Meekatharra Dust

Issue Number 266— May - 2015 *Cost $ 2.60 incl. GST*

Outback Festival

Float Parade

10am 26th September

Showcase your business, community group or yourself!

Contact the Shire on 9980 0600 or email parade@meekafestival.com.au to confirm your entry.

Cnr Main and Savage Streets, PO Box 129 Meekatharra WA 6642 *Phone:* 9980 0600 *Fax:* 9981 1505
Email: ceo@meekashire.wa.gov.au *Web:* www.meekashire.wa.gov.au

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITY !

The Meekatharra Dust

'The Meekatharra Dust' is a non-profit community newspaper.
Articles or advertisements can be posted to PO Box 315 Meekatharra,
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Or try emailing us at
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Meekatharra WA 6642

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A FRIENDLY REMINDER ABOUT DOG CONTROL

When walking your dogs on the town oval 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

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 at the back.

IMPORTANT DATES MAY 2015

COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 16 2015

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CNR MAIN AND SAVAGE STREETS

A big thank you from Irene Allison for all her birthday wishes

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.

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.

Your Council News

May 2015 • by Anna Johnson on behalf of the Shire of Meekatharra

2015-16 Budget: Have Your Say

Council is currently preparing its budget for 2015/16 and as part of that process invites residents, ratepayers, community and sporting groups to submit suggestions or requests for projects they would like to see included in the budget for the coming financial year.

All submissions should be submitted by way of a formal letter outlining all relevant details, including quotes or estimates, relating to the proposal and be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer.

Submissions can be posted to:
Meekatharra Shire, PO Box 129
Meekatharra WA 6642
OR delivered to
Meekatharra Shire Administration Office, 54 Main Street
OR by Fax to 9981 1505
OR Email to dceo@meekashire.wa.gov.au

by 4:30 pm on Friday 8th May 2015

Council invites your ideas about community projects & improvements for next financial year

What improvements, developments or changes to our area would benefit your business? Would you like to see increased focus on tourism, mining or other commercial investment? Cultural, art or history projects? Enhanced recreation or residential areas?

Get your ideas & suggestions down on paper quick smart - any inclusions about cost, budget and how your idea can be realised or how it can utilise local resources & services would be very helpful.

While progress doesn't happen overnight, the council is working with other regional bodies on ways to increase tourism and other investment into Meekatharra shire and surrounding areas - the "coal face" experiences of locals and their businesses are one of the best guides to how the council can focus its resources.

Let Us Know By 8th May

Towns Wait For Alcohol Decision

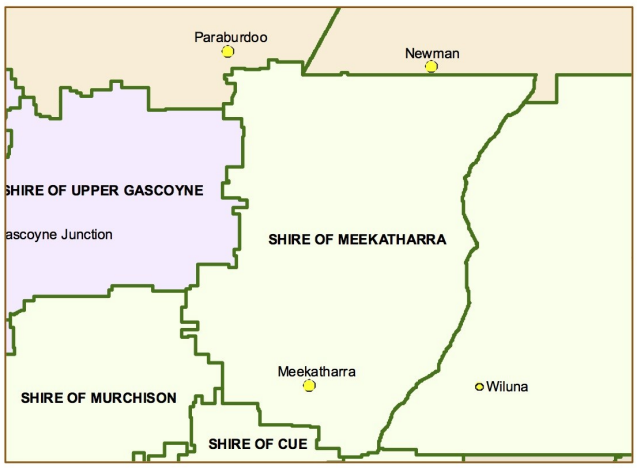
Area police and the Director Of Liquor Licencing held meetings with midwest shires & towns, including Meekatharra, Cue and Mt. Magnet among others, to discuss the challenging and difficult issue of alcohol restrictions. Meekatharra and our neighbouring towns now await the final decision on whether there will be changes to the alcohol restriction guidelines.

In The Zone : Changes For Shire Development Rules

The "Local Planning Strategy & Scheme" documentation has been completed, with the approval process still taking place - it will be going to the EPA, then advertised for comment, and finally to the Minister For Planning for approval. The new scheme will cover the whole of the Shire and not just the Meeka town area.

The scheme cover things such as zoning regulations and the uses of town land. New developments, infrastructure or improvements to existing structures outside of town limits will need approval from the Shire. For example, places like Capricorn and Kumarina roadhouses lie within the shire boundaries and would be among the places covered by the requirements of the scheme.

Wondering how it might affect you? Get in touch with the shire to find out more.



Dogs - Brush Up On Your Reading Skills!

The town dog control signs have arrived and will be installed in coming weeks - everyone will need to have their dog on a leash in the streets of Meekatharra, and police will be assisting with enforcement. The town oval is the off-leash area where dogs can run free - why not join others after work for dog play time and getting to know a few new faces?

Council respects the tradition of "camp dogs", but in town it's essential that all dogs are leashed and under control in order to protect children, locals and visitors from unintended dog incidents.

Rates Rise To Meet Revenue Requirements

Council working to minimise impact on ratepayers

Town Gross Rental Values (GRVs) were due for revaluation by the Valuer General's Office (VGO) in 2015 with the result being an overall increase of 47% (52.56% Residential, 48.55% Commercial, 5.23% Industrial, -12.78% Vacant Land, 51.27% Miscellaneous). To compensate for the impact this valuation would have on ratepayers Council have decided to lower the Rate in the Dollar from 11.8836 to 8.6281. The rate revenue from this will be 10% higher than previous year which is required to raise the necessary revenue for Council to operate efficiently and provide a diverse range of services.

UV ("unimproved value") Mining is proposed to stay the same at 19.0389 cents in the dollar. UV Pastoral Rate in $ are proposed to be increased by 5% from 3.8433 to 4.0355 cents in the dollar which accomplishes a decrease of difference between UV Mining and UV Pastoral whilst keeping impact to pastoralists to a reasonable level and reflects the level of rating need to raise the necessary revenue.

Ratepayers are invited to make a written submission in respect of the proposed rates by 5pm 22nd May 2015. Any submissions received in relation to this matter will then be considered by Council.

You're welcome to attend the monthly council meetings (dates and times are listed in The Dust) and have your say. You can also obtain a copy of the Council Minutes to find out about the many other projects, discussions and improvements that the Shire is undertaking on behalf of the Meeka community.

New Public Seating To Cop A Sit Load?

Locals will have noticed the attractive new seating that has appeared in Main Street - it's a trial run to see how they're treated. The semi-circular seats have been designed to withstand even the harshest of Meekatharra conditions, and more will go in at other locations around town depending on how the trial seats are treated.

Further town improvements are on their way, including remodelling of the Welcome Park driveway, removing the wooden posts and creating easier access for visitors and their vehicles. The tourist bay and the area around the yellow mining headframe at the creek park will be bitumenised, and a footpath will be created along the west side of Main Street between the tourist bay and the pool, making it easier and more inviting for visitors to park up at the creek picnic area and then stroll to the shopping precinct.

There's also a "town busy bee" in the works - a big clean up of abandoned cars and other cast-off bush rubbish in and around town - feel free to pitch in around your own neighbourhood!

With "grey-" and "young"-nomad tourism on the rise across Australia, the shire is working towards making Meeka more visitor-friendly - if you have suggestions, check out the 2015-16 budget "request for submissions" article on the previous page. What projects do you think would increase our tourism profile and benefit our community and businesses?

Shire Of Meekatharra
Main Street
PO Box 129
Meekatharra WA 6642
Phone : 08 9980 0600
www.meekashire.wa.gov.au

"Meekatharra - A Golden Prospect"

A great time was had by everyone who attended the recent Shire of Meekatharra Youth Services Glow Party held at the Youth Centre. A big thank you to **Mark, Sheryl & Jody from Meeka Police Station** for pumping up the music and providing the lighting, **Paul from RFDS & staff from the CRC** for cooking the bbq, **Svenja from the Shire** for taking photos, **David Cowled** for taking photos and organising the launching of rockets, **Robyn Gerace from the District High School** for helping out with games and costumes, **Mitch from Frontier Services** for being our 'bouncer', and **Youth Services staff Pauliina, Bruce, Andrea, Bithun, Belinda, Katie, Mary Joy and Zara**.

shire of meekatharra
a golden prospect

Meekatharra Youth Services

KIDZONE In The Making

Many people have been instrumental in the development of Kidzone, and a few key people deserve to be recognised for their input into what is a very successful children's program in Meekatharra.

The program, based on a Victorian best practise model of children's services, had a great kick start with the Coordinator of Kidzone (Victoria) passing on his program structure and resources for me to use in Meekatharra. Thank you so much **Jeff Roma** for helping me out in those early days and for trusting me with your program manuals!!!!

Dave Hicks came on board in those early days, assisting to run the initial program from the Youth Centre. We knew the program was a hit when the kids kept asking 'When is the next Kidzone session??' Attendance rates increased and remained steady but the Youth Centre was not equipped to develop the program – particularly over the summer months.

Anita Seery joined the Youth Services team, and brought with her a myriad of skills that launched the program to another level. During summer, Kidzone programs were conducted from the pool, with Anita's dedication and passion never failing. People visiting the pool were always intrigued to see what the next exciting activities would be.

Anita specialised in art therapy, science based experiments and educational learning

activities. She also introduced dance and we were fortunate enough to have **Jo Burgmeister** teach belly dancing techniques to the girls.

During this time **Mary Joy** also worked within the program and assisted greatly with the supervision of children and activities. With the support of **Mal Wood** (previous Community Development Officer for the Shire) and **Sam Tarling** (previous Community Services Development Manager for the Shire) a suitable building was identified that would suit the needs of the program perfectly. **Roy McClymont** (CEO of the Shire) was very supportive of the program and use of the old kindy building. Without this support, Kidzone would not exist in its current form today.

Kidzone commenced operating from the building April 2012, with a huge effort put in by Anita to help me move resources from the Youth Centre into the old kindy building. Anita then went about coordinating the program content based on her expertise. Around this time, my boy was taken to hospital after a nasty fall from the old play equipment. I prepared a report to Sam Tarling suggesting a replacement playground, hand picking items that would be kid friendly for children as young as 5, but exciting enough for kids who were 11!!!

With the **Shire of Meekatharra**'s commitment to the program, and with Council agreeing to match dollar for dollar

any funding we could receive, we now have a brand new playground for the kids to enjoy. Thank you to Sam Tarling who worked on pursuing the new playground and **Lottery West** who granted us money. Thankyou also for all the hard work the **Shire ground crew** put into the playground (including the late **Rohan Salmon**), and ultimately to the Shire who matched the funding and supported the new playground.

David MacDonald (Community Development Officer for the Shire) has since overseen the installation of the new playground and renovations for the building. He has worked tirelessly on refurbishment of the building.

A big thankyou to all those services who have assisted in delivering programs over the holiday period at Kidzone, including **Tracey Sailor** from the SDA Church, **Storm Co, Edmund Rice, Fair Game**, and the **Mission Australia** team. Without your input the holiday season would not be so successful!

Mary Joy is now co-ordinating Kidzone, and is assisted by **Bithun Wijeweera** and **Zara Fernando**. The team does a fantastic job at delivering an innovative activity based learning program, with each session having an emphasis on dance, free play, art, cooking and outdoor physical activity based games.

Mary Joy is doing an incredible job with co-ordinating the service and delivering dynamic program content. Anyone who has been fortunate enough to see last year's float parade at the Meekatharra Festival, and the dance and singing that Kidzone performed at the festival and Glow Party, can see all of Mary Joys hard work.

Bithun Wijeweera is also a favourite with the kids at Kidzone……I can often hear his name being yelled from across the yard. The kids love playing active games with him, and he does a tremendous job interacting with them. Zara has also been a valuable staff member, assisting to run activities, connecting with the kids, and helping out where needed.

Thank you so much to all who have contributed to Kidzone. Each person's effort and dedication to the service has seen the program move from strength to strength.

Meekatharra Youth Services

Term 2, 2015 YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
After School	Drop In/Zumba @ the Youth Centre 2.30-5pm (11-18 years) Meeka Music @ the YCentre 2.30-5pm (11-18 years) Kids Zone 2.30-5pm Art/craft/dance (school age up to 11 years)	Drop In/Bike Prep @ the Youth Centre 2.30-4pm (10-18 years) 	Drop In/Mixed Volleyball @ the Youth Centre 2.30-5pm (10-18 years) Kids Zone 2.30-5pm Movie/Karaoke (school age up to 11 years)	Drop In/Art & Craft @ the YCentre 2.30-5pm (11-18 years) Mixed Footy games @ the Oval 2.30-5pm (10-18 years) 	Drop In/Pool Comp @ the YCentre 2.30-5pm (11-18 years) Meeka Music @ the YCentre 2.30-5pm (11-18 years) Kids Zone 2.30-5pm Cooking (school age up to 11 years)	Auskick @the Oval 10am-12pm (Ages 5 -12) (starts 16th May)
Afternoon/ Evening 	Mixed Dance @ the Youth Centre 5-7pm (10-18 years) Basketball @ Sports Complex 6-8pm (6-18 years)	Ride leaves 4pm sharp from the Youth Centre 4-7pm Basketball comp @ Sports Complex 6-8pm (6-18 years)	Karalundi Basketball @ Sports Complex 5.30-8pm (6-18 years) 	Soccer @ the Cricket Centre 6-8pm (10-18 years) Girls Dance @ the Youth Centre 5-7pm	Drop In @ the Youth Centre 6-8pm (Ages 11-18 years) 	Meekatharra Youth Services shire of meekatharra a golden prospect

Phone Belinda (Youth Centre) 0438 993 013, Bithun (Sports Complex) 0458 773 616, Mary Joy (Kidzone) 0487 193 596

Mixed Dance
@
the Youth Centre
Every Monday
5-7pm
10-18 years
Contact Belinda on 0438 993 013
for more details
shire of meekatharra
a golden prospect
Meekatharra
Youth Services

BIKE RIDING ADVENTURE!!!

Leave from the

Youth Centre

Every Tuesday

4-7pm

Bike, helmet & water bottle supplied

10-18 years of age

Phone Belinda on 0438 993 013 for more info.

Meekatharra Youth Services

shire of meekatharra

YOUTH CENTRE DROP IN

OPEN EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL

11-18 years of age

Phone Belinda on 0438 993 013 for more info

Meekatharra
Youth Services
MIXED INDOOR
SOCCER
EVERY THURSDAY @ 6PM
AGES FROM 5- 18
@ THE INDOOR CRICKET GROUNDS ON HIGH STREET. CALL BITHUN ON 0439 909 738 FOR MORE INFO.

OUTBACK ANGELS DANCE GROUP

@

the Youth Centre

Every Thursday

5-7pm

10-18yrs

Friday nights @ the Youth Centre

6-8pm (ages 11-18 years)

shire of meekatha

Friday Night @ the Youth Centre 12-18 years

Come & join us

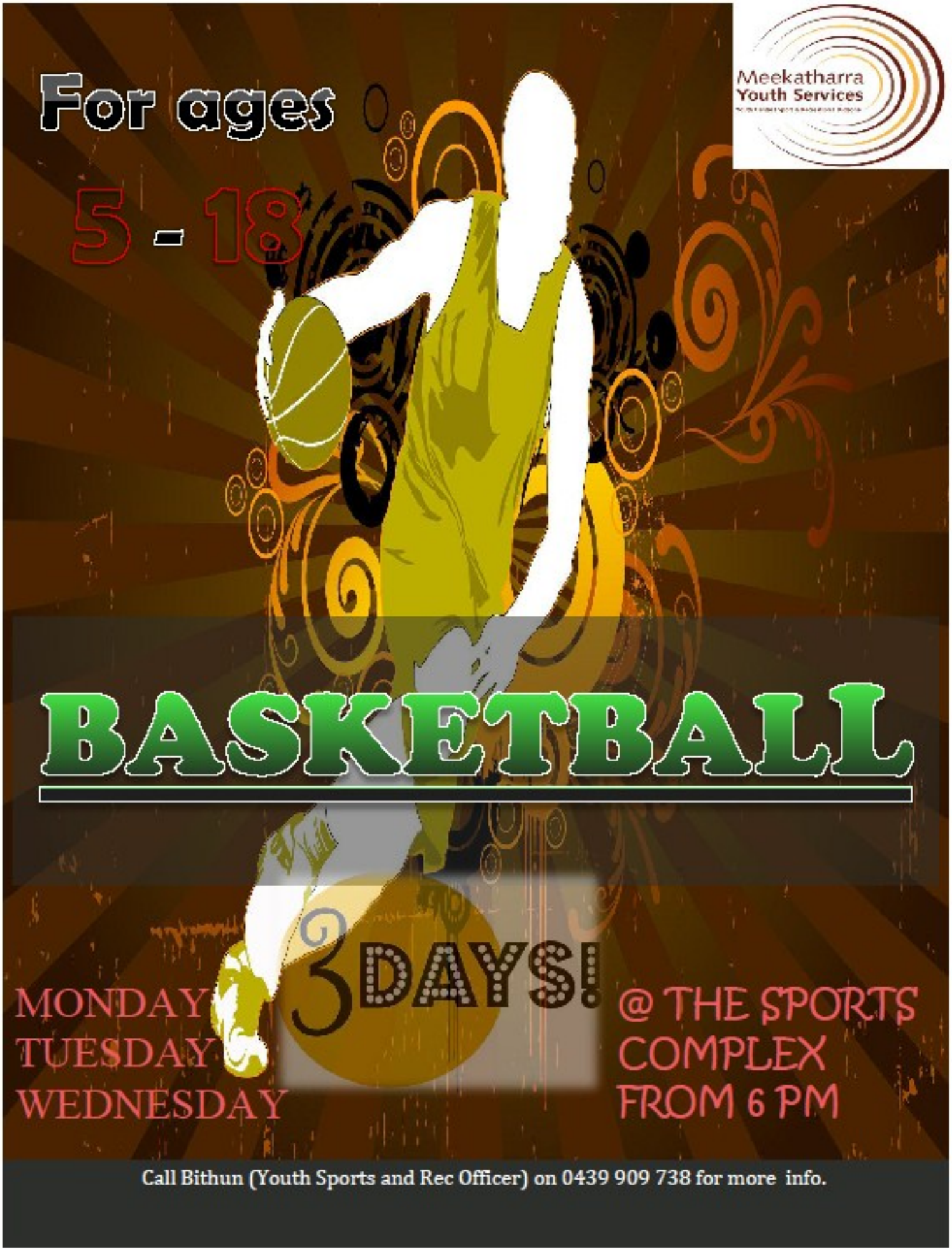
6-8pm every Friday night

shire of meekatharra a golden prospect

Meekatharra Youth Services
Youth Centre | Sport & Recreation | Kidzone

THE LITTLE BIG TIME
STARTS SATURDAY 16TH MAY
AT THE OVAL 10AM TO 12PM
AGES 5-12
FREE BBQ
nab AFL Auskick
CALL BITHUN (YOUTH SPORTS AND REC OFFICER) ON 0439 909 738 FOR MORE INFO

THE LITTLE BIG TIME
Activities 6 days a week
CALL BITHUN (YOUTH SPORTS AND REC OFFICER) ON 0439 909 738 FOR MORE INFO.


Meekatharra
Youth Services
For ages
5 - 18
BASKETBALL
3 DAYS!
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
@ THE SPORTS
COMPLEX
FROM 6 PM
Call Bithun (Youth Sports and Rec Officer) on 0439 909 738 for more info.

IN THE NEWS . . .

Welcome To The Wild Wet

Story & Photos by Anna Johnson

"We're going to need a bigger boat!"

Well, we wished for rain and nature delivered - with a vengeance. Searing summer temperatures dropped over twenty degrees as heavy rains soaked the goldfields in April. As one Meeka local said, "It was absolutely biblical!"

Relief turned to concern as floodwaters rose, turning iron-hard tracks into treacherous bogs, catching out quite a few foolhardy offroaders and holding up traffic on the Great Northern. "We're going to need a bigger boat," joked a Hedland-bound traveller with their tinny in tow. Like a version of the famous Johnny Cash song, horses at the racecourse stables were "up to their knees", with tiny pony PeeWee probably wondering if he was going to float away.

Floodways at the Gascoyne Southern Branch and the Karalundi stretch became raging torrents - trucks managed to get through, but the road was soon closed to lighter vehicles. The Downer/Main Roads crews put in long hours day and night, working on road damage and ensuring that drivers got through safely.

The Wiluna road suffered major damage on the unsealed sections, with some areas having more than half a metre of road height swept away - Steve Hoare and Gary Hammer put in the hard yards to repair the worst sections.

More rain swept in as a second set of cyclones shaped up in the north and the east - Meeka residents swapped air conditioners for buckets as heat-stressed roofs revealed their weak spots under the relentless deluge.

From 50 to 500 - Floodwaters Rise As Temperatures Plummet

Top: Outback version of a drive-through car wash - travellers cautiously ease their vehicle through one of the floodways. At the peak of the storms, many floodways became dangerous white-water rivers.

Above: "We're wet and knackered, but at least we've managed to get most people through!" Dedicated road crew Debbie and Jacques greet travellers with their usual cheery smiles. In the background, Spongebob the station mailbox keeps up his cheeky grin in spite of wet feet.

Below: Mindful of possible "canyon" cracks in the saturated bitumen, road trains keep supplies coming through endless tracts of water - some smaller vehicles took chances tucking in behind trucks to get across the dangerous currents, which rose to over 600 millimetres in some places.

The man with the stats is David Ingram, our new Met Office Manager: "The Australia Day dust storm heralded the start of the weather changes," he explained. "Our recorded wind speeds at the airport were 96 km/hr from the northwest, but wind speeds in town could have been higher."

Heavy rainfall occurred on the 31st of January to the 2nd of February, with nearly 50mm measured at the airport for those three days. The first week of March saw another 75mm fall, and a bonus 25mm at the end of the month. Lighter falls throughout the period added to the soaking.

While no major records have been broken, early "out of season" flowering has begun, with locals and tourists hoping for a spectacular wildflower season this year. With the ground still soggy in many areas, caution and good recovery gear is a must for anyone going bush - the outback soil can be treacherous.

Below: Improvised drainage on the home track; cockies take refuge from the heat and storms at the racecourse; a tiny heat-exhausted microbat; the dramatic contrast of sun-scorched earth and life-giving pools as rain refreshes the outback.

With the waters slowly receding, the scorched outback bush is bursting into life, with budgies and other native birds revelling in the soaks and pools, and green shoots sprouting up everywhere. Hundreds of microbats, finches and lizards succumbed to the heat this summer, so it's good to know the poor native animals and livestock are finally getting some respite. Large numbers of shield shrimp have been seen at Lake Austin, a true sign of a "big wet" in the normally dry lake bed.

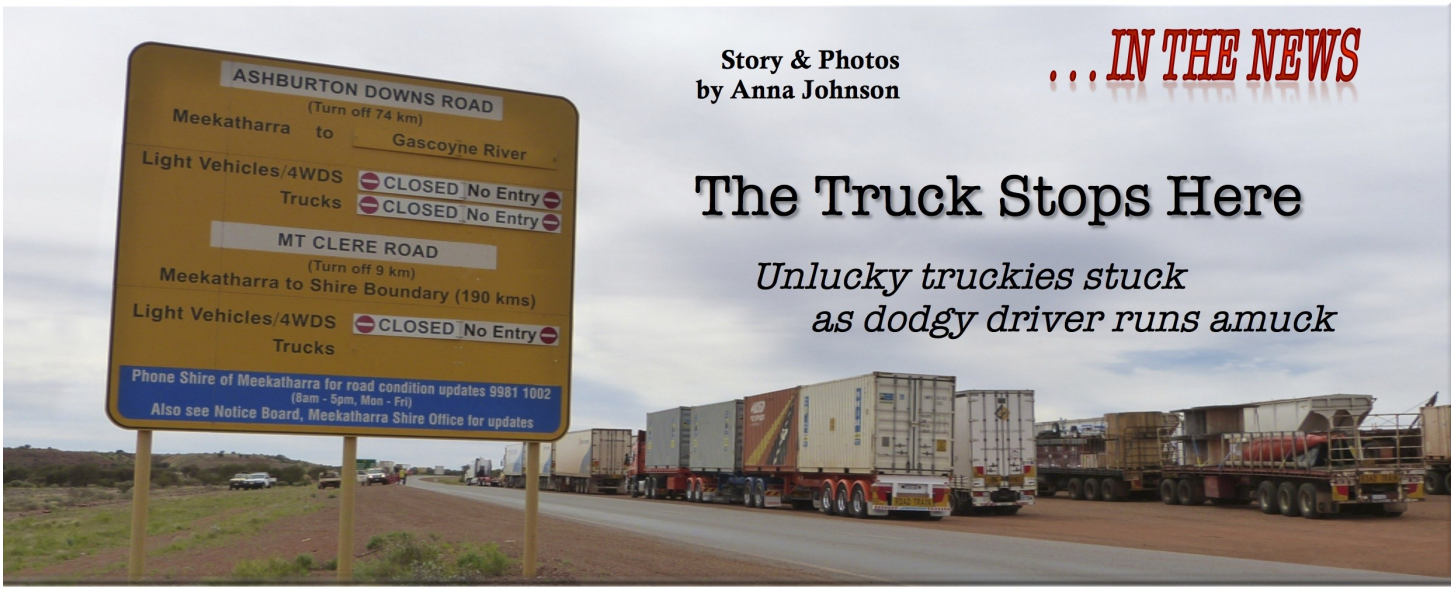
Not so welcome are the scorpions and snakes emerging from their flooded hidey holes, looking for dry ground - but it's all part of nature's tapestry, and of course there's nothing better than falling asleep to the sound of steady rain on an old tin roof!

Above: "How high's the water, mama?" Met Office Manager Dave collects the weather statistics, and locals make a damp trip to the hospital across the rising Meekatharra creek, which became a lake at the Gascoyne Junction Road turnoff (bottom). Norm's famous kangaroo cutouts were an unusual and charming sight amid the waters of the creek park.

Story & Photos
by Anna Johnson

The Truck Stops Here

Unlucky truckies stuck as dodgy driver runs amuck



Top: None shall pass - road sign leaves no room for doubt as truckies and travellers slowly fill up the pullover areas north of town.

Above: Tony Burroughs checks in on traffic controllers Gary Hammer and Steve Hoare, who kept things orderly and helped run tourists and truckies up to the shops & loos during the long wait.

Above right: "It's all part of the job, love!" Truckies make the best of things by spending some rare "face time" with their channel 40 mates. Most drivers carry supplies on board for stopover emergencies like this.

"Welcome to Meeka - why not stay awhile?" Local fire & rescue captain Gary Hammer takes charge of the town's northern traffic stop as travellers wait patiently for the road to re-open.

Tanker trailers were rolled when a quick-thinking truckie swerved to avoid an out-of-control driver about 50 km south of Kumarina on April 17. The Great Northern Highway was closed on and off over two days as cranes struggled to remove the awkward, heavy loads. Fortunately there were no injuries.

An anonymous witness claimed that the female driver suddenly braked and then stepped out of her car in the middle of the highway, forcing emergency action by the truckie, who apparently feared he had run over the woman.

According to unconfirmed sources, the woman was accosted by police and allegedly had her licence "removed", but was apparently caught again the next day trying to retrieve her car, once more nearly causing an accident by pulling out in front of a truck at the traffic control point and then - if sources are correct - straight into the view of the same police officer who had booked her the day before. It appears further charges are now pending. Maybe it's true when they say that some people get their driving licences from a cereal packet!

The situation was complicated further when one of the rescue cranes got bogged, requiring a third crane to be sent up and causing many hours of delays on the GNH at both ends over three days. Each tanker took six hours to load on to the retrieval trucks, and were a sorry sight as the weary drivers pulled in to the Meeka roadhouse for a well-deserved coffee on Saturday night.

Sandstone Mystery:
Rumours Rife As Search Continues

The mystery surrounding missing prospector couple Ray and Jennie Kehlet seems to deepen each day. Volunteers from Meeka have been helping at the Sandstone area, while Meeka shop staff who recall having served the couple at some point in the past have been helping police to trawl through CCTV footage in the hope of spotting any clues.

Speculation is running wild as the investigation continues, with the reported "skeletal remains" in the abandoned shaft having been identified as those of Mr. Kehlet, and no sign of Mrs. Kehlet so far.

Stories of robber gangs, "Wolf Creek" scenarios, rogue bikie body disposals and nuggets turning mateship to murder are popular fare in goldfields pubs, but the rumour mill must be frustrating for police and the anxious families as they try to unearth the facts, hoping against hope that there may yet be some good news.

Raymond & Jennie Kehlet - if you have any genuine leads, contact your local police.

Prospectors are reported missing every year in Western Australia, with some seeming to disappear without a trace. Gold regions are notorious for hundreds of treacherous, abandoned mine shafts and scrubby bushland where it's easy to get lost and perish in the harsh climate - the outback is a beautiful, remote paradise in many ways, but it can also be a tough, unforgiving place if you're not prepared for its challenges and the emergencies that can unexpectedly arise.

It's a tragic reminder for everyone going bush to have more than one means of locating themselves and identifying their location to others should the need arise. Many prospectors use the old "chain on a rope" system, dragging a heavy chain or other object behind them as they prospect, creating a track that they can follow back to their camp if they lose their bearings - and creating a track that others can follow in a search situation. GPS units are also popular, as are EPIRB emergency beacons.

An ongoing "thank you" is due to the police and search teams involved in the exhausting hunt, and hopefully there will be a breakthrough soon, so that the devastated families can have some resolution.

and not quite the news :

In The Bag

A very well-known local received a shipment of plastic bags and noticed the bags were the wrong size. "I'll just trim 100 mill off and they'll be right!" he said, and slashed away. Unfortunately he cut the wrong end off - leaving him with bags with no bottoms. In the silence that followed, his very large, well-known long-time employee simply remarked "Hm. Should have gone to SpecSavers."

The Meeka rumour mill has been in overdrive lately. Here's a few clangers:

MYTH: Helen Clancy is organising a bikini car-wash fundraiser. BUSTED! Not on Helen's watch. Although pastor Mitch has volunteered to get into a cozzie...

MYTH: There's a sex slave den on a remote station in the goldfields area where Malaysian businessmen fly in and out without being seen. Sorry fellas: TOTALLY BUSTED! The rumour was started at a certain supermarket by a certain local lady last Monday - no names please! But at least 3 passing blokes asked, "Where is it?"

MYTH: Matty Buist is having his entire leg amputated as a result of the dog bite. BUSTED! His leg is healing nicely, thanks to the help of a skin graft from a part of his body we won't mention here.

got news? stories?
let us know

Local Businesses Put Meeka On The Map

By completely unbiased reporter Anna Johnson

"Can do!" - outback locals support unique business initiative as small town thinks big

Meekatharra has a detailed, attractive and up to date new visitor map, courtesy of Dingo Print & Design owner Anna Johnson and the local business community.

The cost of the map was funded entirely by local advertising sponsors - a great example of Meekatharra's outback resourcefulness and town spirit. "I'm proud to say that not a single cent of tax- or rate-payer's money was used to get this project off the ground," said Johnson. It took only two weeks to design the map from scratch and then have ten thousand copies printed and delivered to Meekatharra - a remarkable achievement.

"I got tired of hand-drawing maps on the back of pie bags," explained Anna, who works part time at the roadhouse in addition to her writing and design projects (regular Dust readers will know her from her monthly "Don't Try This At Home" articles).

"We get literally a thousand people a day through the roadhouse in peak season, asking where they can get tyres and parts, pub meals, somewhere to stay, what there is to see or do, where they can empty their caravan toilets or fill up with water. We needed an easy-to-read 'all on one page' type thing, so I got cracking on the laptop - tourist season started early this year, so it was pretty urgent!"

The map is handed out for free, with 10,000 copies going to outlets all along the Great Northern Highway as well as businesses in Meeka. "I worked in advertising for over twenty years," said Johnson. "The map's going out to where potential visitors are, letting them know that Meeka has plenty to offer, so they can plan ahead for a longer, enjoyable stay rather than just a quick fuel stop."

Short term and visiting workers in Meeka will also benefit from the map, which provides plenty of useful information for people who are new to town.

"This is something Meekatharra has needed for a long time," said Corner Store owner Darcy. "Hats off for getting it done, everyone who comes in wants to take one away with them, even the locals."

"I just got tired of drawing on the back of pie bags" - hands-on hard yakka from local writer takes town map project out of the box

Ad space was snapped up in just two days as local businesses jumped on board. Further support came in the form of discounted printing from Sun City Print Services in Geraldton, free "office space" at the window table in The Corner Store and help from Roy Wybenga and Greg Byrne with delivering stacks of maps to outlets in Wubin, Paynes Find, Mt. Magnet, Cue, Kumarina and Newman.

"I'm knocked out by how quickly people responded in supporting the map - I know a lot of local businesses are watching their budgets, but there was no hesitation when I asked around for help to cover the costs, and I'll be working hard to make sure it gets the exposure that all the ad sponsors have paid for," Anna commented.

With plenty of photos, service locations, activities and attractions to browse, the map has been designed for tourists, short term visiting workers and even locals, who enjoy sending souvenir items off to friends and family interstate and overseas.

"As a former city dweller who loves living in Meeka, I'm in a good position to see it from both a local and a visitor point of view and that's what I wanted to reflect in the flyer," Anna explained.

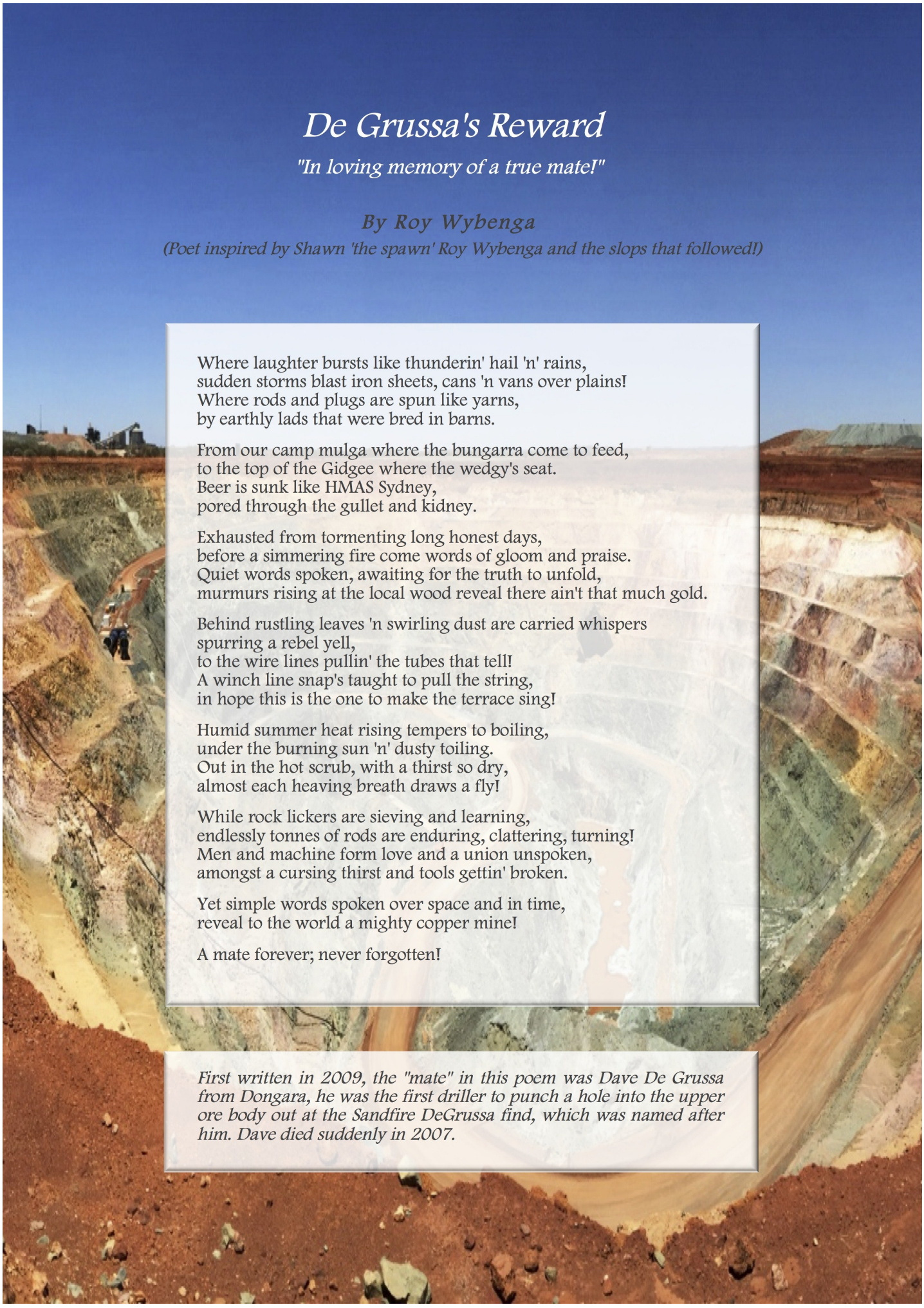
"It lets people know we're a well-resourced, friendly place to stop, stay and explore. We have nationally recognised indigenous artists, a wealth of gold mining history, real outback characters, historic pubs, emus crossing the main street, wildflowers and stunning red rocks, camping under the stars - we take it all for granted, but for city and overseas people, our daily outback life is an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience. I think tourism is a great way to celebrate what we have while building a great future for our town."

The Meeka visitor map flyer is available for free at most business outlets in Meekatharra and along the Great Northern Highway.

The map will be reprinted about every 3 months; if you would like to be an ad sponsor, or would like a supply of Meeka maps at your business, contact Anna at Dingo:

dingomeeka@gmail.com

Above: Local business supporting local businesses - Meekatharra writer, roadhouse gal and souvenir designer Anna Johnson stands by her word: 10,000 Meeka maps about to go on a big road trip along the Great Northern Highway. Stepson Matthew gets the honour of reading the first map out of the box - the whole project was funded by locals and published from scratch in just two weeks.



De Grussa's Reward

"In loving memory of a true mate!"

By Roy Wybenga

(Poet inspired by Shawn 'the spawn' Roy Wybenga and the slops that followed!)

Where laughter bursts like thunderin' hail 'n' rains,
sudden storms blast iron sheets, cans 'n vans over plains!
Where rods and plugs are spun like yarns,
by earthly lads that were bred in barns.

From our camp mulga where the bungarra come to feed,
to the top of the Gidgee where the wedgy's seat.
Beer is sunk like HMAS Sydney,
pored through the gullet and kidney.

Exhausted from tormenting long honest days,
before a simmering fire come words of gloom and praise.
Quiet words spoken, awaiting for the truth to unfold,
murmurs rising at the local wood reveal there ain't that much gold.

Behind rustling leaves 'n swirling dust are carried whispers
spurring a rebel yell,
to the wire lines pullin' the tubes that tell!
A winch line snap's taught to pull the string,
in hope this is the one to make the terrace sing!

Humid summer heat rising tempers to boiling,
under the burning sun 'n' dusty toiling.
Out in the hot scrub, with a thirst so dry,
almost each heaving breath draws a fly!

While rock lickers are sieving and learning,
endlessly tonnes of rods are enduring, clattering, turning!
Men and machine form love and a union unspoken,
amongst a cursing thirst and tools gettin' broken.

Yet simple words spoken over space and in time,
reveal to the world a mighty copper mine!

A mate forever; never forgotten!

First written in 2009, the "mate" in this poem was Dave De Grussa from Dongara, he was the first driller to punch a hole into the upper ore body out at the Sandfire DeGrussa find, which was named after him. Dave died suddenly in 2007.

19th MARCH 2015

MEEKATHARRA MARCH TO SUPPORT REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES.

Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

VISITING SPECIALISTS

Podiatrist	29 April
Diabetic Educator	07 April
Physio	14 April
Dietician	20 April
Dentist	21 Apr-7 May
Ultrasound	20 April
Diabetic Team	09 April
Respiratory Team	13 April
Cardiology Team	01 April

Appointments are essential. Please call 9981 0604

FEMALE DOCTOR

Dr Katy Templeman from Geraldton Regional Hospital will be visiting every month on the below dates

20 April

11 & 12 May

8 & 9 June

Appointments are essential. Please call 9981 0604

MEEKATHARRA GP CLINIC OPENING HOURS

Monday - Friday

9am - 12noon 1pm - 4pm

Book your appointment now on 9981 0604

Government of **Western Australia**
WA Country Health Service

Practice Incentive Programme

INDIGENOUS HEALTH INCENTIVE

Too many people are dying young

When you access Comprehensive Primary Health Care at the GP Clinic it enables health professionals to work with you to keep you strong by living healthier

Register now for:

Your annual Health Check
Individualised Care Planning
Subsidised medications for eligible clients

FREE

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

for those who register

Every Friday in May from the 8th of May
1pm - 4pm
@ the Meekatharra GP Clinic

Walk in or call ahead on 9981 0604

GET THE FLU SHOT BEFORE THE FLU GETS YOU!

Flu shot available from

20 April 2015

People at high risk of complications from influenza are eligible for a FREE flu vaccine

- 65 years and over
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged six months to less than five years
- Anyone six months of age and over who has a chronic medical condition such as severe asthma, lung or heart disease, low immunity or diabetes
- Pregnant women

Come to the GP Clinic and get yours now

Meekatharra Community Notice

IF YOU HEAR THE TOWN FIRE SIREN

IT MEANS WE NEED HELP

The town fire siren (in Hill Street) means there is a potentially major fire or emergency situation. Examples: one of the pubs is on fire, a truck crash in Main Street, multiple houses on fire, the threat of spreading structural fire or a major hazardous materials incident.

If you are a **former brigade member** or a **standby member,** or you have qualifications from **another brigade or service**, report to the fire station in Hill Street (do not speed!).

Standby uniforms & boots are located by the roller door in the vehicle bay.

The **general public** should be **alert and ready to evacuate**. Emergency personnel will direct people to safe areas. If in doubt, go to the nearest, upwind, safe area away from the incident.

Able-bodied people may be needed to help with door-knocking, moving valuables and assisting at evacuation safe zones. Report to the nearest emergency personnel officer if you can offer your services, but don't interfere.

FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS OF POLICE OR OTHER EMERGENCY PERSONNEL.

DO NOT PANIC.

DO NOT SPEED.

STAY CLEAR OF ANY INCIDENT.

STAY UPWIND OF ANY INCIDENT.

KEEP ROADS & LANEWAYS CLEAR.

IF YOU LEAVE YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS:

TURN OFF YOUR POWER AT THE MAINS.

TURN OFF YOUR GAS.

TELL SOMEONE WHERE YOU ARE.

Don't panic, don't rush – if you're qualified, report to the fire station.

I'm not qualified, but I can help! I'll report to an emergency services person and wait out of the way for instructions.

EMERGENCIES : DIAL 000

Meekatharra Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service • May 2015

Top: Cleaning up the BBQ area at the brigade - you don't have to be a hero to be a volunteer, just ready to pitch in & help.

Above: Scrub fires can take out houses - next fire season could be catastrophic for Meeka. The time to get ready is now - don't let your house be a victim of scrub fire.

Brigade News

Thankfully we have only had a handful of callouts - the wet weather means we've been able to save a couple of houses from scrub fires that could otherwise have been disastrous. Yes - once more it's arson and stupidity.

Recent brigade activities include walk-throughs at the Commie and the Royal, familiarising ourselves with layout, access and defensive planning. We also did a hydrant run, flushing and re-marking water access points around town, noting any hydrants in need of repair.

New members are trickling in and we have intro courses coming up in Geraldton, so if you're keen to join, now's the time. We are discussing future plans for refurbishing the brigade and the old Bedford - you can volunteer for those areas if active fire & rescue isn't your cup of tea. We're a social bunch and new faces & family members are always welcome.

Gary Hammer, Captain

Volunteer Profile

JASON BOATWRIGHT
Firefighter

He's back! One of Meeka's young stalwarts and a highly experienced fire and rescue volunteer, Jason brings a wealth of knowledge and natural leadership skills to the brigade. Having spent some time overseas, he has recently returned with his wife Katie to his home town of Meekatharra and proud mum Lorraine. Locals will know Jason from Farmer Jacks and for being a "top bloke" around town; Katie works at the police station (and hopefully will soon join the brigade as well!).

"I like the challenges the brigade throws at you - and a couple of drinks with mates at the social club in our downtime, of course!"

Good to have you back, mate.

Safety - Fuel Loads

The summer rain means lots of grass and other scrubby plants will be coming up thick & fast, becoming a potentially risky "fuel load" as it dries out. EVERYONE needs to be on the alert at their properties in the coming months. Keep your property clear, and check your roofs & gutters in particular - lots of leaves have gathered from the storms. Contact the brigade if you would like help with a controlled burnoff - and don't forget to obtain a permit from the shire before you do a burnoff yourself.

New Volunteers Welcome

We meet each TUESDAY 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 ask about safety information.

Meekatharra VFRS Media Liaison:

Anna Johnson, Paul Smith

EMERGENCIES : DIAL 000

Fire Hydrant Run

During the regular hydrant runs, brigade members flush and check every hydrant in town, clearing away debris, repainting the road and fence markers, replacing stickers and waving to locals from the back of "the old girl", our famous vintage Bedford fire truck.

The latest run was led by Jason Boatwright with Paul Smith at the wheel of the Bedford. Anna Johnson, Steve "The Tyre Man" Smith and Marcus Saxton were on paintbrush & sticker duty. Matthew Hammer and Bithun Weejiweera lent muscle & leverage to crack the pipe stands, while Missy the fire brigade mascot kept an eye on the esky.

Top: firefighters carry standpipes and levers to flush hydrants, which are spaced along laneways and streets throughout Meeka. Above: Missy wears her safety harness and guards the esky.

Above: "H" marks the spot - bright paint markers make it easier for firefighters to locate the closest water source. Below: the lonely linesman - Marcus tags the Great Northern Highway & Savage Street, while Steve & Anna mark fences and posts - every indicator helps save time in an emergency.

Above: built-up debris is cleared so hydrant covers can be easily pulled up when needed. Locals & workers need to keep hydrant hatches clear when doing work along streets & lanes - it's your property at stake.

"Just one more - then we can go back to the station for a coldie!"

photos & text by Anna Johnson

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Anna: 0459 119 821 Ron: 0437 650 080

Phone Ron: 0437 650 080

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don't try this at home

by Anna Johnson

When I'm ~~64~~ ~~70~~ ~~95~~ ?

This month I realised that I and my handsome personal donkey boiler constructor, Gary Hammer, are getting older at the terrifying rate of one year per annum, and - to our stunned disbelief - we will one day be Ancient, and possibly also Decrepit, although I think this may have already happened. Clearly it was time to check the piggy bank to make sure there are enough dollar coins, bottle tops and bits of fluff to cover the cost of our zimmer frames, plastic teeth and other lifestyle enhancements that we will need as various parts of our once-magnificent bodies continue to crumble away, so I tried one of those online calculators that works out how much money you need in order to retire. It said we needed at least 23.7 million dollars! Then we took the Learjet, private island, sultry Italian personal assistants and designer cocaine out of the budget, and it came up with just 5.3 million. Whew, what a relief!

We checked our bank account, and, to our astonishment, we don't have 5.3 million dollars. Do you? No. I didn't think so. Oh - hang on - Gaz says, if you do, could you spare us a quid? We can't pay it back, but you'll feel good about yourself, and if our legs are still working we can probably help take out the bin. I think we've earned something like 20 million over our lifetime so far, but we seem to have selfishly spent it on smokes, chocolate, books, motorcycles, getting drunk and having a good time. What idiots we were!

So, anyway, the online calculator was a bit of a disappointment, But we're still better off than my friend Jeremy, who was told by the calculator that "The amount you need to save exceeds your life expectancy." Jeremy said this was great because it meant there was no point in worrying about it any further and he could happily go back to fooling around with his guitar collection and living on lentils inbetween late night re-runs of Star Trek. You don't get that kind of financial advice from Mr. Boring Superannuation Planner at the bank, do you? I bet he doesn't even know who 7 of 9 is (episode 2008176).

Now, remember when superannuation first reared its beady, greedy, little eyes from the bubbling cesspit of governmental economic "planning" years and years ago? Remember how you kind of thought, in a glazed, oh-god-do-I-really-have-to-know-about-this kind of way, "Umm, this sounds too good to be true" and "Huh? Super an-yoo what? Get me a cold beer love will yer"?

I recall saying at the time, like many other Australians, "Ha ha, there's no way we'll ever see a cent of that money!" Even when it started, most of us could clearly see that it was just another scam dreamed up by the usual corporate sociopaths - if the government really wanted us to save for retirement, they would have set up a simple savings scheme, not gambling on the stock market (which is exactly what superannuation funds do, as many of us learned to our sorrow during the GFC). Remember how they told us that superannuation was being invented so that Australians would be covered in their old age as the pool of income-earning young people dwindles or wanders off to check their facebook page instead of going to work 23 hours a day the lazy b%@$#gers and the baby boomers began retiring in droves?

But - surprise! - now we're being told that we'll all probably have to work until we're 70 (or whatever they've put it up to this week), because there isn't enough money. That's right - even though the super funds have raked in absolutely squillions of dollars, there isn't enough to keep the oldies - us! - in tins of tuna and an occasional copy of the Tabform each week, let alone all the hip joints, teeth and colostomy bags we're going to need. Where did the money go? I'm with Pauline on that one: *Please Explain.*

Between the two of us, Gaz and I have something like 143 superannuation funds, each with about $1.65 in them (before fees). I think this is what they mean when they tell you to diversify your assets, although they are all diversified within the one stock market ("please explain"). You probably have the same financial situation. We're free to spend 97 hours a week "rolling over" our funds and filling out incomprehensible forms online - "simples!", as they say on the telly. We might have a little bit of trouble finding our super companies, though, because they keep changing their names every couple of weeks. Gary's original fund has been eaten by other super funds about 7 times in six years by my reckoning - they're hungry buggers, aren't they? We're building a totally separate shed for all the paperwork, and offering 13 tins of tuna a week to any retired person willing to keep it organised.

Now, for my entire working life I've paid heaps of tax, just like you, and every day I drive past the

fruits of my labours - Centrelink, the Department of Housing, and all the other taxpayer-funded support services that look after the many people who need food, accommodation, child support and medical services just like the rest of us (even though some of us have to get drug-and-alcohol-tested in order to obtain our pay, while others appear to be given money in order to buy drugs and alcohol - but don't get me started on that one). In other words, we've worked our bums off and handed over a heap of dosh. A lot of us in Australia are unpaid volunteers and contribute priceless services every day.

So how come there's nothing left for you and me and Gaz when we need it? The super industry has collected literally BILLIONS and BILLIONS from us workers over the years, and I find it impossible to believe that there isn't enough to go around - Gaz and I are happy to not have annual "business trips" to China, glitzy conferences in exotic capital cities, new carpets and matching wallpaper in our office or private chauffers to our chartered flight services, if that helps. We can just walk to the shop, and the dog can carry the Tabform and the cat food if we get a bit wobbly on the way back. We wouldn't mind the odd three-star motel holiday on the coast once in a while, but only if there's enough for old Mavis from round the corner to come too, she's been on her own for a while and it would do her a world of good.

Anyway, realising that we will probably be up the creek without the proverbial retirement-wise, and concerned about our state of future readiness, Gaz and I went and stared at our collection of baked beans and instant noodles, which we keep handy in case of an emergency. That's right - we're "preppers"! Except that unlike most preppers, the emergency we are prepared for is not nuclear war, ebola or an earthquake, but more along the lines of "Where's Matthew? Can't he go to the shop? My hips feel funny."

We counted up our stockpile, and worked out that we have enough food to last 9 hours if we feed the dog, 2.7 days if we don't feed the dog, and three weeks if we eat the dog (we're saving the cat for Christmas). It was immediately obvious that we don't have enough put away for next week, let alone retirement, and unless we could come up with a plan, desperate measures might be called for.

So here's the retirement plan that Gaz and I have worked out - anyone can do it, so why not share it with friends and family? It's cheap, simple, exciting, and - this is the best bit - the infrastructure, procedures and staff are already in place.

We're going to turn to a life of crime. Many have done so in the past, making a solid career out of it, even going on to become celebrities. The benefits are obvious. Why pay thousands of dollars a year at a retirement home when you can have fully supported accomodation, education, medical care, counselling and countless other opportunities in jail? You've already paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax, the jails are already built, and you don't have to go through a complicated and expensive application procedure. The only decisions you need to make are (a) what crimes you'd like to commit and (b) where you should commit them in order to maximise your chances of incarceration at the seaside minimum security prison of your preference. Or maximum security, if you prefer more privacy.

Our crime spree, when it comes, will be socially responsible - getting old is no excuse for not staying involved in the community and doing your bit. Our target: grey nomads. They've got insurance, and they could use the excitement. Imagine the blogging opportunities! Instead of comparing the toilet facilities at the 270 roadhouse stops they made across WA and how Fred tried to cut his hair with the nail clippers to save money until pension day, they can have blog entries like, "Betty at site 12 was told to hand over the spare gas cylinder by an outlaw couple wearing home-made clown masks, one of them was on a zimmer frame with a sinister foreign accent. Fred saved us by hitting the tall, toothless one in the knees with the folding fishing seat, and then we all had a lovely hot cuppa while we waited for the police."

In contrast, in a nursing or retirement home, you have things like cheerful music therapists, who sit by your bed playing "Kumbayah" on the guitar, and your family are allowed to visit. In prison, there are no such abuses. There are the excellent deterrents of invasive personal searches, sniffer dogs and grim-faced guards wielding batons to keep annoying family members at bay, and dignified activities such as woodwork, TAFE courses, and fighting. As an elderly person in prison, you can easily defend yourself from any threatening cell mates. "Now young feller, did I ever tell you about the time my old pop, back in '95...or was it '96...." "*It was 97, Bob*" "Stop interruptin a bloke Doris, anyway young feller it was back before the war...or just after the...no it was during the sheep shortage...where was I?"

Anyhow, if you want to join our retirement gang, you're welcome. We'll be laying low somewhere with our getaway scooter, making papier-mache handguns out of last week's Tabform and planning our next raid on the Leafy Haven Caravan Park. Synchronise your watches. Oh, and if you're coming through town, do you mind picking up a tin of tuna and something for the dog? We'll pay you back with food vouchers. We desktop-published them just this morning and the ink's nearly dry. Ta.

Christians praying together in Meekatharra

You are welcome
to celebrate God
with other Christians
in the Catholic Church
and Uniting Church
on the following dates
Please note changes of times

Easter, April and May

Good Friday	*Uniting Church*	*6.30 pm*
Easter Vigil Mass	Catholic Church	6.30 pm
Celebration of the Word with Communion		
Sat 18 April	Catholic Church	6.30 pm
Service	*Uniting Church*	
Sun 03 May		*9.00 am*
Celebration of the Word with Communion		
Sat 09 May	Catholic Church	6.30 pm
Celebration of the Eucharist (Mass)		
Sat 16 May	Catholic Church	6.30 pm

The Catholic Church is located on the corner of Darlot/High Sts.

The Catholic parish is under the pastoral care
of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict
Sr Gerri Boylan sgs 9963 4179

The Uniting Church
is located in Darlot Street
Contact: Rev Mitch Fialkowski
9981 1053

Meekatharra Corner Store

Corner of Main & High Streets, Meekatharra

Ph: 9981 1151

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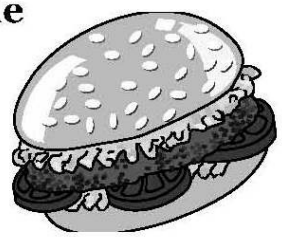

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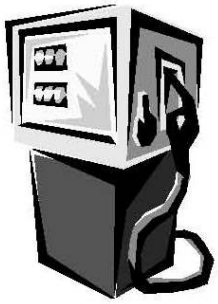

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First Aid Courses in Meeka

Last month, St John Ambulance provided Women on the Move participants with an opportunity to gain their 'Provide First Aid' Certificate. The 3-day training was fun, hands-on and delivered by an energetic trainer from Geraldton. Everyone learnt a lot and left feeling more confident in their ability to deal with the accidents and injuries that we sometimes face.

If you are interested in learning First Aid, refreshing your skills, or understanding how you can help in the community with the Ambulance service, please get in touch with the awesome St John Ambo team here in Meeka.

Dehydration - Drowning - Concussion - Heat exposure - Slings - Poisons - CPR -

Hypothermia - Asphyxia - Defibrillators - D.R.S.A.B.C.D. - Asthma - Wounds -

Burns - Breaks - Asphyxia - Seizures - Diabetes - Hearts

St John Ambulance Meekatharra

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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

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 Stacey.

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!!

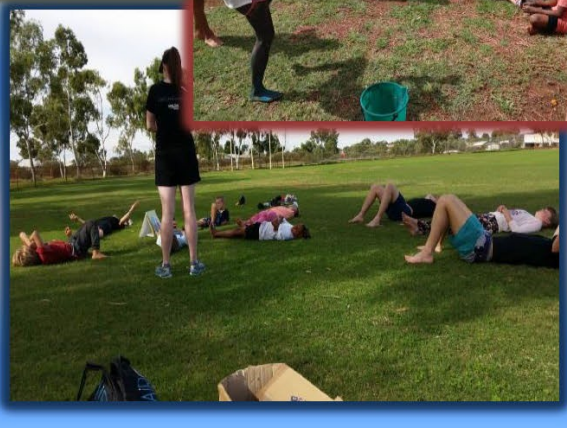
The Library is open:
Monday to Friday
8.00 am to 4.30 pm.

APRIL HOLIDAY PROGRAM 2015

The recent Youth Holiday Program was a busy time for everyone involved. In the first week, *Eddie On The Road* (Edmund Rice) came into town, and ran a range of activities including 'paint the leader', 'cover the leader in shaving cream', and a 'jelly drop' involving trying to get as much jelly as possible into the mouth of your opponent. Kids had a fantastic time with the crew from Eddie On The Road, and went home at the end exhausted!

Kidzone ran daily, both morning and afternoon, with a range of fun art and craft activities, outdoor play, karaoke and dance. At night, basketball competitions were held regularly, glow games at the oval, a movie night, and youth centre drop in. During the second week, *Fair Game* visited, and played a range of sport based games with the kids, during the day and evening.

During the second week of the holidays Mission Australia ran a very successful bike rebuilding program, conducted by Bike Rescue. Kids had a great time stripping, painting and rebuilding bikes. The results were amazing, and there were many proud new bike owners of bikes that looked destined for the tip, but had been transformed into shiny new ones.



Designed POST CARDS

Available at The CRC

Designed by CRC Meekatharra

- Greeting Cards
- Christmas Cards
- B'Day Cards

Available soon at CRC

Meekatharra Community Resource Centre

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS

Department of Regional Development and Lands

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- Local artwork gallery
- Personalised gifts and cards
- Support centre for local community groups

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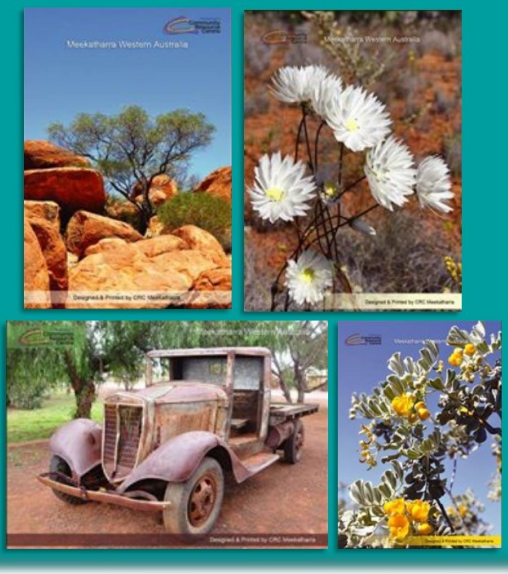

PERSONALISED CARDS

- With Sympathy
- Get Well Soon
- Wedding
- Engagement
- Birthday
- New Baby
- Good Luck
- Thank You

You design it, we make it!

Government of Western Australia
Department of Regional Development

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS

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FAIRGAME

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS APRIL 2015

A big thank you to 'Fair game' for supporting us and promoting healthy life habits to Meeka kids.

- Meekatharra youth services

Meekatharra
Youth Services
Youth Centre | Sport & Recreation | Kidzone

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(Uniting Church)

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0419 547 175

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Kurrajong Trees 35 Litre Pot

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2015 BEST GARDEN

Registrations Open Now!

Best Edible/ Most Creative/ Most Improved/ Best Waterwise/ Best Group

Competition running April to October

Before photos for the Best Improvement Category 9th May

After photos taken in October

Great Prizes for all Categories!

Register at the CRC/ online at facebook.com/MeekaGoesGreen/ or email meekagoesgreen@gmail.com and be in to win!

Prizes: $250 Thrifty Link voucher, 2x $50 Bunnings vouchers, Yulella seedlings pack, 3x First Aid Kits, Wooden Wishing Well

With thanks to

Meeka Goes Green

FARMER JACK'S
MEEKATHARRA

Meeka Goes Green UPDATE

What's been happening?

Recycling Centre

Our recycling centre is just about ready for action. WA Country Health Services donated a disused 54m^2 shed to Meeka Goes Green (Thank you!) and it took us longer than we were hoping to work out who could help us move it to our recycling yard. We prepared the yard by knocking down the old wonky structure (what three women and a sledgehammer can achieve! Nice.) and of course salvaging reusable materials. We also got in with rakes and shovels and cleared some of the weeds. We like green stuff but we don't like it growing inside of our shed.

We are finally on to it and the shed is going in. We already have collection cages (custom made vandal proof, thank you Yulella), a trailer for dropping bins to events and picking materials up, a big awesome crusher that can bale cardboard, plastics and cans, and a sign to go out the front. We just got some funding from the Midwest Development Commission which will pay for a rainwater tank and power connection.

If you or your workplace want to **get involved** and give those materials to us instead of dumping them at the tip, let us know.

Did you know that by recycling through Meeka Goes Green you're also helping the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation?

Community Garden

Our Community Garden is plotting along (excuse the pun). We had a "crappy" day (excuse another pun!) when we went out to Sherwood Station to pick up manure to enrich our soil.

We bought some raised garden beds to get started and are conducting a **workshop on 23rd May** where you can learn how to best **build and fill garden beds**. Look out for posters and check our facebook page to get more details on this workshop.

You may have also attended or heard about our **Seedling Raising Workshops** where we give out free seeds, pots and potting mix and put it all together for you to take home to have a crack at raising some plants that can then go into our Garden. The kids love it!

Best Garden Competition 2015

Our Best Garden Competition is back! It was such a success last year with more entrants than expected that we thought we'd run it again and take on board the feedback from last year. So we've extended the growing period a bit from April into October. Last year we also saw some frantic (but successful) gardening happen just a week before the competition was due to finish. Don't we all sometimes leave tasks till the very end? :) Therefore we are planning on doing a check-in half way to see how people are going.

Haven't yet nominated? It's not yet too late!

The "Before" photos for those people entering into the "Best Improved" category are going to be taken Saturday 9th May.

Let us know if you or your neighbour/sister/aunty/brother/kids want to enter the competition and have a crack at winning our awesome prizes.

Did we mention you could win the $250 voucher for the hardware? Or some of the other fantastic prizes? Check out the poster and our facebook page for more details·

Quiz Night

We want to ~~get your money~~ entertain you in our **Meeka Goes Green Fundraiser Quiz Night**! The date is set for **Friday 17th July**. Come with a team or if you don't have any friends yet come by yourself and we'll find you some new friends. We promise it's not all going to be about greenie stuff. But we may chuck in a question or two about Meeka.

Any questions? Suggestions?

Find us on facebook, email us at meekagoesgreen@gmail.com, talk to us at the Markets or just have a chat when you run into us in town.

With thanks to our major sponsors

Yulella Aboriginal Corporation

St John Ambulance Meekatharra

Meeka Goes Green

FUNDRAISING

Quiz Night

17·JULY·2015

Register your team now!

Support Meeka Goes Green, be in to win fantastic prizes and be crowned the Quiz Champion of Meekatharra

Register at the CRC/ online at facebook.com/MeekaGoesGreen/ or email meekagoesgreen@gmail.com

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Tuesdays 6 - 7pm

Ladies gym night

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8 BALL POOL
KNOCKOUT
COMPETITION
8PM START

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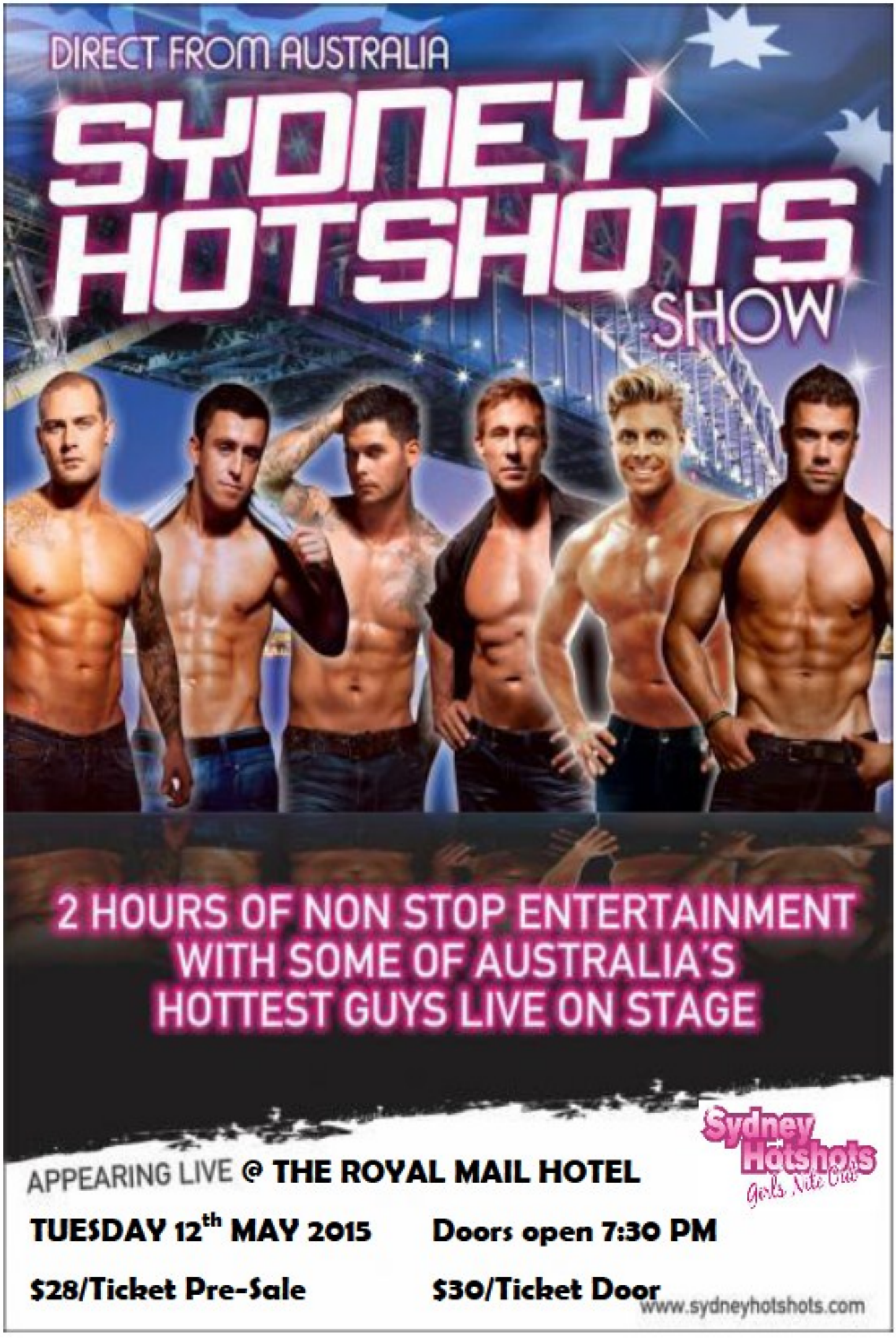
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Sydney Hotshots – My Love Tour 2015

Ever evolving and adapting, the sexiest Sydney men in town, The Sydney Hotshots have launched their latest show, the My Love Tour.

Featuring dance tributes to Michael Jackson and Justin Timberlake plus specially choreographed dance moves celebrating Fifty Shades of Grey, and Magic Mike. Australia's #1 Touring Male Revue – The Sydney Hotshots – once again delivers the most exciting full length, electrifying male revue show Down Under.

Let your imagination do the talking…….the stage opens with dimmed lights and anticipation as it slowly brightens up to expose five perfectly chiselled handsome men in open white shirts and black hats. The music kicks in with the Justin Timberlake smash song, My Love, the show theme song and the shirts come off…..

Throughout the night the show broils with excitement, including an appearance by Mr Grey (of Fifty Shades fame), and a new hot and sweaty power tool grinding Magic Mike routine to celebrate the release of the Magic Mike II movie. The classic standards - the hot as hell fireman, the sensual sensitive Officer and a Gentleman, the naughty policeman – all make an appearance. The My Love Show funks you up with a special Mark Ronson/Bruno Mars routine and wows with the Michael Jackson Mega Mix Medley.

Sydney Hotshots are renowned nationwide for their high energy routines, spectacular six packs, their audience attention and the screaming ladies that pack out every show. The show is designed to tantalize and explore every female fantasy in a tasteful and rhythmic fashion, in an interactive hands-on experience.

How are my watering days determined?

Towns north of (and excluding) Kalbarri and Kalgoorlie can use sprinklers every alternate day either before 9am or after 6pm, based on the last digit of your house number. Where there is no house number, the lot number is to be used.

Last digit of street or lot	Scheme users
1	Wednesday & Saturday
2	Sunday & Thursday
3	Monday & Friday
4	Tuesday & Saturday
5	Sunday & Wednesday
6	Monday & Thursday
7	Tuesday & Friday
8	Wednesday & Saturday
9	Sunday & Thursday
0	Monday & Friday

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MURCHISON DENTAL TEAM VISITING SCHEDULE 2015

Meekatharra	21 Apr - 7 May
Mt Magnet	19 May - 29 May
Sandstone	2 June - 4 June
Meekatharra	23 June - 2 July
Burrigurrah	10 Aug - 13 Aug
Meekatharra	18 Aug - 27 Aug
Meekatharra	7 Dec - 17 Dec

Important Dates

May 2015

COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 16 2015

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CNR MAIN AND SAVAGE STREETS

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT MEEKATHARRA DUST EDITION:

29TH MAY 2015