

The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned
community newspaper
Est. 1902

5000 copies circulating in Toodyay, West Toodyay, Goomalling, Bolgart,
Calingiri, Morangup, Northam, Coondle, Hoddys Well, Wattening, Dewars
Pool, Culham, Bejoording, Nunile, Julimar, Bakers Hill, Clackline,
Wooroloo, Wundowie, Gidgegannup and local districts.

May 2026
Edition 456

Moondyne Magic



Photo: Rashelle Predovnik

Rashelle Predovnik

TOODYAY'S 42nd Moondyne Festival drew thousands, with the Vic Hotel packed to capacity as crowds poured into a town that united to deliver a fantastic experience for visitors.

Festival committee member Jean Melhuish-Hill said the festival delivered a major boost to the local economy, with most people travelling to Toodyay from outside the district.

She estimated the crowd at around 12,500 this year.

"The local bakers and cafes, clothing, gift shops, Op Shop and hotels gear up for a very busy day, which is one of the biggest turnover days for them each year," she said.

"Accommodation at our two caravan parks, The Toodyay Manor and The Vic were fully booked with the Toodyay Homestead Motel and Pecan Hill B&B heavily booked."

A staff member from the Victoria Hotel told

The Herald not everyone could fit through the door.

"We reached capacity so we had to have door counters managing the crowd that queued."

The iconic role of Moondyne Joe was played by Oscar Litchfield the owner-operator of a rural fencing business..

Ms Melhuish-Hill said his youth and fitness were both necessary as on the day Joe and his gang cover a lot of ground.

"Oscar is also a singer, songwriter and guitarist used to performing in the public domain.

This year, the festival had a number of new attractions including a hot air balloon display, and clay animal moulding, sponsored by Midland Brick and The Toodyay Arts Competition.

Putting together this well-known and well-loved festival requires planning which started eight months ago.

Organising grants and sponsorships,

finding new performers, food stalls and choreographing the street theatre were just some of the jobs to do.

Ms Melhuish-Hill said 55 people were part of the festival's street theatre which included floosies, temperance ladies, Joe and his Gang, judges, lawyers, historic police, urchins, nurses and the like.

"Many are from our local community with some coming from Perth and further afield just to help us out on the day".

Behind the scenes, the Moondyne Men, Toodyay Locals Care, the SES, community groups and a group of volunteers linked to committee members all help on the day, including setting up and packing down the event.

But the event is not without its challenges. Ms Melhuish-Hill said funding was a challenge, with rising costs and new requirements from the government and the shire.

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Celebrating 42nd Moondyne



The Toodyay Herald

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THANK YOU

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped produce this edition of *The Toodyay Herald*: Joseph Fernandez (Legal), Peter Ruthven, Beth Ruthven, Richard Grant, Judy Morrissey, Jenny Hildred, Michael Black and Allan Gregory.

ADVERTISING

RATES - NO GST IS APPLICABLE

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

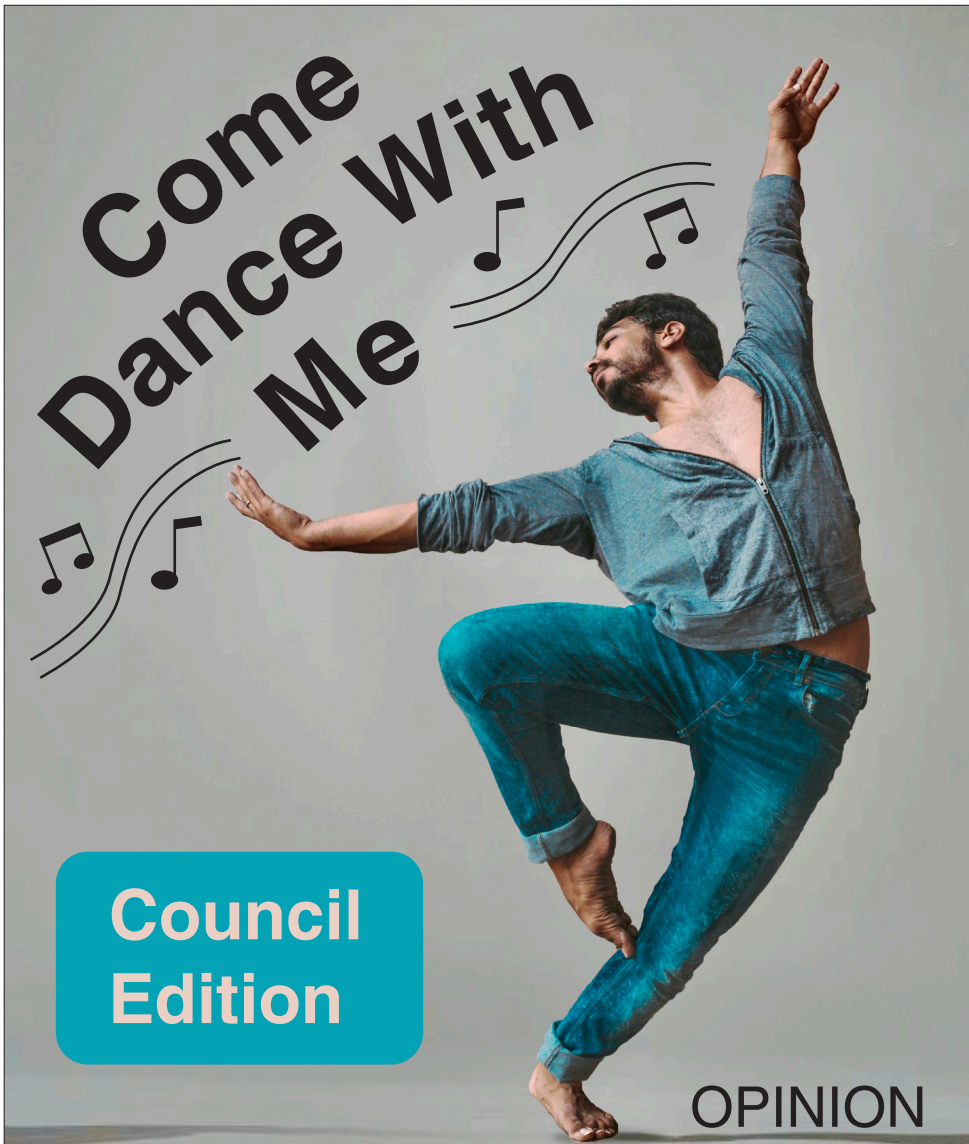
**Noon Thursday
May 28**

STORY DEADLINE

**Noon Friday
May 29**

DISTRIBUTED

**Thursday
June 11**



Rashelle Predovnik

THERE was a time when council meetings were built around the radical notion that the public might actually ask questions.

Now, thanks to the ever-evolving choreography of rule changes, attending a council meeting feels less like civic engagement and more like auditioning for a low-budget ballroom competition where nobody knows the steps and the judges keep changing the rules halfway through the routine.

Welcome to *Come Dance With Me* – the newest interpretive performance from the the Committee for Controlled Movement.

The music begins at public question time as ratepayers step up to the microphone ready to perform.

But don't expect to ad-lib.
This is not a freestyle event.
This is the 'two-step'.
Two questions only.
Then sit down.

Next partner please.
The rhythm is elegant in its inefficiency.
One resident rises, approaches the microphone, asks two carefully rationed questions, then shuffles away while the next

resident takes their turn to cross the dancefloor. By the time each partner change is complete, precious minutes have danced away.

In Toodyay, only 15 minutes is allowed for public question time – which sounds generous until you realise half of it is spent watching people rotate on and off the microphone like disappointed contestants on *Dancing With The Stars: Local Government Edition*.

It is a masterclass in movement without momentum.

Meanwhile, journalists trying to ask questions by email are left standing outside the ballroom pressing their faces against the glass.

Three separate media enquiries of mine were emailed in beforehand.

None were answered.
None even made it onto the dance card.
Apparently, accountability now requires physical attendance because nothing says 'transparent governance' quite like forcing residents and journalists to queue at a microphone for the privilege of very limited interaction.

The rules themselves seem to pirouette constantly.

Sand spread sparks oval safety complaints

Rashelle Predovnik

CONTRACTORS employed by the shire to do routine maintenance and spread sand across a football oval used soil contaminated with sticks and rocks, sparking complaints and prompting the matter to come to council as urgent business.

The contractors were engaged to spread river sand as part of routine maintenance on the Toodyay Showgrounds Oval in February as part of top-dressing works on both the cricket and football playing areas.

But instead of producing a pristine playing field, the works left behind debris.

Concerns over the condition of the oval escalated on March 11 when the Toodyay Football Club lodged a complaint with the shire, raising fears about player safety ahead of the 2026 season opener on April 19.

The complaint prompted an inspection of the oval and discussions between shire officers and the contractor responsible for the works.

According to a council report, the contractor said it would assess availability and prepare advice on a proposed mowing program, with the shire considering a mix of outsourced and in-house mowing in the meantime.

The condition of the oval attracted enough community concern for councillors to unanimously vote to bring the matter forward as urgent business during the meeting.

The report said the matter was operational and should remain under the chief executive officer's delegated authority.

But councillors exercised their governance oversight role to bring the matter to council and the administration acknowledged there was a potential liability and reputational risk if debris remained on the oval.

The shire indicated future communication with user groups would acknowledge rocks and sticks had been identified on sections of the oval and that options to address the

issue were being considered.

The oval is used as a sporting field for local football and cricket clubs.

It is also used to hold annual events including the Toodyay Motorbike and Car Show, the Toodyay Agricultural Show and the Toodyay Lion's Auction

Toodyay Football Club treasurer Ben Jenkins said he appreciated the support councillors had given the club in following up on their complaint.

"We're back playing on the oval and it's in pretty good nick now."



The oval is a popular place for dog walkers like Meredith and Scout.

Procedures change.
Formats shift.
Footwork evolves.

Residents arrive having learned last month's routine only to discover council has moved on to a new dance.

There is something strangely poetic about travelling to a council meeting because it is now the *only* place *The Herald's* media enquiries will be answered.

This is despite the shire's own officially approved rules allowing question to be answered in writing.

Unsurprisingly, the unanswered questions – piling up over four weeks – become an ever-growing troupe of dancers waiting in the wings.

But the 15-minute stage is too small and in the end, almost nobody makes it onto the floor long enough to finish all the questions

they came to ask.

By the time my turn arrived, I only managed a few questions before the music faded and the curtain fell.

No encore.
Even though the Shire President can permit extra time under the rules.

Instead, just a polite nod from the ballroom stage manager and unmistakable feeling that the purpose of the dance was never communication at all – merely choreography.

Perhaps next month council can simplify things further.

Maybe residents could communicate entirely through interpretive movement.

One spin for 'yes'.
Two spins for 'question taken on notice'.

And a slow waltz toward the exit for anyone hoping for genuine engagement and the opportunity to ask all their questions.

Correction

IN THE April edition of *The Herald*, it was stated that council endorsed a two percent rate increase to create a special reserve fund to repair the Newcastle Footbridge.

This was incorrect.

A two percent increase was recommended by officers, but council did not adopt this proposal.

Instead, Council decided funding would be considered at budget time.

Council agreed to proceed with a full bridge decking replacement, estimated at \$270,000, to be funded through the annual budget process.

Council also supported a staged approach to the broader repairs.

This includes structural works – estimated at \$120,000 to \$150,000 – within five years.

Council unanimously agreed to endorse the work schedule and consider the funding implications as part of the 2026–27 annual budget process.

It remains unclear whether a special reserve fund will be established as part of those discussions.

Your local voice for Toodyay!

Here to help!

[✉ lachlan.hunter@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:lachlan.hunter@mp.wa.gov.au)

Northam Office

- ☎ (08) 9622 2871
- 📮 PO Box 92, Northam WA 6401
- 📍 185 Fitzgerald St, Northam (Next to the Commonwealth Bank)

LACHLAN HUNTER MP

MEMBER FOR CENTRAL WHEATBELT

Authorised by L. Hunter, Northam Boulevard, Fitzgerald St, Northam WA 6401

The Toodyay Herald

From the editor's desk

FOUR editions in, Toodyay's council meetings are starting to feel like a tightly choreographed dance routine full of rules and procedural manoeuvring — especially around public question time.

This month, *The Herald* was told media enquiries will now no longer be answered by email.

Instead, journalists (from all media outlets including the *ABC* and *6PR*) will now have to front up to council meetings to have their enquiries answered.

It's an odd new rule particularly as journalists don't attend council meetings as private citizens asking personal questions.

The role of media is to gather information on matters of public interest and communicate that information to the broader community.

Unlike a resident asking questions for themselves, reporters publish information for thousands of readers who can't all attend meetings in person.

Meetings like the Toodyay Shire's council meetings, held at 5.30pm on Thursday (once a month).

It was also unclear how everyone now being directed to ask questions in person could fit into the 15-minute public question time.

They couldn't — I was only able to ask a few of my questions.

Residents who want their questions answered also have to turn up to a council meeting and ask them in person.

If a person who asked questions is not physically at the meeting their questions and answers are not recorded in the minutes.

In effect, the questions they asked 'disappear' if that person can't make it to a Thursday late afternoon council meeting.

That happened to me last month, and my question asking why this rule is not on the shire's website — remains unanswered.

Public participation

So how does this rule affect community access and participation?

For many residents, 5.30pm on a weekday isn't exactly a golden window for civic engagement.

Parents are juggling school pick-ups, day care runs, dinner, homework, or evening sports training.

Others are still coming home from work, with many making the commute from Perth.

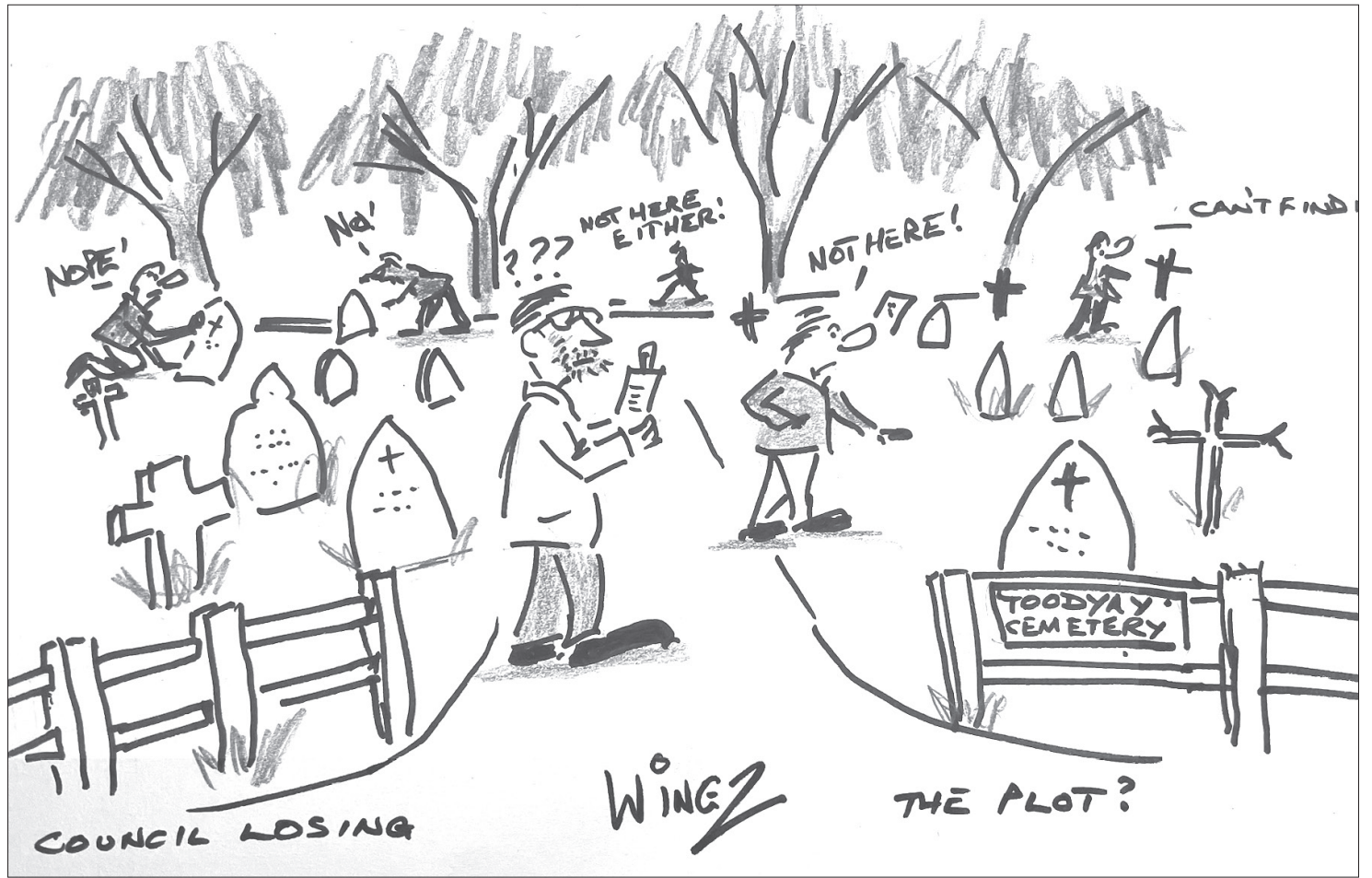
In practice, this rule means a segment of the community is quietly locked out — not by law, but by logistics.

In effect, a sizeable portion of the very rate payers council is meant to represent are procedurally excluded from full participation.

Councils are not private organisations — they are publicly elected bodies funded by ratepayers.

The ability to ask questions, get answers and have this exchange formally recorded in the minutes is not a gesture of goodwill; it's an important part of democratic accountability.

Rashelle Predovnik
Editor



LETTERS

Rural residents slam flat rate plan

THERE appears to be no end to the blatant ambivalence of our shire councillors toward the large population of ratepayers living in the shire rural areas on small acreages and large farms. (*Uniform rates spark backlash over hefty hikes: Toodyay Herald, April 2026*).

The ridiculous proposal to change the rating system to a flat rate for all which would see rates for town properties considerably reduced, and rises (said to be as much as 21 percent) for rural properties touted to be fair, reasonable and acceptable; because a few other towns have adopted the concept.

Well it is not fair, reasonable and acceptable as ratepayers in town receive a host of amenities for their rates which are not afforded to those residing in the rural areas.

These benefits include sealed roads, curb and gutters, footpaths in some areas, easy access to recreational facilities and town library, street lighting, security cameras and nuisance bird scaring.

These town resident benefits should not be heavily subsidised forever more by rural ratepayers.

Do our councillors think folk in the rural areas have a money tree in the back paddock?

Wake up councillors and think for yourselves and do what is right and fair for all the ratepayers of your community.

Kerry Gregory
Dewars Pool

Forests under fire

MANY people in our community understand the value of our natural environment - the concern lies with government policies and practices, where short-term priorities too often outweigh long-term environmental care.

The bushlands of south-west WA are globally significant, yet much has already been lost.

Nearly 70 percent of south-west forests and more than 80 percent of Wheatbelt woodlands have been cleared, which makes what is happening in the Julimar Forest all

the more concerning.

Repeated prescribed burns are being carried out by DBCA under the banner of "management," yet the impacts are immediate and undeniable. Smoke blankets the area while ground-dwelling wildlife is left with little chance of escape.

The understorey - essential for habitat, moisture, and ecological balance - is repeatedly stripped away before it has time to recover.

This is not careful stewardship.

It is a destructive cycle of disturbance that is degrading ecosystems, diminishing biodiversity, and drying the forest floor - increasing, not decreasing, long-term fire risk.

There are better ways to manage fire risk, including greater investment in early detection and rapid response.

At the same time, along Toodyay Road, mature Marri trees are being bulldozed and cleared. These are not expendable assets; they are part of a living system.

And this is not happening in isolation.

In a neighbouring Perth Hills shire, there is growing concern over proposal for large, energy - and water-intensive data centre along a river system, placing additional pressure on already strained environments.

What kind of landscape are we leaving for our grandchildren?

Enough is enough - it is time to move beyond routine burning, clearing, and high-impact development, and commit to genuinely protecting what we have left.

Helen Shanks
Toodyay

A shared responsibility

IN recent years, our community has seen ongoing public discussion about Aboriginal heritage laws and a local court case (*High-stakes Hearing, April 2026 Toodyay Herald*).

This matter did not originate with Noongar people, yet our community and cultural beliefs have been unfairly drawn into public criticism.

For Noongar people, waterways are not simply physical features of the landscape - they hold deep cultural, spiritual and

historical meaning.

They are sacred. Mr Maddox has every right to appeal the decision that was handed to him last year.

I don't have any qualms or ill feelings towards him and his supporters.

I do however remind everyone that the Aboriginal Heritage Act has been in play for over 50 years, since 1972, in fact.

It was enacted to protect culturally sensitive materials and objects including places of significance.

Basically, to stop blatant damage and desecration of cultural sites deemed to be of cultural value to Aboriginal people in designated areas.

Most people understand respecting heritage and sacred spaces. Churches, cemeteries, war memorials, places of worship and heritage listed buildings are treated with care and dignity.

Aboriginal heritage deserves that same level of respect.

Collectively these places and valued sites are part of our national identity.

As a community, we are capable of great compassion.

We rally around farmers during drought, fire and hardship.

That same spirit of care should extend to Aboriginal people and the cultural heritage that remains.

Waterways are also central to this conversation — culturally and environmentally. In the south-west of WA, water is life.

Our creeks, rivers and catchments sustain native plants, wildlife, farms and communities alike.

When watercourses are altered, redirected, or impounded - through crossings, dams or other works - there can be impacts beyond a single property.

These changes can affect water flow, ecological balance, and the health of Country itself, affecting us all.

Greater awareness and education are warranted, especially where our two worlds collide, particularly over matters concerning land and water.

Robert Miles
Dudja Boodja
[Toodyay Country]

The Toodyay Herald invites you to have your say in our letters page. Please email news@toodyayherald.com.au with your full name, address and phone number.

Letters less than 300 words about topical local issues are preferred. The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length, grammar and legal reasons. Publication of letters is at The Herald's discretion.

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2020	0	31.6	9.8	6.4	38.2	48.9	43.7	61.8	30.2	5.9	48.8	3.5	328.8
2021	0.03	17.3	137.3	11.1	121.7	30.4	154.2	70.3	39	61.6	2.2	0	645.13
2022	31.7	4.5	14	30.9	36.8	43	42.7	151.1	44	15.6	12	5.1	431.4
2023	0.1	0	54.9	29	21.8	74.3	42.4	19.8	32.3	2.9	7.4	2.0	286.9
2024	9.8	4.5	0	7.8	43.5	53.2	77	85.3	18.7	21.6	22	1.9	345.3
2025	3.7	0	27	47.6	15.2	23.8	65.7	118.9	28.3	43.4	2.5	0	183
2026	1.6	0.63	34.2	24.2	0.4								
Average	6.7	8.36	39.6	22.4	39.6	45.6	45.2	84.5	32	25.2	15.8	2.0	370

Selling Buying Renting Investing

9622 7007

Bodies risk being dug up as shire makes grave mistakes

Rashelle Predovnik

AN EXPLOSIVE report has dug into systemic problems at the Toodyay Cemetery revealing grave sites in older sections of the cemetery are not properly pegged, making plots hard to identify, and judgement calls on where to dig are being made on limited information.

The report to council revealed decades of poor mapping, missing pegs and unreliable records have created a serious operational risk for the shire.

The cemetery holds generations of Toodyay's history, with graves dating back to some of the district's earliest settlers.

But shire staff are struggling with unworkable maps and poor records that don't give them confidence they are identifying the correct grave or reserved grave.

The report to council said a loss of experienced staff who have taken corporate knowledge with them has left replacement staff relying on Excel spreadsheets and deficient records.

The report said the shire's cemetery operations were being managed with inadequate tools, and insufficient site controls.

"Historical records and physical inspections confirm that earlier sections of the cemetery were never systematically pegged, and many existing pegs no longer correspond reliably with actual burial sites due to erosion, movement, or loss."

The report identified critical compliance risks to the shire, including the need to identify the right plots of land so people were buried in correct locations.

"Historical information also indicates diverse burial locations with varying heritage considerations and land conditions, reinforcing the need for reliable on-ground controls," the report said.

"A review of the shire's cemetery operations has identified significant shortcomings in site control, accurate plot identification, and the tools used to manage burials, reservations, and the cemetery's spatial layout."

The report also warned there was an extremely high chance existing graves could be disturbed if burials were allowed to continue while plots were not properly pegged, as the exact location of older graves were not always clearly recorded.

It also warned the shire could face reputational damage, conflict with grieving families and possible legal consequences if the problems were not addressed.

The report estimates about \$300,000 may ultimately be needed for ground penetration testing, professional surveying, re-pegging of graves and the creation of a modern GIS-based digital cemetery map.

Council voted to suspend new cemetery plot reservations while major issues with mapping, grave identification and site accuracy were investigated.

The decision means no new plots can be reserved until testing, surveying, re-pegging and updated mapping of the cemetery are completed.

Council also backed a temporary 'connection to Toodyay' policy that will prioritise long-term residents, former residents, people with family already buried in Toodyay and those with strong historic or community ties to the district.

Council also directed the CEO to contact people who already hold reserved plots to let them know their plots can't be guaranteed, and a temporary policy will prioritise burials for people with strong ties to Toodyay.

Council approved up to \$50,000 from the Asset Development Reserve for preliminary investigations and consultant quotations.

The motion passed 3-2, with councillors McKeown, Dival and Mills voting in favour,



Burial blunders, and grave mix ups have been unearthed in a report to council urging action to deal with what has become a serious operational risk for the Shire of Toodyay.

while councillors Prater and Van der Heyden voted against.

Councillors opposed to the motion said they were uncomfortable making decisions about suspending burials and spending money without first having clearer information

about which areas of the cemetery were compliant and what the actual costs would be.

Council also resolved to discuss the cemetery issues outlined in the report at a future workshop.

Toodyay... share your thoughts!

The independent Voconiq 'Pulse Survey' invites residents, businesses and community groups to share their feedback on the proposed Gonneville Project and the potential impacts for your community and the region.

Open from June 2, 2026, the third Local Voices 'Pulse Survey' will be available online and hard copy.

Scan the QR code and register to be first in line to have your say.



Contact us
0487 371 961
community@chalicemining.com





Lions thank the community after record jumbo auction success

Rashelle Predovnik

THE Toodyay Lions celebrated community support in style thanking supporters and sponsor at a sundowner following the success of their 40th Community Jumbo Auction.

The sundowner was held at Cooringa Winery this month where gratitude for the incredible community spirit that made the auction such a success took centre stage.

Lions club member and auction coordinator John Pearce said the club was very happy with the outcome.

“We have 262 auction lots this year, up from 192 last year,” he said.

“We had 106 buyers this year, up from 85 last year.

“We had support from 35 local businesses this year, up from 20 last year.”

Mr Pearce said the contribution to the auction from farmers and businesses drew in over \$10,000.

“Our gross turnover was \$25,700 this year, up from \$21,000 last year,” he said.

“Our bottom line was \$13,500 this year, up

from \$9,100 last year.”

Mr Pearce said these results were achieved despite concerns about the supply and price of fuel and the cost of living.

He said the committee did a fantastic job planning and coordinating the event that became so popular sellers had to be turned away.

“And the karate club who did our auction catering ran out of food three times.”

Some successful changes to the format this year included advertising and promoting high value items.

Mr Pearce said for the first time, Simon and Heather from EAG Electrical donated a 2kw split system air conditioner.

“Arlene and Mark from Toodyay Water Carting donated a tank level indicator, Damo and Kat from Toodyay Hardware and Farm donated a wheelbarrow, Bob and Di from Toodyay Trader donated a torch that retails for \$480,” he said.

Chalice donated the funds that enabled The Lion’s club to buy a new 6.5kva diesel, electric start standby home generator.

“All of the above items were in addition to the items supplied by the other 20 local businesses and farmers who have supported us for the past three years,” Mr Pearce said.

He said new categories were also added this year.

“For the first time we were able to sell an accommodation voucher thanks to the generosity of Wayne from the Toodyay Homestead Motel (formerly Avalon Homestead).

“We were also given hospitality vouchers from Sarah and Shaye from Roam Distillery, Steve and Brendan from The Rec and once again, from Jason and Cassie from The Toodyay Bakery.”

Mr Pearce said this year the club also approached some of the younger generation of business owners.

“And we were delighted with their generous support,” he said.

“Jenko and Sam from Vapour Plumbing donated a plumbing voucher, Simon Wacura gave us a bobcat and digger hire voucher and

Chris and Tash from Toodyay Tyres also gave us a voucher.

The help of so many in the community was also appreciated, including those who turned up at 5.30am to help mark out the oval.

Mr Pearce said 15 people including volunteer fire brigade members from Bejoording, Coondle-Nunile and Toodyay Central were also rostered on to help.

A total of 18 people helped out on Saturday including the ladies from the Forget-Me-Not Café.

Mr Pearce said the auction team of Tony, Adrian and Jess provided an entertaining and professional service, selling 262 auction lots on the day.

Mr Pearce also gave a heart-felt thank you to the community and everyone who helped run this year’s auction.

“We would like to congratulate the Toodyay District High School, Youth Care Council, Forget-Me-Not Café and our seven brigades on the contribution that you make to the community.”

“Keep up the good work.”



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Free breakfast and big conversations

Barry Keen

THE RUOK?® conversation convoy is coming to the Toodyay Men’s Shed and the whole community is invited to a free breakfast this month.

The free breakfast session will be held on Wednesday 27 May from 8am to 9.30am, to offer a valuable opportunity for locals to learn how to build stronger connections and better support people who may be struggling.

The event is free for Toodyay residents, but bookings are essential for catering. To attend, please phone Barry Keens on 0427 047 850 by 23 May.

Recently, the shed’s chairman attended the National Men’s Shed Conference in Brisbane, where he connected with members

from other groups including Cockburn and Brunswick Junction.

While no awards came home this time, the experience brought back fresh ideas the shed hopes to put into practice in the coming months.

Back home, the shed has remained active, taking on new projects despite a drop in numbers due to holidays and illness.

Members have also created a range of items from recycled materials, which are available to buy at the shed.

The Toodyay Men’s Shed is open Monday, Thursday and Saturday from 8.30am to noon and new members and visitors are always welcome.

For hall hire or general enquiries, contact the secretary Jeff Roberts on 0499 403 830.



Photos by Bret Kidd.



700 honour fallen heroes at packed service

HUNDREDS gathered in Toodyay before dawn to honour Australia's fallen, with this year's Anzac Day services drawing big crowds as the community united in remembrance, and reflection.

Toodyay RSL Sub-branch secretary Max Howard said the dawn service in Toodyay always has the most people in attendance and this year was no exception.

"We believe about 700 people crammed into the surrounding area, and a further 300 attended the main service at 11am," he said.

"For a small country town like Toodyay this is a remarkable effort; however, I must say, from talking to people, a number come from the metro area because they like the service we provide."

About 200 attendees walked up to the Wicklow shearing shed after the dawn service to enjoy a gunfire breakfast put on by the local Lions Club, which has been their steadfast

commitment to Anzac Day for many years.

A large group of people marched off outside the memorial hall in a parade that has become an annual tradition.

The march was led by parade marshal Owen Webb, piper Matthew Willix and drummer Tom Findlay.

Mr Howard said the Toodyay High School cadets were always a special addition and it was great to see them again this year.

"Our thanks to all who participated in the march such as the fire and rescue service, volunteer bush fire brigades and the many people from the veteran community."

Mr Howard said for the past few years the Toodyay RSL Sub-branch has taken the direction of a more community orientated event.

"We like the community to tell their story of their relatives in times of conflicts, and what it was like for the families of veterans who stayed at home."

The main service at 11am started with the RAAF PC21 aircraft flying low over the memorial in a salute to fallen veterans.

The Toodyay Singers sang *I am Australian* and this performance was followed by a talk by Paul Harrington about the 2/2nd Commando Unit of WWII, which conducted operations in East Timor.

Mr Harrington's father was a member of this unit which was made up of a large number of West Australians, many from the Central Wheatbelt area.

Doug McGhee from the Toodyay District High School gave the Prayer of Remembrance, and a special appearance was made by Toodyay RSL member David and his defence force dog, which he used in Afghanistan.

Both are retired now from the rigors of wars.

Mr Howard said a couple of years ago a local internationally acclaimed musician

Rupert Guenther performed the last post on his electric violin, which proved to be a huge success.

"This year Rupert was back again and not only did he play the last post; he also played the New Zealand and the Australian national anthems."

The local Country Women's Association ladies handed out Anzac biscuits to those assembled at the end of the service.

Mr Howard said the Toodyay RSL executive understands a service like Anzac Day takes a large amount of work over many months.

"We are grateful to a number of our members for their help," he said.

"This is especially so to Tom Findlay who drives down from Kalgoorlie every year to make sure our sound system is running correctly.

"Once again, we would like to thank our local Police officers and St John's Ambulance, for their help and support."

More Moondyne magic

... continued from page 1

She said this was the first year festival organisers had to provide electronic road closure signage leading up to and including the event.

"This is a significant expense which had not been part of prior years budgets," she said.

"We had to increase the number of toilets hired and buy more rubbish bins, which were all extra costs this year.

"We need to apply for grants and sponsorships from government bodies and other businesses that can be major contributors.

"Applications are made months in advance but due to the various approval processes and timelines we often don't know if we will be fully funded or not until April.

"We mustn't forget local small businesses who have been generous in their sponsorship and support.

"The majority of entertainers at the festival are all professionals and are paid for their expertise.

We budget for general cost increases however things like the increased fuel costs this year were not part of our equations."

Ms Melhuish-Hill said local businesses came to the party providing sponsorships both financial and in kind, which made up the shortfall of funding.

"Their support on the day, by dressing the part and offering a warm country welcome is exceptional."

Now in its 42nd year the free festival is a part of the town's history and Ms Melhuish-Hill said Toodyay was involved as an entire community.

A lot of volunteers stepped up to help and Ms Melhuish-Hill said their help was invaluable.

The committee is a small group of people who work from October to June organising and running the festival.

"Our festival would not be the success that it is without these generous people and the help of so many volunteers."

Thank you to our local sponsors from the Moondyne Festival

- Allevare Clothing
- Avon Valley Water Cartage
- Brumby Pumps
- Bubbles n Paws Pet Stylist
- Crafters Emporium
- Exit Pest
- Exploration Caravan Hire
- IGA
- Kate & Teds
- Mountain Park Retreat
- Studio 65

- The Chieftan Music Club/Cafe Clairs
- The Rec Hotel
- Tony Maddox Real Estate
- Toodyay Dental Clinic
- Toodyay Hardware and Farm Supplies
- Toodyay Homestead Hotel
- Toodyay Locals Care
- Toodyay Manor
- Toodyay Real Estate
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- LotteryWest
- Shire of Toodyay
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- Wheatbelt Development Corporation
- Double Barrel Entertainment
- Diggermate Toodyay
- Royal Australian Navy Band, in kind sponsorship

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Anzac Day, Moondyne Festival and volunteer week

St John Ambulance Michael Black

THE last month has, again, been a busy one for the volunteers at your local St John Subcentre.

There was a good turnout of St John volunteers for the ANZAC parade, which meant we were there to support our colleague and all round champion volunteer Paul Harrington.

He gave us an amazing insight into his father's part in the Second World War.

A corporal in the 2nd/2nd Commandoes Regiment Reg Harrington spent time in

Timor and New Guinea.

Paul described his father's experiences with warmth and heart.

Congratulations Paul and a big thank you to Corporal Reginald Douglas Harrington.

Did you go to the Moondyne Festival?

What an amazing spectacle it is.

So many people visiting our wonderful town.

With crowds come injury and accident.

The morning of the festival was fairly quiet (a few minor cuts and abrasions) and the volunteers that manned the first aid post were able to enjoy the many stalls and food outlets.

We were blown away by the generosity of locals and visitors who gave up some hard-earned dollars to support St John and the work we do.

The afternoon of the festival brought forth some minor injuries and the subcentre had a couple of call outs.

You may have noticed the ambulances and the paramedic car parked just outside the festival at Connors Mill.

Quite an iconic sight.

It's that time again: a chance for you to say thank you to the amazing volunteers that give up their time to help, keep safe and provide essential services to the people of the Shire of Toodyay.

From those amazing ladies in the Op

Shop to the Bush Fire Brigade and on. It is National Volunteer Week from May 18-24.

As the name suggests it is Australia wide and recognises the contribution of millions of volunteers across the country.

The theme this year is *Your year to volunteer*.

The volunteers at St John are incredible and give up many hours of their time to support their community.

They are a great bunch of people too.

Is this your year to volunteer?

Head into the St John office opposite the bakery to find out how you can help.

Grab a first aid kit while you are there.

Above all, don't forget to thank and acknowledge a Toodyay volunteer.



Corporal Reginald Douglas Harrington delivering his speech about his families history.



The local Toodyay St John Ambulance crew at the Moondyne Festival.

Lightning storms can trigger fires that smoulder undetected

Coondle – Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Aurelie Zimmermann

RECENT weeks have continued to reflect a relatively quiet fire season, with only a small number of brigade turnouts.

Crews responded to two incidents in the Morangup area, both resulting from lightning strikes, alongside support from neighbouring

brigades across the Shire.

Lightning activity serves as an important reminder for the community to remain vigilant not only during storms, but also in the hours and days that follow.

Strikes can ignite trees or vegetation with little visible flame, allowing fires to smoulder undetected before becoming more apparent later.

Monitoring your property after storm

activity and reporting any signs of smoke early can make a significant difference in preventing further spread.

Several members have recently completed more advanced training, including Crew Leader and Structural Firefighting courses, further strengthening the brigade's operational capability.

We are pleased to introduce two new members, Philipp and Aiden, who have recently completed their foundation training. Both are now ready to join crews on the fireground, and we look forward to seeing them further develop their skills within the brigade. We are thrilled to welcome them to the team.

This quieter period of the season allows members to focus on maintaining operational readiness, including familiarisation with equipment and conducting vehicle checks each Friday, as routine maintenance of equipment and appliances.

As we enter the unrestricted burning period, residents are reminded that cooler conditions do not remove the risk of fire. It is important to remain vigilant, ensure any burning is carried out responsibly, and continue to monitor conditions closely, as fire behaviour can still change quickly.

Conditions can change rapidly with wind shifts, so early awareness and prompt reporting remain essential for community safety.

The Coondle-Nunile Bush Fire Brigade is always keen to welcome new members. Joining the brigade is a great way to learn

practical skills, build confidence, and gain valuable experience, all while giving back to the community.

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

If you're unsure whether firefighting is for you, we encourage you to come down, meet the team, and see what we're about.

Volunteering with the brigade is both rewarding and meaningful, while playing an important role in helping keep our local community safe.



The picture was taken at one recent callout. A fire due to a lightning strike.



Upcoming first aid courses

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

Price: \$180.00

When: Wednesday 20 May - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
 Saturday 11 July - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
 Monday 21 September - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
 Saturday 21 November - 8:30AM - 4:30PM

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



Understand first aid
Learn about first aid theory and action plans



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



Injury management
Treat and manage injuries in interactive training scenarios.



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



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



PIC Pictured L to R: CESM Sam Roberts with Central members Dave White, Nadine Beins, Kevin Sullivan, Dan Mason, Mick McKeown, Aaron Robertson and Chris Stothers.

New 1960s railway line changed Toodyay forever

Toodyay Historical Society Inc.
Dr Robyn Taylor

THE latest exhibition at the shire's Newcastle Gaol Museum was officially launched last month and a series of organised walks through some of the town's landmarks will help bring the exhibition to life.

The launch, on Sunday 26 April, is part of the National Trust of Australia's month-long Australian Heritage Festival, and the exhibition will be open for about a year.

Toodyay Railways: A Tale of Two Lines is one for railway enthusiasts, and particularly those who were living in Toodyay during the 1960s with memories of the time when the Avon Valley section of the Standard Gauge

Railway (SGR) was built.

There will be several organised walks in late April and early May through town to supplement the exhibition that focus on the landscape changes caused by the SGR construction.

The Built, Bypassed and Gone: Toodyay's Railway Walk that will run on Wednesdays and Fridays for three weeks during May are free.

Newcomers may not be aware Charcoal Lane that runs between the IGA and the carpark was the location of a section of the former Clackline-Miling railway with the former railway station, now demolished, situated where the Alma Beard Community Health Centre is located.

With explosions to cut through the rocky

ground, disruptions, buying up land by the government and removal of homes and buildings along the proposed track, this was a major event in Toodyay's history and one that significantly changed its landscape.

Unfortunately it included the loss of historic buildings such as the Methodist church in Duke Street, 'Braybrook', near what is now Duidgee Park, the home of the Anglican minister Rev. Charles Harper and his family, and the Doctor's House (originally the Convict Depot Superintendent's house, then the Residency), located on and near the former tennis courts site on what was Lincoln Street.

'Braybrook' was built in 1856-1857 after Rev. Harper relocated from Nardie to the new Toodyay Convict Hiring Depot where he was required to give morning services.

It's hoped this exhibition will jog some memories and encourage searches into family photo albums that can be shared with the Museum.

Shire Museum Curator Margie Eberle was ably assisted by museum volunteers Barry Keen, Beth Frayne and Helen Bower.

Beth undertook extensive research into the history of the railway lines and railway workers in the Toodyay district, to expand the Toodyay Historical Society chronologies, which will be on display.

There are some great photos of the railway workers such as the Railways cricket team of 1935. Hopefully, more will come to light during the year.

An upcoming event on May 31 will be an agricultural bus tour (to be confirmed).

For details about us: See Where and When.

Wheatbelt seen as key to renewable energy and manufacturing future

Rashelle Predovnik

THE State Budget has funded cost-of-living relief and housing in the Wheatbelt region, with \$9.5 billion invested into infrastructure throughout regional Western Australia over the next four years.

More than \$4 billion will be delivered through the Royalties for Regions Program. In a statement, the State Government said it would invest in a range of measures to support the Wheatbelt so it can continue playing its role in WA's nation-leading economy.

Regional Development Minister Stephen Dawson said the State Government was investing in the Wheatbelt region to support strong local economies, quality frontline services and more jobs opportunities.

"Whether people live in one of our Seven Cities, a small town or a remote community, this government is committed to delivering for regional WA."

Wheatbelt Minister Sabine Winton said regional Western Australia remains a major priority for the Cook Labor Government, with the Wheatbelt continuing to present strong opportunities for growth and development.

"We know how important the agriculture sector is and that the Wheatbelt is a key to our renewable energy and manufacturing future"

But Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Food and Member for Central Wheatbelt Lachlan Hunter said the Budget again failed to provide long-term certainty for the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network.

Despite the roads underpinning billions of dollars in agricultural exports each year.

"These are some of the most dangerous freight roads in WA and they are critical to moving grain, fertiliser, fuel and freight across the Wheatbelt," he said.

"Regional communities are sick of hearing announcements while the roads they rely on continue to fall apart."

Mr Hunter also criticised the lack of meaningful investment into a number of important projects and services across regional WA,

"As Shadow Agriculture Minister, I am deeply concerned by the continued lack of investment in agricultural research, biosecurity preparedness and long-term support for regional industries," he said.

"At a time when farmers are dealing with fuel insecurity, fertiliser supply concerns, live sheep export uncertainty and rising input costs, this Government should be backing agriculture harder than ever."

Mr Hunter said the Budget also failed to properly address the future of the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration and other initiatives critical to improving productivity and innovation in regional WA.

He said Labor's widely promoted \$100 fuel payment also showed how disconnected the Government had become from regional life. "That might sound alright in inner-city Perth, but it won't touch the sides for Wheatbelt families, farmers and businesses driving hundreds of kilometres every week just to work, farm, get to school or see a doctor."

... See also Pg 19



Attendees enjoyed morning tea at the launch of an exhibition that showcases our history.



St John

Upcoming first aid courses

HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid

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

Price: \$180.00

When: Saturday 14 March - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Saturday 16 May - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Thursday 16 July - 8:30AM - 4:30PM

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



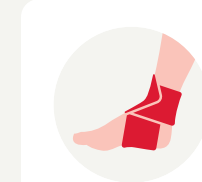
Understand first aid

Learn about first aid theory and action plans



CPR and defibrillation

Practise CPR skills and how to apply a defibrillator.



Injury management

Treat and manage injuries in interactive training scenarios.



Ready to make a difference?

Book a first aid course with us

 St John First Aid Training



Budget highlights

- \$61 million to be invested in upgrades to Toodyay Road and a number of timber bridges to be replaced as part of the \$127.4 million Regional Bridge Replacement Program.
- \$113.5 million for road maintenance across WA.
- \$33.1 million contribution to the nationally co-ordinated Fuel Excise Relief Program, and a further \$4.5 million for the deferral of heavy vehicle fee increases, supporting industry in the Wheatbelt.
- \$1.4 million to deliver a second round of the Small Business Growth Grants.
- \$294 million additional investment in regional health infrastructure.
- \$68.6 million for the WA Country Health Service to maintain regional palliative care, renal care, cancer and eye services, and continued support programs.
- \$52.9 million to establish a Regional Water Source Fund for water source planning and investigation in regional Western Australia.
- \$31.2 million towards the fire and emergency fleet replacement throughout WA.

Denise hooked on felting



Toodyay Spinners and Weavers
Chris Stokie

TOODYAY Spinners and Weavers have had a quieter month than last but have been keeping well.

Following on from our successful needle felting workshop held during March, Denise, one of our members who attended, has taken to the new craft with great enthusiasm.

She bought some examples of her experimenting with her newfound skill to our last meeting. These cute and colourful peg bags are fun, practical examples of what can be achieved by using the needle felting technique.

The handy bag with the cartoon dogs is

absolutely adorable.

Our members have been busy creating lots of hand-crafted garments and items which were available for sale at our stall, during the Moondyne Festival.

Toodyay Spinners and Weavers meet at Parkers Cottage at the Toodyay Oval, every Wednesday from 9am to noon.

They also meet on the first and third Saturday of every month from 9am to noon.

New members are always welcome, so please feel free to drop in and meet the group for a coffee and a chat.

You may wish to learn new skills or just enjoy your current wool crafts in a friendly group environment.



Some of our local artists who will open their studio's for the Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trail.

Local studios to open their doors for inaugural art festival

Arts Toodyay
Chelle Ellery

THE Avon Valley will come alive with art over the WA Day long weekend as local creatives open their studios for the inaugural Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trail.

Running from May 30 to June 1, the trail connects Toodyay and Northam in a shared celebration of creativity, community and place.

The event features 27 artists across 20 locations, inviting visitors to step inside working studios, meet the artists and experience art where it is made.

From painting and ceramics to mixed media and sculpture, the Trail offers a rare, behind-the-scenes look at the region's creative life.

The idea grew from a simple ambition to bring artists together across the valley and create something bigger than any one town could achieve alone.

Arts Toodyay Inc and the Avon Valley Arts Society worked collaboratively to turn that vision into reality, building momentum through local support and a strong volunteer base.

With limited resources and a tight lead time, the project reached a critical point before securing the backing needed to move forward.

That turning point came with the support of

Bendigo Bank, whose sponsorship enabled the trail to be delivered at a professional standard in its first year and commitment to support for two further years.

Their contribution has helped transform a grassroots idea into a coordinated regional event, giving local artists a platform and visitors a reason to explore the valley.

To guide visitors, a dedicated map and printed booklet will be available across both towns.

The booklet outlines each stop, artist profiles, and suggested routes, allowing people to plan their own journey and travel at their own pace.

As the event grows, these materials are expected to play an important role in shaping the trail into a recognised cultural experience.

Beyond the weekend itself, the Arts Trail represents a broader opportunity for the region.

By drawing visitors into studios, towns and local businesses, it supports tourism, strengthens the creative economy and builds a shared identity across the Avon Valley.

With strong community backing and a clear appetite for connection through art, the trail has the potential to become a regular feature on the regional calendar.

For now, it offers something simple and powerful, a chance to explore, connect and experience the Avon Valley through the eyes of its artists.

Beatrice shows up the boys with her award-winning urn

Avon Woodturners
Hamish Dobie

IN PREVIOUS months I've written about the number of ladies who have joined Avon Woodturners, just how talented they are and how they put some of us mere males to shame.

Well, last week I'm pleased to say that one of our ladies, Beatrice Laufer, exhibited an urn that she had turned in a Western Australian Woodturners Association (WAWA) event and her effort won her first prize in her section.

The body of the urn was made of York gum, the lid from flooded gum, with a ring of jarrah attached.

Congratulations, Beatrice. Now you've thrown down the challenge to the rest of us to up our game. Sharpen your tools lads and lassies, and let's create more winning entries.

The WAWA events are held monthly so there will be plenty more opportunities to show our skills.

The club has been very fortunate over the last year to be able to buy some new equipment and we have also received donations of equipment. This has meant that some equipment has been duplicated creating a surplus.

We had a meeting to decide what we

should do and it was agreed that the surplus should be put into the Lions Auction with the proceeds donated to the Lions.

We put in 2 x 8" grinders, 2 x 6" grinders, a belt sander and a drop saw, and I'm pleased to say that they all made very good prices.

The proceeds from the sale will be distributed by the Lions to support local organisations who do good work within the our community.

We now have a less cluttered, more organised shed, and we can bask in the knowledge that our contribution has benefitted other clubs and NFPs in and around Toodyay.

Winter is only a month away so instead of sitting around the heater at home feeling miserable, why not come along and try woodturning.

It's both rewarding and frustrating at the same time but the camaraderie makes it worth the effort.

If you have an interest in joining the club, the Avon Woodturners are located at Shed 1, Community Depot, end of Railway Road, Toodyay, and we are there on Wednesdays and Sundays from 9am until noon.

For more information, please email me on hamishd2701@gmail.com, or call 0423 115 204.



Beatrice Laufer's beautiful urn.

This is your invitation to go beyond the gallery wall



Hidden behind the doors of art studios all across the Avon Valley, something wonderful is waiting to be discovered. Take a peek behind those doors.

Connect with local artists, see their processes & take home something extraordinary. Free entry. 3 days. 25+ artists. One unique art experience.



30 MAY - 1 JUNE 2026
Toodyay & Northam
www.avonvalleyartstrail.org.au



Community Bank
Toodyay & Districts

COMMUNITY BANK NEWS



Welcome to the Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trail

CREATIVE TALENT TRANSFORMS TOODYAY

The Avon Valley is set to become a vibrant canvas this month as the **Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trail** officially launches, showcasing the region's premier creative talent.

As the naming rights partner, Community Bank Toodyay & Districts is proud to support this **free** signature event, which connects local artists with art lovers from across Western Australia. The Shires of Toodyay & Northam will serve as the centerpiece of the trail, with numerous local studios and community spaces opening their doors to the public.

"The **Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trail** is more than just an exhibition; it's a celebration of our local identity," says Senior Branch Manager Kirsten Barrack. "By sponsoring this event, we are investing back into the culture and economy of Toodyay and the surrounding districts."

Visitors can expect a "behind the scenes" experience, meeting emerging and established artists

27 local artists are opening their studios...



... meet them on the trail!

30 May - 1 June 2026
10am - 4pm (Sat, Sun & Mon)
avonvalleyartstrail.org.au



from our region in their private workspaces and viewing original works ranging from fine oils and watercolors to intricate sculptures and textiles.

"When our customers bank with us, they are directly contributing to the success of events like this," Ms. Barrack added. "It is a perfect example of our 'profit-for-purpose' model—local banking directly fueling local community initiatives."

The **Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trail** will run from 10am-4pm across the weekend of 30th May—1st June To begin your self-guided journey, simply visit the official Avon Valley Arts Trail website to download a trail guide and bookmark the interactive webapp to start exploring at your own pace. And for more information on how Community Bank Toodyay & Northam supports local initiatives, drop in and see the team.

Time for a better banking experience?

If you don't bank with us, you might be missing out on a team that actually knows your name.

Skip the endless phone queues and anonymous call centres. At Community Bank Toodyay & Northam, when you call one of our branches, you speak to us.

You chat directly with local staff you know and trust. We offer the same competitive products as the major banks, with two vital differences:

1. Real, local service: Access our Toodyay team face-to-face or over the phone. No automated menus, just real people.
2. Purpose-driven banking: Our profits stay right here to fund local events like the Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trail.

It is easier to switch than you might think. Why not see how our service and products compare?

Come in and chat to our team at 108 Stirling Terrace or call us on 9574 4077. We'd love to show you how easy it is to switch.

— *Kirsten Barrack*
 Senior Branch Manager



Big on banking.

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Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

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Virtual ED

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Know your health care options

access.health.wa.gov.au

Stash, stitch and serenity

RAGBAGS QUILTING GROUP

Kerry Gregory

RETURNING fabrics to storage boxes in the sewing room had me thinking about an article I read a while ago about collections and collecting, listing a number of benefits.

The premise being that collecting, which is accessible to everyone, provides self-expression and considerable mindful benefits.

Collections may well improve organisational skills, arranging items for display, enjoyment or ease of use and, let's face it, organisation is essential at times to sort out all manner of household items: cutlery, plastics cupboards, shoes in the bottom of the wardrobe, even tools in the shed.

Collecting aids our brain creativity. Some collections are curated for exhibition and often form the inspiration for extensive craftwork and inspired art.

It increases knowledge, keeping our minds active and improving memory, thus enhancing a feeling of peace and connection, while observing collections about our lives, even in places we may not have sought before.

Consequently, I now justify my considerable stash of fabrics as being essential for my mindful wellbeing, organisational skills, quilting inspiration, peace of mind and happiness.

Furthermore, I don't believe I know a quilter who would disagree with me regarding their stash.

Turning parts of my stash into bright, colourful designs for special quilts for my family and friends is an activity that gives me a terrific sense of achievement and enjoyment: my wellbeing.

I appreciate that I am able to engage in these activities when many of our loved ones have passed away before full retirement, and having the time to pursue quilting or other handicrafts I feel very blessed, as an heirloom quilt is a generational comfort.

New members are very welcome at the Ragbags Group to join us for a cuppa and a chat; we love to see and share your creativity and enthusiasm.

Bring your beautiful handiwork, all craft projects are special and we often share a little show and tell session of current or not so current projects to admire your talents.

There is plenty of room to bring your quilting blocks and sewing machine if you wish.

The Ragbags Group meet at the St Stephens Anglican Church Hall, Stirling Terrace Toodyay (next door to the Cola Cafe), on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10 am to 2 pm, it's warm inside.

Bring your lunch – we enter through the door at the rear of the premises.



A part of Kerry's loosely curated stash.



The Moondyne Men were on hand to help out at this year's Moondyne Festival.

Who are The Moondyne Men?

Moondyne Men Inc
Graham Hill

IN APRIL 2022 a situation arose to give a group of men the opportunity to start an organisation that became known as The Moondyne Men.

Our name came about as the very first community project we did was to help the set up and pack up of the now 42-year-old Toodyay Moondyne Festival held this year on May 3.

We are an incorporated men's group with our own constitution and the most important feature is that every member is a committee member and has equal say in the day to day running of our group.

Our membership is now above 40 and we have completed in excess of 400 meetings.

Our community service projects include helping with the BBQ at the Toodyay Triathlon, car parking at the Toodyay Agricultural Show, the Northam Vintage

Car Swap Meet and the Toodyay Christmas Street Party as well as various individual projects.

More recently in conjunction with St Johns Toodyay we have fitted security key locks to Butterly Cottages and surrounding areas.

However, it is not all work.

We hold a mid-year dinner and Christmas dinner and invite our wives and partners as a reward for the time the men spend on various projects along with visits to various museums and exhibitions of interest.

In June and July, we will hold our annual wood raffles to supply a trailer load of firewood to some lucky winners.

If you would like to become a member of Toodyay's most proactive and progressive Men's group, we meet on Monday and Thursday from 8am at the Toodyay Resource Centre with our free breakfast and committee meeting being held on the first Saturday of each month.

If you are interested, please come along or call our secretary Colin on 0421 950 03.

Good tunes and great company

Toodyay Music Club

Jenny Edgecombe

THE April Music Club gathering started with our usual singalong session, followed by the individual items.

As always, there was a great variety of styles and moods in the individual items.

Anne started these with *Song for Jacqueline*, written by the marvellous Australian singer-songwriter and former Federal Court Circuit judge, Judy Small.

Marg presented an uplifting organ piece: the majestic Handel's *Thine Is the Glory*.

The Australian folk scene featured in Eileen's choices, with the poignant *Boomerang Café*.

In a different style, she later performed a fabulous *Lean on Me*, with Maurice

supplying great harmonies.

Collette included a spirited version of *Lonely Sky* in her items. She was singing unaccompanied, due to being without her ukulele, but this did not take anything away from her performance.

Phil presented an excellent version of a lovely song, called *Lodi*.

One of Jenny's choices was *The Light*. It must be said that this was not the Disney song of that name, but a bouncy little piece from the American country rock scene.

Joe's contributions included *A Song for You Tonight*. This is a beautiful song written by Bernard Carney, who visited Toodyay a number of times in the early days of our club.

Please join us as an audience member or performer for our next meeting at the CWA Hall, on Saturday May 9 starting at 1pm.

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

Last chance to see Godspell

Toodyay Theatre Group

Daryl Cooper

REHEARSALS for the Toodyay Theatre Group's production of *Godspell* are now over and the enthusiastic cast and crew have been eagerly awaiting their first public performance.

The first show in the Toodyay Memorial Hall was performed on Friday, May 8 at 7pm with other performances being on May 9, a matinee at 2 pm on the 10th and a final evening performance on May 15.

GODSPELL



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GODSPELL, a musical based on the Gospel of St Matthew

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doors open 6.30pm for a 7pm start

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Matinee - Sunday 10th May
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LAST CHANCE - CLOSING NIGHT
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Digging in: gardening workshops set to grow this year

Toodyay Community Garden
Joshua van Helsdingen

THE Toodyay community is set to get its hands dirty, in the best possible way, with the launch of an exciting new workshop program for 2026.

While we endeavour to secure a central home for our garden, we won't let that slow us down providing value for our community.

Toodyay Community Garden Inc. announces a vibrant lineup of interactive, skill-based sessions designed to bring people together, share practical knowledge and celebrate the joy of creating things from scratch.

In partnership with local professionals, the program will offer hands-on workshops where participants won't just learn – they'll walk away with something they've made themselves.

From food preservation to gardening techniques and home production skills, the initiative aims to empower locals with practical know-how while fostering connection and community spirit.

Kicking off the series in May is Pickling

Fundamentals, an engaging introduction to the art of fermentation and preservation.

Attendees will learn how to make their own sauerkraut, gaining the confidence to preserve seasonal produce at home while exploring the health benefits and rich flavours of fermented foods.

The program continues throughout the year with a diverse range of workshops, including yoghurt making, pasta crafting, kombucha brewing, seed saving and more.

Each session is designed to be interactive, beginner-friendly and affordable and will be guided by experienced practitioners from our local area.

The goal is simple: create a welcoming space where people of all skill levels can learn, share and connect.

Whether you're a complete beginner or already have experience, these workshops are about coming together, trying something new and having fun.

Dates and locations for each workshop will be announced soon. Keep an eye on our Facebook page or express your interest by contacting us at toodyaycg@gmail.com.



400 biscuits bagged to commemorate Anzac Day

Country Women's Association
Elizabeth Mansom

DID you get an Anzac biscuit from one of our ladies on the 25th?

We bagged nearly 400 of these easy-to-make tasty morsels that arrived by ship on far away shores redolent of home and family to the men of the first AIF.

Long may the tradition last.

April was a momentous month with our Mavis celebrating her birth for the 102nd time.

We're looking forward to her helping cut the cake on the 100th anniversary of the branch next year.

At the last meeting it was decided rather reluctantly that the time had come for us to increase the rates we charge for the use of our hall.

We have always reserved the right to refuse a booking, and we are now also bringing in a discretionary bond as on occasion we are having to pay to return the hall to its preferred state after a booking.

As of July 1, 2026, fees and charges for use of the CWA hall will be: All bookings: \$20 per hour; Kitchen hire: \$25 per hour.

A \$50 bond may also be charged.

This year members have decided not to hold a cancer morning tea but to support other local functions.

To this end we have pencilled in one being held at the Baptist Church on Thursday, May 14 and a second being held by the Crooked

Needle craft group on Friday June 26.

If your group is having one and you let us know we will be happy to add you to our calendar of events.

New sub-classes of membership have been approved by the CWA of WA Board.

One of these will be for women who have enjoyed a significant number of years as members of a branch but through circumstances, (such as residing in an aged care facility or health reasons) are no longer able to attend branch meetings or activities but still wish to feel part of CWA and stay abreast of things.

These people can opt to become dames which we all like the sound of.

Other sub-divisions include Friends of CWA and corporate sponsors.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1pm for a general meeting and on the second Thursday of the month at 10am for a relaxed coffee morning except for this month, May, when we will be at the Baptist Church for their Biggest Morning Tea helping raise money for cancer research.

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

We do ask if you come on a gopher, you leave it on the verandah 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.



Toodyay Community Garden partnering with local professional Jeanelle. Holding homemade pickles and preserves. Left to right: Gary (President), Jeanelle (Feather & Gum), Joshua (Treasurer)

Career Spotlight: Agriculture Worker

From Farm Hands to Senior Leaders – Grow Your Career in Regional WA

Agriculture Workers are the backbone of farming in the Great Southern and Wheatbelt. From entry-level farm hands to senior supervisors, these roles keep farms productive, sustainable, and safe.

A typical day might see a worker feeding livestock, assisting with planting or harvesting, maintaining fences and infrastructure, or operating machinery. As farms adopt more technology, digital tools, GPS-guided machinery, drones, and automated systems are becoming part of the daily toolkit.

"Starting as a farm hand gave me hands-on experience, and now I supervise machinery, staff, and daily operations," says a local senior agriculture worker. *"You really get to see how your work impacts the farm and the community."*

Entry-level workers often begin through school programs, seasonal jobs, or Certificate II in Agriculture. Skilled workers can progress via Certificate III, then on to senior roles with Certificate IV, diplomas, or university degrees in agriculture, agribusiness, or farm management.

Local employers hiring in the region include family-owned and corporate farms, agribusiness companies like Elders and Nutrien Ag Solutions, livestock stations, farm contractors, and government research farms.

For students and job seekers, agriculture offers hands-on work, career progression, leadership opportunities, and the chance to make a real difference in regional communities.



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Little yellow mustard pot packed to the brim

Toodyay Locals Care
Jacquie Lucas

LAST month we said a fond farewell to one of our long-time crochet friends and volunteer, Sandy McKoy.

We were honoured to cater for the celebration of her life on Saturday, April 18, and it was heartening to see so many friends and loved ones come together.

Our support for Shalom House continues thanks to your generous donations.

Shalom House plays a vital role in caring for people in need, and we're proud to stand behind their work.

Roz somehow manages to pack the little yellow mustard pot to the brim each visit before delivering it down the hill.

We also recently completed a vacate clean for a local resident who has moved into care. If you ever need this service, feel free to email toodyaylc20@gmail.com or text Roz on 0427 744 352.

Another highlight this month was catering for the Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation (NKAC) Truth Telling event. It was a beautiful celebration of culture, filled with dance, storytelling, singing and activities for all ages.

With the football season now underway, we're back at the pavilion on Friday nights, keeping everyone fed and helping raise funds for our organisation. A big thank you to the Toodyay Lions Football Club for having us back.

Like many community groups, we're noticing the effects of the fuel crisis and rising cost of living, with more people seeking support. We're incredibly grateful to Woolworths, SecondBite and Foodbank for helping us meet this growing need.

Every Thursday, our wonderful 'Carrots' volunteers turn these donations into delicious meals, available 24/7 from our freezer.

If you have a little time to spare, we would love help in the community garden or Friday night roster at the Pavilion (5.30 pm-8 pm) or with delivering meals and food parcels on Monday afternoons after 3 pm.

You can contact Jacquie on 0427 147 548 or Roz on 0427 744 352 if you are able to give some time.

And a gentle reminder: as a registered charity, we can provide tax deductible receipts for donations. Contributions can be made to BSB 633 000, Account No. 172 668 626.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support us, your kindness truly makes a difference.



PIC L to R: Luke Winter, Ed Devine, Joy Prangnell and Tammy Wensing, sharing about the Baptist World Aid Program.

Sign language you already know

Auslan Group
Tabitha Spaeth

ALMOST everyone has experienced being hard of hearing at some point in their life, such as struggling to hear what your friend is saying in that noisy pub or cafe, or when you leave a very noisy place, only to find that loud ringing in your ears, and everything else sounds muffled.

Wouldn't it be great if, despite all that noise, you could actually have a clear conversation?

That is where Australian Sign Language, or Auslan, comes in handy, and I can guarantee that you already know a few signs.

Love? That's right, cross your arms over your chest;

Listen? You've got it, cup your hand behind your ear; Good? Spot on, thumbs up;

Time? That's easy, point to your wrist; and

Drink? Yessir, cup your hand and tilt your wrist back at your mouth, as though you are having a drink.

Who knew that you are already well on your way to understanding Auslan.

Auslan is great for all ages, and if you want to introduce your little ones to it, why not go along to Rhyme Time/Story Time at 9.30 am on Wednesday mornings in the library, where a member of our group signs along with the rhymes and books that are being read.

It cost absolutely nothing, the Auslan assemblage meet Thursdays at 9.30 am in the library, we are a loquacious bunch, who, even when we are silent, we're still chatting! Contacts: Liz - (08) 9574 2020

Sandy - 0427 744 721 & Sylvia - 0400 476 527

I am now raising my hand, and I'm waving to you, that's right, cheerio, and we hope to see you on Thursdays.

Mother's Day and messages of love

Toodyay Baptist Church
Pastor Luke

SOMETIMES in our lives we overcomplicate our goals and ruminate on all the imaginary check-boxes that make us successful or happy.

Even with God, we think, "If I can just nail down this habit, or if I can create this outreach program, then I know I'll be pleasing God."

But God's love is a gift freely given, and no special service or policy document can add to that truth.

In May, Pastor Luke will be continuing with our on-and-off series, *Last Supper lessons*, which have led us slowly through John chapter 13 and 14.

These chapters are rich with the final

teachings of Jesus, given to us during the last supper.

We will continue through chapter 15 onwards as Jesus continues to teach His disciples in commands of godliness and love.

May 10th was Mother's Day, and Pastor Luke brought a word focusing on one or more admirable women from the Bible.

It was a wonderful opportunity to honour the women in our lives.

Everyone is welcome to fellowship with us. Our Sunday services start at 10.30am, and they are followed by morning tea.

Our men's fellowship group meet once a month, our women's bible study is fortnightly, and our children's ministry is Sundays.

Contact Joy for details 0432 470 771.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

Local Government Property Local Law 2026

The Shire of Toodyay proposes to make a local law relating to Local Government Property.

Purpose: is to regulate the care, control and management of local government property within the district, in order to promote its safe, orderly and respectful use and enjoyment by the community, protect local government property from damage, misuse and inappropriate activities, and provide for the efficient management and operation of local government property, including saleyards.

Effect: is that persons using local government property within the Shire of Toodyay must do so in accordance with the provisions of the local law, any determinations made under it, and any conditions imposed by the local government, so that the property is used consistently with the good governance of the district, the safety and amenity of the community, and other applicable written laws.

A copy of the proposed Local Law may be inspected at or obtained from the Shire's Administration Centre at 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay between 8.30am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday or at the Toodyay Public Library during normal opening hours.

The Shire invites submissions by **4.00pm on Friday 29 May 2026**.

Please address your submissions to the Chief Executive Officer:

- Via Email: at submissions@toodyay.wa.gov.au
- Via Post: at Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566
- In Person: At Shire Office, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay WA 6566

If you have any queries regarding the above please contact the Shire's Governance Coordinator on (08) 9574 9300.

Alan Hart
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Cold times ahead so wrap up warm

Staying In Place Toodyay
Hamish Dobie

EVERYONE at Staying in Place Toodyay Districts (SIPTD) cares about the health of each of our customers.

With the end of the warm weather, it's time to remind everyone to make sure they get their flu and RSV inoculations to protect them from the imminent flu season which is forecast to be worse than normal.

RSV affects the lungs and can lead to bronchiolitis or pneumonia, especially in older adults.

Flu vaccines are free for everyone over 65 and RSV vaccines are free for people over 50 who are at risk and people over 65 in aged care homes. Make sure you look up if you're eligible.

Susan, our Case Manager, has settled in well to the SIPTD office at 94 Stirling Terrace and she has been kept very busy with bringing on new customers to our service, as well as maintaining the quality of service to our existing customers.

Hopefully, we will have appointed a second Case Manager by the beginning of May.

Now that we have an office, people who want to enquire about SIPTD and its services can now drop in for a chat.

SIPTD is now in its third year of operation and has become well established as a home care provider in Toodyay and surrounding districts.

Our difference from other providers is that we use local people to provide the services to our customers.

This means that our customers may already know the person providing the services they need and, of course, there will be little or no "travel time" charged to their Support at Home package.

However, we still need more locals to step forward and become contractors/support workers to help us meet the needs of our increasing customer base.

One of our aims is to increase the sense of community in the town.

For that reason, we are in discussion with other organisations to work together to create community projects that can encompass the young and the elderly coming together to their mutual benefit.

Seniors have history and many have a great sense of humour, whereas kids can be just plain funny so these projects could be enjoyable for everyone concerned.

If you think you or your partner may be eligible for a Support at Home Package, or if you are interested in becoming a Support worker or part of the SIPTD team, then please contact:

Susan Burley, Case Manager, Staying In Place Toodyay Districts, Phone: 04 94 085 790
Email:-
casemanager@stayinginplacetoodyay.org.au
Web: <http://stayinginplacetoodyay.org.au>
Facebook: Staying In Place – Toodyay

Child Online Safety

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

WE TEACH our children how to cross roads safely but teaching children to be safe on the Internet may be less common.

The technology of the Internet keeps changing. Legislation about children using social media is imperfect.

Putting in place a rigid set of rules in the face of changing technology and imperfect legislation is a recipe for failure.

A more useful approach is to teach what to be careful about and how to manage things.

The major risks include exposure to harmful content, spending too long online, and privacy issues.

Parents may already be having conversations with their children about harmful content and screen time, but privacy seems to be taking a back seat.

Using a first name is probably safe for things like online games, but family name, street address and phone numbers are off limits.

Everybody makes mistakes, and children can be unsure about what to do for best when they come across something strange or different.

If your child comes to you with a concern, you can always use it as a teaching opportunity.

You can find more information at bit.ly/4vEI000 and bit.ly/4tQOF6L.

Easter eggs and upcoming projects

Bolgart Primary School
Karen Kesic

STUDENTS from Bolgart Primary School walked in and around the town looking for and collecting rubbish last month.

They found lots of different kinds of rubbish and when we all got back to school, we counted our bottles and cans and found that we had collected \$3.40 worth.

After all our hard work, Miss Bridget from the Shire of Victoria Plains treated us to a special sausage sizzle to thank us for cleaning up Bolgart.

We really enjoyed our sausages and juice boxes – a big thank you to Miss Bridget and the shire.

The students enjoyed a special Easter egg hunt at school as a reward for their efforts in maintaining good standing and upholding our values of Reach, Respect, Resilience and Responsibility.

Well done everyone. I hope you enjoyed eating your eggs.

Our school P&C has been successful in its grant application to CBH for continued improvements to upgrading our outdoor eating area.

The project involves installing a commercial grade evaporative cooler in the outdoor patio area to create safe, comfortable conditions during hot weather, and radiant panel heaters positioned above the outdoor



Students from Bolgart Primary cleaning up their town.

tables to provide targeted warmth in winter. This project has been funded by CBH's Grass Roots Fund, the Bolgart P&C and Currahee Farms.

A special thanks to Mrs Georgie Troup for championing this initiative, sourcing the products, coordinating the trades and securing the grant in time for installation during the school holidays.

Date locked in, and vendors wanted for picnic race day

THE Toodyay Race Club has announced this year's much-loved annual event will be held on Sunday 27 September at the Toodyay Racecourse.

The picnic race day is one of the region's most anticipated community events, attracting families and visitors from across the state for a fantastic day of country racing, entertainment and local hospitality.

Tickets for the event are available for purchase from Moshtix and attendees are encouraged to get their tickets early as the event continues to grow in popularity each year.

The Toodyay Race Club is also inviting expressions of interest from local vendors who would like the opportunity to showcase and promote their businesses at the event.

Toodyay Race Club president Stephen Ferguson said the event was a great opportunity for local traders to connect with the large crowd expected on race day.

In addition, the club is seeking sponsorship from local businesses interested in partnering with the event.

Businesses wishing to review a sponsorship proposal or discuss partnership opportunities are encouraged to get in touch.

Mr Ferguson said the club was looking forward to welcoming the community back for another great race day.

"We're excited to confirm the date for the race day and look forward to welcoming racegoers from across the region for a fantastic day at the Toodyay Racecourse," he said.

"Our picnic race day is a great showcase of country racing and community spirit and we encourage local vendors and businesses to get involved and be part of the event."

For vendor enquiries or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact the club at info@toodyayraceclub.com.au.



Photo by Sean Hefferon.



SHIRE OF toodyay
place of plenty

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

Parking and Parking Facilities Local Law 2026

The Shire of Toodyay proposes to make a local law relating to Parking and Parking Facilities.

Purpose: The purpose of the *Shire of Toodyay Parking and Parking Facilities Local Law 2026* is to regulate the stopping and parking of vehicles within the Shire to ensure public safety, accessibility, amenity and effective traffic management, while providing clear rules for the use of parking stalls, parking stations, verges, thoroughfares, and designated vehicle zones.

Effect: The effect of the local law is to create lawful requirements for parking and stopping; prescribe offences and modified penalties; enable enforcement of parking controls; provide concessions for eligible users (including properly used disability parking permits); and repeal outdated parking provisions previously in force.

A copy of the proposed Local Law may be inspected at or obtained from the Shire's Administration Centre at 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay between 8.30am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday or at the Toodyay Public Library during normal opening hours.

The Shire invites submissions by **4.00pm on Friday 29 May 2026**.
Please address your submissions to the Chief Executive Officer:
Via Email: at submissions@toodyay.wa.gov.au
Via Post: at Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566
In Person: At Shire Office, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay WA 6566
If you have any queries regarding the above please contact the Shire's Governance Coordinator on (08) 9574 9300.

Alan Hart
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