

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.

**August 2026
Edition 459**



Caption

Rashelle Predovnik

AN UNUSED and neglected bowling green is set to be transformed into a thriving community garden after the Toodyay Community Garden (TCG) committee and the Toodyay Club signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the project.

The idea to create a community garden has grown from a desire to create a space where residents can connect, learn, socialise, share knowledge and reap the social benefits of a community garden.

The freshly signed MOU has also revived hopes for a project that has failed to take root for over a decade.

Community garden chair Gary Nelmes said the MOU was a temporary measure and the committee had not given up on its dream to have a permanent home for the garden.

But that project would need council approval. It would also need the committee and council to agree on which site could be used.

Discussions about a suitable location has spanned over a decade, with various sites considered.

Including the old works depot, 14 Fiennes St (behind the tennis courts, opposite the shire administration), 33 Telegraph St, a site on 32 Hammersley St and also 1 Duke St.

But despite the committee's efforts, the project failed to establish a permanent location and stalled.

The original committee eventually folded but in 2024, a new committee (TGG) reformed to again champion the creation of a permanent garden site and to seek council's support.

To date, Mr Nelmes said those discussions were ongoing.

Last year, an old works depot on Harper Rd that had been unused for more than 15 years surfaced as a possible site.

The option of using 4000m2 on a 20 year lease was discussed and professional concept plans for the depot were sent to the shire as

requested.

Council considered leasing a portion of the old works depot until 2037 at peppercorn rent of \$300 per annum to the Toodyay Community Garden Club.

The proposal was put out for public comment in August 2025 and it drew 13 formal submissions with eight opposing and five in support.

The majority of those in support represented community groups.

The eight submissions that opposed the lease disagreed with the location, but were generally supportive of the concept of a community garden.

In response, the majority of council (5-2) voted to withdraw support for the garden to be created on the old works depot in October 2025.

Council also invited the TCG committee to draft and submit a practical brief detailing

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CHRISTMAS IN JULY





XMAS cheer came early with a fun-filled Christmas in July quiz night at the Memorial Hall, thanks to a festive collaboration: see page 12.

The Toodyay Herald

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

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

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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), Richard Grant, Judy Morrissey, Jenny Hildred, and Allan Gregory.

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Noon Thursday
August 27

STORY DEADLINE

Noon Friday
August 21

DISTRIBUTED

Thursday
September 10



Photo: Rashelle Predovnik

Paddles, puddles and trolley troubles

Rashelle Predovnik

AVON Descent race competitors, who struggled to find enough water to keep their boats afloat on the Toodyay leg of the Avon Descent, were forced to dodge shopping trolleys dumped in their path, sparking safety concerns.

The amount of weeds in the trolley baskets suggested the trolleys had been in the river for a while.

The Herald asked event organisers who was responsible for hazard and safety checks before competitors entered the water.

Northam Avon Descent Association event manager Deborah Boxall said sections of the river were surveyed before the event, where and when possible, and they relied on volunteers.

“Those volunteers did sweep sections of the river before this event and they were not made aware of trolleys in the river.”

Ms Boxall said international marathon racing rules stated that competitors were required to take the course as they found it.

“Often obstacles will be removed by competitors during the practice weekend,” she said.

“Competitors are made aware that the open river system, and environment along the 124km course, may change and risks may arise.

“They are required to traverse the course

in a safe manner.”

So what changes will be made before next year’s event to ensure the Toodyay section of the course is thoroughly inspected and cleared of potential hazards?

Ms Boxall said every year the association did an assessment after the race.

“Northam’s Avon Descent Association will work with local government authorities and volunteers to review the river course before the event, assess issues and remove obstacles if safe and reasonable to do so.

Toodyay Shire acting chief executive officer Alan Hart said the event organisers only engaged with the shire to get the permits necessary to use Cobblers Pool as an overnight staging post.

He also confirmed the Avon River was not controlled by the Shire of Toodyay.

“We have no authority over the maintenance of the river, which includes removing foreign objects from the waterway.”



A descent into barriers

Rashelle Predovnik

TOODYAY’S Avon Descent weekend has gone from a crowd-drawing festival to parts of the town barricaded, with fencing and ‘no parking’ signs, which residents say makes the town look more like a ‘move on notice.’

In contrast, the eve of the Avon Descent race was celebrated in Northam through its Bilya festival, which ran from 4pm until 9pm on the Friday 7 August.

Supported by the WA Government through Lotterywest, the Bilya Festival included a street parade and a community celebration.

The restricted access during what had traditionally been a busy weekend in Toodyay prompted a complaint to the shire by resident Laurie James.

He said he was disgusted by the barriers and he told *The Herald* he wanted the Lions breakfast event at Duidgee Park on the first day of the Avon Descent to be better supported.

Mr James said although there was restricted access at an event during the Avon Descent at Newcastle Park last year it was difficult to understand the shire’s decision.

He said it made him think the current council was not supportive of local community events.

In his response to Mr James’s complaint Toodyay Shire President Mick Mckeowan said the shire provided grants that supported many community events.

Including the Toodyay Agricultural Society Show, the Moondyne Festival, the Toodyay

Race Club Cup, and Arts Toodyay for their arts trail and community workshops.

“In addition, the shire provides other funding to community groups including to the Noongar Kaartdjin Aboriginal Corporation for their Boyagerring Learning Space and the Toodyay Naturalists Club for its upcoming Julimar wildflower brochure.”

He said the shire also provided support for community events at the library and the Community Resource Centre

But Mr Laurie said grant funding was not the issue as the breakfast event was not supported by the shire financially.

He said the shire could have better supported the event by putting up signage to promote the breakfast at Duidgee Park on the riverfront, which had a good vantage point for the race.

Or put up signs that directed people where to park, instead of just putting up ‘no parking’ signs.

“That would also have created a more welcoming environment,” he said.

Fencing that restricted parking on a space that was once used for the International Food Festival – and was still used every month by trucks and food vans for the farmers market – also raised eye-brows.

Mr James said that level of restricted access was not there when there was a market or during the Moondyne Festival.

“The shire needs to open it up and create a more welcoming sight that advertises their support of the Avon Descent.”



Bird flu monitoring online

A NEW interactive dashboard that shows where H5 bird flu has been detected and what testing activity has been done across the state has now launched.

The bird flu website will provide weekly public updates and be a source of information, advice and resources for poultry producers, vets, wildlife rehabilitators and the community.

It will map confirmed H5 bird flu detections in Western Australia, as well as where birds have tested negative.

According to a statement by the WA Department of Environment, the threat of bird flu is evolving.

It has been detected in WA, in a small number of wild sea birds but to date there has been no detections of H5 bird flu in poultry.

The State Government has increased its surveillance and there has also been a new bird flu advisory group created to strengthen collaboration with the wildlife sector.

The risk to human health is low, but people are reminded not to handle sick or dead wildlife.

Anyone who sees sick or dead birds or other wildlife should avoid contact, record the location and what they see, and report it to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Access to the dashboard is available through www.wa.gov.au/birdflu.

Your local voice
for Toodyay!

Here to help!

✉ lachlan.hunter@mp.wa.gov.au

Northam Office

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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

SOME of the best community projects take time to grow and Toodyay's community garden is no exception.

For over a decade, volunteers have worked towards finding a permanent home for a garden that ultimately is all about people, participation and belonging.

A place where people grow friendships, share skills and cultivate a stronger sense of community.

So, the new agreement with the Toodyay Club to use an old bowling green is a big win and a welcomed reprieve for the committee.

It gives them a chance to finally put down roots as they continue to work towards finding a permanent home.

Transforming a neglected bowling green into a thriving community space is a great example of making the most of what we already have - and after years of discussions and setbacks, this is definitely a positive step forward.

Quizmas spirit

Another terrific example of local groups working together is the Christmas in July quiz night, held in the Toodyay townsite.

Festive, fun and full of laughs is the only way to describe the event, that drew a full house in the Memorial Hall.

The long list of sponsors who donated prizes to support and help make the event a success is an impressive one.

The evening shows what can happen when a simple suggestion is embraced and local organisations work together to make it happen.

Judging by the colourful costumes, festive decorations and good fun had by all, Christmas in July may well become another much-loved Toodyay tradition.

These stories are particularly worth celebrating at a time when, as reported in this edition, some residents are frustrated about parts of the town being closed off and less welcoming than the town used to look during the Avon Descent weekend.

But our community clearly has the ideas, energy and enthusiasm to bring spaces to life and we will be watching this space.

River roulette

The determination of those competing in the Avon Descent was awe-inspiring.

The water levels were so low you could stand in the middle of the river bed to watch the race as competitors ran past pulling boats.

But watching them having to dodge two shopping trolleys embedded in the course made for uncomfortable viewing.

Members of the public eventually stepped in to pull the trolleys out but the unexpected obstacles raise serious questions about what could have happened if a competitor hit a trolley, or a powerboat engine or propeller had struck a trolley submerged in deeper water.

Maybe next year, Toodyay locals could lend a hand and volunteer to help monitor hazards on the course before the race as event organisers rely on volunteers and there is no shortage of people in this community willing to roll up their sleeves and help.

Rashelle Predovnik
Editor



LETTERS

Questions deserve answers

I REFER to Geoff Appleby's letters in the June and July editions of the *Toodyay Herald*.

Answering public questions is part of the shire president's role. It is perhaps worth remembering that Mr Appleby was a frequent questioner at meetings over a number of years and that he and his cohorts asked repetitive questions of the then shire president and chief executive officer continuously.

Other points worth noting: answering 20 questions in an hour is around three minutes per question.

This includes the time taken for questioners to move to and from the microphone, to ask the question and to receive the response – hardly arduous, especially when answers are often supplied by staff.

Public question time is the only opportunity for residents/ratepayers to ask questions face-to-face.

Incidentally, it now appears that questions sent in by email (e.g. from someone who cannot attend for any reason) are completely ignored, in the same way as media enquiries from *The Herald* have been.

Mr Appleby's letter in the July *Herald* appears to be more of a criticism of *The Herald* for reporting on some of the council/administration's shortcomings, and an attack on those pointing out and seeking clarity and transparency about finances and compliance with the Local Government Act.

A small glimmer of hope – Mr Appleby acknowledged an 'error' made by the administration, and also that it would be helpful if the 'missing' CEO made his intentions known.

Jo Hart
Morangup

Grateful

I WRITE with a sense of gratitude for the community that surrounds us here in Toodyay.

Like many residents, I have witnessed the generosity that quietly unfolds every day in our town.

It is seen in volunteers who give their time, community groups that work tirelessly to improve local life, neighbours who lend a hand when needed and the many people who contribute to causes larger than themselves.

These acts of giving are not just kind gestures – they are the reason Toodyay remains such a welcoming place to live.

As I have become more involved in community life, I have come to appreciate the importance of creating opportunities for local generosity to have a lasting impact.

That is why I am pleased to introduce readers to the Toodyay Community Fund.

The fund is built on a simple but powerful idea: tax-deductible donations are invested for the long term, creating a lasting community asset.

The earnings are then directed to local projects and initiatives, ensuring that a gift made today can continue benefiting Toodyay for generations to come.

We often speak about leaving a legacy for our children and grandchildren.

The Toodyay Community Fund provides a practical way to do exactly that.

Whether through a modest donation today or a gift in a will, every contribution helps build a stronger future for our community.

The future of Toodyay will be shaped by local people who care deeply about this place and choose to invest in it.

The Toodyay Community Fund offers a way for today's generosity to become tomorrow's opportunity, creating a lasting legacy and helping ensure that the community we cherish continues to thrive for generations to come.

Sean Hefferon
Chair, Toodyay Community Fund

Natures drama on display in Toodyay

WE RECENTLY spent a wonderful couple of days and a night in terrific Toodyay. We stayed at the marvellous Toodyay Homestead Motel.

I enjoy photography and in particular capturing images of birds.

I had just finished reading Desrae Clarke's article on the Grey Butcherbird in the *Toodyay Herald*, prior to taking a wander to see what I might sight in the way of birds.

A Pied Butcherbird was flitting around the bush with me following to endeavour to capture a couple of images.

I was able to get in an image of the bird perched on a metal rail but wanted something a bit more natural.

As I observed the bird, it dived down into some grass and emerged with a mouse in its bill.

The mouse was quickly despatched by being beaten against a branch before making a large meal which was swallowed whole.

A truly memorable moment for a city slicker like me.

Gary Tate
Greenwood

Crossing the blame bridge

I READ with interest the article on the Slaughterhouse Bridge and the too and frow between Toodyay Shire and Main Roads *Bridge blame game: Main Roads rejects shire's claim over closure* (*Toodyay Herald*, June 2026).

Both had a completely different story and when pushed to take some responsibility blamed the other.

It was a similar experience for us in Dumbarton who woke on June 18 to find the Dumbarton bridge closed with no warning.

When the Shire of Toodyay was contacted to ask how long the bridge was closed for they said to talk to Main Roads.

But when Main Roads were contacted they said to talk to the shire.

It was a circus with neither organisation actually taking the situation seriously, while we were forced into a last minute detour to get to work and school.

Andrew Tasker
Dumbarton

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		25.3					
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



The State's Regional Road Safety Program has invested around \$1 billion to upgrade 10,000 kilometres of the regional road network.

Funding windfall paves the way for safer roads

Rashelle Predovnik

THE shires of Toodyay, Northam and Victoria Plains have secured a multimillion-dollar funding boost to improve safety on local roads.

The funding stream has flown into local governments through the State Government's Regional Road Safety Program (RRSP) which aims to deliver safety improvements on major roads.

Nearly \$34 million has been allocated to deliver safety upgrades on regional roads. A total of 24 new projects, and more than 430 kilometres of local roads, including across the Wheatbelt, will be upgraded.

The upgrades will mainly be delivered by local governments and include the sealing of road shoulders and the installation of audible edge and centre lines to reduce the risk of run-off or head-on collisions.

The Shire of Toodyay has welcomed more than \$7.5 million in funding, including over

\$3.5 million for Toodyay-Bindi Bindi Rd and over \$3.9m for Julimar Rd.

The Shire of Northam was given over \$1m for works on Southern Brook Rd and \$60,000 for Mitchell Ave.

The Shire of Victoria Plains was given more than \$1.9m for Wongan Hill-Waddington Rd.

The latest round of funding announced last month is the second tranche of local government road projects to get funds under a program that was expanded last year to include local government roads.

The expansion was backed by a \$125 million investment from the State Government over five years, with the government continuing to seek matching funding from the Federal Government for the program.

The first tranche of funding released last year allocated more than \$39 million across 27 projects to upgrade 428 kilometres of regional roads, with works currently underway across the state.

Northam successfully secured \$950,000

during the first round of funding for works on Coates Rd in that funding round last year.

The Shire of Victoria Plain also successfully secured \$2.4 million for works on Toodyay Bindi Bindi Rd last year.

The Regional Road Safety Program was established in 2020 to address run-off and head-on road crashes, one of the leading causes of serious injuries and fatalities on regional roads.

Since the program launched, around \$1 billion has been invested to upgrade 10,000 kilometres of the regional road network with treatments such as sealed shoulders and audible edge and centre lines.

Transport Minister Rita Saffioti said the investment was part of the State Government's commitment to improving safety on Western Australia's regional road network.

"Local governments play a critical role in maintaining our state's vast road network, which is why we're delivering \$125 million

Road Safety Commission statistics 2020 - 2024

THERE were 2,357 reported crashes on roads in the Wheatbelt region between 2020 and 2024. Of these, 26 percent resulted in at least one person being killed or seriously injured. A total of 781 people were killed or seriously injured in reported crashes. Including 153 fatalities and 628 people seriously injured.

Of those:

781 people killed or seriously injured between 2020 and 2024:

- ➔ 85 percent were occupants of motor vehicles
- ➔ 13 percent were motorcyclists
- ➔ Two percent were pedestrians
- ➔ One percent were cyclists

Approximately two-thirds (66 percent) of people killed or seriously injured were male, 33 percent were female and less than one percent had no gender recorded.

The three most common age groups were:

- ➔ 20-29 years old (22 percent)
- ➔ 30-39 years old (15 percent)
- ➔ 50-59 years old (14 percent)
- ➔ 40-49 years old (13 percent)

over five years to help them deliver vital safety upgrades," she said.

"With work already underway on the first tranche of local government road projects, this additional funding will help even more councils deliver cost effective road treatments that make a life-saving difference."

Championing Wheatbelt Minds

Since 2023, Chalice has partnered with AusEarthEd to deliver free science curriculum to hundreds of students across the Wheatbelt.

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Contact us
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Moon phase modelling and geology experiments, St Joseph's School, Northam.



Your thoughts on the Avon Descent

TOURISM WA is inviting residents, visitors and anyone involved in the Avon Descent to share their feedback on the event and how it went.

Toodyay resident Liz Hughes who was involved in the breakfast held at Duidgee Park on Saturday 8 August said the survey offered an opportunity to provide suggestions.

"If you have an opinion on this, please complete the survey so we can gain feedback on how we went and how we can do things better in the future," she said.

"We appreciate your perspective and the six minutes you will give of your time to do the survey."

A Tourism WA spokesperson said the organisation was keen to capture data from spectators who attended the Toodyay event.

The survey will be open until Sunday, 23 August.

The online survey includes generic questions and Tourism WA is also seeking feedback on event satisfaction and a survey link is here: <https://tinyurl.com/3yb2c32t>



Take the survey

metrixsurveys.com.au/survey/selfserve/5ad/260702?list=5



Photo by Rashelle Predovnik

Digging in *continued from pg1...*
their ideal requirements, which would then trigger further council workshops.

Committee member Michael Noonan said after a lot of diligence and input from the committee there were sites offered by the shire that clearly didn't meet the matrix that the shire and community group had adopted.

"The sites offered were demonstrably unsuitable."

Mr Noonan said the idea to use the neglected bowling green was originally floated over a beer at the Toodyay Club and fruitful discussions soon followed.

"If it works well, the garden will become a big part of the club."

Toodyay Club manager Tad Ochman said he was happy to help.

"I know they were struggling to find a place to establish a garden."

Mr Ochman said there was an opportunity for the garden to bring families to the club.

The club is also expanding its operations to include bocce and mini golf, with both activities expected to be available by December.

The community garden committee holds regular fundraising events, which have included plant sales, Devonshire tea and cake stalls.

For more information follow Toodyay Community Garden on Facebook.

Building on shaky ground

Rashelle Predovnik

CONSUMER Protection is urging residents to do their homework before buying prefabricated 'do-it-yourself' pods and buildings, warning claims they are 'permit-free' may be false.

Depending on the structure and how it is installed, work by a registered builder and council approval may be required.

Residents who rely on false advertising risk breaching building compliance laws.

Council approval is also not guaranteed.

Last month, a property owner, who put two sea containers on his property without the necessary approvals, had to seek retrospective approval from council.

Residents turned up in force at the July council meeting to oppose the outbuilding on Sesselis Rd in Toodyay and they raised a raft of concerns.

Including its impact on neighbouring properties and its failure to meet the minimum 30 metre boundary setback required under the shire's local planning scheme.

The two joined-up sea containers were positioned just 1.5 metres from the boundary on a property slightly larger than one hectare.

It was also noted that the owner's attempt at screening the sea containers with plantings had not been successful, as the non-native plants failed to establish.

The report to council recommended refusal and council unanimously agreed.

The warning to homeowners from Consumer Protection comes in response to an increase in suppliers who are advertising prefabricated pods, tiny homes and other outbuildings as DIY projects that can be done quickly with 'no permit required.'

Commissioner for Consumer Protection Trish Blake said consumers may be misled into believing they could simply buy and erect these structures themselves.

She said homeowners could end up installing unsafe structures or breaching building compliance or planning laws.

"Consumers should contact their local government for advice on any approvals

that may be required," she said.

"In many cases, if these structures are used as a building, or part of a building, they will require a building permit."

"There are no specific exemptions for prefabricated buildings, and local councils may take enforcement action if these structures are erected without all the necessary approvals."

According to Consumer Protection, if a building permit is required, larger or more expensive buildings must be installed by a registered builder or an approved owner-builder.

Ms Blake said the builder named on the permit was responsible for ensuring the building complied with applicable building standards when completed.

"It is an offence for a trader to make false or misleading representations about the goods they supply, under Australian Consumer Law."

Building Commissioner Phil Payne said considerations for installation included distance from property boundaries, height restrictions and access to underground infrastructure.

"Building laws, including building permits and registration requirements, ensure structures are installed safely and their components and construction meet applicable codes and standards," he said.

"Any associated electrical and plumbing work must also be carried out by licensed electricians and plumbers."

Both Consumer Protection and the department of Building and Energy are encouraging consumers to check what planning and building approvals are required with their local council.

They also advise homeowners to get assurances from suppliers about compliance obligations in writing.

Complaints about misleading information can be lodged with Consumer Protection and more information can be found here: www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au.

Complaints can also be lodged with the department of Building and Energy via email: be.info@lgirs.wa.gov.au or call 1300 489 099.

MRB 10905

Toodyay Tyre Service

New 4X4, Truck, Motorbikes & Tractor

Repairs Exhausts Balancing Suspensions Wheel Alignment

Lot 20 Stirling Tce

9574 4499

tyres1@inet.net.au



Sending out our best: a brave team of 46 firefighters and emergency services personnel flew out from Perth Airport this week to help out in the United States.

Julimar's fire captain takes the heat overseas

A JULIMAR volunteer firefighter is taking his skills from Toodyay to the international frontline, joining a 46-strong Western Australian contingent deployed to help battle more than 80 wildfires burning across the United States.

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Captain Wes Sutton was the only bush fire brigade volunteer selected for the deployment and he joined a team of firefighters and incident management specialists who flew out this week to help.

The WA taskforce represents all corners of the state, from Kununurra to Albany.

The team comprises 21 personnel from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and 25 from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Parks and Wildlife Service.

This team will join a 187-strong national contingent deploying from across Australia and New Zealand.

During their 35-day deployment, they

will undertake a range of critical frontline firefighting and incident management roles based across the US.

Including leading strike teams and analysing fire behaviour, before returning home in early September.

This is the third deployment of WA emergency services specialists to North America this year, with seven personnel deployed to the US in July and two sent to Canada last week.

Currently, there are more than 29,000 firefighters and support personnel working tirelessly on the ground to fight fires in the US.

The WA team was formally farewelled at Perth Airport by Department of Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm, Superintendent State Coordination Noel Buckland, and Minister for Police and Emergency Services Reece Whitby MLA.

Emergency Services Minister Reece Whitby said not matter when they were called

on, firefighters and incident management specialists stepped up at a moment's notice to help communities when they needed it most.

He said the latest deployment reflected a long-standing commitment from the State Government to support North America during its challenging wildfire season with more than 200 personnel deployed since 2021.

"All Western Australian's should be proud of these selfless men and women who will make a huge difference relieving exhausted crews on the front line, he said.

"I wish our personnel all the best for their deployment and I look forward to welcoming them home safely."

The Emergency Minister said the state government would continue to provide extra resources to help battle the overseas fires for as long as they were needed."

Environment Minister Matthew Swinbourn

said the task force's expertise, courage and willingness to help reflected the very best of WA.

"The State Government is incredibly proud of this team and we thank them for answering the call to help in the United States."

Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm said 15 of the personnel deployed as part of this contingent were DFES volunteers who were putting their own careers on hold to help communities in crisis.

"Crews in the US are facing extreme heat, strong winds and erratic fire behaviour and so far this year more than two million hectares have been burnt across the country.

"Our US counterparts have requested experienced personnel capable of operating firefighting appliances in tough terrain, as well as skilled leaders and experts in fire behaviour.

"And that's exactly what we are delivering with this highly capable WA cohort."



Julimar VBFB Captain Wes Sutton with DFES Commissioner Karren Klemm.

Avon Valley Property Maintenance

Services:



Mowing
Whipper Snipping
Weeding



Property Clean Up
Gardening
Fire Break Maintenance
Bobcat
Clean Up
Post Hole

Aaron Short
Owner Operator

0437 862 839
a.short@inet.net.au

Timber Creek Crescent Coondle
PO Box 50 Toodyay WA 6566

Down to Earth and Affordable

Bolgart volunteers answer the call

St John Ambulance Toodyay
Michael Black

TOODYAY and Bolgart have shared a rich and varied history and it's the same with St John. The connection for St John goes back decades and it still exists today.

The tiny town of Bolgart have their own ambulance that supports the people of Bolgart and surrounds, and they need volunteers.

Bolgart resident Jenny King is a stalwart of St John.

She is a well-known and much loved member of the Bolgart community.

Jenny moved to Australia in 1998 from New Zealand and after sampling Goomalling and Toodyay she moved to Bolgart.

That was 22 years ago and she has no plan to leave.

Jenny was teaching at Bolgart Primary School when St John visited the school to show an ambulance to the students.

Jenny's interest was piqued and she applied to volunteer.

That was a little over 12 years ago and Jen has volunteered many hours since that time to help our community.

These things are seldom done in isolation so together with Bridget Ralph she has kept the St John wheels turning in Bolgart.

Jenny enjoys a long family history with St John as her parents and many cousins are on road volunteers.

Now retired, Jenny has more time to keep the wheels turning at St John, taking on many tasks including driving an ambulance and

taking care of people.

Bolgart needs volunteers and a recent gathering in Bejoording resulted in Bolgart St John's newest member Andrea joining them team.

Nevertheless, Andrea, Bridget and Jenny need your help and they are wondering if you could spare some time to help the people of Bolgart and learn to be a volunteer ambulance officer?

If you feel you would like to find out more please drop into the St John shop on Stirling Terrace in Toodyay or you can head to the St John web page, stjohnwa.com.au/changelives.

There is no doubt St John attracts the most caring and dedicated people.

Back in April the Wheatbelt North Awards Recognition team asked for nominations for volunteers that celebrate the dedication, passion, and outstanding contributions of our amazing volunteers and subcentres across the region.

The call was answered and a couple of Toodyay's amazing volunteers were nominated.

The North Wheatbelt Volunteer Recognition Awards were held a couple of weeks ago and Brian Warrener and Pamela Tennant were nominated.

Pam was nominated for her contribution to community transport service and Brian for his contribution to volunteering at the subcentre.

A big thank you to Brian and Pam for their outstanding work; we are all very proud of you.



Jenny, Bridget and Andrea at Bolgart Sub Branch. Photo Michael Black.



Volunteers Kevin and Brian from Toodyay Central and Aurelie from Coondle Nunile.

Ready for the heat

VBFB Coondle Nunile
Aurelie Zimmermann

SINCE the last edition, Coondle-Nunile Brigade has responded to three callouts, all involving structure fires.

While these incidents did not involve bushfires, they demonstrate the diverse range of emergencies our volunteers attend.

Brigade members responded alongside local brigades, DFES career firefighters and other emergency services to help in protecting lives and property.

Members also turned out with other brigades, highlighting the strong support and cooperation between local emergency services.

Winter also provides an opportunity to reflect on the previous fire season as we compile the brigade's operational statistics.

During the 2025-26 financial year, brigade members responded to 57 incidents.

These ranged from small roadside fires through to more complex incidents.

These incidents required a coordinated multi-agency response.

Coondle volunteers responded to every callout during the year, demonstrating a tremendous commitment to serving the community.

The colder weather hasn't slowed the brigade down.

Throughout winter, members have continued with training and vehicle checks to ensure we remain operationally ready.

Last month's training was our annual 'busy bee', where members removed all equipment from the trucks to give the vehicles a thorough clean while inspecting and servicing equipment.

Although these checks form part of our weekly routine, the busy bee allows a more

detailed inspection ensuring our appliances and equipment remain in excellent condition.

With spring just around the corner and warmer, longer days ahead, it is a timely reminder that fire prevention starts well before the bushfire season begins.

As vegetation dries out and outdoor activities increase, now is the time for residents to prepare their properties and reduce potential fire risks.

Simple actions such as clearing gutters, removing excess vegetation around homes and ensuring firebreaks are compliant can make a big difference.

The brigade encourages everyone to start preparing early and familiarise themselves with their bushfire responsibilities.

Being prepared before a fire starts gives residents and emergency services the best chance of keeping everyone safe.

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.

If you're unsure whether volunteering is right for you, come along, meet the team and see what we're all about.

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

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.



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 First Aid Training



Firing up Christmas in July

VBFB Julimar
Andy Cameron, aka 'Sarge'

JULIMAR Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade recently held its annual Christmas in July celebration, with another excellent member turnout.

It was particularly pleasing to see several new members join in the festivities and become part of the brigade's strong sense of community.

The evening began with pre-dinner drinks and nibbles, followed by five team-based activities designed to reflect the camaraderie, teamwork and enjoyment that are so important during the fire season.

The games included *Pictionary* on a whiteboard, guessing random mystery items hidden in a sealed bag, building a cup tower using string and elastic bands, bean bag tossing and a human horse race fuelled by a very large dice.

The games generated plenty of laughter

and encouraged members to work together in a relaxed and social setting.

Following the activities, members enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner.

Attendees contributed a variety of dishes to ensure a well-balanced menu, complete with festive trimmings.

An impressive selection of desserts rounded out the meal and may have challenged a few waistlines along the way.

The night culminated in some great prizes for the lucky winners and a door prize, which went to a very special attendee.

My partner-in-planning, Reuben Campbell, and I received a rousing round of applause for organising the event.

After a long day, we were grateful to all the members who assisted with cleaning up and packing away.

The brigade is already looking forward to its next major event (watch this space) as preparations continue for the upcoming fire season.

Fires, friends and a few false alarms

Toodyay Central Bush Fire Brigade
Peter Brennan

CALLOUTS have more than doubled this year, with eight responses recorded between June 3 and July 21 compared with just three during the same period last year.

Of the eight callouts we were stood down as not required from four.

As the daylight hours become longer, the new leadership team headed by Captain Will Hort will discuss and shape a new pre-season training program which will be managed by our training officer, Brian Clarkson.

Furthermore, on Sunday, July 19, we undertook the annual deep clean of both our station (Toodyay co-located emergency facility), as well as all our appliances.

This involved the scrubbing and washing of the station appliance bay floors, tidying up storerooms, removing all the kit from our truck lockers and cleaning and detailing both them and the insides of cabs.

At the same time, the Toodyay VFRS joined us to help with the cleaning of the station, while also giving their own appliances a good going over.

Once again, it was a terrific effort by both brigades.

The activity was then followed by a well-deserved BBQ lunch organised by our social secretary, Heather Brennan and cooked by Kevin Sullivan, Dan Mason and Shane MacGregor, with some nice desserts from Desare Clarke and Heather Brennan.

Many thanks goes to the Toodyay Bakery

for the donation of buns and their ongoing support to the brigade.

Well done team: it was terrific to see the great camaraderie and effort put in to complete all jobs before lunchtime.

At this time of the year members take the time to consider future courses they can take to both improve individual knowledge and skill, as well as progress themselves within the brigade, should they wish.

Congratulations to Brian Clarkson, Nadine Beins and Chris Stothers for completing the Incident Reporting System (IRS) course.

Additionally, it is usually this time of the year that we encourage anyone from our Toodyay Community who is interested in joining a bush fire brigade to make contact and ask questions about what training is required to become a volunteer.

The basic requirement, once a member is accepted, is to complete two foundation courses before they can deploy on an appliance.

Those courses are Bushfire Safety Awareness and Firefighting Skills, with both held over a weekend (two days).

Those courses available in the Toodyay Shire during the remainder of the year are Bushfire Safety Awareness on October 31 and November 1.

Firefighting Skills will be held on August 29 and 30, and November 14 and 15.

If you are thinking of joining us, come along to the co-located emergency facility at 67 Stirling Terrace on a Friday evening at 5pm, or leave a message for Captain Will Hort on 0427 421 233.



Picture attached shows from left Chris Stothers, Nadine Beins and Brian Clarkson



The inaugural Bullwinkle Nursing Awards are being sponsored by registered nurse and Bullwinkle MP, Trish Cook.

Paging outstanding nurses

THE vital work of nurses and midwives in the Federal electorate of Bullwinkle will now be recognised with the launch of a new nursing award, open to registered nurses, enrolled nurses and midwives who live or work in the electorate.

The Bullwinkle electorate is named in honour of World War II heroine Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinkle, an Australian nurse remembered for her courage and service as the sole survivor of the Bangka Island Massacre.

The inaugural awards are being sponsored by registered nurse and Bullwinkle MP, Trish

Cook.

The awards will be presented across six categories: Excellence in Enrolled Nursing Care, Registered Nursing Care, Residential/ Aged Care Nursing, Aboriginal Health Nursing, Community Care Nursing and Midwifery Care.

Patients, colleagues and community members are encouraged to nominate nurses and midwives who have gone above and beyond in caring for others.

Nominations will close on August 28 and more information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxsxfj24>

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

St John Ambulance Western Australia Ltd - ACN 165 969 406; ABN 55 028 468 715



Community Bank - Toodyay and Northam are **painting it blue** for mental health.

**On 22nd August 2026, during Transend Trail's annual event,
the Bendigo Bank Toodyay & Northam - 12km Mental Health Hike & Run
will hit the Avon Valley trails for it's inaugural event.**

Hikers and runners will wear dedicated mental health awareness wristbands, and finishers will come together to paint a blue tree — a powerful symbol that sparks open conversations and reminds us that no one has to walk through dark times alone.

We are committed to supporting local communities.

Yes, it's time to feel good about who you bank with.

Our Community Bank branches give up to 80% of profits back to the community.

We aim to develop long-term prosperity by supporting programs that help empower local individuals and groups within the local community.

Join the bank that's bigger for you

**Community Bank
Toodyay and Northam**

B Bendigo Bank

Almost a century of CWA care

CWA

Elizabeth Mansom, Secretary

LAST month we welcomed members from surrounding branches to celebrate 99 years of CWA in Toodyay.

It was a fun day with raffles galore and chocolates for winners of the quizzes.

A week later we hosted 12 ladies from the South Perth Soroptimist club at a Christmas-in-July morning tea.

Soroptimist International is a global movement working to advance the status of women and girls which works to ensure their full participation in creating strong, peaceful communities.

An on-going initiative of the group is the Orange Cafe held on the 25th of each month.

The Orange Cafe is recognised by the United Nations UNITE campaign, a global initiative working to end violence against women and girls by 2030.

If you would like to know more, an online search is sure to answer your questions.

The State Conference of CWA of WA was held during June and representatives of 100 branches out of 118 across the state attended.

During the conference our own Evelyn Oliver was recognised for fifty years of service to CWA.

Ev couldn't attend conference this year, but Toodyay branch president Val Byron was thrilled to present Ev with her certificate at the July meeting.

We reported in the last edition that Ev had

been awarded Branch Legend status.

We noted in applying for Ev's awards that Branch Legend implies someone admired for their ability in a particular area.

In the citation for her 50 years of service award, we said she was our branch treasure with connotations of precious and valuable.

Every year CWA has a country of study.

This year it is Belgium and at the July meeting we were given a quick glimpse of the food and drink of that country.

As branches try to showcase food from the country of study at any function over the ensuing twelve months, we are sure to be served frits (chips) and chocolate.

Do note Saturday August 22 on your calendar when we will be holding our annual jumble sale in the hall.

It has been advertised on social media and flyers will be found around town.

You can donate to CWA or book your own table by contacting Kathy on 0439 975 296.

Light refreshments will be available so call in for a cuppa and browse among the bargains.

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.



Residents Ian and Raye say they are so happy they live in a Butterfly Cottage unit.

Butterly Cottages has plenty to celebrate

Butterly Cottages

Cheryl Jean

BUTTERLY Cottages have village units in Harper Road, Henry Street and Rosedale Street and over the past 12 months there has been ongoing general maintenance in all units.

We currently have a local, Aaron, taking care of all the Butterfly complexes.

Tree roots have caused havoc for some of our units with blockages again this year.

It was a massive job for one of our local plumbers, Ben, at our Harper Road site and a local electrician, Barry, gave a safety check.

Our Father's Day stall is scheduled for Friday 4 and Saturday 5 September outside IGA and any donation of suitable raffle prizes would be welcome.

Contact us and we can arrange pickup.

Butterly Cottages is unique in that it is run by a volunteer elected committee.

This keeps down the costs which in turn makes the rentals affordable for our tenants.

The standout milestone reached in June was the payment of the final instalment of a loan from Bendigo Bank to help fund the 2018 construction of nine independent living units in Rosedale Street.

The balance of the funds for this project was provided by Royalty for Regions and the Shire of Toodyay.

All 21 units are occupied and with a large waiting list, there is an urgent and ongoing need for additional independent living units for elderly Toodyay residents.

The committee is now concentrating on working toward building nine more units on the remainder of the Rosedale Street land.

Realistically this will not happen without grant funding and to this end the committee have met with several MPs, the Shire of Toodyay, consultants and others.

Moving forward, Butterly Cottages Association needs a strong membership to ensure a continuing functional committee and to fulfill our legislative obligations.

Please consider joining the association and perhaps encourage others to come on board.

"It doesn't matter whether you are a long-serving member, the incoming president or the newest Lion.

"Your contribution over the coming year is what will define your success."

With a growing membership, renewed enthusiasm and a dedicated leadership team, the Toodyay Lions Club is well positioned for another rewarding year of making a difference.

As the Toodyay Lions Club approaches its 50th Anniversary celebrations in September, members are looking forward to building on the club's proud history of service while continuing to support the Toodyay community through volunteering, fundraising and fun.

If you were once a Lion, one of our charter members or have volunteered alongside us, then we would be honoured to have you as part of this evening, celebrating our collective achievement.

Please contact:
Heather 0436 019 991
or toodyay.wa@lions.org.au.



(L-R) Val Byron, Elizabeth Mansom, Dixie Mackenzie, Kathy Haynes, Margaret Sullivan, Maureen Woods and sitting is Evelyn Oliver who was awarded a Branch Legend status.

Lions change over but service carries on

Lions Club of Toodyay

Heather McNamara

THE Toodyay Lions Club has officially welcomed its new board of directors for the 2026-2027 at our Changeover and Installation Ceremony

The club has celebrated another successful year of service while looking ahead.

John Pearce reflected on the importance of Changeover Night, describing it as an opportunity not only to acknowledge the achievements of the past 12 months but also to set fresh goals for the year ahead.

The club has enjoyed an exceptionally busy year, supporting many community events.

These include gate management for the Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association Swap Meet.

Catering the Anzac Day Gunfire Breakfast and Poets Breakfast and taking the popular Wiggly Worm to the Toodyay Street Party and Moondyne Festival.

Selling Christmas cakes and operating the merchandise stall at the Toodyay Race Club and for the first time, helping with parking and the Wiggly Worm at the Northam Agricultural Show.

A highlight of the year was the record-breaking Lions Community Auction, another

successful fundraiser made possible through the generosity of the Toodyay community and the dedication of club members and volunteers.

Nine new members joined during the past Lions year – the largest single-year intake since the club received its Charter in 1976.

The newest Lions have embraced community service, quickly becoming involved in projects, meetings and decision-making, bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the organisation.

During the ceremony, members were formally installed into their Board positions, each accepting the responsibility of guiding the club through the coming year.

The 2026-2027 leadership team includes: president and service chairperson Steele Williams, first vice president and public relations chairperson Heather McNamara, second vice president Arlene Foley, secretary Clint Fricker and treasurer Michelle Scott.

Director and membership chairperson John Pearce and tail twister Margot Nichols are also part of the leadership team.

Addressing members, John, reminded everyone that changeover represents a fresh beginning.

"Every Lion starts the new year on equal footing," he said.

Our membership fees remain at \$10 per year.

If you are a member and not a tenant of Butterfly Cottages, please consider nominating to join the management committee.

Your nomination needs to be submitted before our next annual general meeting around November this year, allowing you to vote on decisions.

To keep this volunteer association running, we need members prepared to roll up their sleeves.

We are always looking for persons who are interested in becoming a committee member.

If you wish to help Butterfly Cottages in any way, contact on mobile 0492 595 670.

A post from one of our residents, as follows:

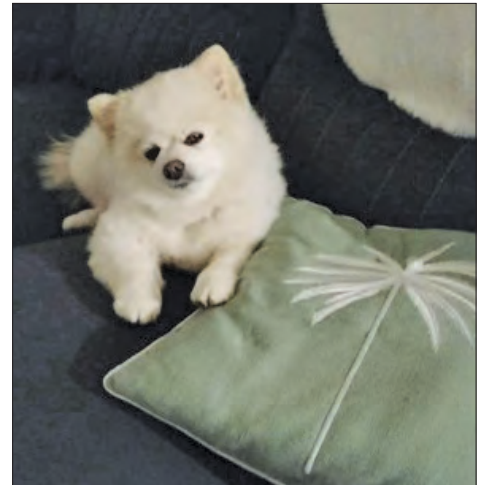
Ian, I (Raye) and our beautiful boy Kyro (our dog) would just like to say a big thank you to the Butterfly Cottages Association for giving us the opportunity to reside in one of their units.

It is more than we could ever have wished for and we are so happy here.

The committee and neighbours have made us feel so welcome.

Finally, we have found our forever home. Feeling very blessed

Thank you, Committee of Management
Butterly Cottages Association Inc..



Kyro relaxing in his new unit.

Sing out if you want to join in

Toodyay Community Singers

Anne Millar

HOW fast has this year gone?

The singers are still rehearsing on Mondays at 4pm to 5.30pm at the CWA hall on Stirling terrace.

We are still hoping for new voices to join us.

If you would like to be part of community events like Moondyne Festival, Anzac Day, the Toodyay Ag Show and the Christmas street party it would be great to see you at the CWA hall.

If anybody has any musical background and would like to help out that would be a great.

THE spirit of Christmas arrived months ahead of schedule, descending on the town's memorial hall and lighting it up for Toodyay's inaugural Xmas in July quiz night.

long list of local businesses who generously sponsored prizes.

Attendees embraced the Christmas theme with gusto, during an evening of light-hearted competition that raised over \$1500, that was later donated to the theatre group.

In response, the library reached out to local community groups and TTG answered the call.

Adding to the festive cheer, Toodyay's year-round Christmas store, Christmas 360, donated prizes and helped transform the hall.

The ladies from the library took to social media to thank everyone involved in making the event such a success.

“Events like this simply wouldn’t happen without such an amazing community.”

TTG president Vicki Haggarty said her group just put their hands up to help and they didn't expect to get any money.

"We had so much fun and we're so grateful to the library for allowing us to come on board and be a part of it," she said.

"It was just brilliant."

Ms Haggarty said the windfall was unexpected but gratefully received.

"We're happy if we break even on a performance and this will help us to cover costs of putting on performances as a community theatre group."

The theatre group is currently holding auditions to cast for a spooky cabaret that will be held during the Halloween weekend.

Those who love comedy, singing or dancing are invited to audition on Wednesday 26 August from 5.30pm – 6.30pm at the Toodyay Town Hall.

For more info about the TTG or if you want to audition contact Danni Grundy at 0439 885 219.

Email toodyaytheatre@group@gmail.com. Last month, the theatre group kicked off the first term of its new youth program where children build confidence, develop new skills and, most importantly, have fun.

The children have been having a blast performing skits, dancing, playing theatre games and learning from a range of wonderful guest speakers.

To find out more, contact Leisha on 0407 632 806.

Winter chills can't stop the music

Toodyay Music Club
Jenny Edgecombe

THE music club's July meeting was a small but cheerful gathering.

Unfortunately, winter ills once again kept some of our singers from performing.

We hope that they will all be hale and hearty for the August meeting.

The members who did perform presented songs in a wide variety of styles for an entertaining afternoon.

Anne led off with the plaintive *Look What They've Done to My Song*, and later sang the entertaining *Irish Pub Song* with Collette.

Phil included the beautiful song, *Girl from the North Country*, in his selection.

When Irish Eyes Are Smiling was one of Collette's offerings which was very popular with the listeners.

Maurice enjoys finding challenging versions of well-known songs.

This month it was the haunting song, *Have Mercy on the Criminal*, which he presented extremely well.

It is a song that would have required a great deal of practice.

Joe and Collette combined to present the lovely song, *Today*.

There were many other songs, as members can sing up to four items each – two before afternoon tea and two after.

We encourage visitors to pop in and listen for a while, as long as they come and go during the breaks between songs rather than in the middle of a song.

Please note that the August meeting will be a week later than usual, as the town was very busy due to the Avon Descent.

The group will meet in the CWA Hall on Saturday August 15, starting at 1pm.

You are welcome to join us as a performer or audience member.

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



Toodyay Theatre Group members get into the spirit. Front: Bobbi Allen and Leisha Smith. Back: Lyunda de Router, Amy Coulman, Danni Grundy, David Mitchell, Chantell Bates

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A Toodyay chapter closes

Toodyay Historical Society
Dr Robyn Taylor

WE WERE saddened to lose two more valuable members, wanting to have closer contact with their families.

It did give us the opportunity to have another farewell celebration with excellent tucker and merry cheer.

Peter Robinson is well known throughout Toodyay, not just as an excellent tradesman in the tiling department, but for his big cheery smile and white bushy beard.

Dressed up in his black top hat and tails he regularly played the distinguished gent at the annual Moondyne Festivals and in recent years with wife Karen Wilson on his arm looking gorgeous in her period costume.

Both served on the committee, Peter twice as president, and Karen as secretary.

Peter undertook valuable genealogical research for us with his *Toodyay Families 1836-1900* and always volunteered his time for our Society and the town.

In 2015 he was called 'Litter Legend Peter' after collecting over 1250 bags of rubbish along 100 km of road.

I recall Peter once saying about driving home that the best view along the Toodyay



The historical society celebrated committee members Peter and Karen Robinson at a special farewell last month. (Photo: by Carolyn Elphick).

Road was in the rearview mirror.

I think many of us can relate to that after battling the city traffic.

Another July highlight was a visit to member Ian Stannard's property 'Newgain' on the Dumbarton Road.

The land was acquired by James Allen Twine (1813-1905) who arrived in the colony as a labourer in 1833 with a group of Methodists.

In c.1860 Twine employed ticket-of-leave labourers to construct buildings at 'Newgain' and fence his 1400-acre property.

He was to have one of the biggest farms in the Toodyay district.

The granary, built in two sections, one single storey the other two storey, are landmark features while driving along Dumbarton Road.

A major event planned for Sunday August

2 following our AGM is a History Forum 'Saving archives digitally'.

There will be three expert speakers.

This should be of interest to many who have collections of photos and documents and want to know how to store them as digital records.

There will be a report in the September edition of the *Toodyay Herald*.



All systems go for the Toodyay Agricultural Show

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Noelene Stewart

THE Toodyay Agricultural Show is steadily coming together and encouraging progress is being made across the showgrounds in the lead-up to this year's event.

One of the key updates is the completion of works at the Lee Steere Pavilion, an important hub for exhibits and displays.

A big acknowledgement goes to Lorraine and Leanne for their efforts in seeing these improvements through, helping to ensure the space is ready to showcase the best of our community's entries.

Visitors and locals will notice our signage appearing throughout the town for the show.

A big thanks to Kate and those involved in getting these updated and put up around town.

Membership for this year's Toodyay Agricultural Show will close at the end of August.

If you wish to receive the benefits, the committee is encouraging anyone interested to join before the deadline.

Becoming a member is a great way to support the show, stay informed, and be involved in this long-standing community event.

Those wishing to take part can easily sign up by visiting the show's website and completing the online membership process.

With preparations well underway, the focus is now shifting towards exhibitors and competition entries.

The much-anticipated show schedule is expected to be released shortly and community members are encouraged to start thinking about what they might like to enter this year.

From homegrown produce and creative crafts to livestock and specialty categories, there is something for everyone to be involved in.

As always, the success of the Toodyay Agricultural Show relies on strong community participation and early planning can make all the difference.

Keep an eye out for the official schedule release and start preparing your entries to be part of another fantastic celebration of local talent, agriculture, and community spirit.



They said "any knitted item"...

Helping hands keep the meals coming

Toodyay Locals Care
Jacquie Lucas'

DURING the recent cold weather, we have seen a significant increase in the number of meals going out to people in need.

In addition to our regular Thursday morning 'carrots' cooking session, which prepares around 100 meals each week, other wonderful volunteers have stepped in to help us keep up with the growing demand.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who has donated groceries to support this effort, as well as those who have contributed through our Cash for Cans number.

Every donation, no matter how small, helps us provide meals to those who need them most.

Roz and Jaffa recently delivered a collection of knitted and crocheted beanies and blankets to the Gidgegannup CWA.

From there, they are passed on to King Edward Memorial Hospital for babies and families in need.

If you enjoy knitting or crocheting and would like to make beanies or blankets, please contact Roz.

We may even be able to help with supplies of yarn.

With the colder weather, we have also experienced a high demand for blankets,

tents and sleeping bags.

If you have any spare polar fleece blankets of any size, they would be very gratefully received.

Polar fleece is ideal because it is lightweight, easy to carry and dries quickly.

We also receive frequent requests for fitted single sheets.

Please keep us in mind the next time you are sorting through your linen cupboard.

A special thank you goes to Sarah from Binneburra Eggs in Kellerberrin, who has been incredibly generous in travelling all the way to Toodyay to donate fresh eggs.

We also receive 'wild eggs' from Little Creek – eggs that are either too large or too small to meet supermarket specifications but are still perfectly good to eat.

These are repacked into half-dozen cartons and placed in the 24-7 community refrigerator on the front veranda at 20 Fiennes Street, Toodyay.

Don't forget that thanks to the ongoing support of Woolworths and SecondBite, fresh fruit and vegetables are available free of charge from the community house from around 1pm every Monday afternoon.

We are still looking for volunteer gardeners and drivers.

If you are interested, please send a text to either Roz on 0427 744 352 or Jacquie on 0427 147 548.



Volunteer Dawn Diane-Haysom displays some generously donated crocheted goodies.



Easing cost-of-living pressures for WA families and drivers

The State Government is offering the third round of the WA Student Assistance Payment and a one-off \$100 Fuel Support Payment.

The WA Student Assistance Payment

\$150

For each Kindergarten and primary school student

\$250

For each secondary school student

Available to parents and carers of school aged children to help you get the things your kids need for school including stationery, excursions, backpacks and other education-related expenses.

\$100 Fuel Support Payment

\$100

For anyone with a valid WA driver's licence

Available to anyone with a valid WA driver's licence, including learners and P platers. You can also choose to donate your one-off \$100 Fuel Support Payment to charity in the ServiceWA app.

Foster carers and grand carers

The Foster and Grand Carer Gold Card provides a range of discounts, credits and benefits to help eligible carers with everyday expenses.



How to claim

The fastest and most convenient way to claim your support payments is through the ServiceWA app. You'll find guides on the ServiceWA website plus alternative ways to claim.

Learn more at wa.gov.au/servicewaoffers

Claim on the ServiceWA app



Garden gala brings plenty of buzz

Toodyay Garden Club
Judy Rowston

OUR July garden visit was a Gala Day at the Toodyay Pavilion and we extended this invitation to the Toodyay community and surrounding towns to join us.

Way exceeding our expectations, we welcomed 99 members and visitors, offering them a delicious morning tea, four guest speakers and lunch.

Our first speaker was the Bee Boys, Greg and Wim giving a 30-minute talk on native bees and how important they are to the ecology.

With their love of any blue flowering plant, you will find these tiny insects throughout your garden.

Bee houses were on offer for sale or you could make your own using raw materials like bamboo or nuts with holes as long as you covered the back to prevent wasps from invading.

Ben from Bunnings in Midland then educated us on gardening tools, how best to use them and the importance of cleaning them.

We then drew out spot prizes from a table of amazing gifts that Bunnings had donated to us with lots of happy recipients taking

home a prize.

Brian from Neutrog fertiliser joined us after lunch.

They use chicken manure to make palletised fertilisers, exporting 6000 ton per year to Vietnam.

The chicken manure is stored in a shed for 90 days with bedding material in a process called thermophilic composting.

These products are available at the Toodyay Garden Centre, Bunnings and Mitre 10.

Terry from Utopia Nursery in Bullsbrook had arrived at 8.30am and enjoyed the day listening to our guest speakers before he had Peter, who drew the lucky number, join him in making a succulent bowl which Peter got to take home.

Terry had a massive array of succulents for sale and explained how they use Good Earth fertiliser at \$6.50 a bag, along with a slow-release fertiliser to propagate all of their succulents.

The process takes 10 to 16 weeks before they are ready for sale.

The Toodyay Garden Club thank Guildford, Zanthorrea and Dawsons nurseries for the gift vouchers, Toodyay Crafters Emporium, Bunnings, Bee Boys, Neutrog and Utopia Nursery for their donations on the day.

The garden club committee are a great



Peter made the succulent bowl

team that worked tirelessly in the lead up to organise this very successful event and must be congratulated on its success.

The Toodyay Agricultural Society approached the Garden club re tidying up, planting and fertilising in front of the Youth Hall, to make this look presentable for show day in October 10.

Our Christmas luncheon will be held at the Jennacubbine Tavern.

We need an indication on who might like to go by bus so that we can organise bus hire and a driver.

Please call Stephanie to register your interest.

Our September Garden visit is to Jenni Page's Katrine Steading.

For more information on the club please email toodyaygardenclub@gmail.com or call Stephanie on 0429 088 314.

A shed-load of community spirit

Toodyay Men's Shed
Barry Keens

WE WELCOMED two new members to the Shed this month, Grant and Gaige and we look forward to their ongoing attendance.

With this additional manpower we have been able to start on some of the maintenance work needed at the Shed, particularly with sorting and storing tools and equipment.

We continue with three jobs for community members and the last of the benches for the shire.

We have hosted visits to the Shed by members of the York and Beverley Men's Sheds but have had to say goodbye to Alan from the Falcon Men's Shed as his house-sitting duties have come to an end.

Thank you to them all for their company and insights into how other sheds interact with their communities.

Craig and Paul were our nominees for a supervisor's course conducted by Men's Shed WA, (MSWA), at Cunderdin Men's Shed.

We will be implementing additional safety measures for the use of woodworking machinery.

We will also have representatives at the MWSA Zone meeting to be held at Wongan Hills in August.

Our shed is open Monday, Thursday and Saturday from 8.30am until noon each week.

All enquiries to our secretary on 0499 403 830.



All the raffle winners on the day..

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Toodyay
DENTAL CLINIC



Wood raffles warm up the community



Splitting logs for the community has become a lot easier thanks to grant from Bendigo Bank.

Moondyne Men Graham Hill

WELCOME to the meandering, mayhem and magnitude of the magnificent Moondyne Men.

After a seven week holiday it's great to bring you up to date with the efforts and satisfaction the Moondyne Men gain from helping the community.

Over the last month our fundraising was mainly from our annual wood raffles.

On June 5 and 6 we saw red ticket A79 (Mr G) win a trailer load of cut and split firewood and red ticket B23 (Leanne) win the food hamper.

On July 17 and 18 the winner of the cut and split firewood was blue ticket B86 (Marcus) and the food hamper was won by green ticket B21 (Angus).

We wish to thank everyone who helped make our fund raising a success which allows us to contribute to helping the community.

Our firewood has been easier to prepare this year with a grant from Bendigo Bank Toodyay that allowed us to buy a hydraulic log splitter.

With the help of a team of Moondyne Men we were able to prepare the firewood for the raffles and some was also delivered to others in the Toodyay community.

Recently I was the recipient of the Toodyay community in action.

The trailer we were going to deliver the firewood in had a flat tyre and was taken for repair to the Toodyay Tyre Service.

When returned to pick up the tyre it was repaired at no charge.

Steve at Toodyay Tyre Service did not know who I was but it does show the community spirit in the Toodyay business community.

But, it's not all work and no play; we also have some social events.

On July 9 we held our Christmas in July lunch at The Rec Hotel, Toodyay, with not only a lot of social interaction but also good food and service.

The Moondyne Men are grateful for the support of the community and appreciate the fact we are the biggest and most proactive men's group in Toodyay and are proud of our mantra 'Men Looking After Men and The Community.'

If you would like to join us on any Monday and Thursday from 8.30am at the CRC building, 67 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay and our free breakfast and committee meeting held on the first Saturday of each month come along or ring our Secretary Colin on 0424 19 5003.

A memorable performance from the heart

RSL Toodyay Subbranch Max Howard

THE big event for August was the play performed by Theatre 180 called the *21 Hearts* and The Toodyay RSL Sub-branch was proud to bring this event to the Memorial Hall.

The production on Saturday August 8 featured two sessions: one commencing at 2pm, and the evening session commencing at 7pm.

Both of these sessions were sold out several weeks ago and 300 people enjoyed the memorable event.

The play is based on a true-life incident of the murder of 21 nurses on Bangka Island Indonesia in World War II by the Japanese military.

Our own Alma Beard was a causality.

This performance has been conducted in a number of places in Western Australia and in the eastern states to rave reviews.

To date we are the only RSL club in Australia which has promoted and paid for this event.

We would also like to thank our sponsors Bendigo Bank, Toodyay Op Shop, Moondyne Men and a number of local individuals.

There was also a free performance on the Friday for the students of Toodyay District High School, and a small memorial service at the Alma Beard Memorial near the doctor's surgery on Sunday morning at 11am.

The community was invited to attend this service.

Work is progressing at a rapid rate on the new building and everything is on track for completion by the end of this month.

Work will still continue on drainage of water runoff, completing parking bays, erecting flag poles and having a brick patio installed at the front of the building.

We are hopeful we will be able to hold our first annual general meeting in the building in September.

We would like as many members as possible to attend the occasion, which has been 107 years in the making.

Hopefully in 2027 we may be able to start working on the plan for our current shed to be utilised as a small museum.



The new RSL building nears completion and the community is invited to our AGM.



Beautiful artwork brings bird hide to life

Dudja Waangkiny (Toodyay Yarning)



VISITORS to Redbank Pool, just two kilometres from Toodyay along the Bilya Track, will notice a striking new addition to the John Masters Bird Hide.

Installed in June, the new artwork celebrates the rich birdlife of Redbank Pool and complements the existing cultural display already housed within the hide.

The installation occupies the right-hand wall of the structure and tells the story of the local *Djirda* (birds) that frequent this important *Kep Wari* (water place).

The bird hide has become a popular destination for birdwatchers, walkers, school groups, photographers and visitors exploring the area.

The new display features high-quality bird imagery generously donated by renowned wildlife photographer Georgina Steytler.

Many of the photographs were taken at Redbank itself, showcasing species regularly seen around the pool and surrounding wetlands.

Birds are identified using Noongar, common, and scientific names, creating an

engaging educational experience for visitors of all ages.

The Birds art project was coordinated by Helen Shanks on behalf of our corporation, working closely with Greg Warburton of Toodyay Friends of the River.

Together, they sought to create an installation that celebrates both the natural and cultural significance of this special place.

Redbank Pool is a key feature of both the Bilya Track and the Noongar Trail.

The new artwork strengthens the bird hide as a place of learning and reflection while highlighting the diversity of birdlife that depends on the waterways and wetlands of the Avon Valley.

The project was made possible through the support and contributions of many individuals and organisations.

We gratefully acknowledge members of our team, the Shire of Toodyay, Toodyay Friends of the River, Toodyay Naturalist Club, Toodyay Op Shop, Six Seasons Connect, Avon Yard Maintenance Service (AYMS), Georgina Steytler Nature Photography, Milimili Wadjela, and all those who contributed their time, knowledge, and support to bring the project to life.

Please note that following a recent discussion with the Shire, surveillance cameras are now located along the rack, including at this Redbank site.



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