Is Your Firewood Collection Legal?

Did you know that you may be hit with heavy fines if you harvest firewood from private property 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 collected on public land will be managed through the Word and Fund through a commercial operator. Please contact the Shire’s Bush Fire Team 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 (EPA) and Environmental Conservation (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 EPA 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 mallee.

**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 in the vertical height of firebreaks from 3 metres to 4 metres and an extension of 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 zone.

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

On Saturday, 22 July 2017, along with volunteers from Perth, MPA and Toodyay, dodged some heavy downpours of rain to plant over 100 trees in one of the blind zones.

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

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

**WALLABY WAY RESERVE PROJECT**

The Toodyay Shire has joined forces with Conservation Volunteers Australia, Mangrove Progress Association and Bonal Pty Ltd to undertake some exciting projects on Shire Reserve 55785.

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 well worth preserving. 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 bushfire 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.

**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 Bejording (BFB), Coonel-Nuline (BFB), Jullian (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 or SMS the relevant service with a text saying “I am interested in volunteering” and your name is (insert text) and we will receive a call back from a current member. The dedicated emergency services volunteers of Toodyay thank you for supporting your local emergency services.
Shire of Toodyay Community Newsletter

President’s Pen - David Dow
Councillor has resolved to grant a long-term lease of the Clifton 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 with some shared use and a small storage area. The RSL will be the lead tenant and have the right to insist the groups for short-term use of the Depot. The concept plans that should see their project coincide with this week’s commencement of works to upgrade the adjacent 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 budget as anticipated. A move to go ahead despite Council not yet formally adopting the budget is put forward by Council. The Council has not yet received all of this year’s land valuations, the delay in adopting the budget and posting of rates notices is anticipated. This is anticipated. The budget will be adopted at this months’ 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 $35,000 of road grants for Toodyay. Even though our budget has not been formally adopted, there is no indication that any projects that were already budgeted for in the 2017/18 budget will be taken off on the back of the budget.

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 Shire’s Business and 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 need to be considered by future Councils. However, in the short term, one change that is upon us is the use of shared accommodation platforms. At this months’ 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 Scheme leading into the adoption of a new Scheme may allow for scheme modifications to address issues raised, including the possibility of skynny operators providing substantial 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 facility at the site of the Demonstrator Stand in the Show Grounds. The Shire will not be involved in funding the new Shed.

Further congratulations go to all involved in organising the International Food Festival and the Avon Descent. To see the tow.

Nominations open on 1 September 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 fun of it. That afternoon featured a laid-back activity with the CRC playing the movie Moana. WiFi 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 tin tins and get creative. Lastly, budding authors came along to the Toodyay Library to create a DIY book. 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 displays of various bands on stage. The family fun zone on Dill 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 volunteers who contributed to their continued support of the Toodyay International Food Festival: Lotuswest, 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!

Shire of Toodyay Community Newsletter

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;
• 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
Where: Council Chambers - 15 Flinders Street, Toodyay
RSVP: Friday, 15 September 2017

ANZAC PARK REDEVELOPMENT

The redevelopment of Anzac Park is a grant 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 event of a suspected dog attack.

If you witness a dog attack or suspect one has occurred, call the Shire of Toodyay. The Shire’s Ranger will visit the site as soon as possible, but please keep in mind there may be delays immediately as they may be dealing with other important cases at the time.

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

• Take photos. Photographic evidence is valuable so take photos of anything that might be relevant, i.e. the dogs involved, injured or deceased animals, 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, colouring/distinguishing marks, sex, collar, visible tags or anything else that could assist in identifying the dog.

• Do not play or move or touch any relevant evidence i.e. deceased animals.

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.

Toodyay Community Program - 10-13 July 2017

What’s Happening…

Shire of Toodyay

The Shire of Toodyay Community Newsletter

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 30 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

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 www.toodyaylibrary.com.au.