



# Meekatharra Dust

JANUARY 2023 | ISSUE NO.357

COST \$2.50







**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](mailto: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
<b>Full Page</b> <b>27cmx18cm</b>	\$74.05	\$52.10
<b>Half Page</b> <b>13.5cmx18cm</b>	\$43.10	\$26.70
<b>Quarter Page</b> <b>13.5cmx9cm</b>	\$24.65	\$16.50
<b>Eighth Page</b> <b>9cmx6.75cm</b>	\$18.50	\$13.95

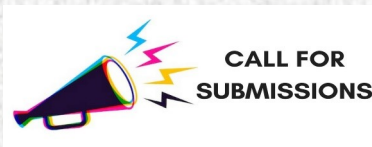
## Calling for Submissions

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](mailto: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](http://meekashire.wa.gov.au)





# MEEKA COMMUNITY AWARDS

## AWARDS CEREMONY

Awards Ceremony to announce the winners and celebrate the nominees

**FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA**

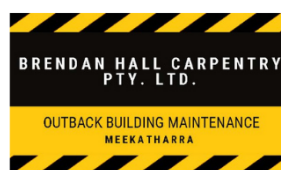
**THURSDAY 26TH JANUARY 2023**

**10AM AT WELCOME PARK, MAIN STREET**

Continue the fun with  
Lunch at the Pool 11am-2pm  
**FREE ENTRY**



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY





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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year! I hope the start of 2023 has been delightful and relaxing for you.

The Meeka Community Awards is happening soon! All the nominees have been notified and the awards ceremony to announce the winners of each category is on the 26th of January 2023. We are very keen to acknowledge and celebrate those who do good within the community. The ceremony starts at 10am at Welcome Park followed by a morning tea. The Pool is open from 11am with free entry and lunch.

Rhyme Time is back on for those with kids 0-4 years old, held every Wednesday, 10am in the Shire Library. Completely free to attend for everyone and is a great way to have some fun with your child. During the session there are stories, songs and nursery times all run by Raelene Hall.

The Men's and Women's Groups run by Youth Focus are back on this year. Held every second week at the Youth Focus Office. Check in with the staff for more information.

The Meeka Wellbeing Videos are ready for viewing, you can find them on the Shire of Meekatharra YouTube channel, more information on page 30.

The Youth Services team are back in full swing running programs Monday-Friday from 10am-8pm, with activities for everyone. More information on page 8.

Since it has been so hot make sure you take advantage of the pool! Open everyday, it is a great way to cool down and relax. Check out the Meekatharra War Memorial Swimming Pool's Facebook page for updates or page 25.

*The Editor*





# CEO COUNCIL MESSAGE

A Happy New Year to the community of Meekatharra and welcome to the January 2023 edition of *The Dust* CEO Council Message Report that provides information for all residents regarding the Council ordinary meeting that was held on the 16th of December 2022 as well as the Health, Building and Town Planning Committee meeting that was held on the same day. Council also held its Audit Exit meeting for the 2021/22 year with Councils auditors on the same day.

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 a snapshot 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 16 December 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 continue to progress whereby:

- ◇ Lions Park – Draft design concept was presented at the November 2022 Health, Building & Town Planning (HBTP) Committee meeting where the Committee requested changes be made to the bottom portion of the park. The landscape architect implemented these changes and will present revised/final concept at the January 2023 HBTP meeting for formal adoption by Council. Grant applications and procurement process

to start in late January 2023 with park development expected over the cooler 2023 months.

- ◇ Swimming Pool Basin and Toddler Pool Works – Item presented to Council for the issuing of the Request for Tender. Tender to close in February 2023 with Council to decide on tender outcome in March and contract to be signed in April with works due to commence in July 2023.
- ◇ Entry Wall Statements – Design: MDHS students working on aboriginal artwork as part of the design. Wall: Purchase Order has been issued to Shear Zone Services.
- ◇ Median Strip – Mural Design: Concrete: Two quotes were received earlier this year from the concrete panel (current at the time) for rebuilding the strips and traffic islands (including demolition, concrete surfacing, kerbing and traffic management).

Any member of the community can contact the Community Development & Services Manager for further information regarding any of the above projects and/or enquire how they can get involved.

## **Items from the Shire of Meekatharra Ordinary Meeting 16 December 2022**

### **Item 9.3.1 – Crown Land Tenure – Cashman's Tyre Disposal Landfill**

*That Council advise the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage that it supports Mr Longmuir's request for substitute Crown land tenure to be granted for the portion of Mount Padbury Pastoral Lease presently subject to Mining Lease M51/580 to facilitate the continued operation of the tyre disposal site. Further Council does not have any objections to Mr Longmuir's request to eventually convert a general lease to fee simple freehold.*

At the request of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Council has agreed to the application by Mr Ronald Longmuir to convert his current lease status as per the above resolution.

### **Item 9.3.2 – Town Sport Oval Shared Use Agreement**



*That Council:*

1. Approve the signing of the 'Licence Agreement for the Shared Use of Facilities for Sporting and Recreational Purposes at Meekatharra District High School' under Common Seal; and

2. Authorise the write off of \$34,360.67 in outstanding invoices for the Department of Education (debtor D1) to reflect accurate town sports oval costs for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 years and increase GL 0555 (Sundry Debtor Write Off) by \$35,000.

The above resolution finalizes the long outstanding issue of having a proper Agreement in place for the 'shared use' of the Meekatharra Oval between Council and the Department of Education.

#### Item 9.4.1 – 2023 Outback Festival – Pre-Budget Allocation

*That Council authorise a pre-budget allocation for the 2023/24 financial year of \$110,000 for the GL Code CE1 Meeka Festival.*

The above resolution recognises the success of the Meekatharra Outback Festival by approving budget allocation in the 2022/23 year to continue supporting the Outback Festival.

#### **Further Information Snippets**

- ◇ Audit exit meeting and 2021/22 Annual Report – Council held its 2021/22 audit exit meeting with its appointed Auditors (William Buck Accountants & Advisors) that will now all the 2021/22 Annual Report and Financial Statements to be presented to the community.
- ◇ Wiluna Meekatharra Road (Goldfields Highway) – as advised in the previous Dust edition, the 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. The CEO's of both Councils met with the Member for North West Central (Mem Beard MLA) at Parliament House in early December 2022 to further progress the matter and received a positive outcome from the Member. The Member for Mining and Pastoral (Peter Foster MLC) has also been assisting in the matter and has responded positively in representing both Councils concerns to the Minister. Unfortunately, the office for the Minister for Transport did not respond to numerous requests to hold a meeting.

- ◇ Landor Meekatharra Road Works – Council will commence further sealing of circa 6kms on the Landor Meekatharra Road at Moorarie (Murchison River) crossing in February this year.

- ◇ 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 Environmental Health Services. Bill has provided this service for over 20 years to the Shire's 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 endeavors.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for Saturday the 21st of January 2023 and the next *CEO Council Message* column will appear in the next edition of The Dust in early February. Until then bye for now!

**KJ Matthews – CEO**



# YOUTH SERVICES

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

4-31 JANUARY 2023

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10am 1pm	Music @ Youth Centre	Drop In @ Youth Centre	Art & Craft @ Youth Centre	Drop In @ Youth Centre	Sports @ Youth Centre
2pm 5pm	Capture the Flag @ Indoor Cricket Centre	Dodgeball @ Indoor Cricket Centre	Cooking @ Youth Centre	Cricket @ Indoor Cricket Centre	Movie @ Youth Centre
6pm 8pm	Street Hockey & Drop In @ Youth Centre	Football @ Oval	12+ Game Night @ Youth Centre	Basketball @ Oval	13+ Movie Night @ Youth Centre

2pm-5pm  
Everyday  
Pool



shire of  
**meekatharra**  
a golden prospect



Meekatharra  
Youth Services



# 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*



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](mailto: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](http://farego.wa.gov.au)

Terms and conditions apply.

[farego.wa.gov.au](http://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

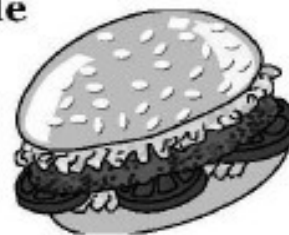
**Ph: 9981 1151**



**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**







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



## REGIONAL COLUMN

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

4 January 2022

**With Senior Regional Officer for Mid West Candice Evans**

### **Post-Christmas gift returns and gift card rules**

With the season of giving now over, many consumers will be considering returning their unwanted Christmas gifts or putting their new gift card in a drawer to spend later.

Under the Australian Consumer Law (ACL), consumers have certain rights when it comes to gifts that are faulty, unsafe, not as described or were not delivered in time.

If a gift is faulty, unsafe or not as described, Australian retailers must offer a remedy such as a refund, replacement or repair, even if it was on sale.

Generally though, proof of purchase is required, such as a receipt or credit card statement from the gift giver. Some retailers may offer a refund or credit without proof of purchase as a gesture of goodwill, but this not a requirement by law.

If you plan to return unwanted gifts such as a toy your child may already have or a shirt that doesn't fit properly, this is considered to be a "change of mind", which falls outside of the ACL. In this situation, retailers are under no obligation to offer a refund, store credit or exchange, so it is best to check their return policy.

If returning a gift, the original packaging should be included where possible unless the gift was faulty or breaks after use.

If you received a gift card for Christmas, make sure to check the expiry date. By law, a minimum expiry period of three years is required on most gift cards. Three years is a long time though, so consider using it before you put it in a drawer and forget about it. You also can't be certain the retailer will still be around in three years' time.

Finally, if a gift failed to turn up in time for Christmas, you may be entitled to a remedy but it is best to contact the retailer to resolve the issue first before lodging a complaint with Consumer Protection.

If post-Christmas consumer issues can't be resolved with the retailer, you can lodge a formal complaint on the [Consumer Protection website](http://www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au). Enquiries can be made by email [consumer@dmirs.wa.gov.au](mailto:consumer@dmirs.wa.gov.au) or by calling 1300 30 40 54.

<ENDS>





# 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 Kalgah 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-reliant 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 camels, sending them sliding towards the river. Whilst in Tasmania a washed out track required the help of the SES to assist and encourage the camels 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](http://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...







**JOIN US  
FOR  
RHYME TIME  
AT THE LIBRARY**

**10 AM TO 10.30 AM**

**WEDNESDAYS**

**0-4 YEARS OLD**

**BRING YOUR LITTLE ONES ALONG FOR**

**RHYMES**

**STORIES**

**SONGS**







## Men's Group

Young Meeka men are invited to come to the  
Youth Focus building on Main Street  
every  
second Monday starting at 6pm

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

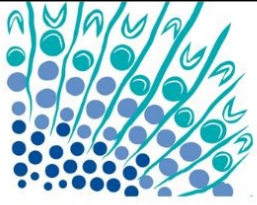
***This group is for young men only***

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



In partnership with the Shire of Meekatharra and proudly supported by West Australian Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA)





# WOMENS GROUP

Every Second Tuesday 6pm-8pm at  
YOUTH FOCUS

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 444 626





# CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wow, the 2022 Christmas Party was a big one! The whole town came together to see another year off and of course see Santa.

The school started off the evening with their end of year presentations. Congratulations to all the students on their awards and on the amazing presentations done by the primary school classes. The students and teachers did a great job. The students were surprised by gifts donated by a school in Perth, each student received a present to put under the Christmas Tree.

Afterwards, Santa came out to hand out presents and see all the kids of Meeka. Thanks to the Youth Services team who

helped Santa get all the way from the North Pole. Santa had a present for each child and Asharnta took photos as the presents were handed out. Santa was joined by some Elves who helped Santa on his trip to Meeka.

While the kids were opening presents Youth Focus and the CRC were doing crafts, decorating cookies and making boxes to put chocolates in! It was a delicious addition to the evening.

Yulella had a fabulous donation of clothes and hygiene products which were handed out to each family.

To end the evening Mission Australia did a colour run and water fight. We closed off the street and the fight began!

There was colour everywhere, the kids had a great time.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the evening—it was a blast!

















# 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](mailto: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](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au) or look up current Fire Danger ratings and bushfires on [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://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](https://dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfire)

or contact DFES Community Preparedness:  
[Community.Preparedness@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto: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?**





## 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](http://www.outbackfamilyhistory.com.au)

Our library of information and photographs

The Outback Family History blog:

[www.outbackfamilyhistoryblog.com](http://www.outbackfamilyhistoryblog.com)

Stories of people and places

WA Virtual Miners Memorial website:

[www.wavmm.com](http://www.wavmm.com)

A profile page for every person



[in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/outbackfamilyhistory) @OutbackFamilyHistory | Email: [moyasharp@westnet.com.au](mailto:moyasharp@westnet.com.au)



## 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](http://www.meekashire.wa.gov.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.







# 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 5 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: STEVE SMITH OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

## How long have you been volunteering for the Faries?

For 7 years now.

## What made you start volunteering?

I wanted to do something other than just go to work and go home every day. Meeka is a small community, I wanted to chuck my stuff in and contribute. The calls you go to are always different so it's very interesting.

## What do you do as part of your role?

As the Captain I'm the Officer in Charge, I attend most jobs (though that's dependent on volunteer availability – people don't have to turn up at all jobs.)

Part of my role is to keep the brigade together, make sure everyone is happy, retain volunteers.

## What do you like most about it?

It may sound strange but I really enjoy getting calls, especially when it's for proper jobs where you get to use your skills. The feeling that you've done something... Knowing that you were able to help someone in what is sometimes the worst day of their life or a very traumatic experience (e.g. being trapped in a car after a crash).

I also really enjoy mixing with the crew. The other volunteers are great. It's a great crew and everyone is keen to turn up. We haven't always had that but morale is great.

## What's the worst aspect?

What I find frustrating is when people sign up, you put them through all the paperwork, the induction, the training, get them their PPE and then they never turn up again. It's almost like some people just want that notch in their belt to say they're a fire but in order to be a

volunteer truly you actually do need to turn up and volunteer.

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

There are lots of different stories, not sure I can repeat them here, haha. One time the ambos couldn't get a crew so we turned out to help someone with backpain. They told us to "go away" (other language used that can't be repeated here) as they wanted the ambos, not the fires. So we just said "OK no worries, see ya" and walked away. Suddenly the patient's tone of voice changed dramatically and they did want our help after all. That was quite funny.

I've had some "pinch myself" moments too, for example a large scrub fire on McCleary Street during my first year as a fire or some of the bigger car and truck crashes we turn out to. It's all a bit unreal sometimes.

And then of course there's the annual Christmas lolly runs where we're the sleigh for Santa when he comes to visit. It's great to drive him around town and give out lollies to all the





kids. We just can't put the tinsel on the truck too early in case we get a callout; that would look a bit silly.

**What's something people don't know or should know about volunteering with the Fire Brigade or volunteering in general?**

The model is "do what you can to the best of your ability". You don't need to be Sylvester Stallone or some big, fit guy. We also have small, slender people and have lots of different roles for different people and abilities.

If you don't think you can do a particular job we give you something else to do that suits you better.

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

We're doing good at the moment but of course always need more brains and ideas. If you're interested or want to have a look just come along on Tuesdays 6pm – we're generally here (if you see cars parked out the front of the Fire Station at that time just pop in). Have a yarn, we'll show you around and can go from there. Just show up.

The great thing about it too is that it's transferrable to other towns. All the training and qualifications go with you. So even if you're in Meeka just for a limited time, you can start off here and then take it with you to your next location.

Thank you for all you do, Steve!



# 2021 MEEKA CENSUS FACTS

*Volunteers have decreased  
from 81 people in 2016 to  
only 67 people in 2021*

**The median age  
decreased from 37 in  
2016 to 32 in 2021**





## ★ 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](http://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.



# WELLBEING VIDEOS

Thanks to the Western Australian Primary Health Alliance the Shire was able to get the team from Health Communication Resources (HCR) to come to town and create videos on how to keep mentally healthy.

The videos premiered at the Christmas movie night held in December and were a big hit. It was great to watch the videos for the first time with those who were a part of the project and made everything happen.

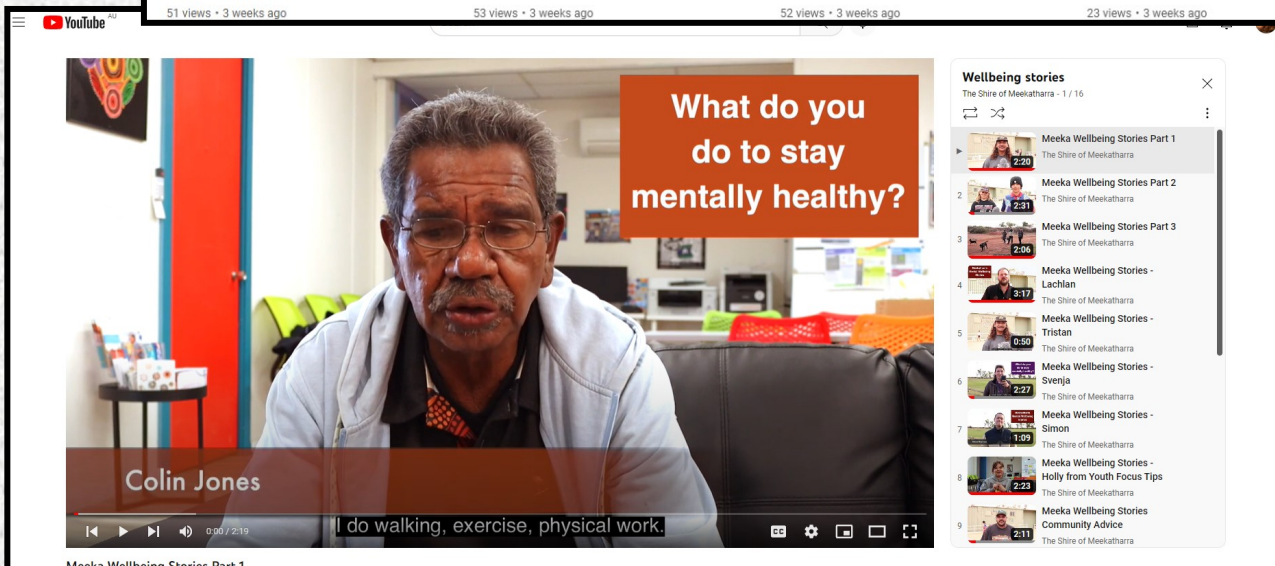
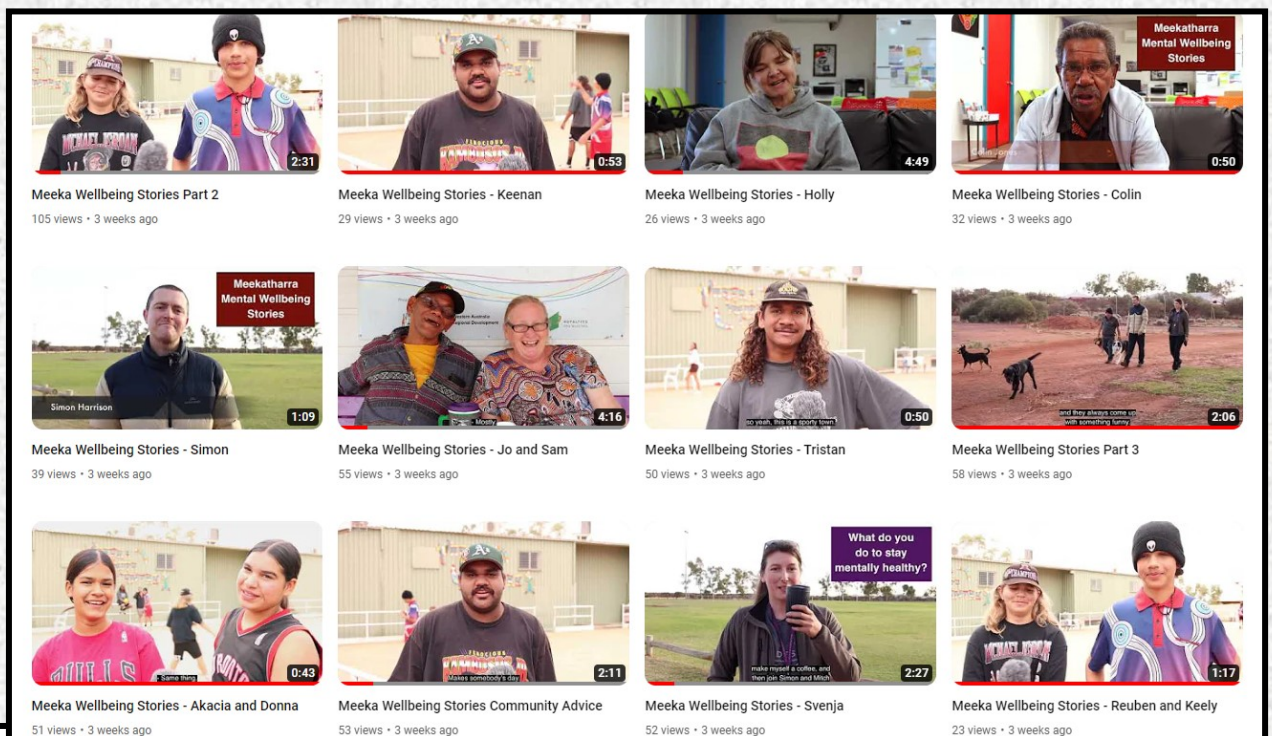
The HCR team spent two days in Meeka during September 2022 speaking to lo-

cals about their mental health stories and how they continue to stay mentally healthy. The answers were so different for each person and showed how different things can work for different people.

Thanks to all those who were involved and to those who supported the project!

If you want to view the videos, you can at any time on the Shire of Meekatharra YouTube channel.

Check out the videos, see who you know and find some tips on how to keep up with your mental wellbeing.





# ★ FIGHT *the* BITE ★



## COMMON SYMPTOMS OF ROSS RIVER VIRUS:

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



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







# 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](http://stjohnchangelives.com.au) or give our Community Paramedic a call on 0437 681 562, or email [cp.midwesteast@stjohnwa.com.au](mailto: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****







## **Request for Tender (RFT)**

**RFT 2022/23-3**

### **Swimming Pool Repairs and Upgrades**

The Shire of Meekatharra invites tenders for Swimming Pool Repairs and Upgrades in Meekatharra. Intending applicants are encouraged to contact Svenja Clare, Community Development & Services Manager, on [cdsm@meekashire.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdsm@meekashire.wa.gov.au) for further information.

Tender documentation is available by contacting Felicity Anderson, Executive Assistant on [admin@meekashire.wa.gov.au](mailto:admin@meekashire.wa.gov.au).

Tenders must be submitted by electronic means only, clearly marked with the Subject Line **CONFIDENTIAL: TENDER 2022/23-3 Swimming Pool Repairs and Upgrades** and addressed to the Chief Executive Officer by email to [ceo@meekashire.wa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@meekashire.wa.gov.au).

The closing date for receipt of Tenders is **10.00am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023**.

The Shire is not obliged to accept the lowest or any tender and any canvassing of elected members or staff will disqualify any such tender submitted.

**Kelvin Matthews**  
**Chief Executive Officer**





# FIRST AID TRAINING

You never know when you may be called on to assist in an emergency situation and potentially save a life.

The Provide First Aid course would benefit all those at work, home or for leisure. The course provides an excellent general grounding in first aid and will enable you to perform appropriate first aid procedures and basic life support skills. This unit satisfies training requirements across a range of community and workplace settings.

## *Potential Training Dates*

1 day course either 26th of February or 5th of March

2 day course either 27th-28th of February or 2nd-3rd of March

1 day course: Completion of online learning must be done prior to arrival at the class.

2 day course: This course is delivered over 2 days and covers all first aid theory, demonstration, practice and assessment of both knowledge and skills required to complete the course.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AT:  
[SJAMEEKATHARRA@WESTNET.COM.AU](mailto:SJAMEEKATHARRA@WESTNET.COM.AU)







# 3 MINUTE

## WORKOUT PLAN

**If you spend most of your day sitting during work or study then this workout plan is for you.**

It can be done virtually anywhere, all you'll need is a timer and something to lean on to keep your balance, whether it is a desk, a benchtop or a car!

Instructions: Choose an exercise and do it for 30 seconds. Then repeat or choose a different one. Mix and match exercises to complete at least 3 minutes. Try and break up your day by doing a 3 minute workout every 30 to 60 minutes.

**Bonus! If you have more than 3 minutes to spare why not do a few extra exercises?**



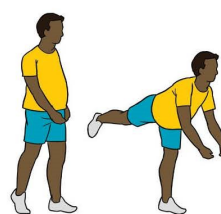
### Calf Raises

Raise your heels a few inches off the ground. Hold this position, and then slowly lower your heels back down. You can do this exercise while standing at a desk—you may need to hold on for balance and support.



### Half Squats

Stand with your feet planted about shoulder width apart. Squat down half way keeping your back straight. Stand back up again and repeat.



### 1-leg stand

Stand tall with your hips, knees and toes in line. Transfer your weight onto a single leg, lifting the other just off the ground. When stable, tip forward at the hip. Move your back leg towards the ceiling and body towards the ground. Hold for 15 seconds each leg, then switch.



### Knee Lifts

While keeping your knees bent, lift one leg so your knee moves toward your chest. Raise the leg as high as possible and hold the position for a few seconds. Lower your leg slowly and in a controlled manner. Switch to the other leg. This move helps open your hips while strengthening your thighs and abs.



### Glute squeezes

While sitting or standing, contract your bottom muscles and hold tight for three seconds. Then, relax and contract again. You can do this at your desk or in the car!



### Leg curls

While standing, bring one foot up to your backside, and then lower. Go for 30 seconds, and switch legs.



### Push-ups

Plant your hands on the edge of a desk, table, or any stationary surface around your work station, shoulder width apart. Stretch your legs out behind you, lower your chest to the desk, and push-up.

### Did you know?

If you spend more than 8 hours a day sitting, you need to do approximately 60 minutes per day of moderate-intensity physical activity to offset all that sitting. Try to be less still, and break up your day by moving more.



Partner:



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Health



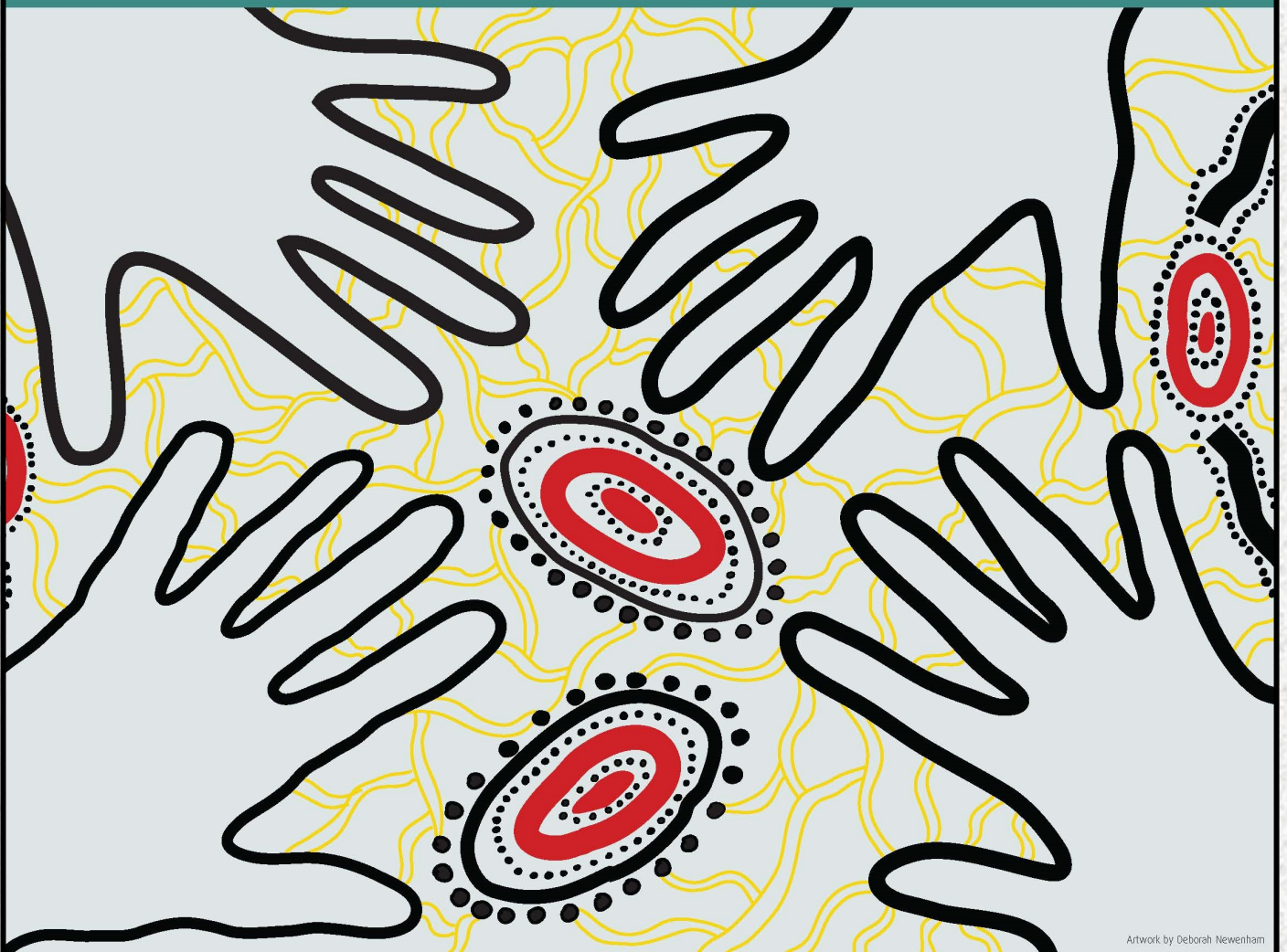




Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Justice**

# 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](mailto:aboriginalmediationservice@justice.wa.gov.au)

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



[www.13yarn.org.au](http://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





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
<b>Driver's licence not required</b>		<b>Driver's licence required</b>	
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?**

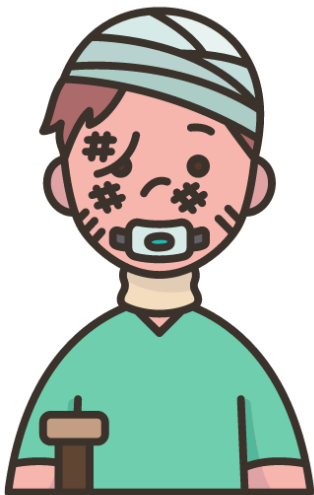
If you see an unlicensed off-road vehicle being ridden in town, phone the Police on 9918 7120 or 131 444. They may be attending to more urgent calls at the time, but if you give them information such as the description of the driver (or name, if known), what kind of bike/vehicle it was, how fast and 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!



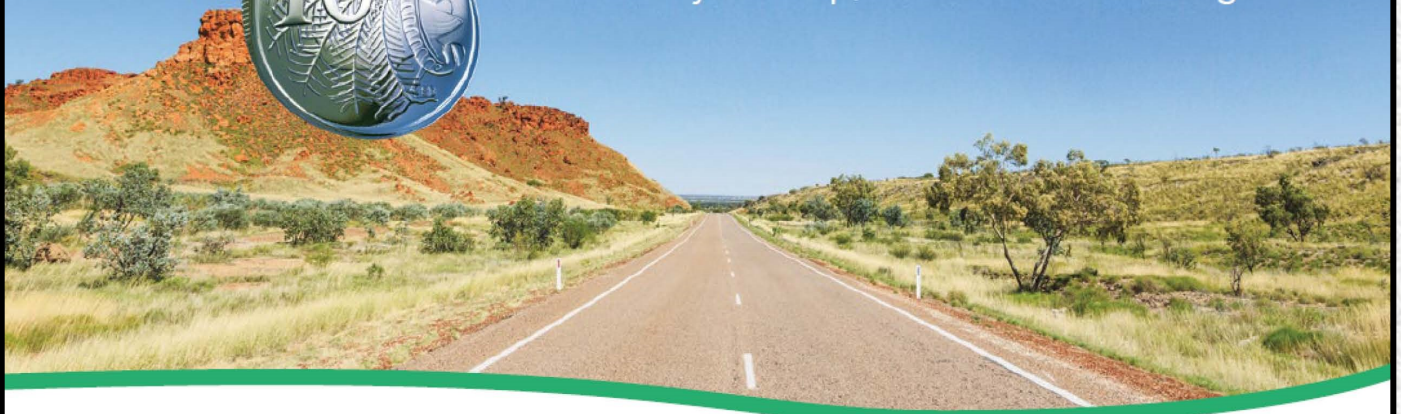




# DONATE THE CASH THAT'S IN YOUR CONTAINERS TO **MEEKA GOES GREEN**

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](http://containersforchange.com.au) to find out more



# Commercial Hotel Meekatharra

Opened daily from noon til late

**Excellent counter meals daily:**

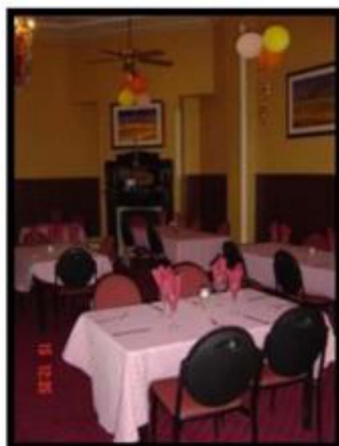
**Lunch:** 12 noon – 1:30pm  
Monday to Saturday

**Dinner:** 6pm-8pm  
Sunday to Saturday



**Air conditioned Dining / Function Room**

Suitable for Meetings, Conferences & Dinners



**Accommodation Includes:**

Modern Motel units with en suite, TV & air con  
Located at the rear of Hotel with enclosed parking.

and

Traditional Hotel rooms with TV & air con  
Located upstairs in original building



Telephone: 99811020

Fax: 99811021

Emails: [commieh@westnet.com.au](mailto:commieh@westnet.com.au)

77 Main Street, Meekatharra, 6642

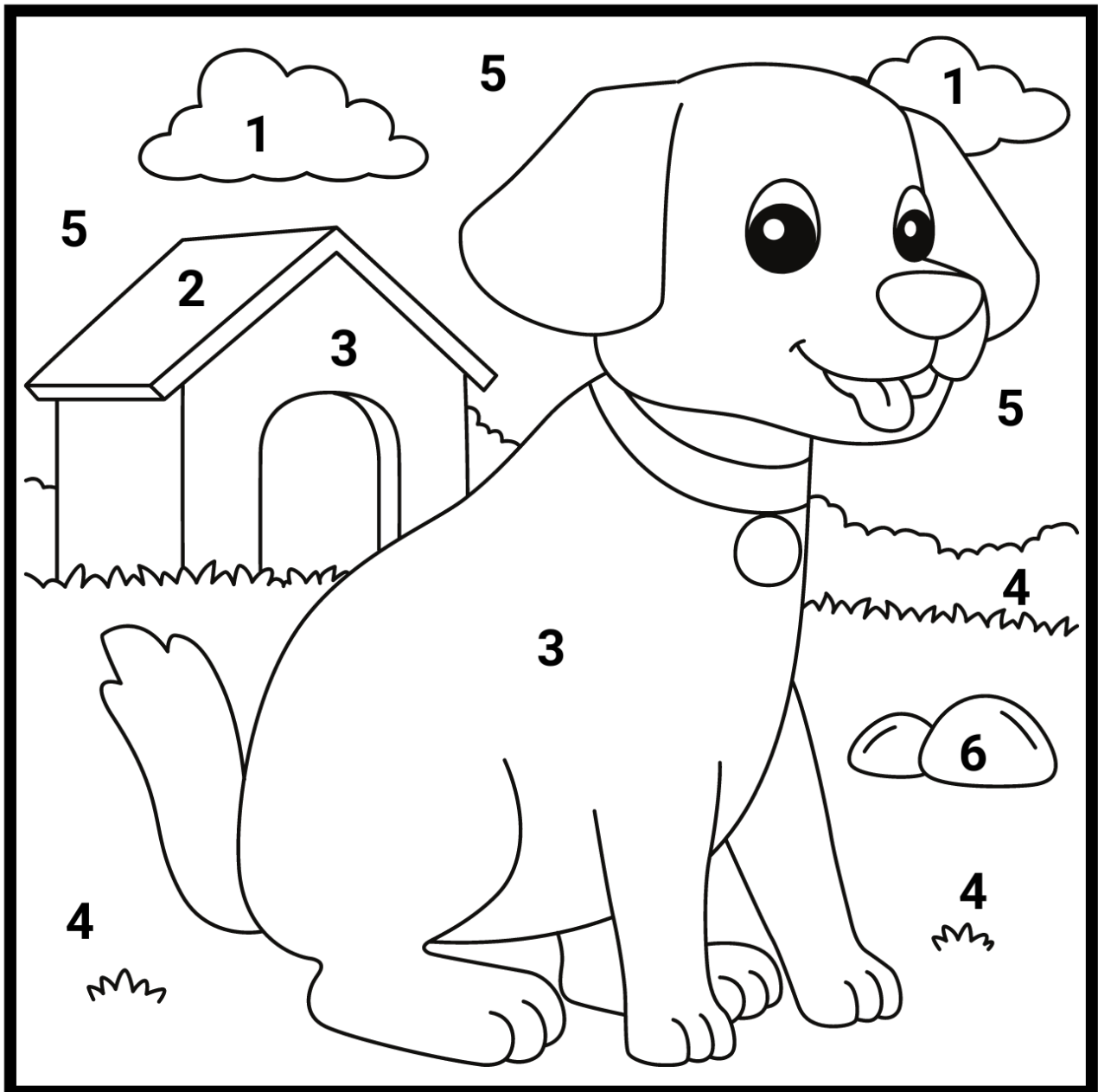


[www.commercialmeeka.com.au](http://www.commercialmeeka.com.au)



## Dog Color by Number

Use the key at the bottom of the page to color the picture.



1. white   2. red   3. brown  
4. green   5. blue  
6. grey



## Breakfast

# COCO-MANGO CHIA

5  
ingredient

## PUDDING



**Preparation time:** 5 minutes  
**Cooking time:** 2+ hours to set  
**Serves:** 4

### Ingredients

- ▲ 1 tablespoon maple syrup or golden syrup
- ▲ 1½ cups unsweetened UHT coconut milk
- ▲ ⅓ cup (50g) chia seeds
- ▲ 2 teaspoons desiccated coconut
- ▲ 1 mango, peeled, seed removed, diced

### Method

1. Place maple syrup in a 500mL capacity jar or container with a sealed lid, pour in some of the milk and shake to dissolve the syrup.
2. Add remaining milk, chia seeds and half the coconut. Shake and pour into 4 small serving glasses. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or overnight.
3. Serve chilled, topped with diced mango and sprinkled with remaining coconut.

### Hint

Unsweetened UHT coconut milk can be found in the same section of the supermarket as UHT soy milk.

Puddings are best made 4 to 8 hours before serving.

### Variation

Include 2 teaspoons cocoa with chia seeds for a chocolatey taste. Top with frozen berries.

This recipe works with any milk or milk alternative (e.g. soy or almond milk).

Replace mango with any fruit you like. Sliced bananas, tinned peaches and berries work well.

For chai flavoured puddings, add a teaspoon of ground cinnamon plus a pinch of cardamom and cloves.



### **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](mailto: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

## January 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30 Yoga 5pm	31					1 New Years Day
2 New Years Day Public Holiday	3	4 Meeka Community Awards Nominations Close  Containers for Change 12:30pm-4:30pm	5	6	7 Containers for Change 8am-12pm  Meeka Goes Green 9am-11am 	8
9 Yoga 5pm	10	11 Rhyme Time 10am  Containers for Change 12:30pm-4:30pm	12	13	14 Containers for Change 8am-12pm  Meeka Goes Green Recycling 9am-11am	15
16 Yoga 5pm Midwife @ Clinic	17 ICDC Team, 360 Health and Respira- tory Educator @ Clinic	18 Rhyme Time 10am  Containers for Change 12:30pm-4:30pm  360 Health @ Clinic	19	20	21 Containers for Change 8am-12pm  Meeka Goes Green Recycling 9am-11am  Ordinary Council Meeting	22
23 Yoga 5pm Physiotherapist @ Hospital	24 Physiotherapist @ Hospital	25 Rhyme Time 10am  Containers for Change 12:30pm-4:30pm	26 Australia Day Public Holiday  Meeka Community Award Presentation Ceremony 10am Welcome Park	27	28 Containers for Change 8am-12pm  Meeka Goes Green Recycling 9am-11am	29