

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,
Woorloo, Wundowie, Gidgegannup and local districts.

July 2026
Edition 458



Toodyay Locals Care, Avon Valley Shotokan and Toodayay Lions Club members will cook up a breakfast on the Avon Descent weekend and a bigger event might be on the menu next year.

Rashelle Predovnik

COULD breakfast be the start of Toodyay's next iconic festival?

The historic town might be on the road to reclaiming its status as an Avon Descent weekend festival destination, with the Toodyay Lions Club backing a small community breakfast it hopes will be the first step towards creating another iconic annual event.

Particularly, if more people partner with them and other groups get involved next year.

The modest breakfast event in Duidgee Park will start at 7.30am on August 8 and it might just lay the foundations for a bigger celebration in the years ahead.

Some are hopeful it will help to restore the festival buzz lost when the Toodyay International Food Festival was axed after 2024.

That popular food festival was supported by Lotterywest funding and a contribution from council, as part of the Avon Descent race,

which powers through a number of shires.

In 2024 Lotterywest gave the Shire of Toodyay \$26,300 towards its Avon Descent family fun day festival.

This year, Lotterywest gave the Northam Shire \$30,000 for the Bilya Festiva which it holds during the Avon Descent weekend, as the town is the starting point for the race.

A Lotterywest spokesperson told *The Herald* the expected outcome of supporting these free community events was the creation of a stronger sense of community belonging.

The food festival would have celebrated a milestone 20 years, had council continued its support last year.

A spokesperson for the Lions said since the food festival was cancelled, the number visitors to Toodyay on the Saturday of the Avon Descent had dropped significantly.

"Many locals will tell you that their family and friends would come up to the food festival and then watch the boats and kayaks."

The Lion's spokesperson said the food festival, including a variety of entertainment for the day, was a big drawcard.

She said last year, when the food festival wasn't on, there were very few visitors to town.

The spokesperson said, in her opinion, Toodyay's reputation was severely damaged.

"Not only did people feel unhappy and disappointed that the festival was not on, they were disgruntled, particularly with the shire for having cancelled it."

"Funding for the Avon Descent was also withdrawn."

"This was also a disappointment to the Avon Descent organising committee and it does not reflect well on Toodyay's commitment to supporting events in Toodyay."

This year, the Lions Club decided something needed to happen on the Avon Descent weekend.

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Elders
Real Estate

We're Inviting You In

Before we step into your home, step into ours.

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Toodyay's Tri-mendous Success



The inaugural Toodyay Triathlon has earned state recognition as a finalist in the Triathlon WA Annual Awards. See page 26

The Toodyay Herald

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

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

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THANK YOU

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

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Noon Thursday
July 30

STORY DEADLINE

Noon Friday
July 31

DISTRIBUTED

Thursday
August 13

Bridging the divide: residents petition council to open safety access

Rashelle Predovnik

ONE hundred and fifty residents have signed up to a petition calling on the Toodyay Shire council to reopen Slaughterhouse Bridge.

Local residents said they were advised on November 13 last year that the bridge closure was only going to be temporary.

The petition, presented to councillors this month asked council to take immediate action to reopen the bridge to allow the passage of local and emergency vehicles.

Those who signed their support said the continuing closure of the bridge impacted local residents.

The petition said it made it impossible for people who used mobility vehicles to safely get to town and it added extra time and fuel costs for locals to get to work or to get children to school.

Lead petitioner Mick Bell told *The Herald* blocking vehicle access to the bridge was also a community safety issue.

“If a fire comes from the south or south west we cannot get out,” he said.

In May, *ABC News* reported the bridges’ closure forced residents to travel an extra 12km into town, through heavy haulage and gravel roads.

Those interviewed said the closure and extra 12kms has impacted the quality of life of the 500 nearby residents.

Residents demand action

Mr Bell said, despite raising concerns, there had been no consultation with the affected residents.

“The community would appreciate some sort of communication with the shire because it has been deathly silent from their end - hence the petition.”

Mr Bell said council just needed to get on with opening the bridge again for emergency vehicles and for local traffic.

“They can find the money to pay two CEO’s at the moment and that wouldn’t have been in the Budget.

“So find the money to get bridge open again.”

Shire says council is listening

Toodyay Shire president Mick McKeown said the original Slaughterhouse Bridge was destroyed in 1934 due to heavy rain that



caused serious flooding in Toodyay.

The shire president said the bridge was then replaced with the timber bridge that was now in place.

He said the shire had been listening to the community’s concerns about the closure of Slaughterhouse Bridge.

“There were concerns raised by the *ABC* about access for emergency services being limited to West Toodyay because of the closure of the bridge.”

But he said emergency services vehicles had already lost access to Slaughterhouse Bridge as there was a weight limited to 3.5 tonnes.

“So, they had been accessing West Toodyay via either Picnic Hill Road off

the Toodyay Bindi-Bindi Road or Toodyay West Road off Julimar Road,” he said.

“Travelling at the speed limit to access West Toodyay via these routes can take just a few minutes longer than by using Slaughterhouse Bridge.

Building a bridge

A spokesperson from the Department of Local Government told *The Herald* local governments were responsible for the maintenance of bridges on local government roads as well as the maintenance of its local road network.

A Main Roads spokesperson said the Shire

of Toodyay had successfully secured state funding in 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 to undertake design and development work on a replacement bridge.

But the shire president rejected that claim and said the shire had received no funding over those three financial years.

In December 2025 the Shire of Toodyay issued a statement advising residents council had endorsed a single-lane bridge with a footpath as the preferred option for the replacement of Slaughterhouse Bridge.

In that statement, the shire said MRWA would prepare a 50 per cent design for the single-lane bridge with footpath option, including updated cost estimates.

“This will then be presented to council for further consideration,” the statement said.

“Should council resolve to proceed, the shire will then be required to source applicable funding.”

“They can find the money to pay two CEO’s at the moment and that wouldn’t have been in the Budget so find the money to get bridge open again.”

Mick Bell
Petition organiser

A revised bridge plan

But this month, Cr McKeown said Main Roads was currently working on a 15 per cent design stage of the bridge design.

He said the 15 per cent design stage was a preliminary design stage that included investigation of feasible options and the suitability, general alignment, and basic structural configurations for the bridge.

“Once the design reaches a point that costings can be confirmed, the shire will be able to prepare an application for special project funding for a new bridge,” Cr McKeown said.

“The shire will then have to wait until the bridge design stage triggers an application request from the West Australian Local Government Grants Commission to apply for funding.

“So, the shire must wait for approval from these two State Government departments before building a new bridge.”

He said the shire had also approached Main Roads about the possibility of opening the bridge for pedestrian use.

“Last month MRWA approved that request and the shire is currently investigating what works are required to re-open the bridge as a pedestrian-only bridge.”

“This will require the installation of barriers that restrict traffic on the bridge to pedestrians only.”

“This work will commence in July and is expected to be completed by the end of July.”

Bridge blame game: Main Roads rejects shire’s claims over closure

Rashelle Predovnik

MAIN Roads WA (MRWA) has flatly rejected claims it was responsible for the closure of Slaughterhouse Bridge, saying it was the Shire of Toodyay who made that decision in 2025 despite having the option of repairing the bridge instead.

The dispute stems from comments made by Toodyay Shire president Mick McKeown, who said residents should remember it was not the shire that ordered the closure but MRWA.

The shire president told *The Herald* in the 90 years the bridge had been in use, gradual deterioration of the wooden structure had resulted in its recent closure by MRWA.

He said the closure has been gradual with decreasing load limits being put in place by MRWA over the last few years.

But Main Roads has provided a markedly different account, saying the shire had been warned for years about the deteriorating condition of the 90-year-old timber bridge and was repeatedly advised repairs were needed.

A Main Roads spokesperson said the Shire of Toodyay did structural repairs to Slaughterhouse Bridge in 2011, 2016 and 2019 with funding support provided by the State Government.

“Main Roads advised the Shire of Toodyay about its concerns with the bridge’s condition following a five-yearly detailed inspection of the bridge in October and November 2021,” the spokesperson said.

“Following a load assessment in March 2023, Main Roads advised the Shire of Toodyay to consider closing the bridge, restricting the load limit or undertake repairs.”

The Main Roads WA spokesperson said the

shire chose to install temporary steel props and imposed a nine-tonne weight limit.

“Regular inspections have been undertaken since September 2023 and in that time, Main Roads has requested the shire rectify the bridge props,” the spokesperson said.

“A further review in November 2025 led Main Roads to again advise the Shire of

Toodyay to consider undertaking repairs or close the bridge.”

The shire chose to close the bridge.” Main Roads WA also disputed any suggestion it had prevented repairs, saying it had not received any applications from the shire for funding to repair the bridge before it was closed in November 2025.

Your local voice
for Toodyay!

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lachlan.hunter@mp.wa.gov.au

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(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

THIS edition raises the possibility that the crowds, colour and community spirit that once defined Toodyay's Avon Descent weekend may not be gone for good.

A small community breakfast in Duidgee Park next month is a far cry from the scale of Toodyay's iconic International Food Festival.

But it could be the first step towards rebuilding the festival culture that disappeared when the food festival was axed at the end of 2024.

Whether that happens or not will depend on the interest of other community groups, businesses and volunteers, and their willingness to get involved and help the idea grow.

Lotterywest certainly recognises the value of community events.

In 2024, it gave the Shire of Toodyay \$26,300 for the Toodyay International Food Festival's family fun day event.

Simply because Lotterywest recognises these events strengthen community connection and belonging.

Their Impact Caf  s have been created to help people be more successful in their funding applications because Lotterywest is keen to fund free local event that bring people together (see page 5).

Building bridges

Also this month, Slaughterhouse Bridge has come under in the spotlight again.

Later this month, barriers will be installed to allow the bridge to reopen for pedestrians only while plans for a replacement bridge continue.

At the same time, competing statements from the Shire of Toodyay and Main Roads WA have highlighted differing accounts of the events leading to the bridge's closure.

According to Main Roads, detailed inspections in 2021 identified concerns about the bridge's condition before a load assessment in March 2023 led to the shire being advised to repair the bridge, reduce the load limit or close it.

Those differing explanations are unlikely to satisfy the 150 residents who have signed a petition calling for the bridge to be reopened to local and emergency traffic.

Many have spent months seeking greater transparency about why the bridge deteriorated to the point of closure and how long they will have to wait for a replacement.

They have also raised safety concerns.

Despite the challenges, both stories in this edition point to the same underlying theme: communities are at their strongest when people work together.

Whether it's rebuilding a much-loved festival or finding a path forward on vital local infrastructure, the best outcomes will come through open communication, genuine collaboration and a shared commitment to Toodyay's future.

Here's hoping the months ahead bring progress on both fronts.

Rashelle Predovnik

Editor

LETTERS

Walking together

LAST month we marked National Reconciliation Week and it is important to reflect on what reconciliation asks of us.

Reconciliation cannot rest solely on Aboriginal people explaining their pain.

If harm was caused through the policies and attitudes that shaped Australia after colonisation, responsibility to acknowledge history and help repair relationships must also sit with non-Aboriginal Australians.

In recent years, there has been a tendency to say, "We are all Australians" – as if those words settle the past.

While we may share this country today, we did not all come to it the same way.

Aboriginal people have cared for this land for millennia.

Colonisation involved violence, dispossession, family separation, stolen children and silencing of language.

Many Aboriginal families continue to carry the effects of that trauma across generations.

Sadly, since the Voice Referendum, hostile commentary towards Aboriginal people has increased.

Statements like "we are all Australians" mean little if they are used to dismiss history or silence those still living with its consequences.

We support veterans impacted by war, acknowledge institutional child abuse, show empathy for farmers battling drought, fire and loss, listen to those affected by suicide and mental health crisis, and grieve with communities impacted by fires and floods.

We understand that trauma can ripple through generations.

So why is the trauma experienced by many Aboriginal families so often dismissed or blamed on the people themselves?

As we move into NAIDOC Week, celebrating Aboriginal histories, cultures and achievements, we are reminded that truth, respect and understanding are responsibilities we all share.

To me, reconciliation is about truth and understanding.

Helen Shanks

Toodyay

Council commentary

It means listening, acknowledging our shared history and learning from it.

We must stop picking and choosing whose pain we believe.

Until we genuinely honour the history carried by Aboriginal people, reconciliation remains incomplete.

Geoff Appleby

Toodyay.

Nice work if you can get it

SO, IF I understand the situation correctly: a bloke gets a job as the chief executive officer of the Shire of Toodyay, then potentially takes up to a year's leave, with full use of the company vehicle *On leave, on track?* Question asked, (Toodyay Herald, June 2026).

Nice work if you can get it!

This appears to give him time to put his energy into another role as a councillor with the City of Swan.

Then last month, as a councillor for the Pearce Ward, which receives enormous funding, development and attention, he raised a motion to stop funding of the Guildford library in the older Midland ward.

What's next on the hit list for Toodyay's absent CEO?

Guildford's Garrick Theatre?

Please, Toodyay, take him back.

Greg Ross

Swan View

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The Toodyay Herald invites you to have your say in our letters page. Please email us at news@toodyayherald.com.au with your full name, address and phone number. Letters that are short, sharp and to the point about topical local issues are preferred. The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length, grammar and punctuation.

Toodyay Rainfall													
Recording and average commenced on 1 January 1907													
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	7.6	76.5							
Average	6.7	8.36	39.6	22.4	40.6	49.9	45.2	84.5	32	25.2	15.8	2.0	370

Recipe for a revival? Breakfast fires up festival hopes

... continued from Page 1

The spokesperson said locals had made it clear they were still unhappy the food festival was cancelled.

“Our organising committee feels the same way and we feel it is important to have something happening this year, be it very small.”

The spokesperson said the opportunity to watch the Avon Descent with breakfast options close by was settled on.

“Cold early mornings waiting for the boats and kayaks to come through stimulates the need for a hot cuppa from the coffee van and some delicious food.”

“The original food festival included entertainment and that required considerable funding and organisation.

“There was no time this year to arrange that.

“So we are considering a bigger event next year but a decision is yet to be made.”

Former Toodyay Shire employee Kimberly Hardy knows full well how much work went into putting on the International Food Festival, because she was the event organiser during its last three years.

“One of my biggest goals was to make the most of both Stirling Park and Duidgee Park by ensuring each area was fully activated,” she recalled.

“Rather than concentrating all of the activity in one location, we worked hard to create reasons for people to explore both parks throughout the day.”

Ms Hardy said there was a strong focus on creating activities for teenagers, not just younger children.

“Alongside the traditional rides and family entertainment, we introduced a second stage showcasing talented local youth musicians and activated the skate park with competitions that attracted participants from both Toodyay and Perth,” she said.

“Encouraging local young people to get involved was incredibly rewarding, the skate



Toodyay’s iconic International Food Festival, held during the Avon Descent weekend in August, drew big crowds until it was axed in 2024.

precinct and youth musician stage quickly became one of the festival’s most popular attractions.

“We hired a DJ and local skaters from all ages came - it was so fun and the atmosphere was amazing.”

Ms Hardy said like many community events, the cost of delivering the festival increased each year, with insurance becoming a significant challenge in the final year.

She said council requested a review of the event, and discussions began around whether the festival should continue in its existing format, become a biennial event, or be replaced with several smaller community-focused events throughout the year.

She said, as part of that review, the shire spoke with many local businesses.

“While there was strong support for the festival and recognition of its value in bringing visitors to Toodyay, many

businesses indicated they didn’t experience a significant increase in sales on the day,” she said.

“This prompted broader discussions about how future events could continue to attract visitors while delivering greater economic benefit to local businesses and the wider community.”

The shire’s former economic development officer said she was happy to hear community groups wanted to introduce a new community event on the day.

Ms Hardy said she would be happy to help them with her knowledge of the previous family fun day event.

The International Food Festival started off as a very small event in 2005 when Toodyay councillor Rosemary Madácsi founded it with her husband.

Mrs Madacsi said the international food festival event aimed to be a celebration of

diversity.

It included home style cooking, dancing and a celebration of cultures.

Mrs Madacsi said the shire took over the event after three years and it grew into an iconic event.

“It just kept growing.”

The founder said she was very grateful to Kimberley Hardy for her innovation and energy during the last three years of the event.

“Kim had the passion for it and she did a fantastic job.”

“At least the festival went out with a bang.”

The Lions Club spokesperson said it was possible the breakfast event could grow.

“Toodyay has many and varied talented people, musicians, artists, school children, community groups, older citizens, all with something to offer to such an event.”

“There is certainly an opportunity for Toodyay to hold more festivals.”

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Brendon Grylls recognised in King’s birthday honours

Rachelle Predovnik

CENTRAL Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter has congratulated former Member for Central Wheatbelt and former state leader of The Nationals, Brendon Grylls following his appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia in the King’s Birthday Honours this year.

Mr Grylls represented the Central Wheatbelt in a parliamentary career, that spanned from 2001 to 2017 and included several ministerial portfolios

He served as leader of The Nationals WA between 2005 and 2013, and again from 2016 to 2017.

Mr Grylls successfully created and implemented the regional investment policy, ‘Royalties for Regions’ and he was recognised for his significant service to the community.

Royalties for Regions was a funding policy that redirected more Western Australian state government spending into rural areas.

The policy was funded by setting aside 25 per cent of the state’s mining, oil and gas royalty revenue.

According to the Western Australian Department of Regional Development, Royalties for Regions delivered \$3.67 billion to regional areas between December 2008 and June 2014.

In 2013-14 \$1.06 billion was invested.

The funding focused on core areas including health, education, infrastructure, emergency services, tourism and sporting facilities.

Projects included a \$40 million fund to install 113 telecommunications towers across the state in rural black spot areas.

In October 2014, Premier Colin Barnett stated the Royalties for Regions program had the biggest effect on regional Western Australia in our history.

“I don’t think there is anything equivalent to it elsewhere in Australia,” he said.

Mr Hunter said the honour was a fitting recognition of Mr Grylls’ decades of service to Western Australia and his enduring contribution to the Wheatbelt and regional WA.

Mr Hunter said Mr Grylls was one of the most influential political leaders Western Australia has seen in recent decades.

“As the Member for Central Wheatbelt, Leader of The Nationals WA, Minister of the Crown and architect of Royalties for Regions, Brendon fundamentally changed the way governments invest in regional



A line up of the the National’s top performer from L-R: Current leader of the Nationals WA Shane Love MLA, former National’s WA leader Mia Davies, former MLA Terry Redmond, Hon Brendon Grylls AM, Lachlan Hunter MLA, Max Trenorden, Hon Hendy Cowan AO.

communities.

Mr Hunter said Mr Grylls vision ensured that regional WA received a fairer share of the wealth generated in the state.

“Leaving a legacy that can still be seen in communities right across the Wheatbelt today.”

Mr Hunter said Mr Grylls remained highly regarded throughout WA for his commitment to local communities and his willingness to champion regional issues.

“Many of the opportunities and infrastructure projects that regional communities enjoy today can be traced back to Brendon’s determination to ensure the bush had a strong voice in Parliament,” he said.

“On behalf of the people of Central Wheatbelt, I congratulate Brendon on this well-deserved honour and thank him for his outstanding service to our electorate, regional Western Australia and our state.”

Grant expectations: go for gold

Rashelle Predovnik

A GOLDEN opportunity is up for grabs, with Toodyay community groups being urged to tap into Lotterywest’s grant funding, which is backed by expert support to help turn good ideas into successful applications.

The Moondyne Festival has been well supported by Lotterywest over the years, but much smaller free community events could also be eligible for funding support.

Lotterywest says it is keen to help local groups turn great ideas into reality and is holding information sessions across the state to show people how to access grants and prepare stronger applications.

Lotterywest’s Impact Café’s began in 2024 as a way to listen to grant seekers and better support their journey.

By 2025, the program had expanded and it uncovered 290 barriers that stopped applicants from being successful in their grant bids.

Since it’s inception, the café initiative has sparked a stronger collaboration between Lotterywest and the broader community.

A spokesperson told *The Herald*, if there was enough interest in Toodyay a free Impact Café event could be held in the town.

The event would aim to simplify and walk people through the funding application process and the hands-on session could also help people turn good ideas into fundable projects.

It’s an interactive workshop where local groups can develop project ideas, build partnerships and learn how to increase their chances of securing funding and measure their impact.

Lotterywest says their Impact Cafés help people prepare more compelling grant applications that align with funding priorities.

It also gives people the confidence to back an idea with a strong case for support.

A Lotterywest spokesperson told *The Herald* the success rate for people receiving funding was well over 90 percent.

To find out more about where Lotterywest’s Impact Cafés are being held see here: <https://tinyurl.com/4z5ye6sv>.

For Impact Cafe enquiries, email community.impacthub@lotterywest.wa.gov.au



MRB 10905

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Free events like Toodyay’s Moondyne Festival are one of many supported by Lotterywest.



Award-winning Andy Conlin has captured the streets and scenery of Toodyay in watercolour.

Easel does it at the markets

Chelle Ellery

IF YOU have recently spotted an artist set up around Toodyay with an easel, paints and a very focused look, you may have seen award-winning plein air painter Andy Conlin capturing our town in paint.

Andy's recent visit is a beautiful reminder of what makes plein air painting so special.

The light changes, the shadows move, the birds carry on, people wander past, and the painting becomes a little record of that exact moment in time.

Plein air, from the French term meaning 'in the open air', is the lovely practice of painting outdoors.

Instead of working from a photo or inside a studio, artists head out into the landscape, streets, gardens and riverbanks to paint what they see and feel on the day.

The Toodyay Farmers Market, in collaboration with Arts Toodyay and the Perth Plein Air Painters, will host a relaxed and creative Plein Air Picnic Day on Sunday August 16, with members of the Avon Valley Arts Society and the wider community also invited to take part.

The idea is simple: come along to the Farmers Market, grab yourself something

delicious to eat, or bring your own, then find a spot by the river, around town or wherever inspiration strikes.

Bring your sketchbook, paints, pencils or watercolours and have a go at capturing Toodyay in the moment.

You do not need to be an experienced artist or have fancy supplies.

Thanks to the kind support of the Shire of Toodyay, Arts Toodyay will have inexpensive watercolour kits available for just \$10 each from the Toodyay Visitors Centre from August 1.

They are a simple way to join in, try something new, and enjoy a creative day outdoors.

On the day, visitors can look forward to seeing artists working in and around the greater Toodyay area, each capturing their own view of our town, river, buildings, trees and country.

Plein air painting is not about perfection. It is about slowing down, looking properly, and noticing the beauty already around us.

So, pack a picnic rug, bring your art supplies or pick up a starter kit, and join us for a relaxed day of painting, sketching, watching and wandering.

All are welcome.



Plein air painter Andy Conlin's water colour image of the main street in Toodyay.

The stage is set for success

Toodyay Theatre Group
Daryl Cooper

A NEW and very enthusiastic committee, led by incoming president Vicki Haggerty, has hit the decks running this year.

It has started with a review of the group's constitution and a 'busy bee' to tidy up the group's property, including costumes, props and backdrops.

Simon Kohler has been recruited as the group's lights and sound guy.

Simon replaces Barry Vause after his ten years of outstanding service in the role.

Leisha Smith has stepped up into the role of secretary.

Barry and Dave Mitchell, who retired as president at the last annual general meeting, were given an emotional farewell after curtain call on the closing night of their recent production of *Godspell*.

Further activities planned for the rest of the year include a series of workshops, under the title of *Stage Coach*.

This will be offered to young people interested in learning skills for the stage.

The series is described as an empowering theatre course for young people which also prepares them for the real world (as Shakespeare wrote, "all the world's a stage.").

It will include guest speakers, theatre games and coaching galore.

Led by Leisha Smith, the series starts on July 21 and expressions of interest can be emailed to the theatre group.

Email: toodyaytheatregroup@gmail.com

Also in the pipeline is a youth production, scheduled for October, which promises to be a fun family event for all ages.

Following the huge success of *Godspell*, the group is hoping to present another big musical – a hugely popular one which has a cult following – next year.

It will be an ambitious rendering, with a spectacular stage setting and fantastic costumes.

The committee have not released further details (not even to this author) until funding arrangements are finalised.

Watch this space for a big announcement soon.



(L-R) Some members of the Toodyay Theatre Group's new committee: Sara Whincup, Simon Kohler, Danni Grundy, Chantell Bates. Front: Lynda de Ruiter, Vicki Haggarty.

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Winter sparks safety awareness

VBFB Coondle Nunile
Aurelie Zimmermann

AS WE are now in winter, operational activity has started to quieten down for the brigade.

Since the last edition, there have been two callouts.

The first was a false alarm while the second was a structural fire.

The structural fire was dealt with very quickly and brought under control efficiently.

Structural fires are more common at this time of year as conditions change and properties are more frequently impacted by heating and internal ignition sources.

We recently held a well-attended training session covering Rural–Urban Interface (RUI) operations, stand-off and traffic management.

RUI refers to areas where bushland meets residential properties, creating more complex firefighting environments due to the close proximity of homes.

The session focused on risk assessment and safe operational decision-making. Traffic management practices were also reinforced.

You may see us operating on the side of the road during incidents.

Please slow down, stay alert, and give crews the space they need to work safely.

We recently participated in a community engagement event at Toodyay District High School alongside the other bushfire brigades.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to connect with local students and promote awareness of bushfire safety, emergency preparedness and the important role volunteers play in protecting our community.

As part of the day, students had the chance to try their hand at spraying water at witches’ hats using firefighting equipment, which is always a highlight.

The activity was met with plenty of enthusiasm, with students eagerly lining up for a turn and some even asking for a second chance to improve their aim.

It was fantastic to see such high levels of engagement from the students.

We thank the school and all participating brigades for helping make the day a success.

While winter brings cooler weather, fire



Some members of the Coondle-Nunile bushfire brigade supporting a Toodyay District High School event. (Photo by Aurelie Zimmermann.)

safety remains important.

If you are conducting a burn-off, ensure it is properly supervised, keep suitable extinguishing equipment nearby, and make sure the fire is completely extinguished before leaving the area.

Interested in joining?

The Coondle-Nunile Bush Fire Brigade is always pleased to welcome new members.

Whether you’re interested in firefighting, supporting brigade activities or simply becoming more involved in your local community, there is a place for you within the brigade.

Joining is a great opportunity to learn new skills, meet like-minded people, and contribute to the safety and resilience of our 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 would like to learn more, please contact coondle.nunilebfb@gmail.com.

If you’re unsure whether volunteering is

right for you, feel free to come along to meet the team and see what we’re all about.

We are always happy to have a chat and show you around.



Toodyay Central bushfire brigade members turned out in force at the annual general meeting.

No burn out here

Toodyay Central Bushfire Brigade
Peter Brennan

WE HAD a great turnout at our annual general meeting on May 12 where we confirmed both our leadership team and committee representatives for the new season.

John Morrissey was named our Volunteer of the Year for his outstanding contribution as a firefighter, committee chair and the numerous other tasks that he has performed.

More Certificates of Appreciation were presented to newer members, Aaron Robertson and Chris Stothers for their efforts during the year and to Brad Gardner, who over a four-year period served the brigade as a lieutenant, appliance driver and firefighter prior to leaving Toodyay at the end of the season.

We wish Brad and Hannah the very best in their new home.

The meeting was chaired by Craig Stewart CBFCO and attended by both Deputy Chief Nick Griggs and CESM Sam Roberts.

Captain Will Hort summarised the past season, reporting that over the past 12 months Toodyay Central VBFB logged 83 calls which is 10 less than previous season.

Of these, 45 resulted in a stand-down for Central.

Five of those callouts were to vehicle fires, five to structural, seven to reports of smoke, two to rubbish fires and two to escaped burns.

Overall, Central members responded to fires in the Shires of Toodyay, Chittering, Cunderdin, Goomalling, Mundaring,

Northam and York.

The most significant fires were November 30, McKnoe Drive Morangup (46 hours); December 9, Toodyay Bindi-Bindi Road (108 hours); December 13, Plunket Road Julimar (151 hours); December 15, Deepdale Road Toodyay (77 hours); December 18, Deepdale re-ignition (48 hours) and January 24, Bindoon Army Training Area (82 hours).

We also received a total of 12 callouts during the season for the 12.2 bulk water tanker only and had another 24 calls where crew attendance exceeded six hours.

Overall, our brigade members contributed 908 hours to fires attended and an additional 1891 hours to training, stand-downs, weekly crew changes, meetings, deployments, refilling shire fire water tanks and admin.

When costed at the Australian Bureau of Statistics volunteer rate per hour this comes to over \$153,945.00 worth of service to the Toodyay community.

The value to the community increases substantially when you consider the contributions made by the other five brigades in the shire.

Many thanks to those members who agreed to take on/carry on in the various positions/roles within the brigade for the 2026/2027 season. Your dedication is very much appreciated.

At time of writing, we have had 17 callouts just for the month of May.

We remain ever hopeful that this trend will reduce significantly over the coming months so that members can have some respite.



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

Have a fire plan



(L-R) Members of the newly elected leadership group; Simon, Wes, Sue, Michael, Lucas, Karen.

VBFB Julimar Sue Cameron

FIRSTLY, can I take this opportunity to thank our committee members over the last 12 months.

Many have served the Julimar VBFB with distinction over a long period of time either as a member, in an official leadership role, as a committee member or all the above.

We thank them and look forward to their continuing relationship with the brigade.

Their experience will be vital to the success of the brigade and the development of our new members.

Outgoing Leadership Group: Captain – Dale Canning; Lieutenants – Wesley Sutton, Hans Bohlen and Lucas McLerie; Secretary – Gayle Nelson; Training Officer – Wesley Sutton; Equipment Officer –

Callum ApplebyJones; Treasurer – Corri Murcott and Chairperson – Simon Holding.

Incoming Leadership Group: Captain – Wesley Sutton; Lieutenants – Reuben Campbell, Maka Kemp, Lucas McLerie and Karen Dore; Secretary – Sue Cameron; Training Officer – Reuben Campbell; Equipment Officer – Michael Jarrad; Treasurer – Corri Murcott, and Chairperson – Simon Holding.

The Brigade thanks all members continuing into the new leadership group and appreciates their ongoing support.

In early June, the Brigade joined neighbouring brigades for a fire appliance and equipment demonstration at Toodyay District High School.

We hope this inspires students to consider volunteering with their local brigade as they move into adulthood.

Winter is the time to prepare

As winter settles in, the Toodyay community is encouraged to use the cooler months to reflect on the recent fire season and begin essential property preparations.

Now is the ideal time to review risks and make improvements.

Firefighting experts remind residents that mitigation is a shared responsibility.

The work you do now helps crews protect you more effectively during an emergency.

Safety for you and your family remains the highest priority.

A holistic approach to property maintenance is recommended, considering the home, sheds, carports and surrounding land.

Firebreaks are more than a legal requirement; they are critical access points.

Clear, wellmaintained breaks allow fire appliances to enter safely and begin suppression quickly.

Embers can travel long distances and

- ignite new areas.
- Reducing fuel loads and improving access greatly increases the chances of protecting lives, property and livestock.
- Here's how you can help:
- ✓ Ensure firebreaks meet the 3m x 4m clearance.
 - ✓ Reduce fuel loads by removing fine fuel deadfall.
 - ✓ Clear gutters on buildings.
 - ✓ Store wood and flammable liquids well away from structures.
 - ✓ Plan early for livestock relocation.
 - ✓ Keep water tanks as full as possible.

Have a Plan

Whether you intend to stay and defend or leave early, ensure you have a documented survival plan, a 'go bag' and a stocked first aid kit.

For further advice, contact your local brigade or the Shire of Toodyay.

Stay safe and stay prepared.



Foetal alcohol prevention workshop

Safer Toodyay Desrae Clarke

THE Mental Health Commission is presenting two workshops on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in Northam on Tuesday August 18, and in Moora on Thursday August 20.

These free training workshops only occur every second year.

Please share these dates with those who may be interested in attending.

The training involves learning about FASD, how to implement prevention activities and promotion of the valuable conversations of this training event.

By completing this training, you become

eligible to apply for up to \$10,000 with the Mental Health Commission.

As places are limited, please register your interest or queries as soon as possible with one of the following contacts:

Jessica Daniels, Wheatbelt and Other Drug Prevention coordinator – jdaniels@holyoake.org.au or 0488 754 390, or email FASDprevention@mhc.wa.gov.au

For further information on Holyoake's Wheatbelt Alcohol and Drug Service, visit www.holyoake.org.au

Crime Stoppers	1800 333 000
Police emergency	131 444
Toodyay Police	9574 9555
Graffiti	1800 442 255

Is it write or wrong?

Computer Safety Phil Hart

THERE has been an upsurge in the apps that are marketed as aids for writing.

This includes Artificial Intelligence (AI) that can write long pieces of text.

There are apps that claim to be able to check for pieces written by AI.

There are also "grammar improvers" that are claimed to make text more readable.

Plagiarism checkers are also available.

As with many things, the reality does not live up to the hype.

While AI can be useful for some parts of writing, every word produced by AI needs to

be thoroughly vetted before being included.

Apps that claim to check for AI being included in a piece can go spectacularly wrong.

One app (JustDone) claimed that 97% of this article was written by AI.

Grammar improvers can also interfere with the tone and the style of a piece.

Plagiarism checkers are also known for being unreliable.

A grammar improver suggested four changes to this article.

All were rejected.

In the end, there is no real alternative to writing all the text yourself and owning every word.

Searching for the right staff?

You need to advertise in the classifieds, it's easy
email: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Upcoming first aid courses

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

Price: \$180.00
When: Saturday 20 June - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Thursday 20 August - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Saturday 17 October - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Thursday 3 December - 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

St John Ambulance (Western Australia) Ltd. RTO Code: 0392
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Moondyne Men Inc
Avon Valley Arts Society Inc
Shire of Toodyay - Christmas Street Party
Toodyay Events Planning - Moondyne Festival
Arts Toodyay - Avon Valley Arts Trail
RSL Toodyay - "21 Hearts" theatre production
Toodyay Voluteer Fire & Rescue Services
Toodyay Agricultural Society - Fireworks
Avon Valley Showjumping & Pony Club Inc

Toodyay Football Club
Toodyay Golf Club
Bolgart Primary School
Northam Army Camp Heritage Association Inc
Vintage Sports Car Club of WA Inc
Toodyay Soccer Club
Toodyay Kindergym
Shire of Northam - Bilya Festival
Northam Country Club

Find out more. Call 9574 4077 or search Bendigo Bank Toodyay.





CWA member Val presented Evelyn Oliver with a well-deserved Branch Legend award.

Honouring heart and heritage

CWA

Elizabeth Mansom, Secretary

DURING June members from the 120 branches across the state gathered for the annual state conference.

In the early days country members used state conference as their annual holiday and shopping trip to the big city.

Today it is often a time when friends, who probably stay in touch electronically, get together for what our generation finds most satisfying, a face-to-face catch-up.

The June meeting of Toodyay branch marked our 99-year anniversary and we have invited surrounding branches to a celebration on July 9.

During the meeting members present were thrilled to see long-standing member Evelyn Oliver presented with a Branch Legend award.

Branch Legend is an award introduced in 1924 during the 100th anniversary of CWA of WA to recognise and express appreciation to long-term members for exemplary, loyal and exceptional service to the Association through contributions within their branch and community.

Mavis Rowles was the first ever recipient and she helped cut the 100th anniversary cake at Government House.

In addition to the certificate each recipient receives a badge which is a one-off with the name of their branch printed around the edge.

Ev's name does not appear on the honour board in the hall although when she retired from the job, she was the only catering officer some members could remember.

The citation for Ev's award ends with the words of William Wordsworth:

"The best portion of a good (woman's) life is (her) little nameless unremembered acts of kindness and love."

On Friday the Crooked Needle craft group, held a morning tea in the CWA Hall to raise funds for cancer research.

The hall was packed, the morning tea was plentiful and luscious, and the raffle prizes seemed never-ending.

Four members attended and we came away very well fed and wishing we'd brought more carry bags to transport our prizes.

The hall was once again in use on Saturday when the Community Garden Club held a plant sale and Devonshire tea.

It was a delightful way to spend a morning among plants and sitting around a table chatting over tea or coffee and handmade goodies.

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

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

Almost at home base

RSL Toodyay Subbranch

Max Howard, Secretary

AT LONG last the roof and the wall cladding have finally been completed on the new building, after delays in obtaining men and materials.

This means work can now commence on the interior with the electricians having already completed part of their work.

At this moment the sub-branch has been informed by the builders we should be able to take possession about the end of August, just in time for our annual general meeting.

Work is currently underway with grant applications to fit out the new building.

The eventual aim for the sub-branch when we move into the new building is to promote the league to veterans within and outside our community.

We now have a good meeting place for them to come and enjoy themselves with like-minded people.

We are hopeful to have access to an advocate who will be available to assist veterans with problems they may have.

One room in the building has been set aside where people can discuss problems with

advocates whilst not being observed by others.

It has been estimated there may be a couple of hundred veterans in the Avon Valley and surrounding areas.

Recently a number of members set aside their Sunday to assist with the cleaning up of the old shed which we currently use for meetings.

After the move into the new building the plan for the shed is to turn it into a small military museum in line with other museums in the general area.

Currently membership of the sub-branch is a service membership for all persons who have been members of the Australian Defence Force and associated world groups from western nations.

Secondly, we have affiliate membership for relatives of those mentioned above, plus members of emergency services such as Police, ambulance, and fire brigade personnel.

When settled in the new building we will be offering a social membership for interested people who may not wish to join the RSL but become involved on the social side of the sub-branch.

Our executive elected after the AGM in September will talk about this after that date.

A story of hope, courage, resilience and heart

RSL Toodyay are delighted to bring the *21 Hearts* theatre production to Toodyay.

It's a production the RSL says is relevant and important to Toodyay.

Tickets for the show is at the Memorial Hall on August 8 at 2pm and 8pm have sold out.

The production is an opportunity to see a play about the WW2 Bangka Island tragedy in which our nurse, Sister Alma Beard, is remembered.

Sister Alma Beard was one of the 21 nurses who perished in WW2 off Bangka Island, Indonesia.

RSL Toodyay would like to acknowledge the sponsorship given willingly by Bendigo Bank Toodyay, Op Shop Toodyay and The Moondyne Men.

The fantastic support and the enthusiasm shown by these organisations and individuals in Toodyay has enabled the show to be produced in Toodyay.

The event has also been sponsored by the Department of Veteran Affairs under its Saluting Their Service Commemoration grant.

For those visiting Toodyay to see the show

you might like to enjoy coffee or tea at one of our local cafes or a pre-show meal at either the Victoria Hotel or The Rec Hotel.



21 Hearts theatre production poster.

Some new Lion hearts

Lions Club of Toodyay

Clint Fricker

FIRSTLY, apologies to anyone looking out for us at the June Farmers' Markets.

Unfortunately, one of our organisers had to make an unscheduled (and unwanted) visit to the hospital emergency department.

For anyone after Xmas Cakes they are permanently available at the Lolly Shop.

We will be having our changeover dinner on the first Tuesday night in August.

The venue is yet to be finalised but will most likely be the Bolgart Hotel with a bus arranged for transport. All are welcome.

Please contact the secretary if you'd like to know the details once they are confirmed at toodyay.wa@lions.org.au or Clint on 0423 226 898.

The Northam Lions Club also had a

changeover dinner on Saturday July 4.

The theme was flower power: dress as a hippy.

We will have two new faces holding positions in the club this year: Arlene Foley as the second vice president and Margot Nicols as tail-twister. Welcome onboard.

After doing an amazing job for many years our treasurer Peter Edwards is stepping down and Michelle Scott will be taking his place.

As mentioned in the last *Herald* the Lions Club is supporting a breakfast in Duidgee Park on the Avon Descent Saturday August 8 commencing at 7.30am.

The Karate Club and Toodyay Locals Care will be selling their perfect-for-a chilly-winter's-morning tucker.

There will also be a stall selling scones and a coffee van.

We hope to see you all there.

Avon Valley Property Maintenance

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Down to Earth and Affordable

Before we come into your lives, why dont you come into ours?

We’re stepping into your home, your story, and often a significant chapter of your life, so it only feels right that you know a little about us too.

A little about Kimberley

I moved to Toodyay in 2020, after many years in Perth raising our children (and moving house more times than I care to count!). Before that, my husband and I ran a plantation in Carnarvon so I understand rural living, hard work, and the value of a good community.

I am also an artist and have been an active member Arts Toodyay for the last 5 years, assisting with treasury and art exhibitions.

Before moving into real estate, I built a diverse career across administration, farming and event management. As a temporary executive assistant in Perth, I worked across a wide range of industries, including legal firms, drug and alcohol services, and working for one of Australia's top Cardiothoracic surgeons at Perth Children's Hospital.

Once in Toodyay, I joined the Shire as an Economic Development Officer, where I had the privilege of delivering the last three Toodyay International Food Festivals. Managing those events meant juggling everything from food vendors and entertainers to logistics and community expectations an experience that sharpened my organisation skills and reinforced just how important people are in every process. Everyone was valued and always had direct access to me.

Quick Facts About Kimberley

What is your favourite pastime?

Champagne! Either in a plane, or at a picnic in Toodyay with great friends, and great music. I have a passion for vintage shopping, discovering unique fashion and homewares, and painting. I'm probably best known locally for my colourful artworks featuring painted chicken butts I also love visiting people's homes, hearing their stories, and discovering what makes each home unique.

What are you good at?

- People, I'm super friendly, accommodating, understanding and naturally seem to connect with people from all walks of life.
- I'm an ideas girly, I'm always coming up with inspiring ideas for properties.
- An extraordinary almost photographic memory of celebrities, musicians, and films from the 80's and 90's.
- Interfering with DJ's at parties if the music is crap.

What are you bad at?

- Falling in love with some of the homes I have sold and wanting to buy them.
- Interfering with DJ's at parties if the music is crap.

Favourite Food?

- Lamb Chops.
- Duck.
- My Christmas ham and seafood cocktail - Mines the best!



A little about Tess

I moved to Toodyay with my family as a young child in 2000 and have proudly called it home ever since. Over the years, I've watched the town grow and evolve while still holding onto the strong sense of community and country lifestyle that makes it so special.

I later married a true Toodyay local from multiple generations of local family ties, after what could probably best be described as a real-life "boy next door" story, and together we're now raising our own young family here in the community we love.

Country Realty gave me my start in real estate as a receptionist in 2015. Since then, I've worked across many areas of the industry, including administration, marketing, photography, sales support and property sales. In 2023, I joined Elders Real Estate, where I continue to grow my passion for helping local people navigate one of life's biggest milestones.

What I enjoy most about real estate is that no two days are ever the same. One day might involve photographing a rural property at sunset, the next helping guide buyers through an exciting new chapter, or working closely with local vendors to showcase not just a property, but the lifestyle that comes with it. Having called Toodyay home for so many years, I understand the lifestyle that draws people here — the space, the scenery, the community, and the slower pace of life. That local understanding helps me tell the story behind a property in a way that genuinely connects with buyers looking for that lifestyle too.

Quick Facts About Tess

What is your favourite pastime?

This is difficult as, as a mum of young kids I am often very busy and don't get much downtime! But I would have to say either spending time with my horses, out taking nature and landscape photographs, or simply spending time with my husband and family.

What are you good at?

- Planning holidays down to the very last detail — complete with folders, timings, kilometres, and fully itemised itineraries.
- Capturing beauty and stories that evoke emotion through the lens of my camera.
- Taking "just one more photo"

What are you bad at?

- Being spontaneous... if it isn't on the itinerary, it probably isn't happening!
- Taking "just one more photo"... and somehow ending up with over 100 to choose from.

Favourite Food?

- Potatoes in absolutely any form.
- Avocado.
- And of course... chocolate - lots of it!



Our Current Market Snapshot

- Average days on market: 19 days
- 11% average above asking price
- Strong buyer demand continuing across lifestyle and rural properties

Where do we see the market heading for the rest of 2026?

At this stage, we still see the market remaining strong moving into 2026. Toodyay continues to attract buyers looking for a lifestyle change offering space, scenery, and country living while still remaining within reach of Perth.

Compared to many other rural and lifestyle regions, buyers are still seeing great value in Toodyay, and we continue to see growing recognition of what the area has to offer With ongoing demand, limited housing supply, and more people prioritising lifestyle and flexibility, we believe Toodyay will continue to remain a very desirable market.

What's Different about Elders Toodyay?

- **Personalised Property Photography** – We work closely with our vendors to create photography that tells the story of their property.
- **Established Buyer Database** – An extensive network of active buyers, providing an invaluable advantage in changing markets.
- **People-First Approach** – Looking after everyone involved, because the best outcomes come from genuine care and open communication.



"So come and see us - we're located opposite the fabulous new Toodyay pub, The Rec."

Whether you're thinking of selling, buying, or simply wanting to chat about the local market, we're always happy to have a conversation. We love this community, we love property, and we genuinely enjoy helping people navigate what can often be a very significant chapter in their lives.

And if nothing else, feel free to stop in and test Kimberley's 80's music knowledge, or compare travel spreadsheets with Tess.

📍 124 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay 📍



Real Estate

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Help support local families and their pets

Toodyay Local Care

Jacquie Lucas

OUR community support program continues to distribute food to local families through partnerships with SecondBite and Woolworths.

We are fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who travel to Northam each week to collect these supplies, but we would love to add a few more people to the roster.

The Woolworths collection takes place at around 10am each Monday.

The SecondBite pickup is usually around 11am, although times can vary.

Anyone who can spare a little time to help is encouraged to contact Jacquie on 0427 147 548.

We would also like to thank a young local volunteer who, after receiving support from our service, has generously offered his time to tackle the weeds in our backyard.

Acts of kindness like this make a real difference.

As winter continues, beanies remain one of our most requested items.

We are also seeking donations of blankets and warm winter clothing for those doing it tough.

If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, handmade beanies are especially appreciated and are often in greater demand than scarves.

A heartfelt thankyou goes to everyone who adds an extra item or two to their weekly shopping and donates it to our pantry.

Staple foods such as breakfast cereals,

baked beans, spaghetti, instant noodles, pasta and long-life milk are always welcome and greatly valued by those in need.

Looking ahead, if our beautiful front garden roses are blooming as expected in late October, we are hoping to enter the new Rose Show.

We encourage other local gardeners to consider taking part too.

We also have a limited supply of firewood cut into manageable pieces for people who are unable to collect or chop their own.

For information or to arrange collection, please phone Roz on 0427 744 352. Remember to send a text if she is unable to answer your call.

Finally, we are eager to organise another delivery of pet food through ARC, but we urgently need volunteers to make it possible.

Assistance is required to unload 20kg bags of feed from the delivery truck and stack them in our storage sheds at 20 Fiennes Street.

We also need volunteers on designated collection days to move the bags to the front veranda and help recipients load them into their vehicles.

Without this additional support, we are unable to continue providing much-needed pet food to local families.

If you are able to lend a hand, even occasionally, your help would make a significant difference.

Please contact either Roz or Jacquie if you can assist.



Roz and Lorraine from Toodyay Locals Care hope their support can extend to pets.

It's market magic weather

Toodyay Farmer's Markets

Sue Wakka

WHAT another great day to be at the markets. For the start of winter, we had a fabulous day's weather.

Although a little smaller in size, there was still plenty on offer from, veggies, fruit, honey, bread, cake and more yummy treats.

Also available were meat, chilli rubs, wine, gin, jam and, of course, always a gift line or two for the garden, home or personal.

It's a great way to support small business many of whom are locals.

We had a great little animal petting stall and you could get a coffee and something to fill the tummy.

We have a book swap stall to either swap out a book or a coin donation, a great way to pick up a book that you may have been looking for.

If you belong to a local group, think about how you too can utilise the markets be it an information stall or even a demonstration.

One such local group available at the last markets was the Toodyay Men's Shed; it's a great way to pop on down and find out what

they are all about.

Keep an eye out on Facebook to see who's joining us next.

We are introducing a few changes so keep an eye out for workshops or new information stalls.

We do try to keep variety as this makes for an interesting market.

If you have something very different which you do that we don't have, think about joining us.

Stallholders come and stallholders go and sometimes life means our stallholders change plans but many are very regular and all of them appreciate your patronage.

If sometimes your favourite is not there just pop on down to the market the next time and catch up or contact them directly or contact: toodyayfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need some information.

Remember this market runs on volunteers like every community event and we need you.

Keep an eye on the Facebook page for what's coming up.

Next market: Sunday July 19.



Perfect weather for a Toodyay Farmers Market day.



Public Notice

Cat Local Law 2026

s.3.12(6) of the Local Government Act 1995

At a Council Meeting held on 4 June 2026, pursuant to section 3.12 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Section 79 of the *Cat Act 2011*, Council adopted the Shire of Toodyay *Cat Local Law 2026*:

- The **purpose** of which is to regulate the keeping, identification, control and management of cats within the district, including matters relating to responsible cat ownership, cat confinement, nuisance behaviour, cat-prohibited areas, approvals for additional cats, and the operation of cat management facilities, as permitted under section 79 of the *Cat Act 2011*. It also provides additional measures to support the Shire in addressing cat nuisance and enhancing permit conditions, definitions, prohibited places and penalties.
- The **effect** of which to provide a clear regulatory framework for responsible cat ownership and the management of cats and cat facilities, protect environmental values, and enable enforcement of nuisance behaviours. It establishes obligations for cat owners, supports enforcement of the *Cat Act 2011*, and equips the Shire with the regulatory tools necessary to administer cat management within the district.
- The **justification** of which is that it provides the Shire of Toodyay with clear and effective regulatory tools to manage cat ownership and amenity issues within the district.

The *Cat Local Law 2026* was published in the government gazette, on Monday 22 June 2026 (No. 70). It will come into operation on Monday 6 July 2026.

The local law is published on the Shire's website here:

<https://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/documents/25/cat-local-law-2026>

It is also available for inspection at the Shire's Administration Centre located at 15 Fiennes Street Toodyay.

Copies may be obtained by contacting the Shire on (08) 9574 9300.

Alan Hart

Temporary CEO

Dudja Waangkiny
(Toodyay Yarning)


NKAC

NKAC

OUR corporation is pleased to share recent initiatives that help tell the stories of this place and strengthen understanding of Noongar culture and history.

Many locals and visitors will have noticed the striking new artwork recently installed at Pelham Reserve Lookout.

Positioned to overlook the valley below, the installation invites people to imagine a landscape as it may have appeared before colonisation.

The artwork depicts rolling Kaarta (hills), a winding Bilya (river), and Booyi (smoke) rising from Kaarla (campfires).

The smoke represents the presence of Noongar Moort (families) living on and caring for Boodja (Country), reflecting a time when the valley below was home to generations of Noongar people.

The project was developed through conversations with Elders who shared their

knowledge of traditional life in the area. Their cultural knowledge and vision helped inspire the artwork, influencing the stories, landscapes and themes represented in the final design.

NKAC sincerely thanks artists Chelle Ellery and Sarah Miles for translating these ideas into a powerful visual representation of Noongar life on Boodja.

We also acknowledge the support of the Indigenous Languages and Arts Program within the Australian Government’s Office for the Arts, whose funding made the installation possible.

In Toodyay, National Reconciliation Week in early June provided an opportunity for local conversations and connection.

It was encouraging to see Shire President McKeown, Councillor Prater, Acting Chief Executive Officer Alan Hart and A/Executive Manager Community Services Michelle Duke visit the Boyagerring Yarning Circle to meet with NKAC chairman Robert Miles and members.

The visit provided an opportunity to learn

more about local Noongar history and aspirations for the future, while reinforcing the importance of working together towards greater understanding and reconciliation.

During July, visitors are encouraged to call into the Toodyay Visitor Centre to view a special NAIDOC and Noongar information display.

The display includes information boards, cultural artefacts, brochures and local fauna artwork by Chelle Ellery.

The artwork has been generously made available through Midland Brick, helping to

create an engaging space where visitors can learn more about Noongar culture, history, language and connection to Country.

NKAC thanks the Shire of Toodyay, Midland Brick, and Helen Shanks for their support in developing the display.

These projects form part of NKAC’s ongoing commitment to sharing Noongar knowledge, strengthening cultural understanding, and ensuring that the stories of this Boodja continue to be seen, heard and respected by future generations.



Toodyay Shire and Noongar Kaartijin Aboriginal Corporation representatives met at the Boyagerring Yarning Circle during Reconciliation Week (Photo by Helen Shanks).



Visitors will notice a new Noongar art installation at Pelham Reserve. (Photo by Helen Shanks)

Reflecting on WA’s defining moments

Toodyay Historical Society
Dr Robyn Taylor, Patron

MANY memories about growing up in the 1960s were shared by members at our June meeting.

Some were personal recollections of jobs and careers, others the excitement of new technologies in particular the introduction of television into our living rooms.

Not everyone could afford a television set at the time and crowds would stand in front of shop windows to watch the news, and children beg a friendly neighbour to let them watch Walt Disney’s Mickey Mouse Club after school.

Reference for the following highlights of the 1960s comes from the 175th anniversary souvenir published in 2004 by *The West Australian* as ‘WA’s Defining Moments’. The following are examples from Part 4 (1958-1970).

On October 16, 1959, the Gov. General Sir Charles Gairdner declared the television station TCW7 open at 10pm that evening.

Other channels followed, the ABC in 1961, Ch. 9 in 1966, Ch. 28 in 1988, and Ch. 10 in 1988. Colour arrived in 1975.

Major events were the opening of the Narrows Bridge on November 13, 1959.

For 1960, Rolf Harris *The boy from Bassendean* was chosen for his international success with his ‘wobble board’ and the ever-popular *Tie Me Kangaroo Down Sport*.

Given current revelations, it makes for interesting reading.

In February 1962 WA made national news when American astronaut John Glenn flew over Perth in his space capsule Friendship 7. He named Perth the ‘The City of Light’.

That year from November 22 to December 1 the Empire and Commonwealth Games were held at the new Perry Lakes Stadium.

The temperature rose to 41C degrees the hottest November day for 49 years.

A big issue during the early 1960s was the campaign to save the 1866 Barrack’s Arch at the top of St. George’s Terrace.

The historic Pensioner Guard building had been demolished for the construction of the Mitchell Freeway.

The Liberal government wanted the Arch removed so Parliament House would be the dominant feature at the western end of the Terrace.

In the end it was left to the people to decide and they won.

A major natural disaster that year to have far reaching effects was the Meckering earthquake that occurred on October 4, 1968.

A major man-made event that took place at the end of the 1960s was American astronaut Neil Armstrong being the first man to walk on the Moon on July 20-21, 1969.

Our July excursion is a visit to member Ian Stannard’s Newgain property in Dumbarton. Bring a picnic lunch to share.

For details about us: See Where and When.



The old Newcastle Gaol Museum opening ceremony after a restoration in 1962.



Public Notice

Dog Local Law 2026

s.3.12(6) of the Local Government Act 1995

At a Council Meeting held on 4 June 2026, pursuant to section 3.12 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Sections 26 and 51 of the *Dog Act 1976*, Council adopted the *Shire of Toodyay Dog Local Law 2026*:

- The **purpose** of which is to provide for the regulation, control, and management of dogs within the Shire of Toodyay by providing clear requirements for the keeping of dogs, the operation of kennel establishments, the control of dogs in public places, and matters relating to impounding and enforcement, as permitted under section 51 of the *Dog Act 1976*.
- The **effect** of which to control the keeping of dogs; establish requirements for kennels; determine dog exercise and prohibited areas; provide for the impounding of dogs within the district and ensure that dogs are kept and managed in a manner that protects community safety and amenity, establishes obligations for dog owners, identifies dog exercise and prohibited areas, and provides for enforcement powers consistent with the *Dog Act 1976* and the *Local Government Act 1995*.
- The **justification** of which is that it provides the Shire of Toodyay with clear and effective regulatory tools to manage dog ownership and amenity issues within the district.

The **Dog Local Law 2026** was published in the government gazette, on Monday 22 June 2026 (No. 70). It will come into operation on Monday 6 July 2026.

The local law is published on the Shire’s website here:

<https://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/documents/22/dog-local-law-2026>

It is also available for inspection at the Shire’s Administration Centre, located at 15 Fiennes Street Toodyay.

Copies may be obtained by contacting the Shire on (08) 9574 9300.

Alan Hart
Temporary CEO