

August 2014



Biddip



Newsletter of the Toodyay Friends of the River

Volume 8, Issue 2



The Toodyay Friends of the River are grateful to the Wheatbelt NRM for their support in producing the August 2014 newsletter

Inside this issue:

President's Report	2
Toodyay's elusive Pink Lakes	3
Swan-Avon - same river, different values (continued)	5
Members Gallery	7
Facts & Figures Industrial Extracts Toodyay Factory	8
Toodyay Tidy Towns update	10
The Wood White Butterfly	11
The Back Page	12



wheatbelt
natural resource
management

Presidents Report by Robyn Taylor



THE FOLLOWING is an edited version of the report I presented at our August AGM.

This has been my first year as President and daunting though it was to follow Greg's very successful Presidency, the job has been made easy with the great support of our committee.

At the time of our last AGM our dear member and Friend Gaven Donegan was in hospital. Little did we know that within days we were to lose our champion of the river. Last month on 20 July we invited the Donegan family to join us in the unveiling of a memorial to Gaven at Millard's Pool. A separate article about this event appears in this issue of *Biddip*.

Since August last year we have undertaken working bees, fund raising litter pick-ups, a river and bird survey conducted by our patron Viv Read and local bird expert John Masters, and much more including the fantastic bus trip down the Avon River in April. We had a great time although seeing the return of massive silt deposits in Long Pool, especially after the 2009 dredging, was disappointing to say the least.

During our planning meeting in January the matter of whether to continue our river surveys was discussed. I think I can speak for everyone that we were missing Gaven's first hand knowledge and enthusiasm for this work. Over the years fewer members were monitoring their stretch of the river, and many of us didn't know how to record and interpret what we saw in a meaningful way, especially the movement of silt. I would like to thank member Sarah Dudley who tried her very best to assist us, but in the end it seems members prefer to enjoy the simple pleasures of a monthly gathering where we get our hands dirty and don't have to think too much about anything other than the present. Interest does continue with monitoring bird and animal life along the river with surveys and recordings of sightings in our Attendance book.

However monitoring the movement of silt in the river pools, and its removal is an important undertaking. Fletch (Wayne Fletcher) agreed to head a newly formed Millard's Pool sub-committee, which will oversee the dredging of the Pool in conjunction with Vernice. Members of this committee include Fletch, Wayne Clarke, and our Patron Viv Read, with Vernice being represented by Stephen Ferguson.

I would like to add at this point that not everything that is done by TFOR members occurs during our busy bees. I would particularly like to thank Greg and Andrew Carr for the maintenance work they do 'out of hours'. This includes spraying and whipper-snipping along the Bilya Walk Track and the John Pyle Walk Track, and spraying the Harper Brook re-vegetation site fence lines and firebreak. There is not enough time during the year to get these jobs done, especially when weather conditions can be variable. I would also like to thank Bob Frayne who has done a wonderful job removing (yet again) most of the plastic plant guards that were used for another mass planting around the vicinity of the school.

Last October was the 160th anniversary of the Toodyay Agricultural Society and once again we had our very successful Environment Matters tent that is shared with the Toodyay Naturalists Club, Wheatbelt NRM and others.

According to our Constitution we are required to have at least four general meetings throughout the year. As most members prefer to work, we decided to hold the meetings after the working bee and morning tea. Non-committee members can choose to stay or leave. I believe this has worked well especially as we can use the picnic tables we installed along the Bilya Walk Track at Nardie Cemetery, where we do an annual clean up of the grounds, Millard's Pool and Lloyds Reserve.

Apart from fund raising with litter pick-ups, I would like to thank those members who braved the cold outside the IGA in June to help sell raffle tickets and Lotterywest for providing \$50 worth of Scratchies. Also Greg, Vicki and Laraine for assisting with parking during the Avon Descent at Lyn Burns' property. I believe \$170 was raised for TFOR; we also had a generous donation from Targa West. This was organised through the Toodyay Lions Club.

There is a lot more than I could report on such a Ric and Rebecca's commitment to a water quality testing programme; Desrae and Wayne for continuing to produce our excellent *Biddip* newsletter, Greg for his monthly columns in the *Toodyay Herald*, and Greg and Beth's hard work for Toodyay Tidy Towns of which TFOR is a supporting member. Wayne, our Super Treasurer, is especially deserving of our thanks. A big thank you Wayne from all of us.

A reminder to members that this is our 20th anniversary year. TFOR held its inaugural meeting on 10 December 1994 and what better month could there be to celebrate our birthday with a party. We will keep you posted about the date, time and place.

Cover Photo: The Donegan Family at the unveiling of the Gaven Donegan Memorial Plaque

Photo Wayne Clarke

THE ELUSIVE PINK LAKES of TOODYAY

by Milton Baxter

THE READER must be thinking, '*pink lakes in Toodyay*'! – what 'pink lakes'?

With the weather the way it has been until recently such luxuries as lakes were not included – *especially pink ones!*

Most people have seen, or heard of, the famous pink lakes of Esperance and Geraldton. Of course, I am not purporting that we have lakes of that proportion in Toodyay. Ours are of a much smaller scale and they are rarely observed; it takes exceptional circumstances to create the correct formulae to create this fantastic phenomena.

The scientific explanation for the '*pink lake*' occurrence is as follows:

The catalyst is *Dunaliella salina* [a type of extremely salt tolerant green micro-algae which typically grows in high salt water bodies – Wikipedia] a heavy concentration of brine, high temperatures and plenty of sunlight. The resultant algae, combined with beta carotene (red pigment) create our '*pink lakes*'.

My first local experience of this elusive water puzzle was on the 14th April 2014. I was crossing the single-lane Dumbarton Bridge, which stands beside one of the oldest fords in the Toodyay district, when I saw what appeared to be '*pink water*' in the river bed!

The lack of rain in the Avon Catchment plus the record-breaking heat factor had reduced, what could be described at times as '*the turbulent Avon, hence the reputation of the world's greatest white water race*', to a bed of dried river weed clinging like grasping, shrouded fingers, to support it. The beds of coarse sand were sporting many forms of flotsam and jetsam which were stranded by the lack of water and unable to complete the journey to the sea, and a swathe of small sharp rocks covered by a glistening sprinkling of salt.

However, among this throat-drying vista, there were a few small lakes formed where the river, in former times, had scoured out deep hollows; two of these caught my eye. It was not because they were near the Crossing but because the smaller of the two was of a totally diverse colour, so much so, that you could not imagine how dissimilar the two lakes were.

The first was a very deep green stagnant pool the colour resembling a patent cough remedy my Mother used to liberally issue to us boys if we showed the slightest signs of a snuffle. Its neighbour, no more than a couple of metres away, was a delicate pink – two totally alternative colourations almost side by side. My immediate reaction was to take a photograph as evidence of what I had found.

A week later I caught a glimpse of what appeared to be a larger version of the original '*pink lake*' but well hidden in the low side of a bend of the river bed, camouflaged by trees and located quite close to 'Donkey Crossing', another old ford but closer to town.

I was determined to inspect this find at a closer range but mindful of the landowner's warning signs on the fence referring to the strip of land between the road verge and the river, '**No Unauthorised Entry-Special Entry Requirements**'. Not to cause infraction I returned to the school bus turnaround, at the west end of Dumbarton Bridge, and struck out on foot. The dried up river bed was used as my thoroughfare – fortunately, I had socks and boots in the car!

I went down the embankment and set out for my destination. There were some sections where it was easy to traverse, some on the river bed itself, some on central islands and some where the dry, shiny salt-encrusted surface was perceived as deceptively firm. This tempted the walker to take a short cut but the illusion was soon shattered as my weight broke through the slender crust and I soon found myself floundering – my footwear became heavy, like diver's boots of old, making trying to escape the clutches of the mud impossible! The solution was to withdraw my feet from the leathers, which reminded me of working in wet concrete, and retrieving my wardrobe with sticks. After a 'de-mudding' exercise I carried on, but, needless to say, avoiding such situations from that point.

Finally, I could see the sun reflecting on water. *But*, not the usual thirst quenching, clear, sparkling, life-saving water that determined explorers write of, after days of stumbling across barren wastes in a state of torrefaction, but the shimmering of my second pink lake; this one was much larger than the original. I stood there, taking in the panorama, before putting my camera into action. Once the scene was recorded I turned to head back to the car.

Cont. Page 4

THE ELUSIVE PINK LAKES of TOODYAY (cont)

by Milton Baxter



Photos by Milton Baxter.

[There is one consolation with the motor and quad bikes that are tearing up and down the river. Unless they are thoroughly cleaned afterwards, the low pH of the river mud will soon eat away at their metallic parts e.g. forks, wheels, motors, etc.]



It had taken me half an hour to reach this point and the day was now becoming rather warm. It was then that temptation overrode my 'neighbourly conscience' as, through the strip of bush that shielded the river from the road, I could hear the sounds of traffic on the Toodyay/Northam road. This beckoned to me as a much easier route back to Dumbarton Bridge – this meant passing through the landholder's 'no-go-zone' between the river and the road.

Having, so far, not seen a soul on my inward journey I decided to take a chance on crossing this forbidden land. Climbing the embankment towards the barbed wire fence to a stepping stone, which some Good Samaritan had set up, which enabled me to firstly throw a leg over the barbed wire, and, being doubly cautious and not so rash as to cause myself an injury, I carefully followed through with the other leg. Happily *no lacerations* to my pants or, more importantly, to me – a few steps, and there was the bitumen!!!

To make my walking presence look justified and not be perceived as a *pyromaniac*, a providentially placed empty goat pellet bag lay on the ground. I quickly picked it up and commenced collecting traveller's discards as I walked along. By the time I had returned to the car the bag was full; the whole exercise had proved to be one of a very successful nature of an exploring and recycling effort – Beth Frayne and Greg Warburton would have been *very* proud of me!

Unfortunately, it rained a few days later and the *pink lakes* disappeared. Who knows when the circumstances will allow a repeat of our rarest aqua display?

SWAN-AVON RIVER SAME RIVER - DIFFERENT VALUE PART TWO

by Wayne Clarke

[Part One of this article appears in *Biddip Volume 8 Number 1*, April 2014]

The issue of management of the river has been addressed by a number of Governments over recent years. The formation of the Avon River Management Authority (ARMA) in 1993 gave some hope. Fired up at the beginning (with an excellent and innovative Executive Officer), it partnered in the Swan-Avon Integrated Catchment Management Program. However, it did not address the issues of the Avon River in the long term. The appointments to ARMA were politically motivated rather than skills based, and the Authority languished through lack of competent leadership, and departmental direction. This ensured its eventual demise in December 2001.

An incorporated community group, the Avon Waterways Committee, was formed in 2002, and was made a committee of the board (of the *Water and Rivers Commission*). The following years saw a number of changes in agency name but again, the skills to achieve, and support required, were not evident.

When the government of the day abolished small committees, the Avon Waterways Committee was dissolved. This was the last committee to provide any coordinated advocacy from a community perspective on the Avon River.

During 2011, the Department of Water began scaling back its activities in the region. A number of staff members were made redundant, and others transferred to the city. The Northam office was left with a part-time receptionist, working mainly on administrative matters for the regional office in Perth. Once the lease of that office expired, the Department of Water closed the office.

The Avon is now looking for some equity with its lower reaches, the Swan River. The sediment issues discussed have escalated considerably, and removal of these deposits over the past ten to fifteen years has cost the taxpayer many hundreds of thousands of dollars. However that will all be to no avail, unless the sediment removal programme continues. Other funding bodies (like Wheatbelt NRM) can assist with managing the riparian vegetation, but there needs to be a legally empowered government body to dredge the pools.

The Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act (2006) defines the *Catchment area* as being the boundary of the combined Swan/Avon catchments. There are a number of references in the Act that relate to the catchment area, and its management, with specific references to the Swan River Trust (SRT). Section 23. of the Act relates to the functions of the Trust, and 23. (f) reads:

to coordinate and promote the activities of other bodies that have functions in relation to the catchment area, insofar as those functions may affect the Riverpark, including the implementation of any strategic documents applicable to the catchment area.

Included in the Act are targets for the catchment area (Section 47 (b)), objectives and performance standards (Section 51. (2) (a), recommending a 'river protection notice be issued' (Section 90. (1) (a), and legal proceedings (Section 119. (3)).

The Swan Riverpark will surely be threatened by sediment, nutrients, high salinity levels, and other pollutants from the Avon River, particularly with the changing weather pattern Western Australia is currently experiencing.

In Toodyay, Long Pool, where some 6,000 tonne of sediment has been removed, is already filling. Cobbler Pool, a few kilometres downstream, has sandbars in it never seen before. These Avon Gorge pools are the last sumps for the river prior to it descending the scarp, and into the Swan. The words of Dr Brian O'Brien, in 1973, need to be heeded, viz:

¹I am advised that the Irrigation and Drainage Branch PWD have estimated that most of the material moved by the river water will be held in the bed of the river between Toodyay and the coastal plain.

"Should this not be so, some siltation in the upper stretches of the [Swan] river can be expected which can cause flooding problems in the upper reaches of the river.

As the Toodyay Friends of the River (TFOR) is an incorporated entity, it has binding objects that relate to functions in the catchment area. There could be some question as to the role of the Swan River Trust over the activities of the TFOR; and similarly other community groups in the Avon. Without the guidance of the current managers of the river – the Department of Water – our community groups feel deserted, frustrated, and even threatened. The logical answer to this issue is for the SRT to take management control of the Avon River.

¹Brian O'Brien, Director [PWD] June 20 1973, in answer to a letter from Mrs. J. Hamersley, Country Party of WA.

...Continued Page 6

SWAN-AVON RIVER
SAME RIVER - DIFFERENT VALUE
PART TWO (continued from Page 5) **by Wayne Clarke**

CYCLONE IMPACT

When the cyclone season approaches, it is important to understand what affect this may have on the Avon/Swan River system. The following information is from the Bureau of Meteorology on cyclones that have impacted on Perth (a full transcript can be found at the following site):

<http://www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/history/wa/perth.shtml>

Although cyclones do not frequently occur as far south as Perth (or its hinterland) they have been the most significant of weather hazards, with their destruction including erosion from storm surges with large waves, and the spread of wildfires. Cyclone *Alby* (April 1978) resulted in five deaths, including one in Toodyay.

The vast majority of cyclonic storms lose their intensity and are downgraded as they move south. Occasionally however a decaying cyclone interacts with a cold front, and evolves into an intense, fast-moving system. These systems can produce a range of destructive forces, from intense rainfall, storm surges and large waves through to damaging winds and hot, dry conditions – conducive to the spread of bushfires.

The following notes (extracted from the above website) should be well noted:

*Cyclones affecting the southwest can move at speeds greater than 70 km/h in contrast to the average 10-15 km/h speeds in the north. As they accelerate, the structure of the cyclone changes so that the regions of dense cloud and heavy rainfall are displaced towards the right quadrants of the system (when looking along the direction of the track) leaving the left quadrants largely free of significant cloud. As a result the heaviest rainfall for example, would occur when a cyclone crosses the coast near and to the north of Perth as in March 1934 (Perth recorded 77 mm and Toodyay 191 mm, as flooding caused damage across Perth and the Wheatbelt. The Swan River **rose 5.8 m in less than eight hours** at Guildford causing considerable damage to unharvested grapes).*

The change in structure described above is known as *extra-tropical transition*. This process is observed in other tropical cyclone basins around the world and can result in a re-intensification of the system even though it loses tropical cyclone characteristics.

In the period 1910 to 2004 there were 14 tropical cyclones that either caused gales or wind-related property damage in the Perth region (this does not include decaying cyclones that caused heavy rain). Between 1992 and 2004 no cyclones have impacted on Perth, possibly leading to an increased level of complacency in the population.

When the heavy rains associated with a cyclone move inland to river catchments, water levels in the outlet rivers rise significantly, even in a small catchment area.

The Avon however is not a small catchment, at 120,000 square kilometres. Even if a cyclone only impacts a small proportion of an Avon sub-catchment, it can cause local flooding. A large cyclone impacting both the Avon and Mortlock sub-catchments has the potential to cause major flooding of the Avon River.

With the strong river flows associated with these events, the potential for sediment movement increases, particularly in the area below Toodyay (where hundreds of thousands of tonnes are currently locked up). As this area has a higher gradient, it will move faster, over the Darling Scarp (the cyclone history of the Perth region does not include the Avon region, where cyclones can have an impact when they cross the coast north of Perth, heading eastward. The Avon River experienced minor flooding in March 2000, when tropical cyclone Steve crossed through the outer catchment).

This will lead to the achievement of Dr Brian O'Brien's answer to Mrs Judy Hamersley in June 1973. This reactive approach will be at the cost of many millions of dollars, and possibly lives. The 'upper reaches' that Dr O'Brien talked about now have housing estates adjacent to them.

Don't let us live with that on our conscience!

[Note: All the transcripts quoted can be collaborated by copies of the original documentation]

Members Gallery

BLESSING OF THE WATERS



Above: The visiting Gyuto Monks of Tibet in 'The Blessing of the River'. Photo: Vicki Warburton

REVEGETATION PROJECT UNDERWAY



Above: TFOR members planting tree seedlings and sedges on the former 'Knockdominie' property, north bank of Millards Pool. Photo by Wayne Clarke

Below: Rebecca Meegan-Lowe (clutching her signature 'iced bun' from the local baker) with Shelley Kingston from the Toodyay Community Bank, at the volunteer registration table.



Above: Male splendid fairy-wren in full breeding plumage, Lloyd Reserve

Photo by Wayne Clarke



Right: Long-necked or Oblong Turtle (*Chelodina oblonga*) resting on the bank of the Avon River. A day or two later, the Avon Descent would have had this unusual creature well hidden.

Photo by Viv Street



Facts and Figures on the Industrial Extracts Toodyay Factory by Jenny Edgecombe

The following facts and figures have been summarised from a Toodyay Herald article, 6 March 1952, shortly before the opening of the factory. Their accuracy has not been verified.

Cost of building and setting up: over £300,000 [\$600,000].

12 Autoclaves were imported from Scotland.

Perth architect Mr. L. Lovell drew up the plans for the factory. The building used 60 tons of corrugated iron and 75,000 building bricks and 76,000 firebricks, produced at Clackline Refractories.

The two chimney stacks were 137 feet high, 5.5 feet in diameter, erected by Forwood Down and reputed to be the highest stacks erected in one piece in W.A.

Engine Room

Three compound steam engines with a total of 1,150 horsepower were used to provide power and steam for the plant.

A 450 hp. Houden, directly coupled to a 400kw alternator.

A 250 hp Peter Brotherhood, also directly coupled to a 250 kw alternator. The two engines would generate 650 kw.

A 450 h.p. Browett and Lindley to drive the hoppers which reduced the logs (up to three feet in diameter) to sawdust for processing.

All of these engines were run on a 101b. back pressure and served a dual purpose, as the exhausts were utilised to provide steam for boiling the extracts.

It was to draw 70,000 gallons an hour from Millards Pool, where Extracts Weir was constructed to ensure the water supply. Water returned to the river after use.

It was predicted to process 120 tons of wandoo daily for an output of 10 tons of tannin. Between 1,500 and 2,000 tons of wood would be used for testing before production started.

Equipment and processes – ‘Bush to Boat’

4 HD10 Allis Chalmers bulldozers, 3 loading quads, 7 log-hauling trucks.

Logs would be unloaded at the log ramp by winches and conveyed by monorail to the hoppers, where they started on their way through the processing.

From the pit behind the hoppers the minced-up wood was elevated to the autoclaves and steamed under 301b pressure. The liquor would then run down into settling tanks, with the sawdust, left behind in the autoclave, dropped on to conveyor belts and carried up to the fire platform, where it was fed as fuel to the boiler. The boilers could be fired with either sawdust or wood.

Any surplus of sawdust was passed on to the hardboard plant adjacent to the main building.

From the settling tanks the liquor was pumped up to the calandarias and evaporators, boiled and run back into thick liquid tanks. During this process all water was extracted from this liquor; by boiling vigorously and vaporising the water, which was then condensed and used as boiler water.

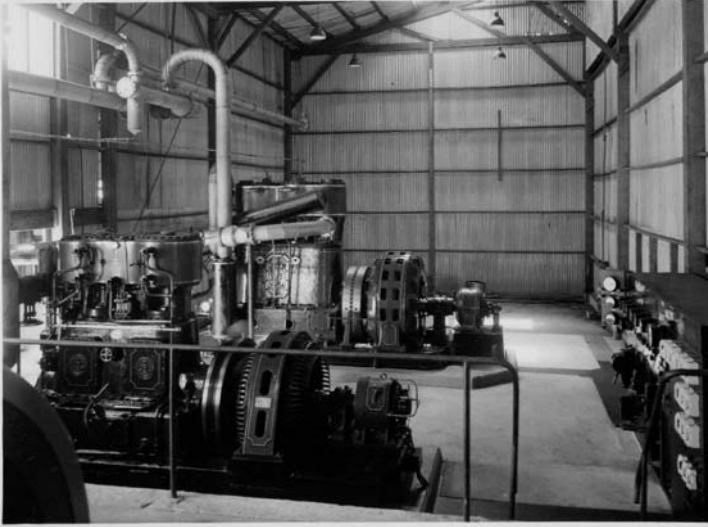
The thick liquid was then pumped back to the finishers and again boiled to ensure the absence of water before being discharged into bags for solidification. The tannin was then ready for transportation to Fremantle.

Mr. G. Goddard, who has been working on the construction of the evaporators and finishers, was to remain in Toodyay on the administrative staff.

Whilst the factory has been under way, Mr. Marr had not overlooked the importance of housing his employees. 7 tile-roofed houses were built at the factory for the administration staff, whilst in the township 15 houses were nearing completion. Mr. Marr had also acquired a two-storey boarding house, which had been operating for several months.

Industrial Extracts Toodyay Factory

by Jenny Edgecombe



Top left: The engine room

Above: Leaching vats

Left: The two sets of twin boilers

Bottom left: Newspaper article of the day

Bottom right: Industrial Extracts today, used as a workshop for one of our sponsors, Venice.

The photos at top and left courtesy of the Graham Jones collection, copies held by the Toodyay Historical Society

Photo below by Wayne Clarke

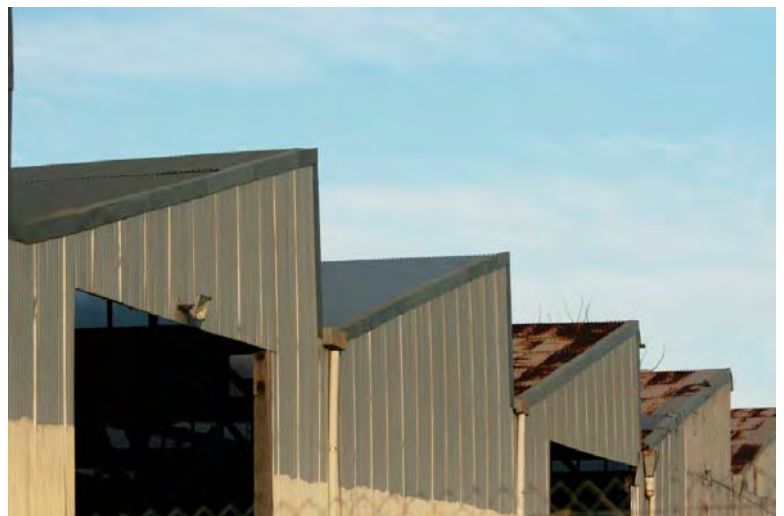
lumber requirements.

70,000 GALLONS OF WATER AN HOUR

Circulating through the many tanks and thousands of feet of pipe housed in the building during the processing will be over 70,000 gallons of water an hour. This water will be drawn from the nearby Avon River and returned as it passes through the plant.

There will be no wastage after the tannin has been extracted as the sawdust will be used to stimulate the two sets of twin boilers over the fire grates.

ENGINE ROOM 1150



TOODYAY TIDY TOWNS UPDATE

by Beth Frayne

THE TTT Committee met in May and June, to plan our Submission (28 Projects were sent on 30 May) and how we were going to impress the Tidy Towns Judges, who came to Toodyay on 2 July.

Our Supporter Group has increased to a Fabulous Forty-Five, with the Toodyay Baptist Youth Group joining our group.

The 15 June Community Clean-Up of 7.2kms of the Northam-Toodyay Road was a great success, with 25 volunteers collecting 155 bags of rubbish and other stuff. The event was organized and sponsored by our Community Bank, with TFOR members helping with the organization and on the day.

The TTTC Sustainability Audit response provided 88 sets of data for our Submission. .

Many thanks to the 24 Supporters who turned out to welcome the two Tidy Towns Judges, Joanne Gray and Gail Dodd, to the Display in the Memorial Hall Foyer on 2 July. All had chipped in to help put up the displays, which included a super spread of Toodyay District High School activity panels and some creative and crazy art works made from recycled paper.

Chairman Greg Warburton presented his usual colourful and inspiring Powerpoint summary of TTT Supporter activities, which included the Bilya Walk Track. Greg, Wayne, Beth and Kim whisked the Judges around the town in the sunshine to show off our beauty spots, which included Duidgee Park and Millard's Pool.

The very next day Chairman Greg set off on his 'advocacy against mining' 400 km walk from Buckland to Bungalbin (Helena and Aurora Range, north of Southern Cross), in the steps of local Toodyay explorers in 1861. Well done, Greg, for reaching your goal!

We are looking forward to the Regional Awards Ceremony, held at Kellerberrin on 12 September.

You can still vote online for TTT Chairman Greg in the National Landcare People's Choice Award (closes 17 Sept.). Go, Greg!

Our memorial to Gaven

by Robyn Taylor

The idea of having a special memorial for Gaven was something we didn't have to think about. We simply knew we would erect one somewhere along the river to honour this great champion of the Avon and our very own dear Friend.

I think many of us felt Gaven's spirit was still hovering about and it would be good to have a dedicated spot along the Bilya Walk Track where we could stop and say 'Hi Gav, how's it going?' It felt like he was simply away for a bit and would turn up in his blue shirt, his bushman's hat and stick for warding off the odd snake. His covered ute would be parked nearby and probably Sticky, the last of his long line of dogs, would be in the back. That's how I remember Gaven and of course he would be telling one of his many 'tall tales but true' about the river where he grew up as a boy and worked as a young man.

We decided upon a stainless steel plaque to be attached to a boulder of local stone. Selecting the wording was a democratic process with much to'ing and fro'ing about the final choice of words. Google was a great help for finding poems with an appropriate river theme and a selection was circulated to the committee and the Donegan family. Gaven's wife Christeen was asked if he had a favourite, but *The Man from Snowy River* was a tad lengthy for what we had in mind. We finally agreed upon a verse by Henry David Thoreau, and serendipitously discovered the writings of this 19th century poet and philosopher anticipated today's environmental thinking. Christeen thought Gaven would be chuffed. The wording has an old world reflective cadence to it.

***I was born upon thy bank, river,
My blood flows in thy stream,
And thou meanderest forever,
At the bottom of my dream.***

...cont. Page 11

THE WOOD WHITE BUTTERFLY

by Catherine Fletcher

WOOD WHITE BUTTERFLY (Otherwise known as the *Red-Spotted Jezebel*)

If you have plants in your area such as Sandalwoods, Quandong or Mistletoes, you may have noticed some of these beautiful butterflies or their larvae in near-by trees. This is a photograph of the Wood White Butterfly that has just emerged from the chrysalis. We found these cocoons on a Sandalwood tree in our backyard. If you look at Jam trees with mistletoe growing on them, you might see these beautiful butterflies and their cocoons on the branches.

[Catherine is a Year 7 student at Toodyay District High School]



Photo above: A beautiful 'Wood White Butterfly' [*Delias sp.*] near the Avon River at Millards Pool. Photo by Catherine Fletcher

Our memorial to Gaven (cont)

by Robyn Taylor

Mick and Stephen Ferguson of Vernice (the firm is a life member of TFOR) found the perfect lichen covered granite boulder on Stephen's property. This was erected at a suitable distance from TFOR's picnic shelter at Millards Pool – one of Gaven's many special spots.

The unveiling ceremony took place on Sunday 20th July. Following the President's welcome to everyone, in particular the members of the Donegan family, and acknowledgement of Country, our patron Viv Read did the honours. This was followed by a sumptuous picnic lunch. Thank you TFOR members! Gaven's spirit must have been in attendance that day as the morning's threatening weather cleared into a perfect sunny winter's day. Plan B to decamp to Fletch and Kerry's place nearby wasn't needed after all.

Thank you Gaven for inspiring us. You continue to do, and hopefully this memorial and the river, will last forever and continue to inspire future Friends.

Newsletter of the Toodyay Friends of the River Inc.

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*"Make Friends
with our Avon
River"*

The objects of the *Toodyay Friends of the River* are to *work towards the conservation and rehabilitation of the Avon River and its environs. In the bigger picture of natural resource management, we are committed to implementing the Avon River Management Program and its associated River Recovery Plans for each of the four sections of river that pass through Toodyay.*

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Visit our website at
www.toodyayfor.org.au

The Back Page



The Northam Road provided plenty of litter for community groups to clean up, and the photo above does not depict it all. Inspecting the litter are Beth Frayne and Lee Francis, while Shelley Kingston and Vicki Warburton take a well-earned rest.

Photo by Greg Warburton

OUR SPONSORS

The members of the Toodyay Friends of the River would like to acknowledge the continuous support of our sponsors:

Vernice Pty Ltd
Bendigo Bank
Lotterywest
P & S Ferguson
W & P Brennan
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Toodyay Op Shop
Toodyay Garden Centre
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Makit Hardware
Wheatbelt NRM