

Toodyay Naturalists' Club Incorporated

Facts and Figures 1968-2013

1960s

- 1968 July 20 Inaugural meeting at St Stephen's Anglican Church Hall, Toodyay.
- 1968 Sept. 8 First picnic excursion to Bald Hill in the former Avon Valley Army Training Ground, Morangup, to lobby for the land to be reserved.
- 1969 April First film night, featuring Frank North's colour films on WA birds.
- 1969 June Commenced a wildflower garden at the Toodyay Reservoir Hill Lookout.
- 1969 Dec. Former Avon Valley Army Training Ground in the Morangup area was divided into a Flora and Fauna Reserve, National Park and Forestry Reserve.

1970s

- 1970 July Successful Shire and Club lobbying resulted in the three Morangup reserves above being declared A Class Reserves.
- 1972 July Issued the Club's first *Newsletter*, edited by Ray Paynter.
- 1973 Sept. 29 Right Hon. Ernest H Lee-Steere, Lord Mayor of the City of Perth, unveiled the plaque dedicating the Drummond Memorial at the Pelham Reserve Lookout.
- 1975 Successfully lobbied for the Wongamine Timber Reserve to be upgraded to a Nature Reserve.
- 1975 Suggested to the Shire that National Estate Grants Program funds are used partly on a biological survey of the Shire's reserves.
- 1975 Placed a memorial plaque to naturalist John Gilbert in the Drummond Memorial Garden at the Pelham Reserve Lookout.
- 1976 Release of Keith Casperson's work: *Toodyay: a survey of major habitats within the Shire: study for Toodyay Shire Council*. Club assisted the author.
- 1976 May Club's draft policy on the protection and control of roadside verges was adopted by the Shire, a State and possibly national first.
- 1978 Dec. Shire adopted the Club's recommendation of the Raspberry Jam Tree (*Acacia acuminata*) as the Shire's floral emblem.
- 1979 June 10 Pioneers' Arboretum opened on Hamersley Street, on land leased by the Shire from Westrail. Club's WAY '79 Project.

1979 June 10 Launch of first book: *Natural history of Toodyay*. Dedicated to Albie North, inaugural President.

1980s

- 1980 Feb. Completed survey of all road verges within the Shire, with survey notes and maps given to the Shire.
- 1981-1984 Successful public campaign to prevent the development of the catchment of the Beelaring and Goonaring Springs A Class Nature Reserves, now the Morangup Nature Reserve.
- 1983 Nov. Public launch of draft management plans for all Toodyay Shire reserves, prepared by the Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife, with much support from the Club.
- 1984 Feb. 19 Club records destroyed in house fire at Glen Avon, the Masters' property.
- 1984 July Commenced an occasional one-page *Newsletter* to members, written by Secretary Pam Masters.
- 1984 Aug. 20 Adopted the Raspberry Jam Tree (*Acacia acuminata*) as the Club's emblem and letterhead.
- 1986 April 11 Botanical walk through Morangup Nature Reserve in the footsteps of James Drummond, as part of Toodyay's 150th Pioneer Trek.
- 1986 Nov. 22 Launch of second book: *The Avon Valley: the naturalists' view*, edited by Maxine Walker. Sponsored by Shires of Toodyay and Northam, Town of Northam and the York Society.
- 1987 Successfully lobbied CALM to extend the Wongamine Nature Reserve.
- 1987 Nov. Completed the Club's *Constitution*.
- 1988 Nov. 26 Opened the second stage of the Pioneers' Arboretum, a Bicentennial Project.

1990s

- 1990 Jan. 12 Incorporation of the Club, with name: 'Toodyay Naturalists' Club Incorporated'.
- 1990 Feb. Awarded a certificate from Greening Australia (WA)'s John Tonkin Tree Award. Nominated by the Shire.
- 1990 Nov. 16 Club member Ray Paynter awarded the Greening Australia (WA) John Tonkin Greening Award for Individual Endeavour. Nominated by the Club.
- 1991-2001 Participated in annual Rare (and later Endangered) Flora Surveys for CALM in the Wongan Hills (1991-1993, 1999-2001)
- 1991 Dec. 1 Fenced a *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* stand on Arthur North's property, Toodyay, funded by a Gordon Reid Foundation grant.

- 1992 June Published the pamphlet *Common trees of Toodyay* (with assistance from the Toodyay Land Conservation District Committee).
- 1992 July 18 Tabled and distributed the policy *The protection of wild-life of the Avon River: within the Shires of Toodyay, Northam, York, Beverley and Town of Northam: policy statement, Toodyay Naturalists' Club*, prepared by Jim Masters.
- 1992 Oct. 10 Launch of third book: *The Pioneers' Arboretum*. Funded by a grant from the State Minister for Environment.
- 1992 Oct. 25 Dr Stephen Hopper (Director, Kings Park and Botanic Garden) unveiled a plaque at the fenced *E. macrocarpa* stand on Arthur North's property, Toodyay.
- 1994 Received a Greening Western Australia equipment grant to start a Regional Herbarium.
- 1994-1996 Conducted a biological survey of the Avon Valley National Park, for CALM.
- 1995-1997 Conducted an annual winter Avon River Waterbird Survey (for ARMA), organized by Jim Masters, to study effects of the Avon Descent.
- 1996 Received a Community Conservation Grant (\$1550) from the Minister for the Environment to purchase equipment for the Project: *Botanical survey and inventory, Avon Valley National Park and reserves*.
- 1996 Oct. 31 Awarded the Bushland Conservation Award and was finalist in the Community Group Award of Greening Western Australia's John Tonkin Greening Awards, nominated by Max Trenorden MLA. Wayne Clarke was an Individual Endeavour Award finalist.
- 1998 Mar. 21 Awarded the Accredited River Manager *Gold Award* by ARMA.
- 1998 June 12 Celebrated the 30th Anniversary at a Stirling House Restaurant luncheon, Toodyay.

2000s

- 2000 April Toodyay Understorey Seed Orchard Group joined the Club as a sub-group.
- 2003 Club meeting records for 1984-2003 deposited for safe-keeping in the JS Batty Library of West Australian History, State Library of Western Australia.
- 2003 Jan. 26 Awarded Shire of Toodyay's Australia Day – *Community Organization of the Year Award*.
- 2003 Feb. Received a Commonwealth Envirofund grant (\$5,536) for the Seed Orchard Group to undertake grassland restoration and seed orchard establishment, Lloyd Reserve.
- 2004 June Received a Commonwealth Envirofund grant (\$2,080) for the Seed Orchard Group to undertake further grassland restoration and signage, Lloyd Reserve.

- 2004 Aug. 27 Presented the *Drummond Symposium: a review of the work of James Drummond*, Toodyay. Organised by Prof. Stephen Davies, Ray Paynter et al.
- 2004 Sept. Received a Lotterywest grant (\$3,350) to erect a shed for the Toodyay Seed Orchard Group.
- 2004 Sept. 21 Presented with a Certificate of Excellence, by Ribbons of Blue / Waterwatch WA, for involvement in Macro-invertebrate Snapshots.
- 2005 April 30 Toodyay Understorey Seed Orchard Group (sub-group of the Club) transferred to the Toodyay Friends of the River.
- 2005 Nov. Proceedings of *The Drummond Symposium* were published by the Curtin University of Technology, copyright held by the Club. Edited by SJJF (Stephen) Davies.
- 2006 Oct. Issued a new newsletter, *TNC news*. Produced by President Greg Warburton.
- 2008 Aug. 23 Celebrated the 40th Anniversary with a day of events at the Avalon Homestead and other significant places, Toodyay.

2010s

- 2010 Commenced rapid assessment surveys in the fire-affected Mavis Jefferys Nature Reserve.
- 2010 May Issued a new print and e-newsletter: *TNC Newsletter*, edited by the Clarkes.
- 2010 July 17 Launched our fourth book: *The Toodyay Naturalists' Club: 40 years of Observation and Education (1968-2008)*.
- 2011 Aug A new Club logo was launched, featuring the Chuditch and *Grevillea flexuosa*.
- 2011 Sept. 17 Toodyay Reserve 5273 revitalised and renamed the Dawn Atwell Reserve, through the lobbying and assistance of TNC and WWF.
- 2012 Commenced the development of an independent TNC website, included online recording of sightings; funded by the Toodyay Bendigo Bank.
- 2012 July 18 Represented on the inaugural Toodyay Tidy Towns Committee.
- 2013 Aug. 10 Opening of the John Masters Bird Hide on the new Bilya Walk Track, along the Avon River. Funded by Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management.

Honorary Life Members of the Club:

1976	Albie North
1979 August	Jim Masters
1986 July 19	Lindsay and Ruth Milhinch
1987 May 16	Pam Masters
1987 July 16	Dawn Atwell and Ray Paynter
1988 June 18	Sam Cook
1992 July 18	Maxine Walker
1992 Sept. 15	Dr Neville Marchant
1995 July 15	Fred and Beryl Boase
1997 July 19	Jenny Ballard
2009 July 18	Desrae and Wayne Clarke

Club Presidents:

1968-1976	Albie North
1976-1979	Sam Cook
1979-1981	Doug Wood (<i>years to be confirmed</i>)
1981-1984	Sam Cook (<i>years to be confirmed</i>)
1984 -1987	Dawn Atwell
1987-1989	Mavis Jefferys
1989-1991	Christine Miles
1991-1993	Ross McDougall
1993-1996	Wayne Clarke
1996-1998	Janette Boase
1998-2001	Bob Frayne
2001-2002	Kim Bendtsen
2002-2005	Bob Frayne
2005-2007	Don Smith
2007-2010	Greg Warburton
2010-2011	Lee Francis
2011	Greg Warburton (acting)
2011-	Desrae Clarke

Club Patrons:

Prof. Stephen Davies

John Dell

Dr Neville Marchant