

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.

September 2025
Edition 449

Calls to save cultural heritage not sell it

Rashelle Predovnik

THE FIGHT to save Connors Cottage has ramped up, with Arts Toodyay collecting letters of support that urge the shire to stop its sale and transform the landmark into a vibrant community hub.

The cottage, on 5 Piesse Street sits in the central Toodyay heritage area and the letters marked a new push in a campaign to protect one of Toodyay's most historic community assets.

It's history spans back to 1861, when Irishman Daniel Connor bought the land and later built his home.

He arrived as a convict in 1853 and rose to become one of the district's most influential figures.

The shire bought Connors Cottage in 2006 and in 2016 council supported leasing it to a business.

However, the 2025-26 draft budget, which proposed a 2.2 per cent rate rise, included the sale of the property.

Council adopted the budget in July, confirming the sale of Connors Cottage and other shire assets including the historic O'Reilly's Cottage (built around 1897), 108 Stirling Terrace and 19A & B Clinton Street.

In total, those sales were forecast to deliver more than \$2.2 million to the shire.

The sale of Connors Cottage almost slipped through the budget unnoticed because it was not clearly identified in this year's budget – listed instead under a generic descriptor: disposal of 'buildings (non-specialised)'.

Its identity, and impending sale, only became clear during public question time.

The proposal to sell Connor's Cottage was also not advertised for public comment.

Arts Toodyay is pushing to have community voices heard.

Newly-appointed Arts Toodyay president Chelle Ellery said the cottage could be transformed into a vibrant arts hub that supported local groups and boosted cultural tourism along the popular Avon Arts Trail.

She said their vision went far beyond one organisation.

"We want Connors Cottage to be a place where all sorts of groups can come together, create, and connect."

Ms Ellery said if the sale went through it would be a lost opportunity for the community.



Connors Cottage is at the centre of a showdown, as Arts Toodyay rallies the community to stop its sale and transform the historic home into a thriving community hub. Photo: Rashelle Predovnik.

She said the cottage stood next to Connor's Mill and the visitors centre as part of a mini 'history hub' in Toodyay.

Adding many in the community were also questioning the sale, especially when Toodyay already faced a shortage of spaces and infrastructure for community groups.

Ms Ellery said as a heritage building, Connor's Cottage needed care and ongoing maintenance but Toodyay has never shied away from rolling up its sleeves.

"Local tradespeople are already pledging in-kind support, and heritage and arts grants are available to help with the heavy lifting," she said.

"At its core, this decision isn't just about dollars and cents – it's about culture and community."

Ms Ellery said she was grateful for the three successful grant applications awarded by the shire this year which helped Arts Toodyay deliver an exhibition, an arts trail and community workshops.

"Unfortunately, much of the workshop grant gets returned to the shire in the form of venue hire fees," she said.

"This again, highlights the pressing need for a dedicated community arts space."

Ms Ellery said across the central Wheatbelt, towns like Northam, York and Beverley had thriving arts communities, supported by shire-backed facilities.

Toodyay risked being left behind.

The \$3 billion working dog

Sean Hefferon

MORE than 200 working dogs descended on Northam last month to show their sheepherding skills in the Dogpro Supreme Australian Sheepdog Championships.

Skills that are, according to an ANZ study, worth \$3 billion to the Australian economy, a lot of kibble in anyone's language.

The event that went from August 23 to 31 saw the trifecta of dogs, sheep and handlers working together to complete a course of obstacles with the aim being to have the sheep penned.

As for accolades the prize for the top dog and handler was the honour of being crowned as the best in Australia in the novice,

improver and open classes.

West Australian Working Sheep Dog Association president Grant Cooke said working dogs have been vital to Australian agriculture since European settlement.

Australia's working dogs originated from British herding breeds like border collies and Smithfields.

Continued on Page 5.

Giddy up time

THE TOODYAY Picnic Race Day returns this year on September 28.

The event, to be held at Toodyay's picturesque race course, attracts thousands of racegoers for a day of country hospitality.

The 2025 event includes fashions on the field, live entertainment – and most importantly thoroughbred racing from noon.

Toodyay Race Club president Stephen Ferguson said the committee was excited to welcome racegoers back for what will be an exciting day.

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Get 'em up. Round 'em up. Rawhide.

Coming events

Tarmac West 2025
Saturday September 20

Toodyay Farmers Market
Sunday September 21

Toodyay Picnic Race Day
Sunday September 28

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Elders There has never been so much interest in Toodyay, we have buyers waiting.

Pop in and have a chat or call us on:
9574 4200
124 Stirling Terrace, TOODYAY 6566



The Toodyay Herald

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

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

MEMBERSHIP - Membership of *The Toodyay Herald* is available at \$15 (\$12 concession) per financial year, with members entitled to free advertising worth \$15 annually. Please send your name, phone number and residential, postal and email address with your membership fee to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566 or leave it at 92B Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

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

DISTRIBUTION

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

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THANK YOU

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped produce this edition of *The Toodyay Herald*: Joseph Fernandez (Legal), Peter Ruthven, Beth Ruthven, Richard Grant, Judy Morrissey and Laraine Brindle.

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Noon Friday
September 19

STORY DEADLINE

Noon Monday
September 22

DISTRIBUTED

Thursday
October 2

Please note our email addresses

Advertising: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Articles and stories: news@toodyayherald.com.au

Now you see it now you don't

The Outsider

THE EFFECT of the vanished Toodyay International Food Festival and Family Fun Day was marked.

Toodyay seemed like a ghost town on the Saturday of the Avon Descent rather than the bustling hub of previous years.

Replacing the festival with just three local community groups selling food in Duidgee Park made for a stark comparison with last year's occasion.

The marquee, which had provided shelter and seating this year, was removed late in the morning, precisely when spectators may have been expected to arrive seeking refreshments.

Hopefully, the groups who took part were able to make some money.

Toodyay had been part of Avon Descent related festivals for the last 19 years attracting funding and visitors.

Past festivals also provided shelter and family activities regardless of the weather – sadly not this year.

The food festival was to have been replaced by mini festivals.

But, where are they?

Christmas in July, heavily advertised by the shire through Facebook seemed to be somewhat low in terms of attendance.

Though thankfully it did provide some fun for kids with the fake snow to play with.

Other events (not really festivals) such as, a display of the Melbourne Cup have been thin on the ground.

The vintage swap meet, as successful as it was earlier this year, cannot be claimed as a replacement festival as that event was in discussions well before the food event was cancelled.

Moving to the budget: it may have a few issues with forecast revenue seemingly dependent on the sale of shire properties at their estimated valuation.

One sale concerning 108 Stirling Terrace has apparently been agreed at almost nine per cent less than the valuation.

History suggests selling shire assets is a slow process, so will that targeted revenue eventuate in the current financial year, or even at all?

Another budget related issue is the proclaimed modest rate rise that only considers the change in the differential rates, disregarding the fact the

rates bill contains other components.

In the past these other components have increased by a similar percentage to the differential rates and so they have not affected the stated percentage rise.

Not so this year, as there has been an increase of 24 per cent in the rubbish collection charge.

This makes it unlikely anyone will have a rise in their rates bill as low as 2.2 per cent because this increase will add an extra two to three per cent making the rise in the total bill over five per cent.

As an example, GRV Residential for a Toodyay (town) property in 2024/25 was \$1,683 and the bin services \$284.

A 2.2 per cent GRV Residential increase in 2025/26 equals \$1,720; with the new \$352 bin fee, the total cost rises by 5.3 per cent.

This calculation excludes any fee increases to the Emergency Services Levy and Waste Transfer Station services.

The Annual Report for 2023/24 seems rather sparse with pictures and large font items substituting for the detailed information of previous years.

The report does paint perhaps a 'rosy picture' in advance of the October election when the current shire president is likely to be a candidate.

The annual electors' meeting will be in Morangup, not by any measure a central location for most Toodyay residents.

Historically the elector's meeting was held in Morangup when the shire council and CEO of the time were being rigorously questioned (through public questions) in much the same way as is happening currently.

By the time you read this, candidates for the 2025 local government elections will have emerged.

That being the case, we would all do well to scrutinise candidates carefully.

This is easier to do for those with a past history on Council because their performance, CEO oversight, and treatment of community will be on public record.

But much more difficult for the unknown, new or previously failed candidates, who will probably in true political style make unrealistic promises.

Beware of candidates promising change as whilst change is inevitable, progress is not.

Toodyay's arty gardens



Country towns and quirky or arty front gardens often seem to go together. Toodyay residents driving to Northam will be familiar with the above menagerie that changes as often as the Fremantle Dockers interchange bench. NB: Go the Dockers.

Who will get the choccies?



The choccies up for grabs.

FORREST Gump said, 'life is like a box of chocolates.'

The *Herald's* graphic guru Dave agrees and adds, 'you never know what you will get.'

The first reader to identify the number of *Herald* articles with a song-related headline in the September 2025 edition original will

Where is it?



The labs pondering peace for all - or food.

WHERE were the labs last month?

Best guesses sent to: editor@toodyayherald.com.au for a mention in the next edition and a Toodyay Bakery coffee.

Peace be with you.

get the choccies.

Please send your answers to: editor@toodyayherald.com.au.

How good is that?

Doug was a strong defender of the environment

Douglas Blandford 25/3/41 - 10/7/25

Based on the Eulogy given by Geoff Cockerton on 25 July 2025

BY ALL accounts, Doug Blandford was a true gentleman, remembered for his courage, kindness and that unmistakable twinkle in his eye.

Doug was also a man of great intellect, great morals and immense courage.

He was a true friend to many, remembered as tolerant, generous, perceptive, empathetic, supportive and mischievous.

He had a devoted family and wonderful neighbours, people who helped him when he needed it most.

Doug came from good Scottish stock from somewhere near Kinghorn, north of Edinburgh and south-east of Perth, Scotland.

He was a war baby, born on 25 March 1941.

He started his working career as a bank teller in rural New South Wales but quickly realised that wasn't the career for him.

So, he left and went jackarooing in the outback.

He was sweet on Edwina Lilley, meeting her in high school at the age of 14 and after many years of "working out bush", they reconnected via "old fashioned letters" and were married in 1965.

Doug and Edwina had two beautiful children, Catriona in 1967 and Duncan in 1969 while living in New South Wales.

They eventually settled in Perth.

Doug graduated with a Diploma in Agriculture from the Hawkesbury Agricultural College in 1965.

This was followed by a degree in geology from Macquarie University in 1972, a qualification in geomorphology from the University of New England in 1975, and a Diploma of Environmental Impact Assessment

from Murdoch University in 1990.

Doug had 21 years of formal tertiary study and a lifetime of learning.

He spent many years with the NSW Soil Conservation Service and had a life-long interest in earth sciences.

Doug was the team leader of the Australian Antarctic Expedition 1974-75, spending 14 months at Davis base.

He worked with Dames and Moore for many years, consulting all over the world, including as Australia's advisor to the Saudi Government.

Doug introduced them to the concept of satellite imagery and remote sensing, which was just in its infancy at that time.

He had to present the concept to Saudi Royalty, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Doug was also one of the founding members of the Environmental Consultants Association of WA (ECA) in 1993 and, with like-minded people including Dinky Goble-Garrett and Ray Hart, he sought to improve the quality of environmental consulting, collaboration and transfer of knowledge to newer entrants to the industry.

While living in Lesmurdie, Doug and Edwina bought their beautiful 100-acre property *Chatfield* at Toodyay in 1999 but, soon after, Edwina was diagnosed with a brain tumour.

Despite treatment, Edwina passed away in 2003, followed shortly by the death of Doug's father and then their beloved dog Kimber too.

This was a stressful and sad time for Doug.

He coped by pouring himself into his work and resumed consulting to the World Bank, including on projects in Namibia and India.

Doug had a stroke in 2003, which encouraged him to slow down a bit, and it took him many years to overcome the effects.

Subsequently, he would emphasise that overwork and too much pressure was the cause of his stroke and he advised others to learn from

his experience.

Doug had a saying that he'd occasionally pull out in meetings when someone was clearly out of their depth and factually incorrect, describing the inaccuracy as "a monument to ignorance".

Doug had a wry sense of humour and rarely lost his composure.

However, there was one notable exception during a meeting with a mining client.

About 20 'big knob' specialists were seated and by the fifth or sixth person the introductions had become life stories.

His colleague simply said, "I'm [name] and I'm an alcoholic," and put his head on the table in front of Doug.

Doug burst out laughing, turned bright red, and agreed that he'd like to be an alcoholic too.

In recent years, Doug poured his considerable intellect into strongly defending the environment.

He gave his support to the Toodyay Naturalists Club, contributing expert knowledge of the geomorphology of the Julimar Forest and a deep understanding of the potential consequences of mining.

He undertook significant work on the geomorphic history of Pelham Reserve on the western edge of Toodyay.

As with all of his work, he was accurate, practical, concerned with correcting misinformation and educating locals, as well as regulators and decision-makers.

Over the years, Doug took many photographs, some of which were produced as limited prints.

Doug also prepared two booklets about his life through a camera lens, with beautiful and moving photographs of his life in many parts of the world.

Doug had a commanding presence, class and poise – and really bushy eyebrows.

Those laser-blue eyes of his were piercing



Vale Doug Blandford 25/3/41 - 10/7/25

and with a slight sideways glance, a narrowing of his eyelids and one raised eyebrow, he could cut through 'padding' faster than anyone I have ever known.

Doug was a good man.

Mine survey results show growing concerns about biodiversity

Rashelle Predovnik

CHALICE Mining's latest community perception survey shows that while the environment remains the strongest driver of trust, concerns around biodiversity and water have intensified,

Chalice did its first 'local voices' survey in 2023 to get community feedback about their exploration and potential future activities in the region.

That survey was the first of a series of independent surveys planned to be done each year and most people who responded lived in the Toodyay, Chittering and Northam shires.

More women, 58 percent, completed the survey and 65 percent of respondents lived within 30km of the Julimar project.

The survey, focused on the following key themes: environmental responsibility, community trust, procedural fairness, regulations, and economic-social contributions.

2023, respondents gave Chalice an average rating of 2.8 out 5 regarding their level of trust in Chalice to act responsibly.

They also gave Chalice an average rating of

3 out of 5 for acceptance.

That survey concluded the community was sitting at a midpoint, and this was considered a typical starting point for its current exploration phase.

A comparison of survey results from 2023, 2024, and 2025 showed a growing concern about biodiversity and water, with trust only slightly improving.

Confidence in Chalice was also higher when external regulators were involved.

Despite a recognition of jobs and economic benefits (particularly in the most recent survey), community acceptance continued to decline, with many feeling the benefits did not outweigh the risks.

The latest results revealed positive community contact was consistent yet overall trust and acceptance remained at a low to midpoint, around 40 percent.

The annual survey's latest results saw a moderate to high support for a future mine, but support had dropped from 75 percent to 68, as environmental concerns directly affected acceptance.

Concerns about Chalice mines negative

impact on natural habitats and the company's disruption to the community also impacted people's level of acceptance.

Neighbours directly affected by the proposed mine say their experience with Chalice has been frustrating at times and information hard to get.

Shuba Johns whose family lives 'a stones throw away' from the proposed Gonnevillle Project site warned that any contamination from mining activities could pose serious and irreversible harm to the community.

She said there were a number of environmental factors that needed to be addressed.

These include water security as the community relied exclusively on rainwater.

Mrs Johns also cited air quality and health impacts as a concern.

She said airborne foreign contaminants, emissions and dust generated through exploration and extraction activities would directly compromise local air quality.

"Given our close proximity, we are particularly vulnerable to long-term respiratory and health risks," she said.

"As residents whose homes, health and environment are directly at stake, we strongly

object to the Gonnevillle Project proceeding without independent oversight and robust safeguards.

The surveys, studies and results are all in the hands of Chalice.

"What does that say?

"We can only hope that regulators and decision-makers come on board to recognise the significance of these concerns and act in the best interest of the community and our environment."

Another neighbour directly impacted by the proposed mine is Karen Chappelow, who said there had been no contact with Chalice for about 12 months.

She said the less-than-favourable results from the survey were not surprising.

She said in her experience Chalice did not listen actively or demonstrate strong and transparent environmental and social responsibility.

Neighbour Kirsten Lambert agreed. "The majority of people don't trust them, and do not feel that they would look after the environment."

A link to the latest survey can be found here: tinyurl.com/bdeswawa.

Campaign to keep cottage in local community hands

Continued from Page 1.

"Arts Toodyay already delivers a busy calendar of workshops, exhibitions, and community programs. With a permanent home, that program could grow even stronger," she said.

"Next year, Arts Toodyay has been invited to join the inaugural Avon Arts Trail, a regional initiative that will draw visitors, boost tourism and showcase local talent.

"But for Toodyay to take its rightful place on the map, we need a base of operations a visible, central hub that can anchor our work and welcome the wider community."

Although this item was not listed on the council's agenda this month, Ms Ellery emailed all councillors urging them to hit the 'pause' button for the sale.

In response, the shire's CEO Aaron Bowman confirmed councillors had received her email.

He explained that while councillors could move a revocation motion to overturn the sale, late items could not be added to the

agenda under the council's meeting rules.

Cr Rosemary Madacsi disagreed.

She tried to raise the item as 'a matter of urgent business' at the August council meeting but this was not allowed for a number of reasons.

Despite this, councillors still have an avenue to reconsider the sale of Connor's Cottage.

Under section 5.28 of the Local Government Act, any councillor may call a special council meeting to revoke a previous decision.

Particularly as no contract of sale has yet been entered into for Connor's Cottage.

However, the process requires the signatures of at least three councillors to bring the cottage back onto the agenda.

The Herald can confirm that no councillor has taken this step and Ms Ellery said she was surprised by the inaction.

"I am surprised that our council has not taken this opportunity to rethink repurposing such an amazingly located shire asset for the community."



Some of the residents directly affected by the proposed mine. (L-R): Karen Chappelow, Simon Brewster, Jem Squance, Kirsten Lambert and Maxx, Shuba and Peter Johns. Photo: Rashelle Predovnik.

The Toodyay Herald

Connors Cottage

THE SHIRE of Toodyay stands at a crossroads, a point where fiscal pragmatism clashes with the enduring value of its heritage.

While the Shire’s financial challenges are undeniable, the pending loss of this heritage asset demands careful consideration and a full exploration of all available options.

Connors Cottage is more than just bricks and mortar; it is a link to Toodyay’s past.

Situated within a heritage precinct, the cottage contributes significantly to the character and historical narrative of the area.

To sell it raises questions about the value we place on preserving our heritage and the role it plays in shaping our community identity.

A compelling argument for retaining Connors Cottage lies in its potential to serve as a vibrant community hub.

Toodyay, with its rich artistic community, could benefit from a dedicated space for exhibitions, workshops, and creative collaborations – as have other country towns.

Such a hub would enrich the lives of local artists and attract visitors, boosting the town’s economy and further enhance Toodyay’s reputation as a cultural destination.

Furthermore, the sale of Connors Cottage represents a permanent loss for the community as once sold into private hands, the cottage is unlikely to ever return to public ownership.

The argument that Connors Cottage could become a significant tourist attraction also holds considerable weight.

Heritage tourism is a growing sector, and Toodyay, with its already established historical appeal and picturesque setting, is well-positioned to capitalise on this trend.

However, the Shire’s financial predicament cannot be ignored.

Maintaining heritage buildings requires resources, and if the Shire genuinely lacks the funds to adequately preserve Connors Cottage, then difficult choices must be made.

Neglecting the building would ultimately lead to its deterioration and negate any potential benefits it might offer.

Therefore, the Shire must explore all possible avenues for funding the preservation of Connors Cottage before resorting to a sale.

This includes actively seeking grants from state and federal heritage bodies, launching community fundraising initiatives, and exploring partnerships with local businesses and philanthropic organisations.

A transparent and collaborative approach, involving community members is crucial to ensuring that the final outcome reflects the best interests of Toodyay.

In addition, the decision regarding the fate of Connors Cottage should not be driven only by short-term financial considerations.

It requires a holistic assessment of the building’s cultural significance, its potential community benefits and the long-term implications of its sale.

After all, the Shire’s remit extends beyond balancing the budget; it encompasses the responsible stewardship of the community’s cultural heritage for current and future generations.

In that regard, selling a vital piece of Toodyay’s heritage is a price too high to pay.

Sean Hefferon
Editor



Toodyay local Dave Bohan bought a box of old Ilfordglass plate negatives at a garage sale some years ago. He wasn’t sure of the age of the plates but a barely readable note found in the box referenced one of the plates ‘Toodyay 1919’. The above scene appears to show the Avon River in flood - but if readers can provide more detail please contact The Herald. Thanks for sharing the images Dave.

LETTERS

‘Worth seeing for yourself’

HERE WE go, an evening with a difference. I had heard about it and thought I should go and see for myself.

A beautiful room with appalling acoustics, or were the microphones badly set up?

The seating arrangement is interesting; a rope dividing the public seating from the councillors.

The councillors seated four on one side with the ‘seat twirler’ on the end, one opposite and one at the top with his two ‘helpers.’

The atmosphere?

Intimidating looks from the ‘seat twirler’ and as the night wore on, aggression against the one councillor who dared to ask a question on the community’s behalf.

I just do not get it.

The councillors are elected to represent our little community and only one actually seems to work on our behalf by questioning.

These questions were met with aggression. For why?

Ego?

Inferiority or own agenda?

Whatever, it certainly wasn’t for us.

It is worth seeing for yourself; different from watching online.

This way you get the ‘vibe’.

Wow.

Alison Downie
Toodyay

Tyre dumping disgusting

OUR COMMUNITY was appalled by the tyre dumping incident that occurred at our historic St Phillips Church, Culham last month.

How anyone could even think of committing this crime is hard to comprehend.

It was also perplexing and disappointing that our council refused to do anything to assist with the removal of the tyres.

Yet, the shire benefits greatly from Toodyay’s Anglican Church as it provides seven-day-a-week, unrestricted and free access to the St Stephen’s private land in town for public parking, festivals, markets, management vehicles and even deliveries for local businesses.

In true Toodyay style it was the community who rallied to fix the problem.

Steve Ferguson of Vernice Pty Ltd not

only removed the tyres but also paid the substantial disposal fee.

I would also like to acknowledge Mark Dickenson of Little Farm who offered to transport the tyres.

Greg Warburton (Church Warden)
Toodyay.

Flowers add to local colour

IT HAS come to my attention that Westview Street has no lighting and is not swept by the shire road sweeper.

Sweeping of the town streets is an abomination with the recent rains washing loose soil down into the gutters thus blocking the drains with debris.

Is there a street sweeper working for the Shire on a daily basis or is it just at the weekends to impress the visitors?

Those who do live here are not impressed.

What does impress visitors and locals alike is the beautifying of Stirling Terrace.

Flower boxes replete with red geraniums, pansies and all manner of floral divergence.

Well done, to those who put themselves out to beautify the streetscape.

The Toodyay Hotel needs mention as the staff have replaced the poxy dead and dying wallflower baskets, with a new array, soon to be visible from the street.

Not to be outdone, the Christmas Shop, has brightened up Duke St planting several colourful plants, not seen anywhere else.

The Victoria Hotel has enlivened their footpath area with tables and chairs, flower boxes and 2 big ornamental pots and a large shrub in each..

I have only been a resident for 9 years, and am “glued” to the place, and want it to be a “Mecca” for visitors and locals alike.

Maintaining its very special aura and beauty, whilst embracing changes that will only make it more desirable to live here as well as visit, is a worthy goal to aim for.

We can all contribute to that end.

Be proud of our town of Toodyay and enhance it where you can.

By the way the Christmas in July was superb and I hope it will become a fixture in the panoply of Toodyay events.

Lady de Soto-Phillips.
Toodyay

Thank you

ON BEHALF of everyone involved with the organisation of The 2025 Dogpro Plus Australian Supreme Sheepdog Championships we wish to extend our gratitude for the support and coverage from the Toodyay Herald and its readers that ensured the success of the event .

We hope your readers enjoyed seeing Australia’s finest working sheepdogs in action .

Trish Genoni
Social Media Team
WA Working Sheepdogs Association

The Toodyay Herald Inc.

Your locally owned community newspaper

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of The Toodyay Herald (Inc) will be held on Saturday 25 October 2025 at 11am at The Herald Office, 111 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay (rear of Christmas 360).

The agenda will include Minutes of the 2024 AGM. Matters Arising, President’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, Editor’s Report. General Business and Election of Committee.

Financial members are invited to attend and vote at the AGM.

Enquiries Anne: 0418 904 322

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	118.9					183
Average	17.20	17.30	15.50	26.10	54.80	57.04	79.16	81.93	29.60	20.47	16.40	2.08	417.58

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.

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T 08 9622 2822

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

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

rsm.com.au/northam

Toodyay community groups strive for location location location

Between You and Me
Mick McKeown, Shire President

THE MELBOURNE Cup came to Toodyay on the 9th of August. On a wet Saturday, representatives of the Victoria Racing Club revealed the actual 18 carat gold Cup to an enthusiastic public at the Old Garage in Stirling Terrace.

The Melbourne Cup is on a tour that began in New York on the 25th of June and will end at Flemington on Melbourne Cup Day Tuesday 4th of November.

After arriving in Australia, the Cup has visited towns and cities all over the country.

In Western Australia, Toodyay welcomed Jimmy Cassidy who spoke about his experiences as two-time winning jockey – on *Kiwi* in 1983 and *Might and Power* in 1997.

All of us present were then able to hold the Melbourne Cup itself which this year is valued at \$850,000 and was made from gold mined in Western Australia by Westgold Resources.

Toodyay will be in a Melbourne Cup Sweep sponsored by the Victoria Racing Club.

We will be allocated a runner in the race and the Club will donate \$50,000 to a charity in Toodyay if our horse wins, so keep an eye out for the name of Toodyay's horse running on Cup Day.

Thanks to the staff of the Shire of Toodyay who organised the event and to Ryan Kellam and his team from the Victoria Racing Club who travelled to Toodyay with the Cup.

Thanks also to the Toodyay Race Club for helping with the setup in Toodyay, and to Stirling and Liz Thomson for providing the excellent venue, and to Kirsty of Dolly Foxgloves for the catering of light refreshments for those presenting the event.

There were some important decisions made at our August Ordinary Council Meeting.

Council agreed to lease the former Western Australia Government Railways building at the Community Junction to the Marsupials Mammals and Pappas.

Their lease gives them the security of having a fit for purpose premises for the next five years.

The Mammals and Pappas will now have a central headquarters to run their operations to conserve and rehabilitate injured wildlife.

The location will be a centralised reception centre for the public to hand over injured wildlife where assessment of injuries and initial first aid can be provided.

In addition, they will also provide opportunities for school and veterinary students to undertake work experience and for Centrelink clients to undertake voluntary work.

They are confident that their presence will provide significant environmental, educational and social benefits to the local community and we look forward to them continuing their good works.

Following a period of public advertising, Council authorised the Chief Executive Officer to proceed with the sale of the Bendigo Bank building at 108 Stirling Terrace to Toodyay & Districts Community Financial Services Limited.

The purchase of the property will allow Toodyay & Districts Community Financial Services Limited to maintain banking services.

Having already made significant investments in the property, the purchase will allow them to improve the property that they now own.

We recognise and thank the Bendigo Bank for its confidence in the future of the Shire of Toodyay.

Earlier in the year, Council agreed to provide funding to our local arts group, Arts Toodyay Inc..

Council provided just over \$5,000 in grants under the community grants scheme for Arts Toodyay to run workshops, an Arts Trail Event, and for an exhibition prize.

Council has now agreed in principle for Arts Toodyay to lease a shed at the Community Junction for a period of five years.

The proposed lease is subject to a final decision by Council regarding the future of the Community Bus Shed located near the Old Shire Depot.

If an application by Toodyay Garden Inc to use the Bus Shed is successful, Shire owned items stored in the Bus Shed will need to be moved to the shed at the Community Junction rendering it unavailable to Arts Toodyay.

How much is that doggy in the window?

Continued from Page 1.

Although some of these are still common, Australia's environment soon required hardier, more independent dogs.

The Australian kelpie was developed from Scottish working collies in the 1870s to handle Australia's large, hot rural areas.

Bred for stamina, heat tolerance and herding instinct, the kelpie became a breed suited to challenging local conditions.

Other uniquely Australian breeds emerged, such as the Australian cattle dog — known as the blue or red heeler — bred to manage stubborn cattle across long distances.

Working dogs are a key part of the Wheatbelt's

farming sector and nationally are critical to Australia's beef and wool industries.

Their responsibilities extend beyond farming operations.

They work on sheep stations, cattle properties, mixed farms, feedlots, as well as in livestock transport and at saleyards assisting producers and agents with the management of over 70 million sheep and approximately 25 million cattle.

An ANZ study estimates working dogs add around \$3 billion a year to the Australian economy.

Labour savings represent the largest portion of these figures.

Working dogs save producers an estimated \$800 million a year in wages, plus about \$100 million annually by reducing fuel and vehicle costs.

Unlike utes or motorbikes, dogs access difficult terrain without fuel, noise or mechanical wear.

The study estimated there are over 270,000 working livestock dogs in Australia helping manage over 95 million sheep and cattle across farms, sale yards and transport.

Top working dogs can sell for up to \$49,000, indicative of the years of training and their role in the livestock industry.

Continued on Page 34



Selection of photographs showing the skills of the sheepdogs. The event continued sun or rain with competitors from across Australia and New Zealand.



Small minded vandals damage mini rail

Sean Hefferon

TOODYAY'S much-loved miniature railway has been the victim of vandalism.

Railway members posted on social media last month that sections of the 1.1-kilometre track had been damaged by a motor vehicle being driven over the rail-line on or around August 22.

The resulting track damage rendering the mini-rail inoperable is just one incident of many that has plagued the tourist attraction.

Gordon Scott, chairperson of the mini rail, said that the picket fence that runs alongside the track is also regularly damaged.

The latest act of vandalism has been reported to the Toodyay Police.

A busy bee was completed at the end of August to repair the track.

Since the latest incident at the mini rail security cameras have also been installed, an action that Gordon hopes will make potential vandals think twice.

Opened in 1996, the Toodyay Miniature Railway is run by a local hobby club, with all rolling stock privately owned by members.

Trains operate on a 1.1 km track and are available for special events upon request.

The fleet includes petrol-powered "diesels," a coal-fired steam locomotive and a 24v electric engine.

The mini rail will be back on track on September 7 for visitors and locals to enjoy.



A section of the damaged railway track.

Electors meeting

Sean Hefferon

THE SHIRE of Toodyay's annual electors' meeting is to be held at the Morangup Community Centre on 4 September 2025 commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting will not be livestreamed or video-recorded as there is not a statutory requirement to do so.

However, some local governments have voluntarily adopted policies to livestream or video-record electors' meetings (e.g., Busselton, South Perth, Swan), typically for transparency and convenience.

The recording/livestream requirements in the Act and associated regulations apply only to council meetings, not to AGMs with electors.

Local government elections coming up

Sean Hefferon

THE SHIRE of Toodyay has several council members with their current term due to expire on October 18 (the election date) being:

Councillor Mick McKeown (and current Shire President) - seeking re-election.

Councillor Charmaine Duri - not recontesting

Councillor Steve McCormick

Councillor Danielle Wrench - not recontesting

The terms of the three councillors below expire in 2027.

Councillor Michelle Dival (and current Deputy President)

Councillor Rosemary Madacsi

Councillor John Prater

Nominations for candidates in the 2025 local government elections opened on August 28 and closed on September 4 at 4pm.

Apart from Cr McKeown no other sitting councillor at the time the paper went to print had formally confirmed their intention to run in the 2025 local government election.

Ray Mills from Morangup who was unsuccessful in the 2023 election has confirmed his nomination for the 2025 local government elections.

Agents for BONAIRE

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Winter's here!

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2 Gordon St Northam 9622 1462

Email: makin1@wn.com.au

Local man charged with child exploitation material

Police Beat

With Sgt
Jamie Boryczewski
Toodyay Police Station



LAST month’s article mentioned that the possession and sharing of child exploitation material is an offence.

The focus then was on children sharing an exploitative image of themselves to another person and the need for parents to be aware of what their children are doing online.

Adults being in possession of and sharing child exploitation material is perhaps a

matter that the community is more aware of.

This brings us to a local man who was charged and arrested in May 2025 for being in possession of such material and his electronic devices were seized by police.

It’s worth noting that the individual was arrested at Perth Airport awaiting an overseas flight.

As part of the police investigation his devices were assessed and were found to retain child exploitation material.

He was initially out on bail which was subsequently revoked and he is on remand awaiting sentencing on September 26.

The Avon Descent proved to be a quiet day for the local police team and for that we extend our thanks to the Toodyay community and visitors alike.

That said, there were a number of incidents

that kept the team busy during August.

These include a man being charged with being armed in the Toodyay Hotel on August 1.

This occurred after a disturbance in the carpark behind the hotel moved into the beer garden.

The local man in question has been banned from entering any licensed premise in WA for 12 months and he is also due to appear in Northam Magistrates Court on September 1.

The same individual was also charged on August 13 with three counts of breaching a family violence restraining order in this instance receiving a fine. However, the offence can also mean a 6-month prison sentence.

Lying to the police in regard to your personal details is an offence as another individual found out.

In this instance a person had been stopped by police and gave false personal details. As a result the person is set for a court appearance in October 2025.

On August 18 a local man was charged with aggravated assault occasioning bodily harm as a result of a dispute with a neighbour.

He is due to appear in court on September 22 and a violence restraining order is also in place.

Looking ahead, the local police team will be preparing for the 2025 Toodyay Cup and will be present on the day.

The 2024 event went well from a policing perspective with a family crowd that enjoyed themselves.

The week before the Cup will see the Tarmac Rally event and the team will be on hand to assist as necessary.

Money money money

Sean Hefferon

NATIONAL Seniors Australia is worried.

The not-for-profit membership and advocacy organisation is worried cash may stop flowing.

National Seniors has observed a rise in bank branch closures, fewer bank-run ATMs and an increasing shift by large businesses toward digital payments in recent years.

The group has been running a Keep the Cash campaign where they support members with campaign materials including free Keep Cash window and bumper stickers.

The campaign involves a Keep Cash competition and when you submit your application you could come out a winner.

As happened for Toodyay locals Monika Zechetmayr and Peter Edwards winning runner-up second prize in the competition.

For more information about the National Seniors Australia campaign head to: <https://nationalseniors.com.au/resources/keep-cash>.



Peter Edwards and Monika Zechetmayr.

Get outta my dreams, get into my car

Sean Hefferon

THEY came in their Porsches, all 30 of them including Boxsters, Cayennes and even 911s.

‘They’ meaning Porsche Club of WA members; out and about in the Avon region and lunching at Toodyay’s Victoria hotel.

Founded in 1983, the club is officially recognised by Porsche AG and caters for all Porsche models from the earliest 356 to the modern supercars and SUV’s.

The club’s regular activities fall into three main areas: monthly club nights, social outings/drives and competitive motorsport.

Monthly runs include great drives to interesting places and often finish at restaurants for lunch.

Greg Billings, club member (and Toodyay visitor), said, “The monthly runs are a fantastic way to enjoy your Porsche with like-minded enthusiasts.”

The club’s social events can also take the form of overnight stays in some of WA’s most beautiful country towns.

An anchor event for the club is the yearly “Show Us Your Porsche” event traditionally held towards the end of the year.

This event is a coming together of all PCWA members and Porsche owners from around WA and involves the biggest Porsche Car display in WA.

“Life’s short, so a twisty road, a sunny day and a Porsche is not a bad way to spend your Sunday,” said Greg.

A sentiment many Toodyay residents would agree with.



WA Porsche club members Greg Billings and ‘Mon’ (with the photobomb) hamming it up on arrival in Toodyay. From all accounts last months outing was one of the club’s best with members enjoying their Toodyay visit and the scenic drive.

Beware browser traps for the unwary

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

BROWSER extensions can be very useful in helping you to better manage your work.

They can, for example, save and protect passwords, block pop-up advertisements and track the amount of time you spend on a particular website.

But browser extensions are often capable of stealing sensitive information.

About half of all extensions do this.

Some extensions wait until you have logged into your bank and then mount a man-in-the-middle attack meaning your money may be stolen.

There are a number of things that you can

do to minimise this risk.

Install only those extensions that are important to you.

Regularly review your installed extensions and uninstall those extensions that you no longer need.

Only download extensions from trusted sources.

Read the reviews about an extension before you install it to check if anybody else has had an issue with it.

Check that the extension you are about to install asks only for those permissions that it needs to function as claimed.

Keep your extensions updated.

More information can be found at bit.ly/452s3Xl.



MRB 10905

Toodyay

Tyre Service

New 4X4, Truck,
Motorbikes &
Tractor

Repairs
Exhausts
Balancing
Suspensions
Wheel Alignment



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

We’re all in this together*

Safer Toodyay
Desrae Clarke

CRIME Stoppers 1800 333 000 is a telephone hotline that the community can use to provide information, *anonymously*, of an ‘out of the ordinary’ activity.

It could be an unfamiliar vehicle drifting around the area, unusual stock movement or guns heard at night.

Contacting the police by telephoning Crime Stoppers will have the police, local to the area, check the report.

Police coverage of the Shire of Toodyay is 24 hours a day and seven days per week.

Our Police are out and about.

If you call our Police service on 9574 9555, and your call is transferred to the Wheatbelt District Office in Northam, *please do not hang up*.

Ask your question or give your information as asked by the Police staff.

Your call will be assessed as to its urgency and relayed to Toodyay’s staff that may be in the next road from where you are calling.

If your call is urgent dial 000.

Many folks move to the Shire of Toodyay to enjoy life with space around them.

Getting to ‘meet your neighbours’ does not

mean ‘getting to know your neighbours’.

There is a difference.

Letting your neighbours know that you are leaving your property to go into hospital or on holidays is a very wise move.

A neighbour would then be suspicious if the next-door neighbour was known to be away and a truck arrived to shift furniture, stock, water pumps or was hovering around the farm’s vehicles fuel supply.

I recall an extremely sad incident that a work colleague told me about.

Approximately a month after their own wedding a young couple attended a friend’s special day.

They were not ones to stay out late so they returned home around 10pm to find their home stripped of its furniture, wedding gifts and even the new lawn mower from the shed.

On making enquiries neighbours had noticed a large truck loading furniture from the home but did not question the activity.

Remember: crime prevention is everybody’s business.

Police	131 444
Crime Stoppers	1800 333 000
Toodyay Police	9574 9555

*Neighbours looking after neighbours.

Noongar people were sustained by careful practices on country

Dudja Waangkiny
(Toodyay Yarning)


NKAC

Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

FOR THOUSANDS of years, Noongar people lived sustainably, guided by the seasons, the breeding cycles of animals and the signs of nature. Every action was thoughtful, ensuring food was gathered in ways that allowed country to provide for future generations.

Waterways: Bilya (rivers) and wetlands were vital food sources. stone fish traps and brush dams were built to allow small Djildjit (fish) to escape, while only mature ones were taken. Men sometimes swam underwater, wearing a feather headdress and breathing through a hollow reed, to catch Yerderap (ducks). Yorga (women) and Kulunga (children) gathered Yarkan (turtles) and Kooya (frogs) by feeling for air bubbles or searching among reeds.

Before harvesting, Yanget (bulrushes) and wetland edges were often lightly burnt to clear away plant debris.

These burns returned nutrients to the soil, helping the wetlands remain productive.

Hunting was always selective and seasonal, never during breeding times.

Nothing went to waste, with every part of the animal used. Kaarda (large goanna) were caught in specially prepared Kaarda-Mia (goanna shelters), where flat rocks were propped up to give reptiles a hiding place, but once the animals crawled in, they became trapped for collection.

Roots and tubers were dug carefully and pieces were replanted so the plants would return the next season.

Fire was another important tool: small U-shaped burns were used to herd animals, while mosaic burning, sometimes called fire-stick farming, encouraged the growth of certain plants, reduced thick undergrowth and



Warrine - Native Yam (*Dioscorea hastifolia*)

supported biodiversity.

Families moved over Moort-Boodja (family lands) with the seasons, following food sources and allowing areas to recover.

Each family group cared for their own wider patch of country, and it was important to seek permission and be welcomed when entering another group's land.

In many ways, this is similar to farming today. People tend and care for their own land, respect neighbours, and ensure it can be passed on to future generations.

These careful practices sustained Noongar people for countless generations.

Below are just a few foods gathered from the waterways and the bushland:

Yarkan – snake-necked turtle: Yarkan provided rich, oily meat with a strong, chicken-like flavour and was traditionally cooked over hot coals.

Djirap – kangaroo grass: Djirap, along with other kwolak (grains, seeds) were essential staples.

Harvested during warmer seasons, the seeds were dried and ground into flour using a muller (grinding stone).

This flour was mixed with kep (water) to create dough and cooked over coals to make damper.

Warrine – yam: Warrine was a vital food staple.

Continue the Journey

VOTE 1

MICK MCKEOWN

At the last election, Toodyay voters chose change

With your backing, here's a snapshot of what we've achieved so far

✓ delivered a responsible budget with a rate increase of just 2.2%, far below previous rises

✓ established a business approach to finances

✓ improved town tidiness and commenced a program of infrastructure maintenance

✓ revitalised our swimming pool for a bumper season

✓ supported our trio of truly local events - Toodyay Races, Moondyne Festival & Agricultural Show

✓ repurposed lighting towers to enhance our town oval

✓ stayed steadfast in commitment to preserving our unique heritage

Together, we're creating a vibrant and sustainable community

Thank you for your support

Let's keep Toodyay moving forward!



Authorised Michael McKeown, 2027 Northam-Toodyay Rd, Toodyay

The tubers were lightly cooked, offering a starchy, nutritious meal.

Yellow flowers bloom around August, with the tubers maturing for harvesting around October, after which climbing stems were replanted to ensure future growth.

Nyingarn – echidna: Nyingarn, an egg-laying mammal, was a prized food source.

Its fatty meat, often likened to pork, was roasted whole in hot ashes with the spikes

falling away during cooking.

Our Noongar Trail features signs highlighting foods and is incorporated into and along the Bilya Walk Track.

Our corporation now offers river tours, hosted by our chairman, Robert Miles.

To find out more, please contact our project coordinator, Helen Shanks.

Contact details on the Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation website.

EMERGENCY SERVICES Auslan and inclusive emergency care

St John Ambulance Toodyay
Monika Williams

IN THE fast-paced world of emergency care, communication is everything.

For patients experiencing distress, pain, or confusion, a calm voice and clear instructions can make all the difference.

But what happens when that voice isn't understood, when the patient is deaf or hard of hearing?

St John WA has taken a bold step toward answering that question, rolling out Auslan interpreting services.

The service extends to metro ambulance crews and health centres in partnership with Convo Australia, a deaf-owned and operated platform.

This initiative marks a national first – real-time video access to certified Auslan interpreters via crew iPads, ensuring deaf patients and their families are heard, literally and figuratively.

While this technology currently relies on Wi-Fi connectivity and is being refined for broader use, its impact is already rippling beyond city limits.

For regional towns like Toodyay, where access to specialist services can be limited and community ties run deep, inclusive communication isn't just a bonus, It's essential.

Paramedic Lauren D'Arcy, whose advocacy helped launch this initiative, has also championed purpose-built Auslan

training for volunteers.

It's a reminder that accessibility isn't a metro-only issue.

In towns like Toodyay, where volunteers often know their patients by name, being able to communicate in Auslan can transform a routine call into a moment of genuine connection.

One in six Australians lives with hearing loss.

That's roughly 15% of the population and likely someone in every regional community we serve.

Whether it's an elderly resident who's lost hearing over time or a young deaf child injured on the playground, our ability to communicate inclusively can shape their experience of care.

St John WA's partnership with Convo Australia is more than a technological upgrade; it's a cultural shift.

It tells our patients, "We see you. We hear you. We're here for you."

For our volunteers it's a call to action, to keep learning, to keep teaching and to keep building bridges between care and communication.

Inclusive and accessible prehospital care isn't just about apps and interpreters; it's about people.

It's about the child in Toodyay who learns to sign "ambulance" in class, the volunteer who takes the time to learn a few key signs before their next shift and it's about every patient who feels understood.

 **St John**

Upcoming first aid courses

HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid

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

Price: \$180.00

When: Saturday 18 October - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Thursday 27 November - 8:30AM - 4:30PM

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



Understand first aid

Learn about first aid theory and action plans



CPR and defibrillation

Practise CPR skills and how to apply a defibrillator.



Injury management

Treat and manage injuries in interactive training scenarios.



Ready to make a difference?

Book a first aid course with us



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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Coondle chow down tradition continues after training



After training cook me up some bacons and some beans.

VBFB Coondle Nunile
Aurelien Zimmermann, Secretary

ANOTHER quiet month on the front line but we are not complaining.

It won't be long before the buzzer goes off, like an alarm on a Monday morning that won't hit snooze.

With spring upon us the warmer weather and longer days are a welcome change.

While the season brings beautiful conditions, it also reminds us of the importance of being prepared.

Even during quiet periods, this is the perfect time to focus on training, checking equipment and making sure our properties and community are ready for whatever the season may bring.

Last month, our training focused on crew protection and first aid.

We began with a theory session covering the vehicle's crew protection components and a refresher on first aid.

This does not replace the accredited St John course.

The session also included videos of real-life burn-over incidents which were a powerful reminder of why these drills are so essential.

For the practical component we split into two groups.

One group carried out a burn-over drill while the other attended an oxy-sock presentation, before swapping.

Everyone had the opportunity to experience both.

Both activities served as excellent refreshers, valuable to all members regardless of years of service.

A special thanks to Chris for sharing his knowledge and guidance throughout the day.

True to Coondle tradition, we concluded

with a well-deserved BBQ and a small birthday celebration for one of our members.

It was the perfect way to round off a productive day of training.

During this quieter period, there are plenty of ways residents can get their properties ready.

Clearing long grass and flammable materials around buildings, trimming trees and shrubs, and checking water pumps all help reduce fire risk.

It is everyone's responsibility to keep their property safe, which in turn helps protect not only your community but also our crews.

Steven, one of our newest members, has just completed his training and is now ready to join us on the fireground.

Welcome aboard.

We look forward to working alongside you in both training and operations.

Vehicle checks continue every Friday, ensuring all equipment is in peak condition.

After the checks, the crew often gathers around the firepit to chat, enjoy each other's company, and tuck into some snacks.

A reminder that being prepared goes hand-in-hand with building a strong team.

The Coondle team is always looking for new members.

Joining the team comes with plenty of perks, such as learning new skills, knowledge, giving back to the community and meeting like-minded people.

Yes, getting hands-on with the equipment is as rewarding as it looks.

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, pop in, have a look, and chat with the crew or get in touch at

coondle.nunilebfb@gmail.com

Unrestricted burn period finishing

VBFB Toodyay Central

Peter Brennan

TOODYAY community please note: the unrestricted burning period is due to finish on Tuesday September 30.

If you are burning as a final clean-up before summer, please do so responsibly.

Last September, we responded to seven callouts of which four resulted in a stand down.

However, the three that we attended required 20 hours of volunteer time.

During this period, we often receive calls from residents requesting the brigade conduct a burn off on private property.

Please note that our volunteer fire fighters are just that.

We fight fires, but do not undertake fire mitigation unless specifically requested to do so by the shire.

For valuable local fire related information, residents should become familiar with the shire website at www.toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Click on 'resident services', then 'fire information'.

Topics covered include managing fuel loads, firebreaks, restrictions and permits, plus much more.

From 1 October we will move into the spring restricted burning period which lasts until 31 October.

Anyone wishing to burn during this period will require a permit.

Permits will only be issued for legitimate mitigation outcomes or for primary producer requirements.

Permits are not issued for social occasions, burning of rubbish or for burning which can reasonably be deferred or avoided.

October is also the time for property owners to think about getting firebreaks and properties prepared for the coming fire season.

Firebreaks don't just provide breaks between vegetation areas but importantly, are safe zones fire-fighting appliances can travel along.

Consequently, they need to meet the criteria laid down by the shire and must be maintained from 1 November to 30 April.

Please take special note of the width, condition and clearance height required for firebreaks.

The shire does conduct inspections and penalties do apply for non-compliance.

Finally, congratulations to our new member, Aaron Robertson, who has just completed his bush fire safety awareness course.

This is one of two foundation courses new members must pass before they can go on a fire ground.

The other is, firefighting skills which Aaron will complete at the end of the month.

FIRE-BREAK VISUAL COMPLIANCE GUIDE



COMPLIANT



NON-COMPLIANT



COMPLIANT



NON-COMPLIANT

Who you gonna to call?

Karen Mariner

IN SEPTEMBER the Paranormal Investigation Agency are coming to film in the Toodyay Gaol for the Global Ghost Hunt.

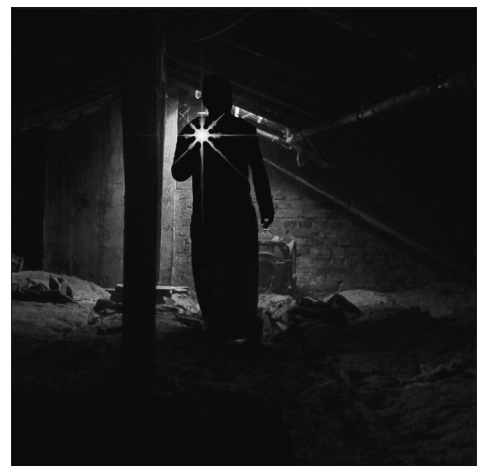
This is an international event which shows the world allegedly haunted locations from across the globe.

On Saturday we met one of the prison tour guides Barry and he suggested reaching out to the *Toodyay Herald* about the event.

Although we are from Perth, we are all drawn to Toodyay's history and many haunted locations and decided we would love to showcase such a beautiful part of WA.

If what we are undertaking could be of interest to readers we would love to have a chat, please feel free to contact me via email on kazbabe101@icloud.com

Our Facebook page is Perth Paranormal Investigation Agency if you want to check us out.



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As men get older they isolate more: so men R U OK?

‘Mental health issues are real, whether you recognise it or not, whether you’ve experienced it or not’

Sean Hefferon

THE FACTS are that many men are not ok when it comes to mental health.

Men have consistently had higher suicide rates than women, accounting for approximately 75 per cent of all suicides in Australia.

A recent study by the WA Primary Health Alliance found that three per cent of all deaths in the Wheatbelt are due to suicide.

Statistics that Rural Aid Counsellor, Roger Hitchcock, is familiar with.

For Roger, men’s mental health in the Wheatbelt varies especially on the land and there are a range of factors that feed into the health issue.

“My job gets a lot busier when there’s doubt about Mother Nature doing what’s expected,” he said.

Adding, “Earlier this year we had that initial rain where the rain came and then there was nothing for weeks.

“The rain made a lot of people feel really good and then there was nothing for weeks.”

As he describes it, a lot of people were beginning to doubt that they’d have a

successful crop, so the stress increases.

This is not an unnatural reaction when for many farmers putting their crop in the ground equates to a substantial investment.

This level of uncertainty or lack of control is just one factor, or as Roger says, “another tennis ball in the garden bucket”.

Isolation is another driver of mental health – and often the isolation is by choice.

As he observes, “Bigger, better machinery has enabled harvesting to be done by less people.

“Perenjori is a classic example, where there used to be five families on a large farm farming, now there’s one. So that’s added to the isolation.”

It’s an isolation that Roger is well aware of and one that he continues to work with Wheatbelt men to break down.

He is not alone in this endeavour with groups such as Toodyay’s Moondyne Men putting into action their mantra “Men looking after men and the community”.

Graham Hill group Public Relations Officer said to the *Herald* that men in the community need to get together, have a talk and socialise.

For the Moondyne Men, as Graham points out, the regular meetings are more, however, than just social and build a good support network for local men.

Graham has also seen changes in group members who live by themselves and would otherwise be isolated if not for being part of the Moondyne Men.

Adam Przytula, founder of Armed For Life and a community ambassador with R U OK? understands concerns about male isolation.

He thinks recognising isolation for men in particular and trying to reduce it is critical for mental health, but as he says, “As men get older they isolate more and more.”

Adam, talks about the importance of men having an “inner circle”, being people you can trust and talk about anything.

He reflects on his own circumstances.

“I’ve lost my inner circle recently through a series of events with one of them passing away and another moving away and so I’ve had to rebuild my inner circle.

“At 46, it’s really hard because everyone that has an inner circle, usually it’s been there for a long time and they’re often childhood friends.”

Adam thinks it’s worth putting the effort in to finding friends for that inner circle because loneliness and isolation are powerful drivers in mental health.

He points out that mental health issues are real.



Toodyay’s Moondyne Men are one of a number of local groups helping to build community connection and capability and why not? The group’s mantra is, “Men looking after men and the local community.”

“Whether you recognise it or not, whether you’ve experienced it or not, because I’ve had a number of men, you know, they can go 50 years and never experience anxiety, or depression.

“They don’t know what your problem is, until they experience it or someone they love experiences it.”

He tells a story of a man he knew who literally for 50 years just denied it (poor mental health).

Yet, when one of the closest friends of their son took their own life understanding dawned on him.

Blokes getting better at speaking about mental health is critical.

“The perception that you have to man up and shut up and just move on is as far from what’s healthy as possible,” Adam said, but it is a behaviour that he sees often.

He adds that men have to get better at “recognising that it’s healthy and normal to speak up when we’re struggling”.

Rural Aid – www.ruralaid.org.au

Counselling Intake Line – 1300 175 594

Lifeline – 13 11 14

Beyond Blue – www.beyondblue.org.au

Helpline – 1300 224 636

MensLine Counselling – 1300 789 978

Armed For Life – <https://armedforlife.com.au>
R U OK? – www.ruok.org.au
A conversation could change a life.



Adam Przytula, founder of Armed for Life.
Photo: Armed for Life.



Roger Hitchcock is a counsellor with Rural Aid, a role that sees him travelling the Wheatbelt providing mental health support.
Photo: Rural Aid.

Cup gallops into Toodyay

Sean Hefferon

SINCE 2003, the Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour has travelled more than a million kilometres, visited over 680 towns, and raised essential funds.

This year was the Wheatbelt’s turn for a first-hand glimpse of the Cup that is intrinsic to the iconic horse race that stops a nation.

York hosted the three-handled Cup on August 7-8 last month followed by Toodyay on August 9-10.

As a bonus the Cup which is incidentally made from WA gold and jarrah was accompanied by legendary jockey Jim Cassidy, a multiple winner of the iconic race.

Cassidy entertained the crowd of about 50 attendees at the Old Toodyay Garage on Stirling Terrace with stories about his experiences as a jockey.



The Lexus Melbourne Cup in Toodyay.



Jim Cassidy is a twice-winner of the Melbourne Cup.

The event, hosted by the Shire of Toodyay and supported by the Toodyay Race Club, saw willing attendees get to hold the Cup for a photographic opportunity.

A key part of the tour is the Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour National Sweep that sees 24 rural and regional Cup Tour destinations across Australia allocated a barrier for the 2025 Lexus Melbourne Cup.

Representatives from each of the 24 destinations travel to Melbourne to attend the Lexus Melbourne Cup at Flemington.

The town that is associated with the barrier drawn by the Cup-winning horse receives a \$50,000 cash prize to donate to a charity of its choosing.

Toodyay is in the mix to receive the cash prize should the town be allocated the winning horse.

In 2024, Harden-Murrumburrah was the winner of the Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour National Sweep, with the nominated charity, the Murrumburrah-Harden Show Society Incorporated, receiving \$50,000.



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Transcend trails 2025: running up that hill

Sean Hefferon

SEE A hill in the way?

Well, get over it, which is exactly what more than 1000 participants in the Transcend Trails multi-event did on August 16 as they took on the muddy and rocky slopes of the Avon Valley.

Participants keen on the total valley challenge did the 65km ultra-run that started from Walyunga National Park finishing at the buzzing finish village on a property at Cobbler Pool.

Well, it was meant to be 65km but due to Woorooloo Brook flowing faster and higher than usual an additional 2km was added to avoid that water crossing.

After all, what's an extra 2kms when one is already committed to a big day out anyway?

Regardless, most of the courses had an abundance of water crossings so wet soggy shoes were the order of the day.

The Toodyay area was well represented at Transcend with the Running Legends group getting down and muddy on a range of courses.

There were plenty of options including a 6km, 28km and 48km trail runs.

The Kids' Dash over 1km was competitive, fun and drew plenty of smiles both on and off the course.

There were also smiles aplenty in the village with stalls to browse through, a

pop-bar courtesy of Rocky Ridge Brewing and the Morangup-based Roam Distillery.

This year's event saw several adaptive wheelchair participants, reinforcing the view that trail running and just getting outdoors has only self-imposed boundaries.

The 2025 Transcend saw a near-doubling in participant numbers compared with last year, a meteoric rise that aligns with what is happening in the sport globally.

Whilst Transcend draws a large number of participants from first timers to trail running to the world elite, Shane Johnstone, Race Director, envisages it as becoming an iconic local attraction that helps bring people to the Avon Valley region.

He regards local engagement as being critical to the events success.

"The support and engagement from the local community and businesses was epic and we are excited with the direction Transcend is taking and look forward to seeing it grow more in years to come."

He added, "If you didn't make it this year hopefully you can be a part of it next year."

"It is an event for all, from adaptive wheelchair participants to kids to general runners to the elite."

The cherry on top?

Participating in Transcend gives one a day out in the natural environment that the Toodyay area is famous for – and that is priceless.



Adaptive wheelchair participants took part in Transcend for the first time in 2025.



The Kids' Dash was a one kilometre run through an Alpaca paddock.



Downhill scramble with the finish chute only a few kilometres away.



Looking down the finish chute at a competitor running up to the finish line.



A bit of extra weight? No problem.

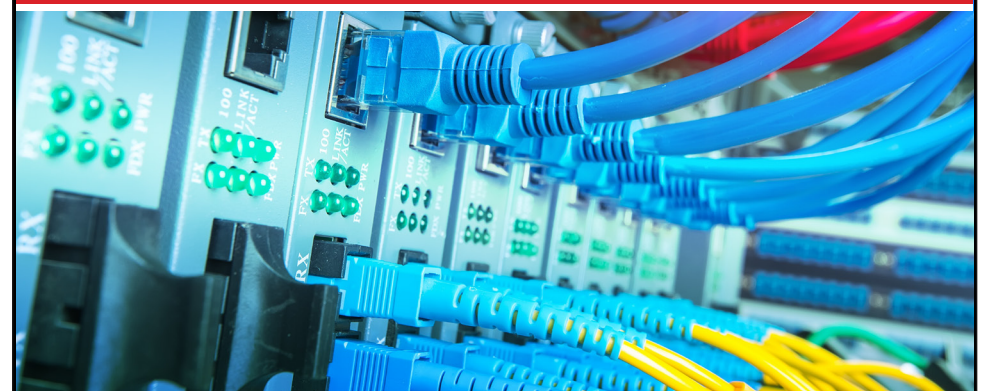


A mere 500 metres or so from the finish line there was one last water crossing to plow through. The expression on this competitor's face reveals all - icy cold water. Given the extent of rain in the Avon Valley there were multiple water crossings to negotiate.

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A day at the market



A pride of lions at the Toodyay market.

Sean Hefferon

FARMERS' Markets are no longer a novelty. In Toodyay, as in the rest of Australia, they have become a preferred route to market for many food producers and a popular place for people to buy fresh produce.

They are also a place where local artisans get a start with their creative idea before perhaps moving to a more traditional shopfront.

The Toodyay Farmers' Market ticks several boxes including offering a range of products as well as a place for local groups to raise funds or public awareness of their group.

The market is where the *Herald* caught up with the Toodyay Lions who had set up a stall down at Stirling Park.

Other groups out on what was a sunny August day for the farmers market included the Toodyay Agricultural Show, a mainstay of the community.

Sunshine, live music, good food and an abundance of stalls to browse in makes for a relaxing way to while away an hour or two in Toodyay.



The legends (market committee) that keep things on track at the farmers market. Say hello to them when you visit.



Obviously.



The 2025 Avon Descent saw a few awkward moments such as the above impending crash.

‘A magnificent weekend of river racing’

Sean Hefferon

THE 2025 Avon Descent, held over the weekend of August 9 – 10, was a standout event in Western Australia's sporting calendar.

The 124-kilometre white-water race from Northam to Bayswater had over 330 competitors this year, double last year's number.

The surge in entrants was largely attributed to heavy rainfall leading up to the event, which elevated river levels and enhanced the course's appeal for both seasoned and novice racers.

Kayaker Luke Dooley secured his second straight singles win, finishing in eight hours and 44 minutes.

Standup paddleboarder Tashka Goswell took out the honours in that race category coming in at 15 hours and 37 minutes.

In the power craft division, Matthew Even and Matthew Thur finished first with a time of two hours and 10 minutes.

Northam's Avon Descent Association Chair, Greg Kaeding, said the 2025 event offered

competitors, spectators and stakeholders a magnificent weekend of river racing.

Despite the race passing through Toodyay, the town appeared quiet during the event, at least compared with previous years.

Although the Shire of Toodyay supported three local groups operating food stalls in Duidgee Park, the usual lively festival atmosphere of the Avon Descent was missing.

This subdued ambience may have been due to the persistent rain and the cancellation of the 2025 Toodyay International Food Festival and Family Fun Day.

The contrast was evident when compared with other locations along the course, such as Lilac Hill Park in Caversham, where the Avon Descent Festival transformed the area into a winter wonderland, complete with live music, food trucks and snow-themed activities

Overall, the 2025 Avon Descent was marked by heightened participation and challenging conditions, underscoring its reputation as a premier adventure race in Western Australia.

For full results go to avondescent.com.au.



Above (then clockwise): double kayakers passing through Toodyay; Duidgee Park; Stirling Terrace - late morning; Not drowning just waving. Photos: Sean Hefferon.



August council meeting wrap

Sean Hefferon

LAST financial year saw one in two employees leave the Shire of Toodyay.

Shire CEO Aaron Bowman confirmed at the July council meeting that employee turnover last financial year was 54 per cent.

As questions are not allowed “from the floor” at shire council meetings the *Herald* asked a follow-up question at the August council meeting concerning what actions the shire was taking to reduce this high turnover rate.

The CEO responded that the shire is implementing “proper training, providing suitable equipment to undertake job tasks, addressing historical issues and having detailed workplans”.

Since the shire could not provide the number of employees that had left the shire in 2024/25 at the July meeting despite prior notice, the question was repeated by the *Herald* at the August meeting.

The number of dismissed employees during that period was also requested.

Bowman said the headcount of employees that left the shire in that time was 25 including two that were dismissed.

Chelle Ellery from Arts Toodyay asked a question concerning the intended sale of the heritage-listed Connors Cottage.

The CEO responded that the shire had completed a facilities and building review conducted by an external consultant and a subsequent building condition review that had given the cottage a low rating.

These reviews were considered by council in the development of the 2025/26 Budget

Former shire councillor Beth Ruthven asked a number of questions including why audit committee resolutions are not published given that regulations say the CEO must publish decisions made at a meeting which is closed to the public as audit committees are.

Shire President McKeown replied that he will request at the next audit committee meeting that all resolutions of the audit committee be published on the website.

In reply to a *Herald* question regarding whether the shire was planning a major event aligned to the 2026 Avon Descent, Cr McKeown said that would depend on the 2026/27 shire Budget.

He also confirmed the shire had no plans for hosting an event to celebrate Toodyay's 190th anniversary in 2026.

Business items commenced after question time including council receiving the July 2025 financial statements and list of payments.

Council agreed in principle to lease a shed at the Community Junction to Arts Toodyay pending a final decision about the future of the Community Bus Shed at the Old Shire Depot.

Council approved a five-year lease of the former WA Government Railways building at the Community Junction to Marsupials Mammals and Pappas.

Noting public submissions received, council authorised the CEO to finalise the sale of 108 Stirling Terrace to Toodyay & Districts Community Financial Services Limited.

The meeting then considered the adoption of the amended Dog Local Law 2025.

Cr Dival proposed an alternate motion deferring the item until the November meeting as ‘the item needed more consideration’.

The alternate motion was passed unanimously.

A further item considered a revised list of bush fire control officer recommendations which the CEO stated was to ‘update a change in a staff member’ including the appointment of Martin Aldridge as Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM). This item was carried by council unanimously.

Cr Madasci then attempted to introduce a late item being that council pause the sale of Connors Cottage noting the ‘level of community feeling’ on the matter.

She was unsuccessful with the CEO and Shire President McKeown confirming the sale process was underway and that a revocation motion concerning the budget would be required.

At the conclusion of this discussion Cr Madasci uttered “wow” – to which Cr McCormick asked her what she had said and she repeated the expression.

Upon which the Shire President said he would like to close the meeting to the public to consider Cr Madasci's expression of ‘wow’ adding that he thought she had breached the code of conduct.

A recording of the August council meeting is available on the shire's website.

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for Toodyay!

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Grant gives logsplitting work a 'peaceful easy feeling'



Some of the Moondyne Men at the Toodyay Farmers' Market.

Moondyne Men Graham Hill

THE MOONDYNE Men have enjoyed a busy time with the final of the firewood cutting exercise.

We have been fortunate in receiving a grant from Bendigo Bank Toodyay to purchase our very own Hydraulic Log Splitter, which will make splitting firewood much easier.

As a result of our recent advertisement in the *Toodyay Herald*, and the team presence at the Sunday Market, we have received several enquiries from interested people in how to join the Moondyne Men.

At our August 18 meeting, we were pleased to welcome three new prospective members.

This is a great incentive for men to get involved with community activities and enjoy the company of men of similar interest and age, instead of staying at home with the worries of the world, come out and see the Moondyne Men.

We will solve the problems of the world with you or have a very good attempt over a cup of

coffee or tea and a biscuit.

We also offer a free breakfast on the first Saturday of each month followed by our committee meeting.

The unique part about our group is that every member is a committee member and has an equal say in the day-to-day running of the Moondyne Men.

Our Facebook page offers further information about our activities.

On August 28 we hosted Kelly-Anne Murray from the grant development office who told us about her role in the community.

She spoke to us about the activities the Moondyne Men may be able to help with in the community.

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

If you would like to become a member of our team why not give our secretary Colin a ring on 0424 195 003.

Putting the 'grand' into grandstand

Sean Hefferon

TOODYAY has many grand old buildings that hark back to days that will never be again – but they provide a link to the past and give a sense of place.

Many old buildings have been brought back to their “glory days”.

Many others continue to wait, patiently, for a touch of paint or that grand makeover.

The grandstand at the Toodyay Showgrounds has done waiting and had a recent sprucing up.

The structure built in 1910 is a welcome area for spectators to settle into as local events play out in front of them.

When you're at the local footy and you want a good vantage point where are you going to go?

The grandstand.

Tired legs and needing a rest at

Toodyay's iconic Agricultural Show?

The grandstand is a good place for a family sit-down and rest.

Send the kids away to buy fairy floss and a bit of mental destressing can also occur.

This makes the grandstand's recent refurbishment by the local shire as timely as a local cricketer hitting a six when the team is down against the opposition.

Steve McCormick, Toodyay Cricket Club President (and a local councillor), brought the recent maintenance efforts to the *Herald's* attention.

McCormick said that the cricket club appreciated the maintenance undertaken at the showgrounds including grandstand sanding and painting.

The shire putting the 'grand' back into grandstand – a piece of sandpaper and a lick of paint at a time.



Above: The Toodyay grandstand has a new lease of life. Below left: A local pub shimmers in the morning light. Below right: A classic old Toodyay house with stories to tell.



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🔍 wa.gov.au/familyviolence

The iconic agricultural show is almost here: 'Read about it'

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Leisha Smith, Social Media

YOU WOULD have to be walking around in a daze to have missed the agricultural show advertising all over town.

Signs on the bins, in store windows, on countertops, and big signs on the roads.

It's becoming very real, very quickly.

And now the schedule has been released, this year's entries are the gossip on everyone's lips.

From those hot-topic man cakes to floral arrangements and everything in between, the schedule is jam-packed (pun intended) with fun things to enter into this year's much anticipated show.

Personally, I strongly considered nominating myself as a judge for the sweet treats, but I sense I'm not the only one that has a significant 'winter coat' they acquired this year that needs to be shed.

Why must eating our feelings taste so good; why do gloomy days pair so nicely with chocolate?

The mysteries of the universe.

At least the Avon Descent participants didn't have to walk their kayaks. How close did that get? Anyway, I digress.

Should you desire to enter your wares, grab yourself a schedule, or this year you can even enter online at <https://showday.online/show/toodyay>.

This is brand new for Toodyay so we're

all a little excited about keeping up with the times, while also still providing the traditional methods of entering.

Other than online, you can also submit your completed entries at the Toodyay Visitor Centre, emailing them to toodyayagsociety@gmail.com, or mailing them to us (or just send us your fan mail) at PO Box 362, Toodyay WA 6566.

As if the schedule isn't wildly exciting enough, we have equally intriguing news – a fun new competition that I cannot wait to witness.

I'm also somewhat salty that I'm too old to participate.

If you're between 18 and 35, get a team of four together (or we can find you a team) and

come show us what you've got in the Young Farmer Challenge.

A not-so-serious version of this comp is run by the WA Nextgen Committee.

You will compete in a range of farm-inspired challenges aimed to test your teamwork, problem solving and other skills. No experience in farming necessary.

Not only will it be hilarious for all, but there's a cash prize up for grabs.

A total of \$240 for the team.

That's 60 bucks in cold hard cash, all for having a jolly good time.

Why wouldn't you?

If you're willing and able, we're super keen to watch your emails flood the toodyayagsociety@gmail.com inbox.



A selection of photographs taken at the 2024 Toodyay Agricultural Show - which was, incidentally, the 170th anniversary. From exhibits, to farm animals, live music, showbag alley with its various thrilling rides to the firework finale. The volunteer-run Toodyay Show has something for everyone.



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Seeds of peace a statewide topic for study

Country Women’s Association
Elizabeth Mansom

FIFTEEN members of the Bullsbrook CWA branch visited Toodyay, spending the day in and out of shops and eating at The Vic, on Friday August 15.

Margaret and Elizabeth joined them for the meal and afterwards the visitors went to the Old Fire Station and Allevare before driving home well satisfied with their choice of day out.

We’ve mentioned in previous issues that members were knitting squares for blankets.

Members were asked to bring their squares to the August coffee morning when we would all stitch together to turn them into blankets.

However, seven complete blankets arrived. Kathy is the Blanket Queen of 2025 having produced five.

Each blanket is finished with a simple crochet edge to add strength, and a carry bag for the convenience of the future owner.

During August a request for letters of support for the community garden was received by the branch and we were happy to comply.

As stated in our support letter, a community garden is a place for us to meet, chat, share ideas, learn new skills, mentor, enjoy the

sunshine and all activities strongly connected to the health and well-being of the individual, and ultimately the community as a whole.

All at a negligible cost to the ratepayer or the council.

With these obvious advantages, it is to be wondered why the process has gone on so long and is now stalling in council.

The therapeutic value of gardening has been recognised by international organisations such as the Geopolitical Alliance of Women (Ukraine) and the Association of Ukrainian Romania Teachers, who designed a program around gardening to help Ukrainian refugee children and called Seeds of Peace, as mentioned in previous issues.

Seeds of Peace has been adopted by the CWA of WA as a statewide topic for study and our branch will keep you informed of state and local activities as the months progress.

Did you come to our jumble sale on August 30?

If you didn’t, you missed an enjoyable outing, the bargain of a lifetime and CWA scones with jam and cream.

A huge thankyou to Sean from Christmas 360 for his donation of baubles and other assorted Christmas paraphernalia.

Everyone agreed we should repeat the exercise next year.

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

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

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

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

We look forward to welcoming you.



Kathy, Rose and Vivien with the completed blankets ready to go.

Don’t worry be happy

Staying in Place Toodyay Districts
Hamish Dobie, President

BOBBY McFerrin hit it on the head in 1988 when he released the song *Don’t worry be happy*.

Being happy and not worrying promotes good health.

There’s no point worrying about getting older as there is nothing you can do about it. It’s better than the alternative.

Our aim at Staying in Place Toodyay (SIPTD) is to ensure our clients maintain a good quality of life and remain living in their own home for as long as possible, with our help.



My drawer of memories to sing along with.

Keeping a positive attitude and laughing a lot can eliminate depression and even reduce aches and pains.

It’s good to laugh with others but it’s just as important to laugh at yourself, especially when you do something silly.

It’s better to embrace aging rather than continue to fight against it.

You now have a life’s experience of ups and downs, successes and failures.

If you now find something you used to do has become too hard, let someone else do it and get that experience.

Singing is a good way of cheering yourself up, unless you’re singing a dirge.

Here is a short song to get you smiling and start singing:

“You put your left leg in, your back goes out.

“You’re creaking and cramping, and you’ve got a dose of gout.

“You twist and shout and a little wee comes out ...

“That’s what aging’s all about.”

Personally, I wander around the house,

singing little songs, and this keeps me in a positive frame of mind although it drives my wife batty.

No matter how old you are there is a period in time when you can remember all the hit songs with words of the day.

So go through your repertoire and get singing.

SIPTD is now well into its second year, and our client numbers continue to grow.

This has enabled us to appoint a second coordinator to cope with demand and continue to provide a high level of service.

If you are finding that living at home is becoming more and more difficult, then you may be eligible for a home and community care (HACC) package, which is provided by the federal government.

They may, after assessment and qualification, provide a home care package for elderly people to help ease the difficulties of maintaining their standard of living in their own home.

Without this assistance they may be forced to move into sheltered accommodation.

The home care package can provide the means to afford goods and services, such as cleaning, gardening, home modifications, meals, transport, nursing care and mobility aids.

SIPTD can assist you in determining if you are eligible and, if so, applying for this package.

All our contractors who provide the help needed by our clients are people from our own community.

So, the money they earn will come into the community and this provides a knock-on benefit to local shops and other services.

Spring is here and the gardens have come to life, especially the weeds.

We need more contractors to tend gardens for our clients.

If you think you, or your partner, may be eligible for a home care package, or if you are interested in becoming a support worker, then please contact:

Charmeine Duri, Case Manager, Staying In Place, Toodyay Districts,
Phone: 0494 085 790

E: casemanager@stayinginplacetoodyay.org.au

Web: <http://stayinginplacetoodyay.org.au>

Facebook: Staying In Place – Toodyay

Our environment matters at the Toodyay Herald...



news@toodyayherald.com.au

‘Good for nothing lazy scoundrels’



Francis Kirk’s cottage’, Stirling Terrace
Photo: Jenny Edgecombe, 2004.

Toodyay Historical Society Inc
Dr Robyn Taylor, Patron

AN IMPORTANT part of Toodyay’s history is connected to the convict era and this was the focus of our history forum, following our AGM in August.

The convict era dates from 1 June 1850 when the first contingent of convicts landed in Fremantle on the *Scindian*.

The colonial government was taken totally by surprise as the ship arrived before it was known that it had left England.

No preparations had been put in place to receive and accommodate the 75 convicts, the 50 retired enrolled pensioner guards and their families, 14 emigrant girls, officials, warders, engineers, sappers, miners and others.

So, a temporary prison was built and the conversion of warehouses for stores and equipment.

The convicts, mostly Ticket of Leave men (TOL), were to supply labour for much needed public works, including roads and bridges, and help farmers in rural locations.

Farmers were strong lobbyists for the introduction of convicts, especially when the sandalwood industry collapsed in the 1840s.

It was expedient to relieve the pressure on Fremantle by despatching the TOL and their guards to destinations such as Toodyay.

Adam O’Neill’s talk focussed on the pensioner guards and their cottages, some still standing in Stirling Terrace.

Toodyay had two depot sites.

The temporary depot at (West) Toodyay was followed by the permanent depot at what became today’s town of Toodyay.

Allotments were surveyed for the pensioners with cottages built of mud,

brick and stone, and completed by 1856.

The guards were ex-British army men who received a pension from the government.

Over the years 1,200 arrived and some had a poor reputation among the colonists.

In his diary entry for 8 April 1851, Gerald de Courcy Lefroy wrote: “the pensioners ... [are] generally a most good for nothing lazy parcel of scoundrels.”

Adam highlighted the importance of these cottages and their need for ongoing research and conservation.

Alison Cromb, well known for her publication *The History of the Toodyay Convict Depot*, chose a different slant by looking at the legacy of a largely unknown man, Alexander Maconochie.

He was a Norfolk Island superintendent and a leading pioneer of penal reform.

His observations of the cruelty, and the ineffectiveness of the system in Van Diemen’s Land, led him to introduce more humane methods.

Maconochie was responsible for a convict system that became regarded as the most humane in Australia.

His untimely recall to England meant credit for his substantial contribution went largely unacknowledged.

Alison’s paper was a passionate call for his due recognition.

Robyn Taylor’s talk was about Fremantle Prison, focussing on her research into the basement rooms under the main cell block.

These rooms were used for storage, such as prisoners’ clothes and possessions handed over on arrival, and recorded in large ledgers; the listings make for interesting and poignant reading.

Also recorded were items in the kits issued to those who left for country depots, such as Toodyay.

These had to be accounted for, no bartering allowed for tempting grog and tobacco.

Today, the basement can be hired for cocktail parties with a limit of 50 guests.

There will be a busy bee at Donegan’s Cottage on the Friday before the Agricultural Show.

Details will be sent to members.

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

Contacts: See Where and When.



Hackett’s cottage’, Stirling Terrace. Photo: Google Maps 2025. [screenshot]

Shingles go to charity causes

Volunteers Toodyay Museum
Barry Keens

DESPITE the vagaries of the weather, people found time to visit the Old Gaol Museum (OGM) and Connor's Mill during the month and numbers were boosted due to school holidays.

School holidays always seem to be a good time for a visit.

We welcome Helen to the ranks of volunteers to do front of house duties during the week.

Every extra helper we get improves the experience for our visitors. Will you join us?

If you're interested, please make contact through the Toodyay Visitors Centre.

We continued to fundraise by selling the OGM old roof shingles and we were able to make donations totalling \$1,250 to local organisations in the last financial year.

However we still have funds available to donate to local groups so, if you think your group will qualify for up to \$500, why not ask? Contact number 0427 047 850.

Most of the displays in the OGM follow various themes including types of items, events, history, families and trades.

One of the family displays is pictured showing some of the many items we have in the collection relating to the Whitfield family.

Come and see for yourself any day of the week between 10am and 3pm.

Entry is free to shire residents.



Items from the Whitfield family collection.



Happy Lions Christmas Cake customers.

Lions have 'team spirit'

Toodyay Lions Club
Clint Fricker, Secretary

THE TOODYAY Lions Club is on a roll; we are very fortunate to have a number of new members join our club.

Along with the two new members in July (see the August Herald edition), John and Judy Morrissey will soon be inducted into our ranks and there are more inductees waiting in the wings.

The more members we have, the more fund-raising activities we can undertake and the more we can give back to the Toodyay community.

In August we were at the farmers' market selling our ever-popular Christmas cakes.

Move over Christmas in July and make way for Christmas in August.

Our next event will be manning the merchandise stand at the Picnic Races in late September.

Unfortunately, Heather McNamara has found it necessary to vacate the secretary's chair due to other pressing commitments, not least of which is her role in the volunteer bushfire brigade for the upcoming fire season. So, former secretary Clint Fricker will slot into the role.

The email remains the same toodyay.wa@lions.org.au and the new mobile number is 0423 226 898.

Feel free to email or ring for anything you need or would like to know.

Farewell Jan, good luck and thanks for the memories

Toodyay Locals Care
Dave Miller

IN AUGUST, we said goodbye to long time Toodyay resident and TLC member Jan Cook.

There was no task too big for Jan.

She was Roz's right-hand person.

A good friend and support to all.

We miss her already and we look forward to seeing her back from time to time to keep us up to date on how her new home is going in High Wycombe.

Thanks for being you, Jan.

Planning for our quiz night is well underway and tickets are already available.

The theme for the quiz is 'around the world in 48 questions', six rounds of eight questions starting with general knowledge and ending with Aussie sport.

Lots of games and great prizes to be won.

If you would like to book a table of eight, it will only cost you \$80.

Make a payment direct to our bank account BSB:633000 Account No:172 688 626 with the reference: quiz night.

We will get your tickets to you or you can pick them up at the door. Don't forget, as we have some great door prizes.

If you need any further information or would like to donate a prize, please contact Dave on 0418 919 094.

Being a volunteer at Toodyay Locals Care is not all about hard work.

We have a lot of fun and often laugh non-stop.

Every Thursday morning we gather at the showground pavilion for what we call "carrots".

Start time is 9am and, as the name suggests, we prepare vegetables to make up meals.

These meals are available from the fridge on the veranda at 20 Fiennes St.

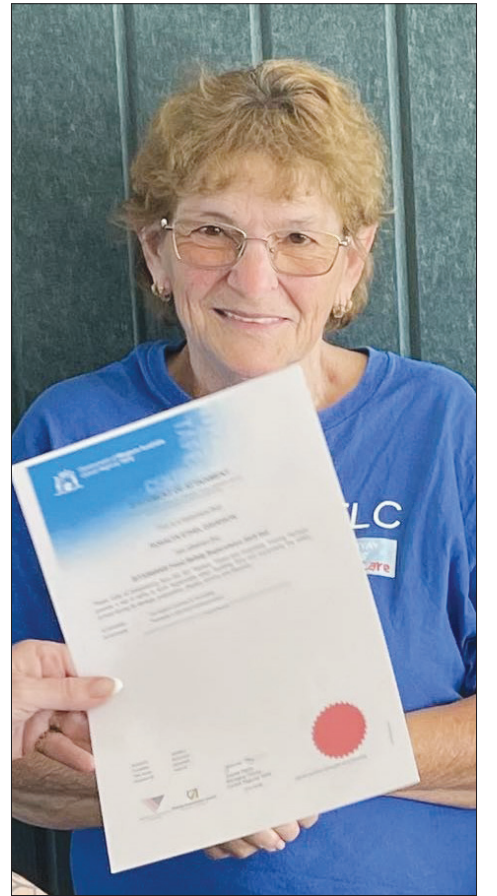
If you would like more information give Roz a call on 0427 744 352.

Speaking of Fiennes St, our well-tended garden has produced a bumper crop of broccoli and a selection of herbs.

We have nine chooks who have settled into their new home and are living the good life.

As most of them are only young, eggs are in short supply.

So, if you can spare some, we can always put them to good use.



Jan was a mainstay at TLC.

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SHIRE NEWS

SPRING THROUGH TOODYAY THIS SEPTEMBER!

EOI: INDEPENDENT MEMBER – AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

THE SHIRE of Toodyay is seeking skilled professionals to join our Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee as Independent Members.

- Governance | Risk | Finance | Audit
- Paid role: \$123.25 per meeting
- Apply by: 30 September 2025

IF YOU have experience in financial oversight, legal compliance, or governance, we'd love to hear from you.

SEPTEMBER marks the end of winter's chill and the arrival of glorious spring days in Toodyay, bringing with it one of the most anticipated times of the year — wildflower season. Across the town and surrounding countryside, vibrant colour will soon sweep through the landscape as native blooms and garden beds burst to life. TOODYAY is located within one of the world's rare and internationally recognised biodiversity hotspots, offering visitors and locals alike the chance to see wildflowers and flora that cannot be found anywhere else on Earth. National parks and reserves around the region provide the perfect backdrop for a spring walk or

hike, with trails awash in vivid colours that showcase nature at its finest. FOR THOSE who prefer to stay closer to town, a stroll along Stirling Terrace offers a chance to enjoy beautifully maintained garden beds, by local businesses adding charm and character to the historic streetscape. Beyond the townsite, rolling hills of golden canola fields stretch across surrounding farmland, creating a spectacular sight for those taking a road trip through the Avon Valley countryside. WITH SO many natural wonders on display, deciding where to begin can be the hardest part. The Toodyay Visitors Centre, located on Piesse Street, is ready

to assist. Friendly staff are on hand to help visitors plan their perfect spring itinerary and ensure no opportunity is missed to enjoy the season. AS SPRING takes hold, Toodyay is set to shine in a kaleidoscope of colour, inviting everyone to step outside, explore, and experience the beauty the region has to offer.



SAVE THE DATE

05 DEC 2025

TOODYAY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS STREET PARTY

ONE ON ONE Tech LESSONS

DIGITAL LESSONS FOR OVER 55's

book a time with a digital mentor today!

Running from September 2025 to April 2026

At the Toodyay CRC 67 Stirling Terrace

These free one-on-one lessons are designed for those serious about long-term digital skill growth. Learn at your own pace, tackle specific challenges, and build lasting confidence to navigate the online world independently.

Complete a Digital Skills Checker, track your progress and learn new skills!

To book your lesson or for more information contact the CRC on (08) 9574 9399 or email crc@toodyay.wa.gov.au

FREE BOCCE AND BALANCE

12 WEEK PROGRAM FOR 65+

Meet new friends, get fit and have fun!

All fitness levels welcome.

Social indoor bocce and morning tea Mondays weekly starting September 1 10.30am - 12pm

Body movement classes to improve mobility, balance and strength Thursdays weekly starting September 4 10.30am - 12pm

At the Toodyay Recreation Centre Pavilion

FREE GIFT WITH SIGN UP

For more information or to register on (08) 9574 9399 or email crc@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Science Week 2025

For Science Week, the CRC hosted a walking trail along the Avon River with the help of Toodyay Friends of the River. We learnt about the old Toodyay heritage, and how the Noongar people used to live using their environment.

A huge thank you to our volunteers who made it possible

Tea & TECH

All sessions are FREE and run on a Friday from 10.30am - 12pm

2025

- August 29: CRC
- September 26: Library
- October 31: CRC
- November 28: Library

2026

- January 30: Library
- February 27: Library
- March 27: CRC
- April 24: Library

Learn about topics such as online banking, scams, and AI while enjoying morning tea

DIGITAL GROUP LESSONS FOR OVER 55's

Complete a Digital Skills Checker, track your progress and learn new skills!

For more information, contact the CRC on (08) 9574 9399 or email crc@toodyay.wa.gov.au