



Is Your Firewood Collection Legal?

Did you know that you may be hit with heavy fines or prosecution if you chop trees down without a permit? The Shire of Toodyay has recently observed illegal clearing of native vegetation from Shire land and reserves for the purpose of commercial supply of firewood. The Shire would like to inform residents that firewood can be collected only from designated

areas of State forest and timber reserves managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife. Firewood collected from public firewood collection areas is for private use only, and selling it is not permitted unless you are a registered commercial operator. Please contact the DPaW for information regarding your nearest firewood collection area and the rules associated with it.

If you are collecting firewood for personal use from your private property it is important that you are aware of the regulations surrounding firewood collection and how this can be done without damaging the environment. Clearing of native vegetation in WA is regulated by the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 and you are required to obtain a Clearing Permit from the Department of Environment Regulation if you wish to clear on your private property. An exemption does exist under the EP Act for clearing for the purposes of firewood from a private property.

Firewood must first be collected from dead vegetation. If taken from live trees, it should not kill the tree or prevent its regrowth. This would allow the taking of branches from resprouting species such as mallees.

Will You Be Bushfire Ready?

As we are now in the last month of winter, residents are advised to begin planning to ensure their property is prepared for the upcoming fire season. This may include checking that all firefighting equipment is serviced and in working order along with firebreaks and fuel reduction required by the firebreak notice. To ensure that it is simple, understandable and relevant, the Shire of Toodyay recently revised the Fire-break notice. The Fire-break Notice is issued under the provisions of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, which sets out the legal responsibilities for landowners and occupiers within the Shire of Toodyay. Failure to meet the standards of the notice for the period specified can result in infringement, prosecution or recovery of costs by the Shire of Toodyay.

So what has changed? This will depend on the size of your land and in some cases the location of your property. At a high level, changes include an increase of the vertical height of firebreaks from 3 metres to 4 meters to accommodate the new generation of larger fire appliances, a small increase in the allowable height of grass fuels to 100mm, and the defining of the previous 15 metre low fuel area to a 20 metre Asset Protection Zone of fuel load less than 2 tonnes per hectare.

Does this change affect properties with a current 'Firebreak Variation'? No. A firebreak variation is an individual notice tailored to the specifics of certain properties, and existing variations will apply until specifically rescinded or replaced with a new individual notice by the Shire.

What if it is not possible for my property to reach compliance? If it is not possible for a property to obtain compliance with the notice (i.e. due to terrain), a firebreak variation may be applied for. All requests for variations must be received in writing to the Shire by 1 October each year.

How do I find out more? The firebreak and further information pamphlet will accompany the next Shire rates notice. This information can also be viewed on the [Shire Website](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au) via the Fire Information link on the home page – this includes tips on measuring and reducing fuel loads and FAQs. The Shire is also holding a drop-in information session at Federation Square, Stirling Terrace, between 10am and 2pm on Saturday, 23 September 2017 to answer any questions of owners or occupiers.

WALLABY WAY RESERVE PROJECT

The **Toodyay Shire** has joined forces with Conservation Volunteers Australia, Morangup Progress Association and Boral Pty Ltd to undertake some exciting projects on Shire Reserve 35789.

Known locally as Wallaby Way Reserve, it encompasses the Community Centre and Fire Station. These assets are of course greatly valued by local residents, but the reserve has some special natural features as well. Notable is a beautiful Paperbark thicket, wetland area, and the profusion of wildflowers that bloom in spring.

Plans are afoot to create a walking circuit from the Community Centre which will include picnic tables, interpretive signage and possibly a boardwalk at the paperbark swamp.

The Reserve has unfortunately had a history of inappropriate use with dumping and the introduction of weeds from garden waste. Reserve Management and Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) are currently targeting a serious patch of Tagasaski, Castor Oil Plant and Flinders Range Wattle.

In June the Shire, working with Fire Mitigation Services Pty Ltd, undertook a successful hazard reduction burn in a strategic section of the Reserve which will not only provide increased bush-fire safety but will also promote the regeneration of a range of native plant species.

An important part of the overall plan is environmental restoration, with initial work targeting old gravel pits for rehabilitation.

On Saturday, 22 July 2017 CVA, along with volunteers from Perth, MPA and Toodyay, dodged some heavy downpours of rain to plant trees in one of these extraction sites.

The gravel pit, along with a second one, had been previously landscaped and deep ripped. The seedlings were provided by the Toodyay Seed Orchard Group.

This event was more than just tree planting - it was also an opportunity to launch the Wallaby Way Reserve Project, and judging by the undampened enthusiasm of the crew, we are off to a flying start!



SHIRE ROAD MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

The Shire of Toodyay Works and Services Department are currently progressing with the following works for the month of August:

Job Description	Estimated Completion
Salt Valley Road construction and seal	October 2017
River Road construction and seal	October 2017
Wando Circle funded construction and seal	October 2017
Emergency access way and fire service access route – maintenance and upgrade - Coondle West area	September 2017

The Works Schedule relies on a number of factors including resources, contractors, machinery availability, manpower and weather. These factors may affect the proposed schedule.

Toodyay Community Newsletter

MORE HOUSING FOR SENIORS Butterly Cottages Project Goes Ahead

Pindan Construction has been awarded a \$3.5 million contract to build 17 new Independent Living Units, including nine in Toodyay, four in Goomalling and two each in Calingiri and Bolgart.

"This is a significant milestone for Toodyay", said Shire President Cr David Dow. "The project involves a partnership between three local governments, and an alliance with seniors housing provider Butterly Cottages in Toodyay".

The project has received significant funding support under Royalties for Regions. Cr Dow said "The funding was allocated several years ago, and the funding agreement signed two years ago. There were delays due to land acquisition and amalgamation of lots. Since that process was completed early this year, we have moved very quickly to complete substantial earthworks and retaining walls prior to awarding this building contract through a public tendering process"

"This is a great example of state government, local government and the community working together to produce very positive outcomes", he said.

"There are many local people who want to remain in Toodyay when they retire, and these units will provide a real alternative for people to downsize but stay in the community they love."

Work is expected to start in the next four weeks and be completed by



June 2018. The Shire of Victoria Plains will manage the units in Calingiri and Bolgart, and the Goomalling units will be managed by the Shire of Goomalling.

Cr Dow went on to say "By combining the housing needs across three local governments, I am sure we have achieved significant cost savings."

Pindan Construction is happy to consider quality local sub-contractors who are interested in working on the project.

NOMINATING FOR COUNCIL? Local Government Elections 21 October 2017

What you need to know.....

Webinar: Thursday, 17 August
5.00pm - 5.45pm (AWST)

Information Night: Tuesday, 6 September
6.00pm - 7.00pm, Council Chambers

Have you ever thought about nominating to become a Councillor, but aren't sure if the role is for you? Then be sure to register for this **free webinar** and/or come

along to the **information night** for all your questions to be answered. Topics will include:

- An overview of Local Government;
- The roles and responsibilities of Council and Council Members;
- Behavioural expectations of Elected Members;
- An overview of the skills required to be a successful Councillor; and
- Impacts on home life.

These sessions are for **anyone** who is thinking about nominating for the 2017 Local Government election. You will have an opportunity to ask questions during the Q&A Sessions at the end of the presentations.

To register for the *webinar*, go to the WALGA Training website link: <http://walga.asn.au/Training/Our-Services/Webinars.aspx>. A video of the completed webinar will be available on the WALGA Training website.

Making the Call...

Most people are familiar with the numbers to call for assistance in an emergency, but do you know who to call to offer your assistance?

With the exception of law enforcement, all other emergency services in Toodyay are almost exclusively made up of volunteers. When a call for help is received, the responders are usually those who have made another call – a call to put their hand up in aid of their community.

Our local volunteer Bushfire Brigades, Fire and Rescue Service, State Emergency Service and St John Ambulance are currently seeking new members. Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills, meet new people and strengthen our community.

Volunteering opportunities exist with **Bejoording BFB**, **Coondle-Nunile BFB**, **Julimar BFB**, **Morangup BFB**, **Toodyay Central BFB**, **Toodyay Fire & Rescue Service (FRS)**, **State Emergency Service (SES)** and **St John Ambulance (SJA)**.

To find out more about emergency service volunteering in Toodyay, visit the [Shire Website](http://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au) or SMS the relevant service (as listed in bold above) and your name to 0408 017 439 to receive a call back from a current member. The dedicated emergency services volunteers of Toodyay thank you for supporting your local emergency services.

Subscribe to Our Community Newsletter

By email **By post**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Log on to: www.toodyay.wa.gov.au

OR return this form to the Shire Administration:
 Post: PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566
 Email: records@toodyay.wa.gov.au
 In Person: 15 Fiennes Street
 Toodyay WA 6566

President's Pen - David Dow Council has resolved to grant a long-term lease of the Clinton St Parks and Gardens Depot Building to the Toodyay RSL Sub Branch. The lease is conditional upon the RSL working with Arts Toodyay to provide them some shared use and a small storage area. The RSL will be the lead tenant and have the right to make the building available to other community groups for short-term use. The RSL and Arts Toodyay have already presented basic concept plans that should see their project coincide with this week's commencement of works to upgrade the nearby Anzac Memorial Park. Unfortunately the work at the park will cause some disruption to the Vietnam Veterans Day annual service to be held on Saturday, 19 August. Grant funding for the memorial upgrade has escaped the State Government's outback to previous commitments so this work is able to go ahead despite Council not yet formalising this year's budget.

Council has not yet received all of this year's land valuations, thus the delay in adopting the budget and posting of rates notices. It is anticipated that the Budget will be adopted at this month's Ordinary Council meeting. In the meantime major Works and Services projects have been re-scheduled to take advantage of grants already received.

The State Government has flagged its intention to reduce road funding for local roads across the State, resulting in a reduction of \$53,685 of road grants for Toodyay. Even though our Budget has not been finalised, we are confident that the proposed overall rates collected will remain within the recently advertised 2% increase. This year's total revenue from all sources should exceed \$11 million so while the cuts are unwelcome they represent less than 1% of total revenue.

Pindan Construction has been awarded the contract to build Stage One of the Butterfly Cottages project in Anzac Avenue, and work should commence late this month or early September. The Toodyay Shire and Avon Region of Councils will now wait until this year's State Budget has been adopted before continuing to pursue the expansion of aged housing availability throughout the region.

Local governments across Australia are becoming increasingly challenged by the need to plan and cater for the global trend toward sharing economies and rapid advances in digital technology. Automated shared transport systems, street lights that gather data on our daily lives and drone delivery technology will be among the many issues that will have to be considered by future Councils, however in the short term, one change that is already upon us is the use of shared accommodation platforms. At this month's Forum, Council discussed the implications of internet facilitated short term rental accommodation and the effects, either positive or negative, that may impact our tourism industry and local accommodation providers. The current review of our local planning strategy leading into the adoption of a new Local Planning Scheme for the Shire may allow for scheme modifications to address issues raised, including the possibility of shonky operators providing substandard facilities to the detriment of complying accommodation providers.

Congratulations to the Toodyay Men's Shed guys for their perseverance over several years, resulting in them finally being able to officially "turn the sod", signalling the start of construction of their new shed at the site of the Old Works Depot in Harper Road. The Shire has leased the site to the Men's Shed but will not be involved in funding or building the "Shed"

Further congratulations go to all involved in organising the International Food Festival and the Avon Descent. To see the town buzzing with people during the weekend is a reflection of the hard work of Shire staff backed up by tireless community volunteers who were "out and about" raising funds for their various organisations. Community development officers are aware of some disruption to residents by these events, particularly in terms of parking and access to businesses, and will be discussing possible measures to alleviate this during future major events.

I was recently asked why locked gates were being installed on emergency access ways throughout the Shire, thus preventing residents from using these as an escape route during a fire emergency. I have been assured by our Community Emergency Services Manager that the gates will be 'locked open' during the summer months however some tracks only suitable for emergency vehicles will remain locked to the general public during the summer months. Locking the gates throughout winter will reduce the use of the access ways by off road vehicles, trail bikes and the few that choose to commit property crimes in the area.

A reminder that with council elections coming up it is imperative that you are enrolled to vote. Enrolment on the Owners and Occupiers Roll closes Friday, 1 September 2017. The Western Australian Electoral Commission will be running an information session in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, 6 September, from 6.00pm to 7.00pm for anyone thinking of standing in the Local Government election.

CEO Update — Stan Scott

The budget season is drawing to a close, and it has been one of the most challenging in my 15 years in Local Government, mostly because there are so many unknowns. We are also still waiting on some valuations from the Valuer General, and cannot adopt our budget until those valuations have been received. That department is undergoing significant change as a result of the change of government. Perhaps the good news is that rates notices may be a little later than usual.

The new State Government will not be releasing its budget until September, and there are several things in our budget that are dependent on State Government decisions. We may need to make some minor changes midyear.

The Shire achieved a significant milestone this month when we signed contracts with Pindan Constructions for the completion of 17 Independent Living Units (nine in Toodyay, four in Goomalling, two in Calingiri and two in Bolgart). Toodyay is the lead Local Government for this project and we will be managing the contract. This is the culmination of the Shire's close partnership with Butterfly Cottages Inc, and will provide nine new high quality residences for Toodyay retirees. If all goes according to plan this project will be completed before June next year.



Main Roads will be undertaking geotechnical investigations on Toodyay Road between Dryandra Road and the Toodyay townsite in August and September 2017. The geotechnical investigation will be undertaken with various types of machinery such as excavators, backhoes, hard rock drills and dozers to excavate and sample the underlying soil and rock for testing. The aim is to identify material for potential road construction.

Main Roads is currently developing and planning for future improvements on Toodyay Road between Dryandra Road and the Toodyay town site. Funding for this project is currently being sought from the State Government.

Are you thinking of building? Come along to an INFORMATION EVENING

An information evening has been organised by the Shire for residents who may be thinking of building. The evening will include information on the processes of planning and building which can be a minefield for most of us to undertake. Come along and find out more about:

- Building requirements and how to submit a successful building application;
- Planning requirements and how to submit a successful planning application; and
- Information and advice on heritage building work in the Shire.

Members of our Planning and Development Department will be attending and will be able to answer any questions you may have.

When: Wednesday, 20 September 2017
 Time: 6.00pm - 7.00pm **RSVP: Friday, 15 September 2017**
 Where: Council Chambers - 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay

TOODYAY LIBRARY TALK - August 2017

E-Resources - Did you know that as a library member, you can access some fantastic resources for free! If you have a look on the **Shire Website** under Libraries, you will see links to various free resources. Some of the resources available are e-books, audio books, children's activities and stories. You can also access the Toodyay Library catalogue and search the items that we have on our shelves. If you need any assistance accessing these, please give us a call or visit the library.

Toddler Story Time / Baby Rhyme Time - Wednesdays at 9.15am for toddlers aged 2 - 5 years, then at 10.00am for Baby Rhymes/Songs for 0 - 2 years. Meet some other locals and encourage your little ones to join in with this fun group.

Morangup Library - Our Morangup branch is open on 8 and 22 August in the Morangup Community Centre from 2pm - 4.30pm.

Quit TARGA WEST '17 10-13 AUG 2017 targawest.com.au

ANZAC PARK REDEVELOPMENT

The redevelopment of Anzac Park is a grant funded project that has commenced recently and will be taking place over the next two months, weather permitting.

The park redevelopment, while maintaining all existing mature trees, will include levelling standing areas, creating disabled access and alternative footpaths, and installing new garden beds and retaining walls.



Dog Attacks

The Shire has experienced a number of dog attacks in recent months and would like the community to be aware of what to do in the event of a suspected dog attack.

If you witness a dog attack or suspect one has occurred, **call the Shire Ranger as soon as possible.**

A Shire Ranger will visit the site as soon as possible, but please keep in mind this may not be immediately as they may be dealing with other important issues at the time.

If you witness an incident, and it is safe to do so:

- Take photographs. Photographic evidence is valuable so take photos of anything that might be relevant, i.e. the dog/s involved, injured or deceased animal/s, etc.
- Write down the details of what you saw or noticed while they are still fresh in your mind. Don't forget details such as the date, time, location, dog/s size, colour/distinguishing marks, sex, collar, visible tags or anything else that could assist in identifying the dog/s.
- Please do not move or touch any relevant evidence i.e. deceased animal/s.

While it isn't a resident's responsibility to gather and collect this evidence, it can greatly assist the Shire Ranger's investigation and help ensure a swift and appropriate outcome for all.

On a side note, if you have dead carcasses on your property unrelated to dog attacks, it is important that these be buried sufficiently as they can attract unwanted attention from wandering predators.

NOMINATE A COMMUNITY HERO
www.citizenshipawards.com.au

It's time to start thinking about your nominations to celebrate our local Toodyay community heroes.

Nominations open on 1 September 2017 for the Citizen of the Year Awards in the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Citizen of the Year – Senior
- Citizen of the Year – Youth
- Active Citizenship (Group/Event)

Please go to www.citizenshipawards.com.au to submit your nominations. **Nominations close on 31 October 2017.**

COUNCIL MEETINGS AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2017 - Council Chambers		
Meeting	Date	Time
Museum Advisory Committee	17 August 2017	4.00pm
Ordinary Council Meeting	22 August 2017	4.00pm
Council Forum	12 September 2017	4.00pm

EVENT WHAT'S COMING UP

20 August 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.

10 September 2017 - Montage in the Garden
 An opportunity to purchase a unique gift from an eclectic range of (handcrafted) goods. Meet the artists and producers in the garden area surrounding Earth Sculptures Studio. For more information visit <https://earthsculptures.com.au/montage-in-the-garden/>.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING...

Toodyay Community Program - 10-13 July 2017



The Toodyay Community Program was held in the second week of the school holidays, and was a joint effort between the Shire of Toodyay, the Toodyay Community Resource Centre, and the Wheatbelt Health Network.

There were over 130 attendees across five activities, with many repeat participants. Mel from Northam PCYC and James from Wheatbelt Health Network kicked things off with BoxSport – a safe and exciting introduction to boxing and fitness. There were even some parents joining in for the tug of war! That afternoon featured a laid-back activity with the CRC playing the movie *Moana*. Wii Sports was back at the CRC, where players competed in bowling, tennis and golf.

Then it was time to get crafty with card craft, where everyone was able to make little trinket boxes and get creative. Lastly, budding authors came along to the Toodyay Library to create a DIY Storybook. There were plenty of excellent stories and illustrations. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who facilitated these activities, which are always eagerly attended.

Toodyay International Food Festival - 5 August 2017

The 13th annual Toodyay International Food Festival and Family Fun Day was once again a fantastic day. Held in conjunction with the Avon Descent on Saturday 5 August, the festival boasted a great view of the race. Festival-goers were able to watch the thrills and spills of the race from the comfort of dry land while wandering through the dozens of food stalls serving cuisines from all over the world. Stirling Park came alive with cultural performers meandering through the crowds and a variety of bands on stage. The family fun zone in Duidgee Park hosted an array of activities for young and old - including bouncy castles, face painters, magicians and a DJ.

A big thank you to all the sponsors for their continued support of the Toodyay International Food Festival: Lotterywest, the Shire of Toodyay, Toodyay Auto Centre, the Toodyay and Districts Community Bank, the Toodyay Op Shop, Toodyay Terry White Chemist, Toodyay Bottlemart, PND Electrical Service and Menu Magazine. Sensational!

