

The Toodyay Herald

**Your locally owned
community newspaper
Est. 1902**

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

February 2026
Edition 453



Our Toodyay fire and rescue service volunteers do an awesome job whenever there's a call out for help anytime and anywhere across the state. (Photograph supplied).

Rashelle Predovnik

THE tireless efforts of local volunteer bushfire brigades this fire season has drawn heartfelt thanks from the shire president and high praise from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).

There have been six large bushfires in the Shire of Toodyay since 1 November, 2025.

Two were sparked by lightning, one was caused by mechanical failure and another was considered suspicious.

About 1,000 hectares were impacted by these fires in a number of locations, including Dumbarton, Morangup, Coondle, Julimar and West Toodyay.

Local brigades in Bejoording, Coondle-Nunile, Julimar, Morangup, Toodyay and Toodyay Central were some of many who took up the fight to keep homes safe.

Generous food donations from The Toodyay Bakery and the Salvation Army kept the volunteers going.

Local farmers and water carters also mobilised to help.

DFES superintendent Garth Civil said that level of practical, local help was vital because firefighting relies on reliable food, hydration and resupply.

He said their support helped crews respond faster, fight fires more effectively and, most

importantly, stay safe.

Local businesses Fire Mitigation Services, Avon Earthworks, Goodes Machinery and Toodyay Tyres also pitched in.

Supt Civil said heavy machinery helps fire crews build a control line that fire can't easily cross so they can work more safely.

As an added bonus, he said that local operators knew the land which reduced risk.

The fire high threat period runs from December to April and last month, 20 fires were lit by 2,000 lightning strikes.

Superintendent Civil said the high threat period was marked by fast moving fire weather and multiple significant incidents in quick succession.

He said major fires sparked the need for everyone to work together across the state.

"Rotating crews help our teams fight a fire for longer and it allows local brigades to rest and be ready for the next flare-up."

Supt Civil said that from an operational perspective the outstanding performance of local volunteer brigades, under repeated and sustained pressure, really stood out.

"Particularly around the Toodyay and Moondyne fires in December," he said.

People might not realise how much we rely across the state, not just on our local volunteers, but on volunteers who go out and help across the state.

"We've got 30,000 volunteers across Western Australia and all those people give up their time willingly to help the community."

"And while some don't get as busy as others sometimes people spend thousands of hours a year helping out the community."

Supt Civil also thanked residents who made an effort to be bushfire ready because their vigilance makes a real difference.

He said there was early, decisive action from local brigades and incoming crews (supported by six aircrafts) on the Moondyne blaze.

The fact that many residents kept their properties maintained so fire crews could easily get access was a game changer.

He said timely alerts via the Emergency WA website or app and the ABC's emergency broadcasts helped residents enact their plans at the right time.

However, information and warnings can become silenced by power outages and Supt Civil stressed the importance of keeping a battery-operated transistor radio at home.

Toodyay shire president Mick McKeown issued a statement to thank those who helped so much.

"Following an incredibly demanding period for our region, I would like to extend grateful thanks to all the fire brigades, agencies, businesses, and individuals who

supported our community during the recent fire incidents," he said.

"While we regret to report the loss of two structures and several outbuildings, we are thankful that no primary residences were destroyed."

Supt Civil also thanked the volunteers and businesses who rallied together during the recent spate of fires.

"Our volunteers did an outstanding job under challenging conditions, and the community's cooperation makes a big difference."

Coming events

Mega Splash Toodyay

February 14

Toodyay's first ever triathlon

Sunday March 8

This month

Emergency services	7-8
Environment	29-30
Health	30
Letters	4, 6
Puzzles	28
Sport	31
Trades and services	22-24
Where and when	27

Elders Toodyay Real Estate

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

Elders 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



IN MEMORIAM

Richard Taylor (1943–2025) Clinical Psychologist

THE passing of Richard Taylor on November 20 last year came as a profound shock to many in the Toodyay community.

With over 20 years of practice as a clinical psychologist, Richard became known not only for his professional expertise but for his generosity, compassion, and unwavering belief that psychological help should be available to everyone, regardless of means.

Richard’s commitment to accessible care led him to run a bulk billing practice and, over the years, he held clinics in Bindoon, Gingin and Wongan Hills.

He combined exceptional clinical knowledge with a warmth and understanding that has left a lasting impact.

Richard’s academic journey began at the University of New South Wales, where he studied psychology and sociology – the latter providing him with a broad view of humanity that shaped his approach to life and work.

Early placements, including at Long Bay Gaol in Sydney, provided valuable insight into human behaviour and mental health.

A Diploma in Clinical Training at Sydney University honed his practical skills.

Later, study at the Nuffield Centre, Leeds University, and a part-time Masters of Business Administration at the University of Western Australia equipped him with expertise in health services administration and organisational management.

Beyond his professional life, Richard embraced a wide range of interests.

He enjoyed European, Italian, and French cuisine and he travelled extensively across Europe and Asia.

Richard pursued a graduate diploma in Asian Studies at Murdoch University and practised mindfulness, informed by his

longstanding interest in Buddhism.

Richard’s path to Toodyay was unexpected.

A chance visit to town, where an old house with splendid views but in need of work, captured his imagination and led him to relocate in 2021.

His decision brought him into the heart of the community where he quickly became known not just as a practitioner but as a

neighbour, friend, and active participant in local life.

After moving to Toodyay in 2021, he found great pleasure in gardening on his hillside property and becoming part of the local community.

Richard’s life was deeply shared with his wife, Robyn.

Their story began in New South Wales

where their fathers bonded over fishing. After they married, Robyn worked alongside Richard as his part-time practice manager, forming a partnership built on shared values and service.

Locally, he found joy in landscaping his hillside garden and in earlier days was an active member of the Toodyay Friends of the River.

Richard’s kindness, intellect and compassion will be deeply missed.

He will be remembered for his enduring contribution to the wellbeing of others.



Robyn and Richard Taylor.



An artistic rendering of Richard.

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 and Rashelle Predovnik.

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.

PRODUCTION

Editor: Rashelle Predovnik
Design/Layout: David Palmer
Admin/Advertising: David Palmer

ACCOUNTS

Liz Sullivan
accounts@toodyayherald.com.au

NEWS & GENERAL INQUIRIES

news@toodyayherald.com.au

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 of 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 WARRANTY** 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.

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.

NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Noon Thursday
February 26

STORY DEADLINE

Noon Friday
March 2

DISTRIBUTED

Thursday
March 12

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 and Michael Black.

Printed by Colour Press Pty Ltd

Shire audit exposes \$242K double payment blunder and other failures



Rashelle Predovnik

A DAMNING shire audit has uncovered a \$242,521 duplicate payment, missing financial records, weak cyber security, years of unresolved control failures and serious fraud risks at the Shire of Toodyay, the current administration says it's taking steps to fix.

The 2024-25 audit's financial management report was formally sent to Local Government Minister Hannah Beasley and it identified some significant governance failures, that auditors say have been recurring since 2021.

One serious finding revealed the shire paid the same suppliers twice in July 2025.

The second payment was not even recorded in its accounting system and not yet fully recovered at the time of the auditor's report.

The report said the combination of a high-value duplicate payment, the absence of system records for the second payment, and lack of detection or reporting represented a serious deficiency in the shire's internal controls over expenditure, financial reporting, and fraud prevention.

Shire chief executive officer Aaron Bowman told *The Herald* the overpayment comprised of multiple payments and a report to council this month, confirmed 95 percent of the funds had been repaid.

The remaining five per cent wasn't refunded in cash but was credited to accounts

and taken off future payments.

Another finding that concerned auditors was the fact the shire still could not verify its opening balances or historical financial figures - a problem that has now persisted across four audits.

Auditors also found no monthly bank reconciliations were performed for almost the entire financial year (for July 2024 to May 2025) with errors discovered.

Including the shire's bank reconciliation as at 30 June 2025 included an unreconciled balance of \$22,991.

The Shire's asset register system was also outdated and the lack of a formal grants register was also flagged by the auditor.

The report warned the failures significantly increased the risk of fraud, financial misstatement, cyber breaches and governance breakdowns, undermining public confidence in the shire's operations.

The shire's response to a number of issues raised in the audit was outlined in a letter to the Local Government Minister.

"The shire is working towards addressing all the issues by either completing the actions required, preparing the necessary registers and by council adopting the appropriate policies."

"These will be completed by the timeframes specified in the completion dates detailed against each action in the management report."

Western Power sparks up fire prevention

WESTERN Power is continuing work across the Wheatbelt, including around Toodyay, to reduce the risk of pole-top fires and improve power reliability during extreme weather.

Pole-top fires can happen when dust or other pollutants build up on insulators.

This is a common issue after harvest or during humid conditions when then the pole can ignite.

When planning these programs, Western Power focuses on areas at higher bushfire risk taking into account the terrain and climate, and regions like Toodyay are a key priority.

The program involves treating or replacing insulators on power poles.

A Western Power spokesperson said their pole-top fire mitigation program was on track to treat or replace insulators in more than 100,000 locations by mid-2027.

"We're currently treating around 19,000 poles across the Midwest and Wheatbelt, due to be complete by mid-year."

"Once complete, more than 60,000 poles will have been treated since September 2023.

"In regional areas we've found an innovative way to apply silicone to insulators using helicopters.

"Additionally, we're proactively installing silicone insulators which are less prone to dust and pollution build up.

"Since July 2022, we've replaced more than 11,500 insulators across the network."

The spokesperson said Western Power was always exploring new technologies and techniques to help reduce the risk of pole-top fires



Maddox's Supreme Court showdown

RASHELLE PREDOVNIK

FARMER Tony Maddox is bracing for another round in his ongoing legal fight against what he says is a dangerous new law buried in the Aboriginal Heritage Act that needs to be changed.

He's taking his fight all the way to the Supreme Court after being found guilty last year for breaching the Act when he built a concrete creek crossing on his property.

The work was deemed to have altered a registered Aboriginal site without approval, breaching a recently added amendment to Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

That amendment was added in November 2023 and Mr Maddox said it was a change no one could reasonably know about - because the department didn't tell anyone about it.

Mr Maddox sought refuge under Section 62 of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's own legislation that protects people if they can clearly prove they had no knowledge of the amendment to the Act.

Yet despite this being a defence, it was not applied to Mr Maddox's case and he is now appealing the magistrates ruling in the Supreme Court.

The appeal is an expensive road to take after being granted a spent conviction and fined \$2,000, plus \$5,000 in costs, back in February 2025.

But Mr Maddox said it was a matter of principle.

He said the department won the case in the Magistrates Court but if he rolled over and let them have that win it would allow a precedent to be set.

"It means, they can walk onto anyone's farm and now say 'you're guilty too,'" he said.

The Supreme Court case will be heard later this month, on February 20, and Mr Maddox's hopes are heavily pinned onto the expertise of his newly appointed King's Counsel Mark Trowell.

But Mr Maddox told the *Herald* it was hard to predict what the verdict will be.

"If I lose this case, my faith in the West Australian justice system is gone - there is no justice," he said.

"You can't be found guilty of something you have no knowledge of - that's just crazy stuff."

If Mr Maddox wins his appeal he will turn his attention to fighting to have the law changed and he has his supporters.

The WA Farmers Federation and Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA are vocal supporters of his appeal, saying his case sets a dangerous legal precedent for every land owner in WA.

Farmers and other supporters have stumped up over \$50,000 to help with his legal fees.

Tony said he appreciated the number of Toodyay locals following his case, with some even attending court to show their support.

"They've been terrific - they really have."

Supporters can also donate to Mr Maddox's 'fight for common sense' online at: <https://tonymaddox.info>

Just hang in there

TOODYAY residents are being advised that some mobile phones are currently experiencing delays when calling triple zero.

The Western Australian Police Force has been made aware that some mobiles are not correctly connecting to the emergency number.

It has been identified some phone users may experience a 20 to 30 second delay when dialling 000.

In a statement, WA Police said Telstra's advice to any users experiencing this issue is to remain on the line, understand there will be a short delay, but you will eventually be put through to an operator.

The Toodyay Herald

From the editors desk

Pulling up a chair at the editor’s desk, one thing quickly becomes clear: this isn’t just a newspaper - it’s your newspaper.

And that sense of ownership has been more than a century in the making.

From its first run off the presses in 1902 as the *Newcastle Herald and Toodyay District Chronicle*, through its reinvention as the *Avon Valley Toodyay Herald* – at one point publishing weekly and later emerging in the 1990s as the *Toodyay Herald* we know today – this paper has never stood still.

Like the town it serves, it has adapted, modernised, and occasionally reinvented itself – but through all those changes, one thing has remained a constant: this is a paper from the community, and for the community.

I’ve felt this first-hand, with long-time contributors continuing the proud tradition of sending in stories, photos and updates– the lifeblood of any truly local paper.

That generosity of spirit is something no editor takes lightly, and I’m grateful for the warm welcome.

Of course, another long-standing newspaper tradition is reporting in the public interest – even when the news isn’t comfortable reading.

It’s hard to ignore the findings of the shire’s latest audit, which lays bare historic financial and governance failings that have continued under the current administration.

While the shire has been quick to outline the steps it says it’s taking to address these issues, the proof will be in the next audit.

If problems such as missing financial records, weak cyber security, long-standing control failures and serious fraud risks are fixed, those improvements will be clearly reflected in the auditor’s report.

We’ll also report in the next edition on almost \$195,000 in unclaimed GST that the administration recently sought council approval to write off.

It’s a costly oversight and one with history, given previous administrations also failed to claim the owed GST.

But it’s a loss that could have been avoided if the current administration had acted before the four-year claim period expired and we’ll unpack what that means for ratepayers in the March edition.

Our Facebook page will go live again before the March edition, with a few small editorial tweaks – change, after all, has always been part of the *Herald’s* story.

But rest assured: the things you’ve always valued – local voices, community stories, – and a paper that isn’t afraid to ask questions will remain firmly in print

Some traditions are worth keeping.

Rashelle Predovnik
Editor



The way we were: Starters in the Toodyay Cycle Club’s fi rst post-World War 1 race in 1919 outside the old Post Offi ce in Stirling Terrace, from left: Norm Garvey (in Union Jack vest) L. Whitfi eld, F. Anderson, T. Lloyd, B. Geary, F. Geary, R. Anderson, E. Paterson, Valston Hancock, Frank ‘Hookie’ Doust, Harold Donegan, O. Leeder and F. Lloyd. According to Wally Chitty’s book ‘Toodyay, The Good Old Days’ Doust was fi rst to complete the eight-mile (13km) West Toodyay circuit, and second was Hancock, a boarder at Toodyay Convent and later Air Marshall Sir Valston Hancock DFC, Australia’s Chief of the Air Staff (1961-65). The 1920-30s were golden years of cycle racing in Toodyay with the local club affi liated with the WA League of Wheelmen, enabling local riders to compete with professionals. Picture from Toodyay’s Newcastle Gaol Museum collection.

LETTERS

The more things change, the more they stay the same

THE auditors report for the Shire of Toodyay financial year 2025 reported a number of significant findings.

The annual report and auditor report were items in the special council meeting on January 15.

This was closed to the public.

Comparative information and verification of opening balances was a significant finding.

This information as a significant finding was also reported in the auditor reports 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

The documents and management letters to the local government minister are available online on the shire’s website, from the February meeting’s attachments.

This appears to be a recurring finding that the shire has not rectified, despite management comments that processes have been put in place.

The following is taken from the auditor report.

“The auditor’s basis for the qualified audit opinion for 2025 was that again comparative information was not supported with accurate underlying records,” the report said.

“The auditor was unable to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence.”

The auditor concluded that there was a material misstatement and he had not received other information before the date of the report.

The report advised that when he received the material misstatement the chief executive officer and council are required to correct the misstatement information.

If this does not occur the auditor may need to retract the report and amend.

As a ratepayer, it is disappointing that the shire received the qualified opinion.

Particularly as some councillors campaigned that finances would be “fixed”.

It would be interesting to know if the misstatement information has been sent to the auditor and if the shire corrected the misstatement information.

If this has not occurred, has the auditor amended the report and will the community be informed?

The community deserves transparency and accountability.

I leave the reader to decide if this is happening with this council.

Susan Pearce
Toodyay

Let’s do better

AUSTRALIA Day is the most important day of the year for welcoming new citizens and celebrating who we are and it’s great to see the shire put on a fabulous breakfast event every year.

The breakfast was fabulous.

The ice cream was brilliant.

But the day deserves a setup that brings everyone together and unfortunately the rec centre is too small to comfortably host an event of this size.

The table set up outside was perfect but not everyone could get inside to see the ceremony.

Some people had to stand out in the corridors to try and listen.

Some poked their heads in and then stepped out again because there was no room inside.

Nobody outside could hear the person on the microphone speaking as part of the official proceedings.

The breakfast is always great but if we’re going to invite the community, let’s make sure everyone can actually enjoy it.

Apparently two years ago the shire’s Australia Day event was held on the grass next to the building.

I’m told it worked beautifully.

Marquees on the grass, tables and chairs, everyone seated comfortably, able to hear, see participate and easily see the proceedings.

They also had speakers that helped everyone to hear it.

I like to see the right thing done by people and I know we can do better.

Rosalie Phillips
Toodyay

Come on Aussie

HOW disappointing on Australia Day in Toodyay, to go down-town to discover the majority of stores and cafes were closed.

I noticed only two stores open on Stirling Terrace.

No bakery or cafes open for a casual cuppa and snack.

Tourists looked stunned.

An Avon Valley tourist town shut down on a public holiday.

No additional Aussie flags flapping in the breeze or displayed around town.

What a shame.

Come on Aussie, come on.

Cheryl-Jean
Toodyay

How hard is it to get a question answered?

WHEN Rosemary Madacsi was the shire president she took questions from the floor during council meetings.

Some were referred to the then chief executive officer Suzie Haslehurst but most were answered on the spot.

A few questions were taken on notice but, if they were, they were answered fully.

But last year, our current shire president Mick McKeown made up a new rule that he would not answer any questions from the gallery during public question time unless those questions have been emailed to records (the CEO) by midday on the day of the meeting.

The administration then prepares a response which is read out during the meeting.

Often, the response does not answer the question, either fully or at all.

For example, one of my pre-submitted questions for the December council meeting was regarding the CEO’s desire to write off \$194,353 of GST credits from the Australian Tax Office.

The main part of my question asked how could the shire guarantee that the amount they wanted to write off was correct?

That part was not answered in the response I was given.

So, I repeated the question again.

Cr McKeown’s reply was “you’ve had the answer.”

When the meeting reached the write-off item on the agenda, Cr McKeown completely ignored the officer’s recommendation, which was the purpose of the agenda item.

Whether this was by accident or design, I don’t know.

From 1 January 2026 council can no longer approve write-offs requested by the administration.

They must be approved by the Local Government Inspector in what I understand is an anti-fraud measure.

This \$194,353 could have been recovered under the current administration but wasn’t.

Beth Ruthven
Toodyay

Continued on Page 6

Toodyay Rainfall													
Recordings and average commenced on 1 January 1907													
YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2019	1.8	0	5.8	15.4	8.7	125.7	128.4	66.3	13.4	15.2	6.0	0	386.7
2020	0	31.6	9.8	6.4	38.2	48.9	43.7	61.8	30.2	5.9	48.8	3.5	328.8
2021	0.03	17.3	137.3	11.1	121.7	30.4	154.2	70.3	39	61.6	2.2	0	645.13
2022	31.7	4.5	14	30.9	36.8	43	42.7	151.1	44	15.6	12	5.1	431.4
2023	0.1	0	54.9	29	21.8	74.3	42.4	19.8	32.5	2.9	7.4	2.0	286.9
2024	9.8	4.5	0	7.8	43.5	53.2	77	85.3	18.7	21.6	22	1.9	345.3
2025	3.7	0	27	47.6	15.2	23.8	65.7	118.9	28.3	43.4	2.5		183
Average	17.20	17.30	15.50	26.10	54.80	57.04	70.16	81.93	20.41	23.74	14.41	2.08	418.68

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, punctuation and legal reasons. Publication of letters is at The Herald’s discretion.

Three generations of editors shape the story

THE story of the *Toodyay Herald* is one of dedication, community and continuity. Every chapter of its history has been shaped by editors who listened to their readers, scrutinised those in positions of power, and ensured the *Herald* remained a trusted source of news and community connection.

This year, a new chapter unfolds with Rashelle Predovnik stepping into the editor's role. She brings a wealth of experience, yet the foundations laid by past editors continue to guide the paper.

As we reflect on their achievements, we begin with Michael Sinclair Jones, whose leadership strengthened the *Herald* and set standards that would shape its direction for years to come.

Michael Sinclair Jones
Feb 2014 – Dec 2023

Michael arrived in Toodyay in late 2013 after 50 years in professional media.

This was mostly as a reporter and sub-editor at *The West Australian* newspaper and in senior roles at the National Native Title Tribunal, University of Western Australia, Curtin University and the WA media union.

The *Herald* editor's job was offered as a volunteer role with a monthly honorarium to replace retired classical musician and Julimar volunteer firefighter Grant Scobie.

Grant stayed on for a few weeks to teach Michael InDesign production software and, with former assistant *Herald* editor Meredith Neilsen, Michael worked – sometimes until 2am – to create brighter newspapers with stronger news stories and headlines, better action photographs and more lively layouts.

The new-look *Herald* soon resulted in a monthly print production boost from 3400 to 5000 copies – a 70 per cent increase in circulation – to meet increased reader demand and attract more advertising revenue.

The *Herald* broke important news stories such as a WA Government inquiry into the Shire of Toodyay that produced 25 adverse findings in State Parliament.

A legal clash over an allegedly unauthorised creek crossing on private land in Nunile that continues to make national headlines over state indigenous heritage laws.

The paper also weathered WA's month-long 2020 Covid 19 lockdown when local shops and cafes were ordered to close.

Masks became mandatory, vaccination proof was required for certain occupations and Toodyay became an eerie ghost town.

Herald staff were authorised to pass through police roadblocks on Toodyay Rd to continue producing the latest news, information and photographs about pandemic developments, medical updates and Central Wheatbelt health services to help keep the local community informed.

Another *Herald* milestone was the 2017 introduction of an upgraded website to enable anyone with a computer, tablet or



Passing the baton: former Toodyay Herald editors Michael Sinclair Jones and Sean Hefferon with incoming editor Rashelle Predovnik.

smart phone to share individual online stories, photographs and advertising.

The newspaper, which operates as an independent not-for-profit association run by local volunteers, completed its transition to a more modern entity in 2023 with a shift to new premises behind the Christmas shop.

Sean Hefferon
Feb 2024 – Dec 2025

Outgoing editor Sean Hefferon – a human resources consultant and former local men's mental health "Mr Perfect" BBQ host – took over in February 2024 to ensure the paper's survival.

The talented photographer has done an outstanding job keeping the paper afloat for the past two years, despite not being a journalist by profession.

He came to the role with a broad mix of qualifications and experience including a Master of Business Administration, working as a rehabilitation counsellor in

remote Indigenous communities and global experience as a business executive.

Sean's insight and strong advocacy skills were put to good use as he upheld the *Herald's* tradition of strong news stories and holding decision makers to account.

His 'can do' attitude underpins his latest passion project The Toodyay Community Fund: a locally governed philanthropic venture created to grow long-term wellbeing in our region.

By pooling donations from residents, businesses and supporters, the fund will invest in projects that reduce social isolation, help children and youth flourish, and strengthen our natural environment.

Rashelle Predovnik:
Feb 2026 -

The *Herald's* new editor is a journalist who built a career speaking up for those who were ignored, overlooked or felt powerless.

She was a finalist in the WA Media Awards

in 2013 and 2015.

She was also a finalist in the Consumer Protection Media Awards in 2014, the same year she won the Deborah Kirwan Media Award for a series of stories she wrote that supported seniors.

Rashelle spent six years as a senior journalist at the *Echo Newspaper* in Midland.

She was a freelancer for the *Science Network WA*, a journalist at *WA Business News*, has tutored journalism units at Murdoch University, including media law and ethics units, and spent a year in State Parliament as executive officer to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Her passion for advocacy led her to run for council and Rashelle was successfully elected to the City of Swan council in 2019.

As a councillor she championed reforms to better support those in financial hardship struggling to pay their rates.

Rashelle is a Toodyay ratepayer and host of a weekly community radio chat show.



President of the Toodyay RSL Geoff Browne at the wall of remembrance

Honouring service one plaque at a time

RESIDENTS now have the opportunity to commemorate family members and loved ones who served in the armed forces with the Toodyay RSL sub-branch inviting orders for memorial plaques to be installed on the wall of remembrance at the war memorial.

The special wall on Anzac Terrace was built several years ago using a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

It was designed to hold small plaques recognising those who served either overseas or within Australia.

These plaques have traditionally been offered to RSL members, and the sub-branch is now extending the invitation to the wider Toodyay community.

There is a criteria for eligibility, including service with a western nation's military.

Plaques must also follow an approved wording format, and they will require approval from Australian or overseas government authorities.

For more information, please contact Toodyay RSL secretary Max Howard by via email: toodyayrsl@gmail.com or call him on 0475 724 233.

Local laws

'outdated, absurd and gibberish'

Clearly, it has pleased council to treat the community with contempt.

*Phil Hart,
Moranup*

Bridge shutdowns now a safety issue

Why don't we get a second opinion and look for solutions?

Mick Bell
West Toodyay

Toodyay puts its stamp on an Australia Post first

Parcels need to be able to fit in the lockers and not be over 16kgs.



Moranup Progress Association member Ray Mills and Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter.

Old garage gets a new makeover

Today, it's prominent façade, timber trusses, gable roof, and original shop windows remain

Council approved the application at its December meeting and development must substantially start within two years.



There are exciting plans in the pipeline for this iconic site on 97 Stirling Terrace.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Welcoming a new year and new faces

St John Ambulance Toodyay
Monika Williams

HAPPY New Year to all our wonderful Toodyay community members.

As we step into 2026, the team at St John would like to extend warm greetings and our best wishes for a safe and healthy year ahead.

We are pleased to report that the Christmas and New Year period was, thankfully, a relatively quiet one for our ambulance service.

It seems Santa wasn't the only one checking his list twice, the townsfolk must have been on their best behaviour.

If this is what a wellbehaved community looks like, we'll happily take more of it.

A special 'thank you' goes to volunteer ambulance officer Janelle, whose creativity and humour kept our spirits high over the holiday break.

She produced a fantastic series of lighthearted videos featuring our local volunteers, which were shared across our social media pages.

These clips showcased not only the fun side of our team but also the dedication and teamwork behind the scenes.

Thank you, Janelle, for bringing smiles to so many faces.

As we move further into the year, we are excited to invite the community to our upcoming open night on Thursday, 19 February, from 6pm to 8pm.

If you have ever considered volunteering with St John, whether as an ambulance officer or a community transport driver, this is the perfect opportunity to come along and learn more.

The evening will include presentations, a hands on demonstration, and plenty of chances to chat with current volunteers about their experiences.

We will also provide refreshments to keep everyone energised while they explore what volunteering involves.

There is no need to book: contact our office if you'd like more information or just turn up on the night.

You might be surprised by how rewarding, flexible and communityfocused our roles can be.

We are also delighted to welcome new volunteers Sarah and Laura to our Toodyay team.

Sarah and Laura recently completed a comprehensive weekend of training and are now qualified emergency medical responders.

Sarah is studying nursing and brings clinical knowledge and experience to the team.

She looks forward to learning more about pre-hospital care.

Laura will be volunteering alongside her mum, Kerrie, who serves both as an emergency medical technician and as our committee treasurer.

Although Laura is based in Perth, she travels to Toodyay regularly and jumps straight into the ambulance roster while in town.

We are also pleased to introduce our two new community transport service (CTS) volunteers, Louise and Julie.

They will help clients by providing transport to medical appointments throughout the Wheatbelt and to Perth.

CTS drivers support those who are unable to drive themselves.

Bookings for this valuable service can be made through the office at a very reasonable and affordable price.

As always, we thank the Toodyay community for your continued support.

Here's to a safe, connected, and caring year ahead.



Kerrie and Laura Carter.

Community collaboration in times of crisis

VBFB Julimar
Gayle Nelson

THE JULIMAR Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade (JVFBF) has had an exceptionally active start to the 25-26 high-threat season.

With conditions intensifying, December saw the JVFBF participate with other shire brigades and State services to suppress the Moondyne Fire in Julimar – a significant blaze that tested resources to the limit.

On that day, every available unit was deployed to multiple incidents in the area.

This left no reserves and highlighted the critical role of the community and volunteer support in protecting lives and property.

As the season continues, the brigade is taking time to recognise those who have gone above and beyond to assist in these efforts.

Earlier this year our brigade captain presented a certificate of appreciation to Genesis Mining Services.

This gesture acknowledges the company's outstanding support in allowing staff members additional time off to contribute

to fire suppression activities during peak demand.

Such partnerships between local businesses and emergency services are vital.

They not only strengthen the brigade's capacity to respond swiftly but also demonstrate the power of community collaboration in times of crisis.

On behalf of the community, the JVFBF extends heartfelt thanks to Genesis Mining and all the volunteers who have dedicated countless hours to safeguarding our region.

JVFBF captain, Dale Canning, said when resources are stretched to the limit, every extra set of hands makes a difference.

"Genesis Mining's support has been invaluable, and we're proud to recognise their contribution to keeping our community safe," he said.

Residents are reminded that the fire season is far from over.

Vigilance remains essential and the brigade encourages everyone to stay informed, adhere to fire safety guidelines, and support local firefighting efforts wherever possible.

Don't forget to check the DFES website for information on preparing an emergency plan.

If you'd like to make a real difference in your community and be part of a dedicated team, please call 0439 030 920 or email: secretary@julimarvbf.org.au



JVFBF Captain Dale Canning presents the certification of appreciation to Genesis Mining Services' General Manager Operations, Ben Cooper, following the Moondyne Fire.



Connor – Australia Day.



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

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Coondle–Nunile bushfire crews ready to respond

VBFB Coondle Nunile
Aurelie Zimmermann

THE PERIOD following Christmas through most of January was relatively quiet for the Coondle–Nunile bushfire brigade.

While this was a welcome break during what is traditionally a busy time of the year, late January saw an increase in activity with several incidents occurring over a few days.

Although not a surge as such, these incidents served as a reminder that conditions can change quickly during the fire season and that crews must remain ready to respond.

During this period, the brigade was called to incidents at both ends of the shire with both Coondle appliances deployed.

Crews provided an initial response as well as coverage for follow-up shifts, demonstrating the importance of flexibility

and teamwork.

Training remains well on track and was well attended with all members gaining valuable refreshers and practical experience.

January’s session began with a short presentation covering key theory and important concepts such as pump mechanics and the correct use of foam.

This was followed by hands-on practical training where members took turns working with hoses, operating discharge valves and activating the foam system.

These exercises not only build confidence with equipment but also strengthen coordination and communication between crew members, which is essential during incidents.

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) training programs are now appearing on the volunteer portal giving

members the opportunity to enrol in a wide range of off-season courses.

This allows volunteers to further develop their skills at their own pace, with courses covering practical firefighting techniques as well as theoretical knowledge.

Examples of topics are fire behaviour and weather interpretation, all of which contribute to safer and more effective operations on the fireground.

Completing these courses gives members a deeper understanding of the principles behind firefighting techniques and supporting better decision-making during incidents.

The brigade would like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of volunteers, not only from Coondle but across all brigades within the shire and those providing help from out of area.

These members continue to balance training, callouts, and personal commitments throughout the fire season.

The support of families also plays an important role in enabling members to respond when needed.

As the warmer months continue, residents are encouraged to remain fire aware, keep properties maintained and monitor local fire advice and warnings.

The Coondle team is always looking for new members.

Being part of the brigade offers many benefits, including learning new skills, gaining valuable knowledge and giving back to the community.

The brigade meets every Friday from 5pm at the fire station located at 775 Bindi Bindi–Toodyay Rd, near the old wheat bins.

Anyone unsure if firefighting is for them is more than welcome to come along, meet the team, or get in touch via email at coondle.nunilebfb@gmail.com.

Volunteering with the brigade is not only rewarding but also a great way to be actively involved in supporting the safety and wellbeing of the local community.

Toodyay fireys answer the call



Toodyay Central Volunteer Bushfire brigade members. Pic courtesy of Rob Boase.

VBFB Toodyay Central
Peter Brennan

SINCE our last article for the December edition of The Herald, we have had 24 callouts.

Thirteen have been stand downs.

In all, our Toodyay Central VBFB team alone has spent a total of 448 hours of crew time deployed on the scene.

We had several members who deployed to a major incident at Boddington and the Toodyay bulk water tanker deployed out of the shire on three occasions.

A big ‘thankyou’ to chief Craig Stewart, deputy one Nick Griggs, new chief emergency services manager Sam Roberts and our fire control officers for your leadership over these incidents.

An outstanding job as always, your efforts are very much appreciated.

We also thank our farmers who are very often first on the scene with fire units and machinery.

Their quick efforts often give our combined brigades a jump start on containing a fire and in a few cases they have it contained by the time we arrive.

This overall team effort is an extremely valuable capability in our community.

On Sunday November 30, we held our annual Christmas lunch with our families and partners.

We had a terrific time in a relaxed atmosphere at the station and luckily we did not get interrupted by a callout until we were packing up.

Crews departed the station at 2pm and spent 45 hours total crew time at an incident.

Thankfully, our Christmas Day plans were not interrupted and we could enjoy the day as planned.

However, we did not have the opportunity to get too comfortable as we had a callout later that evening at 11.30pm, which resulted

in eight crew hours deployed.

We thank all of our brigade members who have turned out to support these incidents and also our families whose support is always outstanding.

No matter how hard some of our shifts have been, a terrific team spirit continues to be on display. Much of this outlook is based in the knowledge that we have done something good for the community.

We would also like to thank our Toodyay community, and beyond, for following us on Facebook.

We love the support you give us with your likes and comments allowing our volunteers to know just how much they are appreciated.

The thank you, well done, and acknowledgements of our efforts are invaluable.

However, we would reiterate for those still asking on Facebook where the incident is or its status: could you please check out our post pinned to the top of our Facebook page headed ‘Your safety is your responsibility’.

Download the Emergency WA app and if you don’t have a smart phone you can see the same information via the Emergency WA website along with tuning into ABC radio to keep yourself informed.

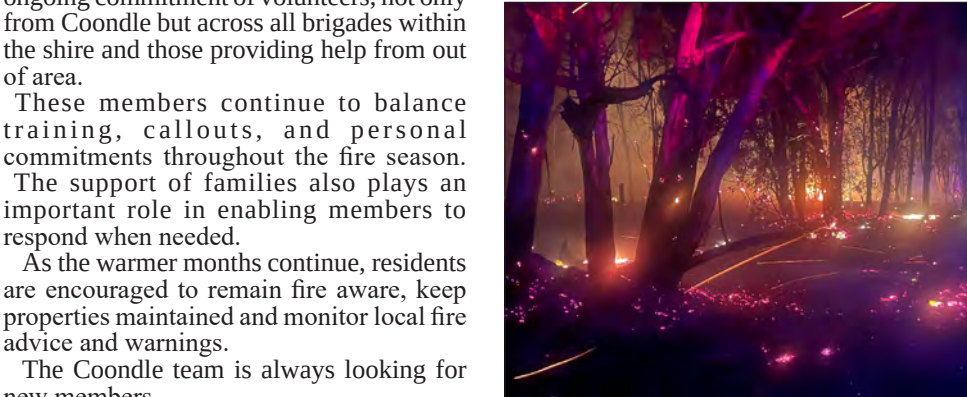
Facebook pages are only updated when someone is available to undertake the task, so please don’t use these pages solely for your information.

Emergency WA is where the incident information comes from, so please teach your self how to get alerts, set up watch zones etc..

Lastly, please slow down and pull to the side of the road when you see or hear an emergency vehicle approaching from behind you, flashing red and blue lights and siren.

These vehicles will not pass you unless it is absolutely safe to do so.

Stay aware on the road when driving please.



Crews race fight a fire in the Toodyay Shire in December. Pic Aurelie Zimmermann.

Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association of WA Inc



SWAP MEET



Sunday 15th March 2026

Scan me!

Toodyay Oval (Showground) TOODYAY

Selling: Cars, Trucks, Tractors, Motorcycles, Machinery, Engines, Used Spare Parts, Collectables, Household Items, etc .

Sellers Sites : \$20:00 each (Admits Driver and 1 other person)
Vehicles For Sale ONE ONLY per 4m x 6 m standard site

GATES OPEN : Sellers : 6.00am
Public Entry : 7:00am FINISH : 1:00pm
Public Entry : \$5:00 per person (Kids Free) EFTPOS Available

Classic Car Display Vehicles 7am – 1pm on site

Food and Drink available, no alcohol
Organiser Approved food-drink vendors only on site

ENQUIRIES:

Facebook Event : <https://www.facebook.com/share/1BzmPZ6ShZ/>
Facebook Message : <https://www.facebook.com/avonvintagecars>
President AVVVA M: 0429 608 876 PO Box 755 Northam WA 6401
E-Mail: fsi93402@bigpond.net.au

Bookings not necessary as enrolment forms on day of event

STRICTLY NO DOGS ALLOWED AT THIS EVENT

Made possible with Support and Sponsorship from





Agents for BONAIRE



Hannagan's

Hearth House

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

Citizenship and community service celebrated



TOODYAY'S Australia Day celebrations brought together residents from across the shire to welcome new citizens and recognise community champions.

Six new Australians took their citizenship pledges during the ceremony: Leah Cochran, Erlinda Harrison, Ericha McGlurg, Brian Millington, Magdalena Niedzielska and Fleur Remus.

Auspire ambassador and guest speaker Lueth Garang delivered a powerful address reflecting on her journey from South Sudan to becoming a primary school teacher and community advocate in Western Australia.

After fleeing civil war and spending 11 years in a refugee camp in Kenya, Ms Garang arrived in Australia as a child.

She has built a career helping others through her Lueth Learning Centre.

The event also featured the presentation of the 2026 Community Citizen of the Year Awards.

Stephen and Liz Ferguson were named Community Citizens of the Year for their

tireless leadership at the Toodyay Race Club, helping grow major events, attract visitors and strengthen community spirit.

Young Community Citizens of the Year were awarded jointly to brothers Thomas and Nicholas Thornton for their extensive volunteering with Toodyay Locals Care, Midland Meals and junior sporting clubs.

Senior Community Citizen of the Year went to Barry Keens for his long-standing work in sustainability, the Men's Shed, mini rail and heritage projects.

The Active Citizenship Award for a group or event was presented to the Toodyay Cricket Club, recognised for its decades of volunteer support across community events, including fundraising and clean-ups.

The well-attended ceremony was hosted by the Shire of Toodyay and guests enjoyed breakfast cooked by the Toodyay Cricket Club, music by Paul Davies, flowers from Botanica Australis, coffee from Cup of Eden and ice cream from Amore Mio Soft Serve.



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

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



L-R: Toodyay Historical Society members Desrae, Beth, Milton, Brian, Robyn, Linda, Carolyn, Eva, Margie, Faye, Don, Wayne.

Heritage hits the road: members head to Albany

Toodyay Historical Society
Dr Robyn Taylor, Patron

ANOTHER year passes.
A new one begins.
What will it bring?
Hopefully many enjoyable things to see and do for our members.
Our planning meeting was held in January where we mapped out suggestions for this year’s events, excursions, meetings with speakers, and always interesting ‘show and tells’.
Tradition has our first gathering as a dinner in town.
March will be very special with a visit to Albany to enjoy a weekend on March 26-29 at its bicentenary celebrations.
These celebrations will be spread throughout the year and they commemorate the founding of Western Australia’s first European settlement in 1826, when the British and Aboriginal people started living together on the western side of Australia.

Publicity for the event reveals its key aim and as Western Australia’s first bicentenary, Albany 2026 will set the benchmark for reconciliation, and it is critical to the success of Perth 2029.
Key locations across Albany will form the setting for these stories of our place and people to be told, upheld and celebrated.
Most of the members who attended the planning meeting indicated they would like to go and bookings for accommodation are being made.
A highlight will be ‘Lighting the Sound’. That promises ‘to be one of the largest outdoor light installations ever staged on Earth’.
Wow.
It will be a collaboration with Finnish light artist Kari Kola and will take place over three weekends.
In May, we will participate in the Australian Heritage Festival.
The theme is ‘change’ so put your thinking

caps on for activities we can offer.
In September the 61st State History Conference of the Affiliated Historical Societies will be held in the State Library in Perth.
This is always an enjoyable weekend of talks and excursions, and it’s close to home.
The theme is *A century of change, 1926-2026: where to next?*
It will be the Royal WA Historical Society’s 100th anniversary so it promises to be an extra-special occasion.
A highlight of the recent Australia Day celebrations was member Barry Keens winning the Senior Community Citizen of the Year Award.
This was a timely recognition for Barry’s many years of dedicated service to the community, especially his volunteering and fund-raising efforts for the Newcastle Gaol Museum.
See page nine in *The Herald* for details.
For details about us: *See Where and When.*

Granny flats get more room to move

THE COMMUNITY can now have a say on proposed changes to the shire’s planning rules, aimed at giving more flexibility to granny flats, also known as ancillary dwellings.
A public comment period is now open because the current policy is set to get an overhaul.
Proposed changes include how granny flat applications are assessed – clearer rules and more flexibility.
The new policy also aims to better reflect how our community lives now and the growing demand for diverse housing options.
Traditionally, granny flats were approved to allow elderly family members to live close to relatives and because of this strict limits were placed on their size, number of bedrooms, distance from the main house and who could live in them.
But state planning rules have now changed. Granny flats can now be lived in by non-

family members and, in some cases, used for short-term rental accommodation.
As housing pressure continues to grow, these dwellings are playing a much bigger role in meeting local housing demand.
And in response, the shire is reviewing its policy.
The current maximum size of 70 square metres is now considered too restrictive, particularly for rural properties.
The draft policy proposes greater flexibility around the size of granny flats, the number of bedrooms allowed and how far they can be located from the main dwelling.
Incentives for granny flats on large rural lots are also being considered.
Public comment is open until Monday 2 March 2026.
To have your say, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/mwmyx6x4>



Craft and connect with Ragbags

Ragbags Quilting Group
Kerry Gregory

HAPPY New Year to all our crafters and readers.
I trust your festive season gatherings were enjoyable and you have coped with the torrid heat we’ve experienced during the break.
Such hot weather generally means we retreat inside and it gives us time to pursue our quilting and crafting activities, at the very least maybe you’ve done some planning for future creative projects.
Myself, I have not done the quilting of a small quilt as intended over the break, but I have been happy to sit in the air conditioning and hand-stitch scrap strips of my stash fabrics over cotton rope to make small baskets.
I have also been reading a number of the old New Zealand quilter magazines given to me a few months ago and I’ve been inspired by a few articles.
I have particularly enjoyed a number of articles relating to recycling and preservation of old eiderdowns and quilts, full of family memories and skills.
An article related to the passion of a lady collecting and restoring quite a number of old eiderdown bed covers took me back to memories of two beautiful eiderdown bed covers made by my grandmother.
A bridal dressmaker by trade, nan had beautifully pieced and crafted two bedcovers from scraps of exquisite bridal fabrics, many being fine silks and elaborate laces, in soft tones of white, cream, ivory, dove grey and occasional pastel shades from bridesmaids’ dresses.
Those eiderdowns were so beautiful, soft and tactile and they held wonderful childhood memories for me.
Regrettably after my grandparents passed away these treasures were given away as they were in need of some repair and I was not living in Western Australia at that time to salvage them.
I sincerely hope they are still intact and loved by someone who has restored them – they would be one hundred years old now.
Another topic which took my interest related to making quilts from wool fabrics, including dyeing, a notion I have toyed with for some time.
The woman featured in that article also collected woollen clothes, men’s and women’s coats, dresses and skirts from friends, family and op-shops enabling her to have a selection of wool textures and colours for her creative projects.
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 you can bring your lunch – we use the back door.
Join us for a cuppa and a chat; bring along your beautiful holiday handiwork; quilting, knitting, crochet or craft projects for a little ‘show and tell’ session.
Bring your quilting blocks and sewing machine if you wish.
We love to see all the creative and fabulous projects and share your enthusiasm.



A selection of colourful little baskets.

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

Godspell goes down under

Daryl Cooper

DIRECTOR Sara Whincup has assembled a talented cast for the Toodyay Theatre Group's production of the musical *Godspell*.

Rehearsals are now under way and Sara has introduced a number of innovations to add a local flavour to the story.

She has set the play in a fictional Australian regional city, instead of New York.

The characters, with the exception of the leading roles, have names different to those in the original script.

Another innovation is that each of the cast has been asked to create an Australian 'backstory' for the character they will be playing.

The backstory is not part of the play, but it is intended to explain how the character came to be involved in the story being told.

Knowing this helps each player better understand their character and it adds to the authenticity they bring to the part.

For example, the actor playing the lead role of Jesus (Max Jones) created a backstory of being raised in the bush by a poor but caring family who taught him to be emotionally strong and never afraid to help others.

Moving to the city as a young man, he



The production of *Mango Fever* 2023.

wants to help the less fortunate residents he meets through sharing the lessons he learned in the bush.

Sara likes her cast not to think of themselves as 'actors' but as 'players'.

This reflects back to the days when that term was used by troupes of performers who travelled through villages and towns and used it to describe themselves.

This reminds the cast of the long tradition of local theatres of which they are now a part.

Sara's enthusiasm, not just for this

production, but for theatre in general augurs well for a thoroughly enjoyable experience audiences will enjoy when public performances are held in April.

Monday is music to our ears

Toodyay Community Singers

Anne Millar

I HOPE you all had a great Christmas and we wish you a happy and prosperous new year.

This year, we are changing rehearsal times to Monday from 4.30pm to 5.30pm and we are hoping to get some new voices into our group.

The first event of the year is our attendance at the ANZAC Day service at the cenotaph.

We also have a performance booked for the Moondyne Festival on Sunday May 3.

If you are new to our community in Toodyay and would like to take part in community events, enjoy singing and making new friends we would like to see you at the Country Women's Association hall on Stirling Terrace.

We meet on Monday evenings from 4.30pm to 5.30pm.

No experience required just enjoy singing.

Carols, crooners and Xmas cheer

Toodyay Music Club

Jenny Edgecombe

TOODYAY Music Club's December meeting was a cheerful affair.

The afternoon started with an enthusiastic singalong to warm up our voices.

It was delightful to have several visitors, who joined in with gusto. The singalong was followed by members' individual songs.

As this was the last meeting before Christmas, many people chose songs with a Yuletide flavour.

Anne led off with the moving song, *Little Drummer Boy*.

Joe sang a lovely version of *Bread and Fishes*, in addition to the moving Bernard Carney song, *Christmas with you*.

Not everyone chooses to sing Christmas Carols and songs at the December gathering.

Phil added some variety with *Hotel California*.

We have come to expect songs with a difference from Maurice, who did not disappoint. This time he included two rather different songs: *Frosty the Yobbo* and the *Boars' Head*.

Later in the programme, Anne joined Collette in a lovely rendition of *Galway Bay*.

Jenny's father was a lay preacher, so she absorbed a great many Christmas songs and hymns during her childhood.

Her selection included *Oh Little Town of Bethlehem*, and a more light-hearted song, *Robert, the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.

Apparently, Robert was Rudolph's cousin twice removed.

All in all, it was a most enjoyable afternoon. We are now looking forward to the February meeting, after the usual January break.

Songs for the February meeting will be based around the theme of 'boots and shoes.'

Anne has also challenged club members to try and learn a new song 'by heart' for each meeting but this is not compulsory.

Our first meeting this year will be at the CWA Hall on February 14, starting at 1pm.

For more information, please call Joe on 0400 86 2694.

Spotlight shines on Arts Toodyay Exhibition

Arts Toodyay

Chelle Ellery

IT'S HONESTLY hard to believe how quickly the last year has flown.

Art in the Garage still feels like yesterday and we're still a bit blown away by how Toodyay showed up for it.

Local artists, their families, volunteers, local art lovers and our wonderful sponsors all played a part in making it an amazing event.

We were also incredibly grateful to local business owners Wizz and Stirling whose generosity provided a space where local art could truly shine.

This year, we're coming in with that same heart but with a bit more momentum behind us.

We've listened, we've planned and we're ready to build on what worked and level-up what's next.

The Arts Toodyay Exhibition, with the Shire of Toodyay sponsored Toodyay Art Prize, will be on full display during Moondyne Festival weekend.

Opening on Friday and running through to Sunday May 3, it's an opportunity for visitors to come to Friday night's opening.

It celebrates the artists with Saturday shining a spotlight on our young creatives, with youth artist presentations that never fail to surprise and delight.

On Sunday, May 3 as Moondyne fills the streets with colour and excitement, the exhibition remains a calm and welcoming creative retreat just steps away from the action.

Beyond the gallery walls, Arts Toodyay will collaborate with Midland Brick with a sponsored clay activity taking place at Duidgee Park, guided by local artists and centred on connection, conversation and country.

More details will be shared.

Behind this much-loved event is a year of planning, care and collaboration.

A recent planning day brought together Arts Toodyay's volunteers and committee members, shaping a strong start to the year and a program full of creative opportunity.

Each Monday afternoon at the CRC, Sketchbook Club with Jessica Edwards-Parker is returning for another year with

groups for younger and older students.

It's a relaxed after-school space where creativity is encouraged, friendships form, and artistic confidence grows.

To show their thanks for the ongoing support, the Sketchbook Club created a fabulous artwork for the Toodyay Bendigo bank.

Arts Toodyay is also delighted to welcome Jessica Edwards-Parker for a five-week abstract botanical watercolour program.

This fully immersive experience includes all high-quality materials and invites participants to explore colour, movement and botanical forms in a supportive and inspiring environment.

Another highlight for 2026 will be the launch of Arts Toodyay's inaugural Youth Art Lab.

Running over nine weeks for children aged six and up, the program brings together experienced art educators and dedicated volunteers to explore mixed media, sculpture and printmaking.

Works created in the program can be proudly exhibited as part of the annual exhibition.

This gives young people a genuine taste of what it means to be a practising artist.

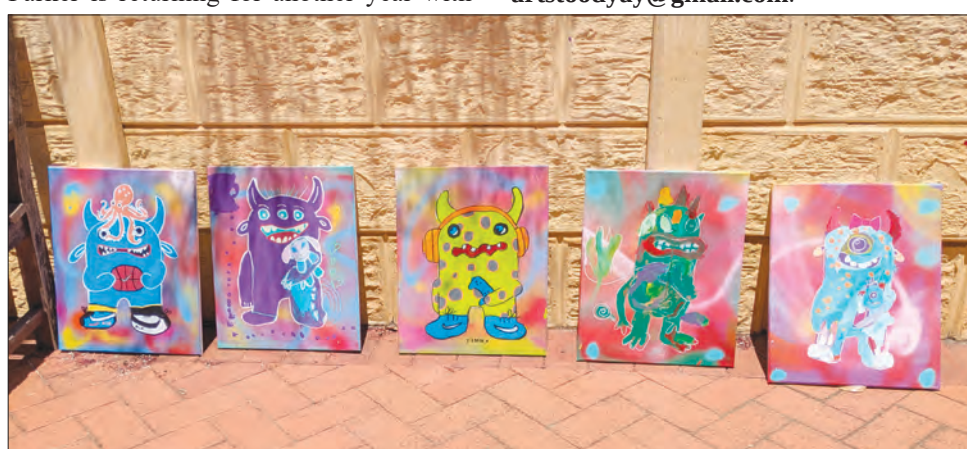
Looking further ahead, we're excited (and honestly, a little proud) to share that Bendigo Bank has confirmed support for the first year of a three-year Arts Trail initiative linking Northam and Toodyay on the long weekend 30 May 2026.

The Bendigo Bank Northam & Toodyay Arts Trail will launch as a regional open-studios event with artists opening their studios and welcoming visitors across the Avon Valley.

More information will be shared very soon, including Expressions of Interest for paid coordination and administration roles, followed by a call-out for artists interested in taking part.

If you'd like to be involved as an artist, member, sponsor, volunteer or enthusiastic supporter, Arts Toodyay would love to hear from you.

You can contact us via the **Arts Toodyay Facebook page** or by emailing **president.artstodyay@gmail.com**.



Artworks on display at the exhibition.



The Chieftain Music Club – Toodyay's best kept secret, hosts' monthly sell-out events on the last Saturday of each month.

The Club is adored by artists and guests alike.

With its charming and intimate prohibition era atmosphere, The Chieftain offers a time-warp experience – *escapism at its finest*. 2026 offers a range of music genres from Blues, Celtic, Gypsy Jazz and Soft Rock via an array of very talented, well-known and mesmerising musicians such as: *Sassafras, Rupert Guenther, Lez Karski Band, Jarrah Celts, Ray Jones, Maggie's Delight, Elias Bartholomeo, Kerry B Ryan & Band, David Rivett & Band and Richie Pavledis*.

Tickets are available on-line via *Humanitix (tickets for good, not for greed) approx. 6 weeks before each event.

The charm of The Chieftain Music Club is mostly spread by word-of-mouth through Toodyay, Perth, Eastern States and overseas however, we do have a FaceBook page (which also acts as contact for the very special *Café Clair's*) and are happy for you to contact us if you would like to be added to the contact list for event launches. Message or phone

The Chieftain Music Club and Café Clair's T: 0433 203 659.

Step into another era and Join us @ The Chieftain Music Club for live music every last Saturday of the month.

*Humanitix – 100% of Booking ticket profit goes to charity

For tickets to events: Search "The Chieftain Music Club Toodyay" on-line. Click on the "Humanitix" link.

All aboard for John: community turns out to honour 50 years

Rashelle Predovnik

JOHN Lucas drove buses for more than 50 years before he hung up his keys.

Retirement is simply a change of gears – not pace for the 75-year-old.

John is well-known by generations of families as the man behind the wheel of the local school buses to Toodyay and Northam.

His journey began in 1974, at age 23, when he started driving for a local bus operator.

Two years later, the owner sold him the business so he could buy a house and John became the sole operator of his own bus run.

By age 25, he held a government contract for the morning school run, balancing early starts behind the wheel with day jobs at Mitre 10 and Retrovision in town.

In 1986, he left his day jobs to focus on his business.

The business has grown over the decades to include seven buses, 12 part-time drivers, and countless schoolchildren.

John said he loved carting kids whose parents he used to take to school.

“I had what I call ‘grandchildren’ on the bus,” he said.

“The oldest kids I carted are now adults, and I’m driving the third generation.”

His final run on December 18 was quietly scheduled – or so he thought.

His daughter Melinda, who is about to turn 32 and has never known life without her dad driving buses, decided his final run deserved to be something special.

When John arrived at the Toodyay Racecourse he was met by a guard of honour: buses lined up in tribute.

He was met by fellow drivers and families whose children he had carried for years.

But John’s connection to the community goes beyond the bus.

A lifelong sports enthusiast, he re-formed the Toodyay Cricket Club in 1974 and has been its president for around 40 years, coaching juniors and seniors alike.

He’s also served on the Northam Cricket Association and Wheatbelt Regional Cricket boards and has been a life member of multiple cricket clubs.

Over the years, John has seen the town change.

Catholic schools have grown in numbers, parenting styles have evolved, and he notes that discipline isn’t what it used to be.

Yet his philosophy remains simple.

Work hard and stay involved in your community.

As John retires from driving, the business is set to continue in family hands.

His daughter, Melinda, manages the paperwork and smaller buses.

His son-in-law, Joe, handles the mechanical side and full-time driving.

John may be retiring from the route, but not the community.

He will remain an active volunteer, mentor, and a well-known figure in Toodyay.



Fond farewells and thank you’s.



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

Bailee’s design helps garden bloom

Toodyay Community Garden
Rosemary Madacsi

DECEMBER 2025 closed on a high note with the award to a very surprised Bailee Murray for her entry in the community garden logo competition.

The prize and certificate were presented to Bailee by Kim Noonan, our very accomplished deputy chair at the Toodyay Districts High School.

We commend Bailee for her creative work and enthusiasm.

To say Bailee was surprised is an understatement which just added to the pleasure of providing the award for her clever artwork.

We thank the staff at the school for collaborating in the presentation and for promoting our competition in the school newsletter. We are grateful for all the wonderful entries received.

On other matters, the community garden

group is still trying to find a suitable location for the creation of a community garden dedicated to the residents of Toodyay.

On January 15, the committee met with councillors and staff at a council workshop to discuss the key essential attributes for a successful site.

The information, provided as a scaled matrix, will hopefully simplify the task and help councillors to choose some suitable sites for our consideration.

The committee felt the workshop was productive and we look forward to a positive outcome and the start of this initiative, although a timeframe for an answer would have been a welcomed new year gift.

The Christmas break saw the committee less active, focused on family, their own gardens and taking a welcome break.

The milder summer has been a blessing on our properties and hopefully rain is not far away to boost tanks and soak the earth.

May 2026 be a good year for you all.



Logo winner Bailee Murray.

Garden club digs into a new year

Toodyay Garden Club
Judy Rowston, newsletter/reporter

HAPPY New Year to our dear members.

A recap on our 2025 season – it was a wonderful year for the garden club.

We celebrated 20 very successful years with a boutique high tea, visited some amazing gardens in and around Toodyay, welcomed the Gingin Garden Club, took a bus trip to York, enjoyed a guest speaker, and ended the year with 98 members from Toodyay and surrounding districts with a very delicious Christmas luncheon.

On to 2026.

Stephanie, our events coordinator, has had a very full year, finding gardens suited for a visit that will also cater for our very high membership numbers, with consideration for parking.

It’s a huge task and we thank Stephanie for the hard work behind the scenes to ensure we are ready for the year ahead.

We do have two bus trips planned this year to very nice gardens.

Don’t miss out on these.

The committee will reconvene this month

to ensure we are ready to welcome you all.

The sundowner which will start the season will be held once again at Clive Hesse’s property on 19 February 2026.

Thank you, Clive.

You will receive the first newsletter with all details mid-February.

This will of course be followed up on Thursday March 5 with our annual general meeting at 10am at St Stephen’s Hall.

As some of our committee members will be retiring, we will look at our membership base to fill those gaps.

Please consider joining the committee by volunteering your time to the club.

We all look forward to visiting new and re-visiting some lovely gardens this year.

We sincerely thank those that have happily opened their homes to the Toodyay Garden Club.

If you know of a nice garden worthy of a visit, we have to start planning now.

Please contact Stephanie on 0429 888 314.

She will follow this up with contact and a visit, or email the club at toodyaygardenclub@gmail.com



A local cottage garden



Christmas Lunch.

Spinning into the new year

Toodyay Spinner and Weavers
Chris Stokie

HAPPY New Year to you all.

Toodyay Spinners and Weavers has had a break from meetings over the festive period and we have indulged in some rest and relaxation.

In early December we held our annual Christmas lunch, which is one of the calendar highlights of the year.

It was great to see so many members able to attend.

During this fun event we all ate some delicious meals and exchanged gorgeous gifts.

It was thoroughly enjoyed.

Tracey has spun a beautiful skein of silk in gorgeous, variegated colours.

We are looking forward to seeing the final project when she completes it.

We are now back to our normal routine of meetings.

Everyone is hard at work spinning, weaving, felting, knitting and creating wonderful projects.

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.

Whether you wish to learn new skills or just enjoy your current wool crafts in a friendly group environment, new members are always welcome.

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



We have built, implemented and managed a wide range of IT business solutions, working directly with business owners or providing specialised assistance to IT departments.

Our role is to act as your outsourced IT expert, resolving issues and handling all of your IT requirements. We can support you remotely or on-site at your premises, depending on your needs.





Our services include

- ✔ Network Consultancy
- ✔ Disaster Planning/Recovery
- ✔ Thin Client Technologies
- ✔ Virus & Spam Solutions
- ✔ Apple Solutions & Support
- ✔ Home Networking and AV Integrations

- ✔ Computer Hardware
- ✔ Wireless Solutions
- ✔ Site to Site Links
- ✔ Server Based Solutions
- ✔ Backup Solutions
- ✔ Voice Over IP Systems

Phone : 6364 0682

Email : support@absoluteit.com.au

Website : www.absoluteit.com.au



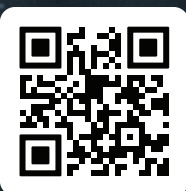
Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

Patient Assisted Travel Scheme

The Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) provides financial subsidies for eligible WA country residents to reduce the cost of accessing the closest specialist health services where not locally available.

In 2025, we helped more than 35,000 rural and remote residents to access PATS. It's just one of the ways we're helping to make it easier for country patients travelling for specialist health services.

PATS is a subsidy program funded by the Government of Western Australia administered through WA Country Health Service.



Scan the QR code to learn more or search online for the latest information



patient assisted travel scheme

Almost a century of CWA in Toodyay

CWA

Elizabeth Mansom, Secretary

FOR OUR first issue in 2026 we wish peace and good health to all and we welcome, Rashelle, the new editor of *The Herald* and wish her joy in her new endeavour.

Since the last meeting of the branch, office holders have been busy with end of year requirements for state office.

Margaret, and 120 other treasurers across the state, have balanced the books and got them into the state treasurer who has until June to produce audited accounts for state conference.

When balances upwards of 12 million dollars appear in the publicly available accounts it is clear the Country Women's Association (CWA) is definitely more than tea and scones.

In addition, state office requires end of year reports from the secretary and president of each branch, which go into the archives.

In this time of 100th anniversaries, branches have seen the benefit of this practice.

Archive volunteers produce long unseen written and photographic branch records. Evidence also of child health clinics and debutante balls and other functions no longer associated with the CWA.

The awful example of one branch, which held on to all its records and lost everything in a fire doesn't bear thinking about.

Toodyay's annual general meeting was held in January and all office bearer positions automatically fell vacant. Elizabeth and Val agreed to continue as president and vice-president for another year. Margaret made the move to electronic accounting at the beginning of last year. Until then our accounts had been paper-based and it may be longer than the three year limit for office holders before anyone is brave enough to relieve her.

Since we lost Vivien last October, the work of the secretary has been shared and there were no nominations or volunteers to fill the vacancy.

This situation led to a shuffle of the just elected president and vice-president with Elizabeth moving to secretary and Val

agreeing to become the president.

Kathy volunteered to fill the vacant vice-president position.

Following the AGM we had an informal planning meeting to try and ensure functions are spread comfortably across the year. Of course, we do this not knowing what invitations may arrive from other branches.

Others obviously face the same challenge and to this end we have the Gathering of the Birds in early March when surrounding branches come together (this year at Gidgegannup) and swap information on planned dates.

Toodyay will celebrate 99 years in June and we are well aware the branch has reached this outstanding milestone through

the unfaltering dedication and hard work of many staunch local women.

We can but aspire to be thought of in the same terms by future members.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1pm for a general meeting and on the second Thursday of the month at 10am for a relaxed coffee morning.

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.



Pic L-R sitting Val Byron (Pres) and Elaine Hall (Chair, AGM)
L-R standing Margaret O'Sullivan (Treas) Kathy Haynes (V-P) Elizabeth Mansom (Sec)

School smarts for healthy hearts

The Heart Foundation has launched a new online lunchbox tool to empower parents to pack heart-healthy meals and snack options as families prepare ahead of the 2026 school year.

The Heart Foundation is providing the guidance on heart-healthy options in response to concerns that the diets of primary and secondary students do not meet dietary guidelines, particularly when it comes to discretionary food intake.

Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that children are the leading consumers of unhealthy food, with 37 per cent of the average daily energy intake of five to 11 year-olds coming from discretionary foods.

Twelve to 17-year-olds are close behind, at 34 percent.

The term 'discretionary foods' refers to foods which are high in kilojoules but have little nutritional value. These foods include chips, biscuits, pastries, processed meats, take-away style foods, confectionary and sugary drinks.

As these foods are typically high in saturated fats, added sugars and salt, they are not part of a heart-healthy eating pattern and are best kept as occasional treats.

Options that could help build a heart-healthy lunchbox include a healthy carrot cake muffin, fresh berries, yoghurt, chicken, avocado and salad wholegrain sandwiches.

Heart Foundation dietitian Maria Packard said replacing unhealthy foods in school lunchboxes is easier than many people think.

"It's all about balance," she said.

"Include something from each food group, add colour, and keep it practical with simple staples and leftovers.

"Healthy eating is about patterns.

"If you can add one extra serve of veggies, swap in wholegrains and let kids choose some fruit they love, you're one step closer towards a healthier lunchbox."

Ms Packard said good nutrition would help school-aged children to grow, stay healthy, and focus on learning.

To access the Heart Foundation's new online tool, visit: <https://heart.org.au/heart-healthy-lunchbox>

Toodyay – What's on?

Community Investment Program – Sunday February 1

Supporting local communities and initiatives to deliver meaningful outcomes across our focus areas, Education, Environment and Community.

Applications open February 1 – March 31.

To apply, visit: www.gonnevilleproject.com.au



Contact us

0489 371 961
5 Charcoal Lane, Toodyay
community@chalicemining.com

Toodyay Triathlon – Sunday March 8

Pick your race distance and decide if you will go it solo or form a team.

Chalice is a proud sponsor of this inaugural event.

To register, visit: Toodyay Triathlon Club Facebook page.





SHIRE NEWS

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS: LOCAL PLANNING POLICY 2 - ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION 2025

The Shire of Toodyay is seeking public comment on changes to *Local Planning Policy 2 – Ancillary Accommodation 2025*. More information on the proposal may be found on the Latest News and Public Notice sections of the Shire’s website toodyay.wa.gov.au. Submissions must be in writing with “*Local Planning Policy 2 – ancillary accommodation 2025*” in the headline, and addressed to CEO Aaron Bowman. Submissions may be lodged in the following ways:

- Email: submissions@toodyay.wa.gov.au with “*Local Planning Policy 2 – ancillary accommodation 2025*” in the email header.
- Post: Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay, WA 6566.
- In-Person: Shire Administration Office, 15 Fiennes St, Toodyay.

Submissions close 4pm, Monday 2 March 2026.

Please direct any queries about the proposal to Paul Nuttall, Executive Manager Planning & Regulation on 9574 9300.

All submissions will be considered by Council as part of the decision-making process. Unless requested otherwise, submissions may be made publicly available and personal information will be handled in accordance with applicable privacy legislation.



A BUSY MONTH OF BOOKS, CELEBRATIONS AND NEW BEGINNINGS AT THE LIBRARY

The Toodyay Public Library enjoyed a busy and successful month, with a range of events and new initiatives for the community.

Library staff and volunteers were delighted to take part in the Christmas Street Party, hosting a popular library book sale stall. All proceeds from the sale will go towards purchasing craft supplies for the Library’s Rhyme Time program. The Library extends a heartfelt thankyou to everyone who supported the stall.



The festive season continued with a special Rhyme Time Christmas Party featuring Christmas stories, music, crafts and a delicious buffet. Each child also received a book to take home, celebrating the joy of reading and the pleasure of giving and receiving books.

The Library has also introduced a new Educational Resources section, offering a wide range of textbooks, reference materials and exam preparation guides. This new collection aims to support students and lifelong learners alike, reflecting the library’s ongoing commitment to education and community development.

Looking ahead, the library will host a special Valentine’s-themed event, “*Booked for Love*,” on Friday 13 February at 10am. Guests are invited to enjoy coffee, cake and a relaxing atmosphere – the perfect pause between pages.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE 2026 WA VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

Do you know someone who is an outstanding volunteer in the Shire of Toodyay? Why not nominate them for the **2026 WA Volunteer Service Awards**?

These State Government awards recognise and celebrate the significant efforts of Western Australia’s volunteers. Volunteers with five years or more voluntary service can be nominated (or self-nominate).

For more information on the awards, eligibility criteria, and how to nominate, visit: wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-communities/wa-volunteer-service-awards

Key dates:

- Nominations close: 5pm, Friday 27 February 2026.
- Nominations reviewed: March to April 2026.
- Awards and recognition: National Volunteer Week, 18 – 24 May 2026.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AUSTRALIA DAY CCOTY AWARD WINNERS & NEWEST AUSSIES!

The Shire of Toodyay would like to thank everyone who attended the **Australia Day BBQ Breakfast** on Monday 26 January where we celebrated the pledging of our newest Australian citizens and presented the **Community Citizen of the Year Awards 2026**. The full story and photos from the event can be found on page 9 in this edition of the Toodyay Herald.

Toodyay Sketchbook CLUB

Sketchbook Club is a supportive community for young artists to connect, collaborate, and create. Whether you use a traditional book, loose sheets, or digital tools, it's your space to experiment and share peer learning.

Bring any project you like, provided it isn't too noisy. Paints, pastels, pens, and collage materials are all welcome!

Mondays during the school term at the CRC

\$5 per session

Kindy - Year 6 | 3pm - 4.15pm Year 7 + | 4.30pm - 5.30pm

To register your child or for more information, please contact the CRC on (08) 9574 9399 or email crc@toodyay.wa.gov.au

MEGA SPLASH TOODYAY

14 FEB SATURDAY 4PM - 7PM

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE **FREE ICE CREAM** **FREE FAIRY FLOSS** **FREE POPCORN**

WHAT'S INCLUDED? WITH EVERY POOL ENTRY

LARGE INFLATABLES

Thanks to **toodyay**

Are you feeling isolated due to your hearing impairment or know someone who is?

Come along to our Fun Social group

THURSDAY Weekly
From 9:30 – 11.00am
At the Toodyay library
Call in and say hello All welcome.

We tell stories, socialise and have a lot of laughs. If sign language is not your thing, come along for the laughs – we are a happy bunch.

For more information please contact
Liz: 95742020
Sandy: 0427 744 721
Sylvia: 0400 476 527

Optional extra!
Learn a little Auslan
It is great fun to know Australian sign language.

SHIRE NEWS



We would like to say a big thank you to everyone once again who celebrated with us at the Toodyay Christmas Street Party on Friday 5 December. Stirling Terrace was humming with festivities – entertainers, rides, stallholders, arts & crafts, food and beverage vendors – and we did our best to create a vibrant Christmas village atmosphere.

We would like to acknowledge and thank all the supporters who made the night possible:

Our Sponsors:

- Community Bank Toodyay and Northam – major sponsor
- Chalice Gonneville Project
- Toodyay Op Shop
- Christmas 360

Organisers and Helpers:

- The Shire's superstar Community Development team – Kristen and Fiona – for their hard work organising and delivering this event.
- Shire's Infrastructure & Assets crew – for getting the town looking its festive best.
- Shire Rangers – for traffic and incident management support.
- Shire Administration staff – who volunteered to help stallholders with bump-in.
- Shire Library staff – who volunteered by hosting a bookstall to fundraise for

Rhyme Time activities.

- Moondyne Men volunteers – for helping with set up, pack down and traffic support.

Emergency Services – we were very grateful for the presence of Police, St John Ambulance and DFES on the night to keep everyone safe.

Local Businesses – we want to thank our local businesses for your support once again – particularly with the road closures. We know it can be a bit disruptive, but your cooperation and involvement were important to creating the vibrant atmosphere everyone enjoyed on the night.

Community Bauble Project – a special mention goes to all our community groups who participated in the Community Bauble Project. We were blown away by everyone's enthusiasm and creativity – some of the baubles were absolute masterpieces! Thank you for making this project such a success.

And lastly, congratulations to 5-year-old TDHS student Charlotte Bennett who won the Kids' Christmas Colouring-In Competition and got to light up the town Christmas tree.

We captured some magical moments from the night, and they are available for viewing on the Shire's Facebook page.

TOODYAY RAILWAYS A TALE OF TWO LINES

The Newcastle Gaol Museum is preparing to launch a new exhibition celebrating Toodyay's rich railway history.

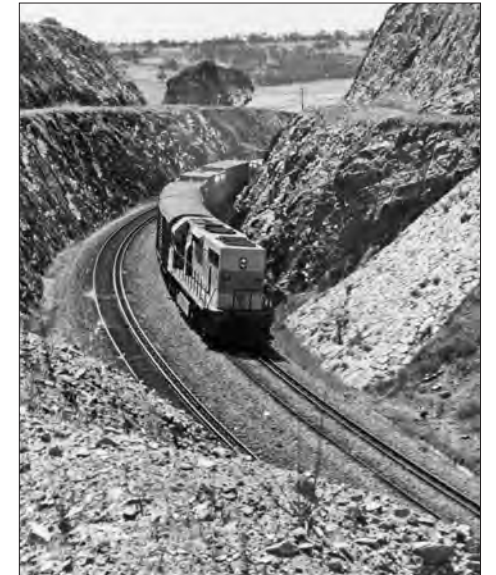
Titled "Toodyay Railways: A Tale of Two Lines", the exhibition launch is being planned for Sunday 26 April and will run for twelve months.

The exhibition has been inspired by the upcoming 60th anniversary in 2026 of the opening of the Standard Gauge railway line, which introduced a new alignment through the Avon Valley. It will explore the significant impact this development had on the Toodyay community, while also revisiting the story of the earlier Narrow Gauge branch line that first arrived in the town in 1887.

As part of the exhibition's development, the museum is inviting community members to contribute by loaning railway-related objects, photographs, and memorabilia. The museum is also keen to hear personal stories and memories connected to Toodyay's railway past.

Anyone interested in contributing is encouraged to contact museum curator

Margie between Monday-Wednesday on 9574 9393, or toodyay.museums@toodyay.wa.gov.au, or visit the Toodyay Visitor Centre.



Windmill Hill railway cutting and diesel locomotive with rolling stock – c1960s, Shire of Toodyay heritage collections 2000.67



Steam train crossing the Avon River behind the Toodyay showground in flood c1915, Shire of Toodyay heritage collections 2001.1350

2026/27 COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM

Applications for the 2026/27 Community Funding Program are set to open early March (closing early April). More information will be available in next month's Herald and on all the Shire's online platforms in the coming weeks.



Canva Basics FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Master the basics of Canva and create stunning marketing materials and documents for your business. We'll show you all the features, tips and tricks, and how to navigate the site like a pro.



FREE TO ATTEND

Wednesday 18th February
4pm - 5pm

At the CRC, 67 Stirling Tce

BYO laptop or borrow ours - limited availability

To book or for more information, contact the CRC on (08) 9574 9399 or email crc@toodyay.wa.gov.au



Tea & TECH

DIGITALGROUP LESSONS FOR OVER 55's

All sessions are FREE and run on a Friday from 10.30am - 12pm

2026

February 27: Library
March 27: CRC
April 24: Library

Learn about topics such as online banking, scams, and AI while enjoying morning tea

Complete a Digital Skills Checker, track your progress and learn new skills!

For more information, contact the CRC on (08) 9574 9399 or email crc@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Bolgart bowls up good fun events in 2026

Bolgart Community News
Pamela McGill

Australia Day

YERECOIN hosted this year's Australia Day in the Victoria Plains Shire, where about 100 people enjoyed a delicious Australia Day breakfast at the Yerecoin Tennis Club.

Victoria Plains Community Citizen of the Year was Mary-Anne Harvey from the Mogumber community for her never-ending time and effort volunteering.

The Community Group Award was presented to the Yerecoin Progress Association for their outstanding effort organising the Yerecoin Centennial Celebration held in September last year.

Thank you to the Shire of Victoria Plains and the Yerecoin Tennis Club for a well-organised event.

St John - Goomalling and Bolgart

UPCOMING First Aid Course

HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid

Course Type: Accredited

Duration: one day in class and online learning

Price: \$180

When: Friday March 20 from 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Where: Goomalling Ambulance Sub Centre, 56 Forrest Street, Goomalling.

Please book online to secure your spot!

<https://www.stjohnwa.com.au/first-aid-training/first-aid-courses/>

Bolgart Sports Club held the annual Christmas get together to celebrate the festive Season.

Wonderful people enjoying the children receiving their gifts from Father Christmas.

Much to the delight of the children Father

Christmas arrived in the Community fire Truck.

Bolgart CWA

THE BOLGART CWA and their invited guests enjoyed a lovely three course Christmas lunch at the Bolgart Hotel.

It was a great relaxing and enjoyable time for all those attending.

Bolgart Primary School held their concert and presentation night at the Bolgart Hall in December.

It was very well attended and very enjoyable.

Best of luck to all the students who graduated and are moving on to various schools to start their next step in life.

To all the new students starting at Bolgart Primary, best of luck also.

Bowling News

Bolgart Ladies held their gala day on December 11.

The day was very warm and because of this the games were a reduced format of two before lunch.

This worked well.

All those participating had an enjoyable time with lots of laughter and friendship.

It was lovely that one of our sponsors, Pam from Purslowe Tinetti Funerals, was able to attend and help with the trophy presentations.

Winners: from Northam, Dot Glass, Jenny Becker, Fay Withnell and Lee Eaton, Runners Up: from Cunderdin/Quairading, Vicki Quinn, Donna Hayes, Chris Hadlow and Sharon Richards.

Our ladies had lots of fun for Christmas break on December 18 practising with a bowling arm and bowling the opposite arm you usually use.

We weren't very successful and not too



Father Christmas with Georgie Troup, Chris Somers and their Son Samuel.

many stayed on the actual rink we were on, but loads of laughs.

We shared a lovely lunch and gift giving and an enjoyable time together.

Social bowls were held over three weeks on a Saturday in January.

It was well attended and again lots of fun. Corporate Bowls will start this month.

Golf News

TWO TEAMS of fours representing Bolgart had a lovely day playing in the Vines Festival of Golf on January 6.

We didn't have any winners but (as always) had lots of fun.

Neighbours grill and chill on Oz day

Morangup Progress Association

Daryl Cooper, Chairperson

MORANGUP residents gathered at the community centre for an Australia Day Barbecue lunch organised by the Morangup Progress Association.

Although it was promoted as a BYOE (Bring Your Own Everything) event, many attendees brought sufficient food to share.

This resulted in enough delicacies and delights to satisfy even the biggest appetites.

Delicious salads for the vegetarians, tasty hors d'oeuvres for the epicureans and enough protein (in the form of steaks, sausages, kebabs, and burgers) for the carnivores, were on offer.

At the beginning of the event, the discovery of a wasps' nest near the children's playground threatened to spoil the fun for the children who attended with their parents.

Fortunately, a couple of daring adults managed to remove the nest without getting stung.

All ages enjoyed the day in their preferred way.

Goldilocks weather – not too cold not too hot – contributed to the event continuing long into the afternoon.

Neighbours enjoyed each other's company, swapping stories and generally getting to know each other better.

When the feasting was over, some dog-owning folk returned home with tasty morsels of left-over scraps for their no doubt delighted furry friends.

I'm guessing most of those who attended (this writer included) would not have felt the need to eat much more for the rest of the day.

Disappointingly, the construction of the new family barbecue area at the rear of the community hall is not yet completed.

The event was held at the front of the premises as usual.

However, it is pleasing to report that progress on the project is being made, and next year's event should be able to be held there.



CWA Christmas lunch at Bolgart Hotel L to R Doris Martin, Norma Waters.



Ladies Bowls Gala Day Winners from Northam L to R Jenny Becker, Lee Eaton, Fay Withnell, Pam Bailey (Purslowe Tinetti Funerals) Dot Glass (front).



TOODYAY WATER CARTING

“Here To Deliver”

0457 636 011

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



Australia Day barbecue lunch at Morangup.

Change of guard still care at heart

Staying in Place Toodyay Districts
Hamish Dobbie, President

CHANGE is in the Air.

In life, I find, there is nothing more certain than change.

As much as we may want things to remain the same, change is inevitable, and so it is with Staying in Place Toodyay Districts (SIPTD).

Our case manager, Charmaine Duri, is stepping down and moving into retirement.

Along with all the various demands of a major retirement move, Charmaine has been busily training Susan Burley in preparation for handover.

Susan has very big shoes to fill.

Charmaine has played a key role in the establishment of this community focused service and has worked tirelessly to ensure its success in delivering services to our elderly community members in need.

The Toodyay aged community has been extremely fortunate to have had Charmaine coordinate the services they critically required.

Her services have enabled them to remain in the safety of their homes, retaining their dignity and connection to community.

Her dedication and commitment will be missed.

Susan has been a local for over twenty years and some may remember her from her prior roles here in Toodyay at the Visitor Centre and Medical Centre.

With Charmaine's departure, we have also been required to move the base of our operations

SIPTD will be moving into an office on Stirling Terrace.

Susan is very happy to be working amongst the community once more and is excited at the prospect of having a centrally located office for clients, potential clients and others to be able to drop in and discuss their needs or learn more about how Staying in Place Toodyay may be able to assist them.

SIPTD has experienced continued growth since its inception in 2024 and we will soon need a second case manager to cope with the ever-increasing number of clients.

We will be seeking a special person.

Someone who has a talent for administration, has empathy for our diverse, ageing clients, and can handle the unexpected.

Ideally lives in or near Toodyay.

The role would ideally suit a stay-at-home mum/dad or a semi-retired /retired person.

The role can boost your income or supplement your pension.

Choose your hours of work and days.

If you think that you are that person, be ready when the call comes.

Due to retirement and moving out of the area SIPTD is also looking to boosting the committee numbers.

Please contact me if you have the time, commitment and willingness to support the

organisation by joining the committee.

Your community needs your support.

SIPTD is different from other organisations as it is community-based and provides services to local people who have home care packages, using locally based contractors.

Our clients appreciate that contractors may have previously been known to them or may be the son or daughter of old friends.

This helps boost the feeling that they are still part of the local community even though their mobility issues restrict their ability to leave their home.

In the hot weather we are experiencing currently it's important to watch over the elderly and frail in our community.

It's all our responsibility to ensure that our neighbours are safe and well.

All our clients have a story to tell, a sense of humour, and a wealth of worldly experience.

Our contractors enjoy providing services for them whilst learning from their many stories.

These services include domestic support, gardening, transport and organising meals.

My meetings with SIPTD clients have all been positive

I have never come away from one without a smile on my face.

I hope that after I left, they too had a smile.

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, Case Manager
Staying In Place Toodyay Districts
Phone: 0494 085 790

Email:-

casemanager@stayinginplacetoodyay.org.au

Web: <http://stayinginplacetoodyay.org.au>

Facebook: Staying In Place – Toodyay



Charmaine Duri and Susan Burley.

More local care and support for the new year

David Miller

TOODYAY Locals Care (TLC) had a very busy 2025.

It was a rewarding year, and it looks like it will be even bigger in 2026.

Last year was one of forming partnerships.

Two of those are with Woolworths Northam and Second Bite which is coordinated by dedicated staff at Saint Josephs Parish in Northam.

Our team members pick up food on Mondays and stock up the fridges at 20 Fiennes Street.

Along with the meals we cook, TLC can now provide more food for those who need it.

There is a downside to having an abundance of food and an 'open fridge policy'.

Some people take more food than others

and sometimes more than they can use.

We are going to trial a system that will make access to food equitable for everyone.

From Monday February 9, we will put together food boxes.

These will be available for pick up from the pavilion at the showgrounds between 1.30pm and 3pm on Monday afternoons.

We need those who would like to collect a box of food to register with us.

If you, or someone you know, could use a box please contact Dave on 0418 919 094 or Roz on 0427 744 352 by text.

Details of those who reach out to us will be handled with strict confidence.

We only need this information to know how many boxes to make up.

There will always be food available at 20 Fiennes Street as well.

The Christmas Long Table Lunch was another great success.

The numbers were down on previous years, the fact that it was stinking hot probably had something to do with it.

Those who attended enjoyed great food and each other's company.

We must thank our generous sponsors and donors Toodyay Glass, Toodyay Hardware and Farm Global Seafoods and the many

others who donated generously.

We will do it all again this year.

We can always use your help with growing the bank balance.

If you can donate, please make a deposit to the TLC Bendigo Bank Account (BSB:633000 Acc#:172 688 626)

If you require a receipt for tax purposes, please text Jacqui on 0427 147 548 with your email address.



Toodyay Locals Care – "Where Kindness Matters"

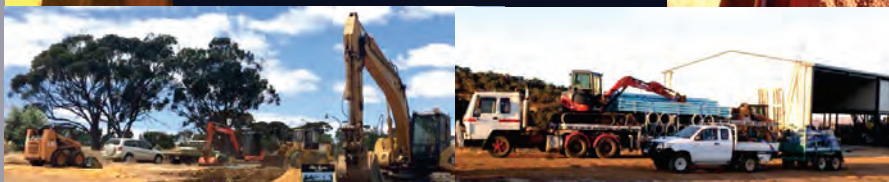
RINGA CIVIL



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



CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Northam Country Club

Saturday 21 March 2026 - 11am onwards

Welcome drinks & canapes

Buffet luncheon 12:30pm

Speeches and historical reflections
Club history displays & photo moments
Dress code smart casual with a touch of tennis flair

Let's toast a century of serves, volleys and friendships
All members, past and present, warmly invited



<https://square.link/u/FRbehRkg>

Tickets by QR Code by 1 March 2026

www.northamcountryclub.com

Enquiry Kathy Saunders 0419 025 917

DEMERSAL FISHING RECOVERY REFORMS

For future generations



IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR WA'S FISHING COMMUNITY

To help recover stocks of spawning dhufish, pink snapper, and red emperor, urgent action is needed with stronger measures up and down our coast.

The recovery closure for boat-based recreational demersal fishing in the West Coast Zone (Kalbarri to Augusta) will be extended until Spring 2027.

Commercial demersal fishing in this zone will end permanently, and charter fishing will not be permitted between Lancelin and Mandurah.

Recreational and commercial fishing for demersals will remain open in all other regions with additional management measures introduced.

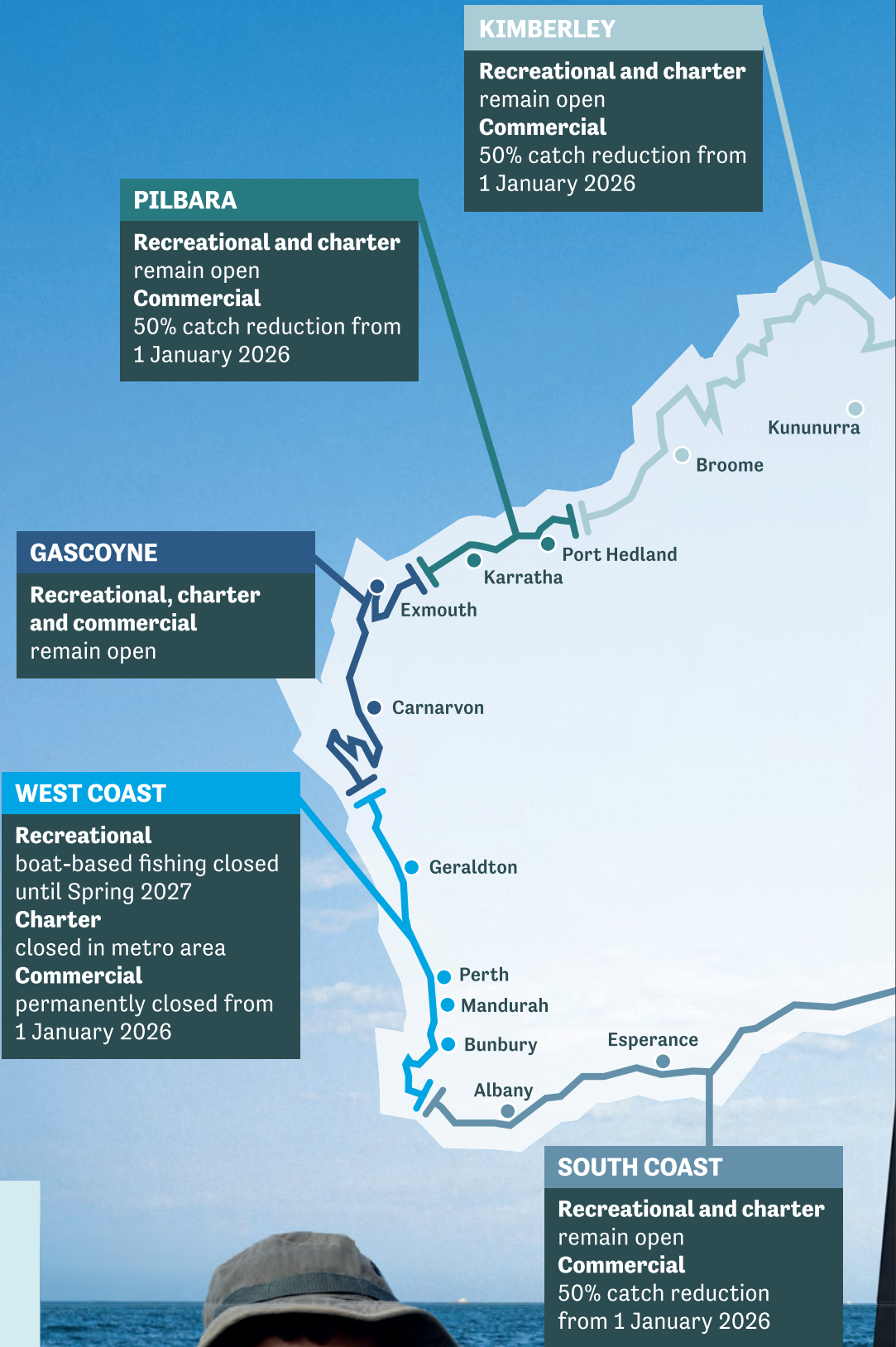
WHAT DO THE REFORMS MEAN?

After the recovery period, the West Coast Zone will become an **exclusive** recreational fishing zone, meaning more fish in the water and a stronger future for WA's recreational fishing community.

CAN I STILL GO FISHING?

Yes. Recreational fishing for other fish species like Mahi Mahi, Mackerel, Yellowtail Kingfish and Tuna is still permitted.

Everyone needs to play their part for WA's future generations of fishers.



These fish are at **risk**



Q Search Fishing Futures WA



Men, merriment and a shed load of fun

Toodyay Men's Shed.

Barry Keens

LAST year finished with a Christmas dinner at the shed attended by members, families and Toodyay shire guests: Aaron Bowman, Mick McKeown and Vanessa Crispe.

Di Roberts coordinated the food and Barbara Smith decorated and prepared tables, she also provided quizzes during the evening and a great time was had by all.

During the past year we welcomed four new members, who have settled in well and added value to the shed.

Many projects were completed for the Toodyay Shire and community members.

We hope to continue the same way this year.

Three members of the shed, Philip Roberts, Jeffery Roberts and Barry Keens were nominated by community members for the Australia Day Community Citizen of the Year Award 2026, our Chairman, Barry Keens, received the award.

Each year Men's Shed Australia gives awards to men's sheds around Australia and Toodyay has been nominated for two awards: The Green Shed and Community Impact Awards. These awards will be made at the national shed gathering at Brisbane in March.

The Shed is open from 08.30 to noon Monday, Thursday and Saturday.

Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome.

"Smoko" is at 10am with tea, coffee and cake.

Our meeting room, capacity is 60 and our commercial kitchen is available for hire.

For all enquiries, please contact our secretary on 0499 403 830.

Woodturners gear up for a big show

Avon Wood Turners

Hamish Dobie

THAT hackneyed expression "hot enough for ya?" has been used a lot since the new year.

Unfortunately, attempts to keep the woodturners shed cool have had mixed results, with both roller doors open and fans going full blast.

Although the intense heat is having an adverse effect on our wood stocks, it hasn't put our members off.

Turning has continued unabated, with high turnouts for each session.

We do need more quality wood.

If you have some wood hidden away that you think might be useful to the woodturners, please give me a call or send an email to me on the numbers below.

Avon Woodturners Club is a member of the Western Australian Woodturning Association (WAWA) and every two years we are required to hold a workshop in Toodyay, where members from other associated clubs attend.

This is a big deal for the club and we are busily getting organised for the event.

This event will be held in the Memorial Hall on March 21 and it will kick off at 9am, with an expected attendance of approximately 100.

Many of the attendees come by caravan and stay over the weekend, spending money in local businesses, so the event has benefits for the whole town.

This workshop is an all-day event, and there are demonstrators showing woodturning techniques, competitions, displays of woodturning and booths selling all types of equipment.

So, if you see a lot of strange faces around town that day all talking about wood, you'll now know why.

Our membership numbers have continued to grow throughout 2025, and we expect this to continue in 2026.

The club's equipment also continues to grow to meet the increased needs and, at the day of writing this article, I understand we have the opportunity for more.

Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits are always

available at break time, so feel free to come along, have a cuppa and a chat, and see for yourself what we do in the shed.

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

Railway Rd in Toodyay.

We are there on Wednesdays and Sundays from 9 am until noon.

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



Some examples of the quality wood turning.

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

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



BEAUTY SALON

Paris 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

BOOKKEEPING



e-Books
Home & Mobile Bookkeeping

BAS agent
2701 6009

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

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

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



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



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



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

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



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

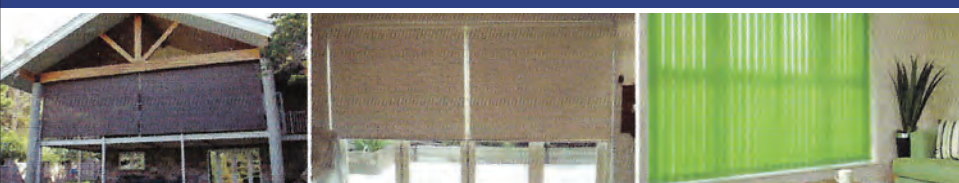


CURTAINS AND BLINDS

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



EARTHMOVING

VERNICE

3 GENERATIONS STRONG 160+ PLANT & EQUIPMENT 300+ 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



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



ELECTRICIAN

LIFELINE ELECTRICS EC 002951

All types of Commercial and domestic installations
FREE QUOTES
New to Toodyay, with 35 years experience
JOHN HAGGAS

81 Stirlingia Drive
Toodyay WA 6566
Mail to PO Box 259
Toodyay 6566

Mobile: 0419 963 525
A/H: (08) 9574 5483
Email: jbhaggas@bigpond.com

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

Enquire now about our Standard 24/7 Monthly Memberships
Personal training Sessions
Single Person or Couples
Discounts available

b2bfittnesstodyay@gmail.com
Now located at 16 Stirling Terrace Toodyay WA 6566

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 **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 TRADES 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

OPTICIAN

northam optical

Minson Ave Grey St
Fitzgerald St
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@morrispest.com.au
Call 0456 865 026 or 0417 934 885

PLUMBER AND GAS

PL: 9803
GF: 018 009
CW: 01317

VAPOUR PLUMBING AND GAS

EVERYTHING FROM WATER TO GAS!

TOODYAY WHEATBELT & SURROUNDS
BEN JENKINS
0428 231 845

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

EAG Electrical Air-conditioning & Gas

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

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

Tuesday - Friday
9am to 3.30pm

loverickie8@gmail.com



TILE GROUTING

TILE REGROUTING

SHOWER SOLUTIONS

- ✓ RegROUTS
- ✓ Shower leaks
- ✓ Ceiling repairs
- ✓ Tile Replacment
- ✓ New silicone
- ✓ Mould solutions
- ✓ Grout colour choice

Fully trained & Insured
For an obligation free quote call Kieran
0498 812 808



TOWING

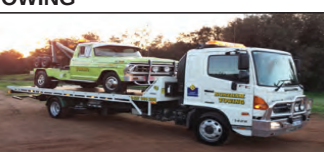
NORTHAM TOWING

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



TINTING

Tint-a-Car
Northam

CAR, HOME & OFFICE
WINDOW TINTING

Ph. 96225533
59 Old York Rd
Northam

Call 13 TINT | tintacar.com.au



TRANSPORT GENERAL

BILLABONG
GENERAL CARTAGE

0409 469 681
cnjatkis17@gmail.com

Chris Atkins - Owner Operator
ABN 18 981 989 361

Hiab lifts 5.2 tonne
Flatbed Tray 6.1m x 2.5m



TREE LOPPING

Landworx WA

Complete Tree Removal
Target Pruning
Deweeding
Cut and Leave
Owner Operator 12m Cherry Picker
Dieback Green Card Holder

Phone Darren on
0412 918 689

Email: landworxwa@gmail.com

Tree SERVICES

Fully Insured



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



WATER TANKS

WHEATBELT TANK SERVICES

ABN 85 415 990 427

PIONEER
WATER TANKS
Exclusive Dealer

For all your water tank
requirements phone
Greg Funnell on
0417 918 868

Email: greg@wheatbelttanks.com.au - www.wheatbelttanks.com.au



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




Toodyay Dental Clinic



As we welcome 2026, the team at Toodyay Dental Clinic would like to extend our warmest wishes to every member of our wonderful community. We hope you all enjoyed a joyful Christmas surrounded by family, friends, and plenty of festive cheer. May the new year bring happiness, good health, and many great moments to you and your loved ones.

This year also marks a special milestone for us — celebrating two years under new management. We are incredibly grateful for the trust and support the community has shown us over this time. It has been our privilege to care for the oral health of families throughout Toodyay and the surrounding areas, and we remain committed to providing high-quality, friendly, and reliable dental care for many years to come.

At Toodyay Dental Clinic, our focus has always been on creating a welcoming environment, offering modern dental services, and ensuring every patient feels comfortable and cared for during their visit. Whether you're coming in for your regular check-up and clean, restorative treatments, or simply seeking advice, our team is here to help you maintain a healthy and confident smile.

We look forward to continuing to serve the community throughout 2026 and beyond. Thank you once again for your ongoing support — it truly means the world to us.



08 9574 2333

toodyaydentalclinic@outlook.com

94 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay WA 6566

Help for online gambling addiction

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

ONLINE gambling can be fun. It can also be addictive. What starts up as being a harmless online flutter can end up in bankruptcy, divorce and suicide. Online betting organisations design their gambling facilities to appeal as strongly as possible to the pleasure centres in your brain. All betting organisations ultimately rely on obtaining your money. That is how they make a profit. Any winnings that you make in the short term always become losses in the long term. Betting organisations ensure that you can never ultimately recover your money. Purely, online gambling is driven by computer software. This excludes bets on racing. That software can be adjusted to give you small gains when you first join a betting organisation and readjusted to ensure significant losses afterwards. For anybody spiralling into the whirlpool of online gambling, help is available. bit.ly/4biHONl is a good place to start.

Wearable tech for personal protection

Safer Toodyay
Desrae Clarke

THE WEARING of a watch alarm could be lifesaving should help be needed for an unexpected event, such as a fall or loss of way. The watch alarm detects falls and automatically alerts the contacts you have on record in the case of a fall. The watch alarm also has the position of the fall, or loss of way, on GPS to alert your contact/s as to the area of concern. An added bonus is that the watch alarm is waterproof so it can be worn while showering. There are several watch alarm products photographed and described on the Internet with more narrow bands available for ladies together with a range of coloured bands; prices vary. To report concerns, please use the following safety contacts:
Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000
Police: 131 444
Toodyay Police: 9574 9555
Graffiti: 1800 442 255

Hearing the funny side

Liz Hughes

BEING hard of hearing or wearing hearing aids can be difficult and frustrating. Perhaps if we share a chuckle in the face of the struggle and frustration it might make things easier. See if these jokes can give you a chuckle...

MR SMITH suspects his wife is hard of hearing. He decides to test this. As his wife is chopping vegetables in the kitchen, he stands two metres behind her and says softly, "Honey, what's for dinner?" There is no response. He moves a step closer and asks more loudly, "Honey, what's for dinner?" She keeps chopping vegetables. He steps even closer, raises his voice and says, "Honey, what's for dinner?" Hearing nothing, he starts to step even closer when she turns around and says, "Dear, I said 'chicken and salad' three times."

JIM WENT to his audiologist and got the latest, greatest, newest advanced technology hearing aids. The audiologist set up a follow-up appointment for two weeks. Two weeks later Jim came back. The audiologist asked, "How do you like the new hearing aids?" Jim responded, "They are fantastic, light

years ahead of my last pair," he said. "I can hear every word, even in noisy situations." The audiologist said I'll bet your family is happy too. Jim said, "I haven't told them yet, but I've changed my will three times."

THREE old men are walking down the street. One of them stumbles a little and, to cover his clumsiness, says, "Windy today, ain't it?" The next guy ponders this assertion and replies, "No, it's Thursday." The third one perks right up and exclaims, "So am I. Let's stop for a beer."

Q: Why do our new hearing aid models have the longest battery lifetime in the market?
A: Because they are always in the drawer.

If you would like a little spice in your life, come and join us at the Toodyay Library each Thursday 9.30am to 11am for a fun time learning sign language. We tell stories, socialise and have a lot of laughs. If sign language is not your thing, come along for the laughs – we are a happy bunch. Contacts:
Sandy 0427 744 721
Liz 9574 2020
Sylvia 0400 476 527



WESTCOAST
WOOL & LIVESTOCK

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

“Thank you
Toodyay Herald,
that ad worked
wonders”





**the
rec**

**WE'RE COMING
TOODYAY**

STAY UPDATED
THEREC.COM.AU

MONDAYS
FROM 5PM

**BURGER
& BEERS**

From \$29

TUESDAYS
FROM 5PM

**FISH
& CHIPS**

From \$27

WEDNESDAY
FROM 5PM

**PARMI
& CHIPS**

From \$27

THURSDAY
FROM 5PM

**STEAK
& CHIPS**

From \$27 \$20 Members Price

FRIDAY
FROM 5PM

**PIZZA
NIGHT**

From \$22

ALL DAY
EVERY DAY

**BLACK
BOARD**

Daily Specials

WHERE AND WHEN

ART & CRAFT / HOBBIES / HISTORY
Arts Toodyay
Fourth Monday of each month from 5.30pm at the Toodyay Youth Hall (Town Oval).
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 & 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
Every Wednesday; first and third Saturday monthly Parker’s Cottage, Showgrounds 9am to noon. Gail Williams 9622 3411.
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. Sharon Gamble 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 toodyayselocalmanager@gmail.com.
Toodyay Volunteer Fire and Rescue
First Monday monthly, Toodyay Fire and Emergency Services Centre 7.30pm.
ENVIRONMENT
Avon Valley Environmental Society
Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Centre, 269 Fitzgerald St, Northam. Third Friday monthly, noon. Janet Wilkinson 9574 5947.
Earth Solutions - Avon Valley
Second Tuesday monthly (not Jan) Old Northam Railway Station, 425 Fitzgerald St Northam 6pm. Karen Ducat 0438 223 886.
Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance
Julimarforest@gmail.com.
Marsupial Mamas and Pappas
Wildlife Rescue 0467 964 872.
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
moondynecommittee@gmail.com.
HEALTH
Australian Breastfeeding Association
Second and fourth Tuesday monthly,

3 Elizabeth Place Northam 10am-noon.
Third Tuesday monthly Toodyay Playgroup noon-2pm. Louise 9574 0229.
Child Health Clinic
Tuesdays & Wednesdays. Bree Byfield. 9621 0100
Forget-Me-Not Memory Café
Second Tuesday monthly, Toodyay Bakery. 10am-noon.
Toodyay Medical Centre
Stirling Terrace. Monday-Friday 9am-4pm. 9545 7101. Pathology Mon-Fri 9am-1pm.
Toodyay Men’s Shed
Monday, Thursday, Saturday Harper Rd 8.30am-noon. Secretary 0499 403 830.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Liz Boston, JP
lizboston3160@gmail.com, 0428 742 349. 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.
Max Heath, JP
0400 206 929.
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. Heather McNamara, Secretary 0436 019 991. 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. Liz Sullivan 0429 311 256. Men Fridays 3pm. Andrew Watson 0418 269 773 Mixed Winter Bowls Thursday 12.30pm. Liz Sullivan. 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

FOR SALE

9 x 1000 Litre water pods \$70ea
Call Rob 0436 285 429

TRADESMAN WANTED

Machinery shed with tree damage in need of repair. Call Rob 0436 285 429



VBFB Coondle Nunile on the job.

Best deal for local Tradies



The Toodyay Herald offers the best exposure for Tradies. Circulation of 5000 copies each month and growing!

advertising@toodyayherald.com.au

Ready. Set.

Home.

All inclusions, zero stress.
Move straight in and start living!

COUNTRY BUILDERS

PINCUSHION, WA COUNTRY BUILDERS

INCLUDES

- Floor coverings
- Stone benchtops
- Window treatments
- Soft close cabinetry doors
- 900mm appliances
- Internal painting
- Solar panels
- Lifetime structural warranty

3 bedrooms

2 bathrooms

15m lot width

Designs from \$321,800

PRICE HOLD GUARANTEE

Available in a variety of designs to suit your lifestyle – visit wacountrybuilders.com.au or phone 9141 9124.

PROUD Regional BUILDER OF

THE RURAL BUILDING CO.

Plunkett Homes

RESIDENTIAL ATTITUDES

OFFICE LOCATIONS | Albany | Bunbury | Busselton | Esperance | Geraldton | Greater Perth

MEMBER OF THE JWH GROUP BC11422

Combo Crossword

- ACROSS
1. Exposures

7. Full range

8. Non-clergy

11. Creepers

12. Endured

14. Sketched

16. Girl's name

19. Scrape off
22. Supply with fuel

24. One who obtains

25. Detested

26. Almost

- DOWN
1. Determined

2. A taste

3. A flower

4. Ointment

5. Keep in check

6. Speaks

9. Helped

10. Name

13. Not asleep

15. NZ flower

17. Of the mind
18. Keenly

20. Brimless cap

21. Off the cuff (2,3)

22. Cease

23. Mallow plant

1		2		3		4		5		6
7						8	9		10	
						11				
		12	13							
14	15					16	17		18	
			19	20		21				
22		23								
24						25				
26										

Cryptic Clues

- ACROSS
1. Revelations about single disco lures

7. Complete scale with morning in alimentary canal

8. Reclined round article not relating to the church

11. Creeping plants in divine show

12. Was unexhausted in crooked deals about original tenancy

14. Portrayed medical man with opposite directions

16. Make them mad keeping a girl

19. Scratch a new growth on the face

22. Single draw on a cigarette to stir up a fire

24. One who acquires part of stake requisitioned

25. Disliked intensely top cover on reporter

26. Virtually in a matterof-fact manner
- DOWN
1. Followed in determined way

2. Is finally enough for a taste

3. Allotted portion on us in plant

4. Keep in reserve around length of healing concoction

5. More inside part of a bridle

6. Pronounces leaders share all your symptoms

9. Helped one before died out

10. Expression used in time in office

13. Quite alert in a ceremony for the dead

15. Deserter with a plant in New Zealand

17. Fellows talk endlessly of the mind

18. Diva turned and lay heartlessly in a greedy manner

20. Type of cap could be returned shortly

21. Bad hockey player kept for this special purpose (2,3)

22. Refrain from reversing containers

23 Plant in a chook raffle

Sudoku

Sudoku is based on the logical placement of numbers. Sudoku doesnt require any calculation nor special math skills; all that is needed are brains and concentration. Every number from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine columns, nine rows and nine 3x3 boxes.

Easy

		7	4					6
	2		1	7				5
8								2
6	4	1			5			
	5							
		2		4		3		
				9		2		
							9	
9		3	2			4		

Hard

4					1			
			2		5	6	7	
6							9	8
2	1				6	7		
	5	3				8		
1	6	9		5		3		
5				1			8	
					3		6	

CrossCode

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

	21		17		5		26		23		15	
21	D											
26	18	26	12	11			25	23	19	11	26	3
	16		13		22		3		11		25	
16	26	10	6		11	10	11	22	19	16	11	21
			11		6		21		11		18	
26	20	20	5	7	1	11		26	25	24	11	25
	17				11		5				14	
16	7	14	11	25		8	26	22	3	11	16	25
	19		10		9		6		14			
11	12	2	20	16	6	26	14		6	14	16	7
	24		11		14		15		12		6	
4	11	14	22	11	21		7	16	24	11	5	25
	21		16		2		9		16		11	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					I							
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		T					D					

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Solutions

8	1	4	7	9	2	3	9	6
3	6	9	1	8	9	4	7	2
7	9	2	4	6	3	5	8	1
1	9	3	9	4	8	2	6	7
4	7	9	2	1	6	8	5	3
9	2	8	5	3	7	1	4	6
2	4	7	3	9	5	6	1	8
5	3	6	8	7	1	9	4	2
6	1	8	9	4	2	7	3	5

Soduko
Easy
Solution

1	9	5	3	2	6	8	7	4
7	8	6	4	1	9	2	3	5
2	4	3	8	5	7	6	9	1
5	2	4	6	3	1	9	7	8
9	1	8	2	7	4	3	5	6
6	3	7	9	8	5	4	1	2
8	6	1	7	3	4	5	2	9
4	7	6	5	9	2	1	8	3
3	5	2	1	6	8	7	4	9

Soduko
Hard
Solution

E	T	W	Y	T	D							
S	E	H	O	E	D	F	E	N	C	E		
I	G	B	N	E	H							
O	I	N	T	I	A	N	E	G	Y	P	T	I
	N		X	W		U						
		J	A	C	K	E	T	S				
	N		E	R		L	P					
		A	S	H	E	S						
	M		D	E	I	X	E					
			E	C	U	T	E	D				
		S	Q	U	E	A	K					
	B		O	A	R	L						

Crosscode
Solution

L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
P	R	A	C	T	I	C	A	L	L	L	L	L
O	R	E	O	A	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
T	A	K	E	H	A	T	E	D				
S	T	O	K	E	D							
A	B	R	A	D	E							
D	R	E	W									
E	L	A	S	T	E	D						
G	A	M	U	T								
G	A	M	U	T	L	A	I	T	Y			
O	A											
D	I	S	C	L	O	S	U	R	E	S		

Combo
Solution

ENVIRONMENT

A local lizard with lightning speed

Herpetofauna

Desrae Clarke

THE BLACK-TAILED monitor is commonly called the Racehorse Goanna.

If it is moving along at a leisurely pace, it has its fine tail curled over its back.

However, if disturbed, it drops its tail and moves at a lightning pace; consequently, the common name of Racehorse Goanna.

The species is commonly found within the Shire of Toodyay often living in roofs of buildings and rocky crevices, hollow logs or holes in the ground.

It is a slender creature of an adult length of approximately 80cms with a ground colouring of dark grey to black.

Young creatures are marked with yellowish-cream spots with a darkened centre, known as ocelli.

The snout is slender with noticeable nostrils; obvious ear holes are placed back from the eyes.

It has a long slender and deeply forked tongue that plays a part in its sense of smell.

The flicking movements of the tongue collect and transfer air-borne particles to Jacobson's Organ, in the roof of the mouth, for the particles to be analysed.

Small birds and lizards, as well as eggs and insects, frogs and carrion are all foods for this species.

It has been observed undulating its tail through litter to flush smaller creatures as prey.

Monitors have a loose skin that differs in structure from other reptiles.

Their scales lie alongside each other and do not overlap.

Its claws are long and extremely strong to aid in digging or climbing trees, fence posts and walls as can be seen by the attached photo.

It is an egg-laying (oviparous) animal depositing its leathery-shelled eggs in a termite nest or in a mound of soil.

It may lay up to 35 eggs in a clutch.

There have been several reports of people about to shift a mound of soil to find it is the incubating medium for a clutch of eggs.

A wonderful reference is found in 'Australia's Reptiles - A Photographic Reference to the Terrestrial Reptiles of Australia', authored by Stephen K Wilson and David G Knowles.

The volume has excellent photographs on the Varanidae family that consists of 30 lizards found from Africa, through Asia and the Indo-Papuan Archipelago, to Australia.

The Indonesian Komodo Dragon and the largest lizard in Australia, the Perentie, are both members of this family.

The Toodyay Naturalists' Club welcomes reports of all creatures, plants and fungi.

We will endeavour to assist with any queries you may have.

Email: secretary@toodyaynats.org.au or call 9574 5574.



Black Tailed monitor.
Photo by Wayne Clarke.

Meeting the mysterious Nightjar

Bird of the Month

Desrae Clarke

ALTHOUGH the Australian Owlet-Nightjar is stated as widespread and a relatively common nocturnal bird, it is rarely observed.

It is a small bird, between 20 to 25cms in length, with the female slightly larger than the male.

Its colouring is of excellent camouflage.

The variable upper parts are a darkish grey and finely speckled and softly barred white.

It has cat-like whiskers (called vibrissae) projecting up from its lore, which is the small area of skin between base of the tiny but broad, dusky-coloured bill.

It has huge eyes.

Its head has a central black stripe together with a black stripe over each eye meeting at the back of the neck where they fuse into a pale grey to white collar.

Underparts are white with grey bars extending through the breast and into the throat area.

The flight feathers, the longest wing feathers, are grey spotted with rufous.

The wings are shorter than the tail.

The tail feathers are barred grey and rufous, and the feet are pinkish-grey feet with the claws a dusky colour.

The Nightjar prey consists of insects such as moths, beetles, spiders, ants, grasshoppers and other small invertebrates.

It hunts a few hours after sundown and the last few hours before sunrise.

This small nocturnal bird, which mates for life, breeds between August and December.

The building of a nest, consisting of green eucalypt leaves placed in a tree hollow, stump or a fencepost, is shared by the pair with three to five white eggs laid over a couple of nights and incubated by both parents over a period of nearly four weeks.

The young fledge, having enough feathers to fly, in twenty to thirty days after which they stay with their parents for several months.

The Nightjar has a high-pitched chirring voice that is heard all year round.

An item of interest is that the bird has a good knowledge of all the hollows within its home range.

It will dart directly into one, or other, when disturbed.

It stays in the same locality throughout the year.

A Toodyay Nat's Club member has just found a dead Nightjar in the vicinity of her home.

A tree-mendous year ahead

Toodyay Naturalists Club

Greg Warburton

THE TOODYAY Naturalists' Club will commence its program for 2026 on Saturday February 21 with a 'member's night'.

The format will be bring along three of your favourite natural history photos for display and discussion.

This will also be a chance for members to catch up on everyone's news after the break.

An exciting program has been laid out for this year with various keynote speakers and outings to look forward to.

The theme for the year will be the protection of the Julimar Forest.

Appropriately, on March 7 we will conduct a Clean Up Australia Day event with a litter pick up and rubbish removal excursion in Julimar Forest.

Sadly, the high use of this conservation area for off-road vehicles and illegal camping has seen increasing littering and dumping.

Later in the month Sean Hefferon, former editor of *The Toodyay Herald*, will speak to members about the Toodyay Community Fund a project he is spearheading that promises exciting benefits for our town.

Members extend their sympathy and condolences to Mel Adams the secretary of our subgroup the Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance (JCAFA) for her recent loss.

If you have any enquiries about the Toodyay Naturalists' Club, please phone Greg on 0429 009 425 or visit our website where you can access the full year's program and other up to date *Nats News*. Visit: toodyaynats.org.au

It had no sign of injury.

Perhaps it had hit a window chasing a moth or suchlike.

I have only ever seen one of these small birds in the wild with it pointed out by a knowledgeable 'birdo'.

It was peering out of a small hole in a tree trunk in York gum woodland with its noticeably enormous eyes.

A second bird I have seen was, unfortunately, a roadkill.

Like night birds such as the Boobook Owl

and Tawny Frogmouth, the Nightjar will fly towards a beam of light from vehicles to catch moths, often with dire results.

If you are fortunate enough to see or photograph one of these delightful little creatures, the Toodyay Naturalists' Club would be pleased to hear from you to record your observation.

Please phone 9574 55474 or email secretary@toodyaynats.com.au

A photograph is invaluable for correct identification.



Owlet Nightjar, Photo of the courtesy of Rob Boase.

BAITING TO PROTECT NATIVE WILDLIFE

Under the Parks and Wildlife Service's *Western Shield* program, baiting to control foxes and feral cats occurs on more than three million hectares of conservation lands in Western Australia.

The baits used are toxic to introduced animals but not to native animals which have an evolved tolerance to the active compound (1080). All baited areas are signposted.

Baiting occurs on a regular and ongoing basis to protect endangered native animals including the numbat, western ground parrot and western swamp tortoise.



Attention pet owners: these baits will kill domestic dogs and cats. Baited areas must be considered dangerous for pet dogs and cats at all times.

For more information and maps on areas baited under *Western Shield* visit dbca.wa.gov.au/westernshield or contact your local Parks and Wildlife Service district office.



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



ENVIRONMENT

Trailblazers keeping our walking paths clear

Toodyay Friends of the River
Greg Warburton

THE TOODYAY Friends of the River wasted no time getting on the front foot for 2026 with a committee meeting taking place on Sunday January 25.

The program for the new year is in place with various activities and projects listed for the year.

Before Christmas last year Kai Shanks and I compiled the walk tracks with a concerted maintenance program.

This included pole sawing, whipper snipping, slashing and trimming of overhanging vegetation.

Walkers can now easily and safely traverse the six kilometre Bilya River Walk Trail, the

Duidgee Park to Caravan Park Walk, the West Toodyay Wander and the network of walk tracks in Pelham Reserve.

The length of these marked and sign-posted walk tracks totals some 15 kilometres.

The closing of the Newcastle Park foot bridge, however, has blocked the town section river walk circuits and it has been a real challenge for our popular, weekly parkrun event.

We have been told it could be a very long time before the footbridge is open again.

I'd like to express a special thankyou to Damian Davis the "lord commander" of Toodyay Hardware and Farm for the generous donation of a heavy-duty Makita battery hedge trimmer.

This fine piece of equipment is valued at \$350 and it will make our walk track maintenance so much easier and efficient.

Damo said he enjoyed the walk track along the river and wanted to contribute to its upkeep.

You have certainly done that Damo.

Thank you again from TFOR and on behalf of the many walkers who regularly use the track(s).

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 15 with a meeting at 10am in Duidgee Park.

We will discuss ideas that might help with the promotion and marketing of TFOR going forward.

Any enquiries phone Greg 0429009425 or visit the website toodyayfor.org.au



Damo presenting the TFOR project officer with donated hedger.

HEALTH

Making sense of diabetes

Warrior Wellbeing
Making Sense of Diabetes

THE CELLS in our bodies, such as those found in our muscles, need energy to grow and do what they do.

One source of energy starts when we eat carbohydrate rich food such as bread, pasta, rice, potatoes, fruit, milk and yoghurt.

In a normal situation these foods are broken down in our digestive system into glucose, a sugar.

This sugar is what is needed by the cells, but it can't get into them without a special key, insulin.

Insulin is a hormone produced in the pancreas and its job is to regulate the amount of glucose in the blood.

In a person who has diabetes, one of two things happens.

Either they do not produce enough or any insulin to regulate the amount of glucose (Type 1), or their body's cells don't respond to the insulin key (Type 2).

The result for both these events is the same: there is a back-up of glucose in the bloodstream (causing high blood sugar).

If our cells aren't getting the energy they need then we will naturally feel tired and rundown.

Prolonged high blood sugar can cause serious complications resulting in damage to the organs of our body, the heart, kidneys, nervous system and eyes.

Type 1 is the least common form of diabetes and characterised by an early and sudden onset usually before the age of 20.

In this instance a person's immune system destroys the cells in the pancreas that create insulin.

As a result, these people need to inject

insulin regularly to supplement the deficiency.

Type 2 is the most common form (above 80 percent) and usually it's a late gradual onset affecting adults.

People with this condition produce enough insulin but their cells are not responsive and can't take up the glucose.

There is usually a genetic link to the development of this form of diabetes, but there is also a strong link with unhealthy lifestyle factors such as poor diet, smoking and being overweight (having a beer gut) and being inactive.

Medication is available to treat this form of diabetes alongside recommended lifestyle changes.

We always encourage blokes to go and see their GP if they fit into any of the above categories or have a family history of diabetes.

This is especially important if they are experiencing any of the common symptoms of diabetes including constant thirst and peeing a lot, feeling run down a lot of the time, headaches, blurred vision and cuts that take ages to heal properly.

Sometimes these symptoms can be quite mild in people who are in the early stages of developing diabetes (prediabetes).

If you have a family history of diabetes or concerns about any of the above symptoms don't wait; go and chat with your GP about having your blood sugar checked.

It could save you a lot of grief down the track.

Contact The Regional Men's Health Initiative on 6314 1436.
Email: menshealth@4blokes.com.au

Big hearts for little hearts this February

EVERY day in Australia, eight babies are born with a childhood-onset heart disease (CoHD)

This February HeartKids is calling on Australians to help support these children and their families through its annual Sweethearts for HeartKids campaign.

The campaign runs throughout Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week (7-14 February) and leads into Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day on 14 February.

Congenital heart disease is the most common congenital condition in Australia.

It impacts families from birth and often requires lifelong care.

Sweethearts for HeartKids encourages Australians to donate eight dollars for the eight babies diagnosed each day.

The campaign calls for the community to come together and show what's possible through collective action, helping provide vital support to more than 250,000 children, teenagers and adults living with heart conditions across the country.

Funds raised through the campaign enable HeartKids to increase access to essential support services in hospitals, communities and regional areas.

This includes family support programs, teen camps, education days and funding the HeartKids Helpline, which offers guidance and connection for families navigating a heart disease diagnosis.

Heart mum and newly appointed HeartKids chief executive officer Sami Glastonbury said as a mother of three, with two children living with heart conditions, she knew how overwhelming a diagnosis can feel.

"HeartKids helps families feel seen and supported at a time when everything feels uncertain," she said.

"Families often spend long periods in hospital or travelling for care.

"The practical and emotional support HeartKids provides is something you can't put a price on.

"Giving eight dollars may seem like a small gesture, but when our generous community gives together the collective impact helps ensure families facing childhood-onset heart disease have support when it matters most."

For more information please visit: <https://www.heartkids.org.au/sweethearts-for-heartkids/>



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

Better health is just a phone call away

A FREE health coaching service is now available so if being healthier is on your list of new year's resolutions, help is just a phone call away.

The free telephone coaching program is funded by the Western Australian health department and it's available to adults living in rural WA.

Participants can access up to 10 phone appointments with qualified health professionals, who can help them focus on achievable, practical lifestyle changes.

The program comes in response to the state's health statistics that reveal more than one in three adults is overweight and almost 40 per cent live with obesity.

Over 20 per cent of adults have been diagnosed with a mental health condition, and health issues including cholesterol, high blood pressure, and heart disease remain common.

Lifestyle factors, including smoking, poor diet, and excessive alcohol use all take their toll.

Adults from anywhere in WA are encouraged to join the program and take steps towards better health, no matter what their starting point is.

To find out more, call 1300 822 953 or visit: betterhealthcompany.org

Our environment matters at the Toodyay Herald...

news@toodyayherald.com.au

Young guns bat their way to glory

Bree Byfield

A FEW of Toodyay's finest young cricketers took part in the 2026 CSBP Junior Country Week held in Perth in January.

Congratulations to the following Toodyay cricketers who were selected to represent the Northam Cricket Association in the following age divisions:

16B – Parker Byfield, Winton Davey, Callum Fergusson;

14B – Jackson Byfield and Jack Eddy;

14C – Nicholas Thornton and Liam Ryall.

All Northam teams were extremely successful for the week with the 16B, 14B and 14C coming second, first and third respectively.

Fifteen-year-old Toodyay talent Parker Byfield notably made WA Cricket and WACA headlines producing one of the most dominant individual performances in Junior Country Week history.

Parker amassed 401 runs at an average of 200.5, including a half century (54 v Upper Great Southern) and three consecutive centuries (108 v Wheatbelt Warriors, 115 v Geraldton, 104 v Eastern Goldfields), all unbeaten.

Leading from the front as captain of the Northam Junior Cricket Association side, the right hander was equally influential with the ball, claiming nine wickets at an average of 7.44 to cap off a remarkable week of cricket.

Congratulations also to Toodyay cricketers Jack Eddy and Jackson Byfield for their further selection into the U14 'Wheatbelt'



Outstanding cricketer Parker Byfield.

development team to play in the WA Country Carnival in March.

Local coaches praised the depth of talent and resilience shown by the Northam Association players, noting the importance of country week in giving regional juniors exposure to high level competition and pathways into senior representative cricket.



Our talented 14B Premiers represented Toodyay at the 2026 CSBP Junior Country Week.

Karate club's community champs

Avon Valley Shotokan

Nat Kielbasa

THE NEW year may have only just begun but the atmosphere at Avon Valley Shotokan is electric and the year ahead is going to be an exhilarating one.

Firstly, enormous congratulations to Shihan Ken Bainbridge and senior karetka Shane McGlasson for their nominations during the Australia Day citizen of the year awards.

In Toodyay, Shane was nominated for the Young Citizen of the Year award.

He missed out this time, but we are very proud of his efforts both in the Toodyay community and within our club.

Shane is always willing to help out at every fundraising event and he is always enthusiastic about training.

Well done Shane, you absolute superstar.

Meanwhile in Northam, Shihan Bainbridge received the award for Senior Citizen of the Year for 34 years of dedication to the community by volunteering and teaching karate.

We are all absolutely thrilled to see you recognised for your tireless work over so many years.

Shihan, congratulations.

If you passed the youth hall in the evening these school holidays you probably saw students of all ages training, running laps and having an absolute blast.

These were students selected to travel to Japan this March for the 2026 USKU Karate tournament focusing on fitness and practising their katas.

Thank you to Sensei Kylie, Sensei Camden, Sensei Ashton and Sensei Lincoln.



Shihan Ken Bainbridge with his Senior Citizen of the Year nomination.

for volunteering your time to help our students prepare and to our students for their commitment and effort during the holidays.

Thank you also to the businesses and members of the community who have chosen to help sponsor our students.

With 30 students attending, this is the biggest team we have ever taken to compete in Japan.

We are immensely grateful for anyone who is able to support our students.

Another group of students recently travelled to New Zealand to attend seminars and events hosted by the Kapiti Karate Academy.

They met students from around the world and enjoyed the majestic sights New Zealand has to offer.

The seminars were led by one of the world's top karate instructors, Shihan Andre Bertel.

He challenged students to advance and refine their karate skills and made them very grateful for attending the fitness activities over the holidays.

Wednesday February 4 marked the start of the karate term.

Join us and sign up for the term.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

If you would like to give karate a go, ask questions, learn about upcoming events and the plans for the year or even want to come and watch, please join us.

As always, contact the team at avonvalleyshotokan@gmail.com for more information or simply drop your shoes by the door and come into the dojo for a chat.



Senior karetka Shane McGlasson with his nomination certificate for the Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year award.

Making waves: Toodyay launches its first ever triathlon at aquatic centre

Toodyay Triathlon Club

Kelly-Anne Murray, President

TOODYAY Triathlon Club is excited to welcome all competitors and spectators to the inaugural Toodyay Triathlon at Toodyay Aquatic Centre on Sunday 8 March.

Since forming the club in March 2025, club volunteers have worked enthusiastically to bring you Toodyay's first triathlon.

Swim laps in the crystal clear waters of the Toodyay pool, ride bitumen roads with picturesque views and run a mixture of trail and paved paths.

Pick your race distance and decide if you'll go it solo or form a team of two or three

people to complete the event.

There is a race distance to suit everyone, especially for children, young people and adults giving triathlon a go for the first time.

Try the fun course with a 100m swim, 2km bike and 1km run.

Shine on the short course with a 200m swim, 6km bike and 2km run.

Tackle the sprint course with a 400m swim, 12km bike and 4km run.

Triathlons aren't limited to elite athletes or marathon runners. It's for everyone who wants to challenge themselves and have fun doing it.

Whether you're looking to get active, meet new people or challenge yourself, there's a place for you in triathlon.

How will you Tri?

Will you be a competitor (first timers are very welcome), supporter, spectator or valued volunteer?

We need you all.

For event details and registrations visit www.toodyaytriathlonclub.com

Follow the Toodyay Triathlon Club on Facebook; call Kelly-Anne on 0406 585 716 for more information or email toodyaytriathlonclub@gmail.com



Members of Toodyay Triathlon Club.

Sports

Events/Results

Read it in the
Toodyay Herald

news@toodyayherald.com.au





Principal's Pen

Happy belated New Year to all our wonderful clients — past and present.

Our team enjoyed a well-earned two-week break over Christmas and New Year, recharging before a busy start to 2026. While the office was closed, the boss kept the work phone handy to handle any emergency maintenance calls — thankfully, there were only a few.

Before wrapping up for the year, the team (partners included) got together for our Christmas celebration. A few competitive games of bowling revealed just how determined we all are, followed by a relaxed lunch and drinks at The Henley. It was a fantastic day and a great way to finish off the year.

We also have some exciting new advertising rolling out soon, including a little surprise that may just find its way into your letterbox. It's delicious, just for fun, and might become a household favourite — keep an eye on your letterbox!

In the office this month:

- **Breanna** was lucky enough to receive a jet ski for Christmas and wasted no time taking it to Cervantes for a test run.
- **Zonelle** was treated to a surprise weekend away in Busselton by her fiancé — very lucky indeed.
- **Jemma** spent a day cycling around Rottnest Island and is now enjoying some (*slightly forced*) time off after working far too hard.
- **Jess** is currently soaking up family time in Esperance and teasing the rest of us with breathtaking beach photos.
- **Sam** tackled a solo bike trip over the break, travelling to Kalgoorlie, through Esperance and finishing in Margaret River — and lived to tell the tale.
- **Tony** has been spending plenty of time in South Yunderup, enjoying days on the boat, crabbing and working on the house.

As for me, my fiancé surprised me with a mini staycation at Crown for the weekend, where we ate far too much food. It was a wonderful break, but there's nothing better than coming home to your fur babies and creature comforts. 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!



16 Connor Street, Toodyay: 3 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom
Located within walking distance to town. Listed from \$599,000



73 Caladenia Drive, Coondle:
Multiple offers received within days of advertising.