

DUIDGEEANA

(From the Nyungar language - Duidgee, a place of plenty)

The Newsletter of the Toodyay Historical Society Inc. Issue No.48 (Spring 2017)

website: <http://www.toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au/>



**SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL
MEMBERS AND BEST WISHES
FOR 2018**



**SUNDOWNER AT OLD WICKLOW SHEARING SHED
Near the Old Stables, Clinton Street
Sunday 26 November 2017, 6pm**

**Come along and celebrate the end of another 'hysterical'
year with friends and partners.**

**Bring a plate to share (no bbq), BYO drinks, chair, plates, cups and cutlery.
Tea, coffee and hot water provided.**

**There will be a 'Toodyay' Christmas gift for those who RSVP
(please also tell Linda what sort of tasty food you will bring to share).**

*The latest exhibition about the Toodyay Convict Depot at the
Newcastle Gaol Museum (over the road) will be open for a private viewing.*

Christmas Street Party - Friday 1 December, Stirling Terrace, 6.00pm-9.30pm

Apart from our usual stall with raffle prizes out the front of Drummond House (**contributions can be dropped off to Robyn or Beth**), we are planning to transform the front room of the House with lights and Christmas decorations. We are calling on Santa's little THS helpers to lend decorations, exciting ideas, and some of their time to make this a bright and sparkly new addition to Toodyay's main street during the festive season.

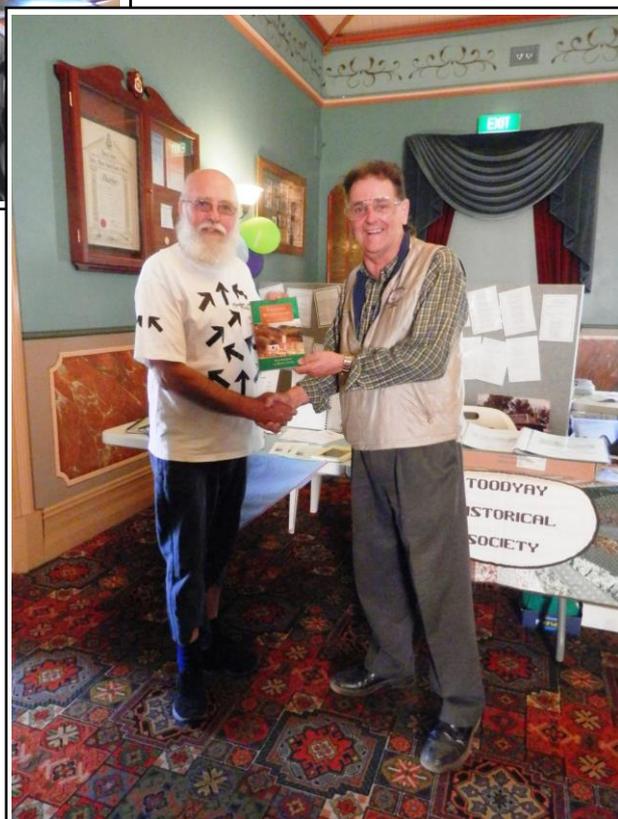
Bush Poets National and State Championships, Toodyay, 3-5 November 2017.

Members Peter, Beth and Linda did us proud with organising and setting up an impressive display for the first two days of this very successful event. There were books to sell and information, while Beth's growing collection of local poems was mounted on display boards, and also bound as a flip-book. Robyn and Milton helped out with the roster. The event attracted lots of visitors to Toodyay and the Memorial Hall venue was packed. A highlight of the event was NSW singer Pat Drummond (descendent of James Drummond Snr. of Hawthornden). He gave us 5% of his CD sales during his concert, and Peter presented him with a signed copy (by Rica and Robyn) of *Toodyay Homesteads*, which has a chapter about Hawthornden, a property just to the north of Toodyay.



Left: Linda and Robyn behind the THS stall and in front of the 'Toodyay Poetry' display in the Memorial Hall Foyer. (Photo: B. Frayne, 2017)

Below: Peter and singer Pat Drummond with a copy of 'Toodyay homesteads', in the Foyer. (Photo: B. Frayne, 2017)



Past events

Toodyay Convict Depot Exhibition - the official opening was held on Saturday 30 September in the Newcastle Gaol Museum where we enjoyed a re-enactment by Magistrate Peter who had to put up with the cheeky ticket-of-leave (TOL) Milton (AKA Thomas Shaw). Several THS members (ie Alison, Eva and Jenny) assisted Beth in gathering information for Curator Margie Eberle to produce the profiles of TOLs and Warder Paisley for the opening.

THS and the Shire Museum are jointly developing a Toodyay TOL Excel Database, which currently has over 1,000 entries based on names already identified by the WA Genealogical Society (in its Toodyay TOL CDs), Milton Baxter (using his name list extracted from the *Convicts of WA* book), and Peter Robinson (expirees identified in his 'Toodyay Families' listing). WA Convict records on Ancestry.com have also proved useful in providing names of the Toodyay TOLs of the 1850s.

Right: Margie the policeman, Milton the TOL and Peter the Magistrate in the exhibition room. (Photo: B Frayne, 2017)



Toodyay Agricultural Show, October 7. Filling the roster for Donegan's Cottage was a problem this year with so many of our usual helpers not being available. A big thank you to those who gave Donegan's a spring clean, Jenny for developing the displays, and especially Linda who stepped into the breach to set up the displays, and making sure someone was in attendance during the day. Jenny had a focus on films made in Toodyay, with clips shown. We received a good response to requests to identify people in various photos related to picture shows in Toodyay. Copies of Beth's latest booklet 'In our Time: 50 Years Ago in Toodyay, With a focus on the 1967 Toodyay Show', were available for sale. At \$5.00 the booklet provides a great reference about

major events during the Swinging Sixties that impacted on the life and times of Australia and Toodyay.

Left: Show display with a scene from the film *Shame* (made in Toodyay in 1986) in the background. (Photo: L. Rooney, 2017)



Sundowner at Connor's Mill, Friday 27 October

Due to the number of conflicting events in town that evening, it was a select group of members that enjoyed the special night-time ambience of this multi-level mill. The displays are certainly worth a revisit, especially the fantastic information panels. As the weather had turned chilly, supper was held inside. The mill actually has a lot of potential as a venue for special events. Beth shared a few stories about how the mill was saved from demolition in the 1970s, restored and served as the tourist centre. The mill will be celebrating its 150th birthday in 2020. Many thanks to the Shire and Museum Curator Margie Eberle for supporting this event.

Right: THS members Linda, Robyn, Zinni, Faye, Milton and Beth enjoying drinks in the mill. (Photo: Margie Eberle, 2017)



BIG WELCOME to new members Sharon Pegrum and her family, providing us with Junior members, and Jenny and John Taylor (Milton was quick to welcome the 2Js at one of our meetings). They are the new owners of the historic James Cottage, just out of town.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Drummond House. A new signboard has been erected outside Drummond House Environment & History Centre, providing the logos and contact details of our three groups - Toodyay Friends of the River, the Toodyay Naturalists' Club, and Toodyay Historical Society. The Centre is open on Saturdays, 10am to 2pm (if we have volunteers available).



Right: The new sign. (Photo: B. Frayne, 2017)

End of convictism in WA.

Early next year there will be a number of events relating to the end of convict transportation in Australia. Fremantle Prison, built by convicts between 1852 and 1859, will be holding an exhibition in its Gallery titled 'Transportation: exploring the legacy of Australia's last convicts'. The exhibition commemorates the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the *Hougoumont*, the last convict ship to arrive here. Opens 10 January 2018, closing March 2019.

Other events include one about the Fenians, some came in on the *Hougoumont*; the WA Genealogical Society and the Royal WA Historical Society's joint presentation on convicts; and the History Council is organising a public debate about whether convictism was a good thing for WA. Given all this interest, we in Toodyay have a foretaste with the current exhibition in the Old Gaol Museum. See Beth's article in our ToodyaYesterday section.

[We have already identified at least TWO Toodyay TOLs that arrived on this ship: Fenians James Flood (9734) and William Foley (9738). Addition from Beth]

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shire of Toodyay Draft Planning Strategy. Public submissions were due by 3 November. The Shire's Manager of Planning and Development, Graeme Bissett, came to Donegan's Cottage to run through a Powerpoint presentation to assist us with our submission. The talk was informative and much appreciated. And of course, we couldn't pass up the opportunity to show some maintenance issues that need addressing with this Shire-owned building.

Opalvale Pty Ltd submission. In October, the Society lodged a submission with the Dept. of Water & Environment Regulation in response to Opalvale's request for a licence for the disposal of metropolitan waste in the old clay pits near Chitty Road in Hoddy's Well. As it is highly likely the licence will be issued, we have requested compliance with environmental regulations is independently monitored by DWER on a regular basis.

Victoria Hotel development - a submission about the proposed development of this historic hotel and site was lodged with the Shire in November. In particular, we are advocating the retention, or rebuilding, of the old stables. Unfortunately, the stables building was omitted from the hotel's entry in the Shire Inventory of Heritage Places.

FEATURE SPEAKERS - talks presented before our monthly meetings

September 20. Robyn Taylor, Linda Rooney and Beth Frayne spoke on the State Conference of Affiliated Societies of the RWAHS, held at Wanneroo, and hosted by the Wanneroo and Districts Historical Society. Jenny Edgecombe had also attended and Beth's Bob came along for the fun. We met up with former Toodyay locals Derek (Wanneroo Vice-President) and Joy Donegan. This was an excellent conference, with an emphasis on the history of the post-war migrant families that established local industries, some now reaching into national and international markets. Presenters spoke on limestone burning kilns (still in production), vegetable farming and the Community Newspapers chain (started by Bill Marwick, the conference convener) and a local historian with strong links to Toodyay. Derek Donegan spoke on his first job as a telegram delivery boy in Perth in the 1950s.

The excursion on the following day featured visits to a number of historic buildings and a modern vegetable process and production plant established in 1940s and still operated by the same family.

Left: L-R: At the Conference Reception: Derek Donegan, Linda, Robyn, Beth and Joy Donegan. (Photo: Jenny Edgecombe, 2017).



October 18. Dr Toby Metcalfe presented the second part of his illustrated talk 'Terra Nullius: Cook to Mabo'. This illuminating lecture by Toby was enjoyed by a packed room of members. Linda reported: 'A more rousing rap of 'Terra Terra Nullius' was rendered from those in attendance; they knew the words well and responded to the message with fervour.' And as President Robyn reported in the Herald: 'It has been salutary to listen to historical accounts revealing the declaration of "terra nullius" was not universally accepted, and that people holding to the belief in a just system of law, knew there should have been treaties with the rightful owners.'

Right: Toby at the end of his talk in the air-conditioned Drummond House meeting room. (Photo: B. Frayne, 2017)



November 15. Beth Frayne presented a Powerpoint about the Toodyay CWA with some stories that didn't quite make it into her 'Toodyay CWA 90th Anniversary' booklet. See the last issue of Duidgeena for more details about the CWA celebrations and Beth's article in ToodyaYesterday.

FROM THE ARCHIVIST - Jenny Edgecombe

What wonderfully rich local history research resources we are developing in Toodyay!

This thought was triggered by Beth Frayne's new project to create a database identifying and documenting the early Ticket of Leave men who were sent to Toodyay.

We have the Genealogical Society of WA's excellent work on the Ticket of Leave Registers for the later years but there do not appear to be any actual registers in existence for the early period. Beth will therefore have to trawl through a wealth of sources to gather this information.

Two research aids produced by our members in recent years will be particularly helpful for this project: Milton Baxter's listing of Toodyay references in the Convict volume of the *Bicentennial Dictionary* series and Peter Robinson's *Toodyay Families 1836-1900* which has drawn together information from several sources.

Incidentally, don't miss the **new exhibition** on the Toodyay Convict Hiring Depot at the Old Newcastle Gaol Museum. The Historical Society has lent its copy of the 1854 watercolour painting of the depot for the exhibition. Lieutenant DuCane, who was involved with the Toodyay Depot from 1851, is thought to be the artist. This copy was presented to THS by the Royal WA Historical Society during the Toodyay conference in 2004.

Waters Oral History Interview: THS was recently given permission to copy a very special 1989 interview with 89 year old Kathleen Lalor for our collection. Kathleen was the grand-daughter of the first Robert and Susan (Betts) Waters and the daughter of Richard and Mary Waters. The interviewer was Kathleen's 10 year old grand-daughter, Aislinn Lalor, who won a State Library junior Oral History Award for this splendid project.

Research enquiries continue to arrive via the website, phone calls, letters and visits.

One keen poet who attended the recent Bush Poetry Festival has contacted us for help in establishing some true facts and stories on Toodyay characters.

I am always very pleased when people planning creative works such as poems, novels and media productions seek assistance. When they fail to do this, the results can be... well, interesting. Some (but certainly not all) of the Moondyne Joe-inspired creations spring to mind here.

Other recent enquiries of interest have included Gang Shed 15 on the Standard Gauge Railway (still a mystery), Thomas Paisley, Hillsbrook Estate, Nardie Cemetery, the Hutchings family, Spring Gully and procedures for settling assisted immigrants in the late 19thC.

FUTURE EVENTS

December 1, Friday: THS stall and Christmas Living Room at the Street Party, Drummond House, 6pm to 9.30pm.

January 17, Wednesday: General Meeting at Drummond House, 7pm.

January 26, Friday: Australia Day Celebrations, Duidgee Park.

February 4, Sunday: Planning Meeting and Sundowner at Drummond House, 2pm.

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TOODYAYESTERDAY

Building a Toodyay Ticket of Leave Men Database

By Beth Frayne and colleagues

Why do such a thing? What benefit will it have? Has it been done before? How does one compile such a list? How long will it take? These questions have run through my mind as I and some of our members venture on this journey.

Why do such a thing?

Well, why not! We do know that quite a few ticket of leave men (TOLs) and actual convicts were sent to the Toodyay Convict Hiring Depot, over the life of this institution from 1851 to 1872, with a few years of downtime in that period. But we don't know who they all were. We have access to sources that list quite a few names, but not all of them clearly identified as Toodyay TOLs, and not all in one place! Their names are listed in the excellent published resource *Convicts of Western Australia, 1850-1887 (Dictionary of Western Australians. Vol. IX)* (1994), compiled by Rica Erickson and Gillian O'Mara. This is because all the convicts who came to WA are included in this alphabetically arranged list. However, there is no place index, so the Toodyay related convicts are not easily identifiable. But, at least we have all the names and their convict numbers.

On 30 September 2017, a new exhibition opened at the Newcastle Gaol Museum in Toodyay, with the Toodyay Convict Hiring Depot as its topic. This exhibition will be in place until at least September 2018. As I am a Shire Museum volunteer, I work closely with the Shire Museum Curator Margie Eberle, so it was natural to ask: 'What can I do to help add extra interest and depth to this exhibition?'

Compiling searchable lists is an interest of mine, having been a State Library cataloguer for many years, prior to retirement some years ago. I had previously done a list of over 300 Toodyay folk who had served in World War 1, which the Shire had published on its website. This had attracted visitors to the town. So, I suggested that a list of the convicts who were sent to the Toodyay Depot might be useful, and may also attract visitors to Toodyay, if they had some sort of connection to these men. However, we knew the number of people would be much greater than that in the WW1 list. Limiting the database to those actually sent here might keep the numbers a bit more manageable, instead of including any former convicts that came to the Toodyay district after they had been given their freedom. However, we will keep a record of all Toodyay convicts and ex-convicts, regardless of when and how they came.

THS member Alison Cromb related in her book *The history of the Toodyay Convict Depot* (2010), that on 4 August 1851, Governor Fitzgerald issued instructions that a party of 40 ticket of leave holders from the ship *Pyrenees* were to be sent to Toodyay. So, there was a question to seek answers for: Who were the 'First Forty'? At least we knew they had all arrived on the *Pyrenees*, which limited the choice to 293 convicts! We have found some but not all, yet!

What benefit will such a list have?

I feel that such a database will be an acknowledgement of the contribution made to Toodyay by these men that came here, worked here, and possibly died here. This is in spite of the various reasons why they found themselves in this new land, far away from home and family. How many were sent here and found it congenial enough to stay here, work here and perhaps bring up a family in the district. We do know that there are descendants of such men who now contribute greatly to the success of our community in Toodyay. I also wanted to know how many of the Toodyay TOLs ended their days here and are buried somewhere in the Toodyay district. Unfortunately, not many of their actual burial sites are marked or even specifically known. But we could acknowledge their presence in a general fashion, in some way.

Answers to other questions could be gained from such a list, such as where did the Toodyay TOLs end up. Did they die in WA? Did they leave the colony? Did they return home or go to another foreign land?

Has it been done before?

This is a good question! Have others done the same or similar for ticket of leavers based at a particular Depot? What can be learnt by their efforts?

Information about TOLs in NSW is well indexed, it seems, from perusing the internet. It may be possible to search by place, but that facility has not been confirmed. Most convict indexes are searchable by name only. But we don't know all the Toodyay names yet. I have not found any TOL databases for other Convict Depots in WA, noted on the internet.

However, Toodyay is fortunate that we do have access to information about Toodyay TOLs for the period 1862 to 1870, which are held in the State Record office, and have been copied and may be available on two CDs produced by the WA Genealogical Society. I counted the names: 349 in the 1862-1863 file and 890 in the 1863-1870 file. Names in both were 26, which gave at least 1213 individuals. This gave me an idea of just how large a database might be. And this did not include those sent in the 1850s!

THS member Anne Jefferys, a long-term member of the Irwin District Historical Society, noted my interest in Toodyay TOLs. She shared with me a list of convicts that she had compiled, that had come to the Irwin District. In four years, she has identified a goodly number of names and convict numbers (over 600). I had already noted that some of the Toodyay TOLs moved on to the Irwin and Champion Bay regions. A comparison between our lists, in the future, will be useful.

How does one compile such a list?

At the THS monthly meeting on 19 July this year, I informed the members that the Shire Museum Curator Margie Eberle was creating her new exhibition about the Toodyay Convict Hiring Depot. I also said I was considering creating a spreadsheet of Toodyay TOLs, but it may take considerable time to cross reference the various available sources and confirm each person. The members were supportive, as was the Shire Museum Curator, as I suggested this would be a useful joint Shire/THS project.

I have recorded in my spreadsheet, called "Ticket-of-Leave men and Convicts sent to Toodyay from 1850 to 1878", that I started building the database on 31 July 2017. An email sent on 14 August to interested members and Margie, reported:

"I have been doing a bit of Test Work on what this Database might look like, initially. Started with just the A names in the two WAGS Toodyay TOL indexes. Then discovered that Brian Chambers' [Toodyay] Cemeteries Database has some useful info about TOLs buried in Toodyay cemeteries.

So, have done bit of work on those buried in Toodyay, to see if they were also assigned to Toodyay as a TOL, for starters. Have recorded a few names.

There seems to be a few men who may be worth a story line in Margie's Depot Exhibition, at some point, as there is a bit of info in Trove, about them or their style of death. Also, there is some info in SRO about one or two (eg inquests)."

In 2014, our Archivist Jenny Edgecombe had had similar thoughts about needing to find out who were the Toodyay TOLs. Jenny summarised her thoughts and actions below, relating to the published work *Convicts of Western Australia, 1850-1887 (Dictionary of Western Australians. Vol. IX) (1994)*, compiled by Rica Erickson and Gillian O'Mara. (University of Western Australia Press, 1994.)

Jenny said:

"For many years I had been uneasily aware that the Convicts volume in the series *Bicentennial Dictionaries of Western Australians* held a great deal of information on all the convicts and Ticket-of-Leave individuals with Toodyay connections. However, unless you already knew their names, much of this was inaccessible. We did not even have an official list of the first convicts who were sent to the Toodyay Convict Hiring Depot, let alone former convicts from other areas who worked or settled in the Toodyay district.

Since we did not have the time and resources for a scanning and OCR project, the easiest way to extract the information was for someone to read the entire volume and note all the Toodyay/Newcastle-related entries. In 2015, intrepid member Milton Baxter bravely volunteered for this, and by May 2015 it was completed. He painstakingly created listings of all Toodyay-Newcastle mentions, not only by name, but also by Convict Number. The listing was bound and is available for reference at Donegan's Cottage.

As part of Beth Frayne's 2017 project to list all Toodyay-related convicts, I have further improved access to this by digitising Milton's listing using OCR technology. The listing is now in a computer-searchable format and has been of immense value in the project."

So, basically, I loaded Jenny's list of OCRd names and numbers from Milton's list, and typed in the rest of the names and numbers from the WAGS indexes. Searching individual names in Ancestry.com.au made me aware of the wonderful WA Convict Records (from SRO) that have been added to Ancestry. It is these sources that are slowly revealing the names of those Toodyay TOLs who were sent here in the 1850s. Peter Robinson's 'Toodyay Families' Database, which identifies ex-convicts, is another source where new names are being found. The Shire Museum's Police Visitors Book of the 1880s, also reveals the names, numbers and whereabouts of TOLs such as William Sykes (9589).

THS members have also been sourcing photos of the Toodyay TOLs and ex-convicts, for Margie to use in her TOL Profiles in the Museum exhibition.

How long will it take?

Goodness knows! We hope it may be more or less complete by September next year, when the Museum Depot Exhibition might finish. The plan is to have the Database made available somewhere on the Shire website. But, it is all very interesting and there are plenty of stories to be told and the ability to make statistical analyses in the future.

Where are we at?

As at 19 November 2017, we have 1,754 names of TOLs and Convicts that have some relationship to Toodyay, but may have come after they had finished their TOL term. We have 1119 definite Toodyay TOLs. As at 23 October 2017, I had recorded 69 Toodyay TOLs buried somewhere in the Shire of Toodyay.

The database will contain the following information:

Name and life dates

Convict Number

Arrival Date

Ship

TOL Date - Ticket of Leave

CR Date - Conditional Release

CP Date - Conditional Pardon

Exp Date - Expiree

CF Date - Certificate of Freedom

Date of Birth

Date of Death

Buried in Toodyay

CWA book - Convicts in Western Australia 1850-1887

Acc721/30 1862-63 WAGS CD

Acc721/31 1863-70 WAGS CD

Convict DB Frem Pris - Convicts Database created on the Fremantle Prison website

Milton's T list from CWA

Peter's Toodyay Families List

Biography

Profile

Left WA