



# Meekatharra Dust

FEBRUARY 2020 | ISSUE NO.322

COST \$2.50



The Sunset Edition

## At the Picture Gardens this February

*Gates open 6.45, show starts at last light. Entry just \$7 per head—including dinner,  
bottomless popcorn and free cordial*

Friday 7th

Friday 21st







### **Calling for Submissions**

If you have any articles with information about any upcoming community events then we want to hear from you!

“The Meekatharra Dust” is a non-profit community newspaper.

If you have an article, a photo you would like to share or an advertisement, you can post them to:

*PO Box 129, Meekatharra WA 6642*

or drop them in at the Shire office.  
Alternatively, you can email us at:

***cdo@meekashire.wa.gov.au***

## **Council Dates**

Dates for Ordinary Meeting of the

Shire of Meekatharra for 2020 are -

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Last Date for items</b>
18 January	3rd
15 February	31st
21 March	6th
18 April	3rd
16 May	1st
27 June	5th
18 July	3rd
15 August	31st
19 September	4th
17 October	2nd
21 November	6th
11 December	27th

<b>Size</b>	<b>B &amp; W</b>	<b>Colour</b>
Full Page	\$52.10	\$74.05
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Quarter Page	\$16.50	\$24.65
Eighth Page	\$13.95	\$18.50

## **GENERAL DISCLAIMER**

The opinions expressed have been published in good faith on the request of the person requesting publication, and are not those of the Shire of Meekatharra. All articles, comments, advice and other material contained in this publication are by way of general comment or advice only and are not intended, nor do they purport to be the correct advice on any particular matter or subject referred to. No person should act on the basis of any matter, comment or advice contained in this publication without first considering, and if necessary taking appropriate professional advice upon the applicability to their particular circumstances. Accordingly, no responsibility is accepted or taken by the Shire of Meekatharra, or the authors and editors of the Meekatharra Dust, for any damage or loss suffered by any party acting in reliance on any matter, comment or advice contained herein.



**meekashire.wa.gov.au**





# A FRIENDLY REMINDER ABOUT DOG CONTROL

When walking your dogs on the town oval, please ensure you are in complete control of your animal at all times and dispose of any waste in the rubbish bins provided by Council.

The Shire of Meekatharra provide the Town Oval as the only off-lease exercise area in town—at all other locations your dog must, according to law, be collared and restrained.

To allow your dog to be unrestrained in public is an offence in the Dog Act 1976.

Being responsible for a dog that attacks a person causing injury is also an offence which attracts a significant penalty of up to \$10,000.

Please be a responsible pet owner—keep your dog restrained when exercising them to avoid both injury to bystanders, and significant penalties, and please pick up any droppings left behind. Nobody wants to step in that!!

The Shire of Meekatharra support the neutering and desexing of pets to reduce the number of strays, and provide sponsorship to the Murdoch Veterinary Clinic to attend Meekatharra to provide this service at no cost to health care card holders. Additionally, the Shire fund regular visiting vet service—Newman Veterinary Clinic—to the value of \$5,000 to neuter the pets of health care card holders at no cost to the owner.

Local residents can access this service by attending the Shire Office to present your Health Care Card and prove registration. You will be issued with a voucher for the appropriate service at the visiting clinic.

*Further info, contact Tralee at the Shire—99800609*



YOGA

*Monday and Thursday*

**At the Town Hall, 6pm**

We will have the large screen displaying web based practise - some yoga mats provided. **BEGINNERS WELCOME**  
**From 17th February**



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# Note from the Editor

Hello February—the month of love, and if you are in Meekatharra, the month of sunsets, wobbly weather, flies, dust and the sound of Rigby mowing our lawns.

As you can see by our front cover, we are running a special this month on the amazing sunsets that we were blessed with in January, featuring contributions by many local residents who sent in snaps taken at just the moment that makes you question your existence.

Its been a month of tough times, with the acknowledgement of a life well lived by one of our much loved local stateswomen, and all the emotion that follows.

As usual, the Youth Services team have been flat out keeping the kids entertained and engaged, the Hay Runners slipped up for a short long weekend, and we have advertised for our new Emily at the Shire.

All in all, a busy month. I hope you enjoy this months news and photos—check our new Instagram page—Meekatharradust and send us your super pics of our region .

*The Editor*



\*\*\***OPPORTUNITY**\*\*\*

The Shire of Meekatharra are calling for  
Registrations of Interest from any person  
or business to trade from the new Lloyds  
Building

There are two retail/office options - 34 and 27 square meters  
respectively, available January 2020

For more details, or to register your interest  
Contact Tralee Cable at the Shire on 99800600



shire of  
**meekatharra**  
*a golden prospect*





# Your Council News

February 2020 • by Anna Johnson on behalf of the Shire of Meekatharra

## 2020 Visions

### More Movies

2020 is looking to be a bumper year for Shire community events. Movies at the Picture Gardens have been a big hit with all ages and will continue into the cooler months. If you're new to town or staying for a visit, you can find the schedule for the fortnightly Friday screenings at our historic outdoor cinema on the noticeboard at Farmer Jacks supermarket, and on the Meekatharra Dust Facebook page.

### Council Meetings - Having a Say

All are welcome to submit an item for consideration to the Shire for the monthly Ordinary Council Meetings. The elected council members all participate in subcommittees, such as the Health, Building and Town Planning Committee. There are rules about attending a Council Meeting in person; you can submit your item in writing, and ask at the Shire office beforehand about attendance procedures.

### Boost for the Meeka Map

The Council is pleased to announce its decision to contribute a support fee for Dingo Meeka's annual Meekatharra Map & Directory in recognition of its value to the region and community.

### There's Room for More

The hunt for the new Emily continues as the Shire advertises for the next Community Development Officer (CDO). Is this the job for you? If you love getting out and about in the community, organising events and all the many intriguing tasks involved in assisting our busy Community and Development Services Officer Tralee Cable, check out the job ad in this edition of The Dust. You can get an application package from the Shire or via the Seek website.

### We'll Keep You Busy

Volunteers for community events, clubs and emergency responder services are always in demand - enquire at the Shire office or drop us a line. Volunteering is a great way to get to know the community, pick up new skills and even qualifications, with the bonus of that wonderful warm fuzzy feeling you get from being part of a team.



*Our region was treated to a memorable lightning display on the wild night of January 10th. Above: just one of the many huge bursts of electrical energy that filled the skies, taken at Mount Magnet and shared with us by storm chaser Narelle Baer. You can find her storm pics on Facebook.*

## Storm Cancelled by Storm

We are never short of ironic incidents in Meekatharra, and the spectacular evening of January 10th was yet another example.

Locals were just packing their water bottles and tissues in readiness for the Friday night screening of the tear-jerker children's remake of "Storm Boy" (no spoilers, but let's just say that if, for example, you find a sick pelican and make friends with it, maybe try not to get too attached if you get our drift), when gathering meteorological elements burst into a real-life spectacular of "Outback Storm". The movie had to be cancelled, but folks all through the region were treated to a memorable lightning display and some much-wanted rain.

Road damage and washouts kept crews busy, and we hear there could be more stormy conditions on the way as cyclone weather threatens to develop up north.

## Oh, To Be Young...

Meekatharra Shire's dynamic Youth Services team have just released their latest schedule as our town teachers brace themselves for a new term. As usual, there's plenty of fun and learning on offer for all ages and abilities - if there's one thing we're really good at in Meeka, it's tiring out our kids!

The new year also saw the resurrection of the much-loved Blue Light Disco - the fully supervised event means you can drop your kids off and pick them up. Prizes, competitions, free haircuts, sausage sizzle - thanks to the Meekatharra Police and our various helpers, there will be more BLD nights to come for anyone in the 6 to 16 age group. Can you remember your first disco night?

Thanks again to all who made the holiday period another success - we are so proud of the kids' achievements, ranging from horticulture to banner-making, sports, cooking and scare-crow making. This term's schedule can be found on the Shire's website, the Meekatharra Dust Facebook page, and right here in this edition of the Dust.



# Adults Encouraged to RECREATE

It's time for some grown-up fun and the Shire has some great events on the way, kicking off this month. If you have a special interest, knowledge or skill and would like to lead an event or get-together, get in touch - Meekatharra is what we make it, and there's plenty of enthusiasm and help on hand.

## WEEKLY IN MEEKATHARRA! Adult Recreation Schedule STARTS MONDAY 17th FEB *Fortnightly Friday Movies start Feb 7th*

### MONDAYS

Yoga at the Town Hall

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Led by the Big Screen, some mats available

### TUESDAYS

Board Games & Craft at the Town Hall

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Bring your board game, some games will be provided

Craft activities will depend on interest

Some sewing machines available

### WEDNESDAYS

Indoor Cricket

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Located in the big green "Indoor Cricket" centre in High St, behind the Corner Store

Ladies' Darts at the Commercial Hotel

6:00 - 8:00 pm

### THURSDAYS

Yoga at the Town Hall

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Led by the Big Screen, some mats available

Men's Darts at the Commercial Hotel

6:00 - 8:00 pm

### FORTNIGHTLY FRIDAYS

Every FORTNIGHT starting Fri Feb 7th

Movie at the Picture Gardens!

\$7.00 includes entry, bbq dinner, bottomless popcorn & cordial

### SUNDAYS

Touch Rugby at the Oval

6:30 - 8:00 pm

**See you there!**

You're welcome to attend the monthly Council meetings (dates and times are listed in The Dust) and have your say. You can also obtain a copy of the Council Minutes to find out about the many other projects, discussions and improvements that the Shire is undertaking on behalf of the Meeka community. All items or letters for Council should be addressed and sent to the Shire Of Meekatharra CEO, at the Shire address (see right).

# Local Business Forum

On April 1st, local business, pastoralists and industry are invited to the Inaugural Meekatharra Industry and Small Business After-Hours event. It kicks off at 5pm at the undercover area next to the Shire Hall (off Savage Street, across from the supermarket).

The event will include a "speed dating" session between local mining companies and Meekatharra businesses, light refreshments and even some door prizes. It's a great opportunity to promote your business or products. Whether you're a sole trader, family business, branch office, entrepreneur or working artist, you are welcome to attend. Handy tip: bring your biz cards, flyers or other contact information. A tablet or laptop that allows you to show off your projects, website or products would also be a great idea. Please RSVP to Gaylene Newton (so she knows how many horses' doovers to plate up):

[gaylene.newton@official.niaa.gov.au](mailto:gaylene.newton@official.niaa.gov.au)



# The Vets Are Coming

The Murdoch University Veterinary program is heading our way once again in April - we will soon let our wonderful volunteer team know when our first planning meeting will be (expected some time later this month) so that we can coordinate the sign-ups and the usual pick-up & drop off services.

Don't forget - if you have a health care card, you can get a voucher from the Shire for free pet desexing (it can be used with our visiting vet Rick Fenny on his monthly visits). Just come in to the Shire to obtain yours.

# Our Bitey, Whiney Mates

The Shire is currently promoting mosquito-related health awareness. We have some very practical and easy to follow "Fight the Bite" brochures to assist you in taking steps to prevent the risk of bites and mozzie-borne diseases such as Ross River virus. You can also download some great public awareness posters from the Fight the Bite website.

The short story is: cover up, eliminate stagnant water and lingering wet areas around your home and garden, and use appropriate repellents when needed. A mozzie net over the bed always helps, and adds a very romantic safari theme! It might also help keep those stink beetles at bay...



Shire Of Meekatharra  
Main Street  
PO Box 129

Meekatharra WA 6642

Phone : 08 9980 0600

[www.meekashire.wa.gov.au](http://www.meekashire.wa.gov.au)

*"Meekatharra - A Golden Prospect"*





It's been a massive month for the Youth of Meekatharra, and for the Youth Services team. The Shire of Meekatharra fund the school holidays and out of school care programs, ensuring our youngsters always have access to positive activities to participate in.

For the January holidays Andrew Binsiar Snr generously offered the program the opportunity of a day at his Barramundi farm. It's been a labour of love for Andrew and his family—consisting of many early mornings cleaning out tanks, and being committed to being available to feed fish. Early 2019, Andrew successfully installed a reverse osmosis plant to ensure the water the fish live in is in the best condition it can



be. The added bonus is that Andrew, his family, and the Buttah Windee community to which he is so committed also enjoy the pure fresh water.

Meekatharra youth were given a lesson on what is involved in setting up and running an aquaculture system to breed the barramundi, including the heater that is needed in winter to ensure the water temperatures don't kill the fish.

The kids were able to use nets to catch their fish, and then learned the right way to clean their catch. The photos attached show just how engaged the kids were. These are lessons and opportunities that are not readily available to many kids on school holidays, and we thank Andrew and Janine for their generosity in sharing their knowledge.

Once the fish were cleaned and prepared, the kids were treated to a lesson in the reverse osmosis plant, why it is needed and the way it works.

It was then back to the Youth Centre, where the kids own veggie garden was raided for fresh beetroot and







greens that were used to prepare a delicious Asian style stir fry to accompany their catch which they all ate for lunch.

Thanks are sent to Mission Australia and Youth Focus for your support on the day.



**Right and below—learning about reverse osmosis and water purification**



**Above— enjoying the fruits of our labour—delicious**







*This page—fishing and cleaning*







The first Blue Light Disco to be held in Meekatharra also happened in January. It was a big day, with many people in town for the funeral and commemoration of a much loved Nanna and community leader.

New to Meekatharra, First Class Constable Laura Vernon has hit the ground running, and quickly organised her local law and order colleagues to get the joint pumping within her first fortnight in town.

In all, about 85 young people attended the Disco, and seemed to have a wonderful time.

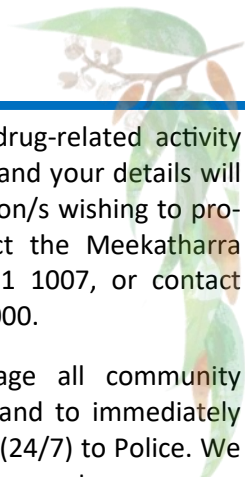
We are looking forward to more of that good stuff Laura.







## Cops Corner with Keith Fay



Meekatharra Police recently assisted with the policing and event management of a local funeral held in town on Friday, 17 January 2020. A well-respected female elder from Meekatharra passed away with over 300 mourners/family members travelling long distances to attend Meekatharra, in order to pay their respects. Additional Police resources attended from Perth and other nearby stations to assist with the event. The event went very smoothly with minimal incidents attended by Police, with the majority of attendees being well behaved and respectful. Meekatharra Police would like to offer their sincere condolences to members of the Mippy Family for the loss of a much loved and highly respected member of the Meekatharra Community, who will be sadly missed.

There continues to be a number of graffiti damage related incidents occurring in and around Meekatharra. Members of the community are asked to contact the Meekatharra Police Station on 9981 1007, to report any suspicious activity and not to leave any graffiti related implements (including spray paint cans, marker pens etc) unsecured. Your details will remain anonymous and will not be disclosed to any other person. The consequences of graffiti damage within our town are significant as the town becomes very unsightly, not to mention it detracts from the positive image we all attempt portray to others who visit and/or pass through Meekatharra.

Meekatharra Police are also asking for assistance from members of the community to identify persons who are using and/or dealing illegal drugs and/or conveying drugs into the community. Meekatharra Police are aware that of a number of persons within the community are using illegal drugs and we encourage members of the community to 'dob-in a drug dealer'. Information provid-

ed to Police regarding any drug-related activity will be treated confidentially and your details will remain anonymous. Any person/s wishing to provide information can contact the Meekatharra Police Station direct on 9981 1007, or contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Meekatharra Police encourage all community members to remain vigilant and to immediately report any suspicious activity (24/7) to Police. We would also like to remind everyone to secure any valuable items as best they can, be it within their homes or in their vehicles. Leaving items of value (including money/coins, handbags/wallets etc.) in full view of any potential offenders will make you an easy target and a victim of crime. Additional Crime Prevention advice is offered by Meekatharra Police by contacting 9981 1007.

Meekatharra Police would like to remind all members of the community the 2020 School Year (Term 1) commences on Monday, 3 February 2020. As a result, there will be an increase in the amount of children moving around the community and crossing busy roads etc. Members of the community are asked to be mindful and to exercise additional care when using our roads.

The usual traffic rules still apply and nothing has changed in that space, with Meekatharra Police constantly on the lookout for offending motorists. Please stick to the posted speed limit, wear your seat belt (and make sure everyone on board your vehicle is wearing theirs), don't drink and drive, don't drive without a current/valid driver's licence, don't use your mobile phone whilst driving and maintain your vehicle in a roadworthy condition.

From all staff at the Meekatharra Police Station, we would like to wish everyone all the best for 2020 !

Please continue to report any suspicious activity and stay safe !







shire of  
**meekatharra**  
*a golden prospect*



Meekatharra  
**Youth Services**

3.00pm to 5.00pm

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Under 10s - Kidzone Craft Over 10s - Cricket at Indoor Cricket and Youth Centre	Youth Centre Art All Ages welcome	Under 10s - Kidzone Story Time and play Over 10s - Water Polo at the Pool	Youth Centre All Ages Music and Dance / Netball at the Indoor Cricket Centre	Under 10s - Kidzone Water play Over 10s - Volleyball and Water Rugby at the Pool

6.00pm to 8.00pm

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Over 12s Project Night and Bike Repairs	Footy at the Oval All Ages	Over 10s Volleyball and Tennis at the Sport Oval	Basketball at the Oval All Ages	Over 10s Movie Night at the Youth Centre



## INVITATION

Meekatharra Industry Group — *Connecting Industry to Small Business*

You are invited to the Inaugural Meekatharra  
Industry and Small Business after hours event.

**Date:** 1st April 2020

**Time:** 5.30pm—8pm

**Venue:** Undercover area Shire of Meekatharra  
Town Hall

Light refreshments provided.

**RSVP**—Gaylene Newton

Phone: 0400 305 632 or email  
[gaylene.newton@official.niaa.gov.au](mailto:gaylene.newton@official.niaa.gov.au)



# Gardens with Sal, The Garden Gal



Hi there Magic Meeka,

I hope everyone had a very restful, fun and family filled holiday season. I've been missing the Midwest and am very much looking forward to getting stuck into this new decade with you all.

School resumes on Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> and this will mean EON healthy eating classes are back in the kitchen. This term we will take a look at healthy foods that aren't necessarily fresh but are still very good for you-pantry and frozen products. I've been busy planning some delicious recipes for us all to try out and enjoy!

Also, I'm very excited to be seeing the school garden after the holiday season. After all the rain I am hoping we will have plenty of fresh produce in the garden to



use in our cooking classes.

Here's some hot Summer tips to help your gardens get through the next few months:

**Pots and how they can affect your plants** – if your potted plants are looking worse for wear it may be because of the pot itself.

**Terracotta pots** absorb a lot more moisture so be sure to keep them well watered to avoid stress to your plants.

**Plastic pots**, while having better water holding capacity can tend to get very warm, especially if they are in the direct sun. Drip trays beneath may help the plants to “self-water” and take moisture for themselves when it is required.

**Wicking pots/ beds** are a very neat way for plants to be somewhat self-reliant. The theory behind this method is to create a system that allows for the plant to take as much water as it needs as often as required, eliminating evaporation and reducing water wastage. Rather than watering the top of the plant daily you fill up the wicking bed as needed, weekly, fortnightly or even monthly depending on the season. Wicking beds require a layering system –the lower level houses the aggregate, water and PVC to refill water, the middle layer is what separates the soil from the water and the top layer which will have potting mix and plants growing.

You can easily make a wicking bed (see picture on the next page) at home with items laying around the place:

Wicking bed house (bathtub, plastic boxes, old barrel, anything that is clean and has not held toxic chemicals)

Base at bottom (road aggregate, river stone)

Layer to stop soil from contaminating water (old potato sack, black plastic sheet, shade cloth)

PVC pipe – to feed the water from the top of the bed to the lower aggregate layer

Potting mix/ soil

Plants

**Mulch** – the oldest and most simple trick in the book! Mulch helps hugely to keep moisture in the ground and help your plants along. If you haven't already mulched be sure to get this happening in your garden.



**Regular feeds** – mid Summer is not the best time to be feeding your plants with slow feed or pellet fertiliser, this can stress the plant cause the new foliage to die. At this time of year seaweed-based feeds are the best in the garden, they help the plants' roots and surrounding soil to absorb water, increase microbe activity in the ground and nurture the plants' overall health.

**And of course, regular watering** – with all that recent rain the gardens will be flourishing Water is the key to life and especially so for us here in the Midwest. If using a hose be sure to water early morning or evening to avoid water loss and plant damage Use wetting agents to help the water absorb (even dishwashing liquid can help to remove the top layer of film) and water the base of the plant vs the canopy.

I look forward to seeing you all this coming year and having many chats about the gardens!

Thanks, and take care of each other.

Sally – the EON Gardening Gal

*\*EON Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation that delivers a food and nutrition focused healthy lifestyle and disease prevention program. We build edible gardens in remote schools and communities for a secure supply of fresh food and partner with them to deliver a hands-on practical gardening, nutrition, education, cooking and hygiene program. Read more about us at [www.eon.org.au](http://www.eon.org.au)*





## Lots Happening at Your CRC

We've been busy! Our aboriginal artist colouring-in pages have been a big hit with the kids and grownups at the new sit-down table, where we have local news and other things to read if you're waiting. Our Facebook page has daily links and handy info and has been getting lots of hits and likes from the community - thanks!

## Maps, Artist Cards, Gifts and More

The Kodak photo kiosk will be back in action any day now, and we are working on improving our passport photo service. We also have gifts, souvenirs and maps for sale, plus cards by local artists such as Beryl Walsh, Francis Walsh, Madona Simpson, Gloria Whitehurst, Betty Kyanga and more. There's also a great range of various birthday and other occasion cards on offer.

The aboriginal experience maps of WA are really good, and even if you're local you can come in and grab one for free - they're good, detailed maps of the state, with the bonus of indigenous tourism information.

We are also proud to have the beautiful Dreamtime Dresses frocks and playsuits available, plus a few other handmade gifts. Another big plus - ART SUPPLIES! Paint, brushes and more. If there is anything you would like us to stock, just let us know.

## New Members, New Activities

Our secret squirrel says "Shh!" until it's all been confirmed at an official Committee meeting, but we can tell you we have some dynamic new people looking to come on board, and some great ideas for community activities. A map reading workshop is just one on the list, and we're also discussing online course support for locals. Once the weather cools off we'll get the Saturday markets happening again, so brush up on your cupcake recipes and have a look at any groovy stuff you might have gathering dust in the shed.

## Kimby Climber Inspires Romper Retreat

Young Leroy helped us with a very thorough child activity audit the other day. Wearing only his nappies, he alertly identified and opened a secret built-in rubbish bin that we don't think anyone has used since the 1980's, and got us scrambling for buckets and other suitable play items so that Mum could concentrate on her internet research. Leroy's efforts have inspired us to consider an enclosed play area with some really cool toys so that parents and kids can both enjoy their CRC visit. Thanks for the inspiration, Leroy!



Department of **Transport**

## February 2020

By Anna Johnson & Phillip Moulden



*"Heel fijn!" ("Very nice") says Dutch traveller Willie, having a look at our new gift range. Willie and her husband are in Australia doing water research, and were excited to hear about Buttah Windee's drinking water success.*

## VISITOR CENTRE COMMUNITY RESOURCES DEPT TRANSPORT

- ✓ Souvenirs, Cards & Gifts
- ✓ Maps, Brochures & Local Info
- ✓ WIFI and Computer Use
- ✓ Driver & Vehicle Services
- ✓ Passport Photos
- ✓ Printing, Copying, Laminating

**Become a Member and Save!**  
Join from just \$30 per year and save up to 50% on many of our services.



**Meekatharra Community  
Resource and Visitor Centre**  
Lot 55 Main Street  
Meekatharra WA 6642  
**08 9980 1811**  
[welcome@meekatharracrc.com.au](mailto:welcome@meekatharracrc.com.au)





### **STREET LIGHT FAULTS & OUTAGES**

If you notice any issues with street lights, faults or damage, call Horizon Power's 24/7 Fault Line on  
**1800 264 914**

## **WORKSHOPS**



**UPCYCLING – REUSING – CRAFT –  
HOMESTEADING – "MAKING DO"**  
(turning ordinary things into awesome things)



**@ RECYCLING CENTRE RAILWAY STREET  
FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH - 9 AM**

**All Welcome! Gold Coin Donation Entry**





# The Picture Gardens

## What's been, coming and on.



January in the Picture Gardens was another big month of Movies.

Before we start the monthly roundup, just a notice that the entry fee for the movies has changed to \$7 per person. For this price, you get a BBQ dinner, a movie, bottomless popcorn and free cordial

NO MORE TO SPEND :)

Unfortunately the planned screening of Stormboy was cancelled (ironically due to a storm!), and left many sad and disappointed potential audience members in its wake.

We have decided to screen Stormboy on the 21st February to make up for the disappointment.

January 24th was more successful, however, and we combined the screening of the original Robin Williams version of Jumanji to the scent of barbecuing snags for our Australia Day celebrations.

A slight hiccup saw the much anticipated Farmer Jacks sausages heading to Wiluna for their Barbie, so many thanks were sent out to Geoff for stopping off last minute Friday afternoon on his way through Mt Magnet at their butcher for some delicious lamb and rosemary snags.

Geoff, on his way up from Perth with his moving van (welcome to town ) was already on a mission for the Picture Gardens. The Shire of Meekatharra has purchased a number of outdoor bean bags for the viewing pleasure of the audience, but trying to logistically manage 3000 litres of bean bag beans was no mean feat. Transport agencies charge by



the volume, not the weight, so that was a cost prohibitive option.

Thankfully our newest community member was prepared to tow a trailer with about 4 kilograms of weight all the way from Perth. Now to await the arrival of the bags for the beans. Working in conjunction with Meeka Goes Green, we will be trialling a self made method of refilling the bags as they flatten out, we are looking to mulch up old foam and Styrofoam to fill the bags, so

please hang on to any packaging or old pillows you might have—we will be needing them I'm sure.

The next stage of planning for the Picture Gardens involves an Adults movie night. While the kids are learning about the etiquette in a movie screening and getting much better at sitting still and quiet for the whole movie, there are a number of local people who have indicated a desire to attend a night with no kids in attendance. We are thinking of an old time movie on an original 35mm film reel. If you have any ideas, send them our way. So far we are looking at Monty Python, Mr Bean, Alfred Hitchcock, Dracula. We want it to be a night everyone will attend

(including we hope Darcy who will be integral to running the projector) so your input is essential. Contact Tralee at the Shire with your requests.

So far the movies have been prepared and run by a series of dedicated volunteers. It's a fun night, and the kids are very happy. We'd love your help so pop over and we can find you something to do, or even just watch the movie. See you on the 7th for a classic David Bowie, Jim Henson and George Lucas production of the Labyrinth.







*Above -Margaret Adami-Elliot*



*Above-Monique Wijbenga*

## **Starring Stunning**



There is something about an Aussie bush sunset, and January 2020 in Meekatharra did not disappoint.

Tropical Cyclone Blake left in his wake opportunities for amateur photographers and storm chasers alike.

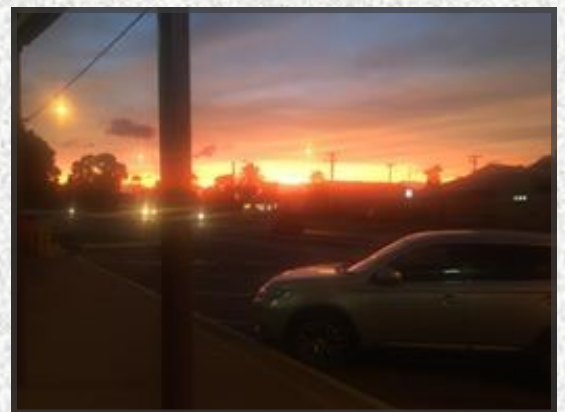
I don't know about you, but a good sunset hits me right where the feelings come from.

*Below—Ripper Devene*

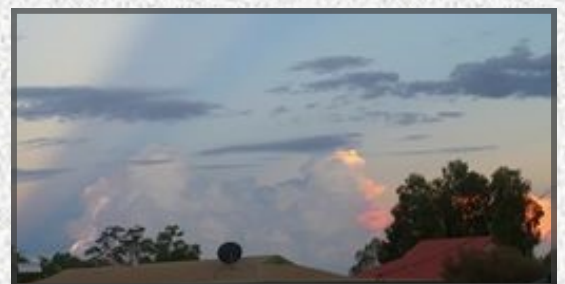
## **Meeka Sunsets**



*Above—David Cowled*



*Right—Tammie Garrity*





# Hay Runners bring more than Hay

There has been much written and spoken of the recent generosity of the Farmers Across Borders, who travelled within the Western Australian border from Esperance in the South to Meekatharra, dead centre of WA.

The Australia Day weekend was set aside for the trip, and Meekatharra watched with excitement as videos of the journey filled our social media feeds. Photos of the trucks heading off from Esperance, entering Kalgoorlie, staying over in Leonora on their unbelievably green oval.

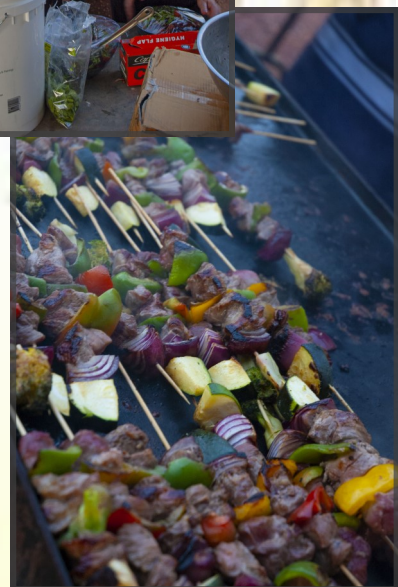
Updates all day on our own social media with new times for arrival kept those wanting to provide a hearty welcome ready for the parade.

Then the unthinkable—a breakdown the other side of Sandstone. The 3pm parade became 4pm, then 5pm, and finally through town at 6. Some say the waiting at Sherwood may have involved plenty of hydration—which is lucky because it was a darn hot day.

The late arrival led to a change of plans, and the party that was to be held at the Commercial Hotel was transferred to Sherwood Station, where the chefs who arrived with the hay runners were preparing an amazing feast on an impromptu barbie kitchen. Our erstwhile Shire President and his family did Meeka proud and the truckers and farmers were thanked in style.

It was a rare opportunity for local pastoralists who are often the first to render assistance, but the last to congregate, catch up and enjoy a beer and chat. There are rumours that even the elusive Ron and Margaret Bell were in attendance, along with our new local Meekatharras Top Model Liam Johns—headlining for the new Jeep advertisements seen online and in print. Who couldn't resist such a cheeky, wholesome grin.

All in all, it may not have been the hay, but the comradery and the collegial support of communities quietly caring for each other that was the greatest gift Meekatharra was given that long weekend.









# Meekatharra Pharmacy

72 Main Street, Meekatharra WA 6642



## Back to School Work

We hope everyone had a nice and relaxing January in Meekatharra. We are both feeling refreshed and ready for a great year ahead! As promised, we have lots of new services happening at the pharmacy and new products coming in each week. Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with all the latest news. [Facebook.com/meekatharrapharmacy](https://www.facebook.com/meekatharrapharmacy)

### Pharmacist Vaccinations

Your qualified Pharmacist Vaccinator, Dani, can administer vaccinations at the Pharmacy Monday – Friday. No appointments needed.

Q: What Vaccinations can be administered in the Pharmacy?

- Your annual influenza vaccine (FLU shot)
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis Vaccine
- Meningococcal ACYW Vaccine
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella Vaccine

Q: Who can get vaccinated at the Pharmacy?

- Children and Adults 16 years and over.

Q: What is the cost?

A: The cost of the vaccine varies depending on which one you need. We can give you a quote for the service in store or over the phone and make sure its suitable for you.

Meekatharra Pharmacy carry a range of vitamins & supplements, first aid supplies, quit smoking products, suncare, hair, skin & nail care items, ear and eye products, perfumes, cosmetics, jewelry, gifts, baby items, hats, sunglasses, readers and cleaning products. We also provide professional services such as prescription handling, webster packing, free blood pressure checks, medchecks, vaccinations, ear piercing, Diabetes supplies and lots more. (P) 08 9980 1798



STUDEX ear piercing chart



Webster Pack

### Ear Piercing

We are pleased to be offering Ear Piercing at the Pharmacy from the start of February. We have a range of different colored studs and hoops to choose from! Your STUDEX studs, an aftercare card and antiseptic spray are all included for the one low price of \$29.95. Parental/ guardian consent is required for all children under 16 years of age.

### Webster Packs

A Multi Dose Webster-pak is a sealed weekly calendar pack designed to help people take their medication correctly, according to their doctor's orders. All regular medication that needs to be taken each week is sealed within the blister compartments. If you or your family members may benefit from this, come in and have a chat to us. We offer packing services at low or no cost to you.

**Come in and say Hi!**

**Monday – Friday: 9am-5pm**

**Saturday – 9am-1pm**



# Meekatharra Picture Gardens

## NEW ENTRY PRICE

7TH FEBRUARY - LABYRINTH

21ST FEBRUARY - STORMBOY  
(2019 VERSION)

GATES OPEN 7PM, SHOW STARTS  
AT LAST LIGHT  
ENTRY \$7 PER PERSON

INCLUDES A MOVIE, BBQ DINNER, BOTTOMLESS  
POPCORN AND FREE CORDIAL



## WANTED: Volunteers

*Like helping in the community?*

*Keen to meet new people?*

*Wouldn't mind getting a free workout? (optional)*

*Want to feel like you've done something good for the world?*

*We need some more helping hands at the Recycling Centre.*

*We're a purely volunteer run community organisation. Volunteering with us is super simple, quick and easy. Whether you just want to help once for ten minutes or rock up every week for 2 hours - every little bit is welcome!*

*Interested? Any questions? Want to have a look first?*

*Come and see us at the Recycling Centre, Railway Street, Saturdays 9-11 am.*

*Ready to help out? Bring a bottle of water and wear enclosed shoes.*

*Alternatively you can send us an email [meekagoesgreen@gmail.com](mailto:meekagoesgreen@gmail.com)*

## Thank you!

*A familiar and comforting Meekatharra Summer sight—Rigby Trenfield caring for our beautiful lawns.*





## SQUASH

Keys & tokens can be obtained from the Shire Offices.

Only \$12.20 per hour.

Key bond applicable.

*(Equipment hire is not available)*

## Meekatharra Gymnasium

Looking for an active lifestyle? Meet new people? Get fit and healthy?



Fully equipped, maintained cross trainers, treadmills, exercise bikes with an exceptional range of free-weights & specific targeting weight machines now available at the new Meekatharra Gym.

Contact the Shire office on 08 9980 0600 or come on down to find out more.

## ★ FIGHT *the* BITE ★



**PROTECT YOURSELF**



THERE IS JUST **1** WAY TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY:  
**AVOID BEING BITTEN**

[www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/](http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/) **FIGHTTHEBITE**



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Health





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**REFRIGERATION & AIR CONDITIONING MEEKATHARRA**

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DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL AND MINING.**

**ALL AREAS – KUMARINA, WILUNA, CUE, MAGNET, SANDSTONE and SURROUNDS**

---

## **Meekatharra Community Church (Uniting Church)**



**Services held 9.30am  
every 2nd & 4th  
Sunday of the Month**

**Contact:  
Rev Mitch Fialkowski  
9981 1053  
0419 547 175**

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# Spotlight on

## Meekatharra

### MONDAY

Yoga at the Town Hall

Internet based practise

Some mats provided

6pm - 7pm

### FRI

Movies at the F

Every F

### WEDNESDAY

Indoor Cricket

6pm - 8pm at the  
Cricket Hall

Ladies Darts  
at the Commercial Hotel

### S

T

## Activities begin in the wee

Everybody welcome, no fees

The more participants, the more

Contact Eveanne on 0428934503 for

Contact the Shire Office for information on the Picture



# What's on in Leha?

## TUESDAY

Craft and Boardgames

at the Town Hall.

Boardgames and  
sewing machines provided

## DAY

Picture Gardens

Fortnight

## SUNDAY

Touch Rugby

at the Oval

6.30 - 8pm

## THURSDAY

Yoga at the Town Hall

Internet based practise

Some mats provided

6pm - 7pm

Week starting on 17th February

applicable to any activity.  
successful the activities will be.  
information on Town Hall activities  
Gardens Movies, Indoor Cricket and Touch Rugby



# ROYAL MAIL HOTEL



ACCOMMODATION - BAR - RESTAURANT - TAB - POOL TABLE - BEER GARDEN - JUKE BOX

## AFFORDABLE ACCOMMODATION

Single, Double, Triple and Family rooms available with secure parking next to the venue. Each comes with their own full en-suite and is equipped with air con, TV, fridge and tea/coffee facilities. A cooked or continental breakfast is also available for purchase.

Pets are welcome.

### DAILY CHANGING SPECIALS

PLEASE CHECK THE  
CHALKBOARD

#### TUESDAY

PARMI AND CHIPS \$15

#### FRIDAY

LARGE PIZZAS \$15  
POOLCOMP

#### SATURDAY

KIDS EAT FREE\*

\*with every Main meal



#### FRIDAYS

8 BALL POOL  
KNOCKOUT  
COMPETITION  
7.30PM START



## RESTAURANT

Come and enjoy a meal with the option of eating in our air-conditioned dining room.

Take away and phone bookings are welcome.

Also available are our homemade pizza selections.

Large menu plus daily specials.

We also supply on site and off site **quality catering** for any occasion.

Please call **08 9981 1148** for bookings or email us.



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**Professional liquid waste removal company collecting, ,  
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Transporting liquid waste on site from one location to another

Reliable and responsive service

We will beat any quote

Mid West Septics operates under an Integrated Management System meeting the requirements of key Australian standards for quality, environment and OHS.



**0458 002 126 - ALL HOURS**









# TRUE AUSSIE MATESHIP



2,000  
BALES OF HAY



# DID YOU KNOW...



... that your friendly local recycling centre has been operating for over 4 years now?

... that in this time we have managed to donate over \$5700 to the Perth Children's Hospital (formerly Princess Margaret Hospital) Foundation?

... that the global recycling market has taken a sharp nose dive over the last year and many commodities (cardboard, PET plastic bottles etc) are worth zilch now?

Here's what happened: when we started the recycling centre everything was hunky dory – we partnered up with a project called Ruggies Recycling (part of the Children's Hospital Foundation) who organised free freight for us (thanks Toll!) and we got lots of support from local and state-wide sponsors to get us off the ground.

Our volunteers were happily rocking up every Saturday morning, sorting through materials that got dropped off by the towns folk, baling it up and sending it to Perth for recycling. (They still do – thanks vollies! :))

Then a couple of years ago China brought out its National Sword Policy in an effort to stop being the global dumping ground for other countries' rubbish – up until then many industrial countries, including Australia, shipped their recycling to China and other Asian countries for processing. The problem was the poor quality of the materials. Not only were different types of materials all mashed in together but there was rubbish and food leftovers and nappies and yucky stuff. Can't blame China for putting a stop to that and only accepting high quality, well sorted, clean goods.

This however left lots of processing plants and councils and recyclers stranded with a glut of material, and thanks to the oversupply and decreased demand the market has plummeted. This has trickled down to Meekatharra where our annual income from recycling has dropped from close to \$2k a couple of years ago to \$670 last year to a meagre \$26 this financial year. Yupp. \$26 so far. (We are very grateful for the little secondhand shop in our shed

that's propping us up financially!)

The upside to this is that all the industrial nations, including Australia, have to take a hard look at their local waste streams and economies and find a solution to this (literally) mounting problem. And of course in every crisis there are opportunities. And where there are opportunities there will be businesses popping up and making good use of that.

You might have heard the term 'Circular Economy' which differs from the 'Linear Economy' (take resources → make stuff out of it → consume stuff → throw rest away) in that it keeps materials in the loop for as long as possible (resource → make stuff → consume stuff → reuse / recycle / upcycle → new resource → make more stuff → consume stuff and so on). This of course depends on the original resource being able to be recycled / up-cycled / re-used / renewable, which means we have to shift away from the materials that are impossible or too tricky or too expensive to be recycled.

So!

What can you do to help?

**Reduce:** only buy things you really need. This reduces consumer demand which translates into less stuff being made. Plus it's nicer for your wallet. Plus you don't have to carry so much. Plus it doesn't clutter up your house.

**Buy products made from recycled (not just recyclable) materials.** This means it previously was something else and has already been transformed into this current product. A strong national recycling market can only happen if there are manufacturers buying the recycled raw materials. If as consumers we choose to buy from companies that use recycled materials that will increase the demand which will increase commodity prices which might save our little recycling centre's financial butt after all. Try and avoid products made from virgin materials. (Not that kind of virgin! Unless Madonna was singing about recycling?)

**Reuse:** make good use of the stuff you already have. Use it for different things. Finished with that jar? Clean it out and re-use it for storing other things.

**Repurpose:** Think outside the box – what else



could this be used for? Got a lonely sock? Use it for dusting down window sills. It can be as simple as this.

**Upcycle:** Turn things into other greater things. There are heaps of ideas on the internet. Or come along to our monthly upcycling workshops (first Sunday of each month at 9am at the recycling centre) for some inspiration and handy skills (and a good old chin wag).

**Buy products made in Australia** with a high percentage of Australian ingredients: This supports our national economy and reduces dependence on other countries. This recycling crisis is the perfect example of how high reliance on one particular country can wreak havoc if that country decides to close the door on us. If we'd had our own strong internal mar-

ket this could not happen. And yes, that might mean that we decide against buying a hair dryer for \$5 from Kmart and instead choose to fork out \$50 for a higher quality product made in Oz by Aussies from 'Strayan materials (spoken with a real twang here). How much value do we place on fair wages, good working conditions, healthy competition and a secure local economy?

Have some spare cash? Want to have a yarn about long term sustainable economies? You can leave a post on Facebook/meekagoesgreen, send us an email at [meekagoesgreen@gmail.com](mailto:meekagoesgreen@gmail.com) or pop into the Recycling Centre on Railway Street Saturdays 9-11am (bring your wallet).



## Workshops - We made Soap !

This month Carol Bain introduced the us to the wonders of melt and pour soap.

We had many laughs and were amazed at how easy it is to make your own pretty little bars in all sorts of shapes and sizes, with scents, surprises and exfoliants.

Our imaginations are bursting with options for use and application of the new skills we gained.

Thanks to Catherine for the great idea to use old water bottles for the moulds, which gave us the pretty



shape you see here. We also added oatmeal to soften our skin as we wash.

If you have a skill that we can learn from we would be very keen to hear from you for our monthly recycling and upcycling workshops.

We are most interested in ideas that allow us to reuse and redo, and to minimise our footprint on the planet.

Call Svenja with your great ideas.





# ★ FIGHT *the* BITE ★

MOZZIES USUALLY TAKE BETWEEN

**1 TO 2 WEEKS**

TO DEVELOP FROM



**EGGS TO ADULTS**



A MOZZIE'S LIFE SPAN IS

**2 TO 3 WEEKS**

[www.healthywa.wa.gov.au](http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au) / **FIGHTTHEBITE**



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Health

For if a kangaroo jumps out  
on John's drive home.

Every beat of this ordinary life is an extraordinary thing.  
And we need your help to protect it.

St John urgently needs volunteers.

If you'd like to help the people of Meekatharra, visit  
[stjohnchangelives.com.au](http://stjohnchangelives.com.au). Or, give Meekatharra Sub Centre a call  
on 9980 1467, or email [sjameekatharra@westnet.com.au](mailto:sjameekatharra@westnet.com.au).



Life goes on.  
Volunteer with St John.



## GAMES NIGHT



Come share some good company and play board/card games

**Tuesday Nights at  
the Town Hall  
6pm - 8pm**





**Touch Rugby**  
**Sundays at the Oval**  
**6.30 - 8pm**

# THE GAMES ARE ON!



**Wednesdays at the**  
**Indoor Cricket Centre**  
**6 pm - 8 pm**



# How do you date a crater?

## Is Yarrabubba the home of Climate Change?

Eagle eyed and avid readers of the Meekatharra Dust may notice the layout of this article is suspiciously similar to one from last month—The Shooting Stars Netball story. It seemed quite poignant to retain the design when discussing something as astronomical as meteors crashing to earth, such as bombarded our news feeds this month in relation to that which caused the great Yarrabubba crater some 2.229 Billion years ago.

The news has been engrossing for many of us who haven't really considered life that far BC. When the earth was covered with ice, until a large ball of molten meteor crash landed, melted some of the ice which evaporated to create what has been argued as the start of the greenhouse gas age. Of course, this may have only been the start of the end, as we have continued to exist in the greenhouse gas world, creating our own changing climate.

While the deep and existential questions on the meaning of life and climate have flown around the bars of Meekatharra and in conversation, two of the more considered thoughts that have struck the editor are—Is Ross Howden really that old he was here when the meteor hit, and is that truly what happened to his front teeth on the way? And in a similar vein, did he or one of his ancestors land on earth, Superman style, on the meteor, and if so, what is his kryptonite, and his superpower? Life changing questions indeed.

So while those of us with limited intellectual capacities consider these questions, the boffins have turned their heads to discovering ways of actually dating the impact of the meteor, and it seems that it boiled down, quite literally, to the timeline that it takes for uranium to transform into lead. This is an already identified timeline, and between the tiny crystals

found onsite by intrepid geologists wielding tweezers, this discovery is apparently one of the worst kept secrets of the geological world. The location and the import of the crater has been common knowledge in the academic world for many decades, until a recent connection between the solar smash and the end of the earths snowball age. It was that point that made the bingle noteworthy.

The impact was always assumed to be ancient, but modern geological dating suggests this particular case is over 200 million years older than the next oldest impact. If humans represent the tip of your fingernail on the timeline of your outstretched arms, this would place the Yarrabubba collision smack dab in the centre of your chest, roughly half the age of Earth.

We know this because when the meteorite hit, it sent a high-pressure shock wave through the area, rattling atoms and damaging minerals on a minute level.

In the last couple of years, the local Shires have been working on a Geotourism trail that is to be marketed as Ancient Lands, Brilliant Skies which includes Walga Rock, Wilgie Mia, Poona, Afghan Rock, Garden Granite Rock, Jack Hills, Mt Yagahong, Peace Gorge, Barlangi Rock, The Granites, Boogardie Orbicular Granites, The Ampitheatre, Errabiddy Bluff, Wooleen Lake, Bilung Pool, Twin Peaks, London Bridge, The Brewery, Shoemaker Crater, Jokers Tunnel, Dalgaranga Crater and the Paynes Find Battery.

You can expect to see the brochures and marketing out anytime soon for these amazing locations, and it may just be worth planning to drive the path—its always good to see our local area from a different angle.



# ★ FIGHT *the* BITE ★



# 4

MOSQUITO-BORNE  
**DISEASES**  
OCCUR IN WA

[www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/](http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/) **FIGHTTHEBITE**



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Health

# ★ FIGHT *the* BITE ★

THERE ARE **0**  
**CURES OR VACCINES**  
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DISEASES IN WA



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Opened daily from noon til late

**Excellent counter meals daily:**

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**Dinner: 6pm – 8pm**

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**77 Main Street, Meekatharra, 6642**



**[www.commercialmeeka.com.au](http://www.commercialmeeka.com.au)**



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you to join us in a weekly  
service for all ages from  
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M E E K A T H A R R A



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or call on 99811253



# BE RESPONSIBLE



Please ensure whilst exercising your dog to pick up any waste and dispose of in the bins provided.

**FREE Waste Bags are now available from the Shire Office.**

## Meekatharra Corner Store

Corner of Main & High Streets, Meekatharra

**Ph: 9981 1151**



**BP Fuel & Lubricants**

**Premium Unleaded Fuel now available**

**Auto Accessories**

**Kleenheat Gas**

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**Take-Away Food**

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**A range of Asian Ingredients and utensils available for sale**

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**Farmer Jack's**

**MEEKATHARRA**

**FOODWORKS**

*Supermarket*



**Opening Hours**

Mon, Tues, Wed, & Fri

8am—6pm

Thursday

8am—7pm

Saturday

8am—5pm

Farmer Jack's Foodworks Meekatharra has an extensive range of fresh foods including deli items, quality meat, fresh produce, bakery items, groceries as well as a Liquor Store..



**FARMER JACK'S ELECTRICAL**

(inside Thrifty Link Meekatharra)

Stocks.....

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Washing Machines & Dryers,  
TV's & DVD Players,  
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Farmer Jack's

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# IMPORTANT DATES

**Labyrinth.....** Gates open 6.45  
*At the Picture Gardens* Friday 7th February

**Sydney Hotshots.....** 8.30 pm  
*Male Stripper Show, Royal Mail* Thursday 13th February

**Valentines Day**



Friday 14th February

**Ordinary Council Meeting.....** 9.30am  
*Council Chambers* Saturday 15th February

**Yoga.....** On the Big Screen 6pm  
*Weekly at the Town Hall* Starting Monday 17th and Thursday 24th February

**Boardgames and Craft.....** 6pm—8pm  
*Weekly at the Town Hall* Tuesday 18th February

**Indoor Cricket.....** 6pm  
*Weekly at the Indoor Cricket Centre* From Wednesday 19th February

**Storm Boy.....** Gates open 6.45  
*At the Picture Gardens* Friday 21st February

**Touch Rugby.....** 6pm  
*Weekly at the Oval* From Sunday 9th February

**Labour Day Public Holiday** Monday 2nd March

**Meeka Goes Green Workshop.....** 9am  
*At the Meeka Goes Green yard, Railway St Meeka* Sunday 1st March