



Meekatharra Dust

Issue Number 252 — February 2014

Cost \$ 2.50 incl. GST



**Australia Day
at Meeka Pool**

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the last issue of the Meekatharra that I will be editing. Thank you very much to all the contributors to the Dust over the year that I have been here, your contributions are invaluable. In this issue we have an important announcement from Senior Sergeant Steve Martyn, Anna Johnson treats us to the joy of family life in Meeka, we have a collection of stunning photos taken by Pool Manager Jay and of the Australia Day celebration. My replacement as editor is the new CDO David Macdonald. Please take the time to say hello to him when you can.

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The Meekatharra Dust

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

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or left at the Shire Office

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Dust Noticeboard...

Calling for Submissions

If you have any articles with information, about events, or photos you have taken that you would like included in the Meekatharra Dust, please drop them into the Shire before the closing date shown on the back page.

IMPORTANT DATES FEBRUARY 2014

COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CNR MAIN AND SAVAGE STREETS

9:30 SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15TH

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19TH

5:00PM ROYAL MAIL

A FRIENDLY REMINDER ABOUT 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



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.

Information contained within the Meekatharra Dust does not necessarily reflect the views of The Shire of Meekatharra or its employees or councillors.



Meekatharra Police Report

It was extremely busy over the Christmas period for police.

Alcohol seemed to be the main contributor for anti-social incidents in Meekatharra, 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 numerous parties occurring in Meekatharra recently now is the time to remind you that the State Government passed 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.

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

Meekatharra Police Station

Meekatharra - Police & Community, Respect & Resolve

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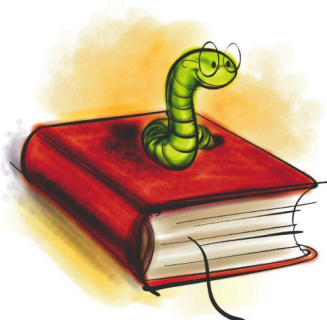
Meekatharra Library

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

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

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MURCHISON DENTAL TEAM VISITING SCHEDULE 2014

Meekatharra 10 Feb - 21 Feb

Mt Magnet 3 Mar - 14 Mar

Yalgoo 31 Mar - 11 Apr

Meekatharra 28 Apr - 9 May

Mt Magnet 26 May - 6 Jun

Sandstone 9 Jun - 13 Jun

Meekatharra 23 Jun - 4 Jul

Cue 21 Jul - 1 Aug

Meekatharra 18 Aug - 29 Aug

Burringurrah 1 Sept - 5 Sept

Mt Magnet 15 Sept—26 Sept

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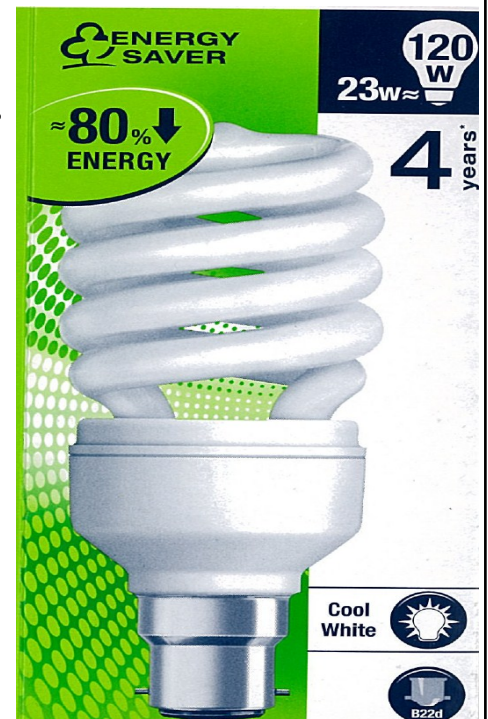
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Free Light Bulbs

The Shire of Meekatharra has around a hundred energy saver light globes (bayonet fitting) to give away. These are 120W and have a life of around 4 years. We are limiting these to 4 per person. Enquiries to office staff at the Shire office on Main Street. Hurry - these will go quickly.



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Designed by CRC Meekatharra



Department of
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55 Main Street Meekatharra WA 6642 TEL: 08 99801811

Opera in the Park in Meeka

The Community Resource Centre will be broadcasting the live opera performance of Puccini's Tosca from City of Perth's Opera in the Park. The live simulcast will take place Saturday February 15 from 7.45pm.

Contact the CRC to attend the screening live on Saturday night.

Free Event

Saturday 15 February 7.45pm

Meekatharra CRC, 55 Main Street

RSVP by Thursday February 13

to 9980 1811 or meekatharra@crc.net.au



A black and white poster for the opera 'Tosca'. It features a woman with blonde hair wearing round sunglasses and holding a cigarette. The text on the poster includes: 'When the stars were brightly shining, and faint perfumes the air pervaded', 'CITY OF PERTH'S OPERA IN THE PARK', 'PUCCINI'S TOSCA', 'LIVE SIMULCAST Saturday February 15 7.45pm', 'Performance from 8pm', 'Proudly supported by Lotterywest', 'Westlink is available to all towns that have access to the VAST satellite platform on Channel 602 or at your local Community Resource Centre', and 'Conductor: Brian Castles-Orion | Director: Stuart Maunder'. At the bottom, it lists the cast: 'Starring: Anke Hoppner, Angus Wood, Douglas McNicol, Andrew Collis' and the orchestra: 'West Australian Opera Chorus | West Australian Symphony Orchestra'.



www.waopera.asn.au





As many of you are aware, my handsome personal motor scooter mechanic Gary Hammer and I recently encouraged his son Matthew to escape from the hellish pits of Melton, Victoria and welcomed him to our charming desert bush hovel and the many attractions of Meekatharra.

"There's the historic Commercial Hotel," we pointed out as we drove through town. "And the court house is just over there when it's time for you to take out your first round of restraining orders."

After a quick tour it was time for Matt to get to work. No lazing around by the pool! "But I've been up and travelling since four a.m.," protested Matt. "You'll be right," we said encouragingly. "Here, see if this firefighting uniform fits, then go round and fix the 27 sink taps at Paddy's. Don't forget to pick up a drum of diesel on your way back. If Margie isn't at the fuel yard just drive around until you see her or Ronnie, he's usually driving the forklift, or go and ask at the pub and while you're there give Meacho some money for that carton we got last week, then pop up to the roadhouse and ask Judy what time you're starting tomorrow morning. Remember you need to juggle your roadhouse hours around cleaning for Jo. Here's \$2.50 for your lunch. Don't talk to any women at the bar."

With Matt's employment situation sorted out, Gary and I went home for a well-earned weekend nap. We were both pleased and excited to have Matt staying with us, and it was nice to see how much support I received from the Meeka community as I began my journey as a first time parental role model (having forgotten to have children of my own earlier in life thank god). "You poor thing," people said. "Now you have to put up with two of them."

But I was optimistic about Matt's arrival. Two Hammers! They would be able to talk to each other about cars and motorcycles and all the other things that poor Gary is forced to talk with me about in lieu of someone who understands him.

"Look at this!" Gary will exclaim as he bursts in to the kitchen. "The original solenoid pro-turbo spondometer was missing a globulator, they cost a fortune but I made one myself by cutting this old carburettor modulatoriser down to 3 mil then vulcanising it to fit the point oh-seven series injector, now all I have to do is take the fathomiser out of that Yamaha we found at the tip and I'll be able to run it from the fuel pump to the 12 volt transferometer!"

Then he proudly holds out a small black oily thing which is suspiciously similar to something I vacuumed up from the lounge room floor a week earlier and I try to be cheerfully supportive while ignoring the nagging guilty feeling that I may have caused the problem in first place when I was cleaning up and - silly woman! - mistook a pile of filthy old motorcycle parts lying under to the sofa for (gasp) junk.

But my dreams of a tech-talk free existence dissipated in a haze of diesel fumes as I discovered that I now had a two-headed Hammer monster on my hands - it came home from the tip, grimy and excited, both of its heads talking at the same time:

Gary: Look! I found this old Honda thermonuclear coupling device for the pandalometer!

Matt: Here's a solar twin-V injector disconjoineriser I can use to fix the helicopter engine!

Me: We have a helicopter engine?

Gary: We found three of them! And part of a point-2-mill Holden valve grinding polariser!

Matt: This looks like part of an incredulometer. My feet are hot. Do I have any Telstra credit left?

Gary: I think this is a grommet adjusteriser, but it's broken. Have you seen my pants? I'm hungry.

Making a mental note to see if I could get hold of a taser on eBay, I congratulated my happy hunters on their wonderfully useful tip finds, then went back to my household chores of smacking the scorpions in the lounge room with a shovel and googling Common Deadly Poisonous Snakes Of WA Especially That Large Brown Snake That You Nearly Stepped On This Morning By The Hills Hoist. I didn't tell Matt about the snake, because Matt was still trying to cope with his nightly adventures in our lizard-infested guest shed.

"There's a bungarra in my room," whispered Matt, waking us up in the wee hours with haunted eyes. "It'll just be a gecko," I said. "They're small and harmless." Matt shook his head. "No, it's definitely a

bungarra, one of those big ones, like they have in Indonesia." "What, a Komodo dragon?" I asked. "Yeah, like that. Big. I can hear its claws on the roof." Matt shivered, and Gary moaned in his sleep. "It's just a gecko, go to bed," I ordered and rolled over. We were woken again about half an hour later. "What are you doing??" I grumbled. "Setting a trap," said Matt. I gave up and went back to keeping Gary awake with my snoring, but in the morning when I went to collect Matt's laundry I saw that he'd surrounded his bed with mouse traps and placed hefty cans of Mortein within reach. I had visions of waking up one night to the sounds of an enraged bungarra flailing about the room with mouse traps flapping on its feet, maddened by the Mortein in its eyes, and Matt clinging terrified to top of the wardrobe. I made a mental note to see if I could get hold of a tranquiliser gun on eBay.

Lizards aside, Matt took to Meeka like the proverbial and in his first couple of weeks he managed to get a job at the roadhouse, buy a car off Rocky, take over several of Jo's cleaning jobs, make a good impression on the Meeka ladies, build several display stands for my souvenir business, get on to a first name basis with the truckies and locals at the roadhouse, join the fire brigade, repair one of Gaz's old motorbikes and unblock our kitchen sink while texting everyone in the known universe every hour on the hour and then slipping into a well-earned coma for his weekly ration of twenty minutes' sleep, his thumb still going at 72 words per minute on his overheating phone.

"He'll be the next Norm Trenfield at this rate!" I marvelled to Gaz as we spent a quiet, romantic evening searching for the banded desert snake that had taken up residence in the tool room, and whose babies had hatched and were sporadically appearing from under the TV bench during episodes of "River Monsters". Gary was proud of the way his young bloke was taking to Meeka, and the nightly screams from Matt's room gradually died down. "I think I'm getting used to the lizards!" reported Matt cheerfully. I had visions of him sitting up in bed with the bungarra, teaching it how to send text messages.

The next day Matt and I went into town to get his police check and grab a few groceries. Matt thought that this would involve driving into town, doing what we planned to do, then driving home again. But as all you locals know, there is no such thing as "just popping down to the shop" in Meeka, and Matt got a wonderful introduction to the rich, unpredictable joys of outback time mismanagement.

On the way, we took some rubbish to the tip, and discovered a bunch of really good stuff we would probably never use, so we took the new rubbish home, then set off again, this time actually reaching the post office, where we found that the stubby holders I'd designed for Darcy had arrived, so we took them over to the corner store, then watched some Thai music videos in Darcy's office until I remembered that I needed to go to the chemist to collect George's souvenir order, so we wandered over there and spent about twenty minutes chatting with everyone in the queue about the rain and the wretched midgie bites everyone's been suffering from aren't they a bugger.

Then we went to Farmer Jacks and in between chatting with various neighbours and mates in the aisles managed to get about 7% of the shopping done, at which point we remembered that we forgot to get the police check form, but on the way back to the post office we stopped at Coates Hire to see if Gaz wanted a pie and Tony said he had World War Z on DVD and we could get it from Anne at their place, but on the way to Anne & Tony's we see old Paddy walking along in the broiling sun so we give him a lift to Byron's place...What's that Paddy? You're not staying there anymore? Where are you staying now? You're not sure? We'll drive around until we see it OK?...then we dropped him off at Leanne's mum's place where I confused him even more by asking if they still had the guinea pigs, then we zipped round to get the DVD off Anne but she'd gone back inside so we went back to Coates and Tony rang her up and we went back again and she handed the DVD through the back gate a bit covered in slobber from the excited guard dog, then we went to the roadhouse to get a pie for Gaz and half an hour later we're still hanging around yarning with the truckies and Gaz's pie has gone cold OMG that reminds me we forgot about the ice cream in the back seat so we rush back to our camp, fire up the genny, turn the freezer on, unload the groceries and sit down for a lovely cold drink then remember that we never got the police check form which is what we went to town for in the first place but we don't care because on the way we got a zombie DVD, advice on how to improve a lemon tree, a remedy for midgie bites, a list of available puppies, some old weed-whacker parts and a rumour that there might be a spare rear spoiler for Matt's car at Dave's place.

"That's Meeka," I explained. "It's grouse!" said Matt, which I understand is a phrase that young people use to express approval, or maybe it's a phone app. Anyway, it was great to see how young Matt embraced the challenges that Meeka threw at him, and the way his hard-working, generous nature was welcomed into the daily flow of life in our little town - a big change from the frustrations of city life. Matt's back in Melbourne at the moment having his broken foot tended to (that's a whole other story), but we look forward to having him back in a few weeks' time and introducing him to the giant racing spiders and other critters that have appeared in the house since the cyclone rain. You'll need to excuse me now - the bungarra's texting us from Matt's room. I think it wants help with its Facebook page.

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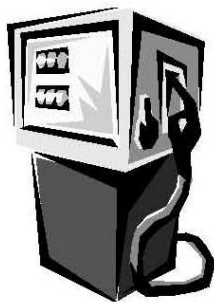
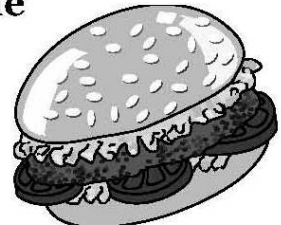
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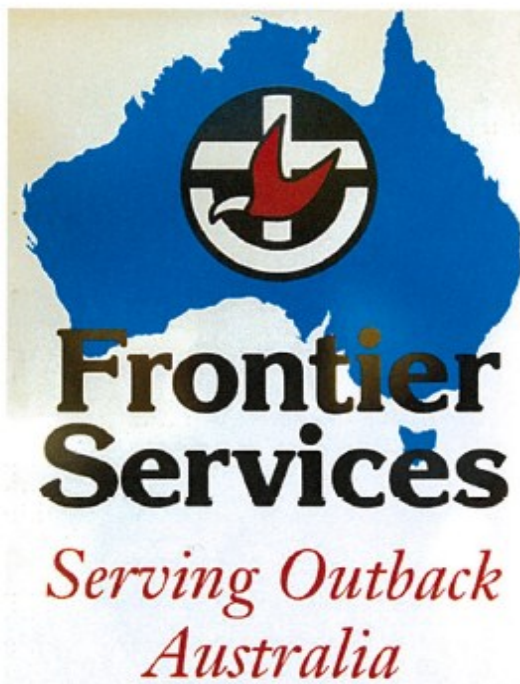
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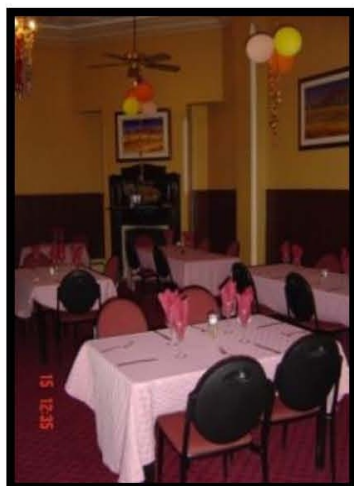
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Shire of Meekatharra Welcomes Geoff Carberry and David Macdonald



Geoff Carberry

Geoff has been appointed as Community & Development Services Manager.

He has come from Boyup Brook where he was Manager of Administration and Assets.

He enjoys most sports but has particular interests in Lawn Bowls and Shooting.

He is also a keen photographer and looks forward to exploring the region.

His wife Sue will be working at the hospital.

David Macdonald

Dave has been appointed in the position of Community Development Officer.

He has come up from Perth but has worked in this region before.

It seems that the only sporting activity that he will be doing here is golf as there is not a lot of fishing to be had in Meeka.





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Thursday	8am—7pm
Saturday	8am—5pm

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an AWB company



tools to help **you**
work **smarter** not **harder**

In addition, we are a Landmark Agency servicing all
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Farmer Jack's Foodworks Meekatharra
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



Garden Reticulation – Shire Dwellings, Meekatharra

GENERAL INVITATION TO QUOTE

The Shire of Meekatharra has a number of dwellings where it proposes to install automatic garden reticulation. Quotations are invited from persons and companies competent and able to perform this work.

Quotes will be accepted up to 3.00pm on 7th March, 2014.

Written documentation about these works and the form and manner in which submissions shall be made, can be obtained at the Meekatharra Shire Office, Main Street, Meekatharra, 6642.

For additional information and inspection of the sites, please contact Lance Croft on 9980 0600, po@meekashire.wa.gov.au, (m) 0488 545 616.



General Invitation to Quote ROOFING WORKS

The Shire of Meekatharra has the following works for which quotes are invited.

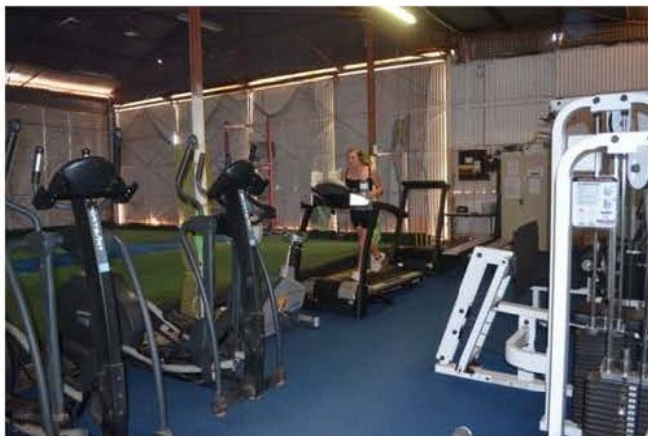
- Extend the cool room skillion roof over the barbecue at the Meekatharra Town Hall
- Construct a framed roof over the barbecue at the Meekatharra Recreation Centre

(Quotes will be accepted up to 3.00pm on Tuesday 11 March, 2014)

Written documentation about these works may be obtained at the Meekatharra Shire Office, Main Street, Meekatharra, 6642. For additional information and inspection of the sites, please contact Lance Croft on 9980 0600, po@meekashire.wa.gov.au, (m) 0488 545 616.

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**



**ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTING
PTY. LTD.**

EC7134

Telephone: (08) 9964 6880
Facsimile: (08) 9964 6881
Email: admin@skec.com.au
Web Site: www.skec.com.au
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2 B/R Accommodation

Large Workshop

Large Storage Yard

Phone: 0418 801 089

All above properties neg separately

Property

For Sale/Rent/or Long Term Lease

3 B/R House w/Kitchen Lounge Living Area

Office Laundry Bath Toilet

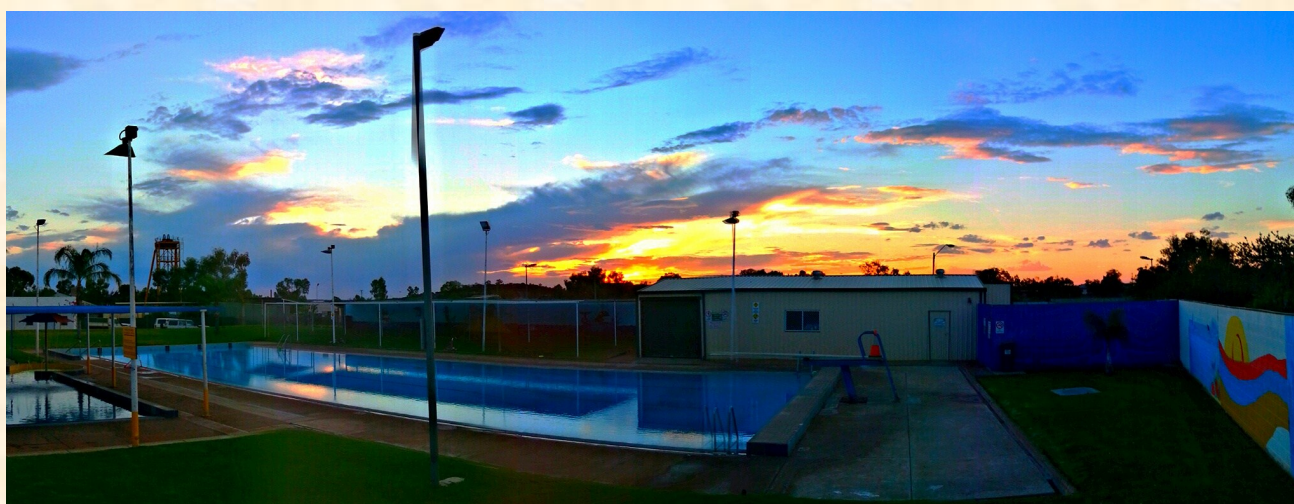
Separate Double Garage

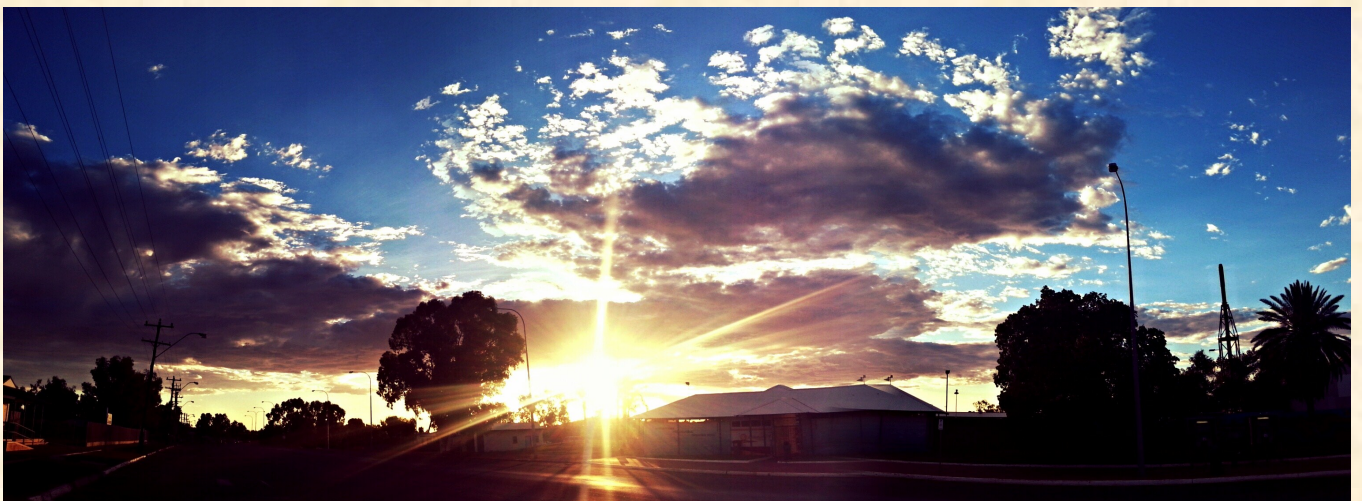
Large Block

Phone 0418 801 089

Meekatharra Photos

by Jayson Riley















Kids Colouring Page

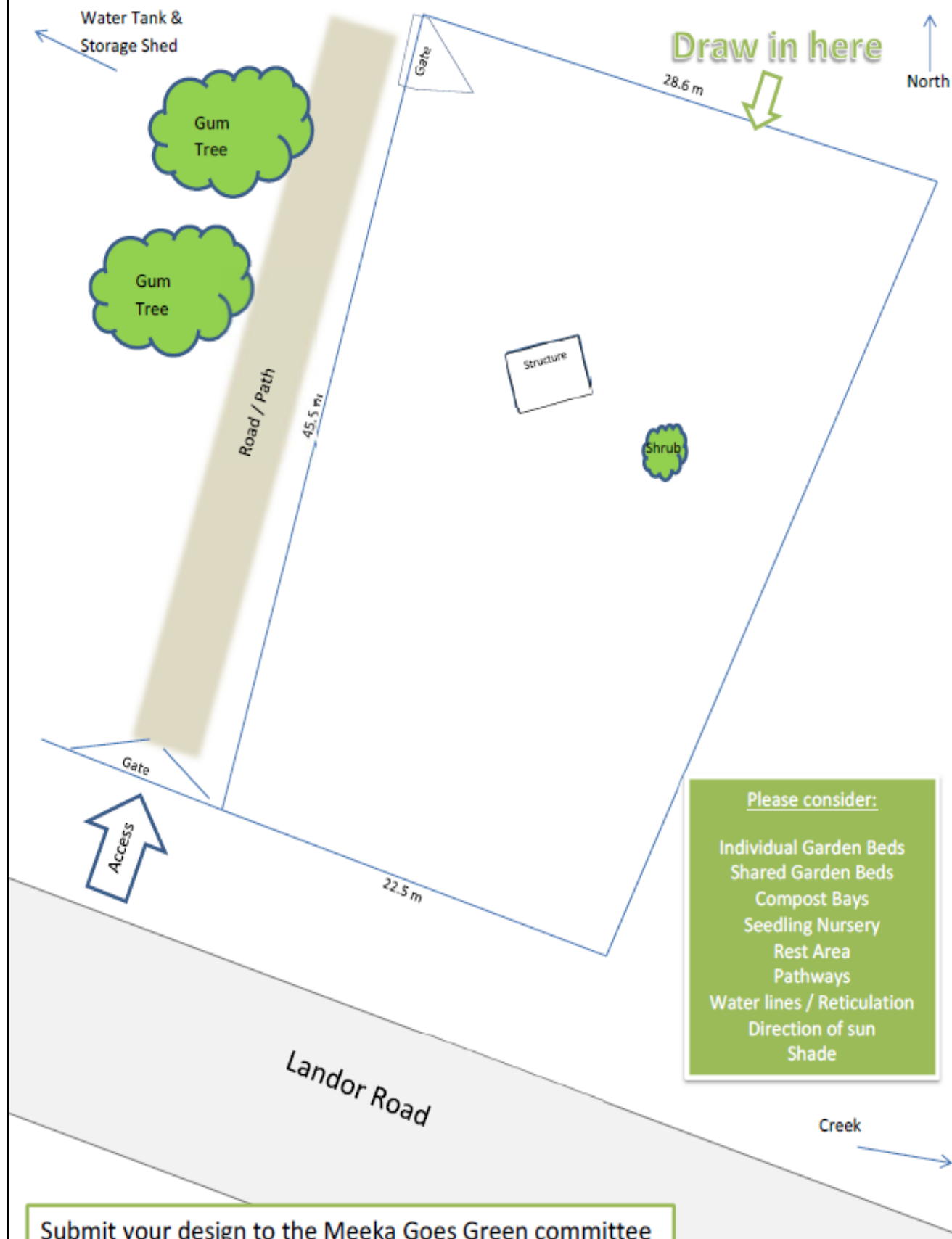


TERM 1, 2014
YOUTH, SPORT & RECREATION PROGRAM

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Afternoon 3-5pm	Swimming pool 6-18 years Art, Craft & Cooking @ Kids Zone 6-12 years 	Swimming pool 6-18 years Pool Competition @ Youth Centre 10-18 years 	Swimming pool 6-18 years Fix Your Ride (bike maintenance program) @ Youth Centre 10-18 years	Swimming pool 6-18 years Remix Dance Class 10-18 years @ Youth Centre 	Swimming pool 6-18 years (if raining activities at the Indoor Cricket Centre) 
Evening 5.30-8pm	Junior Basketball training, Golf & TBall @ Sports Complex 6-16 years Senior basketball @ Sports Complex 12-18 years Youth Centre Drop In Pool & dart competition, acoustic guitar, Wii, XBox 12-18 years (7-9pm) 	Milo In2Cricket @ Sports Complex 6-12 years (5.30-7pm)  Golf @ Sports Complex 6-18 years  Tennis @ Sports Complex 6-18 years Carpet Bowls @ Sports Complex 6-18 years	Football Training @ Sports Complex 6-12 years (5.30-7pm) Golf, TBall, Touch Footy @ Sports Complex 6-18 years Meeka Bike Club Night Ride 10-18 years @ Youth Centre 	Milo In2Cricket @ Sports Complex 6-12 years (5.30-7pm) Junior Basketball Game @ Sports Complex 6-16 years  Soccer, Tennis @ Sports Complex 6-18 years	Crazy Games At the pool 6-18 years (or if raining, indoor activities at the Indoor Cricket Centre or movie at Kids Zone) Youth Centre Drop In Movie night, Basketball, street hockey 12-18 years (7-9pm) 

Phone Belinda (Youth Officer) on 0438 993 013 or Bevin (Youth, Sport & Rec) on 0447 899 490 for more info

Help us design the Meeka Community Garden!



Submit your design to the Meeka Goes Green committee
(Email it to meekagoesgreen@gmail.com or give it to
Svenja, Mitch or Lorri or other committee members)

Important Dates

February 2014

ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

9:00 COUNCIL CHAMBERS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15TH

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19TH

5:00PM ROYAL MAIL

**CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT
MEEKATHARRA DUST EDITION:**

MARCH 7 2014

ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

9AM SATURDAY 15TH FEBRUARY