

Meekatharra Dust

JANUARY 2022 | ISSUE NO.345

COST \$2.50

Robina Wins National Award at Coles Express
Read more on page 36



2021/2022 Council Meeting Dates

The dates for Ordinary Council Meetings of the Shire of Meekatharra for 2021/22 are:

17th of July 2021
21st of August 2021
18th September 2021
16th October 2021
20th November 2021
17th of December 2021 at 2pm
15th of January 2022
19th February 2022
19th of March 2022
9th of April 2022
21st of May 2022
25th of June 2022

All meetings are held in the Shire of Meekatharra Council Chambers at 9:30am unless otherwise stated. Last day to submit items for Council Meetings is Friday, 4:30pm two weeks before the Council Meeting occurs.

Calling for Submissions

If you have any articles with information about any upcoming community events then we want to hear from you! "The Meekatharra Dust" is a non-profit community newspaper. If you have an article, a photo you would like to share or an advertisement, you can post them to: *PO Box 129, Meekatharra WA 6642* or drop them in at the Shire office. Alternatively, you can email us at: **cdo@meekashire.wa.gov.au**

Advertising in the Meekatharra Dust

If you wish to advertise in the Meekatharra Dust please get in contact with us on **cdo@meekashire.wa.gov.au**. There are a range of size options you can choose from to advertise your business or products. Local non-for-profit organisations are able to receive free advertising.

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.



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The Shire of Meekatharra



meekashire.wa.gov.au

IMPORTANT NOTICE—DOGS!

There have been a number of issues around stray and wandering dogs again in Meekatharra during the month of August. Unfortunately, this has led to more very difficult conversations being held, and emotional decisions made to surrender family protectors.

Many of these problems could have been avoided if owners kept their dogs contained as required by our law, and if written notifications of breaches or concerns had been provided to the Shire earlier.

It is a fact of life unfortunately that some people will always disregard the law. Some people simply don't have the resources to keep their dogs contained. These excuses, however won't be accepted.

The Dog Act (1976) states –

31. Control of dogs in certain public places

- (1) A dog shall not be in a public place unless it is —
 - (a) held by a person who is capable of controlling the dog; or
 - (b) securely tethered for a temporary purpose,
by means of a chain, cord, leash or harness of sufficient strength and not exceeding the prescribed length.

This means that your dog **MUST ALWAYS** be on a lead when outside your yard. To not comply leaves you open to a fine of \$200 **each time** your dog is found unleashed outside your yard. Strictly speaking, this includes places like Peace Gorge, and other regularly used dog exercise areas around Meekatharra.

When dogs do stray, it is vitally important that people in the community voice their concerns, in the right way. Your confidentiality is assured if you come to the Shire office to fill out the complaint form. This form is essential and critical to our ability to take further action. We can't act on an email or phone call complaining about a wandering dog, or on a Facebook post. We need the written complaint before we can act. This is a legal process after all.

All written complaints are taken seriously and investigated

The current fine for not keeping your dog contained is \$50, although the advertised proposed Dog Local Laws prescribe a fine of \$200. This can add up very quickly when the dog is a serial stray.

The Shire of Meekatharra generously provide subsidies to desex dogs to health care card holders. This is another key piece in the approach to ensure no dogs are destroyed. A single female on heat will attract a number of aggressive male dogs and it is very likely at this point they will form a pack. This is a situation we want to avoid at all costs, and can be avoided by having your dogs desexed. For Free.

Come to the Shire to get your voucher at any time.

By being considerate of our neighbours and stopping dogs from barking at night, by making sure dogs are contained in a yard, and by registering and neutering your pets, we can all enjoy the comfort of a companion, and guard.



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Note from the Editor


Happy New Year Everyone! I hope that the start of 2022 has been good to you and you are relaxed for another incredible year. It has definitely been a hot start to the year no matter where you are in WA, we are very grateful for Fordy, working hard to keep the pool open during the holiday period.

We have a lot of exciting things happening in Meeka this year. There will be two artists coming up to do murals in town, the Youth Centre are hosting circus workshops, and of course many social events throughout the year. This will be a good year in Meekatharra!

The Youth Centre are well into their summer holiday program, which consists of swimming, sports, arts and games. A copy of their timetable can be found on page 18.

There will be two COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics this month. The first will be held on the 13th of January at Lloyds Plaza, 9am-3:30pm. The other is on 28th of January at the Pool from 12pm-5pm, with free entry and a BBQ.

The Editor



FIGHT *the* BITE

4 MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES OCCUR IN WA

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

 Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

CEO COUNCIL MESSAGE

Welcome to my inaugural CEO Council Message Report for The Dust as the newly appointed CEO for the Shire of Meekatharra. I commenced as CEO for the Shire of Meekatharra in mid November 2021, replacing long serving CEO Roy McClymont who has retired from local government. I wish to publicly acknowledge Roy's contribution to the community of Meekatharra and the organization, knowing only too well that the role of CEO is not always easy and wish Roy all the best in his retirement. I also wish to publicly acknowledge the support and faith that the Shire President and Councillors of the Shire of Meekatharra have placed in me by appointing me as their CEO and look forward to an ongoing positive working relationship with all councillors, staff and the community.

As this is my first Council Message as CEO for the Shire of Meekatharra, I wish to take the opportunity to briefly introduce myself. As most of the community would be aware I come to Meekatharra having been CEO for the Shire of Mount Magnet for just under four years, so I am quite familiar with the Murchison Region. I have been employed in local government since about 1979, with my first local government being the Shire of Broome as a truck driver/general hand with several engagements later as CEO at the Shire's of Christmas Island, Shark Bay and Tammin in WA, as well as in the Northern Territory, Queensland, NSW and Victoria. I am married (to Neung) with 2 adult children (Justin and Poppy) and grew up mostly in the Fremantle area as well as my earlier childhood in Wittenoom. I completed my education at White Gum Valley Primary School, South Fremantle High School, TAFE and Murdoch, Deakin and Notre Dame Universities.

I intend to write regular articles for The Dust that will provide the community with updated information regarding brief snapshots of what was discussed and resolved at the monthly Council meetings as well as general information of what is occurring in Council. The unconfirmed minutes of Council Meetings are placed on the Council website as soon as possible within the prescribed time limit whereby they are confirmed at the next scheduled Council Meeting. Furthermore, items listed on the agenda when published for the community may not include all the items that were discussed at the Council Meeting, as provision is made for councillors and/or staff to introduce late items for consideration as permitted by legislation and Councils Standing Orders. Below is an example of what the future CEO Council Message will look like that are only an extract of the full meeting agenda with the entire meeting proceedings being available in the official Council Minutes that are confirmed at the next meeting of Council.

Items from the Shire of Meekatharra Ordinary Meeting 17 December 2021

Item 9.2.4 – Adoption of 2020/21 Annual Report

That Council:

1. accepts the 2020/2021 Annual Report incorporating the audited Financial Statements and auditors report;
2. acknowledges receipt of the Management letter;
3. give local public notice as soon as practicable that the 2020/2021 Annual Report is available for public inspection;
4. publish the 2020/2021 Annual Report on the Shire of Meekatharra's website within 14 days;
5. set the date and time for the Annual Electors meeting as Saturday 15 January 2022 commencing at 9:00 am in Council Chambers. Local public notice to be at least 14 days prior to meeting date;
6. authorise that the 2020/2021 Annual Report is sent to the Department of Local Government within 30 days of acceptance by the CEO.

The Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2021 was completed and presented to the Shire of Meekatharra's auditor for audit and included in the 2020/21 Annual Report. The 2020/21 Annual Report will be published on Councils website and the required Annual Electors Meeting has been sched for 9am on Saturday 15th of January 2022 prior to the commencement of the Ordinary Meeting of Council

Further Information Snippets

Local Government elections 2021 – Prior to the commencement of the meeting, newly appointed Councilors were sworn into office, making their declarations in the prescribed form before the Chief Executive Officer. The declarations were made by Cr Judy C Holden and Cr Barkley M Day.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council is scheduled for 9.30am on Saturday the 15th of January 2022 and the next CEO Council Message column will appear shortly after this meeting in the February 2022 edition of The Dust to provide information from this Council meeting as well as general information updates to the community. Until the next edition, bye for now!

KJ Matthews - CEO



Councillor Barkley Day and Councillor Judy Holden at the December 2021 Council Meeting being sworn in to their positions on the Council





MEEKATHARRA - IMPORTANT NOTICE

CHANGE OF SERVICE TIMES AT MEEKATHARRA CRC FOR DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT and WA PHOTO ID

From JANUARY 10th, 2022

**Department of Transport & Photo ID services
at the Meekatharra CRC will only be available on
MONDAYS and WEDNESDAYS from 9:00am to 1:00 pm**

This is because of changes in the contract.

*The service shuts promptly at 1:00 pm,
so make sure you come in by 12:30 for any transactions.*

Monthly Driving Tests will continue as normal.

*When you come to see us at the CRC for driver and vehicle
information, payment or assistance, please always bring
your photo ID (driver's licence or WA photo card).*

*MANY DOT SERVICES & PAYMENT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE
VIA DOT-DIRECT—YOU ARE WELCOME TO USE CRC COMPUTERS FOR FREE
IN ORDER TO SET UP AND ACCESS YOUR DOT ACCOUNT.*

Meekatharra Community Resource & Visitor Centre
79 Main Street
Meekatharra WA 6642
08 9980 1811
hello@meekacrc.com.au





Meekatharra CRC Retail Assistant Position Available

Permanent Part Time Position from Jan 31, 2022

From \$29.12 per hour

12.75 hours per week

8:45am to 1:00 pm, Mon, Wed & Fri each week

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 3:00 pm FRI 14th JANUARY 2022

The Meekatharra Community Resource and Visitor Centre requires an outgoing, motivated Retail Assistant to work from 8:45am to 1:00 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week. The role will include assisting with a range of duties in our busy Meekatharra location, starting from Monday 31st January 2022.

The role will include greeting and assisting customers, promoting and processing sales of merchandise, stock take and retail presentation, basic cleaning and organising and a range of simple office tasks such as photocopying, scanning/emailing, binding, laminating, filing and so forth. You may also be asked to help with simple handy tasks such as hanging pictures, assembling flat pack items and doing our rubbish and Containers for Change drop offs. You will also be responsible for the daily mail collection and banking. You may also be asked to assist with our community events within your scheduled hours of work.

Enthusiasm for tourism, solid local knowledge and promoting Meekatharra are crucial to this position. The role also includes commitment to our principles of supporting and engaging local business, artists, entrepreneurs and community groups.

We are looking for an energetic, outgoing and reliable person with good personal presentation and a friendly "can do" attitude. The ideal candidate will have strong literacy and numeracy skills and be able to easily learn new tasks. Basic PC skills are essential. Prior retail experience is an advantage. The role of Retail Assistant at the Meekatharra CRC requires a resourceful person with good problem solving skills, who is able to work effectively without direct supervision. It is important to note that the property where we are located is smoke-free.

You will require a current National Police Check, a Working with Children Check, full COVID vaccination and a current driver's licence.

Please submit your resume and a covering letter telling us about yourself to:

The Manager
Meekatharra Community Resource and Visitor Centre
79 Main Street / PO Box 83 Meekatharra WA 6642
(08) 9980 1811
manager@meekacrc.com.au



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



Department of Transport



Pool Party & COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic



The Shire, Police and Hospital
are hosting a Pool Party and
COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic.
Everyone is invited to attend.

FRIDAY, 28TH JANUARY
12PM-5PM | MEEKA POOL

FREE ENTRY & BBQ FOR EVERYONE
CHILDREN UNDER 10 MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN
ADULT AT ALL TIMES



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**





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



Consumer Watch

Consumer Protection 50-52 Durlacher Street, Geraldton WA 6530

Tel: (08) 9920 9800

Email: candice.evans@dmirs.wa.gov.au

29 December 2021

Making a splash with portable pool safety campaign

Western Australians are being reminded about the dangers of portable pools during an annual national campaign involving consumer protection agencies, product safety regulators and the Royal Life Saving Society – Australia.

The 'Don't Duck Out, Make It SAFE' initiative takes place each year because on average one child dies from drowning in a portable pool annually, with other kids needing hospital treatment and some suffering permanent brain damage.

The summer campaign is supported by drowning prevention ambassadors, including a mum whose son died in December 2017, two years after suffering irreversible neurological injuries when drowning in an unfenced portable pool at a relative's house here in WA.

Under the Australian Consumer Law, portable pools – ranging from small blow-up or plastic paddling pools to bigger wading pools, inflatable spas or high-sided flexible plastic pools on a frame – must have warning labels drawing the buyer's attention to the drowning risk and local fencing laws if the pool can hold 30cm of water.

Some major Australian retailers have agreed to go the extra mile and display 'Don't Duck Out, Make It SAFE' promotional materials in store and/or put stickers on portable pool boxes as products are bought to promote the key messages:

- **Supervise.** Actively watch children within arm's reach. Don't leave children in charge.
- **Act.** Learn CPR – know to start compressions and breaths as soon as possible when a child is pulled from the water and to call triple zero (000) for help.
- **Fence.** In most parts of Australia, pools filled with more than 30cm of water, are legally required to have a compliant safety barrier. Ask your local council or government agency.
- **Empty.** For pools that don't need to be fenced, keep watch all day, then drain and store away from children, in a place where it can't refill with rain or sprinkler water.

If you buy a portable pool, don't duck out of the responsibilities that come with that purchase, which may include putting up a safety barrier when you set up the product in your yard. Anyone thinking about purchasing a portable pool should check out:

www.productsafety.gov.au/makeitsafe.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Here's to 2022 – may this be a good, healthy, safe, fun and kind next trip around the sun for everyone.

What can we do to help ensure there'll be many more of those trips around the sun without it getting too steamy hot? If you're a fan of New Year's resolutions, you may enjoy below suggestions.

The thing with living in an environmentally sustainable way is that no single person's actions make a difference in the grand scheme of things. What 7.9 billion people (and their workplaces, families and governments) do does make a difference however, so what the planet needs is not one person doing it perfectly but millions and billions of people doing it imperfectly.

So, every month this year you're invited to try one of the lifestyle changes listed below.

Tried it but don't like it? No worries, just go back to the way you were doing things previously.

Tried it and like it? Pretty easy to implement? Great! Enjoy ☺

January: Recycling

- **Why?** Making new stuff uses resources (both materials and energy). By recycling things we reduce those resource demands and help build a circular economy.
- **How?** Collect all your leftover empties from Christmas, New Years or Australia Day and drop them off at our Recycling Centre. Even earn yourself some cash and drop them off to the Container Deposit Scheme refund point at Yulella. You can also drop off other plastics, cardboard, tin etc to our Recycling Centre.

February: Reusable Products

- **Why?** Similarly to above, single use products require resources in order to be made so by having reusable products on hand we're reducing the draw on materials and embodied energy. We're also preventing a lot of waste from clogging up our landfill or environment. Sometimes single use items are great (e.g. in medical

settings) but many single use items in our day to day living aren't really necessary.

- **How?** Have a look around your house – you may already have a lot on hand that can be re-used to replace disposable products: e.g. shopping bags (or a basket/box), water bottle, coffee cups, cutlery, containers instead of clingwrap. There are also heaps of reusable options you can purchase.

March: Electricity Use

- **Why?** Meeka's power comes from a hybrid plant operating partly on solar and partly on diesel generators. Burning diesel creates carbon dioxide emissions fuelling climate change. Saving power also saves you money, yay!
- **How?** Either go all out and get solar panels but if that's not an option try using fans instead of aircon (still pretty hot in March), keep the sun out of your house by closing blinds, turn off lights and appliances when not in use, escape to airconditioned public places or the pool, change your lightbulbs from incandescent to LEDs.

April: Grow your own Food

- **Why?** Food miles (the distance it takes for food to be transported from its origin to your plate) are huge for remote places like Meeka where, apart from beef, nothing edible is grown commercially locally (and even the beef first has to get shipped out for processing). Transport burns fuel which creates emissions.
- **How?** Now that the weather is getting nicer, grab some potting mix or enrich some soil with manure/compost, chuck some seeds on it and water it. At this time of year you can grow capsicum (even just the seeds from the insides of a store bought capsicum are fine), some variety of tomatoes, basil, broccoli, cauliflower, chives, coriander, kale, leek, lettuce, mint, oregano, pak choi or bok choi, parsley, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onion, some variety of beans, peas, beetroot, carrots, onions, radishes. The joy of foraging for food in your own backyard is so worth it.

May: Composting

- **Why?** Organic matter going to landfill creates methane, another very potent greenhouse gas fuelling climate change. Diverting that material and turning it

into compost at home not only keeps your bin smell-free (no more stray dogs pushing it over!) but also creates fantastic soil conditioner and fertilizer for your growing garden.

- **How?** There are many options – as simple as a pile in the backyard to fancy tumblers or proper bins. You can also try bokashi composting (which can handle dairy, cooked food leftovers, meat and fish in addition to fruit and veggie food scraps), or worm farming (but you may have difficulty keeping them alive over the Meeka summer). Compost needs moisture, oxygen and a balance of carbon (dry/brown stuff) and nitrogen (green/moist stuff). Turning it regularly creates better results.

June: Investments

- **Why?** The money sitting in your bank account and in your superannuation gets invested by those banks and institutions. Depending on their values and ethics this may or may not fund projects and companies that you agree with.

- **How?** Not so keen on more coal fired power plants being built, or your money supporting gambling or weapons trade? Do some research on your super fund and your bank, see what they invest in and see if you agree with that. See if they have other investment options that align better with your personal values or find a provider that is a better match.

Six months is enough for now without filling up the whole Dust - check back in July for inspiration for the remainder of the year.

What's the most impactful change you have made in your life? What would you like to do but aren't sure where to start? Share your thoughts and ideas with us! Write on our Facebook page (Meeka Goes Green), come to the Recycling Centre on Railway Street (Saturdays 9-11am – such a great volunteering opportunity!) or send us an email to meekagoesgreen@gmail.com.

Have a Happy New Year!

★ FIGHT *the* BITE ★

PROTECT YOURSELF

DISEASE-CARRYING MOSQUITOES
against

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

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

Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

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



Extraordinary Outback Experience

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

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

0899439527
mtaugustustouristpark@skymesh.com.au

M E E K A T H A R R A



ACCOMMODATION CENTRE

Open Daily 6.00am—9.00pm

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

bookings@meekatharraaccomodation.com.au

or call on 99811253

BE RESPONSIBLE



Please ensure whilst exercising your dog to pick up any waste and dispose of in the bins provided.

FREE Waste Bags are now available from the Shire Office.

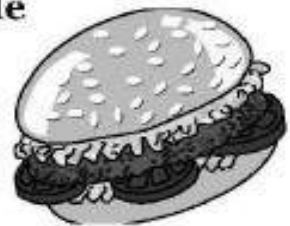
Meekatharra Corner Store

Corner of Main & High Streets, Meekatharra

Ph: 9981 1151



BP Fuel & Lubricants
Premium Unleaded Fuel now available
Auto Accessories
Kleenheat Gas
Key Cutting
Take-Away Food
Asian Food



A range of Asian Ingredients and utensils available for sale



Burgers
Rolls
Sandwiches made to order
Bottled water deliveries



Tyre Repairs
Driveway Service

NICK'S TRIP TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE

On the 18th of November 2021 Meeka local, Nick Wren, attended an afternoon tea at Government for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia's 25th anniversary celebration. Nick was invited to attend this event with the Governor of Western Australia, The Honourable Kim Beazley AC, due to his ongoing work with the cancer support group held in Meekatharra. The event was to celebrate the great work of those involved with the Prostate Cancer Foundation were doing. This includes 60 people who are involved in the foundation made up of doctors, professors, nurses, staff, volun-

teers, and support group leaders, which is Nick's role in the organisation.

For Nick, the experience of having afternoon tea with the Governor was a highlight, the place was immaculate from the architecture to the gardens. He felt privileged to attend such an event and receive acknowledgment for the work he does within the foundation. Nick was able to meet other group leaders, like himself, to create a network across the country to further care for participants and themselves while they spend hours supporting those in need.

Nick was diagnosed with cancer in April of 2021 and found that Meeka had a lack of support for those in a similar position to himself, so he decided to do something about this. Nick got in contact with the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and got backing to run the support group for people with cancer within Meekatharra. The support group is run at the CRC with our very own Mitch as the facilitator.



Nick Wren networking with The Honourable Kim Beazley AC, doctors, nurses, support group leaders and other members of the Foundation





So far, the Meeka Cancer Support Group has three members and encourages others to attend for extra support. Nick aims for this support group to help family members of those who have been diagnosed to further support people who struggle with this disease. The group would like to work with other agencies, such as doctors and mental health workers, to create a well-rounded support group to benefit anyone who comes through the door.



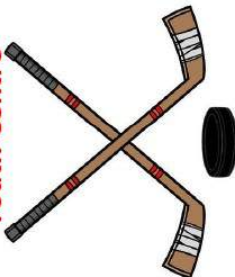




The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia does amazing work including research, support groups, fundraising events, and much more. The Foundation was founded in Sydney in 1996, with the mission of supporting research and reaching

out to those with cancer. The Foundation currently works Australia-wide and is dedicated to reducing the impact of prostate cancer has on men and their families in this country.

Anyone who wants support with their cancer diagnosis is more than welcome to attend the support groups sessions, get in contact with Nick on 0437 488 363 or see him at the CRC.



Nick Wren with The Honourable Kim Beazley AC and the Prostrate Cancer Foundation Support Group Leaders

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10am – 4 pm 	Sports @ the indoor cricket centre Swimming pool activities 2pm-4pm	Cricket @ Youth Centre Swimming pool activities 2pm-4pm	Art & craft @ Youth Centre Swimming pool activities 2pm-4pm	Kids choice morning @ Youth Centre Swimming pool activities 2pm-4pm	Music @ Youth Centre Swimming pool activities 2pm-4pm
6 – 8 pm 	10+ Street hockey/drop in @ Youth Centre 	10+ Basketball @ Youth Centre 	13+ Game night @ Youth Centre 	13+ Basketball @ Youth Centre 	Movie night @ the Youth Centre 

Youth Services school holiday program – 2022



★ FIGHT *the* BITE ★

MOZZIES USUALLY TAKE BETWEEN

1 TO 2 WEEKS
TO DEVELOP FROM



EGGS TO ADULTS



A MOZZIE'S LIFE SPAN IS

2 TO 3 WEEKS

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



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

"OFF THE BEATEN TRACK" WITH MATTY



98.3

MEEKA FM

Meekatharra, WA

A FAVOURITE TRAVELLING SONG? REQUEST IT FOR THE SHOW.



MONDAYS LUNCH



Meekatharra Support Guide

EMERGENCY

Ambulance/Police/SES/Fire	000
Meekatharra Police Station	9918 7120 / 131 444
Meekatharra Hospital	9981 0600

ALCOHOL & DRUGS

Services		Phone Support Lines	
Mission Australia	9956 5100	Alcohol & Drug Support Line	1800 198 024
(Alcohol and Other Drugs Support Service)		Quitline (smoking)	13 78 48
Mental Health and Community Alcohol Drug Service	1800 051 999	Parent & Family Drug Support Line	1800 653 203

HEALTH

Services		Phone Support Lines	
Meekatharra GP Clinic	6444 7980	Health Direct	1800 022 222
Meekatharra Pharmacy	9980 1798	Elder Abuse Hotline WA	1300 724 679
Meekatharra Hospital	9981 0600		
Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service	9956 6555		
Aged Care	9981 0645		

MENTAL HEALTH

Services		Phone Support Lines	
Midwest Mental Health Service	9981 0625	Lifeline	13 11 14
Mission Australia (Mental Health Support Services)	9956 5100	Beyond Blue	1300 224 636
Youth Focus	6266 4333	Suicide Call Back Service	1300 659 467
Meekatharra GP Clinic	6444 7980	Men's Helpline Australia	1300 789 978
		1800RESPECT	1800 737 732
		Rural Link	1800 552 002

YOUTH

Services		Phone Support Lines	
Shire of Meekatharra Youth Services	9980 0600	Kids Helpline	1800 551 800
Youth Justice	9980 2070	Lifeline	13 11 14
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	9981 0625	Beyond Blue	1300 224 636
Youth Focus	6266 4333	eheadspace	https://headspace.org.au/eheadspace/
Meekatharra District High School	9981 1092		
Mission Australia (Remote Attendance Program)	9956 5102		
Department of Communities (Child Protection and Family Support)	9981 0300		
Hope Community Services	0418 135 031		

HOUSING

Services	
Department of Housing	9956 5000
Mission Australia (Public Tenancy Support Services)	9956 5103

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Services		Phone Support Lines	
Emergency/Ambulance/Police	000	Men's DV Helpline	1800 000 599
Meekatharra GP Clinic	6444 7980	Women's DV Helpline	1800 007 339
Meekatharra Hospital	9981 0600	Sex Assault Helpline	1800 688 922
Meekatharra Police	9918 7120	Crisis Care 24hrs	9223 1111 / 1800 199 008
Mission Australia	0458 881 488	1800RESPECT	1800 737 732
(Nyarlu Duwa Women's House, Family and Domestic Violence Response Service)			

FINANCIAL & GAMBLING

Services		Phone Support Lines	
Centrelink	13 62 40	Gambling Helpline	1800 858 858
Mission Australia (Emergency Relief)	9956 5100		

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Services	
Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	9980 1339
Centrelink	13 62 40

LEGAL

Services		Phone Support Lines	
Aboriginal Legal Service	9265 6666	Legal Aid	1300 650 579
Aboriginal Family Legal Service	9965 4654		
Meekatharra Court	9981 1008		
Carnarvon Court	9961 5500		
Nyarlu Miyarnumalgu (Indigenous Women Paralegal Service)	9936 0600		

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Services	
Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	9980 1339
Mission Australia	9956 5100
Department of Communities (Housing)	9956 5000
Department of Communities (Child Protection and Family Support)	9981 0300



Produced by the Shire of Meekatharra



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

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



Podiatry | Dietetics | Physiotherapy | Diabetes Education

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

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



TOWN CHRISTMAS PARTY

The 2021 Town Christmas Party was a blast! It was held at the Sports Complex on the 14th of December 2021. The Shire, together with Youth Focus and Yulella, put on the event so we can all celebrate Christmas together as a community. It was a fabulous afternoon with a great turn out.

The afternoon started with Santa showing up and saying hello to all the kids. Santa travelled a long way to be here just for the kids of Meeka. After Santa said hello to everyone he started handing out presents to each child and take those important Christmas photos. Youth Focus kept everyone entertained while waiting to see Santa by doing a treasure hunt and a few pinatas. The Youth Focus team spent a great deal of time setting up and making everything perfect for kids, parents, grandparents, friends and everyone who attended.

As usual, the food from Yulella was incredible! Everyone enjoyed a Christmas dinner with some yummy desserts. The food made the event that much more special.

The Youth Team ran a slip and slide which definitely cooled everyone down. The kids all lined up and tried to make it the furthest down the slide.

Svenja Clare Photography took all the pictures of the visits with Santa and the festive fun that was had by all.

The event had a real community feel to it, with everyone pitching in to help set up and clean up. The day was made so much more special for the kids of Meeka because of this.

Big thank you to Youth Focus, Yulella and the Youth Services team for all your hard work to make this day very special.

Enjoy the photos in this edition of the Dust, there are more photos of our Facebook page too.



















Life goes on without a siren.

**Every beat of this ordinary life is an extraordinary thing.
And we need your help to protect it.**

Volunteering for St John doesn't have to mean attending emergency calls. Our volunteers help out with patient transport, administration support, serving on the committee, social activities, first aid at events, vehicle maintenance and more.

If you'd like to help, visit stjohnchangelives.com.au
or give our Community Paramedic Michelle Fyfe a
call on 0437 681 562, or email Michelle.Fyfe@stjohnwa.com.au

**Life goes on.
Volunteer with St John.**



Meekatharra COVID-19 vaccination clinic

Roll up
for WA

COVID-19 Vaccination

Llyods Conference Room
Great Northern Highway

13 January 2022
9:00am - 3:30pm

No appointment
needed



We acknowledge the traditional owners
of the land and pay our respects to their
Elders, past, present and emerging.



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service



Information on the COVID-19 Vaccine

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a virus (illness) that can make you really sick. It can give you flu-like symptoms with a high fever, cough, sore throat and shortness of breath. It can attack your lungs and cause chest infections (pneumonia) and possibly death.



Why is the COVID-19 vaccine important?

The COVID-19 vaccine works just like the flu needle. It helps your body fight the virus and protects you from getting really sick. It reduces the risk of you spreading the illness to the community, including your family and friends.

You will need two doses of the vaccine for it to work the right way.

The person giving you the vaccine will let you know when you need to get your second dose (for the Pfizer vaccine this is 3 to 6 weeks after your first dose).

Which vaccine will I receive?

You will be offered the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty) unless there is a medical reason for you not to be given this vaccine. Most Australians can safely receive the Pfizer vaccine, and it is the preferred vaccine for people aged 12 to 59 years.



Giving your consent

If you agree (say yes) to getting your COVID-19 vaccine, the person giving you your vaccination will ask you to **give your consent** (permission to give you the vaccine needle).

When you give your consent (say yes), you are saying it is okay for someone to vaccinate you (give you the COVID-19 needle).



Remember it is up to you. You can choose to have the vaccine or you can choose not to have the vaccine if you don't want to.

You can talk to your health clinic, doctor or nurse for more information about the COVID-19 vaccination.



Side effects

After you have your vaccination, you might feel some symptoms or side effects. Most side effects are not serious and will go away in a couple of days.

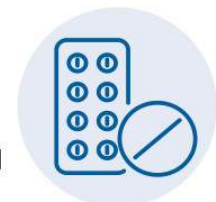
Common side effects can include:

- pain or swelling in your arm where the needle went in
- fever (feeling hot and sweaty)
- sore muscles or joints
- headache
- chills (feeling cold and shaky)
- tiredness.



Less common side effects include:

- feeling sick in the stomach
- not sleeping well
- leg pain.



If you have any side effects, you can take simple pain medication like paracetamol or ibuprofen.

For symptoms that are not urgent, you can see your usual health clinic, doctor or nurse.



You should call 000 or seek urgent medical care if you experience severe symptoms after vaccination, such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat or collapsing.

Do I still need to get the flu shot?

The COVID-19 vaccine does not protect against the flu, so you still need to get your flu shot. Wait at least 7 days between getting your flu shot and the COVID-19 vaccine.



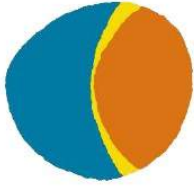
This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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SHL-014051 AUG'21



We are looking for a Project Manager for Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Yalgoo

EON Foundation

An opportunity has arisen for a full-time Project Manager to deliver EON's Thriving Communities Program to Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Yalgoo Community Schools and the community.

The Project Manager will deliver EON's Thriving Communities Program including planning, planting and maintaining edible gardens and the delivery of practical gardening, cooking and nutrition lessons, with a particular focus on the school children. The aim of the Program is to help the school and community build a sustainable source of fresh healthy food and equip them with the skills to maintain the gardens and good nutrition.

The position requires a motivated, practical person who enjoys working with Indigenous children and adults, is a good communicator, can work independently and is highly adaptable to change.

Type of Employment: This position is full-time (76 hours per fortnight)

Contract Term: Up until December 2022

Remuneration: \$80,720 plus superannuation

Additional Benefits: Option to salary package up to \$18,549 tax free and increase your take home pay, 6 weeks annual leave, fully maintained vehicle provided for work purposes and an additional home office allowance

How to Apply

To apply for this fantastic opportunity please **submit your application to** EON Human Resources at hr@eon.org.au.

Applications close 5pm Friday, 21 January 2022.

For more information please visit <https://eon.org.au/our-story/careers/> or contact hr@eon.org.au



THE POOL IS OPEN!

**Meekatharra War
Memorial
Swimming Pool
Main Street**

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

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

Fees

Season Pass

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

Season Pass Concessional*

Adult - \$50 | Child - \$25 | Family - \$100

Monthly Pass

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

Weekly Pass

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

Daily Pass

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

Child under 3 years old accompanied by an adult - No Charge

*Concessional fee is only applicable on sighting of valid Health Care Card by Shire Staff

ROBINA WINS NATIONAL AWARD



Robina Franklin won the 2021 Good Things Start Award at Coles Express, a national award. Robina was a big part of the Coles Express team for many years and always brought a lot of laughter and love to the store.

The Coles Express Meeka team put on a BBQ in Robina's honour and invited many people from the community to

join in and celebrate all of Robina's achievements. Bronny made a cake for the occasion and the Coles team cooked the BBQ. Regional Coles Express staff travelled to Meeka to be with Robina and celebrate her achievements.

The nomination video, that was sent to Coles Express head office, was played for everyone. The video featured Miss Emily, Tania (Coles Express Meeka Manager), the regional managers from Coles Express and Robina. The video showed the impact that Robina has made at the store by welcoming customers and bringing her culture into the store.

This award was well deserved, congrats Robina you are an incredible asset.

Thank you Gillian Dodd for the photos and for everyone's hard work to put this event together.





Street Light Faults & Outages



If you notice any
issues with street
lights, faults or
damage
call Horizon Power's
24/7 Fault Line on
1800 264 914

2021 MEEKATHARRA NAIDOC SHIRTS

For sale in the shire
office, \$40 each.
S, M, L & XL sizes
for adults
Limited kids stock



MEEKA GYM

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

Access restricted to adults 18 years or older
Unmanned gym open 5am-10pm daily



• FREE WIFI

Did you know... that the
Shire has put in
free high speed WIFI
in Lloyds Plaza and the Town
Hall everyone to use!

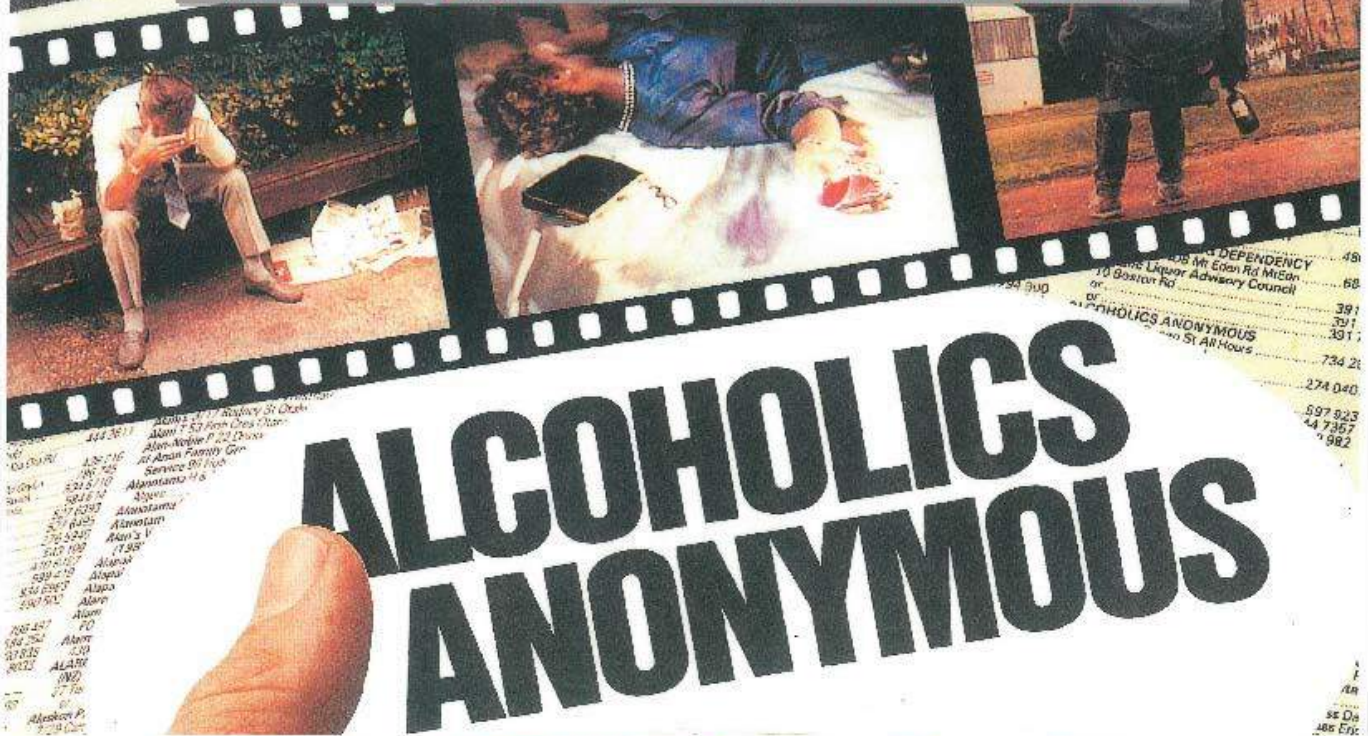
To access this free service you
will be able to be outside the
buildings or in one of the locally
owned shops in Lloyds Plaza.

This service can be used for work,
study or personal administration



Meekatharra AA Meetings - Wednesdays 7.00pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church - Mc Cleary Street



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Contact - 0472686962 for more information



SQUASH COURT

LOCATED AT THE SPORTS COMPLEX

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

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



NAME PAVERS

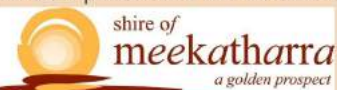
Be apart of this fundraising activity for the
Meektharra Outback Festival Committee

NAME PAVERS ARE:

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



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



MURCHISON DENTAL TEAM ROSTER 2022

Meekatharra: 2nd February - 11th of February

Mount Magnet: 23rd February - 4th March

Cue: 23rd March - 1st April

Meekatharra: 27th April - 6th May

Mount Magnet: 23rd May - 29th May

Sandstone: 29th May - 3rd June

Meekatharra: 22nd June - 1st July

Yalgoo: 20th July - 29th July

Mount Magnet: 17th August - 26th August

Meekatharra: 14th September - 23rd September

Mount Magnet: 12th October - 21st October

Meekatharra: 9th November - 18th November

Mount Magnet: 7th December - 16th December

CONTACT NUMBERS:

MEEKATHARRA - 9981 0640 OR 0427 386 647

YALGOO PRIMARY SCHOOL - 9962 8029

MOUNT MAGNET, CUE, SANDSTONE - 0427 386 647

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

FOR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY



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

ONLINE RESOURCES

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

AWESOME APPS

Download these Apps for free in iTunes or Google Play



Smiling Mind



Mindshift



Reachout
Worry Time



What's Up?



The Check-in

5 TIPS TO BE MENTALLY HEALTHY...





A YEAR AT SHOOTING STARS

2021 was a big year for the Shooting Stars students and

staff. There were several camps and competitions, the students received awards for their great attendance and attitude, and there were a few visits from some West Coast Fever players.

During the first half of the year there was a netball carnival in Geraldton with the Mullewa and Carnarvon teams coming along to play a few friendly games of netball. The Meeka team had a great time in Geraldton, getting to spend time with other students and build stronger bonds together.

West Coast Fever player, Verity, came to Meeka to spend some time with the girls. She spent time teaching tricks and getting to know the team in Meeka. Verity shared her story with the team and explained how she managed to become a West Coast Fever player.

Two of the Meeka Shooting Stars team members headed to Broome on a leadership camp, along with 20 other girls from all over the state. The students who were picked showed great behaviours, leadership potential and are great assets to the Meeka Shooting Stars team.

The end of year awards dinner was a chance for the students to show off their hard work to family and friends. The students received awards for attendance, citizenship and positive behaviours. Great work to everyone who received an award, it is well deserved.











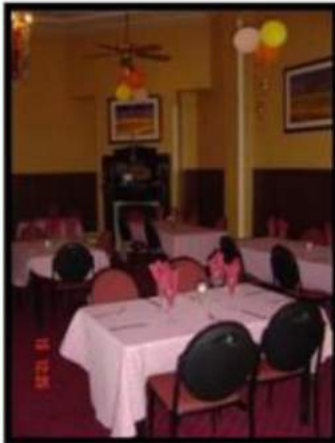
Commercial Hotel Meekatharra

Opened daily from noon til late

Excellent counter meals daily:

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

Dinner: 6pm-8pm
Sunday to Saturday



Air conditioned Dining / Function Room

Suitable for Meetings, Conferences & Dinners

Accommodation Includes:

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

and

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



Telephone: 99811020

Fax: 99811021

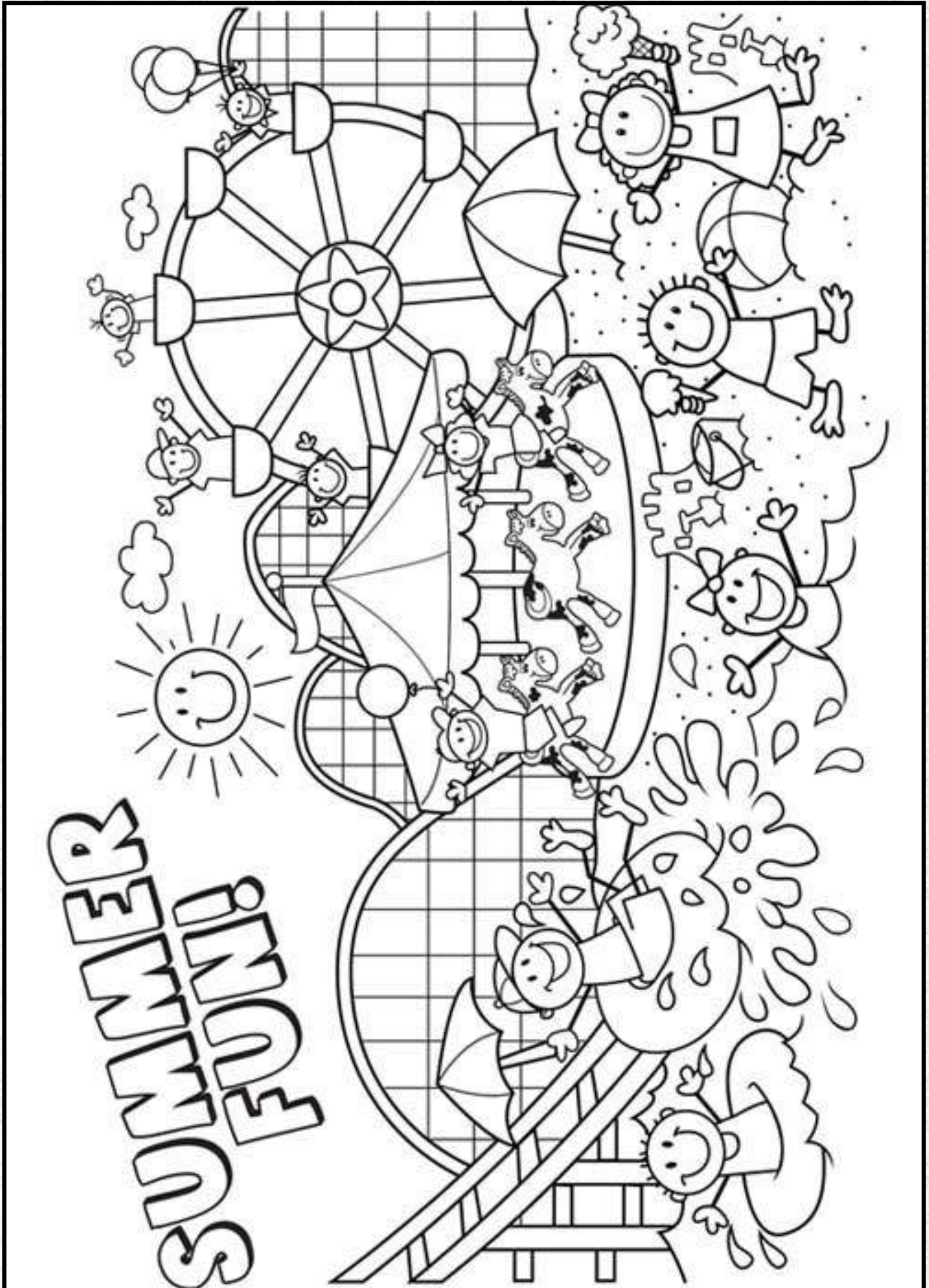
Emails: commieh@westnet.com.au

77 Main Street, Meekatharra, 6642



www.commercialmeeka.com.au

KIDS CORNER





SERVES: 4 | PREP TIME: 10MINS | COOK TIME: 25MINS | INGREDIENTS: 12

ingredients

- 600g chicken thigh fillets, halved
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 200g yellow squash, thickly sliced
- 450g kipfler potatoes, peeled, thickly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 250g cherry tomatoes, halved
- 125ml (1/2 cup) Massel chicken style liquid stock
- 125ml (1/2 cup) cream
- 1 tbsp fresh oregano leaves, plus extra to serve
- 150g green beans, trimmed
- 100g sugar snap peas, trimmed
- Crusty bread, to serve

directions

Step 1 Season chicken well. Heat oil in a large heavy-based frying pan over medium heat. Cook chicken for 1-2 minutes each side or until golden. Remove from pan and set aside.

Step 2 Add squash to pan. Cook, stirring, for 2-3 minutes or until lightly golden and just tender. Remove and set aside. Add potatoes and garlic and cook for 2 minutes.

Step 3 Add tomatoes, cook, stirring often, for 5 minutes until tomatoes start to soften. Add stock and cream. Simmer for 2-3 minutes. Return chicken to pan with oregano. Simmer for a further 4-5 minutes until potatoes are tender.

Step 4 Return squash to pan. Add beans and sugar snap peas and simmer for 1-2 minutes until heated through. Season well. Divide among serving bowls, scatter with extra oregano and black pepper. Serve with crusty bread.

FOR MORE RECIPES, VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.TASTE.COM.AU](https://www.taste.com.au)



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

We'll get 10 cents for each one.
With your help, we can make a change.

Bring your eligible containers to:
Meeka Goes Green Recycling Centre on Railway Street
Saturdays 9-11am and 24/7 drop off point

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

 **ELIGIBLE CONTAINERS**



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

Visit containersforchange.com.au to find out more




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Our **Meekatharra branch** now has
a qualified specialist in

Air Conditioning & Refrigeration

**COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
RESIDENTIAL • MINING
AIR CONDITIONING • REFRIGERATION • FIRE SYSTEMS
SOLAR INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE**

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(08) 9964 6880

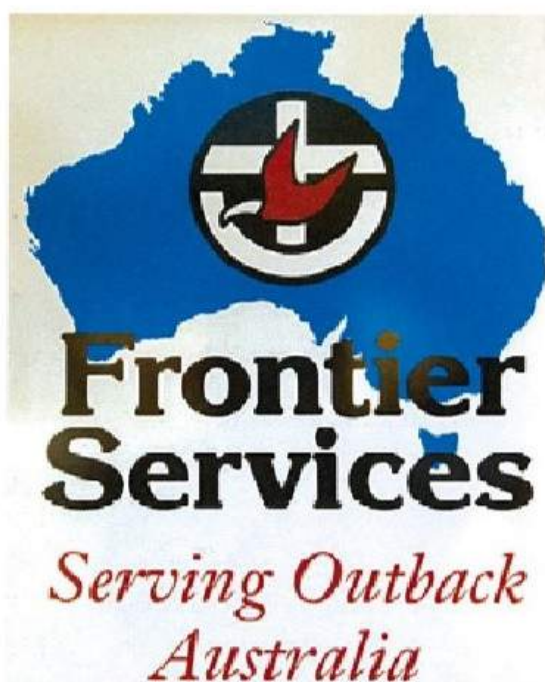
For all your air conditioning and electrical
requirements in Midwest Region

www.skec.com.au



ACCREDITED
MASTER
ELECTRICIAN

Meekatharra Community Church (Uniting Church)



**Services held 9.30am
every 2nd & 4th
Sunday of the Month**

**Contact:
Rev Mitch Fialkowski
9981 1053
0419 547 175**



**PROFESSIONAL LIQUID WASTE
REMOVALS**

mobile

0458 002 126

24/7 - ALL HOURS

www.midwestseptics.com.au

email: midwestseptics@gmail.com

PO Box 212 Meeakatharra WA 6642

WA Dept of Environmental Licensed Controlled Waste Carrier T00612 ACN: 150 464 618 ABN: 141 504 64618

Roda Limbah pty ltd trading as Midwest Septics

**Professional liquid waste removal company collecting, ,
transporting, and removing septic and/or other liquid waste**

Pump out of domestic septic systems

Pump out of large scale commercial septic systems

Grease trap pumping and cleaning

Storm water drains

Oil separator systems

Transporting liquid waste on site from one location to another

Reliable and responsive service

We will beat any quote

Mid West Septics operates under an Integrated Management System meeting the requirements of key Australian standards for quality, environment and OHS.



0458 002 126 - ALL HOURS

IMPORTANT DATES

January 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31					1 New Years Day	2
3 New Years Day Public Holiday	4 GP Clinic Reopens	5 Shire Reopens	6	7	8 Meeka Goes Green Recycling 9am-11am 	9
10 CRC Reopens Diabetic Ed, Midwife & Renal Nurse @ Clinic	11 Diabetic Ed, Midwife & Renal Nurse @ Clinic WACHS Physiotherapy @ Hospital	12	13 COVID Vaccination Clinic @ Lloyds Conference Room 9am-3:30pm No appointment needed	14	15 Annual Electors Meeting 9am Ordinary Council Meeting 9:30am Meeka Goes Green Recycling 9am-11am	16
17 ICDC Team: Dietitian @ Clinic Physiotherapist & Podiatrist @ Hospital	18 360 Health @ Clinic	19 360 Health @ Clinic	20	21	22 Meeka Goes Green Recycling 9am-11am	23
24	25	26 Australia Day Public Holiday 	27	28 Pool Party & COVID Vaccination Clinic @ Pool 12pm-5pm Free Entry & BBQ	29 Meeka Goes Green Recycling 9am-11am	30