered which one of the 'fifty' versions it was.

Ryan also shared background information

about his eclectic musical interests growing up on a North Queensland cattle station.

Robert Johnson's Ragtime-influenced *Kindhearted Woman* was a typical early 'call and response' favourite with a plaintive message of pain.

Selections in the second half such as the 1960s Texas shuffle, *Further On Up The Road*, edged towards blues with jazz elements.

Acoustics in the regally decorated, closely packed Chieftain are somewhat unpredictable, but the instrumentals sounded clear as the bells.

Ryan alluded to this while strumming his strident, raw, brass-finished resonator, vocals tended to be on the muddy side with some lyrics hard to discern.

But it didn't matter too much, given that most present were probably familiar with the words to many of the famous offerings.

As the drinks kicked in, a few patrons became talkative and loud.

This was a point of contention for others, given the \$35 ticket price, who wanted to listen undistracted.

If people prefer background music, why not head to a pub?

Perhaps the club might, in future, gently remind patrons that it's respectful protocol to keep the noise down.

Deluxe themselves mentioned afterwards being aware of it, though in their more energetic brackets, notable for passages of virtuoso left-handed finger work they pretty much cancelled out chit chat.

In the break, while he was warming his hands by the courtyard chiminea, I asked Ryan what the 'B' in his name stands for.

It's not B..stard," said Wilson.

Turns out, it's just an initial. Ryan added the letter to distinguish himself from another musician and Instagrammer with the same name.

After a second immersive hour of almost continuous tunes, including *Folsom Prison*, *Ramblin' on My Mind*, the hypnotic lament *Come Into My Kitchen*, and *Rock Me Baby*, one of the most performed numbers in history, it was time to reluctantly wrap up and head back out into the frosty midwinter.

Looking forward to the next capacity gig at this atmospheric and historic site.

It is a luxury and a joy to have live, acoustic music played here in our little town by such seasoned masters.

Thank you to Blues Deluxe, for a wonderful evening of old school entertainment.



Blues duo playing several guitars and familiar tunes.



Breaking out the big bass blues.

Bad boy for love rounds out day

Toodyay Music Club
Jenny Edgecombe

IT WAS a chilly winter afternoon for our July meeting but the singing was as varied and enthusiastic as usual.

The skiffle included a rousing rendition of *Sloop John B*, taking us back to the 1960s.

Your correspondent does enjoy those songs of the 1970s.

Anne started the individual items with a moving rendition of *Sayonara Nakamura*, a wonderfully atmospheric song about the dangerous side of Broome pearling days.

Collette always comes up with something different, this time including *I See Fire* which arose from The Hobbit movie.

We then slid into the jazz era as Eileen, assisted by Maurice, presented a very smooth version of the classic, *Sway*.

Past members often attend and this month, we welcomed Ally, who presented an enthusiastic version of *Oh What a Night* as one of her choices.

Maurice often gives some background to his chosen songs.

This time he included a moving Johnny Cash song inspired by the Robert Kennedy assassination attempt, *Six White Horses*.

Jenny sang a favourite folk era song, *Satisfied Mind*.

The day was rounded out by Joe with the lively song, *Bad Boy for Love*, with Jenny providing the echoes where required.

This was a cheerful finish to an excellent afternoon of song and laughter.

Next meeting: Please note that our August meeting will be held in the CWA Hall at 1pm on Saturday August 16, third Saturday of the month.

You are most welcome to join us as a singer, acoustic guitarist or audience.

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



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Sheepdog trialling circuit see hundreds of dogs hit town

Sean Hefferon

TRACKER, the two-year old kelpie will be doing what she does best at the 2025 Dogpro Supreme Australian Sheepdog Championships in Northam later this month.

Tracker, whose full name is Ramulan Tracker, was bred at Arthur River by renowned trialler Ken Atherton and comes from a distinguished line of working kelpies.

Terry Martino, formerly Deputy Principal at Toodyay District High School, is looking forward to how his four-legged friend Tracker goes at the sheepdog trials.

He said that sheepdog trialling is about bringing out the dog's instinctive behaviours to herd through a whistle or a command.

"Kelpies and border collies are chosen for trialling as they have the best herding instincts", he said.

"Understanding your dog's strengths and weaknesses is key.

"Often dogs will have a preference to turn one way so you have to train the other side

as well to balance things out."

Terry has had Tracker since she was eight weeks of age and now as a two-year old she has been benefiting from regular training to hone her innate herding skills.

"Fifteen minutes of quality training per day is enough."

Western Australia has an active sheepdog trial circuit with events occurring at a range of locations including Kelleberrin, Albany, Margaret River and Beverley.

The upcoming Dogpro Supreme will see a couple of hundred dogs (and quite a few handlers) descend on the Northam Recreational Facility from August 23 to 31 starting at 9am daily.

The event is free for spectators and will attract the best dogs and handlers from around Australia as they compete for being crowned as the best in Australia.

Young Tracker will be there giving the event her all, and for that we wish her only the best.

The best sheepdogs in action: worth seeing.



Tracker and Terry are looking forward to Australian Sheepdog Championships.

‘Question time can get disorderly’

Continued from Page 12.

He emphasised good governance practices allow for both pre-submitted questions and questions from the floor, suggesting presiding members exercise discretion in managing meeting time effectively.

"It depends on the volume of questions on notice and then whether or not there's time left for somebody from the floor.

Good practice in terms of transparency and openness and good governance would suggest that you would let people on the floor ask a question, particularly if there is something significant on the agenda."

A challenge for a presiding member is managing question time in an orderly fashion.

Maginn said this challenge is as much based on the presiding members skills and the questioner's, adding it is "reasonable to say that question time can get disorderly".

He described various approaches that could assist an orderly question time such as stating from the outset that questions from the floor would be dealt with at the end of questions on notice – an approach that would meet the Act in terms of enhancing community participation.

He also wondered if the presiding member could say to those who have submitted a question, "We've already responded to you."

"Are you happy with your written response that we provided so that we can take questions from the floor?"

Maginn said that would be perhaps a pragmatic approach and by doing so may create space and time in the meeting.

Regardless of questions on notice or from the floor, he noted that systematic, formulaic responses to questions could lead to diminished trust in local government institutions.

Join the men for a free breakfast and a chat about all things community

Moondyne Men
Graham Hill

ON 24 MAY 2022, the Moondyne Men were established becoming an incorporated body now boasting some 40 members.

It was quickly established that although several groups within Toodyay were well supported, they had a limited number of members to help with physical activities.

Our first major project was to assist with the Moondyne Festival by establishing a workforce for setup and clean-up.

This is how the Moondyne Men got their name and our mantra of Men Looking After Men in the Community.

Further projects followed such as parking at the Toodyay Agricultural Show, setup and pack-up for the Avon Descent International Food Festival and the Toodyay Street Christmas Party.

While these projects took time to organise, it built up a great social interaction between our members and provided a support for Men looking after Men in a vital asset for health and wellbeing.

Various projects followed as we helped more individuals in need.

On the social front we have secured several guest speakers at weekly meetings.

Speakers have included WA Police on road safety and new firearms regulations, Anchors for Hope on men's mental health, and Liz Boston from St Johns Toodyay who demonstrated the correct way to administer CPR and how to use a defibrillator.

Soon Kirsten Barrack from Toodyay Bendigo Bank will speak to us on cyber safety and credit card security.

As a fundraiser we hold a wood raffle

twice a year. Our second raffle produced the following results:

First Prize, a trailer load of wood was won by green ticket E73 (Max from Toodyay).

Second Prize, a handmade quilt was won by orange ticket E39 (Toodyay Locals Care).

Third Prize, a food hamper was won by red ticket C65, (Colin from Coondle).

Fourth Prize a \$25 IGA voucher went to orange ticket D87, (Katy from Toodyay).

Fifth Prize a \$10 Early Mist Voucher went to red ticket C68, (Colin from Coondle).

Moondyne Men give back to the community and have made donations to St John Toodyay and the six country fire stations in the Toodyay Shire area.

Our members enjoy several social activities including a midyear lunch to thank the ladies of our members for the support they give and share a Christmas Dinner in December.

We have had men's group social outings to WA Motor Museum and the Railway Museum as Bassendean.

At the next Toodyay markets, we will be having a display gazebo with Moondyne Joe memorabilia and membership information on joining the most progressive and proactive men's group in Toodyay.

We welcome new members and invite you to join us any Monday and Thursday from 8.30am at the CRC building, 67 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

We have a free breakfast and committee meeting on the first Saturday of each month.

Every member is a committee member and has an equal say in the day to day running of the Moondyne Men.

If you would like to become a member of our team give Secretary Colin a ring on 0424 195 003.



WANTED

NEW MEMBERS MOONDYNE MEN

MEN LOOKING AFTER MEN AND THE COMMUNITY

Meet Monday and Thursday at the Toodyay Resource Centre Stirling Street Toodyay

Yearly Membership \$50

Meeting twice a week for coffee and a chat. Free BBQ breakfast monthly Plus a Free Christmas Dinner

Moondyne Men support many local events and do selected volunteer work for Toodyay residents

Post Office Box 665 Toodyay

Contact Secretary : 0424 195 003 or E: Moondyne.Men@iinet.net.au

 **The Really Great Organization**



Moondyne men meeting.

Beau the blue heeler

A PAWSOME young pup named Beau was welcomed into Toodyay last week.

Beau is from the rural town of Beaudesert in Queensland, a fair drive from Toodyay..

The two-month-old Blue Heeler pup caused a sensation on social media when his new mate Jamie Ratcliffe dropped the first of Beau’s photographs.

So, when you see Beau and Jamie driving about the area in their water cart give them a wave.



Beau and Jamie.

Hiking towards mental health

Toodyay District High School Cadets
Doug McGhee, School Chaplin

AFTER completing our amazing Wilderness Adventure Program hike, we celebrated the achievements of our young hikers with a Celebration Night.

A lot of people joined us to see the movie of our adventures and to hear the stories of our students.

We also thanked our wonderful sponsors, the Bendigo Bank and Toodyay Op Shop.

Big thanks to Ros Davidson and Toodyay Locals Care for catering lots of yummy food on the night.

The feelings our students got out of the program were wonderful.

There were some deeply positive messages coming from our youth.

Some of the feelings shared included “Personally I felt like a whole new person after this adventure... I don’t think I have ever felt better about myself ever”.

This is very good news.

It contrasts with stories in the media about the mental health struggles of young people.

Straight after this, I got back to my cadets program, with excursions to the Police and Fire Stations.

A big thankyou to Ian McGregor and Sergeant Jamie Boryczewski.

Toodyay Fire Brigade captain Ian “Macca” MacGregor was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in the King’s Birthday Honour Awards.

He was recognised for his outstanding leadership and resilience for more than 30 years of service.

We are blessed to have Macca training our cadets when he is available.

Sergeant Jamie hosted our cadets, with a very engaging tour of the Police station, and showing off WA Police’s new Maserati.

This was seized under the Police’s anti-hoon laws and is now re-painted in Police colours.

It was encouraging that many cadets showed interest in joining the Police force.

The cadets had a recent excursion to Paintball Skirmish where nearly 50 cadets and staff had a lot of fun.

Squad battled squad on the battlefield, displaying great teamwork and tactics, before enjoying 28 large pizzas for lunch.



Paintballing.

Bev’s Busy Bees left our homeschoolers buzzing for more

Toodyay Home Schoolers

Asher Wensing 9 years

BEV, FROM Bev’s Busy Bees, delivered a fantastic presentation about beekeeping for all abilities to our homeschooling community.

We meet at the Toodyay Baptist Church weekly and in week one of this term we were spoilt with Bev’s knowledge of bees, honey and beekeeping.

Bev entered the room wearing her bee suit and smoking us out as if we were bees.

We quickly learnt that the smoker is used in a hive not to put the bees to sleep or calm them down, but to put them into panic mode so they evacuate the hive carrying as much honey as they can take.

She explained that it’s important not to smoke the bees too much.

You should only use a little to panic them, so you don’t agitate them too much.

Bev explained that anyone can keep bees no matter what disability or age.

She went on to talk to us about a young man, paralysed from the chest down, who was able to build his own Slovenian hive from his wheelchair.

She also mentioned that at any age, from 10yrs old, you can keep a beehive.

I was really interested to find out there was more than one type of beehive.

These different types of hives include Slovenian hives, Langstroth hives and horizontal hives.

I was interested to learn that Slovenian hives can be used for healing.

Bev provides apitherapy which is when a person lays down on top of a Slovenian hive.

They breathe in the air and feel the vibration of the bees under their body.

Although you lay on the hives, you are not exposed directly to the bees so there is no stinging.

Bev put some live bees on display for us, setting up a small section of a beehive inside a glass box.

This connected to another glass box with a clear tube between them and inside the second box were grevillea flowers.

We were able to see the bees move through the tube from the hive to the flowers, collecting pollen and taking back to the hive to make honey.

Some of the children enjoyed searching for the Queen Bee in this hive.

Following Bev’s talk, she gave us a tour of her bee displays, showing us many hives.

One was really interesting.

It is called a “bookhive” and is set out almost exactly like a book with every page as a layer of the hive.

The purpose of the bookhive was to learn more about the Queen and the workings of beehives.

Following the tour, Bev let us taste all sorts of honey.

The honey flavours included bottlebrush,

blackbutt and wildflower and we even got to try honeycomb.

It was delicious.

Bev explained that the different honey types was due to pollen collected by the bees, being from different flower types.

To finish off our bee talk we did many different bee crafts.

This included making seed bombs, bookmarks, name plaques, foam bees and toilet roll bees.

These crafts were a lot of fun. We each decorated a cupcake to look like a garden with bee, snail and flower sprinkles.

Bev’s fabulous presentation and interesting displays gave us an insight into beekeeping and taught us about apitherapy, which I really

enjoyed learning about.

It was fascinating to learn that beehives can be used for healing and I never knew there were so many different types of hives.

Sebastian Wensing, 7 years old, said, “I liked hearing answers from Bev to all the questions we asked her.

I learnt that bees have five eyes.

I also learnt that bees like canola the best of all the flowers.

The honey tasting was really good.

I liked wildflower and blackbutt.

The wildflower was a little sweeter than the blackbutt honey.

Bev was really interesting, and she made it really easy to understand the information she shared about bees.”

A new school term brings celebration and participation

Toodyay District High School

Sharon Anderson

ANOTHER action-packed term awaits our school community – a term filled with exciting events and enriching experiences.

Highlights this term include Book Week celebrations, Athletics and Interschool Athletics Carnival.

Also, the One Big Voice performance, the In Your Head Forum and a special visit from a Singapore school.

There will also be a variety of engaging incursions and excursions.

NAIDOC Week Celebrations

IN CELEBRATION of NAIDOC Week, our Kindy to Year 10 students participated in a series of meaningful group activities.

These activities honoured Aboriginal culture and deepened the students’ connection to Country.

A special moment unfolded when our Year 6 and Pre-Primary students buddied up and walked to the yarning circle to be captivated by Dreamtime stories shared by Robert Miles and Susan Keys.

The storytelling offered a rich opportunity to learn about the traditions and wisdom passed down through generations.

Inspired by their experience, our Year 6 students returned the following day to construct traditional Mia-Mia shelters.

This was an engaging hands-on activity that further connected them to Indigenous ways of living and understanding the land.

String Incursion

ON FRIDAY 13 June 2025, our school was thrilled to welcome Sophie and Tim from WAYACHAMP (WA Young Artists Chamber Music Program) for a special string incursion with Year 5 and 6 students.

The day began with an engaging introduction before students had the



NAIDOC Week.

opportunity to learn more about the clarinet, flute and cello.

Sophie and Tim demonstrated each instrument, playing famous pieces such as the Harry Potter theme song.

Students were then divided into smaller groups to participate in hands-on workshops focused on composition and collaboration.

Each group explored the theme “My School” with a short piece composed that reflected their own school experiences.

These ranged from sports and friendships to memories of the Year 6 Camp.

The day concluded with performances in the undercover area,

Each group confidently presented their original composition to the rest of the Primary students.

It was a fantastic showcase of creativity, teamwork, and musical growth.

A huge thankyou to Sophie and Tim for bringing such a valuable and inspiring experience to our school.

It was really appreciated.

Build with the best in Western Australia

WA Country Builders take home 2025 Australian Project Home of the Year

Building a home is always a cause for celebration. For WA Country Builders, their custom build in Mount Richon was recently the recipient of a prestigious award, the 2025 HIA-CSR Australian Project Home of the Year. This a significant achievement for the regional builder.

“Our success at the HIA-CSR Australian Housing Awards is a testament to our brands, high-quality homes, and superior workmanship,” says Tony Harvie, General



Manager of WA Country Builders.

The home represents the builders’ commitment to excellence in design and construction. The four-bedroom residence embraces natural light and a functional open-plan layout with classic weatherboard cladding. It’s a fresh and vibrant coastal haven designed for relaxed family living.

WA Country Builders continues to set the benchmark for residential construction in Western Australia, delivering homes that combine functionality, aesthetic appeal and superior craftsmanship.

Are you looking to build?

Whether you’re dreaming of your first home, moving up to a second home or building an investment, the WA Country Builders team can help you navigate all the big decisions from floorplans to façades. They are experienced in delivering quality homes that blend into the surrounding environment, whether it’s by the coast or nestled in the hills.

WA Country Builders are true, specialist country builders, bringing homes to life

across Western Australia – and winning awards – since 1991. With more than 500 home designs to choose from, they cater to every look, style and location, and are committed to providing a better building experience.

If you’re looking to build, trust WA Country Builders to provide a stress-free experience, with the best tradespeople and the ultimate in local knowledge.





Community Investment

Congratulations to the successful Round 1 2025 applicants of Chalice’s Community Investment Program:

- Bakers Hill Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, Flexible Collar Water Tank
- Toodyay CRC, 2025 Toodyay Christmas Party
- Toodyay Agricultural Society, 2025 Harvester Sponsor
- Toodyay Lions Basketball Association, Team Uniforms
- Shire of Chittering, 2025 Taste of Chittering Sponsor
- Bindoon Primary School, Native plants for outdoor classroom.

Round 2 opens August 1, 2025 – scan the QR code.



Apply here
Submit your applications by **September 31, 2025.**



2025 Survey Results

The 2025 Local Voices community survey results are now available following the six-week survey period during March and April.

Commissioned by Chalice, this was the second Pulse Survey for the Gonneville Project and the full Voconiq results can be found here:
<http://voconiqlocalvoices.com/en/chalice/results/>

The environment, infrastructure, and transparent communication continue to be key focus areas for the community with environmental responsibility remaining a top concern.

Local Voices is an annual survey that provides important insights for the ongoing planning, social impact assessment and environmental approval processes of the Gonneville Project.

The key outcomes were broadly consistent with previous years, which gives Chalice confidence in the overall veracity of the independent survey process.



Field Investigations

In June Chalice Mining released a statement to the ASX with an initial outline of the various transport, infrastructure and land access investigations taking place as part of the Gonneville Project.

An initial part of the investigation includes environmental surveys, on land identified along potential infrastructure corridors.

Multiple corridor options are being considered and investigated in consultation with Water Corporation, Western Power and other Stakeholders.

Potential routes consider the following factors:

- Prioritising corridors with existing infrastructure
- Minimising impacts to landholders, environment and community
- Opportunity to co-locate water and power.

These surveys are planned for Spring 2025, with engagement already underway by specialist Land Access consultants.

Who participated?



180
people in total participated in this survey.



78%
live within 30km of the Gonneville project.



36%
were returning survey participants.



2%
of participants work for Chalice.

For more information visit: www.gonnevilleproject.com.au

Several trophies were up for grabs at a busy local golf course

Bolgart News
Pam McGill

BOLGART CWA Ladies travelled to Jennacubine Tavern recently for lunch to celebrate their 101st Birthday.
A lovely lunch was enjoyed with guests invited to join them for the occasion.

Golf News

VP CUP (Victoria Plains Cup)
A good crowd of 20 men and ladies played for the Victoria Plains Cup at Bolgart.

The Cup is played for every year with the small towns of Bolgart, Calingiri and Yerecoin competing to win the Cup.

The result is decided by the top four scores from each club and the winner keeps the Cup for a year. Congratulations to Bolgart.

The winning team consisted of Todd Meston, Colin Guthrie, Therese Chitty and Theo Camerer for Bolgart.

Individual Winners: 1st – Todd Meston (Bolgart), Runner-up – Josh Saltner (Calingiri), 3rd Theo Camerer (Bolgart).

Many thanks to the Shire for their generous Sponsorship and to Colin Ashe from the Shire for presenting the Cup.

Ladies Golf

LUANNE Martin Trophy – Stableford

Winner Jenni Knowles, Runner-up Nolene Kaszanski.

Congratulations to Joy Hamilton on winning the two day Super Veterans at the Provincial

Tournament in Moora.
Congratulations to Vivienne Camerer on being Runner-up at the Northam Ladies Open Day and to Nolene Kazanski winning best 10-18 holes.

Kathleen Travers Memorial Day: Winner Joy Hamilton, Runner-up Vivienne Camerer.

Thank you to Mark, Rosie and Sue Travers being there to present the trophies.

Kathleen was a very much loved and valued member of our Club.

Men's Golf

LUDEMANN Cup & 4BBB

Bolgart Men's Open Day 4BBB had a good field of 20 pairs, very generously sponsored by CNE Ag Innovations, Dylan, Bryan and Karlene Crane.

Winners: Graeme Haywood and Geoff Ludemann.

Gross Winners: Lester Snooke and Bryan Crane.

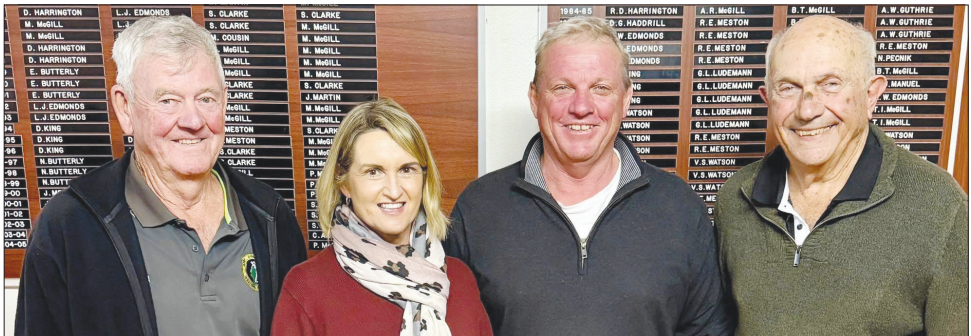
Nett Runners-up: Jason Haywood and Andrew O'Connor and 3rd Nett: Ron Dadd and Daniel Dadd.

Sunday: Ludemann Cup sponsored by the Ludemann Family and David Trindall from McIntosh and Son Wongan Hills.

Thank you for your ongoing generous sponsorship for this event.

Winner: Todd Meston. Runner-up: Ron Dadd

Gross winner: Gus Forbes
AM Winner: Bryan Crane. PM Winner: Mark Travers



Left to right: Graeme Haywood, Karlene and Bryan Crane (sponsors), Geoff Ludemann.

'It was a busy and exciting week'

Bolgart Primary School
Karen Kesic

STUDENTS at Bolgart Primary School began their school term engaging in various activities to celebrate NAIDOC week.

National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year.

It was a busy and exciting week.
The students learnt a lot about history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Activities included learning about and researching the Noongar Six Seasons as well as making and cooking damper in coals.

The damper was delicious enjoyed with homemade jam, honey and golden syrup.

We had local Indigenous elder Robert Miles come to the school.

He awakened our senses to the smells, sounds and sights of the changing bush in each of the Six Seasons in and around the Bolgart and Toodyay areas and highlighted the uses of various berries, seeds, trees, shrubs, bushes and nettles.

Did you know that Bolgart is a special resting place for the giant Rainbow Serpent or Wagyl (by the Noongar)?

Students listened to a local Wagyl creation story then painted their own Wagyl to display at school.

The students were also spoilt with a lesson in traditional dance from the Cook Islands by Tupoutarita Hagai, a professional dancer from the



Indigenous elder Robert Miles.

Cook Islands and a parent of one of our students.

The students all agreed that the dancing was fun and is much harder on the muscles than playing football.

Thank you to all who were involved in making NAIDOC week at school interesting and enjoyable.

New singing voices wanted

Toodyay Community Singers
Anne Millar

IT HAS been really cold this past month, but a cold snap has not stopped the singers.

We were at the Christmas in July party at the Memorial Hall on Saturday July 26 and sang some carols.

We are still rehearsing for the Toodyay

Agricultural Show on October 11 and there is plenty of time for new singers to come and join us.

We take part in most community events in town and it would be great to see some new faces and hear some new voices.

We meet Thursday nights at the CWA Hall on Stirling Terrace from 5-6pm.

Please note new time.





GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Jane — HPV

DON'T ASSUME
YOU'RE IMMUNE

Immunisation WA



SHIRE NEWS



WHO MANAGES RABBITS IN TOODYAY - CLEARING UP A COMMON MISCONCEPTION

RABBIT populations continue to pose environmental challenges throughout Western Australia. Residents may be surprised to learn that the Shire of Toodyay is not responsible for controlling rabbits under current legislation. THE Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is the designated and lead authority for rabbit control across WA. WHETHER the land is privately owned or managed by government, DPIRD coordinates advice and frameworks for pest control (not your local shire). LOCAL Government Authorities (LGAs), including the Shire of Toodyay:

- Are not mandated to manage rabbits
- Do not provide rabbit baiting services
- May support community education but do not lead control programs.

THE responsibility ultimately rests with DPIRD and landholders, who must take proactive steps to address rabbit infestations.

Did You Know?

European rabbits were introduced to Australia in the 1800s and are now one of the country's most destructive invasive species.

They cause over \$200 million in agricultural and environmental damage each year across Australia.

WA landholders are legally required to control rabbits under the **Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007**.

Rabbit baiting with 1080 or Pindone requires DPIRD approval—your local shire cannot issue permits.

The Shire of Toodyay supports community awareness but does not manage rabbit control programs.

For control tips and permit info, head to www.agric.wa.gov.au

PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES

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



TOODYAY WELCOMES LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY AT VISITORS CENTRE SUNDOWNER

ON THURSDAY 17 July 2025, the Shire of Toodyay Visitors Centre hosted a warm and welcoming sundowner event for local business owners and community groups. THE evening highlighted the Centre's new showcase area, inspired by the idea: What if every visitor left with a little piece of the Avon Valley? SHIRE President Michael McKeown officially opened the event, and the Team Leader shared the vision behind the transformation, supporting local stories, creativity, and culture. THE launch event celebrated this fresh approach to promoting local stories, culture, and creativity, highlighting the current displays by Chelle Ellery and the Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation. IT WAS a night of connection, collaboration, and pride in what makes Toodyay special.



PUBLIC NOTICE

THE SHIRE of Toodyay gives notice of its intent to dispose of the following properties under section 3.58(3) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.



4000m2 of land at Reserve 33931
(Old Works Depot)
Parties Concerned:
Toodyay Community Garden Inc
Term: Lease until 2037
Consideration: \$300p.a




Lot 108 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay
(Bendigo Bank building)
Parties Concerned: Toodyay and Districts Community Financial Services Limited
Term: Sale of property
Consideration: \$520,000
Market Value: \$570,000





Former Westrail Toodyay Freight Station
Parties Concerned: Marsupials Mammals and Pappas Inc
Term: A lease of 5 years with a 5-year option
Consideration: \$300p.a

ANYONE wanting to make a submission concerning these dispositions is invited to do so in writing to the Shire of Toodyay by **4pm Friday 22nd August 2025**. Submissions should be marked Disposal of property, and include the details of the relevant property as listed above and address to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, in person at 15 Fiennes St Toodyay or email to records@toodyay.wa.gov.au



Shire of Toodyay


Annual Electors Meeting

 Thursday 4 September 2025
 6:30 pm

Morangup Community Centre, Wallaby Way Morangup 6083

In accordance with s.5.29 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, notice is hereby given that the Annual Electors Meeting is to be held at the above date and time at the Morangup Community Centre.

All electors, ratepayers and residents of the Shire of Toodyay are welcome to attend. Copies of the agenda and 2023-2024 Annual Report are available online and at Toodyay Library



More Information:
toodyay.wa.gov.au