

# 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.

**March 2026**  
Edition 454



Toodyay property owner Tony Maddox was flanked by supporters Central Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter and former Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA president Tony Seabrook at the Supreme Court last month. (Photo: Rashelle Predovnik).

**Rashelle Predovnik**

THE personal toll of a court case that has ramifications for property owners across the state was evident by the strain on Tony Maddox's face when he prepared to step into the Supreme Court last month with his supporters.

High profile barrister and former state Attorney General Christian Porter is representing him in the Supreme Court where Mr Maddox is launching an appeal after being charged for breaching a newly amended Act he said no one was told about.

He is appealing against – what he says was a flawed process – that found him guilty of breaching the Act when he built a concrete crossing on his property.

He is also pinning his case on a section of the Aboriginal Heritage Act that protects people who did not know – and could not

reasonably know – about changes to the Act that has made their land a protected site.

The marathon hearing went for the whole day before the judge asked both parties to come back again with more information and a future hearing date is yet to be set.

To date, Mr Maddox's legal costs amount to more than \$140,000 and the public have been generous with their donations to his fighting fund.

If Mr Maddox's appeal is unsuccessful he will consider taking his fight to the High Court. Supporters who fronted up to court last month included Toodyay residents who have been supporting him every step of the way.

He was also flanked by Central Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter and former Pastoralists and Graziers Association (PGA) president Tony Seabrook who are standing alongside him in a fight they say needs to be won.

Mr Hunter said he was standing with Mr Maddox to support fair, common sense protections for WA landowners.

He said the fight was one that should concern every single landowner and every single primary producer in the state.

The amendment to the Aboriginal Heritage Act that captured Mr Maddox was added in November 2023.

Mr Hunter said if Mr Maddox could be convicted under these laws, without even knowing those laws applied to his land, then everyone should be concerned.

"It's a basic principle," he said.

"If it's your land, you should have the right to manage it with clarity and confidence."

Mr Hunter said the state's cultural heritage laws were causing confusion and uncertainty across regional communities.

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# A bohemian celebration

TOODYAY newly weds Michael and Dianne Black celebrated their wedding surrounded by a beautiful group of family and friends on a warm summer’s day in December.

Dianne’s sister and brother-law went to great lengths to transform their garden in Hillarys into a stunning Bohemian scene which was very much Dianne and Michael’s vibe!

Guests traveled from near and far (the UK and

Melbourne) and locally to share in their heartfelt vows, speeches, dancing, love and much laughter on 20 December,2025.

A week later, they had a wonderful ‘wedding party’ in their garden, with their ‘Toodyay family. They are deeply grateful for the friendships and connections they have made in the two short years they have lived in Toodyay.

They say it really is a beautiful place to live.



## 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](mailto:advertising@toodyayherald.com.au). Editorial contributions and photographs should be emailed to [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au). Photographs for publication should be at least 500kb in file size to ensure quality reproduction in the newspaper.

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**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.

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### PRODUCTION

Editor: Rashelle Predovnik  
Sub Editor: Hannah Coupar  
Design/Layout: David Palmer  
Production: Jessica Predovnik  
Admin/Advertising: David Palmer

### ACCOUNTS

Liz Sullivan  
[accounts@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:accounts@toodyayherald.com.au)

### NEWS & GENERAL INQUIRIES

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## NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Noon Thursday  
March 26

### STORY DEADLINE

Noon Friday  
March 27

### DISTRIBUTED

Thursday  
April 9

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### THANK YOU

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

Printed by Colour Press Pty Ltd

# Community out of pocket after \$195,000 lost in unclaimed GST

Rashelle Predovnik

AN INTERNAL investigation is now underway after council rejected a request by the Toodyay Shire administration to write off \$195,000 in unclaimed GST owed to the shire by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).



Council instead voted to support a recommendation by the Audit and Risk Committee to do more investigation and get external advice.

The request to write off the funds as a loss was made because a four-year window open to claim the money has now closed.

In response to questions asked at the December council meeting, the shire confirmed the loss would decrease the available funds which it would otherwise use to deliver services to the community.

“The community will have to bear the brunt of this in the 2025/26 year by reducing the amount of funds available for much needed community projects.”

A report to the Audit and Risk Committee said, as part of council’s standard end of year procedure, a reconciliation should have been done to ensure that all monies owed to the shire by the ATO in the form of GST credits had been claimed.

“And if not, lodge revised Business Activity Statements (BAS) to ensure those monies are claimed and received by the shire,” the report said.

But an investigation found that no reconciliation of GST had occurred

Records also showed a large amount of money held by the Australian Tax Office that was owed to the shire in the form of GST credits for purchases made by the shire.

“The reconciliation showed that \$633,000 was owed to the shire by the ATO dating back to 2020.”

The report said under the ATO rules, the shire was only able to amend BAS returns dating back four years.

Funds owed from before December 2021

cannot be claimed by the shire and this equates to \$195,000.

The report also noted that this credit should have been picked up by management when preparing the annual financial statements each year, but there was no evidence that this had happened.

The historic failure to identify the money owed by December 2024 spanned successive shire administrations, including the current one.

Toodyay Shire chief executive officer Aaron Bowman told *The Herald* the matter was not brought to his attention by the then executive manager of corporate and community.

He said the issue only came to light when the current executive manager of finance and corporate services completed the year end GST reconciliation, at which point it was formally reported to him.

*The Herald* questioned why the opportunity to retrieve some of the GST up until December 2025 had not been taken.

Mr Bowman said as the matter was only raised with him towards the latter part of 2025 the opportunity to act earlier had already passed.

“Additionally, the year end reconciliation process required significant time to complete, which further restricted the window for recovering any remaining GST,” he said.

# Toodyay Local Care secures landmark Foodbank deal

Rashelle Predovnik

TOODYAY Locals Care (TLC) has entered into a new partnership with Foodbank WA, in a win for the region and the first agreement of its kind for the shire and the Central Wheatbelt.

The landmark deal has increased the food supplies of the caring local group who are now able to provide a bigger range of everyday pantry items.

This increase will add to the current stockpile of fresh fruit and vegetables TLC picks up from Woolworths Northam and Second Bite.

Foodbank WA has warmly welcomed the new partnership in a statement on their social media.

“Last year, Foodbank WA received generous support from CBH Group through the Harvest Mass Management Scheme, where forfeited grain is sold and the proceeds go directly to charities supporting graingrowing communities.”

“We are committed to making sure that support stays exactly where it is needed.

“Funds raised in the Wheatbelt remain in the Wheatbelt which means local individuals and families facing hardship receive help close to home.”

Foodbank WA said they relied on trusted local partners.

“Have you ever wondered how we make sure support reaches the right people?

“It is because of incredible partners like TLC.

Their deep community connections and local knowledge ensure food reaches those who need it most.

“We are so grateful for this partnership and

for the generosity behind it.

“This support strengthens our ability to provide food relief across the Wheatbelt and helps us stand beside locals when times are tough.”

TLC vice president David Miller said the first food box was dropped off last month at the pavilion.

“I must say it was a little overwhelming how many people turned up; in fact we were swamped,” he said.

“It has shown us that there is a real need for what we do at TLC and those in need appreciate our help.”

Mr Miller said the following food drop-offs saw people come from all over the Wheatbelt.

“If it continues the way it started, we can see this service expanding rapidly.” Another win TLC is celebrating is the new market their frozen meals have now found.

Mr Miller said some people found it hard to cook for themselves.

“If this sounds like you, please reach out,” he said.

Or if someone you know, a friend or neighbour for instance, could use some support please let us know.”

For more information call or text Dave on 0418 919 094 or Roz on 0427 744 352.



In agreement: Heidi Miller from TLC and Candice Long from Foodbank WA.

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**LACHLAN HUNTER MP**

**MEMBER FOR CENTRAL WHEATBELT**

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

# The Toodyay Herald

## From the editor’s desk

IT’S edition two of the *The Herald* under my watch and there’s certainly been no shortage of news crossing the desk this month.

A WA Supreme Court appeal by local landowner Tony Maddox – backed by high-profile barrister and former attorney-general Christian Porter – is shaping up as a case with consequences for property owners right across Western Australia.

Maddox is challenging a conviction he says stems from new state laws landholders were never properly told about.

There are now calls for changes to the WA Aboriginal Heritage Act to give landowners more information on their property titles if their land is declared a site – particularly if new restrictions apply.

We’ll continue to follow this legal fight as the case returns to court.

Closer to home, an internal investigation is underway after the shire failed to claim \$195,000 in GST credits it was owed by the Australian Taxation Office before the four-year deadline expired.

Council unanimously rejected a request to simply write off the loss, and instead backed the Audit and Risk Committee’s call for more investigation to be done and for external advice.

The loss means there’s less funds to deliver services and projects to the community and residents have been left wondering what will go next, following last year’s axing of the popular Toodyay International Food Festival, after 19 years of bringing Avon Descent crowds into town.

There’s also some lighter news on the horizon: The Rec Toodyay Hotel (formerly the Freemasons Hotel) is planning to open with a free community party – so keep an eye on their Facebook page for details.

The new owners of the Cola Café are also adding Chinese dishes to the menu next month, which will be a new food offering for the town.

On a final note: my second edition of *The Herald* has really brought home just how many dedicated community contributors help shape this paper each month.

This paper – your paper – is only possible because of the people who generously volunteer their time to share stories, report on local happenings, and run the programs that make our town so vibrant.

A sincere ‘thank you’ to everyone who contributes and helps bring each edition to life .

I am already looking forward to working with you on the April edition.

Rashelle Predovnik  
Editor



*The way we were – spectators gather to watch the annual Toodyay Wheelbarrow Races on 18 August 1935. The race was held every year during the Toodyay Show with heavy betting on who would win.*

## LETTERS

### Composting facility disappears

I HAVE to let the community know that the shire has terminated the composting facility down at the community depot, bit of a shame as we didn’t know anything about it until it was being taken apart.

Seed group paid money to get the facility established years ago along with a grant from the waste mgt authority.

We don’t know what’s going to happen now until a meeting with the shire later in March, but it seems the compost facility will not be reinstated.

The main ingredients for making the compost were grass clippings and donated stubble straw. The shire is not collecting grass clippings from the main ovals anymore but there are other sources of organic matter we could have used.

Sorry to all those who have asked about getting compost.

It was a great initiative when it was working well.

B Lloyd  
Toodyay

### Well done Toodyay Library

I WOULD like to acknowledge the successful Valentines Day morning tea at the Toodyay Library.

Heidi Malone and her team made it an amazing fulfilled atmosphere.

The icing on the cake was the outdoor seating area.

People shared tables and relaxed in the area set up thoughtfully by the library staff.

Well done ladies.

Perhaps a permanent outside seating area could be arranged for this library area.

It’s nice to read, catchup and unwind under those beautiful trees.

Cheryl-Jean  
Toodyay

### The real Mardi Gras

FEBRUARY 28 is when the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is held in Sydney.

It has no connection with the real Mardi Gras, also called Fasching.

The name depends on the Catholic country’s language where this celebration takes place.

Mardi Gras’s tradition dates back to the pagan celebrations of spring and fertility.

When Christianity arrived in Rome, as was done with other pagan festivals, religious leaders decided to incorporate the pagan’s popular traditions into the new faith (e.g. Christmas and Easter).

This resulted in the feasting and debauchery of the Mardi Gras season before the onset of Lent.

The 40 days of fasting and penance is between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

Mardi Gras begins on November 11 at 11.11am every year.

This date is chosen for its significance in world history.

World War I ended then, known as Armistice Day.

It brought a new beginning and joy after hard times to Europe.

The merriment of Fasching, the Bavarian/South German word has its primary dance and dress kick off after the Advents time on December 31, Sylvester Night.

The most intense party celebrations are dress-ups during the last six days of Fasching.

Mardi Gras or Fasching also happens in Toodyay.

This is an annual event in our home February 13.

Our friends arrive in a party prerequisite, costumes.

There was an Indian with a gorgeous outfit tailored in New Delhi, a fearsome Mexican and a marvellous beauty and her beast.

In Venice face masks were worn to make everybody as ‘equal’.

M Zechetmayr  
Toodyay

### A bad kind of quiet

Down by the river today  
as the sun is going down  
there’s a bad kind of quiet  
and while there’s nobody else around.

I sat down and wept for the birds.  
Just yesterday these trees were full of  
chattering,  
squawking, whistling, screeching, laughing,  
rustling sounds of the life of the birds.

I listened to them up by the sheds  
a good long shout away  
and wondered what they say to each other.  
Their joyful conversations are the soundtrack  
of the bush.

They roost in the trees here at night,  
In great numbers, down by the river;  
the Corellas, and Galahs, the Ring-necks, the  
Whites and Blacks,  
But not today.

I wish I had known how to warn them.  
I’m not sure how they did it but  
They are all gone.  
Leaving a stunned space like,

A quickly silenced opera,  
Clandestine.  
A cut off scream.  
Indifference.  
A kick, a yelp.  
Complicit.  
Cull.

Tonja E Powell  
Mountain Park, Dumbarton

### Thanks for support

TOODYAY Local’s Care held a very successful raffle at the Bulls, Bikes and Bands earlier this year.

Jo and Mark Kestel, owners of Double Barrel Entertainment, were very generous not only with their time but a very kind donation as well.

TLC thanks you for all your kind support and also for bringing great events to Toodyay.

D Miller  
Morgangup

| 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  | 21.7  | 6.5   | 54.2  | 10.3  | 12    | 61.6  | 2.2   | 0    | 645.13 |
| 2022                                               | 31.7  | 4.5   | 14    | 30.9  | 56.8  | 46    | 42.4  | 154.4 | 4     | 15.6  | 12    | 5.1  | 431.4  |
| 2023                                               | 0.1   | 0     | 54.9  | 29    | 21.8  | 74.3  | 42.4  | 19.8  | 32.3  | 2.9   | 7.4   | 2.0  | 286.9  |
| 2024                                               | 9.8   | 4.5   | 0     | 7.8   | 43.5  | 59.2  | 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 and legal reasons. Publication of letters is at The Herald’s discretion.

# Wheatbelt Corella cull ruffles feathers

Rashelle Predovnik

FLOCKS of corellas that once blanketed Toodyay’s landscape have been decimated in a coordinated cull, despite a last-ditch attempt by the Animal Justice Party to stop the mass shootings.

The cull coordinated by the Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management (WNRM) was done in partnership with the shires of Toodyay, Northam, York, Goomalling and Victoria Plains.

But the program and the short notice given to the community has come under fire from Animal Justice Party WA MP Amanda Dorn who slammed the cull as cruel, rushed and ethically indefensible.

She said two out of the three species present in the region - the Western Corella and the Little Corella - were native to Western Australia. “Both have expanded their range largely due to agricultural clearing and altered landscapes.”

“We have taken their land for farming, removed trees, altered water sources and changed landscapes, and now we plan to kill them for trying to survive in the environment we reshaped.

“Killing birds for responding to those conditions is not responsible environmental management.”

Ms Dorn said most significantly, public notice of the cull was posted on 17 February, just days before the scheduled killing.

“That is not meaningful community consultation,” she said.

“This is a major wildlife cull involving native species, yet residents have been given only days’ notice and limited information.”

Ms Dorn said Corellas flocked together and lethal programs risked harming many native birds indiscriminately.

“If culling is being described as a last resort, the public deserves clear evidence that alternatives were genuinely implemented and assessed.”

Ms Dorn said she acknowledged local governments had cited hefty infrastructure damage costs.

But she said if infrastructure was vulnerable, why hadn’t investment been made into infrastructure solutions?

“Modification, adaptation and habitat management are more ethical and often more sustainable than repeated lethal programs.”

The Animal Justice Party WA has called for the full public release of impact assessments and operational details and transparent reporting of proposed kill numbers as well as independent animal welfare oversight.

WNRM chief executive officer Renata Paliskis said wildlife management decisions were complex and she understood they could evoke strong and legitimate community perspectives.

Ms Paliskis said the Corella management project had been underway for several years in response to significant and escalating impacts associated with large Corella populations across parts of the Wheatbelt.

“These impacts include serious threats to biodiversity, displacement of other species such as the critically endangered and rapidly declining population of Carnaby’s Cockatoo chicks from nesting sites, and damage to agricultural infrastructure.”

Ms Paliskis said non-lethal methods used by local shires in the past included gas-guns, bendy men, scare tactics and drones. But these methods didn’t work as the Corellas quickly become use to them and other humane methods were being explored.

Ms Paliskis acknowledged that community expectations regarding humane treatment of wildlife was evolving and she said ongoing scrutiny and improvement of the practice was appropriate.

Ms Paliskis also acknowledged the concern regarding the timing of the public notice.

“While communication occurred through



Critics of the cull say Corellas are highly intelligent, they mate for life and co-parent but supporters of the cull say it’s a last resort necessary measure to protect our biodiversity.

participating local governments, we recognise that community expectations around consultation are increasing,” she said.

“This is an area where we are committed to reviewing our approach and strengthening transparency for future activities.”

Ms Paliskis said WNRM’s objective was to ensure management actions were evidence-

informed, proportionate to the level of impact, undertaken responsibly and subject to ongoing review.

“WNRM is working closely with other partners on driving renewed conservation objectives in the Wheatbelt to promote the restoration of the necessary habitat for our local native species to thrive.”

## Setting the record straight on the shire’s president’s column

THE *Toodyay Herald* wishes to correct statements made by the Shire of Toodyay through its email distribution and on its Facebook page regarding the shire president’s monthly column.

The shire stated: “Owing to the *Toodyay Herald*’s recent decision to cancel our shire president Mick McKeown’s *Between You and Me* column in its monthly edition, we are now providing it to the Toodyay Shire community through the shire’s channels.”

This statement is not correct.

The *Toodyay Herald* did not cancel the shire president’s column.

On 12 January, *The Herald*’s new editor emailed the shire to advise the president’s message would now be included in the shire’s two-pages of advertising.

The president’s message has at various times in previous years, been published as part of the shire’s paid advertising.

So, including this column in the shire’s advertising space is consistent with past practice and it’s a natural fit with the ‘*shire news*’ page.

This approach also recognises the president as the shire’s official spokesperson.

On January 13, the chief executive officer emailed to advise that because the advertising space is fully paid for by the shire, they would decide what content to include in it.

The shire then submitted content for its two-page advertisement without the president’s message,

*The Herald* did not refuse or cancel the column — the decision to not include the president’s column in the February and March edition was made by the shire.

*The Herald*’s offer to publish the president’s message within the shire’s paid advertising still stands.

A past edition example below

**Our Shire News**  
September 2014

**President's Report**

The announcement by the Hon. Terry Redman MLA of a \$6.575 million funding package spread over a 3 year period to extend and expand the

Unfortunately Mr Redman’s visit to Toodyay on the 2 September 2014 somewhat overshadowed a coinciding visit by Hon. Tony Simpson MLC, Minister for Local Government, Community Services, Seniors, Volunteering and Youth. Mr Simpson gave Council a brief update of the current position of his government on the proposed amalgamations of metropolitan

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# New owners keen to add Chinese food to the menu



New owners Gioi Manh Nguyen and his wife Tina will add Chinese food to the menu of a popular cafe on Toodyay's main strip.

Rashelle Predovnik

IT'S A new chapter for the Cola Café as experienced bakers take the helm and, while some fresh new flavours are planned, the

much-loved menu will stay on offer.  
The café now has a new kitchen, ceiling and cool room and its new owners are keen to put more variety on the menu of one of Toodyay's most popular destinations.  
Curious locals have been following the countdown of Facebook since the café announced it would close for renovations at the end of last year.  
The doors opened again last month and new café owners Gioi Manh and Tina Nguyen say they have been made to feel very welcome by friendly locals.  
It was Toodyay's famous Christmas shop that originally drew Tina to town for a visit and she liked what she saw.  
So, when the Cola Café was listed for sale, the couple jumped at the opportunity.  
Gioi and Tina are seasoned business operators who have worked together for 27 years.  
Gioi is a baker and the couple ran a bakery in Merredin for 20 years and one in Kalgoorlie for seven years.  
The Nguyens are promising to keep the café's traditional menu; they just want to add more variety.  
Tina said she noticed there was no Chinese food in Toodyay and her husband loved to cook.  
So Asian flair will now be added to the menu, including fried rice, honey chicken and noodle dishes.  
The new menu will officially begin next month on the Saturday of the Easter long weekend.

# Personal alarm SOS watch

Desraé Clarke

THE wearing of a watch alarm is a comfort should assistance 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 had recorded 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.

A bonus is the watch alarm is showerproof 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.  
**Crime Stoppers** 1800 333 000  
**Police** 131 444  
**Toodyay Police** 9574 9555  
**Graffiti** 1800 442 255



Photograph: George Milton

# Recording a fail: what the shire's electors meeting really revealed

Rashelle Predovnik

TRANSPARENCY in local government shouldn't be controversial and in 2026 it shouldn't even be a question.  
Yet at the annual meeting of electors, residents had front row seats to an argument between the chair and a resident about what was or wasn't said at last year's meeting.  
The reason?  
There was no recording.  
From January 2025, shires have been required to record their council meetings, and this helps to create an accurate public record, including a record of what the shire does well.  
At this elector's meeting, the manager of finance delivered an interesting presentation that outlined issues the shire had identified and fixed.  
He talked about the money saved, in what was a positive story about the responsible management of public funds.  
Yet there is no record of that presentation on the shire's website.  
When the *Toodyay Herald* asked for those details so our readers could be informed about those savings, the shire president told us to find it ourselves.  
He said, "The executive manager provided examples in his presentation at the annual electors meeting, all of which are documented in previous minutes of ordinary council meetings."  
That response may have technically answered the question – but does directing our readers to trawl through a year's worth of old minutes really serve the public interest?  
The information we asked for was already available in a document that could have easily been emailed.  
Instead, we were told to comb through the archives of past council minutes without dates, page numbers or agenda references – to reconstruct what the shire had already presented on PowerPoint slides.  
Transparency should not require detective work.  
In this case, recording matters because public meetings are not private conversations – they are part of the official democratic record.  
The shire's website notes there is no legal requirement to record the annual meeting of electors but, although that is technically true, it misses the point.  
Good governance is about doing more than the bare legal minimum.  
Recording this annual elector meeting didn't

require a new policy, new equipment or extra funding.  
It just required the shire to wheel out the same recording equipment it uses for council meetings or even a mobile phone at a push.  
Instead, the room was left listening to two conflicting versions of the same event with no ability to review a recording.  
And this incident summed up a broader problem on display that night.  
The annual meeting of electors is a forum for residents to ask questions, raise motions, and discuss general business.  
Apart from this editor, only ten ratepayers attended and only two questions were submitted to the shire in advance.  
No motions were raised or voted on, and no questions were asked about the annual report.  
So, there was time and there was space.  
Yet when a ratepayer tried to ask questions from the floor, she was told she couldn't, because her questions needed to be sent in before the meeting.  
Instead of allowing her questions to be heard – and answered or taken on notice – time was spent reading out legislative provisions explaining why they could not be asked from the floor.  
Ironically, it would have taken less time to hear her questions.  
When the shire president formally closed the meeting after 20 minutes, he then chose to speak to those remaining in the room.  
Unsurprisingly, the ratepayer who was not allowed to ask questions chose not to stay and listen.  
  
"What Toodyay residents saw at this meeting appeared to focus more on procedure than participation"  
  
If you deny someone the right to be heard, they will naturally disengage.  
Democracy can be messy: questions can be repetitive, they can be uncomfortable and they can test patience.  
But respectful leadership requires a tolerance for scrutiny – especially at a meeting designed to give ratepayers a voice.  
Toodyay residents are capable of forming their own views, but what they saw at this meeting appeared to focus more on procedure than participation.  
Ratepayers deserve genuine engagement and they deserve respect.  
At the very least, they deserve a meeting where someone presses 'record'.

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# No dark corners for spiders in this riverside bird hide

Rashelle Predovnik

IT WAS a special trip to Toodyay for Sharon Quigley (née Ponsford), who designed the Avon River's only bird hide but never saw it built.

Her visit to the hide last month, where she met with Toodyay Naturalists Society president Greg Warburton, was close to her heart.

The bird hide next to Red Banks Pool along the Bilya Walk Track now features an informative display of Noongar artwork, Ngulla Moort (our family).

Its display explains the many uses of the pool before European settlement and the naturalist society said it was pleased to be able to share the bird hide with traditional owners.

The John Masters Bird Hide, officially opened in August 2013.

The following year, Toodyay won Western Australia's Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities title for its residents' attitudes towards solar lighting, cycling, birdwatching and volunteering.

The judges said they were impressed by Toodyay's near-perfect entry.

Conservation projects that also impressed the judges included the John Masters Bird Hide where people could watch local and migratory birds.

Mrs Quigley said she was honoured 13 years ago to be asked by Mr Warburton to design the bird hide.

"I moved to Ireland soon after and never got to see the bird hide constructed."

Ms Quigley said she was delighted to hear

about how the bird hide has been used by the community 13 years on.

She said the hide had some unique and very useful design features.

"My first task was to research bird hides around Australia," she said.

"So I asked a birdwatching friend of mine to send me photos of her favourite bird hides she had seen across Australia over the years, along with details of what she liked or didn't like about each of them.

"I spent the next couple of weeks analysing each photo to discover what features I also liked and didn't like about each of them."

Mrs Quigley said she noticed something straight away.

"Each of the bird hides pictured was a fully enclosed cabin, which was perfect for their remote locations but it didn't fit the idea I had

for the new bird hide at Red Banks Pool."

"I wanted this bird hide to be different.

"I wanted it to become a multi-purpose space enjoyed by everyone visiting Red Banks Pool, not just birdwatching clubs.

"I wanted to provide a shady refuge for nature walkers to sit for a welcomed rest on hot summer days, an education space for schools and other groups, a performance space for celebration of events and of course a birdwatching space."

The design included cladding the walls only on the two sides facing the river, leaving the opposite two sides open.

Mrs Quigley said that deliberate choice allowed plenty of natural light into the hide, ensuring no dark corners for spiders or snakes to hide.

The gap between the lower edge of the wall cladding and the ground was designed to create extra airflow.

It would also help any loose leaves on the ground to be blown away by the wind.

The location of the bird hide, high up on the river bend and its rectangular shape positioned to follow the bend of the river were other carefully considered elements.

Mrs Quigley said to help achieve this, two separate overlapping roof planes were created.

She said the horizontal ventilation space in between provided air flow to stop the space under the roof from overheating in summer.

"The only design features shared with other bird hides was the elongated rectangular windows and the inside seating built onto the walls."

Mrs Quigley said one of the greatest joys of her work as a building designer was seeing the finished building.

"The John Masters Bird Hide is a project I am grateful to have been part of," she said.

"I'd like to congratulate Greg and the crew at The Toodyay Naturalists Society for their persistence in making it happen."



From sketch to sanctuary – designer Sharon Quigley (née Ponsford) finally get to see her now built John Masters Bird Hide.

## A beautiful life in rhythm with local seasons

**Dudja Waangkiny**  
(Toodyay Yarning)



Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation

NOONGAR families settled this valley for tens of thousands of years.

When some websites describe Toodyay as "first settled in 1836", they overlook the deep and continuous human history of this valley.

Long before colonial arrival, Dudjabup – the place that attracts mist – was already home to Noongar families whose presence stretches back more than 45,000 years.

For countless generations, Noongar moort (family groups) lived, moved and cared for this land.

Each family had moort-boodja – family lands – sometimes known as moortung.

One way to understand this today is through a familiar lens.

What we now recognise as the Shire of Toodyay can be seen, in many ways, as resembling a larger Noongar cultural landscape, much like a wider language or kinship group boundary.

Within the shire are smaller localities such as Coondle, Julimar, Moondyne, Bejoording, Wattening, Jimperding and Morangup.

Today, these are administrative or geographic names, but in earlier times these same areas formed part of extended Noongar family estates.

Within those estates were smaller, carefully managed Noongar family "patches", places where particular moort (family) held responsibility for caring for water sources, food resources, spirituality and the ecological balance of Country.

Seen this way, the structure is not unfamiliar.

Where we now see farms, properties, and family holdings passed through generations of settlers and their descendants, there once existed Noongar moort-boodja, family lands governed by lore, obligation, kinship, and deep ecological knowledge.

Different systems, but recognisably human in their organisation and purpose.

This was not a transient existence, but a beautiful, ordered way of life lived in rhythm with the six Noongar bonar (seasons), the availability of food and water, and the responsibilities people held to both Country and each other.

These were not random campsites.

They were ancestral land estates with clear obligations to look after springs, waterholes, hunting grounds, gathering areas, and story-connected places.

Dudjabup's rich soils, freshwater pools, and river system made it an important place for movement, trade, ceremony, and kinship

connection across Yued, Ballardong, and Whadjuk groups.

Toodyay was not an empty valley waiting to be settled.

It was a thriving cultural landscape, maintained through sophisticated land management practices.

Fire, water care, and sustainable harvesting supported biodiversity for millennia.

When colonisation arrived in 1836, it marked the beginning of dispossession, not the beginning of settlement.

Yet despite enormous disruption, Noongar people have maintained their connection to Country.

They continue today to care for remaining

pockets of their moort-boodja, restoring cultural knowledge that was interrupted but never lost.

Recognising this truth is important for all of us.

It allows Toodyay's story to be understood not as a 190-year-old settlement, but as part of a 45,000-year continuum of Noongar life, culture, and custodianship.

Dudjabup has always been a lived-in, loved-in place.

It always will be.

For more local Noongar information and history head to our website: [www.noongarkaartdijin.com.au](http://www.noongarkaartdijin.com.au), or follow us on Facebook.

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The St John Ambulance midnight crew enjoying a well-deserved break.

## Smoked brisket lures volunteers

St John Ambulance Toodyay  
Michael Black

AS WE head towards the end of summer and welcome autumn, your local St John Ambulance volunteers have been busy.

Since the beginning of the year St John volunteers have attended 81 patients and travelled thousands of kilometres.

St John also provides a community transport service (CTS).

In January St John CTS volunteers helped eight Toodyay locals get to hospital and specialist appointments.

All volunteer organisations are constantly looking for new recruits and St John is no exception.

On Thursday February 19 we hosted a recruitment evening.

It was a fun evening with new, prospective ambos given an outline of what we do and what to expect if they sign up.

The new prospects got a tour of the sub centre and a close and personal look at the ambulances.

Earl Stamp, our local Community Paramedic, and Dale Reid, St John's District Operations Lead, both gave really good insights on their roles and the organisation.

Dale also cooked up a storm with an amazing locally smoked brisket.

If for no other reason, joining St John as a volunteer for the food is a good reason.

It's a few months away but starting on May 18, it is National Volunteers week.

There are thousands of events and activities taking place across Western Australia.

Volunteers are the backbone of country WA and Toodyay is no exception.

Volunteering WA has a website that lists events and workshops.

There is a link where you can nominate a volunteer for the WA Volunteer of the year award.

One night a few weeks ago Toodyay had three crews out attending emergency calls.

In the country, if it wasn't for Volunteer Ambulance Officers supporting our Community Paramedic, there would be no ambulance service outside the metro area.

Most volunteers do it for the humanity and the community.

Some volunteers do it for the Emergency Department sandwiches with mates in the hospital ambulance bay into the wee hours of the morning.

Whatever the motive, a big thankyou to the volunteers who keep our emergency services available in the country, day and night.

Information about coming and helping out at St John can be found at the St John shop opposite the bakery in Toodyay.

## Vigilance essential as summer ends

VBFB Coondle Nunile  
Aurelie Zimmermann

AS WE move into March and welcome the beginning of autumn, we reflect on a season that, while not over yet, has been relatively quiet compared with previous years.

Warmer days and dry fuels remain and vigilance is still essential.

Even a quieter season is a reminder that fire conditions can change quickly, and being prepared is key to protecting the community.

Since the last edition of *The Herald*, our brigade has been kept busy responding to a number of incidents.

The majority of callouts have involved tree, scrub and grass fires.

At this time of year fires can spread quickly if not brought under early control.

One incident required follow-up attendance after hot spots flared and extended the burn area.

These situations are a timely reminder that, even after a fire is contained, conditions such as wind, heat, and residual fuel can cause flare-ups.

Volunteers across the Shire remain vigilant and ready to respond at all times.

As the season changes, we encourage the community to remain attentive.

Ensure your properties are kept clear of dry fuel, maintain garden and firebreaks, and always have a plan in case of fire.

Training continues to be a strong focus for the brigade.

At our most recent session, members undertook radio training, covering both fundamental radio procedures and advanced features available on our handsets.

Effective communication on the fireground is critical.

Clear, concise radio use ensures crew safety, improves coordination between appliances, and allows important information to be shared quickly and accurately.

Our members are continually building their skills to make sure we operate safely and efficiently at every incident.

Looking ahead, the brigade has further training sessions planned to develop skills in

areas such as electrical fires and Rural Urban Interface exercise.

Vehicle checks continue to take place every Friday throughout the year.

These regular checks ensure our appliances and equipment remain operational and ready to respond at any time.

They provide an opportunity for members to inspect tools and fittings, identify anything that may need replacing and maintain the vehicles to a high standard.

Importantly, these sessions also allow newer members to become familiar with the trucks and the equipment they carry, building confidence and capability before attending incidents.

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

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

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

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

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



Air support. Courtesy Aurelie Zimmermann

## Toodyay Dental Clinic

SUPPORTING HEALTHY SMILES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Toodyay Dental Clinic is proud to continue caring for the families and residents of our wonderful community. Conveniently located on Stirling Terrace, we are committed to providing gentle, professional and reliable dental care for patients of all ages — from children attending their very first check-up to long-time locals maintaining their healthy smiles.

Our friendly and experienced team understands that visiting the dentist can sometimes feel daunting. That's why we take the time to listen, explain your treatment options clearly, and ensure you feel comfortable and supported every step of the way.

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## Upcoming first aid courses

**HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid**  
Course type: Accredited | Duration: 1 day in class + Online learning  
Price: \$180.00  
When: Wednesday 20 May - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Saturday 11 July - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Monday 21 September - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Saturday 21 November - 8:30AM - 4:30PM  
Where: Morangup Sub Centre, 48 Wallaby Way, Morangup WA 6083

**Understand first aid**  
Learn about first aid theory and action plans

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

**Injury management**  
Treat and manage injuries in interactive training scenarios.

### Ready to make a difference?

Book a first aid course with us

St John First Aid Training

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

# The restricted burning period starts but permits needed

**VBFB Toodyay Central**  
Peter Brennan

THE restricted burning period began on Monday March 9.

The date can be subject to change but remains in place until the April 30.

During this period, a permit to burn must be obtained from the shire.

A permit will only be issued for legitimate mitigation outcomes or for primary producer requirements.

Permits will not be issued for social occasions, burning of rubbish or for burning which can be reasonably deferred or avoided.

For more information on permits visit the Toodyay Shire website at [Toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://Toodyay.wa.gov.au).

Click on fire information then fire-restrictions-and-permits.

The question is often asked, “what training do I need to do to become a fire fighter, and what commitment do I have to make?”

Becoming a volunteer bush firefighter means dedicating time to the safety of our community and also others outside of our shire boundary.

The first step is to make contact by sending an SMS message with the name of the brigade you may wish to join to 0408 017 439 (the number for Toodyay Central).

Following contact, you can meet with our captain Will Hort and members.

You will be shown around the station and appliances and given an insight into how they operate. If your interest continues the captain can sign you up.

Your application is then passed to the community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Sam Roberts for further processing.

Shortly after, you will be required to complete a standard Police check.



Toodyay Central volunteer firefighter Dave mops up after a blaze.

Once completed, you will be assigned a DFES service number and advised to order your personal protection equipment and when training courses will be available.

Before going onto a fireground, new members must have completed both the Bushfire Safety Awareness and Firefighting Skills courses.

Each course takes up two full days, usually over a weekend.

Once completed, you can turnout with the brigad however, new members are initially introduced to the mopping up stage of a fire incident.

This gives you the opportunity to experience working with low intensity fire, the appliance equipment, other team members and employing fire safety awareness skills.

Once settled in, new members will then join other crew members in attending more

challenging bushfire incidents.

Our motto is ‘we put fires out’.

We respond to callouts and once an incident is over and appliances readied for the next call, we go home to our families.

Toodyay Central VBFB is not a social brigade, apart from a Christmas family lunch function and a winter appliance detailing and BBQ event.

However, we are a very friendly and

cohesive group that works well together as a team.

Having made the commitment to a brigade, members are expected to turn out to calls as often as possible.

We share the load and expand our own individual experiences at different incidents and with different appliances and crews.

This point is critical, as Toodyay Central has three appliances.

A minimum of six members is required to crew them.

More importantly, during big bushfire incidents, we need to be in a position to crew these appliances across multiple shifts.

Brigade members are also expected to attend as many monthly brigade meetings as they can.

This forum is where important safety and training issues can be addressed.

Additionally, members are expected to volunteer for weekend rosters and attend Friday evening appliance checks which helps reinforce equipment familiarisation.

Once basic experience is obtained, members are encouraged to complete other courses in order to develop additional skills that can enhance our utility and safety while protecting our community from the threat of bushfire.

All up, this is a significant commitment to make, but one which is extremely rewarding and brings many personal benefits.



On standby: a fleet of Toodyay Central's firetrucks undergo weekly checks.

## New off-road tanker tested

**VBFB Julimar**  
Gayle Nelson

WHILE things have been relatively ‘unbusy’ (not going to say the ‘Q’ word) since Mad Monday in December, that doesn’t mean our firefighters have been taking it easy.

With a pleasantly low number of callouts over January and February, Julimar VBFB with other shire brigades sent firefighters to the Boddington fire as part of a strike team.

They helped strengthen control lines and carried out mopping-up work.

The Julimar 4.4 also attended a recent fire in the City of Swan.

Critical support was supplied during suppression and mop-up.

In addition, one member deployed to the Lake King (Newdegate) fire as part of a commercial team of dedicated professionals focused on establishing control lines.

Exposure to different vegetation, terrain, and fire behaviour and working alongside other organisations is an invaluable experience that strengthens the shire’s overall fire response.

The callouts over the past couple of months have also given Julimar plenty of opportunity to bed-in the Tatra.

Holding four thousand litres of water and with plenty of off-road capability, the Julimar 4.4 provides a significant capability upgrade over the much-loved Julimar 2.4.

The Julimar 2.4 is still supporting fire operations in other areas.

Firefighters have been maintaining equipment through our regular Friday night vehicle checks, as well as completing mandatory and elective training.

We’d like to extend a heartfelt thankyou to the community members who have dropped by over the past month to offer their thanks following the Moondyne fire.

Your kind words, visits and support mean a great deal to our volunteers and remind us why we do what we do.

Did you know there are many roles within a shire volunteer bushfire brigade that don’t involve firefighting?

Auxiliary members contribute in many ways, including cleaning and providing welfare and refreshments, through to administrative roles such as secretary, treasurer, or equipment officer.

Last but not least, congratulations to Connor, a member of both Toodyay VFRS and Julimar VBFB for his nomination in the recent Toodyay Young Citizen of the Year awards.

We’re very proud to have him as part of the best bush fire brigade in Toodyay.

If you’d like to support your local community in a meaningful way, but feel firefighting may not be your specialty, feel free to contact our secretary or captain to discuss options.



TATRA 4.4 Fire Appliance, with our fantastic brigade lieutenant, Lucas McLerie.

**St John**

## Upcoming first aid courses

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

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



**Understand first aid**  
Learn about first aid theory and action plans



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



**Injury management**  
Treat and manage injuries in interactive training scenarios.



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The Apprentice Support Bonus offers up to \$3,000 in bonus payments to help pay the bills.

# Social media buzz builds for free Rec hotel party

Rashelle Predovnik

THE Rec Toodyay is set to open with a community party that includes three hours of free food and drinks as the countdown to their opening is shared on social media and an opening date yet to be announced.

For the past few months, The Rec's story has been unfolding on Facebook in a series of posts that include 'happy hour' glimpses on the menu, their bid to get a TAB licence and a shout-out for staff.

The Rec Toodyay general manager, Steve Dabinett-Halliday said the response to their shout-out for staff was fantastic and the positions have now been filled.

The brand has built a name for blending heritage hotels with vibrant bars and The Freemasons Hotel on Stirling Terrace is their latest project in a growing portfolio that includes Northam, Boulder, Malaga, Capel and Waroona.

This is the first time The Rec has focused so strongly on social media, throwing open the doors to the community and inviting them into their journey as they work towards opening.

General manager of operations Troy Lowrey said normally The Rec would say nothing

until they knew they were going to open.

"And then we hit hard," he said.

"But we thought we'd try a 'build up' approach on social media and that strategy has developed more engagement for us.

It's has also allowed The Rec to have a conversation with the community and tell people what they are doing.

Mr Lowry said not all the comments on social media had been positive with a very small percentage not wanting a 'city pub' in a country town.

"We'll they're not going to get that anyway," he said.

"All we're going to do is bring it back to life and make her what she once was, and probably better."

He said The Rec was keen to bring more engagement and involvement, and more of a community feel to the pub.

"People come to us because they want to enjoy the activities we provide and every day is going to be a different.

"From Bingo, to meat raffles, to quiz nights to karaoke to live music supporting local talent - everything you expect from a local pub is what we bring."

"We've seen how much the community in Northam loves a venue that feels like home



Steve and Brendan Dabinett-Halliday look forward to welcoming the community.

and we can't wait to bring that same energy to Toodyay, honouring the Freemasons

history while creating a new space for families to make memories."

## Maddox appeal comes at a human cost to the defendant

...continued from page 1.

Mr Seabrook said Mr Maddox was a brave man.

"Tony said, if he pleads guilty – he pleads guilty for every single landholder in Western Australia who has a gully on their farm and might have built a crossing."

"So you can have a piece of freehold land, with a title that says its freehold land, they [the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH)] have drawn a line on it and they haven't even told you about it."

Western Australia's peak agricultural bodies are now demanding the State Government make immediate changes to ensure existing

and new Aboriginal heritage sites are shown on the Certificate of Title for all properties.

The call has come in response to the Mr Maddox's appeal in the Supreme Court.

WA Farmers President Steve McGuire said the DPLH register of Aboriginal Heritage contained more than 15,000 entries, many of which were on private property.

"The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Committee (ACHC) meets every two weeks and regularly adds new sites to the register without notifying property owners that they have a new encumbrance on their land," Mr McGuire said.

"What we learned from the Tony Maddox

case is that the DPLH doesn't always write to property owners when their land is being considered for a new site, doesn't publish the agenda or minutes of the ACHC and doesn't notify anyone when a new site is declared.

"The fact is, there are many property owners who simply don't know it is illegal to do a number of things on their land because they've never been told it is a declared site."

Mr Seabrook said the laws needed to change.

"Right now it is an offence if your dog or livestock enters the boundary of a registered site – even if it's on your property," he said.

"Other regulations say you need ministerial

approval to disturb the surface of the ground, dig a hole, cut your grass or remove any part of a tree that you own, even if it's dead.

Mr Seabrook said the Tony Maddox case proved having a registered site on your land was a liability.

"It is astonishing that someone can buy land in WA and not be forewarned that the property comes with the encumbrance of containing a registered Aboriginal Heritage Site," he said.

"The government must ensure registered sites appear on the Certificate of Title so buyers can understand the risks of the property they are considering."

the  
rec

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Daily Specials

# Happy chatter and delicious cake

Ragbags Quilting Group  
Kerry Gregory

IT WAS lovely to be returning to our regular Wednesday quilt and crafting mornings in early February.

We have welcomed some new creative ladies who are now residents of Toodyay.

We are very pleased you've joined us.

It is always lovely to enter the back door of the hall and hear the happy chatter of the ladies, as I anticipate what activities are currently being pursued.

It is also a lovely treat to see that someone has provided us with a delicious cake for morning tea; enjoyed by us all.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Most of the group are engaged with small projects. From a glance around the table there seems to be a resurgence of crochet items with a couple of ladies stating that they are determined to master the craft before tackling larger crochet projects.

My perusal of the box of NZ Quilter magazines continues.

I'm fascinated by the unique ideas and designs including using everyday items as inspiration for designs in many of them.

For instance, lasagne sheets inspired a strip-like quilt using pieces of multi-coloured fabrics of three and a half inches by seven and a half inches.

This is easily achievable using up left over pieces from previous quilts, although preferably using strips twenty inches long to enable strip sewing and hastening the project along.



Looks like it is past time to actually do something with all these blankets.

Last month I mentioned possibly making quilts from recycled wool fabrics and my collection of quality woollen blankets.

Further to this, I have recently found an article in the December 2025 edition of the WA Quilter's Quarterly highlighting their *Exotica Special Interest Sewing Group*, which meets once a month.

The article defines Exotica as being different, strange, alluring or from foreign countries.

This enthusiastic group is happy to support and help with confidence and techniques to engage in creating special projects from non-traditional fabrics.

I think this may be the group to inspire me to cut into some of my old blankets.

If you are looking for an interesting weekend away, this state's premier sheep show is on again at the Wagin Woolorama on 6-7 March 2026.

This is the 53rd Wagin Woolorama and of interest to life-time home dressmakers like me.

There are a host of interesting program items. These include three daily Fashion Shows focusing on natural fibres.

As in the past, this event highlights outstanding wool garments with their versatility, durability, impressive warmth and exceptional fine quality.

Along with all the usual developments and innovative agricultural endeavours, this year they are also honouring all women working on the land; "Year of the Woman Farmer".

New members are very welcome at the Ragbags Group. Join us for a cuppa and a chat. Bring along your beautiful 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 your creativity and fabulous projects, and share your enthusiasm.

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

It's cool inside. Bring your lunch.

We use the back door.



A Creating Country Together meeting puts this year's Moondyne Festival on the table.

## Noongar flavour to Moondyne

Arts Toodyay  
Chelle Ellery

THIS year's Moondyne Festival will feature a special hands-on community artwork at Duidgee Park.

It will bring people together to reflect on Country and celebrate local creativity.

"Creating Country Together" is a collaborative art project led by Midland Brick in partnership with Arts Toodyay, local Aboriginal representatives, the Shire of Toodyay, the Moondyne Festival Committee, Toodyay District High School and the Carnaby Crusaders.

Across the festival day, community members will be invited to help shape a large artwork using sand, clay and natural materials.

Participants will create a flowing river form representing the Avon River, surrounded by clay shapes symbolising native plants and animals significant to Noongar culture and the local environment.

The project is designed to reconnect the river and the town in a simple but meaningful way encouraging families to slow down,

work alongside one another and reflect on the importance of place.

Duidgee Park will be buzzing with free family activities throughout the day, including the popular mini railway, the Liberty hot air balloon display, the Carnaby Crusaders and other festival attractions.

The festival weekend will also showcase local artistic talent through the Toodyay Art Prize Exhibition, organised by Arts Toodyay at the Toodyay Memorial Hall.

Artist entries open in early April, with the exhibition opening night on the 1 May, Youth Presentation on 2 May, and the final viewing day on the 3 May during the Moondyne Festival.

The community is warmly invited to visit the exhibition and support local adult and youth artists.

Arts Toodyay thanks Midland Brick as lead sponsor and acknowledges the support of the Moondyne Festival Committee, Toodyay District High School and the Shire of Toodyay in making the event possible.

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

## Celebrating International Women's Day

For over a century, March 8 recognises the achievements, challenges and opportunities for women and girls globally.

Chalice proudly celebrates women in every corner of our communities, businesses, farms and schools, whose leadership, contributions and expertise drive change.

International Women's Day is an important time to reflect, elevate and amplify the focus on gender equality.

### COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Reminder that funding applications close March 31.

Visit: [www.gonnevilleproject.com.au/community/community-investment/](http://www.gonnevilleproject.com.au/community/community-investment/)



#### Contact us

0487 371 961  
5 Charcoal Lane, Toodyay  
[community@chalicemining.com](mailto:community@chalicemining.com)



## Grandma's hobbies help you to live longer

**The Crooked Needle**  
Jean Melhuish-Hill

MARCH is here and the year is getting busy after a leisurely Christmas.

At our last gathering we noticed we had about 40 per cent of our ladies knitting, 45 per cent crocheting, 10 per cent doing some type of needle work with the other 5 per cent enjoying a good chat and a cuppa.

Some days all you need is a friend, a listening ear and an opportunity to catch up with people.



*This beautiful crocheted piece of handiwork was created by talented Teddy James.*

It is not always about creating a physical item.

A long-running study from the University of Helsinki found that women who regularly engage in traditional "grandma hobbies" such as knitting, sewing, crocheting, and gardening tend to live up to eight years longer.

These activities help calm the nervous system by lowering stress and promoting a meditative, focused state through repetitive movement.

They also build confidence by creating a sense of purpose, routine and visible accomplishment.

Mentally, such hobbies keep the brain active, supporting memory, attention and cognitive flexibility as women age.

Together, these effects show that simple, creative pastimes can be deeply therapeutic, emotionally grounding and beneficial for long-term health.

I have noticed, while watching movies both new and older ones, that there are many instances where there are handmade quilts and blankets in the background of the scenes.

This surprised me.

Keep your eye out while watching.

The crafts that we do may be old-fashioned but definitely worthwhile.

We are about to look at what group projects we might take on this year.

This activity will take some of us out of our comfort zones and some of our experts will help less experienced crafters.

If you are interested in getting to know some local ladies, take up a craft or share your knowledge with others, please come along and visit us at the CWA Hall, each Friday from 9.30am.

See the contact details page in *The Toodyay Herald*.

## Looking forward to the daily grind

**Avon Wood Turners**  
Hamish Dobie

IF THERE is one thing that can make the difference when woodturning, it's the sharpness of the tools that you're using.

There's nothing worse when you are just finishing off a project on a lathe than a 'gouge' which is often caused by an incorrectly angled or blunt tool.

Many a curse and swearword can be heard, even German curses on occasions.

We have a high-speed grinder to sharpen tools.

Using this can overheat the metal or, if sharpened at the wrong angle, can ruin a tool.

Personally, I'm a bit of a duffer and sometimes get the sharpening process wrong.

I go to the more experienced turners for help, as do several others.

This can wear their patience thin, especially as it happens several times per session.

Now, thanks to a donation from WAWA and some fundraising of our own, we have obtained a Rikon low speed 200mm bench grinder with

diamond encrusted grinding wheels.

This doesn't sound much to the layman, but it's the equivalent of a rev head getting hold of a Holden Camaro.

Our members had a demonstration on tool sharpening using the same machine some months ago. (Refer to the photo).

Even the poorest turner (me) made a success of sharpening and getting the individual tools' angles correct.

We are now confident that our output will be much enhanced.

The experienced turners will have more time to themselves, and the level of cursing will be greatly reduced.

Watch this space.

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

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

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



*George Murray upskills Beatrice a lesson on how to sharpen tools.*

## These boots were made for walking

**Toodyay Music Club**  
Jenny Edgecombe

THE Music Club met for the first meeting of 2026 in February.

Following our usual warm-up session of group singing, we moved to individual numbers.

February was a theme month.

Members chose songs on the whimsical theme of Boots and Shoes.

Anne was our first theme performer, with a most entertaining recitation of *To a Moose*.

We were also treated to a stirring organ piece by Meg, in March of the *Negro Slaves*.

Jenny lowered the tone a little later with the whimsical ditty, *He Wore Black Leather Trousers and Motorcycle Boots*.

It can only be described as a rather unusual song, not to be taken too seriously.

We could not have a Boots and Shoes programme without the classic of younger years, *These Boots are Made for Walking*.

Collette sang this delightfully, accompanied by Joe on guitar.

Meg was a very welcome visiting performer.

Her numbers included a delightful delivery of *English Country Garden* on keyboard.

Why not join us as an audience member or performer for our next meeting.

This will take place at the CWA Hall on March 14, starting at 1pm.

For more information, please call Joe on 0400862694.

## Songsters prepare for Moondyne Festival

**Toodyay Community Singers**  
Anne Millar

THE singers are now rehearsing on Monday evenings from 4.30pm to 5.30pm at the CWA Hall on Stirling Terrace.

We are currently selecting songs for the Moondyne Festival on Sunday 3 May, 2026.

There is time if anyone would like to be part of community events.

We only ask that you enjoy singing and attend rehearsals and have a good time.

## Toodyay playgroup and kindergym merge

**Toodyay Playgroup and Kindergym**  
Shelly Maes

EXCITING things are happening for Toodyay's littlest residents.

Our much loved Toodyay Playgroup and Toodyay Kindergym have recently merged to form one strong, enthusiastic committee.

The committee is dedicated to providing fun, connection, and support for families with young children. In joining forces, the new committee can streamline planning, improve communication, and ensure our programs continue to thrive.

This merger helps make organising sessions smoother and ensures both services remain vibrant parts of community life.

**Come Join the Fun**

WHETHER you're new to Toodyay, have a new baby or toddler, or simply haven't visited in a while, we warmly invite you to come along.

Both Playgroup and Kindergym offer welcoming spaces for children to explore,

play, move, and make friends.

Parents and carers can also connect with other local families.

*Toodyay Playgroup meets:*

Tuesdays 9.30am – 11.00am at the Recreation Centre, next to the doctor's practice.

*Toodyay Kindergym meets:*

Fridays 9.30am – 11.00 at the Town Oval Pavilion.

Your first session is free.

Come along, meet everyone.

See what we are all about with no pressure.

**We Need You**

LIKE many small communities, we are looking for new families and new members to keep these wonderful programs going.

If you have thought about joining, this is the perfect time.

Your involvement, big or small, helps keep these sessions available for all Toodyay children now and into the future.

We would truly love to meet you and welcome you into our friendly, relaxed group.

See you soon at Playgroup or Kindergym



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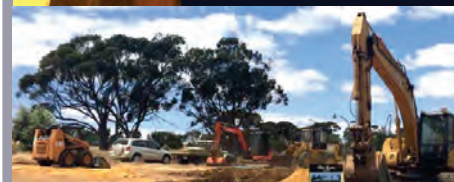
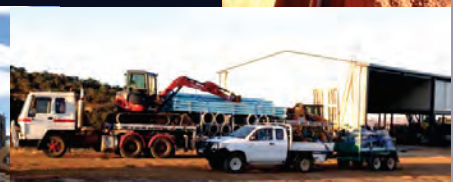


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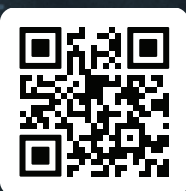
Government of Western Australia  
WA Country Health Service

# 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

## Technical hitch delays Godspell, new sound guy sought



The Toodyay Theatre group is inviting the community to get in touch and join in the fun, with performances dates scheduled in May.

### Toodyay Theatre Group

Daryl Cooper, Committee Member

DUE TO a technical error, cast only received their scripts for the upcoming production of the musical *Godspell* last week.

This has resulted in rehearsals confined to the musical numbers.

There is insufficient time left for the cast to "learn their lines" in time for performances in April as originally scheduled.

We are now looking at performance dates in May.

Sadly, following the performances our sound guy Barry is resigning after many years of outstanding service to the Toodyay Theatre Group.

We will be looking for a replacement with skills in electronics and audio-visuals.

The rescheduled annual general meeting of the group will be held on Wednesday March 18 at 6pm, at the Toodyay Memorial Hall.

Nominations will be accepted for the positions of president and secretary.

We are saying farewell to our president Dave Mitchell.

After ten years as president, Dave has decided it is time to hand the baton.

If you have an interest in amateur theatre, or would like to give it a go, please feel free to contact the Toodyay Theatre Group via our Facebook page or email, for more information.

## Chaplain of many hats

Toodyay DHS YouthCARE

Vivienne Freeman

THE SCHOOL Chaplain at Toodyay DHS is Doug McGhee.

Doug is employed for 3½ days a week, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and alternate Mondays and has been at the school for eight years.

Doug also runs the weekly Cadet program, with about 100 students involved, nearly the whole high school.

They are presently doing drill training for the upcoming Anzac Day Service with instructions from Northam Youth in Emergency Services.

The Toodyay RSL is watching on.

There will be a cadets camp in March at Hillarys with outdoor adventure activities.

A visit is scheduled with DFES Whitfords Marine Rescue when the cadets will visit the rescue tower and go on rescue boats.

Doug coaches school basketball and transports students to Country Week.

He organizes wilderness hikes, is the school photographer and a listening ear for students, parents and staff.

The Toodyay YouthCARE Committee AGM will be held on Tuesday 28 April 2026 at 2pm at the school.

Positions up for election are chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary, treasurer and committee members.

If you have questions please contact the secretary, Vivienne Freeman on 0484 918 678 or freeos@iinet.net.au.

## Digital legacies

### Computer Safety

Phil Hart

PREVIOUS generations could leave legacies in the form of letters, diaries, manuscripts and artwork.

The current generation is generating ever increasing volumes of digital information, including email and social media.

Both groups face the issue of how to make all this available to those who follow.

With physical legacies it could be as simple as a bequest in a will.

Digital legacies come with a range of issues. Emails, calendars and personal files may be in unexpected places.

They can also be password protected.

Personal files may be organised chaotically, making them hard to find.

They may also be stored on outdated technology, even as old as floppy discs.

Some files may be stored directly on the computer. These may or may not be encrypted.

Other files may be stored on cloud services such as OneDrive, Google Drive and Dropbox.

Accessing files that are stored on a computer is generally not too much of an issue unless they have been encrypted.

Accessing files stored in the cloud means having the user's credentials (username, password, two-factor-authentication (2FA) as well as any passkeys).

If you want to leave your legacy to your loved ones, make a record of your credentials that you share with at least one of them.

If you change a password, your 2FA or your passkey details, update that record.

Google adds a nice touch: it invites you to nominate someone else if you don't access your files for three months.

## A brief history of the Broadway hit

### Toodyay Theatre Group

ACTOR Ally Cordi grew up in a home where her mum had an original recording of the musical *Godspell*.

Ally "absolutely loved the recording and was excited when she successfully auditioned for a role in Toodyay Theatre Group's upcoming production.

She is delighted to be returning to the stage again.

Ally previously won best supporting actress for Garrick Theatre after the 2024 season for her role as Mrs Pearce in *Pygmalion*.

She also appeared as the Madame Miss Mona in *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, for Goldfields Repertory club in Kalgoorlie many years ago.

Ally's enthusiasm in having a leading role in the production has led her to research (with the assistance of Google) the history of the musical.

Her research is reproduced here.

In 1971, Ally was in grade 1 when Colleen Hewitt released the song Day by Day.

The song peaked in the Australian charts at #2, and in 1972 ranked #18 in the top 100.

*Godspell* began as a project for drama students at the Carnegie Mellon University in Philadelphia in 1970.

It was performed at an off-Broadway venue known as La Ma Ma.

It was conceived and originally directed by drama student John-Michael Tebelak.

It was originally written as his thesis.

It was taken to Broadway in 1971.

At this point the producers hired Stephen Swartz to re-score the music by Edgar Lansbury, brother of Angela Lansbury of *Murder She Wrote*.

*Godspell* ran at Cherry Lane and later the Promenade theatres in Broadway for over 2000 performances.

In 1971 *Godspell* hit Australia.

First in Melbourne, then in Sydney, with such names as John Waters, Colleen Hewitt, Collette Mann, and Marty Rhone.

Other names associated with the musical you'll recognise are Martin Short, playing Jeffrey, now famous for *Murders in the Building*, and Eugene Levy playing Herb.

Later, *Godspell* became a movie released in 1973.

Globally, the production ran in San Francisco, London, Hamburg, Melbourne, Boston, Paris, New York and Washington.

It had international stars such as David Essex, Jeremy Irons and David Haskell.

In 1977 it won the Tony award for the best original screenplay.

*Godspell* is a production that takes on a new meaning with each performance, in an era of artificial intelligence, environmental disasters and global warming.

*Godspell* reminds us that the answers to our human problems come from connection to each other, community, love and forgiveness.



The original cast of *Godspell*.

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E Keiran.sullivan@rsm.com.au

rsm.com.au/northam



# SHIRE NEWS

## INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

### Application for Extractive Industry Licence for Stormville Gravel Quarry, Hoddys Well (Vernice Gravel Pit).

The Shire of Toodyay has received an application for an Extractive Industry at Lot 3 (826) Clackline-Toodyay Road, Hoddys Well (commonly known as Vernice Gravel Pit).

The proposal seeks approval for the extraction, crushing and screening of gravel and sand at the site. As part of the assessment process, the Shire is inviting public comment due to the potential impacts associated with the proposed quarry operations.

For more information on the proposal and how to make a submission please visit the Public Notice section of the Shire's website [toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://toodyay.wa.gov.au).

**Submissions close 4pm, Thursday 2 April 2026.**

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Affordable Life Planning Legal Services

We know that getting your 'life documents' in order can feel overwhelming. That's why we're looking to bring Griffiths Rice and Co to Toodyay to help our community get these sorted at a reduced rate.

Contact the Toodyay CRC to express your interest in this service by calling 9574 9399 or emailing [crc@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:crc@toodyay.wa.gov.au).

**Expressions of Interest close Wednesday 25 March 2026.**



## Margot Watkins Art Exhibition on Now!

Local Toodyay multi media artist Margot Watkins has transformed the Visitors Centre showcase space into a mini studio for March.

Drawing inspiration from the world around her, Margot's creativity shines

through in every piece on display.

Explore iconic Toodyay landscapes alongside her quirky sculptures and textiles, and experience the work of one of Toodyay's award winning artists.



## WE'RE HIRING CRC Customer Service Trainee

The Shire's CRC is offering a unique opportunity to work full-time as a Customer Service Officer while undertaking a traineeship.

For more information on this opportunity

and how to apply, please look for Employment Opportunities under the Council section of the Shire's website [toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://toodyay.wa.gov.au). **Applications close 4pm, Monday 16 March 2026.**

## Canva Basics Workshop a Big success!

The Toodyay CRC received some great feedback from the Canva Basics workshop held on 18 February – so much so that we will be running another one again soon, so keep an eye out on the CRC and Shire Facebook pages and Events section at [toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://toodyay.wa.gov.au) for more details.



## TOODYAY RAILWAYS A Tale of Two Lines Exhibition Coming Soon!

Save Sunday 26 April on your calendar for the official launch of our newest exhibition at the Newcastle Gaol Museum: Toodyay Railways – a Tale of Two Lines.

As part of the National Trust Heritage Festival, we are diving deep into the history of the railway lines that have shaped Toodyay since 1887.

This exhibition is proudly presented in partnership with the Toodyay Historical Society.

For more information, contact Toodyay Museums at 9574 9380, email [toodyay.museums@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:toodyay.museums@toodyay.wa.gov.au) or visit [australianheritagefestival.org.au](http://australianheritagefestival.org.au) and search for "Toodyay".

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

# Life Planning

WITH GRIFFITHS RICE AND CO

Have your essential estate planning documents prepared with Griffiths Rice & Co, right here in Toodyay. Special reduced rates available for Wills, Enduring Powers of Attorney, Enduring Powers of Guardianship, and Advanced Health Directives.

Wills (normally \$440) - \$220.  
EPA & EPG (normally \$165 each) - \$110 each.  
AHD (normally \$110) - \$55.

Contact us with your interest by Wednesday 25 March.  
To register your interest, please contact the CRC on (08) 9574 9399 or email [crc@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:crc@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

Community Resource Centre  
toodyay  
Griffiths Rice & Co

# Tea & TECH

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

DIGITALGROUP LESSONS FOR OVER 55's

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](mailto:crc@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

TOODYAY RAILWAYS

# A Tale of Two Lines

Join us for the official launch of our upcoming exhibition as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival. Discover the impact on Toodyay of two separate railway lines running through the township from 1887. Explore the structural and social history of the line, covering bridges, Windmill Hill Cutting, floods, rail accidents, and the loss of buildings and heritage.

EXHIBITION LAUNCH

SUNDAY 26 APRIL, 2026  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
AT THE NEWCASTLE GAOL MUSEUM

RUNNING FOR 12 MONTHS!

For more information, please contact Toodyay Museums on (08) 9574 9380 or email [toodyay.museums@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:toodyay.museums@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

In partnership with the Toodyay Historical Society

toodyay  
AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

# SHIRE NEWS

## Newcastle Park Footbridge update

Following repairs to vandalism damage late last year, the Shire engaged a certified structural bridge engineer to complete a Level 1 Inspection of the entire footbridge. For public safety, the engineer recommended that the bridge remain closed until a full structural engineering assessment could be carried out.

That inspection took place in February, and we're now awaiting the detailed report so we can determine the safest way forward and what works are needed to reopen the bridge.

While it seems that progress is frustratingly slow, please know we're doing everything we can to progress this

as quickly as possible while following the required processes. We'll continue to share updates as soon as new information becomes available.



## Upcoming Events for March/April

### Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association Swap Meet

Sunday 15 March, 6am-1pm,  
Toodyay Showgrounds Oval.

### Toodyay Farmers Markets

Sunday 15 March, 9am-1pm,  
Stirling Park.

### Easter Rhyme Time

Wednesday 25 March, from 9.30am,  
Toodyay Library.

### Pages & Pastries Easter Edition

Friday 27 March, from 10am,  
Toodyay Library.

### Morangup Community Drop-In

Friday 27 March, from 6pm,  
Morangup Community Centre.

### Ordinary Council Meeting

Thursday 9 April, 5.30pm,  
Shire Council Chambers.

### Youth Week – 10-16 April,

Shire events TBC.

### Lions Jumbo Auction

17-18 April,  
Toodyay Showgrounds Oval.

### Toodyay Railways:

#### A Tale of Two Lines

Sunday 26 April, 11am-12pm,  
Newcastle Gaol Museum.

For more details on any of these events, please visit the Events Calendar on the Shire's website [toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://toodyay.wa.gov.au) or check out our Facebook page.

## Valentine's Day 'Booked for Love' a Huge Hit



Our Library 'Booked for Love' Valentine's Day event was a welcoming celebration of community, conversation, and a little indulgence. Guests enjoyed refreshments alongside a delightful selection of cakes, beautifully presented with a Valentine's theme.

There was a 'Blind Date with a Book' display, where readers selected mystery-wrapped books based on clues – an intriguing way to discover new stories.

Patrons also shared heartfelt messages on our Library Appreciation Heart, spreading kindness and positivity throughout the Library.

The addition of outdoor tables and chairs created an inviting extension of the library environment, providing a welcoming outdoor space for reading, socialising, and relaxing.

The event brought together readers, friends, and families to relax and

socialise, and was a lovely reminder that Libraries are not just places for reading, but vibrant spaces for community connection.

### Library dates for your diaries:

- Rhyme Time Easter-themed activities for children, including an egg hunt - Wednesday 25 March at 9.30am.

- Join us for a cracking 'Pages & Pastries' Easter edition - Friday 27 March from 10am. Enjoy coffee, cakes and conversation. Bring friends, family and your sweet tooth. All welcome!

## Community Funding Program 2026/27

The Shire's Community Funding Program for the 2026/27 financial year opens Monday 9 March 2026.

For eligibility criteria and more

information on how to apply, please go to the Community & Visitors section of the Shire's website [toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://toodyay.wa.gov.au).



## COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM

## OPEN 09 March 2026

Eligible community groups will soon be able to apply for financial support for projects, events, festivals, capacity building, and equipment upgrades.

- Applications are open **Monday 09 March 2026**.
- Applications close **Monday 20 April 2026**.
- Funding is available for activities from **01 July 2026 to 30 June 2027**.

The program follows the Shire's Community Funding Policy, which supports grants for community organisations and activities. To apply, visit the Shire's website and search for "Community Funding Application" to download the Policy and Application Form.

**Applications Close**  
**Monday 20 April 2026**

**More Information**  
Please contact the Shire on  
(08) 9574 9300  
[records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

## Toodyay Christmas Street Party 2026 – Call for local stallholders

## CALLING ALL TOODYAY LOCALS!

**Do you make, create, stitch, paint, carve, bake, print, sculpt or dream things into life?**

Then we'd love you at the Toodyay Christmas Street Party 2026.

Preparations are already underway, and we're on the lookout for

local stallholders, creatives and community groups who'd love to be part of the magic.

This is your chance to share your work, connect with the community and be part of a truly

special celebration of Toodyay.

✉ To register your interest please email: [community@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:community@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

Spaces will fill fast—don't miss out!

**Let's make 2026 our biggest, brightest street party yet** 🌟🎄



# Toodyay Lions will celebrate a 40-year community tradition

**Lions Club of Toodyay**  
Heather McNamara

THE Toodyay Lions Club is gearing up for one of its biggest celebrations.

Their 40th community Jumbo Auction, will be held on Saturday, 18 April 2026.

What began as a modest fundraiser in the mid1980s has grown into one of Toodyay's most cherished annual traditions.

The auction draws crowds from across the Wheatbelt for a day of bargains, laughter and plenty of country charm.

This year promises to be the biggest and brightest.

It marks four decades of community spirit, fundraising, and good-humoured fun.

**A legacy built by Lions**  
AMONG those celebrating the milestone is Lion John Pearce, a charter member who has proudly served the club for 50 years.

"This auction is more than just a fundraiser; it's part of the fabric of Toodyay," he said.

"For 40 years it's brought people together and you see families who've been coming for generations.

"It's not just about buying a bargain; it's about belonging to something bigger."

John laughs as he recalls the early days.

"We were thrilled if we got 100 lots and a bit of shade," he said.

"Now we need near on an entire oval to fit everything in."

**Fun facts and memorable moments**  
THE Jumbo Auction has seen its fair share of unforgettable moments.

One crowd favourite was the year a vintage wheelbarrow, wobbly but full of character, sparked a friendly bidding war that lasted far longer than expected.

The buyer, grinning from ear to ear, didn't actually need a wheelbarrow but wanted the bragging rights.

It was donated back and reappeared twice

more before finally "retiring".

Then there was the legendary mishap still retold with laughter.

A seller who became so caught up in the excitement that he accidentally bid on, and won back, his own item.

He shrugged, laughed, and said, it must've been meant to stay with him.

John recalls, "it's the kind of good-natured moment that makes the day what it is."

**A seller's perspective**  
A PAST seller says the auction is the perfect blend of community spirit and treasure hunting excitement.

"I've sold everything from old tools to a lounge suite," she says.

"The atmosphere is what keeps people coming back, everyone's chatting, smiling, and enjoying the day, and the Lions make it so easy for sellers."

**What to expect in 2026**  
THE 40th year will feature the classics.

Furniture, tools, antiques, collectables, household goods, garden items, and those wonderfully unexpected finds that have made the auction famous.

Buyers can enjoy affordable bidding across all lots in a familyfriendly, high energy atmosphere.

Food, drinks, and Lions hospitality. Rows of bargains to explore.

**Want to sell? Here's how**  
RESIDENTS wishing to submit items for auction can pick up a sellers registration form from:

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

Forms include details on acceptable items, dropoff times, and conditions of sale.

Sellers' Fees for 2026:

\$5 per lot (nonrefundable)  
10% commission on each sale

Unsold items must be collected at day's end.

All goods must be clean, safe, and in working order.

Funds raised from the Jumbo Auction support vital local projects, including youth programs, emergency relief, equipment upgrades, and community initiatives across Toodyay.

This year's auction beneficiaries include our amazing local fire brigades, Toodyay Youth Care Council, and the Forget-Me-Not

Café.

"It's remarkable what a small town can achieve when people show up and give generously," said John.

"Every hammer fall helps someone, somewhere in our community."

The Lions look forward to welcoming locals, visitors, bargain hunters and collectors to the 40th Community Jumbo Auction.

A day guaranteed to be filled with energy, tradition, laughter and the occasional unforgettable moment.



Rolling into 40 years of community spirit: The Lion's popular auction is back this year.



**The Lions Club of Toodyay Inc.**

**40th "Ruby" event!!**

**JUMBO AUCTION**  
**Saturday April 18th 2026**

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

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

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

**Information for sellers.**

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

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

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

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



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

## Country Womens Association online 'Belles' shape younger future

CWA

Elizabeth Mansom, Secretary

THE meeting on 26 February was the first general meeting since last November.

The agenda was quite long as the electronic mail hadn't taken the break along with us.

We broke for a cuppa.

Monika and Glynn from St John's arrived to refresh our memories about the defibrillator that is mounted on the veranda.

The unit is accessible to the public and appears on the St John's app you can have on your smart phone.

At the end of the session, remarks were heard about how easy the unit is to use and how more confident people felt if the need arose.

Margaret has refreshed stocks of the CWA cookbook and the scone book.

She also picked up some copies of a new addition to the recipe book selection, 'Generations in the Kitchen'.

On the cover is a luscious strawberry decorated chocolate cake and the book would make an excellent gift.

All are readily available at Uniquely Toodyay or simply stop a passing CWA

member and ask.

It's a small town, you know who they are.

A sign that CWA is really moving with the times is that in February it was possible to have a 'Cuppa in the Clouds' with the State President, Felicity Edwards.

Margaret tuned in.

From her feedback the topics ranged from this year's state conference, women farmers, branch involvement in Anzac Day, and the warning of yet another form to be filled in.

There are 'belles' branches being formed in the association.

As the members are generally younger and still working, often meetings are held on-line.

Perhaps we are seeing the CWA of the 21st century forming.

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.



CWA members Cathy and Val get a refresher course with St John's Monika and Glynn.

## Staying In Place moves near dentist

**Staying in Place Toodyay Districts**  
Hamish Dobbie, President

DESPITE its very name, Staying In Place Toodyay Districts (SIPTD) has moved.

During early February, SIPTD moved into new accommodation.

It now occupies an office at the rear of 94 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

This address may seem familiar to some of you, as the dentist occupies the front of the premises.

The office will allow us to meet current and prospective clients and it will also serve as a meeting place to welcome our many contractors and other organisations.

We hope to build a close relationship with our immediate neighbour to ensure that we can greet each visitor with a welcoming, well-polished smile.

Susan Burley has settled in well to the position of case manager and has been moving the office furniture around until she was satisfied that everything was in the right place – this is a woman's thing, I am led to believe.

All the transferred electronics reconnected without a hitch, which is a miracle in itself, and there was no interruption to the services provided by SIPTD.

So, it's onwards and upwards for SIPTD in 2026.

An incident occurred in late February that demonstrated just how fragile the health system is, and just how important the services provided by SIPTD and other providers play in the well-being of the elderly in the community.

An elderly lady had a fall after taking a dizzy turn and had to attend the doctor to be checked out for any injury she may have suffered.

The presiding doctor decided that she must attend the hospital for a scan to ensure that there were no hidden injuries.

As she had no means of transport, he recommended that an ambulance should be

called to take her there.

Fortunately, one of SIPTD's support workers had called into the doctors practice to make sure she was ok and offered to take her to the hospital.

The support worker then sat with the lady while she waited to be called by the hospital doctor and again sat with her as she waited on the results of the scan.

Afterwards the support worker drove her to her home.

All's well that ends well.

But the question arises, what would have happened afterwards if she had been dropped off by ambulance?

This lady would have been left on her own for a lengthy period of time before being seen by a doctor.

She then would have had another lengthy wait for her results before being released.

This lady was in pain and a little confused.

If she had been released, how would she have found her way home?

Her 'emergency contact' had been called away to the city.

To put it simply, if the SIPTD support worker hadn't been there, she would have been completely lost.

It's really important to look after the elderly in our community and that's what SIPTD is all about.

Everyone should feel that they have a duty to look after the elderly and their well-being.

Remember that it was these people who used to wipe your bottom when you were little, so you owe them big time.

If you think you or your partner may be eligible for a Home Care Package, or if you are interested in members had a demonstration on tool sharpening e SIPTD team, then please contact: Susan Burley, Case Manager, Staying In Place Toodyay Districts,

Phone 04 94 085 790 or email:

casemanager@stayinginplacetooday.org.au

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

Facebook: Staying In Place – Toodyay

# MONSTER GARAGE SALE at the Emu Farm

681 Clackline- Toodyay Rd, Hoddys Well

**Saturday April 4th  
& Sunday April 5th**

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# Temperature fell just as we arrived

Toodyay Garden Club  
Judy Rowston, Events/Media Reporter

HOW lucky for the Toodyay Garden Club to have a beautiful cool evening for their yearly Sundowner, to start the club's 2026 season.

During the day it was very hot, but Clive Hesse's garden proved to be the perfect venue with afternoon shade from the house and a huge temperature drop just as everyone was arriving.

Clive's garden, with lovely green lawn and shrubs as a backdrop welcomed 43 members and four visitors for a sausage sizzle, accompanied by a glorious array of salads and sweets.

This was enjoyed by all.  
President Dale welcomed everyone and presented Clive with a thankyou gift for hosting.

Congratulations to Lorraine Musielak who won the door prize which our talented raffle coordinator, Russty, once again made for the club.

Our annual general meeting was held on 5 March at St Stephens Hall at 10am and the committee provided morning tea.

The April garden visit with sweeping valley views is to Dale and Neville D'Antoine's property in Toodyay.

This is followed by the May visit to Paula and Peter Lloyd's property in York.

This will be a bus trip.  
Members will be asked to pack a picnic lunch to enjoy at this lovely property.



Club members Russty and Liz presented Lorraine Musielak with the door prize.



Members enjoying the cool evening.

Stephanie will take names and money for the bus trip at the AGM and April garden visit.

Membership fees are now due.

If you wish to join the club you must complete a form which Lyn will email along with details about how to pay online.

For all details of future garden visits please email the secretary at toodyaygardenclub@gmail.com.

If you know of a garden the club could visit, please contact Stephanie on 0429 888 314 who will be happy to follow up.



The lads were in charge of the cooking.

# Community Garden committee continue to work with the shire for a location

Toodyay Community Garden  
Michael Noonan

THE Toodyay Community Garden committee and membership continue to work hard along with the shire officers and councillors to locate and agree on a suitable location for our long-awaited community garden.

There are a number of sites under consideration.

The committee and membership focused on a site that is central to the town centre.

This would provide access for disabled and elderly members and a location that meets all of the identified requirements for a successful garden recognizing the extremes of the Toodyay weather.

An important part of any successful garden is the design process aimed at ensuring a successful outcome.

The design should prioritize important elements including sustainability, social interaction, orientation of the location with respect to sunlight, access to water and other facilities.

Also important is the provision of defined gathering and meeting areas, the use of raised planter beds ideally utilising capillary action irrigations systems.

Other issues in developing good design are areas for soil storage, composting, signage, security and the creation of a welcoming environment.

In the process of designing a successful community garden consideration should be given to the selection of the types of gardens which will best serve the community.

Garden types include:

**Plot Gardens** divided into individual plots to be managed;

**Cooperative Gardens** where produce is grown where members work as part of a team with shared produce; and

**Youth Gardens** focused on science, nutritional education and the learning of responsibility, self-confidence and the art of nurturing.

Other garden types could include:

**Entrepreneurial Gardens** where the membership can develop business principles

and skills by growing and selling produce.

The inclusion of a **Therapeutic Garden** would focus on the therapy of horticulture using plants that may improve the social, educational, psychological and physical well-being of gardeners and in some cases caregivers family and friends.

Each of these types of community gardens have varying goals and strategies for success and the Toodyay Community Garden membership are working towards developing the best model for the Toodyay community.

It is intended the Toodyay Community Garden will require initial and ongoing fundraising and sponsorship from the local and wider businesses and organizations.

The committee and membership of the Toodyay Community Garden Inc. will continue to advocate for the best outcome for the membership and the wider Toodyay community.

# Gunfire breakfast after dawn service

RSL Toodyay Subbranch  
Max Howard, Secretary

THE ANZAC dawn service starts at 0600 hours at the Toodyay War Memorial in Anzac Ave on Saturday April 25.

At the completion of this service a gunfire breakfast will be held at the Wicklow Shearing shed in nearby Clinton Street.

This is about 400m from the War Memorial.

People wishing to march will be called at 1015 hours to form up outside the Memorial Hall in Stirling Terrace.

The procession will move off at 1030 hours and march to the War Memorial arriving about 1045 hours.

At about 1055 hours the main service will commence and should be completed by about 1130 hours. At both services people will be able to lay wreaths.

Any queries please contact Max Howard the secretary on 0475 724 233.

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# Recycled bags keep books dry

**Bolgart Primary School**  
Sharyn Edgar, Principal

THE students at Bolgart Primary School have settled in well to the 2026 school year. We have welcomed three new kindy students and two new families to our school. Our total student numbers are 25. We hope they enjoy being a part of our wonderful school community. The school held parent/teacher meetings on Thursday 12 February, followed by a Parents and Citizens (P&C) association picnic. Thank you to our P&C for organising and to all the families who came along. It was a great turn-out. Our new student leaders had their first leaders meeting last week. They learnt about group norms, agendas and taking minutes of meetings.



Students with their new library bags.

They also hosted their first assembly on Thursday February 19 and did a great job. Student Leaders will be attending the *Youth Leadership Academy - Dream and Lead Conference* in Perth on Thursday, 5 March. They will be helped to discover their leadership potential, while being provided with strong foundations to succeed in their role. At our first assembly for the term, all students were presented with new library bags kindly donated by our P&C association. These bags are made from 100 percent recycled plastic water bottles, making them environmentally friendly. The students at Bolgart Primary School express their gratitude to the P&C for acquiring these stylish new waterproof bags. They will undoubtedly be useful for transporting and looking after our books.

# Squaring the square

**Wheatbelt Squares**  
Gil Ackland, President

FOUR of our dancers travelled to Perth for the Allemanders 22nd birthday celebration. There was lots of fun, laughter and music with songs with the Number 2 as a theme. The callers kept dancers thinking with some “different moves” and sometimes trying to catch up. There were many squaring the square. The day was completed with a grand afternoon tea, finished with an ice-cream. One cheeky gentleman commented, “You know we don’t really need this, but it is nice.” It was a great way to spend the afternoon. It was great to see our caller Robert walking well after his recent knee replacement. Robert also joined in and called a couple of the dances. The Square Dancing Association holds an annual National Square Dance Convention. This year it will be in Hobart from April 30 to May 4.

Some of our dancers have been up skilling dance moves and listening to other styles of calling with extra practice at different clubs. The Convention will have over 450 National and International dancers attending. Square dancing groups are very welcoming and inclusive. Our first dance is March 9 in Goomalling at the Seniors Hall. Are you interested in learning more about square dancing or want to have a go? In March we are offering a New Dancer Introduction program for 3 sessions. Members have been asked to circulate flyers. The flyers promote •Great Music •(Rock, Pop, Country, Blues & more) •Easy as Walking • No Fancy Footwork • Keep Fit • Have Fun • Learn Something New. Dress is casual with flat shoes and most important no experience is needed. You do not need a partner and instruction is by a qualified caller. Toodyay is fortunate to have the



Meeting in the Square. Wheatbelt group in Goomalling and also the Gidgegannup Squares down the Perth Road. In September, Wheatbelt Squares will celebrate their 50th birthday and also celebrate Robert’s 50 years as a caller – a remarkable achievement. We always welcome visitors to our small country club: to find out more contact Susan on 0429 962 012 or Robert 0429 962 013.



CORRECTION: This photo was published in last month’s edition incorrectly captioned as Doris Martin and Norma Waters. The correct names for the ladies in this photo are Lee Baird and Gai Martin and The Herald apologies for any confusion caused.

## Community news from Bolgart

Pamela McGill

BIRTHDAY wishes are extended to Nolene Kaszanski on celebrating her 60th birthday on February 14. Nolene celebrated with an amazing High Tea at the TWR at Crown with her family and friends. Extending condolences to Doris Martin on the sad loss of her sister Betty Anderson who passed peacefully away on her 95th birthday on 25 February 2026 at an Aged Care Home at Byford. Betty was the daughter of the late Albert and Gwladys Waters late of Dewars Pool Toodyay. Betty’s schooling was at Toodyay. Before marrying and moving to Bolgart she was a Junior Clerical Assistant at the Toodyay Road Board Office. She had five children, Norman, Rosemary, Douglas (dec), Gregory and Kingsley (dec). **Bowls News** THANK you to President Ian Woods and to Neil Smith and all helpers for organizing the Corporate Bowls the past three weeks. The bowls has now finished for this season after lots of fun and friendship on the bowling green. There was a lot a great talent. Some of the younger, young men and ladies are possible future bowlers. Thank you to the sponsors DEC Contracting (Joe Doran), Shire of Victoria Plains, Lachie McGuinness and Ennis Wilson. Thank you also to caterer Donna Clarke and her assistant Dianne Edmonds and all the other ladies who helped with the tasty hamburgers over the three nights. Thank you to the lovely men who cooked



Nolene’s 60th Birthday Celebrations L to R (Sister) Sharon Jones, Nolene Kaszanski, (Mum) Pam Meston.

and to the men who helped in any way. Twelve men went to Bowls Country Week. They competed in the singles, pairs and fours. Four ladies travelled to Toodyay for their Gala Day. A lovely day was enjoyed with beautiful food and lovely ladies to compete against. Unfortunately, we didn’t come away winners. Ladies Country week Bowls is nearly here and there will be four ladies travelling to the city to compete in the competition. We are wishing these ladies the best of luck.



Winners of the Corporate Bowls 2026 L to R Pam McGill, Trentan Meston, Tina Meston, Doug McGill, Joe Doran (Sponsor) (Missing) two other team members Blake Meston and Lester Snooke.

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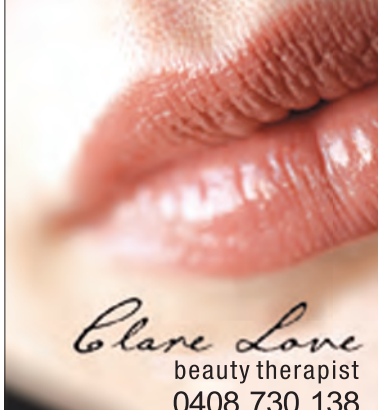
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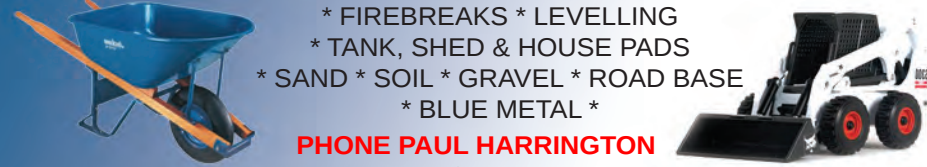
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## Is AI Absolutely Irritating or Actually Informative

**Morangup Progress Association**  
Daryl Cooper, Chairperson

AN ECLECTIC array of community events is planned for 2026.

In addition to our popular Drop-In nights on the last Friday of the month, there are:

Wine Experience night in May,

Sip'n'Paint night (date TBA),

The hugely popular Quiz Night in August, and,

AI seminar (date TBA).

In the cyber-world, AI stands for Artificial Intelligence.

To those of us less closely associated with that world, it might stand for Absolutely Irritating, Always Intrusive or, for some, Actually Informative.

Whatever AI means to someone personally, as it becomes more ubiquitous, we are all going to be affected by it.

The proposed seminar on the Uses and Abuses of AI should be of great interest to the community.

US President John Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what can you do for your country."

If we swap the word "country" for "community", one possible answer for Morangup residents would be, "get involved with the MPA".

This can be done by attending the Association's annual general meeting.

The AGM will be held Friday April 24 at 5.00pm immediately before the April Drop-In night.

If you like what the association offers the community, come along and let us know.

If you don't like what it does, come and tell us how or what it could do better.

## Bishop's woolly winter socks brought untold joy

**Toodyay Historical Society**  
Dr Robyn Taylor, Patron

LAST month two members of our Society, Adam O'Neill and yours truly, attended the launch of John J Kinder's much anticipated biography of the Catholic priest Raffaele Martelli (1811-1880).

*The Canon of Ancona. Raffaele Martelli, Missionary in Western Australia* was produced by UWA Publishing.

Although not as well-known today as many other personalities from Toodyay's colonial past, this book is significant.

It reveals the background story of Toodyay's first Catholic priest, his personality and humour that made him such a well-loved man by those of all religious persuasions.

This included his friend, the Anglican Rev Charles Harper.

Martelli didn't keep a diary but he was an avid letter writer.

His letters and related documents are archived at the Benedictine Monastery of New Norcia and collections in Italy.

It was author John Kinder's task to study and translate thousands of these documents.

It was a '10-year labour of love'.

Much of this research was published in 2014 in the book *Canon Raffaele in Western Australia, 1853-1864, Life & Letters*, by John Kinder and Joshua Brown.

This is a useful publication as it goes into the detail of some of Martelli's Toodyay letters that don't always make it into this latest publication.

While researching a short biography on Martelli for the 2015 *Toodyaypedia* project, it was delightful to read how a gift from Bishop Salvado of a pair of woollen winter socks brought him 'untold joy'.

No wonder.

He was living in a small straw hut that was barely waterproof in the original settlement at what is now West Toodyay.

This was the location of the first Depot for



*Fish & Chips at Early Mist Cafe.*

the convicts and their Pensioner Guards following their arrival here in 1851.

Without a priest the local Catholics used the services of the Anglican minister.

Martelli's arrival meant these important life occasions could be formalised under the Catholic faith.

We were excited to meet John when he visited Toodyay doing his research.

An Emeritus Professor of Italian Studies at the University of WA, John's credentials made him an ideal biographer of Martelli's life and experiences.

Also, his own erudition and facility with languages were essential for understanding the nuances of Martelli's thinking.

Martelli was politically active when Italy was undergoing the upheavals of the Italian Risorgimento.

It was his meeting and friendship with Abbot Rosendo Salvado from the New Norcia Mission that led to Martelli's decision to join the Spanish Benedictines, though he wasn't one himself.

They were planning to establish a mission for Aboriginals and Rosendo was in Italy seeking funds from Rome.

There is a lot of depth of thought in *The Canon of Ancona*, that rewards close reading.

I was interested to read the review of the book by Justin Bianchini where he writes of Kinder's hope to recover 'pertinent perspectives that have been forgotten or obscured in the past', especially those that come from 'people whose native language was not English'.

It's surprising when you look at the numbers, just how many people there were who spoke different languages in Western Australia before Federation.

It didn't seem to be a problem, at least until Federation and the new nationalism that was born with the birth of the Commonwealth. A perspective that gives us something to think about.

Our first event for the year was a Fish n' Chip night at the Early Mist Café.

There was a good turn up.

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Combo Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1. Frozen ground
  - 6. Liveliness
  - 7. Breaks
  - 8. Throwing
  - 11. Cooked delicacy
  - 12. Fortune
  - 13. Send mad
  - 15. Journal
  - 16. Loses colour
  - 18. Embedded
- DOWN
- 1. Famous poet
  - 2. Metal fastener
  - 3. Scrounger
  - 4. Type of bowling
  - 5. In bad form
  - 6. Waver
  - 9. Very light dress material
  - 10. Enjoy fully
  - 14. Flooded
  - 17. Cover

|    |   |   |   |    |  |    |    |    |    |   |
|----|---|---|---|----|--|----|----|----|----|---|
|    | 1 |   | 2 |    |  | 3  |    | 4  |    | 5 |
|    |   |   |   |    |  |    |    |    |    |   |
| 6  |   |   |   |    |  | 7  |    |    |    |   |
|    |   |   |   |    |  |    |    |    |    |   |
| 8  |   | 9 |   | 10 |  |    |    | 11 |    |   |
|    |   |   |   |    |  |    |    |    |    |   |
| 12 |   |   |   | 13 |  |    | 14 |    |    |   |
|    |   |   |   |    |  |    |    |    |    |   |
| 15 |   |   |   |    |  | 16 |    |    | 17 |   |
|    |   |   |   |    |  |    |    |    |    |   |
| 18 |   |   |   |    |  |    |    |    |    |   |

Cryptic Clues

- ACROSS
- 1. Post frame right out in frozen Arctic ground
  - 6. Enthusiasm some receiver venerates
  - 7. First runner fits out chinks
  - 8. Putting off all actors in first group
  - 11. Baked dish for scheming group of bidders
  - 12. Finishes toil to get one's share
  - 13. Upset reason called in English river
  - 15. Girl left with record of year's events
  - 16. Has a wearying effect on everything in afterthought
  - 18. Need rent small church used to be well dug-in

- DOWN
- 1. Italian flower with the last American writer
  - 2. Tear apart at last to hold the attention of another
  - 3. Rare fog around one searching for food
  - 4. Type of bowler not on single peg
  - 5. Don't sample as much having poor flavour
  - 6. Be irresolute about vital lace arrangement
  - 9. Light cotton cloth set around a container
  - 10. Eluding change to gratify one's wishes
  - 14. One was hard when covered by water
  - 17. Covering part left with part of the psyche

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

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

Hard

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

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.

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

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | C | S | 22 | 23 | 24 | Y  |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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

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

Soduko  
Easy  
Solution

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

Soduko  
Hard  
Solution

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

Crosscode  
Solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| P | E | R | M | A | F | R | O | S | T |   |  |  |
| V | E | R | I | F | I | T | S |   |   |   |  |  |
| A | S |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |
| C | A | S | T | I | N | G | P | I | E |   |  |  |
| I | L | O | T | D | E | R | A | N | G | E |  |  |
| L | O | T | U |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |
| A | N | N | A | L | P | A | L | S |   |   |  |  |
| T | E | N | T | R | E | N | C | H | E | D |  |  |

Combo  
Solution

## Charlie Wroth is new show patron

**Toodyay Agricultural Society**  
Karen Dore, Immediate Past President

LAST month’s annual general meeting was a welcome reminder of how much the community values the Toodyay Agricultural Show.

Thank you to everyone who attended, asked questions and put their hands up to help.

It was a terrific turnout and a positive start to the year.

A quick note on the annual general meeting process: aA couple of different understandings were floating around.

Nominations for office bearers and general committee members were called for when the annual membership invoices were issued.

At the AGM, three office bearers (vice-presidents and treasurer) were elected, and the general committee was formed from the nominations received.

This follows the constitution.

Committee members’ portfolios were then discussed at the brief committee meeting held after the AGM.

This clear, consistent process helps keep things transparent and welcoming for everyone.

We’re pleased to welcome the newly elected office bearers (the society’s executive).

First vice-resident: Jess Yost, new to the committee, but a familiar local face who joined the stewarding team last year.

Jess brings a strong connection to local agriculture.

Second vice-president: Neeta Kembrey, is new to the committee and she is the owner of a business she runs with her husband Callum , CJ Contracting WA.

Treasurer: Shirley Kemp is stepping back to continue the steady improvement she has brought to this important role.

The committee will be supported by new patron, Charlie Wroth (life member), taking up the mantle from David Chitty (life member), who has stepped back after more than 40 years of involvement with the show.

Alongside the executive, we have a great mix across the broader team.

There are six returning committee members and six new members, plus a new administration officer, Kathy.

## Farmers make hay while the sun shines

**Toodyay Agricultural Alliance**  
Andrew Thornton

LOCAL farmers are preparing for what will hopefully be another bumper season following the state’s biggest harvest on record.

This was despite dry seeding conditions and a dry spell through the month of June.

Modern farm equipment and technology are allowing farmers to make more precise decisions.

These include the timing of seeding, what varieties to plant, fertiliser blends and rates, nitrogen application and fungicide timing.

Due to these factors farmers can now grow more kilograms of grain per millimetre of rain.

This puts Australian farmers at the forefront of sustainable farming globally.

February is a busy month for farmers with a long list of jobs to be completed before seeding.

Top of the list for a majority of farmers is lime spreading.

Lime is applied to paddocks before seeding to help combat soil acidification which is a result from using the fertilisers needed to grow a crop.

There are also other benefits to liming including reducing toxic aluminium and manganese levels which impede root growth.



Equipment used to crunch canola stubble.

Kathy is new to town and keen to meet people.

Her experience will make a real difference behind the scenes, through day-to-day administration and by helping strengthen tools and processes.

Once the updated constitution is accepted by Consumer Protection, the role will become secretary as part of the executive.

Like many community groups, we’re in a positive transition phase, welcoming new ideas and making it easier for people to step into roles.

We’re sharing the workload more widely to keep involvement enjoyable and sustainable.

As immediate past president, I’ll stay close to the committee to support continuity and to back up new portfolio holders where I can.

There are still a few ways to get involved right now:

President (office-bearer vacancy).

General committee member (one vacancy).

Casual support (the more the merrier).

There are roles to suit different personalities and time availability.

The March meeting was held on Monday March 9 at 6.30pm at the showgrounds in the youth hall.

Planning for the 2026 show kicked off and if you’re curious about joining the committee or lending a hand, please reach out.

We are always happy to have a cuppa and a chat.

For more information visit [www.toodyayagshow.com.au](http://www.toodyayagshow.com.au) or email [toodyayagsociety@gmail.com](mailto:toodyayagsociety@gmail.com).

In closing, a huge thank you to:everyone who attended the AGM; returning committee members who kept things going through a demanding 2025 and new committee members who have stepped forward to learn the ropes/

A thank you also to the wider community who encourage the team and make the Toodyay Show what it is.

Make sure you save the date: Saturday 10 October 2026, 9am to 9pm at the Toodyay Showgrounds.

The best thing about the show is what it represents; decades of history and a whole community pitching in to create a day Toodyay can be proud of.

It also helps improve nutrient availability which can be locked in acidic soil.

Another benefit is enhancing soil structure by reducing compaction.

This results in better aeration and water holding capacity.

The amount of lime needed per paddock is based on soil test results which can vary between soil types and can be anywhere from 1tonne/ha to 4tonne/ha.

Another major task is crunching canola stubble.

This is achieved by towing a wide implement with edged rollers that flatten then chop the stubble into short lengths.

This speeds up the decomposition process and allows the stubble to flow through the air seeder without causing any blockages.

Paddock preparation such as the removal of contour banks, rockpiles, obsolete fencing and fallen tree branches is another important task to be carried out.

With the high cost per hour of running machinery making paddocks as efficient as possible to work helps with reducing the overall cost per hectare of growing a crop.

February and March are also clearing sale time with many farmers hoping to grab a bargain piece of equipment or for most it’s a good chance for a social day out but somehow managing to come home with something that you really had no intention of buying.

Local sheep producers are enjoying some favourable returns for their hard work with a promising start to the year.

The wool market reached a level not seen since 2019 with China being the dominant market consistently purchasing between 80 to 90 per cent of total exports.

Demand for lamb is strong as well with solid prices.

A recent sale of 19,000 lambs at Muchea saw prices top \$260 with strong demand coming from Eastern states buyers.

Whether these prices are sustainable will be closely watched but as the saying goes “Make hay while the sun shines”.

### ENVIRONMENT

## ‘Cosmopolitan weed’ needs digging up



Caltrop stem.

### Pest plant, Caltrop.

Desraé Clarke

CALTROP, also known as cat-headed or puncture vine, is a declared ‘pest plant’.

It lives up to its declaration as a pest within the Shire of Toodyay.

It is called a ‘cosmopolitan weed’ because it is widely distributed in many countries with no obvious country of origin.

The plant grows flat on the ground in many types of soil and has spiny, five-segmented burrs, hence the name puncture vine.

It is an annual plant with small yellow flowers that are less than 10mm across.

The leaves have small leaflets opposite each other arranged like a feather with between three to seven pairs of leaflets on each stem.

The seeds germinate in summer after rain with a woody taproot growing rapidly to extract moisture from deep in the ground.

It takes caltrop three weeks to flower after the seeds germinate and within ten days viable fruit can be produced.

To control this pest plant, it is best to dig it out of the ground and collect all the burrs ensuring protective gloves are worn.

As the taproots can be very strong, especially with large older plants, a mattock may be necessary to get rid of this nasty, spiny plant.

To dispose of the plant and burrs it is suggested to bag and place in the red bin.

If a red bin is not available, keep plants and burrs bagged till winter then incinerate.

As the spines on the burrs are strong, but minute in size, they puncture and are transferred via footwear and also in the pads of dogs’ feet.

This plant is toxic to sheep.

## Stripey snake not venomous

### Herpetofauna

Desraé Clarke

DESPITE the heat there have been few herpetofauna (frogs, lizards, snakes, turtles, monitors, pythons, goannas, skinks, dragons, legless lizards, geckos) sightings reported.

Thank you to those who take the time to make herpetofauna reports and to make animal and birds reports.

This data is so important to the long term ‘scheme of things’, knowing what creatures are surviving change, those that are moving to previously non-occupied areas and those whose numbers are decreasing.

The Toodyay Naturalists’ Club is very grateful for the information.

Recently a member of the Toodyay community reported disturbing a small snake known as Jan’s Banded Snake or Banded Sand Snake. Its scientific name is Simoselaps bertholdi. This small creature grows to approximately 30 cms.

Its ground colour is yellow to orange with broad black banding with the bands and inter spaces approximately equal in width.

The belly is white to pale yellow between the bandings. The tiny rounded, or shovel-nosed, snout is white to grey with flecks of dark brown.

The Jan’s Banded Snake feeds on small lizards. The shiny, smooth scales of this species make it easy for movement through sand and leaf litter.

This small snake is oviparous, laying up to eight eggs and is non-venomous.

If you come upon something of interest and would like to share contact can be made by email: [secretary@toodyaynats.com.au](mailto:secretary@toodyaynats.com.au) or 9574 5574.



Jan’s Banded Snake courtesy of Julie Jenkinson.

## The Western Corella

### Bird of the Month

Desraé Clarke

THE Western Corella (Cacatua pastinator) of 40-45cm is found around the Shire of Toodyay.

It has a high, erect crest and, when displaying or agitated, raises the crest forward.

It is white with crimson-pink lores and a small area of crimson-pink semi-concealed at the base of the feathers on the throat.

It has a grey eye ring, slightly wider at the lower aspect of the eye, long rounded wings, a long tail with the underwing noted, when in flight, to be of pale yellow.

Unfortunately, the birds create major damage to the school oval.

They dig out Guildford Grass corms with long upper mandibles causing severe surface damage to roots and bulbs, especially that of the significant feral plant.

Double gees are also dug up.



Western Corellas are regularly seen in Tooday and they can cause alot of damage.

# Nats gear up for a busy year of activities

**Toodyay Naturalists Club**  
Greg Warburton

THE first meeting for 2026 was very well attended.

Members had the opportunity to catch up after the recess.

Adding to the group experience was a call to members to present three photos that had special meaning to them in terms of environment, wildlife and the natural world.

As with previous “members nights” it was an informative and entertaining procession of images and videos.

Some presenters seemed to have missed the requirement of the photo number limit.

The full and varied agenda of the general meeting prompted much discussion and indicated a busy year.

As the 60th anniversary in 2028 rapidly approaches ideas are being presented to mark the occasion.

A proposed event with the working title of “Celebrating Toodyay’s Natural Environment” promises to be an exciting drawcard.

It will also be a creative opportunity to promote the richness of Toodyay’s natural assets.

The John Masters Bird Hide situated on the banks of the Avon River overlooking the beautiful Red Banks Pool is a standout feature on the Bilya Walk Track.

The design and construction of this unique structure was a project of the TNC with

funding provided by Wheatbelt NRM in 2012.

Last month I was delighted to receive a phone call from Sharon Quigley (nee Ponsford) who was the designer.

After many years living overseas, she wanted to revisit the site and asked if I would accompany her.

During the visit Sharon told me how she had researched ideas and gathered suggestions from “birdos” from across Australia.

The result is the unique design we see today.

Sharon was impressed how the structure is valued, maintained and utilized for important interpretive signage.

Note: Former local resident and builder Michael Shepherd and his team turned the design into reality.

On Saturday March 7 members joined Toodyay Friends of the River and the Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance for a Cleanup Australia Day activity.

Litter was collected along Munyerring Springs Road in Julimar Forest.

Our next regular meeting will be held on Saturday March 21 at St. Stephen’s Hall commencing at 7:00 pm.

Keynote speaker will be former *Toodyay Herald* editor, Sean Hefferon.

Sean will do a presentation on the Toodyay Community Foundation.

Enquiries about TNC can be made by phoning Greg on 0429009425 or visit [toodyaynats.org.au](http://toodyaynats.org.au).



Greg Warburton and Sharon Quigley at the new Bird Hide.

## Seedlings grow better if planted early

**Toodyay Seed Group**  
Bethan Lloyd

TOODYAY seed group members have been busy sowing native seed over the summer months.

Despite bursts of hot weather, most seeds germinated well. This year we have reduced numbers of plants available.

All those who have ordered will get their plants either at the end of April or early June.

It depends when we get rain.

I have found if you can get things planted early, even if you have to water them initially, they get off to a better start when the soil is

still warm and if ground prep is done well.

They establish a better root system, often not needing watering later on. This is dependent on picking the right plants for the soil type and situation. Those who have ordered will get an email nearer the time.

The seed group is a subgroup of Toodyay Friends of the River (TFOR)

We have a page on their website where you can order plants.

Fill in the details and submit.

Any orders this late in the season will be held over for plants for next year unless we have some plants left over after orders have been filled.



Plants growing in shade house.

# Fire destroys nest sites



Today Carnaby's black cockatoos are classified as endangered. (Photo by Mike Bouette).

**Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance**

Dr Liz Kingston

THE extensive jarrah and wandoo woodlands of the Julimar State Forest have long been home to one of Australia's most iconic birds, the Carnaby's black cockatoo.

Historically, flocks of up to 5,000 were observed flying in WA skies in search of food and today they are classified as endangered.

Due to habitat loss and other threats, the Carnaby's population has significantly declined since European settlement.

The Great Cocky Count survey estimates its population on the Swan Coastal Plain is declining by 15 percent every year.

Along with the ancient salmon gum woodlands of Cocanarup near Ravensthorpe, the Julimar State Forest and adjoining Bindoon Army Reserve provide the State's most important breeding grounds for the Carnaby.

This has been extensively documented by Ron Johnstone, former Curator of Ornithology at the WA Museum.

Over 20 years, Ron recorded over 300 Carnaby's cockatoo nesting hollows in the Bindoon Army reserve and neighbouring bushland.

Two months ago, on 22 January disaster struck.

A wildfire sparked by lightning in the Fitzgerald River National Park accompanied by hot, gusty, south-west winds burnt a staggering 172,000 hectares of high-conservation value bushland, including Ravensthorpe's Cocanarup salmon gums.

The Cocanarup Conservation Alliance estimate that up to 70 percent of the approximately 300 Carnaby nest trees have been burnt.

Some of these tree-hollows still held chicks.

Carnaby black cockatoos require large sky-facing hollows for nesting.

These are typically found in mature wandoo and other eucalypt trees that are at least 100 years old.

Breeding birds need to access food from native vegetation within 12 kilometres of their nesting hollows to raise healthy young.

Beyond the impact on the Cocanarup Carnaby's breeding sites, a vast area of their foraging vegetation has also been burnt to ash.

Creatures impacted by this devastating fire include four other threatened fauna; Malleefowl, Heath Mice, Chuditch (or Western Quoll) and the Red-Tailed Phascogale, as well as priority plants and ecological communities.

Full recovery will take decades.

Julimar forest and the adjacent Bindoon Army reserve bushland is now ever more critical as habitat for the future survival of the species.

Two prescribed burns are being planned by the WA Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions over large areas of the Julimar forest over the next few months.

If these burns do go ahead, it will be vital that Julimar's important Carnaby habitat is protected and the proposed cool burns preserve nesting hollows and essential forage trees.

The Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance, including Toodyay ornithologist Max Howard have been busy conducting wildlife and flora surveys across the Julimar State Forest.

They aim to identify all nesting tree hollows and to monitor Carnaby's black cockatoo populations as part of ongoing survey work.

Four surveys are planned for 2026 with further information posted on our website, [julimarcafa.org.au](http://julimarcafa.org.au) and on our Facebook page @julimarcafa.

## The disappearing compost mystery

**Toodyay Friends of the River**  
Greg Warburton

LAST month's meeting was cancelled with notification sent out to members via e-mail.

Apologies to those who may have missed the update.

The first day of the new month was the iconic Clean Up Australia Day (CUAD).

Although no official CUAD event was held in Toodyay at least one member of Toodyay Tidy Towns was seen picking up roadside garbage that day.

However, both Toodyay Friends (TFOR) of the River and the Toodyay Naturalists' Club conducted their CUAD event with a litter pick up along Munyerring Springs Road in the Julimar Forest on Saturday March 7.

Members were surprised and mystified when the shire dismantled and removed the community composting facility at the 'Junction Depot' last month.

This project was an initiative of TFOR and financed through external funding secured by the group.

It provided free compost to local land holders and was successfully run by volunteers for several years.

Fortunately, the plant nursery and storage shed, continues to be a busy hub and

an essential logistical base for TFOR's activities and services.

Many of us know that setting up an incorporated community volunteer group is a protracted and detailed process.

We have learned recently that winding up such a group is equally, if not more, complex.

Last year a decision was made to dispense with Conserving the Avon River Environment (CARE).

This overarching body consisted of several member groups from the catchment including TFOR.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank our secretary Wayne who has navigated us through the process including the precise distribution of remaining funds to the member groups.

The regular monthly meeting/working bee will be held in Duidgee Park Sunday March 17 commencing at 10am.

This will be a special general meeting to brainstorm ideas for promoting TFOR and will incorporate input to the Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Community Survey.

Any enquiries about TFOR can be made by phoning the president/project officer 0429 009 425 or by visiting our website [toodyayfor.org.au](http://toodyayfor.org.au)

HEALTH

How many teeth does a cat need?

Heartlands Veterinary Hospital

TOM is a 10-year-old tabby cat and has a story that is not uncommon.

Dental and oral disease was making him miserable and after treatment Tom was left sporting only one lonely tooth in his whole mouth.

Tom’s loving family report that he only ever caught a single mouse when he had his teeth. However, since becoming a one-toothed cat he has caught nearly a dozen.

Tom also seems sprightlier and climbs more trees.

He chomps down his dinner happily and is still enjoying cat biscuits.

He is definitely a happier cat now that his dental disease has been treated.

While healthy mouths full of shining teeth are what we wish for, sometimes the only way to eliminate mouth pain in our companion animals is removing teeth.

Having a pet undergo a very large number of dental extractions can be an overwhelming and nerve-racking experience.

Many people worry how their pet will cope with few or no teeth.

Pets like Tom, who act so much happier, often appear like they have a new lease on life once their painful mouths are treated.

This proves to us that they don’t miss their teeth one little bit.

Keep catching those mice, Tom.

We are very happy to see you and all our other ‘gummy bear’ patients loving life again.



Ten-year -old Tom was a toothless tiger in desperate need of treatment for gum disease.



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

Blueberries, not brownies: vet-approved swaps for dogs

DOG owners are being warned about the foods that can cause severe, and sometimes life-threatening, reactions in dogs, as experts reveal the treats most likely to land pets in the vet’s office and their suggested alternatives.

While many owners admit to sharing bites from their plates, vets say even small amounts of common ingredients can cause symptoms ranging from vomiting and diarrhoea to seizures and organ damage.

Chocolate

Chocolate contains theobromine, a chemical found in cocoa that dogs can’t metabolise effectively.

Even a small amount can lead to vomiting, diarrhoea, hyperactivity, tremors, irregular heartbeat, seizures and, in severe cases, death.

While you can buy dog-safe chocolate that contains carob, blueberries would be a better choice if you want to give your dog a sweet treat.

They contain antioxidants, fibre, vitamins, and minerals that support immune function, brain health, eye health, and good digestion.

They’re also low in calories and fat, making them great additions to your dog’s meal.

Alcohol

EVEN small quantities can cause rapid intoxication because a dog’s liver can’t process ethanol efficiently.

Symptoms include vomiting, disorientation, tremors, dangerously low blood sugar, difficulty breathing and, in severe cases, seizures and coma.

Dog-safe champagne is available but opting for something like a bone broth is far better.

Bone broth boosts hydration, improves digestion and gut health, supports joint health, enhances skin/coat and strengthens the immune system.

You can make your own by simmering your bones of choice in a slow cooker for 24 hours, straining the liquid through a fine mesh sieve and skimming the fat, and then

keeping it in the fridge.

Grapes and raisins

EATING grapes and raisins can cause acute kidney failure and, without treatment, it can be life-threatening.

However, there are a number of fruits that are perfectly safe for dogs including, strawberries, apples, pears and even dried cranberries.

Cooked bones

COOKING causes bones to become brittle, making them prone to splintering when chewed.

These sharp fragments can puncture the mouth, throat, or intestines, leading to internal bleeding, choking or blockages that often require emergency surgery.

If you want to give your dog bones, they must be fed raw.

Onion

REGARDLESS of whether an onion is raw, cooked, powdered or dehydrated, it can damage a dog’s red blood cells, leading to anaemia, lethargy, and breathlessness.

Alternatives like leeks or chives are not good for dogs either, as they are part of the allium family.

A better option for your dog would be celery or carrots.

Macadamia nuts

THESE nuts contain an unknown toxin that affects the nervous system.

Dogs may develop weakness, vomiting, shaking, hind-leg paralysis or a high temperature, and while many dogs recover with treatment, the symptoms can be extremely distressing.

Vets recommend unsalted peanuts or cashews as an alternative.

Plain, unsalted pumpkin seeds also work well as they are a good source of nutrients like antioxidants, fatty acids, and minerals such as zinc, iron, and magnesium.

Fun group tackles hearing loss

Auslan group

Liz Huges

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

Come along to our fun social group at the Toodyay Library each Thursday from 9.30 to 11.00am.

The fun is free.

The Auslan (Australian Sign Language) experience is free.

If you have a young person in your family unit who has hearing loss, here are some suggestions and encouraging thoughts which may help with their stress and yours.

Social anxiety is common for young people with hearing loss, often because social situations take more effort and can feel unpredictable.

Your child may worry about missing what others say, feeling different, or making a mistake in a fast-moving conversation.

Here are some tips for managing social anxiety:

Acknowledge their feelings.

Let them know it’s okay to find some social situations hard.

Practice together simple self-advocacy phrases.

“Can you say that again?” or “Can we move somewhere quieter?”

Plan for tricky environments.

Before parties, playgrounds, or group activities, discuss what might help.

Finding a well-lit spot, using captions, or taking breaks to reduce listening fatigue.

Build connections.

Encourage time with friends who communicate well with your child, including other deaf or hard-of-hearing peers.

Talk about feelings openly.

Normalising emotions – “it makes sense that this felt hard today” – helps young people process experiences rather than internalise them.

Learn coping strategies.

Breathing techniques, grounding exercises, a fidget tool, exercise, and positive self-talk can help manage anxiety in the moment.

Get professional support if needed.

Psychologists, counsellors, or mental health workers can teach personalised strategies to

build confidence and reduce anxiety.

If anxiety leads to constant worry, avoiding school or friends, or thoughts of self-harm, getting professional help is recommended.

Model inclusive communication.

Face them, get their attention, and reduce background noise where you can – it helps them feel more confident and less anxious.

Free program helps overweight kids’

A FREE online resource is now available to help parents make healthier food choices for their children.

The resource comes in response to data from the Western Australian Department of Health that charts a worrying trend.

Statistics reveal one in four children aged between five and 15 are overweight.

Yet almost three quarters of parents and carers see their child’s weight as being within the healthy range.

The free online tool aims to help educate families and provide better support.

From small supermarket swaps to simple fun exercises the Better Health Program is helping families make healthier choices at home without stigma or pressure.

The program is free for children in Western Australia aged between six to 12 years and their families.

It’s funded by the WA Department of Health and delivered by the Better Health Company and qualified health professionals.



## HEALTH

## Sun safety – looking after our skin

## Warrior Wellbeing

WEST Aussies love nothing more than getting outdoors and enjoying the abundance of sunshine that lathers our great state.

A small amount of incidental exposure to sunlight, around a few minutes each day, is important for maintaining adequate levels of Vitamin D needed for strong bones, muscles and overall good health.

Too much exposure, however, places us at great risk of damage from Ultraviolet (UV) radiation which potentially could lead to the development of skin cancer.

We need to get the balance right.

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world mainly due to our very high UV levels.

According to the Cancer Council WA, at least two in every three people will develop some type of skin cancer before they reach the age of 70.

Of the three main types of skin cancer most of these people will develop a Basal Cell Carcinoma.

This is usually a small, slow-growing abnormal growth found mainly on the upper body, head and neck.

They don't usually spread far but if left can result in facial and body disfigurement.

The next most common is the Squamous Cell Carcinoma often found on the lips, ears and scalp.

These grow more quickly and if left can potentially spread into the lymph nodes of the neck and then to other parts of the body.

The last and most dangerous type is the Melanoma which accounts for about one to two percent of all skin cancers.

It can be found anywhere on the body but is mainly on the upper back of men and lower legs of women.

It is an aggressive type and if left untreated can spread quickly to other parts of the body and potentially be fatal.

It was estimated that this year alone there will be over 14,000 new cases nationally of

Melanoma skin cancer detected, with over 8,500 of those men.

By spending more time in the sun, we inevitably place ourselves at an increased risk of skin damage and potential skin cancer.

Taking measures to be sun safe should be part of our daily routine especially if we are involved in outdoor work.

It is important to remember that the UV levels can still be high even on a cool and cloudy day.

Following these simple tips will get us well on the way to being sun safe.

Cover up with appropriate clothes.

- Use sunscreen (don't forget to re-apply often).

- Wear a hat (the broader the better).

- Seek out shade.

- Wear sunnies to protect your eyes.

Early detection is always the key.

Check your skin regularly all over for any unusual spots or growths (get your partner to help).

You can visit the Cancer Council WA website for information about what exactly to look for and don't hesitate to get anything of concern looked at by your doctor.

An annual skin check with your GP or at a reputable skin clinic is also a good way to keep track of any changes or developments.

Contact: The Regional Men's Health Initiative

Phone: (08) 6314 1436

Email: menshealth@4blokes.com.au



## Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

REGISTRATIONS are now open for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea and this May the Cancer Council's signature fundraiser is turning 33.

Residents in the Wheatbelt are being encouraged to gather friends, family or workmates for a cup of tea and a bite to eat while raising money to fund cancer research, new treatments and education that saves lives.

Cancer Council WA Wheatbelt regional cancer prevention coordinator, Kaylor Andrews, said Cancer Council WA was hoping to raise more than \$2 million in 2026 to continue its life-saving cancer research, prevention, advocacy and support programs.

"For 33 years, Cancer Council Australia's Biggest Morning Tea has brought together many people living in the Wheatbelt over a cup of tea in support of those affected by cancer," Ms Andrews said.

"Since it began in 1993, Cancer Council's generous community of supporters across Australia have raised around \$240 million by hosting morning teas.

"Whichever way you choose to celebrate Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, every dollar raised in the Wheatbelt will make a huge difference.

"It doesn't need to be fancy.

"Your Biggest Morning Tea could be at home with friends or family, a simple morning tea in the office with workmates, a virtual get-together or a gathering in the local community or at school.

"Simply register online, set a date in April, May or June and start sending out your invites.

Ms Andrews said that everyone will be affected by cancer at some point in their lives, and every dollar raised helped to support those who have been impacted."

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is the largest and most successful event of its kind in the country.

Ms Andrews said the iconic event attracted around 2000 Western Australian hosts each year.

Anyone unable to host a morning tea can still get involved by donating directly to Cancer Council via [biggestmorningtea.com.au](http://biggestmorningtea.com.au).



## SPORT

## Cleanups Karate and kayaking

## Avon Valley Shotokan

Nat Kielbasa

ONCE upon a time in an idyllic little town called Toodyay, a clever program called Adopt-A-Spot existed.

It allowed community groups to select an area to keep clean in exchange for a donation from the local Shire.

But one day this innovative initiative vanished, became a legend and the rubbish slowly began to creep back in.

Here at Avon Valley Shotokan, we decided it was about time for action and for us all to make our own fairy tale.

Early on a Sunday, armed with hi-vis vests, gloves, bags and enthusiasm, a group of students and families picked a road (this time was in Clackline) and began the verge clean up.

Inspired by the effort, local heroes Jackson Leaney and the team at Earth to AG Diesel decided they would donate bottles and cans as well which was a wonderful surprise for which we are very thankful.



Russell, Chandre, Maciej, Casey, Joe and Hannah start the verge clean up.



Club members Brittany and Ivy enjoy a day out kayaking at Lake Leschenaultia.

## Online concerns among young people rise as digital life grows more complex

ONLINE concerns among young people is increasing, particularly in the age group most affected by the under 16s social media ban, according to YourTown, an organisation responsible for the national Kids Helpline.

The helpline's records show between November last year and January 2026, the number of counselling contacts from people worried about online activity rose for both 12 to 15 year olds and 16 to 25 year olds, compared with the same period the year before.

YourTown chief executive officer Tracy Adam said these trends highlighted the increasingly central role digital environments play in young people's relationships, identity and emotional wellbeing.

She said in the lead-up to recent changes to social media access, Kids Helpline heard from young people who were confused, worried about staying connected with friends or afraid of missing out.

Ms Adams said for 10 to 14 year olds in particular, connection and belonging mattered deeply.

"When something shifts in their online

world, it feels personal."

Kids Helpline data also shows cyberbullying remained an ongoing issue.

For adolescents, one in three bullying contacts included a cyberbullying component.

This rose to two in five for older teens and young adults.

New digital analytics also showed strong engagement with Kids Helpline online information about the social media ban.

Ms Adams said young people were trying to understand what the changes meant for their friendships, identity and day-to-day life.

"Their questions show that rules alone do not solve online challenges," she said.

Young people need support, guidance and safer platforms.

"As technology evolves, so do the risks, and children and young people need help to navigate these spaces confidently."

Kids Helpline is Australia's only free, confidential 24/7 counselling service for children and young people aged 5 to 25.

Young people can speak with a counsellor by calling 1800 55 1800 or via webchat at [kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au).



Principal's Pen

Are you all just as excited as we are that summer is nearly over? Bring on the cooler, more manageable days – and goodbye to melting before 10am.

We hope you all received (and loved) the recipe cards we sent out in the mail. We'd love to hear what you think... or even better, drop off your potato bake and we'll happily provide a very professional taste test. Strictly for feedback purposes, of course.

February was a busy one for our little agency, with new rentals, new sales, and even a couple of properties sold and leased off market. It's been a great start to the year.

As we head into the cooler months, now is the perfect time to start preparing your home for sale. Before long, Toodyay will be green and beautiful again, and there's no better time to show off your property at its best.

If you've been thinking about selling, give Jess or Sam a call today for your free appraisal. We promise the advice is free... the potato bake judging is optional.

In the office this month:

**Breanna** learning more and more about real estate and loving it.

**Zonelle** so very close to finishing off her course.

**Jemma** off on a trip over east for her Birthday – we'll give you all the details next month.

**Jess** got pranked by the staff – you'll have to visit our Tiktok for more.

**Sam** has a brand new home coming up for sale... you'll have to keep your eye on realesate.com.au for more details soon.

**Tony** went back to court and is awaiting yet another date ... This last month has been fairly quiet while most of us have been hiding from the heat, but there were still a couple of great reasons to celebrate. I was lucky enough to celebrate my Nan's 70th birthday with family and loved every minute of it. Not long after, it was my turn — celebrating my own birthday, which of course meant another excuse to gather the family and eat a bit too much cake.

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!



**12 Drummond Street, Toodyay: Offers from \$850,000**  
Standing proudly as a beautiful example of heritage architecture, this home is steeped in history and timeless character. Split level design featuring 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and 3 living areas.



**Lot 39 Laterite Way, Coondle: Offers from \$449,000**  
5 acre block of natural bush featuring a large 18m x 18m shed and 25,000l water tank.