



Meekatharra Dust

Issue Number 242— January 2013

Cost \$ 2.00 incl. GST

Santa's
North Pole
Hot Lollys



Santa's Lolly Run

In Meeka we have a special Christmas Day
as the Commercial Hotel Elves get Santa on his way

With firefighters as reindeer and a truck for a sled
Santa rings the siren to get all out of bed

From Sherwood Station to Consul's Road
Santa has lollies and smiles for young and old !



Poem and Photos by Anna Johnson



Crn Main and Savage Streets, PO Box 129 Meekatharra WA 6422 Phone: 9980 0600 Fax: 9981 1505

Email: ceo@meekashire.wa.gov.au Web: www.meekashire.wa.gov.au

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hi Readers,

Well my time as Dust Editor has been short but sweet. I have loved receiving the submissions and putting together a publication that I hope has been well received by the community and the surrounds.

I will be heading off to the big city on Australia Day for a new adventure!

I hope that you will all continue to support the new Dust Editor by sending through feedback and items to ensure that your paper remains current, relevant and interesting for all who take the time to read it.

Kelly F

'The Meekatharra Dust' is a non-profit community newspaper.

Articles or advertisements can be posted to

PO Box 315 Meekatharra,
faxed on

(08) 9981 1505

or left at the Shire Office

Or try emailing us at
cdo@meekashire.wa.gov.au

Advertising Rates:

Size	B & W	Colour
Full Page	\$46.50	\$66.00
Half Page	\$23.80	\$38.50
Quarter Page	\$14.70	\$22.00
Eighth Page	\$12.45	\$16.50

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR
COMMUNITY !**

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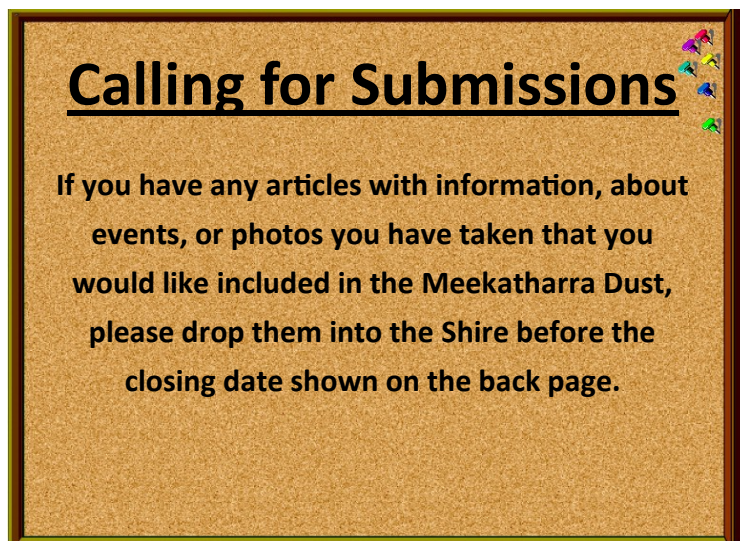
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Subscriptions are:

- (1) Address in WA: \$33.00 (inc GST)
- (2) Address in other States \$38.50 (inc GST)

Subscriptions are for a 12 month period
from the date stated on your form.



JANUARY 21ST—25TH

DREAM TIME PR AND ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE
YOUTH HIP HOP WORKSHOPS

JANUARY 19TH - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 26TH

AUSTRALIA DAY ACTIVITIES AT THE POOL

FEBRUARY 5TH

INTERAGENCY MEETING - 3PM AT THE SHIRE

FEBRUARY 15TH - CRC MEETING

FEBRUARY 16TH

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Note from Council

All items to be presented at Council Meetings need to be submitted to Shire Staff two weeks prior to Council Meeting dates. All items received after this time will be held for further consideration.

Disclaimer: The Meekatharra Dust is a publication of the Shire of Meekatharra.

The Shire of Meekatharra, staff and councillors, take no responsibility for accuracy of or omissions in any material published.

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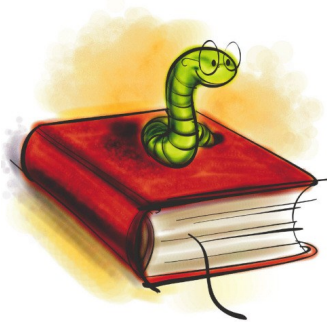
Meekatharra Library

Did you know we get a new exchange of books every month? Come in and check out what is new this month!

If there is a particular novel or author you are interested in, we can request these for you, just pop in to the Shire office and see Josie.

Please note that you must be an existing member of the library to order in books.

IT'S EASY (AND FREE) TO JOIN UP!



HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE SHIRE MUSEUM LATELY??

IT'S ALL PART OF THE MEEKATHARRA LIBRARY EXPERIENCE!!

Located in the Shire Office

**The Library is open:
Monday to Friday
8.00 am to 4.30 pm.**

Squash Court



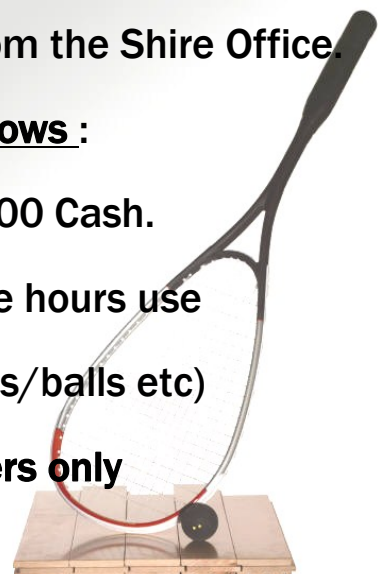
OPEN

Located at the back of the Sports Complex

Agreements, Keys and Tokens are available from the Shire Office.

Fees and Charges are as follows :

- ◆ **Key Bond (Fully refundable) - \$100 Cash.**
- ◆ **Court Hire—\$11.00 per token = one hours use**
- ◆ **We do not hire equipment (racquets/balls etc)**
 - ◆ **Entry is permitted to key holders only**



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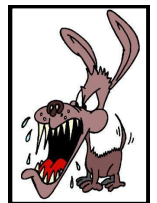


DOG CONTROL

**WHEN WALKING YOUR DOGS ON THE TOWN OVAL THEY MUST
BE ON A LEASH AT ALL TIMES AND HELD BY YOU - THE OWNER.**

**YOU MUST BE IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF YOUR ANIMAL AT ALL
TIMES AND DISPOSE OF ANY DROPPINGS IN THE RUBBISH BINS PROVIDED
BY THE COUNCIL.**

Thank you, Meekatharra Shire



DOES YOUR DOG HAVE TICKS?

**YOU CAN GET THEM SPRAYED FOR FREE
EVERY OCTOBER WHICH WILL LAST UP TO 8
WEEKS!**

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST WITH THE SHIRE

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**CRAZY'S SPIC & SPAN
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Will NOT be operating

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

And

JO'S WILDLIFE RESCUE

Will now **ONLY** be treating injured wildlife -

NOT domestic animals such as cats and dogs.

Jo is having a break due to health issues - please respectful
of this

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everyone the opportunity to browse and save on

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MEEKATHARRA WAR MEMORIAL SWIMMING POOL OPENING HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY	9.30PM - 1.30PM	3.00PM - 6.00PM
FRIDAY NIGHT	7.00PM - 9.00PM	
SATURDAY	10.30AM - 5.30PM	
SUNDAY	12.00PM - 5.30PM	



ENTRY COSTS

CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 10 MUST BE SIGNED IN AND SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT OVER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS.

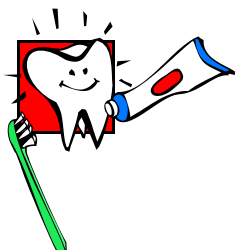
AN ADULT MAY SUPERVISE A MAXIMUM OF FIVE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 10.

ADULTS - \$2.40

CHILDREN - \$1.40

MURCHISON DENTAL TEAM VISITING SCHEDULE 2013

Meekatharra	4th Feb	-	15th Feb
Mt Magnet	25th Feb	-	8th March
Yalgoo	11th March	-	26th March
Meekatharra	6th May	-	17th May
Mt Magnet	27th May	-	7th June
Sandstone	10th June	-	14th June
Meekatharra	24th June	-	5th July
Cue	22nd July	-	2nd August
Meekatharra	19th August	-	30th August
Burringurrah	2nd Sept	-	6th Sept
Mt Magnet	16th Sept	-	27th Sept
Meekatharra	14th Oct	-	25th Oct
Mt Magnet	11th Nov	-	22nd Nov
Meekatharra	2nd Dec	-	20th Dec



Santa's Lolly Run!

Santa was in desperate need of his reindeers this year while handing out the customary lollies in the streets of Meekatharra. Santa gave Rudolph & the crew a break while he jumped up on the Meekatharra vintage fire truck Captained by Garry with navigator Anna trawling the streets to hand out some sweet treats to the delight of the local childrenand a few big kids too. But alas the reindeers nearly had to be called back after the fire truck lost a few wires and the siren failed to muster the sleeping children.



The helper elves put in a backup plan made of banging a wheel spanner on a shovel but the clanging was doing in Santa's head so he took the initiative and commandeered a couple of savvy auto electricians to save the day. Local boys Eddie & Greg twiddled a few wires together & the siren was back in action. Thanks boys. We were off again siren blaring then a few streets later, oh no not again, the truck had stopped in its tracks, but wait, no need to call up Rudolph, Garry is on to it & in no time the wheels were turning again. Up & down the streets, kids everywhere, the weather was most considerate with cloud cover & a fresh breeze before the heat set in.

Last stop was Sherwood Station, a few light refreshments for Santa and his helpers before hitching up with Rudolph & the gang to head home to the North Pole. Many thanks to Santa's Elves Lisa, Helen & Harry from the Commie, thanks Garry & Anna and thanks also to Elaine for organizing the lollies on Santa's behalf. Santa also thanks all his friends who offered cold refreshments & specially made treats for the journey through the streets of Meekatharra.

**AND MOST IMPORTANTLY
THANKS SANTA.**



Story and photos by Helen Doyle



photos by Anne Johnson

Turn A head HAIR & BEAUTY



PHONE RAGEN ON 0419 936 933

VISITING MEEKATHARRA:

Sunday January 27th

We are offering a huge selection of 2nd hand clothing for only \$1 this trip

Sunday 3rd march

We have a tarot card reader along for this trip

7th April

We are offering \$100 facial, massage & pedicure special this trip for mothers day



Meekatharra
Community Resource Centre
Your local connection

Meekatharra CRC wishes to thank its' customers
for their patience and cooperation while the CRC, Westpac Bank and
Driver and Vehicle Services were closed for a week.

Your continued support is greatly valued!!



RAFFLE WINNER : Melissa Butler-Henderson



THANK YOU EVERYONE!

SCHOOL STARTS

Monday Feb 4th 2013

In 2013 it is now compulsory for all children who turn 5 before 30 June 2013 to attend school in Western Australia.

Free Uniforms

Available from the School on
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 30th 2013



Any queries please contact the
school from

Wednesday January 30th 2013

9981 1092





Monthly Brigade News - December 2012

This month we were called out to stand by at the airport for a plane with one of its engines not working - thanks to the skill and courage of the pilot, the plane landed safely, but it was an excellent exercise in how Meeka coordinates its police, ambulance and fire & rescue personnel.

Meeka and Mount Magnet fire and rescue are now covering the Cue response area, as the Cue brigade is temporarily out of action due to insufficient volunteers.





We also welcomed Ralph Mongoo, Rob and Brendan to the brigade, and bid a sad farewell to Tyler Penola, who's off to join the army. Our new Apparatus Officer is Cameron Harvey.

Gary Hammer, Captain



Santa on his annual lolly run in the old fire truck

Some Recent Incidents Attended

-  29/11/12 : 06:08 - Called to assist at truck rollover, Tuckanarra. Stood down when driver rescued by Cue brigade.
-  31/11/12 : 10:17 - Abnormal plane landing, Meekatharra airport. No casualties.
-  24/12/12 : Midnight - Large man in red suit trapped in chimney, no casualties.
-  25/12/12 : 02:00 - Reports of glowing red flying reindeer hazard. Offending reindeer successfully extinguished & fined.



Home Safety Tips



Do you and your family have a home fire plan? Do your kids know what to do if there's a fire? House fires can start without warning, and it's the smoke that poses the greatest initial danger, hindering visibility and choking victims as they try to find their way out.

Practise fire response with your family and check your home for hazards and exits. Kids' natural response is often to hide - show them the "get down low and go go" method, and of course make sure your smoke alarms are in order.



Volunteer Profile

Anna Johnson
Firefighter

Active member
since 2012



Born in Canada, escaped from Melbourne and now settled in Meeka, Anna works at the aged care hostel and makes sure partner Gary has clean socks and something tasty for smoko. She is also a writer and has recently co-authored a book with her mother about their travels.

"It would be awesome to have some more women in the brigade - if I can do it, anyone can."



Santa supervises as Gary Hammer and Elf Harry fix the fire truck

How To Contact Us

We meet each Wednesday at 6:30 pm at the Fire Station at the northern end of Hill Street - pop in for a chat if you want to ask about volunteering, say "G'day" or get safety information.

Meekatharra VFRS Media Liaison:

Anna Johnson, Paul Smith

EMERGENCIES : DIAL 000

Regional and Remote Western Australia to Switch to Digital TV in Six Months

In six months, Regional and Remote Western Australia will switch to digital-only TV signals. So, it is time to make sure that all households are Digital Ready now.

If households are not digital ready by 25 June 2013*, they will no longer have access to free-to-air TV and will miss out on all of their favourite TV shows.

Regional and Remote Western Australia residents don't need to wait until the last minute to convert to digital TV. Converting now will ensure access to all 16 digital television channels, providing more choice and a better quality television viewing experience.

To convert to digital TV, you will need a TV that is capable of receiving digital signals. Most importantly, you do not need to buy a new TV if you don't want to. Nearly all analog TVs are able to receive digital TV signals by adding a digital set-top box or digital TV recorder to each analog TV you wish to convert.

The Australian Government understands that some people may need practical assistance to switch to digital TV.

The Household Assistance Scheme has been established to help eligible people to have digital ready equipment installed in their homes free-of-charge. The Scheme also provides in-home aftercare support for 12 months.

People who may be eligible have been sent a letter from the Department of Human Services inviting them to test their eligibility. This is the department that now delivers Centrelink payments and services. To find out if you are eligible and to apply for the Scheme, call the Department of Human Services on 1800 556 443.

Although the Scheme is open until one month after switchover, it is important to apply as soon as possible so that an installation can be completed before the switchover and you do not lose access to free-to-air television.

To find out more about the digital switchover, including how to access information about the assistance schemes, visit the Digital Ready website at www.digitalready.gov.au or call the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10 13 (available from 8am – midnight AEST & EDST, 7 days a week. Free call except from mobile phones).

*Some towns may switch off earlier and will be informed of the date. See the website for more information.



How to turn Meeka Dirt into Beautiful Fertile Soil

I started my garden in Meeka about two years ago with no knowledge of gardening or composting whatsoever. After a few books, DVDs, Internet research, chatting with fellow Meeka gardeners and lots of trial and error I have learnt a thing or two and have taken to a sustainable gardening practice. Whether you love (organic or non-organic) gardening, enjoy your veggie patch or garden bed at home or are simply sick of digging in rock hard ground, you may be interested in **Bokashi** composting.

Bokashi is a Japanese term and is commonly used to describe this **composting** process that creates **fermented** matter with the help of **bacteria** and other **micro-organisms**. This fermented matter can be dug in the soil and creates compost. It is really quite simple. Following is a list of what you need in order to turn your own Meeka Dirt into fertile soil:

- A **Bokashi Bucket** (you can buy these online or find tutorials on the internet about how to build them yourself)
- Bokashi micro-organisms** (again, you can buy these or find recipes online)
- Food scraps** (Fruit and Veggies scraps, cooked meals, dairy products, meats, fish, paper tissues, processed foods and even bones - even though bones take a long time to break down)
- A patch of **soil** that you can dig a hole in

Now how does it work?

- You **collect** your food scraps.
- At the end of the day or whenever you've got a nice portion of food scraps you **chuck** them in the bucket.
- Sprinkle** a handful of the Bokashi micro-organisms on top and compress the air out of the food scraps by pressing them down with a potato masher or a plastic bag or similar.
- Close** the lid of the bucket tightly (the bacteria work anaerobically i.e. without air. Oxygen slows them down.)
- Drain** off the liquid every other day or so. This can be used as organic **fertilizer** for your garden or be **poured** down the drain to clean up the drains and sewerage tank/waterways.
- Keep doing above steps until the bucket is **full**.
- Let the micro-organisms finish their **fermenting** job by giving them another week or so.
- Dig** a hole in the garden.
- Empty** the contents of the bucket into the hole. They will have a pickled appearance and are likely to show white fungus growth. This is a sign that the fermentation process worked well.
- Mix** some soil with it and cover it up with soil.
- Now let the soil micro-organisms and other little creepy crawlies do their job – they'll **munch** through this fermented compost in a few weeks/months and **create beautiful compost**.

What are the benefits of this?

- Recycling** pretty much all of your food waste instead of adding it to landfill where it produces methane (a greenhouse gas much worse than carbon dioxide)
- Get free and high quality liquid **fertilizer** for your garden similar to compost tea, worm castings or seaweed extract
- Create **compost** often and in good quantities which improves water retention, soil life, soil nutrient content and soil consistency
- You can even keep the Bokashi bucket **inside** – since it's airtight it doesn't smell
- Quicker** than the normal compost heap in the garden (but I find you still need the conventional compost if you've got lawn clippings, leaves or other garden matter since the bucket would be too small for that)

Now that's the theory behind it. How does it actually work in **Meeka** though? Following are my very own experiences. The slightly negative ones come first:

- ★ They say it doesn't **smell**. Well... when you open the lid it does have a bit of a smell depending on what you put in it. If it's all going well it should only have that fermenting smell. If it's not going well it can stink a bit whenever you open the lid. But the good thing is: with more of the micro-organisms and time it can all be fixed and will still create compost.
- ★ When **temperatures** rise to over 40 degrees I find the fertilizer ("Bokashi juice") production slows down a bit since the perfect temperature range for bacteria is say 25-35 degrees and they seem to be suffering in the heat a bit. It still works though in the end, they just do it a bit slower than normal.
- ★ Online it says it only takes about two to four weeks for the soil life to turn the fermented matter into compost as soon as you dig it in the ground. I find in Meeka it takes a little bit **longer** due to the poor soil life and lack of earth worms and other soil crawlies.

Now to the **positive results**:

- ★ It works!! It really works! And I love it!
- ★ Our **rubbish** bin is free of food scraps and doesn't smell.
- ★ The **fertilizer** is fantastic! I give it to my plants (to all of them. Veggies, succulents, natives, shrubs, lawn...) every week and don't only apply it just to the soil but also to the foliage and even more concentrated than the internet advises you to. They all thrive! I don't seem to have any pests bugging me, no mineral or nutrition deficiencies in my plants and that chilli bush has been growing, flowering and fruiting for nine months straight.
- ★ I checked the patch where I dug in a bucket full of fermented matter a few months ago and this is what I found:
 - Everything bar a duck bone, some egg shells and a teabag was totally **broken down**.
 - There was **crumbly dark compost** throughout the patch.
 - You could see the **buzzing and healthy soil life** with your bare eyes let alone all the micro-organisms that you can't see without a microscope! I'm hoping I might be able to grow an earthworm population if do this often enough.
 - The soil holds **moisture** really well as opposed to the sandy dirt that either repels water or lets it soak straight through.
 - It was **beautiful loam** instead of the dirt that either compacts to rock hard ground or is so sandy it just falls apart in your hand.
 - The **pH level** was a nice **neutral** unlike the quite alkaline Meeka dirt.

It feels great knowing that you're doing your bit by recycling your food scraps. It's a round circle - a **sustainable** concept. I don't feel so bad anymore when I left some fruit or veggies for too long and don't want to eat it anymore. If the snaggers don't all get eaten or the cheese dried out I know they're not totally gone to waste but they will improve my garden. Just imagine what it would be like if many more people and restaurants or schools were to recycle all their food scraps. The landfill would be pretty much food scrap free, greenhouse gas emission would be lowered by quite a bit and the soil in many backyards would be thriving and healthy. Even if you don't grow a garden the soil will still benefit from this organic matter being added.

If you need more information have a look **online** (just search for "Bokashi" and you will get many results. YouTube videos, internet blogs, forum discussions and websites selling Bokashi buckets and micro-organisms ...)

On the next page are some **photos** of Bokashi recycling in Meeka and the results I was describing above:

The Bokashi Buckets



The inside of a Bokashi Bucket



Normal Meeka Dirt



Bokashi soil - beautiful loam



Normal Meeka Dirt - falls apart



Bokashi soil - richer and spongier



All that remains after a few months in the soil



The Bokashi Juice - liquid fertilizer



*Aged Bokashi Compost -
neutral*

*Fresh Bokashi
Compost - acidic*

*Article and Photos by Svenja Clare
Proudly supporting Meeka Goes Green*



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
VENESSA WATSON-BATES
WHO TURNS 60 ON JANUARY 26TH**



Venessa with her new grandson Travis



Ph. 9981 1007
Fax 9980 1192

Meekatharra Police hope that you all had a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

It was extremely busy over the Christmas period for police with quite a few anti-social issues in Meekatharra.

Alcohol seemed to be the main contributor to these incidents, remember drink in moderation and try and have water in between drinks so that you do not get dehydrated or become affected by alcohol to a point that you need medical assistance.

With Australia Day fast approaching now is the time to remind you that recently the State Government passed new legislation that allows police to deal with out of control gatherings.

The Criminal law Amendment (Out-of-Control Gatherings) bill 2012 came into effect on the 15th December 2012.

What this means to you out there is that if you have a gathering (party) of 12 persons or more and at least two persons at that gathering engage in specific type of conduct (trespass, behave in a disorderly manner, destroy property, emit unreasonable noise etc.) and that conduct causes or is likely to cause fear to any person, the organiser and those responsible for the anti-social behaviour can be charged.

Police can enter a place without a warrant or permission from the person who lives there.

There are very heavy fines if you are charged under the out – of - control legislation the minimum being \$12000 fine and 12 months imprisonment.

This means that if you have a party and there are more than 12 people present you are responsible for their actions and behaviour and if police attend there is the likelihood that your or your guest may be charged under the new legislation. Once again this is a timely reminder to drink in moderation and be aware of your alcohol consumption.

Solvent abuse amongst our youth has become a real issue in Meekatharra recently and we are working closely with other agencies to address this issue. You can help us by securing all your petrol cans, motor bikes, lawn mowers, paint cans and glues behind locked doors or out of sight to lessen the chance of these being found by the kids.

Remember; if you see anything suspicious please report it to police on 000 if it is an emergency or 131444 or the station on 99811007.

Steve Martyn

Senior Sergeant
Meekatharra Police Station

Meekatharra - Police & Community, Respect & Resolve



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Domestic Blisters

by Anna Johnson



My friends back east think my life is wildly romantic, living in the rugged outback with a tall, handsome fire brigade captain, but I've had to tell them that it's not all flaming sunsets and sweaty hose-handling. Gary has had to suffer stoically as I put aside my nail polish and single-gal city ways in order to confront the gruelling hardships of the bush, such as cooking.

We don't cook in the city - we have iPhones apps instead - so when Gary and I shackled up, my culinary skills were pretty much limited to staring blankly into the fridge, then wishing I still had a personal assistant so that I could send them to the roadhouse for a pie. I decided I would start my domestic journey with sandwich-making, which is how I discovered that Gary, despite many happy years on a simple bachelor diet of Jatz crackers, turned into Gordon Ramsay when it came to me making his smoko. "These cheese slices are too thick! Make them thinner! That's too thin! And there's too much butter! Where's the tomato sauce?" Then he wanted me to label each sandwich wrapper so he knew what was in them. "Okay," I said sweetly, getting out the texta. He's gotten used to finding things in his smoko labelled "Diced Squid" and "Enraged Bear Parts".

But perhaps the biggest challenge has been sharing a home. As most of us know, other people have strange, intolerable habits, wantonly violating the toothpaste tube, bizarrely putting the glad wrap in the second drawer, and making you almost homicidally annoyed with their insane, unreasonable demands such as "Where's the tin opener?" and "Have you seen my keys?". But as adults, we are forced to cope and adjust, handling these day-to-day challenges with calm maturity, unless of course it's forty-five degrees and there's no air conditioning and it's That Time Of The Month and there's an axe handy.



Gary's visions of domestic joy quickly crumbled as I embraced my new role as bush-camp hausfrau

I've had to learn a range of cohabitation skills, such as Shouting From The Other Room, What Is This Doing In The Fridge, and Did You Leave Them In Your Other Pants. The trick is to be patient and forgiving, especially if you are Gary and have to put up with a selectively deaf partner who can't understand basic engine components and would, left to her own devices, allow the chooks to sleep on the bed (next to the baby kangaroo and a sick alpaca).

Naturally this leads us to the horrors of shared sleeping arrangements. As we're all aware, other people selfishly move around and make noises in bed, waking us up in the night with their ghastly internal expulsions and Tourette's-like fidgeting, coughing and moaning until they have to be poked sharply in the kidneys and told to sleep in the other room. Poor Gary! It can't be easy, trying to sleep with a girlfriend whose sleeping habits, according to him, could rival the more violent scenes from the Exorcist.

Of course there are many good things about living with someone, once you accept that they are probably clinically insane and will never develop basic mind-reading skills or stop listening to that godawful rubbish that they call music. There are many tender, intimate moments - a lingering gaze as we engage in hand-to-hand combat over the last of the Aerogard or selflessly exchange the crippling gastrointestinal disorder that one of us brought home from town. And of course there are the many practical benefits - having a partner at your side certainly helps with things like "Does This Smell All Right To You?", "Gary The Generator's Making A Funny Noise" and "Honey Can You Go Stand Out On The Flats With The Internet Aerial While I Update My Facebook Page?".

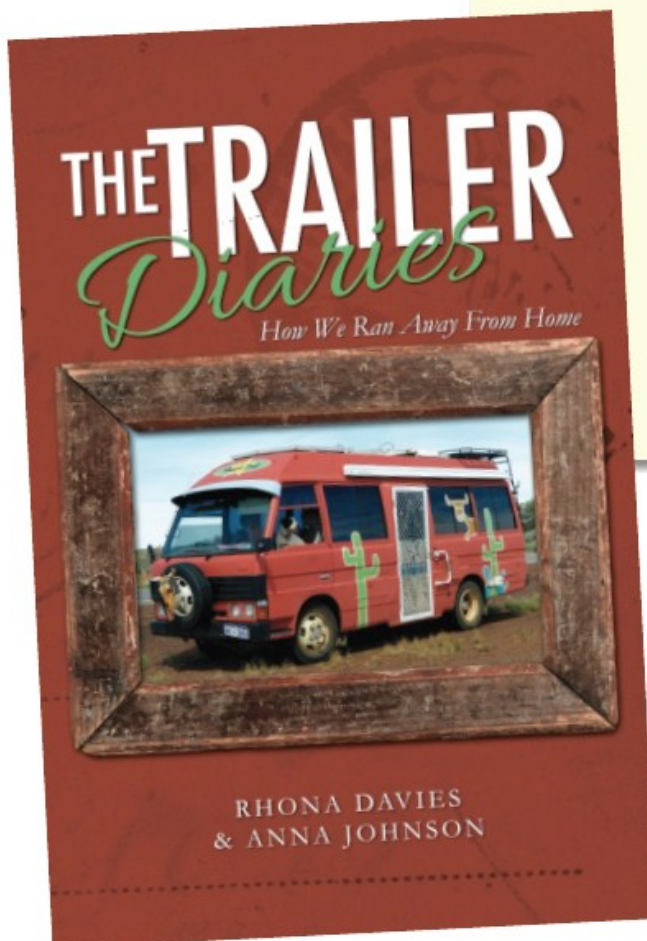
But perhaps the greatest pleasure is living together in a small town - unlike city life, we don't have to "catch up" outside our busy schedules. Work and socialising all blend together through the day as I take Gary's smoko out to him on my bush bike, or pause to shout at each other about genny fuel across the road as he rumbles past in the tipper truck. Forget the roses and chocolates of city romance - my heart says there's nothing better than coming home sweaty and tired from putting out scrub fires together at three in the morning, sharing a cuppa with my bloke in the romantic flickering candlelight, tenderly -- oh, hang on, we don't have candles. Bugger! I forgot to turn the sausages off.



Local Writer Goes International!

Regular "Dust" contributor Anna Johnson has just published a book! Co-written with her mother, Rhona, it's called "The Trailer Diaries - How We Ran Away From Home". Already selling internationally, local paperback copies will be available mid-December (just in time for Christmas) at the shire office, post office and most Meeka shops, or you can order it online now from Amazon.

If you've enjoyed Anna's contributions to The Dust, you'll love this funny and insightful account about trailer park life and the adventures that the infamous red bus got up to before it accidentally wound up in Meeka!



**Available In Meeka
From Mid December**

To Order From Amazon:

Go to <http://www.amazon.com>
Type in the search box:
Trailer-Diaries-How-Away-Home
Most credit cards accepted, ships from the USA

To Buy Locally:

At the shire office, post office & shops
from mid December

Order Direct From Anna:

Call 0413 621786
or email waggintrail@gmail.com

"When one member of a family quits her high-paying job, sells her house, buys an old motorhome and hits the road with two cats and a dog as travel companions, the rest of the family think she must be mad. But then, all having migrated to other lands at one time or another, they accept the fact that there seems to be a nomadic gene in the family, and others follow suit."

Their travels take place in two countries – Australia and North America – and the diaries are a record of the fascinating people and places they meet along the way – the man with the solar-powered wheelbarrow; the lady towing her trailer to Las Vegas for a two week fling; ghost towns, and phone booths in the middle of the desert.

Most of all, the travellers come to realize that humans can survive very comfortably with far less than they think they need, and that "home" is wherever you decide to make it."



Congratulations!

DARCY LEWIS

&

LAUREN 'LOZ' HOWDEN

ON THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF YOUR
ENGAGEMENT

(About time Darcy!!)



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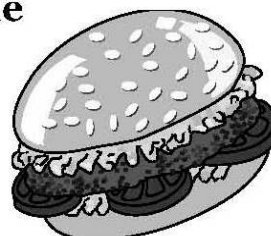
Auto Accessories

Kleenheat Gas

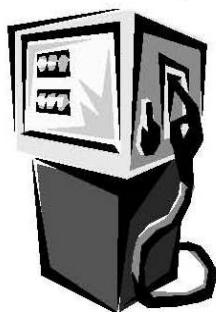
Key Cutting

Take-Away Food

Asian Food



A range of Asian Ingredients and utensils available for sale



Burgers

Rolls

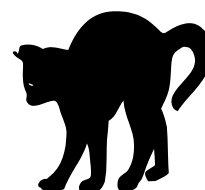
Sandwiches made to order

Bottled water deliveries



Tyre Repairs
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Newman Vet *Meekatharra*



Dr. Rick Fenny
Located at Paddy's Flat

For appointments phone: 9175 1309 or
0408 936 061

EMERGENCY ADVICE : 9175 1309
or Dalkeith Veterinary Clinic on 9386 6277

Congratulations to Jim McGorman “MAGOO” of Murchison Carpentry .After only three meetings and several problems with the car Jim took out third place at the Modified Production Classic and was presented with a trophy at Newman Speedway On the 1st December 2012. He won third place with the loss of the power steering and minutes before the race had to find a spare tierod end and replace it. He will now go on to Geraldton Speedway to attempt a better position.





St John Ambulance Meekatharra Sub Centre

We would like to thank our vollies on behalf of the community for the great job they have done in 2012.

We have done **318** call outs this year.

Kevin McKenna attended 75 callouts closely followed by Svenja Clare, who attended 72. As both of them work full time these were mainly at night and on weekends, thank you very much!

Also a big thank you to our 'day crew' Todd Donnachy and Elaine King who both did 58 call outs each.

We would also like to thank our longest serving ambos Peter Clancy who joined St John in March 2007 and Peter Clare who joined in December that year,

And last but not least, thank you Norm Lyon, for stepping in when ever there is no one else available, this is truly beyond the duties of a chairperson.

WANTED!

**WE NEED MORE
AMBULANCE
DRIVERS !!**

**You need a current
drivers licence (no P-
plates) and a senior
first aid certificate, so
now is your chance to
join as we are having a
first aid course on the
19.1.12 !**

As the new year comes and the old one goes there are also changes in the Meekatharra Sub Centre.

I'm sad to see Kelly Fuhrmann leave us to explore the city. Kelly has been a vital part of the Meekatharra Ambos, she joined us in 2010 has attended over 100 cases and worked hard as our chairperson in 2011.

Kelly, we wish you all the best on your new adventures and hope to see you around.

Also a goodbye and thank you very much to the vollies who left recently. Dan Houston and Josie Adler have moved to the East Coast and Rueben Robinson has left for Perth to further his studies.

A warm welcome also to our new ambos Mel Butler-Henderson and Dave Maly who have recently joined us.

Nic Chatbourne is our brand new community paramedic. He is responsible for the eastern section of the Mid West, so for Meekatharra, Cue, Mt Magnet, Yalgoo and Sandstone. He is originally from Geraldton and has a young family, he has lived and worked as a paramedic in Perth before taking this position. As a community paramedic his main role is to support the volunteers with training and mentoring on call outs. This is great news for us as we will get more local training and a lot more hands on support.

Say G'day to him when you see him around :)

Need to renew your Ambulance Benefit Fund Membership?

Interested in becoming a volunteer?

Need to do a First Aid Course?

Come and see Sonja

Monday and Thursday 8am – 12noon

at the sub center office in Hill St

Ring 0407 994 074 or 99801467 during office hours

Or per email at sjameekatharra@westnet.com.au



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



Meekatharra

Community Resource Centre

What's your
Big ideas?

COMMITTEE MEETING

Next Meeting: **Tues 5th February 2013 @ 5pm**

Where: Meekatharra Community Resource Centre
55 Main Street

The aim of the CRC is to support capacity building in the Community through the delivery of information and technology services, facilities and education to the Meekatharra community.

**The CRC Committee welcomes you to attend our
Committee Meetings to share your big ideas!**

The CRC is Community owned and managed, and we use our Committee Meetings to discuss **new ideas** to reach **new groups** with **new & improved services**. Whether you are a local individual, organisation, group member or business employee/er, we would like to hear your fresh ideas of how we can improve and grow our service in the Community.

Proudly supported by



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Regional Development and Lands



ROYALTIES
FOR REGIONS

55 Main Street

Ph: (08) 9980 1811

Skippers' Flight Schedule ***PERTH TO MEEKATHARRA TO PERTH***

SUNDAY - No Flights

MONDAY

FLIGHT NUMBER	DEPART	TIME	ARRIVE	TIME
JW1941	PERTH	0735	MT MAGNET	0855
	MT MAGNET	0925	MEEKATHARRA	1000
	MEEKATHARRA	1035	PERTH	1200

TUESDAY - No Flights

WEDNESDAY

FLIGHT NUMBER	DEPART	TIME	ARRIVE	TIME
JW1941	PERTH	0735	MT MAGNET	0855
	MT MAGNET	0925	MEEKATHARRA	1000
	MEEKATHARRA	1035	PERTH	1200

THURSDAY

FLIGHT NUMBER	DEPART	TIME	ARRIVE	TIME
JW1940	MEEKATHARRA	1000	PERTH	1145

FRIDAY

FLIGHT NUMBER	DEPART	TIME	ARRIVE	TIME
JW1941	PERTH	1230	MT MAGNET	1355
	MT MAGNET	1425	MEEKATHARRA	1455
	MEEKATHARRA	1525	PERTH	1650

SATURDAY - No Flights

For bookings and flight information,
please call Lanie on 9981 1090
or visit www.skippers.com.au

To find out about local resident fares - call or email Lanie on the above details



Teams

The Central West Mental Health Service provides the following programs:

WA Country Health Service

Central West Mental Health Service

About the Service

The Central West Mental Health Service covers the Midwest, Gascoyne and Murchison regions encompassing an area of some 605,000kms² and with a population of 60,000 people. The area serviced extends from Onslow in the north to Greenhead in the South and inland to Wiluna. Offices are located in Geraldton, Carnarvon, Meekatharra and Exmouth.

The Central West Mental Health Service provides confidential assessment, treatment and management for people with a mental health problem. Priority is given to those with a major mental illness or those at risk due to their mental state. Psychiatric crisis and ongoing case management are provided. Liaison and consultation with other services and agencies is also offered. The team is made up of experienced mental health nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, psychologists, consultant psychiatrists, youth counsellors and Indigenous mental health workers.

Staffing at regional sites may vary. We are committed to working with the community to provide a broad mental health service to the people of the Midwest.

Older Adult

The Central West Mental Health Service Older Adult Mental Health program is structured to assist older people with a mental illness or behavioural difficulties. It is available for Indigenous people from the age of 55 years and non Indigenous people from the age of 65. The team work closely with the GP and other services to improve the quality of life for people who have a mental illness.

Adult

The Central West Mental Health Service Adult Program provides confidential assessment, treatment and management for those between 18-65 years old with a mental health problem. Priority is given to those with a major mental illness or those at risk due to their mental state. Psychiatric crisis and ongoing case management are provided. Liaison and consultation with other services and agencies is also offered.

Youth

The Youth Counselling Service (YCS) is a program within the Central West Mental Health Services based in Geraldton, which works with young people aged 14-25 years.

Child and Adolescent

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service is an integrated program within Central West Mental Health Service, which provides comprehensive specialist clinical services to children and adolescents of the Midwest Region. These services include direct service provision, consultation and liaison, health promotion, prevention, early intervention, planning and capacity building

Indigenous Perinatal Mental Health Service

The Healthy Parents Health Minds Indigenous Mental Health Service provides support to women, their partners and families during and after pregnancy. This services is available in the Gascoyne only.

Referrals

Central West Mental Health Service has an open referral policy.

Adults and older adults can be referred to the service by:

- General Practitioner
- Self referral
- Other agencies

Referral to the Child and Adolescent Service is through:

- General Practitioner
- Self/parent/guardian
- Specialist medical services (pediatrician)
- School psychologist
- Child/Community Health Nurse

After Hours

After hours services are provided by Rurallink which is a free telephone service provided by trained mental health clinicians.

More information

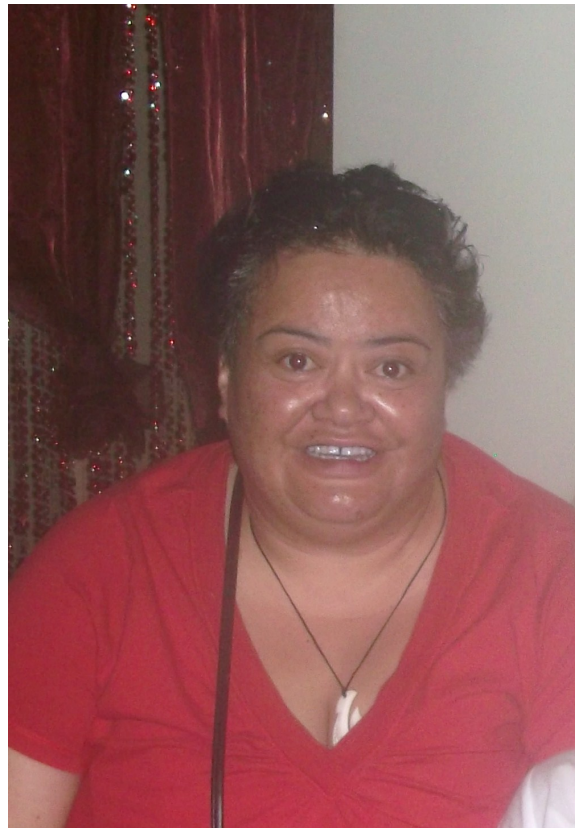
Please visit:

- www.mmhr.org.au
- www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au

Central West Mental Health Service
8:30am–4:30pm Mon–Fri
Meekatharra
Savage Street
PO Box 82, Meekatharra WA 6642
Phone (08) 9981 0625
Fax (08) 9981 0654
Rural Link
Free call 1800 552 002
Available weekdays 4:30pm–8:00am
and 24 hours on weekends and public holidays.

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Patty Councillor



Steve Beeson



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Opened daily from noon til late

Excellent counter meals daily:

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Fax: 99811021

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www.commercialmeeka.com.au



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Every Thursday

When: 6pm-8pm.

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Enquiries: 9981 1053

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Every Thursday night: Pool Comp!
8pm registration. \$20 buy in. First and second prizes.

Every Saturday night: \$15 large pizza's. Phone orders welcome.



Dates for your diary

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ROYAL MAIL HOTEL Main Street, Meekatharra 6642

P: 08 9981 1148 F: 08 9981 1113 E: royalmailmotel@gmail.com



REQUEST FOR TENDER

Internal construction and renovation Girls Change Rooms Meekatharra Swimming Pool

The Shire of Meekatharra is inviting tenders from interested individuals or Companies for works to Meekatharra War Memorial Swimming Pool.

The tender to be provided is for completion and co-ordination of the entire project. Tenders for part or portion of the project will not be considered. This work is to be undertaken in the pool off season which commences 1st May 2013.

A brief summary of works required is:

- Build cubicles and install two toilets.
- Build walls and install disabled toilet/shower facilities.
- Build storage area.
- Additional plumbing required to plumb into septic for the two new toilets.
- Two new accesses to be created –one for disabled and one for storage area.
- Supply all materials and hardware required.
- Electrical works for the installation of lights.
- Tiling

The above is indicative only and should not be relied on for tendering. It is the responsibility of the tenderer to ensure that they have obtained all relevant information before submitting their tender.

Tender documents can be obtained by contacting the Administration Assistant, Lorri Dransfield at the Shire Office during normal hours on 08 9980 0600 or admin@meekashire.wa.gov.au.

Tenders shall be contained in a sealed envelope endorsed with the appropriate tender number and description and addressed to the Chief Executive Officer and either mailed to PO Box 129, MEEKATHARRA WA 6642 or deposited in the tender box situated in the Meekatharra Administration Office, Cnr Main & Savage Streets, Meekatharra. Faxed or emailed tenders will not be accepted.

Tenders are to be received no later than 4:00 pm, Friday 20th February 2013. For further information, please contact the undersigned on 9980 0600 or 0429 204 146 or dceo@meekashire.wa.gov.au.

Krys East
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



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MEEKATHARRA

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22 Main Street, Meekatharra 08 99811088

MEEKATHARRA HEALTH CENTRE

SERVICES

RFDS Clinic/Reception - Doctors Appointments: 9981 0604

Meekatharra Hospital: 9981 0600

Community Health: 9981 0636

Aged Hostel: 9981 0645

Mental Health: 9981 0625

As all dates are subject to change—please confirm appointments the day before.
(Appointments availability is usually determined by prioritising according to health needs)

RFDS MEDICAL SERVICE

9981 0604

Outpatient Opening Times : **Monday—Friday 9am—12 noon (except Thursday 10am—12 noon) & 2pm—4pm.** Medical Services are prioritised according to urgency.

After Hours is for EMERGENCIES Only



2012 Festival DVD'S ON SALE

NOW!

\$10

FROM THE SHIRE OFFICE

Staffing

The Shire farewelled its Customer Service Officer Josefine Adler and Administration Assistant Amy Elworthy in the month of December. These positions were advertised before the Christmas break and new officers will begin this month.

Community Development/Administration Officer Kelly Fuhrmann also handed in her resignation in the month of December after nearly three years in the role. Kelly will be leaving her employment with the Shire on the Australia Day Long weekend and heading to 'the big smoke'.

Most recently Sport and Recreation Elaine King has finished up with the Shire after a number of years working in the area of youth, sport and recreation. We wish all these staff the best with their future endeavours.

Community Consultation

Acting Community Development Services Manager Samantha Tarling and Community Development/Administration Officer Kelly Fuhrmann undertook extensive community consultation throughout the month of December. The Shire hoped to ascertain the communities aspirations for Meekatharra over the next ten years. These aspirations will form part of the Shire's Community Strategic Plan which will help shape the direction of the Shire in the coming years.

The communities response to the community consultation was overwhelming. During the month of December 116 people provided feedback to the Shire around the level of service which it provides and its satisfaction relating to a variety of services and upkeep of facilities.

This was the second round of consultation undertaken by the Shire and the current draft Community Strategic Plan will be amended to include the common themes which were evident during discussions held with community members and groups. This draft plan will then be presented to the Shire Council for any changes prior to being adopted. A copy of the final plan will be made available upon completion.

Local Emergency Management Arrangements

In 2005 The Shire of Meekatharra established a Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) to oversee, plan and test the local emergency management arrangements. The LEMC includes representatives from agencies, organisations and community groups that are relevant to the identified risks and emergency management arrangements for the community. The LEMC is not an operational committee but rather an organisation established by Council to ensure that local emergency management arrangements are written and placed into effect for the Shire.

One of the requirements of Council under the Emergency Management Act is to ensure that effective local emergency management arrangements are prepared and maintained for its district (within the guidelines of the Act).

In line with this requirement Council has endorsed the Local Emergency Management Arrangements. There are a number of purposes for this document, however just a few of these are to detail:

- The Shire of Meekatharra's Policies for emergency management
- The roles and responsibilities of public authorities and other persons involved in emergency management within the District
- Procedures for the coordination of emergency management operations and activities;
- A description of emergencies that could occur within the Shire of Meekatharra
- Strategies and priorities for emergency management in Meekatharra

A copy of this document will soon be available free of charge from the Shire Office or from the Shire's web site.

Aerodrome Emergency

On Saturday December 1st an aircraft lost power to one engine and declared an emergency with Melbourne Traffic Control. The Shire of Meekatharra Aerodrome Emergency plan was put into effect with a very good turn out of our emergency services and Police. Fortunately, the aircraft landed without incident.

It was pleasing to see the response of a real emergency by our volunteer fire-fighters and ambulance officers.

MEEKATHARRA GYM

AT THE INDOOR CRICKET CENTRE ON HIGH STREET



**GYM AGREEMENTS AND KEYS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SHIRE OFFICE
ENTRY IS PERMITTED TO KEY HOLDERS ONLY BETWEEN 5AM AND 10PM
DAILY**



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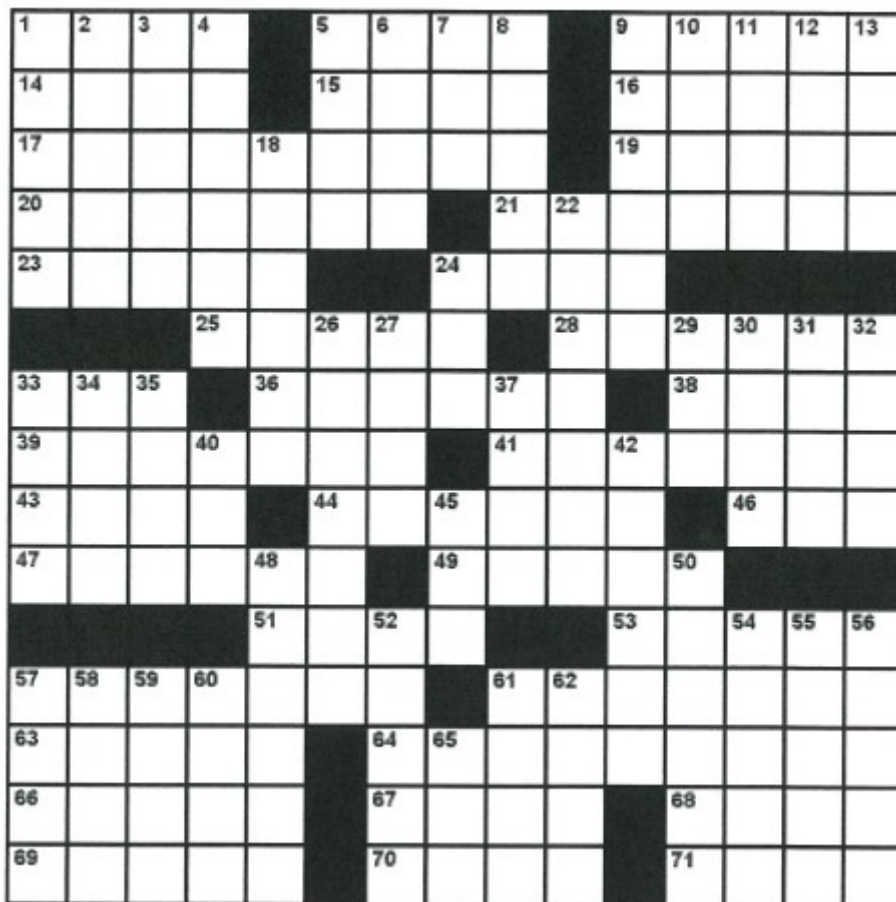
Drop in and see us at –
17 Consols Road,
Meekatharra

For additional information on our company visit our website www.skec.com.au

THE TRUSTED NAME IN THE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING INDUSTRY

Crossword

solution on page 52



Across

1. Port
5. Interval
9. Hooded creature
14. The Segway has one
15. Tower town
16. Use
17. Swedish ____
19. Anvil Chorus composer
20. Backseat feature, maybe
21. Kitchen worker's headgear
23. Whistle blower?
24. Island, beverage, and computer language
25. Creed
28. Astray
33. Sound of 9 Across
36. Mythological ferryman
38. Buck ender
39. Irish ____
41. English ____
43. Leeds' river
44. Tennis player, Roscoe
46. ____ Moines
47. Team's luck bringer
49. Part of a stair
51. ____ Linda, CA
53. Planted
57. Go gaga over, in Great Britain
61. Type of reaction
63. Israeli desert
64. Swiss ____
66. Russian ballet great, Diaghilev
67. Fossil fuel
68. The 24th and 31st
69. Lock
70. Turkish title
71. Hideouts

Down

1. Buddhist priests
2. Wield
3. Sweetheart, symbolically
4. Foursome
5. Things with springs
6. Medieval combat
7. Immigrant's course
8. Ottoman ruler
9. Russian ____
10. Done
11. Animal house?
12. Do dressage
13. Dismounted
18. Treat with contempt
22. Park and 5th
24. Preserve, in a way
26. Certain urban areas
27. Yucatan settler
29. Ump
30. Anti-perspirant brand
31. What the fourth little piggy got
32. Chuck
33. Took a dip
34. Sunni counterpart
35. Titles of knighthood
37. Dodge model, once
40. Word on a wine bottle
42. Mural
45. Org. for Heston
48. Spanish ____
50. Oats, often
52. Pilgrim's destination
54. Make a mat
55. Consumed
56. Prepare game
57. Tech. coll.
58. Tractor company symbol
59. Grimm character
60. Endurance, slangily
61. Big boat builder
62. Westwood campus
65. Be greedy

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AREA

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sudoku puzzle

	7				2		9	3
5				8	3			
9	3			4		2		8
		9	3			7		5
	2	7	5	6		8	3	
		8		7				1
		3			1	5		7
	8		7			9		
	9	5	8	2		3		

December Sudoku Solution

2	7	9	3	8	4	5	1	6
4	8	6	5	9	1	2	7	3
1	3	5	7	2	6	8	4	9
3	9	7	8	5	2	4	6	1
8	5	1	4	6	7	3	9	2
6	2	4	9	1	3	7	5	8
9	4	8	1	3	5	6	2	7
5	1	2	6	7	8	9	3	4
7	6	3	2	4	9	1	8	5

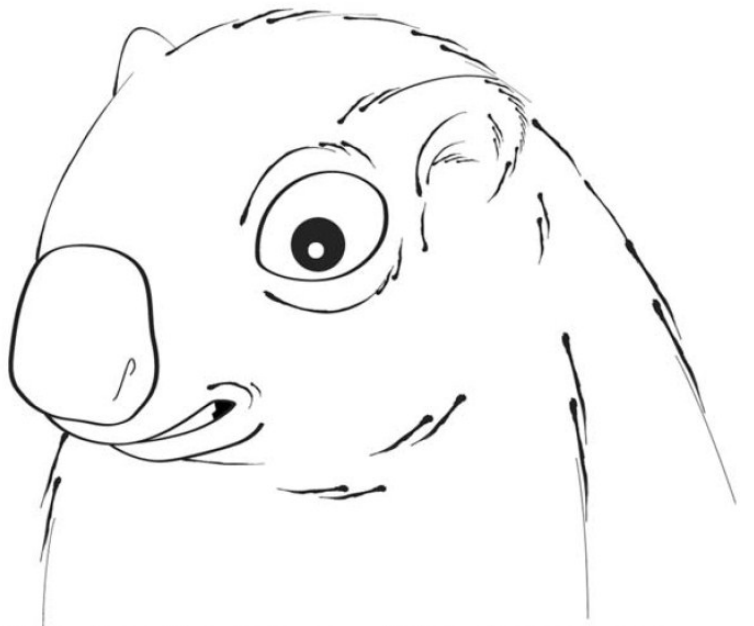
Brain Teaser

What seven letter word has hundreds of letters in it?



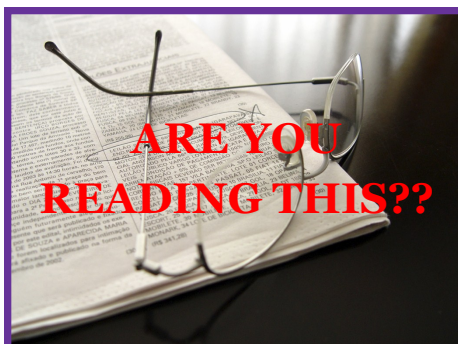
Answer: Mailbox

Colouring Page!



Crossword Solution

From Page 48



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THOUGHT ABOUT
ADVERTISING IN
THE MEEKA
DUST??
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MEEKATHARRA HOTEL

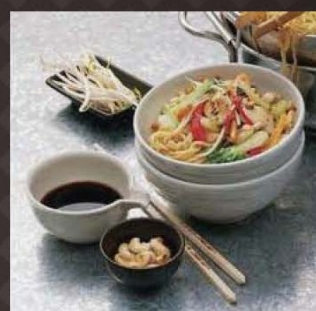
NEW CHEF! NEW MENU!

Enjoy our authentic, delicious Asian cuisine



EAT IN or TAKE AWAY

**Pop in to get a copy of
our new menu!**



Traditional Pavolva

Ingredients



6 EGG WHITES AT ROOM TEMPERATURE

315 GRAMS (1.5 CUPS) OF CASTER SUGAR

3 TEASPOONS OF CORNFLOUR

2 TEASPOONS OF WHITE VINEGAR

1 TEASPOON OF VANILLA ESSENCE

375 ML (1.5 CUPS) OF THICKENED CREAM

2 MANGOES - CHEEKS REMOVED, PEELED AND CUT IN TO THIN WEDGES

1 BANANA PEELED AND THINLY SLICED

4 PASSIONFRUITS/HALVED

Method

- STEP 1** Preheat oven to 150°C. Line a large baking tray with non-stick baking paper. Draw a 20cm disc on the paper and turn the paper ink-side down.
- STEP 2** Use an electric beater to beat the egg white in a clean, dry bowl until firm peaks form. Gradually add the sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, beating constantly, until the sugar dissolves and the mixture is thick and glossy. Beat in the cornflour, vinegar and vanilla essence.
- STEP 3** Spoon the meringue mixture onto the disc and use a flat-bladed knife to shape the meringue and make furrows. Bake in oven for 10 minutes.
- STEP 4** Reduce oven temperature to 110°C. Bake for a further 1 hour or until the meringue is crisp and dry. Turn oven off. Leave meringue in oven, with the door closed, to cool completely.
- STEP 5** Use a balloon whisk to whisk the cream in a bowl until firm peaks form. Spread the cream over the top of the pavlova. Top with mango and banana. Drizzle over passionfruit pulp.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2013

JANUARY 21ST - 25TH

DREAM TIME PR AND ST JOHN AMBULANCE YOUTH HIP
HOP WORKSHOPS

JANUARY 26TH

AUSTRALIA DAY ACTIVITIES AT THE POOL

JANUARY 19TH

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 5TH

INTERAGENCY MEETING - 3PM AT THE SHIRE

FEBRUARY 15TH

CRC MEETING

FEBRUARY 16TH

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING



Closing Date: 27th Feb 2013