



**Save the Dates!**

**Toodyay Railway Walk** - 29 April - 15 May, 10.30am - 11:15am, Toodyay Visitor Centre.

*Toodyay's Railway Walk*

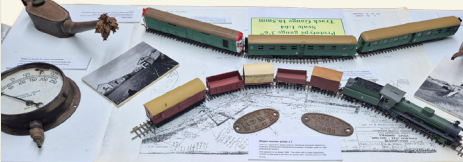
Explore what was lost and what was gained when the standard gauge railway came through 60 years ago. The route includes a visit to the new Newcastle Gaol Museum exhibition "Toodyay Railways: A Tale of Two Lines".

WED 29 APR  
FRI 1 MAY  
WED 6 MAY  
FRI 8 MAY  
WED 13 MAY  
FRI 15 MAY

**Newcastle Gaol Museum Launch and Exhibition: Toodyay Railways: A Tale of Two Lines**



This exhibition features rich historical insight and photographs from both the narrow-gauge Clackline-Miling line and the later standard-gauge route built along the Avon River. On display are locally owned objects and 1:64 scale models of locomotives used on the narrow-gauge line to Toodyay, kindly loaned by a member of the Australian Model Railway Association of WA. The exhibition also explores the arrival of the standard-gauge line, which dramatically reshaped Toodyay through demolished buildings, a new street, and realigned roads. In an era dominated by cars and road transport, this display reminds us of the vital social and economic role railways once played in Toodyay's development.



**Honky Nut World!**

The Toodyay Visitors Centre is delighted to welcome Honky Nut World and the talented Sandy Wessley to our showcase space for May. Drop in and explore the wonderful world Sandy has created.



**New Event Application Form!**

Have you got an event you would like to plan in the Shire of Toodyay? The Community Development Team has updated our event application process. To access, please visit 'Planning an Event?' section on the Shire's website [toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://toodyay.wa.gov.au).

**Reporting Streetlights**

A friendly reminder if you are noticing a streetlight out or not working properly. Please contact Western Power directly via there website or below phone numbers: <https://www.westernpower.com.au>.

**General enquiries** [13 10 87](tel:131087)  
8.30am-5pm Monday to Friday

**Emergencies & outages** [13 13 51](tel:131351)  
24 hours

**Report streetlight faults or graffiti** [1800 622 008](tel:1800622008)

**Free Face Mask Giveaway!**



**Pages and Pastires Easter Edition**

Was well attended, despite the bad weather that day. We had a steady stream of patrons enjoying the coffee, cakes, hot cross buns, games and cosy seating arrangements. We supported Lorraine Town who hosted our first Women's Wisdom group that will run on a Tuesday 11am-12pm at the library. Any ideas for future events would be wonderful, please drop by and let us know what you want to see in our lovely library.



**Winter Hours for Visitors Centre**

As of the **28 April 2026**. Our new opening hours are **7 days a week, from 10:00am to 3:00pm**. The Toodyay Visitors Centre continues to provide the same, high-quality service, and we look forward to your continued support.

**Local Planning Scheme No. 5 Amendment No. 1 - Approval Notice**

It is hereby notified for public information that the Minister for Planning has approved Amendment No. 1 to the Shire of Toodyay Local Planning Scheme No. 5 on 8 April 2026 in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2005.

The amendment provides for:

- Reclassification of a portion of Lot 9508 Burt Parkway, Nunile from Public Open Space reserve to Residential zone with density coding of R12.5 and R30, and Local Road reserve;
- Reclassification of Lot 8006 Murray Walkway, Nunile from Residential zone to Public Open Space reserve and removal of the R10 density coding;
- Modification to Clause 15 relating to Additional Use AR1; and
- Amendments to the Scheme Maps accordingly.

The amendment will come into effect on the date of publication in the Government Gazette.

A copy of the approved amendment documentation is available for the public at the Shire of Toodyay Administration Office, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay, and on the Shire's website.

**Council Decisions**

At the April Council Meeting, the following items were considered:

- Council gives local public notice stating that it proposes to make the Shire of Toodyay Local Government Property Local Law 2026 - *carried*.
- Council gives local public notice stating that it proposes to make the Shire of Toodyay Parking and Parking Facilities Local Law 2026 - *carried*.
- Council consider the late item for Showgrounds Oval - Playing Surface Condition as new business of an urgent nature in accordance with Standing Order 4.5. - *carried*.

For all details of the items considered at this meeting, please visit the 'Council' section on the Shire's website [toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://toodyay.wa.gov.au)

**For World Elder Abuse Awareness**

The Older People's Rights Service in partnership with Bendigo Community Bank and Toodyay CRC invites you to a free community education event for seniors.

**10am MORNING TEA**  
**10.30-11.30am PREVENTING FINANCIAL ABUSE AND AVOIDING SCAMS**

- The warning signs of financial abuse
- 10 common types and what to look out for
- Protecting yourself and avoiding scams
- What to do if you've been scammed

**Kids Club** - Every Thursday during school term, Toodyay Community Resource Centre. Thursdays during the school term

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm  
At the Toodyay CRC  
67 Stirling Terrace  
Ages 5 - 15  
\$20 per term  
Canteen available  
For more details please visit the 'Events' page on the Shire's website [toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://toodyay.wa.gov.au).



# Bolgart bowlers celebrate season highlights

**Bolgart Community News**  
Pam McGill

BOLGART CWA ladies enjoyed a trip to Kalamunda recently and joining the Kalamunda CWA ladies to listen to a guest speaker talking about the Kalamunda History Village.

They had a lovely lunch with lots of laughs and friendship and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all the ladies attending.

Bolgart Hotel: Keep your eyes on the Menu coming out weekly, some delicious meals happening.

St John - Goomalling and Bolgart would love to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer for your community.

Some important volunteer roles would help transport patients from Goomalling Hospital to Northam Regional and make sure emergency vans are stocked, organised, and equipment is in working order.

Support the community by attending

Goomalling home games of football while other volunteers are playing.

Lend a hand at community events, helping with set up, pack down and general support to keep events running smoothly.

If you would like to help out, don't hesitate to make contact.

Ladies' Golf: Golf will be starting on Thursday 30th April 2026. Any new ladies wanting to play, don't hesitate to contact Captain Therese Chitty M: 0459 344 274.

Bowling News: Four ladies, Serena Syred, Nolene Kaszanski, Jenni Knowles and Pam McGill competed in Country Week in late March over three days.

It was great to join all the other country ladies' teams in having good games and laughs and new and old friendships.

Windup Bowls Dinner and presentations were held at the Bolgart Sports Club to end our season.

Winners of the Awards for this season are: Men's and Ladies Singles Trophy sponsored by Aviso (Brad Parker)

Men's Singles Champion: Lester Snooke, runner up Ian Woods

Men's Singles Plate: Todd Meston, runner up Colin Guthrie

Ladies' Singles Champion (1st time) Serena Syred, runner up Nolene Kaszanski Ladies' a Novice Winner: Jenny King, runner up Shena Buscomb

Men's Club Championship Pairs Trophy, sponsored by the Ludemann Family, won by Ian Woods and Brad McIntyre, runner up Lester Snooke and Theo Camerer

Ladies' Club Championship Pairs, sponsored by Bob and Bev Hogg, won by Nolene Kaszanski and Pam McGill, runner up Stephanie Slater and Jenni Knowles.

It was great to see Bob and Bev Hogg come and present their trophy once again and have also been sponsoring it for many years as well.

Congratulations to all winners and thank you once again to all the sponsors.

One highlight was the Pennant team of Jenni Knowles, Nolene Kaszanski, Pam Meston and Jenny King receiving an 'eight badge'. Great achievement Ladies.

# Vollies power school P&C efforts

Shuang Aliaga

TOODYAY District High School P&C is a small but dedicated team, committed to supporting our students and school through a range of initiatives.

Our canteen has been operating every Friday during the school term, and it's been wonderful to see so many happy student faces.

If you have a few hours to spare on a Friday, we would love your help as more hands make light work. Please contact us via our Facebook page.

We also welcome donations of baked goods, snacks, or fruit.

All proceeds go directly back into the school to enhance our students' learning environment and experiences.

The Mother's Day stall was a great success.

We would like to thank our wonderful volunteers for their time and effort, especially in preparing and wrapping the gifts.

Thank you to all families who have contributed gifts, and we hope every child found something special to take home.

We hold our P&C meeting once per term. Our Term 2 meeting was held on 11 May in the school library.

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings each term, and we value your input.

If you missed this one, we would love to see you in Term 3.

We will also be running our second-hand book sale from 25-28 May, with all books just \$2.

This is a great opportunity to encourage reading while making books accessible to all. Donations of pre-loved books are warmly welcomed.

To stay up to date, please join our Facebook page: *Toodyay DHS P&C*.

We look forward to welcoming new faces and fresh ideas.



Ladies Countryweek Bowls  
Back standing Serena Syred  
L to R Seated Jenni Knowles, Pam McGill  
Front Nolene Kaszanski



Winner of Club Championship Singles  
L to R - Serena Syred Lester Snooke



Winners Club Championship Pairs  
L to R Pam McGill Nolene Kaszanski

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## Toodyay deserves better says Hunter

CENTRAL Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter says after ten Labor Budgets, Toodyay is still waiting for the basics." He said the Cook Government talks about regional growth, yet there was still no long-term funding certainty for the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network.

"Roads that local families, farmers and freight operators rely on every single day." Mr Hunter said Toodyay residents deserved to feel safe in their own community.

"But there is still no meaningful investment into additional community safety measures like security cameras and crime prevention infrastructure," he said.

"People in Toodyay rely heavily on Northam Hospital, yet communities are still waiting for clear updates and certainty around future services, staffing and investment.

"Labor continues to announce flashy projects in Perth while regional communities like Toodyay are left fighting for basic infrastructure.

"Simple but important local priorities like pedestrian bridges, safer crossings and connectivity infrastructure continue to be overlooked."

Mr Hunter said The Wheatbelt kept driving the WA economy.

"But this Budget again proves regional communities are expected to make do with less," he said.

"Toodyay deserves infrastructure that matches its growing population and increasing tourism demand – not another Budget full of excuses."

"Regional WA should not have to beg for

safer roads, safer streets and better health services after nearly a decade of Labor Government."



Outspoken Central Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter on the media trail.

## Smoke-free shift in Toodyay's town with The Rec's total smoking ban

TOODYAY'S Victoria Hotel supports the Australian Hotels Association (AHAWA) commitment to smoke free indoor spaces and dining areas, while supporting the use of clearly designated, well-separated outdoor smoking areas.

But The Rec Toodyay has gone a step further ensuring their venues in Toodyay and Northam are completely smoke free.

Under current state laws smoking is not allowed at inside a venue and pubs and taverns can set aside up to half of their outdoor alfresco or beer gardens as a smoking zone.

But venues can choose to become 100 percent smoke free, which The Rec has done, with its strict smoke-free policy.

AHAWA CEO Bradley Woods said hospitality venues wanted everyone to feel welcome and comfortable.

He said WA hotels and pubs were proudly smoke free indoors and in dining areas, and the association wants to keep it that way."

"Allowing designated outdoor smoking zones is a practical balance that protects non-smokers and staff, reduces conflict and clutter on footpaths, and respects responsible adult choice."

"Our members already apply strong measures, thoughtful layouts, separation buffers, clear signage and service rules such as no food service within smoking zones to keep exposure low and experiences high."

"Importantly, venue operators already have the ability to make their businesses entirely smoke free if they believe it best suits their venue and some venues have chosen to"

Mr Woods said that decision reflected that operators understand their patrons, layout and trading environment better than anyone."

He said the current approach was working for patrons, staff and venues, from CBD bars to suburban and large regional beer gardens.

The AHA(WA) is has been a voice for the hospitality and accommodation industry in Western Australia since 1892.

Its mission is to ensure the sector has a voice and the hospitality industry remains a vital part of the Australian way of life.



The Rec going completely smoke free.

## Brickbats or Bouquets... we value your opinion

Suggestions and comments are welcome please forward to: [feedback@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:feedback@toodyayherald.com.au) or post to: PO Box 100, Toodyay WA 6566

The Toodyay Herald





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## Toodyay youth encouraged to share their world through photography

YOUNG people in Toodyay are invited to enter Snapshot WA, a new free statewide photography competition, with nominations open until the end of May.

The competition was launched by the Commissioner for Children and Young People Jacqueline McGowan-Jones in celebration of Youth Week WA 2026.

The Snapshot WA competition is open to young people aged 8 to 17 and participants are being asked to submit original photographs online and share what matters most in their lives.

Snapshot WA invites young people to reflect on their everyday experiences, their communities, and the places that give them a sense of belonging.

It aligns with this year's Youth Week WA theme Strength in our stories.

Entries are open now until 28 May and works are to be submitted digitally through the CCYP website. Participants may submit photos under any of the following six themes:

- My Day / My Life
- What Matters to Me
- Things That Make Me Happy
- Places I Belong
- My World
- Home

A selection of entries will be showcased in an online gallery that will launch in late June 2026, when competition winners will also be announced.

Prizes include a \$100 voucher for first place, \$75 for second, and \$50 for third.

A People's Choice Award of \$25 will be determined by public vote through the CCYP website, with voting details to be announced in June 2026.

Dr McGowan-Jones said children and young people were the experts on their own lives.

"Snapshot WA gives them a platform to show us their world on their own terms and in their own way, and that visibility is something we have an obligation to create.

"This competition is free, and all you need to enter is a photo that feels true to you.

"We hope young people from every corner of the state take part.

Dr McGowan-Jones said when young people were genuinely included and their perspectives were sought and taken seriously, better decisions followed.

"Photography is a powerful way to communicate lived experience, and Snapshot WA is an invitation for young people across WA to be part of that record."

# Slow down or cop it: police patrols ramp up

MORE than 2,700 drivers were caught speeding in school zones in just five days during a statewide crackdown at the start of term one.

Police have warned their patrols will continue for the rest of the year.

The blitz on school zones comes on the back of speeding statistics that saw 18,900 reported crashes on regional roads over a four-year period.

There were 2357 reported crashes over the same period in the Wheatbelt region.

Of these, 781 were killed and 628 were seriously injured.

Eighty five percent of those killed were in cars and 13 percent were on motorbikes.

Approximately two-thirds were male and those aged between 20-29 had the highest death rate.

The most common crashes happened when people hit an object and the highest rate of crashes happened on 110 km/h sections of road.

One in ten people were involved in crashes at intersections.

The two highest contributing factors that caused the crashes were speeding and fatigue.



A crackdown on speeding will be a focus for WA Police this year with highly visible patrols done in and around school zones.

WA Police superintendent Glenn Spencer said school zones were clearly signposted and reduced speed limits applied for a reason.

"The number of drivers detected speeding in school zones is unacceptable," he said.

## Security when working from home

**SaferToodyay**  
Desrae Clarke

WITH the current turn of events and suggestions of people working more from home, be aware that working from home requires just as much security protection as the office premises.

If you have a home office it is preferable to be able to lock the door when out of the room eating your lunch, dashing to the shopping centre, etc..

As laptops and mobile phones are prime sources of goods likely to be stolen ensure these are not visible through a window when out of your work area.

Ensure the window has a secure locking system to enable only the breezes to enter.

Protect yourself and those that live in the home and if a caller is delivering online purchased goods check the identity of the caller prior to opening the door.

The installation of a home security system, such as a security camera, will record activity around your home.

If there appears to be any suspicious situation that needs investigation call Police Emergency 131 444 or Crimestoppers 1800 333 000.

Police Emergency – 131 444  
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# National campaign targets deadly high blood pressure

AUSTRALIAN'S are being urged to roll up their sleeves and get their blood pressure checked this month as part of a national Stroke Foundation Campaign aimed at saving lives.

Australia's Biggest Blood Pressure Check runs throughout the month of May. High blood pressure is the leading preventable risk factor for death in Australia, contributing to over 25,000 deaths annually.

High blood pressure affects one in three adults, but only 50% are aware they have it.

The only way to do this is through regular blood pressure checks, which is why we are calling on all Australians to get their blood pressure checked during the month of May.

Stroke Foundation chief executive officer Lisa Murphy said high blood pressure was known as a 'silent killer' because it typically caused no obvious symptoms until a major health event occurred, often without warning.

"Around seven million Australians have high blood pressure," Dr Murphy said. "Nearly half don't know it, and only 32 per cent have it under control."

"High blood pressure is the single biggest preventable risk factor for stroke, heart disease, kidney disease, and dementia."

"The good news is that high blood pressure can be managed through adopting healthier lifestyle changes or medication."

"But the only way to do this is through regular blood pressure checks, which is why we are calling on all Australians to get their blood pressure checked during the month of May."

Stroke Foundation is a co-founding member of the National Hypertension Taskforce, assembled to tackle the leading risk factor of death in Australia - high blood pressure.

The Taskforce aims to increase the number of Australians with their blood pressure both treated and controlled effectively from 32 per cent to 70 per cent by 2030.



Shane Elliott's blood pressure was something he never took seriously. He had been living with the condition for two decades but admits he was slack with his medication, until one day he collapsed at work.

# Crackdown on 'sneaky' health premium hikes welcomed

AUSTRALIA'S peak professional body for doctors has welcomed a move by the federal government to outlaw private health insurance price gouging and improve transparency on medical costs for patients.

Laws introduced last month now outlaw 'product phoenixing', a deceptive practice used by some private health insurers to extract higher premiums from consumers.

The sneaky price-gouging practice involves closing an insurance product and relaunching an essentially identical product at a higher price.

Health Minister Mark Butler late last year described phoenixing as an "underhanded" and "sneaky" practice.

He said banning it would be an important win for consumers.

His comments came after consumer group Choice reported on the practice last February and found some insurers had increased prices

by up to 47 per cent over three years.

The federal government's legislation also enables the publishing of existing Medicare, hospital and insurer billing data on the Medical Costs Finder website.

This allows patients to see details about what individual specialists generally charge for particular medical services, what Medicare rebate is paid, and what contribution is made by the private health insurer.

The Australian Medical Association has pushed hard for Medicare rebates and insurer benefits to be included on the Medical Costs Finder, so that patients get the full picture of why they may face an out-of-pocket cost.

AMA President Danielle McMullen said early versions of the website were unworkable for practice managers and doctors, and the AMA worked closely with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to address those issues.

She said private health insurers were extremely reluctant to upload their information, which also created a significant disincentive for doctors to upload their own billing data.

"Access to insurer data is crucial for patients, alongside clear information on Medicare rebates, which have failed to keep pace with inflation for decades and remain a major driver of outofpocket costs," Dr McMullen said.

The AMA publishes a detailed Informed Financial Consent guide - a document that empowers patients to discuss costs with their doctor before undergoing medical procedures.

To find the consent guide online, see here: <https://tinyurl.com/53cxwf6n>.



# From stars to sugar tax: doctors call for sweeping food labelling reform

THE AUSTRALIAN Medical Association has welcomed a decision by federal food regulation ministers to move towards mandatory health star ratings on packaged foods, a long overdue reform they say will help Australians make healthier choices at the supermarket.

AMA president Danielle McMullen said the move was an important step forward off the back of strong public health and consumer group advocacy, following years of inadequate voluntary uptake by the food industry.

"Making health star ratings mandatory is a win for consumers and a clear acknowledgment that voluntary approaches have failed," Dr McMullen said.

"Clear, consistent labelling empowers people to make informed choices about what they are eating, and that matters when rates of overweight and obesity continue to climb across Australia."

Dr McMullen said rates of obesity have been rising for more than 25 years and, without decisive action, will continue to increase.

"Obesity is a major risk factor for chronic conditions including type 2 diabetes, heart disease and some cancers, placing growing pressure on Australia's health system," she said.

"While mandatory health star ratings were welcome, they must be part of a broader, coordinated strategy to improve Australia's food environment, including greater investment in preventive health."

Dr McMullen said the star ratings were a positive first step but it could not be the last.

"Labelling alone will not solve Australia's obesity crisis," she said.

"We need a comprehensive prevention agenda that addresses the overconsumption of unhealthy food and drinks, particularly those high in added sugar."

The AMA has long warned that Australia lags behind comparable countries when it comes to preventative measures through its *Sickly Sweet* campaign, which targets high sugar consumption.

According to the AMA, Australians consume more than 2.2 billion litres of sugary drinks each year.

These products contain large amounts of free sugar, offer little to no nutritional value, and are a significant contributor to rising rates of chronic disease.

In a statement, the AMA said it would continue to advocate for the introduction of a tax on sugar-sweetened drinks, and it was a measure supported by strong public backing and international evidence.

Dr McMullen said tax on sugary drinks was one of the most effective tools governments could use to reduce consumption and improve health outcomes.

She said Australians supported this reform, particularly when revenue was directed into obesity prevention and health promotion initiatives.

A nationally representative survey conducted in 2017 found 60 per cent of Australians supported a tax on sugary drinks.

This increased to 77 per cent if the proceeds were used to fund obesity prevention.





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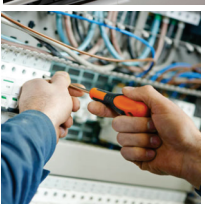
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# Time to cook healthy

THE Heart Foundation has announced a partnership with nutrition movement *No Money No Time* to help cash-strapped, time-poor people cook nutritious options for less than one dollar per serve.

Two leading health organisations have joined forces to help show people in Australia how simple it can be to cook heart-healthy meals on a budget.

The movement aims to make heart-healthy eating both more affordable and accessible for people in Australia who are navigating rising grocery costs.

Coronary heart disease remains a leading cause of death in Australia.

Evidence shows that around one-third of cardiovascular disease deaths are attributable to poor diet and therefore largely preventable.

*No Money No Time* is a free, evidence-based nutrition platform created by food and nutrition experts from the University of Newcastle.

It is designed to help equip people with the resources needed to help them cook healthily.

It aims to improve their health and well-being while preventing chronic disease and building lifelong healthy food habits.

As food prices continue to soar, both organisations are collaborating to help strengthen their reach across Australia.

This is achievable by improving access to practical tools including simple recipes, cooking tips, meal plans and ingredient swaps that have heart health benefits and won't cost a packet.

A key tool of *No Money No Time* is a database of recipes which empowers people to filter food by cost, time, dietary needs and cooking skills.

Some of the nutritious options on offer cost less than \$1 per serve.

Low-cost food swaps and smart shopping strategies are also on the menu.

The partnership complementing the Heart Foundation's existing recipe resources.

Heart Foundation General Manager, Food and Nutrition, Claire Gardner said many people wanted to eat well for their heart.

They found the challenges of rising food

costs, limited time to cook and confusion around what is healthy and affordable too much to stomach.

"Healthy eating can feel out of reach, even though we know it's one of the most powerful ways to protect our heart health," Ms Gardner said.

"Eating for heart health shouldn't depend on your budget or your time and this new partnership and our work together aims to highlight that options for tasty, healthy meals are accessible and affordable, regardless of someone's income, background or time constraints."

Examples of low-cost, heart-healthy recipes available on the *No Money No Time* website include:

- Kerith's miso maple cauliflower steaks – \$0.75 per serve
- Evangeline's lentil soup – \$1 per serve
- Healthy Moroccan Couscous salad – \$1.75 per serve
- Spinach and feta meatballs – \$1.75 per serve



# Aged care advocate says budget fails older Australians waiting for help

AGEING Australia (AA) is alarmed at the lack of Support at Home packages announced in this month's Federal Budget.

The Government has announced an additional \$389.8 million in funding for Support at Home, which brings forward new packages, extends End-of-Life Pathway funding, supports a review of the Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT), and digitisation of the financial hardship assistance process.

But AA chief executive officer Tom Symondson said while they had strongly advocated for many of these announcements and welcome them, the funding fell well short of the amount required to address the national Support at Home wait lists.

"We are also concerned by the lack of new funding for the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), which delivers care to more than 840,000 older people and is already at capacity," Mr Symondson said. "This is fast approaching a national emergency."

"At last count, more than 200,000 older Australians were either waiting for a Support at Home package or waiting just to be assessed."

"This funding clearly won't meet increased demand over the next 12 months, let alone clear the backlog."

"This creates a real risk to those older people who are waiting for care and increases the chances they will experience poor outcomes or hospitalisation while they wait to get to the front of the queue."

"We've been clear that providers have the capacity to care for more older Australians at home, but we can't do that without more packages."

Mr Symondson said it was heart-breaking for providers to be forced to turn older people away who were begging for help.

He said enabling older Australians to remain in their own homes was a fundamental part of maintaining their independence and their dignity.

"It also has a flow on effect to the entire

health system and takes pressure off growing wait lists for residential aged care, which is now effectively full," he said.

"While we await the outcomes of the Senate Inquiry into CHSP, we have been pushing for new investment into this critical program."

"We already know that people across the country are struggling to get the care they need in the community, and this puts even further pressure on Support at Home and residential care capacity."

# Rural Building Co wins national award

THE Rural Building Co has added to its award-winning track record, claiming the 2026 Australian Project Home of the Year at this year's HIA Australian Housing Awards.

Announced at the HIA Australian Housing Awards last month on, this is the fourth consecutive year this national award has been bestowed to The Rural Building Co and its affiliated brand, WA Country Builders.

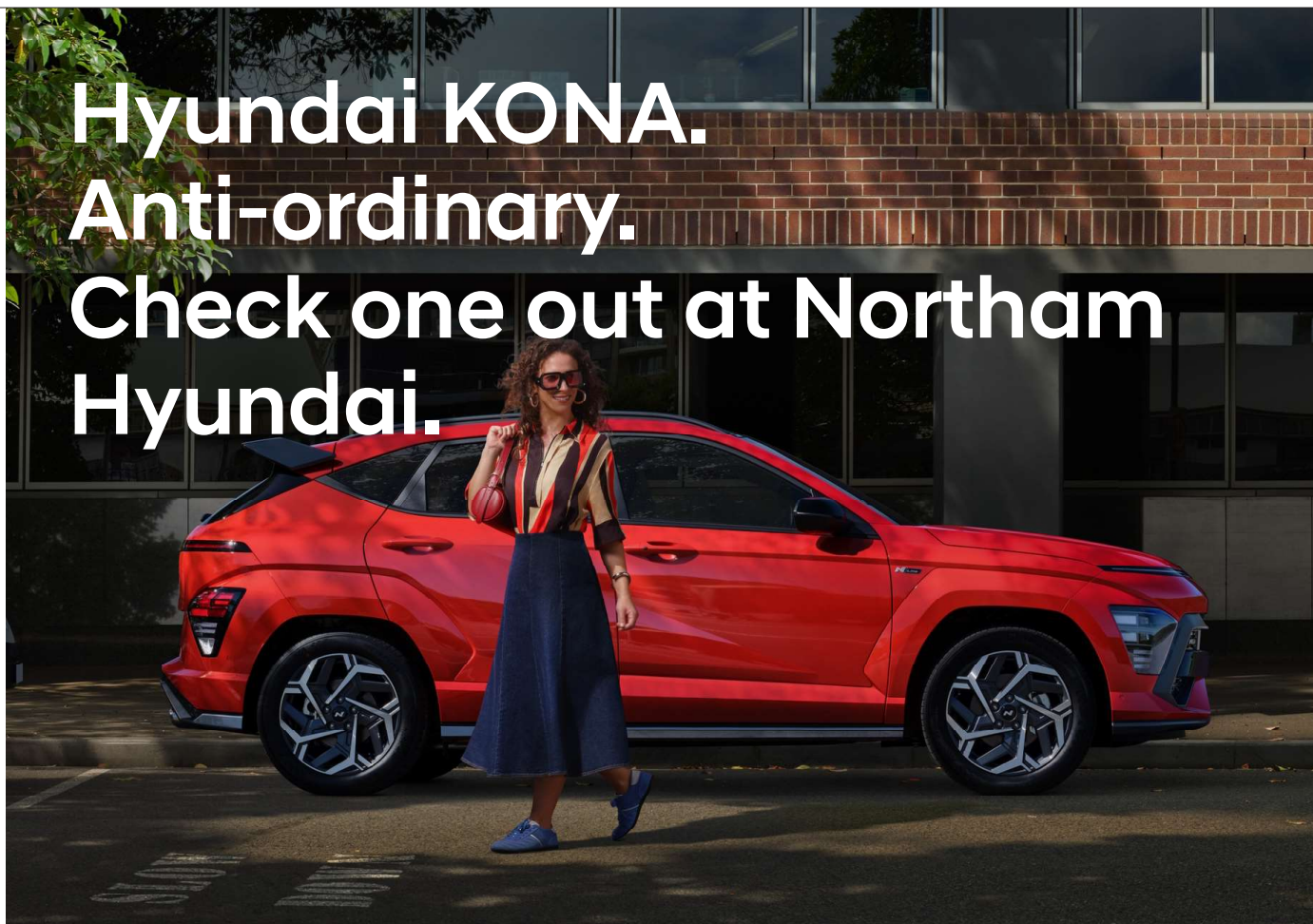
The Rural Building Company's original designs date back to 1992 and the beginnings of the 'tree change' movement when people began turning their backs on the city and urban values to move to the country.

In a statement, The Rural Building Co said it was quick to recognise the need for a product that reflected their values and desire for individuality.

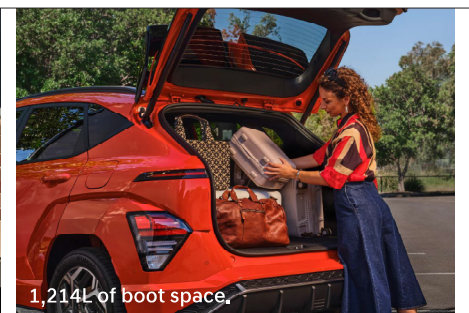
The Rural Building Co is affiliate with WA Country Builders, which has designed and built over 6,000 homes for since 1991.

WA Country Builders has more awards than any other regional builder, including the Excellence in Service awards that its clients vote for.

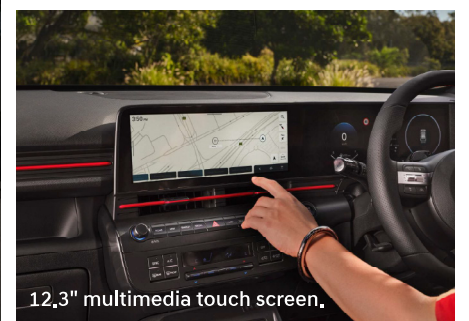
"And with an array of home styles, over 60 in all, we offer home buyers in regional Western Australia the biggest choice of new home designs by a country mile."



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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. 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

#### Ragbys Quilting Group

First and 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 and Weavers

Every Wednesday; and the first and third Saturdays at Parker's Cottage, Showgrounds 9am to noon.

toodyayspinners@hotmail.com.

#### 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.

Joy 0432 470 771.

#### Uniting Church

St Stephen's Church 10am.

### EDUCATION / PLAYGROUPS

#### Bizzy Bees

Pre-kindy for 3-year-olds. Toodyay DHS. Jessica Donovan 0407 128 105.

#### 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

Jan Drury 0474550544 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

toodyaylocalmanager@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 Mamas and Pappas

Wildlife Rescue Brian Foley 0419 933 721.

#### 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 BethanLloyd\_8@msn.com

### FESTIVALS & EVENTS

#### Toodyay Agricultural Show

www.toodyayagsociety.com.au

#### Toodyay Farmers Market

Third Sunday monthly, 0429 984 482,

toodyayfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

#### Toodyay Moondyne Festival

moondynecommittee@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 and Wednesdays. Bree Byfield. 9621 0100

#### Forget-Me-Not Memory Café

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

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#### 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.

#### Ms Jacqueline Lee Graham

Coondle WA 6566. 0438 487 109

### MUSIC

#### Toodyay Community Singers

Thursdays CWA Hall, Stirling Terrace Rehearsals 5pm - 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.

#### Moondyne 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. Clint

Fricke (0423 226 898)

Email: toodyay.wa@lions.org.au

#### Toodyay Masonic Lodge

Fourth Thursday monthly, Masonic Hall Fiennes 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

Mixed Winter Bowls

Starting Thursday 14 May 2026

12.30 pm for 1pm roll up Green Fees apply

Enquiries: Jen: 0438 909 721

Paul: 0418 577 321 Experienced and

inexperienced bowlers 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 0417 497 972

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### ENGAGEMENT

"Mr and Mrs Cameron and Meryka Wallis, of Bejoording are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sapphira to Laithan Skelcher, son of Mr and Mrs Zac and Jen Skelcher, Coondle."

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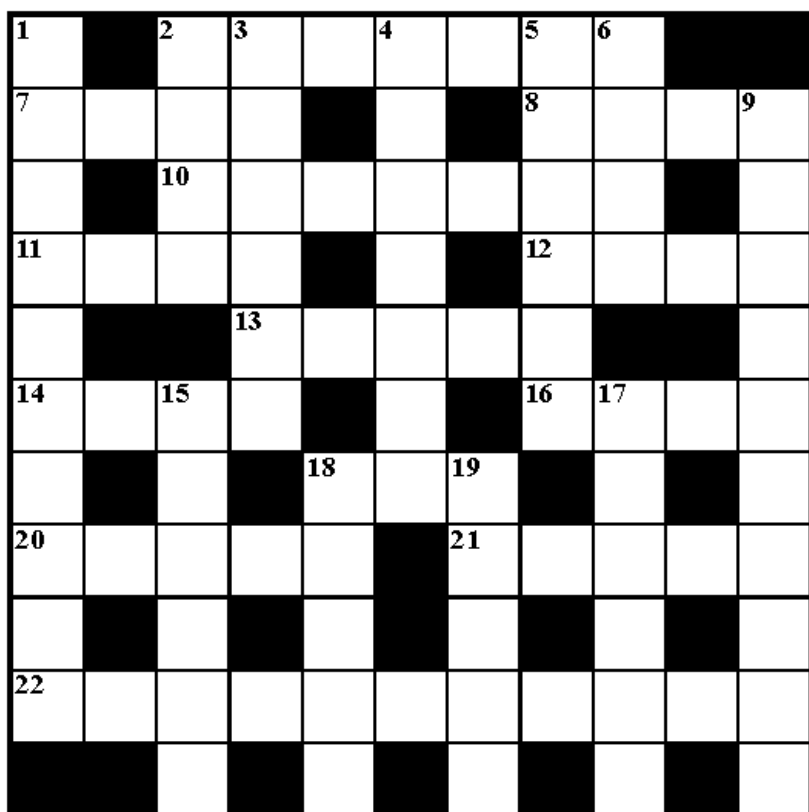
# Combo Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 2. Bad weather
- 7. Bog fuel
- 8. Type of birds
- 10. Aromatic
- 11. Regretted
- 12. Smart dresser
- 13. Rub out
- 14. Friends
- 16. Respite
- 18. And so on (abb)
- 20. Speedy
- 21. Lawful
- 22. Very showy

**DOWN**

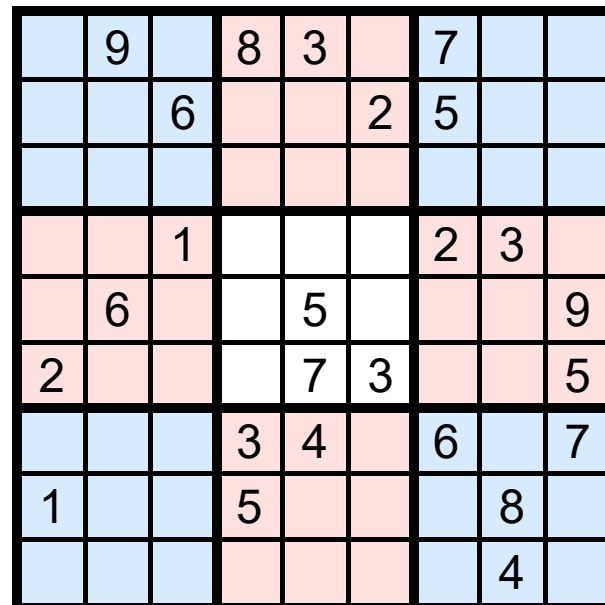
- 1. Pieces for repairs (5,5)
- 2. Record
- 3. Musical pieces
- 4. Grand parade
- 5. Polishing tool
- 6. Ballet skirt
- 9. Onlookers
- 15. Drank as a cat
- 17. Completely surround
- 18. Prepares copy
- 19. Small sound



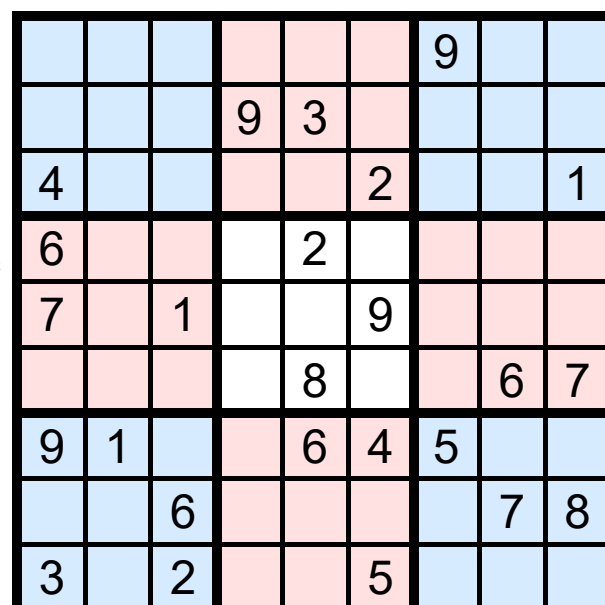
# Sudoku

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



## Cryptic Clues

**ACROSS**

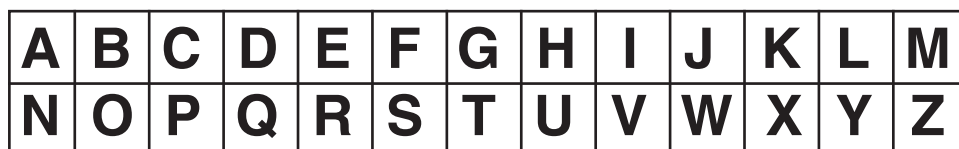
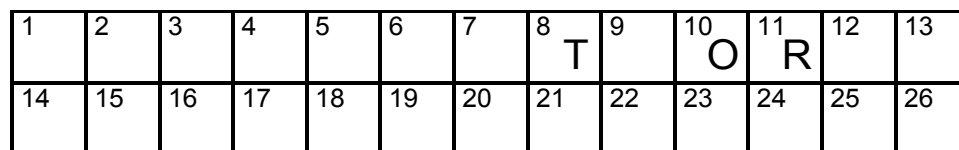
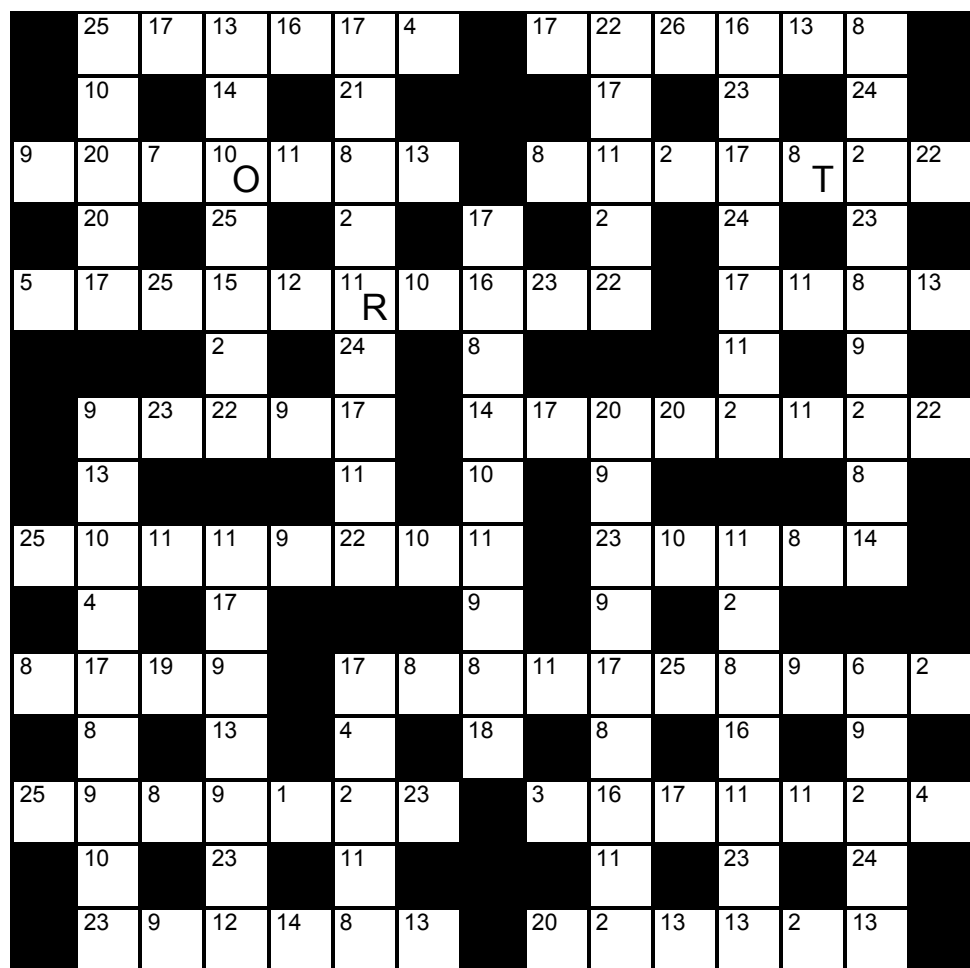
- 2. Encountered retired nuisance in a storm
- 7. Fuel for some to tape over
- 8. Skua turned to different creatures
- 10. Poignant fellow following humorous use of a word
- 11. Regretted rude exchange
- 12. Failure with direction for fashionable man
- 13. Obliterate time half seen
- 14. Hit back for good friends
- 16. Others take some respite . . .
- 18. . . . and so on in set class
- 20. Strike I had occurring with speed
- 21. Commonly legal part of race it followed
- 22. Cat clears up making lavish display

**DOWN**

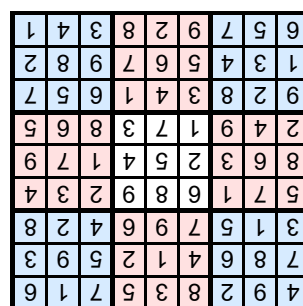
- 1. Traps spear becoming needed in a breakdown (5,5)
- 2. Record of the first primate
- 3. Set due for movement in musical works
- 4. Boy attendant and six-footer in elaborate display
- 5. Reads about keeping direction for tool with abrasive disc
- 6. Originally turned up to undo a short full skirt
- 9. Spot crates utilised by those watching game
- 15. Easily defeated another runner folded over
- 17. Swallow up halfopen wide separation
- 18. Checks copy about new diet direction
- 19. Make a slight sound to operate a mouse

# CrossCode

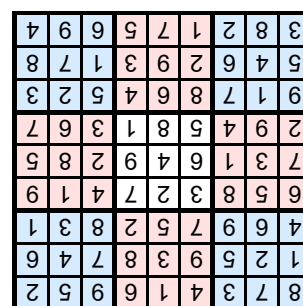
Crosscode is a logic puzzle. each letter is a number. Begin by guessing the first word and placing the additional letters into the crosscode. Keep guessing words/letters until completed.



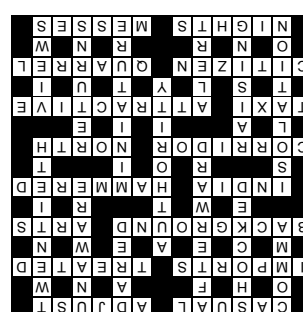
## Solutions



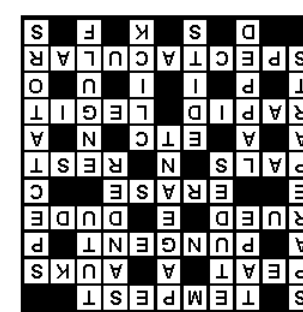
Sudoku Easy Solution



Sudoku Hard Solution



Crosscode Solution



Combo Solution

ENVIRONMENT

# Autumn flows into river care

**Toodyay Friends of the River**  
Greg Warburton

AUTUMN is my favourite season of the year with cooling of temperatures, low fire risk and the possibility of rain to create a flow down our parched waterways.

For 'river carers' it means activities like weed control and tree planting will soon begin.

This season Toodyay Friends of the River (TFOR) will focus on site preparation of key locations in the Boyagerring Reserve with a view to planting next year.

It takes two seasons of weed control to effectively reduce the competitive burden in order to give the native seedlings the best chance to survive.

Our Vice-President Kai has already been busy slashing rank grass in preparation for chemical spraying at the sites.

Our Seed Orchard Coordinator Bethan has been directing the Boyagerring work to fit in with the school Landcare group sessions.

On Saturday, April 18 I was honoured to represent TFOR at the Noongar Cultural Family event at the Yarning Circle in Boyagerring Reserve.

Congratulations to our Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation for a superbly organised occasion which combined cultural activities with family fun, making for an enjoyable and memorable afternoon.

The yarning circle site continues to develop into an excellent meeting, learning and interpretive location strategically situated at the confluence of two sacred

waterways.

With the cooler weather more people can be seen out walking our local tracks and trails, in particular the Bilya Walk Track.

Following the south bank of the river it wends its way from Duidgee Park out to Nardie Cemetery.

This popular track is about to see a lot more use every Saturday morning when Parkrun participants traverse a five-kilometre lap along it.

Even though the footbridge is now open, inexplicably no jogging is permitted. This has necessitated seeking approval for the new route and the installation of directional signage etc..

Thank you to the Parkrun volunteers who got this work done.

The footbridge closure has necessitated starting at the school carpark and a tedious three lap course.

At last, our wonderful local Parkrun event will once again be at its true home of Newcastle Park.

Our May working bee and meeting will start at 8am on Sunday 17 at Duidgee Park.

From there we will go to the Boyagerring planting sites to continue with the preparation work.

The committee are reminded of a management meeting the following evening in Drummond House at 6pm.

For more information about TFOR visit toodyayfor.org.au, pop into Drummond House on a Saturday morning from 10am to noon or phone Greg on 0429 00 9425.



Photo of the female Rufous Whistler courtesy Wayne Clarke.

## The Rufous Whistler

**Bird of the month**  
Desrae Clarke

THE Rufous Whistler, of 17cm, is found throughout mainland Australia in both open forest and woodland and is a common species within the Shire of Toodyay but uncommon in wetter areas of the lower southwest forested areas.

The male's upper parts are grey with the wings and tail a blackish/brown. A broad,

black stripe extends from its black bill, through its red eye then curves round the nape to the upper breast; it has a white throat and a rufous breast.

The female upper body is brownish/grey with a touch of olive; the wings and tail are dark.

The colouring and patterning of the female and immature male make it difficult to correctly identify, following the strong and definite markings describing the male bird.

The 1948 publication of *Birds of Western Australia* by DL Serventy and HM. Whittell holds an excellent description.

"The female and the immature male are longitudinally streaked black and white on the underparts, there being a buff tone on the abdomen.

"The young male, before it assumes the adult dress, has a lighter chestnut breast with a dull-black chest-band and the white throat is lightly streaked with black."

Breeding is from late August through to March.

The flimsy nest is an open cup of fine twigs and grasses and is placed in the fork of a tree or deep in a low dense shrub.

Two or three eggs, brownish in colour and dark brown spotted and blotched, are incubated over approximately fourteen days.

The young fledge within ten to fifteen days and, as they mature, they are chased from the parent bird's territory.

The most recognisable feature of the Rufous Whistler is its call of rich, crisp, musical notes particularly during the breeding season.

It ranges from a 'pee, pee, pee, joey, joey, joey', through to a powerful 'eee-chong! Eee-chong! Eee-chong!'

Disputes over territory are often solved by song with rival males perching within half a metre from each other, displaying the crown feathers, fanning the tail and chasing each other in flight; the female also assists in defending the territory.

The Rufous Whistler gleans insects and larvae from among foliage and can be observed hopping along branches in search of prey.

It will occasionally drop to the ground to forage and will also take fruit and berries.

## Small snake big skills: the Stimson Python

**Herpetofauna**  
Desrae Clarke

THE Stimson's Python is a small reptile with an adult length of up to a metre.

It is found within the Shire of Toodyay but does not appear to be as common as its

larger cousin, the Carpet Python; it is not a venomous reptile species.

A noticeable difference between a venomous snake and a python is, if disturbed, a venomous snake will wriggle away quickly, whereas the python will freeze. This information is useful in identification.

The Stimson's Python has a triangular-shaped head that displays a distinct neck.

Its ground colour is usually a pale or yellowish brown with the upper body patterning of darker, irregular blotching and its belly is whitish.

It is oviparous (egg-laying) and lays up to twenty eggs in a clutch with the female coiling around them for incubation.

If the temperature drops, she will shiver to raise her body heat to the desired level.

The diet of this small python includes birds and mammals such as mice and small rabbits.

It may be found basking or foraging during the day but is mainly nocturnal.

'Heat sensitive pits' located on the lip scales assist in the location of warm-blooded prey both day and night.

It has a prehensile tail (a tail that can grasp to aid in climbing) so it may be found in tree hollows, rock crevices, termite mounds or beneath granite slabs.

This species is found over a wide area of the state excepting the northwest and the lower south of the state.

It can also be found on islands within the Shark Bay World Heritage Area of Dorre, Dirk Hartog and Bernier Islands.



The Stimson's Python.

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E Keiran.sullivan@rsm.com.au

[rsm.com.au/northam](http://rsm.com.au/northam)

# Police, parrots and the Pilbara

Toodyay Naturalists' Club  
Greg Warburton

AS PROMISED in the April article members and guests were treated to a special presentation by well-known local identity Max Howard.

Max has led a full and fascinating life with a long military and policing career.

Throughout many adventures and experiences his interest in ornithology has been an ever-present passion.

As a young Police Officer In the early 1980's Max was posted to the remote town of Wittenoom in the Northwest of the state.

When Max was there the population stood at about 150 people consisting of many colourful characters that had hung on after the closure of the Asbestos mine in 1966.

The community welcomed their lone policeman and Max quickly connected with this rather unique little community.

But it was the natural environment that really captivated him and in terms of bird watching it was a paradise. Max's police duties included patrols throughout his jurisdiction where he was able to observe and record wildlife especially the spectacular range of bird species.

From the hidden gorges and waterholes with their cool fern glades in the rugged Hamersley Range National Park (Karijini) to the sun-baked plains beyond, wild life was ever present.

Word soon got out about the 'birdo' police officer in Wittenoom and Max hosted a steady stream of visiting nature enthusiasts including the famous Michael Morcombe.

Max's talk was a captivating narrative of

scientific facts, personal recollections and anecdotes.

At the end of a very full agenda of the general meeting I, with Vicki, announced to the members that we would be relocating to NSW for family reasons.

After nearly 30 years in this special place with its amazing natural environment and wonderful community leaving is a huge wrench for us.

Being a member of the illustrious Toodyay Naturalists' Club for all those years and being entrusted with the role of President more than once has been a great honour.

Our patron Rob Boase who described our announcement as a 'bombshell' gave a moving impromptu speech of appreciation.

Our departure will be within the next month or so which will allow for the many goodbyes to be said.

Below is an excerpt from the year's program of the club's planned activities for May as supplied by Desrae our dedicated super secretary:

We are planning to visit the Armadale Reptile and Wildlife Park on Saturday May 16.

Please let the secretary know if you would like to visit the and wildlife Park with us, and if so to meet at the Armadale centre at 11am.

We are holding a fundraiser in front of the IGA on Friday 29 May from 8am to 5pm and Saturday 30 May from 8am to noon.

Help will be welcomed to set up and close. For more information about meetings and activities or to record wildlife sighting visit our website [toodyaynats.org.au](http://toodyaynats.org.au) or call Greg on 0429 00 9425.



## More evidence needed to justify Julimar burn

Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance

IT'S a familiar phrase across Australia: "our bush needs fire to survive" but not all scientists agree.

With controlled burns carried out across large parts of Julimar State Forest over the past week, it is a timely moment to take a closer look at that assumption.

A body of research, including work by Albany-based botanist Professor Stephen Hopper, suggests we should be cautious about viewing fire as the dominant evolutionary driver of Australian plants.

Over more than 50 years in conservation biology, including leadership roles at Kings Park in Perth and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, his work has challenged long-held ideas.

Many features of Australian plants are often cited as proof that our ecosystems evolved with fire.

These include regeneration from seed banks, post fire flowering, hard protective seed coats, smoke triggered germination, and even the flammability of plant material itself.

At first glance, these traits appear well suited to surviving fire.

However, an important distinction is often overlooked: just because a trait helps plants persist after fire today does not mean it evolved because of fire, or that it depends on fire to persist.

Professor Hopper and other botanists warn that it is easy to confuse present-day

observations with long-term evolutionary processes.

In simple terms, correlation is not causation. A familiar analogy is the idea that shark attacks increase with ice cream sales. Both rise in summer, but one does not cause the other, warmer weather drives both.

The same caution applies to plant traits. Resprouting, for example, is often described as a fire adaptation.

Yet similar regrowth strategies occur in response to drought, frost, grazing, flooding and wind damage.

Scientists distinguish between adaptation, where a trait evolves for its current role, and exaptation, where a trait evolves for one purpose but later proves useful for another.

This distinction is key when interpreting plant characteristics.

Take sclerophylly, the tough, fibrous leaves common in many native species such as eucalypts and wattles. These are often described as adaptations to fire or dry conditions.

However, fossil evidence shows such leaves existed 50 to 60 million years ago, when Australia was much wetter.

So, does the bush "need" fire? Some species may benefit from it, but the broader picture is more complex.

As surveys begin at Julimar, there is an opportunity to move beyond slogans and towards a more careful, evidence-based understanding of how our landscapes function and how best to manage them.

For information on our upcoming surveys, please email: [julimarforest@gmail.com](mailto:julimarforest@gmail.com)



Early sown Canola up and away.

## Farmers cautiously optimistic

Toodyay Agricultural Society  
Andrew Thornton

FARMERS in the Toodyay shire and the wider wheatbelt have wasted little time getting into paddocks following welcome rains from last month's tropical cyclone Narelle with the start to seeding one of the earliest on record.

The system initially formed off the Queensland coast and made its way around to W.A.

Drawing its strength and longevity from warm tropical waters tracked inland from the northwest coast bringing widespread rains across the state.

Although falls were not as heavy as predicted it was still very welcome.

For most producers it has provided an ideal opening to a season plagued with uncertainty with the crisis in the Middle East continuing.

Canola has been the first crop into the ground with growers keen to take advantage of the early start.

The crop's longer growing season and sensitivity to establishment conditions make it a priority when early moisture is available.

Farmers have also been capitalising on the

favourable conditions to carry out effective knockdown herbicide applications.

The rainfall has triggered a large weed germination allowing for an effective double knock combination to reduce weed pressure and minimise moisture loss.

Spraying conditions have been close to ideal with good moisture ensuring herbicides are working efficiently.

While the early start is welcome local farmers remain cautious. Subsoil moisture levels will need follow up rains to capitalise on what has been a promising start to the season.

Farm workshops have been busy in recent times with final preparations and maintenance work completed before the early rush.

The early start to seeding has eased pressure on what is a typically tight seeding window, giving growers more flexibility in timing across their programs.

Overall, growers are cautiously optimistic ahead of the season.

The Shire has entered the unrestricted burning period but please don't treat it as a free for all and take precautions such as keeping up to date with weather conditions and access to firefighting equipment.

## Delicious, quirky, amazing

Toodyay Garden Club  
Judy Rowston

WHO doesn't love autumn and some lovely much needed rain thanks to Cyclone Narelle.

Our Toodyay gardens were very thankful for some fresh clean water to wash off the summer dust.

The club has resumed with a full committee, three new committee members serving us this year and we thank Neville and Dale D'Antoine for hosting our first garden visit.

With glorious sweeping views over the valley and with the ground tinged green, made it feel all the more welcoming as we wandered around the D'Antoine garden.

Many paths and lots of huge gravel boulders adorned the garden.

During Covid, Dale completely morphed her garden, leaving only the larger trees and rose bushes and started again, planting mostly natives, succulents, Eremophila and putting geraniums into pots.

A small issue living on the outskirts of town with kangaroos also loving the garden is them eating some of the plants just before the club arrived.

There was plenty of seating and two gazebos at the bottom of the garden, where you could just sit and enjoy the tranquillity of country life, watching the cows grazing below.

The property is on one acre with half an

acre of garden. Before we all arrived Neville and Dale fertilized and mulched, ready to beat the weeds, whilst also prepping the vegetable gardens at the rear of the property ready for winter planting.

An assortment of lovely hanging baskets adorned the rear patio.

One member described the garden as deliciously quirky with amazing feature rocks.

The raffle winners this month were Pam Baker, Dee Haworth and Jean Leonhardt.

The June Garden visit will be to Therese and Geoff Wise's Goomalling property.

In July we will be hosting a big Gala Day. The cost is \$10 which will include morning tea, lunch and 4 guest speakers plus spot prizes.

Members of the public are invited to join us for \$15 for non-members which covers our insurance.

Speakers include Brian Kelpiz from Neutron Fertilizers, Ben Mayo from Bunning tool maintenance, Greg Fisher and Wim Van Dyke talking about native and domestic bees, and Terry Fowler-McAuslan from Utopia Nursery.

Please contact the garden club for further information on the club and upcoming events.

Our secretary Lyn can be contacted at [toodyaygardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:toodyaygardenclub@gmail.com) or call our event co-ordinator Stephanie on 0429 888 314.

ENVIRONMENT

# Pinky training to save joeys

Marsupial Mammals and Pappas (Inc)  
Becky Ingram

SAVE the date, Sunday October 25 2026.

Marsupial Mammals and Pappas will be screening the film "Kangaroo" at the Memorial Hall, the day after World Kangaroo Day. Further details soon.

Another date to remember is May 17 at 3pm, when training for caring for Pink joeys will be offered at our headquarters, at Toodyay Junction, Railway Road.

This is only for members who have completed the prerequisite of 2 years of experience caring for furred joeys.

Future training will include caring for velvets and older joeys, as well as birds and reptiles.

We will need numbers for notes and catering, so please email membership@mmap.au with your name and number attending for training and the barbecue.

Pinkie training is relevant at this time of the year as we are already receiving joeys as a result of road trauma.

Please, if you hit a kangaroo, check if it's male or female and if the latter, does she have a joey in the pouch?

If yes, please phone us immediately on 0467 964 872, then check mamma by touching her eyelid and if there is no blink reflex, she has passed away.

Reach into the pouch and if baby is attached to the teat, cut off the teat close to mum's body so the teat is as long as possible.

Scoop out the baby by holding under its bottom (do not pull out by the legs as they are delicate and easily broken).

Wrap baby in anything to keep it warm and place next to your skin, under any outer clothing.

If we are not available, get the baby to a wildlife carer or a vet as soon as possible because this is an emergency.

Checking the kangaroo you have hit is so

important. Even if you don't have time to stop yourself, at least phone us with the location so we can get there ourselves.

Put our number 0467 964 872 into your phone, so it's right there when you need it. Donations to assist us are always welcome.

Direct deposit into our account at the Bendigo Bank (BSB 633-000 Account 175 516 319).

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible, and our Public Account is BSB 633 000, Account 186 438 040. Email treasurer@mmap.au with details.

Call 0467 964 872 any time, day or night, if you find any injured wildlife.



Doris – found by Jason when mamma was hit by a car. She was wrapped gently, kept inside his shirt and he made sure she came to us for care.



## Heartlands Veterinary Hospital



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HEALTH

# Is your cat sneezing it's whiskers off?

Heartlands Veterinary Hospital  
Dr Rianne Van de Aar

To find out more about the vaccinations your cat or kitten needs, please don't hesitate to contact us at Heartlands Veterinary Hospital.

CAT flu is a term that refers to a group of infectious agents that cause upper respiratory disease in cats, similar to the flu in humans.

Repeated sneezing and a runny nose with teary and inflamed eyes are signs that you might see if your cat is suffering from cat flu.

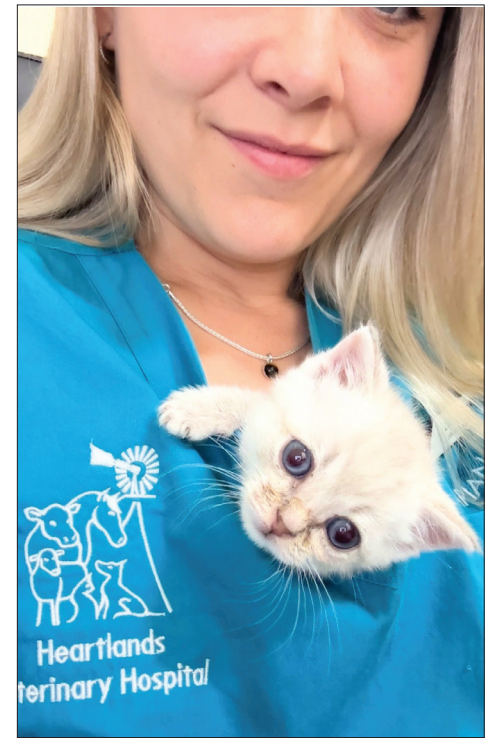
Additionally, cats with flu may also suffer from a fever, painful joints and ulceration of their tongue or eyes. They often feel under the weather, eat less and may appear tired.

Kittens, mature cats, and individuals that are suffering from other illnesses, are likely to be particularly affected and are at higher risk of developing secondary bacterial infections.

Cat flu is spread via direct contact between individual cats, saliva, secretions from eyes and nose and may also be contracted via aerosol transmission. In reality, this means cat flu germs are present in most of our cat's environments.

By ensuring your kitten is fully vaccinated and keeping your adult cat up-to-date with annual vaccinations, their risk of contracting flu and suffering from uncomfortable and painful symptoms is significantly decreased.

In addition, keeping your cat in a clean indoor environment is also strongly recommended.



## Isolation the enemy of healthy living

Warrior Wellbeing  
Sonja Manuel

THINGS that we cannot control are our biggest stressors in life.

In agriculture it is mostly weather issues followed by a multitude of other factors such as commodity prices, input costs (diesel, fertiliser availability and price), machinery breakdowns... how long is a bit of string.

Every season is not without its challenges and the effects are always felt across the whole community.

Everybody feels the pain.

No one can change what happens with the weather and/or influence the other factors.

All we can do is manage our programs and control our business as best we can which importantly includes looking after ourselves and each other (our family, mates and neighbours).

Remaining connected is one way of doing this but what does this mean?

Rural communities have an innate capacity to reach out and organize and participate in many bottoms-up activities.

Regional Men's Health Initiative has been attending a lot of these events including breakfasts, sundowners and many other gatherings over the years.

These allow the communities to have a conversation about where they are at, individually and as a collective.

There are less of us living in regional areas. Add this to the nature of modern farming as well as a challenging season and isolation becomes more prevalent.

It's so important that we maintain social connection but it takes an effort. Isolation is

the enemy of good mental wellbeing.

Staying connected is important and something we must work on; this can be achieved in part if we are mindful of staying connected with others.

As blokes, we have a propensity to self-medicate.

A lot of people think that is done by sex, drugs, and rock and roll. However, in the work we do it is mostly blokes spending more time in their cave, working harder, longer and talking less (some ladies might find that hard to believe).

It is important that we continue to talk about some of the pain and distress that as blokes we tend to suffer alone.

We describe primary care as what we can do to look after ourselves and others, and invariably it is about connection. Some simple things we can do:

Talk to a Mate® – realize that we are not alone.

Talk to whoever needs to be informed about our situation (family, financiers, advisors).

Keep an eye on others – drop into a neighbour and have a chat and a coffee. Take the time to ask someone are you okay?

Slow the pace of our life a little; join a group that fits in with our passions and interests.

It will make a difference.

Maintain our sense of humour, laugh at ourselves and with others.

Edward de Bono one of the world's foremost thinkers called humour a key lubricant for life and often referred to humour as social glue and the best anti-despair device we have.

I think he is right on the money.

Agents for BONAIRE

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# Tri club takes on Busselton's festival challenge

**Kelly-Anne Murray**  
Toodyay Triathlon Club

TOODYAY Club members and supporters travelled to Busselton from May 1 – 3 to compete in the Busselton 25, 50 and 100 kms events.

This year is a landmark one for the Busselton Festival of Triathlon, which celebrated its 25th year as one of Western Australia's most iconic sporting events.

The Busselton Festival of Triathlon is a friendly, community-focused event which brought together almost 3000 participants for a weekend of triathlon and multisport action.

On day one, triathlon club members Katie Sharples, Kelly-Anne Murray, Nicoya Wheeler and Kayla Wheeler completed the Busselton 25 – a 500m swim, 20km cycle and 4.5km run.

As beautiful as Busselton is, the conditions were calm but freezing and inevitably, organisers ruled to make wetsuits mandatory for the swim.

Despite a few gripes about how restrictive wetsuits are, we soldiered on and finished the event with smiles all around.

Day two was a huge day for club members

Leza Doran and Dianne Griffin who completed the Busselton 50 solo – a 2km swim, 40km cycle and 8km run.

The wheatbelt wonder women aka Liv Wood, Enrika Grogan and Emma Fulwood, teamed up for Busselton 50, crossing the finish line together in style.

Congratulations to Leza, the club's inspiring interval run leader, for placing second in her age group and she was loudly cheered on by the club as she accepted her award.

A special congratulations to Brent Walsh, aka the Gourmet Dowerin Butcher, who completed the Busselton 100 – that's a 2km swim, 80km cycle and 18km run.

Toodyay Triathlon Club's support crew (Kale and Ebony Francis, the Wheeler and Doran families) were the loudest on the course, capturing special moments and cheering on competitors at every turn.

The festival atmosphere and celebration of triathlon and multisport were an epic way to introduce the Toodyay Triathlon Club to the Triathlon WA community.

If you'd like to know more about the Toodyay Triathlon Club please find the Facebook Group page, email [toodyaytriathlonclub@gmail.com](mailto:toodyaytriathlonclub@gmail.com) or call Kelly-Anne on 0406 585 716.



Toodyay Tri Club members and supporters at the Busselton Festival of Triathlon.

# Our local champions win medals in Japan

**Avon Valley Shotokan**  
Nat Kielbasa

TERM two of the karate year begins and the students representing Avon Valley Shotokan (AVS) have returned triumphant from the 2026 USKU Championships in Japan.

Our students brought home three awards for the adult team kata event, along with knowledge and improved skills, new friendships and unforgettable experiences.

Sensei Kylie showed students how it was done, winning a silver medal in her kata event before joining Sensei Camden and Sensei Ashton in a team kata event.

Their beautiful team katas earned our senseis a place on the podium and a shiny bronze trophy to display in the dojo.

Later in the sparring (kumite) events Maciej fought through to a bronze medal (and a lovely split eyebrow for his efforts) and then competed as part of the team composed of students from around the world for a fun 'Japan vs the World' event.

A huge shout out to Eli and Helena who both won their first rounds in kata with three flags



Eli gives the competitors oath on behalf of competitors worldwide.

which is an awesome achievement in itself.

Congratulations everyone for all of your efforts in the tournament, seminars and also in your commitment to training in the lead up to the trip.

The feedback on the trip has been extremely positive.

Every single event of the trip, from the tournament to homestay, seminars, cultural experiences and sightseeing has made this trip a huge success.

Thank you to Sensei Kylie and to Shihan for all you give to support and guide our students.

In other news, many volunteers sacrificed their Sunday sleep-ins for a long day and late evening frying up onions and sausages at The Northam Motorsport Festival on April 26.

A huge thankyou to the Toodyay IGA,

who donated the rolls and sausages. We are extremely grateful for your support.

Our next event will be the Moondyne Festival so come grab one of our yummy burgers or drinks. We are excited to see what creative costumes are on display this year.

For those attending the Toodyay Farmers Markets, keep an eye out for our stall as there are some interesting changes.

Lastly, there are more congratulations in order.

Sensei Kylie participated in a gruelling grading session while in Japan and earned her 3rd Dan black belt.

Rayna has been selected for the 2026 State Team to travel to Hobart in July for the National Karate Championships.

Liam was hard at work training with Sensei

Lincoln, where he succeeded in breaking boards barehanded.

Well done to you all. The whole club is proud of what you have achieved.

Until next month, train hard and keep upholding the Dojo Kun (values) of karate.

If you are keen to learn more about Shotokan Karate, please contact AVS on [avonvalleyshotokan@gmail.com](mailto:avonvalleyshotokan@gmail.com) or drop your shoes at the door and come and visit us at the dojo in Toodyay or at Hombu in Clackline.

Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there soon.



Sensi Kylie, Sensei Ashton and Sensei Camden smashing the team kata event.



Three fabulous sensei and their bronze trophy for the dojo.



Toodyay students triumph in Japan.



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We're excited to be heading into winter soon and can't wait to see all the beautiful rolling hills in Toodyay and surrounds turn green again. We're dreaming of wood fires, hot chocolate and s'mores.

The team has been hard at work this month with new sales listings, new rental listings, and adapting to the changes within the office. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for all our regular updates.

We also have something exciting coming soon in conjunction with The Rec Toodyay — and we can't wait for you all to see it.

**In the office this month:**

- **Breanna** working her little butt off, and still smiling while she does it.
- **Zonelle** enjoyed a weekend camping with friends and her dog, Duke.
- **Jemma** has picked up 4 brand new rentals this month. She is killing it.
- **Kayleen** is settling in well and enjoying every minute of being back in Real Estate.
- **Jess** has flown out & finally on her honeymoon in Europe.
- **Sam** is flying solo for the next month and holding the fort while his sidekick is away.

This month, I attended the Wheatbelt Women Connect event held at the Toodyay Visitors Centre and met a wonderful group of ladies. I put my big girl pants on and gave a small speech about my journey so far. Stepping outside your comfort zone is always a little scary, but it's always rewarding once it's done. I'm not sure public speaking will become a regular thing for me anytime soon though.

A big thank you to Sarah-Jane Simonetti for the opportunity — you're doing some amazing things, and I can't wait to see where Wheatbelt Women Connect goes in the future.

Until next month,  
**Faith Kelly**



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