

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,
Woorlooloo, Wundowie, Gidgegannup and local districts.

April 2026
Edition 455

Costs climbing



Pictured: Toodyay Hardware and Farm Supplies store manager, Jeff Hudson.

Rashelle Predovnik

THE diesel shortage is starting to bite in Toodyay, with a local hardware store warning rising fuel costs, big price hikes on products made from oil-based plastic and disrupted deliveries could soon push up prices for residents and farmers.

Toodyay Hardware and Farm Supplies owner Damien said the flow-on effects were already being felt across its supply chain, with freight costs skyrocketing in the past few weeks.

He said the current diesel shortage was driving up costs and cutting down deliveries.

"Our freight supplier charges us a fuel levy on top of the standard pallet cost and at the end of February, this was a comfortable 17 percent," he said.

"Today, it's sitting at 60 percent and with seeding starting, I can only expect it to climb higher."

To combat the rising costs, some suppliers have added extra delivery fees and freight companies have scaled back deliveries to manage higher costs.

Damien said to date the business has done what it can to absorb these extra costs.

"But if this drags on past April, we may have no choice but to start raising prices."

Damien said the fuel shortage was also causing price hikes on some PVC pipes and plastic fittings.

Simply because a huge portion of the oil used to make plastic resin comes from the exact same supply chain as the oil used to produce our fuel.

"It's all connected."

He said several suppliers had warned of price increases between 20 percent and 50 percent on certain products.

Despite this, several major suppliers have also indicated they do not plan immediate increases.

Shadow Minister for Agriculture Lachlan

Hunter MLA said the crisis was now hitting agriculture hard, with devastating consequences for farmers heading into one of the most critical periods of the year.

"Without diesel, tractors stop, seed stays in the shed and next year's harvest is put at risk."

Mr Hunter said without urgent action, the fuel crisis will quickly become a full-blown food crisis.

"When diesel does not reach the people who produce and move our food, the cost does not disappear, it lands squarely on the kitchen tables of Western Australian families," he said.

"This is how a fuel crisis becomes a food price crisis, with higher freight costs, disrupted supply and more pressure on families already struggling with the cost of living."

In response, the State Government has activated emergency powers to take control

... continued on page 3

Coming events this month

classifieds	26
emergency services	8-9
environment	28-29
health	30
letters	4
public notices	26
puzzles	27
sport and leisure	31
trades & services	22-24
when & where	26

Elders Toodyay Real Estate

Now is the time to list your property and take advantage of the "Spring Market".



There has never been so much interest in Toodyay, we have buyers waiting.

Pop in and have a chat or call us on:
9574 4200
124 Stirling Terrace, TOODYAY 6566



Celebrating Toodyay's first triathlon



Pippa Fulwood, Eugenie Fulwood and Ava Murray.



Katie Sharples, Kirsty Palmer, Crystal Glossop.



Summer Roberts, Emma Thompson, Patrick Thompson.



Guy Boggs, Benjamin Wood, Hamish Wood.



Waiting to compete.

TOODYAY'S very first triathlon was a huge success, drawing a big crowd of spectators to watch the exciting competition and more visitors to the town.

The inaugural Toodyay Triathlon held on Sunday March 8 at the Toodyay Aquatic Centre attracted 129 competitors between 7 and 79 years of age.

They competed solo or as a team in one of three race distances.

Competitors swam, rode and ran their way through the course as an estimated 200 supporters and spectators cheered them on.

Every competitor received a finish medal, followed by a

visit to the recovery tent for water, hydration, fresh fruit and a free sausage sizzle.

Presentation of medals and prizes were given to first, second and third place male and female competitors and to the first team for each event.

Thanks to generous business sponsorship, each placing competitor received a cash prize and all competitors were eligible to receive a range of spot prizes distributed at the event.

The Toodyay Triathlon introduced 67 people (51 percent of competitors) to the sport of triathlon for the first time.

It encouraged people to be active, to swim, cycle and

run on a regular basis and contribute to positive health and wellbeing.

The event demonstrated that triathlon is truly a sport for all ages and abilities with examples of three generations of one family all participating in an event for the first time.

The Toodyay Triathlon created community connection and generated a sense of belonging in our community.

It showcased Toodyay's Aquatic Centre to local residents and attracted visitors to Toodyay, including overnight stays and associated visitor spending, and promoted Toodyay as a destination for triathlon in the broader WA triathlon community.

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.

MEMBERSHIP - Membership of The Toodyay Herald is available at \$15 (\$12 concession) per financial year, with members entitled to free advertising worth \$15 annually. Please send your name, phone number and residential, postal and email address with your membership fee to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566 or leave it at 92B Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

President: Peter Ruthven
Vice President:
Secretary: Anne Bouveng
Treasurer: Liz Sullivan
Members: Beth Ruthven, Julie Hoy Poy, Susan Pearce, Madison van Helsdingen, Joshua van Helsdingen

ADVERTISING

David Palmer 0417 097 825 or advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

DISTRIBUTION

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.

COPYRIGHT

Where no charge is made for the preparation of advertising material, *The Toodyay Herald* will remain owner of copyright in the advertising material. Such advertising material may be reproduced only with the consent of *The Toodyay Herald* and upon payment of such fee as *The Toodyay Herald* may require.

©Original works are subject to copyright and shall not be reproduced without authority.

THANK YOU

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

ADVERTISING

RATES - NO GST IS APPLICABLE

The cost of a casual display advertisement is \$4.35 per column cm (NB Column width is 61.5mm.)

Full Page: Mono - \$696.00; Colour - \$747.50.

Setup size: 260mm wide by 385mm deep.

Half Page: Mono - \$348.00; Colour - \$399.50

Setup size: 260mm wide by 190mm deep.

Quarter Page: Mono - \$174.00; Col. - \$225.50.

Setup size: 127.5mm wide by 190mm deep.

Page Nomination Loading: Front page - 100%, Back page - 50%, Centre pages / Page 3 - 25%, other pages - 10% (based on mono price).

Advertorial: Must be accompanied by purchase of quarter page advertisement (text 200-300 words) \$65.00.

Colour advertisements of a size not listed above incur a \$51.50 surcharge with the exception of the Trades and Services section. A one-off setup fee (artwork fee) may be charged for advertisements which are not print ready. Advertisers, please supply a postal address for accounting purposes and the number of issues in which you would like your advertisement to be included. Accounts are issued every month with payment required within 30 days. Payment may be made by post, EFTPOS or at the *Herald* office.

INDEMNITY AND WARRANTY

Advertisers and/or advertising agencies upon and by lodging material with *The Toodyay Herald* for publication or authorising or approving the publication of any material, **INDEMNIFY The Toodyay Herald Inc.** against all claims, demands, proceedings, costs, expenses, damages, awards, judgements and any other liability whatsoever wholly or partially arising directly or indirectly in connection with the publication of the material, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, indemnify **The Toodyay Herald Inc.** in relation to defamation, libel, slander of title, infringement of copyright, infringement of trade marks or names of publication titles, unfair competition, breach of trade practices or fair trading legislation, violation of rights of privacy or confidential information or licences or royalty rights or other intellectual property rights **AND WARRANT** that the material complies with all relevant laws and regulations and that its publication will not give rise to any claims against or liabilities to **The Toodyay Herald Inc.**, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, that nothing therein is in breach of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* or the *Copyright Act 1968* or the *Fair Trading Act 1987* or the defamation, consumer protection and sale of goods legislation of the States and Territories or infringes the rights of any person.

The Toodyay Herald accepts no responsibility or liability in relation to any loss due to the failure of an advertisement to appear according to instructions. The positioning or placing of an advertisement is at the discretion of the Editor.

NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Noon Thursday
April 30

STORY DEADLINE

Noon Friday
May 1

DISTRIBUTED

Thursday
May 14

Over \$400k planned to be spent on a bridge you can't run or cycle on

Rashelle Predovnik

COUNCIL will discuss funding options to fix the town's ageing Newcastle Footbridge, which will now only be allowed to be used for walking.

Council voted to reopen the bridge to pedestrians, with no e-bikes, scooters, cycling or any other means of transport allowed.

The April report to council said there needed to be a long-term financial commitment from council to keep the bridge open and extend its life by 20 plus years through maintenance.

The report proposed setting up a special reserve fund to repair and maintain the bridge from an extra two percent rate increase.

"It is recommended the shire begins reserving two percent of rates annually into a ring-fenced reserve account."

But *The Herald* has queried the lack of other funding options presented to councillors – as the report focused solely on an additional two per cent rate increase as a solution.

The Herald has asked why the report did not include other options such as seeking grants or external funding, establishing a reserve without increasing rates, or reprioritising existing spending within the current budget.

While the two per cent increase was recommended by officers, council did not adopt this proposal.

Instead, council agreed to proceed with a

full bridge decking replacement, estimated at \$270,000, to be funded through the annual budget.

Council also supported a staged approach to the broader repairs.

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

Rather than introducing a two percent rate rise, council unanimously voted to consider the funding implications as part of the 2026–27 annual budget process.

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

Council voted to reopen the footbridge to pedestrians only, subject to insurance requirements and the installation of signage warning of trip hazards.

The move to open the Newcastle foot bridge was welcomed by Newcastle Park parkrun member who made a statement at the council meeting.

"We are excited and supportive of the officer's recommendation for option one, reopening the footbridge with appropriate signage and progressing decking replacement through the 2026-2027 budget."

But local mum Laura told *The Herald* the community wanted more information about the cost of the bridge and why it was closed.

"We were not told how much the bridge was costing to keep open and it just shut one day," she said.

"If they're saying it cost 'X amount' to fix the bridge then give us a break down of the cost and justify the spending."



Harriet, Darci and Will with mums Nikki and Laura on the Newcastle footbridge

Uniform rate plan sparks backlash over hefty hikes

Rashelle Predovnik

MORANGUP residents have fired up against a council decision to create a uniform rate in the dollar, warning it will drive up costs for rural property owners and potentially deliver a bigger-than-expected financial blow when rates are finalised.

The modelling in the report to council that supported the uniform rate pushed GRV rural residential rates up by five percent and UV rural rates up 21 percent.

But critics of the move are bracing for a bigger hit when rates are finalised, as the percentages in the council report were based on last year's lower rate setting.

This means the projected increases outlined in the report could end up even higher if this year's rates are set above last year's levels.

Council voted to change the method of rating from July 1 this year moving from differential rates to a uniform rate in the dollar for properties valued using Gross Rental Value (GRV) and Unimproved Value (UV) at its March meeting.

The uniform rate won't significantly change the shire's total rate revenue, which will stay about the same according to the report to council.

But it will have a big effect on many household budgets.

The report to council showed the biggest changes affected two groups: 410 properties in the UV General category saw their rates

drop by 58 percent, whereas 198 UV Rural properties saw their rates jump up 21 percent.

The biggest category (1,055 'GRV Rural Residential' properties) had a five percent increase.

Whereas 626 GRV Residential properties saw their rates fall by four percent.

But the figures modelled in the report to council were from last year and they will be outdated when council ratifies its new budget and sets its rates for the 2026-2027 financial year.

This means, the small decreases modelled in the March report to council could disappear and small increases could spike if council sets a rate this year higher than last year's 2.2 percent.

The neighbouring shires of York, Chittering and Victoria Plains have a uniform rate structure.

Whereas Northam and Goomalling still use the differential rating model and so did Toodyay before the change last month.

In a statement the shire said this change will make rates fairer, clearer, and easier to understand, and it will help ensure long term

compliance with rating laws.

"This isn't about raising more money — it's about simplifying the system and improving transparency," the shire said in a statement.

"Slight reductions or modest increases may appear on individual rates notices, depending on your property type and valuation."

But the actual percentage increases and decreases for this year are yet to be released.

The Toodyay Herald asked the shire to confirm that the figures to be advertised for public comment in May will be based on the final 2026–27 budget and updated modelling, rather than last year's figures presented in the March report to council.

So the community could make informed submissions.

The Herald is yet to receive a response from the shire to its questions.

A statement on a Morangup community website slammed the decision to hit Morangup residents with a rate hike — while Toodyay town residents rates went down — as divisive.

Although the shire said the change was

not about raising more money, Morangup residents are being warned to brace for the first of many rate rises if council proceeds with its plans to flatten the system.

"The March decision is the method change — the reshuffling of who pays more and who pays less," it said.

"It does not necessarily include whatever broader increase the shire may later apply through the 2026/27 budget."

Morangup residents opposing the uniform model said they were not reacting to one isolated tweak.

They were reacting to a pattern over time of rising costs, town-centric assumptions, heavy shire spending programs, weak outer-locality voice, and now a council decision that shifted more of the rating burden onto rural residential, while giving town residential a reduction.

The uniform rating model will be put out for public comment next month.

The proposal will be advertised for 21 days, seeking community feedback so the community can have their say.

Costs climbing

... continued from page 1

of fuel supply data and direct deliveries to the regions most in need.

Fuel for agriculture is being prioritised, to ensure seeding can go ahead in hard-hit communities.

Road train limits have also been relaxed to move more diesel and petrol into regional areas faster.

A taskforce led by Deputy Premier Rita Saffioti is working with regional suppliers, including Great Southern Fuels, and the Federal Government to find new ways to get fuel into affected areas.

The measures come after widespread reports of fuel shortages across regional WA.

For now, Toodyay residents are being urged to brace for slower deliveries and the possibility of higher prices if the fuel squeeze continues.

Your local voice
for Toodyay!

Here to help!

lachlan.hunter@mp.wa.gov.au

Northam Office

(08) 9622 2871

PO Box 92, Northam WA 6401

185 Fitzgerald St, Northam
(Next to the Commonwealth Bank)

LACHLAN HUNTER MP

MEMBER FOR CENTRAL WHEATBELT

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

The Toodyay Herald

From the editor's desk

CONFIDENCE in local government is built on two things: trust and transparency.

When mistakes happen (as they inevitably do in any organisation) what really matters is how they are acknowledged and addressed.

In past editions, *The Herald* reported the shire failed to claim \$195,000 it was owed in GST and an audit report revealed ongoing failures that persisted across multiple audits.

So a recent decision by the Audit and Risk Committee (ARIC) to step up its oversight is a good move.

It means mistakes like missed reconciliations, duplicate payments and fraud risks are more likely to be picked up early and fixed.

Newcastle Footbridge

All ratepayers will be hit with an extra two percent rate hike each year to maintain a bridge that users will only be allowed to walk on.

Resorting straight to a rate hike to fix the Newcastle Footbridge instead of looking at other funding options was something *The Herald* has queried.

Especially since there are state and federal government funding streams the shire could have accessed.

Two federal government grants available include: the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program and the Thriving Suburbs Program, which both give money for bridges.

Ratepayers have a right to expect all funding avenues are considered before they are asked to dig deeper into their own pockets.

Uniform rates

In the wake of a fuel and cost of living crisis, one has to question the council's latest decision to roll out a uniform rate rise, that has seen some rates rise as high as 21 percent – while others drop 58 per cent.

This roller coaster has caused angst amongst GRV rural residential property owners — as the modelling behind the 21 percent rate rise was from last year's rates.

That means, if this year's rates come in higher — as many expect — the actual impact could be worse than what councillors were shown.

The shire says the new uniform rating model won't significantly increase its rates revenue.

And the reason given for the new model is past mistakes made by the shire under the differential rating system, which it described as complex.

The shire says it's aiming to improve transparency and compliance but why not just identify where past mistakes have been made and improve the process?

Surely that can't be a difficult task for a shire with a small rate base of 2,400 dwellings.

Change is sometimes necessary, but it needs to be backed by clear communication and careful modelling.

If the shire can demonstrate both, it will go a long way towards easing community concern.

Rashelle Predovnik
Editor



The way we were – Light Horse Regiment soldiers on parade in the 1930s in Clinton Street (now Piesse Street) in front of former stables belonging to the Freemasons Hotel (rear). From Newcastle Gaol Museum collection.

LETTERS

A divide and rule strategy?

THE Shire is intending to remove the differential rating system.

That system is for a purpose.

The recognition that those living in the rural parts of the shire have fewer ratepayer funded amenities and greater costs associated with using town-based facilities and services.

These include the waste transfer station and recreation centre.

The contention is that this will create a small increase for some ratepayers.

However, a look at the numbers reveals that those on UV Rural will be paying an extra 21 percent and that is before any rate rise (in past history perhaps around 4-5 percent) to accommodate the budget.

Those on GRV Rural Residential will pay an extra five percent also before the additional amount dictated by the budget.

Those in agriculture will take a big 'hit' especially in light of the current fuel and fertiliser issues.

Many residents of most subdivisions, including Morangup, Bejoording, Hordywell, Julimar, Coondle and parts of several others, are GRV Rural Residential and they will be paying the same rates as those in the town (incidentally townsite properties are getting a reduction).

The bottom line is that around two thirds of shire residential ratepayers, e.g. those who live outside the townsite will be paying the same rates as those in town but without equitable access to ratepayer funded facilities and services.

This is iniquitous and appears to be continuing the trend towards urbanisation that seems to be a hallmark of this council and administration.

Perhaps it is time for the community, especially those in agriculture and rural residents to speak up loud and clear and send a message to the council/shire.

Jo Hart
Morangup

The Toodyay Herald invites you to have your say in our letters page. Please email news@toodyayherald.com.au with your full name, address and phone number. Letters less than 300 words about topical local issues are preferred. The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length, grammar and legal reasons. Publication of letters is at The Herald's discretion.

Aboriginal heritage legislation

CURRENTLY the legislation dealing with Aboriginal Heritage is being reviewed: (*High stakes hearing. Toodyay Herald*, March edition) but there is a matter, long overlooked, that needs to be dealt with.

At this time the decisions of the Aboriginal Heritage Committee have no legal effect.

This has been so since the inception of the legislation.

This situation has been brought about because of a failure to comply with some provisions of the Interpretation Act 1984. (and the previous Interpretation Act of 1918).

The Interpretation Act applies to all legislation unless specifically excluded – section 3.

Decisions of the committee are caught by the definition of *subsidiary legislation* in section 5.

Section 41 provides that all subsidiary legislation shall be published in the gazette or (now) on the WA legislation website, and “*come into operation on the day of publication*”.

The current Aboriginal heritage legislation came into effect in 1972.

At that time the previous Interpretation Act (1918) was in force.

The relevant provisions of that act were to the same effect as the current legislation.

It is now over 54 years later and there has not been one relevant entry in the government gazettes.

There are other provisions in the Interpretation Act which also contain devastating consequences.

John King
Toodyay

Local art displayed

INFORMING all Toodyay residents interested in art to visit the Toodyay Visitors Centre each month.

The centre has dedicated a large space for local artists to exhibit their work.

Each month a different artist's work will be displayed and will be for sale.

Please go in and have a look.

It is free.

It is a wonderful experience to view the fantastic artwork on display.

Sandy Wessley

Wise words for unsettled times.

Desiderata - “things that are desired”

GO PLACIDLY amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly, and listens to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.

If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter,

For always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery but let this not blind you to what virtue there is.

Many persons strive for high ideals and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself...

Especially do not feign affection.

Neither be cynical about love, for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.

But do not distress yourself with imaginings.

Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars.

You have a right to be here and, whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore, be at peace with God.

Whatever you conceive Him to be and whatever your labours and aspirations in the noisy confusion of life.

Keep peace with your soul... with all its sham and drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.

Be careful. Strive to be happy.

This text was widely distributed in poster form in the 1960s and 1970s.

The inscription was found in Old St Pauls church, Baltimore, dated 1692.

“Desiderata” was actually written as a 1927 prose poem by the American writer Max Ehrmann.

Yani Wessley
Julimar

Audit committee steps up scrutiny



Rashelle Predovnik

THE Audit and Risk Committee (ARIC) has stepped up its scrutiny of the Shire of Toodyay's governance and finances calling for more meetings and more oversight – in a move that prompted pushback from the chief executive officer.

Under the Local Government Act, ARIC is responsible for the oversight of risk management, internal controls, financial management and compliance.

The committee's decision to step up its oversight follows the 2024–25 audit's financial management report, which identified major issues that have persisted across four audits.

Auditors found \$242,521 had been mistakenly been paid twice, no monthly

bank reconciliations were done for almost an entire financial year and the risk of fraud had increased.

ARIC held a special meeting on March 17 at the shire's council chambers on Fiennes St to endorse an annual work plan and a new reporting process.

ARIC's report outlined a plan that included monthly meetings instead of quarterly, and it substantially increased the reporting requirements for finance, governance, risk and operations.

The committee said regular monthly meetings would better help them to detect issues early, monitor trends or intervene before risks escalated.

ARIC also asked for an operational overview summary to inform the committee about key activities and significant incidents

that resulted in compliance breaches, reputational harm or the need for corrective action.

A reconciliation status report was also requested, including bank accounts, GST and asset registers to help the committee look at the integrity of the financial records.

ARIC also asked the shire's CEO Aaron Bowman to provide a formal written statement of assurance each quarter on the effectiveness of the organisation's processes and to identify any issues that warranted ARIC's attention.

In response, Mr Bowman described the discussions ARIC had as 'secret, behind closed doors meetings' and discussions that did not promote transparency as he was not told before the special audit meeting that ARIC wanted a more detailed work plan.

Mr Bowman also raised governance concerns, saying the committee's role was to review reports from the CEO and make recommendations to council.

He said the CEO was responsible for administration, staffing, systems and reporting.

He added that any extra reporting requests would need to be assessed for practicality, staffing and legal requirements before going to council for approval.

Moving to monthly meetings and endorsing a complex reporting schedule would also impose significant workload increases and administrative demands, Mr Bowman said.

In a statement, ARIC chair Natalie Mills said members meeting to discuss priorities and what reporting was required for proper oversight was not 'non-compliant' behaviour — it was the committee simply doing their job.

She said the committee had a responsibility under the Act to decide the information, reporting and assurance it needed to fulfil its statutory functions.

"To meet this obligation, ARIC must establish a structured and predictable reporting framework that ensures it receives the information necessary to monitor financial controls, compliance, risk management and organisational performance throughout the year."

"The proposed reporting framework sets out a suite of standing reports, delivered at defined intervals to ensure ARIC receives timely, evidence-based information that supports informed decision making and effective oversight."

ARIC also noted that it had requested the required reports from the CEO in accordance with the committee's charter and statutory functions.

Mrs Mills said if the reports required by the framework could not be produced, that could pose a serious risk to the shire.

"Identifying such risks is one of the reasons why this committee exists."

Members of the audit committee unanimously voted to support the annual work plan and to hold monthly meetings at the special audit meeting held last month.

PURSLOWE
TINETTI
FUNERALS

Call us for a free booklet to help you organise your future

plan
YOUR
Goodbye
YOUR WAY



Burials & Cremations in Country & Metro Areas. Pre-paid Funerals & Bonds Available

100% WA Family Owned. Phone Rob & Dianne Tinetti 08 9622 1411



AUSTRALIAN
FUNERAL
DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

info@ptfnortham.com.au 264 Fitzgerald St Northam www.purslowetinettifunerals.com

Raising awareness one run at a time

SIMONE Brown has hit the ground running, striding towards an ambitious statewide running challenge to honour her mother who passed away this year after living with a rare brain disease, and she'll be at the Toodyay park run next month to raise funds and awareness.

Cerebral Autosomal Dominant Arteriopathy with Subcortical Infarcts and Leukoencephalopathy (CADASIL) is a rare, hereditary disease that affects small blood vessels in the brain and causes strokes, early-onset dementia and migraines.

It typically appears in patients aged 30–50 years and Ms Brown is running to raise awareness.

She recently marked a milestone in her campaign, *CADASIL – Raising Awareness One Run at a Time*, finishing her tenth parkrun and raising nearly \$4000 towards her \$10,000 goal for vital research.

What began as a tribute while her mother was still alive has now become a legacy.

Ms Brown kicked off her challenge at the Woodbridge Riverside Parkrun in January and she will participate at every parkrun across Western Australia, to shine a light on CADASIL and support vital research.

Her mother was diagnosed in 2020 after years of unexplained fatigue, confusion and balance issues.

She passed away surrounded by family in February this year after a long and difficult decline.

Ms Brown recalls her mum was carefree, vibrant and independent.

"Watching her gradually lose her mobility and independence was heartbreaking.

"But continuing this challenge gives me purpose."

There is currently no cure or specific treatment for the disease, with doctors focusing on reducing the risk of stroke.

It's estimated around 1,350 Australians may be living with CADASIL but researchers believe it's underdiagnosed.

Now 10 Parkruns down, Ms Brown says the support from local runners and the broader WA community has been welcomed and extremely encouraging.

"I can't change what happened to mum," she said.

"But if we can raise awareness, fund research and give another family hope for better answers in the future, then her story will mean something bigger."



Simone Brown is fundraising for vital research in memory of her beloved mother.

RSL marches into a new era



The initial concrete pour for the Toodyay RSL's new home marks a major milestone.

AFTER more than a century without a permanent base, the Toodyay RSL is finally getting a home of its own with construction now underway.

Toodyay is one of the oldest sub-branches in the state, turning 107 this year and RSL Toodyay sub branch president Geoff Brown said it was about time they had their own building.

"We were established in 1919 and the joke is that we've been in this town for 107 years and we're finally getting our club room."

Mr Brown said in 1956 the RSL donated their building fund to the shire to refurbish the memorial hall.

"They refurbished the hall, but the RSL never got the full use of it."

The Toodyay Shire council did eventually vote to give the former parks and gardens

depot site on Clinton Street to the Toodyay RSL, with the agreement finalised around 2020.

Mr Brown said it was now all coming together.

"This is quite a significant part of the RSL's history and we're all getting rather excited about watching the progress," he said.

The building's pad was laid last month and, as well as being used by Toodyay's large veteran community, the venue will also be made available to the community more widely.

In a statement, the sub-branch said there was not enough attention being paid to the younger members of the veteran community who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Once we are into our new home, we hope to attract more members."

Heartbroken family offers cash reward



Rashelle Predovnik

NEARLY a year after their tiny dog vanished into the Wheatbelt, a grieving family is offering a generous cash reward and refusing to give up hope she will come home.

Poppy, a small chihuahua 'the size of a kitten', slipped away while in the care of Romy's parents in Northam on April 29.

She was briefly spotted along Katrine Road, walking along a farm fence line, more than 15 kilometres from town and the couple who spotted her were unable to catch her.

Despite a tireless search effort, including drones, hours spent walking the Avon River and help from strangers across the Wheatbelt, Poppy has not been found.

For Romy, the passing of time hasn't dulled the pain or her determination to find the family's much-loved pet.

"I feel like someone has picked her up," Romy said.

"She had a harness and name tag on.

"Whoever has her would know she belongs to someone."

But not really knowing has been the hardest part and Romy said in those first desperate days, the community rallied.

People walked alongside her father, followed leads, and they shared posts all over social media.

A year later, some people are still helping to spread the word and Romy still has hope.

"We walked fence lines because that's what dogs do – they follow roads," Romy said.

"By the second day, she would have been starving and exhausted, that's when they'll let someone pick them up."

Poppy, who turns three this year, had only just missed celebrating her second birthday with the family.

"My young daughter still asks for her for Christmas and for her birthday," said Romy.

And she is holding on to hope because she says stranger things have happened.

"You hear of dogs being reunited after a year or longer so, I can't let it go."

Poppy is microchipped, registered as missing, and described as highly intelligent and resilient – all traits Romy believes could have helped her survive.

She also believes someone, somewhere, knows where she is and a generous cash reward is now being offered for information leading to Poppy's return.

"She was my shadow," Romy said.

"She came from a very loving home and we just want her back."

Anyone who may have seen Poppy, or who has taken in a small tan chihuahua matching her description, is urged to come forward.

Romy can be contacted on 0422 479 694.

T

DYAY

MRB 10905

Tyre Service

New 4X4, Truck,
Motorbikes &
Tractor

Repairs
Exhausts
Balancing
Suspensions
Wheel Alignment

Lot 20
Stirling Tce

9574 4499

tyres1@iinet.net.au

Pioneering Ferguson clan celebrates 60 year milestone

ONE of Toodyay's oldest pioneering families will reunite this Easter to continue a 60-year tradition and celebrate a remarkable legacy that spans generations.

The Ferguson family traces its Western Australian roots back to February 1, 1831, when Alexander (Sandy) Ferguson and his wife Christian arrived aboard the *Drummore* with their three young children.

Another child was born and died during the voyage, and the couple later had six more children.

The family eventually made their home in Toodyay and established themselves at Barn Elms to become one of the district's foundational families.

Alexander Ferguson holds the distinction of being the first person buried at Nardie Cemetery in April 1858, and Christian was laid to rest next to him in 1870.

The family grew in size as children married and had families of their own, and while surnames changed through marriage — bringing in names such as Donegan and Sinclair — the strong Ferguson connection remained.

The now well-established reunion tradition began in 1965 at the funeral of Henry James Ferguson, one of Alexander and Sarah's children.



The first reunion in 1966.



Alexander and Sarah and their 13 children.

At the time, a number of cousins remarked that funerals were the only time they saw each other.

Determined to change that, family members Vern and Boyce Donegan, Mac Ferguson and Spec Sinclair organised the first official gathering in 1966.

Family reunions followed in 1976 and 1986, before the family agreed that a 10-year

gap was too long.

Since then, the Ferguson descendants have come together every five years.

Only two of Alexander and Sarah's 13 children — Elsie May and Herbert Edward — were still alive in 1966, and both attended.

Today, the family tree has grown to an impressive 1,649 descendants, according to its most recent update in 2023.

The oldest female descendant is Bel Row (93), the oldest male is Royston Sinclair (85) and the youngest is Adella Acciano (nine days).

This Easter, relatives travelled from across Australia and overseas — including from as far as France — to reconnect, share stories and honour the legacy of those who came before them.



Age is no barrier: Peter lifts himself and others

Rashelle Predovnik

HE IS known around town as the wise-cracking Moondyne Men member, always happy to lend a hand, but Peter Phillips is also quietly helping others get stronger in the only club of its kind in Western Australia.

The International All-round Weightlifting Association (IAWA) might have clubs all around the world but in WA, Toodyay is the only club holding the bar — thanks to one very determined founding member.

Mr Phillips moved to Toodyay in 2000 where he set up Western Australia's only IAWA club.

He was also the club's only member.

Mr Phillips said he started by himself and a small membership grew from word-of-mouth.

"I bought all my lifting gear and set it up in the shed and a couple of the boys from the Moondyne Men soon joined."

The 72-year-old's journey to weightlifting didn't start in the gym — it started after a truck accident he had in his early 30s.

"A bloke tipped a truck over on top of me," Mr Phillips recalls.

"I was in the sleeper box of my truck when it happened, so I started as a cripple back in 1985."

Mr Phillips was badly injured and on workers compensation for 12 months.

He said doctors kept telling him to go home and rest.

But he got angry instead and picked up a few dumbbells.

"And that's how I started."

Over the next five years he won powerlifting competitions, body building competitions and he became an Olympic lifting coach.

Decades later, and retired in Toodyay, Mr Phillips met a man at the pub who was also on workers compensation.

"I told him how I fixed up my back through exercise and he started coming

around," Mr Phillips said.

"He saw all the exercise equipment and it started from there."

"He's improved dramatically and he's now back at work full time."

Mr Phillips has 11 people who regularly drop into his home gym and they are all in their senior years.

"I have one man who comes around three times a week because he had a fall and hurt his neck pretty badly, and when he started with me he was virtually a cripple," Mr

Phillips said.

"It's purely strength training, you start light and work your way up."

Although the small Toodyay club often competes against itself, the results carry global weight.

Their performances are sent to England to be officially ratified under international rules and this allows members to compete against lifters worldwide.

Strength training has been life changing for Mr Phillips but he cautions others not to

compare themselves with him.

"You need to understand your own body and find the right way to build your strength because no two people are the same."

The club is invitation only, but Mr Phillips says he's always happy to have a chat with anyone interested in learning more about what they do.

Peter can be contacted on his mobile 0447 000 549.

WESPROP REALTY



*Committed to
Service Excellence*

Call :- Rob French

TOWN AND COUNTRY REAL ESTATE

Ph :- 0401 970 997

Email :- rob@wesproprealty.com.au



**REIWA
ACCREDITED
BUSINESS BROKER**



**REIWA
ACCREDITED
SALES REPRESENTATIVE**



EMERGENCY SERVICES

Do you have a first aid kit?

St John Ambulance Toodyay
Michael Black

IT IS always busy at the Toodyay subcentre of St Johns and our volunteers are here to help.

This includes transferring patients between hospitals to emergency medical aid at home or on the road.

In the last month we have attended approximately 102 people and travelled over 5800kms.

Do you have a first aid kit in your car or at home? What about at work?

Ensuring that you carry a first aid kit in your car and having one at home is a simple and effective way to help you be prepared should an emergency or minor injury happen.

Incidents happen without warning. At home, cuts, burns, sprains or insect bites are easily dealt with when you have an appropriate first aid kit.

Instead of scrambling about trying to find what you need, it is all conveniently in one place.

Don't forget that prompt treatment of even minor cuts and burns can reduce the risk of infection. A well-stocked first aid kit can give you peace of mind.

In the car, a first aid kit can help manage unexpected injuries resulting from minor

accidents or providing essential care while waiting for emergency services.

In rural areas where 000 response times may be a little longer, having a first aid kit available may make an important difference.

Having a first aid kit at home and in your car is a low cost and practical way to manage an emergency situation.

Accidents are always unexpected. Be Prepared.

The St John office opposite the bakery has a wide range of first aid kits for sale.

You can also book yourself to do a first aid course.

A Provide First Aid course in Toodyay will be held May 16. If you would like to understand how to use your first aid kit effectively, this is the course for you.

Injury management and CPR skills together with how to use a defibrillator are covered in the course.

There is a new defibrillator at the lay-by at the corner of Toodyay Road and the Northam – Toodyay Road. This was paid for, installed and maintained by St Johns.

Book yourself into a Provide First Aid course and get familiar with how to use a defibrillator.

From all of us at St John have a safe and happy April.



The new Defibrillator.



Four wheels turn

Northam SES
Lin Booth

ON A recent weekend Northam and Districts State Emergency Service (SES) Unit conducted an off-road driving (4 Wheel Drive) course and a vehicle recovery course.

Students came from Northam, Toodyay and Kalgoorlie with instructors from Northam and Rockingham/Kwinana SES Units.

The courses are very demanding.

They require five hours training on Friday night, and a full day Saturday and Sunday.

In the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the SES is the only division that performs vehicle recovery training.

They do this training due to the wide range of natural disasters where they work to assist their local community.

In broad terms, the SES have to be able to work in all natural disasters except fire.

When requested, they provide logistical and other support to the fire service.

The courses, although demanding, did not prevent the students from enjoying themselves.

In order to ensure the students are competent they have to be able drive in rough, sandy and muddy terrain, and recover vehicles from the same terrain. They have to convince the instructors they are competent in all phases of both courses. This is not an easy task.

The slope where the vehicle is being recovered is actually steeper than it looks so the terrain really tested their skills.

And they excelled. Well done to all students.

Be part of something big. Step up, learn new skills and help keep your community safe.

To find out more, and the many interesting things they do, call Lin on 0499 362 990.

Training, teamwork and thanks

VBFB Coondle Nunile
Aurelie Zimmermann

OVER the past weeks, the Coondle-Nunile Volunteer Bushfire Brigade has been keeping a watchful eye as permit season continues.

While it has been relatively quiet in terms of callouts, the brigade has responded promptly to a couple of small incidents in the local area.

Thanks to the swift action of local volunteers, farmers, and brigade members, these fires were contained before they could spread or cause significant damage.

Overall, it has been a quiet season which is always a welcome outcome.

These incidents highlight the importance of preparedness, early reporting and community cooperation.

We thank everyone who supports our efforts whether by helping on the ground or by following fire safety regulations.

Training has continued alongside our operational work.

Last month, the brigade held a comprehensive training session focused on electrical and vehicle fires.

The session included a review of past local incidents, highlighting potential hazards and best practices.

Volunteers discussed how to isolate electrical sources and approach these types of incidents safely as a bushfire brigade.

The session was very well attended with everyone actively participating, asking questions and sharing experiences.

This reflective approach ensures that all members learn from past incidents and continue to improve their skills.

The day concluded with a hearty meal.

Combining practical knowledge, teamwork and a full tummy is a recipe for a great training session.

Recently, the brigade has taken the opportunity to acknowledge the incredible support we receive from local organisations.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to the Toodyay Op Shop, Bunnings in Northam, the Toodyay Lions, the Moondyne Men and Fun and Fitness.

Their support is invaluable showing real commitment to the work of our brigade by giving their time, raising funds and sharing those resources with other volunteer organisations.

We are very grateful.

This is an amazing effort and these groups truly deserve more recognition for the vital role they play in supporting volunteers and our wider community.

As we move into cooler temperatures and

shorter days it's important to remember that the fire danger has not passed.

Vigilance remains key and the brigade encourages everyone to stay alert, follow fire safety guidelines and report any signs of fire promptly by calling 000.

A calm season does not mean the risk is gone as continued awareness ensures the safety of our homes and surrounds.

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

Joining the brigade is a great way to learn practical skills, build confidence and gain valuable experience, all while giving back to the community.

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

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

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



Jesse, pic courtesy Aurelie Zimmerman

Upcoming first aid courses

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

Price: \$180.00
When: Saturday 14 March - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Saturday 16 May - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Thursday 16 July - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Where: St John Ambulance Toodyay, 120D Stirling Terrace, Toodyay WA 6566

Understand first aid
Learn about first aid theory and action plans

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

Injury management
Treat and manage injuries in interactive training scenarios.

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

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

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

New volunteers join as season winds down

VBFB Toodyay Central
Peter Brennan

THE restricted burning period remains in place until April 30 and as highlighted in our March article, a permit must first be obtained from the shire.

The permit will only be issued for burning of stubble and chaff for crop preparation purposes. Permits are not issued for social occasions or burning of rubbish.

The brigade has received four callouts since the last *Herald* article.

Three were stand downs.

One was for the Toodyay 12.2 Bulk Water Tanker, to a fire in the Mundaring Shire.

We thank our crew of Brian Clarkson

and Dan Mason who spent seven hours supporting firefighting efforts at this incident.

Many thanks guys for an outstanding effort.

Thankfully, there have been no other callouts during the period.

Weekend crew rosters continue to be maintained by our volunteers.

Recently we have had five new volunteers join the brigade. As their applications are processed, they will join other new volunteers across the shire brigades to undertake the two foundation courses.

These must be completed before they can go on a fireground as a firefighter.

They are all very keen and as their time permits, they have been turning up to vehicle checks on a Friday evening.

We are pleased to welcome them into the team and introduce them to each of our truck layouts and operational procedures.

If anyone else wishes to join the Toodyay bush fire brigades, now is the time.

Initial training courses will be run over the coming months.

As the days begin to cool down, it is a good time to get out in the garden and on our properties to commence our annual autumn clean-up of fallen leaves and branches, dead material in gardens and freshly shredded paper bark.

Some mulch at home, some take green refuse to the local waste transfer station to be mulched, and some burn their refuse on site during the winter, following the end of the restricted burning period.

At the end of the restricted burn period, it is your choice to burn at home.

Please ensure you are aware of the conditions around you.

Wear the correct clothing and footwear.

Have available a good rake which allows you to maintain the fires perimeter. Most importantly, have a good reliable water source available. Please remain vigilant at all times.

Every year, we attend fires where the homeowner is on site but has been

temporarily distracted and a wind gust has taken the fire out of their control.

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of another season.

The brigade annual general meeting will be on Tuesday May 12.

It gives us time to reflect on the season and to thank both our members and the families/partners who support them.

All committee and brigade positions will be made vacant, and nominations called for to take us into the 2026-27 season.



Dan Mason left and Brian Clarkson attending an incident with the Toodyay 12.2 Bulk Water Tanker.

Give it a go and Volunteer



JVBFB members enjoying a quiet moment on the fireground.

VBFB Julimar
Gayle Nelson

THERE'S so much happening behind the scenes at your local bush fire brigade.

So, what does the life of a volunteer firefighter look like?

Rostered crews begin their weekend shift on Friday evening with appliance checks.

Appliance is simply the formal name for a fire vehicle.

Each one is inspected to ensure it's fit for service.

Under the guidance of their crew leader, volunteers work through a detailed checklist covering everything from recovery gear to fire pumps and radio communications.

The goal is simple; make sure the truck is ready to roll the moment a call comes in.

Across the weekend, rostered crews remain on standby until Sunday evening.

They are ready to deploy as soon as requested.

An appliance is mobile within 15 minutes of an alarm being raised.

When a Triple Zero call is received, firefighters and incident controllers are alerted via SMS and the BART (Broadcast Alert Response Turnout) app.

BART allows members to quickly indicate their availability using a simple trafficlight system.

Green for attending, red for unavailable, orange for delayed.

This helps crew leaders and incident controllers plan an effective response.

Once a callout is received, rostered members head to the station, gear up in PPE, establish communications with the incident controller and head out.

On arrival, crews receive their tasks.

This may include mopup and blacking out (not glamorous, but essential to prevent flareups), asset protection or active fire suppression using direct or indirect attack methods.

An incident shift runs for around eight hours.

Shire rules and state health and safety laws define our maximum shift lengths and required rest breaks.

New members receive four days of initial training and are paired with a mentor to help them settle in and build their skills.

As a volunteer brigade, we value any level of commitment: there's no pressure to overextend yourself.

If you're aged between 16 and 80 years old, interested in a meaningful, challenging and rewarding way to contribute to your community, drop into the station at 1415 Julimar Rd, any Friday evening between 5.30pm and 7.30pm for a chat, or email us at secretary@julimarbfb.org.au.

Trespassers & illegal shooters

Safer Toodyay
Desrae Clarke

TRESPASSERS and illegal shooters are not welcome on rural properties.

If a property owner requires shooters, it is advisable to use experienced people from reputable associations or ask for references from property-owners who have previously used these people.

State firmly that dogs, including small ones, are not to be brought onto the property as the latter are as much a menace to stock as large animals.

Place 'No Trespassing' and 'Private Property' signage on boundary fences, access roads to paddocks and the main property entrance.

If trespassers are found illegally on the

property take as much information as possible. Include vehicle type, colour, the number of people and, if possible, the registration.

If meeting intruder to face to face, politely ask to them to leave.

Worried stock, stock losses, broken fencing, gates open or tampered with, unfamiliar vehicle tracks, fuel theft and unfamiliar dogs on the property denote a problem.

Contact Police Emergency on 131 444 or CRIMESTOPPERS 1800 333 00 as soon as possible with as much information to assist with the enquiry.

This information could lead to a larger operation than one property.

There may be other property owners in the district experiencing similar problems.



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

Agents for BONAIRE



Winter's here!
Stay warm and cosy in winter with Masport woodheaters and stoves



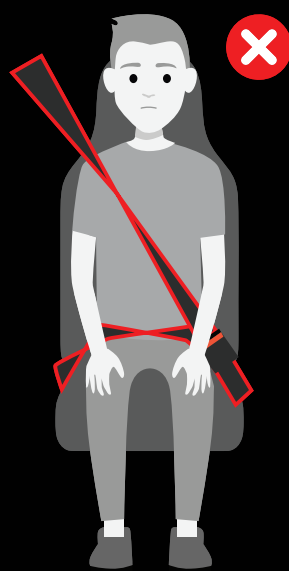
PLUMBING HEATING & COOLING
2 Gordon St Northam 9622 1462
Email: makin1@wn.com.au

- Gasfitter & Installer
- Gas Service & Maintenance
- Sewerage Plumber
- General Plumbing

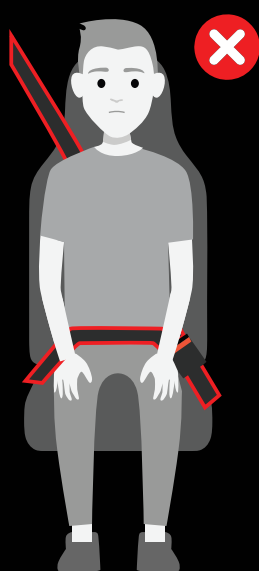
FAX 9622 3877 • 2 GORDON ST, NORTHAM **9622 1462 or 9622 3468**



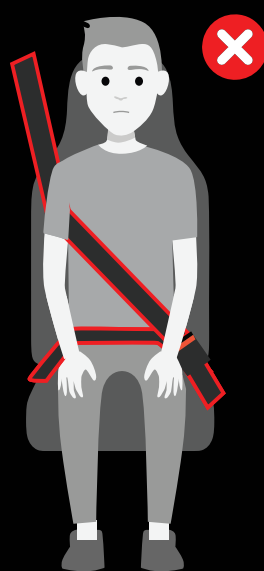
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO WEAR A SEATBELT



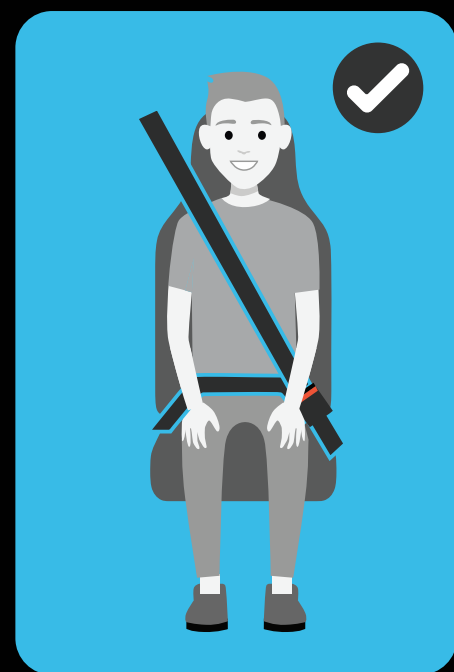
Twisted seatbelt



Chest sash behind the back



Chest sash under the arm



Correctly worn seatbelt



For information about seatbelt safety and infringements, including exemption requests, please visit wa.gov.au/seatbelts

Countdown to the Toodyay Lions Club 2026 Community Jumbo Auction

Lions Club of Toodyay
Heather McNamara

THE wait is almost over.

The Toodyay Lions Club is entering the final stretch of preparation for one of the most anticipated community events of the year.

The 40th Toodyay Lions Community Jumbo Auction, taking place on Saturday 18 April 2026.

As the big day approaches, the Lions are gearing up for what promises to be the most colourful, energetic and well-attended auction in the event's proud four decade history.

For anyone new to town, or anyone thinking of coming along for the first time, this year's milestone auction will deliver everything regulars know and love.

There will be lively bidding, great finds, friendly faces and the unique sense of community spirit that Toodyay is famous for.

Hundreds of lots and plenty of variety

Buyers can expect an impressive spread of items across the oval, including:

- Tools, workshop equipment and garden gear;
- Furniture, homewares and quality household goods;
- Antiques, collectables and curiosities;
- Outdoor items, recreational gear;
- The occasional mystery treasure.

One of the enduring charms of the Jumbo Auction is that no two years are alike.

There is always something surprising, amusing or downright fascinating appearing in the lot lineup.

There will be vintage memorabilia to oneofakind handcrafted pieces.

The 2026 auction aims to offer something for every buyer, collector and bargainhunter.

Buyer tips from the auctioneer

Long time auctioneer Tony Maddox offers friendly advice for newcomers and seasoned bidders alike.

"Arrive early to browse, take your time and make a list of what catches your eye," Tony says.

"If you're unsure how bidding works, just watch the first few lots and you'll pick up the rhythm very quickly."

He also encourages buyers to set a comfortable spending limit.

"Bring a pen to keep track of bidding numbers and enjoy the atmosphere."

"Above all, have fun, it's a community day, and the goal is to enjoy yourself."

Final reminder for sellers

There is still just enough time for sellers to get involved.

The Lions remind all sellers that items must be clean, safe, and in working order/ Sellers' fees are \$5 per lot.

Commission: 10 percent of the sale price (supporting Lions' community projects).

Unsold items must be collected at the end of the day, sellers registration forms are available from:

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

Forms include details on drop off times, acceptable items, and preparation requirements.

Food, fun, and a full day out

Alongside the bidding, attendees can enjoy refreshments, proudly supported by the Shotokan Karate Club, Lions hospitality, and a welcoming family friendly atmosphere.

With plenty of parking, mobility access, and clear signage, the Lions aim to make the day smooth and enjoyable for all ages.

Stay updated

For last minute updates, including lot previews, event timings, seller reminders, and behind-the-scenes photos, follow the Toodyay Lions Facebook page.

The club's online countdown features stories from past members, video messages and sneak peeks at incoming items.



The Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle's annual swap meet drew big crowds to Toodyay.

Vintage swap meet draws big crowds

THE Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association of WA (AVVVA) in Northam has held swap meets since 2002 and last year was the first time their swap meet was held in Toodyay.

This year, was the second annual swap meet in Toodyay.

On Sunday March 15, sellers arrived before 5am at the Toodyay Showgrounds. The gates were opened at 5.30am to clear the traffic off the main road into Toodyay.

One hundred and fifty sellers filled the oval, which was pleasing for AVVVA president Ron Mackay who said many club members were concerned the high fuel prices would stop people attending but fortunately that was not the case.

The public attended from 7am and over 2,000 people came through the gates.

They looked for vintage car parts, collectable car and oil memorabilia and even some household items.

Sixty classic and vintage cars were also on display on the small oval next to the main Toodyay football oval.

Members of the various car clubs in WA were well represented with their pride and joy on display.

The AVVVA had many club volunteers working to keep the swap meet running smoothly.

Toodyay Lions Club also manned the main gate taking the entry money and the Toodyay Moondyne Men did the public car parking.

All these people volunteered their time on the Sunday to make the day a success.

Another Toodyay local club was the Avon Valley Shotokan Karate – they had a food stall to keep the public well fed.

Another swap meet in Toodyay is planned for Sunday 14 March 2027.

For more information contact the association's secretary Fred Singleton fsi93402@bigpond.net.au

Or visit the AVVVA's website <https://avvva.wildapricot.org>

Or follow us on Facebook



One of the many vintage vehicles on show.



The Lions Club of Toodyay Inc.

40th "Ruby" event!!

JUMBO AUCTION
Saturday April 18th 2026

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

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

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

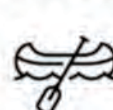
Information for sellers.

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

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

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

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



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



Princess Royal Fortress, Albany.

Exploring Albany’s past

Toodyay Historical Society
Dr Robyn Taylor, Patron

WHAT an exciting time seven of our members had in Albany last month. There were a number of reasons for this trip including experiencing Lighting the Sound, touted to be the biggest light show on the planet. This event was part of the City of Albany’s Albany 2026 celebrations, being WA’s first Bicentenary of colonial settlement. In December 1826, Major Edmund Lockyer arrived on the brig Amity to establish a military outpost at Mammang-Koort /King George Sound. On January 21, 1827, an official ceremony was held proclaiming the foundation of the first settlement in Western Australia.’ This time there was greater inclusion of indigenous heritage in the program such as the story of Mokare and his tribe living alongside the settlers. The Albany Historical Society has produced a beautiful medallion featuring Major Lockyer on one side and Mokare on

the reverse with the wording *Kinjarling Two Peoples One Community*. King George Sound is famous as the gathering place for the thousands of soldiers and ships from New Zealand and the eastern colonies before embarking for Gallipoli and the Middle East. This visit was highly relevant to those of us who work in the fields of history, heritage and, especially for Toodyay’s Museum Curator Margie Eberle. We were also invited for afternoon tea with CEO Andrew Eyden and some members of the Albany Historical Society in the Society’s office in the Patrick Taylor Cottage Museum precinct. The cottage, built in 1832, is said to be the oldest surviving dwelling in Western Australia. The April THS events are the launch of the new exhibition in the Newcastle Gaol Museum, Sunday, April 26 at 10.30am *Toodyay Railways: A Tale of Two Lines* and, six free special walks *Built, By-passed and Gone: Toodyay’s Railway Walk* at 10.30-11.15am from April 29, 2026. Book here: <https://tinyurl.com/524w2v9n> For details about us: See Where and When.

Toodyay welcomes our new Pastor

Toodyay Baptist Church
Jenny McDougall

TOODYAY Baptist Church is excited to share the appointment of Luke Winter as Pastor. Luke has a heart for Toodyay and surrounding towns and is looking forward to being part of this great community. Luke is a very approachable young man, with a wonderful gift to share the message of God’s word. A Christian revival is happening around the world with rumblings in Toodyay. God is breathing fresh life into the Church, shaping the people of God and calling out to his lost sheep. These are very exciting times in a turbulent world and we’re grateful to have Luke help us navigate our journey with God. Luke leads our Sunday morning services from 10.30am to noon at 18 Stirling Tce, Toodyay. You may be new to the thought of God, or a regular attendee, but everyone is welcome. We also run a Children’s Ministry. Our Men’s Fellowship group meet once a month, with the women’s bible study starting up again next semester.

We’re also excited to share that Toodyay Baptist Church will be hosting the Cancer Council’s Biggest Morning Tea fund-raiser on Thursday May 14. This event will include motivational speakers, games and quizzes and a delicious morning tea. RSVP preferred. Keep watch for all the details in next month’s *Toodyay Herald*. Contact Jenny 0428479489



Our new Pastor Luke Winter.

Artificial Intelligence and echo chambers

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI) engines are designed to be friendly and approachable, otherwise nobody would use them. They also sometimes become part of an echo chamber on social media. One person reports that he had convinced an AI engine that God exists. Another person reports that he had convinced the same AI engine that God does not exist. Both people misunderstood the responses that the AI engine was giving them as they were in their own echo chambers. People tend to attribute human

understanding and intent to apps that interact using human-like language. This phenomenon was first seen over 50 years ago. Confirmation bias also plays a part. People tend to interpret ambiguous or neutral statements in a way that reinforces their existing beliefs. Distancing yourself emotionally from an AI engine may require conscious effort. Critically examining output from an AI engine also requires conscious effort. It can be helpful to remember both of these points when interacting with any AI engine. This article was prepared with assistance from ChatGPT.



GYPSUM SUPPLIES

High Quality / Screened

Kalannie & Lake Cowcowing

Typical analysis:
Calcium 22% Sulphur 17.8%

Independent Analytical Reports Available



Daniel Nixon
0429 662004
www.gypsumsupplies.com.au

You can make it here



There is high demand for essential care workers here in WA and many ways to start a meaningful career. TAFE students can get skills that matter and be job-ready fast in fee free and low fee courses. You can make it at TAFE.

Learn more at tafe.wa.edu.au



CWA blankets for Knit4Charities

Country Women's Association
Elizabeth Mansom, Secretary

AT THE beginning of March, Val, Margaret and Elizabeth drove to Helena Valley to attend the Gathering of the Birds.

Surrounding branches come together to let everyone know of events each has planned for the coming year.

We gave notice of Moondyne, our anniversary in July and the jumble sale in August.

The way that money is raised in branches and managed by state office returns to communities is in the form of bursaries.

These are available to secondary and tertiary students.

There were twelve successful recipients of the CWA lower and upper secondary and CWA tertiary bursaries this year.

A total of \$16,250 was awarded to help these students with their education expenses.



CWA member Kathy the 'Blanket Queen'.

Field nursing scholarships are also available, generally, on the proviso that on qualifying the winner spends some time in a country posting.

An amount of \$13,500 was awarded to three nurses for further education and training in the fields of anaesthetic technology, midwifery and parenting.

The United Nations has designated 2026 the International Year of the Woman Farmer.

This recognises and promotes the vital contribution of women in agriculture worldwide.

The aim is to spotlight the essential roles women play in agrifood systems which often goes unrecognised.

CWA is playing a part in this endeavour by offering a photo competition and winners will be announced at our state conference in June.

An ongoing activity amongst members is knitting squares.

These are assembled into blankets and distributed through Knit4Charities.

They go to hospitals, aged care facilities, children's services and camps, shelters and social service organisations, and animal rescue and wildlife rehabilitation groups.

This year Kathy has single-handedly knitted and assembled six blankets.

She is eleven squares short of a seventh which she will bring into our April coffee morning. We have made that the cut-off date for this year.

The blankets will be in time for the cold weather. A bag is provided for each blanket to make it easier to carry.

Anzac Day is approaching.

Members have been busy baking those familiar biscuits.

Look for our members and their baskets of tasty treats after the 11am service.

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

We do ask if you come on a gopher that you leave it on the veranda as they can become a hazard inside the hall.

Margot takes the hall bookings and can be reached on 0405 067 591

We look forward to welcoming you.

Triumphs and tribulations

Moondyne Men
Graham Hill

WELCOME back to the triumphs and tribulations of the Moondyne Men.

The team has been extremely busy the last few weeks with helping at the BBQ for the Toodyay Triathlon on March 8 and the Vintage Car Club swap meet on Sunday March 15.

We are also committed to help Toodyay Arts move display items from Northam to Toodyay on April 26 and return them on May 3.

This will be in conjunction with our main fund-raising event, The Moondyne Festival on May 3.

An ongoing project is the fitting of wall mounted key lock boxes to the residencies of Butterly Cottages and surrounding areas by the Moondyne Men in conjunction with St. John Ambulance Toodyay.

The code numbers will be registered so emergency services will have quick access if required.

While that sounds like a fairly heavy workload, we also have time for some relaxing activities.

Recently a film night was held at the Toodyay Club where we saw a film on the early days of the shearing industry with narration by Darryl Grey and others.

On Thursday March 19 our guest speaker was Rashelle Predovnik, recently appointed editor of *The Toodyay Herald*.

On Sunday March 22 our Moondyne weightlifting team competed in an international competition with several members receiving international recognition.

We also have a Wednesday Moondyne motorcycle group who venture to various venues.

A donation by the Toodyay Op Shop has enabled us to purchase a new trailer to haul our log splitter recently purchased as a result of a grant from Bendigo Bank Toodyay.

This will allow us to cut and prepare firewood for the coming winter.

All this along with our Monday and Thursday meetings and our free breakfast

and committee meeting held the first week of each month.

If you would like to join Toodyay's most progressive and proactive men's group, come along or call our Secretary Colin on 0424 195 003.



Club chairman Peter Phillips and John Morrissey with their new log splitter.

THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD
ASSURANCE | TAX | CONSULTING

RSM

Helping you to take charge
of change

210 Fitzgerald St, Northam WA 6401
T 08 9622 2822

Melissa Ruge, Assistant Manager

E Melissa.ruge@rsm.com.au

Your local accountant **Melissa visits**

Toodyay CRC each month

Keiran Sullivan, Partner

E Keiran.sullivan@rsm.com.au

rsm.com.au/northam

Thank you

Chalice would like to express our gratitude to the many volunteer brigades who worked tirelessly to keep all our homes, farms and hollows safe during the bushfire season.

Research cameras showed how 'close to home' a December fire was to our Carnaby family at the Gonneville Project. We are thrilled to report the freshly hatched baby is flourishing and our feathered family is thriving.



Contact us

0487 371 961

community@chalicemining.com

Check our Facebook page for updates

What's coming up



**Wheatbelt
Futures Forum**

See you in Northam

Friday 1st May

Chalice is excited to support this event and hear what lies ahead for our industry colleagues and regional neighbours.





The Toodyay Theatre Group loves to put on great shows, with rehearsals now underway.

New faces welcome in theatre group

Toodyay Theatre Group
Daryl Cooper, Committee Member

DUE to lack of a quorum, the annual general meeting of the Toodyay Theatre Group, due to be held in February, had to be postponed until March.

In contrast, the rescheduled meeting was well attended.

This included new members who had joined after auditioning for roles in the upcoming production of *Godspell*.

The election of office bearers and the committee saw positions filled with several new and enthusiastic faces, and the return of one of the group's longest standing members.

After 10 consecutive years in the job (and 13 in total), David Mitchell has (as constitutionally he must) stepped down as president of the group.

In those past ten years David has overseen a number of successful productions.

David has also kept the group financially sound and he was instrumental in establishing

Youth Productions. This has given our local youth the opportunity to experience the performing arts and it also proved popular with local audiences.

After several years not taking an active role, well-known local songstress Vicki Haggerty has returned and taken the president's chair.

Vicki was a founding member of the Toodyay Theatre Group 42 years ago and has previously held several offices, including president.

If you care to mention almost any role necessary in being an active member of a theatre group – Vicki has done it.

She brings a wealth of experience to the new committee who, under her guidance, are expected to continue providing the Toodyay community with great theatrical productions.

In other news, rehearsals for the upcoming performances of *Godspell* are now under way.

Presentation dates will be advertised soon. Watch this space next month.

Needle felting workshop

Toodyay Spinners and Weavers
Chris Stokie

TOODYAY Spinners and Weavers has had a very productive month.

At the start of March, we held a needle felting workshop for our members, run by our very own expert Jenny.

Needle felting is a dry method of sculpting wool by mechanically binding the fibres together with a needle.

Colourful rovings are used and can create either flat 2D or sculptured 3D figures.

A number of members had been interested in trying this particular craft and the workshop was popular.

A lovely time was had by all, learning a new skill, working on our own individual projects, while sharing thoughts and ideas and of course

enjoying a delicious morning tea. During March we also held our regular quarterly meeting. Judy G and Chris showed off their completed needle felting projects.

Plans for our stall at the upcoming Moondyne Festival were discussed and we look forward to seeing everyone at this fun event.

Toodyay Spinners and Weavers meet at Parkers Cottage at the Toodyay Oval, every Wednesday from 9am to noon and on the first and third Saturday of every month from 9am to noon.

New members are always welcome.

Please feel free to drop in and meet the group for a coffee and a chat.

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



Talented Toodyay Spinners and Weavers members enjoyed a needle felting workshop.

Young artists let creativity flourish

Arts Toodyay
Chelle Ellery

ARTS Toodyay's youth art programs are off to a fantastic start in 2026.

Local children are embracing creativity, connection and a whole lot of paint along the way.

The pilot Youth Art Labs have seen an amazing turnout.

Around 20 young people are taking part in the program.

Held at the Toodyay Youth Hall, the space has provided a welcoming and practical environment for creativity to flourish.

We do our best to chase every drop of paint.

With 20 enthusiastic young artists, the occasional speck is part of the creative process.

Arts Toodyay was also delighted to be part of the recent Toodyay Farmers markets.

We ran a community raffle to help raise funds for ongoing arts activities.

Every dollar raised goes directly into supporting youth programs and creative opportunities across the community.

Congratulations to our winners Zoe and Emma.

A heartfelt thankyou to everyone who contributed to the raffle, including Kate and Ted, Blue Moon Crystals and the Toodyay Bottle-mart, along with the incredible volunteers who make these events possible.

Special recognition also goes to the Toodyay Op Shop, whose support has helped enable the 2026 Youth Art Labs to go ahead.

Arts Toodyay is hoping for a successful grant outcome to continue and expand these programs into Term 3 and beyond.

We will keep the community updated.

Arts Toodyay would also like to acknowledge Jess Parker for her dedication in delivering the Toodyay Sketchbook Club at the Toodyay Community Resource Centre for the past 16 months.

The program has provided a valuable space for young people to explore creativity in a relaxed, self-directed way, with attendance reaching up to 15 participants at its peak.

At this stage, Sketchbook Club is on pause due to low attendance but there is strong interest in bringing it back should demand return.

The program offers a unique opportunity

for young people to experiment, learn and access materials they may not otherwise have available.

Arts Toodyay remains committed to creating inclusive, accessible opportunities for creativity and supporting the next generation of local artists.



Youth art labs - colour, creativity and community.

Arts Toodyay Presents...

2026 Toodyay Art Prize

An open exhibition celebrating artworks in all mediums

Important Dates:

Entries Due
19 April, 5pm

Opening Night
1 May, 6 - 9pm

Youth Presentation
2 May, 10 - 11am

General Exhibition
2 - 3 May, 10am - 4pm

Toodyay Memorial Hall
www.artstodyay.com

\$4,850 Prize pool

Sponsored by:

Image: 2025 winning artwork 'Stingray Fever' by Beck Langmead



Labels are important and can also be the best indication for quilt care.

Machine Washing your hand made Quilts

Ragbags Quilting Group

Kerry Gregory

WHILE in the Wheatbelt recently a conversation turned to the issue of washing quilts.

These ladies are inclined to put everything into their big wide-opening washing machines as they are part-time housewives and part-time farmers.

The main complaints seemed to be that appliqué design pieces (probably hand sewn) come adrift from the quilts and some of the quilts lose their shape and become lumpy.

This can happen in some machine spin cycles when lightly quilted.

I discussed laundering quilts about six years ago and machine washing of all quilts is not the best way to care for your quilts.

It is probably worth revisiting these items to consider before putting them in the washing machine.

- Most quilt fabrics are 100 percent cotton, generally pre-washed, but if unsure using two to three sheets of 'Colour Catcher' in a cold-water machine wash will greatly lessen discolouration.

- Heavily quilted with lots of stabilising stitching is generally OK to machine wash but light quilting can cause problems between the layers.

The West Australian Quilting Association (WAQA) guidelines suggest quilting stitch lines be no wider than the width of a lady's palm.

This will help stabilise the layers of a quilt from separating and wadding sagging during laundering.

- Hand piecing or hand appliqué quilts are better laundered by hand in cold water in a bathtub if too large for the laundry tub.

- After rinsing, roll the quilt in a couple of bath towels to remove excess water and dry flat in the shade on more towels.

I use a desk fan to provide a breeze across the quilt to speed up the drying which can take a few days.

- Wool and silk fabrics or combinations may be hand-laundered but dry cleaning may be best.

Wool can shrink if you're unlucky.

- Embellishments, like buttons, baubles, laces and hand-made items, may necessitate removal if preferred before laundering and hand washing.

- Polyester fabrics usually are colour fast and when machine pieced and firmly

quilted are usually quite suitable to machine wash and even line dry.

Remember the wonderful thing about special quilts is that many become heirlooms and last for generations when properly cared for.

Bear in mind that this is a guide only and, when in doubt, ask the questions to a quilter and use your best instincts to wash or dry clean.

A number of our ladies are currently engaged in crafting with *needle punch* and fabulous coloured wool yarn to really brighten up their creative projects.

Wendy has even managed to punch out a stylised image of her little dog.

What a great way to vent any frustrations poking needles into the blanketing on foam blocks.

New members are very welcome at the Ragbags Group.

Join us for a cuppa and a chat; we love to see and share your creativity and enthusiasm.

Bring your beautiful handiwork.

All craft projects are special and we often share a little *Show and Tell* session of current or not so current projects to admire your talents.

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

The Ragbags Group meet at the St Stephens Anglican Church Hall, Stirling Terrace Toodyay (next door to the Cola Cafe), on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 10am to 2pm.

It's cool inside and bring your lunch – we use the back door.

Woodturners workshop turns up the heat

Avon Wood Turners

Hamish Dobie

AVON Woodturners hosted a workshop in the Toodyay Memorial Hall on March 21.

Members from eight other woodturning clubs attended including some from Manjimup and Collierie.

The number of turners who attended was a little lower than expected as we were hit with a double whammy, the soaring fuel price and a scorching 41 degrees.

However, those who attended were treated to three exceptional demonstrations of woodturning, a smorgasbord of food prepared by our own Margaret O'Sullivan, and a large number of raffle prizes that were all donated by local businesses.

Our sincere thanks go to Coorinja Winery, Toodyay Caravan Park, Makit Hardware, Bottle Mart, Butlers Essentials, Kate & Ted, Victoria Hotel, Toodyay Garden Centre, Uniquely Toodyay, Bunnings Northam, M & M Electrical, P Square Agencies, B & S Jackson and Emporium Toodyay.

The attached photo shows the turners watching a demonstration on stage but, judging by the number of bare heads, it could have been a toupee making demo.

Although the temperature was extreme, everyone enjoyed the day and, as the

members from other clubs left, we ensured that they took a couple of bottles of water each to keep them hydrated on their way home.

After the departure of our colleagues our members packed our equipment to transport to the shed, cleaned the Memorial Hall, packed away the tables and chairs, locked up then returned to the shed to unload the equipment.

Then, we went home to lie down and recover.

Earlier in the month we received an offer we couldn't refuse.

Not from the mafia, but from someone who could no longer turn and who wanted to donate his woodturning equipment and timber to the club.

Our members met up at the shed, drove out to his property and stripped his workshop bare.

The donation of equipment augmented our existing stock and was also used to replace some of our aging "pre-loved" machines.

If you have an interest in joining the club, the Avon Woodturners are located at Shed 1, Community Depot, end of Railway Road, Toodyay

We meet on Wednesdays and Sundays from 9am until noon.

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



The WAWA Workshop at Toodyay Memorial Hall.

This is your invitation to go beyond the gallery wall



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

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



30 MAY - 1 JUNE 2026

Toodyay & Northam

www.avonvalleyartstrail.org.au



Community Bank
Toodyay & Districts

The search continues for new singers

Toodyay Community Singers

Anne Millar

HOPE everybody is well.

The singers are in rehearsals for Moondyne Festival on Sunday May 3.

We are still rehearsing at CWA Hall on Stirling terrace on a new night, Monday from 4pm to 5.30pm.

We are always looking out for new voices. Would love to hear some new voices.

THE ARTS

Moondyne Joe rides back into town

Moondyne Festival Committee
Jean Melhuish-Hill

THE town of Toodyay celebrates its 42nd year of Moondyne Festival.

The town will step back in time to celebrate the life and times of the iconic Moondyne Joe by hosting the Moondyne Festival Toodyay.

We celebrate the infamous Avon Valley bushranger Moondyne Joe and bring his escapades to life, the highlight of the day being the re-enactment of Moondyne Joe's various escapades and his mock trials.

The festival is the premier colonial festival in Western Australia.

It was first held in 1984 to celebrate the life and times of Joseph Bolitho Johns, known as 'Moondyne Joe', the Avon Valley's legendary bushranger.

The festival transforms the picturesque historical town of Toodyay into a lively all-day festival with the sound of song, dance, laughter and fun for the whole family.

The opening ceremony is at 10am.

Locals and guests are encouraged to dress in 19th century costumes for a colourful procession down the main street followed by a fun, colourful, energetic and noisy parade.

The parade will have street actors, stilt walkers, a town crier, blacksmith, wood chopping and much more.

Some period costumes are available for loan to wear at the festival; email moondynecommittee@gmail.com for details.

Cheer on 'Joe's Gang', the floozies and coppers, swaggies and the town crier as Joe is chased by the coppers.

Joe is tried by a kangaroo court, convicted by a corrupt judge and escapes with the help of local people and his gang.

They all love Joe.

One would say he was the WA equivalent of Ned Kelly or Robin Hood.

The festival will be held on Stirling Terrace Toodyay which will be closed to traffic from 8am to 4pm Sunday 3 May 2026.

As well as the street entertainment, there will be more than 90 variety and food stalls,

displays, performances and demonstrations. Visit the 10th Light Horse display, Barn Baby's Animal Farm and Western Australian Reptile Park.

Check out the vintage motor vehicles and bikes or take a ride on the horse and cart or mini train.

Local Toodyay artists will be playing as well as the Pioneers Bush Band, Jarrah Celts, Darren Gillis and Paul Davis Entertainment.

Avon-Fun Dance Club will be joining us as well as The Black Chooks.

Listen to bush poets, Australia's early settler's folk music that will include Irish, Scottish, Italian and English music performed by various entertainers.

Enjoy once again the very popular Royal Australian Navy Band, the Coastal Scottish Pipe Band and Toodyay Community Singers.

The festival follows through the main town site to the beautiful Duidgee Park.

Resting on the banks of the Avon River you can watch the horse works, hot air balloon display and have a go at making clay animals.

Events include log chopping, blacksmithing, bush poetry, stilt walkers, historical tools restoration, and the ever-popular Swaggie Camp.

Visit Stirling Park for kids amusement rides.

A visit to Moondyne Joe's cell at the old Newcastle Gaol Museum is a must.

The mini train ride at Duidgee Park is always a highlight of the day.

This event is packed full of family fun and the kids' entertainment.

Children will be delighted with stilt walkers, carnival, face painting, petting zoo and clay modelling.

Make sure you don't miss this brilliant event suitable for all ages.

Entry is free but a gold coin donation on entry would be greatly appreciated.

For more information and to view the event's program visit:

www.moondynefestival.com.au, or FaceBook <https://www.facebook.com/Moondynefestival>, or Email: moondynecommittee@gmail.com

Were you ready for Easter this year?

The Crooked Needle
Jean Melhuish-Hill

IN THE lead up to Easter a couple of our members led hands-on workshops on two simple, inexpensive gifts.

While Easter brought them to mind, these goodies could be used for other occasions by changing the decoration.

The first was led by Gail Fellows with four components: a sheet of card, a piece of ribbon, a hole punch, Easter bunny decorations and craft glue.

Five folds of the card, dab of glue for the decorations selected, punch a hole in the top and add a ribbon. When complete you can fill with eggs or lollies.

If you want to use it for another occasion, select a piece of decorative card or decorate with something that takes your fancy and drop in a small hand cream or a gift card.

These could suit either a child or an adult and they were really simple to make. They could also be used as Christmas decorations.

The second morning was led by Terri Watson using a face flannel, an Easter egg, rubber band, ribbon and glue-on eyes and nose.

Rolling and twisting the flannel around the Easter egg and securing it with a rubber band allows you to move onto adding a ribbon, eyes and nose.

A couple of the ladies used bars of soap rather than an egg. Again, this could be used for other occasions by just changing the decorations or replacing the egg.

Both of these gifts were completed within 15 to 20 minutes, created a lot of conversation and there are some lucky grandchildren who will receive our efforts.

Our thanks to Gail and Terri.

We have set the date for our Australia's Biggest Morning Tea in support of The Cancer Council. To be held on Friday June 26.

We hope this year will exceed prior year's fundraising. You will find us at the CWA Hall each Friday from 9.30am. Come along and join us for a cuppa, chat and craft sharing. See Where and When for contact details.

An very Irish March singalong

Toodyay Music Club
Jenny Edgecombe

THE Music Club's March meeting began with the customary group sing-along.

This session is an important part of the afternoon, allowing participation for visitors and members who prefer not to sing individual songs.

The remainder of the afternoon is devoted to songs prepared by individual performers and small groups.

At the March meeting there were many excellent items, including songs old and new.

Anne and Collette combined to present a moving rendition of *Galway Bay*.

Collette commented that one of her own selections, *Come by the Hill*, is looked on as something of a 'party piece' in Ireland.

Her beautiful flowing rendition of this song demonstrated why it is so popular.

Later in the afternoon, Anne invited

everyone to join in the chorus of the ever-popular *Cockles and Mussels*.

When members are unable to attend a theme day, they will often present their theme songs at the next meeting.

We heard several items held over from the previous month's theme of Boots and Shoes.

Maurice presented the thought-provoking *Walk a Mile in my Shoes*, with Eileen providing beautiful harmonies.

Blues guitarist, Phil, included the atmospheric song, *Magnolia*, in his contribution to the afternoon.

We enjoyed the usual scrumptious afternoon tea, supplied by our members. This allows time for members and visitors to mingle.

Please join us as audience member or performer for our next meeting.

This will take place at the CWA Hall on April 11 starting at 1pm.

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

WA's MOST EXCITING & ENTERTAINING COLONIAL FESTIVAL!
Live Entertainment, Markets, and Much More!"

MOONDYNE FESTIVAL

Celebrating History, Culture, and Fun

Sunday 3rd May 2026
In Toodyay, WA

www.moondynefestival.com.au
<https://www.facebook.com/Moondynefestival/>



Avon Valley Property Maintenance

Services:

- Mowing
- Whipper Snipping
- Weeding
- Property Clean Up
- Gardening
- Fire Break Maintenance
- and more

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



Save the Dates!

Youth Week - 10-16 April

APR 13	LASER TAG DEPARTING TOODYAY AT 8.30AM, RETURNING AT 2.30PM LUNCH INCLUDED	FREE
APR 14 & 16	POTTERY WORKSHOP 9.30AM - 2.30PM 23 FRANCIS ST, WEST TOODYAY LIGHT LUNCH INCLUDED	AGES 10+
APR 15	GINGIN CONNECTING YOUTH EXPO DEPARTING TOODYAY AT 9.30AM, RETURNING AT 2PM	

Mega Splash Finale - Sunday 12 April,
12pm - 3pm, Toodyay Aquatic Centre.

Lions Jumbo Auction - Saturday 18 April,
8am - 5pm, Toodyay Showgrounds.

Tea & Tech - Friday 24 April,
10:30am - 12:30pm, Toodyay Library.

FREE DIGITAL LEARNING

Friday 24 April
10.30am - 12pm
At the Library

Learn how to activate your IGA Rewards Card and enjoy a free morning tea!

IGA Rewards

ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast - Saturday
25 April, 6am - 12pm, War Memorial, Anzac Ave.

Toodyay Railway Walk - 29 April - 15 May,
13.30am - 11:15am, Toodyay Visitor Centre.

Toodyay's Railway Walk

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

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

Arts Toodyay Annual Exhibition - Friday
1 May, 6pm - 10pm, Memorial Hall.

Moondyne Festival - Sunday 3 May,
9am - 4pm, Stirling Terrace, Duidgee & Stirling Park.

Creating Country Together - Sunday
3 May, 9am - 4pm, Duidgee Park.

Ordinary Council Meeting - Thursday
7 May, 5:30pm, Shire Council Chambers.

For more details please visit the 'Events' page on the Shire's website toodyay.wa.gov.au.



Welcome to the New Look Newsletter!

We are happy to announce that the Shire has taken a fresh look at how we share our news and information each month. We hope you like it!

Community Funding Program 2026/2027

This program supports the Shire's Community Funding Policy, which provides grants for community organisations and activities. To apply, visit the Shire's website and search for "Community Funding Application" to download the Policy and Application Form. Contact the Community Development Officer on **9574 9392** before submission. **Applications close 20 April.**



The Avon Valley: Your Perfect Weekend Escape

Toodyay showcased life in the Avon Valley at the Caravan and Camping Expo on 19-22 March in Claremont, joining the Shires of the Avon Valley Alliance to promote the region. Despite the heat, crowds were strong and interest high, with the Valley proving popular for short getaways and new caravan adventures. The Alliance's next stop is the Beverley Airshow in early April, promoting easy, relaxing holidays close to home.



Toodyay Triathlon

On Sunday 8 March, 129 competitors aged 7 to 79 braved the heat to take part in Toodyay's first triathlon. After registering, participants racked their bikes and received a briefing before racing, with every athlete finishing to cheers from spectators. The event was proudly supported by the Shire of Toodyay through the 2025/26 Community Funding Program.



New Event Application Form!

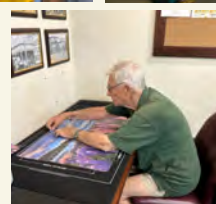
Have you got an event you would like to plan in the Shire of Toodyay? The Community Development Team has updated our event application process. To access, please visit 'Planning an Event?' section on the Shire's website toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Do You Have a Community Event to Promote?

If so, why not share it with us! Email your flyer/advertisement to: community@toodyay.wa.gov.au and we will share it on our Shire's Facebook page, Events Calendar and here in the Shire's monthly newsletter.

Library Update

Easter Rhyme Time was a fun-filled session of singing, stories, biscuit decorating and Easter egg hunting, followed by a relaxed morning tea for families. Thanks to the Crooked Needle for donating Button Art, raising \$165 for children's craft supplies, with one piece now on display at the library. Special thanks to Jean and Phyllis for running a craft session. Our Community Jigsaw Puzzle is complete thanks to Barry Keens, with a new puzzle now available—puzzles and games can be borrowed, returned or donated anytime.



Shire of Toodyay Repeal Local Law 2025

The Shire of Toodyay gives notice that the Shire of Toodyay *Repeal Local Law 2025* was published in the Government Gazette on **13 March 2026** and will come into operation **14 days after gazettal**.

The purpose and effect of this local law are to repeal the Extractive Industries Local Law published in the Government Gazette on 1 November 1999. The local law is available on the Shire's website toodyay.wa.gov.au. Copies may also be inspected or obtained from the Shire of Toodyay Administration Office.

Shire Facility Closures for April

The Shire Administration Office, Library and CRC will be closed on Good Friday 3 April, Easter Monday 6 April and Anzac Day 25 April. The Visitors Centre and Muesum will be closed on Good Friday 3 April and Anzac Day 25 April.

Draft Local Heritage Survey and Heritage List – Public Consultation

The Shire of Toodyay is seeking community feedback on the Draft Local Heritage Survey and Draft Heritage List. The Local Heritage Survey is a document that identifies and records places within the Shire that has / may have cultural heritage significance. It provides historical information, photographs and place records which help recognise and preserve the history and character of the district. The purpose of this consultation is to provide community members, particularly owners and occupiers of properties identified within the Local Heritage Survey or Heritage List, the opportunity to review the draft documents and provide feedback. To view the draft documents, and for more information on how to make a submission, please visit the 'Public Notice' section on the Shire's website toodyay.wa.gov.au. Submissions close 4pm, **Thursday 23 April 2026**.

Council Decisions

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

- Council resolves to advertise the Heritage List and the Local Heritage Survey for a period of 42 days - *carried*.
- Council gives local public notice that it proposes to make the Shire of Toodyay Cat Local Law 2026 - *carried*.
- Council gives local public notice that it proposes to make the Shire of Toodyay Dog Local Law 2026 - *carried*.
- Council agrees to lease a shed at the Community Depot (Toodyay Junction) to Arts Toodyay Inc for a term of 5 years at a rent of \$380 per annum plus CPI - *carried*.

For all details of the items considered at this meeting, please visit the 'Council' section on the Shire's website toodyay.wa.gov.au



Toodyay District High School above the average

Toodyay District High School
Sharon Anderson, Principal

THE school was thrilled to receive data collated by a reputable internationally renowned organisation that affirms what we are doing and how.

Measured against global standards for what is required by companies and organisations to be effective and successful, Toodyay District High School is operating in the top decile (top 10 percent) in five of the nine standards, and the top quartile (top 25 percent) in the other four.

This positions us in the top decile overall. We are proud of what we do and how we do it.

We will use the data at a fine-grained level to continue to grow.

Student Leaders 2026

Our new leaders for 2026 were sworn in at a special assembly at the start of the term.

This important occasion marked the beginning of a new leadership journey for students who have shown a strong commitment to serving our school with responsibility, integrity and pride.

Our 2026 School Captains are Koen White and Rhys Hunter, supported by Holly Watkinson and Lily Andrews (Year 9), Corbin Hansord and Baden Cameron (Year 8), and Mahli White and Toby Andrews from Year 7.

We also welcomed our Year 6 Prefects: Lola Brockliss, Myla Cottam, James Cameron, and Shianne Dearing.

Our Faction Captains and Vice Captains were also sworn in:

Avon: Allie Rochford (Captain), Amelia



Student Leaders.

Boston (Vice Captain)

Drummond: Amber Groenewold (Captain), Meredith Harling (Vice Captain)

Connor: Charlie McIntosh (Captain), Maddi Johnson-Riseley (Vice Captain)

School based training and apprenticeships

We are proud to celebrate the achievement of four students who have recently commenced an ASBT (Aboriginal School-Based Training) program through Northam TAFE.

They are undertaking a Certificate I in Leadership.

This significant opportunity recognises and nurtures the strengths of our Aboriginal students, supporting them to build confidence, cultural pride and leadership skills that will benefit them well beyond their schooling years.

Their enrolment is an important milestone both for the students and for our school community, reflecting our commitment to meaningful and culturally responsive education.

Alongside this program, the school is actively working on implementing school based traineeships and apprenticeships across a variety of industries.

By partnering with local businesses, Northam TAFE and regional training organisations, we aim to create more opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience and develop valuable skills while completing their secondary education.

These initiatives are part of our long-term strategy to ensure every student can see a future that feels achievable and exciting.

High School Canteen reopens

Toodyay District High School P&C
Emma Thompson, Treasurer

IT HAS been a busy and productive start to the year for the P&C.

Much has been achieved in term one.

We are pleased to announce the successful reopening of our school canteen.

This would not have been possible without the dedication and support of our wonderful volunteers.

Our canteen is always looking for volunteers.

We are only open on Fridays.

If you would like to volunteer in our canteen please get in touch.

The annual general meeting was held on February 23 with a fantastic turnout.

All office bearer roles were successfully filled along with an increase in members on our executive committee.

We are proud to introduce our 2026 P&C team: President Haylee Guiver, Vice President Tash Karin, Secretary Kayla Croeser and Treasurer Emma Thompson.

This term, we have already run a number of successful fundraising initiatives.

Our sausage sizzle and bake sale at the swimming carnival were a great success.

We would like to thank Toodyay IGA for their generous donation of sausages.

We are also currently running our Easter raffle which includes four major prizes and twelve smaller prizes.

A huge thankyou goes to Skilltech Mechanical Services, Toodyay IGA and FeeFee Cleaning for their generous contributions towards these fantastic prizes.

Looking ahead to term two, planning is already underway for our Mother's Day stall and the much-loved second-hand book sale.

If you'd love to get involved or find out more about what we do, feel free to contact Haylee Guiver on 0400 040 583, email us at pandtoodyaydhs@gmail.com or message us on Facebook.

Exciting course for 2026

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Jess Yost - President

THE Toodyay Agricultural Show is gearing up for another fantastic year.

A new committee is in place and exciting plans are underway.

Fresh energy and enthusiasm are driving preparations as organisers work to make this year's event one of the most memorable.

With the committee now settled, attention has turned to building the 2026 program.

Entertainment is currently being sought and the team is eager to showcase a wide variety of local talent, from musicians and stage

performers to agricultural demonstrations and interactive displays.

Anyone with creative ideas or acts to offer is encouraged to reach out.

Stewards and volunteers are also being sought across all sections of the Show, from livestock and crafts to food stalls and stage coordination.

Joining the volunteer team is a great opportunity to meet new people, share skills and contribute to one of the town's most loved events.

In addition, **expressions of interest are now open** for community groups to support the show as well as fundraise for your group.

The Toodyay Show provides a perfect platform for community groups big or small to build local connections and be part of the lively atmosphere that draws visitors from across the Wheatbelt and beyond.

The new committee warmly invites everyone, past participants, new vendors, entertainers and volunteers, to get involved and help make the Toodyay Agricultural Show 2026 a true celebration of community spirit, rural life and local talent.

For more information or to register your interest, contact the Toodyay Agricultural Society through our website or Facebook page.

RINGA CIVIL

WE SPECIALISE IN:

- Sewer and storm water drainage
- Sand & gravel supply
- Mains water, gas and power
- Trench excavation
- Rock pitching and breaking
- Filling and leveling
- House pads
- Septic tank & leach drain Installation

& ALL SITE WORK NEEDS

PLEASE CONTACT: Jack Wood
Email: jack@ringacivil.com
Phone: 0400 263 864
Website: www.ringacivil.com

TOODYAY WATER CARTING

"Here To Deliver"

0457 636 011

Bulk Drinking Water 10,000 * 15,000 * 30,000 Ltr Loads

KEEP YOUR CUSTOMERS

IN THE LOOP

ADVERTISE WITH THE TOODYAY HERALD

Projects at the Mens Shed



The Information Bay seat with all new Jarrah wood seating.

Toodyay Mens Shed
Barry Keens, Chairman

WE THANK *The Toodyay Herald* for printing the articles we send each month because we know that they are read.

Soon after publication we start getting enquiries regarding membership, hall and kitchen hire, and requests for small projects that we can do for the community.

Last month we had a stall at the Toodyay Farmer's Market on Sunday March 15.

We were able to discuss our shed ethos with potential new members and also look at some small projects that were offered to us.

Three Shire projects, refurbishing seats at Duidgee Park and the Information Bay, have been completed.

Pictured is the Information Bay seat with all new Jarrah wood seating.

A chopping board, a sign, a wardrobe and a table are in progress for community members and Shed members have some of their own projects under way as well.

I am writing this in Brisbane where I am attending the AMSA National Men's Shed Gathering.

Toodyay has been nominated for two awards which will be announced later in the week.

The Shed is open from 8am to noon Monday, Thursday and Saturday each week and we break for tea, coffee, cake and chat at 10am.

For all enquiries, please visit the Shed during opening hours or call our secretary on 0499 403 830.

A change of scenery can be fun

Morangup Progress Association
Daryl Cooper, Chairperson

DOING what you can do at home can seem more enjoyable when you do it in different surroundings. For clarity, I'm talking about family barbecues.

Urban dwellers will often take a short trip to a park or to the beach to enjoy a family barbecue away from the familiarity of their backyards or apartment balconies.

In Morangup the need to escape the familiarity of a backyard is less pressing as properties are less confined. Finding different surroundings to have a barbecue has meant a lengthy drive.

Now, residents will have the opportunity to barbecue in the, at least somewhat different, surroundings of the Community Hall.

While it has taken some time, more than two years in fact, for the project to come to

fruition, the development of the rear of the building is now complete.

The space between the hall and the basketball court is decked out with covered tables and benches, a water tap and a barbeque.

For a change of scenery, a Morangup family can head down to the hall for a barbecue.

Younger family members have access to a playground, skateboard rink and basketball court.

Senior family members can relax and enjoy their food and even listen to their own music played through newly installed Bluetooth speakers.

On a different note, Morangup residents are reminded that the AGM of the Progress Association will be held at 4.30pm on Friday April 24.

We would love to see as many residents as possible attending.

Come to have your say or just to listen and learn.

Relocation and March updates

Toodyay Local Care
Jacquie Lucas

WHAT a busy month March was.

Firstly, we must thank outgoing vice president and treasurers David and Heidi Miller for their generous time over the past twelve months.

They have left big shoes to fill.

I would also like to thank our new treasurer Lorraine Paull for stepping up.

The food boxes are going well.

We have moved the distribution point to 20 Fiennes St, still on a Monday afternoon from 1pm to 3pm.

Please get in touch with either Roz (0427 744 352, or send a text if she doesn't answer) or me on 0427 147 548 if you need food assistance outside of this time and we can arrange an alternative pick-up time from the house.

We could not offer these food boxes without the generous assistance of Woolworths, Second Bite and Foodbank.

We continue to make trips to Shalom House to support the important work they do.

Thank you to the people who donate to enable us to support their work.

We are always looking for more volunteers.

The "Carrots" down at the pavilion on Thursday mornings is well subscribed, but we would appreciate help around the community garden and our poultry yard.

Call or drop in to 20 Fiennes St if you can help us.

We are also looking for some handy people to do general maintenance and some building.

Alternatively complete our survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D5CJBGM> to let us know how you can help.

I would like to thank the people who have volunteered recently and their kind offers to help at the upcoming Moondyne Festival next month on Sunday May 3.

We need helpers on Friday and Saturday to set up and some volunteers to man the stall in the hall and cook in the kitchen on the



Toodyay Local Cares volunteers Lorraine & Roz.

Sunday.

We work hard to feed the volunteers with sandwiches and soup so your skill set can include making the sandwiches, serving soup, drinks, scones and cakes.

We also maintain the portable toilets.

If you are willing, we would appreciate your help.

This is an important fundraising event.

We are fortunate to be preparing meals for the football club on Friday nights starting mid-March.

This is a very important fundraiser.

Thank you to the generous regular donors to TLC. This helps us pay rates and amenities.

If you are able to make a donation one-off or regular, please use the following details.

Account name Toodyay Locals Care Incorporated, BSB: 633 000 and Account number: 172 668 626.

MISSING DOG

PLEASE HELP US FIND HER



POPPY

Breed: Chihuahua

Colour: Fawn

Size: Small like a rabbit or kitten

weighing only 1.8kg – 2.0kg

Distinctive Feature: Kink in her short tail

Temperament: Anxious / scared of people & dogs unknown to her

Microchipped: Yes

Desexed: Yes

Lost: Since 29th April 2025

Poppy went missing in Northam, WA during a walk around the golf course and was last seen on Katrine Road, **May 1st, 2025.**

Poppy had never been away from home before this, and we are from Perth. While we were preparing to travel overseas, she was in the care of family when she ran off during a walk.

If you have found Poppy or you are taking care of her, please understand we are desperately searching for her. She has a chi companion and family who love her very much.

We are offering a generous cash reward for her return or info leading to her return.

Scan the QR code to visit our 'Help Find Poppy' Facebook Page.



CALL OR TEXT ROMY WITH ANY INFORMATION

0422 479 694



On Anzac Day, we honour all who have served and continue to serve.

The electorate of Bullwinkel, named after Vivian Bullwinkel, reflects the courage and valour of all who wear our nation's uniform.

Lest we forget.

Trish Cook MP

Federal member for **Bullwinkel**

Local Nurse



2/14-16 Mead Street, Kalamunda WA 6076



(08) 7079 0480



trish.cook.mp@aph.gov.au



[trishcookmp](https://www.instagram.com/trishcookmp)



Trish Cook MP



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

Local Government Property Local Law 2026

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

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

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

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

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

Please address your submissions to the Chief Executive Officer:

Via Email: at submissions@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Via Post: at Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566

In Person: At Shire Office, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay WA 6566

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

Paul Nuttall

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Walking with the seasons

Dudja Waangkiny
(Toodyay Yarning)



Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

FOR thousands of years, Noongar people have lived in harmony with Boodja (Country), guided not by four seasons, but by six, known as Bonar.

These seasons are not fixed by calendar dates but shift in response to weather patterns, plant cycles and animal behaviour.

The annual cycle begins with Makuru (around June/July) the Season of Fertility and moves through Djilba (Season of Conception), Kambarang (Season of Birth), Birak (Season of the Young), Bunuru (Season of Adolescence) and Djeran (Season of Adulthood).

Each bonar reflects a stage in the cycle of life and provides important knowledge about when to move, gather food and care for Country.

During Makuru and Djilba (Seasons of Fertility and Conception, around June to September), many native animals and birds



NKAC member Robby Miles (Jnr) at the Djeran seasonal sign at location 5 of the Noongar Trail.

begin pairing and nesting.

By Kambarang (Season of Birth, around October), this leads to an explosion of new life with young animals, birds and insects appearing across the landscape.

Here in Dudjabup (Toodyay), these seasonal changes are still clearly visible if you know what to look for.

Recently, we have experienced Bunuru, the hottest time of the year (around February/March).

One of the most noticeable signs of Bunuru is the flowering of the Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*), known to Noongar people as the "medicine tree" for its red gum. At the beginning of the season, the trees burst into cream blossoms.

This year, they were especially abundant.

Many locals would have noticed the striking display of Marri flowers along Toodyay Road.

This is also a time when many young birds, having fledged at the end of Birak, begin venturing out on their own.

These adolescent birds can often be seen learning to forage and navigate the landscape.

This reflects the nature of early Bunuru as a season of growing independence.

Now, as we transition into Djeran (April/May), those Marri blossoms have begun to dry and fall signalling the end of Bunuru and the arrival of this cooler season.

Another clear sign of early Djeran is the increase in ant activity across properties, gardens and bushland. Once you start looking, it's hard to miss.

In areas where native grasses remain, you may also notice them drying and dropping seed signalling a time of preparation.

These are just some of the many signs that have guided Noongar people for generations, reading the land, understanding its rhythms and responding with care.

In our Toodyay area, the changing seasons are all around us – if we take the time to notice.

As we move toward the winter season of Makuru in a couple of months, we will share more about how Noongar people lived during the coldest time of year.

Career Spotlight: AgTech Specialist

Technology is transforming farming in the Great Southern and Wheatbelt, and AgTech Specialists are at the heart of this change. They help farmers grow more food using fewer resources by combining GPS, drones, sensors, automation, and data analysis.

A day in the life can be varied: installing GPS guidance systems on machinery in the morning, flying drones to monitor crop health by midday, and analysing farm data or troubleshooting software remotely in the afternoon. It's a mix of outdoor work, hands-on technology, and problem-solving.

AgTech roles are growing fast in the region. Entry-level positions often begin with a Certificate II or III in Agriculture or a school-based traineeship. Progression can lead to Precision Agriculture Technician, AgTech Consultant, or Farm Technology Integration Specialist, with optional university pathways for specialised careers in Agricultural Engineering, Data Science, or Automation.

Local employers include family-owned and corporate farms, agronomy consultancies, machinery dealerships, and government research farms (DPIRD, Muresk Institute, regional TAFE programs).

For students and job seekers, AgTech offers hands-on work, career progression, and the chance to make a real difference in sustainable food production.

Start with technology. Grow your future.

Smart Farming, Real Impact Careers in AgTech in Regional WA



08 9361 2800

admin@fftitc.com.au

www.fftitc.com.au

Unit 6 / 800 Albany Hwy
East Victoria Park WA 6101

Staying in Place Toodyay is all smiles

Staying in Place Toodyay Districts
Hamish Dobie, President

IT HAS been two months since Staying In Place Toodyay Districts (SIPTD) moved its office to 94 Stirling Terrace, behind the dentist.

Our Case Manager, Susan, has settled in well and is enjoying the peace and quiet of a space she can call her own.

Although Charmaine Dury has now moved away from the area, she is still a part of the SIPTD team and is Susan's back up and mentor.

The operation has grown to the point that we now need to appoint a second case manager to handle the workload.

The position is part-time for the moment and requires someone who has empathy with our customers and has a sharp mind to handle the complexities of the position.

If you think you're that person, or you know of someone that would fit, then please contact us.

The Federal Government brought in new legislation on November 1 last year replacing Home Care Packages with a Support at Home Program.

You must be aware that this new program has introduced co-payments, i.e. the recipient pays for part of the services they receive.

The former program was fully funded by the federal Government.

The Support at Home Program is subject to an asset test for each recipient, as is the aged pension. Clinical services are all fully funded.

This includes nursing, occupational therapy, restorative care, nutrition and continence.

Other services require a recipient contribution.

These amounts increase from those on full pensions to those who are self-funded.

Independence services such as personal care, respite services, social support, therapeutic services and transport services require a contribution of five percent for full pensioners grading up to 50 percent for self-funded.

Everyday living services, domestic

assistance, meal preparation, gardening, home maintenance, shopping require a contribution of between 17.5 percent and 80 percent.

As someone who worked until retirement and managed to save a little, I found it quite unfair that I had part of my aged pension taken off me because of the government's asset test.

The Support at Home Program is another dig by the Federal Government into the savings of those thrifty enough to have saved for their later years.

It's a sad fact that Australia treats its pensioners in this way, whereas most other countries reward their pensioners with equality, but it is what it is.

If you think you or your partner may be eligible for a Home Care Package, or if you are interested in becoming a Support worker or part of the SIPTD team, then please contact Susan Burley on 0494 085 790.

Birthdays in the square

Wheatbelt Squares

Gil Ackland President

MARCH was a busy month for Wheatbelt square dancers. A number of dancers attended birthday celebration dances.

Swan Valley celebrated their 13th birthday with a Black Friday dance on March 13.

The hall was decorated with witches, spiders, black cats and the music and songs reflected the 'black' theme.

Dianella Rangers celebrated their 50th birthday on March 15.

The Square Dancing Association will hold its annual National Square Dance Convention in Hobart from April 30 to May 4.

Toodyay is fortunate to have the Wheatbelt group in Goomalling and also the Gidgegannup Squares down the Perth Road.

We always welcome visitors to our small country club.

Find out more: Contact Susan on 0429 962 012 or Robert 0429 962 013

Dance is the hidden language of the soul.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

Parking and Parking Facilities Local Law 2026

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

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

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

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

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

Please address your submissions to the Chief Executive Officer:

Via Email: at submissions@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Via Post: at Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566

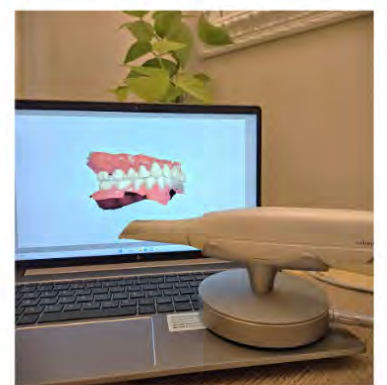
In Person: At Shire Office, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay WA 6566

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

Paul Nuttall

Acting Chief Executive Officer

WHERE MODERN TECHNOLOGY MEETS COUNTRY CARE.



AT TOODYAY DENTAL CLINIC, WE'RE PROUD TO OFFER THE LATEST IN DIGITAL DENTAL TECHNOLOGY – MAKING YOUR VISITS FASTER, MORE COMFORTABLE, AND MORE CONVENIENT THAN EVER:

- **Fully Digital OPG X-ray** – Clear, detailed imaging for accurate diagnosis and treatment planning
- **On-the-spot Health Fund Claims with HICAPS** – Claim your private health benefits instantly, right here at the clinic
- **Digital Scanner Technology** – No more messy impressions! Enjoy a cleaner, more comfortable experience

We're also making it easier to book your appointments – you can now book online anytime through Health Engine.

Our friendly team is here to provide gentle, professional care for the whole family using modern technology you can trust.



**Book Your
Appointment
Now**



08 9574 2333



toodyaydentalclinic@outlook.com



94 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay WA 6566



Now Available for online bookings through HealthEngine

Modern Dentistry with a Personal Touch

AIR CONDITIONING



**ELECTRICAL
AIR CONDITIONING
GAS**

Licence No. EC007113
AU45643

**Locally owned
and operated
business**

Office: **0418 930 721**
Simon: **0409 041 566**

**Electrical & Air-Conditioning
Installations**

- Prompt reliable quality work in Toodyay and surrounding districts
- Supply and install Air-Conditioning (Installation optional)
- Service and repairs to all units - Split systems, Ducted units and Evaporated units
- Qualified and Licenced Electricians

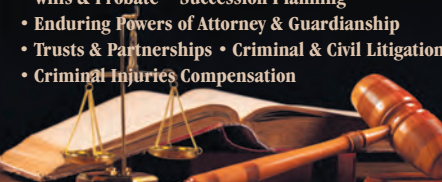


BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

**Mayberry
Hammond & Co.**
Barristers and Solicitors

- Property Conveyancing & Settlements
- Wills & Probate • Succession Planning
- Enduring Powers of Attorney & Guardianship
- Trusts & Partnerships • Criminal & Civil Litigation
- Criminal Injuries Compensation

Ph: **9622 5755** • Fax: **9622 5633**
Email: mayham@wn.com.au
85 Fitzgerald Street, Northam WA 6401



BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

Mortlock Ryan & Co
Barristers & Solicitors

Michael Ryan
Grad Dip Legal Practice, Grad Cert Criminal Law & Advocacy, LLB
Director

1300 649 915
info@mortlockryanco.com.au
www.mortlockryanco.com.au
14 Grey Street, Northam
Western Australia 6401

BEAUTY SALON

Ella Baché
NORTHAM
Skin & Body Care
Centre

IRPL
Permanent Hair
Removal

- Waxing • Manicure • Pedicure
- Spray Tans • Massage • Tinting
- Facials • Cosmetic tattooing
- Acrylic, Gel/Evo or Shellac Nails

Phone **9622 3334**
154 Fitzgerald Street Northam



BEAUTY THERAPY

Clare Love
beauty therapist
0408 730 138

CONNORS COTTAGE
PIESSE STREET OPEN TUE, THURS, SAT



BOBCAT HIRE

BOBCAT AND TRUCK HIRE

WHY BARROW IT.....BOBCAT IT.....
ALL TYPES OF WORK - NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL

LANDSCAPING ADVICE FREELY GIVEN

- * FIREBREAKS * LEVELLING
- * TANK, SHED & HOUSE PADS
- * SAND * SOIL * GRAVEL * ROAD BASE
- * BLUE METAL *

PHONE PAUL HARRINGTON
WEEKEND WORK AVAILABLE **0408 952 215**

9574 2130



BOOKKEEPING

E.S. e-Books
Home & Mobile Bookkeeping

Home & Mobile Bookkeeper

- ✓ Business setups
- ✓ Accounts payable & receivable
- ✓ Payroll & IAS preparations & submissions
- ✓ Financial reporting
- ✓ MYOB partner

Liz Sullivan
Ph **0429 311 256**
Email: esebooks.liz@gmail.com

BAS agent
2701 6009




BORES/WATER

Julimar Drilling Services

- Water bore construction
- Domestic and Commerical
- Rotary mud and air
- Hard rock, clay and sand
- Free quotes

Contact Nathan or Sandy
Ph: 9574 5582
Mob: 0409 089 392
Email: julimards@bigpond.com

CEILINGS

BUILDERS OWNER BUILDERS HOME RENOVATORS

GYPFIX

we supply...
Plasterboard & Accessories
Fibrous Cement Sheeting and Insulation
Plasterboard Installation
Fix, Flush, Cornice & Sand

Ron Jones
PO Box 164
Toodyay WA
Phone/Fax
9574 2087



CEILINGS

Gyp-Tec

- Plasterboard
- Ceilings & Walls
- Install • Flush
- Cornice • Sand
- Repairs

Greg 0407 915 734
Email: fawksie28@gmail.com

CLEANING

iclean on-site
Specialising in
Real estate vacate and
settlement cleans
Domestic and
Commercial
'Keen to clean'

All enquiries & quotes contact Samara on
0457 843 476
email: icos.sam@outlook.com

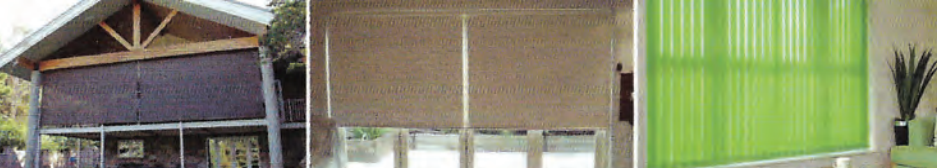


CURTAINS AND BLINDS

Toodyay Curtains & Blinds *Buy direct and bank the difference*

Holland Blinds, Vertical Drapes
Awnings, Venetians, Panel Glides
Curtains and Tracks, Roller Shutters
and much more!

Phone: Paul Hodgkiss
0409 812 671
Email: paulhodgy@outlook.com



DESIGN

Thinking of building or renovating ?
Contact Colin 0435 581 777

**Caruso Designs
& Associates**

- Architectural design
- Drafting service & Interior design
- Building contracts & liaison
- Owner Builder services welcome

Custom build on site or modular Studios & Granny flats.
Ready to manufacture/deliver wall frames & roof trusses

www.carusodesigns.studio
Make an appointment to visit our design studio



EARTHMOVING

Diggermate
MINI EXCAVATOR HIRE

TOODYAY
LOCALLY OWNED

FROM \$239 PER DAY

Call Me Mate!
0484 621 181
diggermate.com.au



EARTHMOVING

VERNICE

3 GENERATIONS STRONG 160+ PLANT & EQUIPMENT 200+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

All civil construction, earthmoving and material supply projects large and small.

Contact us today!
vernice@vernice.com.au

Operations Office
0417 182 636 0427 742 030

www.vernice.com.au



FIND WHAT
YOU ARE LOOKING
FOR IN THE TOODYAY
HERALD
TRADES & SERVICES



ELECTRICAL



**ELECTRICAL
AIR CONDITIONING
GAS**

Licence No. EC007113
AU45643

**Locally owned
and operated
business**

Office: **0418 930 721**
Simon: **0409 041 566**

**Electrical & Air-Conditioning
Installations**

- Prompt reliable quality work in Toodyay and surrounding districts
- Supply and install Air-Conditioning (Installation optional)
- Service and repairs to all units - Split systems, Ducted units and Evaporated units
- Qualified and Licenced Electricians



ELECTRICAL

MM ELECTRICAL
LIGHTING & ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES

**Metal Manufactures
Electrical Merchandising**

Trading Hours
Monday - Friday
6.30am - 5pm

9622 3355

**Lamps & Lighting,
Cable, Conduit, Switchgear,
Air-conditioning,
Solar & More**

136 Fitzgerald Street cnr Grey Street
Email: northam.sales@mmem.com.au

FITNESS

BACK 2 BASICS TOODYAY You bring the will, we will provide the way...

Circuit style training and strength training programs to suit everyone's fitness needs

b2bfittnesstodyay@gmail.com
Now located at 16 Stirling Terrace Toodyay WA 6566

Enquire now about our
Standard 24/7 Monthly
Memberships
Personal training Sessions
Single Person or Couples
Discounts available

**Tina 0438 374 227 or
Russell 0488 197 575**

GARAGE DOORS

The Garage Door Guys

- NEW sectional & roller doors installed
- Service & repairs to all doors & motors
- Motors fitted to existing garage doors
- Also Industrial Doors supplied & installed
- Family owned and operated

SALES-SERVICE-REPAIRS

Servicing Toodyay, Northam, Goomalling, Wongan Hills, York, Quairading, Merredin & Surrounds
Fully Qualified Tradesman
Shane Andrew P. 0409 089 994
allstrong.outdoors@bigpond.com

FREE quotes

**ALLSTRONG
OUTDOOR
GARAGE DOORS**

GARDEN CARE

Andrew Carr GARDEN CARE

Let me slash, whipper-snip and spray before your wild growth becomes long, dry and dangerous

0418 937 324 Fully insured

Battery Trimmer and Polesaw \$40ph.
Petrol gear for larger trees and bushes \$70ph.
Clean-up, and branches and trimmings taken away

ABN - 28 991 557 234

GAS FITTING

EAG
Electrical Air-conditioning & Gas

Gas Fitter

- We are locally owned & operated
- Prompt quality work throughout Toodyay & surrounds
- Install & repairs to all gas products
- Qualified & Licenced Electricians & gas fitter.

**Office: 0418 930 721
Simon: 0409 041 566**

AU45643 Licence No. EC007113

GLASS AND GLAZING

TOODYAY GLASS
ALL GLAZING WORK & EMERGENCY REPAIRS

Window Repairs Shower Screens Timber Frame Window Glazing

Find us on **f** New Business in Toodyay

Phone Ainsley on 0425 143 830
www.toodyayglass.com.au - toodyayglass@iinet.net.au

Servicing Toodyay and the surrounding areas

HAIRDRESSER

UNISEX Toodyay Hair Studio

OPEN
Monday to Friday
9am to 5pm
Saturday
9am to noon

Phone: **9574 2505**
120A Stirling Terrace Toodyay

HIRE SERVICE

HIRE SERVICE

Toodyay Traders **HOME** TIMBER & HARDWARE
GO WHERE THE TRADIES GO

We offer Tools & Equipment
for the Home Owner, Tradesman,
Renovator & Gardener

126 Stirling Terrace Toodyay WA 6566
Telephone: **08 9574 2232**

LANDSCAPING AND EARTHWORKS

WacWil does it all...

Concreting
Sand/Gravel supplies
Septic Tank Installations
Bitumen Driveways & Repairs
Leach Drain Installations
Tipper Truck Work

House/Shed Pads
Pool Preparation
Bobcat Work
Excavations

Paving
Rock Pitching
Limestone Walls
Turf Laying

WacWil
—Landscaping & Earthworks Pty Ltd—

Simon Wacura 0447 183 551 / hello@wacwil.com.au / www.wacwil.com.au

Targeted advertising for only five bucks a week.
What are you waiting for?
Advertise in Trades & Services now!

MECHANICAL

MRB 6752

MOBI MECH

36 years in industry
16 years Gidgegannup

Contact Brian (Millsy)
0401 277 142

- Mechanical repairs and servicing
- Tractor & machinery repairs service
- Solar panels & controller sales
- Auto electrical (ECU/Injector programming)
- Battery supply
- Pre-purchase inspections

OPTOMETRIST

northam optical

WE ARE HERE

- Bulk billing to Medicare
- HBF & DVA Provider
- Competitive prices
- Great range of frames & sunglasses
- Locally owned and operated

www.northamoptical.com.au

206 Fitzgerald St Northam WA P 9621 1131 E northamoptical@yahoo.com.au

PEST CONTROL

MORRIS PEST & WEED CONTROL

Your Regional Pest & Weed Management Specialists

- Termite Control
- Pre-Purchase Inspections
- Cockroaches, Ants, Spiders, Rodents & Other General Pests
- Complete Weed Control
- Commercial
- Mining
- Domestic
- Government Contracts
- Bee removal and Relocation service

admin@morrisset.com.au
Call **0456 865 026 or 0417 934 885**

PLUMBER AND GAS

enterprise
PLUMBING & GAS

PL7887 GF15191 BF2713

1300 001 954

admin@enterpriseplumbing.com.au

Excellent opportunities!

Advertise With the Herald NOW

PUMPS AND WINDMILLS

SOLAR PUMPS & WINDMILLS

SALES, INSTALLATION & REPAIRS

SERVICING CENTRAL & NORTH EAST WHEATBELT AREAS. Based in Toodyay

Contact
LANG LEFROY
0408 742 436

SunPowerWA
The Power of Agriculture
www.sunpowerwa.com.au

REFRIGERATION



Air-Conditioning Installation

- We are locally owned & operated
- Prompt quality work throughout Toodyay & surrounds
- Supply & Install A/C's or Install of your own unit
- Service & repairs to all units - Split systems, Ducted units & Evaporated units
- Qualified & Licenced Electricians & Refrigeration mechanics

Office: 0418 930 721
Simon: 0409 041 566

AU45643 Licence No. EC007113

RETICULATION

The Retic Specialist
Repairing Perth's retic & bores since 2010

- Retic repairs and installation
- Bore and water tank pump replacements
- Grey water systems supply and install or supply only
- Water tanks supply and install including pads or supply only



TLC Services
0431 248 007
mick@reticperth.com.au

TOODYAY BASED COMPANY

SHOE REPAIRS

The Shoe Repair Man Saving Soles

Watch Batteries & Bands
Key Cutting
Engraving

Rickie Love
Owner
0484 388 309
192 Fitzgerald Street
Northam WA 6401

loverickie8@gmail.com

Tuesday - Friday
9am to 3.30pm



TINTING

Tint-a-Car
Northam

CAR, HOME & OFFICE WINDOW TINTING

Ph. 96225533
59 Old York Rd Northam

Call 13 TINT | tintacar.com.au



TOWING



NORTHAM TOWING

TRANSPORTING AND TOWING ALL SIZES OF VEHICLES
Northam & Wheatbelt - Over 28 Yrs Experience

- Accident & Breakdown Towing
- Car Body Removal
- Stolen Vehicle Recovery
- Carry up to 7 Passengers
- Containers - Machinery
- 3 Tilt Tray & Tow Trucks

Fully Insured, Roadside Service, Emergency service, RAC Approved Contractor

Phone 9622 7220 or 0427 964 264
16 Dempster St, NORTHAM www.northamtowing.com.au

TREE LOPPING

Landworx WA

TREE SERVICES

Complete Tree Removal
Target Pruning
Deweeding
Cut and Leave
Owner Operator 12m Cherry Picker
Dieback Green Card Holder

Fully Insured

Phone Darren on 0412 918 689
Email: landworxwa@gmail.com

TREE LOPPING

Toodyay Treelopping
Cherry Picker & Country Towns



Commercial & Domestic
Fully Insured
40 years experience
Fully experienced climber

Phone Mick on 0407 198 018

TREE SERVICE

Qualified Arborist
Complete Service

Chipping
Stump Grinding
Rope access for restricted areas
20 metre cherry picker

Peter
0400 426 586

WASTE REMOVAL

ASB AVON SKIP BINS www.avonskipbins.com.au
admin@avonskipbins.com.au
(08) 9574 2464



TRASH TALKIN' SINCE 1992
Controlled Waste Licence: T00224

WATER CARTING

AVON VALLEY WATER CARTAGE
ABN 62120839979



Jamie Ratcliffe 0418 904 525
jamie_r@live.com.au

WATER CARTING

BILLABONG WATER SUPPLY



Chris Atkins
Owner operator
ABN 18 981 989 361
0409 469 681

billabongwatersupply@gmail.com

WATER CARTING

TOODYAY WATER CARTING



Drinking Water
10,000 & 15,000 & 30,000 Ltr Loads

"Here to deliver" 0457 636 011
www.toodyaywatercarting.com.au ABN 72 978 792 587

TWC

WATER TANK CLEANING

Water Tank Cleaning • Minimal Water Loss • Water Filtration Systems

WE CLEAN WATER TANKS
Water Filters - Supply & Service

pristine watersystems



Call for a FREE Tank Water Test
Craig Kerns 0437 666 151

www.pristinewater.com.au

When was your Rainwater Tank last cleaned?

WOOL BUYER

NORTHAM WOOL STORE




1 Katrine Road, Northam
Open Tues - Thurs 8.30am - 2.30pm or by appointment
On Farm Service - Clip Brokering - Store Door Payment
Cartage arranged and paid for by Spearwood Wool

Contact Nico Brits: 0450 395 432
nico@sww.net.au www.northamwoolstore.com.au

SPEARWOOD WOOL
WOOL MERCHANTS

100% WA family owned and operated



"I noticed your ad in the Toodyay Herald"

Place your advert today
Email: advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Waiting for the rain to fall Using a wicking bed

Toodyay Garden Club

Judy Rowston, Events/Media Reporter

TIME is passing quickly.

We are already into the second quarter of the year.

Farmers are looking to the clouds, waiting for much needed rain to start their cropping program.

Gardeners are waiting for the rains, so we can start planting out our winter vegetables and get our gardens pruned, fertilised and ready for new plants and eventually spring colour.

The Garden Club held its AGM on March 5 in St Stephens Hall.

Twenty-seven members attended with 28 apologies.

Amazing support from an amazing club.

Dale, our 2025 President, declared the meeting open and thanked last year's committee.

Ten positions were declared vacant.

We are delighted to say we have a full committee with three new members stepping up and seven previous members continuing on into 2026.

We warmly welcome our new leader in Mrs Alison Guley who accepted the presidency



Daphne Lee won the door prize at the AGM.

role, Mr Colin Roberts who will be our vice president and Mrs Pam Baker will join the other six members who make up the committee.

There is a full program thanks to Stephanie Bain the events coordinator and our first garden visit will be to Neville and Dale D'Antoine's garden on the April 2.

A bus trip has been organised for our May 7 visit to York.

Contact Stephanie on 0429 888 314 if you would like to secure a seat.

Please remember to bring along a picnic lunch.

We will have the urn for tea and coffee.

In June we will travel to Goomalling to visit Therese and Geoff Wise's property on the outskirts of town with amazing views of surrounding farmland.

In July we will host a huge Gala Day with four guest speakers.

This will be open to the Toodyay community as well as Garden Club members.

For further information on any of our garden visits please email the secretary Lyn at toodyaygardenclub@gmail.com or phone Stephanie on 0429 888 314.



2025 Club president, Dale D'Antoine passing club seal to 2026 club President, Alison Guley.

Toodyay Community Garden Inc.

Joshua van Helsdingen

GROWING vegetables in Toodyay can be challenging.

Gardeners here deal with intense summer heat, poor soil and the physical effort of maintaining a garden.

Wicking beds are a simple, effective way to tackle all three.

The first challenge is heat and water loss.

Toodyay summers are hot and dry, and traditional garden beds can dry out quickly.

Wicking beds include a built-in water reservoir at the base.

Moisture moves up into the soil as plants need it.

This keeps the root zone evenly moist and reduces how often you need to water.

It also helps plants survive extreme heat.

The second challenge is soil quality.

Local soils are often low in organic matter which leads to compaction, which limits root growth and reduces airflow.

It also causes poor drainage when wet, and poor water retention when dry. On top of that,

exposed soil can erode easily.

Wicking beds allow you to build your own soil mix using compost, manure and mulch.

The result is a loose, fertile soil that holds water well while still draining properly.

The third challenge is ergonomics.

Traditional gardening often involves bending, kneeling and heavy digging. This can be hard on the back and joints, especially over time.

Wicking beds are usually built at waist or hip height, making them much easier to work with.

They reduce strain and make everyday tasks like planting, weeding and harvesting more comfortable.

Wicking beds can be made from timber, metal or recycled materials.

Once set up, they are low maintenance and efficient.

With better water use, improved soil and easier access, wicking beds set gardeners up for success.

When your plants thrive, gardening becomes more than just work.

It becomes something you truly enjoy.



Wicking bed.

GET WHAT YOU REALLY WANT

*Offer available on all MY26 and prior Ranger hybrid models and selected MY26 and prior Ranger diesel models, at participating dealers. Eligibility criteria apply, visit ford.com.au/latest-offers for details. Ford Australia may vary this offer at any time.

\$3K OFF SELECT RANGERS*



RANGER
MY26

Valley Ford 37 Fitzgerald Street, Northam
9622 5588 | www.valleyfordnortham.com.au

DL: 29398

Ford

WHERE AND WHEN

ART & CRAFT / HOBBIES / HISTORY
Arts Toodyay
Fourth Monday of each month from 5.30pm at the Toodyay Youth Hall.
Contact secretary.arts.j2@gmail.com.
Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association
Third Saturday Old Engineer’s Quarters next to Northam Railway Museum, Fitzgerald St Northam 10.30am. 9622 5932.
Avon Woodturners Group
Every Sunday and Wednesday, Toodyay Junction, Railway Parade 9am-noon.
Hamish Dobie 0423 115 204.
Morangup Social Craft Group
First and third Tuesday monthly, Morangup Community Hall 10am-12:30pm
Ragbags Quilting Group
First and third Wednesday monthly, St Stephen’s Hall 10am-2.30pm. 9574 4503.Bring your lunch.
The Crooked Needle
Friday morning craft \$3.50 CWA Hall Stirling Terrace 9.30am-noon. Jan 0407 083 079, Annette 9574 2332.
Toodyay Historical Society
Third Wednesday monthly (not Jan) St Stephen’s Church Hall, Stirling Tce 7pm. Drummond House open Saturday 10am-noon (next to Bendigo Bank, Stirling Tce). Research Centre open by appt. Beth Frayne 9574 5971, secretary.2j.ths@gmail.com, www.toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au
Toodyay Miniature Railway
Easter Saturday, thereafter first and third Sunday monthly until Nov. Mark, President 0424 281 770.
Toodyay Spinners and Weavers
Every Wednesday; and the first and third Saturdays at Parker’s Cottage, Showgrounds 9am to noon. toodyayspinners@hotmail.com.
Toodyay Theatre Group
David Mitchell 0400 283 425.

CHURCHES
Anglican Church
Sundays St Stephen’s Church 10am.
Catholic Church
Saturday Vigil 5pm. Wednesday Adoration 4.20pm, Benediction 4.50pm, Mass 5pm. northam@perthcatholic.org.au 9622 5411.
Bakers Hill Fellowship
Sundays Bakers Hill Primary School Music Room 10am. Pastor Peter Booth 0417 945 725.
Toodyay Baptist Church
Sundays 18 Stirling Tce 10.30am. Joy 0432 470 771.
Uniting Church
St Stephen’s Church 10am.

EDUCATION / PLAYGROUPS
Bizzy Bees
Pre-kindy for 3-year-olds. Toodyay DHS. Jessica Donovan 0407 128 105.
Toodyay District High School P&C
Tuesday of Week 5 each term TDHS staff room 5.30pm. “Toodyay DHS P&C” on Facebook, write to Toodyay District High School P&C at PO Box 1624, Toodyay WA 6566.
email pandctoodyaydhs@gmail.com.
Toodyay Playgroup
Tuesdays, Thursdays 9-11am. Wednesdays Bubs

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

EMERGENCY SERVICES
Bejoording VBFB
First Tuesday monthly 6pm, Bejoording Fire Shed. Lawrence 0447 253 320, Richard 0414 250 484.
Coondle-Nunile VBFB
Meet every Friday 5pm at the Coondle Fire Shed” .
Morangup VBFB
Third Saturday of the month, 3 Wallaby Way, Morangup, 5.30pm Jan Drury 0474 550 544 or secretarymvbfb@gmail.com
St John Morangup Sub Centre
Volunteering, first aid kits, Benefit Fund memberships, 48 Wallaby Way, Morangup. Monday and Wednesday 8am-4pm. 0418 741 971.
St John Toodyay Sub Centre
Volunteering, first aid kits and refills, Benefit Fund memberships, general enquiries, 120B Stirling Terrace. 9574 2390.
Emergency call 000.
Toodyay Central VBFB
Second Tuesday monthly Toodyay Fire and Emergency Services Centre 7pm.
Toodyay State Emergency Service
Fourth Tuesday monthly 3 Wallaby Way Morangup. Jeff Venn 0438 490 331 toodyayseslocalmanager@gmail.com.
Toodyay Volunteer Fire and Rescue
First Monday monthly, Toodyay Fire and Emergency Services Centre 7.30pm.

ENVIRONMENT
Avon Valley Environmental Society
Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Centre, 269 Fitzgerald St, Northam.
Third Friday monthly, noon.
Janet Wilkinson 9574 5947.
Earth Solutions - Avon Valley
Second Tuesday monthly (not Jan) Old Northam Railway Station, 425 Fitzgerald St Northam 6pm.
Karen Ducat 0438 223 886.
Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance
Julimarforest@gmail.com.
Marsupial Mammals and Pappas
Wildlife Rescue Brian Foley 0419 933 721.
Safe and Scenic Toodyay Road
Andrew St John. sastr.com.au.
Toodyay Friends of the River
Second Sunday monthly or following Monday, 9am (winter); 8am (summer). See TFOR noticeboard outside Drummond House.
Email info@toodyayfor.org.au.
Toodyay Garden Club
First Thursday monthly, 10am.
Dale D’Antoine President 0448 611 292.
Email toodyaygardenclub@gmail.com for venue or Stephanie Bain 0429 888 314.
Toodyay Naturalists’ Club
Third Saturday monthly. 9574 5574, secretary@toodyaynats.org.au.
Website www.toodyaynats.org.au.
Toodyay Seed Group
Toodyay Junction, opposite Shire depot.
Email bethan_lloyd8@msn.com.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS
Toodyay Agricultural Show

www.toodyayagsociety.com.au
Toodyay Farmers Market
Third Sunday monthly, 0429 984 482, toodyayfarmersmarket@gmail.com.
Toodyay Moondyne Festival
moodynecommittee@gmail.com.

HEALTH
Australian Breastfeeding Association
Second and fourth Tuesday monthly, 3 Elizabeth Place Northam 10am-noon. Third Tuesday monthly Toodyay Playgroup noon-2pm.
Louise 9574 0229.
Child Health Clinic
Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Bree Byfield. 9621 0100
Forget-Me-Not Memory Café
Second Tuesday monthly, Toodyay Bakery. 10am-noon.
Mr Perfect
Toodyay Mr Perfect BBQ second Sunday monthly from 10.30am to 12pm at Duidgee Park. mrperfect.org.au also Mr Perfect Community Group on Facebook.
Toodyay Medical Centre
Stirling Terrace. Monday-Friday 9am-4pm. 9545 7101. Pathology Mon-Fri 9am-1pm.
Toodyay Men’s Shed
Monday, Tuesday, Saturday Harper Rd 8.30am-noon. Secretary 0499 403 830.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Liz Boston, JP
lizboston3160@gmail.com, 0428 742 349
Leave message if no answer.
Jacquie Lacy, JP
januaryjac@gmail.com. 0429 959 179.
Jeff Roberts, JP
roberts138@bigpond.com. 0499 403 830
Susan Pearce, JP
susanpearce740@outlook.com 0427 957 425.

MUSIC
Toodyay Community Singers
Thursdays CWA Hall, Stirling Terrace Rehearsals 5pm – 6pm Anne-Marie Millar 0408 364 918.
Toodyay Music Club
Second Saturday monthly, CWA Hall 1pm. Joe 0400 862 694.

SENIORS
Autumn Club
Wednesdays, Toodyay Sports Pavilion 1-4pm. Glenyce Bosnjak 9574 4587.
Butterly Cottages Association
Secretary: Cheryl-Jean.
Contact email butterfly2J@gmail.com
Fitness and Fun for the Over 55s
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays Youth Hall, Showgrounds 9am.
Ida’s Hideaway
Saturdays Toodyay Baptist Church, Stirling Terrace 1-4pm. Ann Sinclair 0407 775 459.
Silver Chain Social Centre
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays Toodyay Community Centre 78 Stirling Tce. 1300 650 803.
Staying in Place Toodyay Districts
Aged Care Support
Contact Case Manager: 0494 085 790

SERVICE ORGANISATIONS
Bejoording Community Group
Wednesdays Bejoording Community Centre Bejoording Rd 6pm.
Barry Grey, President 0428 742 149.
Country Women’s Association
General meetings fourth Thursday monthly at 1pm, coffee mornings second Thursday monthly, 10am CWA Hall. Bookings Margot Watkins 0405 067 591 or 9574 2823.
Moondyne Men
Mondays & Thursdays CRC, 67 Stirling Terrace 8-10.30am. Breakfast 1st Saturday monthly. Colin Bird, Secretary 0424 195 003.
Morangup Progress Association
Chair Daryl Cooper chair@ morangupmpa.com.au. www.morangupmpa.com.au.
RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch
Meetings at RSL shed, Clinton Street 2nd Saturday every month between February and November, at 1pm. Secretary Max Howard 0475 724 233 email: toodyayrsl@gmail.com.
Safer Toodyay Inc
Meetings announced in Herald column. 9574 5574.
Toodyay Lions Club
First Tuesday of the month Toodyay Hotel. Second Tuesday Social meeting. Clint Fricker (0423 226 898)
Email: toodyay.wa@lions.org.au
Toodyay Masonic Lodge
Fourth Thursday monthly, Masonic Hall Fiennes St 7.30pm. Mick Tock, 9622 8990
Toodyay Red Cross
Second Monday Feb, May, Aug, Nov Anglican Hall 1.30pm.
Toodyay RoadWise Committee
Second Wednesday monthly, Community Resource Centre 9.30am.
Bob Neville 0419 853 160.

SPORT
Avon Valley Adult Riding Club
Fourth Saturday monthly Feb-Nov, Northam. Tina 0499 030 177.
Avon Valley Shotokan Karate Club
Wednesdays Youth Hall, Showgrounds. Peewees 3.45-4.30pm; Juniors 4.30-5.30pm; Seniors 6-7.30pm.
avonvalleyshotokan@gmail.com.
Mortlock Pony Club
First Sunday Feb-Nov, Goomalling. Tanzi 0427 859 493.
Toodyay Bowling Club
Ladies Thursdays 8.30am.
Jenny Leitis 0438 909 721 *
Mens Wednesday 3pm Brad Watson 0499 514 738
Mixed Winter Bowls Thursday 12.30pm
Jenny Leitis – All Welcome
Toodyay Golf Club
Mixed comp Sundays noon; Ladies Wednesdays 1.30pm. Roma: 9574 5534. Men’s Scroungers Thursdays 2pm. Bruce 0417 028 089.
Toodyay Soccer Club
Mondays 4-5.30pm terms 2-3, ages 5-15yrs. toodyaysoccer@gmail.com.
Toodyay Tennis Club
Toodyay Recreation Centre, Tuesday social 9am unless raining, Wednesday night social 6.30pm October - April, Friday Night Community Tennis - October - November (Facebook for updates) or community court hire play.tennis.com.au . Facebook @toodyaytennisclub.
Contact Jenny Ash Secretary 0417497972

CLASSIFIEDS

TOODYAY MEDICAL GROUP

81 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay WA 6566

RECEPTIONIST VACANCY

Toodyay Medical Group is a privately owned Practice operating in Toodyay. We employ and engage with General Practitioners, Practice Nurses (both Registered and Enrolled) visiting Physicians, Allied Health Professionals and administration staff. The Receptionist is a part time role, TMG is flexible to casual or part time hours for interested individuals. Applicants to be familiar with Microsoft Outlook and Best Practice software would be an advantage

Criteria Essential

- Current Police check
- Current Working with Children check
- Current CPR certificate, or the willingness to achieve the certificate
- Continuing Professional development

If you are interested please contact the Practice on 08 9545 7101 or email: practicemanager@toodyaymedicalgroup.com.au

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP

Warm-hearted lady seeks genuine friendship / meaningful relationship. Honest, respectful enquiries only. No agents - 0493 048 812

Want to sell your Property?

Make sure you get the right price!

List now and sell your property with GMAC Realty

Make FOR SALE into

SOLD

For honest no-nonsense service call Greg on 0407 124 175

E: greggiddings@gmacrealty.net.au / Tel: Perth Office (08) 6110 4530

GMAC REALTY



Greg Giddings

Award winning GMAC Sales Rep.

Greg Giddings is your local consultant for Toodyay, and has been very successful in the Avon Valley for over a decade!

Free Appraisals

Sudoku

Combo Solution

ENVIRONMENT

Research reveals life inside the Magpie’s world

Bird of the Month
Desrae Clarke

THE ‘*Australian Magpie – Biology and Behaviour of an Unusual Songbird*’ has been written by researcher Gisella Kaplan from studies over more than twenty years.

The publication includes many personal experiences that Gisella, with several of her colleagues, have enjoyed sharing, making this book so readable.

Permission to use the cover photo of the book has been kindly given by CSIRO Publishers.

Are the numbers of Australian Magpies increasing or decreasing?

The birds appear to have adjusted to living in areas of ever-increasing urban sprawl but with the removal of natural bushland, swamp areas and large nesting trees, one wonders.

This large species of 43-47cm has a life span of 20-25 yrs.

It has a preference to live in open grasslands, paddocks and parks but has adjusted to also live happily in suburbia.

It is a monogamous species having a lifelong partner.

Breeding commences in August in the southern part of our state, the female taking responsibility for nest building or refurbishing last year’s home.

It commences with an untidy stick platform topped with a bowl shape lined with grass, wool, bark and feathers.

Three to five blue/green, brown spotted eggs are laid and incubated over fourteen days by the female bird.

The hatchlings, pink and featherless, are tended by both parents.

Young birds are unable to fly for the first few days after leaving the nest and may be found walking on the ground.

This is a period of risk for the youngsters with possible predation by a fox, monitor

lizard or the feral cat.

The Australian Magpie struts about probing the ground searching for prey of beetles, scorpions, flies, snails, grasshoppers, earthworms and snails.

It also takes eggs and baby birds from unprotected nests of other species, plus mice and carrion, and is known to eat grain, plant material and fruits.

Determining the sex of birds less than two years of age is impossible.

The young birds’ colouring over this time is the mottled black and white resembling the adult female.

In the early months of a bird’s third year the male bird’s back becomes white (black in eastern Australia) but may have several tiny black feathers peeking out.

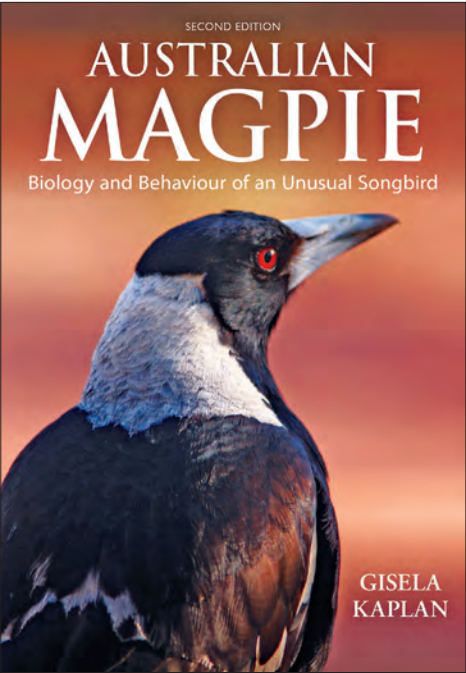
Assessing the ‘year age’ of the bird is by the bill colouration with a bird of up to a year-old having a leaden-grey coloured bill.

A very young bird has a red colouration of flesh joining the bill to the head that guides those that feed it.

Over the second year the bill is a lighter grey with a black tip with the adult’s bill, of both male and female, a bluish white with a black tip and hook.

The Australian Magpie has many calls from the soft chattering to itself while resting to happy carolling, a strident call when in a group to a high-pitched alarm call.

It can mimic other bird calls and will duet



Read about the secret life of Magpies.

when unable to see a partner when foraging.

Toodyay Naturalists’ Club members are grateful to hear from the community with interesting observations by email to secretary@toodyaynats.com.au or phone 9574 5574.

Native bee surveys matter

Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance
Melissa Adams, Secretary

DUE to rain, we had to postpone a popular Native Bee survey in Julimar State Forest at the September BioBlitz last year, led by ecologist, Dr Kit Prendergast.

We were relieved when Kit said she was keen to come back in October, supported by the Conservation Council of WA, to continue the survey.

This time, despite limited wildflowers, Kit and our team of volunteers still documented four species in three genera (Leioproctus, Lasioglossum and Lipotriches) in the vicinity of Heine Road.

“Given the high seasonal turnover in species abundance and diversity recorded over the spring and summer in other parts of SWWA (Swan Coastal Plain, Jarrah forest), it is likely that this is just a small snapshot of the diversity of native bees at Julimar,” Kit explained.

When a lot of people think of bees, they tend to picture the introduced honeybee.

If you look more closely at the insects in your garden, or while walking in the bush, you’ll likely start to recognise other bees pollinating the flowers.

These are those that cut leaves with their mandible (Leafcutter Bees), those building nests in small holes in wood (eg. Leafcutter Bees, Resin Bees) or in dirt or clay (eg. Blue-banded Bees), or those building hives, producing honey (Stingless Bees).

They range in size from just a few millimetres to the size of your thumb.

Australia has a huge variety of native bees.

They are a vital part of our natural world.

Some native species are pollinators while others have special relationships with native flora.

Like many insects they are bioindicators of healthy ecosystems, providing insights into environmental change or land clearing.

Overall insects are on the decline.

A 2024 study estimates that 9000 insects and other native invertebrates have become extinct in Australia since European arrival,

and between one and three additional species become extinct every week.

Cleared habitat and use of harmful pesticides are drivers of this decline.

Climate change also impacts insects by altering temperature and moisture conditions, which can disrupt their seasonal life cycles.

According to Kit, there is a lot we don’t know about native bees.

“There exist large knowledge gaps about their diversity, distribution, plant interactions and phenology.

“There are over 1700 described species, yet we estimate there are at least 500 undescribed species.”

This is why surveys, like the one conducted in Julimar State Forest, are so important.

If we don’t close the knowledge gap, there may be bees that become extinct before they are even identified.

What can you do as an individual to help conserve these wonderful insects?

Attend surveys or perform your own by uploading your sightings to iNaturalist (the more we know, the better protection we can advocate and provide).

Raise awareness about native bees.

Plant native flowers, especially in the families Fabaceae and Myrtaceae.

Protect and restore native habitat.

Reduce pesticide use.

Provide nesting habitat in your backyard and make well-designed bee hotels.

Follow experts like Kit on social media, and learn more about these fabulous creatures.

Facebook page: [@Kit.Prendergast](#);

Facebook group: [The Buzz on Wildbees](#)

We will be conducting more native bee surveys in Julimar State Forest toward the end of this year.

As Kit says, more discoveries await, and we can’t wait to see what we find next.

Email us to register your interest in being part of future surveys, including birds, plants and other species at julimarforest@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook: [JulimarCAFA](#).

You can also join the iNaturalist project which is entitled: *Species of Julimar State Forest (All observations)* to record sightings all year round.

Local Carpet Python watch



The Carpet Python is vey easy to indentify with its markings. (Photo by Lou Kidd).

Herpetofauna
Desrae Clarke

IN THE mid 1990s a young man from the eastern states, David Pearson, moved to live in Western Australia to pursue his studies in reptiles to gain his doctorate with his choice of subject being the Carpet Python.

A call was made through natural history groups and the community asking for reports, sightings, observations and photos of these beautiful creatures.

I placed an advertisement in the *Toodyay Herald* and the *Northam Advocate* asking readers to contact me with any sightings; thus began in 1996 the first of *The Herald* articles I called Python Watch.

Community members sent me photos, letters, phone calls and emails of not only pythons but also creatures under the name of herpetofauna that includes frogs, turtles, skinks, lizards, geckos, legless lizards, blind snakes, monitors and snakes so *The Herald*’s subjects expanded.

Since that time, data collected has been exciting, the obvious interest amazing and a great learning curve for everyone especially me for which I am extremely grateful.

Stories that have come to light have been incredible with a Morangup family having a python visitor popping in to say hello each December three years in succession.

On the third visit the question was asked whether a python would take a Chihuahua pup as a litter of pups were placed in a playpen in the sun on a veranda.

A ranger was asked to relocate the large female to a new location.

A 30cm long Carpet Python was brought into a house by a family cat.

Fortunately, the youngster was unharmed

and was able to be relocated away from the household feline.

A large python was found resting for several days in a trough of water lilies.

The Carpet Python is very easy to identify as it has what is known as a ‘neck’, a feature that is not one of most snakes.

It has a ground colouring from greenish to blackish brown with the body marked with numerous, irregular white, cream or pale brown blotches with darkened edges; the belly may be white, cream or yellow.

The Carpet Python’s diet includes rats and mice so it is often found in the vicinity of a fowl run, hay shed or bird aviary; rabbits are also a source of food.

It is a proficient climber of trees and will ambush birds such as the Raven, Ring-necked Parrot and the Brown Honeyeater at bird baths.

The python’s forked tongue constantly flicks to collect dust particles from its surrounds to convey messages to the highly sensitive Jacobson’s Organ.

The glands in the roof of the mouth determine the presence of a threat, food or a mate.

The python houses in rabbit burrows, beneath rocky shelving, in tree hollows or hollow logs and is often found beneath roofing or coiled around piping of a water tank.

A Carpet Python cannot be taken from the wild as a pet as it is totally protected and may result in an extremely heavy fine.

The Toodyay Naturalists’ Club members are grateful to receive information from community members of natural history sightings, observations of interest and photos by emailing secretary@toodyaynats.org.au or 9574 5574.



GLOBAL TESTING SERVICES

HIGH VOLTAGE SPECIALISTS

OUR SERVICES:

- High & Low Voltage Installations and maintenance
- Earth Testing Services
- High Voltage Testing & Commissioning
- Electrical Testing Equipment Hire
- Transformer Refurbishment
- Transformer Maintenance & Oil Filtration

(08) 9456 7700

36 Bannick Court, Canningvale, WA

www.globaltest.com.au



Leioproctus Genus *Leioproctus*. (Photo by Dr Kit Prendergast),

A busy planting season ahead

Toodyay Friends of the River
Greg Warburton

DUIDGEE Park was the venue for our March general meeting.

This was followed by a lively conversation on promoting the Toodyay Friends of the River.

Some excellent ideas were put forward which included branded PPE for working bees, merchandise, community events and excursions.

The subject of funding was a timely discussion with the Shire Community Funding round currently open for applications.

Thank you to the committee members who made the effort to attend the management meeting only two days later.

On the March 20, I joined Project Officer, Kai, and Seed Orchard Coordinator, Bethan, to survey the Boyagerring Reserve precinct to identify suitable restoration sites.

The focus for this season will be on-site preparation, especially weed control, with the main plantings to occur next year.

We do have a small planting location ready for this year with seedlings propagated by our seed orchard group earmarked for the site.

This will link into the Landcare class activities that Bethan is leading with the school students.

Recent inspections of key river sites resulted in Bilya Track maintenance work, litter removal from Duidgee Park and the Pelham storm water outlet project.

I encourage users of the Bilya Walk Track to report to me any issues such as fallen branches, damage and hazards. I can ensure a swift response to getting problems fixed.

In relation to the Bilya Walk Track, volunteers have been working on getting a section of the track approved for Parkrun.

After the closure of the footbridge last year the popular Saturday morning Newcastle Park Parkrun was forced to relocate to the school car park for its start point.

Then, complete an unusual three lap course to achieve the five-kilometre requirement.

This caused a lot of confusion, especially for visitors, and also not being able to use Newcastle Park detracted from the appeal.

I'm happy to report a satisfactory outcome has resulted from negotiations with the Shire regarding the former Community Compost Facility.

We now look forward to continuing our partnership with the use of the Community Depot amenities and indeed caring for and managing our river and riparian areas.

A change to our program for April will see us meeting at Duidgee Park at 8am on Sunday April 12.

At the time of writing, it is proposed we commence work on identified remediation sites and inspect recent community developments and installations at Boyagerring Reserve.

Don't forget to visit our website toodyayfor.org.au or phone Greg on 0429 009 425 for further information.

A day in the Life of Marsupial Mammals and Pappas

Marsupial Mammals and Pappas (Inc)
Becky Ingram

LONG weekends and public holidays consistently place increased pressure on wildlife response services.

With fewer animal control agents (ACA) available for euthanasia and limited capacity to dart and assess wildlife, Marsupial Mammals and Pappas is increasingly called upon to fill the gaps.

In just one day, our team responded to multiple call-outs across the region —



The ring tail possum sadly did not survive.

humanely euthanising severely injured kangaroos, coordinating care for orphaned joeys, and rushing a critically ill possum between carers in a desperate bit to save its life.

Despite our efforts, not every animal can be saved — but others, like an orphaned red kangaroo joey now in care, are given a second chance thanks to the dedication of our volunteers.

Behind every call is travel time, equipment, fuel, clinical supplies, training, emotional labour and volunteers stepping in where formal systems are unavailable or stretched beyond capacity.

Wildlife rescue groups are carrying an increasing share of frontline euthanasia and first responders in emergency situations.

We remain committed to ensuring injured wildlife is not left to suffer alone.

Sustainable wildlife response requires adequate resourcing, coordinated access and structural support.

To the wildlife rehabilitators, fellow rescue groups, the team at Wildcare Helpline, and the members of the public who stop, check pouches and make the call — you are critical to this network.

We cannot save them all, but when the phone rings, we answer.

We do what we can with what we have and where we are.

We always need funds to pay for feed and vet fees for our orphans, so donations are always welcome.

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

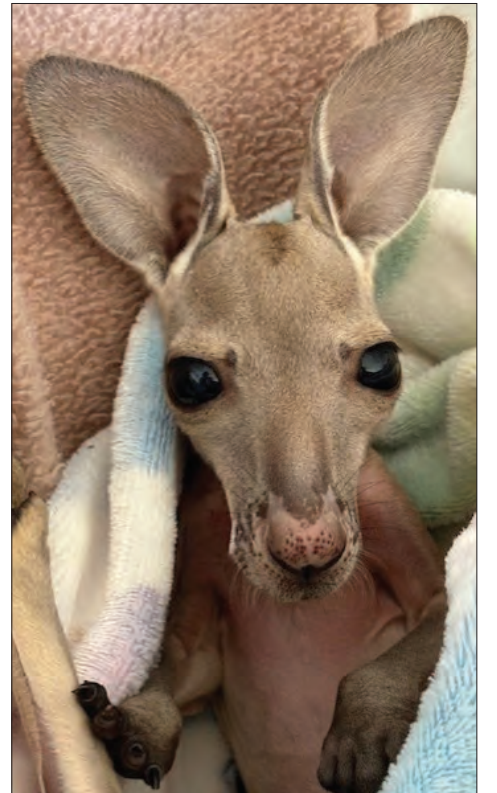
Donations over \$2 are tax deductible, and our Public Account is BSB 633 000, Account

186 438 040.

If paying into this account, please send us an email, or text with your name and contact details so we can send you a receipt.

The email is treasurer@mmmap.au.

Please call 0493 642 713 any time, day or night, if you find any injured wildlife.



The Red kangaroo joey, whose mum was hit by a car near Peak Hill.

The Toodyay Community Foundation

Toodyay Naturalists Club
Greg Warburton

THE past month has seen an emphasis on funding opportunities for community groups.

On March 18, I attended the first of two shire information sessions on the Community Funding Program for 2026/27.

The session was well presented and attended, although I was the only one representing our environment and heritage.

However, it seems such groups are well positioned to meet the criteria for funding.

Members are encouraged to put forward ideas soon as the current round closes on April 20.

The Toodyay Naturalists' Club has been a recipient of Shire Community Funding in the past with one grant paying for the installation of a picnic table at the Dawn Atwell Nature Reserve.

On March 21, the club held its regular general meeting.

I had the pleasure of welcoming our guest speaker, Sean Hefferon.

Sean needed no introduction being former editor of the *Toodyay Herald* and a well-known personality around town.

After two years at the helm of our beloved local newspaper Sean is now focusing his time and energy on creating the "Toodyay Community Foundation".

Members were enthralled by Sean's presentation which was extensively researched and creatively illustrated by an expertly prepared slide show.

The foundation aims to create a funding source for Toodyay that directly benefits the community including environmental and sustainability projects.

Unlike other funding programs applying to the Toodyay Community Foundation will negate the often competitive and protracted process of meeting onerous criteria and acquittal requirements.

We were inspired to hear of the successes of other community funds in WA such as the Esperance Ag Fund and the Albany Community Foundation.

Here, investment in donations and other forms of philanthropy has enabled the launching of inspiring projects and enduring benefits for those communities and beyond.

Sharon Richards, chairperson of the Toodyay Naturalists' Club subgroup, the

Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance (JCAFA) took the opportunity and followed on from Sean's presentation.

She introduced members to a proposed campaign budget for funding estimates going forward.

We all went away inspired and encouraged, even in the face of current depressing global events.

Our April meeting will be held on Saturday 18-commencing at 7pm as usual at the Anglican Church Hall.

The speaker will be another well-known local identity, long term resident, Max Howard.

Max is probably most well-known through his work for the Toodyay RSL but he is also a passionate amateur ornithologist.

Currently, Max, along with JCAFA and Birdlife Australia volunteers, is documenting the bird species in Julimar Forest for the production of a guidebook.

However, this time Max will be talking about his ornithological adventures in northern Australia.

For further information or to record sightings visit our website toodyaynats.org.au or call Greg on 0429 009 425.

The Middle East conflict causes uncertainty for our farmers

Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
Andrew Thorton

TOODYAY farmers are busy preparing for the seeding period.

This is amidst rapidly rising costs for fuel and fertiliser due to the war in the Middle East. Fuel supplies have been limited in regional areas.

Many farmers are worried they won't have enough fuel to complete their seeding operations.

Some farmers have resorted to using their own fuel trailers to cart fuel which has been a costly and time-consuming exercise.

Fertiliser supplies such as urea have also been severely impacted.

Urea is vitally important to the overall growth and health of a crop. Without it there is a substantial yield penalty.

The majority of urea comes out of the Middle East via the Strait of Hormuz.

The resulting shortages have farmers concerned about availability and sharp price increases with some predicting it to reach \$1500/tonne.

Despite these ongoing issues farmers are

continuing to prepare for the season ahead.

The focus has now shifted from jobs such as lime spreading and paddock preparation to servicing seeding equipment.

This includes tractors, airseeders, spray rigs and trucks to ensure everything is ready to go when the first rains arrive.

Bearing replacement, hydraulic leaks repair, airseeder hoses replacement and careful calibration of airseeder tanks are some of the jobs that need to be carried out.

Thorough maintenance at this time of year is essential to avoid any delays during the busy periods.

Anyone who has been around farming long enough knows that breakdowns are still inevitable.

Many local farmers attended an autumn update meeting in Bolgart recently.

They listened to speakers from CSBP who gave an update on the fertiliser situation.

They didn't sugarcoat the issues regarding fertiliser supplies.

They did assure everyone that they are doing everything possible to source product in these unprecedented times.

We also heard from chemical company

representatives regarding some products that are making a big impact throughout the Wheatbelt and how they would fit into individual cropping programs.

The day finished with a drone demonstration.

Drones are becoming increasingly popular in farming due to their versatility.

The drone demonstrated can be used for spraying target areas in a crop that may be too wet for traditional sprayers.

It can be fitted with a spreader that can

spread bait on areas that might be affected from mice or slug damage.

The limiting factor with drones currently is battery capacity.

Technology is rapidly advancing and longer lasting batteries are not too far away.

There will be an increase in oversize machinery movements throughout the shire and Wheatbelt over the next few weeks.

Please be patient if you encounter one.

You will still get to your destination on time.



Drone technology

HEALTH

Men and the cancer risk

Warrior Wellbeing

MEN in Australia are much more likely to be diagnosed with and die from cancer than women.

According to the Cancer Council of WA the lifetime cancer risk is one in two for men and one in three for women.

Men are over-represented in all gender shared cancers including the most common – lung, bowel and skin.

The experience of cancer in one form or another is never good and it does beg the question, why the gender disparity?

There is no simple answer, but we do know that men in general are less likely to visit their GP to report or act on any unusual symptoms or changes.

Cancer is a disease driven by changes in DNA/genes which causes a group of abnormal cells to divide and grow out of control.

It usually occurs in a specific spot but can spread to other parts of the body.

We are still some way from finding a cure, but we do know that finding cancer early improves chances of successful treatment and long-term survival.

For the average bloke, general things that warrant a chat with a GP could include:

- unusual lumps or a sore that isn't healing properly;
- unusual changes in the testicles – changes in shape, consistency or a lump;

- a persistent cough or hoarseness, coughing up blood;
- unexplained weight loss;
- moles that have changed shape, size or colour, or bleed, or an inflamed skin sore that hasn't healed;
- blood in a bowel motion;
- persistent changes in toilet habits or urinary problems or changes.

It is important to note that these symptoms are likely to be related to more common, less serious health problems.

However, we still need to discuss them to ease concerns or pick up something early rather than later.

Unfortunately, it is often only when blokes find they are progressed with cancer that they actually start to think about modifying their behaviour and making healthy changes.

What can we men do to prevent or lessen our chances of developing cancer?

- Stop smoking – lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in Australian men.
- Be SunSmart – protect yourself in the sun and take care not to burn.
- Stay in shape – aim for a healthy body weight, watch our waistlines.
- Move more – be physically active for at least 30 minutes on most or all days.
- Eat for health – a varied diet with lots of fruit/ vegetables and limit red meat.
- Limit alcohol – no more than two standard drinks a day and try to have one or two alcohol-free days a week.
- Have a chat with your GP about your prostate especially if you are over 45 years.
- Use our bowel screen kit when you get it.
- Get to know your family history of cancer. Remember it's your health.

If you have any concerns or questions, you need to go and chat with a GP.

Don't wait and leave it till it's too late.

Contact: The Regional Men's Health Initiative

P: (08) 6314 1436

E: menshealth@4blokes.com.au



Dr Rianne Van Der Aar with a Red Tailed Carnaby's Black Cockatoo.

Dealing with orphaned or injured wildlife

Heartlands Veterinary Hospital

Dr Rianne Van Der Aar

AS LUCKY as we are to live in an area rich with native wildlife, it also puts us in a position where we may be confronted with injured or orphaned wild animals.

To ensure we do the right thing by them while keeping ourselves safe, please consider the following guidance.

Ask for advice: if you are unsure what to do or where to go, please contact the Wildcare Helpline, a licensed wildlife rescue or your local vet.

The aim is to get injured or lost wildlife to a qualified person as soon as possible. Delays can be fatal.

Prioritise safety, for yourself and our wildlife: do not try to handle potentially dangerous animals, such as snakes and bats.

This requires expertise and specialised equipment.

If you must pick up the animal to transport it, always use a thick towel and gloves to cover it.

Contain wildlife in a secure vessel that allows for ventilation, to prevent injury to yourself and the animal.

Stress can be fatal.

Minimise handling and always keep wildlife in a dark, warm and quiet place away from children and pets.

Avoid feed or water, unless advised otherwise, as this can cause more harm than good.

Do not attempt to look after injured or orphaned wildlife yourself.

They require specialised care from trained professionals to give them the best chance at recovery.

Intervention or delays, however well intended, can lead to prolonged suffering and lowers chances of survival.

Marsupial Mammals and Pappas can be contacted on 0419 933 721.

Heartlands Veterinary Hospital can be contacted on: 9641 1383.

Wildcare Helpline: 9474 9055.

WA Wildlife: 9417 7105.

Vaccinate for cold and flu

GET vaccinated now to prepare for cold and flu season

The Heart Foundation is encouraging people to get vaccinated ahead of cold and flu season to help look after their own health as well as protecting people with cardiovascular disease (CVD).

Vaccination helps limit the spread of common respiratory viruses that can cause and/or worsen CVD, including influenza, COVID-19 and RSV.

Respiratory infections and CVD are linked as follows:

People with CVD are more likely catch a respiratory infection and more likely to have serious complications from an infection.

This includes a higher risk of needing to go to hospital, and in some cases, of dying.

People with CVD can be 10 to 20 times more likely to catch RSV and up to four times more likely to end up in hospital with the infection.

Respiratory infections can lead to CVD. Viruses can cause inflammation in your

body, placing strain on your heart which can lead to heart failure or an abnormal heartbeat.

Viruses can also cause plaque (a fatty build up) in your blood vessels to be less stable and this can cause a blockage and possible heart attack or stroke.

Your chance of having a heart attack in the week following an infection is six times higher following flu, up to 11 times higher following RSV and between two to eight times higher following COVID-19.

Heart Foundation Chief Medical Adviser, Professor Garry Jennings AO, said vaccination was an easy way for people to limit the spread of these infections.

"We encourage as many people as possible to get vaccinated to help protect themselves and their loved ones from the severe cardiovascular complications these viruses can cause," Professor Jennings said.

"Please talk with your GP or pharmacist about which vaccines would be most appropriate for you."

Our environment matters at the Toodyay Herald...

news@toodyayherald.com.au

VETERINARY CARE & 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

FOR LARGE & SMALL ANIMALS

ACROSS THE AVON VALLEY AND WHEATBELT



Heartlands Veterinary Hospital



Heartlands Toodyay

98 Stirling Terrace TOODYAY WA 6566

08 9574 5055

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

For After-hours Emergencies only 0418 264 423



We offer an on-farm oddment buying service with prompt payment. Auction also available.

Lee Baird - Mob: 0429 927 995

Email: lee@wcw.com.au

wcw.com.au

Eyes on the ball

Toodyay Soccer Club
Aurelie Zimmerman

THE new soccer season is here.

Excitement is building at the club.

There has been much happening behind the scenes as we prepare for another great year of soccer.

We're ready to welcome back familiar players and meet some new faces.

Over the past two years, the club has seen a steady and strong rise in registrations. We are hoping this year continues that trend.

Watching the players grow and develop each season is always a highlight.

With the Asian Women's Cup taking place in Australia last month and the Men's World Cup later this year across Canada, Mexico and the United States, there's even more excitement around soccer at all levels.

In past years, international tournaments like these have sparked extra interest and enthusiasm for the game, and we're hoping 2026 will be no different.

Soccer is more than just a game.

It's a way for kids to stay active, build friendships and to develop teamwork, resilience and confidence.

Each season, we're proud to see players grow not just in skill but also in character, making memories both on and off the field.

Our "Have a Go Day" will be held on Saturday April 11 at the Recreation Centre.

This fun, informal event is the perfect chance for kids to get a feel for soccer in a relaxed environment. Players can try out different skills and drills, participate in mini games and experience the excitement of playing with other children their age.

It's also a great opportunity for parents to meet the coaches, ask questions about the season and see how much fun the sport can be.

Uniforms will be available to swap or purchase on the day so everyone can be ready to kick off the season in style.

Training will continue on Mondays from 4.30pm at the Recreation Centre during Terms 2 and 3, with breaks over the school holidays.

We've also scheduled four friendly matches against Northam SFC hosted between the two clubs throughout the season.

In addition, we are planning some intra-club game days to give players more chances to enjoy the sport and develop their skills.

More details will be shared soon.

Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page for all the latest updates.

The club is always on the lookout for sponsors to help support our program and events.

If your business or organisation would like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.

We're happy to explore ways we can promote your support while helping the club grow – a win-win for everyone.

For more information, please contact us at toodyaysoccer@gmail.com

Volunteers are the heart of our club.

We are always grateful to anyone who can help out on training or game days.

Every session and match is made possible thanks to the time and energy given by our community members.

From volunteers, coaches and committee, we can't wait to see you on the field in 2026.

Let's make this another fantastic season of soccer in Toodyay.



Eyes on the ball.

Heading to Japan for the adventure of a lifetime

Avon Valley Shotokan
Nat Kielbasa

PHONES chirp their notification tones as excited Avon Valley Shotokan students share photos and videos of an adventure of a lifetime in Japan.

The journey to the 24th Universal Shotokan Karate Union (USKU) Karate Championships has begun.

This week, the 23 students chosen to represent AVS have had a blast attending training in Japan.

They also went sightseeing, reconnected with old friends from around the world, and had the opportunity to attend a seminar by world renown Sensei Andre Bertel.

This was described as exhausting and difficult but so much fun.

Some students have already begun their home-stay visits with local families to experience Japanese culture.

All students are busy preparing for the upcoming tournament.

This adventure would not have been possible without the generous support of our wonderful community.

We would like to extend an enormous thankyou from everyone at Avon Valley Shotokan to our amazing sponsors, Toodyay Op shop, White Rose Civil and Earthworks, Lisa and Des Biglin, Earth to AG Diesel, Arise Coffee, The Rec, Tony Maddox, Roam Distillery, ASB skip bins, Complete Building Supplies WA, EAG Electrical and Toodyay Tyre and Exhaust.

Also, a special mention and thank you to the many local superstars who have given private personal donations to support our students.

Opportunities like this are incredibly important for students of all ages but are financially often out of reach.

Your support has allowed us to double the number of students able to attend the USKU Karate Championship compared with the trip in 2024.

We are so grateful.

In other news, students had fantastic success at two tournaments held in Jolimont.

During the Shobukan Open, Casey won



Helena's Kumite event at Shobukan Open where she earned second.

bronze in kata and Helena earned second for kumite.

In the adult divisions, Jesse brought home bronze medals in both kata and kumite while Joe took out the silver in kata and the gold in kumite.

On March 22, three students competed in the WA State Karate Championships.

They brought home an amazing four medals.

Rayna performed a beautiful Jion kata which earned her the bronze medal and battled to bronze during her kumite event.

We are patiently waiting to see if this result qualifies Rayna to compete in the 2026 National Championships. We will keep everyone updated on her progress.

Also in the kumite events, Helena fought hard for silver and Victor earned his bronze medal. A fantastic result.

Congratulations everyone on your superb efforts. Our volunteers were busy making the events possible.

Chandre worked as a table official, Tiffany marshalled competitors, Ashton helped students warm up and practice techniques and Maciej and Sensei Kylie coached.

Thank you all for your time, effort and support.

If you would like to keep up to date with news from the dojo, check out Avon Valley Shotokan on Facebook or email us at avonvalleyshotokan@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

The inaugural Toodyay Triathlon a runaway success

Toodyay Triathlon Club

Kelly-Anne Murray, President

THE Toodyay Triathlon Club expresses our sincere gratitude to the sponsors, supporters, spectators and competitors of the inaugural Toodyay Triathlon, held on March 8 at the Toodyay Aquatic Centre.

On one of the warmest mornings, we were humbled by the incredible support that residents and visitors showed by rising to the challenge for Toodyay's first triathlon event.

We welcomed 129 competitors, from 7 to 79 years of age, to race across three course distances.

An incredible 67 competitors (51%)

participated in their first triathlon and we witnessed multi-generational families completing their first event together.

Toodyay Triathlon truly demonstrated that triathlon is a sport for everyone, regardless of age or ability.

Events such as this require a lot of planning and volunteer commitment.

Triathlon events rely heavily on grants and sponsorship to cover essential costs such as traffic management, electronic timing, equipment hire and race direction services.

On behalf of the Toodyay Triathlon Club and our community, I'd like to acknowledge and thank the business sponsors and donors that made the inaugural Toodyay Triathlon 2026 possible.



Winners are grinners.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Your generosity made the inaugural 2026 Toodyay Triathlon possible

MORRIS
PEST & WEED CONTROL

Stringer Farm

Dowerin Gourmet Butcher Shop

Toodyay Post Office

Community Bank Toodyay & Districts

Bendigo Bank

TOODYAY IGA

Toodyay Op Shop

chalice
conventio project

CBH GROUP

toodyay
place to grow

AVON VALLEY CONTRACTORS

XTR multisports

TOODYAY TRIATHLON CLUB

R&Lhiab services

WAUGH MILLER MACQUEEN

the rec

R2B FITNESS TOODYAY



Principal's Pen

We've had a few changes in the office this month... and no, no one got fired — we've actually grown the team.

After a very busy couple of months, it was definitely time to expand, and we're so excited to welcome a new face into our little work family.

A big welcome to Kayleen, who joins us with over 7 years of property management experience — we're thrilled to have her on board.

The team also enjoyed some well-deserved downtime over Easter, spending quality time with family and friends (and probably a little too much chocolate).

In the office this month:

- **Breanna** has signed up for a business course to continue building her skills — go you.
- **Zonelle** is taking on more responsibility and really hitting her stride in all things property management.
- **Jemma** enjoyed a week in Melbourne filled with shopping and her very first massage.
- **Kayleen** has officially joined the team — be sure to pop in and say hello next time you're nearby.
- **Jess** has been on fire, selling not one but three brand new builds off-market.
- **Sam** the brand new property listed last week – now under offer.
- **Tony** is thrilled to finally have his burn-off permit approved — it's the little things.

Behind the scenes, we've been busy preparing for our new team member, reshuffling the office, and getting ready for upcoming regulatory changes. Nothing too major, but they may impact those looking to buy or sell — we'll keep you updated as things roll out.

Until next month,
Faith Kelly



THE TEAM

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

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



11 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay. Offers from \$400,000
Neat 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom on 887m2 block with rear access.



20 Telegraph Road, Toodyay. Offers From \$650,000
3 bedroom, 1 bathroom home on large 2038m2 block in town.