



Meekatharra Dust

DECEMBER 2022 | ISSUE NO.356

COST \$2.50



TOWN CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRI 9TH DEC
— — — — —
4PM Town Hall

- MDHS - End of Year Presentations
- Shire - Presents
- Youth Focus and CRC - Crafts
- Mission Australia - Colour Run





SHIRE OF MEEKATHARRA
SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS
JULY 2022 TO JUNE 2023

ORDINARY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

In accordance with section 5.25 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 12 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 the scheduled Shire of Meekatharra Ordinary Meeting dates for 2022/23 are as follows:

Saturday, 16 July 2022
Saturday, 20 August 2022
Saturday, 17 September 2022
Saturday, 15 October 2022
Saturday, 19 November 2022
Friday, 16 December 2022
Saturday, 21 January 2023
Saturday, 18 February 2023
Saturday, 18 March 2023
Saturday, 15 April 2023
Saturday, 20 May 2023
Saturday, 24 June 2023

All meetings are held in Council Chambers located at the corner Main & Savage Streets Meekatharra and commence at 9:30am (except the 16 December 2022 meeting which commences at 2:00pm).

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Audit Committee Meetings will be arranged as required by the CEO in consultation with the Shire President.

KJ Matthews
Chief Executive Officer

Advertising in the Meekatharra Dust

The Meekatharra Dust is a newsletter produced by the Shire of Meekatharra each month that highlights local events and helps to distribute news locally. The Newsletter reaches hundreds of people each month through the copies sold around town, copies sent in the mail, and those viewed online. If you wish to advertise in the Meekatharra Dust please get in contact with us on cdo@meekashire.wa.gov.au.

Prices (from 1st of July 2022)

Local non-for-profit organisations are able to receive free advertising.

Size	Colour	Black & White
Full Page	\$74.05	\$52.10
Half Page	\$43.10	\$26.70
Quarter Page	\$24.65	\$16.50
Eighth Page	\$18.50	\$13.95

Calling for Submissions

The Meekatharra Dust is always looking for new submissions to be added to the community newsletter. We are chasing articles about things happening around town. If you have any articles with information about any upcoming community events then we want to hear from you!

The Shire of Meekatharra will pay \$100 for articles that are related to Meekatharra. Articles include short stories, poems, photos or similar. Get in contact to find out more about this opportunity.

"The Meekatharra Dust" is a non-profit community newspaper. The Meekatharra Dust is published during the first week of each month. The deadline is the 24th of the previous month.

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



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.



meekatharradust



meekatharradust



The Shire of Meekatharra



meekashire.wa.gov.au

NOMINATIONS
OPEN NOW

Meeka

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Local agencies and groups are getting together to put on Meeka Community Awards. These awards are to celebrate the good things being done in the community and to acknowledge those who support this town. We have a lot of talented, helpful and inspirational people in town who deserve to be recognised.

Help us celebrate those in the Meekatharra community who are consistently providing support to everyone.

Vote either scanning the QR code below or using the forms around town.

Award Categories:

- Community Member of the Year
- Young Person of the Year
- Senior of the Year
- Emerging Leader of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Event of the Year
- Organisation/Group of the Year



Scan here

Award Ceremony in January 2023

Nominations Close 4th January 2023

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Merry Christmas!

December is always a busy time in Meeka, we have community, work and friends Christmas events. Enough to keep anyone busy.

We are starting off the month with the Town Christmas Party and School Presentations on the 9th of December. A special guest is coming all the way from the North Pole to bring all the kids a present. Then on the 10th of December, the annual Christmas Markets held at Lloyds Plaza (in the aircon!). We continue with the festivities with a Christmas Movie Night on the 14th at the Town Hall with a special premier of the 'How to Keep Mentally Healthy Videos' followed by a Christmas movie. Youth Focus is hosting a Christmas Wrapping Day on the 21st, make sure you bring all your presents along to wrap for all your family and friends. Then of course, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are just around the corner with a lolly run for all the kids.

In this edition of the Meekatharra Dust you will find information about the Meeka Community Awards (voting open now!), project update from the Shire, the early Christmas presents Technology Metals gave to the Youth Centre, a look into a year at Mission Australia and Shire events, Christmas tags that can be cut out and used and so much more!

Happy reading, have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

The Editor

MEEKA YC TERM 4 PROGRAM



	M	T	W	TH	F
3PM-5PM	5-10 YEARS: KIDZONE AGE 10+: WATERPOLO AT POOL	5-10 YEARS: KIDZONE SPORTS AGE 10+: JUNIOR SPORTS AT YC	5-10 YEARS: KIDZONE AGE 10+: AQUATIC GAMES AT POOL	5-10 YEARS: KIDZONE AGE 10+: ART AND CRAFT AT YC	5-10 YEARS: KIDZONE AGE 10+: WATER BASKETBALL AT POOL
6PM-8PM	AGE 13+: CRICKET AT INDOOR CENTRE	AGE 8+: FOOTY AT OVAL	AGE 13+: VOLLEYBALL AT YC	AGE 8+: BASKETBALL COMP. WITH KARALUNDI AT COURTS	AGE 13+: MOVIE NIGHT AT YC

CEO COUNCIL MESSAGE

Welcome to the November 2022 edition of The Dust CEO Council Message Report that provides information for all residents regarding the Council ordinary meeting that was held on the 19th of November 2022 as well as the Health, Building and Town Planning Committee meeting that was held on the same day.

Firstly, a huge congratulations to our dedicated Shire Youth Services Team that won the WA State Community Achievement Award 2022 – not just one Award but 2! The ‘Making a Difference Award’ and the ‘People’s Choice Award’. The Youth Services Team comprising of Lachlan Macdonald, Margie Elliot, Trinity Thorne, Asharnta Anderson, Jada Baumgarten and Andrew Binsiar travelled to Perth for the Awards night. The Shire of Meekatharra is extremely proud of the Youth Services Team and the winning of the Awards is recognition of the wonderful and dedicated work they do for the community.

This section of *The Dust* is intended to provide a snapshot of the issues discussed at Councils Ordinary Meetings that are held each month. The unconfirmed minutes of Council Meetings are placed on the Council website as soon as possible within the prescribed time limit whereby they are confirmed at the next scheduled Council Meeting. Furthermore, items listed on the agenda when published for the community may not include all the items that were discussed at the Council Meeting, as provision is made for councillors and/or staff to introduce late items for consideration as permitted by legislation and Councils Standing Orders. Therefore, the following resolutions are only an extract of the full meeting agenda with the entire meeting proceedings being available in the official Council Minutes that are confirmed at the next meeting of Council.

Items from the Shire of Meekatharra Health, Building & Planning Meeting 19 November 2022

Item 7.1.2 – Community Development & Services Manager’s Report

That the Community Development & Services Manager’s report be accepted.

The above resolution included an update on several projects the Community Development & Services Manager (CDSM) and her team have been progressing. These projects are now coming to fruition whereby:

- ◇ Lions Park – Council broadly agreed to the draft concept plan that was presented following the site visitation by the design consultants and community consultation. Council have requested that the CDSM provide an updated plan with costings at the December Council meeting.
- ◇ Pool BBQ – Council has requested that the new BBQ be located on the current concrete pad in the north east corner area and the bike rack to be relocated. The CDSM will progress this with the Pool Manager.
- ◇ Town Entry Statements – progress on this project has been positive where the locations have been agreed upon and the quote from ‘Shear Zone’ for the wall approved.

The progress of the above projects is reflective of the positive attitude and dedication by the CDSM and her team and congratulations on a successful year are well earned. More detail on these projects from the CDSM can be found in this edition of The Dust.

Items from the Shire of Meekatharra Ordinary Meeting 19 November 2022

Item 9.2.1 – Lloyds Plaza Shop Lease – Stephen Michael Foundation

That Council subject to the prescribed advertising requirements, approve leasing Shop 1 at the Lloyds Plaza to Stephen Michael Foundation Ltd at a peppercorn rate of \$1 per annum and instruct the CEO to negotiate and finalize the formal lease with Stephen Michael Foundation Ltd for the Shire President and CEO to execute under Common Seal.

The above resolution confirms Councils endorsement to lease the last remaining vacant shop at Lloyds Plaza to the Stephen Michael Foundation in recognition of the valuable work the Foundation does for the Meekatharra community. The Stephen Michael Foundation is a registered charity and therefore no commercial annual lease rental will apply.

Item 9.3.3 – Closure of Shire Operations over the Christmas/New Year Period 2022/23

That Council authorise the CEO to close the Shire Office and Works Depot for the period Friday 23rd of December 2022 to Tuesday 3rd of January 2023 inclusive with the closure date being 4pm Thursday 22nd of December 2022 and the re-

opening date being 8am Wednesday 4th of January 2023, and that the CEO be instructed to advertise the above.

The above resolution confirms Councils agreement to close the Shire operations (i.e. office, depot and community services) over the 2022/23 Christmas/New Year period. An emergency skeleton crew will still be available if required and a Public Notice will be placed in The Dust and on Councils website.

Further Information Snippets

- ◇ Wiluna Meekatharra Road (Goldfields Highway) – Both Councils (Shire's of Meekatharra and Wiluna) continue to lobby the Minister for Transport and Main Roads WA to complete sealing the remainder of the unsealed road section of the Goldfields Highway. Besides the remaining unsealed section of the Goldfields Highway being hazardous to all traffic, the secondary detrimental affect is that heavy haulage freight vehicles and tourist vehicles are utilizing the Wiluna North Road through both Shire's that cause damage to this route that is the sole responsibility of both Shire's to repair and maintain.
- ◇ Landor Meekatharra Road Works – work continues on this road network with further sealing having been

recently completed. Councils Construction Works crew is currently completing preparation for further sealing.

- ◇ Shared Services Agreement for the provision of Environmental Health, Building and Planning Services – Council has agreed to enter into agreement with the Shire of East Pilbara to provide Environmental Health, Building and Planning Services following the retirement of the current service provider, Mr Bill Atyeo of Atyeo's Environmental Health Services. Bill has provided this service for over 20 years to the Shires of Meekatharra, Cue, Mount Magnet and Yalgoo and will retire at the end of this year. On behalf of the Shire of Meekatharra we wish Bill all the best in his retirement and future endeavours.

It's hard to believe Christmas is just around the corner and the year is almost gone with the next Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for Friday the 16th of December 2022 and the next CEO Council Message column will appear in the new year. On behalf of all councillors and staff at the Shire of Meekatharra, I extend my best wishes to all the community for a happy and safe festive season and see you all in 2023! Bye for Now!

KJ Matthews – CEO

FREE WASTE BAGS
AVAILABLE AT THE
OVAL ATTACHED TO THE
WHITE TOILET BLOCK



**THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A DOG POOP FAIRY
PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG**



TOWN CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRI 9TH DEC

4PM Town Hall

MDHS -
End of Year
Presentations

Youth Focus
and CRC -
Crafts

Shire -
Presents

Mission
Australia -
Colour Run



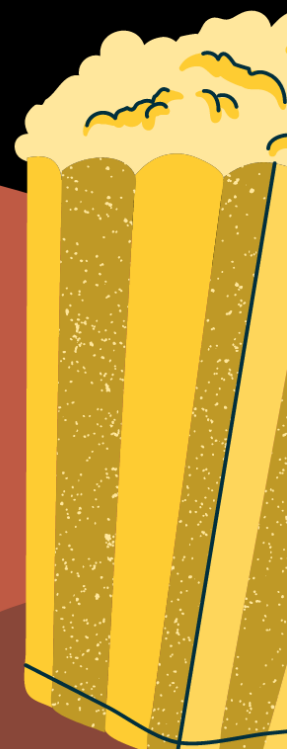
Christmas MOVIE NIGHT

6pm-8pm

Town Hall

Wednesday 14th December

Premiering the never seen before
'How to Keep Mentally Healthy'
featuring a few Meeka locals followed
by the new Christmas Movie Spirited



The Meekatharra Seventh
Day Adventist Church
(McCleary Street) invites
you to join us in a weekly
service for all ages from
10am Saturday mornings



Extraordinary Outback Experience

Self contained units
Twin rooms
Camp sites
Camp kitchen
Fuel
Licensed store
Lawns & shade

**Mt Augustus
Tourist Park**
Heart of the Gascoyne
at the World's
Biggest Rock

*Coral Coast * Ningaloo * Karjini * Goldfields Highway * Woolwagon Pathway*

0899439527
mtaugustustouristpark@skymesh.com.au

M E E K A T H A R R A



ACCOMMODATION CENTRE

Open Daily 6.00am—9.00pm

Catering for your special function? Email us for a quote on

bookings@meekatharraaccomodation.com.au

or call on 99811253



CAPPED AIRFARES HAVE LANDED IN REGIONAL WA

\$199
ONE WAY

< 1000km
from Perth



\$299
ONE WAY

> 1000km
from Perth

Now it's even easier for regional residents to stay connected to family, friends and access essential services in Perth. In a joint initiative between the State Government and our aviation industry, capped fares are now available for regional residents travelling to Perth and back. Affordable, everyday air travel is one way of helping regional WA get a fare go.

Flights begin on July 1, so for booking details or more information, contact the airlines, your travel agent or visit farego.wa.gov.au

Terms and conditions apply.

farego.wa.gov.au

MEEKA GYM

The Shire gym has all the equipment (plus more) that you will need to achieve your fitness goals. Come into the Shire Office to sign up.

More information is on our website.

Access restricted to adults 18 years or older
Unmanned gym open 5am-10pm daily
Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination is required to enter



shire of
meekatharra
a golden prospect

Meekatharra Corner Store

Corner of Main & High Streets, Meekatharra

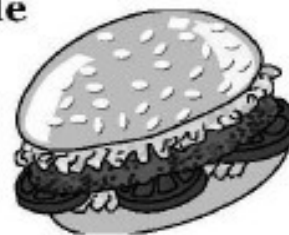
Ph: 9981 1151



BP Fuel & Lubricants
Premium Unleaded Fuel now available



Auto Accessories
Kleenheat Gas
Key Cutting
Take-Away Food
Asian Food



A range of Asian Ingredients and utensils available for sale



Burgers
Rolls
Sandwiches made to order
Bottled water deliveries



Tyre Repairs
Driveway Service

CELEBRATING THE YOUTH SERVICES TEAM

In November we continued to celebrate the massive win from the Youth Services Team who won the Making a Difference and People's Choice Award at the Community Achievement Awards in October.

Lachlan (Youth Sport and Rec Officer) and Margie (Youth Officer) went to the Council meeting in November to be formally congratulated by Shire President Harvey Nichols and the Councillors.

An afternoon tea was also held for the team; a way for the community to show their appreciation to all the hard work

that the Youth Services Team do. Also to thank the community for voting for the team to win the awards.

We love celebrating all the achievements of those in town and it was great to celebrate the Youth Services Team. This award shows the countless hours and effort the team put in do not go to waste.

Great job team!



Above: Youth Services Team at the celebration afternoon tea.



Left: Shire President, Harvey Nichols, congratulating Youth Officers Margie Elliot and Lachlan Macdonald on the recent award win at the November Council Meeting



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Meekatharra Dust is always looking for new submissions to be added to the community newsletter. We are chasing articles about things happening around town. If you have any articles with information about any upcoming community events then we want to hear from you!

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UNSEASONABLE RAIN -OR IS IT?

The unexpected but most welcome rainfall at the beginning of September put smiles on everyone's faces, whether in town or out on the stations.

There's nothing like rain to freshen everything up, including our spirits. Whether it be to fill a rainwater tank, water gardens or grow food for stock, we need that water from the clouds.

I asked a few people what their thoughts about the rainfall meant to them.

They Elton, of Kalgan Springs Station, tipped 60 mm out of their rain gauge and said he hadn't seen rain at this time of year before and hoped there would be plenty more to come.

At Pano Station Louise and Jim Ford have recorded 35 mm for this winter and this means they have nearly achieved their average yearly rainfall of 200 mm. Louise is hoping this might mean a return to winter rains not seen in the area for many years.

Cyle Hall of Neels Creek also thinks this may be a return to a winter rainfall pattern that he can recall from his childhood years when a mid-level disturbance comes in off the coast and brings rainfall to our area. Whilst Neels Creek has not long started mulling the 50 mm that

Hill didn't hold things up too much and the Hall family welcomed the rain.

Roll on to the end of September and more unseasonable rainfall in the area. Thursday 29th saw a storm building up on Meekatharra with plenty of wind and dust, which culminated in a hail storm later in the afternoon. Raindrops varied around the area and with the Lander weekend approaching there was some anxious people worrying about roads to the big event.

Kenneth Hall was travelling from Meekatharra north along Great Northern Highway late afternoon on the same Thursday afternoon and discovered he had, fortunately, missed a massive hail storm that occurred in front of him, about 80 km north of town. There was plenty evidence of the storm all around when he drove through the area.

While this rain and mild weather the countryside is certainly looking a picture.

CORPORATE TO CAMELEER

Days poured me on a bit! John said, with a grin. When asked how that first beer tasted John, with a big grin, replied, 'It was pretty damn good.'

Having traversed over 11000 kms John and his team have faced every kind of weather condition from droughts, fires, floods, snowstorms, heat and wind. Continuous moist ground can cause issues for the camel's feet as can hard roadways which is why John has no set route but prefers to trek where his camels are most comfortable.

Carrying two months of dried food supplies as well as 300 litres of water means John has not been severely impacted by Covid restrictions, other than spending two weeks in hotel quarantine in Tasmania.

'It means I can avoid towns quite often. I am probably the most self-sufficient person in Australia,' John laughs.

The trek hasn't been completely trouble-free with John having an incident in the high Country of Victoria when a wet track gave way under him and the camel, sending them sliding towards the river. Whilst in Tasmania a washed-out track required the help of the SES to assist and encourage the camel back to firm terrain. John carries a range of emergency equipment with him at all times as well as a substantial first aid kit.

This journey isn't just about John finding new adventures. John is also raising money for the charity 'Skin Check Champions' (www.skincheckchampions.com.au).

'I was lucky that I had a skin check before leaving on my trip. The doctor discovered a stage one melanoma on my back and was able to remove it. If I hadn't been doing this trip it may not have been discovered in time', John said.

John's journey with his four-legged friends is due to finish in

Is This The Perfect Day in Meeka?

Jo Callaghan

After spending the last five weeks in Meeka, I think I may have the secret to having the perfect Meeka day. So, what qualifications do I have to make such a bold statement, well to be honest, none, but I have spent a fair bit of time exploring the area, chatting to the locals and doing what I do best... being a weekend tourist.

Oh, by the way during the week I am a teacher at the local Meeka school, you may know me as Miss Jo, but on the weekend, I turn into the Sole Traveller.

The perfect day would have to start with a fresh coffee and pastry, or in my case, sweet cinnamon chai tea and a blueberry muffin, at Mama Moon's Bakery.

Energised and ready to go, head down to the Meekatharra Creek for a leisurely stroll along the Creek Trail, listening to the different birds singing, stopping to read the information panels and imagining life in the 1900s. The smell of fresh bread wafting down the street from the 'best bakery this side of Perth'. The mega, wide dusty roads filled with the sounds of horses and carts, camel trains and hardworking people going about their daily business in long, flowing dresses and top hats and suits in the hot, sweltering sun. People were tough in those days, they had to be to survive.

Take a detour on the way back, stopping at the always popular, Food Van, opposite the Police Station, to pick up a delicious picnic lunch. Why? To take to Peace Gorge, of course.

While waiting for your summertime lunch to be freshly made, duck across the road to the local Museum in the Shire Office. There you can

Examples of previous submissions

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

FOR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY



Youth Focus	6266 4333	youthfocus.com.au
Headspace	9274 8860	headspace.com.au eheadspace.com.au
Lifeline WA [24 hrs]	13 11 14	lifeline.org.au
Kids Helpline [24 hrs]	1800 551 800	kidshelp.com.au
Suicide Call Back Service [24 hrs]	1300 659 467	suicidecallbackservice.org.au
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service [CAMHS]	1800 048 636	cahs.health.wa.gov.au/our-services/ mental-health
Mental Health Emergency Response Line [24 hrs]	1300 555 788 Metro 1800 676 822 Peel 1800 720 101 TTY	nmahsmh.health.wa.gov.au
Ngala Parenting Helpline	9368 9368 Callback Service 1800 111 546 Rural	ngala.com.au

ONLINE RESOURCES

Black Dog Institute	blackdoginstitute.org.au
Bite Back	biteback.org.au
Reach Out	au.reachout.com
Beyond Blue	beyondblue.com.au

AWESOME APPS

Download these Apps for free in iTunes or Google Play



Smiling Mind



Mindshift



Reachout
Worry Time



What's Up?



The Check-in

5 TIPS TO BE MENTALLY HEALTHY...



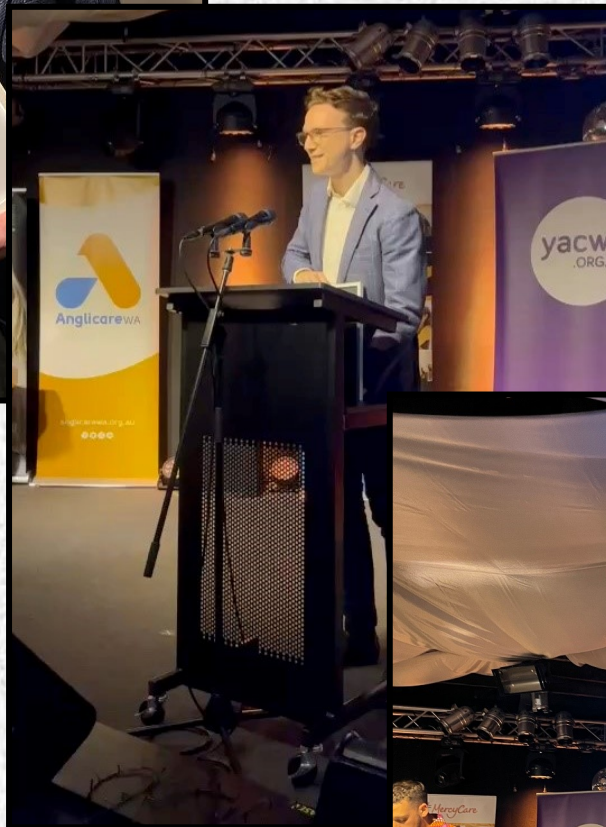
YOUTH WORK AWARD WIN FOR KEN

A massive CONGRATS to Ken Burkenhagen on his win of the 2022 Youth Work Awards Mercy Care Regional Youth Worker. Ken is a Youth Worker at Youth Focus here in Meeka and has done great work with the young people in town since taking on this role. Ken has started a very successful Men's

Group and has been supporting young people at all stages of life.

Daniel, Youth Focus Service Excellence Manager, accepted the award on behalf of Ken at the Youth Worker Awards.

Great Job Ken—very well deserved!



Above and right: Daniel accepting the award on behalf of Ken Burkenhagen



GENEROUS DONATION TO MEEKATHARRA LIBRARY

The Meekatharra Public Library recently received an incredibly generous donation to their library. Dr Mike Donaldson OAM has donated his 3-volume set of books titled 'Kimberley Rock Art'. This collection of books is valued at \$295 or \$99 per volume.

Dr Donaldson contacted libraries in the state offering his books to them. He said his purpose in donating the books was 'to increase the awareness and appreciation of our priceless Aboriginal rock art heritage.'

Each volume covers a different area of the Kimberley. Volume 1 is the Mitchell Plateau Area, Volume 2, the North Kimberley and Volume 3 covers Rivers and Ranges. As well as amazing photos of rock art, there is also stunning shots of the Kimberley scenery and locations of the art. Detailed captions accompany all the art shown in the books.

Each book has forewords by traditional owners and, whilst Dr Donaldson has determined, as much as possible, that the rock art photos are not culturally sensitive he does put a warning at the front of each book, advising that some may be culturally sensitive to some Aboriginal people.



An example of the stunning photos in the book

Dr Mike Donaldson is a geologist with honours degree from Macquarie University, Sydney and a PhD from the University of WA. Seeking out and documenting rock art in the Kimberley and Burrup Peninsula areas of WA has been a passion of his for over 30 years.

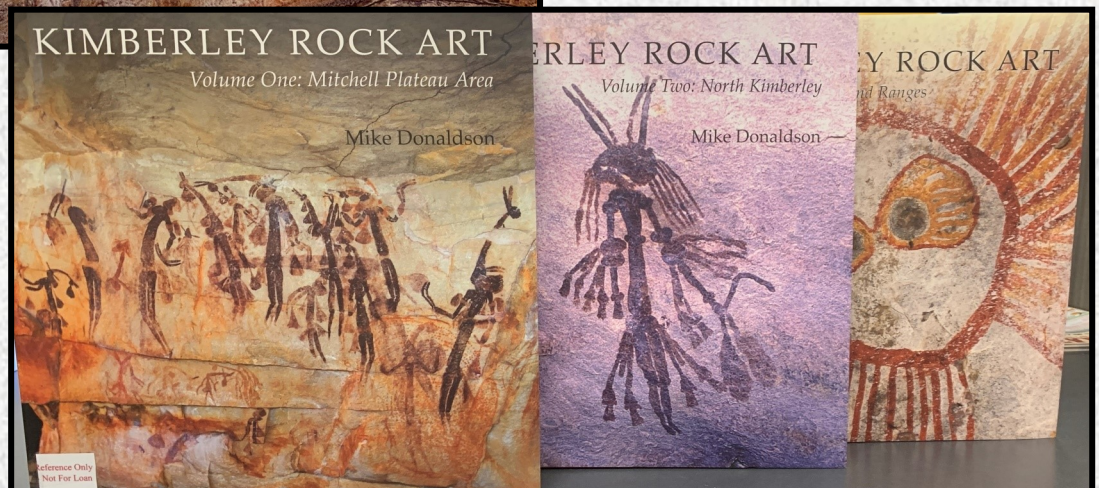
In 2009 he also published Burrup Rock Art: Ancient Aboriginal Rock Art of Burrup Peninsula & Dampier Archipelago.

These books are too valuable and too large to be loaned out but you are more than welcome to come into the library and spend some time browsing through them. It is really worth it.



Above: An usual pairing of painted hands that have been decorated with white sports

Right: The Kimberley Rock Art books donated to the library



MEEKA SPORTS FOR ADULTS

WEDNESDAYS 6PM

DECEMBER: INDOOR CRICKET

AT THE INDOOR CRICKET CENTRE ON HIGH STREET



FREE
ALL ADULTS WELCOME



SHIRE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

Median Strip Upgrade

We called for local artists to register their interest to design the artwork for the median strip murals. We received three responses so have decided to give all artists a go as part of a design competition.

The community co-design process concluded on 5 December – up until then people were able to put forward colours, keywords and symbols they feel represent the three main pillars of Meekatharra's heritage: Indigenous, Pastoral and Mining. People were able to contribute either online or on paper with surveys at key outlets in town.

The artists will work on the designs between December and February with the actual median strip upgrade scheduled to happen in April 2023.



Lions Park

Following the community consultation survey and workshops in October (thanks again to everyone who provided input!) Robin the Landscape Architect from Josh Byrne & Associates has been busy combining the feedback into a comprehensive

park design on paper. A draft concept went to Council's Health, Building and Town Planning committee meeting in November along with draft costings so Council could discuss the design and make alterations. Robin is tweaking the design accordingly and will present the final design to Council in December for approval. Assuming it's thumbs up from Council, external funding will need to be sought (December to February), technical specifications drawn up (December to January) and the procurement process needs to jump through its hoops (January to April). If all things tick along nicely, the works can happen during the next cool season (April to October 2023).

Entry Statement

The design for the town entry statements is 95% complete. A section of the entry statement will show indigenous artwork which is currently being designed by Meeka District High-school Students in line with the Barndi Nyooda (the Community Wellness Plan from the Meekatharra Aboriginal Reference Group). This way, for years to come people will be able to drive into town and proudly point at the sign, saying to their kids and grandkids "I helped design this".

Council considered different locations and settled on two scenic bends and hills south and north of town where people get the first glimpse of Meekatharra as they drive into town. At this stage the Shire is focussing on the Great Northern Highway entries to town with the other east and west entries to follow in due course.

Local contractor Shearzone Services (Trent King) has been awarded the task to build the walls for the signs. The walls will have an engineered solid concrete footing to be able to support the signs and then be clad in locally sourced banded iron formation stone, greatly enhancing the local character of the entry statements.

Q3 Who do you think would be using the park?

Young everyone tourists community kids people
families visitors locals youth children

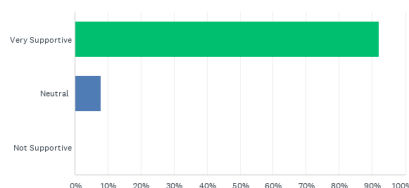
Lions Park survey results

Everyone got 3 stickers and was asked to place them next to the three components they thought were most important.

YOUTH		
Barbecue	11	21%
Grass	10	19%
Drinking Water	10	19%
Flying Fox	9	17%
Toilets	5	9%
Shade	4	8%
Seating	3	6%
Shade Trees	1	2%
Shrubs and other plants	0	0%

GENERAL PUBLIC		
Grass	12	22%
Barbecue	10	18%
Shade	10	18%
Drinking Water	7	13%
Toilets	7	13%
Flying Fox	3	5%
Shade Trees	3	5%
Seating	2	4%
Shrubs and other plants	1	2%

Q5 Overall how supportive are you of the idea to develop and improve the park?



EXERCISE CLASSES

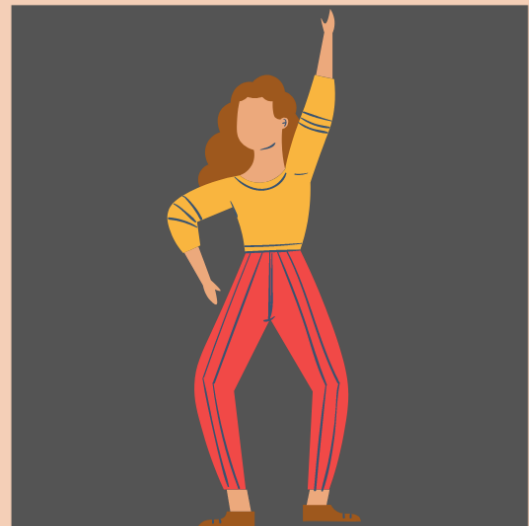


Join us for a weekly
exercise classes streamed
on the big screen in the
Town Hall.

Switching between yoga
and dance workout
classes.

All classes are accessible
for all abilities.

WHEN:
Every Monday
5pm-6pm
Town Hall



For enquiries please contact Amy at the Shire on 9980 0600

TECHNOLOGY METALS DONATION TO YOUTH SERVICES

Kids Zone and the Youth Centre were very lucky to receive all new sports equipment from Technology Metals Australia Limited.

The Technology Metals team made the trip to Kids Zone and the Youth Centre to surprise the kids with the new equipment. The kids were extremely excited to see new basket-

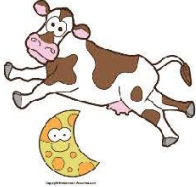
balls, tee ball equipment, cricket stumps, egg and spoon set, scoop ball set and so much more. The kids and the team from Technology Metals spent a while unboxing and playing with all the products.

Thank you Technology Metals for your kind support of the Youth Services Team.

Below are photos of the Technology Metals team visiting Kids Zone and opening all the new equipment, plus of course making sure it all works by giving everything a go.



On break until the second week in January



**JOIN US
FOR
RHYME TIME
AT THE LIBRARY
10 AM TO 10.30 AM
WEDNESDAYS
0-4 YEARS OLD
STARTS 6TH SEPTEMBER
BRING YOUR LITTLE ONES ALONG FOR
RHYMES
STORIES
SONGS**



Fire Season is Coming



Since summer is here, now is the time to observe the Burning Periods and make sure your property is safe from fires.

Burning Periods

Date	Permitted/Not Permitted
1 May - 30 September	No Permit Required (Restrictions Still Apply)
1 October - 14 December	Permit Required
15 December - 31 March	All Burning Prohibited
1 April - 30 April	Permit Required

You can obtain a permit by contacting the Shire Office in person, via phone 08 9980 0600 or by email ceo@meekashire.wa.gov.au – Meekatharra's Chief Bush Fire Control Officer is the Shire CEO Kelvin Matthews. You will need to provide details about your property address, your name and what and when you're planning on burning.

DFES have a handy checklist (see poster on the other page) on how to keep your property safe from fires. Simple things like cutting the grass/weeds around your property to 10cm or less, cleaning gutters, removing flammable materials from around your house and making sure fire trucks can access your property – these can all make a difference in case of a fire encroaching on your house.

Bushfires don't just happen down south – we might not have tall forests here but our climate is a lot hotter and drier. Every summer there are multiple scrub fires in and around Meeka.

Next year a notice will also go out along with the rate notices to each property owner in town, requiring the preparation of firebreaks under Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954. Property owners/occupiers then have until 1 November to carry out fire prevention works in accordance with the notice.

For further handy information check out www.dfes.wa.gov.au or look up current Fire Danger ratings and bushfires on www.emergency.wa.gov.au or contact the Shire on above contact details.



PREPARING YOUR PROPERTY



FIREFIGHTERS WILL BE TOO BUSY FIGHTING FIRES ON THE FRONTLINE TO BE ABLE TO DEFEND YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY.

To reduce the spread of fire and provide some shelter, start preparing your property by completing this Property Preparation Checklist.



PROPERTY UPKEEP

Set calendar reminders to complete these preparations monthly **during fire season**.

- ☐ Cut the grass around your property to 10cm or less.
- ☐ Prune shrubs so they are not dense.
- ☐ Ensure gas cylinders are chained/secured upright.
- ☐ Check gas release valves face away from property.
- ☐ Clean gutters.

LASTING PROTECTION

Set calendar reminders to complete these preparations **annually**.

- ☐ Keep gas cylinders away from likely direction of fire (i.e. where bush is) and turn release valves outwards.
- ☐ Remove shrubs, wood, mulch or any flammable material, against or near the house.
- ☐ Block any gaps under floor, in the roof spaces, under eaves, external vents, skylights, chimneys and wall claddings.
- ☐ Install metal fly wire mesh on all windows, vents and install a protective screen on evaporative air conditioner.
- ☐ Create a mineral earth firebreak along the boundary of your property.
- ☐ Install a fire or heat radiant shield such as a solid fence.

RURAL PROTECTION

Complete these preparations **if you own a rural property**.

- ☐ Make sure fire trucks can access and turn around on your property.
- ☐ Check bridge loading and cattle grid loading for fire truck access.
- ☐ Create fire breaks along paddock boundaries.
- ☐ Store petrol and gas safely.
- ☐ Install underground water pumps that lead from dams to the house.
- ☐ If a fire threatens, move livestock to a well grazed paddock.
- ☐ Check generator and pumps are working.

For more information visit
dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfire

or contact DFES Community Preparedness:
Community.Preparedness@dfes.wa.gov.au
or 9395 9816



The information contained in this material is provided voluntarily as a public service by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). This material has been prepared in good faith and is derived from sources believed to be reliable and accurate at the time of publication. Nevertheless, the reliability and accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed and DFES expressly disclaims liability for any act or omission done or not done in the reliance on the information and for any consequences whether direct or indirect, arising from such act or omission. This publication is intended to be a guide only and viewers should obtain their own independent advice and make their own necessary inquiries.

November 2021/V1.0



**HOW FIREPROOF
IS YOUR PLAN?**

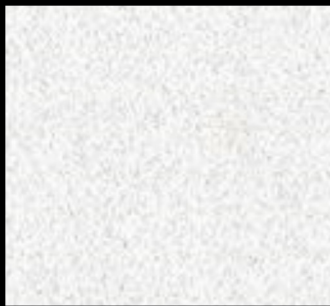
KIDS ZONE

Kids Zone received some early Christmas Presents from Technology Metals which includes a bunch of sports and play equipment. The kids and staff have spent hours and hours playing and using all the new equipment. Thanks Technology Metals for all the new equipment!

This month Kids Zone celebrated Margie's birthday with cake and hats. Margie does so much for the staff and kids at Kids Zone so it was nice to celebrate her.

The kids have spent time cooking delicious treats together, learning how to French knit as you can see in the photo below and playing with all the dolls. The team love to mix things up for those kids who attend and make sure that each day something exciting and fun is happening. The team are a dedicated bunch and we are sure lucky to have them.





Meekatharra Local Drivers back on track for 2022/2023 Season.



Both Adam Howden and Brandon Mongoo have been travelling with speedway around the state since October 2022.

Adam had a debut at the annual Hillview Speedway Ashley Page Memorial Newman in his Dirt Modified #69. Adam drove well and started to get the feel of the power in the yellow beast. Each heat Adam drove in he won including the Feature Race where he took the chequered flag. Smile ear to ear. Adam did himself proud with his little family and the Meekatharra supports watching on.

This meeting at Newman is in memory of Meekatharra's late Speedway driver and community member Ashley Page.

Brandon races his late brothers number #56 on his Commodore. This meeting holds a special place in everyone heart that attends whether they are family, friends, drivers or spectators. It brings people from around the state for mateship and to support any one needing someone to chat too on how they feel.

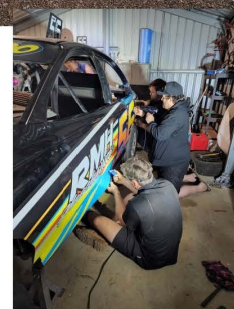


The meeting is over 2 nights.

Brandon has built a new car, new Motor, with supports from his wonder team of sponsors which has certainly help Brandon achieve his goal to be back racing.

On the first night Brandon had been in a racing incident, then to only have lost oil pressure which all were devastated at this stage. But with his amazing team behind him, gathered to together and pulled front of the motor down 4 times to find that the oil pump needed to be replaced. The team worker tirelessly to get it running in time for the 2nd night of racing.

On the 2nd night Brandon drove well in the only heat of the night. Then running in the Production Feature coming in 6th. The highlight of the evening is the Ash Page Memorial. Brandon started at the rear of a field of 16. Lap after lap Brandon would over take car by car. With only a few laps to go out of the 28 lapper. Brandon took the chequered flag in 4th place. Great achievement for Brandon and his team of supporters to see him drive and finish where he did.



The weekend of the 17th October following Newman Brandon raced at the Ellenbrook Speedway, enjoying his time there taking out 8th position overall.

Again turning around on 23rd October and headed to Moora Speedway where he took out the Feature Race in the Productions.

The next weekend away was at the Kalgoorlie Speedway track where unfortunately the storms took over and the meeting was cancelled.

The next meeting Brandon again raced at Moora Speedway and came home in 5th position overall.

A huge heartfelt THANK YOU to the Local Businesses that have come on board to sponsor Car#56 this season. Your sponsorship has given Brandon hope of representing you all at a high level and to promote your businesses along the way.

If anyone comes across the businesses below please support them as you can, whilst in and around Meekatharra.

RMH Mechanical Meekatharra - Michael and Bec

HC n T Meekatharra—Adam

Commercial Hotel—Horrie

Western Communication and Security—Jay

Technology Metals Australia—Meekatharra

DLW Mechanicals Perth—Dana and Leon

GMM—Benny

Jason Boatwright/Jeff Phal

Family and Friends (Cousins, nephews, nieces, Mum and Dad)

Uncle Terry

MISSION AUSTRALIA



Halloween Celebration 2022



This year Mission Australia Staff wanted to support the local community in a Halloween afternoon where the kids and their parents arrived at 4 pm and was greeted by the red eye glowing skeleton creeping along the floor.

All kids and parents helped themselves to an array of yummy lolly's, chocolates and chips to fill their buckets.



It was great to see so many smiling faces even the youngest being a few months old.

A massive thank you to our Mission Australia Remote School Attendance Strategy Coordinator Janine Binsiar, Mickaela Mongoo and Tanya Gukwa. The self-care session of making the decorations was fun, very creative team.

Mission Australia will be running a Halloween event again next year! 2023.



MISSION AUSTRALIA

R U OK?™

During the week between the 8th—14th September 2022 our Mission Australia team with the support of other local agencies ran a R U OK day for Meekatharra and the Burringarra Communities.

R U OK? Day inspires and empowers everyone to meaningfully connect with the people around them and start a conversation with those in their world who may be struggling with life.

We had 2 great days spent with so many happy community members and the teachers/students of both schools.

The days had been celebrating and educating how important it is to have support around at any time for the Health and Wellbeing of everyone from young to the elders of our communities.

There was plenty of food, cakes, smoothies, activities 3 on3 basketball and face painting for all with the final color run to end a fun filled day.

Mission Australia will be again running the Important event in September 2023.

Planning is underway for the 2023 calendar, if you wish to make a suggestion for the R U OK Day please call in and see the team.

On behalf of Mission Australia Meekatharra Team, Area Manager Milton and State Chaplain Paul, we would like to thank Youth Focus, Shire of Meekatharra, Youth Services, Yullela, Mission Australia Carnarvon Team, Department of Communities Carnarvon, Environmental Health Carnarvon, Burringarra Police, Mka and Burringarra Schools. A massive thank you to our Communities for sharing stories and just enjoying the day together....

A simple hello
could lead to a
million things.

R U OK?

R U OK?

And it's OK to
say you're not

BE KIND
TO YOUR
SELF
*you are doing
the
best you can*

STAYCONNECTED
RUOKDAY

Communities of Focus: Meekatharra

Communities of Focus recently hosted a whole of community event where we invited local residents, business and services to enjoy a picnic lunch and have their say about what makes Meekatharra a great place to live as well as discuss key issues impacting community. It was wonderful to see so many people spending time together and sharing valuable insights and suggestions that Communities of Focus will continue working on with and for community. Thank you to everyone who joined us and to Mission Australia for preparing a delicious buffet lunch. We look forward to seeing and talking with you all again at future events.





Community Of Focus Lunch in the Welcome Park 2022





Seasons Greetings from the Team at the CRC

As most of you know it has been a huge year here at the CRC. We started the year well but had a change of Manager in early April. Followed very quickly with 2 amazing new staff.

It took us a bit of time to hit our straps but we did it, with multiple challenges the world decided to throw at us.

Our big news is that we are moving!! That's right.... To the Lloyds Building in early 2023. This means that we will have better space to offer our services, be able to add some new ones, a bigger retail space and the most exciting part is A new interactive Visitor Centre that we are planning to have completed by April 2023.

We have been looking at our stock and trying to offer a bigger range at prices everyone can afford. We are planning to increase our range of Meekatharra Souvenirs and are happy to listen to any suggestions from the community.

With Christmas here we have got some new stock in, with Christmas in mind with move arriving next week.

Our final Meeka Market will be held on Sat 10 December at the Lloyds Building which will be cooler for everyone. If anyone wants to join us in having a stall you are very welcome.

We will be closed from Lunch on 23 December 2022 and reopening on Monday 9 Jan 2023.

If anyone's car registration, drivers licenses need to be renewed please come in before Christmas to make sure you are all legal over the Christmas period.

From Mandy, Tiffany and Myself, we wish you all a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.





The Online Hub for Family and Local History in the Central Goldfields of Western Australia



Discover more about people's lives in the Central Goldfields of Western Australia or explore more about the history of places in this vast region. FREE resources and information for all family and local history researchers.



**Western
Australian
Virtual
Miners
Memorial**

An online place where the men and women of Western Australia who have lost their lives in the mining industry, can be remembered and honoured for their supreme sacrifice.

The Outback Family History website:

www.outbackfamilyhistory.com.au

Our library of information and photographs

The Outback Family History blog:

www.outbackfamilyhistoryblog.com

Stories of people and places

WA Virtual Miners Memorial website:

www.wavmm.com

A profile page for every person



@OutbackFamilyHistory | Email: moyasharp@westnet.com.au



NAME PAVERS

Be apart of this fundraising activity for the Meektharra Outback Festival Committee

NAME PAVERS ARE:

- A unique and lasting record of your support;
- A creation of memories and milestones;
- A celebration of a wedding, new baby, birthday or anniversary;
- A tribute to someone special or a precious memorial to a loved one.



Your donation entitles you to have your name engraved into a paver as a lasting record of your valued support. The paver will be permanently installed on the footpath outside the Shire Administration Building proudly showing your donation. To place your order please come into the Shire Office.

SQUASH COURT

LOCATED AT THE SPORTS COMPLEX

Keys available at the Shire Office
\$50 Cash Key Bond
\$10 Per Game

More information on our website
www.meekashire.wa.gov.au





THE POOL IS OPEN!

**Meekatharra War
Memorial
Swimming Pool
Main Street**

**Monday-Friday
12pm-6pm
(Adults Only 6pm-7pm)**

**Saturday - Sunday
11am-6pm**

Fees

Season Pass
Adult - \$100 | Child - \$50 | Family - \$200

Season Pass Concessional*
Adult - \$50 | Child - \$25 | Family - \$100

Monthly Pass
Adult - \$30 | Adult (Concessional) - \$25*
Child - \$15 | Family - \$60

Weekly Pass
Adult - \$10 | Adult (Concessional) - \$7*
Child - \$5 | Family - \$20

Daily Pass
Adult - \$3 | Adult (Concessional) - \$1*
Child - \$2 | Family - \$6

Child under 3 years old accompanied by an adult - No Charge
*Concessional fee is only applicable on sighting of valid Health Care Card by Shire Staff

INTERVIEW WITH A VOLUNTEER: CLARRIE LAURITSEN



How long have you been volunteering for the Golf Club (and/or Rifle Club)?

I started at the Golf Club in 1997 and with the Rifle Club back in 1983.

What made you start volunteering?

I first went to the Golf Club as part of the Fire Brigade volunteers, we played Ambrose which was good fun. My grandparents had been made life members of the Golf Club in 1928 so it was always part of my family. I sometimes also played golf in Geraldton when I went to boarding school there.

When I became a member of the Golf Club in 1997 I immediately became a volunteer too, got roped in on the committee. I then became Captain of the Golf Club in 2001 for five years and partly simultaneously became President in 2004, a role I still hold today.

What do you do as part of your role?

As the President I organise the season, the calendar and the prizes such

as the Monthly Mug and the trophies for the Meeka Open which is held in May each year.

Our season runs from April to October so to prepare the course we go out there with a rotary hoe and churn up the greens (they're not grass here, they're sand which gets a bit hard after a while so needs fluffing up). Every now and again we get 40-60 tonnes of sand and add them to the greens as it does blow away after a while.

It's obviously not a one-man job, we've got a great bunch of people who all come out to help – it's a really active club and everyone chips in (Editor's note: golf pun about chipping not intended here but we'll leave it in). Jenky rakes the greens and does a lot behind the scenes, Pete Clare our Captain does heaps around the club house and the handicaps etc, Meacho our treasurer is always there with the till and tea towel of invisibility, Chris Atkins our patron supplies us with sustenance for our events, the Moses guys all help with getting the course and eskies ready, Brendan and Darcy are always here helping, Bill Nichols comes out and cooks breakfast for the Open; everyone comes out for busy bees, it's a really good bunch of blokes. For the events you have even more helpers like my wife Dot who manages the whole hospitality aspect of it and her bunch of helpers (too numerous over the years to all name individually) – people come to play in Meeka not just for the golf but also for the food and great experience. In the past too, people put an enormous effort – Guy Bell for example was a volunteer for 50+ years.

What do you like most about it?



Catching up with the guys. It's a social day, we have a beer, we have a laugh.

Golf itself is great because you challenge yourself and always try to improve your own game and score. It's not so much playing against the other players, it's more about trying to beat your own handicap.

What's the worst aspect?

Nothing really. Sometimes when the wind blows 50-60km/h it can be a bit tricky. But that's all part of the challenge – just you against yourself and the elements, no matter what the conditions.

Do you have any interesting/funny/fascinating stories you can share?

Hmm... I've seen one guy split his dacks when he tried to bend down to tee up his ball. They split right down the crack all the way to the front and he just played the rest of course with his bum on display. It was hilarious. I wrote a song about it.

What's something people don't know or should know about volunteering with the Golf Club or volunteering in general?

It's rewarding to put the time in and make the course and facilities better for visitors. We get a lot of good feedback from happy visitors about our course, the food, the prizes, the hospitality.

Do you need more members or volunteers? How do people go about signing up?

Yes! We would love more people, whether it's teachers or people who are just in Meeka for a few months, and young people too. Even if people haven't played golf before they can come out and we can show them – they can start with just 9 holes to begin with or just have a hit on the driving range. We've got spare clubs too. Don't be frightened. Give it a crack.

Our AGM is held in March at the Commercial Hotel each year – everyone is welcome to come along and see what the Golf Club is up to.

[The Golf Club is accessible from the Goldfields Highway. At the end of the bitumen turn right on a dirt road that'll take you straight to the club house. Directions are available on Google Maps as well. During the season April-October the club normally plays each Sunday mid-morning to late afternoon. Visitors welcome.]



2021 CENSUS FACTS

Population in the Town

675

Increase from 573 in 2016

Population in the Shire

1200

Increase from 1067 in 2016



★ GENERAL REPELLENT GUIDELINES ★

Insect repellents containing DEET or picaridin are the most effective. As a general rule, the greater the percentage of DEET or picaridin, the longer the product will remain effective.

- ★ Always follow instructions on the label.
- ★ Choose a repellent with an appropriate concentration of DEET or picaridin to match the length of time you are outdoors.
- ★ Apply directly to skin (except face) and spread evenly with hands.
- ★ For face application, apply first to hands and then spread evenly on face, avoiding mouth and eyes.
- ★ Repellents will not be as effective if applied sparingly to the skin.
- ★ Reapply repellent according to the label.

★ PROTECT YOUR BABY OR TODDLER ★

Where possible, avoid exposing your baby or child to mosquitoes. Consider staying indoors, using pram netting or dressing them in loose, long-sleeved clothing, socks and shoes.

Mosquito repellents for children

- ★ **Under 12 months** - repellents containing DEET or picaridin are not recommended.
- ★ **From 12 months** - repellents containing up to 10% DEET or picaridin can be used.

Application guidelines for children

- ★ Do not allow children to apply repellent.
- ★ Apply repellent firstly to the hands of the carer and then spread evenly to exposed skin of child.
- ★ Avoid applying repellents to hands, near the eyes or mouth.
- ★ Do not apply repellent under clothing.

MOSQUITOES ARE MORE THAN ★ JUST A NUISANCE ★

There is no cure or vaccine to protect against mosquito-borne diseases acquired in Australia. The only way to prevent infection is to avoid being bitten.

★ COVER UP. REPEL. CLEAN UP. ★

Many mosquitoes are at their biting best around dusk and dawn, but some will bite day and night.



COVER UP

Wear long, loose-fitting, light coloured clothing to cover exposed skin.



REPEL

Apply insect repellent containing DEET (diethyltoluamide) or picaridin evenly to all areas of exposed skin.



CLEAN UP

Stop mosquitoes breeding around your home by removing, emptying or covering water holding containers.

For more information

Contact the Department of Health or visit health.wa.gov.au/FighttheBite

This is an initiative of the Government of South Australia. This brochure has been reprinted with permission from SA Health.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

★ ★ AT HOME ★ ★

FIGHT the BITE



★ COVER UP. REPEL. CLEAN UP. ★

MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES ★ IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA ★

In Western Australia, mosquitoes can transmit Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus, Kunjin virus and the potentially fatal Murray Valley encephalitis virus.

The only way to confirm if you have a mosquito-borne disease is to visit your doctor for a specific blood test. There is currently no cure and no vaccine for any of these diseases. The only way to prevent infection is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes.

Common mosquito-borne diseases in WA

Ross River and Barmah Forest viruses occur throughout WA. Common symptoms include:

- ★ skin rashes
- ★ painful or swollen joints
- ★ sore muscles
- ★ flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, headache)
- ★ tiredness or weakness.

Symptoms can last for several weeks to months, and in some cases, years.

More serious mosquito-borne diseases in WA

Murray Valley encephalitis is a rare but potentially fatal disease that occurs in northern WA. Symptoms include fever, drowsiness, headache, stiff neck, nausea and dizziness. In severe cases seizure, coma, brain damage or death may result. People experiencing these symptoms should seek medical advice quickly.

Kunjin virus disease is a rare disease also occurring in northern WA. Generally, the symptoms are milder than Murray Valley encephalitis.

COVER UP: REPEL. CLEAN UP. ★

COVER UP



Wear long, loose-fitting, light coloured clothing, covering as much of the body as you can. Mosquitoes can bite through tight clothing like jeans. Make sure children are also appropriately covered up.

REPEL



When outdoors and mosquitoes are present, apply insect repellent containing picaridin or DEET (diethyltoluamide) evenly to exposed skin. If you spend long periods of time outdoors, you may need to reapply your repellent.

CLEAN UP



Simple changes around your home can reduce mosquito breeding. Remove, empty or cover water-holding containers.

STOP MOSQUITOES BREEDING ★ AROUND YOUR HOME ★

Mosquitoes can breed around your home. They will lay eggs in fresh or salty water, and often in containers that hold water. Common breeding sites include pot plant drip trays, ponds, pet bowls, old tyres and rubbish that may collect water.

Stop mosquitoes breeding around your home by following these simple steps:

- ★ Empty out or discard containers and rubbish that may hold water.
- ★ Clean out roof gutters to prevent water from pooling.
- ★ Empty, clean and refill bird baths, stock troughs and pet water bowls at least once a week.
- ★ Keep swimming pools properly maintained and free of debris.
- ★ Empty wading pools at the end of each day.
- ★ Stock garden ponds with fish to eat mosquito larvae.
- ★ Cover rainwater and septic tank openings, wells or other large water containers with mosquito-proof mesh.
- ★ Keep edges of dams and ponds clear of vegetation.

If mosquitoes continue to be a problem around your home, contact your Local Government Environmental Health Officer or the Department of Health for further advice.

A YEAR OF EVENTS

2022 started out with many changes for Meekatharra and the State. New COVID restrictions were put in place, everyone wearing masks and the opening of the WA borders to the rest of the Country.

Although the start of the year didn't go to plan the Shire put a range of events throughout the rest of the year to make up for the slow start to the year.

In January we had a pool party and vaccination clinic for the whole community, it was a great way to get back into work and cool off during the heat of summer.

NAIDOC Week was a big community event where everyone worked together to put on five events throughout the week. Starting with a flag raising, then a footy competition, community day, traditional lunch and youth ball. It was a fabulous week for everyone to come together, plus we were extra lucky to get awesome shirts designed by Jojo. These shirts are becoming an annual thing and we are very excited about the support.



Youth Services Team cooking at the National Reconciliation Week Breakfast

With Covid restrictions we lay low until May when the National Reconciliation Week Breakfast was held. The event in Perth was streamed so everyone could watch it, we had around 40 people attend in Meeka to watch the ceremony with a cooked breakfast.



Helen Ansell in front of the mural she designed and painted

Helen Ansell came to town in July to paint the mural next to the pool with the community and youth centre. The mural was inspired by the local landscape of Meekatharra and Helen's time living here when she was younger. Helen also held an Art Exhibition so local people could see her amazing work.



Amanda Shar, Andrew Binsiar and Keenan Flanagan raised the flag at the start of NAIDOC Week



Looking through telescopes at the AstroTourism evening

AstroTourism WA came to Meeka in July with a few telescopes to celebrate the start of a new project in the Murchison. The staff and volunteers did a presentation about the

night sky and gave all of us a chance to look through the telescopes. We were able to see Saturn, different constellations and just how big and vast the night sky is.

The Struggling Kings came to town in September to perform at the oval, it was a great night of live music and yummy dinner. The band was amazing to work with and we all loved the music.

We were lucky enough to have the Laser Tag team pass through town and offer to put on a laser tag game for the kids in town. The kids had a blast working together to win the game.

The first annual Meeka Walk for Suicide Awareness in October had a large turn out for this event. This event with Youth Focus and Mission Australia went so well and therefore will

be an annual event going forward. The shirts and other merchandise designed by the talented Ralli Bero were a big hit, it is always great to see the talent in town. Youth Focus worked hard on the food for the event and it was so good!

The long awaited Circus Challenge Workshop finally happened in November. This event had been cancelled a few times due to COVID restrictions but we were very grateful we could finally find a time to make this work for the kids. The circus team spent three days at the Youth Centre working on skills and performed a show with help from the kids at the school Halloween party.



Festival Side Show

The annual Meeka Outback Festival was a big success with lot of events happening over the weekend and a great turn out from the community. Planning for next years are underway and we are very excited!

As we know the Youth Team won an award at the State Community Achievement Awards in October, so in November we held an afternoon to say congratulations!

The Quiz Night in November was great fun with a good turn out. Thanks to Pete Clare for MC-ing the event and Mama Moons for catering.

The events for the year have not finished yet. We have the Town Christmas Party and School Presentations on the 9th of December. The weekly exercise classes are still running until the 14th of this month, we will break for the holiday period and be back refreshed next year.

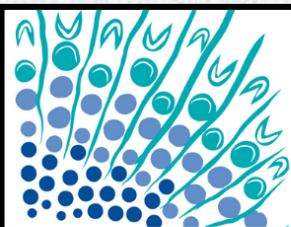
Keep up to date with everything that is happening in Meeka by checking the Shire's website and Facebook page.



Above: Laser Tag Set Up

Right: Meeka Walk for Suicide Awareness





Thugarri Group

Strong, young man

Young Meeka men are invited to come to the
Youth Focus building every
second Monday starting at 6pm
(starting 1st August 2022)

Just bring your manners and respect

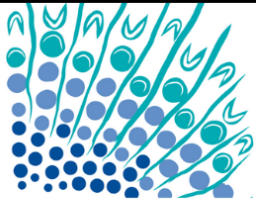
We might stay at the office or we might head out
somewhere like Peace Gorge

We will put on a feed

This group is for young men only.

For more information please speak to
Uncle/Pop Junior
phone: 0436 336 345





WOMENS GROUP

Every Second Tuesday 6pm-8pm at
YOUTH FOCUS

Starts: Tuesday 15th November

First session: planning /ideas.

Ages: 12+

Come tell us what YOU want to happen at
Women's Group

A place for women to come together for yarning,
beauty, movies, on country excursions and more

Food and drinks provided

Contact Dee, Nicolah, Paulette and Holly at Youth

Focus for more info

0499 44 626



CIRCUS CHALLENGE

The Youth Centre and Kids Zone had the Circus Challenge team visit them, show the kids how to do tricks and put on a show.

The kids learnt how to ride a really small bike, walk on stilts,

hula hoop and so much more! Over three days the circus experts taught those who participated all the skills they know about putting on an excellent circus show.

On the last day the Shire and the School worked together to put on a circus show. The Circus experts set up at the school and had all the kids who participated in the workshops to show off their skills. Some of the kids did plate spinning, some helped with the juggling and others cheered on watching the amazing skills.

It was so great to have the Circus Challenge Team in town! The kids had a blast.

Below and across the page are photos from the workshops and the final show.







Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety



Consumer Watch Column

Consumer Protection 50-52 Durlacher Street, Geraldton WA 6530
Tel: (08) 9920 9800
Email: candice.evans@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Avoid disappointment, get on top of Christmas shopping early

Christmas is an exciting and magical time of year but the lead up to the big day can often be chaotic and stressful. With online shopping scams and delivery delays, Western Australian shoppers are urged to get on top of their Christmas shopping early to avoid disappointment.

Online shopping is an easy and convenient choice to buy Christmas gifts, but Western Australian shoppers should be aware of scammers looking to trick unsuspecting victims into buying a product they may never receive.

Already in 2022, WA ScamNet reports 354 Western Australians have lost a total of \$1,074,637 to online shopping scams through a range of fake websites and social media pages.

To be cyber safe when shopping online, look at the overall quality of the website or social media page. If there are grammatical errors, poorly edited images and no address for their location, it could be a scam.

Another red flag is the method of payment requested, only pay by credit card or a secure payment method like PayPal. That way, if something goes wrong, you can get your money back much easier. Don't be fooled into paying via electronic funds transfer, money order, pre-loaded money card or crypto currency as it is unlikely you will get your money back through this method if you don't receive your goods.

With record numbers of Australians shopping online, deliveries are already surging so it is recommended to do online shopping and post your Christmas gifts early. Check the guide on the Australia Post website for when to post parcels so they arrive in time for Christmas.

Online retailers should provide a timeframe for delivery and if your goods fails to arrive by the timeframe indicated (or within a reasonable amount of time if no timeframe was indicated), your Australian Consumer Law (ACL) rights mean you can ask for a refund or credit.

For goods that don't arrive, you can seek a chargeback from your financial institution if you paid via credit card. If you paid by PayPal you can lodge a dispute for a refund.

The best advice to ensure your Christmas gifts make it under the tree this year, is to shop in local brick and mortar stores or give preference to Western Australia online retailers.

Western Australian shoppers can report a scam on the WA ScamNet website at www.scamnet.wa.gov.au

<ENDS>

★ FIGHT *the* BITE ★



COMMON SYMPTOMS OF ROSS RIVER VIRUS:

- ★ PAINFUL, SWOLLEN JOINTS ★
- ★ PAINFUL, ACHING MUSCLES ★
- ★ SKIN RASH ★ FEVER ★



www.healthywa.wa.gov.au / **FIGHTTHEBITE**



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

"OFF THE BEATEN TRACK" WITH MATTY



98.3 MEEKA FM

Meekatharra, WA

A FAVOURITE TRAVELLING SONG? REQUEST IT FOR THE SHOW.



MONDAYS LUNCH



MEEKATHARRA PHARMACY Christmas closure

WEDNESDAY 21/12/22 8am-10am

THURSDAY 22/12/22 CLOSED

MONDAY 09/01/23 12pm-5pm

We direct you to Meekatharra Hospital located on Savage street for urgent medical treatment while we are closed. Sorry for the inconvenience

Mission Australia

Our services are closed between 23rd December 2022 until the 3rd January 2023 from the Main Office.

Public Tenancy Support Service

Remote School Attendance Strategy

Emergency Relief

Mental Health Support Service

Intensive Family Support Service

Our FDV Response Service will still be running for emergencies 24 hours as normal over the Christmas period.



Christmas / New Year Shire Office Closure

The Shire office will be closed from 4pm Thursday 22nd December 2022 and will reopen at 8am Wednesday 4th January 2023.

For any emergencies please ring the Works & Services Manager on 0409 115 586.

KJ Matthews
Chief Executive Officer





Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety



Consumer Watch Column

Consumer Protection 50-52 Durlacher Street, Geraldton WA 6530
Tel: (08) 9920 9800
Email: candice.evans@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Have your say on family & domestic violence tenancy laws

Family and domestic violence (FDV) is an extremely serious issue in our community, so we need to make sure the right laws are in place to not only support victim-survivors, but to keep them and their children out of harm's way.

An estimated 24,000 Western Australians sought help from specialist homelessness services last year, with 41 per cent needing these services because they were experiencing FDV.

Given we know many of these crimes are occurring in rental properties, the State Government has agreed to review our FDV tenancy laws to see if they need to be fine-tuned.

As part of this review, Consumer Protection has begun seeking feedback from the community on how effective the current laws have been and to assess the impact they have had on affected tenants and landlords.

The FDV tenancy laws under review came into effect on April 2019 and allow tenants fearing for their or their children's safety to end a tenancy agreement early without the need to go to court. Instead, victim-survivors only need to fill out a form giving the landlord at least seven days' notice that they wish to end the tenancy early and provide a family violence report as evidence.

In co-tenancies, victim-survivors have the option to apply to the court to have the perpetrator's name removed from the lease so that they can remain in their rental home. Other reforms included the ability to change locks or upgrade security; prevent or remove tenancy database entries; and resolve any issues related to damage, unpaid rent or bonds.

This community consultation may reveal problems that we may not yet know about and will take into consideration the impact of COVID-19 and the ability of victim-survivors to find alternative accommodation with the current extremely low rental vacancy rate in WA.

The review will focus on whether the laws are working as intended to support affected renters and will also examine how landlords are impacted in areas such as recovering debts owed by tenants and making claims on insurance.

To view the consultation paper – or to take a short online survey – visit the [Consumer Protection website](#) before the Friday 16 December 2022 closing date. More information on the current laws is available at www.safetenancy.wa.gov.au.



You've already got what it takes.

We don't just need ambulance volunteers to respond to emergencies, we need all kinds of volunteers.

There are a lot of roles that keep St John going, and a few of them are probably things you're already good at. We require more volunteers to fill a wide range of roles in Meekatharra. To help us with everything from babysitting, gardening, vehicle maintenance, event organising, clerical duties, driving patients and, of course, first aid response.

We always need help, so to see how people exactly like you can contribute head to stjohnchangelives.com.au or give our Community Paramedic a call on 0437 681 562, or email cp.midwesteast@stjohnwa.com.au

Help keep your ambulance service strong in Meekatharra.

Life goes on.
Volunteer with St John.





Integrated **Chronic** **Disease Care Program**

**Do you have a team that can
assist with your **diabetes**,
cardiovascular disease or
respiratory disease?**



Podiatry | Dietetics | Physiotherapy | Diabetes Education

**Our Team can assist with these services and provide
care co-ordination to assist with all your health
appointments or enquiries.**

**If you suffer from Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease or Respiratory
Disease and would like to make changes to improve your health,
call our Care Coordinators Beryl or Danielle on **0447 268 603****

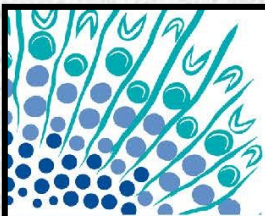




**Wherever you are spending this
holiday season Paulette, Ken, Deanne,
Nicholah and Holly would like to wish
you all a cool and safe
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

**Holiday Closed Times
Youth Focus will be closed
26th December - 3rd January**



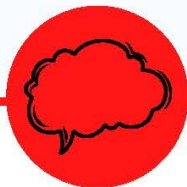


Mental Health Support During the Holiday's

13 YARN

13 92 76

If you, or someone you know, are feeling worried or no good, we encourage you to connect with 13YARN (24 hours/7 days) and talk with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter.



RURALLINK

1800 552 002

Rurallink is an after-hours telephone service for people in rural and regional Western Australia experiencing a mental health crisis.

4.30pm – 8.30am weeknights
24 hours on weekends and public holidays



KID'S HELPLINE

1800 55 1800

Help line for
kids - 5-12
teenagers 13-17 &
Young adults 18-25



SUICIDE CALL BACK SERVICE

1300 659 467

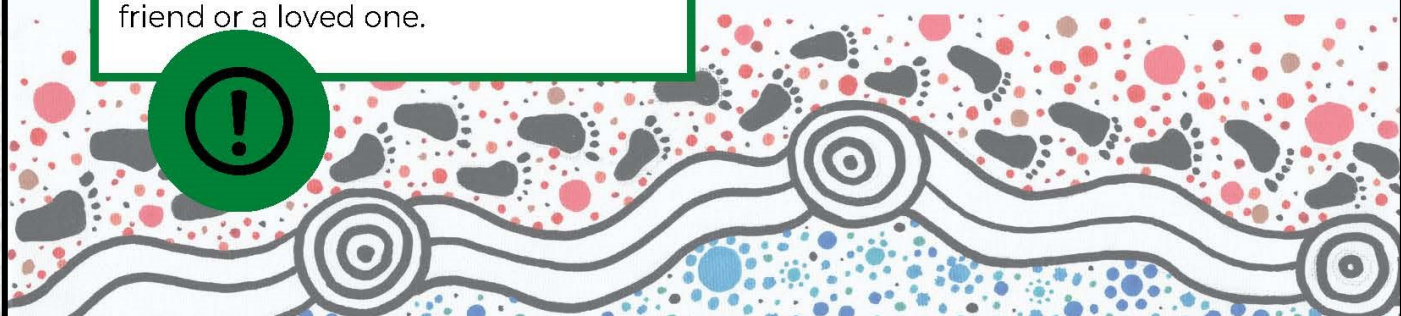
Suicide Call Back Service is a free nationwide service providing 24/7 phone and online counselling to people affected by suicide.

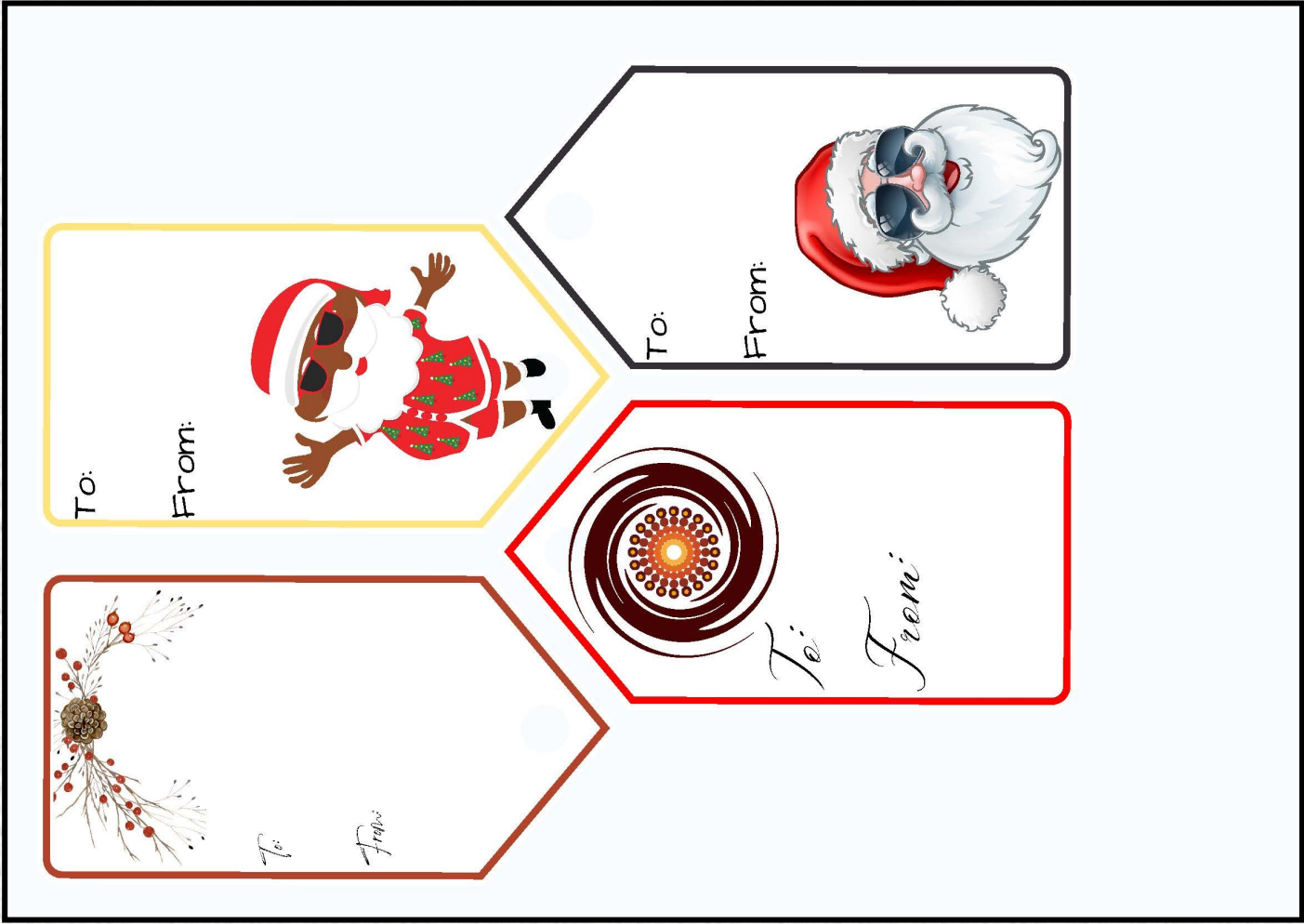
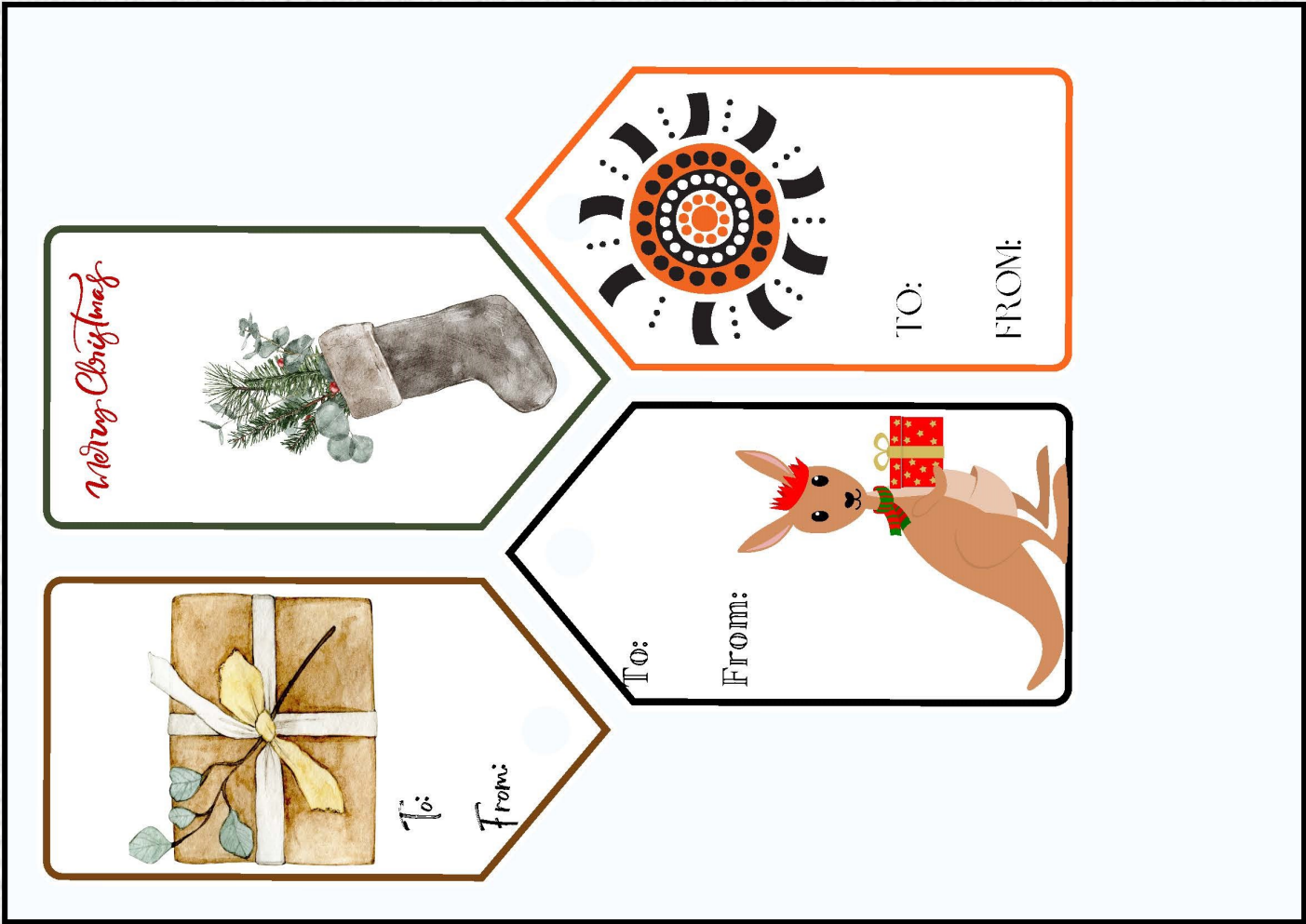


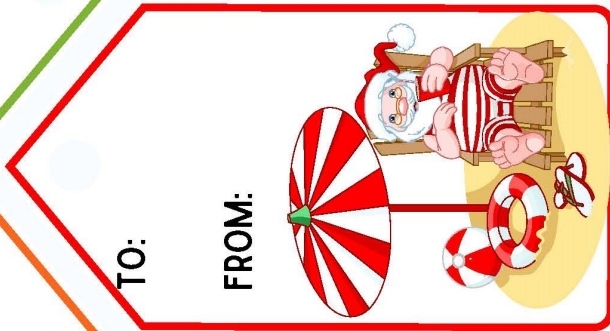
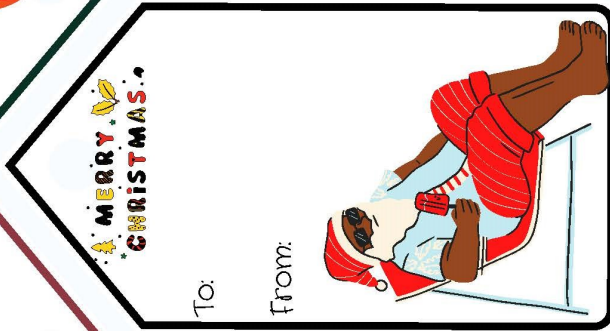
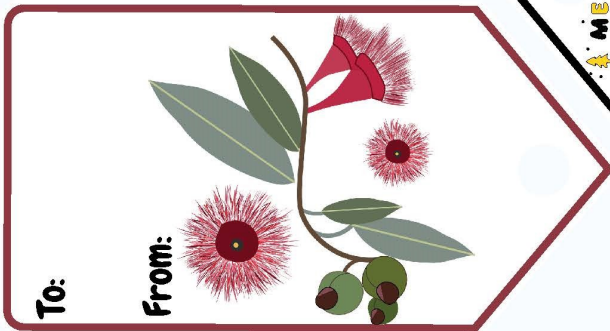
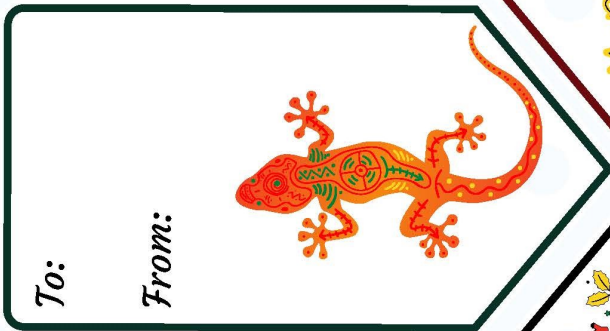
LIFE LINE

13 11 14

Lifeline provides all Australians experiencing a personal crisis with access to 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services. Find out how these services can help you, a friend or a loved one.







To:

From:



To:

From:



To:

From:



To:

From:



To:

From:



Christmas Gift Wrapping

Come and wrap up your presents in time for
Christmas!

Youth Focus Office

All wrapping materials are free

Snacks provided

All Day Wednesday 21st December 8am - 4pm



SIX WAYS TO STAY HEALTHY THIS FESTIVE SEASON

by Alison McAleese, LiveLighter Victoria Campaign Manager and Dietitian

Every year in the week before Christmas, after a month of parties, I have the same conversation with myself: Next year I'm going to think about Christmas earlier and factor in my health.

But before I know it, the week before Christmas arrives and I find myself saying the same thing again...

So this year I'm getting in early. The thing is, when it comes to our health there's always an excuse.

In winter it's too cold to exercise. In summer it's too hot. In [insert month] it's my birthday. At Easter there are family events...

And then there is Christmas. While Christmas is technically just one day and it is a great time to celebrate, all the Christmas parties, functions and dining out can often continue for more than a month.

If you're trying to LiveLighter, don't let the festive season stop you from reaching your health goals. Here are my top tips for staying healthy this holidays.

1. Plan what to eat before heading out

Most party food is high in fat, salt and sugar, and it's hard to keep track of how much finger food we eat. Decide what to eat before you leave the house. If having a small amount of food is harder than having none, have a meal at home first and decide to skip the party food.

2. Bring some healthy snacks

You're probably not the only one looking for a healthy option at this time of year, so why not help yourself and your friends by bringing some delicious healthy snacks. Healthy dips are always popular, as are fresh fruit platters and bite-sized salad filled sandwiches or wraps. For something hot, try mini frittatas or quick homemade chicken pizza. No time to prepare? Pick up some grapes or strawberries on the way.

3. Eat a healthy breakfast

Eating out can often mean a lack of fruit and vegetables and enormous serving sizes. Making sure you eat a healthy breakfast each day can help you reach your two fruit and five vegetables. It will also fill you up so you don't need to eat so much at lunch.

4. Rethink your drinks

Over the pre-Christmas season alcohol is everywhere. Without some planning we can easily end up drinking every day. Plan in advance which days to drink and which to skip and when you do choose to drink, try not to have more than two standard alcoholic drinks per day. Adding some berries, cucumber or mint to still or sparkling water makes a refreshing and healthy summer drink. For more tips to reduce your drinking check out Alcohol. Think Again.

5. Give non-food gifts

If you have a house laden with leftover confectionary, snacks and cakes, Christmas can go on into January. The same is probably true for our families and friends. Think about giving non-food items for Christmas, such as pot plants, flowers, puzzles, magazines and music vouchers.

6. Get active

Walking to the station or a party is a great way to fit in exercise during a very busy period. Call a friend who is also attending and walk there together. If you are organising an event you may be able to plan an activity into it. This could be a picnic at a park including a walk, cycling to a café or restaurant or planning a party with dancing, swimming or even barefoot bowls.

These ideas can bring variety to your festive season and also leave you feeling great in the New Year.

Have a safe and happy Christmas!

<https://livelighter.com.au/news/tips-to-livelighter-through-christmas>



Vale Val Johns

The Meekatharra community would like to express their deepest sympathy to the Johns family of Killara Station on the passing of their wife, mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, Val. A long term resident of the Meekatharra district Val passed away peacefully at home, after a hard fought battle against illness.

May she rest in peace.

★ FIGHT *the* BITE ★

PROTECT YOURSELF

DISEASE-CARRYING MOSQUITOES
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
against

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

www.healthywa.wa.gov.au / **FIGHTTHEBITE**

Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

COUNTRY FAMILIES @ NGALA

Support to families with children from birth to 8 years living in regional,
rural and remote Western Australia



Ngala have partnered with WA Country Health Service (WACHS) to provide free child health parenting information and support to families living in regional, rural or remote WA.

Facebook Group

Join a community of other country families to access parenting information, resources & program updates.
Search: CountryFamilies@Ngala.

Tutorials and Facebook Live Sessions

See recorded and live videos with information for parents with children aged 0 – 8 years.

Online 'Live Chat'

Chat with a Ngala Child Health Nurse via Facebook.
Please check website for session times.

Individual Consultations

30 minute video or phone consults with a Ngala Child Health Nurse for child development information and parenting support.

Country Dads' SMS Service

Receive information and resources via SMS or Email.

Call: 9368 9342

Email: CountryFamilies@ngala.com.au



Supported by the
WA Country Health Service #HealthyCountryKids



To find out more visit

www.ngala.com.au/program/country-services



MEEKATHARRA GAS BOTTLES

ATTENTION HOUSEHOLDERS

BOC/ELGAS ARE CURRENTLY HAVING ISSUES IN THE LACK OF NUMBERS OF EMPTY 45KG HOUSE GAS BOTTLES BEING RETURNED TO THEIR AGENTS ACROSS THE MIDWEST. WE ARE ASKING ALL RESIDENTS IN MEEKATHARRA AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES TO RETURN ANY EMPTY 45KG GAS BOTTLES TO YULELLA AT 755 CONNAUGHTON STREET MEEKATHARRA. PHONE OR EMAIL (08)99801339 – Reception@yulella.org.au TO ARRANGE COLLECTION AROUND TOWN.

THANK YOU KINDLY! 😊



WEDDING NEWS

The Hall family, of Neds Creek Station, celebrated a very special day on 29th October when their youngest daughter and baby sister, Kelly married Bradley Cook.

The weather didn't play as nice as it could have with showers causing some concern around the time of the ceremony, which was held outdoors at the fabulous Mason Mills Gardens in Carmel. However, someone had a word to the gods and the bride and groom were married under cloudy skies but without getting wet. Many people told us that rain on your wedding day is a sign of good luck.

Kelly wore a beautiful ivory A-line dress with a sweeping train and her hair was loose with a simple decoration holding it back off her face. Whilst you can take the girl out of the bush you can't take the bush out of the girl so under her magnificent gown was her new 'Dolly' boots featuring the colours

and butterfly logo of the 'Dolly's Dream' foundation. Her matron of honour and bridesmaids wore long, teal-coloured gowns. A very nervous but proud Dad walked her down the aisle whilst I (with a tear in my eye) and her older brothers Kenneth and Matthew watched.

Brad looked very dapper in his navy suit and cream and tie paired with a white shirt. His best man and groomsmen were just as swish in the same colours but with ties to match the colour of the girl's dresses.

The wedding party was completed by the very cute flower girl and ring bearer.

Following family photos guests gathered for drinks and canapes whilst the bridal party spent time ducking a few more showers during their photo session.



Above: Kelly with her bridesmaids and flower girl

Right: Bride and Groom with Groom's Family

Below: The Hall Family Bride and Groom



The reception was held in a marquee which, fortunately had a roof that closed over and side walls that could be dropped down. Tables were laid out with gorgeous decorations as well as special favours for each guest. These consisted of handmade cookies with their initials and wedding date and a stubby holder with a photo of Kelly and Brad, their names and wedding date on them. As the bridal party arrived the fun began with the DJ playing one song, during which time, the bride and groom attempted to get a photo with each table of guests.

This was followed by a delicious smorgasbord meal so filling no one was able to line up for seconds. Speeches were made by the best man, groomsman, matron of honour, bridesmaid, mother of the bride and the groom's father as well as the groom. All were sincere and funny in equal measure.

Despite being totally uncomfortable in the public eye Clyde stepped up to have a father//daughter dance with his beautiful girl, resulting in a flood of tears from a very proud wife and mother. Brad then claimed his wife for a bridal dance before the rest of the bridal party joined them on the dance floor along with guests.

Much fun was had at the photo booth for the night where photos were pasted into an album for the bride and groom, and guests were invited to write a message alongside their photo. A wonderful and fun memory for the happy couple.

Rather than a traditional wedding cake Brad and Kelly opted for a single tier cake to cut at the wedding and then save for a later occasion whilst delicious cupcakes arranged below the main cake for guests to enjoy or take home in special cake boxes supplied.

There were some interesting antics towards the end of the evening when the DJ played 'Eagle Rock' and many were surprised to find that it's now a thing for the blokes to drop their dacks whilst dancing to it!! I was just amazed they managed to stay on their feet!

Before anyone wanted it the day/night had come to an end and the new Mr and Mrs Cook farewelled their guests and family before heading off to enjoy a couple of nights in a cute cottage in the hills.

Raelene Hall



The happy couple after cutting their cake



Kelly's stunning dress



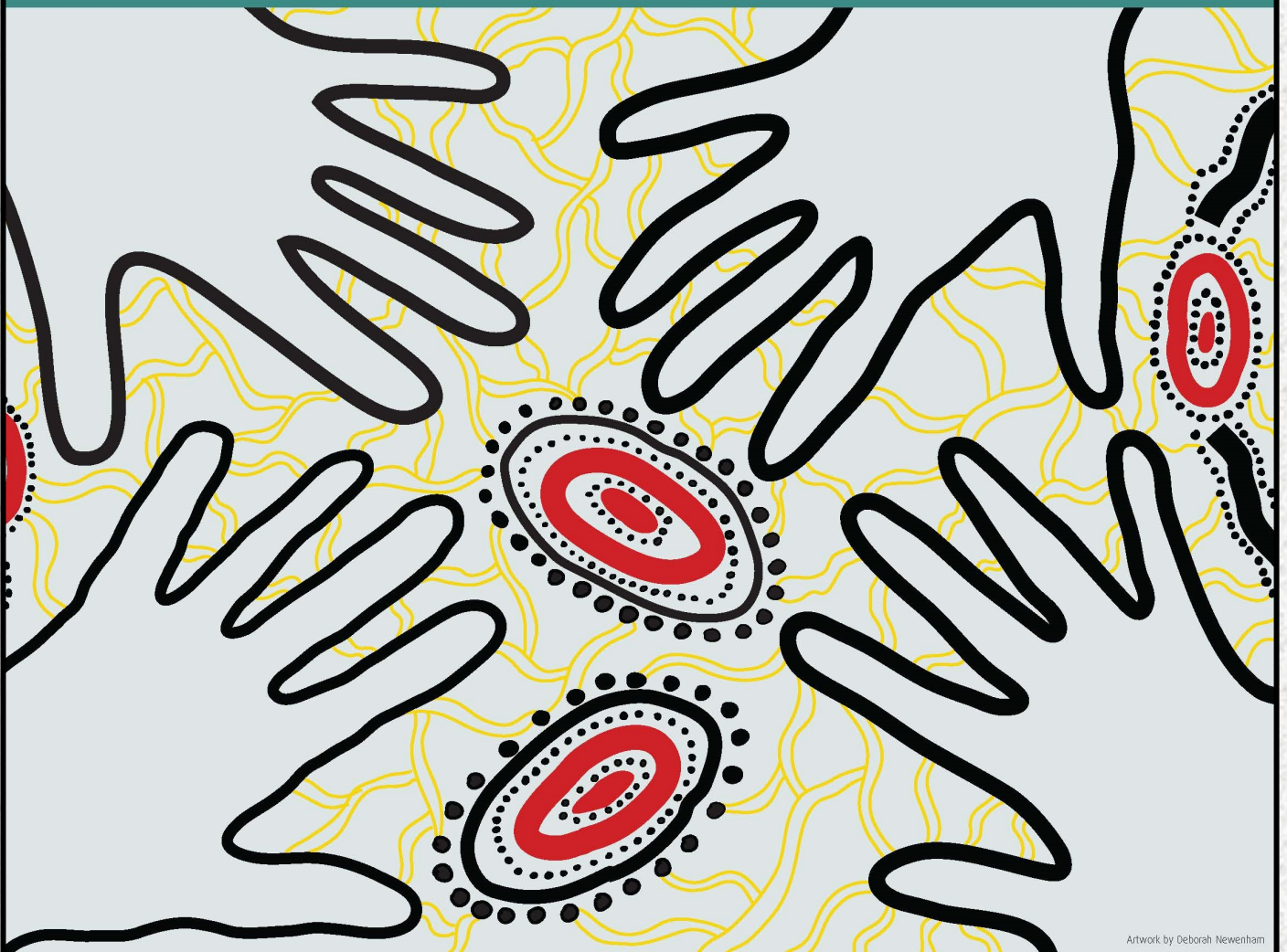
Kelly with her Dad Clyde



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Justice**

Aboriginal Mediation Service

Assisting Aboriginal people to resolve conflict before it escalates to violence or results in court action



Artwork by Deborah Newenham

If you would like more information about the Aboriginal Mediation Service, contact:

Freecall: 1800 045 577 | **Phone:** 9264 6176

Email: aboriginalmediationservice@justice.wa.gov.au

Office hours: 9am - 4:30pm, Monday - Friday (closed public holidays)

www.13yarn.org.au

Available 24/7

Confidential & anonymous

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporters

13 YARN

13 Yarn is the first national support line for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people in crisis. We offer a confidential one-on-one over the phone yarning opportunity and support with a Lifeline trained Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter for mob who are feeling overwhelmed or having difficulty coping. We are here to provide crisis support 24/7 to enable our community to yarn without judgement and provide a culturally safe space to yarn about their needs, worries or concerns.

"We're here to help, call us for a yarn"

13 92 76

Culturally Safe Space

Available 24/7 across Australia from any phone

We listen, without judgement or shame

 **Lifeline**®

This initiative is funded by the Australian Government, Department of Health



Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Social and Emotional Wellbeing, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

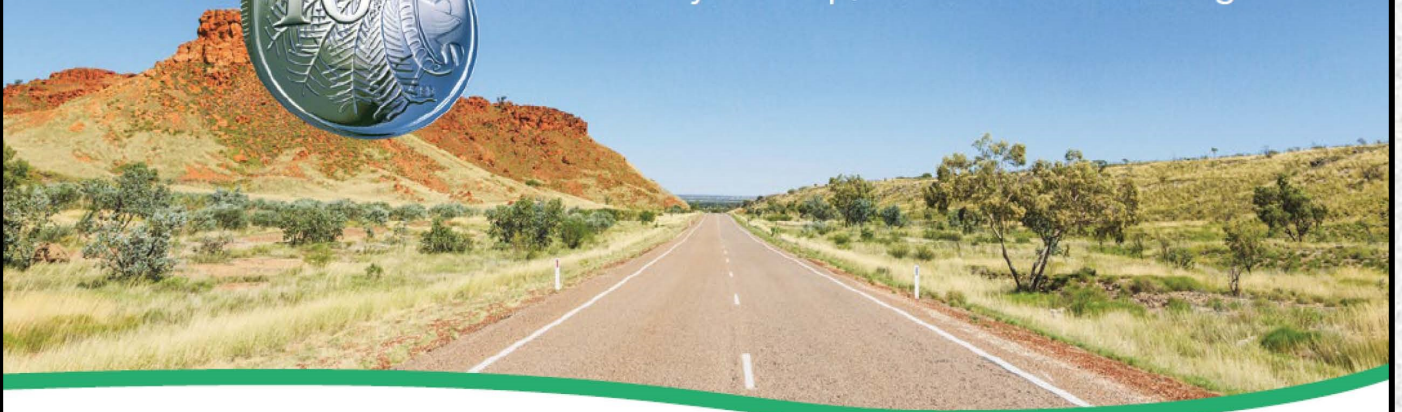
This service has been developed in collaboration with Gaaya Dhuwi



DONATE THE CASH THAT'S IN YOUR CONTAINERS TO **MEEKA GOES GREEN**

We'll get 10 cents for each one.

With your help, we can make a change.



Bring your eligible containers to:

Meeka Goes Green Recycling Centre on Railway Street
Saturdays 9-11am and 24/7 drop off point

Or go to any refund point in WA and use Scheme ID C10286593

✓ **ELIGIBLE CONTAINERS**



Most glass, plastic,
aluminium, steel
and paper-based
cartons between
150mL and 3L.



Visit containersforchange.com.au to find out more

QUIZ NIGHT

We all love a good quiz night! Thanks to everyone who came out to compete. We had eight teams from the community trying to show everyone else that they are the most smart people in town. The first, second and third place winners were so close, only one and a half a point separated them. Airway to Heaven (ambos) came in

first on 66.5, the Meeka Monarch (police) came in second on 66 and the Quizzles (teachers and RFDS) came in third on 65 points. A great effort by everyone involved!

A huge thank you to Peter Clare who was our MC for the evening. He did a great job and was very entertaining.

TEAM NAME	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	SIX	TOTAL
THE SHAN'S	9	4 ¹³	10	6 ¹⁶	7	11 ¹⁶	47
MEEKA MONARCH	14	13 ²¹	13	6 ¹⁷	10	10 ²⁰	66
RED HOT SHIRE PEPPERS	15	7 ²²	11	7 ¹⁸	6	11 ¹⁷	57
SIMPLE MINDS	5	7 ¹²	7	2 ⁹	5	6 ¹¹	32
QUIZZLES	11	9 ²⁰	15	8 ²³	9	13 ²²	65
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE	12	7 ¹¹	9	6 ¹⁵	7	10 ¹⁷	51
AIRWAY TO HEAVEN	15	7 ¹⁵	12	7 ¹⁷	9	15 ²⁸	66.5
ROCK BOTTOM	9	7 ¹⁶	9	5 ¹⁴	8.5	11 ¹⁹	49.5





1. Are unregistered vehicles allowed to be ridden/driven in town as long as they're not on the roads (e.g. just in the laneways)? (5 points)
 - a. Yes, you can ride anywhere you want
 - b. No, laneways are public roads too
2. Which piece of legislation controls off-road vehicles on public land? (3 points)
 - a. The Hoon at your Leisure Act 1983
 - b. The Control of Vehicles (Off-road areas) Act 1978
 - c. The Need for Speed Act 2000
 - d. The Bush Riding and Quad Bikes Regulation 1993
3. Can unlicensed off-road vehicles be ridden/driven on private land with the owner's consent, even if the driver doesn't have a driver's licence, providing the driver is old enough under the Act? (3 points)
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
4. What are the most commonly seen injuries or conditions the Meeka ambulance volunteers attend to when off-road vehicle accidents happen? (3 points)
 - a. Anaphylaxis and other allergic reactions
 - b. Spinal injuries, fractures, lacerations and abrasions
 - c. Strokes and heart attacks
 - d. Childbirth
 - e. None of the above, the ambos have never had to attend to any accidents caused by off-road vehicles
5. What's the penalty under the Act for causing undue or excessive noise when riding/driving an off-road vehicle? (4 points)
 - a. Nothing, it's perfectly legal to ride it wherever and however you want
 - b. Slap on the wrist
 - c. \$200
 - d. \$2,000
6. Who should you call if you see someone ride an unlicensed off-road vehicle in town (especially if they ride it in a dangerous manner or cause a nuisance)? (5 points)
 - a. Ghostbusters
 - b. The Police on 9918 7120 or 131 444
 - c. The Ambos because an accident is waiting to happen
 - d. The Shire
 - e. Chuck Norris

Answers: 1 (b) 2 (b) 3 (a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (b)

How did you go?

23 points: well done! You're a champion and a pillar of the community. Keep it up.

10-20 points: Good stuff! You got most things right. What got you stumped? The childbirth answer?

5-9 points: Try again!

0-4 points: Mmmhh... Maybe don't believe everything you read on Meeka Mob.

Not sure about off-road vehicles? Here's some info.

What are off-road vehicles?

Off-road vehicles here mean motorbikes, trail bikes, quad bikes. Technically under the Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978 “off-road vehicle means a vehicle which is not licensed, deemed to be licensed, or the subject of a permit granted, under the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012”

Where can I ride them?

Off-road vehicles may be ridden on private land with consent from the owner. There are no Permitted Off-Road Vehicle areas within the Shire of Meekatharra. The closest one is in Geraldton. There's a map you can check for all permitted and prohibited areas, simply use your smart phone to scan the QR code below:



Off road vehicles can be used only in certain specified areas (Permitted Areas), or on private land with the owner's or occupier's consent

Does my vehicle need to be registered? Do I need a driver's licence? How young is too young?

Off road vehicles must be registered unless you're riding on private property with the owner's consent

Off road vehicles must comply with prescribed safety and noise standards

Children under eight years of age are not allowed to drive off road vehicles (except on private land where the owner's consent has been given).

Below is a handy chart showing whether the vehicle needs to be registered and whether you need a driver's licence:

Private property or club track	ORV area	Events	Public roads
Driver's licence not required		Driver's licence required	
No registration			
Off Road Vehicle registration			
Class B Conditional vehicle registration			
Class A full road registration			

What should I do if I see someone riding around town in a dangerous manner or causing excessive noise and dust?

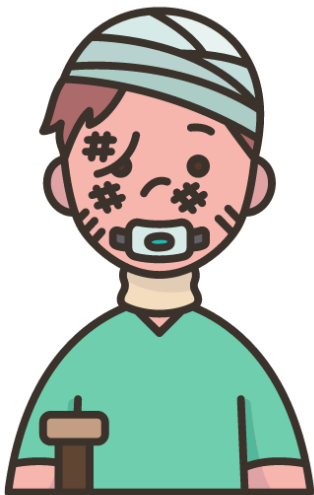
If you see an unlicensed off-road vehicle being ridden in town, phone the Police on 9918 7120 or 131 444. They may be attending to more urgent calls at the time, but if you give them information such as the description of the driver (or name, if known), what kind of bike/vehicle it was, how fast and where they were riding or how long they've been riding there, whether they were wearing a helmet, how many people were on the bike, their approximate age, and where you believe the people reside - then the police have better chances of locating the driver or owner of the bike later on and have a chat with them. Police will try the educating approach first before going down the path of issuing a fine or seizing the vehicle.



The Shire does not have any nominated/authorised persons to control off-road vehicles. Police Officers can issue fines and penalties and can also seize and detain vehicles until such times as they may be dealt with according to the law.

If somebody has crashed their bike and is seriously hurt, call 000 and provide first aid until the ambulance arrives. Spinal injuries and bleeding are common so try to control the bleeding (if serious) and keep the patient as still as possible to prevent further injury.

What are the impacts of riding off-road vehicles in town?



One of the most serious risks of riding off-road vehicles in town is the health and safety for the people riding the bikes. It's easy to crash into objects, other vehicles, dogs or people causing serious injury to the rider (from minor cuts, to bleeding, broken bones and all the way to spinal and potentially fatal injuries) as well as damage and injury to the other person/vehicle/dog. Nobody wants to get mowed over by a hoon.

Over the years the Shire has received numerous complaints from the public about dust and noise caused by off-road vehicles being ridden in town. It's a major nuisance and reduces the liveability and enjoyment of Meekatharra for everyone affected. Unabating nuisances can cause mental ill-health, poor relationships within the community, anger and frustration.



People can get fined. Penalties under Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978:

- Using an off-road vehicle outside a Permitted Area \$500
- Using an off-road vehicle in a dangerous condition \$500
- Causing undue or excessive noise \$200
- Allowing a person under eight years of age to have control of an off-road vehicle unless on private land by consent \$200.
- Not wearing a helmet or seat-belt (whichever applies) \$400-\$800

A Court may also order the confiscation of a vehicle for up to one year. Authorised officers appointed under the Act have the authority to request your name and address and to issue infringement notices for offences under this Act.

Unregistered vehicles may be impounded by any authorised officer if the ownership of the vehicle cannot be proved.

So, what's the solution?

Ride only where you're allowed to ride (in Meeka the best solution is to seek permission from a land owner of the vast areas of bush surrounding our town – there's a lot of space, don't ride in town).

Make sure your off-road vehicles are maintained and comply with safety and noise standards

Wear a helmet or seatbelt (depending on the type of vehicle)

Be old enough to ride/drive the vehicle yourself.

Be respectful of country. Leave gates the way you found them, leave native animals and livestock in peace, be careful to leave vegetation intact, stay well away from other people or campers, stick to existing tracks.

When going out bush to ride (having sought permission of the land owner) make sure to let people know where you're going, take enough water, fuel, food, phone or satellite phone, and slip slop slap. Make it a fun day out bush!



MEEKATHARRA DUST

ISSUE NO. 146 NOV /DEC, 2002 PRICE \$1.20 incl. GST

THE COMMUNITY NEEDS YOUR HELP!



A very successful public meeting was held on Wednesday 20th November to discuss the re-establishment of the Meekatharra Safer WA Committee with over seventy residents and agency heads attending to provide support.

A follow up meeting was held on the 4th December to formalise the Committee with the following people being elected to represent the community on crime issues in Meekatharra:

Chairperson: Dennis (Splinter) Shaw
Deputy Chair: Lorraine Van Den Oever
Secretary: Shire Administration (CEO)

Committee Members: Keith Mouritz, Mavis Curley, Cheryl Smith, Irene Allison, Danielle Schoen, Phil Curley, Heather Jones and Tom Hutchinson.

All Government agencies in town are able to provide an exofficio member of the Committee, the only difference being is

that they do not have voting rights.

The Committee will be meeting fortnightly (first and third Wednesday of each month) at the start to ensure actions and ideas raised by the community are implemented as soon as possible.

The Committee would like to stress that any action or program implemented will take time however with the full support of the community and Government agencies progress will be made in reducing the level of crime in our town.

Community members with ideas are encouraged to contact any committee member or attend the open public sessions scheduled to be held before each fortnightly meeting.

Please keep an eye out for news as it comes to hand or as posted on the notice board, in the Dust and over the local radio station.

Commercial Hotel Meekatharra

Opened daily from noon til late

Excellent counter meals daily:

Lunch: 12 noon – 1:30pm
Monday to Saturday

Dinner: 6pm-8pm
Sunday to Saturday



Air conditioned Dining / Function Room

Suitable for Meetings, Conferences & Dinners

Accommodation Includes:

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Fax: 99811021

Emails: commieh@westnet.com.au

77 Main Street, Meekatharra, 6642



www.commercialmeeka.com.au

KIDS CORNER



Christmas Word Search

Can you find the words hidden in the puzzle?



C	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E	R	D	C
H	X	L	P	N	H	F	H	O	S	T	S
J	P	I	C	A	R	O	L	S	I	R	T
I	O	U	N	T	I	L	O	T	C	I	O
N	M	Y	M	G	S	A	N	T	A	C	C
G	S	J	U	M	T	O	H	K	I	K	K
L	T	B	G	S	M	E	R	R	Y	O	I
E	L	F	B	O	A	N	D	K	R	T	N
R	R	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	E	G
P	T	R	A	E	I	C	T	T	R	I	S
D	F	C	O	N	F	H	S	A	A	E	N
R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	X	Y	E	E

CANDY CANE

JINGLE

CAROLS

JOY

CHRISTMAS

SANTA

REINDEER

ELF

STOCKINGS

MERRY

PRESENTS

TREE



Dinner

SATAY CHICKEN

3
serves
of veg in
every
portion

Ingredients

- ▲ 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- ▲ 1 teaspoon grated ginger
- ▲ 3 teaspoons salt-reduced soy sauce
- ▲ Ground black pepper
- ▲ 400g chicken breast, trimmed of fat, sliced thinly
- ▲ 1 cup rice
- ▲ 2 tablespoons crunchy peanut butter (no-added-salt or sugar)
- ▲ 400g can reduced-fat coconut milk
- ▲ Olive or canola oil spray
- ▲ 2 onions, diced
- ▲ 2 sticks celery, trimmed, sliced diagonally
- ▲ ½ cauliflower, cut into florets
- ▲ 2 teaspoons curry powder
- ▲ Lebanese cucumber, sliced diagonally, to serve

Method

1. Combine garlic, ginger, soy sauce, pepper and chicken in a small bowl and set aside to marinate.
2. Prepare rice according to packet instructions.
3. Spoon peanut butter into a cup with a splash of the coconut milk, stir well to combine then add the rest of the coconut milk and set aside.

4. Spray a non-stick wok or large frying pan with oil and heat to high. Add half the chicken and stir-fry for 2 minutes until browned but not cooked through. Remove chicken and set aside and repeat with remaining chicken.
5. Respray pan, add onion and stir-fry for 5 minutes over medium-high heat, stirring often until softened.
6. Add celery and cauliflower, stir-fry a further 5 minutes.
7. Sprinkle in curry powder and cook for 1 minute until fragrant.
8. Add coconut/peanut mix and chicken (including any juices and the leftover marinade) to the pan. Add a splash of water now if you like more sauce. Bring up to a simmer and cook for 2 minutes until heated through.
9. Divide rice and chicken satay between plates; serve garnished with cucumber slices.

Hint

Cover dish, refrigerate and marinate chicken for as long as time permits, from 5 minutes to overnight.

Variations

Substitute chicken for lean pork, beef or tofu. Serve with cauliflower 'rice'.

Preparation time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 20 minutes

Serves: 4

LIVELIGHTER

**Accommodation Need for
Variety Bash**

Variety Bash are coming through town on
August 14th, 2023.

Three men are looking for
accommodation for the evening.

Please contact Peter Cahill on
0418 680 360 or
pacahill@gadprojects.com.au if you are
able to supply accommodation for the
night.

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

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**

Camping or caravanning with your dog in northern WA? Protect them against the serious dog disease ehrlichiosis

As the holiday season approaches, it is easy to get caught up in the excitement of organising a well-deserved break with the kids and furry friends. Before packing up the camping gear and loading up the caravan, it is important to remember our canine companions need our help to ensure they are protected while they wander out yonder with us.

If you are planning on travelling to northern WA with your dog, remember to protect them against the brown dog tick and reduce the risk of them getting sick from ehrlichiosis (*E. canis*).



The best ways to protect your dog include:

- ✓ Treating them with an effective brown dog tick prevention product such as a tick repellent collar or spot on treatment to prevent the tick biting them.
- ✓ Also use a brown dog tick control product such as tablet or chew so that it kills any ticks that do attach to your dog. Speak to your vet about the most suitable product/s.
- ✓ If you cannot avoid tick-infested areas, be aware of ehrlichiosis signs: high temperature, tiredness, reduced appetite, weight loss, runny nose or eyes, & unusual bleeding or bruising.
- ✓ If your dog begins to show signs of ehrlichiosis while you are travelling or on your return, contact your vet immediately.

For more information, visit <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/ehrlichiosis>. To report signs of ehrlichiosis, call 1800 675 888.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
28 November KindiLink 10am-12pm Exercise Classes Hall 5pm	29 November	30 November KindiLink 11am-1pm Containers for Change 12:30pm-4:30pm Adults Sports Indoor Cricket Centre 6pm	1 December	2 KindiLink 10am-12pm	3 Containers for Change 8am-12pm Meeka Goes Green Recycling 9am-11am 	4
5 KindiLink 10am-12pm Exercise Classes Hall 5pm	6	7 KindiLink 11am-1pm Containers for Change 12:30pm-4:30pm Adults Sports Indoor Cricket Centre 6pm	8	9 KindiLink 10am-12pm Town Christmas Party 4pm Town Hall 	10 Containers for Change 8am-12pm Meeka Goes Green 9am-11am Christmas Markets 9:30am-1pm Lloyds Plaza	11
12 KindiLink 10am-12pm Exercise Classes Hall 5pm	13	14 Christmas Movie Night 6pm Town Hall  KindiLink 11am-1pm Containers for Change 12:30pm-4:30pm	15	16 Ordinary Council Meeting 2pm	17 Containers for Change 8am-12pm Meeka Goes Green Recycling 9am-11am	18
19 Exercise Classes Hall 5pm	20	21 Youth Focus Gift Wrapping Day  Containers for Change 12:30pm-4:30pm Adults Sports Indoor Cricket Centre 6pm	22 Shire Office, Youth Centre, Kids Zone and Depot Closed from 22nd of December at 4pm until 4th of January 2023 at 8am	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day 
26 Boxing Day Public Holiday	27 Public Holiday	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve 	1 January New Years Day 