

2017

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MOONDYNE FESTIVAL

Sunday 7th May

On Sunday 7th of May, the township of Toodyay celebrates the life and times of Moondyne Joe by holding The Act-Belong-Commit Toodyay Moondyne Festival 2017. This festival takes place in the main street, Stirling Terrace which is closed off at 9.00am until 4.00pm. The opening ceremony is at 10.00am following a colourful, energetic and noisy parade with the street actors, pipe band, rifle regiment and many more.

The Festival is the premier colonial festival in WA, first held in 1984, to celebrate the life and times of Joseph Bolitho Johns, known as 'Moondyne Joe'. Joe was a sometime horse-thief and poacher roaming the Avon Valley and Hills, although local legend paints him as a bushranger. Joe was famous as a repeat escapee from Newcastle (Toodyay) gaol and Fremantle gaol. The festival transforms the picturesque and historical town of Toodyay in the Avon Valley into a lively daylong festival. A highlight of the Festival is the Street Theatre re-enactment of Moondyne Joe's various escapades throughout the town, his arrests and mock trials while being a general menace.

Cheer on 'Joe's gang' and the floozies, coppers, swaggies and town crier. The addition in 2015 of the Colonial Village with its interactive swaggies inn, general store, courtroom, blacksmith, blade shearer, poets and bush band has proved to be very popular. The day has the atmosphere of a wild town fair with: an 1860's rifle regiment, Kalamunda pipe band, blacksmith, wood chopping, local spinners, wood turners and potters. With free entry, and entertainment all day the town comes alive with colour, sound, song, dance and laughter. Come experience the wonderful community spirit in the centre of Toodyay, complete with continuous street entertainment; stilt walkers; artisan & heritage crafts; art, vintage cars & bikes, antiques & art exhibitions; healthy food stalls. There is loads of non-stop, amazing fun and physical activities for all the family including camel and Clydesdale rides and Children's activities.

Everyone is encouraged to come dressed in period costume and join in the fun. The Act-Belong-Commit Toodyay Moondyne Festival 2017 is a smoke free event, and is proudly sponsored by Healthway - being active, having a sense of belonging, and having a purpose in life all contribute to happiness and good mental health and wellbeing. Thanks to our other sponsors of LotteryWest, TourismWA, Roadwise, Department of Regional Development and the Shire of Toodyay for making this amazing festival possible. Check out our Website or Facebook page for more information...or come a say hi at our information booth on the day.



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Government of Western Australia
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