

# The Toodyay Herald

Your locally owned  
community newspaper  
Est. 1902

5000 copies circulating in Toodyay, West Toodyay, Goomalling,  
Bolgart, Calingiri, Morangup, Coondle, Waddington, Culham,  
Bejoording, Nunile, Julimar, Bakers Hill, Clackline, Wooroloo,  
Wundowie, Gidgegannup and local districts.

March 2017  
355

Postage  
Paid  
Australia

## Hotel boom hits town



Local tradesman Drew McAuley works on the new Freemasons Hotel sports bar and TAB.

Michael Sinclair-Jones

TOODYAY'S HISTORIC Freemasons Hotel is undergoing a major \$100,000 refit with a new sports bar, TAB facilities, Foxtel and new beer garden at the rear.

The latest development follows last month's announcement of a \$2.5 million renovation at the Vic, which was recently bought by IGA store owner Dean Carter.

Freemasons Hotel owner John Pearce said he had applied for a TAB licence following the closure of betting facilities at the Victoria Hotel, which shut a week before Christmas.

Toodyay's Freemasons Hotel was originally licensed in 1860 and a second storey added in 1904 – the same year the nearby Vic Hotel's current two-storey building was completed.

New spending on the two hotels signals growing investor confidence by two of the town's leading business owners, and reflects similar views expressed by other local traders. (See *Ask the Experts*, Page 11.)

The Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry praised the hotel owners for their "vision and confidence in Toodyay's future".

"When two of the most prominent business owners in town commit to such significant development upgrades, it bodes well for the future prosperity of the town and the region," chamber President Bob Schrader said.

Mr Pearce said he had planned since last September to upgrade the Freemasons Hotel.

He wanted to turn it into "a more interesting destination for visitors and locals".

### Twin developments

THE FREEMASONS upgrade follows Mr Carter's investment at the Vic, which will be completely gutted and renovated with a new restaurant, planned new bottle shop and up to 25 new motel units to replace existing dongas at the back.

Mr Pearce said: "We want to concentrate on turning our former lounge bar into a new sports bar with multiple Foxtel screens and to get the beer garden up and running properly.

"The suspended ceiling in the former lounge bar (pictured left) has been removed so we can restore the original pitched ceiling.

"We've tried to be sympathetic to the history of the hotel against the backdrop of running a modern business – therein lies the challenge."

Mr Pearce said the beer garden at the back of the hotel would be properly fenced, the rear car park sealed before winter, a new storage area built behind the kitchen and a new veranda added in front of it.

"We want the beer garden finished before winter, subject to shire planning approval which we don't think will be a problem," he said.

"Everybody prefers to eat and drink outside, and we plan to streamline and upgrade our dinner and lunch menus.

We've also started weekend musical entertainment with live bands, and hope to do more.

"Lots of country towns are shutting their doors and closing down.

"We think this investment will be good for Toodyay, and it's nice to see other local business also investing in the town and showing confidence in the future."

Editorial, Page 4.

The Toodyay Herald –  
winner 2016 Wheatbelt  
Business Excellence  
Awards

this month



The Great Flood  
Pages 3,11 & 14



Toodyay 'black gold'  
Page 3



Butterly work begins  
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## Anzac trees to stay as voting rights disputed

TWO THREATENED Anzac Memorial Park trees have been spared the axe – at least temporarily – after the Toodyay Shire Council agreed last month to work harder instead to seek money for a new heavy-haulage bypass route around the town.

The trees stand on a corner of Toodyay's ill-suited temporary bypass, where local protesters faced arrest by police last August when shire contractors arrived with chainsaws.

An alternative proposal to re-route heavy trucks through the town's busy Stirling Terrace shopping precinct was also scrapped – at least temporarily.

The issue has divided the town since last July, when councillors voted to remove the

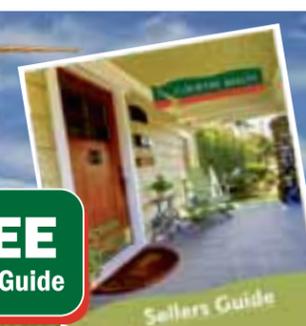
two tall lemon-scented gums without telling ratepayers or the Toodyay RSL.

The charge was led by Shire President David Dow who – with his wife, Cr Judy Dow – owns two properties on the existing heavy truck route in Hamersley Street.

They claimed a right to take part in the debate and vote because they said they held an "interest in common" with a significant number of other ratepayers who use the heavy-haulage route.

This was disputed by Cr Sally Craddock, who said the Hamersley Street properties owned by the shire's two town ward councillors meant the pair were "very much involved in this business".

Continued Page 3.

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# The Toodyay Herald

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

Deadlines for the next edition are listed below with the paper on the streets in the first week of each month except in January when there is no edition.

All advertising should be emailed to [advertising@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:advertising@toodyayherald.com.au). Editorial contributions and photographs should be emailed to [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au).

Photographs for publication should be at least 500kb in file size to ensure quality reproduction in the newspaper.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are \$33 (postage and packaging) per year (11 issues). Please send a cheque to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of *The Toodyay Herald* is available at \$10 per financial year, with members entitled to free advertising worth \$15 annually. Please send your name, phone number and residential, postal and email address with your membership fee to PO Box 100, Toodyay 6566 or leave it at 92B Stirling Terrace.

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## DISTRIBUTION

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Printed by Rural Press

## THANK YOU

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

## ADVERTISING

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The cost of a casual display advertisement is \$4.30 (inc. GST) per column cm (NB Column width is 61.5mm.)

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## NEXT TOODYAY HERALD EDITION

ADVERTISING DEADLINE	STORY DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTED
Noon Thursday March 23	Noon Tuesday March 28	Wednesday April 5

## Please note our email addresses

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 Articles and stories: [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au)

# OI' Blind Joe

## Triumph of Truth revisited

FRANKLY FOLKS, I've had it with politics for the time being.

We've seen the Trumpy Monkey, we've got Turncoat Turnbull, and now Boofhead Barnett has jumped into bed with Petulant Pauline Hanson ... aarrgh.

So I got back on my old Triumph Thunderbird 'time-twisting' triple and set off again for Aristotle's villa in 43BC.

I took a detour through the fifties and stopped off at Princeton University to pick up Albert Einstein.

The bugger laughed the whole bloody way there with his hair billowing wildly in the time stream.

We lobbied at the villa in time for Prandium, which is a second Greek breakfast with bread, eggs, cheese and honey, along with milk and fruit.

After we had finished eating, I asked Aristotle about his thoughts on education because he had recently started the Lyceum, an academy of higher learning.

"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet and is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity," he said.

Albert responded with "imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world".

### School resented

HE RESENTED school's regimen and teaching methods and felt the spirit of knowledge and creative thought was lost in strict rote learning.

Aristotle nodded and said "poetry is finer and more philosophical than history, for poetry expresses the universal, and history only the particular".

I ventured Leonardo da Vinci's opinion that "painting is poetry that is seen rather than felt, and poetry is painting that is felt rather than seen".

I opened a bottle of Toodyay Andrilee cabernet sauvignon and we raised our glasses to toast the fountain of truth.

"The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious," Albert said.

"It is the fundamental emotion that stands at the cradle of true art and true science.

"Whoever does not know it and can no longer wonder, no longer marvel, is as good as dead and his eyes are dimmed."

I replied that Michelangelo said "I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free".

Aristotle said "excellence is an art won by training and habituation.

"We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly.

"We are what we repeatedly do.

"Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit."

Albert said "nothing truly valuable arises

from ambition or from a mere sense of duty, it stems rather from love and devotion towards men and towards objective things."

I asked Albert about his personal confrontation with death.

He said he refused surgery, saying "I want to go when I want.

"It is tasteless to prolong life artificially. I have done my share, it is time to go.

"I will do it elegantly."

After a brief explanation for Aristotle's benefit, I said to Albert that his theory that light behaves both as a particle and as a wave was recently captured in a snapshot of this dual behaviour.

Scientists had set up an experiment which showed that when light/photons are fired unobserved through two slits, they behaved as a wave and went through both slits simultaneously.

However, when an observer was present, the light/photon became a particle and went through only one slit.

There is some kind of organised and influential intelligence in the universe and, just perhaps, we are all a part of it.

Remember that show *Monkey* with Tripitaka, Sandy and Pigsy that always started with the intro "with our thoughts we create the World".

Well it's true, and welcome to the real world - it's kinda scary, but also wonderful.

To my mind it gives credence to the efficacy and substance of prayer and meditation, etc.

I told Albert I had some good and some bad news about his quantum entanglement theory.

### Stardust

IT'S COMPLICATED but basically about how one thing affects another - remember we are all but stardust animated by pulsating light/photons.

I told Albert that the good news was that these scientists split a photon and parked the bits 14 miles from each other - when one was manipulated with a magnet, the other moved in unison.

The bad news mate is that this occurred faster than the speed of light and blows many of your fundamental beliefs about physics out of the water.

Albert put his head in his hands for a moment and then turned to me and said "you bastard", and we all laughed.

I cracked open a bottle of Andrilee shiraz and toasted my companions, saying: "you guys planted the seeds from whence these fruits of knowledge and mystery have grown".

"There are three classes of people: those who see. Those who see when they are shown. Those who do not see" - Italian artist, sculptor, mathematician and inventor Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519).

## FEEDBACK

## Brickbats or Bouquets we value your opinion

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

## The Toodyay Herald

Office Hours are from 9am-1pm on highlighted days						
March - April 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	April 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

# Kung fu chef hunts elusive 'black gold' truffles

Ieva Tomsons

ONE WORD you'd never apply to master chef Alain Fabregues is 'mediocre'.

After more than 50 years, Alain has stepped away from the hothouse of cutting-edge cuisine to concentrate on growing truffles on his Toodyay farm.

"I've had too many pans in the air," he said, "and if it doesn't happen this year – the experiment is over".

It's an uncharacteristic statement from a man who has been twice knighted, by French Presidents Mitterrand (1994) and Chirac (2004), for services to cuisine and who, in 1991, won the prestigious Meilleurs Ouvriers de France (MOF) a peer-reviewed honour for master craftsmen.

The fact that he was the first ex-patriot Frenchman to win the MOF makes the achievement even more remarkable.

Alain grew up in Pessac, Bordeaux where from an early age he was absorbing the smells and tastes of his grandmother's kitchen. And, with a great-great-grandmother who cooked for Napoleon's army during the Italian campaign it's fair to say that cooking 'is in his blood'.

At 15, Alain started his three-year apprenticeship in a busy Bordeaux market workers' restaurant learning the fundamental skills to master the 18 disciplines of the culinary arts.

"Anyone can learn to make one dish," said Alain, "but by learning a technique you can make 100 dishes".

The value of an available and disciplined apprenticeship is inestimable to Alain who lambastes the collapse of the apprenticeship system in Australia and France.

"Only 500 of two million get an apprenticeship and the retention rate after five years is only 20 per cent."

In 1969 the newly-qualified chef packed his knives and sailed off on the SS Australis

celebrating his 21st birthday at sea with 2000 other young passengers.

"It was the sixties – it was a lot of fun."

After three months in Bonegilla migrant camp on the border of Victoria and NSW, Alain boarded the Indian Pacific for the three-day train trip across the Nullabor to Perth. He started his first shift at the then newly built Parmelia Hotel on his first afternoon in town.

In his 2010 book *Degustation – A Master Chef's Life Through Menus* Alain recalls how the kitchen regime of Perth's 'premier hotel' felt "like a ship without a captain" and that the most-used piece of kitchen equipment was the tin-opener – even a house speciality, kangaroo tail soup, came out of a can.

Along the culinary road Alain met Lizzie who he took home to marry in his home town before setting off on a year-long motorbike trip through North Africa and Central Europe.

In those days you had to have your wits about when travelling in North Africa, with or without a brand-new BMW1000 touring bike and, not to mention, a brand-new wife.

For defence, a chef would be expected to pack a meat cleaver or boning knife but for Alain it was the martial arts weapon nunchucks.

From 1972 to the mid-80s Alain practised the choy lay fut kung fu style, competing locally and overseas.

A martial arts trophy won in Hong Kong in 1976 stands front and centre on his bedroom dresser where the wall is covered with countless golden plates and other culinary awards.

Returning from their overseas adventure in 1979, Alain and Lizzie secured The Loose Box, a run-down restaurant in Sawyers Valley. After 36 years and a relocation to Mundaring the Loose Box set the standard for cuisine nouvelle in WA and was twice voted the best restaurant in Australia.



Alain Fabregues with his oak trees that he hopes will help produce a new Toodyay truffle crop.

The Loose Box "we couldn't afford to change the sign", sighs Alain, led the charge in establishing kitchen gardens, using seasonal produce and foraging for local ingredients such as mushrooms.

Alain's pursuit of growing the 'black gold' Perigord truffle in Toodyay started in 2004 when he planted 1300 English and French oak tree hosts on his 15ha farm.

In 2011 he found his first and only unripe truffle which led to established Manjimup truffle growers crying "foul" at the unseasonal

discovery in an untried area.

Of the 'great truffle kerfuffle' Alain said: "If I hadn't found the truffle, I would not have continued."

After battling water shortages, mice and river snails Alain is concentrating on seven rows of inoculated trees which he hopes will produce the prized Perigord which retails for about \$2500 a kilo.

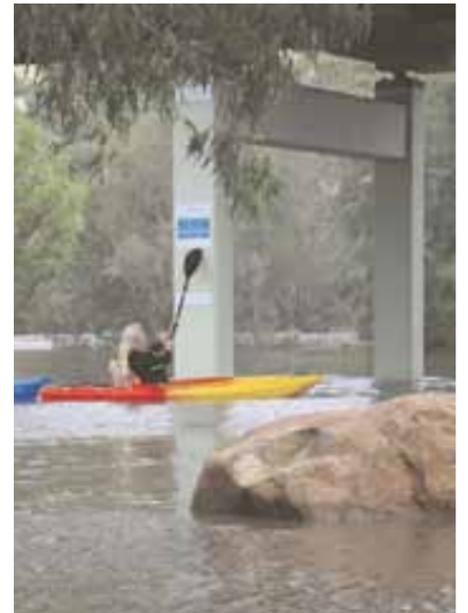
If not? "Maybe I'll farm pheasants," said the indefatigable chef.

See *A Taste of Toodyay* Page 19.

## Roads, bridge cut as flooded Avon River bursts banks



Katrine Bridge (above) cut by last month's flood while a paddler (right) checks Newcastle Bridge flood levels. More photos Pages 11, 14.



### GRANT WRITER



**Do you want to work from home and earn some extra money?**

The Toodyay Community Resource Centre is accepting applications for a Grant Writer to help our team to facilitate grant funded programs, research and pursue potential grant opportunities and prepare reports relating to grant activities.

Initially a 12 month contract, this could be a long term position for you working with a great team of people to help fund events for our community. The contract will pay on a per grant basis with rates adjusted for successful and unsuccessful applications

If you think you have skills to create compelling grant proposals please submit your cover letter and resume to:

**trcmanager@westnet.com.au**  
**Attention Manager – Bec Hoffman**  
**or call 9574 5357 for further details.**

## Dows vote on truck route past their properties

Continued from Page 1.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT law does not define what a "significant" interest in common might be.

However, WA Local Government Department "operational guidelines" on disclosure of financial interest say the requirement "need not be as many as half of electors or ratepayers but clearly one or two per cent would not be enough".

President Dow and his wife are among an estimated 70 residents who live or own properties on the town's heavy-haulage route, which accounts for about 1.9 per cent of all Toodyay electors and ratepayers

The pair left the chamber while other councillors discussed what to do before deciding 5-1 – with Cr Sally Craddock

against and Cr Brian Rayner absent – to allow the pair back in to vote on the bypass.

They also voted 6-0 for President Dow to vacate the chair and to appoint Deputy President Therese Chitty to run the debate.

Cr Judy Dow sought to remove the word "indefinitely" from deferring any action on the trees until all funding options were exhausted but her amendment lapsed for lack of support.

Shire CEO Stan Scott said feedback about re-routing heavy trucks down Stirling Terrace – which was opposed by the Toodyay Chamber Commerce and Industry – showed it was "not a good alternative".

However, it could be "revisited" if the shire could not get funds to build a new route.

Cr Eric Twine – a Nunile broad-acre

farmer – said he opposed dropping the option to switch the truck route to Stirling Terrace because "one group strongly put their view forward but nobody else was asked".

He convinced most other councillors – including President Dow and Cr Judy Dow – to add the words "without further resolution of council" to an 8-0 decision to "not proceed with designating Stirling Terrace as a restricted access vehicle route".

Councillors also agreed to apply for money from the WA Government's new \$48 million fund for agricultural commodity routes.

If successful, the shire would use money to improve the town's existing heavy-haulage route, with "first priority" for the corner where the two Anzac Memorial Park trees stand.

# The Toodyay Herald

## After the flood

A MOOD of renewal is brewing in Toodyay – you can almost smell it in the air.

It's as if recent summer floods have breathed new life into the town.

The flood itself was a spectacle to behold. The mighty Avon River awoke unexpectedly from decades-long slumber to amaze us with its stunning beauty and power.

The sight of millions of tonnes of water cascading through the valley held many in awe and drew hundreds of sightseers.

Other amazing things have also been happening in Toodyay.

In the space of a month, two local hotel owners have announced major upgrades, more tourists appear to be visiting town and local traders say business since Christmas is surprisingly better than expected.

Property prices have steadied, there are increasing signs of new building construction work and people generally appear more optimistic about the future.

A revitalised Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry is bursting with fresh ideas (see *Ask the Experts, Page 11*) and – could it be true? – we might even get a new public swimming pool.

The key to progress is to create the right environment to attract new business investment, and better public facilities to encourage more young families and entrepreneurs to settle locally.

It's worked elsewhere in towns such as Bridgetown, Pemberton and Manjimup, and now surely it's Toodyay's turn.

Change is needed, and we have a chance to capture the moment before it slips away.

As Baby Boomer folk idol Bob Dylan sang more than 50 years ago – *"Your old road is rapidly agein' – please get out of the new one if you can't lend your hand, for the times they are a-changin'."*

## Conflicts of interest?

IT IS CLEARLY a matter of public concern when elected officials are allowed to vote on issues that may affect their private interests.

When it is decisions on things such as rates and charges that affect a significant number of electors – no problem.

But when it is about whether heavy-haulage trucks are required to be driven past their back-street residential properties or re-routed down busy Stirling Terrace, you'd think such an interest might preclude them from voting – at least to meet public perceptions of impartiality.

A new approach may be needed to restore public confidence in a council that says it wants to connect better with the community it is elected to serve.

Michael Sinclair-Jones  
Editor

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- Psychological health problems and disorders
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- Workers' compensation
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Toodyay Bindoon Wongan Hills

### Richard Taylor Clinical Psychologist

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The Toodyay Herald invites you to have your say in our letters page. Please email your correspondence to [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au) with your full name, address and phone number. Letters that are short, sharp and to the point about topical local issues are preferred. The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length.



*The way we were – Sandalwood cutters move bundles of harvested trees on a two-wheeled cart drawn by four horses as a cow grazes on the roadside. Sandalwood cutters were some of the first pioneers in the Wheatbelt after a boom in sandalwood prices in the late 1880s, and this scene is thought to be near Telegraph Road, across the Avon River from the town of Toodyay. Photo Newcastle Gaol Museum.*

## LETTERS

### Devastating dog attack

WHAT WAS your dog doing on Tuesday night, February 14?

Did your dog come home covered in blood? Was it carrying any injuries?

If it was, what have you done about it?

Our beautiful alpaca, Scooby Doo, was mauled to death along with his two companion sheep.

He put up the fight of his life to protect himself and his two friends.

Scooby Doo's injuries were horrendous, one sheep died and the other had to be shot to put her out of her misery.

These animals were not just stock to help keep the grass down on our property – they were pets.

The alpaca had been with us for many years. Our pets told us when they were hungry, followed us around the property and were part of our reason for choosing the Toodyay lifestyle.

So 'thank you' to some irresponsible dog owner who couldn't be bothered to keep their dog in a secure environment.

You have caused so much heartache. My husband Mike is retired and gets so much pleasure from tending to his little flock every day.

You have caused unnecessary expense as well, but are you prepared to come forward to apologise and compensate?

The real thank you must go to shire ranger Debbie Papps and reserves management officer Greg Warburton.

Thank you Debbie for such a prompt response and, to both of you, for your compassion, understanding and support. This was not a pleasant job for you to attend.

Thanks also to wonderful Steve Jones, who left a job on the other side of town to bury our poor animals, and to the kind lady on her early morning walk who brought to our attention the devastation that we were to face.

If anyone has any information at all please contact the shire ranger. The next attack could be on your property.

Judy (and Mike) Fisher  
Toodyay

### Stray cat local law required

THE PROBLEM of local stray pet and feral cats was again highlighted last month when I received a call-out to a juvenile Goulds Monitor (*Varanus gouldii*) that had been attacked by a cat and left with blood and puncture wounds on its body.

Such attacks can be deadly because all cats are carnivorous and carry high levels of bacteria that cause fatal infection.

We are licensed wildlife carers and keep injectable antibiotics and pain relief medication that were used to treat the injured lizard without the need to call a vet, which is always a problem after hours.

Early intervention meant the injured reptile has a good chance of survival and can be released, but otherwise it is difficult to save these animals.

What is the Shire of Toodyay doing to control stray cats?

It enforces WA's 2011 Cat Act but this requires owners only to have their cats sterilised, registered and microchipped.

The State Government encourages local councils to do more but our shire has done nothing despite it being requested over the past 18 months and provided with an offer to help draft new local cat control laws.

Stronger local laws will enable our shire rangers to control stray cats more effectively – and they do work.

Eastern states friends say they never see stray cats or dogs because owners face a \$250 fine for a first offence and \$1000 for a second if they let their animals stray.

There is no fine for a third offence but the animal is not returned to the owner.

I know of several of instances where local property owners have risked a \$5000 fine to shoot stray cats – only authorised people are allowed to euthanise animals in WA.

However, current laws do not make it illegal for owners to allow their cats to stray.

People think their well-fed pets won't kill but it is their instinct – a cat can kill more than 1000 animals and birds each year.

The Federal Government plans to cull two million feral cats – a third of Australia's feral cat population – by 2020.

Part of the \$5 million funding – which our shire may be able to help local groups tap into – is available for this purpose.

New local cat control laws will help stop distressing call-outs to save animals and birds that have been injured by cats owned by irresponsible people.

Brian Foley  
Dewars Pool

### Shire 'double dips' on rates

I READ WITH interest that on January 16 this year the Shire of Toodyay refunded \$3253.34 to "Yamkuang" Resources for lot E70/03730 Tenement Road which was noted in a list of payments presented to last month's council meeting.

After a little investigation it appears that "Yamkuang" is actually Yankuang Resources and Tenement Road is not an address but an expired tenement number previously held by the Chinese bauxite miner.

For those unfamiliar with local government, tenements are seen as ownership of the land they encompass and therefore mining companies are sent rates notices and pay rates on them accordingly.

The owner of the land itself also pays rates, and therefore local governments are basically double-dipping.

While this is completely legal, it is little wonder local shires welcome tenements and mining companies with open arms.

It provides an additional income stream that does not require any extra services and continues until such time that – as with this case – the tenement expires or is surrendered.

Once a mining tenement is converted to a mining lease or licence, the shire can continue to collect rates for the life of the operation.

I have been unable to find out if the amount of rates payable increases when mining begins and ore worth millions of dollars is extracted, but for those who may be interested, I will endeavour to find out.

Brian Dale - President  
Avon and Hills Mining Awareness Group

### Native clearing response

THERE IS A SAYING that the truth should not get in the way of a good story, and that is exactly the issue with a letter about native bush clearing in Dewars Pool that Toodyay Naturalists Club President Brian Foley wrote in last month's *Herald*.

His letter was based on assumptions and hearsay and – by his own admission – he had not visited the site or made inquiries about the facts.

I own the property that the letter was written about, and the first assumption was that I am a male.

The second assumption was that a bulldozer was used to install a firebreak – it was an excavator.

Approval was obtained from the Shire of Toodyay to clear 1.5m of the reserve to replace a derelict boundary fence.

A shire representative at an onsite meeting asked if the excavator could clear a firebreak around the entire Dudley Chitty Reserve instead of only where we were replacing our boundary fencing.

He said the shire would contribute to the cost, contradicting the third assumption that no approval was sought.

The watercourse of Phillips Brook was not altered.

The recent flooding was due to unseasonal rain and a dam on a neighbouring property bursting its bank – not because of the fourth assumption that clearing caused the watercourse to change.

A fifth assumption was that land within the reserve was cleared when in fact a firebreak was cleared around the reserve.

A licensed surveyor established and re-pegged the boundary according to official Landgate maps because old survey pegs were burnt and fences lost in the last fire that went through the reserve.

There had been no firebreak around the reserve for at least 45 years, when it was previously a water reserve.

As a property owner and local resident I feel my property is better protected now there is a firebreak in the event of a fire starting within the reserve.

There are no signs saying that an open fire cannot be lit if the public decides to have a picnic in the reserve.

I agree we need to conserve our natural bush from unnecessary destruction.

However, we live in a bushfire-prone area and need to be practical.

In this case, a firebreak was necessary around Dudley Chitty Reserve.

Suzanne Pescetti  
Dewars Pool

### Extent of clearing questioned

I WROTE a letter last month about what I considered illegal clearing of native vegetation at Dudley Chitty Reserve in Dewars Pool.

I had a site meeting with everyone concerned but it did not go well, with one person loudly refuting our claims.

I never said he was not given instructions to clear a firebreak.

However, the way in which the clearing was done meant that in some areas it went back 20m into the reserve.

His reasoning was that a tree might fall onto the new fence.

I agree this could happen at any time – farmers often have to deal with trees falling on fences – but I do not see this as a reason for unwarranted clearing.

The 20m clearing also occurred between a private landholder's fence and the reserve.

This landholder is very annoyed that trees were interfered with on his property, causing problems with a creek that runs through it.

Toodyay Shire CEO Stan Scott advised that the clearing was discussed, and it has now fallen on ratepayers to bear the cost of a clean-up and restoration.

It was decided that the clearing – though not illegal – did not follow best practices.

The shire won't take any action against those responsible but will tighten its firebreak code.

I only hope residents are learning that you need a good reason before any trees are removed on any land.

Brian Foley  
Dewars Pool

# - THE MOORE REPORT CARD -



I have been a strong advocate for the people of Moore and have brought community concerns to Parliament.

I've been an outspoken opponent of forced Local Government amalgamations and supported landholder rights to veto oil and gas exploration and production.

Other local issues lodged by me in the Parliament have led to the Kalbarri Micro-grid, normalising the Bindoon water supply and a cleaner Jurien Bay Marina with ongoing scientific studies to help direct long term improvements to the Marina.

Strong advocacy has also led to the construction of a seawall in Seabird and saved houses, the AvonLink train service continues and a revamped Geraldton Residential College has extended boarding options for students from Moore. Australia's only monastic town, New Norcia will be preserved with a bypass following my work with the former Deputy Prime Minister, Warren Truss.

I was disgusted by the standard of housing in Mullewa and took two Housing Ministers to see the conditions first hand. Now, the housing on offer is greatly improved and construction of aged care units in the town is set to begin soon.

## NATIONALS WA POLICY SNAPSHOT

**ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS //** The Nationals created *Royalties for Regions* and we fight every day to preserve it. Don't listen to city-based parties that tell you they will continue *Royalties for Regions*. They will spend the money where the vast majority of their members are - in the city, NOT in your community. Only The Nationals can be trusted to preserve *Royalties for Regions*.

**FRACKING //** Our farmers are concerned that they can't stop oil and gas companies coming on to their properties. The Nationals understand their concern. That's why we have moved to support the right of a landowner to veto oil and gas operations, including fracking on their private property.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT //** As the Party spokesperson on Local Government, I led The Nationals' opposition to the Liberal plan to forcibly amalgamate local government. The Nationals used our numbers in the Parliament to prevent forced amalgamation of Local Government.

**FREMANTLE PORT //** The Nationals prevented the sale of Fremantle Port. We support continued state ownership and control of this strategic asset.

**RURAL FIRE SERVICE //** The Nationals WA support establishing a Rural Fire Service that respects local knowledge, experience and expertise and puts these values at the forefront of bushfire preparation and response.

**COUNTRY AGE PENSION FUEL CARD //** The Nationals initiated the Country Age Pension Fuel Card and now it's worth \$575 per year. Only the Nationals will continue to fight for it to be funded.

**AGRICULTURE //** In the past four years we have allocated more than \$350 million to agricultural projects. If re-elected, we plan to add an additional \$277 million to help one of WA's most important industries grow.

To find out more about our policies, head to: [http://www.nationalswa.com/our\\_policiesmore](http://www.nationalswa.com/our_policiesmore)

## WHAT HAS \$240 MILLION ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS FUNDING MEANT FOR MOORE?



That includes \$74 million in funding for Health and Aged Care in Moore, respite facilities in Jurien Bay, a developing Centre of Excellence in Aged Care in Moora and the construction of age appropriate units in Northampton, Mingenew, Mullewa, Morawa, Perenjori, Dalwallinu, Dongara, Moora, Toodyay, Yerecoin and Calingiri.

Also funded by *Royalties for Regions*, the \$22.46 million Turquoise Coast Health Initiative project will greatly improve health services to the coastal and inland communities near to Lancelin, Jurien Bay and Dongara. A further \$28 million has been devoted to upgrading health facilities in Mullewa, Dongara, Jurien Bay, Moora and Dalwallinu.

Over 3,870 pensioners in Moore appreciate the \$575 Country Age Pension Fuel Card.

The Nationals introduced this *Royalties for Regions* funded program to help pensioners meet some of the additional cost of living in the country.

Some 344 mobile phone towers and small cells are being provided across WA thanks to \$105 million of *Royalties for Regions*. More than 70 mobile phone towers are operational or planned in Moore, making a huge difference to communications.

I believe that our children face educational disadvantage in the regions. I think the small country primary schools generally provide a good start but the local High Schools are under-resourced. Innovative thinking is needed to improve course selection and education results. I will fight to have this addressed.

The Nationals have secured more than \$240 million *Royalties for Regions* funding for local projects across Moore.

## MOORE TO COME

I am proud of what the Nationals have achieved in Moore and across the state



Artist's impression of Toodyay pool and rec facility

Toodyay is our state's second oldest inland town but its recreational facilities are not up to scratch for a town of its age or size. If re-elected, The Nationals WA will provide \$10 million of *Royalties for Regions* funding to develop the **Toodyay pool** and recreation facility.

Improving roads across the electorate is a huge priority for me. I raised **Toodyay Road's** poor safety record with the Ministers for Road Safety and Transport and facilitated a Community Road Safety Forum. We now have upgrades underway and a plan going forward. I will support funding for an alternative **heavy haulage route** through the town of Toodyay which does not disrupt the character of the town nor the serenity of Toodyay's parks and gardens.

**Power supplies** in Toodyay and areas such as Morangup need to improve. The Nationals support the establishment of a fund to encourage innovation in power generation and storage solutions closer to community. As with the Kalbarri microgrid and battery proposed for Perenjori, I will advocate for solutions for communities right across Moore.

As Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Regional Development, I have helped develop **Ageing in the Bush** to address the needs of the elderly in the regions. I will continue to work hard to secure more *Royalties for Regions* funding for facilities and programs needed by our elderly right across the electorate of Moore.

## RFR SPEND IN THE TOODYAY SHIRE

AvonLink service	\$6.575 million
Wheatbelt Renal Services, Northam – share of	\$3.45 million
Aged Living Units	\$3.08 million
Shire depot	\$717,000
Footbridge	\$593,208
Recreation facility	\$558,405
Skatepark	\$200,000
Medical Centre	\$110,000
Charcoal Lane Carpark	\$100,000
Toodyay Shire water storage upgrade	\$64,058
Visitors Centre	\$58,405
Anzac Park	\$50,000

\*Information sourced from the RfR Investment Map, January 2017 - <https://rfrmap.drd.wa.gov.au/>

**VOTE [1] Shane Love**

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E: MooreElectorate@mp.wa.gov.au f Shane Love MLA t ShaneLove\_Moore

[www.shanelove.com.au](http://www.shanelove.com.au)

**THE NATIONALS**  
for Regional WA

Authorised by S Love, Shop 2, 29 Moreton Terrace, Dongara WA 6525.

# Thrill-seekers endanger life in flood

## Police Beat

With Sgt Warren Conder  
Toodyay Police Station



A TOODYAY man was arrested and spent the night in Perth police lock-up after he and another man jumped off Newcastle Bridge at the height of last month's flood.

They were among at least six local adults warned about putting lives at risk during the flood, in which two people died elsewhere in WA.

The first man jumped off Newcastle Bridge in front of dozens of onlookers around lunchtime on Sunday February 12 when floodwaters were at their peak.

He landed safely and made it to the river bank.

The second man who jumped was swept away into a clump of trees downstream and disappeared from sight.

He emerged uninjured soon after and waded ashore after fears he may have been swept away and drowned.

"The man was obstructive and aggressive when questioned by police, and then became violent," Toodyay police chief Sgt Warren Conder said.

"He was arrested, charged with disorderly conduct and obstructing police and spent the night in custody before pleading guilty to the charges.

"Jumping off the bridge was a very stupid thing to do – he put at risk his own life and potentially the lives of others who may have had to try to rescue him."

### New hi-tech surveillance

NEW infra-red night vision security cameras worth a total of \$20,000 are being installed in Toodyay to help police better identify and track offenders.

Upgraded equipment is being installed at the Goomalling Road intersection, Charcoal Lane near the IGA store, Toodyay Fire Station and Freemasons Hotel.

The new cameras have high-definition capability and automatic number plate recognition.

Individual cameras can also detect up to nine points of interest and zoom into each point automatically on rotation.

Each camera is linked to a display inside Toodyay Police Station.

"It will remove blind spots and help us more easily identify vehicles of interest and trace their owners," Sgt Conder said.

### Meth found in car accident

A MINOR traffic accident in Henry Street in which a man was injured when pinned between a slow-moving car and a pole resulted in an arrest after a trafficable quantity of methamphetamine (ice) was allegedly found in the vehicle.

Police and a St John Ambulance crew attended the scene at about 10.30am on Tuesday February 7 after the man tried to get out of the car while it was reversing and injured himself.

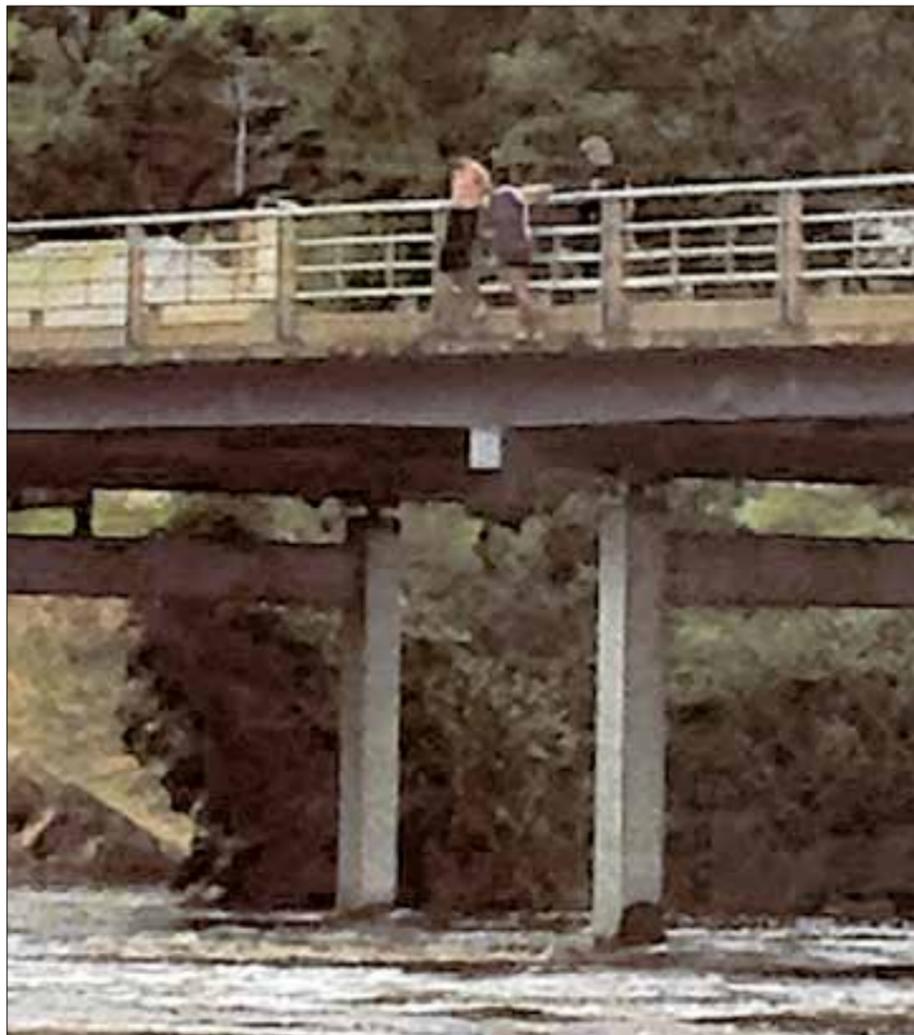
A police search of the car found snap-lock bags of white crystals and cash, and the man was arrested and charged with drug dealing.

He was remanded in custody pending a court appearance.

### Drug-driving takes over

DRUG DRIVING is replacing drink driving as a major traffic offence in Toodyay.

"You'll always get more speeders than drug



A local resident prepares to jump off Newcastle Bridge.

or drink drivers but we get at least one drug driver a week," Sgt Conder said.

"It's usually for methamphetamine but can also be cannabis – and driving with both is not uncommon.

"It's becoming so prevalent that stopping drug drivers is like shooting fish in a barrel – but we can't be on the street stopping cars all the time because of other demands on police time and resources.

"However, our key focus this month is more traffic stops in Toodyay."

### Lock up your guns

POLICE ARE appealing for local gun owners to ensure their firearms are registered and secured correctly according to State legislation.

"We are about to start random inspections on properties over the next three months," Sgt Conder said.

"The last time we did this, we visited 40 properties, found 20 breaches, charged 12 people and cautioned eight.

"I expect a better response this time and hope for a zero result."

Sgt Conder said most firearms used by WA criminals to commit offences were stolen from regional properties.

They included .22 rifles normally used for shooting rabbits and high-powered .223 firearms used to control kangaroos.

### Grandies get the goods

ABOUT 20 Toodyay senior citizens attended a second 'Coffee with the Cops' at the Cola Café in Stirling Terrace last month.

Topics included the overall crime scene in Toodyay and how grandparents can respond to domestic violence and drug abuse among younger family members.

"We'll do another one in about six months

and broaden it so anyone can attend," Sgt Conder said.

### Unlicensed dirt bikes at risk

PEOPLE riding unlicensed dirt bikes on public roads and tracks face having their machines impounded under new State laws.

Police can impound an unlicensed motorcycle or issue a surrender notice if it is reasonably suspected to have been used on a road, including when riding between properties.

The law includes unlicensed mini-bikes ridden by young people.

"Police don't need to see an unlicensed motorcycle being ridden but can act on a video of it entering or leaving a property," Sgt Conder said.

"This can result in a police notice to surrender an unlicensed motorcycle within seven days, or a fine for non-compliance."

## Travel prizes lure the unsuspecting

Toodyay Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association  
Desraé Clarke

TRAVEL PRIZE scams offering wonderful prizes are currently a worry.

If, when searching for on-line travel-destination data you sign up for further information you may be notified by email, phone, text message or post that you have won prizes in the form of a holiday or travel vouchers worth several thousand dollars.

However, when you attempt to claim the prizes you are told that it is necessary to purchase more travel vouchers.

Other messages may be that you are eligible for heavily discounted accommodation or holiday packages, which are often said to be worth \$2000-\$3000 for packages in Thailand, Bali, Pacific Islands or, to Florida or the Bahamas; it states that entry to theme parks or cruises are greatly discounted.

With this 'offer' the prospective client is asked for credit card and driver's licence details to take advantage of it.

Providing these details places you at great risk of losing money and opens the door to identity theft.

Over a period of one month in the latter part of 2016 there were 127 reports received by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and nearly \$8500 was lost to these scams.

Delia Rickard, Deputy Chair ACCC, says the main object of the scammer is to obtain your financial and personal particulars.

Do not use any of the contact numbers, links or information given by the scammer. Do not give any information – hang up or delete the email as soon as possible.

If bank details have been given contact your bank immediately to cancel the transaction.

Report the scam on 1300 795 995 as soon as possible and check scamwatch.gov.au for further information.

Call: 000 for emergencies only; WAScamNet 1300 30 40 54; Toodyay Police 9574 9555 and, Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

**JIM KELLY MOORE** | **PAULINE HANSON'S one NATION**

Jim Kelly  
M. 0428 515 045  
moore@onation.com.au  
/moore.phon

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EMERGENCY SERVICES



New stairs at the Morangup fire station give fire crews easy access to emergency vehicles. Photo Peter Harms.

# All quiet on eastern fire front – so far, so good

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Bejoording**  
From the desk of The Badger

WHAT A wonderfully event-free season this has been.

As I write it is still February and permit fires have been allowed early.

Hopefully I do not speak too soon but we have got through summer without extended heatwaves, large electric storms and gale-force winds.

There have been no serious fires in our area for a long time.

The plentiful rains in the month have also helped a lot and driving around the region it is very good to see so many dams at capacity.

The country is so green in places you would be forgiven for thinking we were well into autumn.

In a few places the roads are still wet with run-off and many trees are flowering early.

Our hearty thanks to all those crew who have been on standby throughout the summer, have been called out only to be stood down again, and have done so with good grace.

If you would like to discuss becoming a volunteer firefighter, please give us a call.

An informative chat is not a commitment and we would like the opportunity to meet you.

Our next regular meeting will be at the Shed at 6pm on Tuesday March 21.

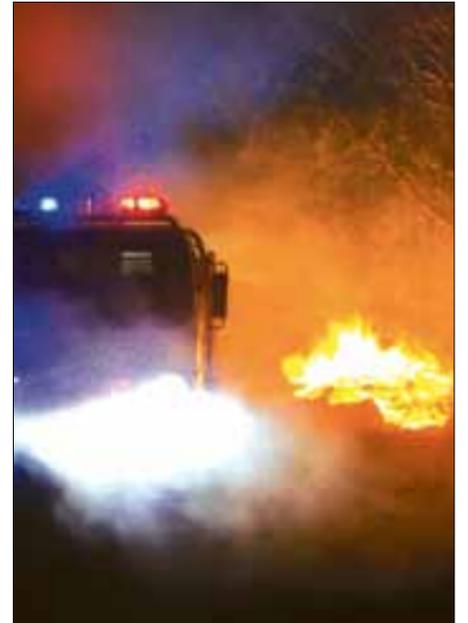
The Bejoording Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade reminds you that having a permit does not lessen the need to be vigilant and careful.

Always remember to plan and prepare for fire and have a clear contingency strategy in place should things get out of control.

Fires can be a catastrophic risk to people, animals and property, so please take care.

Advice is free but getting it wrong can be expensive.

If you have any questions, remember you can contact captain Barry Grey on 9574 2149, or The Badger on 9574 4834. Please leave a message if we are not there.



Julimar Brigade in action. Photo Grant Scobie.

## Many hands make local busy bee hum

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Morangup**  
Sue Maddrell

THE WET WEATHER we've been having has meant a rest for fire fighters with only a couple of calls.

The brigade held a busy bee in February with the help of fire, ambulance and SES volunteers.

New stairs leading down to the tanks were put in place and cemented in, an entrance was made through the metal barrier, box drains were vented through the side wall and trenches for the drains under the road were dug.

A general clean-up was also done.

Thank you to Marcus and Valdis for the use of their Hiab and bobcat.

Everyone enjoyed a lovely morning tea supplied by the wives of the vollies and a sausage and bacon sizzle a few hours later. Thanks to Robyn and Keiko.

The new stairs now have paving up to them. Thank you to Mick Lee who volunteered to do the paving with Kim as his offsider.

The alarm system was renewed and extra cameras installed for better security. Thank you to Brian and Sam Allen and Glen Bailes for the hours spent installing it all.

We had our usual monthly meeting. MLA Shane Love came along and was interested to know our thoughts on the possibility of a separate country fire authority.

Steve had gone to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting and informed us that firebreak rules had changed. The width of the break remains the same but the height will now be four metres.

Joy asked what the craft group could make for the stall the brigade holds at the Toodyay Agricultural Show.

We are looking at selling crafts as well this year. All donations welcome.

The AGM has been set for Sunday April 23 at 10am.

Monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month at 5.30pm with a BBQ afterwards for those who wish to stay on.

# Keep The Nationals WA fighting for you

## Vote **1** The Nationals WA on **BOTH** ballot papers

Help us:



Make the big miners pay their fair share



Secure a debt-free future for our children



Save Royalties for Regions

## Learn the Dr's ABCD to save a life

**St John Ambulance**  
Charlie Wroth

WOULD YOU know what to do in an emergency if a family member has a seizure, heart attack or any other life-threatening medical condition?

It is well known that immediate first aid can save lives and reduce any further damage.

Whatever the emergency is, the first thing you need to do is follow the Dr's ABCD or DRSABCD

You can learn what these letters stand for at a first-aid course which teaches the six-step process of saving someone's life.

Throughout the year we are hoping to run regular courses – you never know when the skills you can learn on this course may be needed. Please give it some thought.

Courses will be advertised well in advance with flyers around town, Herald articles and our Facebook page.

We have donated a number of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in our area.

You will find them in IGA, chemist, bowling club, Cola Cafe, school, Bolgart shop and the Morangup Community Centre to name a few.

If you, or your workplace is interested in having a demonstration on the use of an AED please contact Carolynne at the sub-centre 9574 2390 to make arrangements.

If you have any other first-aid enquiries please feel free to call in or phone.



Shane LOVE  
Moore



Mia DAVIES  
Central Wheatbelt



**THE NATIONALS** for Regional WA

[www.nationalswa.com](http://www.nationalswa.com)

Authorised by J Hayward, 3 Ord St West Perth 6005.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Brigade meeting done, dusted in 20 minutes

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade  
Julimar**  
Alison Wroth

WE HELD our brigade general meeting at 'The Fireplace' on February 18.

Those who attended witnessed a record for the quickest-run meeting in our brigade's history, lasting a rapid-fire 20 minutes to get through all the reports and business.

Excellent job Vicki Wesley.

At this time of year, it is common for this to occur, owing to the long list of apologies due to holidays or attractions in the Margaret River region possibly.

I'm sure our captain and his jolly cohorts will fill us all in on what the Leeuwin Concert was like when they all return.

It was a great effort by our brigade and all others in response to the Julimar Forest fire on Australia Day.

Well done to all crews who turned out for this fire.

Remember that initial responders to

fires need to be extra vigilant in regard to suspicious activity or people and to report it immediately to the police.

This was what happened at the Julimar fire which resulted in an arrest.

The fire at Morangup was also very well attended and thanks to the crew who turned out to that as well.

Our heartfelt thanks to the Toodyay Op Shop for their generous donation recently of \$1500.

What a fantastic contribution from a group of ladies who themselves do so much for the community.

This donation is very much appreciated.

The new training packages developed by Wade and Grant have been going very well with the last of the Truck Driver Training recently completed.

Basically, if anybody on the brigade would like anything revised or any skill gone over, just mention it to Grant and he will sort it for you.

This season, we have been advised that 72 firebreak infringements were issued



Julimar Brigade in action. Photo Grant Scobie.

and it is still an ongoing process as more inspections are due.

In addition, four individuals in the community were charged or fined for fires that they had caused.

This just goes to show that you can hand people brochures, do lectures/workshops on what prevents fires, even attend their home blocks to see if they can be defended during a bushfire to motivate the owner; but in the end, it all comes down to the individual to complete their firebreaks to a reasonable and accessible standard.

Weeds are springing to life all around the place after the recent flooding in the Avon catchment, so that will be the next job to do, spray the weeds/paddy melons around your home block to keep everything neat and tidy.

Remember it is still summer.

So, if you are new to the Julimar area or you have heard about the Julimar fire brigade and its members through your friends and are interested in joining a brigade in the shire, please come down on Friday evening from 5.30pm onwards and meet the members or just buy a raffle ticket and have a chat about your fire plan or possibly lack of one.

Drinks and supper at 6.30pm, whatever the weather, so call by and grab some information and make new friends.

# Restricted burning sets conditions

**Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade  
Toodyay Central**  
Mick McKeown

THE PAST month has been relatively quiet on the fire ground. Heavy rains that caused the minor flooding in the shire kept fire at bay for the first half of the month.

Still Central volunteers turned out to two fires, both at night and both immediately adjacent to the railway line.

Both fires were dealt with expeditiously by Central and fellow shire brigades.

The fire on February 16 provided an unexpected opportunity for some members to practise their skills in vehicle recovery from boggy ground.

Since Christmas several new members have joined the brigade and attended fires such as the Drummond Street fire on New Year's morning and the Julimar Forest fire later in the month.

All members acquitted themselves well and we look forward to working together for a long time to come.

As a result of the recent heavy rain and green growth, the shire brought forward the restricted burning period which started on February 23.

This does not mean we are now allowed to light fires. Fires can only be lit by holders of permits which are only available from the Shire of Toodyay – permits will only be issued with conditions.

The Restricted Burning period often gives rise to call-outs to fires that have escaped the control of permit holders so, vigilance is encouraged.

Anytime a fire is lit, it should be watched and this is doubly important during the Restricted Burning period.

If you are interested in finding out more about bush firefighting, or about our brigade, or if you would like to join our brigade, please get in touch with our captain, Mick McKeown 0439 998 808 or our secretary, Wayne Clarke 6364 3609 or email: 2jcentralvbf@westnet.com.au.

Our next monthly meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday, March 28 at the fire station in Stirling Terrace.



## Darren SLYNS

Liberal for **Moore**



### Securing a strong future for Moore

#### DRUGS, MENTAL HEALTH, YOUTH and UNEMPLOYMENT

These social issues are silently undermining many local communities. I am prepared to tackle these issues and I have over 20 years of relevant experience on the frontline. I know what needs to be done. You called for someone with grassroots experience to represent you, well here I am. I have resigned from a 21 year policing career to take up this challenge and tell the stories of true hardship to those that have the power to improve the quality of our lives.

Whilst tackling these issues as a police officer I have also managed my own small business (Heritage Country Cheese) for 17 years and have been awarded several small business awards in categories such

as Innovation and Entrepreneurship. I understand small businesses and I want to help them grow.

I am also the current Deputy President of the Shire of Dandaragan so I understand what local government needs to do to support your local community and what the state government needs to do to support your local government.

I truly feel that my whole life has culminated to this very point and that this is what I was meant to do. I will be a hardworking, professional and financially responsible Member of Parliament.



Vote for Darren SLYNS and the Liberal team at the March 11 State Election. Keep politics local and vote for someone that will roll the sleeves up and get it done.



**Darren SLYNS**  
Liberal for Moore

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# Residents' group asks for answers

**Toodyay Progress Association**  
Larry Graham, Chair

TOODYAY RESIDENTS filled the town's community centre for the inaugural meeting of our newly formed association.

Among them were the Toodyay Shire President, two former shire presidents, five serving and former councillors, a former shire CEO and local MP Shane Love.

The big crowd was introduced to the association's six committee members: myself, Lesley-Jane Campbell, Geoff Appleby, Annette LaBouchardiere, Brian Foley and Bob Neville.

This group combines strong local, state and regional government experience with business, economic, administrative and environmental knowledge, and is committed to public advocacy aimed at advancing Toodyay's economic and social prosperity.

The association is a volunteer body that wants to help build a more efficient and effective local government that makes better decisions with more accountability and greater community participation in its affairs.

Discussions at last month's public meeting included shire legal costs, the town's heavy-haulage route, plans to cut down Anzac Memorial Park trees, the aborted sale of Mrs O'Reilly's Cottage, changing shire boundaries, sports facilities, rates and various attitudes that seem to inhibit or intimidate our local shire councillors from speaking publicly on local issues.

Our elected representatives have an obligation to inform constituents of their opinions.

It is incomprehensible that this is still an issue in Toodyay after the Minister for Local Government said: "The mayor or shire presidents are the spokespersons for the local authority. They are an independent authority in their own right."

"Councillors do, however, have a right to go out there and champion local causes, speak in their local papers or even go onto their local networks, radio or otherwise to talk about issues around the broader area."

Since last month's public meeting, our association has written to the Toodyay Shire



Association chair Larry Graham addresses the public meeting as Toodyay Shire President David Dow raises his hand to query a point.

Council to inquire about the total cost of recent legal actions.

We also asked for an independent departmental inquiry into why last year's shire rates were unlawful and had to be quashed in November by a State tribunal.

At the time of publication we have not received an acknowledgement of our letters or any meaningful answers.

Because of that lack of response, we asked more questions at the council's February 28 meeting.

Though they were sent the previous week – well before the council's deadline – we received no meaningful answers.

Ironically, while councillors later discussed a new draft communications strategy I was able to access some data already published by the council which shows legal payments

between last April and November totalling \$171,275.54. We live in hope the council will honour its own financial governance policy to "make decisions in relation to financial matters in a prudent manner considering transparency, accountability and equality to result in good governance".

We would love to hear your views on these

and other matters, and invite you to join us on an informal basis or as a paid-up member for \$10 a year. We plan to be up and running on social media soon, or you can contact us at toodyaypa@gmail.com.

We stress, as always, that we are a non-political public advocacy group and will not run candidates in any elections.

## Dive in for action on swimming pool

**Toodyay Swimming Pool Action Committee**

Bethan Lloyd

A SMALL GROUP met last month to discuss if the committee will continue and if so how we shall proceed.

Many people attended a recreation forum hosted by the WA National Party in December where we were told they would contribute \$10 million to Toodyay's recreation facilities.

Great offer, but they do have to be elected. We presume this offer will stand whoever wins the State election as long as the WA Nationals have the balance of power but all is speculation at the moment.

The money is coming from Royalties for Regions funding.

I believe the shire has written to the other

political parties for their reaction but I am not yet aware of their responses.

The shire has put in another application for Better Regions funding, with support letters from many community groups.

This is a reiteration of the Stronger Regions funding applied for previously.

The committee decided to wait for this month's State election outcome and the shire's funding application, then advertise another meeting of the committee.

We will propose that funds accumulated be handed over to the shire to be put into the swimming pool reserve fund and then propose winding up the committee.

However, if there is sufficient community interest to continue the swimming pool committee, then this could happen.

For more information please call Bethan on 9574 5882.

## Vote 1 GOM Estelle

**Estelle Gom is for Central Wheatbelt  
Put new Independent blood  
in the Train driver's seat.** ✓



Authorised by Estelle Gom, 28 McLennan Street Quairading 6383.  
Printed by The Toodyay Herald March 2017.

### How to choose the right real estate agent

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ASK THESE QUESTIONS

and

QUESTION THE LOGIC OF THE ANSWERS

?

1. Will the commission be greater than \$5500?
2. Will I pay more if I sell for more?
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4. Do you have a database of interested buyers?
5. What material will you use to sell my property?
6. What EXACTLY does 'negotiating a better deal' mean?
7. How do you sell the benefits of living in the area?



Ring New Way Home Sales for our answers - 0439 963 849



### Artwork charges

FOR SEVERAL years, *The Toodyay Herald* has not charged advertisers for artwork.

However, due to the increasing amount of work this involves, the Herald Committee has decided to introduce a small charge for new or amended advertisements.

All artwork must be formatted to the correct size that appears in print. It must be sent in press-ready CMYK mode as a PDF, TIFF or JPG file in the correct resolution – 300dpi – with all fonts embedded or converted to outline to avoid font substitution.

Artwork may be supplied on a flash drive, or electronically via email.

*The Toodyay Herald* retains the right to refuse any artwork or photos that are not in correct focus or are pixelated.

From next month, there will be a one-off charge of \$30 to prepare new advertisements – including for Trades and Services – sized up to half a page.

For advertisements bigger than half a page, the cost will be \$50.

These charges apply only to new artwork or when artwork for supplied advertisements does not meet the above print criteria.

Any charges will be invoiced with the first advertisement.

Minor changes to existing ads – eg: a new phone number or email address – will still be free of charge.

If in doubt please contact Sandra Harms on 9572 9061.

# Locals report back on refugee experience

**BEFORE CHRISTMAS**, we published accounts by Toodyay residents Despina Weston and Linda Rooney before they left for the Greek island of Chios to work with thousands of refugees from Syria

and elsewhere. They write about their experiences below and will give a talk at 4pm on Sunday March 12 in the Toodyay Community Resource Centre in Stirling Terrace.

## Dr Despina Weston

I AM NOT alone in feeling overwhelmed by the tragedy of human suffering.

No-one in their right mind would flee their country to make the treacherous journey by sea if not in fear for their life.

Aleppo was a beautiful city with a well-developed cultural and business life.

People who lived there and are now in the camp, are educated, had jobs and strong bonds to family and traditions.

Think for a moment if you came home to find your neighbourhood in ruins and your family dead.

Or, if you escaped, in search of a better tomorrow for your family and now you languish in a camp with no hope.

A desperate situation creates despair.

Refugees trapped like animals, ultimately will have longer-term consequences for all humanity.

To bear witness to experiences of this kind can be arrestingly powerful.

A feeling of disconnection from home is not unusual – it takes time to shift focus from Chios to Toodyay.

Personally and professionally I considered myself empathically tuned-in to the world.

Along with tragedy, despair and prejudice, I found kindness, generosity and humanity and humour from refugees, volunteers and agencies alike.

The locals on this ruggedly beautiful island couldn't be more friendly, courteous or accommodating.

I left Toodyay with a suitcase full of art materials and the good wishes and the support of a caring community.

I cannot convey how much the words of Nuala Ennis and my Bookclub friends sustained me, "...we have faith that you

bring hope into the lives of these unfortunate refugees.

"Know that our hope, our faith, our charity, thoughts and prayers go with you..."

In short, my work as art therapist aimed to capture the refugees' lived experience through a process that involved direct observation, drawing, interviews and storytelling.

I worked with women at the Athena Centre, with men at the English school, and in one-on-one consultation with a male refugee in a make-shift space at my hotel as there wasn't anywhere else to meet in relative privacy.

I will share a little about the women, the rest is a story for another time.

On arriving to the Athena Centre, the women turned on the heater and made a drink (no heating at the Souda camp).

What struck me most was how, even in these dire circumstances, it was the 'ordinariness' of life that sustained them.

Music played in the background. When one or the other became tired of listening to someone's music, they voiced their intent to play something from their own country of origin.

The women did what any women anywhere did – blow-dried their hair, adjusted a bra strap, put on a face mask or painted their nails.

They shared their smiles, hugs and their craft skills and enjoyed the hot showers with shampoo and conditioner.

In stark juxtaposition to life in the camp, how heartening to see things that we take for granted, are pleasures and treats to be indulged in.

Much was expressed in body language and in art-making.

English or Greek words came naturally as women asked for art materials – a practical



Art therapy in the open air on Chios Island.

application to language, in addition to the more formal learning.

To my delight, the filing cabinet of my brain opened up and I remembered long-forgotten Arabic words.

We worked on the floor, cross-legged and close together, sharing the space and the materials.

What a joy for me to be reminded of earlier times in my life when creating with family or friends as these women did.

## Looking Back

REFUGEES' LIVES are fraught with uncertainty, a lack of privacy, frustration and deprivation.

There is grief and trauma, loss, terror and fear for their lives, their loved ones, their future and the strange ways of a country foreign to them.

Some women are on their own, others have lost or left loved ones behind and some faced abuse and violence in the camp.

The Athena Centre provides advocacy, support and respite to women in the face of harshness in the Souda camp, its team of volunteers creating a safe place where women can 'recharge'.

Volunteering is an act of love. Airfares, accommodation and living expenses and health and travel insurance are totally self-funded.

Support of family, friends and community is vital to the well-being of a volunteer.

It is also a balancing act between the loss of

income and the benefits of the life-changing experience.

If you cannot volunteer, then please support those who can and donate to a really worthwhile cause.

Volunteers are enriched by the experience, as I have been.

We cannot change the world, but doing a little can make a big difference to the lives we touch.

## News from the camp

THERE IS always change in the camp and also in the political arena. Nothing is certain or predictable.

Some things, such as kettles and heaters, have improved in the camp.

On the other hand, a recent text from a refugee said he was desperate to leave and would go 'underground', without papers.

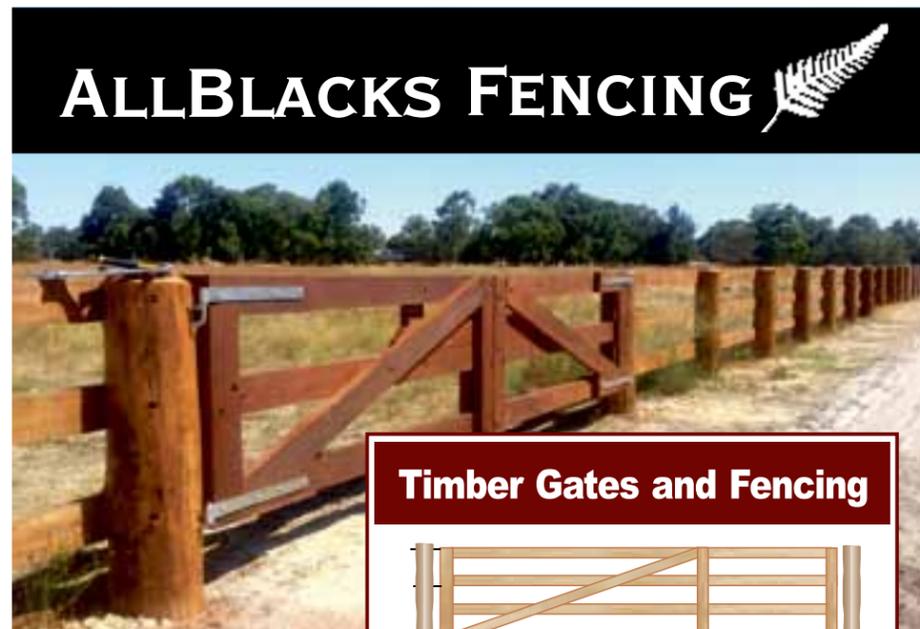
He was willing to escape from the camp and face even more uncertainty and that he was even willing to sell his kidney.

What is particularly difficult to reconcile is the big picture (the politics, the drama, the human suffering) with the work I was doing with individuals and small groups.

In that forum, there was hope and something good.

My hope would be that those individuals that I encountered, might have benefited, soothed, sustained and nourished, even for a short time.

If we lose our hope, it is easy to sink into hopelessness.



# ALLBLACKS FENCING

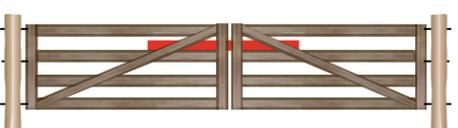
## Timber Gates and Fencing



**Standard Stock Gates**  
Mainly in Pine - Up to 4m long



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Singles or Doubles Jarrah or Pine  
Gates 1.8m at Hanger end 1050m in the middle



**Standard Style Gates**  
Singles or Doubles Jarrah or Pine



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Unloading supplies for the refugee camp. Photo Johan Solheim.

## Linda Rooney

MILLIONS OF Syrians like you and me, owned their homes, had good jobs, cars and holidays.

They are now forced to live in a strange country, in tents, with no money, surviving on handouts.

All are grieving the loss of their homes, secure life and family members.

While they waited in line for their food, I got to know, doctors, lawyers, hairdressers, beauticians, engineers, office workers, teachers and truck drivers.

All had been gainfully employed before their homes and workplaces were bombed.

One Syrian refugee I met on Chios said: "Europe lets us live here, trapped on an island, leaving us no other option than to wait, wait, wait – as if we are not real human beings."

"And do you know how this makes me feel? I feel like a burden."

"Every morning I stand in a line to be given food, every afternoon, every evening."

"I am a teacher. I have had a long working life as a university lecturer."

"I want to use my skills. I want to do something. I don't just want to be fed."

"We thought we were going to the Europe we read about in books."

"A Europe with a long history of political

thought, evolving from the medieval mentality into a place where the rational principles of brotherhood, equality and liberty were your guiding lights.

"For me it is as if I escaped from death, only to meet death."

"As if I escaped from the frying pan and fell into the fire."

To read this story in full and many more from my time at Chios please go to facebook.com/toodyaytraveler/.

I was fortunate to spend time on Chios with two amazing Toodyay residents, Zinnia Browne and Despina Weston.

As usual this wonderful town provided donations that made a difference.

I am happy to do a talk and presentation to any interested group.

For those from Toodyay Tidy Towns, Toodyay Arts Society and generous individuals who donated cash funds, these went to paying for Athena Women's Centre electricity and water for one month, wool, crochet and knitting needles, craft beads, shampoo, conditioner and shower gel, and hairbrushes.

To individuals in need: two ladies' track suits, one ladies' jacket, one men's track pants and many pairs of socks.

To children's activities: colouring-in books, pencils, crayons and Roz Davidson's beanies.

# Just a tweak and we'll take off like a rocket

**Jason Marion**  
Toodyay Bakery

TOODYAY NEEDS only a little bit of tweaking.

Most of us live in this beautiful little town because we love the community vibe and have grown tired of the rat race elsewhere.

We are also looking for somewhere to raise our families in a safer environment.

We would all love the convenience and facilities of a bigger town but are also sceptical about development.

The big question is how do we get both?

How do we make Toodyay more economically viable by adding growth and jobs without the need for more mining, rubbish tips and trucks on our roads?

I believe that we all need to get behind and promote how great the area is and what Toodyay has to offer.

Word of mouth has been the biggest contributor to the success of our little bakery.

The prosperity of the town depends on the people who live in it.

It's an obvious no-brainer that we need a public swimming pool and new recreation centre if we want to make Toodyay more liveable and family-friendly.

People these days tend to spend more money on experiences.

Apart from eating and sightseeing, what else could we bring to Toodyay?

There's a lot of open space – let's use it.

Motocross, camping, hot air balloons – let's build a small aircraft landing strip with some hangers, get some skydiving happening and offer a car rally experience near the runway.

We have some heavy hitters in town who could maybe lobby to move Barbagallo Raceway to Toodyay or start a riverside winter camping centre near town and have it run by a different club or community group each year.

Maybe plonk some old unused council-owned buildings there – like at Fairbridge Village, for a youth camp with a team-building adventure course, laser skirmish activity and paintballing.

The aim is to bring people up for a day or weekend all year round – not just in winter.

These things will need the help of everyone including you, me and the Toodyay Shire Council to become a reality.

Build it, be different and they will come.

Sporting clubs and community groups could approach entertainment companies

**Our Ask the Experts page offers an opportunity each month for Herald readers to ask questions about what really matters to them in our community. It's an opportunity to exchange views and express opinions, discuss ideas and openly discuss all areas of public policy. With two Toodyay hotels now spending big money on major upgrades (see story Page 1) we ask this month's question: "What does Toodyay need to do to secure its future economic prosperity?"**

to screen monthly Saturday night movies at portable drive-in cinemas.

This could be done at the footy or school oval and be quite a nice little earner for groups if they also sold food, drinks, etc.

It would provide a great atmosphere for families if we could get some decent movies.

If we want more services and jobs we could ask the Toodyay Shire Council to lease empty shire properties at reduced rent for a period of time.

The shire could also ease restrictions on pavement food and coffee on busy weekends, and allow cafes to take turns to operate a coffee cart at Duidgee Park or on vacant land in front of Conner's Mill at the corner of Stirling Terrace and Piesse Street.

Let's give people a reason to visit Toodyay or make it their home, and at the same time leave big-town problems down the road.

**Helen Shanks\***

Committee member, Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry

TOODYAY IS a beautiful, historic town nestled in the Avon Valley.

It is surrounded by nature reserves and agricultural industries that splinter into consumables such as wine, orchards, olive oil, artisans and country stays.

It's a town brimming with opportunity, with many facilities in town or close by and serviced by the AvonLink passenger rail service between Perth and Northam.

It's hard to understand then why this town isn't overflowing with businesses vying for a spot to hang a shingle.

We are just 85km from Perth, close enough to attract day-trippers and short-stay visitors, yet far enough away to retain our unique country charm.

How do we capitalise on a rapidly expanding metropolitan area where growing numbers of people are seeking to connect

with the Australian bush?

Let's turn Toodyay into something so special that more people will travel from afar to visit.

During his term of office which expired in December, outgoing chair Mark Dimmitt posed the very question being asked here – "what does Toodyay need to do to secure its future economic prosperity?"

New chair Bob Schrader has set up a visioning sub-committee that's about to go into full swing to brainstorm ideas, explore options and engage stakeholders such as the Toodyay Shire Council, peak bodies, businesses, and community and interest groups.

It will gather opinions to create a vision and opportunities.

We already have the foundations – natural bushland, the Avon River, a range of accommodation, talented artisans, local festivals and unique shops businesses and eateries.

Toodyay has an eclectic mix of creative, academic, business and entrepreneurial folk.

Many come to retire and relax, while others would dearly love to work locally to enjoy Toodyay's peaceful surrounds and sense of community.

The chamber intends to identify opportunities and liaise with the shire to ensure 'red tape' does not hamper innovative ideas and stifle economic growth.

The aim is to create a more vibrant town and greater prosperity for all.

This requires providing optimal conditions at local government level and strong support from the general business community, local

population and groups such as the chamber to help ideas become an economic reality.

We don't yet have all the answers.

The chamber in coming months will have some meaty evidence about the potential that no doubt lies dormant within the town, screaming to be released.

Every Toodyay resident can have their say via cafe catch-ups, small group forums, business visits and feedback.

We aim by next year to have a vision ready for marketing with the expectation that it will create future economic prosperity across all sectors in Toodyay.

*\*Helen Shanks has a professional background in governance and community development. She helped start the Toodyay Farmers Market in 2015, launched 'Toodyay Happenings' on Facebook, is 'passionately' interested in tourism, community and permaculture. Helen manages a small Toodyay property with her partner Bob and works for the WA Government.*

**Michael Kays**  
Cola Café

**BUILDING A STRONG** Toodyay – one that is economically and socially viable – may mean throwing out the current development model and re-establishing the original model that served us well for hundreds of years.

If we layer today's technology onto this, we can create a Toodyay that is not only economically stronger and more self-sufficient, but contains all those small-town concepts of community, sense-of-place and character that we idealise.

We need a comprehensive community-based plan, not an "infrastructure plan" or "five-year capital improvements plan" or one that includes building a community recreation centre to create a sense of community.

We need to involve the public intimately in charting a course for the future because this plan involves rethinking the development model, which is difficult.

## February deluge unleashes river



(ABOVE): Millards Pool information bay stranded by last month's floodwaters. (BELOW): High and dry in Duidgee Park. See also Page 14.



## St John Ambulance Toodyay & Districts



Have you considered becoming a Volunteer Ambulance Officer?

Please come and join us for a sausage sizzle and refreshments

AED Demonstrations available

### Bolgart Ambulance sub-branch

Friday 17th March 2017

6:30pm

contact Carolynne for further details

0428-957-600

9574-2390

sjatodyay@bigpond.com

## LETTERS

Continued from Page 4

### Chitty Reserve wash-out

I FELT SAD to read a letter of complaint in last month's *Herald* about land clearing in Dudley Chitty Reserve at Dewars Pool.

The clearing was done to create a badly needed firebreak and to allow an adjoining land owner to erect a stock-proof fence.

Please let us not blame this one short firebreak for changing a nearby water course.

As a small child living in that area during years of heavy flooding, I remember local creeks running a banker quite often.

On one occasion a survey team camped in what is now Dudley Chitty Reserve woke to the roar of water that rushed through their tents.

I believe this was on an Easter weekend and Mary Martha Chitty – Dudley Chitty's mother – baked a tray of Easter buns for the surveyors and their families.

I recall in 1958 some men taking water catchment readings on my late father's farming property adjoining the reserve, and they commented on what a large catchment area it was.

Both sides of this farm had creeks leading into Phillips Brook.

On one side of the farm known as Black Wattle Flat, I was amazed that what I believe to be a shed-style home has been erected in what was once a creek bed.

Another small paddock adjoining the Dudley Chitty Reserve – once known as the Three Corner Block paddock, where my father usually kept rams – also had much flooding in an extremely wet winter.

I note that a house has also been built on this block.

Perhaps greater care is needed in granting building permits, especially now it has been brought to folk's attention that flooding can take place in the area.

Doris M Martin  
Bolgart

### Land clearing needed

IN REGARD to the clearing of land on the Dudley Chitty Reserve at Dewars Pool to make a firebreak and also enable the rebuilding of a fence on private land (*Herald Letters Page 5*).

As a person who once owned a farm in this area, I for one feel it has been a good thing.

Phillips Brook that runs through this reserve is fed by a very wide water catchment area and in a normal rainfall year does not create any serious problem. However, we have recently had some unseasonable weather that brought with it heavy rain with much flooding reminiscent of the floods from much earlier times.

Any flooding that occurred following this rain would have occurred regardless of the clearing of a much-needed firebreak on the Dudley Chitty Reserve.

In fact, firebreaks should be mandatory around all reserves, and in my opinion be double the width of normal firebreaks to allow for picnickers who may indiscriminately cause a fire to be started.

If a fire were to be started on that reserve, it probably wouldn't be halted until it had burnt right through the adjoining Culham farming properties.

I was never aware that any replanting of vegetation occurred in the area in the past.

I for one have been pleased to see the beautiful clean firebreak on this reserve and the erection of a much-needed fence on the private land.

Ron E Waters  
Toodyay

### A flood of friendship

NOW THAT work has started on the new aged-care units in Anzac Avenue for our precious people of Toodyay, there are so many stories that can be shared with others.

As our group of Baby Boomers has grown, we have had the opportunity of working, having a family and, within those years, just existing. Money was not the prime motivator for survival, it was the family unit.

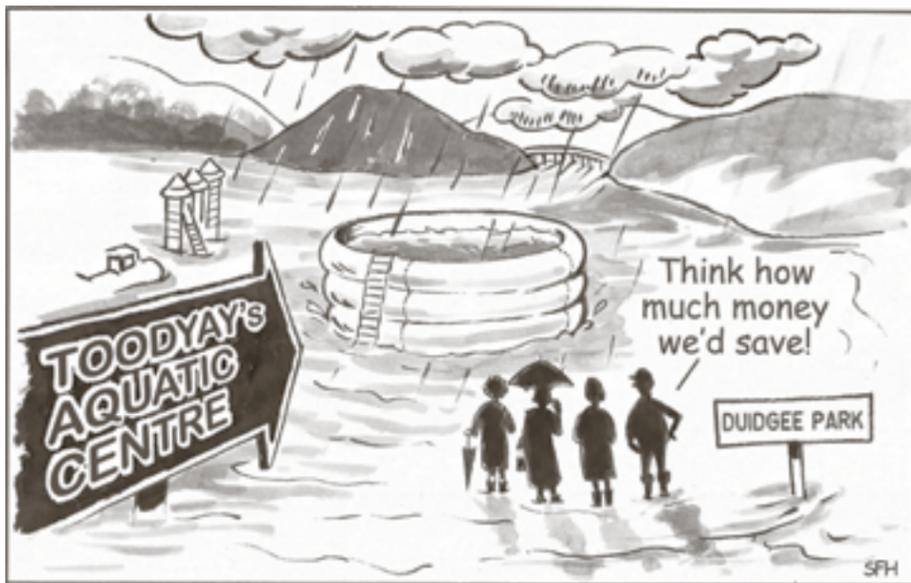
During recent weeks there have been situations that could have caused many families to wonder why they still live here.

For example, the unforeseen rainfall that broke the banks of the Avon River, a sight which many of us had not witnessed.

But there was the hope that everyone was OK and, they were.

Several people up river were in dire circumstances, but friends and neighbours came forth and gave a hand to make sure they were safe.

Friendship was there and our country town



again proved that we are together; we care and always care for those in need.

Congratulations to the Shire of Toodyay, the fire brigade members who assisted and the many people who gave up their time to make sure those in need were helped.

Take time to reflect on what our town is meant to be – a thriving, comfortable and exhilarating place for those who live here, and a welcoming place for visitors who will perhaps want to be part of what we have.

Di Roberts  
Toodyay

### 136 years of friendships

WE WISH to thank all of our wonderful family and friends for their love, support and friendship over the years.

It is with mixed emotions we leave Toodyay after living here all our lives (136 collectively).

We are looking forward to being closer to our daughters and their families and our new life in Nannup, but we will greatly miss the community of Toodyay.

Thank you to those people who came to our farewell party in January.

We especially thank the Toodyay Club, Marlene Andrijich, Daphne Lee and Deidre Pettit, and to those people who made impromptu speeches.

Your sentiments were greatly appreciated.

We are sorry some people couldn't make it at such late notice.

In the final weeks of packing up our house and clearing out our property, we were blessed with many offers of help.

Thank you to our daughters and sons-in-law, Barry Lee, Murray Lee, Greg and Lorelle Wadley, Neil and Nathan Taylor, Jan and Graham Smith, Sharon Wade, Laurie Clarke, Scott Whitchfield, Brian Chambers, Tanya Browne Baker, Nyaree and Adrian Lawler, Andrew Toop, Langley Lefroy and Geordie Poynton.

A special thank you to John Martin for the extra support at the eleventh hour.

If we have forgotten anyone, please forgive us and blame old age and the stress of relocation.

Toodyay will always remain a very special place to both of us, and we are grateful for all of the friendships and connections we have forged over the decades.

Robyn and Royston Sinclair  
ex-Toodyay

### Samaritans save the day

WITH ALL the stories of road rage and driver selfishness we are bombarded with in the media, it was heartening to have a positive experience recently in Toodyay.

As I travelled along Dewars Pool Road towards Bindoon at about 100km/hp the front right-hand-side tyre of my Ford Explorer exploded.

The noise was horrendous, the tyre was destroyed and also caught fire as it burst.

We got quite a fright and were instantly stranded in a dangerous position on a very hot day.

Phone reception was dodgy, the phone charge was low, and my young son Clive was becoming very upset.

Our hazard lights were on but still we had a few hard-hearted folk zoom past and blast us angrily with their horns.

Within five minutes, however, two guys on motorbikes pulled over to help. We were amazed.

But assisting us was far from straight forward – we had a too-short jack.

The gentlemen instructed us to search for logs to use as makeshift chocks.

Clive climbed a barbed wire fence to grab a large branch in a field and we used that to prop up the car.

Despite the floor mat we placed on the ground, the tarmac was molten.

The process of jacking up the car was slow and exhausting.

At least we had enough water with us to share with our helpers.

Then we faced the next challenge; how to unbolt the spare tyre from beneath the vehicle.

The guys' mobiles were working better than ours: they quickly Googled 'Ford Explorer spare tyre removal' and watched a YouTube video on how to do it using the jack itself.

The spare was very under-inflated but enabled us to crawl the 50kms or so back to Toodyay after pulling over repeatedly to allow other cars and road trains to pass.

Even though these good Samaritans may not read this, we would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank John and his lovely Dutch friend for their kindness.

It was a learning curve as well – always familiarise yourself with your equipment and check you have what you need in case of an emergency.

Naomi Millett  
Toodyay

# What makes your local paper tick?

Inside *The Herald*  
Heather Appleby

MEMBERS associated with *The Toodyay Herald* may know how your local newspaper functions but others may not be aware of what we do and how we do it.

*The Toodyay Herald* is owned and operated by The Toodyay Herald (Inc.) – a State-registered not-for-profit association – and membership is open to anyone in the area at a cost of \$10 a year.

The names of elected committee members are published on Page 2 of every edition of the paper.

Everyone involved in producing *The Herald* – from the committee to the editor – is a volunteer.

Some key volunteers are paid an honorarium but most donate their time and expertise.

*The Herald* operates from a commercial lease at 92B Stirling Terrace and is responsible for rent, electricity, water, telephone, office consumables, minor property repairs and of course our biggest expense every month – printing the paper.

Our major source of income to cover these costs is advertising and we receive some donations.

Many community groups ask us to provide free advertising space for them but unfortunately this is something we are unable to do.

We do, however, offer a 25 per cent discount on advertising costs to all not-for-profit community groups and promote your activities through the 'Coming Events' column on our website.

In effect, we donated more than \$5000 in the 2015-16 financial year to community groups by giving this advertising discount.

We are very aware of our role as a local community newspaper but we require a regular monthly income to cover production and other costs.

*The Herald* depends on computers and software for processing emails, formatting stories and advertisements, and putting the paper together so that it is print-ready.

We start production 10 days before publication, starting on a Monday and working through the following weekend.

Those involved include the editor, graphic artist, office and advertising administrator, sub-editors, production staff who place articles and advertisements into newspaper templates and, proof readers.

*The Herald* makes a small annual profit to enable us when necessary to buy or replace equipment – especially computers and software – so that our volunteer production team can continue to produce your award-winning local community newspaper.

Articles received are considered for publication and are printed at no charge.

Flyers for forthcoming events are not printed free of charge, as they are deemed to be advertising.

The Toodyay Herald invites you to have your say in our letters page. Please email your correspondence to [news@toodyayherald.com.au](mailto:news@toodyayherald.com.au) with your full name, address and phone number. Letters that are short, sharp and to the point about topical local issues are preferred. The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length.

## FAMILY LAW

### DEFACTO RELATIONSHIPS

- \* Separation
- \* Child Support/Maintenance
- \* Divorce
- \* Property Settlement
- \* Contact/Residence - Children
- \* Restraining Orders
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# Gobbledygook turkey talk hinders communication



Geoff Appleby

MERCIFULLY, LAST month's Toodyay Shire Council meeting was brief – boring and predictable as usual, but brief.

**Legal costs:** For openers, Toodyay Progress Association Chair Larry Graham asked five questions about the cost to ratepayers of the recently settled WA Supreme Court action against former Toodyay shire CEO Graham Merrick and former shire president Charlie Wroth.

The questions were on notice and did not seek disclosure of confidential matters settled between the parties.

However, Shire President David Dow said he needed to get more legal advice before he could provide an answer at the next council meeting on March 28.

Sooner or later, someone is going to have to explain what a pig's breakfast the shire has made out of this costly fiasco.

**Missing duo:** Questions were also asked about the sudden and unexplained departure of two key shire executives – works manager Les Vidovich and his partner, corporate

services manager Cherie Delmage, both highly skilled professionals with a wealth of corporate knowledge and well-regarded by ratepayers and shire employees.

Mr Vidovich left without notice after the shire's November meeting, and Ms Delmage was gone by January.

Ratepayers may recall that Ms Delmage was left to fix last October's 'unlawful' rates mess while Shire CEO Stan Scott was away on long service leave.

There was no public announcement of their departure, no farewell collection, gift or party and certainly no gold watches, leaving shire works depot employees mystified and others scratching their heads.

President Dow said both had provided "good service" and he "wished them well", begging the question why didn't he say so at the time instead of having to be prompted by a question to council three months later.

He said "the timing of their departure was unrelated to the day-to-day operations of the shire" but when asked if it was to do with any other shire operations, he handballed the question to Mr Scott, who said there would be "no further comment" because it was confidential.

Returning to the agenda, the council's first task was to direct Mr Scott to continue working on a shire sewerage policy.

Councillors then noted the January payments – including another \$23,087.62 of Toodyay ratepayers' money to Perth law firm

Civic Legal – accepted the monthly financial statements and, adopted a communication "framework" document.

**Turkey talk:** Councillors were told "the shire has recognised the need to implement an intentional methodology to its communication approaches both internally and externally".

I suppose this is slightly more comprehensible than "risk appetite" or "an informing strategy" but why can't the authors of this meaningless gobbledygook use simple, everyday language that everyone can understand, especially for a 'communications framework'?

Report author Stan Scott ploughed on regardless, saying "I intend to use this document for communications, which haven't been as good as I would like".

"We will learn by doing it and evolve by working with it," he said.

Here's a tip from the Communications 101 handbook – use plain English, say what you mean and don't try to hide stuff that's only going to get found out anyway.

And now for the good news. **Anzac backflip:** The council has done a neat 180-degree backflip by bowing to public pressure and doing something sensible for a change.

The two Anzac Memorial Park trees earmarked last year for destruction at the corner of Clinton Street and Anzac Avenue are to remain – at least until the council

decides otherwise – and heavy-haulage trucks won't be re-routed down Stirling Terrace, which was proposed last year as a hare-brained alternative to axing the trees.

The council agreed instead to work harder to get money for a proper heavy-haulage bypass route, which it should have been doing all along instead of threatening protesters with arrest and putting Toodyay – and local coppers – at risk of national TV news exposure for all the wrong reasons.

**Starship update:** The Bat also attended a very interesting soiree laid on last month by the Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry at which Mr Scott was guest speaker.

Mr Scott said the level of trust in the council was very low when he arrived in Toodyay from Perenjori in 2012.

However, according to Mr Scott, the ship has been turned around and things are now going splendidly with a new car park in Charcoal Lane, tourist information bay, entry statement and extended skate park.

He said Toodyay doesn't have a public swimming pool because people 50 years ago had a river to swim in.

How odd then that residents in Northam, York and Beverley have the same river – and for many years have also enjoyed well-established public swimming pools.

Beam me up Scottie – I think we're on different planets.

# Summer floodwaters swamp Duidgee Park



A fast-flowing Avon River threatens to drown the shire's Duidgee Park toddler playground at the height of last month's summer flood.

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# Recent rains a mixed blessing for farmers

**Toodyay Agricultural Alliance**  
Frank Panizza

MANY FARMERS in Toodyay and surrounding areas arrived back from a break after harvest to heavy and unseasonal rainfall.

Most farmers in the shire have received between 200 and 300 millimetres of rainfall over the two events in late January and early February.

The rainfall has filled water tanks, dams and creeks and turned paddocks green.

What has this meant to local farmers?

It's a case of glass half full or glass half empty.

Reports from local farmers indicate that damage has occurred to fencing and internal roads but, considering the large amount of rain that fell, damage could have been far worse.

Craig Stewart who farms west of Toodyay and is the chief fire control officer stated that given the amount of rain, damage was not widespread.

"Damage to farm infrastructure would have been far greater if the rain had fallen at a pace that usually occurs with summer thunderstorms.

"We have had some damage to internal roads and creek crossings, but it could have been far worse" he said.

Mr Stewart added that he had not heard many reports of stock losses or paddocks that had been badly eroded.

Round bales of oaten hay not kept under cover appear to have been damaged by the wet weather, especially if water had pooled around the stacks.

Summer dry feed has been all but destroyed by the recent heavy rain, which will require



*Donkey Crossing, Northam Toodyay Road.*

close attention to stock, as the nutrition value of feed on offer will be poor.

Many farmers have reported that supplementary feeding of stock has already begun, as the initial green pick of pasture growth is still poor.

Some farmers have expressed concern that the rain may have caused some wool rot, especially in sheep that are in full wool.

Concern has also been raised that the wet and humid weather will increase blowfly activity which may lead to fly strike.

It is a timely reminder to all sheep owners that fly strike can occur at this time of year and that vigilance is required for the wellbeing of animals in your care.

Farmers who have no livestock will have to spray summer weeds, which may present a challenge with wet paddocks.

Lime spreading may be pushed later as farmers concentrate on controlling summer weeds.

There must be some optimism though, as supplies of canola seed are now very scarce.

Sub-soil moisture is vital for early establishment of canola, so recent rainfall will encourage increased canola plantings, not only in Toodyay but throughout the Wheatbelt.

Hopefully the rains did not cause much damage to your property and that the rain brought you more good than bad.

## Big-hearted Brian gets Victoria Plains award

### Neville Clarke\*

ON AUSTRALIA DAY Bolgart identity Brian McGill received the Shire of Victoria Plains Citizen of the Year award.

Brian has lived in Bolgart for most of his life, leaving school in 1958 to work on the family farm.

In 1966, when he was 22, he was elected president of the Bolgart Football Club and held the position for two years. He was made a life member of the club in 1972.

During his time as a club member Brian was responsible for running the bar at the Toodyay Agricultural Show – the club's main annual fundraiser.

This resulted in a long association with the show and continued with Brian becoming a life member of the Toodyay Agricultural Society.

Brian is also the President of the Bolgart Sports Club and is part of the committee which has been working hard to refurbish and refurnish the club.

For the past six years he has given a free-lease of his 24ha property for the bowls and sports club to crop to raise funds to help keep the club viable.

Along with his generous donation of land, Brian volunteered many years as a bowling club greenkeeper before the new synthetic surface was installed.

He still spends many hours during the bowls season emptying bins, marking greens and generally making sure that the members have an excellent green to play on.

Brian has also taken an active role in the volunteer bushfire brigade since its inception more than 20 years ago and is now the brigade's second lieutenant.

He takes the fire truck to fire incidents, keeps the equipment in good order and assists with repairs and maintenance. This voluntary work ensures the truck is ready whenever it is needed.

Brian spent six years as a volunteer ambulance driver and attendant for the Bolgart St John Ambulance, resigning only a few years ago when a knee replacement made it difficult for him to physically volunteer.



*2017 Citizen of the Year award – Victoria Plains Shire – Brian McGill.*

Brian is also on hand for older residents in the Bolgart area requiring travel assistance to medical appointments.

In October 1996, Brian was made a Justice of the Peace and continues to witness documents for local residents and others from nearby localities.

When required, he also swears in new councillors.

This is also the second year he has served as President of the Central Wheatbelt Association of Justices.

Brian has spent his entire life working to selflessly improve not only his community but the lives of everyone within it.

It is for his altruistic and community-minded attitude, and in recognition of his significant contribution to the Bolgart community, that he received this year's Citizen of the Year award.

\*Neville Clarke is a Shire of Victoria Plains councillor.



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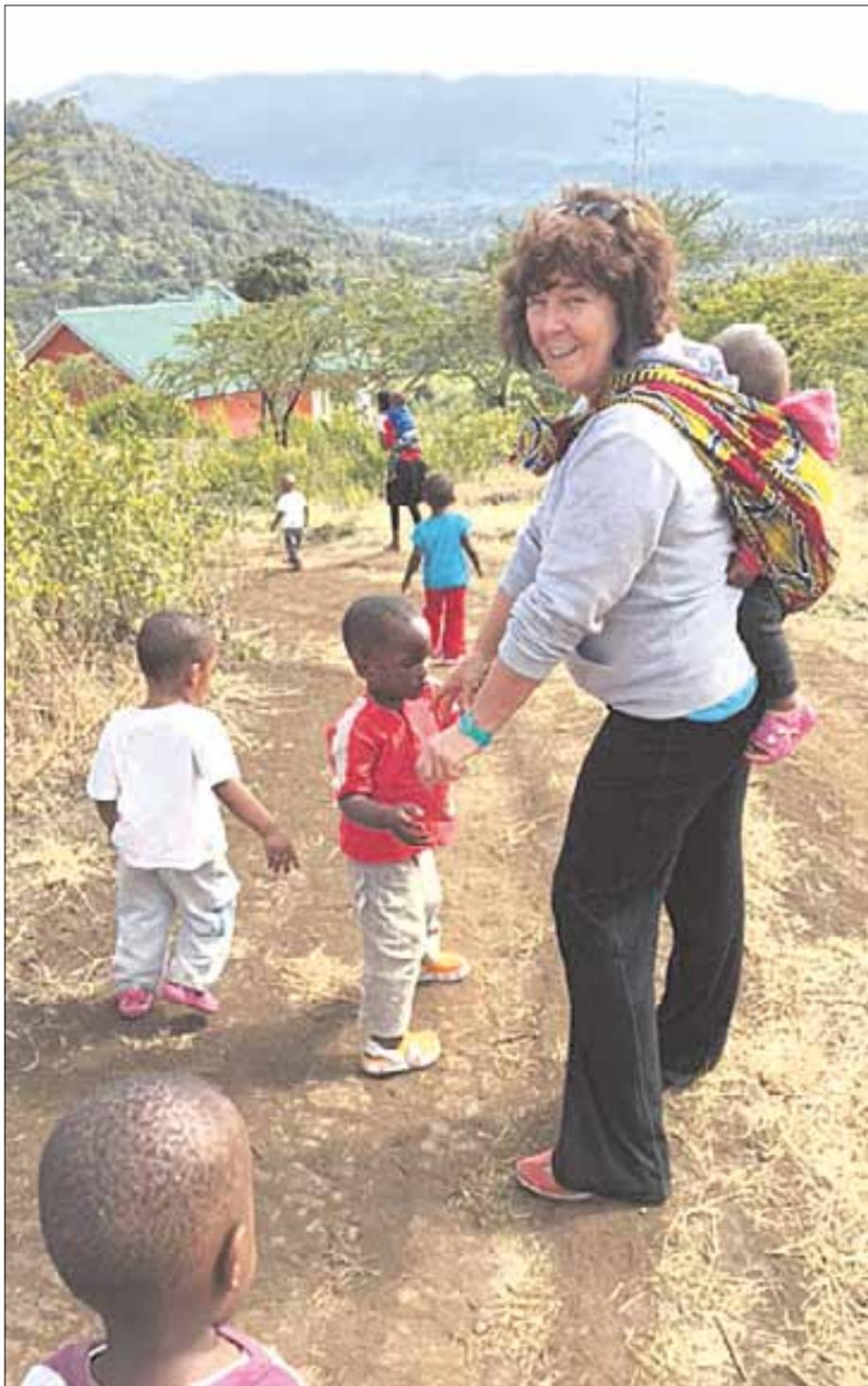
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A volunteer with children from Neema Village in Arusha, Tanzania.

# Ag Show die-hards Kevin and Kerry in line for gongs

**Toodyay Agricultural Society**  
Alison Wroth, Chief Steward

PEOPLE TEND to think of community group AGMs as boring old meetings, attended by the 'usual regulars', which are best avoided unless you want a job.

Well, I am here to tell you all that it was a different situation at our recent AGM.

Two society members were nominated from the floor for all the hard work and time that they have put in over the many years they have been on the committee.

Congratulations to Kevin Hutchings and Kerry Knowles on their nominations for life membership of the Ag Society.

Both are very well deserved and they will receive these honours at the official opening of the 164th Toodyay Agricultural Show in October.

This year's Toodyay Show Committee comprises both young, fresh-faced and keen members of the community as well as the 'regulars' that seem to keep this

show running and have the experience and knowledge to organise such an event.

Welcome to all our new committee.

Our president, who is beginning his second time in the position, is Kevin Hutchings who I'm sure will cruise along through the three years with a very responsible committee to back him.

So, everybody, the committee will now be working hard to organise once again a wonderful show for you all to attend.

Keep a lookout for this column in the *Herald* for news as well as visiting our Facebook and web page at toodyayagsociety.com.au.

Social media will be an excellent promotional tool for us this year, especially with the hosting of the Royal Agricultural Society Rural Ambassador Award being held in Toodyay this year.

If anybody is interested in entering this competition, please ring me on 9574 2681.

Keep an eye out also for the workshops on judging and displaying show items.



Off and racing at the Toodyay Picnic Races.

# Naming rights up for grabs at Toodyay Picnic Races

**Toodyay Race Club**  
Geoff Appleby

THE 2017 TAB Toodyay Cup and Picnic Race Day will, once again, be held on a Saturday— September 23.

There will be all the usual attractions with Fashions on the Field, children's entertainment, novelty events and a lot of fun for all the family.

The Super Tent proved very popular last year with 18 groups occupying furnished bays for 20 people with individual bars and TAB facilities.

The large screen is located on the inside of the track opposite the marquee to ensure that marquee patrons can follow the racing and other sporting events throughout the day.

The general entry fee remains \$25 with children under 18 free when accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Club membership is \$45 and includes free entry, a race book, access to the grandstand and members' area with free tea and coffee all day.

Why not join the Toodyay Race Club now and avoid queuing to pay for your armbands on the day?

We are seeking race sponsors and naming rights are still available for three races.

If you would like further details on sponsorship, membership, group bookings for a bay in the Super Tent or just want to make a general enquiry, please contact the secretary on 0427 299 330 or email gandha@iinet.net.au.

# High tea to help midwives raise orphanage funds

**Christine Cornforth**

SIX YEARS ago midwives from Ngala, providers of early parenting and childhood services in Perth, were looking for a cause to support.

One of their main aims was that all funds raised should go directly to the people in need and not on administration or fees.

The midwives selected Neema House in Arusha, Tanzania, a centre for orphaned and abandoned babies which has since expanded to become Neema Village.

The reasons for abandonment are many and most are heartbreaking.

Most monies raised go directly to caring for the children with only the local carers

receiving a small wage.

Many people from overseas, including the Perth midwives, volunteer their time to care for these children but, of course, on-going funding is essential.

A high tea to show regional support for this worthwhile cause will be held at 2pm on Sunday April 9 in the CWA Hall in Toodyay.

Tickets are \$30 and include the high tea and a glass of bubbles on arrival.

Raffles will be held during the afternoon and a 15-minute video will also be shown. For a preview, go to Neema Village A Place of Forgiveness and Hope on *YouTube*.

For further details and to book your spot contact Christine Cornforth 0409 440 143 or Lynlee Chitty, 0407 468 382.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## Happy 21st Birthday Elyse

We are very proud of you Lots of love Mum & Dad xxooxxoo

We have had the pleasure of watching you grow into a strong, beautiful and confident woman. You're very head strong and do not give up on what you believe in, or what you want to do. Most people think you are a quiet, shy and laid back person—well aren't they wrong?! You have one of the funniest, craziest and outgoing personalities we know and we would not change it for the world. You are a beautiful person and we hope you follow your dreams.

Love you Always and Forever, Mat and Nikki xoxo

Congratulations on your 21st Birthday Elyse

Love from All your family in England xoxoxo



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# Will Toodyay shoppers back Boomerang Bags?

**Toodyay Tidy Towns**  
Greg Warburton

IT'S HARD TO believe that only this time last year we were feverishly preparing for the national event.

We know only too well what this year's host town Triabunna in Tasmania is experiencing as they plan for their event on May 11 and 12.

We hope to have Toodyay represented there and committee members have expressed interest in attending.

The pressure is a lot less now but none-the-less there is plenty of Toodyay Tidy Towns activity happening.

One of our campaigns this year as a part of our commitment to achieving a litter-free, sustainable community is to promote the reduction of single-use plastic shopping bags in our town.

WA and Victoria are the only two states that are yet to make a commitment to ban these bags through legislative change.

Currently, an estimated 10 million single-use shopping bags are used every day in Australia with a large percentage ending up polluting our environment and impacting on wildlife.

Many species of marine and aquatic life including water birds ingest or are entangled in discarded plastic and suffer lingering, painful deaths.

The committee wants to introduce the Boomerang Bag concept whereby community volunteers make shopping bags from recycled fabric and have them available in a supermarket or shop for customers to use then return on their next visit.

Roz has already started making Boomerang Bags.

This initiative has all the hallmarks of the Toodyay Tidy Towns ethos with strong community involvement with beneficial environmental outcomes.

There are many towns in the eastern states that have taken on the idea and we have several WA towns including Bunbury, Denmark, Exmouth, Broome, Margaret River and two city suburbs which have Boomerang Bags.

Our major clean-up will be on Sunday March 12, after Clean Up Australia Day, with the annual Toodyay-Northam Road litter pick-up.

This is a massive undertaking sponsored by Toodyay and Districts Bendigo Community Bank and the shire and involves volunteers from both towns working along 25 kilometres of road.

After the huge success of our Toodyay-Northam Road litter pick up in November



*A Black-headed Monitor (Varanus tristis) was saved from a lingering death when Ross MacDougall noticed an aluminium can moving on the side of the road. Ross delicately removed the can and sent the lucky reptile on its way Photo Ross McDougall.*

2015 we are currently planning a similar event for this year.

On Sunday March 12 at the Community Resource Centre, committee member Linda Rooney will be giving a presentation on her recent experiences working at the refugee camps in Greece.

Other projects of the Tidy Towns Committee include the introduction of 'bin spring' to our shire.

So many times we see wheelie bins blown or knocked over with the contents spread along the road verge creating an unsightly mess and a hazard to wildlife.

This can be prevented with the simple addition of a cheap and simple 'bin spring'.

Work continues on the mural design with a concept planned to be presented to council for consideration at the March meeting.

Our next committee meeting will be held on Monday March 13.

Contact Greg on 0429 009 425 or secretary, Kaye on 9574 2056 for details or if you want to be a part of making Toodyay a litter-free sustainable community.



*Peter Robinson loading his 1004th bag of rubbish last month.*

# Slacks all the go as CWA moves with the times

**CWA**  
Elizabeth Mansom

SORRY WE missed last month's issue. Put it down to the vagaries of modern technology – everyone did all the right things but, technology let us down

We've had two informal planning meetings this year plus the AGM. The first formal meeting was held on February 23.

Our focus, certainly for the first half of the year, is the 90th anniversary in June of the Toodyay CWA.

Given that the state CWA is 93 this year, it gives some perspective to the local branch's longevity.

Talk at the planning meetings was for a celebration that showcases the history of CWA Toodyay and features the simpler things of life 90 years ago, like home-made crepe paper decorations.

A reminder that no one would have worn

slacks of any kind to a meeting back then and that perhaps skirts or dresses could be our 'costume' for the event was met with "no way" from more than one voice.

Well, we can always put the trousered ones in the back row of the photo.

One other event also being planned is a morning tea on May 12.

Karen Hansen from the Cancer Council will give a talk and morning tea will be served in our hall. All are welcome.

Watch for further information and flyers or ask a CWA member.

The CWA meets at 1pm on the fourth Thursday of the month in the CWA Hall next to the Garden Centre in Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

There is plenty of parking in Charcoal Lane, with disabled access from Charcoal Lane down the side of the hall.

Hall bookings are being taken by Glenys Clabaugh on 9574 5100 or 0427 478 325.



*Toodyay Probus members enjoy morning tea at Wyening Mission – our October adventure.*

# 'Elegant' year ahead for busy Probus members

**Probus Club of Toodyay**  
Joan Bath

"ELEGANCE is not the prerogative of those who have just escaped from adolescence, but of those who have already taken possession of their future" – French fashion designer Coco Chanel.

By the time you are reading this, our AGM will have been held and the 2017 committee will be busily planning the rest of the year.

Thanks to everyone on the 2016 committee for a great year of outings and guest speakers.

Probus is a group of retirees and semi-retirees who love life.

The common denominators are being part of the 'older' generation and living in and around Toodyay.

We have an active program of outings and there is a guest speaker at each of our monthly meetings.

In 2016, our outings included a WASO concert, Red Hill waste management facility, Victoria Quay, WA Museum, Wyening Mission, the Pipeline Museum at Cunderdin, celebrating Christmas in July and of course

our Christmas dinner in December.

At all our outings we always enjoy a luncheon at a convenient venue.

Last year's guest speakers were as varied as our outings and included local identities Mark Dimmit, from the Toodyay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Coorinja Winery's Michael Woods, Soroptimist Dr Monika Zechetmayr, police chief Sgt Warren Conder and Herald editor Michael Sinclair-Jones.

This month's guest speaker is Peter Edwards who will take us on an astronomical trip.

Probus Toodyay has also 'Adopted a Spot' – five kilometres of Julimar Road, doing three clean-ups throughout the year.

Being a Probus member provides access to a number of discounts, particularly for travel via Probus South Pacific, probussouthpacific.org.

Toodyay Probus meets on the second Tuesday of the month, 7pm at the Freemasons Hotel. Our next meeting is March 14.

If you are interested contact president Peter Healy on 9574 4778 or, for membership, ring John Smart 9574 2339. See you there.

## Alpaca Farm Open Days

Sat 25 March & Sat 3 June 2017

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Contractor Ringa Civil at work on the site.

## Earth works underway as new aged units start to take shape

**Butterly Cottages**  
Di Roberts, Secretary

THE MANAGEMENT committee of Butterly Cottages Inc is excited to announce the amalgamation of two lots in Anzac Terrace to build several independent living units for those in need.

Earth, rocks and rubble are being taken away to the grounds where the new recreation centre will be built leaving us with a pristine building block.

Jack Wood of Ringa Civil has won the

tender to do the civil works.

Congratulations Jack and your hard working fellows who are helping us to achieve our goal.

To the people of Toodyay, who always want answers to the questions of “when” and “how” and “what the timeline is”, I ask for your patience.

All will be revealed in time but in the meantime you can check on what progress is being made.

Go and see the site, talk to the guys who are working hard for our community. You

will be very surprised with their banter and they love what we are doing.

If you want to be part of this exciting project and wish to become a member of Butterly Cottages, then we welcome you.

There are many activities you could be involved in, especially the afternoon tea from 2pm to 4pm on April 3 at Butterly House. All are very welcome.

Come and share the future for all those who are need of a place for kindness, friendship and an opportunity to be part of a community which will love you.

## New school chaplain ready to start

**Toodyay YouthCARE Council (Chaplaincy)**  
Vivienne Freeman, Secretary

WE’RE UP, up and away for the year. We are delighted to announce that a new chaplain, Douglas McGhee, has been appointed to our Toodyay District High School. He will start in week nine of Term 1. Welcome aboard Douglas.

An open breakfast was recently held in the school quadrangle. We estimate that about 70 mums, students and staff joined us. Cereal, fresh fruit salad, yoghurt, spaghetti, toast, juice and Milo were available.

Again this year we are able to offer Breakfast Club on Monday, Wednesday and Friday thanks to our many volunteers.

We would also like to thank the following businesses: Foodbank for items such as tins of fruit, Weetbix, spaghetti, baked beans, juice and milk; Toodyay IGA for Milo and Bee Happy for their honey.

An early notice for our Toodyay YouthCARE Council AGM. This is to be held on Wednesday April 12 at the Toodyay District High School in Drummond Street at 2pm.

Positions up for nomination are chairperson, deputy chairperson, treasurer, and secretary.

Some council members have left the district or retired after years of service and we are looking for new members to join us. There is very little work involved.

We meet monthly to discuss how we might best serve our local school and chaplaincy.

I can be contacted on 9574 4915 or Max Heath (chairperson) on 9574 2069.

## Recycled Regatta needs a raft of local help



**Recycled Regatta**  
Taia Sinclair

THE TOODYAY Community Resource Centre is a non-profit organisation devoted to making a difference in our community.

We provide a number of services and events that benefit all residents in our town and surrounding areas.

This article is to introduce you to this new community event which we hope will become an annual event.

The centre will be hosting a Recycled Regatta on Saturday September 16.

As this is the maiden voyage of the

Recycled Regatta we are asking all Toodyay community groups and businesses to support us in this venture in several ways by either sponsorship donations, volunteer help on the day or by submitting registration to have your own raft in the event.

If you would like to support us please email [tzzz666@outlook.com](mailto:tzzz666@outlook.com) or the centre on [toodyay@crc.net.au](mailto:toodyay@crc.net.au). Otherwise speak to our staff at the Toodyay Community Resource Centre on 9574 5357 who will be able to provide more information and advise you of areas that you may be able to assist with at the regatta.

The regatta will be a community event and open to all ages – conditions apply.



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# Soup salad perfect for ripe Roma tomatoes

**A Taste of Toodyay**  
A Culinary Correspondent

THIS MONTH the Page 3 profile features Alain Fabrègues the former owner and chef of the famous Loose Box Restaurant in Mundaring.

While speaking to Alain, he kindly agreed that we could use any of the recipes from his book *Degustation – A Master Chef's Life Through Menus* for our Taste of Toodyay column.

Many people will still be harvesting tomatoes and to quote from Alain's book: "A hot summer's night? "A few friends around the pool? "Gazpacho is the great Spanish 'soup salad'."

## Spanish gazpacho – Serves 6

### Ingredients

2kg ripe Roma tomatoes  
2 garlic cloves  
1kg red capsicums  
1 white onion  
2 shallots  
1 burpless cucumber  
Salt, pepper  
1g ground cumin  
50ml vinegar  
120ml virgin olive oil  
Basil  
Tabasco

### Method

Blanch and peel the tomatoes. Remove the seeds and cut the flesh into small dices.

Peel the red capsicum with a peeler, cut in half.

Remove the seeds and dice into same-sized cubes as the tomatoes.

Finely dice the white onion.

In a blender, place three-quarters of the tomato and the onion and half the capsicum, cumin, salt, pepper, vinegar and olive oil. Blend, then add 500ml of iced water.

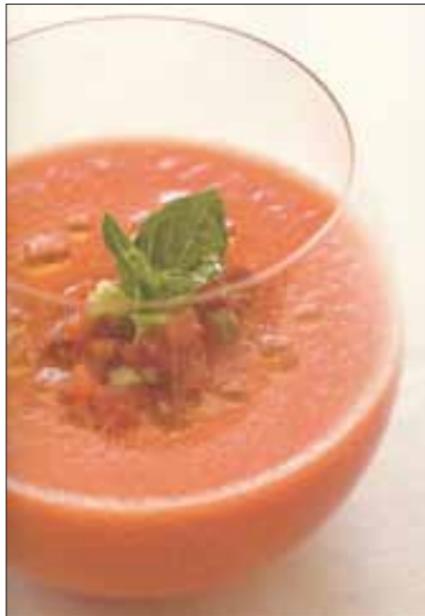


Photo reproduced from *Degustation*.

Check the seasoning, add Tabasco to taste and keep covered on ice in the fridge.

Peel and chop the shallots very finely.

Peel and dice the cucumber

Before serving, mix the remainder of the diced tomato and capsicum with shallots and cucumber, season with olive oil, vinegar, salt and pepper.

Pour the iced tomato mixture into cups, bowls or crystal.

Heap some of the diced garnish on top.

Drizzle some olive oil, add a pinch of sea salt and a sprig of basil.

Note: To blanch the tomatoes, place in a bowl and cover with boiling water. Leave a few minutes until the skin splits – then they are easy to peel.

If you would like a copy of Alain's book *Degustation*, please contact *The Herald* office.

See profile of Alain's life Page 3.

# Bolgart kids dive into a new school year

**Bolgart News**  
Serena Syred and Nolene Kaszanski

A BIG WELCOME to new senior room teacher Renae Skehan and all the new families that have joined our local school.

We know that you will enjoy your time with us.

On the first three days of the term, students travelled to the Northam pool for swimming lessons.

The school is due to host the swimming carnival at Goomalling Pool as *The Herald* goes to press.

On the bowling front, The Bolgart Classic

was held in inclement weather on February 8-9.

The first day resulted in some great bowls but due to the weather, the second day was cancelled. The Dowerin team was deemed the winner with Goomalling runner-up.

In ladies pennant bowls on February 14 Bolgart defeated Toodyay 3-1.

Mens pennant bowls had mixed results: February 11, Bolgart versus Meckering 6-2 and, February 28, Bolgart versus Dowerin 0-4.

Birthday wishes to Sue Ludemann who turned 70 and Karlane Crane who turns 50 – big milestones for both.

# Morangup ushers in 2017 progress team

**Morangup Matters**  
Danielle Wrench

A NEW MORANGUP Progress Association (MPA) committee was recently elected to steer the association in the coming year.

Members unanimously elected Danielle Wrench as president, Brian Allen, vice-president, Fran Stephens as treasurer and Geni Brown, secretary.

Outgoing acting-president Ms Brown thanked community members for their support and acknowledged members who volunteered their support for the association's activities.

Updates to the community website and hall improvements were noted as were events such as the Christmas in July celebrations.

Ongoing treasurer Mrs Stephens reported a strong financial performance mainly due to the payment received for completing the Community Emergency Preparedness Program (CEPP).

The Toodyay Shire information session was a highlight of last year's community calendar and will be held again on April 29.

Residents who have not yet received their CEPP information package can email secretary@morangupmpa.com.au.

The treasurer's report also highlighted increased revenue from hall hire and recognised the contribution from self-defence classes.

Local National Party MP Shane Love and Toodyay West Ward councillor Paula Greenway attended the AGM.

# Good grace rules at mixed animal farm

**Bejoording Community Group News**  
From the desk of The Badger

WE WRITE regularly in this column about the characters and families that make up the Bejoording Community Group, but every Wednesday evening there is another community at the shed, the animals.

We always say guests and children welcome, but most weeks we have more animals than children.

Over the past few months I've been observing this growing group and watching their complex social structures.

So let me introduce some of them; they bring lots of colour and amusement, but just like the 'real' people in the community, there are no cliques, no politics, and they all seem to accept each other with good grace.

Nevertheless there is a pecking order which holds it all together.

At the bottom of the list there are a couple of fairly tame blue tongues who are occasionally seen nervously creeping around the outer edges of the hall, but have the sense to hide most Wednesdays.

We know they're there though because of little tell-tale brown lumps that have to be swept up.

Next up is always the most recent newcomer, in this case a very docile brown goat who walks to heel on his or her lead and behaves impeccably.

I'm still awaiting confirmation of gender and name.

With his nose very slightly out of joint is the next most recent newcomer, a minute little canine runt (maybe he's a pedigree something or other but you'd never know) named Mutley.

Now Mutley comes on strong, and while almost fully grown at slightly smaller than a bush rabbit but just as randy, he has the guts and bravado of a Rottweiler.

From his arrival a couple of months ago he seems determined to make his mark on the crowd, he's got real attitude, but one cross word and he'll lick you to death.

Hopefully he'll be 'fixed' soon which will calm him down.

Next up the order is Chester. He's a lovely mid-sized black something or other, and although fully grown he's still a big puppy at heart with a tendency to get excited.

Fortunately his carers have the sense to bring his favourite blanket and a lead to secure him to a table leg, and he eventually calms down.

Often there on a Wednesday, but usually impeccably behaved and sitting outside in their owner's ute are three gorgeous border collies, working dogs, with their leader Cog.

They love a bit of attention but really know their place.

At the top of the pecking order, primarily because they've been there longer than the rest put together, are the canine king and queen of the shed, Frankie and Blondie.

They know everybody, are beautifully behaved, but they check all newcomers out (pets and people) and soon put them in their place if they don't integrate the way they should.

They are brother and sister and inseparable, and when Frankie had a serious car accident last year a veil of gloom hung over the shed until he reappeared in plaster and bandages but with personality intact.

So that's our little alternative community group and the shed would be a sadder place without them.

Others may come and go but these are the regulars.

Your monthly reminder. We meet every Wednesday evening (except in January) at the Bejoording Community Centre which shares premises with the local volunteer bush fire brigade in Bejoording Road.

Come along from 6pm, and leave when it suits you.

It's strictly 'come as you are' casual, kids are welcome, and there are fun events every month.

If you aren't yet a member, we'd love to get to know you.

If you want to know more you can contact president Barry Grey on 9574 2149, or call The Badger on 0414 250 484.

Hope to see you soon.

## Entry Fees

Junior Individuals - \$20

Junior Team - \$60

Open Individual - \$25

Open Team - \$75

Clash of the Clans - \$30

Registration forms available at the Beverley CRC or Beverley Swimming Pool  
Online at [www.beverleycrc.net](http://www.beverleycrc.net) under 'Resources'

## Race Categories

**Nippers Course (9 years & under)**

50m Swim / 1.4 km Bike / 700m Run

**Junior Course (13 years & under)**

100m Swim / 2.8 km Bike / 1.2 km Run

**Short (14 years & over)**

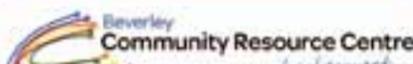
200m Swim / 7 km Bike / 3 km Run

**Long (14 years & over)**

400m Swim / 14 km Bike / 6 km Run

**Clash of the Clans**

100m Swim / 1.75km Cycle / 1.5km Run





# OUR SHIRE NEWS

## SHIRE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Last month I mentioned that Mr. Shane Love MLA had advised that \$50,000 in grant funding was available to assist with the proposed upgrade to Anzac Park.

True to his word Mr. Love attended the February Council Forum to present a faux cheque for the full amount along with an additional \$64,000 from the Watering WA fund for upgrades to emergency firefighting water supplies. This will increase capacity for rain water storage by an additional 141,000 Litres in Morangup and 90,000 Litres in Bejoording. The tanks will be serviced by 800 L/min electric pumps with backup generators.



Recently the government announced an allocation of \$48 Million toward an Agricultural Commodities Freight Roads Fund. It may be possible to gain funds from this program for upgrades to the current Heavy Haulage Route through Toodyay, with the Anzac Avenue corner as first priority. With this in mind, Council has resolved that Stirling Terrace will not be designated as a Restricted Access vehicle route and any action in relation to the removal of two trees in Anzac Avenue will be deferred indefinitely until all avenues of funding have been exhausted.

In February the Shire obtained the services of a mechanic after a couple of false starts with previous applicants. Significant to this appointment was the opportunity to employ the Shire's first ever apprentice mechanic. Congratulations to a

young resident from Morangup who has completed Year 10 at Toodyay District High School and has now seized the opportunity to commence his mechanical career in Toodyay.

NBN towers were again on the Agenda for February. Council approved two monopole towers, one in Morungup and the other in Coondle West. This takes the total of approved NBN towers to 8 within our Shire.

In 2014 the Shire was approached by Mr. Larry Graham, a resident of Duke Street, acting in conjunction with his neighbours, who were concerned that the surveyed boundaries of their properties did not align with long established fence lines, water, sewerage and power access points. Sometime in the 1980's Council decided to widen Duke Street by 7m, apparently to accommodate tourist buses visiting Pelham Reserve. Even though the land was acquired, the road was never widened. In December 2014 the Shire wrote to the Minister for Regional Development and Lands requesting that he allow the previously acquired land to be returned to the land owners without cost.

"Fast Forward" two years and the Minister has now agreed to return the land for \$1.00 per lot plus statutory charges of \$301.20. This is a considerable saving on the original cost estimate of \$10,000 per lot. I thank Minister Redman for his positive response.

In December a working group of Councillors was formed to assist the community run Avonlink Working group to maintain their ongoing efforts to continue the Avonlink Enhancement Project. This \$6.57m Royalty for Regions funded project will finish later this year and in light of the uncertainties of the March state elections, it is essential that the Toodyay community is in a position to continue lobbying for the retention of the rail service as well as other means of public transport, including an extension of the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) to cover Toodyay, public transport services for Morangup and surrounds and consideration of the future of the "well-aged" Toodyay Community Bus.

Lobbying to retain the Avonlink is a priority of the Shire, but the reality is that without a concerted effort from the whole community to get passenger numbers up, the future of the service may be in jeopardy.

## SPORTS FACILITIES MOVE CLOSER

In December 2016, local MP Shane Love and Minister for Sport and Recreation Mia Davies hosted a sport and recreation forum in Toodyay. At that meeting Minister Davies announced on behalf of the National Party a \$10 million election promise for the Toodyay Sport and Recreation Precinct. Since then each of the other candidates has been informed of the pledge and the Shire is seeking similar commitments from other Parties. At the time of writing, only the Nationals have committed.

On 28 February 2017 applications closed for the first round of the new Commonwealth Building Better Regions Program. The Shire's application requested \$9.2 million towards the \$23 million project cost for the sport and recreation precinct. If successful the grant would cover:

- A new aquatic centre;
- New AFL/cricket oval and multipurpose pavilion and change rooms;
- Rectangular field for soccer and hockey;
- Multipurpose courts for basketball, netball and tennis; and
- A second pavilion and change rooms for these sports.

Over the last few weeks the Shire and local contractors have been working on the site. Work will finish this month and includes:

- Drainage works to the western portion of the site completed;
- Access Road from Drummond Street to the Creek Crossing constructed, sealed and kerbed;
- Earthworks completed to sub-grade level for the hockey / soccer field, tennis / basketball and netball;
- Earthworks completed to sub-grade level for aquatic facility.

Either of these grants will accelerate works on the precinct to allow it to be completed in the next 2 years. Both would be an outstanding result. Even if neither grant is forthcoming the Shire will continue to advance works on the site - it will just take longer. Local businesses have committed over a million dollars' worth of fill and donated labour and machinery time for the next round of works.

## WHATS HAPPENING IN TOODYAY IN MARCH AND APRIL 2017

Friday, 17 March 2017

Quit Targa West Rally - Public Meeting for Event Organisers, Community & Business's.

This meeting is facilitated by the Toodyay Chamber of Commerce.

Where: Toodyay Auto Centre

When: 5.30pm

Light refreshments provided.

All attendees will go into a draw to win a ride in a Rally Car on the Toodyay Special Stage on 14 August 2017.

RSVP is essential for catering purposes: [events@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:events@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

Saturday, 18 March 2017 - Toodyay Family Cycle Explore Toodyay on a leisurely cycle around town

Sunday, 19 March 2017 Avon Valley Black Dog Ride

Black Dog Ride began in 2009 as one man's ride to raise awareness of depression, developing into a national suicide prevention charity involving thousands of Australian motorcycle riders.



Photo courtesy Michele Seymour

Saturday, 25 March 2017 Toodyay Music Fest

Toodyay Music Fest is thrilled to present its inaugural extravaganza featuring an array of musical talent. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy this free festival



Saturday, 8 April 2017 - Lions Jumbo Auction

The annual Lions Jumbo Auction is back again for another year. Head down to the Town Oval to see what is up for grabs!



Sunday, 19 March 2017 Toodyay Farmers Markets

Held on the third Sunday of the month, the Toodyay Farmers Markets offer plenty of artisan stalls, education sessions and entertainment.



## POTENTIAL MOSQUITO BREEDING INCREASE DUE TO RECENT FLOODING

Recent heavy rainfall in Western Australia's north combined with unseasonal rain across the Wheatbelt has caused flooding in parts of the Avon River that flows through the Shire of Toodyay. Flooded areas along the Avon are likely to see an increase in the number of mosquitoes and other biting insects breeding as the wet, warm weather has created ideal conditions.

Increased mosquito activity can result in a higher risk of mosquito-borne diseases such as Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus, to name two.

The Shire is warning residents and tourists to take precautions against mosquitoes over the next few weeks as the water subsides and the risk of above normal mosquito breeding elevates. There are no vaccines or cure for mosquito-borne diseases, the only way to prevent mosquito-borne disease is to avoid being bitten.

The Department of Health's "Fight the Bite" campaign urges residents to cover up, repel, and clean up to prevent irritation and mosquito-borne illness.

The following steps can be taken to avoid putting yourself at risk of being bitten by mosquitoes:

- Avoid being outdoors around dawn and dusk.
- Wear loose-fitting sleeved clothing when outdoors.
- Apply a personal repellent spray when outdoors which contains 20% diethyl toluamide (DEET) or picaridin.
- Empty any containers on the property that are holding water, ensure to clean and refill pet and animal drinking water containers regularly.
- Ensure swimming pools and/or spas are sufficiently chlorinated and cleaned regularly.
- Fit rainwater tanks with insect-proof mesh, including inlet, overflow and inspection ports.
- Ensure septic tank vent pipes are fitted with mosquito proof cowls.

You should consult your doctor if you experience the following otherwise unexplainable symptoms:

**fever, drowsiness, headache, stiff neck, nausea, dizziness, skin rashes, painful or swollen joints, sore muscles, flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, headaches), tiredness or weakness**

The Shire plans to commence mosquito prevention control in the upcoming weeks in areas that are identified as being high risk to public health.

Please contact the Shire of Toodyay on 9574 9300 or [records@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@toodyay.wa.gov.au) if you would like more information or to report a mosquito nuisance in your area.

For more information on protecting yourself from mosquito-borne disease and on the Department of Health's "Fight the Bite" campaign, please go to [www.fightthebite.com.au](http://www.fightthebite.com.au).

**FIGHT the BITE**

**PROTECT YOURSELF**

**DISEASE-CARRYING MOSQUITOES**

**COVER UP. REPEL. CLEAN UP.**

WEAR LONG, LOOSE-FITTING CLOTHING. USE INSECT REPELLENT. REMOVE THE WATER THEY BREED IN.

[www.health.wa.gov.au/FIGHTTHEBITE](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/FIGHTTHEBITE)

## INFORMATION RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD

The Shire of Toodyay has entered the Restricted Burning Period - a little earlier than usual owing to recent rainfall.

During the Restricted Burning Period a **VALID PERMIT** is required for any burning activity.

Permits allow a managed approach to burning which cannot realistically be deferred to other times of the year. As such, the Shire will give priority to permit requests for agricultural purposes relating to burning of stubble or chaff for crop preparation purposes during the current Restricted Burning Period.

Applications for permits should be made via email [permits@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:permits@toodyay.wa.gov.au) and contain the following details:

- Your Full Name
- Your Residential Address
- Location (Address and/or Parcel) of the burn.
- Phone Number(s)
- UHF Channel (if available)
- Type of burn (i.e. Stubble, grass, bush)
- Preferred Permit Commencement Date

The Shire will endeavour to respond to permit requests by COB the day following the request application.

To assist processing permit requests, when providing parcel descriptions please provide the full and current details (i.e. Lot and Plan Number). Quoting superseded or incomplete land parcel descriptions may delay your request.

## FIREBREAK ORDER REMINDER

Residents are reminded that they are required to maintain their properties as per the Shire's Firebreak Order until 30 April each year.

With the recent summer rains, maintenance of firebreaks or grass areas may be required to ensure continued compliance with the Fire Break Order.

Compliance inspections are continuing and infringements may result. The Shire's Firebreak Order is sent to property owners annually with the rates notice and can also be viewed on the Shire's website: [www.toodyay.wa.gov.au](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au)

## TOODYAY LIBRARY TALK MARCH 2017

**Do you love reading?** If you are a new resident of Toodyay, we would love you to come and introduce yourself to us at Toodyay Library which is situated at 96 Stirling Terrace, Toodyay. Come along and join as a member. All you will need is some identification with your current residential address and you can then avail yourself of our wonderful selection of items.

This month we have over 200 new items on our shelves, a variety of items including large print books, adult fiction books, DVDs, audio books on CD and/or MP3 and non-fiction items. We also have a great selection of young adult and childrens books/DVDs for you to choose from.

Ask one of our Library Officers for a tour of the library. If we don't have what you are looking for in stock, we may be able to order it from another library for you.

**Childrens Room**  
**Toddler Story Time / Baby Rhyme Time**  
 Parents / Grandparents / Guardians of young children - on Monday mornings we have Toddler Story Time / Baby Rhyme Time sessions. Here is a great way for your little ones to join in the fun. Mondays at 9.15am for Toddlers aged 2 to 5 years, then at 10.00am the Baby Rhymes/Songs for 0 to 2 years. Meet some other locals and encourage your little ones to join in with this fun group. This group is run by one of our lovely volunteers. New participants are always welcome.

**Creative Writing Group**  
 If you want to put pen to paper - or fingertips to keyboard - but don't know where to start, then the library's creative writing group is here to help. Get inspired and share your ideas and stories with some friendly fellow writers every first and third Thursday of the month, from 10am.

**Many Minds Discussion Group**  
 Interested in some interesting discussions? Then come along and join our lovely group.

Our weekly thinkers-then-talkers are always happy to have newcomers join them for some coffee, cake and conversation. Why not drop by and give it a try? Many Minds begins at 10am every second and fourth Thursday of the month.

**Morangup Library**  
 Our Morangup branch is running on Tuesday, 14 and Tuesday, 28 March. Head over to the Community Centre on Wallaby Way in Morangup from 2.00pm - 4.30pm to have a browse and borrow, and meet some of the lovely locals. This is a regular fortnightly service provided by one of our Library Officers from Toodyay Library.

Hope to see you soon at either Toodyay or Morangup. If you would like some more information, please call us on 9574 2323.

## SHIRE ART EXHIBITION



Painting by Greg Warburton of Les Purser

On Sunday, 30 April 2017 the Wicklow Shearing Shed, next to the old Police Stables, will host a one day exhibition of the Shire's art collection.

Titled "Artist's Voices from the Shire of Toodyay's Art Collection", we will be exploring the inspiration behind these artworks. Many works came into the collection via the Shire's annual Acquisition Award at the Toodyay Agricultural Show.

The exhibition will be open between 10.00am and 3.30pm and is free. During the day there will be live interviews with artists whose works are represented. A free in-depth catalogue will also be available.

This is a registered event with the 2017 National Trust Heritage Festival:

[https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf\\_event/artists-voices-from-shire-of-toodyays-art-collection/](https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf_event/artists-voices-from-shire-of-toodyays-art-collection/)

## Saturday 18th March

7.30am start at Duidgee Park

Explore Toodyay on a leisurely cycle around town

Free snacks served at finish line

Open to all ages  
 It is essential to bring along your own bike and helmet!



Ride distance approximately 4 Kms

To register your interest or for more information please contact  
 Maddie Ross  
 9574 9305  
[rdar@toodyay.wa.gov.au](mailto:rdar@toodyay.wa.gov.au)

Be sure to SLIP, SLOP, SLAP, SEEK, SLIDE!

