

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.

May 2026
Edition 456

Moondyne Magic



Photo: Rashelle Predovnik

Rashelle Predovnik

TOODYAY'S 42nd Moondyne Festival drew thousands, with the Vic Hotel packed to capacity as crowds poured into a town that united to deliver a fantastic experience for visitors.

Festival committee member Jean Melhuish-Hill said the festival delivered a major boost to the local economy, with most people travelling to Toodyay from outside the district.

She estimated the crowd at around 12,500 this year.

"The local bakers and cafes, clothing, gift shops, Op Shop and hotels gear up for a very busy day, which is one of the biggest turnover days for them each year," she said.

"Accommodation at our two caravan parks, The Toodyay Manor and The Vic were fully booked with the Toodyay Homestead Motel and Pecan Hill B&B heavily booked."

A staff member from the Victoria Hotel told

The Herald not everyone could fit through the door.

"We reached capacity so we had to have door counters managing the crowd that queued."

The iconic role of Moondyne Joe was played by Oscar Litchfield the owner-operator of a rural fencing business..

Ms Melhuish-Hill said his youth and fitness were both necessary as on the day Joe and his gang cover a lot of ground.

"Oscar is also a singer, songwriter and guitarist used to performing in the public domain.

This year, the festival had a number of new attractions including a hot air balloon display, and clay animal moulding, sponsored by Midland Brick and The Toodyay Arts Competition.

Putting together this well-known and well-loved festival requires planning which started eight months ago.

Organising grants and sponsorships,

finding new performers, food stalls and choreographing the street theatre were just some of the jobs to do.

Ms Melhuish-Hill said 55 people were part of the festival's street theatre which included floosies, temperance ladies, Joe and his Gang, judges, lawyers, historic police, urchins, nurses and the like.

"Many are from our local community with some coming from Perth and further afield just to help us out on the day".

Behind the scenes, the Moondyne Men, Toodyay Locals Care, the SES, community groups and a group of volunteers linked to committee members all help on the day, including setting up and packing down the event.

But the event is not without its challenges.

Ms Melhuish-Hill said funding was a challenge, with rising costs and new requirements from the government and the shire.

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Celebrating 42nd Moondyne



The Toodyay Herald

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President: Peter Ruthven
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Secretary: Anne Bouveng
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ADVERTISING

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

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THANK YOU

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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

NEWS & GENERAL INQUIRIES

news@toodyayherald.com.au

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Noon Thursday
May 28

STORY DEADLINE

Noon Friday
May 29

DISTRIBUTED

Thursday
June 11



Rashelle Predovnik

THERE was a time when council meetings were built around the radical notion that the public might actually ask questions.

Now, thanks to the ever-evolving choreography of rule changes, attending a council meeting feels less like civic engagement and more like auditioning for a low-budget ballroom competition where nobody knows the steps and the judges keep changing the rules halfway through the routine.

Welcome to *Come Dance With Me* – the newest interpretive performance from the the Committee for Controlled Movement.

The music begins at public question time as ratepayers step up to the microphone ready to perform.

But don't expect to ad-lib.
This is not a freestyle event.
This is the 'two-step'.
Two questions only.
Then sit down.
Next partner please.
The rhythm is elegant in its inefficiency.
One resident rises, approaches the microphone, asks two carefully rationed questions, then shuffles away while the next

resident takes their turn to cross the dancefloor. By the time each partner change is complete, precious minutes have danced away.

In Toodyay, only 15 minutes is allowed for public question time – which sounds generous until you realise half of it is spent watching people rotate on and off the microphone like disappointed contestants on *Dancing With The Stars: Local Government Edition*.

It is a masterclass in movement without momentum.

Meanwhile, journalists trying to ask questions by email are left standing outside the ballroom pressing their faces against the glass.

Three separate media enquiries of mine were emailed in beforehand.

None were answered.
None even made it onto the dance card.

Apparently, accountability now requires physical attendance because nothing says 'transparent governance' quite like forcing residents and journalists to queue at a microphone for the privilege of very limited interaction.

The rules themselves seem to pirouette constantly.

Sand spread sparks oval safety complaints

Rashelle Predovnik

CONTRACTORS employed by the shire to do routine maintenance and spread sand across a football oval used soil contaminated with sticks and rocks, sparking complaints and prompting the matter to come to council as urgent business.

The contractors were engaged to spread river sand as part of routine maintenance on the Toodyay Showgrounds Oval in February as part of top-dressing works on both the cricket and football playing areas.

But instead of producing a pristine playing field, the works left behind debris.

Concerns over the condition of the oval escalated on March 11 when the Toodyay Football Club lodged a complaint with the shire, raising fears about player safety ahead of the 2026 season opener on April 19.

The complaint prompted an inspection of the oval and discussions between shire officers and the contractor responsible for the works.

According to a council report, the contractor said it would assess availability and prepare advice on a proposed mowing program, with the shire considering a mix of outsourced and in-house mowing in the meantime.

The condition of the oval attracted enough community concern for councillors to unanimously vote to bring the matter forward as urgent business during the meeting.

The report said the matter was operational and should remain under the chief executive officer's delegated authority.

But councillors exercised their governance oversight role to bring the matter to council and the administration acknowledged there was a potential liability and reputational risk if debris remained on the oval.

The shire indicated future communication with user groups would acknowledge rocks and sticks had been identified on sections of the oval and that options to address the

issue were being considered.

The oval is used as a sporting field for local football and cricket clubs.

It is also used to hold annual events including the Toodyay Motorbike and Car Show, the Toodyay Agricultural Show and the Toodyay Lion's Auction.

Toodyay Football Club treasurer Ben Jenkins said he appreciated the support councillors had given the club in following up on their complaint.

We're back playing on the oval and it's in pretty good nick now."



The oval is a popular place for dog walkers like Merridith and Scout.

Procedures change.

Formats shift.

Footwork evolves.

Residents arrive having learned last month's routine only to discover council has moved on to a new dance.

There is something strangely poetic about travelling to a council meeting because it is now the *only* place *The Herald's* media enquiries will be answered.

This is despite the shire's own officially approved rules allowing question to be answered in writing.

Unsurprisingly, the unanswered questions – piling up over four weeks – become an ever-growing troupe of dancers waiting in the wings.

But the 15-minute stage is too small and in the end, almost nobody makes it onto the floor long enough to finish all the questions

they came to ask.

By the time my turn arrived, I only managed a few questions before the music faded and the curtain fell.

No encore.

Even though the Shire President can permit extra time under the rules.

Instead, just a polite nod from the ballroom stage manager and unmistakable feeling that the purpose of the dance was never communication at all – merely choreography.

Perhaps next month council can simplify things further.

Maybe residents could communicate entirely through interpretive movement.

One spin for 'yes'.

Two spins for 'question taken on notice'.

And a slow waltz toward the exit for anyone hoping for genuine engagement and the opportunity to ask all their questions.

Correction

IN THE April edition of *The Herald*, it was stated that council endorsed a two percent rate increase to create a special reserve fund to repair the Newcastle Footbridge.

This was incorrect.

A two percent increase was recommended by officers, but council did not adopt this proposal.

Instead, Council decided funding would be considered at budget time.

Council agreed to proceed with a full bridge decking replacement, estimated at \$270,000, to be funded through the annual budget process.

Council also supported a staged approach to the broader repairs.

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

Council unanimously agreed to endorse the work schedule and consider the funding implications as part of the 2026–27 annual budget process.

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

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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

FOUR editions in, Toodyay's council meetings are starting to feel like a tightly choreographed dance routine full of rules and procedural manoeuvring — especially around public question time.

This month, *The Herald* was told media enquiries will now no longer be answered by email.

Instead, journalists (from all media outlets including the ABC and 6PR) will now have to front up to council meetings to have their enquiries answered.

It's an odd new rule particularly as journalists don't attend council meetings as private citizens asking personal questions.

The role of media is to gather information on matters of public interest and communicate that information to the broader community.

Unlike a resident asking questions for themselves, reporters publish information for thousands of readers who can't all attend meetings in person.

Meetings like the Toodyay Shire's council meetings, held at 5.30pm on Thursday (once a month).

It was also unclear how everyone now being directed to ask questions in person could fit into the 15-minute public question time.

They couldn't — I was only able to ask a few of my questions.

Residents who want their questions answered also have to turn up to a council meeting and ask them in person.

If a person who asked questions is not physically at the meeting their questions and answers are not recorded in the minutes.

In effect, the questions they asked 'disappear' if that person can't make it to a Thursday late afternoon council meeting.

That happened to me last month, and my question asking why this rule is not on the shire's website — remains unanswered.

Public participation

So how does this rule affect community access and participation?

For many residents, 5.30pm on a weekday isn't exactly a golden window for civic engagement.

Parents are juggling school pick-ups, day care runs, dinner, homework, or evening sports training.

Others are still coming home from work, with many making the commute from Perth.

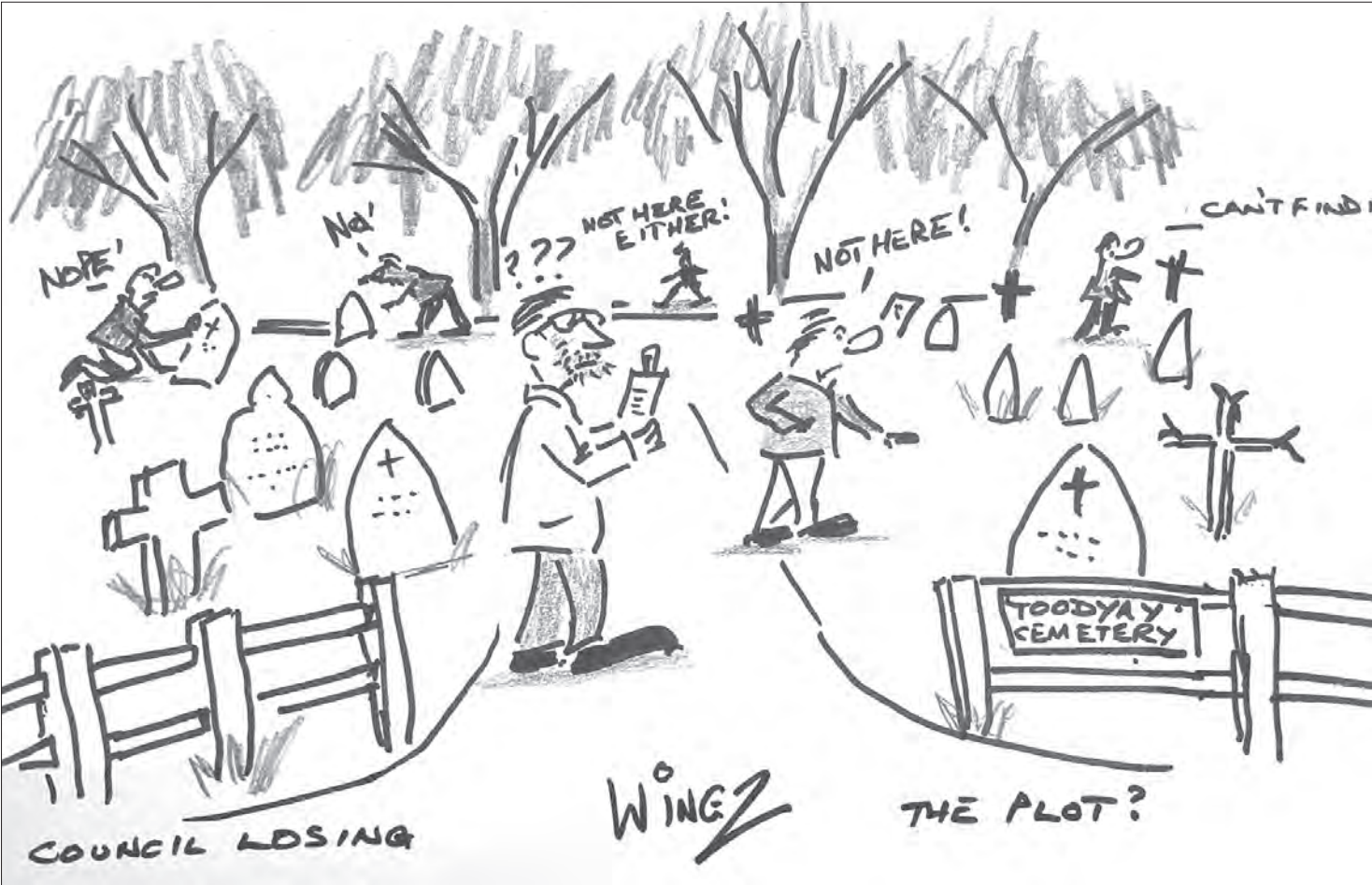
In practice, this rule means a segment of the community is quietly locked out — not by law, but by logistics.

In effect, a sizeable portion of the very rate payers council is meant to represent are procedurally excluded from full participation.

Councils are not private organisations — they are publicly elected bodies funded by ratepayers.

The ability to ask questions, get answers and have this exchange formally recorded in the minutes is not a gesture of goodwill; it's an important part of democratic accountability.

Rashelle Predovnik
Editor



LETTERS

Rural residents slam flat rate plan

THERE appears to be no end to the blatant ambivalence of our shire councillors toward the large population of ratepayers living in the shire rural areas on small acreages and large farms. (*Uniform rates spark backlash over hefty hikes: Toodyay Herald, April 2026*).

The ridiculous proposal to change the rating system to a flat rate for all which would see rates for town properties considerably reduced, and rises (said to be as much as 21 percent) for rural properties touted to be fair, reasonable and acceptable; because a few other towns have adopted the concept.

Well it is not fair, reasonable and acceptable as ratepayers in town receive a host of amenities for their rates which are not afforded to those residing in the rural areas.

These benefits include sealed roads, curb and gutters, footpaths in some areas, easy access to recreational facilities and town library, street lighting, security cameras and nuisance bird scaring.

These town resident benefits should not be heavily subsidised forever more by rural ratepayers.

Do our councillors think folk in the rural areas have a money tree in the back paddock?

Wake up councillors and think for yourselves and do what is right and fair for all the ratepayers of your community.

Kerry Gregory
Dewars Pool

Forests under fire

MANY people in our community understand the value of our natural environment - the concern lies with government policies and practices, where short-term priorities too often outweigh long-term environmental care.

The bushlands of south-west WA are globally significant, yet much has already been lost.

Nearly 70 percent of south-west forests and more than 80 percent of Wheatbelt woodlands have been cleared, which makes what is happening in the Julimar Forest all

the more concerning.

Repeated prescribed burns are being carried out by DBCA under the banner of "management," yet the impacts are immediate and undeniable. Smoke blankets the area while ground-dwelling wildlife is left with little chance of escape.

The understorey - essential for habitat, moisture, and ecological balance - is repeatedly stripped away before it has time to recover.

This is not careful stewardship.

It is a destructive cycle of disturbance that is degrading ecosystems, diminishing biodiversity, and drying the forest floor - increasing, not decreasing, long-term fire risk.

There are better ways to manage fire risk, including greater investment in early detection and rapid response.

At the same time, along Toodyay Road, mature Marri trees are being bulldozed and cleared. These are not expendable assets; they are part of a living system.

And this is not happening in isolation.

In a neighbouring Perth Hills shire, there is growing concern over proposal for large, energy - and water-intensive data centre along a river system, placing additional pressure on already strained environments.

What kind of landscape are we leaving for our grandchildren?

Enough is enough - it is time to move beyond routine burning, clearing, and high-impact development, and commit to genuinely protecting what we have left.

Helen Shanks
Toodyay

A shared responsibility

IN recent years, our community has seen ongoing public discussion about Aboriginal heritage laws and a local court case (*High-stakes Hearing, April 2026 Toodyay Herald*).

This matter did not originate with Noongar people, yet our community and cultural beliefs have been unfairly drawn into public criticism.

For Noongar people, waterways are not simply physical features of the landscape - they hold deep cultural, spiritual and

historical meaning.

They are sacred.

Mr Maddox has every right to appeal the decision that was handed to him last year.

I don't have any qualms or ill feelings towards him and his supporters.

I do however remind everyone that the Aboriginal Heritage Act has been in play for over 50 years, since 1972, in fact.

It was enacted to protect culturally sensitive materials and objects including places of significance.

Basically, to stop blatant damage and desecration of cultural sites deemed to be of cultural value to Aboriginal people in designated areas.

Most people understand respecting heritage and sacred spaces. Churches, cemeteries, war memorials, places of worship and heritage listed buildings are treated with care and dignity.

Aboriginal heritage deserves that same level of respect.

Collectively these places and valued sites are part of our national identity.

As a community, we are capable of great compassion.

We rally around farmers during drought, fire and hardship.

That same spirit of care should extend to Aboriginal people and the cultural heritage that remains.

Waterways are also central to this conversation — culturally and environmentally. In the south-west of WA, water is life.

Our creeks, rivers and catchments sustain native plants, wildlife, farms and communities alike.

When watercourses are altered, redirected, or impounded - through crossings, dams or other works - there can be impacts beyond a single property.

These changes can affect water flow, ecological balance, and the health of Country itself, affecting us all.

Greater awareness and education are warranted, especially where our two worlds collide, particularly over matters concerning land and water.

Robert Miles
Dudja Boodja
[Toodyay Country]

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.

Toodyay Rainfall													
Recording and average commenced on 1 January 1907													
YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2020	0	31.6	9.8	6.4	38.2	48.9	43.7	61.8	30.2	5.9	48.8	3.5	328.8
2021	0.03	17.3	137.3	11.1	121.7	30.4	154.2	70.3	39	61.6	2.2	0	645.13
2022	31.7	4.5	14	30.9	36.8	43	42.7	151.1	44	15.6	12	5.1	431.4
2023	0.1	0	54.9	29	21.8	74.3	42.4	19.8	32.3	2.9	7.4	2.0	286.9
2024	9.8	4.5	0	7.8	43.5	53.2	77	85.3	18.7	21.6	22	1.9	345.3
2025	3.7	0	27	47.6	15.2	23.8	65.7	118.9	28.3	43.4	2.5	0	183
2026	1.6	0.63	34.2	24.2	0.4								
Average	6.7	8.36	39.6	22.4	39.6	45.6	45.2	84.5	32	25.2	15.8	2.0	370



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Bodies risk being dug up as shire loses the plot

Rashelle Predovnik

AN EXPLOSIVE report has dug into systemic problems at the Toodyay Cemetery revealing grave sites in older sections of the cemetery are not properly pegged, making plots hard to identify, and judgement calls on where to dig are being made on limited information.

The report to council revealed decades of poor mapping, missing pegs and unreliable records have created a serious operational risk for the shire.

The cemetery holds generations of Toodyay's history, with graves dating back to some of the district's earliest settlers.

But shire staff are struggling with unworkable maps and poor records that don't give them confidence they are identifying the correct grave or reserved grave.

The report to council said a loss of experienced staff who have taken corporate knowledge with them has left replacement staff relying on Excel spreadsheets and deficient records.

The report said the shire's cemetery operations were being managed with inadequate tools, and insufficient site controls.

"Historical records and physical inspections confirm that earlier sections of the cemetery were never systematically pegged, and many existing pegs no longer correspond reliably with actual burial sites due to erosion, movement, or loss."

The report identified critical compliance risks to the shire, including the need to identify the right plots of land so people were buried in correct locations.

"Historical information also indicates diverse burial locations with varying heritage considerations and land conditions, reinforcing the need for reliable on-ground controls," the report said.

"A review of the shire's cemetery operations has identified significant shortcomings in site control, accurate plot identification, and the tools used to manage burials, reservations, and the cemetery's spatial layout."

The report also warned there was an extremely high chance existing graves could be disturbed if burials were allowed to continue while plots were not properly pegged, as the exact location of older graves were not always clearly recorded.

It also warned the shire could face reputational damage, conflict with grieving families and possible legal consequences if the problems were not addressed.

The report estimates about \$300,000 may ultimately be needed for ground penetration testing, professional surveying, re-pegging of graves and the creation of a modern GIS-based digital cemetery map.

Council voted to suspend new cemetery plot reservations while major issues with mapping, grave identification and site accuracy were investigated.

The decision means no new plots can be reserved until testing, surveying, re-pegging and updated mapping of the cemetery are completed.

Council also backed a temporary 'connection to Toodyay' policy that will prioritise long-term residents, former residents, people with family already buried in Toodyay and those with strong historic or community ties to the district.

Council also directed the CEO to contact people who already hold reserved plots to let them know their plots can't be guaranteed, and a temporary policy will prioritise burials for people with strong ties to Toodyay.

Council approved up to \$50,000 from the Asset Development Reserve for preliminary investigations and consultant quotations.

The motion passed 3-2, with councillors McKeown, Dival and Mills voting in favour,



Burial blunders, and grave mix ups have been unearthed in a report to council urging action to deal with what has become a serious operational risk for the Shire of Toodyay.

while councillors Prater and Van der Heyden voted against.

Councillors opposed to the motion said they were uncomfortable making decisions about suspending burials and spending money without first having clearer information

about which areas of the cemetery were compliant and what the actual costs would be.

Council also resolved to discuss the cemetery issues outlined in the report at a future workshop.

Toodyay... share your thoughts!

The independent Voconiq 'Pulse Survey' invites residents, businesses and community groups to share their feedback on the proposed Gonneville Project and the potential impacts for your community and the region.

Open from June 2, 2026, the third Local Voices 'Pulse Survey' will be available online and hard copy.

Scan the QR code and register to be first in line to have your say.



Contact us
0487 371 961
community@chalicemining.com





Lions thank the community after record jumbo auction success

Rashelle Predovnik

THE Toodyay Lions celebrated community support in style thanking supporters and sponsor at a sundowner following the success of their 40th Community Jumbo Auction.

The sundowner was held at Cooringa Winery this month where gratitude for the incredible community spirit that made the auction such a success took centre stage.

Lions club member and auction coordinator John Pearce said the club was very happy with the outcome.

“We have 262 auction lots this year, up from 192 last year,” he said.

“We had 106 buyers this year, up from 85 last year.

“We had support from 35 local businesses this year, up from 20 last year.”

Mr Pearce said the contribution to the auction from farmers and businesses drew in over \$10,000.

“Our gross turnover was \$25,700 this year, up from \$21,000 last year,” he said.

“Our bottom line was \$13,500 this year, up

from \$9,100 last year.”

Mr Pearce said these results were achieved despite concerns about the supply and price of fuel and the cost of living.

He said the committee did a fantastic job planning and coordinating the event that became so popular sellers had to be turned away.

“And the karate club who did our auction catering ran out of food three times.”

Some successful changes to the format this year included advertising and promoting high value items.

Mr Pearce said for the first time, Simon and Heather from EAG Electrical donated a 2kw split system air conditioner.

“Arlene and Mark from Toodyay Water Carting donated a tank level indicator, Damo and Kat from Toodyay Hardware and Farm donated a wheelbarrow, Bob and Di from Toodyay Trader donated a torch that retails for \$480,” he said.

Chalice donated the funds that enabled The Lion’s club to buy a new 6.5kva diesel electric start standby home generator.

“All of the above items were in addition to the items supplied by the other 20 local businesses and farmers who have supported us for the past three years,” Mr Pearce said.

He said new categories were also added this year.

“For the first time we were able to sell an accommodation voucher thanks to the generosity of Wayne from the Toodyay Homestead Motel (formerly Avalon Homestead).

“We were also given hospitality vouchers from Sarah and Shaye from Roam Distillery, Steve and Brendan from The Rec and once again, from Jason and Cassie from The Toodyay Bakery.”

Mr Pearce said this year the club also approached some of the younger generation of business owners.

“And we were delighted with their generous support,” he said.

“Jenko and Sam from Vapour Plumbing donated a plumbing voucher, Simon Wacura gave us a bobcat and digger hire voucher and

Chris and Tash from Toodyay Tyres also gave us a voucher.

The help of so many in the community was also appreciated, including those who turned up at 5.30am to help mark out the oval.

Mr Pearce said 15 people including volunteer fire brigade members from Bejoording, Coondle-Nunile and Toodyay Central were also rostered on to help.

A total of 18 people helped out on Saturday including the ladies from the Forget-Me-Not Café.

Mr Pearce said the auction team of Tony, Adrian and Jess provided an entertaining and professional service, selling 262 auction lots on the day.

Mr Pearce also gave a heart-felt thank you to the community and everyone who helped run this year’s auction.

“We would like to congratulate the Toodyay District High School, Youth Care Council, Forget-Me-Not Café and our seven brigades on the contribution that you make to the community.”

“Keep up the good work.”



MRB 10905

Toodyay Tyre Service

New 4X4, Truck, Motorbikes & Tractor

Repairs Exhausts Balancing Suspensions Wheel Alignment



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Free breakfast and big conversations

Barry Keen

THE RUOK?® conversation convoy is coming to the Toodyay Men’s Shed and the whole community is invited to a free breakfast this month.

The free breakfast session will be held on Wednesday 27 May from 8am to 9.30am, to offer a valuable opportunity for locals to learn how to build stronger connections and better support people who may be struggling.

The event is free for Toodyay residents, but bookings are essential for catering.

To attend, please phone Barry Keens on 0427 047 850 by 23 May.

Recently, the shed’s chairman attended the National Men’s Shed Conference in Brisbane, where he connected with members

from other groups including Cockburn and Brunswick Junction.

While no awards came home this time, the experience brought back fresh ideas the shed hopes to put into practice in the coming months.

Back home, the shed has remained active, taking on new projects despite a drop in numbers due to holidays and illness.

Members have also created a range of items from recycled materials, which are available to buy at the shed.

The Toodyay Men’s Shed is open Monday, Thursday and Saturday from 8.30am to noon and new members and visitors are always welcome.

For hall hire or general enquiries, contact the secretary Jeff Roberts on 0499 403 830.



Photos by Bret Kidd.



700 honour fallen heroes at packed service

HUNDREDS gathered in Toodyay before dawn to honour Australia’s fallen, with this year’s Anzac Day services drawing big crowds as the community united in remembrance, and reflection.

Toodyay RSL Sub-branch secretary Max Howard said the dawn service in Toodyay always has the most people in attendance and this year was no exception.

“We believe about 700 people crammed into the surrounding area, and a further 300 attended the main service at 11am,” he said.

“For a small country town like Toodyay this is a remarkable effort; however, I must say, from talking to people, a number come from the metro area because they like the service we provide.”

About 200 attendees walked up to the Wicklow shearing shed after the dawn service to enjoy a gunfire breakfast put on by the local Lions Club, which has been their steadfast

commitment to Anzac Day for many years.

A large group of people marched off outside the memorial hall in a parade that has become an annual tradition.

The march was led by parade marshal Owen Webb, piper Matthew Willix and drummer Tom Findlay.

Mr Howard said the Toodyay High School cadets were always a special addition and it was great to see them again this year.

“Our thanks to all who participated in the march such as the fire and rescue service, volunteer bush fire brigades and the many people from the veteran community.”

Mr Howard said for the past few years the Toodyay RSL Sub-branch has taken the direction of a more community orientated event.

“We like the community to tell their story of their relatives in times of conflicts, and what it was like for the families of veterans who stayed at home.”

The main service at 11am started with the RAAF PC21 aircraft flying low over the memorial in a salute to fallen veterans.

The Toodyay Singers sang *I am Australian* and this performance was followed by a talk by Paul Harrington about the 2/2nd Commando Unit of WWII, which conducted operations in East Timor.

Mr Harrington’s father was a member of this unit which was made up of a large number of West Australians, many from the Central Wheatbelt area.

Doug McGhee from the Toodyay District High School gave the Prayer of Remembrance, and a special appearance was made by Toodyay RSL member David and his defence force dog, which he used in Afghanistan.

Both are retired now from the rigors of wars.

Mr Howard said a couple of years ago a local internationally acclaimed musician

Rupert Guenther performed the last post on his electric violin, which proved to be a huge success.

“This year Rupert was back again and not only did he play the last post; he also played the New Zealand and the Australian national anthems.”

The local Country Women’s Association ladies handed out Anzac biscuits to those assembled at the end of the service.

Mr Howard said the Toodyay RSL executive understands a service like Anzac Day takes a large amount of work over many months.

“We are grateful to a number of our members for their help,” he said.

“This is especially so to Tom Findlay who drives down from Kalgoorlie every year to make sure our sound system is running correctly.

“Once again, we would like to thank our local Police officers and St John’s Ambulance, for their help and support.”

More Moondyne magic

... continued from page 1

She said this was the first year festival organisers had to provide electronic road closure signage leading up to and including the event.

“This is a significant expense which had not been part of prior years budgets,” she said.

“We had to increase the number of toilets hired and buy more rubbish bins, which were all extra costs this year.

“We need to apply for grants and sponsorships from government bodies and other businesses that can be major contributors.

“Applications are made months in advance but due to the various approval processes and timelines we often don’t know if we will be fully funded or not until April.

“We mustn’t forget local small businesses who have been generous in their sponsorship and support.

“The majority of entertainers at the festival are all professionals and are paid for their expertise.

We budget for general cost increases however things like the increased fuel costs this year were not part of our equations.”

Ms Melhuish-Hill said local businesses came to the party providing sponsorships both financial and in kind, which made up the shortfall of funding.

“Their support on the day, by dressing the part and offering a warm country welcome is exceptional.”

Now in its 42nd year the free festival is a part of the town’s history and Ms Melhuish-Hill said Toodyay was involved as an entire community.

A lot of volunteers stepped up to help and Ms Melhuish-Hill said their help was invaluable.

The committee is a small group of people who work from October to June organising and running the festival.

“Our festival would not be the success that it is without these generous people and the help of so many volunteers.”

Thank you to our local sponsors from the Moondyne Festival

- Allevare Clothing
- Avon Valley Water Cartage
- Brumby Pumps
- Bubbles n Paws Pet Stylist
- Crafters Emporium
- Exit Pest
- Exploration Caravan Hire
- IGA
- Kate & Teds
- Mountain Park Retreat
- Studio 65

- The Chieftan Music Club/Cafe Clairs
- The Rec Hotel
- Tony Maddox Real Estate
- Toodyay Dental Clinic
- Toodyay Hardware and Farm Supplies
- Toodyay Homestead Hotel
- Toodyay Locals Care
- Toodyay Manor
- Toodyay Real Estate
- Victoria Hotel

Major Grants/Sponsors

- LotteryWest
- Shire of Toodyay
- Tourism WA
- Bendigo Bank
- Toodyay Op Shop
- Wheatbelt Development Corporation
- Double Barrel Entertainment
- Diggermate Toodyay
- Royal Australian Navy Band, in kind sponsorship

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Free Appraisals

Anzac Day, Moondyne Festival and volunteer week

St John Ambulance Michael Black

THE last month has, again, been a busy one for the volunteers at your local St John Subcentre.

There was a good turnout of St John volunteers for the ANZAC parade, which meant we were there to support our colleague and all round champion volunteer Paul Harrington.

He gave us an amazing insight into his father's part in the Second World War.

A corporal in the 2nd/2nd Commandoes Regiment Reg Harrington spent time in

Timor and New Guinea. Paul described his father's experiences with warmth and heart. Congratulations Paul and a big thank you to Corporal Reginald Douglas Harrington. Did you go to the Moondyne Festival? What an amazing spectacle it is. So many people visiting our wonderful town. With crowds come injury and accident. The morning of the festival was fairly quiet (a few minor cuts and abrasions) and the volunteers that manned the first aid post were able to enjoy the many stalls and food outlets.



Corporal Reginald Douglas Harrington delivering his speech about his families history.

We were blown away by the generosity of locals and visitors who gave up some hard-earned dollars to support St John and the work we do. The afternoon of the festival brought forth some minor injuries and the subcentre had a couple of call outs. You may have noticed the ambulances and the paramedic car parked just outside the festival at Connors Mill. Quite an iconic sight. It's that time again: a chance for you to say thank you to the amazing volunteers that give up their time to help, keep safe and provide essential services to the people of the Shire of Toodyay. From those amazing ladies in the Op

Shop to the Bush Fire Brigade and on. It is National Volunteer Week from May 18-24. As the name suggests it is Australia wide and recognises the contribution of millions of volunteers across the country. The theme this year is *Your year to volunteer*. The volunteers at St John are incredible and give up many hours of their time to support their community. They are a great bunch of people too. Is this your year to volunteer? Head into the St John office opposite the bakery to find out how you can help. Grab a first aid kit while you are there. Above all, don't forget to thank and acknowledge a Toodyay volunteer.



The local Toodyay St John Ambulance crew at the Moondyne Festival.

Lightning storms can trigger fires that smoulder undetected

Coondle – Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Aurelie Zimmermann

RECENT weeks have continued to reflect a relatively quiet fire season, with only a small number of brigade turnouts. Crews responded to two incidents in the Morangup area, both resulting from lightning strikes, alongside support from neighbouring

brigades across the Shire. Lightning activity serves as an important reminder for the community to remain vigilant not only during storms, but also in the hours and days that follow. Strikes can ignite trees or vegetation with little visible flame, allowing fires to smoulder undetected before becoming more apparent later. Monitoring your property after storm

activity and reporting any signs of smoke early can make a significant difference in preventing further spread. Several members have recently completed more advanced training, including Crew Leader and Structural Firefighting courses, further strengthening the brigade's operational capability. We are pleased to introduce two new members, Philipp and Aiden, who have recently completed their foundation training. Both are now ready to join crews on the fireground, and we look forward to seeing them further develop their skills within the brigade. We are thrilled to welcome them to the team. This quieter period of the season allows members to focus on maintaining operational readiness, including familiarisation with equipment and conducting vehicle checks each Friday, as routine maintenance of equipment and appliances. As we enter the unrestricted burning period, residents are reminded that cooler conditions do not remove the risk of fire. It is important to remain vigilant, ensure any burning is carried out responsibly, and continue to monitor conditions closely, as fire behaviour can still change quickly. Conditions can change rapidly with wind shifts, so early awareness and prompt reporting remain essential for community safety.

practical skills, build confidence, and gain valuable experience, all while giving back to the community. We meet every Friday from 5pm at the fire station, located at 775 Bindi Bindi–Toodyay Road near the old wheat bins. If you're unsure whether firefighting is for you, we encourage you to come down, meet the team, and see what we're about. Volunteering with the brigade is both rewarding and meaningful, while playing an important role in helping keep our local community safe.



The picture was taken at one recent callout. A fire due to a lightning strike.



PIC Pictured L to R: CESM Sam Roberts with Central members Dave White, Nadine Beins, Kevin Sullivan, Dan Mason, Mick McKeown, Aaron Robertson and Chris Stothers.

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

New 1960s railway line changed Toodyay forever

Toodyay Historical Society Inc.
Dr Robyn Taylor

THE latest exhibition at the shire’s Newcastle Gaol Museum was officially launched last month and a series of organised walks through some of the town’s landmarks will help bring the exhibition to life.

The launch, on Sunday 26 April, is part of the National Trust of Australia’s month-long Australian Heritage Festival, and the exhibition will be open for about a year.

Toodyay Railways: A Tale of Two Lines is one for railway enthusiasts, and particularly those who were living in Toodyay during the 1960s with memories of the time when the Avon Valley section of the Standard Gauge

Railway (SGR) was built.

There will be several organised walks in late April and early May through town to supplement the exhibition that focus on the landscape changes caused by the SGR construction.

The Built, Bypassed and Gone: Toodyay’s Railway Walk that will run on Wednesdays and Fridays for three weeks during May are free.

Newcomers may not be aware Charcoal Lane that runs between the IGA and the carpark was the location of a section of the former Clackline-Miling railway with the former railway station, now demolished, situated where the Alma Beard Community Health Centre is located.

With explosions to cut through the rocky

ground, disruptions, buying up land by the government and removal of homes and buildings along the proposed track, this was a major event in Toodyay’s history and one that significantly changed its landscape.

Unfortunately it included the loss of historic buildings such as the Methodist church in Duke Street, ‘Braybrook’, near what is now Duidgee Park, the home of the Anglican minister Rev. Charles Harper and his family, and the Doctor’s House (originally the Convict Depot Superintendent’s house, then the Residency), located on and near the former tennis courts site on what was Lincoln Street.

‘Braybrook’ was built in 1856-1857 after Rev. Harper relocated from Nardie to the new Toodyay Convict Hiring Depot where he was required to give morning services.

It’s hoped this exhibition will jog some memories and encourage searches into family photo albums that can be shared with the Museum.

Shire Museum Curator Margie Eberle was ably assisted by museum volunteers Barry Keen, Beth Frayne and Helen Bower.

Beth undertook extensive research into the history of the railway lines and railway workers in the Toodyay district, to expand the Toodyay Historical Society chronologies, which will be on display.

There are some great photos of the railway workers such as the Railways cricket team of 1935. Hopefully, more will come to light during the year.

An upcoming event on May 31 will be an agricultural bus tour (to be confirmed).

For details about us: See Where and When.

Wheatbelt seen as key to renewable energy and manufacturing future

Rashelle Predovnik

THE State Budget has funded cost-of-living relief and housing in the Wheatbelt region, with \$9.5 billion invested into infrastructure throughout regional Western Australia over the next four years.

More than \$4 billion will be delivered through the Royalties for Regions Program

In a statement, the State Government said it would invest in a range of measures to support the Wheatbelt so it can continue playing its role in WA’s nation-leading economy.

Regional Development Minister Stephen Dawson said the State Government was investing in the Wheatbelt region to support strong local economies, quality frontline services and more jobs opportunities.

“Whether people live in one of our Seven Cities, a small town or a remote community, this government is committed to delivering for regional WA.”

Wheatbelt Minister Sabine Winton said regional Western Australia remains a major priority for the Cook Labor Government, with the Wheatbelt continuing to present strong opportunities for growth and development.

“We know how important the agriculture sector is and that the Wheatbelt is a key to our renewable energy and manufacturing future”.

But Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Food and Member for Central Wheatbelt Lachlan Hunter said the Budget again failed to provide long-term certainty for the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network.

Despite the roads underpinning billions of dollars in agricultural exports each year.

“These are some of the most dangerous freight roads in WA and they are critical to moving grain, fertiliser, fuel and freight across the Wheatbelt,” he said.

“Regional communities are sick of hearing announcements while the roads they rely on continue to fall apart.”

Mr Hunter also criticised the lack of meaningful investment into a number of important projects and services across regional WA,

“As Shadow Agriculture Minister, I am deeply concerned by the continued lack of investment in agricultural research, biosecurity preparedness and long-term support for regional industries,” he said.

“At a time when farmers are dealing with fuel insecurity, fertiliser supply concerns, live sheep export uncertainty and rising input costs, this Government should be backing agriculture harder than ever.”

Mr Hunter said the Budget also failed to properly address the future of the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration and other initiatives critical to improving productivity and innovation in regional WA.

He said Labor’s widely promoted \$100 fuel payment also showed how disconnected the Government had become from regional life.

“That might sound alright in inner-city Perth, but it won’t touch the sides for Wheatbelt families, farmers and businesses driving hundreds of kilometres every week just to work, farm, get to school or see a doctor.”

... See also Pg 19



Attendees enjoyed morning tea at the launch of an exhibition that showcases our history.

Budget highlights

- \$61 million to be invested in upgrades to Toodyay Road and a number of timber bridges to be replaced as part of the \$127.4 million Regional Bridge Replacement Program.
- \$113.5 million for road maintenance across WA.
- \$33.1 million contribution to the nationally co-ordinated Fuel Excise Relief Program, and a further \$4.5 million for the deferral of heavy vehicle fee increases, supporting industry in the Wheatbelt.
- \$1.4 million to deliver a second round of the Small Business Growth Grants.
- \$294 million additional investment in regional health infrastructure.
- \$68.6 million for the WA Country Health Service to maintain regional palliative care, renal care, cancer and eye services, and continued support programs.
- \$52.9 million to establish a Regional Water Source Fund for water source planning and investigation in regional Western Australia.
- \$31.2 million towards the fire and emergency fleet replacement throughout WA.

Upcoming first aid courses

HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid

Course type: Accredited | **Duration:** 1 day in class + Online learning

Price: \$180.00

When: Saturday 14 March - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Saturday 16 May - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Thursday 16 July - 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Where: St John Ambulance Toodyay, 120D Stirling Terrace, Toodyay WA 6566

Understand first aid
Learn about first aid theory and action plans

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

Injury management
Treat and manage injuries in interactive training scenarios.

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

St John First Aid Training

St John Ambulance (Western Australia) Ltd. RTO Code: 0392
St John Ambulance Western Australia Ltd - ACN 165 969 406; ABN 55 028 468 715

Denise hooked on felting



Toodyay Spinners and Weavers
Chris Stokie

TOODYAY Spinners and Weavers have had a quieter month than last but have been keeping well. Following on from our successful needle felting workshop held during March, Denise, one of our members who attended, has taken to the new craft with great enthusiasm. She bought some examples of her experimenting with her newfound skill to our last meeting. These cute and colourful peg bags are fun, practical examples of what can be achieved by using the needle felting technique. The handy bag with the cartoon dogs is

absolutely adorable. Our members have been busy creating lots of hand-crafted garments and items which were available for sale at our stall, during the Moondyne Festival. Toodyay Spinners and Weavers meet at Parkers Cottage at the Toodyay Oval, every Wednesday from 9am to noon. They also meet on the first and third Saturday of every month from 9am to noon. New members are always welcome, so please feel free to drop in and meet the group for a coffee and a chat. You may wish to learn new skills or just enjoy your current wool crafts in a friendly group environment.

Beatrice shows up the boys with her award-winning urn

Avon Woodturners
Hamish Dobie

IN PREVIOUS months I've written about the number of ladies who have joined Avon Woodturners, just how talented they are and how they put some of us mere males to shame. Well, last week I'm pleased to say that one of our ladies, Beatrice Laufer, exhibited an urn that she had turned in a Western Australian Woodturners Association (WAWA) event and her effort won her first prize in her section. The body of the urn was made of York gum, the lid from flooded gum, with a ring of jarrah attached. Congratulations, Beatrice. Now you've thrown down the challenge to the rest of us to up our game. Sharpen your tools lads and lassies, and let's create more winning entries. The WAWA events are held monthly so there will be plenty more opportunities to show our skills. The club has been very fortunate over the last year to be able to buy some new equipment and we have also received donations of equipment. This has meant that some equipment has been duplicated creating a surplus. We had a meeting to decide what we

should do and it was agreed that the surplus should be put into the Lions Auction with the proceeds donated to the Lions. We put in 2 x 8" grinders, 2 x 6" grinders, a belt sander and a drop saw, and I'm pleased to say that they all made very good prices. The proceeds from the sale will be distributed by the Lions to support local organisations who do good work within the our community. We now have a less cluttered, more organised shed, and we can bask in the knowledge that our contribution has benefitted other clubs and NFPs in and around Toodyay. Winter is only a month away so instead of sitting around the heater at home feeling miserable, why not come along and try woodturning. It's both rewarding and frustrating at the same time but the camaraderie makes it worth the effort. If you have an interest in joining the club, the Avon Woodturners are located at Shed 1, Community Depot, end of Railway Road, Toodyay, and we are there on Wednesdays and Sundays from 9am until noon. For more information, please email me on hamishd2701@gmail.com, or call 0423 115 204.



Beatrice Laufer's beautiful urn.



Some of our local artists who will open their studio's for the Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trail.

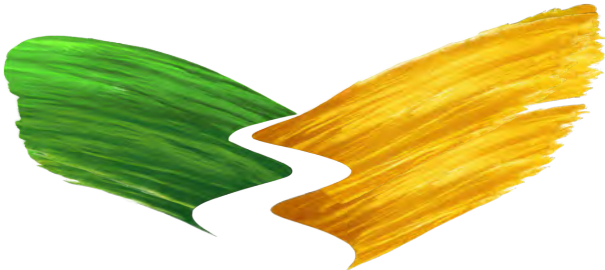
Local studios to open their doors for inaugural art festival

Arts Toodyay
Chelle Ellery

THE Avon Valley will come alive with art over the WA Day long weekend as local creatives open their studios for the inaugural Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trail. Running from May 30 to June 1, the trail connects Toodyay and Northam in a shared celebration of creativity, community and place. The event features 27 artists across 20 locations, inviting visitors to step inside working studios, meet the artists and experience art where it is made. From painting and ceramics to mixed media and sculpture, the Trail offers a rare, behind-the-scenes look at the region's creative life. The idea grew from a simple ambition to bring artists together across the valley and create something bigger than any one town could achieve alone. Arts Toodyay Inc and the Avon Valley Arts Society worked collaboratively to turn that vision into reality, building momentum through local support and a strong volunteer base. With limited resources and a tight lead time, the project reached a critical point before securing the backing needed to move forward. That turning point came with the support of

Bendigo Bank, whose sponsorship enabled the trail to be delivered at a professional standard in its first year and commitment to support for two further years. Their contribution has helped transform a grassroots idea into a coordinated regional event, giving local artists a platform and visitors a reason to explore the valley. To guide visitors, a dedicated map and printed booklet will be available across both towns. The booklet outlines each stop, artist profiles, and suggested routes, allowing people to plan their own journey and travel at their own pace. As the event grows, these materials are expected to play an important role in shaping the trail into a recognised cultural experience. Beyond the weekend itself, the Arts Trail represents a broader opportunity for the region. By drawing visitors into studios, towns and local businesses, it supports tourism, strengthens the creative economy and builds a shared identity across the Avon Valley. With strong community backing and a clear appetite for connection through art, the trail has the potential to become a regular feature on the regional calendar. For now, it offers something simple and powerful, a chance to explore, connect and experience the Avon Valley through the eyes of its artists.

This is your invitation to go beyond the gallery wall



**BENDIGO BANK
AVON VALLEY
ARTS TRAIL**

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

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



30 MAY - 1 JUNE 2026
Toodyay & Northam

www.avonvalleyartstrail.org.au



COMMUNITY BANK NEWS



Welcome to the Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trail CREATIVE TALENT TRANSFORMS TOODYAY

The Avon Valley is set to become a vibrant canvas this month as the Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trail officially launches, showcasing the region's premier creative talent.

As the naming rights partner, Community Bank Toodyay & Districts is proud to support this free signature event, which connects local artists with art lovers from across Western Australia. The Shires of Toodyay & Northam will serve as the centerpiece of the trail, with numerous local studios and community spaces opening their doors to the public.

"The Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trail is more than just an exhibition; it's a celebration of our local identity," says Senior Branch Manager Kirsten Barrack. "By sponsoring this event, we are investing back into the culture and economy of Toodyay and the surrounding districts."

Visitors can expect a "behind the scenes" experience, meeting emerging and established artists

27 local artists are opening their studios...



... meet them on the trail!

30 May - 1 June 2026
10am - 4pm (Sat, Sun & Mon)
avonvalleyartstrail.org.au



from our region in their private workspaces and viewing original works ranging from fine oils and watercolors to intricate sculptures and textiles.

"When our customers bank with us, they are directly contributing to the success of events like this," Ms. Barrack added. "It is a perfect example of our 'profit-for-purpose' model—local banking directly fueling local community initiatives."

The Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trail will run from 10am-4pm across the weekend of 30th May—1st June. To begin your self-guided journey, simply visit the official Avon Valley Arts Trail website to download a trail guide and bookmark the interactive webapp to start exploring at your own pace. And for more information on how Community Bank Toodyay & Northam supports local initiatives, drop in and see the team.

Time for a better banking experience?

If you don't bank with us, you might be missing out on a team that actually knows your name.

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You chat directly with local staff you know and trust. We offer the same competitive products as the major banks, with two vital differences:

1. Real, local service: Access our Toodyay team face-to-face or over the phone. No automated menus, just real people.
 2. Purpose-driven banking: Our profits stay right here to fund local events like the Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trail.
- It is easier to switch than you might think. Why not see how our service and products compare?

Come in and chat to our team at 108 Stirling Terrace or call us on 9574 4077. We'd love to show you how easy it is to switch.

— Kirsten Barrack
Senior Branch Manager



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Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

ACCESS HEALTH WA

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Urgent Care Clinic

Virtual ED

GP

Pharmacy

1800MEDICARE



Know your health care options

access.health.wa.gov.au

Stash, stitch and serenity

RAGBAGS QUILTING GROUP

Kerry Gregory

RETURNING fabrics to storage boxes in the sewing room had me thinking about an article I read a while ago about collections and collecting, listing a number of benefits.

The premise being that collecting, which is accessible to everyone, provides self-expression and considerable mindful benefits.

Collections may well improve organisational skills, arranging items for display, enjoyment or ease of use and, let's face it, organisation is essential at times to sort out all manner of household items: cutlery, plastics cupboards, shoes in the bottom of the wardrobe, even tools in the shed.

Collecting aids our brain creativity. Some collections are curated for exhibition and often form the inspiration for extensive craftwork and inspired art.

It increases knowledge, keeping our minds active and improving memory, thus enhancing a feeling of peace and connection, while observing collections about our lives, even in places we may not have sought before.

Consequently, I now justify my considerable stash of fabrics as being essential for my mindful wellbeing, organisational skills, quilting inspiration, peace of mind and happiness.



A part of Kerry's loosely curated stash.

Furthermore, I don't believe I know a quilter who would disagree with me regarding their stash.

Turning parts of my stash into bright, colourful designs for special quilts for my family and friends is an activity that gives me a terrific sense of achievement and enjoyment: my wellbeing.

I appreciate that I am able to engage in these activities when many of our loved ones have passed away before full retirement, and having the time to pursue quilting or other handcrafts I feel very blessed, as an heirloom quilt is a generational comfort.

New members are very welcome at the Ragbags Group to join us for a cuppa and a chat; we love to see and share your creativity and enthusiasm.

Bring your beautiful handiwork, all craft projects are special and we often share a little show and tell session of current or not so current projects to admire your talents.

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

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

Bring your lunch – we enter through the door at the rear of the premises.



The Moondyne Men were on hand to help out at this year's Moondyne Festival.

Who are The Moondyne Men?

Moondyne Men Inc
Graham Hill

IN APRIL 2022 a situation arose to give a group of men the opportunity to start an organisation that became known as The Moondyne Men.

Our name came about as the very first community project we did was to help the set up and pack up of the now 42-year-old Toodyay Moondyne Festival held this year on May 3.

We are an incorporated men's group with our own constitution and the most important feature is that every member is a committee member and has equal say in the day to day running of our group.

Our membership is now above 40 and we have completed in excess of 400 meetings.

Our community service projects include helping with the BBQ at the Toodyay Triathlon, car parking at the Toodyay Agricultural Show, the Northam Vintage

Car Swap Meet and the Toodyay Christmas Street Party as well as various individual projects.

More recently in conjunction with St Johns Toodyay we have fitted security key locks to Butterly Cottages and surrounding areas.

However, it is not all work.

We hold a mid-year dinner and Christmas dinner and invite our wives and partners as a reward for the time the men spend on various projects along with visits to various museums and exhibitions of interest.

In June and July, we will hold our annual wood raffles to supply a trailer load of firewood to some lucky winners.

If you would like to become a member of Toodyay's most proactive and progressive Men's group, we meet on Monday and Thursday from 8am at the Toodyay Resource Centre with our free breakfast and committee meeting being held on the first Saturday of each month.

If you are interested, please come along or call our secretary Colin on 0421 950 03.

Good tunes and great company

Toodyay Music Club

Jenny Edgecombe

THE April Music Club gathering started with our usual singalong session, followed by the individual items.

As always, there was a great variety of styles and moods in the individual items.

Anne started these with *Song for Jacqueline*, written by the marvellous Australian singer-songwriter and former Federal Court Circuit Judge, Judy Small.

Marg presented an uplifting organ piece: the majestic Handel's *Thine Is the Glory*.

The Australian folk scene featured in Eileen's choices, with the poignant *Boomerang Café*.

In a different style, she later performed a fabulous *Lean on Me*, with Maurice

supplying great harmonies.

Collette included a spirited version of *Lonely Sky* in her items. She was singing unaccompanied, due to being without her ukulele, but this did not take anything away from her performance.

Phil presented an excellent version of a lovely song, called *Lodi*.

One of Jenny's choices was *The Light*. It must be said that this was not the Disney song of that name, but a bouncy little piece from the American country rock scene.

Joe's contributions included *A Song for You Tonight*. This is a beautiful song written by Bernard Carney, who visited Toodyay a number of times in the early days of our club.

Please join us as an audience member or performer for our next meeting at the CWA Hall, on Saturday May 9 starting at 1pm.

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

Last chance to see Godspell

Toodyay Theatre Group

Daryl Cooper

REHEARSALS for the Toodyay Theatre Group's production of *Godspell* are now over and the enthusiastic cast and crew have been eagerly awaiting their first public performance.

The first show in the Toodyay Memorial Hall was performed on Friday, May 8 at 7pm with other performances being on May 9, a matinee at 2 pm on the 10th and a final evening performance on May 15.

GODSPELL



TOODYAY THEATRE GROUP

GODSPELL, a musical based on the Gospel of St Matthew

OPENING NIGHT

Friday 8th
doors open 6.30pm for a 7pm start

Saturday 9th May
doors open 6.30pm for a 7pm start

Matinee - Sunday 10th May
doors open 1.30pm for 2pm start

LAST CHANCE - CLOSING NIGHT
Friday 15th May
doors open 6.30pm for a 7pm start
toodyaytheatregroup@gmail.com

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Digging in: gardening workshops set to grow this year

Toodyay Community Garden
Joshua van Helsdingen

THE Toodyay community is set to get its hands dirty, in the best possible way, with the launch of an exciting new workshop program for 2026.

While we endeavour to secure a central home for our garden, we won't let that slow us down providing value for our community.

Toodyay Community Garden Inc. announces a vibrant lineup of interactive, skill-based sessions designed to bring people together, share practical knowledge and celebrate the joy of creating things from scratch.

In partnership with local professionals, the program will offer hands-on workshops where participants won't just learn – they'll walk away with something they've made themselves.

From food preservation to gardening techniques and home production skills, the initiative aims to empower locals with practical know-how while fostering connection and community spirit.

Kicking off the series in May is Pickling

Fundamentals, an engaging introduction to the art of fermentation and preservation.

Attendees will learn how to make their own sauerkraut, gaining the confidence to preserve seasonal produce at home while exploring the health benefits and rich flavours of fermented foods.

The program continues throughout the year with a diverse range of workshops, including yoghurt making, pasta crafting, kombucha brewing, seed saving and more.

Each session is designed to be interactive, beginner-friendly and affordable and will be guided by experienced practitioners from our local area.

The goal is simple: create a welcoming space where people of all skill levels can learn, share and connect.

Whether you're a complete beginner or already have experience, these workshops are about coming together, trying something new and having fun.

Dates and locations for each workshop will be announced soon. Keep an eye on our Facebook page or express your interest by contacting us at toodyaycgc@gmail.com.



Toodyay Community Garden partnering with local professional Jeanelle. Holding homemade pickles and preserves. Left to right: Gary (President), Jeanelle (Feather & Gum), Joshua (Treasurer)



400 biscuits bagged to commemorate Anzac Day

Country Women's Association
Elizabeth Mansom

DID you get an Anzac biscuit from one of our ladies on the 25th?

We bagged nearly 400 of these easy-to-make tasty morsels that arrived by ship on far away shores redolent of home and family to the men of the first AIF.

Long may the tradition last.

April was a momentous month with our Mavis celebrating her birth for the 102nd time.

We're looking forward to her helping cut the cake on the 100th anniversary of the branch next year.

At the last meeting it was decided rather reluctantly that the time had come for us to increase the rates we charge for the use of our hall.

We have always reserved the right to refuse a booking, and we are now also bringing in a discretionary bond as on occasion we are having to pay to return the hall to its preferred state after a booking.

As of July 1, 2026, fees and charges for use of the CWA hall will be: All bookings: \$20 per hour; Kitchen hire: \$25 per hour.

A \$50 bond may also be charged.

This year members have decided not to hold a cancer morning tea but to support other local functions.

To this end we have pencilled in one being held at the Baptist Church on Thursday, May 14 and a second being held by the Crooked

Needle craft group on Friday June 26.

If your group is having one and you let us know we will be happy to add you to our calendar of events.

New sub-classes of membership have been approved by the CWA of WA Board.

One of these will be for women who have enjoyed a significant number of years as members of a branch but through circumstances, (such as residing in an aged care facility or health reasons) are no longer able to attend branch meetings or activities but still wish to feel part of CWA and stay abreast of things.

These people can opt to become dames which we all like the sound of.

Other sub-divisions include Friends of CWA and corporate sponsors.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1pm for a general meeting and on the second Thursday of the month at 10am for a relaxed coffee morning except for this month, May, when we will be at the Baptist Church for their Biggest Morning Tea helping raise money for cancer research.

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

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

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

We look forward to welcoming you.

Career Spotlight: Agriculture Worker

From Farm Hands to Senior Leaders – Grow Your Career in Regional WA

Agriculture Workers are the backbone of farming in the Great Southern and Wheatbelt. From entry-level farm hands to senior supervisors, these roles keep farms productive, sustainable, and safe.

A typical day might see a worker feeding livestock, assisting with planting or harvesting, maintaining fences and infrastructure, or operating machinery. As farms adopt more technology, digital tools, GPS-guided machinery, drones, and automated systems are becoming part of the daily toolkit.

"Starting as a farm hand gave me hands-on experience, and now I supervise machinery, staff, and daily operations," says a local senior agriculture worker. *"You really get to see how your work impacts the farm and the community."*

Entry-level workers often begin through school programs, seasonal jobs, or Certificate II in Agriculture. Skilled workers can progress via Certificate III, then on to senior roles with Certificate IV, diplomas, or university degrees in agriculture, agribusiness, or farm management.

Local employers hiring in the region include family-owned and corporate farms, agribusiness companies like Elders and Nutrien Ag Solutions, livestock stations, farm contractors, and government research farms.

For students and job seekers, agriculture offers hands-on work, career progression, leadership opportunities, and the chance to make a real difference in regional communities.



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Little yellow mustard pot packed to the brim

Toodyay Locals Care
Jacquie Lucas

LAST month we said a fond farewell to one of our long-time crochet friends and volunteer, Sandy McKoy.

We were honoured to cater for the celebration of her life on Saturday, April 18, and it was heartening to see so many friends and loved ones come together.

Our support for Shalom House continues thanks to your generous donations.

Shalom House plays a vital role in caring for people in need, and we're proud to stand behind their work.

Roz somehow manages to pack the little yellow mustard pot to the brim each visit before delivering it down the hill.

We also recently completed a vacate clean for a local resident who has moved into care. If you ever need this service, feel free to email toodyaylc20@gmail.com or text Roz on 0427 744 352.

Another highlight this month was catering for the Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation (NKAC) Truth Telling event. It was a beautiful celebration of culture, filled with dance, storytelling, singing and activities for all ages.

With the football season now underway, we're back at the pavilion on Friday nights, keeping everyone fed and helping raise funds for our organisation. A big thank you to the Toodyay Lions Football Club for having us back.

Like many community groups, we're noticing the effects of the fuel crisis and rising cost of living, with more people seeking support. We're incredibly grateful to Woolworths, SecondBite and Foodbank for helping us meet this growing need.

Every Thursday, our wonderful 'Carrots' volunteers turn these donations into delicious meals, available 24/7 from our freezer.

If you have a little time to spare, we would love help in the community garden or Friday night roster at the Pavilion (5.30 pm-8 pm) or with delivering meals and food parcels on Monday afternoons after 3 pm.

You can contact Jacquie on 0427 147 548 or Roz on 0427 744 352 if you are able to give some time.

And a gentle reminder: as a registered charity, we can provide tax deductible receipts for donations. Contributions can be made to BSB 633 000, Account No. 172 668 626.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support us, your kindness truly makes a difference.

Sign language you already know

Auslan Group
Tabitha Spaeth

ALMOST everyone has experienced being hard of hearing at some point in their life, such as struggling to hear what your friend is saying in that noisy pub or cafe, or when you leave a very noisy place, only to find that loud ringing in your ears, and everything else sounds muffled.

Wouldn't it be great if, despite all that noise, you could actually have a clear conversation?

That is where Australian Sign Language, or Auslan, comes in handy, and I can guarantee that you already know a few signs.

Love? That's right, cross your arms over your chest;

Listen? You've got it, cup your hand behind your ear; Good? Spot on, thumbs up;

Time? That's easy, point to your wrist; and

Drink? Yessir, cup your hand and tilt your wrist back at your mouth, as though you are having a drink.

Who knew that you are already well on your way to understanding Auslan.

Auslan is great for all ages, and if you want to introduce your little ones to it, why not go along to Rhyme Time/Story Time at 9.30 am on Wednesday mornings in the library, where a member of our group signs along with the rhymes and books that are being read.

It cost absolutely nothing, the Auslan assemblage meet Thursdays at 9.30 am in the library, we are a loquacious bunch, who, even when we are silent, we're still chatting! Contacts: Liz - (08) 9574 2020

Sandy - 0427 744 721 & Sylvia - 0400 476 527

I am now raising my hand, and I'm waving to you, that's right, cheerio, and we hope to see you on Thursdays.



PIC L to R: Luke Winter, Ed Devine, Joy Prangnell and Tammy Wensing, sharing about the Baptist World Aid Program.

Mother's Day and messages of love

Toodyay Baptist Church
Pastor Luke

SOMETIMES in our lives we overcomplicate our goals and ruminate on all the imaginary check-boxes that make us successful or happy.

Even with God, we think, "If I can just nail down this habit, or if I can create this outreach program, then I know I'll be pleasing God."

But God's love is a gift freely given, and no special service or policy document can add to that truth.

In May, Pastor Luke will be continuing with our on-and-off series, *Last Supper lessons*, which have led us slowly through John chapter 13 and 14.

These chapters are rich with the final

teachings of Jesus, given to us during the last supper.

We will continue through chapter 15 onwards as Jesus continues to teach His disciples in commands of godliness and love.

May 10th was Mother's Day, and Pastor Luke brought a word focusing on one or more admirable women from the Bible.

It was a wonderful opportunity to honour the women in our lives.

Everyone is welcome to fellowship with us.

Our Sunday services start at 10.30am, and they are followed by morning tea.

Our men's fellowship group meet once a month, our women's bible study is fortnightly, and our children's ministry is Sundays.

Contact Joy for details 0432 470 771.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

Local Government Property Local Law 2026

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

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

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

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

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

Please address your submissions to the Chief Executive Officer:

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

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

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

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

Alan Hart
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Cold times ahead so wrap up warm

Staying In Place Toodyay
Hamish Dobie

EVERYONE at Staying in Place Toodyay Districts (SIPTD) cares about the health of each of our customers.

With the end of the warm weather, it's time to remind everyone to make sure they get their flu and RSV inoculations to protect them from the imminent flu season which is forecast to be worse than normal.

RSV affects the lungs and can lead to bronchiolitis or pneumonia, especially in older adults.

Flu vaccines are free for everyone over 65 and RSV vaccines are free for people over 50 who are at risk and people over 65 in aged care homes. Make sure you look up if you're eligible.

Susan, our Case Manager, has settled in well to the SIPTD office at 94 Stirling Terrace and she has been kept very busy with bringing on new customers to our service, as well as maintaining the quality of service to our existing customers.

Hopefully, we will have appointed a second Case Manager by the beginning of May.

Now that we have an office, people who want to enquire about SIPTD and its services can now drop in for a chat.

SIPTD is now in its third year of operation and has become well established as a home care provider in Toodyay and surrounding districts.

Our difference from other providers is that we use local people to provide the services to our customers.

This means that our customers may already know the person providing the services they need and, of course, there will be little or no "travel time" charged to their Support at Home package.

However, we still need more locals to step forward and become contractors/support workers to help us meet the needs of our increasing customer base.

One of our aims is to increase the sense of community in the town.

For that reason, we are in discussion with other organisations to work together to create community projects that can encompass the young and the elderly coming together to their mutual benefit.

Seniors have history and many have a great sense of humour, whereas kids can be just plain funny so these projects could be enjoyable for everyone concerned.

If you think you or your partner may be eligible for a Support at Home Package, or if you are interested in becoming a Support worker or part of the SIPTD team, then please contact:

Susan Burley, Case Manager, Staying In Place Toodyay Districts, Phone: 04 94 085 790

Email: casemanager@stayinginplacetoodyay.org.au
Web: <http://stayinginplacetoodyay.org.au>
Facebook: Staying In Place – Toodyay

Child Online Safety

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

WE TEACH our children how to cross roads safely but teaching children to be safe on the Internet may be less common.

The technology of the Internet keeps changing. Legislation about children using social media is imperfect.

Putting in place a rigid set of rules in the face of changing technology and imperfect legislation is a recipe for failure.

A more useful approach is to teach what to be careful about and how to manage things.

The major risks include exposure to harmful content, spending too long online, and privacy issues.

Parents may already be having conversations with their children about harmful content and screen time, but privacy seems to be taking a back seat.

Using a first name is probably safe for things like online games, but family name, street address and phone numbers are off limits.

Everybody makes mistakes, and children can be unsure about what to do for best when they come across something strange or different.

If your child comes to you with a concern, you can always use it as a teaching opportunity.

You can find more information at bit.ly/4vEI000 and bit.ly/4tQOF6L.

Easter eggs and upcoming projects

Bolgart Primary School
Karen Kesic

STUDENTS from Bolgart Primary School walked in and around the town looking for and collecting rubbish last month.

They found lots of different kinds of rubbish and when we all got back to school, we counted our bottles and cans and found that we had collected \$3.40 worth.

After all our hard work, Miss Bridget from the Shire of Victoria Plains treated us to a special sausage sizzle to thank us for cleaning up Bolgart.

We really enjoyed our sausages and juice boxes – a big thank you to Miss Bridget and the shire.

The students enjoyed a special Easter egg hunt at school as a reward for their efforts in maintaining good standing and upholding our values of Reach, Respect, Resilience and Responsibility.

Well done everyone. I hope you enjoyed eating your eggs.

Our school P&C has been successful in its grant application to CBH for continued improvements to upgrading our outdoor eating area.

The project involves installing a commercial grade evaporative cooler in the outdoor patio area to create safe, comfortable conditions during hot weather, and radiant panel heaters positioned above the outdoor



Students from Bolgart Primary cleaning up their town.

tables to provide targeted warmth in winter.

This project has been funded by CBH's Grass Roots Fund, the Bolgart P&C and Currahee Farms.

A special thanks to Mrs Georgie Troup for championing this initiative, sourcing the products, coordinating the trades and securing the grant in time for installation during the school holidays.

Date locked in, and vendors wanted for picnic race day

THE Toodyay Race Club has announced this year's much-loved annual event will be held on Sunday 27 September at the Toodyay Racecourse.

The picnic race day is one of the region's most anticipated community events, attracting families and visitors from across the state for a fantastic day of country racing, entertainment and local hospitality.

Tickets for the event are available for purchase from Moshtix and attendees are encouraged to get their tickets early as the event continues to grow in popularity each year.

The Toodyay Race Club is also inviting expressions of interest from local vendors who would like the opportunity to showcase and promote their businesses at the event.

Toodyay Race Club president Stephen Ferguson said the event was a great opportunity for local traders to connect with the large crowd expected on race day.

In addition, the club is seeking sponsorship from local businesses interested in partnering with the event.

Businesses wishing to review a sponsorship proposal or discuss partnership opportunities are encouraged to get in touch.

Mr Ferguson said the club was looking forward to welcoming the community back for another great race day.

"We're excited to confirm the date for the race day and look forward to welcoming racegoers from across the region for a fantastic day at the Toodyay Racecourse," he said.

"Our picnic race day is a great showcase of country racing and community spirit and we encourage local vendors and businesses to get involved and be part of the event."

For vendor enquiries or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact the club at info@toodyayraceclub.com.au.



Photo by Sean Hefferon.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

Parking and Parking Facilities Local Law 2026

The Shire of Toodyay proposes to make a local law relating to Parking and Parking Facilities.

Purpose: The purpose of the *Shire of Toodyay Parking and Parking Facilities Local Law 2026* is to regulate the stopping and parking of vehicles within the Shire to ensure public safety, accessibility, amenity and effective traffic management, while providing clear rules for the use of parking stalls, parking stations, verges, thoroughfares, and designated vehicle zones.

Effect: The effect of the local law is to create lawful requirements for parking and stopping; prescribe offences and modified penalties; enable enforcement of parking controls; provide concessions for eligible users (including properly used disability parking permits); and repeal outdated parking provisions previously in force.

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

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

Please address your submissions to the Chief Executive Officer:

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

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

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

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

Alan Hart
Acting Chief Executive Officer

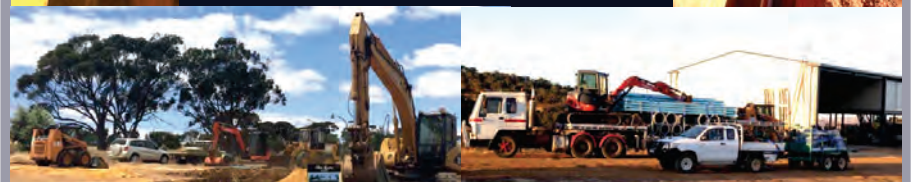
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Website: www.ringacivil.com



Save the Dates!

Toodyay Railway Walk - 29 April - 15 May,
10.30am - 11:15am, Toodyay Visitor Centre.

Toodyay's Railway Walk

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Volunteer Week - Tuesday
19 May - 25 May.

Reconciliation Week - Wednesday
27 May - 3 June.

Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trails -
30 May - 1 June, Toodyay Town.

Community Morning Tea for World Elder Abuse Awareness - 9 June, Toodyay Community Resource Centre.

For World Elder Abuse Awareness

The Older People's Rights Service in partnership with Bendigo Community Bank and Toodyay CRC invites you to a free community education event for seniors.

10am MORNING TEA

10.30-11.30am PREVENTING FINANCIAL ABUSE AND AVOIDING SCAMS

- The warning signs of financial abuse
- 10 common types and what to look out for
- Protecting yourself and avoiding scams
- What to do if you've been scammed

Kids Club - Every Thursday during school term, Toodyay Community Resource Centre. Thursdays during the school term

2.30 pm - 4.30 pm

At the Toodyay CRC
67 Stirling Terrace

Ages 5 - 15

\$20 per term

canteen available

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



Newcastle Gaol Museum Launch and Exhibition: Toodyay Railways: A Tale of Two Lines



This exhibition features rich historical insight and photographs from both the narrow-gauge Clackline-Miling line and the later standard-gauge route built along the Avon River. On display are locally owned objects and 1:64 scale models of locomotives used on the narrow-gauge line to Toodyay, kindly loaned by a member of the Australian Model Railway Association of WA. The exhibition also explores the arrival of the standard-gauge line, which dramatically reshaped Toodyay through demolished buildings, a new street, and realigned roads.

In an era dominated by cars and road transport, this display reminds us of the vital social and economic role railways once played in Toodyay's development.



Honky Nut World!

The Toodyay Visitors Centre is delighted to welcome Honky Nut World and the talented Sandy Wessley to our showcase space for May. Drop in and explore the wonderful world Sandy has created.



New Event Application Form!

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

Reporting Streetlights

A friendly reminder if you are noticing a streetlight out or not working properly. Please contact Western Power directly via their website or below phone numbers: <https://www.westernpower.com.au>.

General enquiries [13 10 87](tel:131087)
8.30am-5pm Monday to Friday

Emergencies & outages [13 13 51](tel:131351)
24 hours

Report streetlight faults or graffiti [1800 622 008](tel:1800622008)

Free Face Mask Giveaway!



Pages and Pastires Easter Edition

Was well attended, despite the bad weather that day. We had a steady stream of patrons enjoying the coffee, cakes, hot cross buns, games and cosy seating arrangements. We supported Lorraine Town who hosted our first Women's Wisdom group that will run on a Tuesday 11am-12pm at the library. Any ideas for future events would be wonderful, please drop by and let us know what you want to see in our lovely library.



Winter Hours for Visitors Centre

As of the **28 April 2026**. Our new opening hours are **7 days a week, from 10:00am to 3:00pm**. The Toodyay Visitors Centre continues to provide the same, high-quality service, and we look forward to your continued support.

Local Planning Scheme No. 5 Amendment No. 1 - Approval Notice

It is hereby notified for public information that the Minister for Planning has approved Amendment No. 1 to the Shire of Toodyay Local Planning Scheme No. 5 on 8 April 2026 in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2005.

The amendment provides for:

- Reclassification of a portion of Lot 9508 Burt Parkway, Nunile from Public Open Space reserve to Residential zone with density coding of R12.5 and R30, and Local Road reserve;
- Reclassification of Lot 8006 Murray Walkway, Nunile from Residential zone to Public Open Space reserve and removal of the R10 density coding;
- Modification to Clause 15 relating to Additional Use AR1; and
- Amendments to the Scheme Maps accordingly.

The amendment will come into effect on the date of publication in the Government Gazette.

A copy of the approved amendment documentation is available for the public at the Shire of Toodyay Administration Office, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay, and on the Shire's website.

Council Decisions

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

- Council gives local public notice stating that it proposes to make the Shire of Toodyay Local Government Property Local Law 2026 - *carried*.
- Council gives local public notice stating that it proposes to make the Shire of Toodyay Parking and Parking Facilities Local Law 2026 - *carried*.
- Council consider the late item for Showgrounds Oval - Playing Surface Condition as new business of an urgent nature in accordance with Standing Order 4.5. - *carried*.

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



Bolgart bowlers celebrate season highlights

Bolgart Community News
Pam McGill

BOLGART CWA ladies enjoyed a trip to Kalamunda recently and joining the Kalamunda CWA ladies to listen to a guest speaker talking about the Kalamunda History Village.

They had a lovely lunch with lots of laughs and friendship and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all the ladies attending.

Bolgart Hotel: Keep your eyes on the Menu coming out weekly, some delicious meals happening.

St John - Goomalling and Bolgart would love to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer for your community.

Some important volunteer roles would help transport patients from Goomalling Hospital to Northam Regional and make sure emergency vans are stocked, organised, and equipment is in working order.

Support the community by attending



*Ladies Countryweek Bowls
Back standing Serena Syred
L to R Seated Jenni Knowles, Pam McGill
Front Nolene Kaszanski*

Goomalling home games of football while other volunteers are playing.

Lend a hand at community events, helping with set up, pack down and general support to keep events running smoothly.

If you would like to help out, don't hesitate to make contact.

Ladies' Golf: Golf will be starting on Thursday 30th April 2026. Any new ladies wanting to play, don't hesitate to contact Captain Therese Chitty M: 0459 344 274.

Bowling News: Four ladies, Serena Syred, Nolene Kaszanski, Jenni Knowles and Pam McGill competed in Country Week in late March over three days.

It was great to join all the other country ladies' teams in having good games and laughs and new and old friendships.

Windup Bowls Dinner and presentations were held at the Bolgart Sports Club to end our season.

Winners of the Awards for this season are:
Men's and Ladies Singles Trophy
sponsored by Aviso (Brad Parker)



*Winner of Club Championship Singles
L to R - Serena Syred Lester Snooke*

Men's Singles Champion: Lester Snooke,
runner up Ian Woods

Men's Singles Plate: Todd Meston, runner up Colin Guthrie

Ladies' Singles Champion (1st time)
Serena Syred, runner up Nolene Kaszanski
Ladies' a Novice Winner: Jenny King,
runner up Shena Buscomb

Men's Club Championship Pairs Trophy, sponsored by the Ludemann Family, won by Ian Woods and Brad McIntyre, runner up Lester Snooke and Theo Camerer

Ladies' Club Championship Pairs, sponsored by Bob and Bev Hogg, won by Nolene Kaszanski and Pam McGill, runner up Stephanie Slater and Jenni Knowles.

It was great to see Bob and Bev Hogg come and present their trophy once again and have also been sponsoring it for many years as well.

Congratulations to all winners and thank you once again to all the sponsors.

One highlight was the Pennant team of Jenni Knowles, Nolene Kaszanski, Pam Meston and Jenny King receiving an 'eight badge'. Great achievement Ladies.



Winners Club Championship Pairs
L to R Pam McGill Nolene Kaszanski

Vollies power school P&C efforts

Shuang Aliaga

TOODYAY District High School P&C is a small but dedicated team, committed to supporting our students and school through a range of initiatives.

Our canteen has been operating every Friday during the school term, and it's been wonderful to see so many happy student faces.

If you have a few hours to spare on a Friday, we would love your help as more hands make light work. Please contact us via our Facebook page.

We also welcome donations of baked goods, snacks, or fruit.

All proceeds go directly back into the school to enhance our students' learning environment and experiences.

The Mother's Day stall was a great success.

We would like to thank our wonderful volunteers for their time and effort, especially in preparing and wrapping the gifts.

Thank you to all families who have contributed gifts, and we hope every child found something special to take home.

We hold our P&C meeting once per term. Our Term 2 meeting was held on 11 May in the school library.

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings each term, and we value your input.

If you missed this one, we would love to see you in Term 3.

We will also be running our second-hand book sale from 25–28 May, with all books just \$2.

This is a great opportunity to encourage reading while making books accessible to all. Donations of pre-loved books are warmly welcomed.

To stay up to date, please join our Facebook page: *Toodyay DHS P&C*.

We look forward to welcoming new faces and fresh ideas.

A photograph of an elderly man with white hair and sunglasses, wearing a dark vest over a light-colored shirt, riding a vintage-style motorhome. The motorhome is silver with black accents and large spoked wheels. It is parked on a dirt path next to a field of tall green plants with bright yellow flowers. The background shows more of the same field under a clear blue sky.

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Toodyay deserves better says Hunter

CENTRAL Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter says after ten Labor Budgets, Toodyay is still waiting for the basics." He said the Cook Government talks about regional growth, yet there was still no long-term funding certainty for the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network.

"Roads that local families, farmers and freight operators rely on every single day." Mr Hunter said Toodyay residents deserved to feel safe in their own community.

"But there is still no meaningful investment into additional community safety measures like security cameras and crime prevention infrastructure," he said.

"People in Toodyay rely heavily on Northam Hospital, yet communities are still waiting for clear updates and certainty around future services, staffing and investment.

"Labor continues to announce flashy projects in Perth while regional communities like Toodyay are left fighting for basic infrastructure.

"Simple but important local priorities like pedestrian bridges, safer crossings and connectivity infrastructure continue to be overlooked."

Mr Hunter said The Wheatbelt kept driving the WA economy.

"But this Budget again proves regional communities are expected to make do with less," he said.

"Toodyay deserves infrastructure that matches its growing population and increasing tourism demand – not another Budget full of excuses."

"Regional WA should not have to beg for

safer roads, safer streets and better health services after nearly a decade of Labor Government."



Outspoken Central Wheatbelt MLA Lachlan Hunter on the media trail.

Smoke-free shift in Toodyay's town with The Rec's total smoking ban

TOODYAY'S Victoria Hotel supports the Australian Hotels Association (AHAWA) commitment to smoke free indoor spaces and dining areas, while supporting the use of clearly designated, well-separated outdoor smoking areas.

But The Rec Toodyay has gone a step further ensuring their venues in Toodyay and Northam are completely smoke free.

Under current state laws smoking is not allowed at inside a venue and pubs and taverns can set aside up to half of their outdoor alfresco or beer gardens as a smoking zone.

But venues can choose to become 100 percent smoke free, which The Rec has done, with its strict smoke-free policy.

AHAWA CEO Bradley Woods said hospitality venues wanted everyone to feel welcome and comfortable.

He said WA hotels and pubs were proudly smoke free indoors and in dining areas, and the association wants to keep it that way."

"Allowing designated outdoor smoking zones is a practical balance that protects non-smokers and staff, reduces conflict and clutter on footpaths, and respects responsible adult choice."

"Our members already apply strong measures, thoughtful layouts, separation buffers, clear signage and service rules such as no food service within smoking zones to keep exposure low and experiences high."

"Importantly, venue operators already have the ability to make their businesses entirely smoke free if they believe it best suits their venue and some venues have chosen to"

Mr Woods said that decision reflected that operators understand their patrons, layout and trading environment better than anyone."

He said the current approach was working for patrons, staff and venues, from CBD bars to suburban and large regional beer gardens.

The AHA(WA) is has been a voice for the hospitality and accommodation industry in Western Australia since 1892.

Its mission is to ensure the sector has a voice and the hospitality industry remains a vital part of the Australian way of life.



The Rec going completely smoke free.

Brickbats or Bouquets... we value your opinion

Suggestions and comments are welcome please forward to: feedback@toodyayherald.com.au or post to: PO Box 100, Toodyay WA 6566

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Toodyay youth encouraged to share their world through photography

YOUNG people in Toodyay are invited to enter Snapshot WA, a new free statewide photography competition, with nominations open until the end of May.

The competition was launched by the Commissioner for Children and Young People Jacqueline McGowan-Jones in celebration of Youth Week WA 2026.

The Snapshot WA competition is open to young people aged 8 to 17 and participants are being asked to submit original photographs online and share what matters most in their lives.

Snapshot WA invites young people to reflect on their everyday experiences, their communities, and the places that give them a sense of belonging.

It aligns with this year's Youth Week WA theme Strength in our stories.

Entries are open now until 28 May and works are to be submitted digitally through the CCYP website. Participants may submit photos under any of the following six themes:

- My Day / My Life
- What Matters to Me
- Things That Make Me Happy
- Places I Belong
- My World
- Home

A selection of entries will be showcased in an online gallery that will launch in late June 2026, when competition winners will also be announced.

Prizes include a \$100 voucher for first place, \$75 for second, and \$50 for third.

A People's Choice Award of \$25 will be determined by public vote through the CCYP website, with voting details to be announced in June 2026.

Dr McGowan-Jones said children and young people were the experts on their own lives.

"Snapshot WA gives them a platform to show us their world on their own terms and in their own way, and that visibility is something we have an obligation to create.

"This competition is free, and all you need to enter is a photo that feels true to you.

"We hope young people from every corner of the state take part.

Dr McGowan-Jones said when young people were genuinely included and their perspectives were sought and taken seriously, better decisions followed.

"Photography is a powerful way to communicate lived experience, and Snapshot WA is an invitation for young people across WA to be part of that record."

Slow down or cop it: police patrols ramp up

MORE than 2,700 drivers were caught speeding in school zones in just five days during a statewide crackdown at the start of term one.

Police have warned their patrols will continue for the rest of the year.

The blitz on school zones comes on the back of speeding statistics that saw 18,900 reported crashes on regional roads over a four-year period.

There were 2357 reported crashes over the same period in the Wheatbelt region.

Of these, 781 were killed and 628 were seriously injured.

Eighty five percent of those killed were in cars and 13 percent were on motorbikes.

Approximately two-thirds were male and those aged between 20-29 had the highest death rate.

The most common crashes happened when people hit an object and the highest rate of crashes happened on 110 km/h sections of road.

One in ten people were involved in crashes at intersections.

The two highest contributing factors that caused the crashes were speeding and fatigue.



A crackdown on speeding will be a focus for WA Police this year with highly visible patrols done in and around school zones.

WA Police superintendent Glenn Spencer said school zones were clearly signposted and reduced speed limits applied for a reason.

"The number of drivers detected speeding in school zones is unacceptable," he said.

Security when working from home

SaferToodyay
Desrae Clarke

WITH the current turn of events and suggestions of people working more from home, be aware that working from home requires just as much security protection as the office premises.

If you have a home office it is preferable to be able to lock the door when out of the room eating your lunch, dashing to the shopping centre, etc..

As laptops and mobile phones are prime sources of goods likely to be stolen ensure these are not visible through a window when out of your work area.

Ensure the window has a secure locking system to enable only the breezes to enter.

Protect yourself and those that live in the home and if a caller is delivering online purchased goods check the identity of the caller prior to opening the door.

The installation of a home security system, such as a security camera, will record activity around your home.

If there appears to be any suspicious situation that needs investigation call Police Emergency 131 444 or Crimestoppers 1800 333 000.

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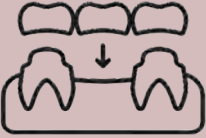
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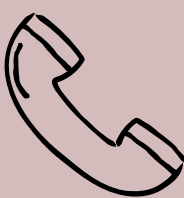
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National campaign targets deadly high blood pressure

AUSTRALIAN'S are being urged to roll up their sleeves and get their blood pressure checked this month as part of a national Stroke Foundation Campaign aimed at saving lives.

Australia's Biggest Blood Pressure Check runs throughout the month of May. High blood pressure is the leading preventable risk factor for death in Australia, contributing to over 25,000 deaths annually.

High blood pressure affects one in three adults, but only 50% are aware they have it.

The only way to do this is through regular blood pressure checks, which is why we are calling on all Australians to get their blood pressure checked during the month of May.

Stroke Foundation chief executive officer Lisa Murphy said high blood pressure was known as a 'silent killer' because it typically caused no obvious symptoms until a major health event occurred, often without warning.

"Around seven million Australians have high blood pressure," Dr Murphy said. "Nearly half don't know it, and only 32 per cent have it under control."

"High blood pressure is the single biggest preventable risk factor for stroke, heart disease, kidney disease, and dementia."

"The good news is that high blood pressure can be managed through adopting healthier lifestyle changes or medication."

"But the only way to do this is through regular blood pressure checks, which is why we are calling on all Australians to get their blood pressure checked during the month of May."

Stroke Foundation is a co-founding member of the National Hypertension Taskforce, assembled to tackle the leading risk factor of death in Australia - high blood pressure.

The Taskforce aims to increase the number of Australians with their blood pressure both treated and controlled effectively from 32 per cent to 70 per cent by 2030.



Shane Elliott's blood pressure was something he never took seriously. He had been living with the condition for two decades but admits he was slack with his medication, until one day he collapsed at work.

Crackdown on 'sneaky' health premium hikes welcomed

AUSTRALIA'S peak professional body for doctors has welcomed a move by the federal government to outlaw private health insurance price gouging and improve transparency on medical costs for patients.

Laws introduced last month now outlaw 'product phoenixing', a deceptive practice used by some private health insurers to extract higher premiums from consumers.

The sneaky price-gouging practice involves closing an insurance product and relaunching an essentially identical product at a higher price.

Health Minister Mark Butler late last year described phoenixing as an "underhanded" and "sneaky" practice.

He said banning it would be an important win for consumers.

His comments came after consumer group Choice reported on the practice last February and found some insurers had increased prices

by up to 47 per cent over three years.

The federal government's legislation also enables the publishing of existing Medicare, hospital and insurer billing data on the Medical Costs Finder website.

This allows patients to see details about what individual specialists generally charge for particular medical services, what Medicare rebate is paid, and what contribution is made by the private health insurer.

The Australian Medical Association has pushed hard for Medicare rebates and insurer benefits to be included on the Medical Costs Finder, so that patients get the full picture of why they may face an out-of-pocket cost.

AMA President Danielle McMullen said early versions of the website were unworkable for practice managers and doctors, and the AMA worked closely with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to address those issues.

She said private health insurers were extremely reluctant to upload their information, which also created a significant disincentive for doctors to upload their own billing data.

"Access to insurer data is crucial for patients, alongside clear information on Medicare rebates, which have failed to keep pace with inflation for decades and remain a major driver of outofpocket costs," Dr McMullen said.

The AMA publishes a detailed Informed Financial Consent guide – a document that empowers patients to discuss costs with their doctor before undergoing medical procedures.

To find the consent guide online, see here: <https://tinyurl.com/53cxwf6n>.



From stars to sugar tax: doctors call for sweeping food labelling reform

THE AUSTRALIAN Medical Association has welcomed a decision by federal food regulation ministers to move towards mandatory health star ratings on packaged foods, a long overdue reform they say will help Australians make healthier choices at the supermarket.

AMA president Danielle McMullen said the move was an important step forward off the back of strong public health and consumer group advocacy, following years of inadequate voluntary uptake by the food industry.

"Making health star ratings mandatory is a win for consumers and a clear acknowledgment that voluntary approaches have failed," Dr McMullen said.

"Clear, consistent labelling empowers people to make informed choices about what they are eating, and that matters when rates of overweight and obesity continue to climb across Australia."

Dr McMullen said rates of obesity have been rising for more than 25 years and, without decisive action, will continue to increase.

"Obesity is a major risk factor for chronic conditions including type 2 diabetes, heart disease and some cancers, placing growing pressure on Australia's health system," she said.

"While mandatory health star ratings were welcome, they must be part of a broader, coordinated strategy to improve Australia's food environment, including greater investment in preventive health."

Dr McMullen said the star ratings were a positive first step but it could not be the last.

"Labelling alone will not solve Australia's obesity crisis," she said.

"We need a comprehensive prevention agenda that addresses the overconsumption of unhealthy food and drinks, particularly those high in added sugar."

The AMA has long warned that Australia lags behind comparable countries when it comes to preventative measures through its *Sickly Sweet* campaign, which targets high sugar consumption.

According to the AMA, Australians consume more than 2.2 billion litres of sugary drinks each year.

These products contain large amounts of free sugar, offer little to no nutritional value, and are a significant contributor to rising rates of chronic disease.

In a statement, the AMA said it would continue to advocate for the introduction of a tax on sugar-sweetened drinks, and it was a measure supported by strong public backing and international evidence.

Dr McMullen said tax on sugary drinks was one of the most effective tools governments could use to reduce consumption and improve health outcomes.

She said Australians supported this reform, particularly when revenue was directed into obesity prevention and health promotion initiatives.

A nationally representative survey conducted in 2017 found 60 per cent of Australians supported a tax on sugary drinks.

This increased to 77 per cent if the proceeds were used to fund obesity prevention.

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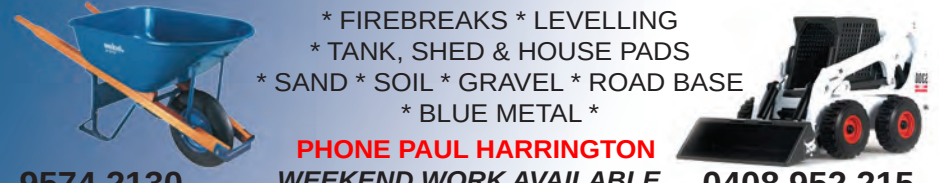
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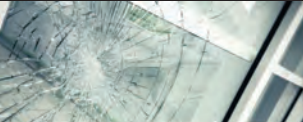
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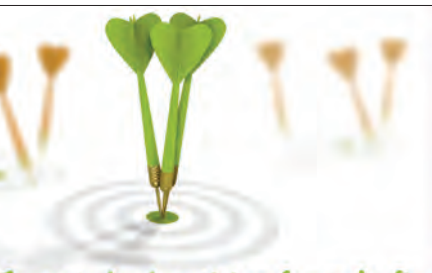
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Time to cook healthy

THE Heart Foundation has announced a partnership with nutrition movement *No Money No Time* to help cash-strapped, time-poor people cook nutritious options for less than one dollar per serve.

Two leading health organisations have joined forces to help show people in Australia how simple it can be to cook heart-healthy meals on a budget.

The movement aims to make heart-healthy eating both more affordable and accessible for people in Australia who are navigating rising grocery costs.

Coronary heart disease remains a leading cause of death in Australia.

Evidence shows that around one-third of cardiovascular disease deaths are attributable to poor diet and therefore largely preventable.

No Money No Time is a free, evidence-based nutrition platform created by food and nutrition experts from the University of Newcastle.

It is designed to help equip people with the resources needed to help them cook healthily.

It aims to improve their health and well-being while preventing chronic disease and building lifelong healthy food habits.

As food prices continue to soar, both organisations are collaborating to help strengthen their reach across Australia.

This is achievable by improving access to practical tools including simple recipes, cooking tips, meal plans and ingredient swaps that have heart health benefits and won't cost a packet.

A key tool of *No Money No Time* is a database of recipes which empowers people to filter food by cost, time, dietary needs and cooking skills.

Some of the nutritious options on offer cost less than \$1 per serve.

Low-cost food swaps and smart shopping strategies are also on the menu.

The partnership complementing the Heart Foundation's existing recipe resources.

Heart Foundation General Manager, Food and Nutrition, Claire Gardner said many people wanted to eat well for their heart.

They found the challenges of rising food

costs, limited time to cook and confusion around what is healthy and affordable too much to stomach.

"Healthy eating can feel out of reach, even though we know it's one of the most powerful ways to protect our heart health," Ms Gardner said.

"Eating for heart health shouldn't depend on your budget or your time and this new partnership and our work together aims to highlight that options for tasty, healthy meals are accessible and affordable, regardless of someone's income, background or time constraints."

Examples of low-cost, heart-healthy recipes available on the *No Money No Time* website include:

- Kerith's miso maple cauliflower steaks – \$0.75 per serve
- Evangeline's lentil soup – \$1 per serve
- Healthy Moroccan Couscous salad – \$1.75 per serve
- Spinach and feta meatballs – \$1.75 per serve



Aged care advocate says budget fails older Australians waiting for help

AGEING Australia (AA) is alarmed at the lack of Support at Home packages announced in this month's Federal Budget.

The Government has announced an additional \$389.8 million in funding for Support at Home, which brings forward new packages, extends End-of-Life Pathway funding, supports a review of the Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT), and digitisation of the financial hardship assistance process.

But AA chief executive officer Tom Symondson said while they had strongly advocated for many of these announcements and welcome them, the funding fell well short of the amount required to address the national Support at Home wait lists.

"We are also concerned by the lack of new funding for the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), which delivers care to more than 840,000 older people and is already at capacity," Mr Symondson said.

"This is fast approaching a national emergency."

"At last count, more than 200,000 older Australians were either waiting for a Support at Home package or waiting just to be assessed."

"This funding clearly won't meet increased demand over the next 12 months, let alone clear the backlog."

"This creates a real risk to those older people who are waiting for care and increases the chances they will experience poor outcomes or hospitalisation while they wait to get to the front of the queue."

"We've been clear that providers have the capacity to care for more older Australians at home, but we can't do that without more packages."

Mr Symondson said it was heart-breaking for providers to be forced to turn older people away who were begging for help.

He said enabling older Australians to remain in their own homes was a fundamental part of maintaining their independence and their dignity.

"It also has a flow on effect to the entire

health system and takes pressure off growing wait lists for residential aged care, which is now effectively full," he said.

"While we await the outcomes of the Senate Inquiry into CHSP, we have been pushing for new investment into this critical program."

"We already know that people across the country are struggling to get the care they need in the community, and this puts even further pressure on Support at Home and residential care capacity."

Rural Building Co wins national award

THE Rural Building Co has added to its award-winning track record, claiming the 2026 Australian Project Home of the Year at this year's HIA Australian Housing Awards.

Announced at the HIA Australian Housing Awards last month on, this is the fourth consecutive year this national award has been bestowed to The Rural Building Co and its affiliated brand, WA Country Builders.

The Rural Building Company's original designs date back to 1992 and the beginnings of the 'tree change' movement when people began turning their backs on the city and urban values to move to the country.

In a statement, The Rural Building Co said it was quick to recognise the need for a product that reflected their values and desire for individuality.

The Rural Building Co is affiliate with WA Country Builders, which has designed and built over 6,000 homes for since 1991.

WA Country Builders has more awards than any other regional builder, including the Excellence in Service awards that its clients vote for.

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WHERE AND WHEN

ART & CRAFT / HOBBIES / HISTORY
Arts Toodyay

Fourth Monday of each month from 5.30pm at the Toodyay Youth Hall. Contact secretary. arts.j2@gmail.com.

Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association
Third Saturday Old Engineer’s Quarters next to Northam Railway Museum, Fitzgerald St Northam 10.30am. 9622 5932.

Avon Woodturners Group
Every Sunday and Wednesday, Toodyay Junction, Railway Parade 9am-noon. Hamish Dobie 0423 115 204.

Morangup Social Craft Group
First and third Tuesday monthly, Morangup Community Hall 10am-12.30pm

Ragbags Quilting Group
First and third Wednesday monthly, St Stephen’s Hall 10am-2.30pm. 9574 4503. Bring your lunch.

The Crooked Needle
Friday morning craft \$3.50 CWA Hall Stirling Terrace 9.30am-noon.
Jan 0407 083 079, Annette 9574 2332.

Toodyay Historical Society
Third Wednesday monthly (not Jan) St Stephen’s Church Hall, Stirling Tce 7pm. Drummond House open Saturday 10am-noon (next to Bendigo Bank, Stirling Tce). Research Centre open by appt. Beth Frayne 9574 5971, secretary.2j.ths@gmail.com, www.toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au

Toodyay Miniature Railway
Easter Saturday, thereafter first and third Sunday monthly until Nov. Mark, President 0424 281 770.

Toodyay Spinners and Weavers
Every Wednesday; and the first and third Saturdays at Parker’s Cottage, Showgrounds 9am to noon.
toodyayspinners@hotmail.com.

Toodyay Theatre Group
David Mitchell 0400 283 425.

CHURCHES

Anglican Church
Sundays St Stephen’s Church 10am.

Catholic Church
Saturday Vigil 5pm. Wednesday Adoration 4.20pm, Benediction 4.50pm, Mass 5pm. northam@perthcatholic.org.au 9622 5411.

Bakers Hill Fellowship
Sundays Bakers Hill Primary School Music Room 10am. Pastor Peter Booth 0417 945 725.

Toodyay Baptist Church
Sundays 18 Stirling Tce 10.30am.
Joy 0432 470 771.

Uniting Church
St Stephen’s Church 10am.

EDUCATION / PLAYGROUPS

Bizzy Bees
Pre-kindy for 3-year-olds. Toodyay DHS. Jessica Donovan 0407 128 105.

Toodyay District High School P&C
Tuesday of Week 5 each term TDHS staff room 5.30pm. ‘Toodyay DHS P&C’ on Facebook, write to Toodyay District High

School P&C at PO Box 1624, Toodyay WA 6566. email pandctoodyaydhs@gmail.com.
Toodyay Playgroup
Tuesdays, Thursdays 9-11am. Wednesdays Bubs Play 10am-noon. Jessica Donovan 0407 128 105.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Bejoording VBFB
First Tuesday monthly 6pm, Bejoording Fire Shed. Lawrence 0447 253 320, Richard 0414 250 484.

Coondle-Nunile VBFB
Meet every Friday 5pm at the Coondle Fire Shed .

Morangup VBFB
Third Saturday of the month, 3 Wallaby Way, Morangup, 5.30pm
Jan Drury 0474550544 or secretarymyvbfb@gmail.com

St John Morangup Sub Centre
Volunteering, first aid kits, Benefit Fund memberships, 48 Wallaby Way, Morangup. Monday and Wednesday 8am-4pm. 0418 741 971.

St John Toodyay Sub Centre
Volunteering, first aid kits and refills, Benefit Fund memberships, general enquiries, 120B Stirling Terrace. 9574 2390. Emergency call 000.

Toodyay Central VBFB
Second Tuesday monthly Toodyay Fire and Emergency Services Centre 7pm.

Toodyay State Emergency Service
Fourth Tuesday monthly 3 Wallaby Way Morangup. Jeff Venn 0438 490 331 toodyayselocalmanager@gmail.com.

Toodyay Volunteer Fire and Rescue
First Monday monthly, Toodyay Fire and Emergency Services Centre 7.30pm.

ENVIRONMENT

Avon Valley Environmental Society
Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Centre, 269 Fitzgerald St, Northam. Third Friday monthly, noon. Janet Wilkinson 9574 5947.

Earth Solutions - Avon Valley
Second Tuesday monthly (not Jan) Old Northam Railway Station, 425 Fitzgerald St Northam 6pm. Karen Ducat 0438 223 886.

Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance
Julimarforest@gmail.com.

Marsupial Mammals and Pappas
Wildlife Rescue Brian Foley 0419 933 721.

Safe and Scenic Toodyay Road
Andrew St John. sastr.com.au.

Toodyay Friends of the River
Second Sunday monthly or following Monday, 9am (winter); 8am (summer). See TFOR noticeboard outside Drummond House. Email info@toodyayfor.org.au.

Toodyay Garden Club
First Thursday monthly, 10am. Dale D’Antoine President 0448 611 292. Email toodyaygardenclub@gmail.com for venue or Stephanie Bain 0429 888 314.

Toodyay Naturalists’ Club
Third Saturday monthly. 9574 5574, secretary@toodyaynats.org.au. Website

www.toodyaynats.org.au.
Toodyay Seed Group
Toodyay Junction, opposite Shire depot. Email BethanLloyd_8@msn.com
FESTIVALS & EVENTS
Toodyay Agricultural Show
www.toodyayagsociety.com.au
Toodyay Farmers Market
Third Sunday monthly, 0429 984 482, toodyayfarmersmarket@gmail.com.
Toodyay Moondyne Festival
moondynecommittee@gmail.com.

HEALTH

Australian Breastfeeding Association
Second and fourth Tuesday monthly, 3 Elizabeth Place Northam 10am-noon. Third Tuesday monthly Toodyay Playgroup noon-2pm. Louise 9574 0229.

Child Health Clinic
Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Bree Byfield. 9621 0100

Forget-Me-Not Memory Café
Second Tuesday monthly, Toodyay Bakery. 10am-noon.

Toodyay Medical Centre
Stirling Terrace. Monday-Friday 9am-4pm. 9545 7101. Pathology Mon-Fri 9am-1pm.

Toodyay Men’s Shed
Monday, Thursday, Saturday Harper Rd 8.30am-noon. Secretary 0499 403 830.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Liz Boston, JP
lizboston3160@gmail.com, 0428 742 349
Leave message if no answer.

Jacquie Lacy, JP
januaryjac@gmail.com. 0429 959 179.

Jeff Roberts, JP
roberts138@bigpond.com. 0499 403 830

Susan Pearce, JP
susanpearce740@outlook.com
0427 957 425.

Ms Jacqueline Lee Graham
Coondle WA 6566. 0438 487 109

MUSIC

Toodyay Community Singers
Thursdays CWA Hall, Stirling Terrace Rehearsals 5pm – 6pm Anne-Marie Millar 0408 364 918.

Toodyay Music Club
Second Saturday monthly, CWA Hall 1pm. Joe 0400 862 694.

SENIORS

Autumn Club
Wednesdays, Toodyay Sports Pavilion 1-4pm. Glenyce Bosnjak 9574 4587. Butterfly Cottages Association Secretary: Cheryl-Jean. Contact email butterfly2J@gmail.com.

Fitness and Fun for the Over 55s
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays Youth Hall, Showgrounds 9am.

Ida’s Hideaway
Saturdays Toodyay Baptist Church, Stirling Terrace 1-4pm. Ann Sinclair 0407 775 459.

Silver Chain Social Centre
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

Toodyay Community Centre 78 Stirling Tce. 1300 650 803.
Staying in Place Toodyay Districts
Aged Care Support
Contact Case Manager: 0494 085 790

SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Bejoording Community Group
Wednesdays Bejoording Community Centre Bejoording Rd 6pm. Barry Grey, President 0428 742 149.

Country Women’s Association
General meetings fourth Thursday monthly at 1pm, coffee mornings second Thursday monthly, 10am CWA Hall. Bookings Margot Watkins 0405 067 591 or 9574 2823.

Moondyne Men
Mondays & Thursdays CRC, 67 Stirling Terrace 8-10.30am. Breakfast 1st Saturday monthly. Colin Bird, Secretary 0424 195 003.

Morangup Progress Association
Chair Daryl Cooper chair@morangupmpa.com.au. www.morangupmpa.com.au.

RSL Toodyay Sub-Branch
Meetings at RSL shed, Clinton Street 2nd Saturday every month between February and November, at 1pm. Secretary Max Howard 0475 724 233 email: toodyayrsl@gmail.com.

Safer Toodyay Inc
Meetings announced in Herald column. 9574 5574.

Toodyay Lions Club
First Tuesday of the month Toodyay Hotel. Second Tuesday Social meeting. Clint Fricker (0423 226 898)
Email: toodyay.wa@lions.org.au

Toodyay Masonic Lodge
Fourth Thursday monthly, Masonic Hall Fiennes St 7.30pm. Mick Tock, 9622 8990
Toodyay Red Cross
Second Monday Feb, May, Aug, Nov Anglican Hall 1.30pm.

Toodyay RoadWise Committee
Second Wednesday monthly, Community Resource Centre 9.30am.
Bob Neville 0419 853 160.

SPORT

Avon Valley Adult Riding Club
Fourth Saturday monthly Feb-Nov, Northam. Tina 0499 030 177.

Avon Valley Shotokan Karate Club
Wednesdays Youth Hall, Showgrounds. Peewees 3.45-4.30pm; Juniors 4.30-5.30pm; Seniors 6-7.30pm. avonvalleyshotokan@gmail.com.

Mortlock Pony Club
First Sunday Feb-Nov, Goomalling. Tanzi 0427 859 493.

Toodyay Bowling Club
Mixed Winter Bowls
Starting Thursday 14 May 2026
12.30 pm for 1pm roll up Green Fees apply
Enquiries: Jen: 0438 909 721
Paul: 0418 577 321 Experienced and inexperienced bowlers ALL WELCOME

Toodyay Golf Club
Mixed comp Sundays noon; Ladies Wednesdays 1.30pm. Roma: 9574 5534. Men’s scroungers Thursdays 2pm. Bruce 0417 028 089.

Toodyay Soccer Club
Mondays 4-5.30pm terms 2-3, ages 5-15yrs. toodyaysoccer@gmail.com.

Toodyay Tennis Club
Toodyay Recreation Centre, Tuesday social 9am unless raining, Wednesday night social 6.30pm October - April, Friday Night Community Tennis - October - November (Facebook for updates) or community court hire play.tennis.com.au . Facebook @toodyaytennisclub.
Contact Jenny Ash Secretary 0417 497 972

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ENGAGEMENT

“Mr and Mrs Cameron and Meryka Wallis, of Bejoording are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sapphira to Laithan Skelcher, son of Mr and Mrs Zac and Jen Skelcher, Coondle.”



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ENVIRONMENT

Autumn flows into river care

Toodyay Friends of the River
Greg Warburton

AUTUMN is my favourite season of the year with cooling of temperatures, low fire risk and the possibility of rain to create a flow down our parched waterways.

For ‘river carers’ it means activities like weed control and tree planting will soon begin.

This season Toodyay Friends of the River (TFOR) will focus on site preparation of key locations in the Boyagerring Reserve with a view to planting next year.

It takes two seasons of weed control to effectively reduce the competitive burden in order to give the native seedlings the best chance to survive.

Our Vice-President Kai has already been busy slashing rank grass in preparation for chemical spraying at the sites.

Our Seed Orchard Coordinator Bethan has been directing the Boyagerring work to fit in with the school Landcare group sessions.

On Saturday, April 18 I was honoured to represent TFOR at the Noongar Cultural Family event at the Yarning Circle in Boyagerring Reserve.

Congratulations to our Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation for a superbly organised occasion which combined cultural activities with family fun, making for an enjoyable and memorable afternoon.

The yarning circle site continues to develop into an excellent meeting, learning and interpretive location strategically situated at the confluence of two sacred

waterways.

With the cooler weather more people can be seen out walking our local tracks and trails, in particular the Bilya Walk Track.

Following the south bank of the river it wends its way from Duidgee Park out to Nardie Cemetery.

This popular track is about to see a lot more use every Saturday morning when Parkrun participants traverse a five-kilometre lap along it.

Even though the footbridge is now open, inexplicably no jogging is permitted. This has necessitated seeking approval for the new route and the installation of directional signage etc..

Thank you to the Parkrun volunteers who got this work done.

The footbridge closure has necessitated starting at the school carpark and a tedious three lap course.

At last, our wonderful local Parkrun event will once again be at its true home of Newcastle Park.

Our May working bee and meeting will start at 8am on Sunday 17 at Duidgee Park.

From there we will go to the Boyagerring planting sites to continue with the preparation work.

The committee are reminded of a management meeting the following evening in Drummond House at 6pm.

For more information about TFOR visit toodyayfor.org.au, pop into Drummond House on a Saturday morning from 10am to noon or phone Greg on 0429 00 9425.



Photo of the female Rufous Whistler courtesy Wayne Clarke.

The Rufous Whistler

Bird of the month
Desrae Clarke

THE Rufous Whistler, of 17cm, is found throughout mainland Australia in both open forest and woodland and is a common species within the Shire of Toodyay but uncommon in wetter areas of the lower southwest forested areas.

The male’s upper parts are grey with the wings and tail a blackish/brown. A broad,

black stripe extends from its black bill, through its red eye then curves round the nape to the upper breast; it has a white throat and a rufous breast.

The female upper body is brownish/grey with a touch of olive; the wings and tail are dark.

The colouring and patterning of the female and immature male make it difficult to correctly identify, following the strong and definite markings describing the male bird.

The 1948 publication of *Birds of Western Australia* by DL Serventy and HM. Whittell holds an excellent description.

“The female and the immature male are longitudinally streaked black and white on the underparts, there being a buff tone on the abdomen.

“The young male, before it assumes the adult dress, has a lighter chestnut breast with a dull-black chest-band and the white throat is lightly streaked with black.”

Breeding is from late August through to March.

The flimsy nest is an open cup of fine twigs and grasses and is placed in the fork of a tree or deep in a low dense shrub.

Two or three eggs, brownish in colour and dark brown spotted and blotched, are incubated over approximately fourteen days.

The young fledge within ten to fifteen days and, as they mature, they are chased from the parent bird’s territory.

The most recognisable feature of the Rufous Whistler is its call of rich, crisp, musical notes particularly during the breeding season.

It ranges from a ‘pee, pee, pee, joey, joey, joey’, through to a powerful ‘eee-chong! Eee-chong! Eee-chong!’.

Disputes over territory are often solved by song with rival males perching within half a metre from each other, displaying the crown feathers, fanning the tail and chasing each other in flight; the female also assists in defending the territory.

The Rufous Whistler gleans insects and larvae from among foliage and can be observed hopping along branches in search of prey.

It will occasionally drop to the ground to forage and will also take fruit and berries.

Small snake big skills: the Stimson Python

Herpetofauna
Desrae Clarke

THE Stimson’s Python is a small reptile with an adult length of up to a metre.

It is found within the Shire of Toodyay but does not appear to be as common as its

larger cousin, the Carpet Python; it is not a venomous reptile species.

A noticeable difference between a venomous snake and a python is, if disturbed, a venomous snake will wriggle away quickly, whereas the python will freeze. This information is useful in identification.

The Stimson’s Python has a triangular-shaped head that displays a distinct neck.

Its ground colour is usually a pale or yellowish brown with the upper body patterning of darker, irregular blotching and its belly is whitish.

It is oviparous (egg-laying) and lays up to twenty eggs in a clutch with the female coiling around them for incubation.

If the temperature drops, she will shiver to raise her body heat to the desired level.

The diet of this small python includes birds and mammals such as mice and small rabbits.

It may be found basking or foraging during the day but is mainly nocturnal.

‘Heat sensitive pits’ located on the lip scales assist in the location of warm-blooded prey both day and night.

It has a prehensile tail (a tail that can grasp to aid in climbing) so it may be found in tree hollows, rock crevices, termite mounds or beneath granite slabs.

This species is found over a wide area of the state excepting the northwest and the lower south of the state.

It can also be found on islands within the Shark Bay World Heritage Area of Dorre, Dirk Hartog and Bernier Islands.



The Stimson’s Python.

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Police, parrots and the Pilbara

Toodyay Naturalists’ Club
Greg Warburton

AS PROMISED in the April article members and guests were treated to a special presentation by well-known local identity Max Howard.

Max has led a full and fascinating life with a long military and policing career.

Throughout many adventures and experiences his interest in ornithology has been an ever-present passion.

As a young Police Officer In the early 1980’s Max was posted to the remote town of Wittenoom in the Northwest of the state.

When Max was there the population stood at about 150 people consisting of many colourful characters that had hung on after the closure of the Asbestos mine in 1966.

The community welcomed their lone policeman and Max quickly connected with this rather unique little community.

But it was the natural environment that really captivated him and in terms of bird watching it was a paradise. Max’s police duties included patrols throughout his jurisdiction where he was able to observe and record wildlife especially the spectacular range of bird species.

From the hidden gorges and waterholes with their cool fern glades in the rugged Hamersley Range National Park (Karijini) to the sun-baked plains beyond, wild life was ever present.

Word soon got out about the ‘birdo’ police officer in Wittenoom and Max hosted a steady stream of visiting nature enthusiasts including the famous Michael Morcombe.

Max’s talk was a captivating narrative of

scientific facts, personal recollections and anecdotes.

At the end of a very full agenda of the general meeting I, with Vicki, announced to the members that we would be relocating to NSW for family reasons.

After nearly 30 years in this special place with its amazing natural environment and wonderful community leaving is a huge wrench for us.

Being a member of the illustrious Toodyay Naturalists’ Club for all those years and being entrusted with the role of President more than once has been a great honour.

Our patron Rob Boase who described our announcement as a ‘bombshell’ gave a moving impromptu speech of appreciation.

Our departure will be within the next month or so which will allow for the many goodbyes to be said.

Below is an excerpt from the year’s program of the club’s planned activities for May as supplied by Desrae our dedicated super secretary:

We are planning to visit the Armadale Reptile and Wildlife Park on Saturday May 16.

Please let the secretary know if you would like to visit the and wildlife Park with us, and if so to meet at the Armadale centre at 11am.

We are holding a fundraiser in front of the IGA on Friday 29 May from 8am to 5pm and Saturday 30 May from 8am to noon.

Help will be welcomed to set up and close.

For more information about meetings and activities or to record wildlife sighting visit our website toodyaynats.org.au or call Greg on 0429 00 9425.



More evidence needed to justify Julimar burn

Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance

IT’S a familiar phrase across Australia: “our bush needs fire to survive” but not all scientists agree.

With controlled burns carried out across large parts of Julimar State Forest over the past week, it is a timely moment to take a closer look at that assumption.

A body of research, including work by Albany-based botanist Professor Stephen Hopper, suggests we should be cautious about viewing fire as the dominant evolutionary driver of Australian plants.

Over more than 50 years in conservation biology, including leadership roles at Kings Park in Perth and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, his work has challenged long-held ideas.

Many features of Australian plants are often cited as proof that our ecosystems evolved with fire.

These include regeneration from seed banks, post fire flowering, hard protective seed coats, smoke triggered germination, and even the flammability of plant material itself.

At first glance, these traits appear well suited to surviving fire.

However, an important distinction is often overlooked: just because a trait helps plants persist after fire today does not mean it evolved because of fire, or that it depends on fire to persist.

Professor Hopper and other botanists warn that it is easy to confuse present-day

observations with long-term evolutionary processes.

In simple terms, correlation is not causation. A familiar analogy is the idea that shark attacks increase with ice cream sales. Both rise in summer, but one does not cause the other, warmer weather drives both.

The same caution applies to plant traits. Resprouting, for example, is often described as a fire adaptation.

Yet similar regrowth strategies occur in response to drought, frost, grazing, flooding and wind damage.

Scientists distinguish between adaptation, where a trait evolves for its current role, and exaptation, where a trait evolves for one purpose but later proves useful for another.

This distinction is key when interpreting plant characteristics.

Take sclerophylly, the tough, fibrous leaves common in many native species such as eucalypts and wattles. These are often described as adaptations to fire or dry conditions.

However, fossil evidence shows such leaves existed 50 to 60 million years ago, when Australia was much wetter.

So, does the bush “need” fire? Some species may benefit from it, but the broader picture is more complex.

As surveys begin at Julimar, there is an opportunity to move beyond slogans and towards a more careful, evidence-based understanding of how our landscapes function and how best to manage them.

For information on our upcoming surveys, please email: julimarforest@gmail.com



Early sown Canola up and away.

Farmers cautiously optimistic

Toodyay Agricultural Society
Andrew Thornton

FARMERS in the Toodyay shire and the wider wheatbelt have wasted little time getting into paddocks following welcome rains from last month’s tropical cyclone Narelle with the start to seeding one of the earliest on record.

The system initially formed off the Queensland coast and made its way around to W.A.

Drawing its strength and longevity from warm tropical waters tracked inland from the northwest coast bringing widespread rains across the state.

Although falls were not as heavy as predicted it was still very welcome.

For most producers it has provided an ideal opening to a season plagued with uncertainty with the crisis in the Middle East continuing.

Canola has been the first crop into the ground with growers keen to take advantage of the early start.

The crop’s longer growing season and sensitivity to establishment conditions make it a priority when early moisture is available.

Farmers have also been capitalising on the

favourable conditions to carry out effective knockdown herbicide applications.

The rainfall has triggered a large weed germination allowing for an effective double knock combination to reduce weed pressure and minimise moisture loss.

Spraying conditions have been close to ideal with good moisture ensuring herbicides are working efficiently.

While the early start is welcome local farmers remain cautious. Subsoil moisture levels will need follow up rains to capitalise on what has been a promising start to the season.

Farm workshops have been busy in recent times with final preparations and maintenance work completed before the early rush.

The early start to seeding has eased pressure on what is a typically tight seeding window, giving growers more flexibility in timing across their programs.

Overall, growers are cautiously optimistic ahead of the season.

The Shire has entered the unrestricted burning period but please don’t treat it as a free for all and take precautions such as keeping up to date with weather conditions and access to firefighting equipment.

Delicious, quirky, amazing

Toodyay Garden Club
Judy Rowston

WHO doesn’t love autumn and some lovely much needed rain thanks to Cyclone Narelle.

Our Toodyay gardens were very thankful for some fresh clean water to wash off the summer dust.

The club has resumed with a full committee, three new committee members serving us this year and we thank Neville and Dale D’Antoine for hosting our first garden visit.

With glorious sweeping views over the valley and with the ground tinging green, made it feel all the more welcoming as we wandered around the D’Antoine garden.

Many paths and lots of huge gravel boulders adorned the garden.

During Covid, Dale completely morphed her garden, leaving only the larger trees and rose bushes and started again, planting mostly natives, succulents, Eremophila and putting geraniums into pots.

A small issue living on the outskirts of town with kangaroos also loving the garden is them eating some of the plants just before the club arrived.

There was plenty of seating and two gazebos at the bottom of the garden, where you could just sit and enjoy the tranquillity of country life, watching the cows grazing below.

The property is on one acre with half an

acre of garden. Before we all arrived Neville and Dale fertilized and mulched, ready to beat the weeds, whilst also prepping the vegetable gardens at the rear of the property ready for winter planting.

An assortment of lovely hanging baskets adorned the rear patio.

One member described the garden as deliciously quirky with amazing feature rocks.

The raffle winners this month were Pam Baker, Dee Haworth and Jean Leonhardt.

The June Garden visit will be to Therese and Geoff Wise’s Goomalling property.

In July we will be hosting a big Gala Day. The cost is \$10 which will include morning tea, lunch and 4 guest speakers plus spot prizes.

Members of the public are invited to join us for \$15 for non-members which covers our insurance.

Speakers include Brian Kelpiz from Neutron Fertilizers, Ben Mayo from Bunning tool maintenance, Greg Fisher and Wim Van Dyke talking about native and domestic bees, and Terry Fowler-McAuslan from Utopia Nursery.

Please contact the garden club for further information on the club and upcoming events.

Our secretary Lyn can be contacted at toodyaygardenclub@gmail.com or call our event co-ordinator Stephanie on 0429 888 314.

ENVIRONMENT

Pinky training to save joeys

Marsupial Mammals and Pappas (Inc)
Becky Ingram

SAVE the date, Sunday October 25 2026.
Marsupial Mammals and Pappas will be screening the film “Kangaroo” at the Memorial Hall, the day after World Kangaroo Day. Further details soon.

Another date to remember is May 17 at 3pm, when training for caring for Pink joeys will be offered at our headquarters, at Toodyay Junction, Railway Road.

This is only for members who have completed the prerequisite of 2 years of experience caring for furred joeys.

Future training will include caring for velvets and older joeys, as well as birds and reptiles.

We will need numbers for notes and catering, so please email membership@mmap.au with your name and number attending for training and the barbecue.

Pinkie training is relevant at this time of the year as we are already receiving joeys as a result of road trauma.

Please, if you hit a kangaroo, check if it’s male or female and if the latter, does she have a joey in the pouch?

If yes, please phone us immediately on 0467 964 872, then check mamma by touching her eyelid and if there is no blink reflex, she has passed away.

Reach into the pouch and if baby is attached to the teat, cut off the teat close to mum’s body so the teat is as long as possible.

Scoop out the baby by holding under its bottom (do not pull out by the legs as they are delicate and easily broken).

Wrap baby in anything to keep it warm and place next to your skin, under any outer clothing.

If we are not available, get the baby to a wildlife carer or a vet as soon as possible because this is an emergency.

Checking the kangaroo you have hit is so

important.

Even if you don’t have time to stop yourself, at least phone us with the location so we can get there ourselves.

Put our number 0467 964 872 into your phone, so it’s right there when you need it. Donations to assist us are always welcome.

Direct deposit into our account at the Bendigo Bank (BSB 633-000 Account 175 516 319).

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible, and our Public Account is BSB 633 000, Account 186 438 040. Email treasurer@mmap.au with details.

Call 0467 964 872 any time, day or night, if you find any injured wildlife.



Doris – found by Jason when mamma was hit by a car. She was wrapped gently, kept inside his shirt and he made sure she came to us for care.



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HEALTH

Is your cat sneezing it’s whiskers off?

Heartlands Veterinary Hospital
Dr Rianne Van de Aar

CAT flu is a term that refers to a group of infectious agents that cause upper respiratory disease in cats, similar to the flu in humans.

Repeated sneezing and a runny nose with teary and inflamed eyes are signs that you might see if your cat is suffering from cat flu.

Additionally, cats with flu may also suffer from a fever, painful joints and ulceration of their tongue or eyes. They often feel under the weather, eat less and may appear tired.

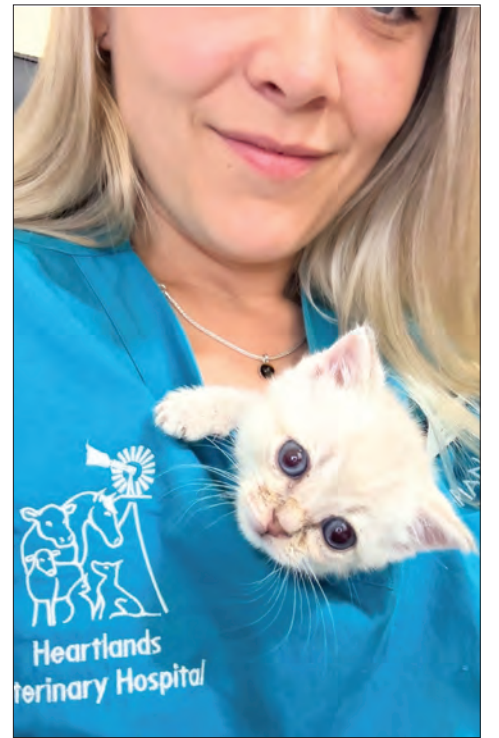
Kittens, mature cats, and individuals that are suffering from other illnesses, are likely to be particularly affected and are at higher risk of developing secondary bacterial infections.

Cat flu is spread via direct contact between individual cats, saliva, secretions from eyes and nose and may also be contracted via aerosol transmission. In reality, this means cat flu germs are present in most of our cat’s environments.

By ensuring your kitten is fully vaccinated and keeping your adult cat up-to-date with annual vaccinations, their risk of contracting flu and suffering from uncomfortable and painful symptoms is significantly decreased.

In addition, keeping your cat in a clean indoor environment is also strongly recommended.

To find out more about the vaccinations your cat or kitten needs, please don’t hesitate to contact us at Heartlands Veterinary Hospital.



Isolation the enemy of healthy living

Warrior Wellbeing
Sonja Manuel

THINGS that we cannot control are our biggest stressors in life.

In agriculture it is mostly weather issues followed by a multitude of other factors such as commodity prices, input costs (diesel, fertiliser availability and price), machinery breakdowns... how long is a bit of string.

Every season is not without its challenges and the effects are always felt across the whole community.

Everybody feels the pain.

No one can change what happens with the weather and/or influence the other factors.

All we can do is manage our programs and control our business as best we can which importantly includes looking after ourselves and each other (our family, mates and neighbours).

Remaining connected is one way of doing this but what does this mean?

Rural communities have an innate capacity to reach out and organize and participate in many bottoms-up activities.

Regional Men’s Health Initiative has been attending a lot of these events including breakfasts, sundowners and many other gatherings over the years.

These allow the communities to have a conversation about where they are at, individually and as a collective.

There are less of us living in regional areas. Add this to the nature of modern farming as well as a challenging season and isolation becomes more prevalent.

It’s so important that we maintain social connection but it takes an effort. Isolation is

the enemy of good mental wellbeing.

Staying connected is important and something we must work on; this can be achieved in part if we are mindful of staying connected with others.

As blokes, we have a propensity to self-medicate.

A lot of people think that is done by sex, drugs, and rock and roll. However, in the work we do it is mostly blokes spending more time in their cave, working harder, longer and talking less (some ladies might find that hard to believe).

It is important that we continue to talk about some of the pain and distress that as blokes we tend to suffer alone.

We describe primary care as what we can we do to look after ourselves and others, and invariably it is about connection. Some simple things we can do:

Talk to a Mate® – realize that we are not alone.

Talk to whoever needs to be informed about our situation (family, financiers, advisors).

Keep an eye on others – drop into a neighbour and have a chat and a coffee. Take the time to ask someone are you okay?

Slow the pace of our life a little; join a group that fits in with our passions and interests.

It will make a difference.

Maintain our sense of humour, laugh at ourselves and with others.

Edward de Bono one of the world’s foremost thinkers called humour a key lubricant for life and often referred to humour as social glue and the best anti-despair device we have.

I think he is right on the money.

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Tri club takes on Busselton's festival challenge

Kelly-Anne Murray
Toodyay Triathlon Club

TOODYAY Club members and supporters travelled to Busselton from May 1 – 3 to compete in the Busselton 25, 50 and 100 kms events.

This year is a landmark one for the Busselton Festival of Triathlon, which celebrated its 25th year as one of Western Australia's most iconic sporting events.

The Busselton Festival of Triathlon is a friendly, community-focused event which brought together almost 3000 participants for a weekend of triathlon and multisport action.

On day one, triathlon club members Katie Sharples, Kelly-Anne Murray, Nicoya Wheeler and Kayla Wheeler completed the Busselton 25 – a 500m swim, 20km cycle and 4.5km run.

As beautiful as Busselton is, the conditions were calm but freezing and inevitably, organisers ruled to make wetsuits mandatory for the swim.

Despite a few gripes about how restrictive wetsuits are, we soldiered on and finished the event with smiles all around.

Day two was a huge day for club members

Leza Doran and Dianne Griffin who completed the Busselton 50 solo – a 2km swim, 40km cycle and 8km run.

The wheatbelt wonder women aka Liv Wood, Enrika Grogan and Emma Fulwood, teamed up for Busselton 50, crossing the finish line together in style.

Congratulations to Leza, the club's inspiring interval run leader, for placing second in her age group and she was loudly cheered on by the club as she accepted her award.

A special congratulations to Brent Walsh, aka the Gourmet Dowerin Butcher, who completed the Busselton 100 – that's a 2km swim, 80km cycle and 18km run.

Toodyay Triathlon Club's support crew (Kale and Ebony Francis, the Wheeler and Doran families) were the loudest on the course, capturing special moments and cheering on competitors at every turn.

The festival atmosphere and celebration of triathlon and multisport were an epic way to introduce the Toodyay Triathlon Club to the Triathlon WA community.

If you'd like to know more about the Toodyay Triathlon Club please find the Facebook Group page, email toodyaytriathlonclub@gmail.com or call Kelly-Anne on 0406 585 716.



Toodyay Tri Club members and supporters at the Busselton Festival of Triathlon.

Our local champions win medals in Japan

Avon Valley Shotokan
Nat Kielbasa

TERM two of the karate year begins and the students representing Avon Valley Shotokan (AVS) have returned triumphant from the 2026 USKU Championships in Japan.

Our students brought home three awards for the adult team kata event, along with knowledge and improved skills, new friendships and unforgettable experiences.

Sensei Kylie showed students how it was done, winning a silver medal in her kata event before joining Sensei Camden and Sensei Ashton in a team kata event.

Their beautiful team katas earned our senseis a place on the podium and a shiny bronze trophy to display in the dojo.

Later in the sparring (kumite) events Maciej fought through to a bronze medal (and a lovely split eyebrow for his efforts) and then competed as part of the team composed of students from around the world for a fun 'Japan vs the World' event.

A huge shout out to Eli and Helena who both won their first rounds in kata with three flags



Eli gives the competitors oath on behalf of competitors worldwide.

which is an awesome achievement in itself.

Congratulations everyone for all of your efforts in the tournament, seminars and also in your commitment to training in the lead up to the trip.

The feedback on the trip has been extremely positive.

Every single event of the trip, from the tournament to homestay, seminars, cultural experiences and sightseeing has made this trip a huge success.

Thank you to Sensei Kylie and to Shihan for all you give to support and guide our students.

In other news, many volunteers sacrificed their Sunday sleep-ins for a long day and late evening frying up onions and sausages at The Northam Motorsport Festival on April 26.

A huge thankyou to the Toodyay IGA,

who donated the rolls and sausages. We are extremely grateful for your support.

Our next event will be the Moondyne Festival so come grab one of our yummy burgers or drinks. We are excited to see what creative costumes are on display this year.

For those attending the Toodyay Farmers Markets, keep an eye out for our stall as there are some interesting changes.

Lastly, there are more congratulations in order.

Sensei Kylie participated in a gruelling grading session while in Japan and earned her 3rd Dan black belt.

Rayna has been selected for the 2026 State Team to travel to Hobart in July for the National Karate Championships.

Liam was hard at work training with Sensei

Lincoln, where he succeeded in breaking boards barehanded.

Well done to you all. The whole club is proud of what you have achieved.

Until next month, train hard and keep upholding the Dojo Kun (values) of karate.

If you are keen to learn more about Shotokan Karate, please contact AVS on avonvalleyshotokan@gmail.com or drop your shoes at the door and come and visit us at the dojo in Toodyay or at Hombu in Clackline.

Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there soon.



Sensi Kylie, Sensei Ashton and Sensei Camden smashing the team kata event.



Three fabulous sensei and their bronze trophy for the dojo.



Toodyay students triumph in Japan.



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We're excited to be heading into winter soon and can't wait to see all the beautiful rolling hills in Toodyay and surrounds turn green again. We're dreaming of wood fires, hot chocolate and s'mores.

The team has been hard at work this month with new sales listings, new rental listings, and adapting to the changes within the office. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for all our regular updates.

We also have something exciting coming soon in conjunction with The Rec Toodyay — and we can't wait for you all to see it.

In the office this month:

- **Breanna** working her little butt off, and still smiling while she does it.
- **Zonelle** enjoyed a weekend camping with friends and her dog, Duke.
- **Jemma** has picked up 4 brand new rentals this month. She is killing it.
- **Kayleen** is settling in well and enjoying every minute of being back in Real Estate.
- **Jess** has flown out & finally on her honeymoon in Europe.
- **Sam** is flying solo for the next month and holding the fort while his sidekick is away.

This month, I attended the Wheatbelt Women Connect event held at the Toodyay Visitors Centre and met a wonderful group of ladies. I put my big girl pants on and gave a small speech about my journey so far. Stepping outside your comfort zone is always a little scary, but it's always rewarding once it's done. I'm not sure public speaking will become a regular thing for me anytime soon though.

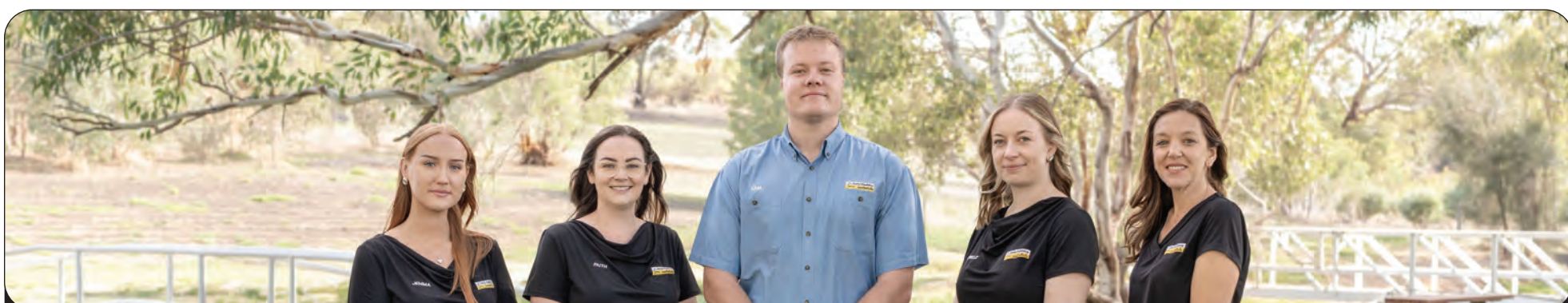
A big thank you to Sarah-Jane Simonetti for the opportunity — you're doing some amazing things, and I can't wait to see where Wheatbelt Women Connect goes in the future.

Until next month,
Faith Kelly



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