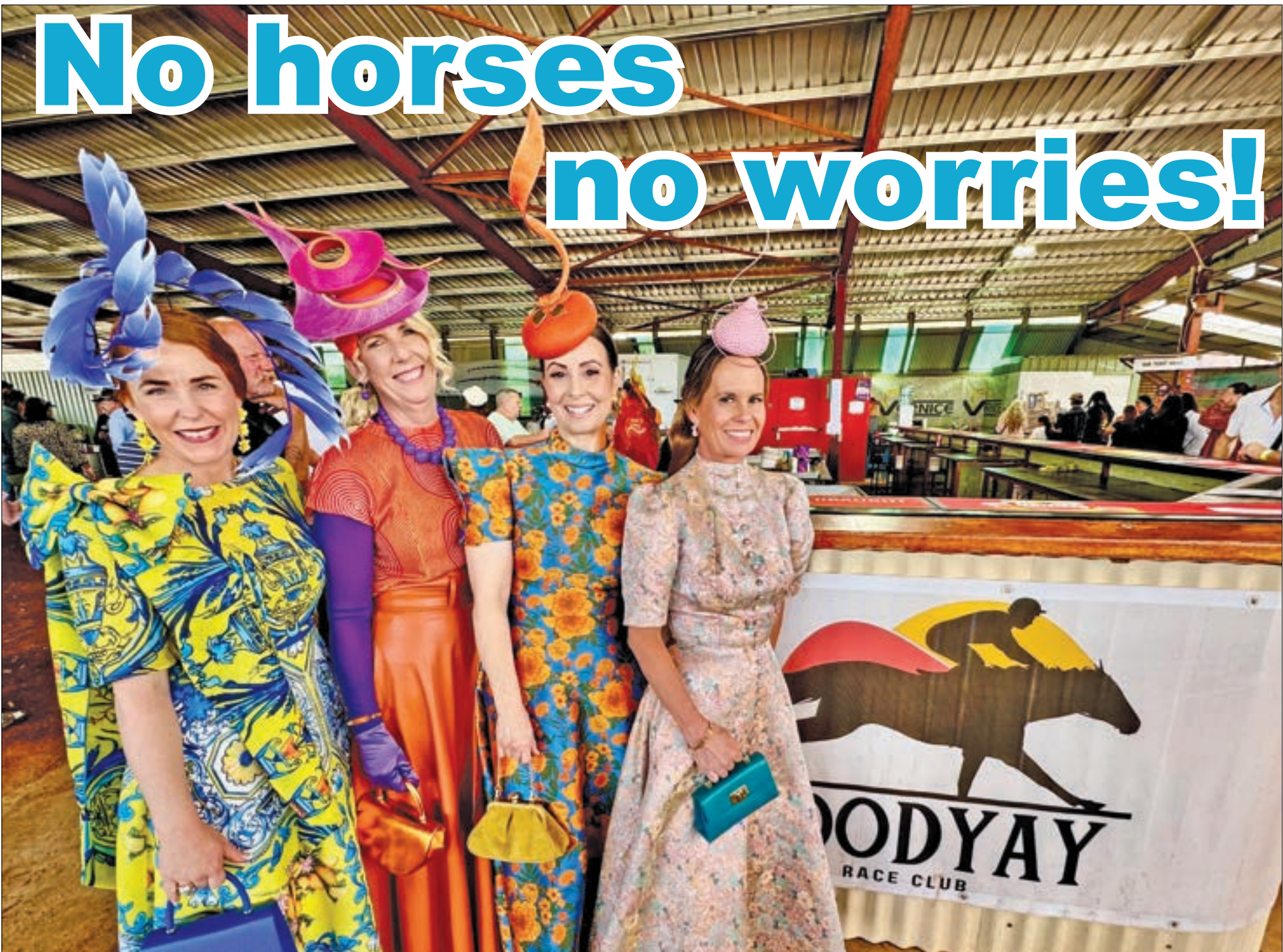


The Toodyay Herald

**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.

**October 2026
Edition 461**



The ladies high stakes fashion show was on full display: some colourful contestants, pictured here, with the only horse in the race.

Rashelle Predovnik

THE horses may have been scratched at the last minute but there was no stopping the Toodyay TABTouch Picnic Race Day where fun took centre stage in what continued to be an enjoyable day out at the picturesque Toodyay Racecourse.

But it was a stressful start for event organisers who were blind-sided on the morning of the races by Racing and Wagering WA's decision to cancel all eight scheduled races.

The track was initially recorded as 'good' leading into the race day.

However, officials did a pre-race track inspection, after 12mm of rain overnight, and the decision was made to abandon all racing due to unsafe track conditions.

One hour before the event was supposed to start.

In a race against time, the club declared the

event as 'phantom races' and spread the word the show would go on, with live music, food trucks, an open bar, Fashions on the Field and cash prizes all still on the program.

The gate fee was also scrapped with refunds offered to those who bought tickets.

It may have turned into a phantom race day but the race-day spirit was alive and well, with the event attracting a large crowd on Sunday, September 27.

There was also a new race to cheer on. The first-ever Op Shop Dash for Cash saw a colourful crowd of competitors dash for the finish line dressed in their best op-shop garb, with winners Marley Ferguson and Parker Byfield each pocketing \$1,000.

Fashions of the Field continued to be a highlight with a cash prize offered this year, and live sets by Harry Foxton and Oscar Litchfield kept the entertainment rolling well into the night.

Volunteer Judy Morrissey said she couldn't

believe how busy the Lion's stall was and how much fun people had.

"Everyone accepted the races were cancelled and they had the right spirit," she said.

"I couldn't believe how much fairy floss we sold and the Toodyay Race Club caps were flying off the racks, even though there was no races."

"The day was a huge credit to the race club and we felt proud to be involved."

Rohan Jewellers owner Rohan Milne said he was happy to support the Fashion on the Field with prizes worth nearly \$12,000 in jewellery.

He said the event drew people from outer country town and Perth.

"It brings more people into town and there's always going to be a benefit in town spending money on local business," he said.

"We had a bunch of clients with us for a country day out and everyone had a ball."

...continued page 8

Coming events

this month

classifieds	25
emergency services	10-11
environment	27
health	28-29
letters	4
public notices	25
puzzles	31
sport and leisure	30
trades & services	22-24
when & where	25

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Elders Real Estate Toodyay

Lions turn 50



See more on page 7

The Toodyay Herald

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THANK YOU

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

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NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

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October 30

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Thursday
November 12

Month Owed	Original Due Date	4-Year Window Expiry	Status	Amount Lost
June 2021	21 July 2021	21 July 2025	❌ Expired	\$30,510
July 2021	21 August 2021	21 August 2025	❌ Expired	\$14,440
August 2021	21 September 2021	21 September 2025	❌ Expired	\$49,425
September 2021	21 October 2021	21 October 2025	❌ Expired	\$7,905
October 2021	21 November 2021	21 November 2025	❌ Expired	\$72,411
November 2021	21 December 2021	21 December 2025	❌ Expired	\$6,541
December 2021	21 January 2022	21 January 2026	❌ Expired	\$13,121
TOTAL				\$194,353

Could have been claimed

Taxing questions over \$92,000 in lost GST credits

Rashelle Predovnik

THE Shire of Toodyay was preparing a report to write off almost \$195,000 in unclaimed GST, while \$92,000 in GST credits remained potentially recoverable, according to the shire's financial statements and council reports.

Records reviewed by the *Toodyay Herald* raise questions about why those credits were not claimed before a series of deadlines expired.

A costly mistake?

In March this year, the *Toodyay Herald* reported an investigation was under way after council rejected a request by the shire administration to write off \$195,000 in unclaimed GST, owed to the shire by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

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

In response to questions asked at the December 2025 council meeting, the shire confirmed the loss would decrease the available funds it would otherwise use to deliver services to the community.

"The community will have to bear the brunt of this in the 2025-26 year by reducing the amount of funds available for much-needed community projects," the shire said in a statement.

In a report to the Audit and Risk Committee dated November 26, 2025 the shire said it should have checked, at the end of each financial year, that it had claimed all of the GST credits owed to it by the ATO.

But an investigation found the shire had not checked that all of its GST credits had been claimed.

Records also showed the shire was owed \$633,000 in GST refunds from the Australian Tax Office, with some of the money outstanding since 2020.

In its report to council in December 2025 the administration said under the ATO rules, the shire was only able to amend BAS returns dating back four years.

The report said funds owed from before December 2021 could not be claimed by the shire, the outstanding amount was \$195,000 and council was asked for approval to write off the whole amount.

But council instead voted to support a recommendation by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee to do more investigation and get external advice.

As part of the investigation, a report to the audit committee was tabled by the administration outlining steps it had taken and council was asked to officially waive the \$195,000 at the October meeting.

Reports not refunds

But a review of the paper trail by *The Herald* reveals a series of dates, reports and decisions that raise new questions about whether opportunities remained to recover some of the money before it was lost.

As a standard practice, the shire should

have checked each year that it had claimed all the GST money it was owed.

But it didn't.

By law, the Australian Tax Office can only allow the shire to claim GST credits from the previous four years.

The ATO states that monthly BAS returns are due on the 21st of the following month yet a request to write off nearly \$195,000 in unclaimed GST was tabled at an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting on December 4 last year.

And the date on that report to the audit committee is significant.

It was dated November 26, 2025 – just five days after the October 2021 outstanding GST amount (\$72,411) became too old to claim.

The report date raises an obvious question: why was the administration penning a report to write off nearly \$200,000 instead of urgently moving to recover \$72,411 before the November deadline passed?

Missed opportunities

In March, Toodyay Shire chief executive officer Aaron Bowman told *The Herald* the problem only came to light when the current finance manager completed a GST check at the end of the financial year.

The *Toodyay Herald* understands a reconciliation completed after the end of the 2024-25 financial year would usually have been done in July or August 2025.

Or possibly extended into September depending on when the year-end accounts

were being prepared.

Mr Bowman said the matter was only brought to his attention towards the end of 2025 and that the time available to recover some of the money had already passed.

But the November 26 date on the write-off report to the audit committee raises a new question.

If the shire was already working on a report to write off almost \$195,000, why wasn't it also trying to save the GST credits that could still be claimed?

Records show there was more money that could potentially have been claimed, including \$6,541 in GST (from November 2021), which was still recoverable until December 21, 2025.

And another \$13,100 was available until January 21, 2026.

Instead of taking steps to claim these amounts, ARIC was being asked to consider the \$195,000 GST write-off on December 4, 2025.

The shire also did not contact the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) tax service until December 24 – just three days after the \$6,500 GST credit from November 2021 had passed its December 21 deadline.

The unclaimed December 2021 amount (\$13,100) then expired on January 21, 2026.

Even though there was still time to claim that amount when the executive manager of finance wrote to the ATO on January 15, 2026.

The answer deficit

A spokesperson from the Department of Local Government said shires were expected to comply with all statutory and legal financial requirements – including those set by the Federal Government and administered by the Australian Taxation Office.

The spokesperson said local governments were also required to meet financial reporting and financial management obligations under the *Local Government Act 1995* and its associated regulations.

"Questions relating to reasons for not claiming GST credits are best directed to the shire," the spokesperson said.

The *Herald* asked the shire about financial reports that showed the GST receivable balance reduced by \$692,312 between May and June 2025, suggesting the historical GST issue had been identified by then.

The *Herald* also asked the shire why wasn't the \$72,411 GST credit claimed before the November 21 deadline?

The shire was also asked about the November 26, 2025 date on the report to the audit committee and why a write-off was being prepared when around \$92,000 was still recoverable?

In response, Toodyay Shire president Mick McKeown did not address why the shire failed to pursue the remaining GST credits before they expired.

"The details of the write-off are contained in the officers report that was presented to council," he said.

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MEMBER FOR CENTRAL WHEATBELT

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Wheatbelt shire fears backpackers will take a hike under visa shake-up

Rashelle Predovnik

REGIONAL WA could lose thousands of backpackers – and the workers and tourism dollars they bring – under proposed Federal Government visa changes, the Shire of Victoria Plains has warned.

The proposed changes to the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa program were announced last month as part of sweeping migration reforms.

The reforms include a lottery-style ballot system for people applying for a second or third WHM visas, meaning they would no longer be guaranteed another visa, even if they did the required work in regional areas.

Critics of the reform say the number of second-year places would fall from about 57,000 to 45,000 and third-year places would drop from about 31,000 to 5,000 nationally.

The Shire of Victoria Plains has thrown its support behind an Australian Tourism Council campaign calling for guaranteed second and third year working holiday visas to be kept for backpackers who complete the eligible regional work.

The shire is also urging the Federal Government to reconsider its proposed changes, warning the reforms could make it harder for regional WA.

Industry stakeholders have estimated WA could lose about 4,500 working holiday makers under the reforms.

But the shire warns the real impact could be greater if travellers no longer saw regional work as a way to stay another year in Australia.

Victoria Plains shire president Pauline Bantock said backpackers were much more than tourists for regional communities.

“They help harvest crops, support tourism operators, work in hospitality businesses, spend money in local shops and contribute to the economic resilience of our towns.”

The shire’s chief executive officer Sean Fletcher said the critical issue was not simply reducing visa numbers.

He said the proposed changes now created uncertainty and the shire was concerned backpackers would lose the incentive to do



regional work in the areas that relied on them most.

Mr Fletcher said these holiday makers contributed about \$360 million annually to the state’s economy.

“More than 65 per cent of backpackers also begin their Australian journey in Sydney or Melbourne and often rely on subsequent visa years to travel further west.”

The shire is calling for guaranteed second and third-year visas to remain, a dedicated allocation for WA or an exemption from future caps and ballots, and a regional impact assessment before any changes are made.

Labor Federal member for Bullwinkle Trish Cook told *The Herald* the number of WHM’s in Australia was at a historically high level.

She said there were 211,604 WHM visa holders in Australia in September 2026, up

four per cent from the previous year.

Ms Cook said, WHM were the second largest contributor to net overseas migration (NOM) after international students, according to the latest ABS data

“We are taking a sensible approach to slowing immigration enough to let the housing market catch up, without wrecking the economy,” she said

“We’re on course to hit our NOM projections of 225,000.

“Other political parties have proposed severe cuts,” she said.

“We should consider what cutting that number to 170,000, 130,000, 100,000 or zero would do to regional communities.”

Ms Cook said she would always advocate to ensure the regional communities she represented were supported and protected.

“I will ensure the Minister for Immigration

is aware of the Shire of Victoria Plains’ concerns.”

Ms Bantock told *The Herald* the issue would be added to the shire’s advocacy list, to be discussed during their next trip to Canberra.

In a statement, Liberal Federal Member for Durack Melissa Price said the Liberal Party would reverse Labor’s ballot system and caps for second and third year WHM visa extensions.

“Working holiday makers in regional and non-regional areas will be differentiated by raising visa fees with an exemption for regional areas.”

Community members can support the Australian Tourism Industry Council’s campaign to protect backpacker visas by signing the petition.

More here <https://tinyurl.com/5hd32cmj>

CEO questions leave Toodyay in the dark

Rashelle Predovnik

THE Department of Local Government says councils are expected to keep communities informed about changes to a chief executive officer’s employment status, as questions continue over Toodyay Shire CEO Aaron Bowman’s extended absence.

Mr Bowman was employed as the shire’s CEO in August 2024 and he has been on leave since April this year.

Due to his absence, the shire’s finance manager Alan Hart was appointed as a temporary CEO for up to 12 months in May.

Questions about Mr Bowman’s absence have continued to circulate in the community, with the shire declining to provide details about his employment status.

Questions have also been asked on social media about Mr Bowman’s active role as a City of Swan councillor while he is absent from his position as the Toodyay Shire’s CEO.

The Herald asked the shire to confirm if Mr Bowman remained employed and remunerated, whether he was expected to return to work, and why a temporary CEO appointment of up to 12 months was considered necessary.

The Herald also asked if the shire car had been returned, if any arrangements were in place to protect ratepayers from paying two CEO salaries and what information could legally be provided about Mr Bowman’s absence.

Shire President Mick McKeown said the council did not comment on personal matters relating to individual employees, including the CEO.

But last month, Toodyay Shire councillor Ray Mills responded briefly on Facebook to

say Mr Bowman was not being paid by the shire.

Cr Mills also said Mr Bowman no longer had the shire car provided for his role.

“This was collected several weeks ago.”

The Herald asked the Department of Local

Government what transparency obligations applied when a local government CEO was absent for an extended period, and what information a local government would generally be expected to provide to its community.

A department spokesperson said for the purposes of transparency and good governance it was expected that local governments keep their communities informed of changes to the employment status of a CEO.







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TOWN AND COUNTRY REAL ESTATE

Is Toodyay on the road to a council merger?



Shire amalgamations will not be forced says the local govt minister, but her announcement last month signals the road to voluntary council mergers is paved with possibilities.

Rashelle Predovnik

TOODYAY could move a step closer to a council merger under proposed State Government reforms, but councillors say they want more information and community consultation before any decision is made.

The council discussion was sparked by State Government plans to scrap a part of the Local Government Act that allowed council mergers to be stopped by a community vote.

The Dadour Provisions allows electors to ask for a poll and have their say on major boundary and merger proposals.

The provisions also force the local government minister to reject a proposed council merge if the majority of electors vote against the proposal.

Supporters say the provisions are an important mechanism that supports local democratic decision making.

Critics argue the provisions allow a small group to veto broader regional council mergers and hinder necessary structural reform.

Earlier this year, Local Government Minister Hannah Beazley flagged the costs of having 139 local governments across the state as unsustainable, prompting ongoing discussions around efficiency.

Minister Beazley said the government did not intend to force councils to merge.

But her announcement to remove the Dadour Provision was met with opposition

from the Shire of Waroona who viewed the changes as a potential threat to local democracy and community representation.

The Shadow Minister for Local Government Kirrilee Warr slammed the announcement as policy without a plan.

Ms Warr said the statements from the State Government lacked detail and had created confusion and uncertainty across the local government sector.

She has called for greater consultation with local governments and communities before any amalgamation agenda proceeds.

Toodyay councillors debated the issue this month when an officer's report recommended council express support for keeping the Dadour Provisions.

But Cr Ray Mills moved an alternative motion at the October council meeting that asked for more information and more community consultation before council took a position.

Shire president Mick McKeown opposed the motion which he said slowed down the whole process of responding to what was a relatively serious step being taken to remove the provision.

"Removing the Dadour Provision means that the local government minister can declare two local government areas to be amalgamated without any consultation with the people in those areas."

He said taking the matter to a community workshop and opening it up for public

feedback without a set timeframe would only delay action he believed was needed now.

But the new laws are yet to be drafted and the proposed changes are not expected to be tabled in Parliament or released until next year so councillors argued there was time.

Cr Rosemary Madacsi said council needed to think about their stance properly and the community had a right to have a voice on the issue.

Cr Shelly Dival agreed.

"If we are going to advocate that the Dadour Provision remains in the Act then I feel we should be doing what we're advocating for and putting that to the community."

Cr Mills said there was no rush for council to take a position on an announcement recently made by the minister that lacked important detail.

"We need to see what information comes forward about how this is going to progress," he said.

"So, leaving it a few months is not going to change anything because we've got nothing."

Cr Mill's motion called for a detailed workshop to examine the proposed removal of the Dadour Provisions and assess the potential impact on Toodyay and its

community.

It also sought public feedback and advice from the local government peak industry body WALGA before a report was brought back to council for a final decision.

Five councillors voted in favour, Crs Mills, Dival, Van der Heyden, Madacsi and McCormick.

Shire President Mick McKeown voted against.

Cr Mills told *The Herald* merging small shires could result in big cost saving benefits and it was a discussion worth having in a council briefing.

He said, as an example, merging the Toodyay Shire with the shires of Goomalling and Victoria Plains could create a bigger shire that would be classed as a higher band and allow more councillors.

Cr Mills said, in that example, there was also an opportunity to create three separate wards so local voices continued to be heard. "There's the potential to save millions in administrative wages by merging three shires and consolidating resources."

Cr Mills said at this stage there just wasn't enough information on the table to be able to make an informed decision.

"More questions need to be asked about this and it needs to be workshopped."

Councillors reject call to record alleged breaches

Rashelle Predovnik

THREE Toodyay councillors have voted against formally recording alleged compliance breaches identified by the shire's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC), sparking questions about how the shire handles governance concerns raised by its own oversight committee.

The committee's minutes dated September 9 detailed concerns raised about the shire administration's handling of its findings and recommendations.

ARIC members Natalie Mills and Kirsten Barrack moved a motion to record the alleged breaches in the shire's compliance breach register, introduce corrective governance controls and report on actions taken to address the identified issues.

The motion was defeated 3-2, with Shire President Mick McKeown and councillors John Prater and Simon Van der Heyden voting against.

The move to address compliance concerns stemmed from the Shire's 2024-25 Compliance Audit Return (CAR), which ARIC reviewed on August 21.

According to ARIC minutes, the version of the CAR presented to council on September 3 was different from the version reviewed by the committee on August 21.

ARIC's review and recommendations were also not provided to council.

This was at odds with previous council and ARIC resolutions that required the committee's recommendations to be presented to council in full and unchanged.

The omission may have breached *Regulation 14 of the Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996*, which requires

ARIC to review the CAR, report its findings and make any recommendations.

The issue resurfaced at a special council meeting on September 17, when a changed version of the CAR was again presented to councillors.

ARIC said the amended document had not first been reviewed by the committee and that giving it directly to council was inconsistent with Regulation 14.

The committee also raised concerns that council was not given a separate recommendation made on August 21, which warned of serious weaknesses in internal controls and critical staffing risks that could affect the shire's legal compliance.

ARIC said its original recommendation had been replaced.

"Administration substituted this with a diluted officer recommendation to await a workforce plan report in December 2026, filtering urgent risk information from council and undermining ARIC's statutory role."

The Herald asked councillors McKeown, Prater and Van der Heyden why they voted against recording the alleged breaches and introducing better controls: none responded.

Temporary chief executive officer Alan Hart said the CAR was changed to reflect the format required by the Office of the Local Government Inspector once the online form became available.

He said the version adopted by council had to match the version ultimately lodged.

A spokesperson for the Local Government Inspector said the Shire of Toodyay had 'substantively complied' with Regulation 14.

But the spokesperson did not confirm if any breach had occurred.



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A pride of Lions with 50 years of heart

Rashelle Predovnik

HALF a century of service, friendship and community spirit was celebrated last month as the Lions Club of Toodyay marked 50 years of helping others, supporting local projects and building a legacy of kindness and generosity across the district.

The club was founded by 29 charter members who vowed to serve the community.

Fifty years after receiving its charter on September 19, 1976, the Toodyay Lions Club celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Saturday, September 19, 2026 at the Toodyay Homestead Motel.

The celebration also included the release of a commemorative booklet documenting the club's journey from 1976 to 2026.

The booklet captured the people, memories and achievements that have shaped the organisation and it was researched and compiled by Toodyay Lions vice president Heather McNamara.

She said the club's history was rich with examples of local leadership and community spirit.

In the 80s, members championed health and youth programs, including the Lions Miss Personality Quest, an event that encouraged leadership in young women and raised funds for local causes.

In 1994 the club hosted the 28th District Lions Convention, which was attended by the Governor-General Michael Jeffrey and included a parade along Stirling Terrace.

Over the next two decades, Lions volunteers expanded fundraising efforts, strengthened community partnerships and continued supporting local projects throughout the district.

At the heart of the club's fundraising success is its flagship Lions Community Jumbo Auction, which has grown into one of the most anticipated annual events on the local calendar.

Community members, businesses, farmers and supporters generously donate goods,



The leadership team gathers to celebrate a golden anniversary built on generosity. Pictured from right to left: Lions Club president Steele William and District Governor Roslyn Barnes, with charter members John Pearce, Phillip Syred, John Lucas and Lang Lefroy.

while Lions volunteers contribute hundreds of hours collecting, sorting and preparing items for sale.

Funds raised are returned directly to the community through grants, projects and local support programs.

The most recent decade has seen a period of renewal and growth, with the club welcoming its largest intake of new members since its creation in 1976.

This influx of enthusiastic volunteers has brought fresh ideas and energy but traditional activities still continue to thrive.

The club remains a strong supporter of the ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast in partnership with the Toodyay RSL and it maintains an active presence at local farmers markets, community events and the Toodyay Show.

In the commemorative booklet's welcome message, club president Steele Williams reflected on 50 years of service.

"This milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on our rich history, honour those who have contributed to our success and celebrate the lasting impact Lions have made throughout our district."

A member who was honoured at the 50th celebration was the club's long-serving treasurer Peter Edwards – awarded Lions of the Year for 2025 – 2026 for his unwavering commitment to the club.

The milestone event also included a special tribute to a man whose service has spanned the entire history of the club.

Club stalwart John Pearce was presented with a 50-Year Chevron in recognition of his extraordinary half-century of service.

Presenting the award, Lions WA District Governor Roslyn Barnes described John as a truly exceptional Lion.

"His service stands as an inspiration to all Lions, reminding us of the lasting impact that one person's commitment can have over a lifetime."

Ms Barnes said reaching 50 years of continuous services was a truly remarkable achievement.

"Every member, past and present, has played a role in building the strong and respected organisation we celebrate today."

She said 50 years of service didn't happen by chance.

"It's built on a shared determination to make a difference."

"And now more than ever we need the kindness and community spirit we embody as Lions."

Two Lions, one lasting legacy

Rashelle Predovnik

TWO exceptional Toodyay Lions are being celebrated for their dedication to the club and the community, with Peter Edwards recognised as Lion of the Year and John Pearce marking an extraordinary 50 years of service.

Mr Edwards likes to open the Lion's bi-monthly meetings with a joke but he's serious about his unwavering commitment to the club and it earned him the Lions of the Year award for 2025-2026.

The retired geophysicist was keen to contribute when he moved to Toodyay 10 years ago and he spent six of those years as the Lion Club's treasurer.

The 77-year-old said social connection was important.

"It took me a while to find the club and the meetings, and once I did, it was very easy and nice – they are great people.

Pillar of the club, John Pearce was honoured with a 50-Year Chevron in recognition of his remarkable half-century of service.

Mr Pearce said he was actively involved in the Toodyay Lions Club when he bought the Freemason's Hotel in May 1990.

He said personal time out became a precious commodity while running a seven day a week business.

"I gave up tennis and golf with any spare time being allocated to family and Lions," he recalled.

"The Fellowship of our Lions members gave me a welcome relief from the pressure of work.

"They have always been good company and it has always been a pleasure to be part of an organisation whose reason for existence is to give back to the community in which we live.

"For me the fellowship of this club is a constant that hasn't changed in the last 50 years."

Mr Pearce said over the past 50 years the club members were also part of other community organisations at the same time.

Current members were also involved in St John Ambulance, the RSL, the CWA,

volunteer bushfire brigades, Moondyne Men, Toodyay Community Singers, Toodyay Op Shop, Toodyay Agricultural Society, Toodyay Race Club and the Toodyay Mini Rail.

He said the 50th celebration was an opportunity to honour the people who helped to build the legacy of the Toodyay Lions Club.

"We still have four of the original 26 charter members," he said.

"We have members who have been part of our club over the last 50 years and we have our current members who will continue to build on that legacy for our community for years to come."



Steele William awards Peter Edwards.



Roselyn Barnes awards John Pearce.

Hawthornden SheepMasters Toodyay

On display at Toodyay Show



RAMS

for Sale from \$450

Contact Renny Lee-Steere on 0419 938 144



A terrific day at the Toodyay races





Toodyay Memorial Hall

Sunday 25th October 6pm



KANGAROO

Tickets from www.trybooking.com

Tickets \$15 adults, \$10 concession & 12 years and under

Doors Open at 5pm, Show starts at 6pm

Proceeds to Marsupial Mammals and Pappas Inc

...Continued from Page 1

Mr Milne said the epic view across the race track was second to none.

“It could lend itself to more events throughout the year.”

Toodyay Race Club president, Stephen Ferguson agreed.

The club hosted Scout WA’s Operation Nighthawk – a massive annual overnight teamwork, navigation and orienteering challenge that was held in August.

The club opened up its venue to act as the primary base for around 800 young campers and volunteers.

Organisers praised the racecourse facilities for offering smooth transport access and a highly functional layout that allowed them to successfully coordinate the sprawling night event from start to finish.

Double Barrel Entertainment also brings its high-octane Toodyay Rodeo to the racecourse, transforming the scenic country track into a massive hub for rodeo action, camping and live country music.

The Toodyay Rodeo will be held on Saturday, October 24.

Mr Ferguson said the club had hosted reunions, weddings and the committee was open to considering more events and more mutually supportive partnerships.

He said the Picnic Race Day was a Toodyay tradition that brought people together and the cancellation of the races this year really showed that.

“It’s more than just a race meet – it’s a social occasion for families, friends, and the wider racing community to enjoy a great day in the country.”

Two centuries, one big celebration

TOODYAY residents are being asked to have their say this month on how the state should celebrate its Bicentenary year, with community feedback set to inform its themes and planning.

The State Government has issued the invitation to help shape the 2029 Bicentenary, which marks 200 years since the establishment of the Swan River Colony.

The date is being viewed as a significant milestone in the state’s history but not the beginning of its story.

Community views will be gathered through a consultation process that includes an online survey and community engagement activities across the state.

Residents are also encouraged to complete a short online survey and share their views, stories, experiences and aspirations to help shape planning.

Premier Roger Cook said the Bicentenary was an opportunity to reflect on our shared history and celebrate our diversity elevate Western Australia’s rich Aboriginal heritage, and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

“That’s why it is important that Western Australians make their voices heard to help shape a meaningful Bicentenary in 2029 and beyond,” he said.

To complete the survey or find out more about the planning for the Bicentenary, visit wa.gov.au/2029.

The survey is open until October 31, 2026.

Community grants now open

SHIRES and not-for-profit organisations can apply for a share of \$300,000 in grants aimed at improving older people’s connection to their communities.

The Age-friendly Communities Connectivity Grants Program opened on October 1, the International Day of Older Persons.

Grants of up to \$15,000 are available for projects, programs, events and activities that support inclusive and accessible communities for people of all ages.

The funding can be used for initiatives that address ageism, reduce loneliness and help older Western Australians connect with their local communities.

Projects aimed at improving digital skills and confidence are also eligible.

Aged Care and Seniors Minister Simone McGurk said it was important for older Western Australians to age well and stay connected.

“These grants will fund projects that improve older peoples’ connections to their community,” she said.

Applications close on Friday, November 13 and more information is available here: lgprofessionalswa.org.au



Local Opportunities. Stronger Communities.

Chalice Mining Gonneville Project

Gonneville can deliver lasting benefits and opportunities for local communities across the Avon Valley and the Wheatbelt. Together, we can create local jobs and apprenticeships, support local businesses, and invest in community partnerships. We are committed to ensuring the benefits of Gonneville are shared with the people and communities who live closest to it.



Local jobs

419*

residential jobs

Chalice is creating long-term employment opportunities for people living in Perth and the Wheatbelt. Up to 3,761 jobs supported including direct and indirect employment across the State.



Local businesses

\$7.7b

to be spent with over 1,200 Western Australian businesses

We're creating opportunities for local suppliers, contractors, manufacturers, transport providers and professional services over the life of the project.



Investing in community

\$22.3m

committed to community investment

Chalice is investing in community to support schools and education, community organisations, sports clubs, Traditional Owner partnerships, local events, training and skills, and health and wellbeing initiatives.



Supporting local councils

\$8.3m

paid to Local Governments

Helping councils invest in community infrastructure, local roads, and essential services in the regions.



Investing in the Wheatbelt

\$813.8m

expected expenditure in the Wheatbelt

This will support regional businesses, local employment, and long-term economic and social opportunities. We're part of this community, and are committed to its success.



Long-term investment in WA

\$24.1b

contribution to Western Australia's economy

For every \$1 invested, around \$2.20 is expected to be generated across the State's economy – this will support local jobs, businesses and communities for decades to come.

Working Together

Our commitment goes beyond critical minerals mining. We're committed to working with our local communities, Traditional Owners, businesses and governments, to create genuine, long-term, social, economic, and regional benefits.

*Note: There will be 419 ongoing residential jobs during operations. Construction workforce will peak at 525.
All data sourced from Lawrence Consulting, Economic Impact Study of the Gonneville Project completed June 2026 and WA Treasury.

chalicemining.com



Michael Black and Sandra Smith demonstrating alternatives to the lock box. (Photo M. Williams)

Lock box program opens the door to peace of mind

St Johns Ambulance, Michael Black Toodyay

IF I got a dollar for every time I locked my keys in my house I would have about six dollars.

Not much I know but for five of those dollars it was a painful process.

I had to wait for spare keys to arrive and on one occasion I had to wait over three hours.

Know the feeling?

The last time I left my keys indoors it was easy.

I had installed a lock box.

Before I had even thought of it, some of the wonderful people at St John Toodyay realised what a great idea this was and started the St John Toodyay Lock Box Program.

With some local sponsorship, a stash of lock boxes were purchased.

A search was made for vulnerable people in our community who might benefit from having spare keys safely and securely accessible outside their home.

A big problem for the St John volunteers

when answering an emergency call can be access.

If the person is in their home and unable to come to the door then we have a problem.

Elderly people living on their own or infirm, or a locked gate that is a long way from the front door are all prime candidates for the Lock Box Program.

This is how it works.

A spare gate or door key is securely kept in the lock box near the locked door.

The code to the lock box is kept by the owner and St John and made accessible to the St John volunteers if a 000 call is made for that residence.

I don't want to sound too dramatic, but it could save time and ultimately save a life.

It's a wonderful program and a big thanks go to Sandra Smith and Michael Morgan for the time and energy they ploughed into this.

Thanks also to the Moondyne Men who helped install many of these lock boxes.

This is another fine example of how St John Toodyay supports our community.

Firebreaks: make space for safety

VBFB Toodyay Central Peter Brennan

THE Prohibited 'No Burning' season begins on November 1, so firebreaks should be in place and properties cleared up in preparation for the coming hot summer.

Properties of less than one hectare (2.47 acres) do not require a fire break as such.

However, residents on these properties must ensure the fire hazard has been reduced.

Properties greater than one hectare must have fire breaks, with different requirements for those between one and 200 hectares and those over 200 hectares.

You are required by law to carry out the fire prevention activities listed in the Firebreak Notice on your properties.

It is important that these requirements are understood, carried out and maintained from November 1 annually to April 30 of the following year.

The break must be cleared of all flammable material, three metres wide and four metres high.

Note that the Shire does conduct inspections each year to assess compliance and penalties do apply for non-compliance.

For detailed information go to the Toodyay Shire website online.

Once on the shire 'home' page go to 'resident services' at the top of the page, click on 'fire information', then on 'fire-break notice'.

The attached photo is from the shire page and clearly identifies firebreak requirements.

Remember, firebreaks do not just provide

breaks between vegetation areas but most importantly, are safe zones for firefighting appliances to travel along.

If we can't access an area, we cannot fight the fire.

Furthermore, firefighters will not endanger themselves or the appliances if the property has not been sufficiently prepared.

Please, take your responsibilities seriously.

Your efforts in the lead up to the fire season may not only save your property, but they may also save your life.

During last summer, it came to light that some residents thought that if the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) website did not show a Total Fire Ban (TFB) for the Toodyay Shire, it was ok to have a campfire.

This is incorrect as we were in the prohibited fire Season which runs from November 1 to March 8 annually.

Therefore, no burning is allowed for any reason during this period, including open cooking, campfires, or the burning of rubbish and garden refuse.

To clarify, a TFB is a more severe restriction whereby it is illegal to conduct any activity that could start a fire and is declared when extreme fire weather conditions or widespread fires are present.

It is enforced to protect lives and property from the threat of bushfires.

DFES may declare one for certain areas within the state, or the shire can declare one if conditions around Toodyay determine it is necessary.

If unsure, please check the shires website.



Your firebreak must be cleared of all flammable material, three metres wide and four metres high.

The courage to call for backup: free video series offers support

A NEW video series has now been released that brings together personal stories and lived experience to help emergency service workers and their families better understand mental health and feel more confident seeking support.

The free three-part video series created by Fortem Australia encourages people to recognise when they might need support and feel more confident taking that first step

Developed in collaboration with Gallipoli Medical Research (GMR), the *Help-seeking* series brings lived experience to the forefront, exploring the challenges, uncertainties and different pathways involved in seeking mental health support.

The series explores three important questions: why is asking for help so hard? What if I don't realise I'm struggling? And what does getting help actually look like?

Through their personal stories, participants share the challenges they faced, the lessons they learned and the people who helped them along the way.

Their stories offer reassurance and encouragement to others who might be navigating similar experiences.

Fortem Australia chief executive officer Mick Willing said Andy's experience reflected the importance of sharing personal stories and learning from those who have faced similar challenges.

"When someone shares their experience of seeking mental health support, it can help another person recognise something in themselves, feel less alone or find the confidence to reach out," he said.

"It's an important reminder that everyone's journey is different and that hearing from someone who has been through a similar experience can make taking that first step feel a little easier.

"We're incredibly grateful to the emergency service workers who have shared their stories so openly in the hope that their experiences might help someone else find their own way forward."

The series aims to remind people that everyone's journey is different, but no one needs to find their way to support alone.

It was created to support current and former emergency service workers, their families and anyone seeking to better understand mental health and help-seeking.

For more information go to this website: <https://tinyurl.com/ycx7kbbb>



Upcoming first aid courses

HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid

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

Price: \$180.00

When: Saturday 20 June - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Thursday 20 August - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Saturday 17 October - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Thursday 3 December - 8:30AM - 4:30PM

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



Understand first aid

Learn about first aid theory and action plans



CPR and defibrillation

Practise CPR skills and how to apply a defibrillator.



Injury management

Treat and manage injuries in interactive training scenarios.



Ready to make a difference?

Book a first aid course with us

 **St John First Aid Training**



Wes, Joel (NSW Rural Fire Service) and Nathan (Mandurah VFRS) on top of the mountain.

Where volunteering can take you to unexpected places and experiences

VBFB Julimar

Wes Sutton – Captain

WHEN people join a volunteer bush fire brigade, they usually have fairly simple expectations.

They want to help protect their community, learn some practical skills, meet good people and maybe give something back.

Few expect that one day those same volunteer experiences might see them travelling halfway around the world.

Recently, I was fortunate to be selected as part of a Western Australian deployment assisting with wildfires in the United States.

Around 40 personnel from DFES and DBCA joined colleagues from the eastern states and New Zealand to form the largest deployment of its kind.

More than 300 firefighters from “down under” arrived to help our US cousins.

After being whisked through immigration and customs we boarded a charter flight to the National Interagency Fire Centre (NIFC)

in Boise, Idaho.

Here we received induction and familiarisation training and were issued personal gear and our “engines” and chase vehicles.

Our first deployment, of 14 days, was to the Little Giant Fire in Washington.

The deployment took our Task Force of five engines into Washington State’s rugged North Cascade Mountains.

While the scenery was spectacular and the experience memorable, I was struck by how familiar it all felt.

On the other side of the world, communities were doing exactly what we do in Toodyay, supporting firefighters, looking after one another and stepping up when help was needed.

After a well-earned three-day break in Seattle, our second assignment was the Paradise fire in the Blue Mountains.

Firefighters worked among heavily timbered mountain ridges and steep forest valleys.

For 14 days we navigated a narrow,



Enjoying some time off, with “Stix” at the Boise State (College football) opening round.

winding road (slip off the edge and we weren’t coming back), climbing from the valley floor high into the mountains.

We did this each morning before spending the day protecting critical water catchments, establishing containment lines and supporting rehabilitation works.

The deployment highlights how a simple decision to volunteer can open doors you never expected.

One day you might be mopping up a burn in Toodyay, the next you could find yourself exchanging stories with firefighters from across Australia and the United States while

sitting beside a fire truck with a mountain range in the background.

The opportunity to travel overseas was certainly a privilege, but it started with the same first step that every volunteer takes – turning up.

This is a timely reminder that volunteering is not just about what you can give.

Sometimes it is also about the opportunities, experiences and friendships you gain along the way.

For me, the greatest reward was the friendships formed along the way, friendships that will long outlast the deployment itself.



A souvenir hat from the Oregon Forestry Task Force leader.

All fired up and ready to go for the new fire season

VBFB Coondle Nunile

Aurelie Zimmermann, Secretary

IT HAS been another busy few weeks for our local bush fire brigades.

This year has certainly been busier than the same period last year.

On average, brigades were attending around one incident every four weeks during this period last year, compared with approximately one callout each week this year.

Electrical fault fires have certainly dominated the winter months, serving as an important reminder that home fire safety is something we need to think about all year round.

Take the time to check electrical appliances and equipment, avoid overloading power points and ensure smoke alarms are working. These are simple steps that can help keep our homes and families safe.

Our latest training session focused on draughting water, an important skill when a readily available water supply isn’t nearby.

Members practised setting up the equipment and drawing water from an alternative water source to supply the appliance.



We welcome Dylan to the team after he completed his Bush Firefighting Fundamentals training.

Regular training like this gives members the opportunity to practise and refresh skills that may be needed when responding to an incident.

We also recently welcomed Dylan to the team after he completed his Bush Firefighting Fundamentals training.

Dylan has wasted no time putting his new skills into practice and has already joined the crew in responding to a couple of incidents.

It is always great to see new members complete their training and become actively involved with the brigade.

Welcome Dylan. We look forward to working with you on the fireground.

October also marks the beginning of permit season and as the weather changes fire risk begins to increase, so it’s the time to make sure your property is prepared for the months ahead.

Firebreaks must be in place by November 1 so please don’t leave preparations until the last minute.

Firebreaks aren’t just about meeting a requirement, they provide important access for fire appliances and crews should a fire occur on or near your property.

Good access can make a real difference when crews need to respond quickly and safely.

A little preparation now can make things easier for both property owners and responding crews when the warmer weather arrives.

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

Whether you’re interested in firefighting, supporting brigade activities or simply getting more involved in your community, there is a place for you.

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

If you’re curious about volunteering, come along, meet the team and see what we’re all about.

For more information, contact coondle.nunilebfb@gmail.com.

Every volunteer makes a difference and every contribution helps strengthen our community.



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



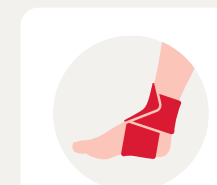
Understand first aid

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

Between you and me

Mick McKeown
Toodyay shire president

LOOKING back...
Slaughterhouse Bridge
Slaughterhouse Bridge over Toodyay Brook was re-opened to pedestrian traffic in July this year. Built in 1937 by the Main Roads Department, it replaced an older bridge that was swept away by flooding in 1934. The 1937 bridge was built of timber and, naturally, deteriorated since. In late 2025, Main Roads WA (MRWA) advised the shire the bridge was unfit for any purpose and the bridge was closed. Since 2023/2024, MRWA has been preparing preliminary designs which they refer to as a "15 percent bridge design". As I was writing this column, MRWA advised the shire of the preliminary design options for Slaughterhouse Bridge. Before the end of 2026, council will consider and choose an option for MRWA to proceed with further planning for the bridge.

GST Write-off
You may have heard some mention in the media about a GST write-off by the shire. In early 2025, while reviewing the 2024/2025 accounts, current shire finance staff discovered that no reconciliation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) had been made for the shire since 2020. Current staff then reconciled the GST and updated the shire's Business Activity Statements (BAS) accordingly. The revised BAS returns showed that the Australian Tax Office (ATO) was holding GST credits of \$633,000 for purchases made by the Shire dating back to 2020. When the GST reconciliations were made in 2025, the GST credits owed to the shire were posted to the shire's accounts as credits on the shire's balance sheet. As the refunds for the credits were received from the ATO, the credits balance owed was reduced to \$195,000. However, under ATO rules, BAS returns

may only be amended dating back up to four years. This meant that GST credits of \$195,000 from prior to December 2021 cannot be claimed back by the Shire. Despite efforts by shire staff, there is no possibility that the old \$195,000 of GST credits can be recovered from the ATO. Council voted at the October 2026 ordinary council meeting to remove this unrecoverable credit from the shire's balance sheet. The matter of why the historical GST reconciliations were not made was not raised during annual independent financial audits of the shire's books. Also, it is not known why the reconciliations were not made by former staff from 2020 to 2024.

Looking forward...
The Toodyay Race Club has improved the rodeo facilities at the Toodyay Racecourse and later this month on Saturday 24 October, Double Barrel Entertainment is returning to the Toodyay Racecourse for the Toodyay Rodeo. Yee-hah!

Putting a new spin on winter woollies

Toodyay Spinners and Weavers
Chris Stokie

TOODYAY Spinners & Weavers have had another busy productive month. Members have been working hard on projects for the Toodyay Show. Judy was busy finishing off a scarf woven by Carol. The scarf was woven from a hand spun mohair mix in lovely warm pink tones. Judy was using an Ashford fringe twister to give the fringe a neat, firm tassel to complete it beautifully. Tracey brought along a recently finished project to show the members. She has made a gorgeous blue/green jumper. Tracey spun the 23-micron merino fibre from Dyeing for Ewe which was in a shade called Tranquil. She then crocheted the wool into a jumper in an English shell pattern. I am sure the result will be a pleasure to wear. Toodyay Spinners & Weavers meet at Parkers Cottage at the Toodyay Oval every Wednesday from 9am to noon and on the first and third Saturday of every month from 9am

to noon. Please feel free to drop in and meet the group for a coffee and a chat. Whether you wish to learn new skills or just enjoy your current wool crafts in a friendly group environment you are always welcome.



Judy seen here is finishing off a gorgeous scarf woven by Carol in warm pink tones.

Our singalongs are music to everyone's ears

Toodyay Music Club
Jenny Edgecombe

MEETING new people through our music always gives Music Club members a boost. At the September meeting, we were pleased to welcome some visitors who had travelled quite a distance to see what the club is about. We started the afternoon's entertainment with everyone joining in the usual lively warm-up skiffle session. This gives everyone a chance to join in singing some well-known songs. Following this, we go around the circle, with each singer presenting one or two songs. We pause for a scrumptious afternoon tea, then go round the circle again with individual items.

After the singalong this month, members provided a fascinating programme of individual items. Anne led off with the rollicking *Irish Pub song*, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Collette's version of *The Rivers of Babilon* was lovely. The plaintive country song, *Wildflowers Don't Care Where They Grow*, was beautifully rendered by Eileen, with Maurice adding some very effective harmonies. Phil's blues songs are always popular. This month, his choices included *Kansas City* and *Dock of the Bay*. Maurice then presented his own choices, *Montego Bay* and *Mr Bojangles*. Jenny has recently picked up her guitar again after singing unaccompanied in recent months.

This month, she performed some songs with easy chords as a starter. Her selection included *Hickory Wind* and *Spring Fever*. Joe included the mysterious and beautiful *Lake Isle of Innisfree* in his contributions. Numerous other songs were performed during the afternoon as each member is allowed up to four items. I am quite sure that both singers and visitors departed for home with some delightful memories of another lovely afternoon of song. The October meeting will be held on a date to be decided. Please call Joe for details 0400 862 694. You are welcome to join us as a performer or audience member.

Thinking about a meaningful career?



Our family-owned funeral home is dedicated to exceptional care, and we're inviting expressions of interest **for an Events Coordinator / Funeral Conductor.**

You'll support families, assist with arrangements, conduct services, and help with daily operations. Personal skills that matter to us: compassion, empathy, respect, communication & listening, organisation, attention to detail, calmness under pressure, can-do attitude, team player and leadership qualities. Computer skills are essential, creative media and audio visual knowledge is favourable. Full-time or casual opportunities available, with full training provided.

Send your resume to info@ptfnortham.com.au or drop it in to 264 Fitzgerald St Northam 6401



Or call us 9622 1411

www.purslowetinettifunerals.com



Funerals Australia

Waagyl: connecting families and country

Dudja Waangkiny
(Toodyay Yarning)



NKAC noongarkaartdijin

THE rivers, brooks, pools and springs of the Toodyay Valley are more than features of our landscape.

For Noongar people, they hold deep cultural and spiritual significance, connected through ancient stories and knowledge passed down through generations.

Kura (long ago), in The Dreaming, the Waagyl (Spirit Snake) rose from the earth, shaping Boodja (land), Worl (sky) and Bilya (rivers).

Like creation stories in many religions and cultures, the Waagyl story explains the origins of the world and the spiritual connections between people and Country.

The Waagyl's journey through the Toodyay Valley begins at culturally significant Bol-kaata, encompassing Bolgart and Wattening Springs, where it dwells during the cold season.

In Birak (early summer), it moves along Boolegin (Toodyay Brook) and Gugulja (Avon River), reaching Burlong Pool near Narrjuk (Northam).

Its return in Djeran (autumn) is marked by early storms and reawakening springs. Boordiya (Elders of authority) would call out to welcome its return, a time of renewal as the Waagyl moves through Country.

Signs of this journey can still be seen in late Bunuru and Djeran, when springs break through the dry bed of Boolegin.

For thousands of years, waterways sustained Noongar families, providing fresh water and abundant foods including fish, crustaceans, waterbirds and plants.

Bilya (rivers) and Kep-wari (water places) were important for Karlerl (family camps), gatherings, ceremony, healing and connection to Country.

Life followed the rhythms of the Six Noongar Bonar (seasons), with families moving according to seasonal changes. Families held Moort-Boodja (family lands), with responsibilities for particular water places.

Waterways were also pathways for seasonal movement, trade and knowledge exchange. Ancient Bidi (tracks) followed Gugulja and its tributaries, including Julimar and Boyagerring Brooks, connecting people and Country.

Toodyay Valley remains a sacred cultural landscape.

Waagyl stories connect Bilya (rivers), Kep-wari (water places), Boya (large rocks), Kaarta-kich (granite outcrops) and cultural

spaces, linked by Bidi (paths) through remnant forests and woodlands.

These connections extend along Gugulja, through Djool-a-Maart (Julimar Forest), Kaata-Morda (Darling Scarp) and beyond.

Water continues to hold deep spiritual and healing significance for Noongar people, with cultural knowledge and responsibilities connecting people to these places.

Today, this respect for waterways is shared by many across the Toodyay Valley. Landholders and community groups help protect and restore our waterways and natural habitats.

While our approaches may differ, we share a responsibility to care for these precious places for future generations.

We encourage readers to explore the NKAC website, walk the Noongar Trail and engage with local cultural services Dudja Dreaming and Ngarn Moort to learn more about local Noongar culture and Country.

Contact details are available on the NKAC website.

Note: NKAC acknowledges Noongar Elder Sandra Harben and her paper *Nyungar Stories about the Waagal the Rainbow Serpent*.



The purple road to awareness

The Crooked Needle
Jean Melhuish-Hill

ON FRIDAY 4 September, June and Camilla came to Toodyay to speak with our craft group about The Purple Road and what we could do to help.

The Purple Road is a state-wide community project started by the Older People's Rights Service team at Encompass Legal & Community Services to raise awareness of elder abuse.

Each handmade flower represents an older person's unique story and starts conversations with older people who are at risk of or experiencing abuse and to help support, inform and educate.

The Purple Road has recently reached 100 metres in length.

This section is only one of many created by community groups and individuals across

WA to highlight the importance of supporting our older community.

June and Camilla discussed the different types of abuse which include financial, psychological, emotional, neglect, physical, sexual and social.

This is often caused by someone the older person trusts including a family member or friend.

Our participation in creating a Toodyay Purple Road – some of our members had started in anticipation of this visit – will be displayed during Seniors Week, November 8 to 15, at the library.

We are hoping to display this piece of craft at the Agricultural Show as well.

You will find us at the CWA Hall, each Friday from 9.30am.

Come along and join us for a cuppa, chat and craft sharing. Contact details on Where and When.



June and Camilla came to talk to our craft group about elder abuse and the purple road.



Some colourful creative exhibits from a past Toodyay Agricultural Show on display.

Stitching us back together

Ragbags Quilting Group
Kerry Gregory

FOLLOWING a small Friendship Day hosted by the Ragbags Group last year, our ladies hosted a Friendship Day in September.

Visitors came from Parkerville, Mundaring and Blackboy Hill.

The Crooked Needle and the other Toodyay craft groups, and the *Two Crafty Ladies* fabric shop also joined.

We all had a terrific day with a craft quiz, huge raffles and an endless morning tea for the day.

Thanks ladies you made it special.

Our raffle was a huge success.

This was made possible by the generosity of our members who donated a vast number of terrific items.

The proceeds are going to *Toodyay Locals Care* group who work so tirelessly in our community.

Two people mentioned to me their disappointment at the demise of the former Avon Valley Friendship days which included groups from Quairading, York and Northam along with those who attended from several Swan Valley craft groups.

In the past the Ragbags regularly hosted between 80 and 100 crafters each year for our gatherings.

Regrettably, since Covid interrupted our regular round of gatherings the attendance book with all the contacts has gone astray.

Alas, it was all handwritten with no

computer record.

The Covid restrictions were severe and a number of craft groups folded, together with the reluctant closure of craft/fabric stores in rural areas.

Quairading and Northam in particular; but there are a number of groups happily renewing former activities with opportunities in the future for us to participate.

In the meantime, we had the Toodyay Agricultural Show days before this publication.

I trust you completed all your projects and submitted your entries, adding to the fun, colour and excitement of our much-envied local show. Congratulations to all those who contributed to the wonderful display.

New members are very welcome at the Ragbags Group.

Join us for a cuppa, a chat and a laugh.

Sharing your creativity and enthusiasm is a special part of our gatherings.

We usually share a little *Show and Tell* session to admire your beautiful work and talent.

All craft projects are special. There is plenty of room to bring your cross-stitch stand, quilting blocks and sewing machine if you wish.

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

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

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Celebrating five decades of square dancing

Wheatbelt Squares
Gil Ackland

WOW, what a great 50th birthday celebration for Wheatbelt Squares on September 20 at Wongan Hills.

Over 100 dancers attended. The morning showed a blink of rain. However, it turned into a fabulous spring day with sunshine and a stillness. A delicious lunch with a variety of soups and sandwiches and a fabulous afternoon tea, were expertly catered by the Wongan Hills DHS P&C.

The 50th birthday cake was expertly made and brilliantly decorated by Sophie Laird from Goomalling.

The club acknowledges and thanks our very generous sponsors who made the day possible and enabled the event to be free: Community Bank Goomalling & Districts, Bendigo Bank Boekeman Machinery, Wongan Hills Aviso WA Insurance Brokers, Northam Nutrien Ag Solutions, Wongan Hills Wongan Hills Accounting & Tax Hon Klasey Hirst MLC Mr Lachlan Hunter MLA Shire of Wongan-Ballidu. Dancers came from near and far.

Some extended their visit to enjoy the wildflower experience and visiting attractions in nearby towns.

The celebration also included round dancing and clogging.

The Wongan Hills Civic Centre was decorated with the grateful coordination of Katrina.

The helpers finished the afternoon with dinner at the Wongan Hills hotel.

With locals, they watched the down to the wire Hawks/Brisbane final.

Wongan Hills shire president, Stuart Boekeman opened the celebrations.

Stuart presented a history of the Club's 50 year journey.

The day had a number of presentations.

The club's caller Robert, was presented with Life Membership of the Square Dance Society of WA.

Club President Gil Ackland accepted a Milestone Achievement Certificate from the



Over a 100 people took to the dance floor.

Square Dance Society of WA and a Certificate of Appreciation from the National Square Dance Society of Australia.

Susan Dew was presented with Life Membership of the Club.

A number of callers added their skills to the day's enjoyment.

Natalie displayed her brilliance and skill in transforming the words of *Thank You for the Music to Congratulations Robert*.

The song recognised Robert's 50 years as a square dance caller and expertly included Susan's support during that journey.

Robert dug deep to produce the club's original 7-inch 45 records of lessons used in the club beginnings.

Dancers listened to the instructions and then performed the first steps, following the record's caller.

The day ended with cutting the celebration cake. The club presented Robert and Susan a WA family holiday gift voucher in recognition of Roberts 50 years of calling and Susan's decades of support.

Square dancing provides a relaxed welcoming space where anyone regardless of experience can join.

Contact our secretary Susan: 0429 962 012 for further information.

"The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts".

"Live your life like a dance, be graceful, be thoughtful".



Marking 50 colourful years with this cake.



The club's caller Robert Dew with his life membership for 50 years of dance calling.

Double, double, toil and trouble

Toodyay Theatre Group
Allyson Corti

THE cauldrons are bubbling.

The witches are cackling.

Something delightfully spooky is taking shape in Toodyay.

With just weeks to go until curtain-up, the cast of Spooky Cabaret have been hard at work rehearsing what promises to be a frightfully fabulous Halloween spectacular.

Thirty six performers ranging from eight years old through to those with a few more years of stage experience under their capes are preparing to cast their spell.

You can look forward to 16 spellbinding acts with singing, dancing, acting and plenty of spooky surprises.

Villains, witches, magical creatures and Halloween favourites will take over the stage in a fast-paced evening of entertainment designed for the whole family.

The enthusiasm of the cast has been infectious.

"My favourite part is getting to be someone completely different on stage," said one young performer.

"It's like stepping into a spooky movie every rehearsal."

Another cast member added, "Everyone is working really hard, but we laugh a lot too.

"I can't wait for people to see our dance."

The production is bringing together different groups within the community.

The Toodyay Theatre Group is partnering with the Toodyay District High School P&C to provide a delicious snack stall during the performances.

There will be plenty of treats available to keep audiences fuelled for an evening of spooky fun.

Director Danni Grundy says the cast has embraced the Halloween theme wholeheartedly.

"The talent, commitment and enthusiasm from everyone involved has been incredible.

"From our youngest performers to our most seasoned cast members, everyone is helping create something truly special for the community."

Dust off your capes, witch's hats and favourite costumes, with prizes galore for the best-dressed audience members.

Friday night after the show, the fun continues with a Halloween Disco for the kids, from 8pm to 9pm.

Entry is included with Friday night show tickets, while disco-only tickets are available for \$5 at the door.

Keep your Halloween weekend free.

Gather the family.

Bring the grandparents and prepare for a night of spooky songs, wicked characters and magical entertainment.

Stage Coach:

This year of Stage Coach wrapped up with an incredible performance from the kids with a special show just for Mums and Dads.

Group hugs and lots of happy tears tied up a fantastic few weeks of learning and fun.

Some of them even transferring those new-found skills into being proper cast members of Spooky Cabaret.

How awesome is that.

Stay tuned. Watch this space for details of the next departure for the Stage Coach.

Spring into woodturning

Avon Wood Turners
Mike Guley

SPRING is in the air and it's the season for renewal and new starts.

So, why not consider woodturning as a way to explore something new in your own life, while being creative at the same time.

With his project on an outdoor chess set, Chris has shown the items that can be made on a lathe are often limited only by the imagination.

This week alone we have bracelets, a mushroom-shaped candle holder and various bowls and vases being completed.

We need the raw materials to make this happen.

Last week our convenor Max and a group of helpers took a trip to Beverley with a trailer to uplift a load of olive wood, kindly donated to the club.

On the way they stopped to enjoy food and company.

This is a reminder that the club is as much about getting together with others as turning.

Olive is a particularly fine wood to turn, with beautiful grain finish and we thank Mike for this kind donation.

One of the stops was at the Panda in Northam, which was enjoyed so much it is now the venue for our Christmas function in December.

Woodturning has a strong social aspect: each session is split with a morning tea cuppa and chat.

The Avon woodturners entered items for display and judging in several categories, ranging from novice to open at the Toodyay

Agricultural Show this month.

The show was an opportunity for both the public and turners themselves to view the workmanship of others, to discuss techniques and garner ideas.

There was many aspects of creativity and artistry on display alongside the woodturning.

From a personal perspective, woodturning has solved one issue for me with gifts for grandchildren and others.

In a world of increasing use of plastic and petroleum-based items, it has been satisfying to create presents that can be gifted as both more personal and from a natural, renewable resource.

The Avon Woodturners are located at Shed 1, Community Depot, end of Railway Road, Toodyay.

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

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



Out door Chess pieces completed by Chris.

PUBLIC NOTICE



PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE EXISTING MOBILE PHONE BASE STATIONS

- Telstra is proposing to upgrade two existing mobile phone base stations to improve Telstra 4G and 5G services at:

**Lot 9000 Eadine Road (off Great Eastern Highway),
CLACKLINE WA 6564 (RFNSA Site Number: 6564001)**

**Lot 51 Throssell Road, CULHAM WA 6566
(RFNSA Site Number: 6566011)**

- The details of the proposed upgrade works are as follows:

CLACKLINE

The proposed upgrade works on the existing guyed mast consist of:

- Removal of nine (9) existing panel antennas.
- Installation of six (6) new panel antennas (each less than 2.8m in length).
- Installation/replacement of ancillary equipment.

For more information about the Clackline proposal, please visit www.rfnsa.com.au/6564001 or scan the QR Code:



CULHAM

The proposed upgrade works on the existing monopole consist of:

- Removal of six (6) existing panel antennas.
- Installation of six (6) new panel antennas (each less than 2.8m in length).
- Installation/replacement of ancillary equipment, including new antenna mounts.

For more information about the Culham proposal, please visit www.rfnsa.com.au/6566011 or scan the QR Code:



- In accordance with Section 7 of the Industry Code C564:2025 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment, we invite you to make comments about the proposals.
- Please direct comments to Mark Baade (Planning Consultant) on mark@saqconsulting.com.au, 0417 088 000 or to **SAQ Consulting, P.O. Box 50 Clayfield QLD 4011 by Thursday 29th October 2026.**

Telstra Limited ACN: 086 174 781

SAQ Consulting ACN: 627 531 926

A shed full of good work

Toodyay Men's Shed
Barry Keens

A FULL executive and management committee was appointed for the coming year at our annual general meeting last month.

The treasurer provided a comprehensive audited financial report, together with the required Certificate of Solvency.

Garry Elwood and Kevin Mason are additions to the management committee and will help in spreading the workload this year.

Stephen King attended a two-day Mental Health First Aid Course held in Northam and he has brought back new skills to the Shed.

This will enable us to respond to people with mental health problems more professionally and help them on their path to rehabilitation.

This month will see us completing the programme of refurbishing the shire's seats, benches and tables in public areas.

The final benches, at the doctor's surgery, have received no maintenance since being installed.

The photograph shows the before and after situation of the bench situated under the tree



Before and after images of the bench.

outside Connor Mill.

It was another interesting day at the Toodyay Farmer's Market with a lot of people stopping for a chat and, in some cases, promising to visit the Shed. We look forward to seeing them again soon.

The Shed is open Monday, Thursday and Saturday each week from 8.30am to noon.

"Smoko" is at 10am and visitors are always welcome to have a cuppa.

We thought we had caught up with jobs brought in to us, but we are finding that our workshop services are still very much in demand.

For this reason, we are upgrading our metal workshop to include more mechanical work facilities in the future.

Our meeting room and commercial kitchen are available for hire at hourly rates on either a regular or ad hoc basis.

Any enquiries to our secretary on 0499 403 830.

Sing out, Toodyay!

Toodyay Community Singers
Anne Millar

OUR rehearsals for the Toodyay Agricultural show included a different selection of songs from our usual repertoire, and we hope those who attended the show enjoyed it.

The Toodyay Community Singers have been part of Toodyay community for many years.

As the community grows, we are hoping to get new members and hear new voices.

If you enjoy singing or know a bit about music, we would love to see you come along on Mondays at 4pm to 5pm at the CWA Hall on Stirling Terrace.

We take part in community events such as Moondyne Festival, the Toodyay Show and the Christmas street party and always pay respects on Anzac Day with the RSL.

It would be great to see the new community of Toodyay taking part in some of these events.

Meals on a mission: TLC serves up support

Toodyay Locals Care
Jacquie Lucas

DURING September Roz had a well-earned break for a few days in Bunbury, while the troops rallied round and kept TLC operating.

But, as you all know, there is no keeping Roz resting.

On the way home she went via Malaga to drop off some much-needed household linen and other items to Starting Over Support (SOS).

This is a Western Australian charity that helps families and individuals escaping family violence or needing crisis accommodation.

Perhaps reflective of the times we find ourselves in, more people are calling on us for help.

Families are being placed under pressure, taking on extra adults and children as they suffer from family violence and financial stresses.

Your generous donations, either physical or financial (don't forget we are able to give tax deductible receipts), really help those who need it in our community.

Furniture continues to be rehomed.

It is important to keep items out of landfill where possible, and we strive to rehome furniture.

Unfortunately, we do not have adequate storage, so can only organise exchanges when there is opportunity for immediate pick up/delivery.

However, don't let that put you off calling Roz to offer her your furniture in need of rehoming.

The number of times someone calls and says I need a single bed please, and within a short time someone else has rung to say they have a single bed to be rehomed has to be seen to be believed.

In the past month several beds have been successfully rehomed.

Thank you so much to Sara who has taken on our front garden, and our community vegetable garden.

Her zealous efforts are truly appreciated.

Lorraine has been diligently caring for our silkie and crossbred chickens for several years now and would very much like some help.

If you think you can spare some time, please give Roz a call on 0427 744 352.

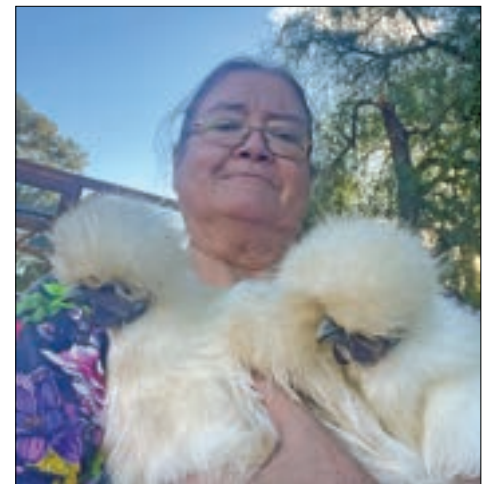
Remember, Roz and voicemails do not get along, so if you are not answered please send her a text message.

On the catering side, "carrots" as our wonderful Rhonda called our Thursday morning food preparation sessions, continues. We have prepared over 550 meals in the past month.

We would like to remind people that we provide emergency food relief and, as such, we ask that you show care and respect for other members in the community by only taking what you need.

Fundraising catering continues, with catering for the Toodyay Golf Club and some wakes.

On that note, the festive season is approaching so if you would like to book TLC to cater for your function, please do so soon as the weekends are filling up.



Jacquie with our beautiful silkie chickens, who are now looking for a new carer.



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Chocolate, chips and chit-chat

CWA
Elizabeth Mansom, Secretary

BELGIAN backpackers, Dorianne and Pierre, presently in town, came to our September meeting to talk to us about their home country.

Each year CWA nominates a country of study and for the next twelve month's meetings and functions we focus on learning about that country.

Food, dress, customs: we try them all. We consider ourselves very fortunate when we are able to hear from people born and brought up in the country.

Most of our information comes from the internet or Australians who have visited.

We must admit this year we voted mainly on the food we would be likely to get at functions over the next twelve months.

Waffles and chocolate from Belgium was the clear winner over kimchi (fermented cabbage) from Korea and chips smothered in cheese that Canadians like so much.

Having voted against Canada and their chip dish it seems chips are even bigger in Belgium with entire shops devoted to just chips.

However, another Belgian dish we intend trying is tuna and mayo mixed and stuffed into peach halves.

Tinned is fine to use. Intended as a starter or snack, it sounds quick, simple and tasty.

A conserve of apples, pears and prunes called Sirop de Liege sounded delicious and has been added to the marmalades and pickled onions we always have on offer.

Dorianne and Pierre had thoughtfully prepared material which they brought along in their electronic device.

Luckily the agenda for the month was unusually short as we suddenly found we had been talking with them longer than we had spent on branch business.

Val, our president, gave them a small gift which included a CWA Scone Book as an expression of our appreciation for their time and effort.

October has home and away functions for us. On October 17, we will provide lunch for participants in the MG Safety Fast Run.

On October 30, the Mt Helena-Parkerville branch is having their annual picnic at Lake Leschenaultia.

We know from past experience it will be a very enjoyable day out.

Then, there is just the November meeting before we have our Christmas lunch in December and close 2026.

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

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

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

We look forward to welcoming you.



Backpackers Dorianne and Pierre were visiting from Belgium; pictured with Val.



Debra Paisley talking about her work at the History Forum. (Photo: Beth Frayne, August 2026)

Giving history a digital future

Toodyay Historical Society
Dr Robyn Taylor, President & Patron

WE HAVE some new faces on the executive following our recent annual general meeting.

As the new president I would like to take this opportunity to thank our former president Beth Frayne who has contributed outstanding services, not only to our society but to many groups and organisations in Toodyay and elsewhere.

Beth's research skills including taking photographic records and generous sharing of her knowledge over the term of her office are truly legendary.

Many of us are envious of her cataloguing skills gained while working for the State Library.

If you need a photo or information about some event, you can be sure Beth can come up with that you want with a click of the mouse.

The AGM was followed by a history forum, 'Saving archives digitally' with three expert speakers, including library manager Debra Paisley from the University of Western Australia where a facility has been created by partners of all five WA universities, the State Library and the WA Museum.

The other speakers were Toodyay Historical Society member Adam O'Neill,

who is the research project officer for the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and, Toodyay Museum curator Margie Eberle.

She talked about the addition of digital records for the museum collection, held on the Collections WA website.

They all shared their experiences and the reasons and benefits of having digital as well as hard copy records.

A local example of the foregoing was demonstrated by Beth at our August meeting.

A long-time member of the Toodyay's Community Singers, Beth presented a Power Point slide show she made in 2017: 'Trish Young and the Community Singers, Thanks for the Memory', with each year illustrated.

What a delight to see our local songbirds in costume sharing their talents on so many and varied occasions.

From 2009 to 2017 Trish led the singers using her extensive professional singing and performance background.

Remember if there isn't room to list those present in your photos, it's useful to keep a list as memories and names fade with time.

Today, with Google and other search engines, including AI, we have come to expect instant information at our fingertips thanks to digitisation. However you won't regret keeping your own dated record.

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Toodyay Today

Shire of Toodyay News & Community Updates

OCTOBER

Save the Dates!

Toodyay Miniature Railway - Sunday
18 October, 10am - 2pm, Stirling Park.

Toodyay Farmers Market - Sunday
18 October, 9am - 1pm, Stirling Park.

Get Online Week: Tea & Tech - Monday 19
October, 10:30am - 1:30pm, Toodyay
Library.

Bingo

Monday 19 October
10:30am - 1:30pm
At the Toodyay Library,
96 Stirling Tee
Bingo from 11am - 12pm
Lunch provided
Fun tech activities suitable for
individuals, pairs or small groups.
Got a tech question? Ask Sharn, our
local IT expert, for help and advice!

FREE EVENT TO
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To register for the bingo activities or for more information, contact the
CIC on (08) 9574 9300 or email enq@toodyay.wa.gov.au

Toodyay Rodeo - Saturday 24 October, 9am
- 12pm, Toodyay Racecourse.

Children's Week - 26 - 30 October.

Seniors Week - 9 - 12 November.

Ordinary Council Meeting - Thursday
6 November, 5:30pm, Shire Council
Chambers.

Remembrance Day - 11 November.

Toodyay Farmers Market - Sunday
15 November, 9am - 1pm, Stirling Park.

**Demonstration of Mediumship: Dawn
Collins** - Friday 27 November, 6:30pm -
8:30pm.

Toodyay Street Party - Friday 4 December,
6pm - 9:30pm, Stirling Terrace.

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



Proposed dedication of Burt Parkway, Nunile as a Public Road

Notice is hereby given that the Shire of Toodyay is seeking public comment on the proposed dedication of Burt Parkway, Nunile as a public road. The proposal involves excising approximately 1.2 hectares of land from Reserve 48170, currently reserved for Public Recreation, to formalise the existing roadway as a dedicated public road. The proposed road dedication will assist in providing a continuous public road network through the area and facilitate future service infrastructure and bushfire planning requirements. A plan showing the proposed road dedication area and further information is available on the Shire of Toodyay website at www.toodyay.wa.gov.au or from the Shire Administration Centre, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay. Written submissions regarding the proposal are invited and must be received by the Shire by **Friday 30 October 2026, 5:00pm**. Submissions may be:

- Emailed: submissions@toodyay.wa.gov.au;
- Posted: **Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay, PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566**; or
- Delivered: **Shire Administration Centre, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay. Please reference "Proposed Dedication of Burt Parkway, Nunile as a Public Road" in your submission.**

Community Emergency Services & Management

With warmer weather approaching, residents should prepare now for the coming bushfire season. Early preparation allows time to manage vegetation and other fuel near buildings, check property access, and ensure firefighting supplies are ready before conditions become hotter and drier. Households should also review their bushfire plan, including when to leave, where to go, and what to take if threatened by fire. Make sure everyone knows how to access emergency warnings and information and understands the household plan. The Shire of Toodyay has five volunteer bushfire brigades: **Bejoording, Coondle-Nunile, Julimar, Morangup and Toodyay Central** as well as the **Toodyay SES**. To be put in touch with your local brigade or unit, SMS the bolded brigade or unit name followed by your name to **0408 017 439**.

Children's Week 26 to 30 October

The Shire is partnering with local groups to deliver Every Voice, Every Culture, Every Child, a week of family-friendly activities celebrating Children's Week from 26 to 30 October 2026. This year's theme *Children have the right to use their own language, celebrate their culture and practice their religion*. Activities will be delivered with Toodyay Playgroup & Kindergym, Noongar Little Lessons, Toodyay Library, and the Toodyay Community Resource Centre Kids Club.

Library

There has been plenty happening at Toodyay Library, with lots of fun, learning and community activities taking place. We have been getting prepared for the upcoming bushfire season with a special display created together with our Emergency Management Officer Aurelie Zimmermann, providing helpful information and reminders for the community to get prepared before you need to be. Our Rhyme Time sessions have also been busy, with the children enjoying Father's Day activities and celebrating International Rock Collection Day. The children had great fun turning ordinary rocks into colourful cactus plants – a wonderful creative activity! On the 30th September, we were lucky enough to have local author, Kathleen O'Reilly Johnston, come in for an evening to discuss her new book "Johnno." It was a well attended event and we received some amazing feedback. Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our Saturday Library Book Sale 9am-1pm on Saturday 12 December. There will be plenty of books to browse and buy, with morning tea available. We look forward to seeing you there!



Visitors Centre

October brings the beautiful craftsmanship of Ian McGillivray to the Toodyay Visitors Centre, featuring unique woodwork creations made from locally sourced timbers from his property. Then, in November, Flourish Illustrations will fill the space with a colourful collection of inspiring paintings. Applications for 2027 showcase opportunities are now open. Speak with the Visitors Centre team to book your preferred month and share your creative talents with visitors from near and far.



Museum

One of the more compelling interpretations at the Newcastle Gaol is the audio-visual presentation in the cell that was used to house Aboriginal prisoners when the Gaol was in use. This museum display was a winner of a 2013 WA Heritage Award and includes images of an Aboriginal actor in period costume speaking about life in the gaol: the sights, sounds, smells, and deprivation. This presentation, which has been out of action for a period of time, has now been updated with new equipment to make it operational again.



Nominate by 31 October 2026!



Council Decisions

- At the October Council Meeting, the following items were considered:
- Council approved a revised design for Stage 1 of the proposed residential subdivision at 35 Burt Parkway, Nunile, for referral to the WA Planning Commission.
 - Council resolved to adopt the Property Local Law 2026 and Fencing Local Law 2026, subject to the remaining statutory processes.
 - Council approved the re-advertising of a revised draft Health Local Law 2027 to provide further opportunity for community feedback.
 - Council approved a new five-year lease agreement with Toodyay Golf Club Inc. for the management of the golf course, clubhouse and associated facilities.
 - Council agreed to seek community feedback on proposed changes to the Dadour Provisions.
 - Council appointed Nick Griggs as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and approved several bush fire officer appointments.
 - Council approved the 2027 Council and Committee Meeting Schedule.

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



\$100 Fuel Support Payment

Easing the pressure at the pump for WA drivers



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With work commutes, school drop-offs, driving lessons and life in between, we’re helping Western Australians with a one-off \$100 Fuel Support Payment.

The payment is available to anyone with a valid WA driver’s licence, including learners and P platers.

How to claim

The fastest and most convenient way to claim your \$100 payment is through the ServiceWA app. You can also donate your payment to charity in the app.



Need help?

You’ll find guides on the ServiceWA website along with alternative ways to claim.

Learn more at wa.gov.au/fuelpayment

A busy season of faith and fellowship

Toodyay Baptist Church
Jenny McDougall

FROM a farm visit and barbecue lunch to upcoming faith and community events, Toodyay Baptist Church members have been staying active, and our upcoming calendar of events aims to bring the wider community together.

In September, the Men's Fellowship group gathered at Mark and Rosie Travers' farm for a sausage sizzle and a time of fellowship.

It was a beautiful day in a beautiful setting and we are grateful to Mark and Rosie for their generous hospitality.

After lunch we were taken on a farm tour with Mark fielding lots of questions.

All in all, we had a thoroughly enjoyable day with the possibility of having more visits.

"Our next get-together will be in October. Feel free to join us for a time of fellowship and contact Steve for more information.

Upcoming events include the Perth Women's Convention which will be live streamed at Toodyay Baptist Church, October 17, from 9am to 1pm.

Morning tea will be supplied.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be on October 18 at 10.30am and all donations will be gifted to Toodyay Locals Care.

Carols in the Park will be held on December 12 from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to these events. Our Sunday services are at 10.30am.



All are welcome to enjoy a monthly free breakfast with the magnificent Moondyne Men.

Sausage sizzle, show day and Service

Moondyne Men
Graham Hill

WELCOME to an update of the meandering, mayhem, mechanics and magnetism of the magnificent Moondyne Men.

Over the past few weeks our team has been really active in preparing a stock of firewood for the winter months and our annual wood raffle fund raising events.

To help prepare for the Toodyay Agricultural Show we cleaned several buildings ready for various displays.

The Show on October 10 saw several teams of Moondyne Men assisting with parking at three different locations.

Also, for the first time we had our very own Moondyne Men display where people could come along and say 'hello' to the guys.

On Sunday October 11, we attended the screening of *Just a Farmer* at the Memorial Hall.

This was a collaborative event between the Shire of Toodyay, Toodyay Agricultural

Alliance, The Op Shop, Lions Club and The Moondyne Men.

We prepared and served a free BBQ sausage sizzle at 4pm.

Recently we donated \$500 each to Toodyay Central, Coondle-Nunile, Bejoording, Morangup, and Julimar volunteer bush fire brigades making a total of \$2500 to help with any expense in the coming fire season.

The Moondyne Men are grateful for the support from the community and appreciate that we are the biggest and most proactive men's group in Toodyay.

We proud of our mantra "Men looking after men and the community".

If you would like to join us, come along on any Monday and Thursday from 8.30am at the CRC building 67 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

You have the added opportunity to join us for our free breakfast and committee meeting on the first Saturday of each month.

Please call our Secretary Fred on 0488 554 931.



The church men's fellowship lunch(L-R) Bill dePaus, Peter McNabb, Terry Baker, David Street, Graham Freeman, Pastor Luke Winter, Mark Travers, Ivan Talbolt, Steve Carlin.

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Care, safety and comfort close to home

Staying in Place Toodyay Districts
Hamish Dobie, President

THERE is a time in your life when you stop looking to the future and begin to look back at the past.

As you get older, there are times when you realise that you can't do the things you used to do and daily chores are becoming harder to complete.

If this has become a problem and you are finding it difficult to live at home safely and in comfort, then it may be time to apply for an aged care package to assist you.

Staying in Place Toodyay Districts (SIPTD) was established specifically for this reason.

The organisation can help you through the process of applying.

SIPTD is a local not for profit and, unlike large agencies, has no highly paid managers or sinecure positions to fund them.

The case managers, and all the contractors providing services, are locally based meaning greater flexibility in timing for your services and no travel time costs.

We have just held our third annual general meeting and all but one of the volunteer committee members agreed to continue.

Unfortunately, Susan Pearce, our secretary, reluctantly resigned because of personal circumstances.

We will miss her.

The organisation has continued its growth despite the turbulent year caused by the federal government legislation changing from a fully funded to a co-payment care package program.

Looking back on the past year, figures revealed that SIPTD had brought over \$850,000 in federal funding into the Toodyay community through payments to contractors and local services.

This invariably led to more local spending in shops and in local businesses which is great for the town.

It's great to hear that one of our gardening contractors has returned from fighting the fires in North America.

We are proud to have a home-grown hero in our team.

On September 23 our affiliate, HomeMade, came to the CRC in Toodyay and presented Understand Aged Care.

HomeMade is the organisation that stands between SIPTD and the federal government.

HomeMade handle the financial aspects of clients' Support at Home packages as well as many other background requirements.

The presentation was well attended.

I think everyone benefitted from the talk and left with a much clearer idea of how the Support at Home system works and how our own SIPTD fits into that system.

Lastly, we are on the lookout for a secretary to join our committee.

If you have a little secretarial experience and want to volunteer some time to help SIPTD keep up its good work, please contact us.

In the first instance, please contact Susan Burley on 0494 085 790, or email: casemanager@stayinginplacetooday.org.au



A great example of some wicking bed's which workshop attendees learned all about.

Cultivating good ideas in the garden

Toodyay Community Garden
Joshua van Helsdingen

THE Toodyay community garden held their wicking bed workshop, which explored the climate context in Toodyay last month.

Some common solutions for water efficiency were also looked at.

In Toodyay, we experience six times as much annual evapotranspiration compared with rainfall.

Evapotranspiration is calculated by the Bureau of Meteorology and increases with temperature, wind speed and air dryness.

Toodyay experiences 2,000mm per year in average evapotranspiration.

Compare this with a median rainfall of 330mm per year.

To grow kitchen vegetables and other introduced species, we must provide constant moisture.

Strategies like shade and windbreaks reduce local evaporation.

Wicking beds then provide water efficiently, direct to the plant roots.

A wicking experiment of 10 materials was conducted.

Blue metal dust won, wicking to 58.5cm after six hours.

Brickies sand was second at 43.5cm.

Special thanks to Green Life Soil Co for providing soils and perlite for the experiment.

In other news, Toodyay Community Garden Inc. held its third Annual General Meeting on September 26.

Our committee thanks all members, sponsors, workshop and fundraiser attendees.

We couldn't do it without your support.

The old tennis courts came up on the council agenda last month.

This was a great surprise to our committee.

We have chosen to accept the council's offer of a potential lease over the old tennis courts.

We look forward to agreeable lease terms.

The committee is progressing with concept designs of both the Toodyay Club and Old Tennis Court sites.

Special thanks to Fiona Blackham from Gaia Permaculture for helping facilitate our design workshop.

This is an exciting time to get involved in the community garden, attend our meetings and support our committee develop the garden.

Help us craft the 2027 workshop program.

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L to R Sponsor of the Men's & Ladies Golf Championships Lester Snooke, Ladies Champion Joy Hamilton, Men's Champion Justin Edmonds

Tee-rific finish for the Bolgart Golf Club

Bolgart Community News
Pam Mc Gill

BOLGART Golf Club members gathered to celebrate another successful season, with club champions crowned, trophies presented and volunteers recognised for their contribution to the sport and wider golf community.

Joy Hamilton was Bolgart Ladies 2026 Champion and Therese Chitty was runner-up.

Bolgart Mens 2026 Champion was Justin Edmonds, and runner-up was Todd Meston.

Ladies Nett Champion was won by Joy Hamilton and runner-up on a countback Therese Chitty.

Congratulations to all winners.

A lovely casserole tea was served after presentations and enjoyed by those attending.

Closing day for the ladies was to dress up colourful and there was a lot of very colourful clothing.

Ladies played a seven-hole Ambrose to finish the season.

Some new ladies joined in and the dandelions made more colour on golfer's shoes.

Ladies' seasonal trophies were presented at a lovely lunch organized by caterer Serena Syred.

The ladies who volunteered their time to help at the Avon Valley Ladies three-day golf event held in August, also joined the lunch.

Seasonal trophy winners:

Nearest to the pin No 9 was won by Nolene Kaszanski, sponsored by Bernice Clarke.

Long Drive No 5 was won by Vivienne Camerer, sponsored by Merle Manuel.

Best 2nd No 7 was won by Therese Chitty, sponsored by Waveney Jones.

Eclectic was won by Nolene Kaszanski, and sponsored by Donna Clarke.

The putting competition was won by Joy Hamilton, sponsored by Dianne Edmonds.

Consistency Trophy was won by Vivienne Camerer, sponsored by Lynn Marcelli.

Closing day was a Mixed Stableford, sponsored by local shearing contractor Peter Yokich.

Winner was Nolene Kaszanski, runner-up Theo Camerer

Men's seasonal trophies:

Nearest to the pin No 17 was won by Justin Edmonds, sponsored by Colin, Marion & Curtis Guthrie.

Long Drive No 12 was won by Colin Guthrie, sponsored by P Meston & Co.

Best 2nd No 7 was won by Justin Edmonds, sponsored by Mark and Rosie Travers.

A BBQ tea followed presentations.

Congratulations to everyone who won trophies throughout the season.

The golf season has now finished, so some are heading to play bowls.

To everyone else, enjoy your summer and we will all meet up again later on in 2027 for golf.

Pour decisions: know the law on teen drinking

Safer Toodyay
Desrae Clarke

ALCOHOL laws vary with each state and territory in Australia with those of Western Australia governed by the Liquor Control Act.

On November 20, 2015, new laws came into effect regarding the secondary supply of alcohol.

Under this law it is an offence for anyone to supply under 18s with alcohol in a private setting without parental or guardian permission.

This offence carrying a maximum penalty of \$10,000.

Alcohol can increase the risk of injury, mental health problems and cause permanent damage to young people's developing brain.

For these reasons, the National Health Guidelines states that children and people under 18 years of age should not drink alcohol.

Parents not wanting their children to drink alcohol are now able to stand firm in their decision.

It is one of the most positive and kindest things you'll ever do.

For detailed information on secondary supply laws please refer to the FAQs on the Alcohol Think Again website or visit the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor website.

Contact Holyoake Wheatbelt Community Alcohol & Drug Service on 9621 1055 if you would like support or counselling for alcohol or drug-related concerns for yourself, a family member or someone close to you.

If you note a situation appearing to be suspicious or 'out of the ordinary' call Police 131 444

Toodyay Police 9574 9555

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goodbye graffiti.wa.gov.au.

A hub of action in Morangup

Morangup Progress Association
Daryl Cooper, Chairperson

NOTWITHSTANDING the "Wharfie Time" shock and disappointment of the AFL Grand Final, a number of Morangup footy followers and families nevertheless enjoyed a barbeque at the community hall.

They watched the match on the big screen. The atmosphere of excitement.

The Dockers started behind, then took the lead.

The agony when they fell behind in the closing minutes was palpable, making the event all the more memorable for those in attendance.

Next month, the big screen will again be available for that other major annual Australian sporting event – the "race that stops the nation" – the Melbourne Cup.

All Morangup residents are welcome to come along and enjoy the atmosphere that viewing the race in the company of others engenders.

For those unable to get to daytime events such as those above, the MPA continues to hold their monthly drop-in nights on the last Friday of the month.

This month, that event will be on the day before Halloween.

It will be themed accordingly with treats for the kids and some ghoulish décor to amuse the adults.

Passing the baton at Butterly

Butterly Cottages Association
Cheryl Jean

THE Committee of Management of Butterly Cottages Association Inc. gives notice of the annual general meeting.

It will be held on Thursday November 26 at 10.30am at St Stephens Church Hall in Stirling Terrace, next door to Cola Café.

After eight years of being on the committee of Butterly Cottages Association, including being vice president and president, Mrs Judy Dow will be retiring at the AGM.

All committee positions will be declared vacant at the meeting and nominations for positions will be considered on the day.

If you are interested in becoming actively involved with BCA as a committee member, you will need to be a financial member of BCA.

The membership fee is \$10 per year.

We welcome any questions you may have in regard to becoming involved.

Contact can be made on mobile: 0492 595 670.



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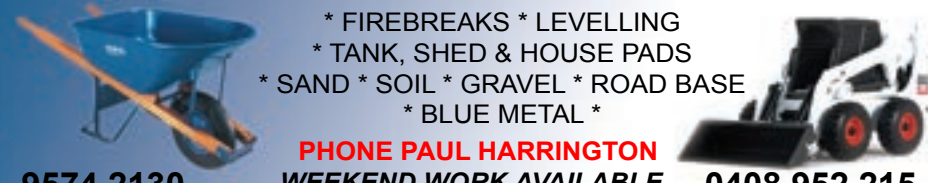
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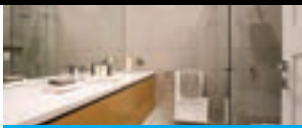
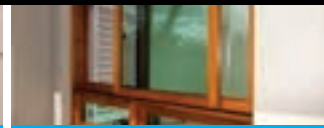
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WHERE AND WHEN

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
Vicki Haggarty, President
toodyaytheatregroup@gmail.com

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 secretarymvbfb@gmail.com

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

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

Toodyay Central VBFB
Second Tuesday monthly Toodyay Fire and Emergency Services Centre 7pm.
Toodyay State Emergency Service
Fourth Tuesday monthly 3 Wallaby Way

Morangup. Jeff Venn 0438 490 331
toodyayseslocalmanager@gmail.com.
Toodyay Volunteer Fire and Rescue
First Monday monthly, Toodyay Fire and Emergency Services Centre 7.30pm.

ENVIRONMENT

Avon Valley Environmental Society
Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Centre, 269 Fitzgerald St, Northam. Third Friday monthly, noon.
Janet Wilkinson 9574 5947.
Earth Solutions - Avon Valley
Second Tuesday monthly (not Jan) Old Northam Railway Station, 425 Fitzgerald St Northam 6pm. Karen Ducat 0438 223 886.
Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance
Julimarforest@gmail.com.
Marsupial Mammals and Pappas
Wildlife rescue. 0467 964 872.
Safe and Scenic Toodyay Road
Andrew St John. sastr.com.au.
Toodyay Friends of the River
Second Sunday monthly or following Monday, 9am (winter); 8am (summer). See TFOR noticeboard outside Drummond House. Email info@toodyayfor.org.au.
Toodyay Garden Club
First Thursday monthly, 10am. Alison Guley 0419 955 099
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.
The Toodyay Rose Show
will be held on Sunday, October 25 in and around St Stephen’s Church Hall. Doors open on Sunday at 10am - 5.30pm. The entry to the Hall is a gold coin donation. Entry to the competition is free and rose show schedules will be available at the end of August. For more information contact: Alison Wroth 0437 099 960 or Lynlee Chitty on 0407 468 382

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, JP
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.
Butterly Cottages Association
Secretary: Cheryl-Jean. Contact email

butterly2J@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.
Secretary Fred de Rooij, 0488 554 931
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 (0423226898)
Email: toodyay.wa@lions.org.au
Toodyay Masonic Lodge
Fourth Thursday monthly, Masonic Hall Fiennes St 7.30pm. Mick Tock, 9622 8990
Toodyay Red Cross
Second Monday Feb, May, Aug, Nov Anglican Hall 1.30pm.
Toodyay RoadWise Committee
Second Wednesday monthly, Community Resource Centre 9.30am.
Bob Neville 0419 853 160.

SPORT

Avon Valley Adult Riding Club
Fourth Saturday monthly Feb-Nov, Northam. Tina 0499 030 177.
Avon Valley Shotokan Karate Club
Wednesdays Youth Hall, Showgrounds. Peewees 3.45-4.30pm; Juniors 4.30-5.30pm; Seniors 6-7.30pm.
avonvalleyshotokan@gmail.com.
Mortlock Pony Club
First Sunday Feb-Nov, Goomalling. Tanzi 0427 859 493.
Toodyay Bowling Club
Ladies Thursdays 8.30am. Liz Sullivan 0429 311 256. Men Fridays 3pm. Andrew Watson 0418 269 773. Mixed Winter Bowls Thursday 12.30pm. Liz Sullivan.
All welcome.
Toodyay Golf Club
Mixed comp Sundays noon; Ladies Wednesdays 1.30pm. Roma: 9574 5534. Men’s scrungers Thursdays 2pm. Bruce 0417 028 089.
Toodyay Soccer Club
Mondays 4-5.30pm terms 2-3, ages 5-15yrs.

toodyaysoccer@gmail.com.
Toodyay Tennis Club
Toodyay Recreation Centre, Tuesday social 9am unless raining, Wednesday night social 6.30pm October - April, Friday Night Community Tennis - October - November (Facebook for updates) or community court hire play.tennis.com.au . Facebook @toodyaytennisclub. Contact Jenny Ash Secretary 0417497972

PUBLIC NOTICES

Coca Cola Cafe owners, Tina and Manh will be celebrating 1 year of being in business and would like to thank everyone for their support this year. We love being here and can’t wait to see everyone again on 15th October

Congratulations to all those who donated their spectacles. 300 units of glasses have been sent to the facility that repairs them for distribution to places such as the Fred Hollows Foundation.



New support service launches for families

FAMILIES can now access free information and support for children with developmental delay and/or autism, with the first stage of the new Thriving Kids program launching this month.

Thriving Kids Connect WA is being delivered by Uplyft and provides families and carers with information, advice and practical strategies around child development and autism.

Importantly, families do not need a diagnosis to seek help.

The service can also help families navigate the wider support system and connect with health, education, community, mental health and NDIS services.

The five-year program is backed by a \$361 million investment from the federal and state governments.

It will provide community-based support for children aged up to eight with developmental delay and/or autism who have low to moderate support needs.

Thriving Kids services will be introduced progressively across the state until January 2028, with funded community services expected to begin from early 2027.

Families can contact Thriving Kids Connect WA on 1300 925 437, or access information and online support at www.thrivingkidsconnectwa.org.

The Toodyay Herald Inc.

Your locally owned community newspaper

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of The Toodyay Herald (Inc) will be held on Saturday 7 November 2026 at 11am at The Herald Office, 111 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay (rear of Christmas 360).

The agenda will include Minutes of the 2025 AGM. Matters Arising, President’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, Editor’s Report. General Business and Election of Committee.

Financial members are invited to attend and vote at the AGM.
Enquiries Anne: 0418 904 322

Planting smiles and gardens around the district

Toodyay Garden Club
Judy Rowston

THIS year we have seen some amazing gardens in and around the Toodyay district. Some of the gardens visited have struggled with soil types, rocks and even brackish bore water.

With a love of the soil and a shovel in hand, our garden hosts have definitely navigated around any obstacles they have encountered.

We have seen some gorgeous masterpieces. Our members have been the very lucky people to have wandered and enjoyed what a garden lover can achieve.

Thank you to all of our host gardeners who have opened up their homes to our members during 2026.

With only one more garden to visit, this will once again wind up a very successful garden club season, ending with over 100 members in our wonderful club.

This also seems like a perfect time to mention the committee that has worked so hard during the year to ensure that the club continues to be successful and thrive.



Staghorns adorn the trees.

We thank all 10 committee members for the work they have done throughout the year.

The York Garden club have organised a visit to Toodyay and will visit two of our local members' gardens and enjoy a day wandering the main street of Toodyay.

We sincerely thank David and Wendy Longman and Heather Blackwell for opening their homes to our out-of-town guests, and the committee who provided morning tea.

The Committee have been busy with our Christmas preparations and decorations ready for our wind-up Christmas luncheon on December 3.

This will be at the Jennacubbine Hotel. Stephanie has been working on a few supprises to ensure our last gathering for 2026 is a success.

A bus trip to Gingin on November 5 to visit Steve and Irene Neville's lovely garden has been organised.

If you would like to join us on the bus, please contact Stephanie Bain on 0429 888 314 for details and to secure your seat.

We have organised lunch at the Gingin Hotel before heading home.

Jean Melhuish-Hill will be taking names and your choice of meal, and will call ahead



with the order.

Please contact the club if you wish to join us and please keep an eye on the newsletter for details of all upcoming events or contact Lyn at toodyaygardenclub@gmail.com or find us on Facebook Toodyay Garden Club.



A pot with a splash of colour.

Fake drives, real headaches

Computer Safety
Phil Hart

FAKE storage drives can seriously interfere with your work.

Your files can go missing or become unusable.

A fake SD card is very bad news for any professional photographer.

A fake external hard drive used for backups is a situation fraught with risk.

Such drives claim to have more storage than is in them.

They also often claim to be faster than they are and often ruin high speed photography as a result.

You can do a quick spot check on external storage capacity by using ValiDrive (bit.ly/4fzyS6R).

You can do a more comprehensive check with h2testw (h2testw.org).

H2testw tests only the free space that is available on the drive. Space occupied by existing files is not checked.

H2testw also reports the read/write speed. The red flags to watch for are an unusually low price, and new or untrusted suppliers.

If you find you have been sold fake storage, take it up with the supplier and demand a refund.

You have rights under Western Australia's Consumer Protection Law.

You can also report the supplier to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).



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Chip, chip, hooray - the Sacred Kingfisher is back

Bird of the Month
Desrae Clarke

THE Sacred Kingfisher is widespread within Australia in a variety of habitats of tall open eucalypt woodlands, paperbark forests and mangrove areas.

This species is not found in arid areas. It has a monotonous, staccato call of ‘chip, chip, chip’ that is evident at the moment as it moves to the south of the state to breed.

It is often observed perched on the overhead wires above the town bridge looking intensely for river prey.

It will leave again for the northern areas around January.

The Sacred Kingfisher is one of the smaller of the Australian kingfisher species being 20cm to 23cm.

The colouring of the male is stunning. It has a dark blue or green crown, a black facial mask and a green back and tail, a buff-white collar and underparts.

The wings and tail are peacock blue. It has a brown eye, a strong thick, black bill and black legs and feet.

The female colouring is duller with less buff on the underparts.

Prey of the Sacred Kingfisher is small reptiles, nestlings and rodents.

It will also take crickets, beetles and their larvae; frogs, fish and crustaceans may be taken from the edges of waterways.

The nest is built in a tree hollow or a burrow into a river, creek or dam bank.

I have watched the male bird flying to and fro from a nest tree to a perching branch, catch prey, then fly directly back to the nesting tree to feed its mate.

Three to five eggs are laid and incubated by both parents for 17 to 18 days.

The young are ready to fledge within approximately four weeks.

The Toodyay Naturalists’ Club (TNC) is grateful to record on its database sightings on any topic of natural history.

Toodyay Environment and History Centre, Drummond House, is a shared shopfront with the Toodyay Historical Society and the Toodyay Friends of the River.

It is situated in the building adjoining the Bendigo Bank and ATM.

Visitors are welcome to pop in on a Saturday from 10am till noon and on festival weekends for queries, to check out the Nat’s extensive library or for a chat.

Contact may be made by email on secretary@toodyaynats.org.au or phone 9574 5574.

Wildcare Helpline is a 24/7 volunteer service so call 9474 9055 for any queries or advice on injured wildlife.



Sacred Kingfisher drawing by Desrae Clarke.



Map by Chalice Mining of the Gonneville Project.

An invitation: sign up to save Julimar

Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance
Melissa Adams

THE controversial Gonneville mining project is currently in its Feasibility and Permitting Stage.

Chalice is targeting a final draft Environmental Review Document (ERD) submission to the WA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in late 2026 before a public comment period in mid-2027.

Chalice plans to establish its footprint on private farmland directly adjacent to Julimar State Forest.

The region serves as a home for threatened fauna, including the Chuditch, Woylie and Carnaby’s Black-Cockatoo.

The mine threatens to sever the vital wildlife corridor connecting Julimar State Forest to the Avon Valley National Park and beyond.

Concerns extend to groundwater drawdowns, toxic tailings storage and the pervasive effects of dust, noise and light pollution on surrounding native habitat.

For residents living near the mine site, the

project poses direct risks to health and daily life.

Fine dust from blasting, rock crushing, and heavy haulage creates long-term respiratory hazards and threatens to contaminate roof-harvested rainwater tanks.

Mine dewatering risks depleting local bores, while acid mine drainage could leach toxic heavy metals into groundwater.

Beyond physical health, 24/7 industrial noise, low-frequency vibrations and night lighting threaten residents’ sleep and mental well-being.

Crucially, Gonneville’s potential footprint spreads far beyond the immediate mine site.

One of the biggest parts of the plan is bringing power and water to the site.

This requires setting up a dedicated infrastructure corridor, 63km long and 100m wide.

This will run a water pipeline up from Alkimos and connect to the power grid.

This corridor cuts through private properties across the Shire of Chittering, directly impacting homes, native bushland and designated Tree Preservation Areas.

Mature native trees in these zones provide essential roosting, foraging and confirmed

breeding hollows for endangered Carnaby’s and Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos.

Furthermore, the project will generate heavy traffic across the wider regional transport network.

While the final haulage route remains unconfirmed, increased heavy vehicle movements raise ongoing questions about further vegetation clearing along local roads and the driving forces behind major upgrades on corridors like Toodyay Road.

What makes this situation particularly devastating is its ecological rarity.

While over 85 percent of the Wheatbelt’s original bushland has been cleared, the adjoining Shires of Chittering and Toodyay remain rare sanctuaries, together retaining nearly half of their native vegetation.

Land clearing, heavy haulage and environmental degradation put our entire region at risk, threatening the rich biodiversity, quiet rural lifestyle and natural sanctuaries that define our home.

Sign the Gonneville/Mine Declaration of Opposition: bit.ly/mine-opposition

Visit: bit.ly/gonneville-julimar
Visit: www.gonnevillebegone.com

Reed all about it: TFOR clears the clutter

Toodyay Friends of the River
Hugh Rayner

SEPTEMBER has been an active month for Toodyay Friends of the River (TFOR).

It started with a long-needed cleanout of the shed and finished with the annual fundraising raffle at IGA.

The main activity undertaken by TFOR has been the ongoing control of invasive weeds on sections of the river.

We have moved on from poisoning the feral olives and are now waiting for them to die.

The next target has been the large stands of false bamboo behind St Stephen’s church near the Pelham Brook outlet.

False bamboo or giant reed (*Arundo donax*) is a robust perennial with stems to six metres.

It produces fluffy flowers in summer.

False bamboo is a garden escapee that is native to southern Europe and Asia.

If it is left uncontrolled, it will spread and slowly choke out native plants on the riverbank.

It will also consume valuable moisture.

Members of the TFOR working bee group have tackled this plant twice and plan to follow up in early October to paint new shoots growing up from the very persistent stout creeping rhizomes.

It is quite strenuous work so the more helpers the merrier.

We expect it to keep re-shooting for many years.

This will be an ongoing project.

Earlier in the month our President Bethan led a small crew in clearing and tidying the

TFOR shed.

This involved sorting the TFOR equipment from Shire equipment left by the former Reserve Management Officer.

This equipment will be returned to the Shire for use by the promised new RMO.

This is a position urgently needed by the Shire to maintain public amenity.

We also took a ute load of broken and no longer useful material to the tip.

Finally, another pile was identified for selling at a garage sale to be held in conjunction with the next plant sale.

Overall, it was a good morning’s work,

clearing the decks for more efficient operation going forward.

By the time you are reading this with a relaxing cup of tea TFOR will have held their annual raffle outside IGA.

Hopefully, you came and bought a ticket and had a chat.

Many thanks to Desrae Clarke for her time and effort in organising this important event in our calendar.

New members are always welcome.

Please check our website for more information about our activities and contact details.



TFOR members hard at work tackling the invasive false bamboo.



Community members and visitors gathered together at Ray Paynter Reserve in Toodyay for a wander through the woodland.

Nature lovers gather to celebrate Landcare

Toodyay Naturalists' Club
Desrae

MEMBERS of the Toodyay Nats joined visitors from surrounding areas and suburban Perth for the WA Landcare Network 2026 annual gathering event hosted in Toodyay. The Memorial Hall was the base over the three-day event, Sunday August 30 till Tuesday September 1, with visits spreading to interesting areas within our shire. Initially, community members and visitors met at the Ray Paynter Reserve for a wander in the woodland led by Toodyay Naturalists' Club member, patron and also member of the Landcare Hall of Fame, Rob Boase. At the conclusion of the walk the participants returned to Toodyay town to the Memorial Hall to mingle and to enjoy gentle singing and music from three young people. Monday August 31 was an early start with registration commencing 9am. WA Landcare Network Chief Executive Officer, Jacqueline Lahane, commenced

proceedings with an introduction to Elder, Robert Miles, who gave Welcome to Country, followed by Toodyay Shire President, Mick McKeown, who greeted visitors to the area. There were very interesting presentations given throughout the day with excellent interaction between presenters and audience. On Tuesday September 1, local Elder, Robert Miles, leader of the Toodyay group of Noongar Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation (NKAC) walked with participants from Toodyay town to the Yarning Circle providing storytelling of the Avon River and its riverside sites. A return was made to an area of interest behind the St Stephen's Anglican Church where severely eroded areas at the Pelham Brook outlet had been restored by members of the Toodyay Friends of the River and supported by the Shire of Toodyay. The WA Landcare Network 2026 Annual Gathering drew to a 1pm closure on Tuesday following a most successful, friendly and educational three days obviously enjoyed

by all participants. The Gathering was well-planned and, with the delightful weather, a most successful event. On Saturday 19 September the Nats members had an excursion to the beautiful Drummond Reserve led by Nats member and patron, Rob Boase. Although there had been threats of heavy rain the weather was kind and the wildflowers were a picture with a number of surprises. The 'environment matters' marquee at the Toodyay Show is always a hive of action especially with the activity available for children together with fascinating displays and a raffle with three beautiful prizes – there is always lots to see. If you observe any flora or fauna happenings of interest the Nats Club members are grateful for the information or it can be forwarded to iNaturalist. Contact secretary@toodyaynats.org.au or visit Drummond House, next to the Bendigo Bank ATM, on a Saturday from 10am till noon. We would love a visit.

Bump, bump bump, meet Toodyay's clingy house guest

Herpetofauna
Desrae Clarke

THE Reticulated Velvet Gecko (*Oedura reticulata*) is a frequent visitor within our house. It will be heard but not always seen. There will be bump, bump, bump noises, especially in the evenings, as the large resident gecko is known to be moving beneath wall photos. There are also altercations as to who owns that bit of space as agitated squeaks are also heard. Small black 1cm long droppings, that contain a tiny white blob of urates, appear on furniture and floors. The droppings are not plentiful, like mouse visits, but just here and there. The resident Reticulated Velvet Gecko is often seen clinging to the walls and ceilings and if the feet could be viewed under a microscope the pads would be seen to be covered in tiny hairs that allow it to cling to

a smooth surface. It will move a short distance then remain still for long periods as it is from these vantage points that it catches its prey of mosquitoes, moths and midges. The Reticulated Velvet Gecko lives on smooth-barked trees and with the powder bark and local wandoo trees around the Shire of Toodyay it has many homes to choose from. The adult gecko has a SVL (snout vent length) up to 6.5cms with the slender tail to approximately the same length as the body. Most geckos can voluntarily drop, or dismember, the tail when grasped by a predator and may be observed tail-less or with a regenerated tail of a different colour and practically devoid of patterning. Ground colouring is generally greyish-brown although there is a great colour range from extremely pale to moderately dark toning. A dark stripe extends from the snout and through the eye, to the tip of the original tail; the belly is a pale grey. Geckos are egg-layers, known as oviparous,

and will lay one or two eggs in a clutch. The eyes of the gecko are large, as it is mainly a nocturnal creature. It does not have eyelids, like a Bobtail, but the eye is covered by a protective scale that is cleansed by the gecko wiping it with its tongue. If you sit very quietly and observe, you may be fortunate to see this very rapid cleansing movement. The noted naturalist and late Club Patron, John Dell, observed a colony of this species for over 20 years on a farm's very small remnant bushland area noting the geckos feeding on wandoo sap. Unfortunately, a bushfire desecrated the area, but the research did prove the resilience and longevity of the species. If you have any sightings, observations or anything to report of natural history interest the Toodyay Naturalists' Club would be grateful to hear from you. It can be emailed to be recorded at secretary@toodyaynats.org.au or by phone 9574 5574.



Photo of the Reticulated Velvet Gecko courtesy of Wayne Clarke.

HEALTH

Snip happens: why blokes consider vasectomies

Warrior Wellbeing

WHEN we blokes arrive at the decision with our partners that the pitter-patter of tiny feet, 2am feeds and toxic nappies are not on the agenda anymore, some form of permanent contraception is one possible pathway. There are options for the ladies in our lives, but those options can involve major surgery and unwanted side effects. The male version in terms of surgical sterilisation is the vasectomy and by comparison it's minor surgery with little to no side effects. What exactly is a vasectomy? Quite simply it is the cutting and sealing of the tubes (vas deferens) that carries sperm from the testes to the penis. It is usually done under local anaesthetic via a very small incision on each side of the scrotum, Despite 'the snip' being the slang term, it doesn't usually involve scissors. The most important question in many bloke's minds is, does it hurt? The short answer is no. Some bruising and slight discomfort over the first couple of days is normal but not debilitating. A warning to my three-year-old daughter not to jump off the end of the lounge into my lap four hours after surgery would have been useful in hindsight. I definitely wouldn't suggest riding your bike home after the op. An important point to keep in mind is the fact that the sperm already in your reproductive system will remain viable little swimmers for up to 3 months or until the pipes are clear. It's not uncommon for couples to fall pregnant in the months immediately following a vasectomy – an irony not immediately all that humorous to those affected. A lot of guys worry that it will affect their experience of sex. This typically isn't the case. Outwardly there is no visible difference to ejaculate nor usually any change to sensation. The vasectomy in no way interferes with erectile function nor with orgasm which no doubt is a relief to those considering the procedure. A vasectomy should be considered permanent even though there is a procedure known as a vasectomy reversal. A successful reversal is by no means guaranteed, with success anywhere between 40-90 percent but falling away rapidly with age, time between surgeries and other complications. To decide whether a vasectomy is right for you, the ball is in your court. You need to be sure that you and your partner have completed your family and that you want to take responsibility for family planning. On the flip side, a vasectomy is not something to be rushed into if you are relatively young, recently separated, divorced or having relationship problems. It is a decision you and your partner need to make together. It is a major decision.

Agents for
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Students get a surprise knockout night of fun and games



Kayden, Victor and Wesley enjoying the night off.

Avon Valley Shotokan Nat Kielbasa

SOMETIMES change is a total blast.

Unsuspecting students arrived on Wednesday September 23 expecting classes and a free sausage sizzle only to discover that Kylie Sensei and Chandre Stewart had other ideas in mind.

Classes commenced with all ages welcome to train together, no contact sparring and casual competitions.

Finally, the hilarious games began where kids, teens and adults formed mixed teams to compete for prizes and bragging rights.

After a barbeque, thanks to Maciej, we enjoyed celebrating Joe and Victor's birthdays.

Speaking of fun, mid-month we successfully held our first girls team-building sleepover at the Toodyay Youth Hall.

Our special henna artist, Ayesha, drove in

HEALTH

Paws for applause: an excellent vet hospital

Heartlands Veterinary Hospital

THE Heartlands Veterinary Hospital in York has been recognised by the Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association as a Hospital of Excellence.

It signifies that a veterinary hospital or clinic achieves the highest national standards in clinical care, surgical safety, practice management, and modern facility design.

The key standards that were assessed were strict medical protocols.

Heartlands met the stringent rules for sterility, anaesthesia monitoring and diagnostic capabilities comparable to human medical facilities.

An independent inspection of the hospital was carried out to verify that the practice has state-of-the-art equipment, proper record-keeping and advanced hospital infrastructure.

To maintain accreditation Heartlands will undergo comprehensive on-site evaluations by an independent panel every 3 to 4 years.

This is an incredible achievement.

Up until the end of 2025 there were only 50 accredited hospitals in Australia.

from Maylands to give everyone their own amazing henna designs.

Brittany spoiled us with facials and painted nails.

While we enjoyed craft, bracelet weaving, origami and Lego, chef extraordinaire Hannah kneaded homemade pizza dough to make our own pizzas for tea.

Later, Peta Fissoli from Cornerstone Health and Wellness guided a special yoga and mindfulness class.

Massive thanks to Kylie Sensei and Chandre Stewart for organising the event and creating beautiful tote gift bags with karate charms, treats and Lego.

Another epic adventure began on the weekend of October 3 and 4.

A team of 17 students and club members will travelled for camping fun, karate training, wildflower hunting and to climb Bluff Knoll and soak in the views.

During the holidays, training continued on Wednesday evenings from 5pm on the



The girls showing off some of their Henna tattoos created by Henna artist, Ayesha.

Showground Oval. Remember no gi is required.

Everyone was and were there bright and early to cheer on our students during their karate demonstration at 9am and to cook up a feast of burgers throughout the day.

Our volunteers whipped up delicious burgers all day to fundraise for new equipment.

Our black and yellow shirts and Avon Valley Shotokan logo stood out and thank you for showing your support for fellow locals.

Finally, term four classes resume as normal on Monday October 12 and we hope to see everyone there with your stamp book in tow, ready to learn and continue your karate journey.

As always, it is never too late to give karate a go and new members of all ages and fitness levels are welcome.

Drop your shoes at the door and come and say hello; we would love to meet you.



Kayden and Joe wrapping up Eli.



Heartlands Veterinary Hospital



Heartlands Toodyay

98 Stirling Terrace TOODYAY WA 6566

08 9574 5055

Consulting Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:30pm, Saturday CLOSED

For After-hours Emergencies only 0418 264 423



Dr Tracey Thornton at the accredited hospital in York.



Northam & Districts Little Athletics Centre (NDLAC) announces registrations are now open for the coming season.

No hurdles to having a go: jump into Come and Try Day

Northam & Districts Little Athletics
Kylea Garnet

ARE you looking for an engaging summer sport for your child?
Or perhaps your child recently enjoyed their school sports carnival and is eager to build their skills, gain confidence and experience more track and field action.
Northam & Districts Little Athletics Centre (NDLAC) is excited to announce that registrations for the upcoming season are officially open.
Round one kicked off on Saturday October 10 at Henry Street Oval in Northam.
The action starts early, with warm-ups commencing at 8.55am sharp.
Each week athletes participate in a

rotating schedule of events designed to build fundamental athletic skills in a fun, supportive environment.
NDLAC offers a comprehensive range of track and field disciplines for athletes to develop physical fitness, strength, and technique:
• Track: sprints, hurdles, race walks and distance races (up to 1500m).
• Jumps: long jump, triple jump and high jump.
• Throws: shotput, javelin, and discus.
If you or your child are on the fence about signing up, Saturday October 10 is also our designated Come and Try Day.
Bring your child to Henry Street Oval to experience the atmosphere, try out the events, and see what Little Athletics is all

about before committing for the season.
NDLAC is a true community-focused, family club.
Parent involvement is at the heart of what we do and we warmly welcome and encourage parents to join in, help out, and participate in running the events alongside their young athletes.
The season runs throughout the warmer months, typically spanning from October through April.
Membership tiers for the season are structured by birth year:
Note: We are a proud KidSport Club, which provides significant discounts on registration fees and uniform purchases for eligible families.
Are you ready to jump in or want more

information?
Head to our Facebook page (Northam and Districts Little Athletics) and click the Revolutionise registration link.
Please make sure to read through the registration page carefully and follow the instructions, especially if you are claiming KidSport vouchers.
If you have any questions or need assistance, you can contact the club via email at ndlac.northam@outlook.com or send us a message directly through our Facebook page (Northam and Districts Little Athletics).
You can also follow us on Instagram (ndlac).
We look forward to seeing new and returning families at Henry Street Oval on Saturday October 10.

Toodyay triathlon club are in it for the long run

Toodyay Triathlon Club
Di Griffin

THE Toodyay Triathlon Club has enjoyed a busy and energetic start to spring, with members competing across Perth and regional WA while continuing their strong weekly training commitments at home.
A large contingent took part in the 40th Anniversary Women's Classic Fun Run in Burswood on Sunday September 20, celebrating one of WA's most iconic running events and supporting Breast Cancer Care WA.
Toodyay athletes tackled both the five km and 10km courses with enthusiasm and plenty of team spirit.
Several members delivered standout performances. Chris Sharples and Brent Walsh both celebrated their birthdays with a 10km race, each achieving excellent results.
Chris placed fifth male overall out of 71 competitors in 45 minutes, also securing 2nd in his age category, while Brent claimed first in his age category.
Kale Francis and Tony Murfit also performed strongly, placing fifth and fourth in their respective age groups.
In the women's field, Leza Doran recorded a lightningfast 50minute 10km, placing 17th out of 168 women in her age category.
KellyAnne Murray and Katie Sharples both achieved impressive personal bests, finishing their 10km runs in one hour and

three minutes and 51 minutes respectively.
One of the club's younger athletes, Jack Murfit, smashed his personal best in the five km event by six minutes, with a time of 33 minutes, placing 11th out of 19 males in his age group.
Back in Toodyay, Thursday run training remains a popular fixture, with excellent attendance each week.
Members continue to build fitness through structured sessions that cater to all abilities and new runners are always welcome.
Saturday morning parkrun at Newcastle Park also continues to draw strong numbers, with club members regularly spotted enjoying the friendly five km event.
The WA Triathlon calendar officially kicks off with the Armadale Duathlon on Sunday, September 27.
Toodyay athletes Di and Brent will be representing the club, taking on the challenging five km run, 20km cycle, and 2.5km run format.
In true endurancesport fashion, they hope to make a quick turnaround afterwards and travel to Ballidu for a 40km gravel race at 1pm, showcasing the versatility and determination that has become a hallmark of the club.
With the season underway, members can look forward to a full schedule of triathlon, duathlon and aquathon events over the coming months.
These races will provide excellent preparation for the Toodyay Triathlon to be

held on Sunday March 7, 2027.
Community members are encouraged to save the date, with registration details to be released on social media soon.
The Toodyay Triathlon Club continues to

welcome new participants across all training sessions and events.
Follow the club's Facebook page for updates, training times and race information as the season builds momentum.



All of the clubs competitors gathered for the group photo on the day.



Chris Sharples, Simon Wheeler, Jackson Wheeler , Tony Murfit



Brent, Dani, D, Leesa at start line

Sudoku

Combo Solution





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BREAKING NEWS FROM THE OFFICE...

After years of tirelessly running the show, keeping everyone organised and generally knowing what on earth is going on, our fearless boss lady Faith has officially gone on maternity leave... leaving the rest of us to fend for ourselves.

That’s right, Faith has traded property listings, contracts and endless phone calls for the much more relaxing task of waiting patiently for baby girl to make her grand entrance into the world.

Meanwhile, back at the office, the team has been left asking some very important questions:

Who knows the passwords? Where does Faith keep everything? Who is supposed to know what’s going on? And most importantly... who do we ask when we don’t know what’s going on?

The answer to all of the above was previously, quite conveniently, Faith.

Unfortunately, Faith is currently unavailable.

We are, however, doing our absolute best to keep the wheels turning while she enjoys some well deserved time off. The phones are being answered, the emails are being replied to, the properties are still being sold and, remarkably, nobody has been locked out of the office... yet.

There have been a few moments of panic, a suspicious amount of “I’ll just check with Faith...” followed by the realisation that WE CAN’T, and more than one occasion where everyone has stared at each other hoping someone else knows the answer.

But fear not, the team is holding the fort!

Faith is currently busy preparing for the arrival of her beautiful baby girl, and we couldn’t be happier for her. We’re sure she’ll be an incredible mum, although we’re slightly concerned that after having a newborn, she may return to work and discover that managing a baby is actually easier than managing all of us.

So, from everyone at the office, we’d like to wish Faith and Ty all the very best as they await their newest little addition and our newest employee.

We can’t wait to meet baby girl, and we’re already looking forward to seeing Faith return with approximately three hours of sleep, a new appreciation for coffee, and absolutely no sympathy for our office dramas.

Until then, we’ll continue doing what we do best:

Selling & leasing houses, pretending we know what we’re doing, and hoping Faith doesn’t check the CCTV.

Congratulations, Faith!

P.S. Faith, take your time. We’re fine. Everything is completely under control. ...Kind of.

Until next month

The TMRE Team



29 Leake Road, Coondle from \$980,000

Set across approximately 12.7 acres of beautiful countryside, this spacious 4 bedroom 2 bathroom family home features established gardens, usable paddocks, natural bushland, a powered workshop, swimming pool and heated spa.



16 Wilson Street, Toodyay from \$629,000

Set on a generous 1,722sqm block backing onto Mount Anderson, this charming 3 bedroom 1 bathroom 1940s timber home boasts beautiful established gardens, spacious living areas and plenty of room to enjoy the peaceful country surrounds.



Thank You From the Tony Maddox Real Estate Team

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