

The Toodyay Herald

VOLUME 299

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TDHS students cross the bridge for the first time. Photos: Meredith Neilsen

Footbridge Refurbishment Opens in Time for New School Year

Naomi Millett

THE newly reconstructed bridge across the Avon connecting Newcastle Park with Drummond Street was at last opened on Friday 9 December, 2011.

A small crowd of invited guests and interested onlookers gathered to hear speeches by Shire President, Kevin Hogg, and Grant Woodhams MLA. Acting Principal of the Toodyay and Districts High School, Wendy Camenzuli, also gave a short speech expressing the school's gratitude for the relatively speedy restoration.

Students then delivered two cheerful

tribute songs – one an adaptation of a pop song with lyrics relating to the bridge - before the structure was officially declared open.

It was just over a year since the original 171 metre long bridge was deemed a safety hazard and closed on 23 November, 2010. This inconvenienced scores of students who were forced to walk several kilometres further each day from Drummond Street to Stirling Terrace via Goomalling Road.

Both main speakers gave concise, entertaining – and humorous – talks. Councillor Hogg provided insight into the original bridge's history, then Mr Woodhams summed up the process of



Gaven Donegan is the first to cross the bridge just as he was 58 years previously

reconstruction. He thanked CEO, Simon Fraser, the Toodyay Shire, financiers, corporate involvement and contractors for their efforts to have this essential link from town to school restored.

The landmark is now one of the largest of its kind in WA.

Woodhams also paid homage to the Royalties for Regions scheme, saying that it had 'delivered dividends' for the Toodyay community.

Special guest at the event was Gaven Donegan, (described by Mr Hogg as a symbol of 'Toodyay's living history') who cut the ribbon and unveiled a plaque on the Stirling Terrace side. Mr Donegan had been the first child to walk across the original bridge – lugging his heavy wooden desk from the old Duke Street school to the new Drummond Street site - fifty eight years earlier. Fortunately this time, he only had to carry a pair of scissors across.



Grant Woodhams, Gaven Donegan and Kevin Hogg at the cutting of the ribbon

this month



Keep Cool this Summer page 11



Australia Day 2012 page 11



Toodyay 175th Celebrations page 13

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All contributions and advertising may be left at the office of *The Toodyay Herald*, 92 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay, or posted to P.O. Box 100, Toodyay, 6566 or emailed to toodyayherald@westnet.com.au. Website: toodyayherald.com.au

The Toodyay Herald

is a community paper and as such welcomes contributions of letters, articles and photographs from all members of the community. Contributions via email or on flash drive are appreciated. There is no charge for articles which appear in the paper.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are available at \$2.50 per issue (postage and packaging) or \$25 per year (11 issues) by writing to P.O. Box 100, Toodyay 6566, enclosing a cheque for the number of issues required.

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Readers who reside outside the Shire of Toodyay are not eligible for membership but for \$10 per year are invited to become a 'Friend of the Herald'.

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THANK YOU

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DEADLINE

ISSUE

Tuesday 28 February

NEXT EDITION

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Thursday 8 March

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(OFFICE HOURS)

Opinion

First Impressions Can Be Deceiving

Greg Warburton

VISITORS are encouraged to visit Toodyay. Our historic town has much to offer but first impressions can turn many tourists away.

On entering our Shire, visitors are greeted with faded, dull and dated boundary signs each with a different Shire population shown and none correct. Then they are treated to the shocking condition of the so called 'Information Bay' and its appalling sign board. The structure is termite eaten, falling apart and leaning over. The 'information' on the peeling, rusted signs has not been updated for 40 years! Some businesses advertised there no longer exist. The 'Coming Events' sign is an exercise in pure ugliness and would be better placed in the Old Gaol Museum.

Then, of course, there is the complete lack of an entry statement! What happened to the results of the competition the Shire ran about 10 years ago for an entry statement design? There were many worthy submissions entered from all across the state. Even the smallest country town proudly displays a welcoming entry statement, colourful boundary signs and information that is current.

If visitors to Toodyay arrive by train, they are greeted with an information sign at the railway station which, if it wasn't so tragic, it would be laughable. This also dates from the 1960s and is covered in graffiti and faded. One can just read the bit where the visitor is encouraged to visit 'the delightful walk trails and picnic facilities' at Pelham Reserve (the



Picnic table at Pelham Reserve

Lookout).

On reaching there they find the lookout is so overgrown they cannot see 'the breathtaking views' as described in the visitor centre brochure. The 'picnic facilities' consist of rotten, dilapidated tables where the seats have fallen off revealing sharp steel spikes. The BBQ has fallen over and lies in the long grass.

Another destination on the tourist route is Windmill Hill Cutting. You probably won't see the picnic area as it is totally overgrown with wild oats and scrub. At the viewpoint, the safety fence is rusted with gaping holes in it big enough for a person to step through. The condition of our pioneer cemetery at Nardie almost brings me to tears.

Back in town the hapless tourist is encouraged to take a stroll along a river walk trail. The walker must ensure they take a machete then carefully negotiate the foot bridges and steps that are dilapidated and hazardous.

The amount of litter in the Shire would surely not impress visitors either. There are only two, small, very faded anti-litter signs in the whole Shire that I can find. The bin at West Toodyay Bridge has been off its mountings for months and, like it, the bin at ANZAC Park has its base rusted away. The bins at the Information Bay are infrequently emptied and the area is often strewn with garbage.

There is so much more to Toodyay than just our main street. We are a Shire of 4,600 people covering nearly 1,700 sq kms. We have productive agricultural land, a rich history and wonderful natural assets. The wealth of the nation rumbles through our town every day (now including iron ore trains from Koolyannobbing). We have endured bushfires, storms and a 50 year battle for a swimming pool.

An entry statement that will impress visitors and instil pride in the community seems little to ask. For a town that promotes itself as a tourist destination, the current condition of these facilities is unacceptable. For very little time, effort or money we could make the necessary improvements - even a coat of paint would help.

At least the tourist visiting other Avon Valley towns such as York and Northam will be impressed by their entry statements, signage and walk tracks etc. Well done to those community volunteer groups in Toodyay who are working hard to provide quality visitor amenities. It is lamentable the 175th Celebration committee did not see fit to allocate some of the substantial amount of grant money to an Entry Statement and improved signage.

This year is the 40th Anniversary of the Avon Descent and it will be a big celebration attracting thousands of visitors to our Shire. What a great incentive and opportunity for the Council and Community to present Toodyay in the way it deserves in time for this event. And let's do it from first impressions.

Toodyay Herald Open 8:30am to 12:30pm

on the highlighted days

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------|--------|------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| February | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 Deadline next issue | 29 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| March | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 Deadline next issue | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

New Book about Toodyay



THS President, Len Leeder, Compiler, Beth Frayne and Shire Deputy President, John Prater with a copy of the book.

Jenny Edgecombe
Committee Member and Archivist
Toodyay Historical Society

THE launch of Part 3 of *The Long Toodyay Chronology* was held on 30 December 2011 at Donegan's Cottage, headquarters of the Toodyay Historical Society. Compiled for the Society by Beth Frayne, the book was launched by Deputy Shire President, John Prater, Chair of the 175th Anniversary Committee.

John remarked on the importance of this Chronology series as it reminds the Toodyay community of how things were and what we might want to preserve or change for the future.

Len Leeder, President of the Historical Society, thanked Beth for her wonderful work on this important series. It has been a huge undertaking that will benefit the town enormously. Len also acknowledged the generous support of the Shire of Toodyay's 175th Anniversary Committee and the Toodyay Op Shop in the preparation and printing of this publication.

This new volume covers the exciting years from 1951 to 1980. Part 3 has 48 pages covering over 650 events and the usual detailed index that is a key part of these publications. The 1980s and 1990s will be included in Part 4 (1981-2013) which is now in preparation.

The years 1951 to 1980 saw an era of great change in Toodyay. The coming and going of Industrial Extracts Ltd, the digging up of Stirling Terrace to improve drainage, the building of the Standard Gauge Railway, the restoration of our old buildings, the opening of a museum, the increasing importance of tourism and the beginning of an environmental consciousness; these all had major impacts.

Guests at the book launch enjoyed refreshments supplied by THS members while Beth described her adventures in researching this volume. Finding out 'what happened

when' presented new challenges this time, because the weekly *Toodyay Herald* ceased publication in May 1954. Undaunted, Beth scoured other local papers published in the nearby towns of Northam and Goomalling as well as the Perth papers. Fortunately these newspapers are available on microfilm in the Battye Library and the Northam Regional Library, while some are held in hardcopy in the Avon Valley Advocate newspaper office.

A growing treasure trove of WA newspapers is freely available through Trove on the National Library of Australia's digitized Australian newspapers website (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>). Unfortunately for Part 3 these only provided material for the early 1950s, although more issues are gradually being added.

Beth also used some very special archival material held in the State Records Office: the Toodyay Road Board and Shire Council minutes are a great source of useful and fascinating information. Beth praises and thanks detailed minute-takers!

In closing, Beth listed some of the events that particularly caught her attention during the research: the activities organised for the 1951 Commonwealth of Australia Jubilee Year; the changes to Stirling Terrace when new drains were installed in the 1950s; just how much the Town Hall changed in the late 1950s; how long the Picture Gardens operated behind the Freemasons' Hotel (does anyone have a photograph?); how buildings came and went on the Showgrounds; night school classes; civil defence priorities; and the 'other' Avon River races.

Where to Obtain Part 3: Visit THS at Donegan's Cottage Thursdays 1.00-3.00 pm to obtain the special THS price of \$15 – prices at other outlets may vary. A copy can be posted by THS (\$15 plus \$5 postage for one copy). Copies are also available at the Toodyay Visitor Centre. A copy has also been presented to the Toodyay Public Library.

Contact Toodyay Historical Society Secretary, Beth Frayne, on 9574 5971 for more information.

CWA Packages Reach Afghanistan

Maxine J Walker

WELL we now begin a new year 2012, and as before we will be gearing up for it to be another busy year.

The day chosen by members for a busy bee was 19 January. This was to clean up around our building and prepare for our first meeting in February.

Our first meeting this year is 23 February and follows on from the AGM. Please feel free to come along and if you are interested in joining, our membership focusses: Friendship, Fun, Fellowship, Support and Service to the community.

The interest of each branch varies but we all work to meet community needs.

We work with the Government of the day on issues of concern to benefit the whole community. This includes improvements to education, road safety, social issues, health, legal and communication.

Did you know that CWA of WA (Inc) have lobbied and are responsible for -

1. Newly constructed public toilets to include one with wheel chair access.
2. Cottage homes for the aged to be built in country areas.
3. Installation of safety grids inside all wheat bins and silos.
4. Half price passport valid for 5 years for people over 70 years of age.
5. Australia Day and Anzac Day holidays to be on the day on which they fall.

Care Packages Reach Afghanistan

During the last few months of 2011 members were busy preparing and posting Care Packages to our troops in Afghanistan. I would like to share one letter of thanks that has been received.

Dear family,

As I was the lucky recipient of one of your care packages today, I must admit I was speechless when they arrived and were handed out. To knowing that a family back home in WA (where I normally live) has taken the time to put together a parcel for an anonymous Aussie Soldier to enjoy over here during the Christmas period.

When I opened your package and found

socks, shampoo, jellybeans and pineapple bites etc I was thrilled. But to my surprise the vegemite and tennis balls without a doubt made my day (as we are down to our last tennis ball after our last cricket match).

It makes my boys and I proud and humbled to be an Australian and to serve our country. So please accept my thank you for your gift and may you have a happy and safe Christmas.

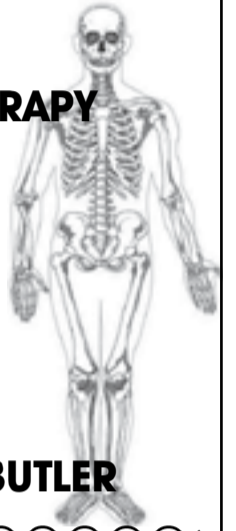
Regards, Afghanistan.

It was great to know that the packages had arrived in Afghanistan and had been distributed to our troops before Christmas and that they all enjoyed their treats.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, 23 February (AGM and general meeting). If you would like to start 2012 by sharing an afternoon with us we would love to meet you.

For information on joining our Branch please contact President: Vivien Street on 9574 4871 or Secretary: Kath Haynes on 9574 2923.

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letters

Xmas Street Party Bouquet

I WOULD JUST like to congratulate Barbara Mottershaw and her crew from the Chamber of Commerce on a job extremely well done with the organisation of the kids' Street Party.

I know it is well past now, but the fact that she arranged things in little more than a couple of weeks is a great credit to her. I'm sure most of the folk who attended were well pleased that there was so much for the kids to enjoy and I feel sure that with more preparation next year, we will have a knock-out festival.

The lights in the town looked wonderful. Thanks to the men from the Chamber and the Ratepayers and of course to Peter Robinson, who all did an excellent job.

Mona Coffey

Be Wary of Exposed Light Bulbs

AT 11.30PM ON January 8 my son, Clive, and I had a lucky escape.

Clive's pillow fell off the bed and onto a bedside lamp that was switched on. The pillow caught fire and my room filled with toxic smoke. Fortunately, both of us woke up, coughing and disorientated, and I managed to throw the burning pillow outside. We were thankful to get away with only sore throats, stinging eyes, a blackened bedroom wall and a big fright.

This incident served as a useful reminder about complacency: I'm now looking into getting some smoke alarms. I would urge everyone to check that no flammable objects or materials can come into contact with exposed light bulbs in their homes.

Naomi Millett

Correction

IN DECEMBER'S EDITION, I wrote a letter regarding the Recreation Committee, and credited Kym Angus with having applied and received the funding for the lights at the school basketball courts. This was an error on my part, as Kym in her rigid code for fairness, pointed out to me. It was Joanna Buegge, our Be Active Sports and Recreation Officer, who actually applied successfully for the funding. Well done to you, Jo! It's just a pity the Education Department made it difficult for us to use it properly.

Mona Coffey

All letters to the Herald must carry the sender's name, home address and day and evening phone numbers. Pseudonyms are not accepted. We do not acknowledge receipt of unpublished letters unless the writer requests it. Ideally, letters will be a maximum of 200 words. By submitting your letter for publication you agree that we may edit it for legal, space or other reasons and may, after publication in the newspaper, republish it on the internet or in other media.

Avon Valley Auto Action

Shane Cassidy

THE month of March will see the Avon Valley towns of Goomalling and Northam, in conjunction with the Vintage Sports Car Club of WA, host some unique historic race events. These events promote the history of motor racing where cars raced on the closed public roads in country WA in the 1940s and 50s.

The town of Goomalling, WA Sporting Car Club and the Ariel Motorcycle Club held an annual carnival of motor racing on Foundation Day between 1949 and 1955.



1943 Goomalling Speed Classic

These events were used to raise funds for the Goomalling War Memorial Swimming Pool Fund.

On Sunday 11 March between 9am and 4pm, the historic sports and racing cars will once again roar down Goomalling's main street as part of the Goomalling Flyer motor sport sprint event.

Motoring historian and avid historic racing competitor, Graeme Cocks, has written a book on the days of the Goomalling Classic Motor Races. The book has been supported by the Goomalling Shire and will be officially launched as part of the Goomalling Flyer celebrations.

On Saturday 31 March, the town of Northam will run two motor sports events as part of the annual Northam Flying 50 event. The first event will be the Mt Ommaney Hill Climb where the cars will race the clock as they travel 780 metres up the fast narrow road leading up to Mt Ommaney. The second event is the Autokhana event on Minson Avenue. This event will test driving skills and will showcase modern sports cars.

The Northam Flying 50's main event will take place on Sunday 1 April at 9am.



Historic Open Wheelers Northam



Thomas Benson in the Chrysler

This event will see more than 100 historic racing and sports cars re-enact classic motor competition as they race in a regularity trial around the 1.36 kilometre street circuit in Northam's CBD.

This year's Northam Flying 50 race celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the first Northam event in 1952. The town of Northam and its people present many displays, market stalls and community activities making sure there is something for everyone. This year there will be a display of iconic MG TC cars in Bernard Park.

The town of Toodyay between 1946 and 1950 held the Toodyay Speed Classic for cars up to 1929 models. These raced on a 1.93 kilometre street circuit that included Stirling Terrace, Henry Street, Duke Street, Fiennes Street and Clinton Street. These races were run by the Toodyay and Districts Progress Association and the WA Sporting Car Club. Funding from these events and the Toodyay Hill Climb event was handed to the Toodyay Ambulance appeal to help Toodyay Sub Branch of the St John Ambulance Association to purchase the town's first Ambulance.

Anyone with photographs, information or stories of the Toodyay Speed Classic races and Hill Climb event, please contact Shane Cassidy via email Shanecassidy71@yahoo.com.au or via phone 9390 1643.

Wheatbelt Muso Makes the 'Tree Change' Work

Naomi Millett

IT is generally accepted that a struggling artist may need to relocate to an established cultural centre for their medium, or at least a more populated area in order to ply their trade. But former Perth-based harpist/composer/multi-instrumentalist, Adam B Harris, made the brave decision to do exactly the opposite.

"In 2005 I moved out to the Wheatbelt town of Goomalling. It's kind of somewhere you're likely to pass through on the way to another place," says Harris.

He believes it may be harder to survive in a rural environment as there is less work to go around.

"You need to adjust and learn how to live more simply but the trade-off is in the lifestyle benefits. I get to live in a nice, wide open space with fresh air where I can function better and get on with my art."

While there may not be a great deal of work about, what Harris does is more visible, and

he says word gets around.

"In the six years I have been here, people have increasingly sought me out and I have produced and played instruments on the CDs of a dozen different acts with backgrounds ranging from rock, country, and Celtic, to Christian, reggae and the spoken word."

Harris also teaches, composes scores for various clients and presents gigs across the Wheatbelt – playing mostly dulcimer and harp, in acts combining music with his sharp comic wit.

His versatility – and ability to pick up new techniques – is awe inspiring: over the past few years he has mastered not only keyboards but different styles of guitar, bass, drums, single reed instruments, banjo, and mandolin.

"Actually I consider myself only to be a pianist (he says modestly) and some think I don't do that particularly well. At the moment I'm playing just about everything and I need to. It is not like in Perth where you can just call a guy and they can come out and play on the session, here I have to BE the guy."

For his own Celtic/new age music, Harris has negotiated publishing deals in both London and L.A.

"I've been writing tunes and songs since high school but it has only been over the last couple of years that anybody has shown any interest," he says. "I've recently had a few pieces used for advertising campaigns in LA, so that has made me feel a bit better about my situation."

Harris has also gained recognition in professional circles, having been nominated for WAMI song of the year in 2009 and also for the APRA Professional Development awards.

"I was unsuccessful both times but at least I troubled the scorer," he laughs. "It's an honour to be nominated but the reward has to be in the work itself. You are always going to hear the word no more than yes, and composing is just something you keep plugging away at. If you didn't enjoy it you would go insane."

Harris is currently using YouTube to get quirky videos of his original tunes and renditions of traditional standards out to more than 500 subscribers. Not satisfied with the status quo, he is discussing setting up a partnership with a video artist from New York in order to achieve some higher production values.

"Technological innovation has made the geographical differences less of a problem," he says.

"Artists in particular need to get on with the creation and promotion of what they do rather than look for reasons to fail and blaming external factors that can't be changed. More so than ever, the only limit is your imagination."

More information about Adam can be found at www.AdamBHarris.net.





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Welcome to the New Year



Our children's colouring competition was so hard to judge with the standard and quantities of entries. All the children had worked so hard, we wished we had prizes for all.

We will be starting school banking in the new school year; please come in to the branch and enquire how your child can be involved if they are not already participating.

WELCOME back to a brand new year, ready for great things to continue happening at our Community Bank®.

Christmas Eve took on a very festive atmosphere, here in the branch, with Santa being available to kids both big and small for photos, a chat and some lollies. It was such a successful morning that we will be looking to repeat something similar next Christmas.

Do you remember the old passbook Christmas Club accounts, putting some money away regularly, so when Christmas time comes round you are all organised? Want to know more? Come into the branch and we can get you started.

We are looking forward to meeting customers both old and new and working closely within our community for a very successful and happy 2012.

Breast Cancer Support Group

Jenny Isbill

IT might be a time when you are supported by friends and family or it might be a journey you make alone, but dealing with breast cancer opens a Pandora's Box for the patient. Treatments, doctors, diet, appearance, finance, exercise, mental health, work, family... so many issues to deal with at a time when you are not feeling in control.

We are hoping to start a Breast Cancer Support Group in Toodyay, so that breast cancer survivors and those currently with breast cancer can talk to other people who have experienced some of the same issues. It can be a forum for sharing lessons and ideas learnt along the way, to be well informed about choices, to have a laugh and be there

for each other.

If you would be interested in joining a monthly get-together in Toodyay please contact Jenny on 9574 4035 or speak to Cathie Smith at Breast Cancer Care WA on 9324 3703 or email cathie@breastcancer.org.au.

Toodyay Agricultural Society Founded 1852

THE Annual General Meeting of the Toodyay Agricultural Society will be held on Monday 13 February 2012 at 7.30pm at the Youth Hall, Toodyay Showgrounds.

Please come along and show your support for the Toodyay Show, a major community event which this year will be held on Saturday 13 October.

Little Rascals



ON Tuesday 13 December, the children of Little Rascals Child Care Centre had a very special visitor. Bells were ringing, children were singing and, from out of the fuss, came Santa on his big, red fire truck. The children squealed with excitement. Had they been naughty or nice?



It was our annual Christmas party and what fun we had. This year we had an evening party and it was lovely to see so many families in attendance. It gave the parents an opportunity to get to know other parents from the centre.

The bouncy castle was popular but not



as popular as the face painting which kept Charlie's mum, Danni, and Joey's mum, Jess, extremely busy. Naomi Millet played Christmas songs on her guitar. A sausage sizzle was enjoyed by all.

Santa was entertained by the children singing him the Christmas songs they had practised and they really sang with enthusiasm.

We would like to thank all the families who attended and the Toodyay Fire Brigade for bringing our Santa to us. Thank you Santa Spencer.

Ida's Hideaway

Greasy Sleeve

WELL, Christmas has come and gone once again and I hope you all had a good time. We are now into the New Year and we start all over again.

We would like to take this opportunity, to wish you all a safe and healthy New Year.

Our street stall raffle on 2 December 2011 was a great success, thanks to all who supported us and to all our helpers. What a great night it was. It was spectacular.

The winner of our raffles were:

- 1st Christmas Hamper
Red E47 Lee King
- 2nd Petunia solar lights
Green A59 Monica
- 3rd Breakfast for Two
Yellow A73 Mr Fish
- 4th Tea Set
Yellow A52 Linda
- 5th Bar-Bar-A Black Sheep Voucher
Green A55 Kay Rewel
- 6th Crystal Glasses
Red E6 Richard Dymond

Birthday wishes this month go to Lynette Hooks on 11 February. Happy Birthday, Lynette.

Birthdays for the months of December 2011 and January 2012 were Tina Short (4 December), Ray Edwards (8 December), Mena Chapman (10 January) and Jim Short (23 January). We hope you all had a lovely day.

If you are a senior and like to play cards, why not come along to Ida's Hideaway on any Saturday afternoon. We would love for you to join us. Contact Ida on 9574 2858.

Ida's Hideaway is a voluntary organisation to assist the seniors of Toodyay. We meet every Saturday afternoon at Butterfly Cottage from 1pm till 4pm.

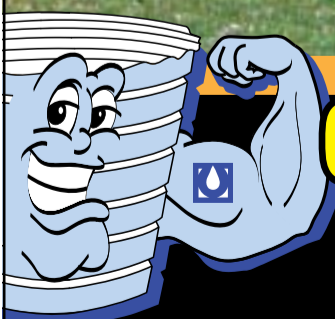
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Toodyay Music Club

Jenny Edgecombe

FOLK, blues, country and countless other styles of acoustic music. That's what Toodyay Music Club is about, if you've ever wondered. Do you have a guitar in the cupboard that you used to play and always meant to take up again one day? Just started on the banjo, ukulele or accordion? Then here's your chance to join up with some like-minded people.



The ukulele group, resplendent in shirts printed with ukes, performing at the December Music Club meeting. l-r, Leila Macnish, Jeanette Jones, Spencer James and Allan Badger

The club provides a supportive atmosphere for beginners as well as plenty of great music from more seasoned performers. You can sing or play if you would like to or you can be part of the audience. There are also 'sing-along' sessions at the beginning of the evening and after the supper break to give everyone a chance to join in singing or playing some well-known tunes.

The club's December meeting was well-attended, with many performers choosing



The Missing Chords and Keys performing at the December Music Club meeting. l to r, Rhonda Sullivan, Kathy Haynes and Bob Haynes

carols and items with a Christmas flavour, some very beautiful and others not so serious, for example Kay's hilarious song and dance routine with a broomstick Santa. A big thank you must go to Rhonda for organising the fabulous hamper raffle.

Quite a large contingent of members also attended the Beth Avon Christmas lunch, continuing our tradition of providing entertainment for this most enjoyable event. Everyone voted it the best yet, with staff and residents all joining in the familiar songs. Thank you to all those who gave up their time for this event.

The club took its holiday break in January but we hope to see you all in February, refreshed and ready to sing and play with renewed enthusiasm.

Keep in mind the theme night of 'Colours and Numbers' for the March meeting. There is no compulsion (especially if it's your first meeting), but we encourage members to choose at least some of their



Leila Macnish, Spencer James and Allan Badger performing at the December Music Club meeting

items related to this theme - either colours or numbers - the interpretations are usually pretty broad! The idea is to encourage performers to look around for new material and it's always fascinating to hear what people come up with. Please give the titles of your 'Colours and Numbers' items to Kathy beforehand to avoid doubling up with other performers.

Next Meeting: 7pm Friday 10 February. Any style of singing or instrumental performance is welcome, so long as it is 'acoustic'. Second Friday of each month at the CWA Hall. Further Information: Teddy or Spencer on 9574 4492.



The Toodyay Historical Society

Happy New Year to all.

2012 is the Chinese Year of the Dragon, the Australian Year of the Farmer (just down our alley), the Australian National Year of Reading and the International Year of Co-operatives. Something for everyone! I am sure you know that the Toodyay district had its very own farmers' co-operative. It started in Bolgart at the end of 1918. Toodyay farmers were invited to join in 1920, when the name was changed to the Toodyay Valley Co-operative Company Ltd, and its head office relocated to Toodyay. I know I have read when this co-op ceased (it was still going in 1979) but I haven't got it recorded yet anywhere where I can find it!

Street Party, Friday, 2 December 2011

Thank you to everyone who stopped at our new gazebo to chat and buy Christmas Hamper tickets. Brian Shepherd was the lucky hamper winner. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to present the Mini Toodyay Pictures exhibition in the Memorial Hall Foyer. We hope to do this in the future.

End of Year BBQ at Donegan's Cottage, Saturday, 3 December 2011

Donegan's Cottage is an ideal venue for a summer (very small) BBQ (Thanks, Joe). We had a jolly relaxing time after our hectic but satisfying year. I sang Jan Smith's song about the second (wet) Moondyne Festival (1985). At least, I think I did, because I have been trotting it out at various gatherings since Milton found it for me in the Sept. 1985 Herald. Also, many thanks to the Shire for improving half of Donegan's verandah flooring. Much appreciated!

The Long Toodyay Chronology, Part 3 (1951-1980) Book Launch, 30 December 2011, Donegan's Cottage

Well, I just scraped in getting this work finished enough to be launched in 2011 (175th Year) at a small select soiree at Donegan's Cottage. Deputy Shire President

John Prater (Chair of the 175th Anniversary Committee) kindly officially launched the work and made complimentary remarks about how important the Society is to the Toodyay community. John uses these books to help educate Councillors about Toodyay's history (lots of 'Did You Knows' at Council meetings and forums). (See the book review elsewhere in the paper.) Copies are now available from THS (\$15.00) or from the Toodyay Visitor Centre (at their price). We can post it to you for an extra \$5.

Australia Day Breakfast, Thursday, 26 January 2012, Duidgee Park

THS has been nominated for the Shire of Toodyay Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award for a community group or event, with lots of help from various members who created a spiffingly great nomination, almost a small book (well, not really!) We were also very grateful to a number of local groups and non-local historians who agreed to be our referees. The society always has a presence at the Shire's celebrations on this important day and the nomination will add additional excitement for our members.

Next event: Planning Meeting, Sunday, 5 February 2012, 2pm

Members will have received a specific notice about this important meeting. All members are welcome.

Next general meeting: Wednesday, 15 February 2012, 7pm at Donegan's Cottage.

For information about any matter to do with the Toodyay Historical Society, or how we may assist you or your group, please contact our Secretary Beth Frayne - 9574 5971, President Len Leeder - 9574 4343, or Vice President Robyn Taylor - 9574 2578.

Our headquarters is at Donegan's Cottage, which is open to the public every Thursday from 1pm to 3pm. You will find us on Toodyay Street in the Toodyay Showgrounds. Membership is \$10. (Postal address: PO Box 32, Toodyay WA 6566).

Vince's Italian Restaurant

Enjoy good Italian hospitality at Vince's Italian Restaurant



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Dine in our cozy restaurant by a log fire or al fresco on the boardwalk.

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For bookings phone 9574 5544

Open every night from 5pm. Also Sundays for Breakfast and Lunch

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No B.Y.O. as we are fully licensed



Toodyay Christian Fellowship

GETTING BACK TO BASICS

We welcome everyone to join us for communion and worship at 9.30am Sunday mornings in the Toodyay Community Centre

If you are interested in getting to know more about God then we have groups that meet informally.

For further information call 9574 5002 We are a child friendly church

emergency services

Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Alison Wroth

HAPPY New Year to everyone. I hope that this year is much better than last year and that it is a good season for all the farmers.

Our thoughts and sympathy go to Dianne Wilkinson and family on the loss of one of our members, Andrew. Andrew joined the Brigade nearly 10 years ago and was a valued member of our auxiliary team, acting as radio operator and driver. He was also very much a part of our maintenance squad, doing much of the paving around the 'Fireplace' as well as organising the donation of the pavers. He worked hard to keep everyone honest, too, acting on many occasions as 'devil's advocate' at many of our meetings. He and his wicked sense of humour will be sorely missed.

On the fire front, our responses at Julimar Brigade have all been very good. We have turned out to a few fires but have only managed to get to one which was on the Northam Goomalling border. Many were amazed at the standard of dress of the other brigades with many wearing shorts, some in fire jackets and jeans and nearly all in soft hats of some sort. What was good to see was all the Toodyay brigades wearing the correct PPE. Please remember to continue to wear your protective gear whilst on any fire ground.

The Christmas Stall held in front of IGA was a wonderful morning and much enjoyed by anybody within earshot as the fantastic music supplied by the 'Shenanigan Sisters' who played throughout the morning. Congratulations to the winner of the Christmas Hamper who was Jenny from



Jenny from Gingin receiving the last but not least bit of the Christmas Hamper from Bettina

Gingin. Jenny is a St John Ambulance volunteer so it was wonderful to be able to give another vullie a prezzie.

Our Brigade calendars were well

supported by not just the brigade and their friends and family, but people who came to the stall as well. Bubbles was prepared to autograph any calendar that was put in front of him! Next time we have a stall for fundraising, more cooking will be called for, ladies and gents, as that is what we were short on and it's always the first thing to be purchased! Our thanks must go to Murray and Tracy McBride for their wonderful donation of a load of sand to be delivered! That was quickly snapped up and really boosted the total along!

The Christmas party was a real celebration and didn't we dine like kings with a pig on the spit and salads galore. The pig was kindly donated by a gentleman from Brookton after hearing about the break in. When he heard we were having our Christmas Party, he drove up from Brookton in the morning and helped us get the beast on the spit and cooking. Father Christmas arrived in plenty of time on the back of a truck with his very willing helper! Presents were duly handed out to one and all but only if you could be enticed to sit on Santa's knee. It was a great night, one that many will remember for a while.

New Year came and went with those who attended the shed dressing up and celebrating like there was no tomorrow!

After the break in, it now comes to light that the Shire did not have any contents' insurance. Steps are now being taken to rectify this situation and we have been asked to provide an inventory with values attached. This job has fallen to Wade, our equipment officer who has spent over two days listing all our equipment both in the Fire shed and the fire place. Our thanks must go to Wade for all his effort and especially to Karen for letting him do the job in the beginning! Thank you have been sent to all those generous people and businesses who donated to our brigade after the break-in. Once again our pantries have been filled!

Anyone who would like to be involved in supporting Tam for 'Shave for a Cure' in early March, please make it known to her next time you see her.

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for April. A few changes will be taking place. Our wonderful Captain Kidd, will be standing down to concentrate on the radio and other things! If you want to nominate anyone for a position at the AGM, you require a seconder and write the names on the nomination sheets on the board. Nominations will also be taken from the floor on the night of the meeting.

Our thanks must go to the Tuesday helpers and maintenance men who do the odd jobs around the brigade diligently without being asked. All in all, the Brigade will go on to bigger and better things this year. We all support and care for each other and have a great deal of pride in Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire brigade.

If you are interested in becoming a member or just want to come to The Fire Shed for drinks on Friday evening at 5pm, please do not hesitate. You'll meet some great people from the area and now is the time to join and learn to be prepared to survive a fire if necessary.

Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Desraé Clarke

ONCE again, the Central Brigade members and their families enjoyed the hospitality of Lesley, Kevin and the young members of the Hug clan, for a great Christmas get-together. The pool was enjoyed by the young folk and, also, the not-so-young! It was a really good night and enjoyed by all – **and no callout!** Thank you, Lesley, Kevin and a special thanks to Aaron who was an amazing baby-sitter as he entertained some of the very young ones.

As with all the Brigades there have been a number of call-outs but the volunteers were spared over Christmas and the New Year. The new 12.2 has been well utilised and only last week was called to help at a fire in the vicinity of El Caballo.

Training in the use of the new radios is to be held on Thursday 16 February, commencing 7pm, and on Sunday 19 February commencing 9.30am. All members of the Brigade are encouraged to participate in the familiarisation and training in the use of the radios. Members interested in the training sessions can contact Captain, Kevin, 9574 2612 (or mobile 0418 932 515).

The next General Meeting of the Brigade will be held on Tuesday 28 February commencing at 7.30pm and held at the Fire and Emergency Services Centre, Stirling Terrace, Toodyay. New members, both active and ancillary, are made very welcome so please come along to our next meeting. Enquiries may be made to Captain, Kevin Hug 9574 2612, or Secretary, Wayne Clarke 6364 3609.

St John Ambulance

First Aid Course

OUR first course this year will be on Saturday 25 February and it will be a 'Flexible Learning' day.

That means, once you register and pay, we give you a package and you do the theory workbook and CD at home and come in for one day of practical assessments and the theory exam. Cost is \$120 or \$110 concession. This is cheaper than Perth and helps our volunteers run the St John Ambulance sub centre. Enquiries and Registration forms are available through Jenny Willgoss at LJ Hooker (phone 9574 2455 or a/h 9574 2412).

Your certificate lasts three years – so if you are looking to renew for work purposes – CHECK your certificate to see if it lapses this year. If so – book now.

We have scheduled two other courses so far, one in Bolgart Sunday 19 August (Bolgart and Calingiri people please support this day as it is done for your convenience) and Toodyay again on Sunday 16 September.

Group bookings of eight or more can enquire for a course to suit them. Businesses have a legal obligation to provide first aiders in their workplace. Volunteer organisations and Bush Fire Brigades – now is the time to check your volunteers to see who needs to

learn or renew.

For course details, contact Jenny on the above numbers.

Toodyay Neighbourhood Watch

'Neighbours Looking After Neighbours'

Desraé Clarke

CRIMESTOPPERS 1800 333 000

CRIMESTOPPERS 1800 333 000 is a telephone hotline that members of the community can utilise to provide information, anonymously, of suspected criminal activity. This information is then sent to police, local to the crime scene, to be acted upon.

Police coverage of the Shire of Toodyay is 24 hours each day and 7 days per week! Our Police are 'out and about'. If you need to call our Police service on 9574 9555, and your call is transferred to the Wheatbelt District Office in Northam,

PLEASE DO NOT HANG UP.

Ask your question or give your information as asked by the Police staff. Your call will be assessed as to its urgency and relayed to Toodyay's staff who may be in the next road from where you are calling!

If your call is urgent

DIAL 000

Many folk move to the Shire of Toodyay to enjoy life with space around them which is a tad different from living in suburbia or an apartment.

Getting to 'meet your neighbours' does not mean 'getting to know your neighbours'; there is a difference! However, letting your neighbours know that you are leaving your property to go into hospital or to go on holidays is wise. A neighbour would then be suspicious if a truck pulled up to shift furniture or, in the country, stock!

A retired Police Commissioner, Commissioner Lampard, was speaking on the radio a week ago and remarked how caring, without being intrusive, his suburban neighbourhood was. It made me recall an extremely sad incident that a work colleague told of young family newlyweds.

It was approximately a month after their own that the young couple was invited to a wedding. They were not ones to stay out late and returned around 10pm to find their home denuded of its furniture, wedding gifts and even the new lawn mower from the shed! On making enquiries, neighbours had noted a large truck loading furniture from the home but did not question the activity. IF ONLY

Remember:

Toodyay Police 9574 9555
Crimestoppers 1800 333 000
Goodbye Graffiti 1800 442 255

or

www.goodbyegraffiti.wa.gov.au
URGENT 000 – emergency only!

Ladyraven's Clothing and Giftware



On the 5th December 2011, Ladyraven's celebrated 3 years in business in Toodyay. Joanne Sherar, the owner of Ladyraven's would like to thank all her customers for their patronage and to let her customers know that Ladyraven's is now located at 121C Stirling Terrace.

Ladyraven's has a wide range of new styles in store, including Australian made clothing. Sizes now range from 8-24. The Black Apple clothing range will be arriving in February.

Ph: 9574 2641 or 0421 113 620

Bullsbrook First Home Owners Grant Special



Take \$7000.00 off the price; leaves only \$162,000 to pay for your first home.

3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, large addition hobby or kids play room – what a beaut family home.

Now rented @ \$300 pw.

Just drive by 12 Caporne St, Bullsbrook and call Catrina to see inside on 9571 2050.

emergency services

Coondle Nunile Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Allan Henshaw

BEEP beep!! Beep beep!! The insistent pager grabs your attention. You stop what you're doing. You might be up on a roof, driving, just about to eat dinner, or fast asleep. Whatever. You stop. Now.

Scrub fire. And the location is given. It's not in your Brigade area but the Toodyay system requires every Brigade to react. That way we can put the maximum resources onto a problem when needed and, hopefully, stop it becoming a big problem. Jump in the car with your uniform bag. Head for the shed and hope that there aren't too many Sunday drivers on the road who wouldn't understand a car going a bit faster than they are and might be going faster for a reason.

Hit the shed driveway with your teeth rattling with the corrugations, anxiously looking to see who else has turned up. No-one yet. You're the first. Screech to a halt in a shower of dust. Unlock the shed. Activate the light tanker and drive it out onto the apron. Open the other side of the shed ready for the heavy tanker. Other volunteers are now arriving.

Quickly put on your personal protective equipment over your shorts and tee shirt. Grab your helmet. Put drinking water into the vehicle lockers. Grab a personal radio. Wait until someone else jumps into the vehicle with you and then OFF. Lights flashing and finger hovering over the siren switch just in case you meet more Sunday drivers (doesn't anybody look in their driving mirrors anymore?) Over the radio you hear the Coondle radio operator back at the shed announce that "Coondle light tanker is rolling." No stand-down announced so pedal to the metal and head for the fire. The heavy tanker, now crewed up, is rolling not far behind us.

With a bit of luck we should be at the fire within 20 minutes. It might be sooner if it's closer or, if it's a long way away - Morangup for instance - it will take a lot longer.

That's what happens. Or that's the way it should happen. Unfortunately, some brain dead morons decided to take our pagers and personal radios when they broke into the shed in November. Replacing those items takes time.

Fortunately, we haven't had many fires since the break-in. But, if it had been your house or property that had gone up in flames, then we would have apologised for our late arrival. Not much consolation to you but I guess that the cretins who stole those items wouldn't have been too bothered about that.

Since our last report in the *Herald*, we've had a few fabulous social gatherings. As well as the usual Friday evening 'hand-over' socials, we also had the wonderful Christmas bash. Many thanks to Kerry and her tireless bunch of elves for getting it all together,

despite the 'missing' \$300 Christmas cash that was stolen in the break in.

We had a few changes of personnel. Unfortunately, Pete Ruthven stood down from his position as Captain and Tracey Salmond, as First Lieutenant and Deputy Captain, stepped up to the plate as Acting Captain until the AGM in April. The Brigade owes a great debt of gratitude to Pete who has been a tremendous asset to the Brigade over the years that he has been Captain and has arguably been the most effective person we have had in that position.

We had a few fires. Amongst them was a header fire at Chatcup where we thought we might be in for a re-run of the 2007 fire. Fortunately, it was stopped in good time but not without a fair area being blackened. A lightning strike caused another fire near Wongamine and, while it was just inside the Northam boundary, most of the Toodyay crews were involved.

And, mindful of the losses that we sustained in the break-in (with many items having been funded from our own resources and not, apparently, insured or underwritten by the Shire) a number of people have very generously donated funds and goods to make up some of those losses. One lady in particular, who wished to remain anonymous and didn't want thanks, needs thanking through these columns. She knows who she is but the Brigade wishes to pass on its heartfelt gratitude. Without the support of wonderful people like these we would find it difficult to go on.

And if you are feeling wonderful, why don't you pop down to the shed on any Friday evening and volunteer your services - either as a firefighter or as an auxiliary or even just a social member. Pairs of hands are always desperately needed and new faces are warmly welcomed. It could be the best home fire insurance that you are ever likely to invest in.

And don't get me started on the number of inadequate or non-existent firebreaks that you see around and blocks with chest high wild oats. Do we need another 2009 to get the lesson home?

Community Bushfire Preparedness

The Bushfire Front Inc

IN rural Australia, bushfires are inevitable. They are a consequence of our climate and weather, our flammable vegetation and the constant sources of fire from lightning strikes, accidents or human folly.

However, no two fires are alike. Bushfires can vary from a mild, trickling burn which is easily extinguished and causes no harm, to a raging inferno that is impossible to extinguish and which does irreparable damage.

The factors that determine whether it will be a mild or an intense damaging fire include:

- The weather conditions;
- The amount of fuel; and
- The degree to which communities are prepared to resist a fire onslaught.

Weather conditions cannot be controlled but both fuel quantity and community preparedness can.

Fuel quantity is the most important factor affecting the killing power of a bushfire. The more fuel, the more likely a bushfire will rapidly become uncontrollable, will generate an ember storm, throw spotfires and do serious damage. Bushland adjoining residential areas and which carries heavy, long-unburnt, fuel loads is a highly dangerous bushfire hazard.

Bushfire preparedness is critical. A well-prepared community will be able to absorb most bushfires without loss of life or serious damage. Good preparation will:

- reduce the intensity of a bushfire entering residential areas;
- make fires easier to control and safer for firefighters;
- make it easier to save lives and community assets; and
- allow the community to 'bounce back' after the fire, with a minimum of disruption and cost.

The Bushfire Front proposes that residents in bushfire prone areas utilise the following checklist to assess how well their community is prepared for bushfires and to develop (in collaboration with their Shire and FESA) a systematic approach to upgrading bushfire preparedness and damage minimisation.

Our basic message is this: bushfires can never be prevented, but much can be done to minimise or prevent the damage a bushfire might cause.

Checklist

1 Bushfire leadership

1.1 Does your Shire have a Bushfire Strategy (or 'Action Plan') which

- defines and maps the main bushfire threats to residential areas;
- identifies community assets that are vulnerable to a bushfire;,
- sets out the measures the Shire will take to mitigate bushfire damage;
- sets out community warning, safety and firefighting arrangements;
- assigns responsibility for action; and
- is annually reviewed and updated as required.

1.2. Does your Shire employ full-time staff members who are trained and experienced in bushfire management and whose responsibility is to oversee bushfire prevention and community preparedness?

1.3 Does your Shire enforce the provisions of the Bush Fires Act which require landowners to remove bushfire hazards on private land?

1.4 Does your Shire acknowledge that protecting residents from bushfire damage is its highest priority?

2 Fuels management

2.1 Are bushland fuels (quantity and/or age) within and adjoining the community assessed, rated and mapped annually, and the results made public?

2.2 Does the Shire advise landowners that there is a maximum fuel tonnage allowable on privately owned bushland?

2.3 Does the Shire carry out, or authorise regular (less than 10 years interval) fuel reduction on its own land, including road reserves?

2.4 Does the Shire initiate an annual meeting between the Shire, FESA, DEC, Western Power and any other relevant government land owner to develop a strategic fuel reduction program for the year ahead and review past efforts?

2.5 Is a database maintained by the local authority of prescribed burns and fires?

3 Warnings and safety

3.1 Does the community have a bushfire warning system, and is it tested every summer?

3.2 Have 'Safer Havens' (non-flammable areas to which people can retreat and be relatively safe in the event of a serious fire) been designated and signposted?

3.3 Are 'mock fire' events held to test the community's readiness for a serious fire?

3.4 Is there a community bushfire education programme implemented in this community every summer?

3.5 Is the effectiveness of community education on bushfires tested in any way?

4 Schools and hospitals

4.1 Does each school and hospital (and

equivalent institutions, for example nursing home, kindergarten, seniors residence, backpackers hostel) in the area have a Bushfire Action Plan with one or more people designated as responsible for preparedness and evacuation if necessary?

4.2 Are school and hospital bushfire action plans annually reviewed, updated and signed off by FESA?

4.3 Do schools in the community ensure students are professionally instructed in bushfire behaviour, fire preparedness, and action in the event of a fire?

4.4 Are school and hospital fire plans tested to see that they work?

5 Actions in the event of a bushfire

5.1 Has the adequacy of trained firefighters in your area been independently assessed?

5.2 Does the Shire arrange an annual 'Brigade Health' check to help bushfire brigades judge how well they are equipped and operating?

5.3 Has the Shire set up local volunteer 'bushfire ready' groups to promote, advise on and check household and landowner preparation for the fire season?

5.4 Have residents been provided with clear information and training that will help them make a timely decision to stay or go in the face of an incoming fire?

5.5 Is the effectiveness of information and training packages tested each year with a mock fire?

6 Independent review

6.1 Is the bushfire preparedness of this community evaluated by an independent expert every three years with a report to Council and the community?

Follow-up Action

The Bushfire Front recommends that community bushfire preparedness checklists be undertaken by residents in collaboration with their Shire Council and FESA, and that the result of the assessment should be tabled at the local council and made public through the media.

For further information on The Bushfire Front, please check our website www.bushfirefront.com.

Western Power Slammed in Pole Fire Inquiry

Media Release

Hon Max Trenorden MLC Member for the Agricultural Region

LIVES are being put at risk of bushfire because Western Power has failed miserably to maintain its wooden power poles, according to a powerful parliamentary committee.

The Standing Committee on Public Administration delivered a scathing report today at the end of a two year inquiry into the utility provider, demanding action immediately by the Government and a complete overhaul of Western Power's management.

Faulty power poles have been responsible for many devastating fires in WA, including a 2003 fire at Tenterden in the Great Southern, which killed two women.

An Energy Safety report into the 2009 Toodyay bushfire that destroyed 38 homes found it was also started by a power pole fire.

The Upper House committee found Western Power is still the "worst-in-class" in the nation for unassisted wooden power pole failures.

Committee chair the Hon Max Trenorden, MLC Member for the Agricultural Region, said the inquiry initially examined Western Power's network of wooden poles but soon found "disturbing" problems in the culture and management of the utility.

"We're here to inquire on behalf of the ordinary people of Western Australia and we're now reporting back to the people of Western Australia," he said in handing down the report.

"The report questions public safety and value for money. It's about the risk faced by all of us as a result of the poor management of essential public assets by well-paid public sector officials; it's also about gaps in the present regulatory framework of essential public utilities."

"We're saying all of Western Power should be changed"

Mr Trenorden said more than 4000 power poles were not on the system and there has been little improvement in wooden power

Continued on Page 9

Business for Sale

AVON POOL TECH

Avon Pool Tech has been operating for ten years from Toodyay and covers all surrounding areas.

What you get is a wide customer base providing regular and ongoing work covering many aspects of pool maintenance and repairs.

Also included: service vehicle, stock, tools and testing equipment; all computer based assets, eg. invoices, letterheads, envelopes, worksheets, customer list, all on hard drive.

Also, the potential to expand this business is just waiting to be tapped into. Training is available and the opportunity to become familiar with this business and its customers before the summer rush.

All enquiries contact 08 9574 2531

Continued from Page 8

poles inspections.

"The law of averages suggest at least one quarter of the missing 4000 wooden power poles are in high to extreme fire danger areas," Mr Trenorden said.

"Western Power still lacks adequate wooden power poles service criteria to detect unsafe wooden power poles."

Mr Trenorden was critical of the level of transparency Western Power promoted, and said the Committee was recommending they be forced to issue an addendum to their 2010-11 Annual Report.

He said the utility had not kept the community or Government fully informed.

"By avoiding accountability to the Parliament, Western Power tries to avoid being accountable to the people of Western Australia, which is just not right," he said.

The regulation of the utility also came under fire, with the Committee suggesting there is too much ambiguity between the Office of Energy and Safety and the Economic Regulation Authority's roles in keeping Western Power in check.

"Both regulators have reported to us... how difficult Western Power are to deal with" Mr Trenorden said.

"Western Power shouldn't be able to thumb its nose at regulators - we need a single agency to keep a level eye over the public utilities in the regulatory framework so that the agency also has an enforcement role."

The Committee recommended the Government take urgent action and make their own inquiries into Western Power and its regulatory framework.

"It is extremely important and I would be very disappointed if it is not actioned upon," Mr Trenorden said.

"What we need is an urgent paradigm shift, a radical new direction - in effect, a fresh start."

Mr Trenorden indicated the Committee would work on a follow-up report to be released in the next few months.

Copy of the Executive Summary and/or the full report are available on www.perthnow.com.au/news/western-australia/western-power-slammed-in-pole-fire-inquiry/story-ef6rg13u-1226249584791

Bejoording Babble

Kim Leonhardt

WELL, let me just wish a pleasant New Year to you all. Yes... even you!

Our Christmas Party, as usual, had a couple of hitches, mainly to do with ol' Santa... as usual. People really should stop sending newspapers to the North Pole. Can you believe he GROUNDED himself! Apparently a union delegation headed by Rudolph was upset that their harnesses were being serviced by a group overseas, instead of the local elves. Anyway, the Bejoording Blockade Busters were sent to pave the way to OUR Christmas Party at least. We obviously succeeded but I don't know how the rest of you got on (I hear there were a lot of impersonators out there this season!) However, it still wasn't clear sailing.

Once here, Rudolph got his nose out of joint coz Santa was going to arrive in our fire truck. "But Rudolph," we said, "we just can't have livestock wandering all over our roads!" It didn't matter, he still was a mite agitated. So anyway, Eric says "Tell ya what, load Santa up in the fire truck, and I'll take Rudolph and his clan up to my house on the hill." "Sounds like a plan," we say. "We'll tell Vicky where

you are while Santa's doin' his thing."

All panned out beautifully; kids got their lolly bags, and wishes that came true I'm sure. Santa was soon ready to be off, but a problem occurred with Rudolph... he fell in love with an alpaca! Santa, it seemed, was only too pleased to leave him behind. End result... when you're at the fire shed, and you look up toward Eric's house on the hill... you'll see Rudolph's nose blinking away. True! Our big thanks to Eric, who made Santa's appearance possible!

Mud Footy... do we need to tell you that the Oldies won? I think not! These days it's just a given, though I must say that the last couple of years have not entirely gone our way! The teams were divided up: under 25s v over 25s. The first quarter was pretty tight; the score was 2 to 1 in the oldies' favour. The start of the second quarter, however, saw a massive depletion of young'ns! Their full back, literally, had no one to kick it too. There was just oldies everywhere! The young'ns did have a pod of VERY young'ns who were just playing in the mud, until the ball and players came too near, then they'd scream, let fly with mud cakes at the oldies, and take off into the reeds. Their guerilla tactics did seem to be working for that part of the field anyway! The final score... 18 to 5... in the oldies' favour. Can I just add... the young'ns that did remain to play the final three quarters DID NOT GIVE UP, and each time they scored a goal, it was basically classed as a miracle, they were so outnumbered. I'm impressed!

Well... that's about it. We have a Community Meeting on 1 February... bit of bad luck, eh? Our next meeting will be our AGM on Wednesday 4 April from 6pm.

Remember the Community Shed is back open from 6pm every Wednesday night, and we hope to see ya then, then.

Toodyay Men's Shed Inside the Shed

The Scribe

HELLO fellow shedders.

Some of you may have realised that only half of the column was published for December and our Christmas and New Year 'good wishes' weren't passed on to those that don't attend regularly, although Jeff did send out the full version to those with email. So those who missed out, please consider yourself 'well wished' and I hope you have enjoyed your break. With January fast coming to an end and plan B looking like it's heading to the bin already, it looks like we're in for another hectic year.

One of the things that writing this column does is make me stop and reflect upon the past month and, in this case, the last half of December and the first half of January when we were having a 'break'.

I kept getting phone calls from the Chairman checking on how I was travelling which I must admit was a bit puzzling at first and, of course, I didn't have time to think too much about it until now. Without going into too much detail, I had a fair bit on my plate and twelve months ago any one of these issues would have had me in great despair. So it would be safe to say that my greatest gift for Christmas was the realisation that I have been given back a part of my life through the opportunities and support from the Men's Shed. This is truly a gift that continues to give and is just another example that we are

so much more than wooden toys and restorers of farm machinery.

Three committee members of the TMS met with the CEO and President of the Toodyay Shire on 21 December to continue consultations over a more suitable site for our shed. It would be fair to say that we came away less than satisfied with their idea of negotiation. We are waiting for a response to a letter outlining our dissatisfaction.

We welcomed three new members at our last breakfast in November, one of whom has donated a four-wheeled, covered, tradesman's trailer to the Shed in appreciation for all the help that he has received. We are very appreciative of his kind donation and hope to get the trailer painted in the TMS colours. We will then be able to equip it with the tools for the bigger jobs away from the Shed instead of loading and unloading our private vehicles.

Our chairman Jeff Roberts was elected to the WAMSA Board on 14 November and he will have presented a 'Discussion Paper' on Occupational Health and Safety to the other Board members at their first meeting for 2012 on 25 January, so as to assist new Sheds as they form. It seems TMS has much to offer in this area as we have developed and put in place many of the required systems already and have been able to help other Sheds in the Avon Basin.

Of course our regular end of the month

breakfast was on 28 January at 7.30am and it was great catching up with those who couldn't make it during the week.

That's about it for now, guys. Take care. If you have any enquiries for TMS ring Geoff on 9574 4568.

Lions' Lines

AS we look back on an extremely busy 2011 with the 'Trolley Dash' and the 'Postie Bike run to Broome', this year the club is focussing on what we do well in our community and getting 'back to basics'.

In 2012 we are targeting our efforts on local events such as the Lions Auction, Moondyne Festival and ANZAC Day just to name a few.

Our first main event is the Annual Lion's Auction on Saturday 31 March at the Toodyay Oval. If you have any items of 'Trash or Treasure', keep a look out for the seller's registration form in the February and March editions of the Toodyay Herald.

To keep our community organisations in the forefront, the club is calling for expressions of interest to run the canteen for the Auction this year. If your organisation or club is interested, please contact President, Rachel Oliver, on 0427 110 710 or email toodyaylions@bigpond.com by 29 February 2012.

Toodyay Lions Club - we serve.

Avon Valley Nissan



AVON Valley Nissan is coming to Toodyay - for one week only!

From 6 - 11 February, Avon Valley Nissan will be situated at 8 Stirling Tce Toodyay. We will be bringing a large sample of our extensive range of Nissan vehicles, along with salesman, Jim Smith, and local staff, to give Toodyay residents the opportunity to come, view and test drive a new Nissan vehicle.

With over 10 years experience selling Nissans, Jim will be available to answer any of your questions regarding your existing Nissan vehicle or future possible purchase.

In addition to the unique opportunity to test drive a new vehicle right in 'your backyard', we will also be having giveaways and

sausage sizzles.


To celebrate our week in Toodyay, we are offering Toodyay residents exclusive specials on the purchase of their new Nissan vehicle. Keep an eye on your letter boxes in the coming weeks for details of these offers.

Avon Valley Nissan is a local family owned and operated business located at 47 Fitzgerald St, Northam. Not only do we sell the full range of new Nissan vehicles, we also sell an extensive range of all makes and models of used cars.

Our team of specially trained Nissan technicians is also available to service and repair all makes and model of vehicle. Under Nissan Motor Co's 'Capped Price Servicing' policy, you can be assured of no 'nasty surprises' when it comes time to pay the bill.

We look forward to meeting you during our exciting week in town. Please contact us on 9621 1311 with any further enquiries.





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FROM 6 TO 11 FEBRUARY 2012

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Sausage sizzles, giveaways, accessories and specials
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Call in for a test drive or your free quote.



Call (08) 9621 1311 for more information
MDL - 20461

Australia Day - 2012

Naomi Millett

SEVERAL hundred people turned out for the annual Australia Day celebrations and breakfast at Duigee Park, an event supported by the Shire of Toodyay.

As is the tradition, following a welcome by Shire President Kevin Hogg, councillors donned aprons and cooked up a hearty feast of bacon, eggs and sausages for the hungry crowd. Free tea, coffee, soft drinks, juice, fruit and yoghurt were also generously provided.

Miniature railway rides, face painting and the ever popular vegemite painting stall (run by Belle from the op shop) kept children amused, and the group was entertained throughout the morning by folk music and

rousing Aussie ballads from the Rambling Bilbies band.

After the national anthem was sung and the Australian flag raised at 8.15am, President Hogg delivered a speech and presented various awards. Nominee for the Active Citizenship award was Elizabeth Ferguson, and nominees for Active Citizenship for a person under 25 years were Taylor Ferguson and Melinda Lucas.

Mr Hogg then conducted the Citizenship Ceremony following a separate program as prescribed by the *Australian Citizenship Act of 2007*.

Toodyay residents who became citizens on this special day were Steven Bannister, Lia Louise Bannister, Alan Rose, Carolyn Rose and Kurt O'Connor.

Photos: Wayne Weaver / Naomi Millett



I JUST wanted to say 'Thank You' for a wonderful day in Duidgee Park on Australia Day. Breakfast was lovely and the weather and entertainment were great.

The ceremony itself was both exciting and humbling, as it was nice to be approached by so many people wanting to shake my hand and congratulate me on becoming an Australian Citizen. We had quite a few pictures taken by people afterwards, and were even treated to lunch by friends. I don't think I could have chosen a nicer place than Toodyay to call home for myself and my daughter.

I am so pleased, and now personally proud, that Australia has such a strong sense of identity and shows its flag off proudly at every occasion and I hope it always continues to do so.

Congratulations to the Shire staff, councillors and volunteers as well for making it a memorable event.

Steve Bannister (Australian Citizen)

Keeping Cool this Summer



Photos: Kate Denton

Grant Scobie
Editor

WITH the really hot weather having just started and the future temperatures not always showing below the 37 degrees, how does one keep one's cool?

This little girl knows the way. At the opening of a new gallery in Toodyay last December, the temperature got a bit much for her so she found the perfect solution: hop into the ice bucket!

If only it were always that easy!

Autumn Club

Autumn Leaf

WE enter another year and are in the progress of making out the calendar for the year. Dates for visits from over Senior Clubs have been marked in and we are waiting for confirmation of dates to visit them.

I hope every member had an enjoyable break over the Christmas holidays. The Club returned on 25 January and meets each Wednesday from 1pm to 4pm. If you wish to join us, just contact the secretary on 9574 4587 or just come along and see us on a Wednesday.

There are no birthdays for the month of February but in January we had one: Jim Short; we hope he had a Happy Birthday. Early in March we have a couple: Brian Bosnjak (7th) and Joan Hubie (9th). We hope you both have a very Happy Birthday.

Stop Press

THE *Herald* has just heard that one of our long serving volunteers and Toodyay identity, Jim Bavin, is not travelling very well after a recent accident.

We wish to offer Jim and his family our thoughts and support at this time.

IMMACULATE HEART COLLEGE

Maryville Downs, Lower Chittering



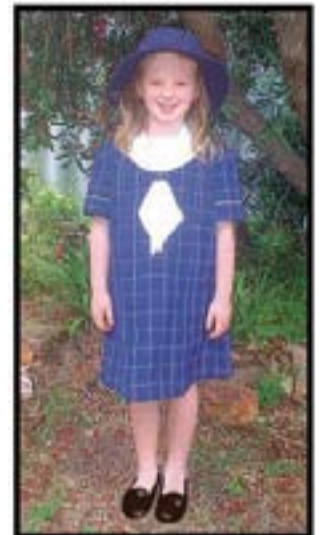
Is now taking enrolments!

There will be a new school opening in February 2012. It will be an Independent School, teaching the Catholic Faith. It will open with classes K to Yr 3, expanding to year 6 over the next 4 years. The College will aim for excellence in all Academic subjects, character formation with Our Virtues Programme, Spirituality, The Arts and Physical Education. Additionally, there will be a strong focus on Literacy and Numeracy. It will be situated next to the future Divine Mercy Church at Lot 1, Santa Gertrudas Drive, Maryville Downs Estate, Lower Chittering. Yes, there will be a school bus!



BOYS UNIFORM

For enrolment details please phone Doris 9571 8135 Fr Paul 9571 1839 or email: doris@westnet.com.au www.ginginchitteringparish.org.au



GIRLS UNIFORM



Pictured left to Right

SR. RAMONA
SR. TERESITA



Pictured left to Right
MISS MARY CLARK
MRS CATHY BYRNE
MR DARRYL PHILLIPS
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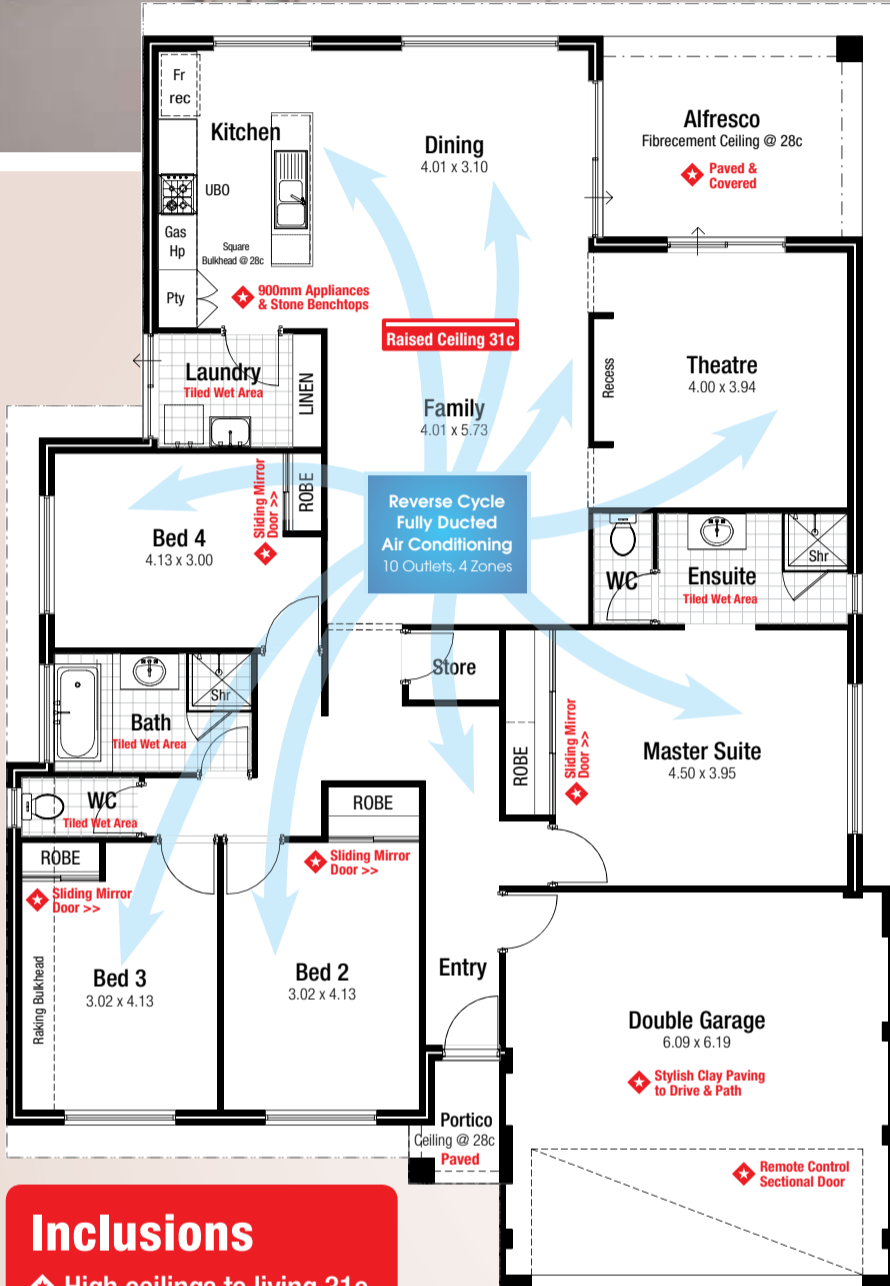
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when and where they meet

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Australian Air Force Cadets 12 ½ to 17 year olds, male and female. Building J1, Northam Army Camp Grt Eastern Hwy. Friday 6:30pm to 9:30pm, during school term. 708squ@cadetnet.gov.au

AFRICAN DRUMMING

Thursdays (adults) 6 - 7.30pm at The Factory Baptist Church
All instruments provided. Enquiries: Heather on 9574 5463.

ARTS TOODYAY INC

Meets first Tuesday of the month, 7pm at The Old Police Station in Duke St Sth. For all interested in arts/crafts, workshops. Enquiries to Wendy on 9574 4172

AUSTRALIAN BREASTFEEDING ASSOCIATION

For breastfeeding information and the company of other mums. 2nd Tuesday of month, Parent Information Centre, Gordon Street Northam 10am-noon. 4th Tuesday of month Toodyay Playgroup 10am - noon. Contact Louise for more details on 9574 0229

AUTUMN CLUB

Every Wednesday, 1pm to 4pm. Toodyay Sports Pavilion
Contact Glenyce Bosnjak 9574 4587

AVON VALLEY ADULT RIDING CLUB

Meets 4th Saturday of each month (Feb - Nov) at Toodyay Race Course. Contact: Sandra 9574 4429

AVON VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL SOC.

3rd Friday of each month at Dept of Water,
254 Fitzgerald Street Northam, noon.

AVON VALLEY VINTAGE VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

3rd Thursday every month, 8pm at the old engineers quarters next to Northam Railway Museum, Fitzgerald Street Northam. Ph 9622 1192.

AVON WOODTURNERS GROUP

Meet every Sunday 9am to 10pm, Workshops 2nd and 4th Sunday
9am - Wool Pavilion, Toodyay Sports Ground.

BEJOORDING VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Meet at Bejoording Fire Shed, 3rd Saturday 5pm

CENTRAL VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

4th Tuesday of each month, 7.30pm at the Toodyay Fire and Emergency Services Centre. Training 2nd Thursday of each month.

CHILD HEALTH IMMUNISATION CLINIC

The next immunisation clinic: Call for details. Please call Sheree on 9574 4577 to book an appointment.

COONDLE NUNILE VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

Meets 2nd Saturday of month from October to April, June and August,
5pm at Coondle Fire Shed.

COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (CWA)

General meeting - 4th Thursday of each month, 1.30pm, C.W.A. Hall. New Members very welcome.

CUBS, JOEYS & SCOUTS (only during school term)

Youth Hall, Showgrounds, Cubs & Joeys 4.00pm - 5.30pm
Scouts, Thursday 6pm - 8.00pm Ph: 9574 2363

EARTH SOLUTIONS - AVON VALLEY

Third Tuesday of each month, 6pm at the PB Kirby Centre, cnr Gordon and Wellington Sts, Northam. New members welcome. Contact Caroline Barr on 9622 8043 or Belle Moore on 9622 5203 for additional information.

FITNESS AND FUN FOR THE OVER 55's

Wednesday 9am, Sports Pavillion.

IDA'S HIDEAWAY

Every Saturday, 1pm to 4pm at Butterly House.
Contact Ida Edwards on 9574 2858

JULIMAR VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

Meets 3rd Saturday of month, 5.30pm at Julimar Fire Shed followed by BYO BBQ. Training Sunday following meeting, 10am, Julimar Fire Shed.

MOERLINA

Every Tuesday and Thursday Toodyay Sports Pavilion

MORANGUP PLAYGROUP

Morangup Community Hall, Lot 3 Wallaby Way, Morangup. Every Wednesday 9.30 to 11.30am (excluding public and school holidays). Emma Whately 9572 9376, Julie Slater 9572 9914 or Chere Rothwell 9572 9298

MORANGUP VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Saturday mornings at 8am at 3 Wallaby Way, Morangup. New members welcome. Contact Cheryl Mustchin 9572 9556

MURDER MYSTERY CLUB

Meets Third Wednesday of the month beginning 17 August, Toodyay Library, 10am - 12noon. Ph Liz 9574 5967, Linda 9621 1620 or Dot 0407 656 853

RAG BAGS QUILTING GROUP

1st, 3rd Wednesday, 10am CWA Hall

ST STEPHEN'S MOTHERS' UNION/GUILD

3rd Tuesday of month, Anglican Hall, 2pm from March to November

SHIRE OF TOODYAY COUNCIL MEETING

3rd Thursday of each month Council Chambers 7pm

SILVER CHAIN AUXILIARY

Meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month, 10am at Toodyay Telecentre.

SIMPLY MUSIC

Piano lessons for all ages. CWA Hall Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Contact Jan 0416 054 942.

SOCIAL TENNIS

Tuesday 8.30am Ladies and senior men

TOODYAY 4WD CLUB

Meets every 3rd Saturday of the month.
Please contact Dave Isbill 9574 4035 for location and time.

TOODYAY BALLET SCHOOL

Classes in Classical, Jazz and Tap held at 507 Julimar Rd, new studio. Ages from 4yrs to Adults, girls and boys. 9574 4459. Saturdays 9am - 2.30pm (except school holidays)

TOODYAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY INC

Meets 1st Monday of the month at CWA Hall, Stirling Tce, starting at 6pm. Contact Jan 9574 4675 or 0438 373 861

TOODYAY/CLACKLINE KARATE CLUB

Wednesday 3.30-4pm, under 8, 4-5pm under 11, 5-6pm under 14, 6-7.30pm seniors. Friday 3.30-4pm Peeewees, 4-5pm juniors, 5-6pm intermediate, 6-7pm seniors at the Youth Hall

TOODYAY COMMUNITY RADIO 105.3fm

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month at 7-ish (or as soon as the coffee is ready.)Phone 9574 4554 for this month's venue. New members and volunteers to help run the station welcome.

THE TOODYAY COMMUNITY SINGERS INC

Thursdays 7-9pm, St. Stephen's Church Hall.
Contact: Peter 0421704429 or Trish 9574 4330

TOODYAY DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL P & C

Every 3rd Wednesday (except school holidays)
School Library, 7pm

TOODYAY DISTRICTS HORSE & PONY CLUB

4th Sunday of every month (Feb - Nov), Toodyay Race Course.
Contact Tanzi 0427 859 493

TOODYAY FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

3rd Sunday of each month Duidgee Park (near Newcastle Bridge) at 8am October to April and 9am May to September. Enquiries 9574 2578

TOODYAY GARDEN CLUB (Inc)

1st Thursday of each month 10am. Contact Gale 9574 4740 or Margaret 9574 5885 for next club venue.

TOODYAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

3rd Wednesday of each month, 7pm Donegan's Cottage

TOODYAY IRISH DANCING (Inc)

Fridays (except school holidays), 3.30 - 7pm. Anglican Church Hall.
Contact Alison on 0409 295 369

TOODYAY KINDERGYM

Kindergym Fridays (except school holidays), Toodyay Sports Pavilion. Contact: Jodee 9574 4656

TOODYAY LIONS CLUB

1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month Hotel Freemasons

TOODYAY MASONIC LODGE

3rd Friday each month (except Jan)
Masonic Hall, Fiennes St, 7.30pm

TOODYAY MINIATURE RAILWAY (Inc)

1st and 3rd Sunday commencing Easter Sunday. Enquiries 9574 4462

TOODYAY MEN'S SHED

Meets at 6176 Toodyay Road on Thursday mornings. Phone Geoff Ebdon on 9574 4568

TOODYAY MOOONDYNE FESTIVAL (Inc)

Meets 1st Monday of each month, 5.30pm at the Toodyay Library. New members always welcome. Contact: PO Box 1387, Toodyay.

TOODYAY MONTESSORI

Monday 9.30 - 10.30am
Enquiries phone Felicity on 9574 4254.

TOODYAY MUSIC CLUB INC

2nd Friday of the Month from 7pm
CWA Hall. Contact Teddy or Spencer 9574 4492.

TOODYAY NATURALISTS' CLUB

Meets 3rd Saturday each month. Venue can be found in the article under 'Environmental Matters. Enquiries to President on 6364 3609, Vice President on 9574 2578 or email toodyaynats@westnet.com.au. New members and visitors are made very welcome.

TOODYAY NEIGHBOURHOOD/RURAL WATCH

2nd Tuesday each month commencing 6pm Toodyay Police Station (General Meeting bi-monthly - Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec) Enquiries 9574 2212

TOODYAY PLAYGROUP

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9.30am - 11.30am, Playgroup Hall, Community Centre, Claire Moore 9574 4529

TOODYAY RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (INC.)

General Meetings: venues and times, please contact Chris Ballam (Chairperson) 9594 3167 or email ttrainc@gmail.com.

TOODYAY RED CROSS

2nd Monday of February, May, August and November, Anglican Hall, 1.30pm

TOODYAY SPINNERS

Wednesdays and 2nd Saturday from 9am Parkers Cottage.
President: CArol Worrell 0407 429 047; Secretary: Phil Harmer 9574 2015

TOODYAY SUB -BRANCH RSL

1st Saturday of February, April, May, July, September (AGM) and November at 2pm at the Bowling Club. Contact John 9574 5681

TOODYAY SWIMMING POOL ACTION COMM.

12.30pm on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Freemasons Hotel.

TOODYAY TOWN WALKS

Walk around our beautiful town. Monday and Friday (varies).
Contact Prim on 9574 2490 for details.

TOODYAY VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

1st Monday of each month Fire Station, 8pm

UNITING CHURCH

10am, St Stephen's Church, Toodyay

YOGA

Friday 9am, Monday 6pm Toodyay Community Centre. 9574 4184

classifieds

FOR SALE

OATEN hat, 5x4 rolls, net wrapped, top quality. Suit all stock. No rain damage. Delivery available. Call Bob Jackson on 0429 010 210

GARDEN supplies. Top soil (\$44), mulch (\$35), yellow sand (\$44) and sawdust (\$20), Prices for 6 x 4 trailer. Ph 9574 2987, 0438 412 324 or 0439 842 987

COMPOST now available 6x4 trailer \$44 Ph 9574 2987 or 0483 412 324 or 0439 842 987

HOUSE/HOLIDAY RENTALS

LEEMAN: Reverse cycle air conditioning, two bathrooms, accommodates nine people, BBQ, microwave, TV/DVD, 100m from beach. Ph Brian or Jeannette for information on 9574 5087 or 0427 446 439

LOST

CELLPHONE, Samsung. Lost weekend of 20-21 January while shopping. If found, please call 0433 009 882. Reward.

TOOLS for vehicle wrapped in canvas carry bag. Lost near church, please call Denis 9574 4503

POSITIONS VACANT

LIVE in position: Looking for mature age lady/carer. Would consider single mum one small child. Free, live- in position (if compatible) in return for being here 5pm - 9am at Bindoon farm location with 40/50-years-old couple. Wife is an easy -care patient, overnight just needs someone in the house. Also paid day care position available 9am - 5pm. Ph: John Butler 0429 964 060.

DAY carer position. Available for mature age lady 9am - 5pm daily, your choice of up to 7 days. 40 year-old-lady needs low level care without being left alone in our home at Bindoon. Ph: John Butler 0429 964 060.

Avon Woodworker

Laurie and Liz wish to advise that we have ceased operations of Avon Woodworker.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to sell the business at this time.

Thank you to our customers - we hope you enjoy the product/s we supplied to you.

It has been fun for us.

MCBRIDE CONTRACTING

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SUPPLIERS OF ALL SANDS AND SOILS

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Mob 0407 722226

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In Memoriam

Wilkinson, Andrew

19.5.40 - 20-1-12

Andrew will be greatly missed, not only as a member of our fire brigade, but as a contributor to the Toodyay community and as a dear friend and colleague.

His absence has left an empty, sad space in our hearts but our grief is softened by many happy memories.

It was a privilege for us to stand guard of honour at his funeral.

All our love and support to Dianne and family.

Members of the Julimar Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Annual General Meetings

Toodyay Agricultural Society

THE Annual General Meeting of the Toodyay Agricultural Society will be held on Monday 13 February 2012 at 7.30pm at the Youth Hall, Toodyay Showgrounds.

Please come along and show your support for the Toodyay Show, a major community event which this year will be held on Saturday 13 October.

Toodyay District High School P&C

The AGM of the Toodyay District High School P&C will take place on 15 February 2012, 7pm in the staffroom at the school.

Expressions of Interest

Toodyay Lions Club

The Toodyay Lions Club is calling for expressions of interest to run the canteen for the Lions Auction this year. If your organisation or club is interested, please contact President, Rachel Oliver, on 0427 110 710 or email toodyaylions@bigpond.com by 29 February 2012.

Toodyay Junior Football Club

The Toodyay Junior Football Club is calling for expressions of interest for the following positions:

Junior Football Coaches

We seek junior coaches for all age groups - AUSKICK, 9s & Under, 11s & Under, 13s & Under and 16s & Under. Coaching your children is a hugely rewarding experience and any parents should consider.

Any person who is applying to coach who does not have a child playing in the club must have current working with children clearance.

Journalist/Media Person

We hold numerous events throughout the year and would like to have regular articles written for local newspaper outlets. We are seeking a person to assist the club and to take on this important job. The kids love nothing more than seeing their name in the paper and regular printing of articles increases community awareness of our junior sporting club.

First Aid Officer

Our aim is to have a first aid person available at each game. We are hoping for each age group to have a volunteer first aid person. Courses for strapping would be available through the club before the season's start.

Please express your interest in writing for any of the above positions to PO Box 724, Toodyay WA 6566.

General

First Aid Course.

The next St John Ambulance course will be on Saturday 25 February and it will be a "Flexible Learning" day. That means once you register and pay, we give you a package and you do the theory workbook and CD at home and come in for one day of practical assessments and the theory exam. Enquiries and Registration forms are available through Jenny Willgoss at L J Hooker 9574 2455 or a/h 9574 2412. Your certificate lasts three

years – so if you are looking to renew for work purposes – CHECK your certificate to see if it lapses this year. If so – book now. We have scheduled two other courses so far, one in Bolgart Sunday 19 August (Bolgart and Calingiri people please support this day as it is done for your convenience) and Toodyay again on Sunday 16 September. Group bookings of 8 or more can enquire for a course to suit them.

Toodyay Medical Action Group

The Toodyay Medical Action Group has returned all the money that was donated towards funding a second doctor for Toodyay. Some of the cheques returned haven't yet been presented or have been sent back to us due to incorrect address information. If you believe that you are owed money from our group could you please contact us by email to coxes@bigpond.com or phone Dianne on 9574 5489 prior to 30 June 2012.

Craft and Coffee Club

Ladies: Are you crafty? Like to meet like minded ladies for a day of craftiness?

Then come along to our Craft and Coffee Club at Salvation Army hall, Elizabeth Place, Northam (next to Northam nursery) from 10am on the second and fourth Friday of each month. Next meeting 10 February. Bring your crafty items and your lunch - tea/coffee provided. Warning: Be prepared for a good ol' chin wag and lots of fun. Any craft. All ages. All welcome. For more information feel free to ring Cheryl 9622 1228 or Pat 9574 5943.

Toodyay Districts Horse and Pony Club

Enrolment day is to be held on 12 February 2012 at Duigee Park between 4-6pm. Please feel free to come along to meet our committee and regular coaches for the season. You may like to make enquiries about a day membership to come along and ride for a day, or simply visit the grounds to see what we are all about.

Rippers Seek Players

If you are moving to the city for either work or study, and that commitment prevents you travelling home on the weekend to play football, the Manning Rippers Football Club is your football home away from home. We play in the Saturday Amateur League and already have several players from Merredin and other wheatbelt communities. We also play annually against the Nukarni Demons. If you are interested in becoming a part of Ripperland, please call Scott Greer on 0413 169 664.

Felting Workshop

Toodyay Spinners is having a felting session on Monday 6 February. For information about the felting and materials needed contact either President, Carol Worrell on 0407 429 047 or Secretary, Phil Lansell on 9574 2015.

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Recipe Corner

Cranberry and Almond Muesli Biscuits



Desraé Clarke

OF late, I have had fun making a variety of cookies and the Cranberry and Almond Muesli biscuits have been a real winner with both children and adults alike.

Although the mixture is a tad 'sticky' when moulding the biscuits into a ball, I have overcome that problem by having a small plate of cornflour nearby in which to dip my fingers. Also, have a cup of cold water in which to dip a fork when flattening the ball of mixture as directed in the recipe.

As the recipe has butter, honey and brown sugar included, take care to watch the biscuits when cooking as these ingredients can cause your biscuits to burn quite easily.

Ingredients:

50gm unsalted butter, chopped
 ½ cup brown sugar, firmly packed
 ½ cup honey
 ½ cup chopped raw almonds
 1 cup rice bubbles

½ cups sweet, dried cranberries, halved
 ½ cup rolled oats
 2 tablespoons sesame seeds
 1 cup self raising flour

Method:

Line four oven trays with baking paper. Place butter, sugar and honey in a saucepan over low heat and stir until ingredients are melted and combined. Stand for five minutes to cool slightly.

Place almonds, rice bubbles, cranberries, oats, seeds and flour in a large bowl and mix thoroughly.

Add butter mixture and combine well. Roll teaspoonfuls into balls placing them 5 cm apart on the tray.

Press down slightly with a fork dipped in water.

Cook in a moderate oven for 15 minutes or until lightly browned.

Cool thoroughly then store in an airtight container.

Bahá'í Faith

"The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens."
 —Bahá'u'lláh

The Great Expectation – Prophecies Fulfilled

Nineteenth century was the era of expectation of the return of Christ for the Christians and appearance of the Hidden Imam or the Mahdi for Moslems. Newly born Christian movements of that century have evolved into variations of Christianity without independent revelations. Within Islam the picture is different. Whilst some movements followed the pattern of their Christian counterparts, one was an exception. The Báb (Gate) who arose out of the Shiah branch of Islam proclaimed in May 1844 that He was the awaited Mahdi and the harbinger of one greater than Himself whom He referred to as the "the One Whom God would make manifest." The Báb's teachings went counter to the long-held Shiite beliefs about the Hidden Imam, the Resurrection and the Day of Judgement as well as some aspects of religious practice. As a result the Shiite divines rose against Him and issued fatwas for His death. On 9th July 1850, at the age of thirty one, the Báb was executed in the city of Tabriz. Just as the Cause of Jesus did not end with His crucifixion, the execution of Báb failed to put an end to His Cause. Bahá'u'lláh (Glory of God) declared in April 1863 that He was the 'One whom God would make manifest' as prophesied by the Báb and that His Cause to be known later as the Baha'i Faith was the continuation of the mission of the Báb. Baha'u'llah also proclaimed that He was the return of Christ to the Christians, the Lord of Hosts to the Jews and the return of Husayn to the Shiah Moslems. Bahá'u'lláh and His family were banished from place to place and, at the instigation of Iranian authorities, were finally sent as prisoners to Akka in Palestine by the Ottoman government. Bahá'u'lláh remained a prisoner to the end of His Life in 1892. His resting place, the holiest shrine for the Baha'is is in Akka, in the present day Israel. The remains of the Báb which had been hidden in safe places by His followers in Iran were taken to Haifa in the early years of the 20th Century and interred in a shrine on Mt Carmel. So the twin cities of Akka and Haifa in the Holy Land became the spiritual and the administrative centres of the Baha'i Faith. Out of the turmoils of the 19th Century, emerged an independent Divine Revelation, the Baha'i Faith, with its Holy Book, Kitab-i-Aqdas, and its own laws and ordinances for humanity of today and beyond.

For info Email: info-toodyay@wa.bahai.org.au or call 9330 6999 or 9574 5610
 Baha'i Library: (<http://reference.bahai.org/en/>)