

SHIRE NEWS

Newcastle Park Footbridge update

Following repairs to vandalism damage late last year, the Shire engaged a certified structural bridge engineer to complete a Level 1 Inspection of the entire footbridge. For public safety, the engineer recommended that the bridge remain closed until a full structural engineering assessment could be carried out.

That inspection took place in February, and we're now awaiting the detailed report so we can determine the safest way forward and what works are needed to reopen the bridge.

While it seems that progress is frustratingly slow, please know we're doing everything we can to progress this

as quickly as possible while following the required processes. We'll continue to share updates as soon as new information becomes available.



Upcoming Events for March/April

Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association Swap Meet

Sunday 15 March, 6am-1pm, Toodyay Showgrounds Oval.

Toodyay Farmers Markets

Sunday 15 March, 9am-1pm, Stirling Park.

Easter Rhyme Time

Wednesday 25 March, from 9.30am, Toodyay Library.

Pages & Pastries Easter Edition

Friday 27 March, from 10am, Toodyay Library.

Morangup Community Drop-In

Friday 27 March, from 6pm, Morangup Community Centre.

Ordinary Council Meeting

Thursday 9 April, 5.30pm, Shire Council Chambers.

Youth Week – 10-16 April,

Shire events TBC.

Lions Jumbo Auction

17-18 April, Toodyay Showgrounds Oval.

Toodyay Railways:

A Tale of Two Lines

Sunday 26 April, 11am-12pm, Newcastle Gaol Museum.

For more details on any of these events, please visit the Events Calendar on the Shire's website toodyay.wa.gov.au or check out our Facebook page.

Valentine's Day 'Booked for Love' a Huge Hit



Our Library 'Booked for Love' Valentine's Day event was a welcoming celebration of community, conversation, and a little indulgence. Guests enjoyed refreshments alongside a delightful selection of cakes, beautifully presented with a Valentine's theme.

There was a 'Blind Date with a Book' display, where readers selected mystery-wrapped books based on clues – an intriguing way to discover new stories.

Patrons also shared heartfelt messages on our Library Appreciation Heart, spreading kindness and positivity throughout the Library.

The addition of outdoor tables and chairs created an inviting extension of the library environment, providing a welcoming outdoor space for reading, socialising, and relaxing.

The event brought together readers, friends, and families to relax and

socialise, and was a lovely reminder that Libraries are not just places for reading, but vibrant spaces for community connection.

Library dates for your diaries:

- Rhyme Time Easter-themed activities for children, including an egg hunt - Wednesday 25 March at 9.30am.

- Join us for a cracking 'Pages & Pastries' Easter edition - Friday 27 March from 10am. Enjoy coffee, cakes and conversation. Bring friends, family and your sweet tooth. All welcome!

Community Funding Program 2026/27

The Shire's Community Funding Program for the 2026/27 financial year opens Monday 9 March 2026.

For eligibility criteria and more

information on how to apply, please go to the Community & Visitors section of the Shire's website toodyay.wa.gov.au.



COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM

OPEN 09 March 2026

Eligible community groups will soon be able to apply for financial support for projects, events, festivals, capacity building, and equipment upgrades.

- Applications are open **Monday 09 March 2026**.
- Applications close **Monday 20 April 2026**.
- Funding is available for activities from **01 July 2026 to 30 June 2027**.

The program follows the Shire's Community Funding Policy, which supports grants for community organisations and activities. To apply, visit the Shire's website and search for "Community Funding Application" to download the Policy and Application Form.

Applications Close Monday 20 April 2026

More Information
Please contact the Shire on (08) 9574 9300
records@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Toodyay Christmas Street Party 2026 – Call for local stallholders

CALLING ALL TOODYAY LOCALS!

Do you make, create, stitch, paint, carve, bake, print, sculpt or dream things into life?

Then we'd love you at the Toodyay Christmas Street Party 2026.

Preparations are already underway, and we're on the lookout for

local stallholders, creatives and community groups who'd love to be part of the magic.

This is your chance to share your work, connect with the community and be part of a truly special celebration of Toodyay.

✉ To register your interest please email: community@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Spaces will fill fast—don't miss out!

Let's make 2026 our biggest, brightest street party yet 🌟 🎄



Toodyay Lions will celebrate a 40-year community tradition

Lions Club of Toodyay
Heather McNamara

THE Toodyay Lions Club is gearing up for one of its biggest celebrations.

Their 40th community Jumbo Auction, will be held on Saturday, 18 April 2026.

What began as a modest fundraiser in the mid 1980s has grown into one of Toodyay's most cherished annual traditions.

The auction draws crowds from across the Wheatbelt for a day of bargains, laughter and plenty of country charm.

This year promises to be the biggest and brightest.

It marks four decades of community spirit, fundraising, and good-humoured fun.

A legacy built by Lions

AMONG those celebrating the milestone is Lion John Pearce, a charter member who has proudly served the club for 50 years.

"This auction is more than just a fundraiser; it's part of the fabric of Toodyay," he said.

"For 40 years it's brought people together and you see families who've been coming for generations.

"It's not just about buying a bargain; it's about belonging to something bigger."

John laughs as he recalls the early days.

"We were thrilled if we got 100 lots and a bit of shade," he said.

"Now we need near on an entire oval to fit everything in."

Fun facts and memorable moments

THE Jumbo Auction has seen its fair share of unforgettable moments.

One crowd favourite was the year a vintage wheelbarrow, wobbly but full of character, sparked a friendly bidding war that lasted far longer than expected.

The buyer, grinning from ear to ear, didn't actually need a wheelbarrow but wanted the bragging rights.

It was donated back and reappeared twice

more before finally "retiring".

Then there was the legendary mishap still retold with laughter.

A seller who became so caught up in the excitement that he accidentally bid on, and won back, his own item.

He shrugged, laughed, and said, it must've been meant to stay with him.

John recalls, "it's the kind of good-natured moment that makes the day what it is."

A seller's perspective

A PAST seller says the auction is the perfect blend of community spirit and treasure hunting excitement.

"I've sold everything from old tools to a lounge suite," she says.

"The atmosphere is what keeps people coming back, everyone's chatting, smiling, and enjoying the day, and the Lions make it so easy for sellers."

What to expect in 2026

THE 40th year will feature the classics.

Furniture, tools, antiques, collectables, household goods, garden items, and those wonderfully unexpected finds that have made the auction famous.

Buyers can enjoy affordable bidding across all lots in a familyfriendly, high energy atmosphere.

Food, drinks, and Lions hospitality.

Rows of bargains to explore.

Want to sell? Here's how

RESIDENTS wishing to submit items for auction can pick up a sellers registration form from:

- Home Hardware Toodyay
- Makit Hardware
- Tony Maddox Real Estate
- Toodyay Real Estate.

Forms include details on acceptable items, dropoff times, and conditions of sale.

Sellers' Fees for 2026:

- \$5 per lot (nonrefundable)
- 10% commission on each sale

Unsold items must be collected at day's end.

All goods must be clean, safe, and in working order.

Funds raised from the Jumbo Auction support vital local projects, including youth programs, emergency relief, equipment upgrades, and community initiatives across Toodyay.

This year's auction beneficiaries include our amazing local fire brigades, Toodyay Youth Care Council, and the Forget-Me-Not

Café.

"It's remarkable what a small town can achieve when people show up and give generously," said John.

"Every hammer fall helps someone, somewhere in our community."

The Lions look forward to welcoming locals, visitors, bargain hunters and collectors to the 40th Community Jumbo Auction.

A day guaranteed to be filled with energy, tradition, laughter and the occasional unforgettable moment.



Rolling into 40 years of community spirit: The Lion's popular auction is back this year.



The Lions Club of Toodyay Inc.

40th "Ruby" event!!

JUMBO AUCTION

Saturday April 18th 2026

The Toodyay Lions Jumbo Auction is on again for 2026! Come along and join the fun – and maybe pick up a bargain.

Auction will commence at **9am sharp, on Saturday, April 18th**, at the **Toodyay Showgrounds Oval**.

Gates open for viewing at 8am. A \$2 buyers' ticket is required for all bidders.

Information for sellers.

- Sellers' donation is \$5 per lot, plus 10% commission on sale amount.
- Please fill out a Sellers Registration Form, available at Tony Maddox Real Estate, Toodyay Real Estate, Toodyay Home Hardware, MAKIT Hardware, or online at www.facebook.com/ToodyayLionsClub.
- Delivery of lots will be on Friday, April 17th, from 8am. No lots will be accepted on the day of the Auction.
- **All items not sold must be removed by the owner and all purchased lots must be removed by the buyer by 5pm on Auction day.**
- No old TVs or computers please.
- Sellers with more than 10 lots (20 maximum) are accepted by prior arrangement only. For these, or large or expensive items, please advise by Thursday April 16th - Steele Williams on 0497 337485, Peter Edwards on 0418 342199 or John Pearce on 0427 742248.

The Toodyay Lions Club takes no responsibility for Lots after the fall of the hammer, when sale goods become the buyers' responsibility.

Food and drinks will be available for purchase at the Auction.

No dogs are permitted on the Oval during the 2 day event.



Beneficiaries Include: Local Volunteer Fire Brigades, Toodyay Youth Care Council and Forget-Me-Not Cafe

Country Womens Association online 'Belles' shape younger future

CWA
Elizabeth Mansom, Secretary

THE meeting on 26 February was the first general meeting since last November.

The agenda was quite long as the electronic mail hadn't taken the break along with us.

We broke for a cuppa.

Monika and Glynn from St John's arrived to refresh our memories about the defibrillator that is mounted on the veranda.

The unit is accessible to the public and appears on the St John's app you can have on your smart phone.

At the end of the session, remarks were heard about how easy the unit is to use and how more confident people felt if the need arose.

Margaret has refreshed stocks of the CWA cookbook and the scone book.

She also picked up some copies of a new addition to the recipe book selection, 'Generations in the Kitchen'.

On the cover is a luscious strawberry decorated chocolate cake and the book would make an excellent gift.

All are readily available at Uniquely Toodyay or simply stop a passing CWA

member and ask.

It's a small town, you know who they are.

A sign that CWA is really moving with the times is that in February it was possible to have a 'Cuppa in the Clouds' with the State President, Felicity Edwards.

Margaret tuned in.

From her feedback the topics ranged from this year's state conference, women farmers, branch involvement in Anzac Day, and the warning of yet another form to be filled in.

There are 'belles' branches being formed in the association.

As the members are generally younger and still working, often meetings are held on-line.

Perhaps we are seeing the CWA of the 21st century forming.

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

We do ask if you come on 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.



CWA members Cathy and Val get a refresher course with St John's Monika and Glynn.

Staying In Place moves near dentist

Staying in Place Toodyay Districts
Hamish Dobbie, President

DESPITE its very name, Staying In Place Toodyay Districts (SIPTD) has moved.

During early February, SIPTD moved into new accommodation.

It now occupies an office at the rear of 94 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

This address may seem familiar to some of you, as the dentist occupies the front of the premises.

The office will allow us to meet current and prospective clients and it will also serve as a meeting place to welcome our many contractors and other organisations.

We hope to build a close relationship with our immediate neighbour to ensure that we can greet each visitor with a welcoming, well-polished smile.

Susan Burley has settled in well to the position of case manager and has been moving the office furniture around until she was satisfied that everything was in the right place – this is a woman's thing, I am led to believe.

All the transferred electronics reconnected without a hitch, which is a miracle in itself, and there was no interruption to the services provided by SIPTD.

So, it's onwards and upwards for SIPTD in 2026.

An incident occurred in late February that demonstrated just how fragile the health system is, and just how important the services provided by SIPTD and other providers play in the well-being of the elderly in the community.

An elderly lady had a fall after taking a dizzy turn and had to attend the doctor to be checked out for any injury she may have suffered.

The presiding doctor decided that she must attend the hospital for a scan to ensure that there were no hidden injuries.

As she had no means of transport, he recommended that an ambulance should be

called to take her there.

Fortunately, one of SIPTD's support workers had called into the doctors practice to make sure she was ok and offered to take her to the hospital.

The support worker then sat with the lady while she waited to be called by the hospital doctor and again sat with her as she waited on the results of the scan.

Afterwards the support worker drove her to her home.

All's well that ends well.

But the question arises, what would have happened afterwards if she had been dropped off by ambulance?

This lady would have been left on her own for a lengthy period of time before being seen by a doctor.

She then would have had another lengthy wait for her results before being released.

This lady was in pain and a little confused.

If she had been released, how would she have found her way home?

Her 'emergency contact' had been called away to the city.

To put it simply, if the SIPTD support worker hadn't been there, she would have been completely lost.

It's really important to look after the elderly in our community and that's what SIPTD is all about.

Everyone should feel that they have a duty to look after the elderly and their well-being.

Remember that it was these people who used to wipe your bottom when you were little, so you owe them big time.

If you think you or your partner may be eligible for a Home Care Package, or if you are interested in members had a demonstration on tool sharpening e SIPTD team, then please contact: Susan Burley, Case Manager, Staying In Place Toodyay Districts,

Phone 04 94 085 790 or email:

casemanager@stayinginplacetoodyay.org.au

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

Facebook: Staying In Place – Toodyay



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MONSTER GARAGE SALE

at the Emu Farm

681 Clackline- Toodyay Rd, Hoddys Well

**Saturday April 4th
& Sunday April 5th**

Items too numerous to mention, but includes books, CDs, DVD, furniture, toys and fine china.

Refreshments available.

*hours of garage sale strictly
9 am - 3pm on the day only.*

Contact Kip on
9574 1415
or **0408 917 980**



Temperature fell just as we arrived

Toodyay Garden Club

Judy Rowston, Events/Media Reporter

HOW lucky for the Toodyay Garden Club to have a beautiful cool evening for their yearly Sundowner, to start the club's 2026 season.

During the day it was very hot, but Clive Hesse's garden proved to be the perfect venue with afternoon shade from the house and a huge temperature drop just as everyone was arriving.

Clive's garden, with lovely green lawn and shrubs as a backdrop welcomed 43 members and four visitors for a sausage sizzle, accompanied by a glorious array of salads and sweets.

This was enjoyed by all.

President Dale welcomed everyone and presented Clive with a thankyou gift for hosting.

Congratulations to Lorraine Musielak who won the door prize which our talented raffle coordinator, Russty, once again made for the club.

Our annual general meeting was held on 5 March at St Stephens Hall at 10am and the committee provided morning tea.

The April garden visit with sweeping valley views is to Dale and Neville D'Antoine's property in Toodyay.

This is followed by the May visit to Paula and Peter Lloyd's property in York.

This will be a bus trip.

Members will be asked to pack a picnic lunch to enjoy at this lovely property.



Members enjoying the cool evening.

Stephanie will take names and money for the bus trip at the AGM and April garden visit.

Membership fees are now due.

If you wish to join the club you must complete a form which Lyn will email along with details about how to pay online.

For all details of future garden visits please email the secretary at toodyaygardenclub@gmail.com.

If you know of a garden the club could visit, please contact Stephanie on 0429 888 314 who will be happy to follow up.



Club members Russty and Liz presented Lorraine Musielak with the door prize.



The lads were in charge of the cooking.

Community Garden committee continue to work with the shire for a location

Toodyay Community Garden

Michael Noonan

THE Toodyay Community Garden committee and membership continue to work hard along with the shire officers and councillors to locate and agree on a suitable location for our long-awaited community garden.

There are a number of sites under consideration.

The committee and membership focused on a site that is central to the town centre.

This would provide access for disabled and elderly members and a location that meets all of the identified requirements for a successful garden recognizing the extremes of the Toodyay weather.

An important part of any successful garden is the design process aimed at ensuring a successful outcome.

The design should prioritize important elements including sustainability, social interaction, orientation of the location with respect to sunlight, access to water and other facilities.

Also important is the provision of defined gathering and meeting areas, the use of raised planter beds ideally utilising capillary action irrigations systems.

Other issues in developing good design are areas for soil storage, composting, signage, security and the creation of a welcoming environment.

In the process of designing a successful community garden consideration should be given to the selection of the types of gardens which will best serve the community.

Garden types include:

Plot Gardens divided into individual plots to be managed;

Cooperative Gardens where produce is grown where members work as part of a team with shared produce; and

Youth Gardens focused on science, nutritional education and the learning of responsibility, self-confidence and the art of nurturing.

Other garden types could include:

Entrepreneurial Gardens where the membership can develop business principles

and skills by growing and selling produce.

The inclusion of a **Therapeutic Garden** would focus on the therapy of horticulture using plants that may improve the social, educational, psychological and physical well-being of gardeners and in some cases caregivers family and friends.

Each of these types of community gardens have varying goals and strategies for success and the Toodyay Community Garden membership are working towards developing the best model for the Toodyay community.

It is intended the Toodyay Community Garden will require initial and ongoing fundraising and sponsorship from the local and wider businesses and organizations.

The committee and membership of the Toodyay Community Garden Inc. will continue to advocate for the best outcome for the membership and the wider Toodyay community.

Gunfire breakfast after dawn service

RSL Toodyay Subbranch

Max Howard, Secretary

THE ANZAC dawn service starts at 0600 hours at the Toodyay War Memorial in Anzac Ave on Saturday April 25.

At the completion of this service a gunfire breakfast will be held at the Wicklow Shearing shed in nearby Clinton Street.

This is about 400m from the War Memorial. People wishing to march will be called at 1015 hours to form up outside the Memorial Hall in Stirling Terrace.

The procession will move off at 1030 hours and march to the War Memorial arriving about 1045 hours.

At about 1055 hours the main service will commence and should be completed by about 1130 hours. At both services people will be able to lay wreaths.

Any queries please contact Max Howard the secretary on 0475 724 233.

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Recycled bags keep books dry

Bolgart Primary School
Sharyn Edgar, Principal

THE students at Bolgart Primary School have settled in well to the 2026 school year.

We have welcomed three new kindy students and two new families to our school. Our total student numbers are 25.

We hope they enjoy being a part of our wonderful school community.

The school held parent/teacher meetings on Thursday 12 February, followed by a Parents and Citizens (P&C) association picnic.

Thank you to our P&C for organising and to all the families who came along.

It was a great turn-out.

Our new student leaders had their first leaders meeting last week.

They learnt about group norms, agendas and taking minutes of meetings.

They also hosted their first assembly on Thursday February 19 and did a great job.

Student Leaders will be attending the *Youth Leadership Academy - Dream and Lead Conference* in Perth on Thursday, 5 March.

They will be helped to discover their leadership potential, while being provided with strong foundations to succeed in their role.

At our first assembly for the term, all students were presented with new library bags kindly donated by our P&C association.

These bags are made from 100 percent recycled plastic water bottles, making them environmentally friendly.

The students at Bolgart Primary School express their gratitude to the P&C for acquiring these stylish new waterproof bags.

They will undoubtedly be useful for transporting and looking after our books.



Students with their new library bags.

Community news from Bolgart

Pamela McGill

BIRTHDAY wishes are extended to Nolene Kaszanski on celebrating her 60th birthday on February 14.

Nolene celebrated with an amazing High Tea at the TWR at Crown with her family and friends.

Extending condolences to Doris Martin on the sad loss of her sister Betty Anderson who passed peacefully away on her 95th birthday on 25 February 2026 at an Aged Care Home at Byford.

Betty was the daughter of the late Albert and Gwladys Waters late of Dewars Pool Toodyay.

Betty's schooling was at Toodyay. Before marrying and moving to Bolgart she was a Junior Clerical Assistant at the Toodyay Road Board Office.

She had five children, Norman, Rosemary, Douglas (dec), Gregory and Kingsley (dec).

Bowls News

THANK you to President Ian Woods and to Neil Smith and all helpers for organizing the Corporate Bowls the past three weeks.

The bowls has now finished for this season after lots of fun and friendship on the bowling green.

There was a lot a great talent. Some of the younger, young men and ladies are possible future bowlers.

Thank you to the sponsors DEC Contracting (Joe Doran), Shire of Victoria Plains, Lachie McGuinness and Ennis Wilson.

Thank you also to caterer Donna Clarke and her assistant Dianne Edmonds and all the other ladies who helped with the tasty hamburgers over the three nights.

Thank you to the lovely men who cooked



Nolene's 60th Birthday Celebrations
L to R (Sister) Sharon Jones, Nolene Kaszanski, (Mum) Pam Meston.

and to the men who helped in any way.

Twelve men went to Bowls Country Week. They competed in the singles, pairs and fours.

Four ladies travelled to Toodyay for their Gala Day.

A lovely day was enjoyed with beautiful food and lovely ladies to compete against.

Unfortunately, we didn't come away winners.

Ladies Country week Bowls is nearly here and there will be four ladies travelling to the city to compete in the competition.

We are wishing these ladies the best of luck.



Winners of the Corporate Bowls 2026
L to R Pam McGill, Trentan Meston, Tina Meston, Doug McGill, Joe Doran (Sponsor) (Missing) two other team members Blake Meston and Lester Snooke.

Squaring the square

Wheatbelt Squares
Gil Ackland, President

FOUR of our dancers travelled to Perth for the Allemanders 22nd birthday celebration.

There was lots of fun, laughter and music with songs with the Number 2 as a theme.

The callers kept dancers thinking with some "different moves" and sometimes trying to catch up.

There were many squaring the square. The day was completed with a grand afternoon tea, finished with an ice-cream.

One cheeky gentleman commented, "You know we don't really need this, but it is nice."

It was a great way to spend the afternoon. It was great to see our caller Robert walking well after his recent knee replacement.

Robert also joined in and called a couple of the dances.

The Square Dancing Association holds an annual National Square Dance Convention.

This year it will be in Hobart from April 30 to May 4.

Some of our dancers have been up skilling dance moves and listening to other styles of calling with extra practice at different clubs.

The Convention will have over 450 National and International dancers attending.

Square dancing groups are very welcoming and inclusive.

Our first dance is March 9 in Goomalling at the Seniors Hall.

Are you interested in learning more about square dancing or want to have a go?

In March we are offering a New Dancer Introduction program for 3 sessions.

Members have been asked to circulate flyers.

The flyers promote •Great Music •(Rock, Pop, Country, Blues & more) •Easy as Walking • No Fancy Footwork • Keep Fit • Have Fun • Learn Something New.

Dress is casual with flat shoes and most important no experience is needed.

You do not need a partner and instruction is by a qualified caller.

Toodyay is fortunate to have the



Meeting in the Square.

Wheatbelt group in Goomalling and also the Gidgegannup Squares down the Perth Road.

In September, Wheatbelt Squares will celebrate their 50th birthday and also celebrate Robert's 50 years as a caller – a remarkable achievement.

We always welcome visitors to our small country club: to find out more contact Susan on 0429 962 012 or Robert 0429 962 013.



CORRECTION: This photo was published in last month's edition incorrectly captioned as Doris Martin and Norma Waters.

The correct names for the ladies in this photo are Lee Baird and Gai Martin and The Herald apologies for any confusion caused.


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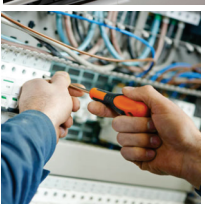
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Is AI Absolutely Irritating or Actually Informative

Morangup Progress Association
Daryl Cooper, Chairperson

AN ECLECTIC array of community events is planned for 2026.

In addition to our popular Drop-In nights on the last Friday of the month, there are:

- Wine Experience night in May,
- Sip'n'Paint night (date TBA),
- The hugely popular Quiz Night in August, and,
- AI seminar (date TBA).

In the cyber-world, AI stands for Artificial Intelligence.

To those of us less closely associated with that world, it might stand for Absolutely Irritating, Always Intrusive or, for some, Actually Informative.

Whatever AI means to someone personally, as it becomes more ubiquitous, we are all going to be affected by it.

The proposed seminar on the Uses and Abuses of AI should be of great interest to the community.

US President John Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what can you do for your country."

If we swap the word "country" for "community", one possible answer for Morangup residents would be, "get involved with the MPA".

This can be done by attending the Association's annual general meeting.

The AGM will be held Friday April 24 at 5.00pm immediately before the April Drop-In night.

If you like what the association offers the community, come along and let us know.

If you don't like what it does, come and tell us how or what it could do better.

Bishop's woolly winter socks brought untold joy

Toodyay Historical Society
Dr Robyn Taylor, Patron

LAST month two members of our Society, Adam O'Neill and yours truly, attended the launch of John J Kinder's much anticipated biography of the Catholic priest Raffaele Martelli (1811-1880).

The Canon of Ancona. Raffaele Martelli, Missionary in Western Australia was produced by UWA Publishing.

Although not as well-known today as many other personalities from Toodyay's colonial past, this book is significant.

It reveals the background story of Toodyay's first Catholic priest, his personality and humour that made him such a well-loved man by those of all religious persuasions.

This included his friend, the Anglican Rev Charles Harper.

Martelli didn't keep a diary but he was an avid letter writer.

His letters and related documents are archived at the Benedictine Monastery of New Norcia and collections in Italy.

It was author John Kinder's task to study and translate thousands of these documents.

It was a '10-year labour of love'.

Much of this research was published in 2014 in the book *Canon Raffaele in Western Australia, 1853-1864, Life & Letters*, by John Kinder and Joshua Brown.

This is a useful publication as it goes into the detail of some of Martelli's Toodyay letters that don't always make it into this latest publication.

While researching a short biography on Martelli for the 2015 *Toodyaypedia* project, it was delightful to read how a gift from Bishop Salvado of a pair of woollen winter socks brought him 'untold joy'.

No wonder.

He was living in a small straw hut that was barely waterproof in the original settlement at what is now West Toodyay.

This was the location of the first Depot for



Fish & Chips at Early Mist Cafe.

the convicts and their Pensioner Guards following their arrival here in 1851.

Without a priest the local Catholics used the services of the Anglican minister.

Martelli's arrival meant these important life occasions could be formalised under the Catholic faith.

We were excited to meet John when he visited Toodyay doing his research.

An Emeritus Professor of Italian Studies at the University of WA, John's credentials made him an ideal biographer of Martelli's life and experiences.

Also, his own erudition and facility with languages were essential for understanding the nuances of Martelli's thinking.

Martelli was politically active when Italy was undergoing the upheavals of the Italian Risorgimento.

It was his meeting and friendship with Abbot Rosendo Salvado from the New Norcia Mission that led to Martelli's decision to join the Spanish Benedictines, though he wasn't one himself.

They were planning to establish a mission for Aborigines and Rosendo was in Italy seeking funds from Rome.

There is a lot of depth of thought in *The Canon of Ancona*, that rewards close reading.

I was interested to read the review of the book by Justin Bianchini where he writes of Kinder's hope to recover 'pertinent perspectives that have been forgotten or obscured in the past', especially those that come from 'people whose native language was not English'.

It's surprising when you look at the numbers, just how many people there were who spoke different languages in Western Australia before Federation.

It didn't seem to be a problem, at least until Federation and the new nationalism that was born with the birth of the Commonwealth. A perspective that gives us something to think about.

Our first event for the year was a Fish n' Chip night at the Early Mist Café. There was a good turn up.

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WHERE AND WHEN

ART & CRAFT / HOBBIES / HISTORY

Arts Toodyay

Fourth Monday of each month from 5.30pm at the Toodyay Youth Hall (Town Oval). Contact secretary.arts.j2@gmail.com.

Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association

Third Saturday Old Engineer's Quarters next to Northam Railway Museum, Fitzgerald St Northam 10.30am. 9622 5932.

Avon Woodturners Group

Every Sunday and Wednesday, Toodyay Junction Railway Parade 9am-noon. Hamish Dobie 0423 115 204.

Morangup Social Craft Group

First and third Tuesday monthly, Morangup Community Hall 10am-12.30pm

Ragbags Quilting Group

First & third Wednesday monthly, St Stephen's Hall 10am-2.30pm. 9574 4503. Bring your lunch.

The Crooked Needle

Friday morning craft \$3.50 CWA Hall, Stirling Terrace 9.30am-noon. Jan 0407 083 079, Annette 9574 2332.

Toodyay Historical Society

Third Wednesday monthly (not Jan) St Stephen's Church Hall, Stirling Tce 7pm. Drummond House open Saturday 10am-noon (next to Bendigo Bank, Stirling Tce). Research Centre open by appt. Beth Frayne 9574 5971, secretary.2j.ths@gmail.com, www.toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au

Toodyay Miniature Railway

Easter Saturday, thereafter first and third Sunday monthly until Nov. Mark, President 0424 281 770

Toodyay Spinners

Every Wednesday; first and third Saturday monthly Parker's Cottage, Showgrounds 9am to noon. Gail Williams 9622 3411.

Toodyay Theatre Group

David Mitchell 0400 283 425.

CHURCHES

Anglican Church

Sundays St Stephen's Church 10am.

Catholic Church

Saturday Vigil 5pm. Wednesday Adoration 4.20pm, Benediction 4.50pm, Mass 5pm. northam@perthcatholic.org.au 9622 5411.

Bakers Hill Fellowship

Sundays Bakers Hill Primary School Music Room 10am. Pastor Peter Booth 0417 945 725.

Toodyay Baptist Church

Sundays 18 Stirling Tce 10.30am.

Uniting Church

St Stephen's Church 10am.

EDUCATION / PLAYGROUPS

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Toodyay District High School P&C

Tuesday of Week 5 each term TDHS staff room 5.30pm. 'Toodyay DHS P&C' on Facebook, write to Toodyay District High School P&C at PO Box 1624, Toodyay WA 6566. email pandctoodyaydhs@gmail.com.

Toodyay Playgroup

Tuesdays, Thursdays 9-11am. Wednesdays

Bubs Play 10am-noon. Jessica Donovan 0407 128 105.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Bejoording VBFB

First Tuesday monthly 6pm, Bejoording Fire Shed Lawrence 0447 253 320, Richard 0414 250 484.

Coondle-Nunile VBFB

Meet every Friday 5pm at the Coondle Fire Shed.

Morangup VBFB

Third Saturday of the month, 3 Wallaby Way, Morangup 5.30pm. Sharon Gamble or secretarymvbfb@gmail.com.

St John Morangup Sub Centre

Volunteering, first aid kits, Benefit Fund memberships, 48 Wallaby Way, Morangup. Monday and Wednesday 8am-4pm. 0418 741 971

St John Toodyay Sub Centre

Volunteering, first aid kits and refills, Benefit Fund memberships, general enquiries, 120B Stirling Terrace. 9574 2390. Emergency call 000.

Toodyay Central VBFB

Second Tuesday monthly Toodyay Fire and Emergency Services Centre 7pm.

Toodyay State Emergency Service

Fourth Tuesday monthly 3 Wallaby Way Morangup. Jeff Venn 0438 490 331 toodyayseslocalmanager@gmail.com.

Toodyay Volunteer Fire and Rescue

First Monday monthly, Toodyay Fire and Emergency Services Centre 7.30pm.

ENVIRONMENT

Avon Valley Environmental Society

Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Centre, 269 Fitzgerald St, Northam. Third Friday monthly, noon. Janet Wilkinson 9574 5947.

Earth Solutions - Avon Valley

Second Tuesday monthly (not Jan) Old Northam Railway Station, 425 Fitzgerald St Northam 6pm. Karen Ducat 0438 223 886.

Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance

Julimarforest@gmail.com.

Marsupial Mammals and Pappas

Wildlife Rescue 0467 964 872.

Safe and Scenic Toodyay Road

Andrew St John. sastr.com.au.

Toodyay Friends of the River

Second Sunday monthly or following Monday, 9am (winter); 8am (summer). See TFOR noticeboard outside Drummond House. Email info@toodyayfor.org.au.

Toodyay Garden Club

First Thursday monthly, 10am. Dale D'Antoine President 0448 611 292. Email toodyaygardenclub@gmail.com for venue or Stephanie Bain 0429 888 314.

Toodyay Naturalists' Club

Third Saturday monthly. 9574 5574, secretary@toodyaynats.org.au. Website www.toodyaynats.org.au.

Toodyay Seed Group

Toodyay Junction, opposite Shire depot. Email bethan_lloyd8@msn.com.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Toodyay Agricultural Show

www.toodyayagsociety.com.au

Toodyay Farmers Market

Third Sunday monthly, 0429 984 482, toodyayfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Toodyay Moodyne Festival

moodynecommittee@gmail.com.

HEALTH

Australian Breastfeeding Association

Second and fourth Tuesday monthly, 3 Elizabeth Place Northam 10am-noon. Third Tuesday monthly Toodyay Playgroup noon-2pm. Louise 9574 0229.

Child Health Clinic

Tuesdays & Wednesdays. Bree Byfield. 9621 0100

Forget-Me-Not Memory Caf 

Second Tuesday monthly, Toodyay Bakery. 10am-noon.

Toodyay Medical Centre

Stirling Terrace. Monday-Friday 9am-4pm. 9545 7101. Pathology Mon-Fri 9am-1pm.

Toodyay Men's Shed

Monday, Thursday, Saturday Harper Rd 8.30am-noon. Secretary 0499 403 830.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Liz Boston, JP

lizboston3160@gmail.com, 0428 742 349. Leave message if no answer.

Jacquie Lacy, JP

januaryjac@gmail.com. 0429 959 179.

Jeff Roberts, JP

roberts138@bigpond.com. 0499 403 830.

Susan Pearce, JP

susanpearce740@outlook.com. 0427 957 425.

Max Heath, JP

0400 206 929.

MUSIC

Toodyay Community Singers

Thursdays CWA Hall, Stirling Terrace Rehearsals 5 - 6pm Anne-Marie Millar 0408 364 918.

Toodyay Music Club

Second Saturday monthly, CWA Hall 1pm. Joe 0400 862 694.

SENIORS

Autumn Club

Wednesdays, Toodyay Sports Pavilion 1-4pm. Glenyce Bosnjak 9574 4587.

Butterly Cottages Association

Secretary: Cheryl-Jean. Contact email butterfly2J@gmail.com.

Fitness and Fun for the Over 55s

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays Youth Hall, Showgrounds 9am.

Ida's Hideaway

Saturdays Toodyay Baptist Church, Stirling Terrace 1-4pm. Ann Sinclair 0407 775 459.

Silver Chain Social Centre

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays Toodyay Community Centre 78 Stirling Tce. 1300 650 803.

Staying in Place Toodyay Districts

Aged Care Support Contact Case Manager: 0494 085 790

SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Bejoording Community Group

Wednesdays Bejoording Community Centre Bejoording Rd 6pm.

Barry Grey, President 0428 742 149.

Country Women's Association

General meetings fourth Thursday monthly at 1pm, coffee mornings second Thursday monthly, 10am CWA Hall. Bookings Margot Watkins 0405 067 591 or 9574 2823.

Moodyne Men

Mondays & Thursdays CRC, 67 Stirling Terrace 8-10.30am. Breakfast 1st Saturday monthly. Colin Bird, Secretary 0424 195 003.

Morangup Progress Association

Chair Daryl Cooper chair@morangupmpa.com.au. www.morangupmpa.com.au.

RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch

Meetings at RSL shed, Clinton Street 2nd Saturday every month between February and November, at 1pm. Secretary Max Howard 0475 724 233 email: toodyayrsl@gmail.com.

Safer Toodyay Inc

Meetings announced in Herald column. 9574 5574.

Toodyay Lions Club

First Tuesday of the month Toodyay Hotel. Second Tuesday Social meeting. Heather McNamara, Secretary 0436 019 991. Email toodyay.wa@lions.org.au

Toodyay Masonic Lodge

Fourth Thursday monthly, Masonic Hall Finennes St 7.30pm. Mick Tock, 9622 8990

Toodyay Red Cross

Second Monday Feb, May, Aug, Nov Anglican Hall 1.30pm.

Toodyay RoadWise Committee

Second Wednesday monthly, Community Resource Centre 9.30am.

Bob Neville 0419 853 160.

SPORT

Avon Valley Adult Riding Club

Fourth Saturday monthly Feb-Nov, Northam. Tina 0499 030 177.

Avon Valley Shotokan Karate Club

Wednesdays Youth Hall, Showgrounds. Peewees 3.45-4.30pm; Juniors 4.30-5.30pm; Seniors 6-7.30pm. avonvalleyshotokan@gmail.com-

Mortlock Pony Club

First Sunday Feb-Nov, Goomalling. Tanzi 0427 859 493.

Toodyay Bowling Club

Ladies Thursdays 8.30am. Liz Sullivan 0429 311 256. Men Fridays 3pm. Andrew Watson 0418 269 773

Bruce 0417 028 089.

Liz Sullivan. All welcome.

Toodyay Golf Club

Mixed comp Sundays noon; Ladies Wednesdays 1.30pm. Roma: 9574 5534.

Men's scroungers Thursdays 2pm.

Bruce 0417 028 089.

Toodyay Soccer Club

Mondays 4-5.30pm terms 2-3, ages 5-15yrs. toodyaysoccer@gmail.com.

Toodyay Tennis Club

Toodyay Recreation Centre, Tuesday social 9am unless raining, Wednesday night social 6.30pm October - April, Friday Night

Community Tennis - October - November (Facebook for updates) or community court hire play. tennis.com.au Facebook @toodyaytennisclub.

Contact Jenny Ash Secretary 0417497972.

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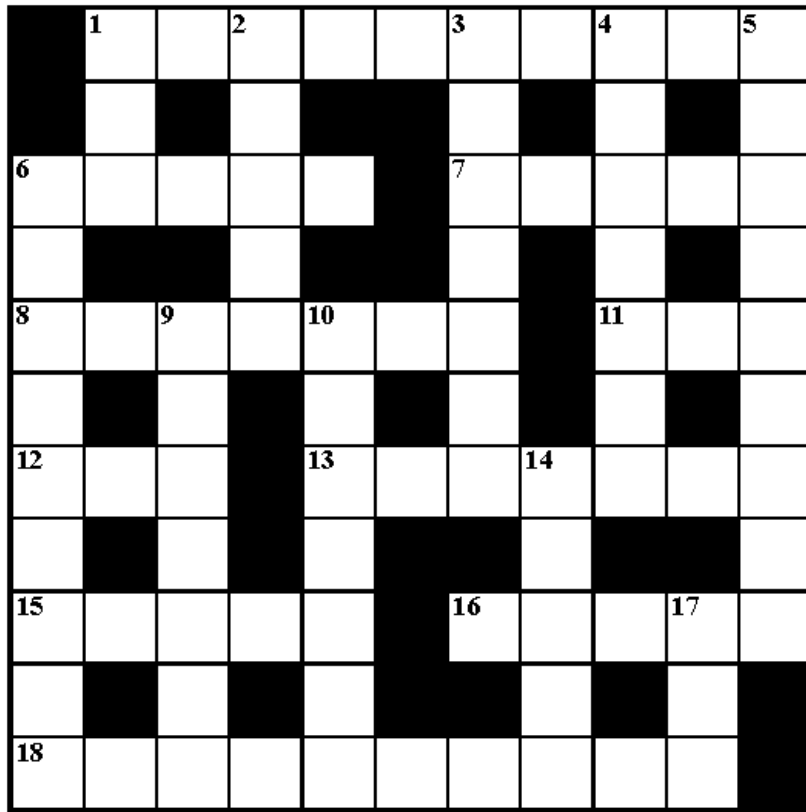
Combo Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Frozen ground
- 6. Liveliness
- 7. Breaks
- 8. Throwing
- 11. Cooked delicacy
- 12. Fortune
- 13. Send mad
- 15. Journal
- 16. Loses colour
- 18. Embedded

DOWN

- 1. Famous poet
- 2. Metal fastener
- 3. Scrounger
- 4. Type of bowling
- 5. In bad form
- 6. Waver
- 9. Very light dress material
- 10. Enjoy fully
- 14. Flooded
- 17. Cover



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- 1. Post frame right out in frozen Arctic ground
- 6. Enthusiasm some receiver venerates
- 7. First runner fits out chinks
- 8. Putting off all actors in first group
- 11. Baked dish for scheming group of bidders
- 12. Finishes toil to get one's share
- 13. Upset reason called in English river
- 15. Girl left with record of year's events
- 16. Has a wearying effect on everything in afterthought
- 18. Need rent small church used to be well dug-in

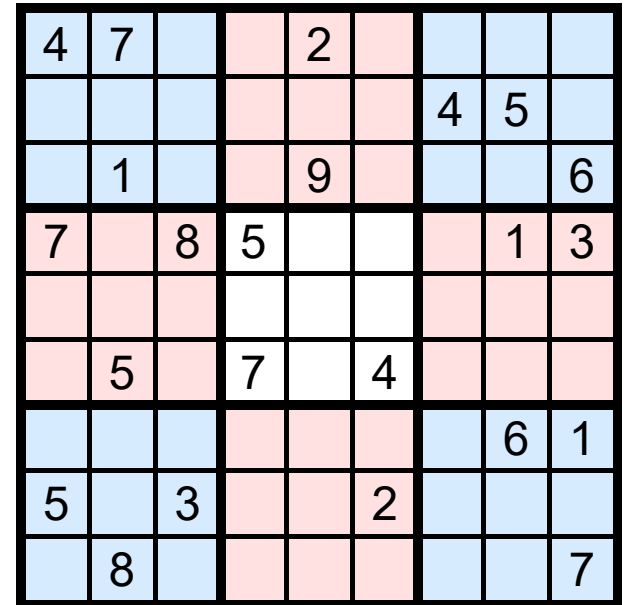
DOWN

- 1. Italian flower with the last American writer
- 2. Tear apart at last to hold the attention of another
- 3. Rare fog around one searching for food
- 4. Type of bowler not on single peg
- 5. Don't sample as much having poor flavour
- 6. Be irresolute about vital lace arrangement
- 9. Light cotton cloth set around a container
- 10. Eluding change to gratify one's wishes
- 14. One was hard when covered by water
- 17. Covering part left with part of the psyche

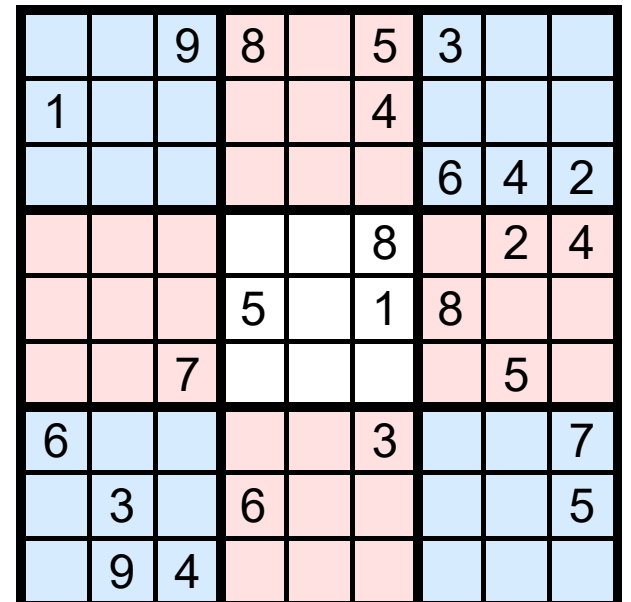
Sudoku

Sudoku is based on the logical placement of numbers. Sudoku doesn't require any calculation nor special math skills; all that is needed are brains and concentration. Every number from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine columns, nine rows and nine 3x3 boxes.

Easy

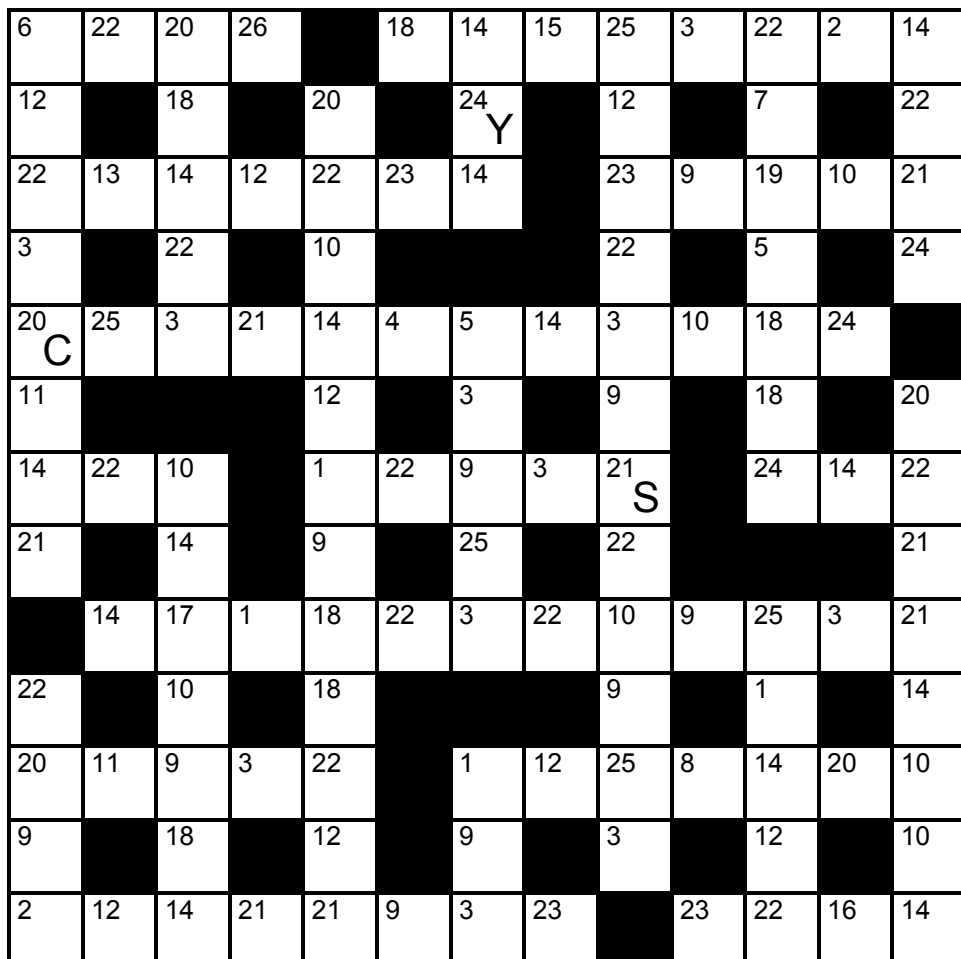


Hard



CrossCode

Crosscode is a logic puzzle. Each letter is a number. Begin by guessing the first word and placing the additional letters into the crosscode. Keep guessing words/letters until completed.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Solutions

Sudoku Easy Solution

Sudoku Hard Solution

Crosscode Solution

Combo Solution

Charlie Wroth is new show patron

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Karen Dore, Immediate Past President

LAST month's annual general meeting was a welcome reminder of how much the community values the Toodyay Agricultural Show.

Thank you to everyone who attended, asked questions and put their hands up to help.

It was a terrific turnout and a positive start to the year.

A quick note on the annual general meeting process: a couple of different understandings were floating around.

Nominations for office bearers and general committee members were called for when the annual membership invoices were issued.

At the AGM, three office bearers (vice-presidents and treasurer) were elected, and the general committee was formed from the nominations received.

This follows the constitution.

Committee members' portfolios were then discussed at the brief committee meeting held after the AGM.

This clear, consistent process helps keep things transparent and welcoming for everyone.

We're pleased to welcome the newly elected office bearers (the society's executive).

First vice-president: Jess Yost, new to the committee, but a familiar local face who joined the stewarding team last year.

Jess brings a strong connection to local agriculture.

Second vice-president: Neeta Kembrey, is new to the committee and she is the owner of a business she runs with her husband Callum, CJ Contracting WA.

Treasurer: Shirley Kemp is stepping back to continue the steady improvement she has brought to this important role.

The committee will be supported by new patron, Charlie Wroth (life member), taking up the mantle from David Chitty (life member), who has stepped back after more than 40 years of involvement with the show.

Alongside the executive, we have a great mix across the broader team.

There are six returning committee members and six new members, plus a new administration officer, Kathy.

Kathy is new to town and keen to meet people.

Her experience will make a real difference behind the scenes, through day-to-day administration and by helping strengthen tools and processes.

Once the updated constitution is accepted by Consumer Protection, the role will become secretary as part of the executive.

Like many community groups, we're in a positive transition phase, welcoming new ideas and making it easier for people to step into roles.

We're sharing the workload more widely to keep involvement enjoyable and sustainable.

As immediate past president, I'll stay close to the committee to support continuity and to back up new portfolio holders where I can.

There are still a few ways to get involved right now:

President (office-bearer vacancy).

General committee member (one vacancy).

Casual support (the more the merrier).

There are roles to suit different personalities and time availability.

The March meeting was held on Monday March 9 at 6.30pm at the showgrounds in the youth hall.

Planning for the 2026 show kicked off and if you're curious about joining the committee or lending a hand, please reach out.

We are always happy to have a cuppa and a chat.

For more information visit www.toodyayagshow.com.au or email toodyayagsociety@gmail.com.

In closing, a huge thank you to everyone who attended the AGM; returning committee members who kept things going through a demanding 2025 and new committee members who have stepped forward to learn the ropes/

A thank you also to the wider community who encourage the team and make the Toodyay Show what it is.

Make sure you save the date: Saturday 10 October 2026, 9am to 9pm at the Toodyay Showgrounds.

The best thing about the show is what it represents; decades of history and a whole community pitching in to create a day Toodyay can be proud of.

ENVIRONMENT

'Cosmopolitan weed' needs digging up



Caltrop stem.

Pest plant, Caltrop.

Desraé Clarke

CALTROP, also known as cat-headed or puncture vine, is a declared 'pest plant'.

It lives up to its declaration as a pest within the Shire of Toodyay.

It is called a 'cosmopolitan weed' because it is widely distributed in many countries with no obvious country of origin.

The plant grows flat on the ground in many types of soil and has spiny, five-segmented burrs, hence the name puncture vine.

It is an annual plant with small yellow flowers that are less than 10mm across.

The leaves have small leaflets opposite each other arranged like a feather with between three to seven pairs of leaflets on each stem.

The seeds germinate in summer after rain with a woody taproot growing rapidly to extract moisture from deep in the ground.

It takes caltrop three weeks to flower after the seeds germinate and within ten days viable fruit can be produced.

To control this pest plant, it is best to dig it out of the ground and collect all the burrs ensuring protective gloves are worn.

As the taproots can be very strong, especially with large older plants, a mattock may be necessary to get rid of this nasty, spiny plant.

To dispose of the plant and burrs it is suggested to bag and place in the red bin.

If a red bin is not available, keep plants and burrs bagged till winter then incinerate.

As the spines on the burrs are strong, but minute in size, they puncture and are transferred via footwear and also in the pads of dogs' feet.

This plant is toxic to sheep.

Stripey snake not venomous

Herpetofauna

Desraé Clarke

DESPITE the heat there have been few herpetofauna (frogs, lizards, snakes, turtles, monitors, pythons, goannas, skinks, dragons, legless lizards, geckos) sightings reported.

Thank you to those who take the time to make herpetofauna reports and to make animal and birds reports.

This data is so important to the long term 'scheme of things', knowing what creatures are surviving change, those that are moving to previously non-occupied areas and those whose numbers are decreasing.

The Toodyay Naturalists' Club is very grateful for the information.

Recently a member of the Toodyay community reported disturbing a small snake known as Jan's Banded Snake or Banded Sand Snake. Its scientific name is *Simoselaps bertholdi*. This small creature grows to approximately 30 cms.

Its ground colour is yellow to orange with broad black banding with the bands and inter spaces approximately equal in width.

The belly is white to pale yellow between the bandings. The tiny rounded, or shovel-nosed, snout is white to grey with flecks of dark brown.

The Jan's Banded Snake feeds on small lizards. The shiny, smooth scales of this species make it easy for movement through sand and leaf litter.

This small snake is oviparous, laying up to eight eggs and is non-venomous.

If you come upon something of interest and would like to share contact can be made by email: secretary@toodyaynats.com.au or 9574 5574.



Jan's Banded Snake courtesy of Julie Jenkinson.

Farmers make hay while the sun shines

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance

Andrew Thornton

LOCAL farmers are preparing for what will hopefully be another bumper season following the state's biggest harvest on record.

This was despite dry seeding conditions and a dry spell through the month of June.

Modern farm equipment and technology are allowing farmers to make more precise decisions.

These include the timing of seeding, what varieties to plant, fertiliser blends and rates, nitrogen application and fungicide timing.

Due to these factors farmers can now grow more kilograms of grain per millimetre of rain.

This puts Australian farmers at the forefront of sustainable farming globally.

February is a busy month for farmers with a long list of jobs to be completed before seeding.

Top of the list for a majority of farmers is lime spreading.

Lime is applied to paddocks before seeding to help combat soil acidification which is a result from using the fertilisers needed to grow a crop.

There are also other benefits to liming including reducing toxic aluminium and manganese levels which impede root growth.

It also helps improve nutrient availability which can be locked in acidic soil.

Another benefit is enhancing soil structure by reducing compaction.

This results in better aeration and water holding capacity.

The amount of lime needed per paddock is based on soil test results which can vary between soil types and can be anywhere from 1tonne/ha to 4tonne/ha.

Another major task is crunching canola stubble.

This is achieved by towing a wide implement with edged rollers that flatten then chop the stubble into short lengths.

This speeds up the decomposition process and allows the stubble to flow through the air seeder without causing any blockages.

Paddock preparation such as the removal of contour banks, rockpiles, obsolete fencing and fallen tree branches is another important task to be carried out.

With the high cost per hour of running machinery making paddocks as efficient as possible to work helps with reducing the overall cost per hectare of growing a crop.

February and March are also clearing sale time with many farmers hoping to grab a bargain piece of equipment or for most it's a good chance for a social day out but somehow managing to come home with something that you really had no intention of buying.

Local sheep producers are enjoying some favourable returns for their hard work with a promising start to the year.

The wool market reached a level not seen since 2019 with China being the dominant market consistently purchasing between 80 to 90 per cent of total exports.

Demand for lamb is strong as well with solid prices.

A recent sale of 19,000 lambs at Muchea saw prices top \$260 with strong demand coming from Eastern states buyers.

Whether these prices are sustainable will be closely watched but as the saying goes "Make hay while the sun shines".



Equipment used to crunch canola stubble.

The Western Corella

Bird of the Month

Desraé Clarke

THE Western Corella (*Cacatua pastinator*) of 40-45cm is found around the Shire of Toodyay.

It has a high, erect crest and, when displaying or agitated, raises the crest forward.

It is white with crimson-pink lores and a small area of crimson-pink semi-concealed at the base of the feathers on the throat.

It has a grey eye ring, slightly wider at the lower aspect of the eye, long rounded wings, a long tail with the underwing noted, when in flight, to be of pale yellow.

Unfortunately, the birds create major damage to the school oval.

They dig out Guildford Grass corms with long upper mandibles causing severe surface damage to roots and bulbs, especially that of the significant feral plant.

Double gees are also dug up.



Western Corellas are regularly seen in Toodyay and they can cause a lot of damage.

Eucalypts surrounding the school receive extensive damage from the stripping of the over-storey of the River Gums (*Eucalyptus rudis*) and, in the vicinity of the shire office, there is attack on the large Lemon Scented Gums (*Eucalyptus citriodora*).

The Western Corella nests in hollows of large, old trees laying a clutch of 1 to 3 eggs August to October.

The incubation period is for 24 to 29 days by both parents, with fledging at seven to eight weeks.

The youngsters are independent by four months of age.

Due to large scale clearing for agriculture and cropping this species has exploded over the last decades into flocks of thousands currently experienced.

The call of the Western Corella is a noisy, harsh, resonant call with a periodic loud screech when perching and in flight.

A Western Corella can live to approximately fifty years of age.

Nats gear up for a busy year of activities

Toodyay Naturalists Club
Greg Warburton

THE first meeting for 2026 was very well attended.

Members had the opportunity to catch up after the recess.

Adding to the group experience was a call to members to present three photos that had special meaning to them in terms of environment, wildlife and the natural world.

As with previous "members nights" it was an informative and entertaining procession of images and videos.

Some presenters seemed to have missed the requirement of the photo number limit.

The full and varied agenda of the general meeting prompted much discussion and indicated a busy year.

As the 60th anniversary in 2028 rapidly approaches ideas are being presented to mark the occasion.

A proposed event with the working title of "Celebrating Toodyay's Natural Environment" promises to be an exciting drawcard.

It will also be a creative opportunity to promote the richness of Toodyay's natural assets.

The John Masters Bird Hide situated on the banks of the Avon River overlooking the beautiful Red Banks Pool is a standout feature on the Bilya Walk Track.

The design and construction of this unique structure was a project of the TNC with

funding provided by Wheatbelt NRM in 2012.

Last month I was delighted to receive a phone call from Sharon Quigley (nee Ponsford) who was the designer.

After many years living overseas, she wanted to revisit the site and asked if I would accompany her.

During the visit Sharon told me how she had researched ideas and gathered suggestions from "birdos" from across Australia.

The result is the unique design we see today.

Sharon was impressed how the structure is valued, maintained and utilized for important interpretive signage.

Note: Former local resident and builder Michael Shepherd and his team turned the design into reality.

On Saturday March 7 members joined Toodyay Friends of the River and the Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance for a Cleanup Australia Day activity.

Litter was collected along Munyerring Springs Road in Julimar Forest.

Our next regular meeting will be held on Saturday March 21 at St. Stephen's Hall commencing at 7:00 pm.

Keynote speaker will be former *Toodyay Herald* editor, Sean Hefferon.

Sean will do a presentation on the Toodyay Community Foundation.

Enquiries about TNC can be made by phoning Greg on 0429009425 or visit toodyaynats.org.au.



Greg Warburton and Sharon Quigley at the new Bird Hide.

Seedlings grow better if planted early

Toodyay Seed Group
Bethan Lloyd

TOODYAY seed group members have been busy sowing native seed over the summer months.

Despite bursts of hot weather, most seeds germinated well. This year we have reduced numbers of plants available.

All those who have ordered will get their plants either at the end of April or early June. It depends when we get rain.

I have found if you can get things planted early, even if you have to water them initially, they get off to a better start when the soil is

still warm and if ground prep is done well.

They establish a better root system, often not needing watering later on. This is dependent on picking the right plants for the soil type and situation. Those who have ordered will get an email nearer the time.

The seed group is a subgroup of Toodyay Friends of the River (TFOR)

We have a page on their website where you can order plants.

Fill in the details and submit.

Any orders this late in the season will be held over for plants for next year unless we have some plants left over after orders have been filled.



Plants growing in shade house.

Fire destroys nest sites



Today Carnaby's black cockatoos are classified as endangered. (Photo by Mike Bouette).

Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance

Dr Liz Kingston

THE extensive jarrah and wandoo woodlands of the Julimar State Forest have long been home to one of Australia's most iconic birds, the Carnaby's black cockatoo.

Historically, flocks of up to 5,000 were observed flying in WA skies in search of food and today they are classified as endangered.

Due to habitat loss and other threats, the Carnaby's population has significantly declined since European settlement.

The Great Cocky Count survey estimates its population on the Swan Coastal Plain is declining by 15 percent every year.

Along with the ancient salmon gum woodlands of Cocanarup near Ravensthorpe, the Julimar State Forest and adjoining Bindoon Army Reserve provide the State's most important breeding grounds for the Carnaby.

This has been extensively documented by Ron Johnstone, former Curator of Ornithology at the WA Museum.

Over 20 years, Ron recorded over 300 Carnaby's cockatoo nesting hollows in the Bindoon Army reserve and neighbouring bushland.

Two months ago, on 22 January disaster struck.

A wildfire sparked by lightning in the Fitzgerald River National Park accompanied by hot, gusty, south-west winds burnt a staggering 172,000 hectares of high-conservation value bushland, including Ravensthorpe's Cocanarup salmon gums.

The Cocanarup Conservation Alliance estimate that up to 70 percent of the approximately 300 Carnaby nest trees have been burnt.

Some of these tree-hollows still held chicks.

Carnaby black cockatoos require large sky-facing hollows for nesting.

These are typically found in mature wandoo and other eucalypt trees that are at least 100 years old.

Breeding birds need to access food from native vegetation within 12 kilometres of their nesting hollows to raise healthy young.

Beyond the impact on the Cocanarup Carnaby's breeding sites, a vast area of their foraging vegetation has also been burnt to ash.

Creatures impacted by this devastating fire include four other threatened fauna; Malleefowl, Heath Mice, Chuditch (or Western Quoll) and the Red-Tailed Phascogale, as well as priority plants and ecological communities.

Full recovery will take decades.

Julimar forest and the adjacent Bindoon Army reserve bushland is now ever more critical as habitat for the future survival of the species.

Two prescribed burns are being planned by the WA Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions over large areas of the Julimar forest over the next few months.

If these burns do go ahead, it will be vital that Julimar's important Carnaby habitat is protected and the proposed cool burns preserve nesting hollows and essential forage trees.

The Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance, including Toodyay ornithologist Max Howard have been busy conducting wildlife and flora surveys across the Julimar State Forest.

They aim to identify all nesting tree hollows and to monitor Carnaby's black cockatoo populations as part of ongoing survey work.

Four surveys are planned for 2026 with further information posted on our website, julimarcafa.org.au and on our Facebook page @julimarcafa.

The disappearing compost mystery

Toodyay Friends of the River
Greg Warburton

LAST month's meeting was cancelled with notification sent out to members via e-mail.

Apologies to those who may have missed the update.

The first day of the new month was the iconic Clean Up Australia Day (CUAD).

Although no official CUAD event was held in Toodyay at least one member of Toodyay Tidy Towns was seen picking up roadside garbage that day.

However, both Toodyay Friends (TFOR) of the River and the Toodyay Naturalists' Club conducted their CUAD event with a litter pick up along Munyerring Springs Road in the Julimar Forest on Saturday March 7.

Members were surprised and mystified when the shire dismantled and removed the community composting facility at the 'Junction Depot' last month.

This project was an initiative of TFOR and financed through external funding secured by the group.

It provided free compost to local land holders and was successfully run by volunteers for several years.

Fortunately, the plant nursery and storage shed, continues to be a busy hub and

an essential logistical base for TFOR's activities and services.

Many of us know that setting up an incorporated community volunteer group is a protracted and detailed process.

We have learned recently that winding up such a group is equally, if not more, complex.

Last year a decision was made to dispense with Conserving the Avon River Environment (CARE).

This overarching body consisted of several member groups from the catchment including TFOR.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank our secretary Wayne who has navigated us through the process including the precise distribution of remaining funds to the member groups.

The regular monthly meeting/working bee will be held in Duidgee Park Sunday March 17 commencing at 10am.

This will be a special general meeting to brainstorm ideas for promoting TFOR and will incorporate input to the Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Community Survey.

Any enquiries about TFOR can be made by phoning the president/project officer 0429 009 425 or by visiting our website toodyayfor.org.au

HEALTH

How many teeth does a cat need?

Heartlands Veterinary Hospital

TOM is a 10-year-old tabby cat and has a story that is not uncommon.

Dental and oral disease was making him miserable and after treatment Tom was left sporting only one lonely tooth in his whole mouth.

Tom's loving family report that he only ever caught a single mouse when he had his teeth. However, since becoming a one-toothed cat he has caught nearly a dozen.

Tom also seems sprightlier and climbs more trees.

He chomps down his dinner happily and is still enjoying cat biscuits.

He is definitely a happier cat now that his dental disease has been treated.

While healthy mouths full of shining teeth are what we wish for, sometimes the only way to eliminate mouth pain in our companion animals is removing teeth.

Having a pet undergo a very large number of dental extractions can be an overwhelming and nerve-racking experience.

Many people worry how their pet will cope with few or no teeth.

Pets like Tom, who act so much happier, often appear like they have a new lease on life once their painful mouths are treated.

This proves to us that they don't miss their teeth one little bit.

Keep catching those mice, Tom.

We are very happy to see you and all our other 'gummy bear' patients loving life again.



Ten-year-old Tom was a toothless tiger in desperate need of treatment for gum disease.

Blueberries, not brownies: vet-approved swaps for dogs

DOG owners are being warned about the foods that can cause severe, and sometimes life-threatening, reactions in dogs, as experts reveal the treats most likely to land pets in the vet's office and their suggested alternatives.

While many owners admit to sharing bites from their plates, vets say even small amounts of common ingredients can cause symptoms ranging from vomiting and diarrhoea to seizures and organ damage.

Chocolate

Chocolate contains theobromine, a chemical found in cocoa that dogs can't metabolise effectively.

Even a small amount can lead to vomiting, diarrhoea, hyperactivity, tremors, irregular heartbeat, seizures and, in severe cases, death.

While you can buy dog-safe chocolate that contains carob, blueberries would be a better choice if you want to give your dog a sweet treat.

They contain antioxidants, fibre, vitamins, and minerals that support immune function, brain health, eye health, and good digestion.

They're also low in calories and fat, making them great additions to your dog's meal.

Alcohol

EVEN small quantities can cause rapid intoxication because a dog's liver can't process ethanol efficiently.

Symptoms include vomiting, disorientation, tremors, dangerously low blood sugar, difficulty breathing and, in severe cases, seizures and coma.

Dog-safe champagne is available but opting for something like a bone broth is far better.

Bone broth boosts hydration, improves digestion and gut health, supports joint health, enhances skin/coat and strengthens the immune system.

You can make your own by simmering your bones of choice in a slow cooker for 24 hours, straining the liquid through a fine mesh sieve and skimming the fat, and then

keeping it in the fridge.

Grapes and raisins

EATING grapes and raisins can cause acute kidney failure and, without treatment, it can be life-threatening.

However, there are a number of fruits that are perfectly safe for dogs including, strawberries, apples, pears and even dried cranberries.

Cooked bones

COOKING causes bones to become brittle, making them prone to splintering when chewed.

These sharp fragments can puncture the mouth, throat, or intestines, leading to internal bleeding, choking or blockages that often require emergency surgery.

If you want to give your dog bones, they must be fed raw.

Onion

REGARDLESS of whether an onion is raw, cooked, powdered or dehydrated, it can damage a dog's red blood cells, leading to anaemia, lethargy, and breathlessness.

Alternatives like leeks or chives are not good for dogs either, as they are part of the allium family.

A better option for your dog would be celery or carrots.

Macadamia nuts

THESE nuts contain an unknown toxin that affects the nervous system.

Dogs may develop weakness, vomiting, shaking, hind-leg paralysis or a high temperature, and while many dogs recover with treatment, the symptoms can be extremely distressing.

Vets recommend unsalted peanuts or cashews as an alternative.

Plain, unsalted pumpkin seeds also work well as they are a good source of nutrients like antioxidants, fatty acids, and minerals such as zinc, iron, and magnesium.

Fun group tackles hearing loss

Auslan group

Liz Huges

ARE you feeling isolated due to your hearing impairment or know someone who is?

Come along to our fun social group at the Toodyay Library each Thursday from 9.30 to 11.00am.

The fun is free.

The Auslan (Australian Sign Language) experience is free.

If you have a young person in your family unit who has hearing loss, here are some suggestions and encouraging thoughts which may help with their stress and yours.

Social anxiety is common for young people with hearing loss, often because social situations take more effort and can feel unpredictable.

Your child may worry about missing what others say, feeling different, or making a mistake in a fast-moving conversation.

Here are some tips for managing social anxiety:

Acknowledge their feelings.

Let them know it's okay to find some social situations hard.

Practice together simple self-advocacy phrases.

"Can you say that again?" or "Can we move somewhere quieter?"

Plan for tricky environments.

Before parties, playgrounds, or group activities, discuss what might help.

Finding a well-lit spot, using captions, or taking breaks to reduce listening fatigue.

Build connections.

Encourage time with friends who communicate well with your child, including other deaf or hard-of-hearing peers.

Talk about feelings openly.

Normalising emotions – "it makes sense that this felt hard today" – helps young people process experiences rather than internalise them.

Learn coping strategies.

Breathing techniques, grounding exercises, a fidget tool, exercise, and positive self-talk can help manage anxiety in the moment.

Get professional support if needed.

Psychologists, counsellors, or mental health workers can teach personalised strategies to

build confidence and reduce anxiety.

If anxiety leads to constant worry, avoiding school or friends, or thoughts of self-harm, getting professional help is recommended.

Model inclusive communication.

Face them, get their attention, and reduce background noise where you can – it helps them feel more confident and less anxious.

Free program helps overweight kids'

A FREE online resource is now available to help parents make healthier food choices for their children.

The resource comes in response to data from the Western Australian Department of Health that charts a worrying trend.

Statistics reveal one in four children aged between five and 15 are overweight.

Yet almost three quarters of parents and carers see their child's weight as being within the healthy range.

The free online tool aims to help educate families and provide better support.

From small supermarket swaps to simple fun exercises the Better Health Program is helping families make healthier choices at home without stigma or pressure.

The program is free for children in Western Australia aged between six to 12 years and their families.

It's funded by the WA Department of Health and delivered by the Better Health Company and qualified health professionals.



VETERINARY CARE & 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

FOR LARGE & SMALL ANIMALS

ACROSS THE AVON VALLEY AND WHEATBELT



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Veterinary Hospital**



Heartlands Toodyay

98 Stirling Terrace TOODYAY WA 6566

08 9574 5055

Consulting Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:30pm, Saturday CLOSED

For After-hours Emergencies only 0418 264 423

HEALTH

Sun safety – looking after our skin

Warrior Wellbeing

WEST Aussies love nothing more than getting outdoors and enjoying the abundance of sunshine that lathers our great state.

A small amount of incidental exposure to sunlight, around a few minutes each day, is important for maintaining adequate levels of Vitamin D needed for strong bones, muscles and overall good health.

Too much exposure, however, places us at great risk of damage from Ultraviolet (UV) radiation which potentially could lead to the development of skin cancer.

We need to get the balance right.

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world mainly due to our very high UV levels.

According to the Cancer Council WA, at least two in every three people will develop some type of skin cancer before they reach the age of 70.

Of the three main types of skin cancer most of these people will develop a Basal Cell Carcinoma.

This is usually a small, slow-growing abnormal growth found mainly on the upper body, head and neck.

They don't usually spread far but if left can result in facial and body disfigurement.

The next most common is the Squamous Cell Carcinoma often found on the lips, ears and scalp.

These grow more quickly and if left can potentially spread into the lymph nodes of the neck and then to other parts of the body.

The last and most dangerous type is the Melanoma which accounts for about one to two percent of all skin cancers.

It can be found anywhere on the body but is mainly on the upper back of men and lower legs of women.

It is an aggressive type and if left untreated can spread quickly to other parts of the body and potentially be fatal.

It was estimated that this year alone there will be over 14,000 new cases nationally of

Melanoma skin cancer detected, with over 8,500 of those men.

By spending more time in the sun, we inevitably place ourselves at an increased risk of skin damage and potential skin cancer.

Taking measures to be sun safe should be part of our daily routine especially if we are involved in outdoor work.

It is important to remember that the UV levels can still be high even on a cool and cloudy day.

Following these simple tips will get us well on the way to being sun safe.

Cover up with appropriate clothes.

- Use sunscreen (don't forget to re-apply often).

- Wear a hat (the broader the better).

- Seek out shade.

- Wear sunnies to protect your eyes.

Early detection is always the key.

Check your skin regularly all over for any unusual spots or growths (get your partner to help).

You can visit the Cancer Council WA website for information about what exactly to look for and don't hesitate to get anything of concern looked at by your doctor.

An annual skin check with your GP or at a reputable skin clinic is also a good way to keep track of any changes or developments.

Contact: The Regional Men's Health Initiative

Phone: (08) 6314 1436

Email: menshealth@4blokes.com.au



Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

REGISTRATIONS are now open for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea and this May the Cancer Council's signature fundraiser is turning 33.

Residents in the Wheatbelt are being encouraged to gather friends, family or workmates for a cup of tea and a bite to eat while raising money to fund cancer research, new treatments and education that saves lives.

Cancer Council WA Wheatbelt regional cancer prevention coordinator, Kaylor Andrews, said Cancer Council WA was hoping to raise more than \$2 million in 2026 to continue its life-saving cancer research, prevention, advocacy and support programs.

"For 33 years, Cancer Council Australia's Biggest Morning Tea has brought together many people living in the Wheatbelt over a cup of tea in support of those affected by cancer," Ms Andrews said.

"Since it began in 1993, Cancer Council's generous community of supporters across Australia have raised around \$240 million by hosting morning teas.

"Whichever way you choose to celebrate Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, every dollar raised in the Wheatbelt will make a huge difference.

"It doesn't need to be fancy.

"Your Biggest Morning Tea could be at home with friends or family, a simple morning tea in the office with workmates, a virtual get-together or a gathering in the local community or at school.

"Simply register online, set a date in April, May or June and start sending out your invites.

Ms Andrews said that everyone will be affected by cancer at some point in their lives, and every dollar raised helped to support those who have been impacted."

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is the largest and most successful event of its kind in the country.

Ms Andrews said the iconic event attracted around 2000 Western Australian hosts each year.

Anyone unable to host a morning tea can still get involved by donating directly to Cancer Council via biggestmorningtea.com.au.



SPORT

Cleanups Karate and kayaking

Avon Valley Shotokan

Nat Kielbasa

ONCE upon a time in an idyllic little town called Toodyay, a clever program called Adopt-A-Spot existed.

It allowed community groups to select an area to keep clean in exchange for a donation from the local Shire.

But one day this innovative initiative vanished, became a legend and the rubbish slowly began to creep back in.

Here at Avon Valley Shotokan, we decided it was about time for action and for us all to make our own fairy tale.

Early on a Sunday, armed with hi-vis vests, gloves, bags and enthusiasm, a group of students and families picked a road (this time was in Clackline) and began the verge clean up.

Inspired by the effort, local heroes Jackson Leaney and the team at Earth to AG Diesel decided they would donate bottles and cans as well which was a wonderful surprise for which we are very thankful.



Russell, Chandre, Maciej, Casey, Joe and Hannah start the verge clean up.



Club members Brittany and Ivy enjoy a day out kayaking at Lake Leschenaultia.

Online concerns among young people rise as digital life grows more complex

ONLINE concerns among young people is increasing, particularly in the age group most affected by the under 16s social media ban, according to YourTown, an organisation responsible for the national Kids Helpline.

The helpline's records show between November last year and January 2026, the number of counselling contacts from people worried about online activity rose for both 12 to 15 year olds and 16 to 25 year olds, compared with the same period the year before.

YourTown chief executive officer Tracy Adam said these trends highlighted the increasingly central role digital environments play in young people's relationships, identity and emotional wellbeing.

She said in the lead-up to recent changes to social media access, Kids Helpline heard from young people who were confused, worried about staying connected with friends or afraid of missing out.

Ms Adams said for 10 to 14 year olds in particular, connection and belonging mattered deeply.

"When something shifts in their online

world, it feels personal."

Kids Helpline data also shows cyberbullying remained an ongoing issue.

For adolescents, one in three bullying contacts included a cyberbullying component.

This rose to two in five for older teens and young adults.

New digital analytics also showed strong engagement with Kids Helpline online information about the social media ban.

Ms Adams said young people were trying to understand what the changes meant for their friendships, identity and day-to-day life.

"Their questions show that rules alone do not solve online challenges," she said.

Young people need support, guidance and safer platforms.

"As technology evolves, so do the risks, and children and young people need help to navigate these spaces confidently."

Kids Helpline is Australia's only free, confidential 24/7 counselling service for children and young people aged 5 to 25.

Young people can speak with a counsellor by calling 1800 55 1800 or via webchat at kidshelpline.com.au.

The end result ... \$300 added to our fundraising account and a plan to continue our verge clean up in the future.

Look out for the vests because we may just appear on your street and invite you to join us to keep our community beautiful.

The last Sunday of every month features casual training.

This month the club met at Lake Leschenaultia for a day of karate, kayaking and a BBQ picnic.

A few leeches, a lost paddle and a touch of sunburn could not dampen the fun, and we had a fantastic time.

A note to self, do not forget to apply sunscreen while supervising kayakers.

Thank you to everyone who made the day possible.

With the trip to Japan only a month away our fundraising continues with the next event being the AVVA swap meet and Farmer's Markets on March 15.

If you are on the hunt for breakfast, we will have stalls both on the oval and across the river at the markets.

We will be selling bacon and egg rolls. Hope to see you there.

On a sad note, we were devastated for the McGlasson family, and our teammate Shane, to learn of the loss of their beloved daughter and sister.

From everyone at AVS, we extend our deepest condolences and wish to remind the McGlasson family that we are here for you, if there is anything we can do to support you during this heart-breaking time.

Until next month look after each other. Keep practising and getting involved in your community.

Feel free to contact the club on avonvalleyshotokan@gmail.com or pop into the dojo if you want to know more about karate, or come and meet our lovely club members.

tony maddox

realestate

Your locally owned real estate



Principal's Pen

Are you all just as excited as we are that summer is nearly over? Bring on the cooler, more manageable days – and goodbye to melting before 10am.

We hope you all received (and loved) the recipe cards we sent out in the mail. We'd love to hear what you think... or even better, drop off your potato bake and we'll happily provide a very professional taste test. Strictly for feedback purposes, of course.

February was a busy one for our little agency, with new rentals, new sales, and even a couple of properties sold and leased off market. It's been a great start to the year.

As we head into the cooler months, now is the perfect time to start preparing your home for sale. Before long, Toodyay will be green and beautiful again, and there's no better time to show off your property at its best.

If you've been thinking about selling, give Jess or Sam a call today for your free appraisal. We promise the advice is free... the potato bake judging is optional.

In the office this month:

Breanna learning more and more about real estate and loving it.

Zonelle so very close to finishing off her course.

Jemma off on a trip over east for her Birthday – we'll give you all the details next month.

Jess got pranked by the staff – you'll have to visit our Tiktok for more.

Sam has a brand new home coming up for sale... you'll have to keep your eye on reialesate.com.au for more details soon.

Tony went back to court and is awaiting yet another date... This last month has been fairly quiet while most of us have been hiding from the heat, but there were still a couple of great reasons to celebrate. I was lucky enough to celebrate my Nan's 70th birthday with family and loved every minute of it. Not long after, it was my turn — celebrating my own birthday, which of course meant another excuse to gather the family and eat a bit too much cake.

Until next month,

Faith Kelly



THE TEAM

Who are we? What do we do? What can we do for you?

Thinking about selling your house? - Thinking about buying a home?
Thinking about buying an investment property and need efficient property managers? - If you said yes to any of these, then we can help you!



FOR SALE

12 Drummond Street, Toodyay: Offers from \$850,000
Standing proudly as a beautiful example of heritage architecture, this home is steeped in history and timeless character. Split level design featuring 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and 3 living areas.



FOR SALE

Lot 39 Laterite Way, Coondle: Offers from \$449,000
5 acre block of natural bush featuring a large 18m x 18m shed and 25,000l water tank.

www.asktonym.com.au

Telephone: 08 9574 2917

Toodyay Office: 100 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay 6566 - Merredin Office: 66 Barrack Street, Merredin 6415