



Meekatharra Dust

MARCH 2023 | ISSUE NO.359

COST \$2.50

**“Race the Pool Man” Fun Run - could they beat Fordy in a race to the lookout?
Read the story on page 22.**





SHIRE OF MEEKATHARRA
SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS

JULY 2022 TO JUNE 2023

ORDINARY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

In accordance with section 5.25 of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulation 12 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 the scheduled Shire of Meekatharra Ordinary Meeting dates for 2022/23 are as follows:

- Saturday, 16 July 2022
- Saturday, 20 August 2022
- Saturday, 17 September 2022
- Saturday, 15 October 2022
- Saturday, 19 November 2022
- Friday, 16 December 2022
- Saturday, 21 January 2023
- Saturday, 18 February 2023
- Saturday, 18 March 2023
- Saturday, 15 April 2023
- Saturday, 20 May 2023
- Saturday, 24 June 2023

All meetings are held in Council Chambers located at the corner Main & Savage Streets Meekatharra and commence at 9:30am (except the 16 December 2022 meeting which commences at 2:00pm).

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Audit Committee Meetings will be arranged as required by the CEO in consultation with the Shire President.

KJ Matthews
Chief Executive Officer

Advertising in the Meekatharra Dust

The Meekatharra Dust is a newsletter produced by the Shire of Meekatharra each month that highlights local events and helps to distribute news locally. The Newsletter reaches hundreds of people each month through the copies sold around town, copies sent in the mail, and those viewed online. If you wish to advertise in the Meekatharra Dust please get in contact with us on cdo@meekashire.wa.gov.au.

Prices (from 1st of July 2022)

Local non-for-profit organisations are able to receive free advertising.

Size	Colour	Black & White
Full Page 27cmx18cm	\$74.05	\$52.10
Half Page 13.5cmx18cm	\$43.10	\$26.70
Quarter Page 13.5cmx9cm	\$24.65	\$16.50
Eighth Page 9cmx6.75cm	\$18.50	\$13.95

Calling for Submissions

The Meekatharra Dust is always looking for new submissions to be added to the community newsletter. We are chasing articles about things happening around town. If you have any articles with information about any upcoming community events then we want to hear from you!

The Shire of Meekatharra will pay \$100 for articles that are related to Meekatharra. Articles include short stories, poems, photos or similar. Get in contact to find out more about this opportunity.

“The Meekatharra Dust” is a non-profit community newspaper. The Meekatharra Dust is published during the first week of each month. The deadline is the 24th of the previous month.

If you have an article, a photo you would like to share or an advertisement, you can post them to: *PO Box 129, Meekatharra WA 6642* or drop them in at the Shire office. Alternatively, you can email us at: cdo@meekashire.wa.gov.au



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.

FINDING WATER: ART EXHIBITION

Lynne Boladeras (nee Davies) recently held a solo art exhibition at Atwell Gallery in Alfred Cove. Growing up on Doolgunna Station, Meekatharra and spending much of her life at Yandil and Barwidgee Stations in the Goldfields, Lynne's love of the outback is deeply ingrained.

Based in Busselton Lynne and partner Steve spend around 3-4 months each year travelling the outback and camping at places where Lynne finds inspiration for her paintings. Preferring to travel lightly and camp in their swags they are able to traverse places a camper van or caravan can't go.

Sometimes destinations may be determined by commissions Lynne has received.

Back in Busselton Lynne spends many hours in her studio creating larger art works from the smaller pieces created during their travels. It can take up to 4 years to paint similar pieces that work well together for a solo exhibition.

'Finding Water' was the title of Lynne's latest exhibition featuring 29 landscape paintings of the Pilbara, Murchison and Western Woodlands. Whether the past or present, the availability of water has been/is vital for people in these areas.

The exhibition was opened by Phil Bianchi, bush historian and author, whose knowledge of the outback is legendary. He congratulated Lynne on her ability to showcase the outback in its true colours and form.

Out of 29 paintings, 18 were sold during the week of the exhibition as well as prints, cards and postcards of the artwork, a result Lynne was very happy with.

Lynne has already begun her next series of paintings based on a 2021 boat trip aboard The Kimberley Explorer cruising the northern WA coastline.

Raelene Hall

Right: Mucanoo Morning - De Grey River—was sold at the exhibition



Some of Lynne's exhibition pieces



Lynne and Steve's camping set up

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Welcome to your March edition of the Meekatharra Dust. As the summer months draw to an end make the most of our swimming pool which will close at the end of March.

This month's feature volunteer is Rev Mitch Fialkowski who has volunteered for many years in a range of different roles.

Unfortunately the annual Meekatharra Gymkhana won't be held this year due to a lack of volunteers. Sadly this is something we are seeing more and more of in our town/area over the years.

The rain has been pretty light on so far this summer so fingers crossed March will bring us some more of that lovely wet stuff.

Don't forget the Shire is always looking for submissions to the Dust so don't be shy and send/bring in your contribution.

With Best Wishes

The Editor

COVER PHOTO: Fordy the Pool Man was triumphant in the inaugural 'Pool Man Run' ! See story on page 18

Sending get well wishes to our postmaster Russell
Hope you are on the mend soon.



CEO COUNCIL MESSAGE

Welcome to the March 2023 edition of *The Dust CEO Council Message* Report that provides information for all residents regarding the Council ordinary meeting that was held on the 18th of February 2023 as well as the Health, Building and Town Planning Committee meeting and the Annual Electors meeting that were held on the same morning.

This section of *The Dust* is intended to provide a snapshot of the issues discussed at Councils Ordinary Meetings that are held each month. The unconfirmed minutes of Council Meetings are placed on the Council website as soon as possible within the prescribed time limit whereby they are confirmed at the next scheduled Council Meeting. Furthermore, items listed on the agenda when published for the community may not include all the items that were discussed at the Council Meeting, as provision is made for councillors and/or staff to introduce late items for consideration as permitted by legislation and Councils Standing Orders. Therefore, the following resolutions are only a snapshot extract of the full meeting agenda with the entire meeting proceedings being available in the official Council Minutes that are confirmed at the next meeting of Council.

Items from the Shire of Meekatharra Health, Building & Planning Meeting 18 February 2023

Item 7.1.2 – Community Development & Services Manager’s Report

Entry Statements

Council received the draft designs for the aboriginal artwork component from the Meekatharra District High School. This will then be forwarded to the design firm to incorporate into

the overall entry statement and be presented to Council for final consideration and approval.

Lions Park

A detailed technical design by the landscape architects is in progress. A Lotterywest application was lodged for \$175k. Council have also received confirmation of \$10k sponsorship from Greenmount Resources with a number of other mining companies still considering the request. A funding application for \$15k for Arts U15k grant is in progress.

Swimming Pool Basin and Toddler Pool Works

Tenders closed on the 13th of February 2023 and staff will evaluate the tender responses between the 13th and 17th of February 2023 with Council to consider and award the successful tender at its 18th of March 2023 meeting. Contract to be signed in April 2023 with works scheduled to commence in July 2023.

Items from the Shire of Meekatharra Annual Electors Meeting 18 February 2023

Item 7.1 – Receiving of the Annual Report for 2021/2022

That the Annual Report for 2021/2022 be received.

The above resolution confirms Councils adoption of the 2021/22 Annual Report as required by legislation following the Annual Electors Meeting. A copy of Councils 2021/22 Annual Report is available on Council’s web site.

Items from the Shire of Meekatharra Ordinary Meeting 18 February 2023

Item 9.3.1 – Council Meeting Date – April 2023

That the Ordinary Council Meeting and Committee Meeting date for 15 April 2023 be changed to 22 April 2023. To comply with Local Government Act and Regulations an advertisement for the new dates be placed in the local newspaper and on the foyer noticeboard.

The above resolution was in response to the request to change the Ordinary Council Meeting originally scheduled for the 15th of April 2023 to the following week being the 22nd of April 2023. The reason being that the April 2023 meeting currently scheduled to be held on the third Saturday (15th) clashes with the Easter break in 2023 from Good Friday the 7th of April 2023 to Easter Monday 10th of April 2023 inclusive, that only allows four working days to finalize the monthly accounts and the agenda. Advertising of the change of date as required, will be undertaken.

Item 9.3.6 – Donation Meekatharra School of the Air

That Council approve a donation of \$1,000.00 to the Meekatharra School of the Air P& C

The above resolution confirms Councils approval to agree to the request from the Meekatharra School of the Air for a financial donation. Council recognizes that the Meekatharra School of the Air provides a valuable service to families that are spread across many Councils areas in the Murchison and Mid-West region,

Further Information Snippets

- Council extraordinary election – at the close of nominations 4pm on Thursday 23rd of February 2023, no nominations were received for the one (1) vacancy. Council will now be required to undertake an

appointment process to fill the vacancy. The community will be advised in due course of progress regarding the matter. Any person interested in becoming an elected member for the Shire of Meekatharra is urged to contact the CEO to find out more information.

- Wiluna-Meekatharra Road (Goldfields Highway) – as advised in previous *Dust* editions, the Shire's of Meekatharra and Wiluna continue to lobby the Minister for Transport and Main Roads WA to complete sealing the remainder of the unsealed road section of the Goldfields Highway. An e-Petition has now been arranged through the WA Legislative Council where the community can electronically sign the e-Petition. A hard copy of the Petition is also available for signing in various business outlets in Meekatharra and Wiluna.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council is scheduled for Saturday the 18th of March 2023 and the next CEO *Council Message* column will appear in the next edition of *The Dust* in early April. Until then bye for now!

KJ Matthews – CEO

Meekatharra Cemetery

The Meekatharra Cemetery will now be open to pedestrian traffic only for the foreseeable future on a trial basis. This does not, of course, include funerals and memorial installations. Anyone requiring access via vehicle is requested to call into the shire and access will be organised.

Roads within the cemetery grounds are not clearly marked and with some graves being unidentified there is a risk of driving over graves. The shire is working with a cemetery consultant to identify as many graves as possible and update our cemetery records.



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

Don't fret over a new pet – know your rights

Buying a pet is a decision many people make with their hearts as well as their heads, meaning it can be a particularly devastating experience when things go wrong with a new companion.

The issues we hear about can vary – from new pets with significant health issues or not matching their description (such as size or pedigree), to breeders taking upfront deposits for litters that are never born.

That's why we have launched a new campaign to help empower new pet owners to understand how the Australian Consumer Law protects them in the same way as it does for other purchases.

Buying from a shop or breeder (that is a business) entitles you to receive an animal that matches its description, be of acceptable quality, free from significant health issues and have a healthy lifespan relative to the breed or species. Any additional promises made about the pedigree, condition, performance or other characteristics must also be upheld by the trader.

This means if you encounter a genuine pet purchase issue, you may be entitled to receive a remedy (such as financial compensation or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses) while still being able to keep the animal.

These protections are unlikely to apply to private sales when someone sells a pet on a one-off or ad hoc basis, so extra caution is advised if buying this way.

Ask if you can visit where the pet was born and meet its parents to check it has been well cared for, see how big it is likely to grow and what its temperament may be like.

Avoid pet scams – or inadvertently supporting a puppy farm or poor breeding practices – by not buying online if you can't meet the animal first.

If buying a pet isn't for you, consider adopting a new companion from an animal shelter or rescue.

For more information about your pet-buying consumer rights, visit the Consumer Protection [website](http://www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au) at www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au. If you have a genuine issue with a new pet and have been unable to negotiate a remedy, contact us on 1300 30 40 54 or email consumer@dmirs.wa.gov.au



Consumer Watch

Consumer Protection 50-52 Durlacher Street, Geraldton WA 6530
Tel: (08) 9920 9800
Email: candice.evans@dmirs.wa.gov.au

How to avoid hiring a shady tradie

Whether you need a qualified tradesperson to tackle a home project or a handyman for a quick repair, it's important to know the operator you've hired is trustworthy and reliable.

While the majority of tradies do the right thing, we are contacted by disgruntled consumers about the minority that don't.

In the past 12 months, we have received 579 complaints about those working in trades industries, mostly to do with them failing to exercise due care and skill, as well as wrongly accepting payment.

One trader we strongly urge consumers to avoid doing business with is Kyle John Graham Feisst (also known as Chris Johnson or John Miller), an air-conditioning installer and builder of custom vehicle trailers.

Mr Feisst, who advertises under numerous business names on Facebook Marketplace – including Perth Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Repairs; Wat4Now Customs (also spelt Wot4Now Customs); Perth Air Services; and Aim Mechanical – has so far refused to resolve the 42 outstanding complaints we have received from consumers claiming to be owed \$62,000 for incomplete or no work.

To avoid being left in the lurch if a tradie fails to deliver or goes broke, we always recommend only paying a minimal deposit of about 10 per cent or, for larger jobs, negotiate progress payments as stages of the work are completed.

Paying by credit card is a good option as it provides the protection of getting a chargeback if the goods or services aren't delivered.

Pricing and overcharging are other common issues reported to us, so always get several quotes to compare prices and avoid any surprises once the job is complete. Ensure tradies are licensed (if required) or accredited by trusted industry bodies and search online for positive or negative reviews. Verify claims by asking to see previous work and speaking to past clients.

Ask to see a certificate of currency for public liability insurance, which will protect you or third parties against any damage the tradesperson may cause.

Conduct a licence search for professions such as an electrician, builder or plumber, on Building and Energy's website at www.dmirs.wa.gov.au. More information and advice about hiring tradespeople is on our [website](http://www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au) at www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au

Artwork by Marrika Laudehr



Regional
Alliance
West

Sharyn Gregory

Phone: (08) 99380600

Email: legal@raw.org.au

Nyarlu Myarnumalgu Indigenous Women's Outreach Service.

My Name is Sharyn Gregory I am the Indigenous Women's Paralegal at Regional Alliance West in Geraldton and the Midwest Region .
providing free Legal Information, Advice and casework to, for and alongside Aboriginal Women in our region. We assist with and provide.

- Criminal Injuries Claims/ info
- Free legal Info Sessions
- We can also assist with legal paperwork/forms.
- Redress referrals for both male and female clients

We work from Geraldton but also do regular outreach trips.

Outreach Dates for this month:

Wills and Estates info session

Meekatharra - Tuesday 14th March 11am

Yulella Community Hub

Please feel free to contact me with any questions on the above details or to book an appointment.



YOUTH FOCUS WILL BE CLOSED
From Tuesday 7 OF March
TO
Friday 10 OF March
(Monday 6 of March is a public Holiday)

Staff will be attending the Youth Focus forum in Perth during this time.

If you need social and emotional wellbeing support during this time please call

13 YARN - 13 92 76

Lifeline - 13 11 14

Kids Helpline - 1800 55 1800

or go and see the GP/Midwest mental health or one of the nurses at the hospital

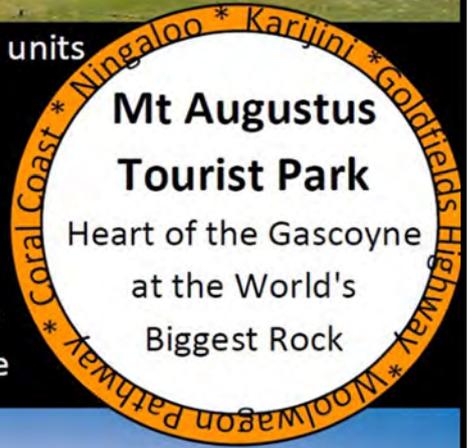
You can call Paulette on 0499 444 626 anytime and she will return you call when she is free

Rainfall in the Shire of Meekatharra recorded by BOM for the week ending 28th February 2023

Mingah Springs:	20 mm
Three Rivers:	3 mm
Bulloo Downs:	15 mm
Meekatharra Airport:	25 mm
Mininer Station:	20 mm
Tangadee Station:	17 mm



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



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

BABY TIME FOR AMY



Our Community Development Officer (CDO) for the Shire, Amy Kilner (nee Thomas), has commenced her maternity leave. Amy and husband Hayden are expecting their first baby in a couple of months. Amy started with the Meekatharra Shire as the CDO in March 2020. In the past three years she has been the driver of a wide range of events for the Meekatharra community. These include our annual Festival held on the long weekend in September, the Meekatharra Community Awards held on Australia Day, quiz nights, Christmas parties, Welcome to Meekatharra events for newcomers to town and more. In her role Amy has also worked with many other organisations in town to create events and activities.

We wish Amy and Hayden all the best for the arrival of their bub.

Amy enjoying a laugh with one of her young Meekatharra friends

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

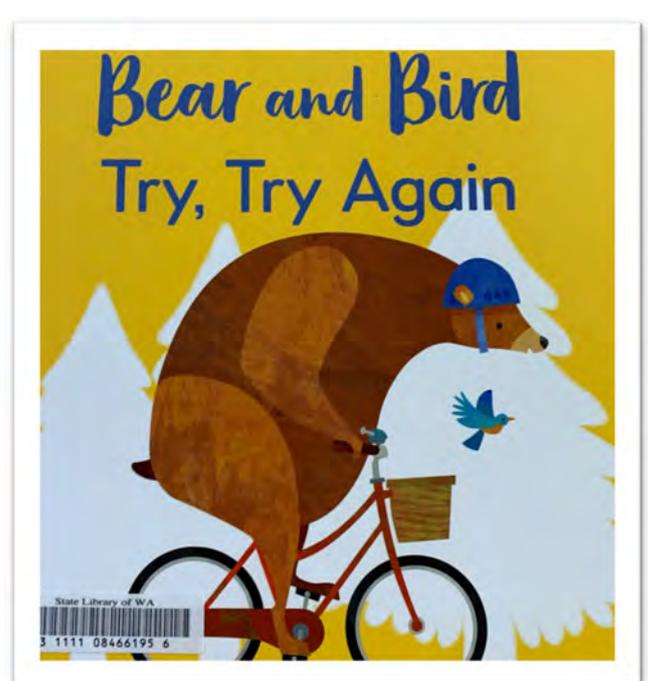
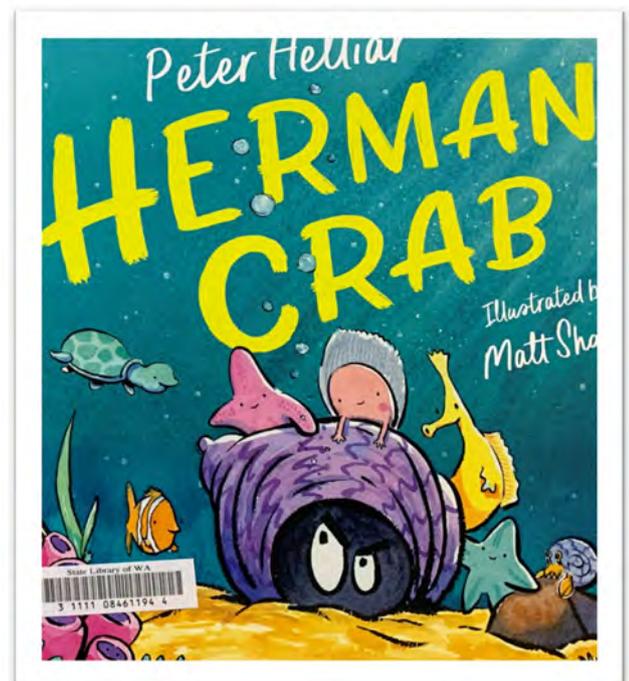
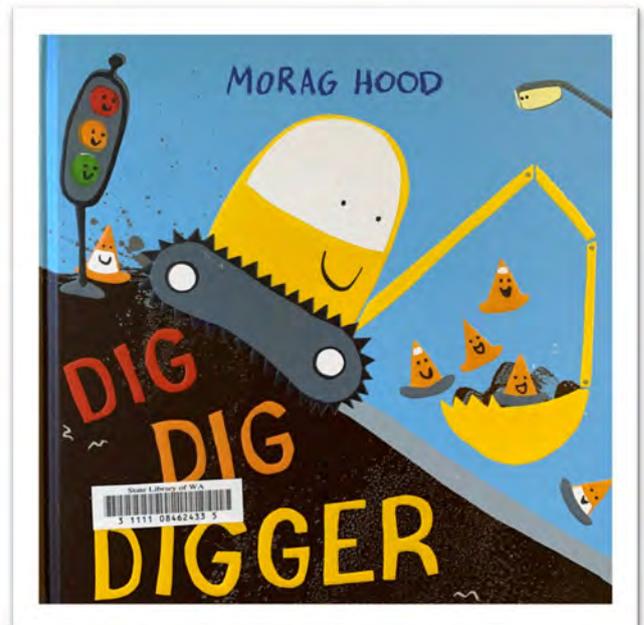
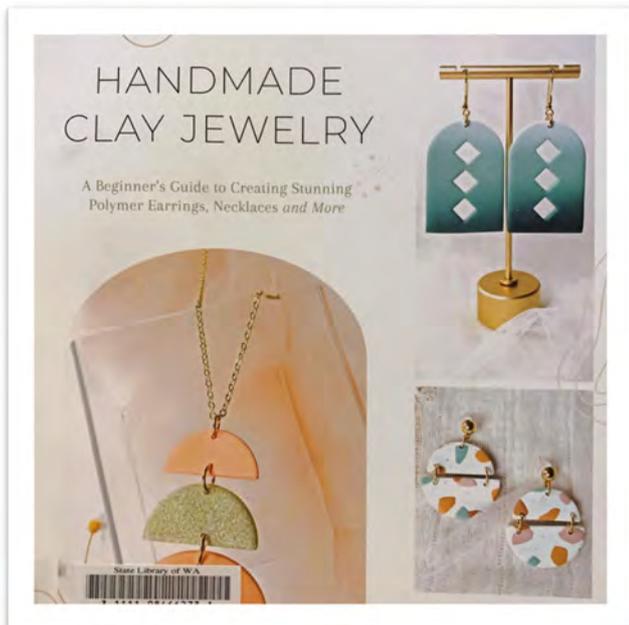
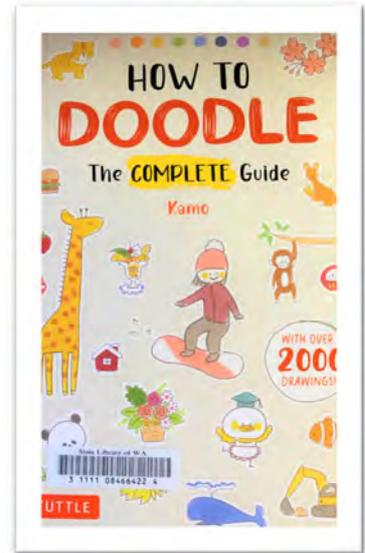


**Burgers
Rolls
Sandwiches made to order
Bottled water deliveries**



**Tyre Repairs
Driveway Service**

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY



Things that go Bang in the Night



The Hall men of Neds Creek Station had a rude awakening in the early hours of 28th March. A loud crash had them leaping out of bed and their dog completely losing her mind. The cause: the ceiling in the lounge room of the homestead had collapsed. Whilst creating an awful mess and leaving half the ceiling on the lounge room floor it was fortunate there was minimal damage with the only casualty being the glass top of a coffee table. Raelene Hall escaped the disaster as she was working in town at the time.



 youthfocus

Men's Group

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

Just bring your manners and respect

We might stay at the office or we might head out somewhere like Peace Gorge

We will put on a feed

This group is for young men only

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

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

 youthfocus

WOMENS GROUP

Every second Wednesday 6-8pm
YOUTH FOCUS

A place for women to come together for yarning, beauty, movies, on country excursions and more
Food and drinks provided

Contact Dee, Nicolah, Paulette and Holly at Youth Focus for more info
0499 444 626



MURDOCH UNIVERSITY STERILISATION PROGRAM

Veterinary students from Murdoch University, under the guidance of a senior veterinarian, will be travelling to the Shire of Meekatharra to perform sterilisations, pet checks and micro chipping for registered dogs and cats in the Shire of Meekatharra.

DATE: Wednesday 19 April 2023
TIME: 8:00am – 5:30pm

Thursday 20 April 2023
7:30am – 5:30pm

Friday 21 April 2023
7.30am – 5.30pm



VENUE: Shire Town Hall

Vaccination Costs

Vaccinations are free for pets being sterilised
\$30 for Concession card holders
\$50 for Non-Concession card Holders

Murdoch students will carry out sterilization, pet checks and microchipping for cats and dogs **free of charge** to residents and pastoralists of Meekatharra. Registration forms must be completed by the owner **prior** to surgery on the day and a registration tag will be issued. Registration is free of charge for animals being sterilized.

Please contact the Shire or CRC by 17 April 2023 if you are interested in having your pet sterilised and micro chipped.

There are limited sterilisation opportunities available.

For further information please call the Shire office on 99633000 or the CRC on 9980 1811.



Meekatharra Youth Workers to Deliver Swim for Fruit

Staff from the Meekatharra Youth Centre and High School in WA's Mid West have earned their Bronze Medallion, the first step in building a swimming program in the community.

Thanks to a \$500 donation from Adflex Marketing, Royal Life Saving WA was able to offer the training program at a subsidised rate to the local shire.

Meekatharra, which means 'place of little water' in Yamatji, is set to launch Go for 2&5 Swim for Fruit, an after-school lap program for remote and regional Aboriginal communities that encourages healthy eating.



Pool Manager Shaun Ford (Fordy) with Karen Schilling, Lachlan MacDonald, Keenan Flanagan, Andrew Binsiar and Joella Flanagan

"I'm confident that gifting this donation to the Youth Centre is a sustainable investment in the local community," said Royal Life Saving Inclusion Coordinator, Triahna Coombs.

"Swim for Fruit is new to Meekatharra and this donation will go towards establishing a swimming program workforce while developing the skillset of local youth workers."

Supported by Healthway, Swim for Fruit was developed in response to a greater need for water safety, physical activity, and adequate fruit and vegetable intake amongst young Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children in regional and remote areas of WA.

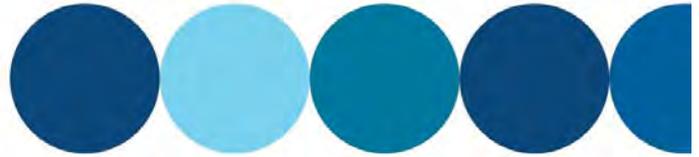
Drowning remains the leading cause of preventable death for toddlers while people in regional areas are 1.8 times more likely to drown than those in Perth's metro.

To address these factors, Royal Life Saving has been working with regional pools for more than a decade to encourage children to participate in swimming activities by rewarding them with a healthy afternoon tea.

It's hoped this investment will lead the way for future Royal Life Saving programs including Swim and Survive.

"Having community members with a Bronze Medallion opens opportunities for more support and programs to be available to the local community and prevent drowning," said Triahna.

Article and photo courtesy of WA Royal Life Saving Society



Being waterwise in the Murchison region

Your water supply has recently been upgraded, so you can expect to notice a difference every time you turn on the tap.

Our water is a valuable resource and we can all do our bit to use it wisely. Now is a great time to pick up some new water saving habits or brush up on your old ones.



Use the half flush

Only flush toilet paper, pee and poo down the loo.



Aim for a 4-minute shower

Use a shower timer or 4-minute song to time your showers.



Only wash with a full load

Reducing your washing by just one load a week will save up to 50 litres of water.



Running taps waste water

Fill a water bottle to keep in the fridge.



To help you save water in your home, we currently have *Showerhead Swap* and *Plumbing Service* offers available for a limited time - offers end 1 May 2023.

T&Cs apply.



Search **waterwise offers** at watercorporation.com.au

For more water saving tips visit watercorporation.com.au



INTERVIEW WITH A VOLUNTEER:

How long have you been volunteering?

I've been volunteering most of my life.

In Meekatharra I volunteer with St John Ambulance, Meeka Goes Green and the radio station. I am also a volunteer chaplain for all religions in Meekatharra.

What made you start volunteering?

I have volunteered for many years without actually calling it volunteering. It started with church groups and any activities they were doing. I spent a couple of weeks in Darwin with a work party following Cyclone Tracy. I see volunteering as just reaching out to help when and where I can.

What do you do as part of your volunteering roles:

St John's involves going out on ambulance calls and also doing transfers from the hospital to the RFDS plane or vice versa. With the radio station it's really anything and everything that needs to be done. We are asked sometimes by different companies, whose communication systems have gone down, to go in and see what the problem is and if we can sort it. Meeka Goes Green: Have started of late encouraging people to come and see what is available at the recycling centre for sale so I guess I am a bit of a salesperson as our location isn't in a particularly public place.

What do you like most about volunteering:

The opportunity to meet people and interact with them, especially when you move to a new town.

What's the worst aspect of volunteering?

It's not actually the worst aspect but it is your responsibility to determine how much time and effort you put into volunteering. It's no good complaining about the time you spend volunteering because that is your choice and it's up to you. It's important that you allow sufficient time for your own life and not to burn yourself out.

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

A light hearted thing I learned from volunteering with Cyclone Tracy is never try to compete with farmers when it comes to food. They eat like horses. I thought I could keep up with but I soon learned otherwise. In regards to St John you sometimes wonder about the outcomes for the patients you transport as you don't get any feedback about it.

What people should/don't know about volunteering:

Some forget that, as a volunteer in some circumstances, you can't always say or do things your way. You need to be able to step back. Someone else may have the final say.

Do you need more volunteers?

Always. If you wish to volunteer just contact any volunteer organisation and offer your services.

Why do you think so many organisations are struggling for volunteers?

Many people are still so busy with full time paid work and a lot of grandparents, who may have volunteered, are often minding/raising grandchildren. The dwindling populations in many areas, particularly rural and remote areas is also a factor.



Peter Foster MLC

Member for Mining and Pastoral Region

Supporting Regional WA



 (08) 9144 4187

 peter.foster@mp.wa.gov.au

 PeterFosterMLC

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

New Town Tradition Maybe?

Some cheeky Meekatharra youngsters thought that 'Fordy' our Pool Man was getting old and slow. This fired Fordy up and he decided to show these kids he wasn't ready for retirement yet.

The 'Race the Pool Man' FUN RUN was set for Sunday evening 5th February. The run would be from the pool to the lookout. Everyone was invited to join in, parents, teachers, nurses, police, shire, pub representatives and kids.

Feeling fairly confident Fordy set off slowly behind the bunch of kids who were fired up and determined to win. Whilst Fordy was able to pick the young people off one by one he only managed to pass the last two youngsters just prior to reaching the lookout to claim victory.

Being a good sport Fordy handed out some goodies to the youngsters who had put their heart and soul (and for some, the contents of their tummy) into the fun run.

Could this become the newest annual tradition in our town?

See our cover photo

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

"OFF THE BEATEN TRACK" WITH MATTY

98.3 MEEKA FM

Meekatharra, WA

A FAVOURITE TRAVELLING SONG? REQUEST IT FOR THE SHOW.



MONDAYS LUNCH





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**





Please join us for further community engagement and information sessions about the

CEMETERIES HERITAGE PROJECT



SATURDAY 11TH MARCH 2023 9-11AM LLOYDS PLAZA
TUESDAY 14TH MARCH 2023 10AM LLOYDS CONFERENCE ROOM
MORNING TEA PROVIDED

Find out how the project is going. Share your knowledge.
For more info get in touch with the Shire 08 9980 0600 or
cdsm@meekashire.wa.gov.au

SCHOOL INPUT INTO WELCOME SIGNS

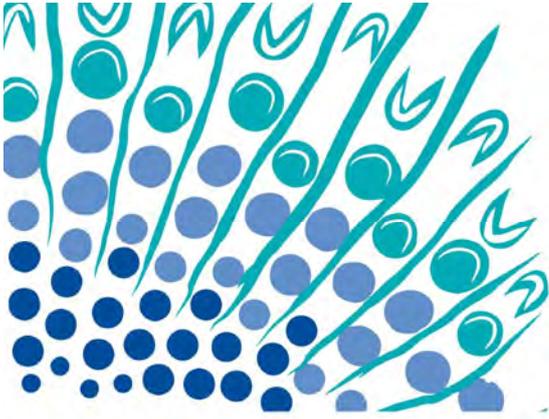
The Meekatharra Council last year asked the community for input into the design of new welcome to Meekatharra signs and has been tweaking and working on the design since. The Meekatharra Aboriginal Reference Group suggested that students of the Meekatharra District High School should create aboriginal artwork to feature on the entry statement, so the students got to work and created a beautiful and meaningful painting which will be incorporated into the entry statement.

Svenja Clare, the Shire's Community Development & Services Manager, was presented with a contribution from the Year 7 and 8 students of Meekatharra District High School.

This is the background story to their creativity:

'This artwork is our representation of our home, Meekatharra. It includes our two main language groups, the Yugunga-Nya and Ngoonooru Wajarri people being the centre of our home. We used colours that best represent our vast landscapes and we made our representation of our granite rocks and mines located around our home. We added people to our artwork to represent us, the children, and the dots represent all our families that live, learn and grow in Meekatharra.'





Young Women's Group Movie Night!

From 6-8PM Wednesday 1 March 2023

Light snacks and drinks provided

Ages 12+



For More Info call Paulette on 0499 444 626

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

New to the Shire

Darren Friend: Finance Officer

I was happily enjoying early retirement and being Chief Domestic Engineer in the Friend family household when I answered an SOS from Kelvin Matthews and Peter Dittrich to assist within the Finance area of the Shire of Meekatharra so here I am, having signed on for a six-month relief stint working a FIFO roster. My daughter has started a teaching degree at Curtin University and my wife works in biosecurity for the Federal Government, based at Perth Airport so they won't miss me too much! I've been in Local government since I was a teenager, working with a number of Councils throughout WA, including Wiluna and Laverton so the weather isn't too much of a shock to the system in this great little town.

Donna Christie: Admin and Library Officer

I'm a long term Meekatharra local and this is my second stint working at the Shire. I have moved from just across the road at IGA to the shire offices. As well as helping with admin chores I will be taking care of the library and our Wednesday morning rhyme times. When not working I enjoy spending time with my partner and our two dogs.

I'm looking forward to the new challenge and assisting locals and visitors who come into our shire office

Welcome



**CAPPED AIRFARES
HAVE LANDED
IN REGIONAL WA**

\$199
ONE WAY
< 1000km
from Perth

\$299
ONE WAY
> 1000km
from Perth

Now it's even easier for regional residents to stay connected to family, friends and access essential services in Perth. In a joint initiative between the State Government and our aviation industry, capped airfares are now available for regional residents travelling to Perth and back. Affordable, everyday air travel is one way of helping regional WA get a fare go.

Flights begin on July 1, so for booking details or more information, contact the airlines, your travel agent or visit farego.wa.gov.au

Terms and conditions apply.

farego.wa.gov.au

Thumbs Up

To all those dog owners who do the right thing and clean up after their dog in public, helping to keep our town (and our shoes/feet) clean.



Thumbs Down

To those people who still don't know what a rubbish bin is for and continue to throw their litter around our town.



Farewell Dr Christine McConnell

February marked the end of an era for Dr Christine McConnell when she retired after an incredible 27 years working with RFDS WA whilst based in Meekatharra.

The RFDS WA acknowledged Christine's amazing period of service with an event held at Jandakot, attended by colleagues past and present. Guests shared fantastic stories about Christine's work and the incredible impact she had on the RFDS, Meekatharra and surrounding communities.

There are many people who would have cause to be very thankful for Dr McConnell for her care over those 27 years.

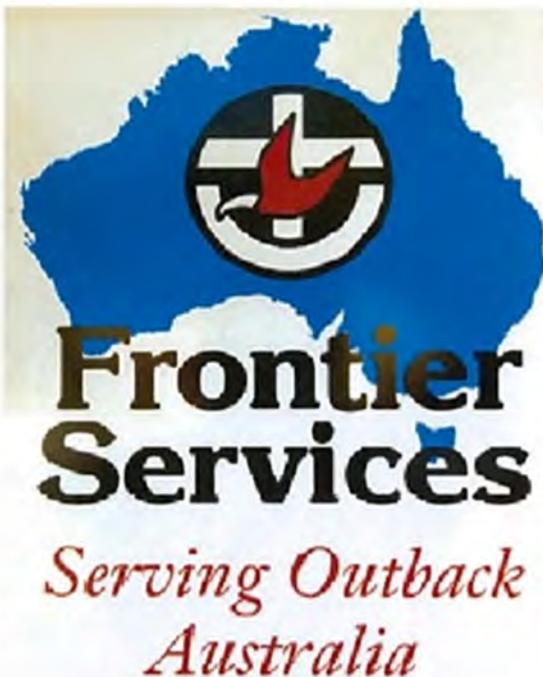
We hope you enjoy a wonderful retirement and thank you for your service.

Thank you to RFDS WA for allowing us to share some of their words and images

Below: Dr Christine (centre) and colleagues



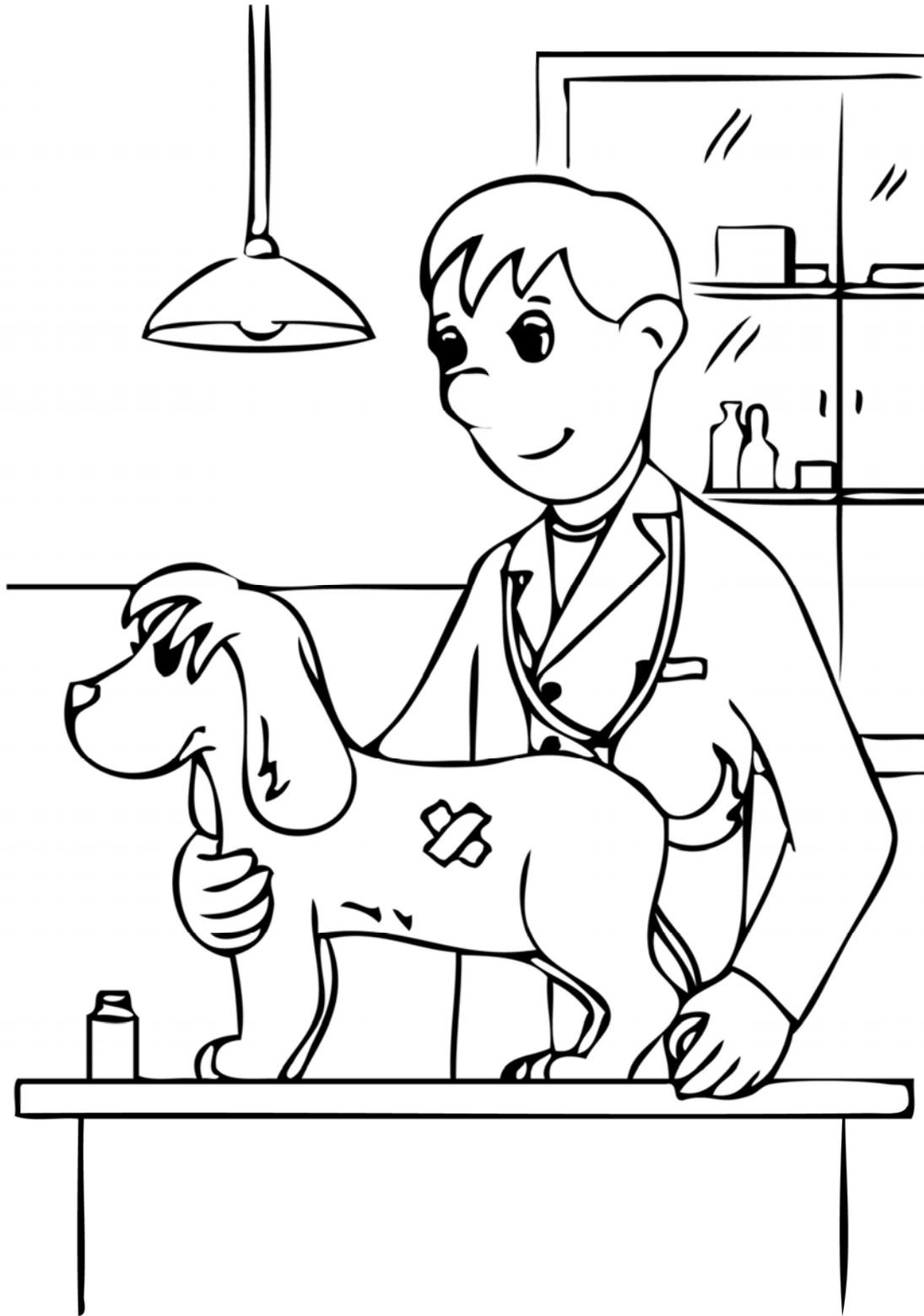
Meekatharra Community Church (Uniting Church)



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

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

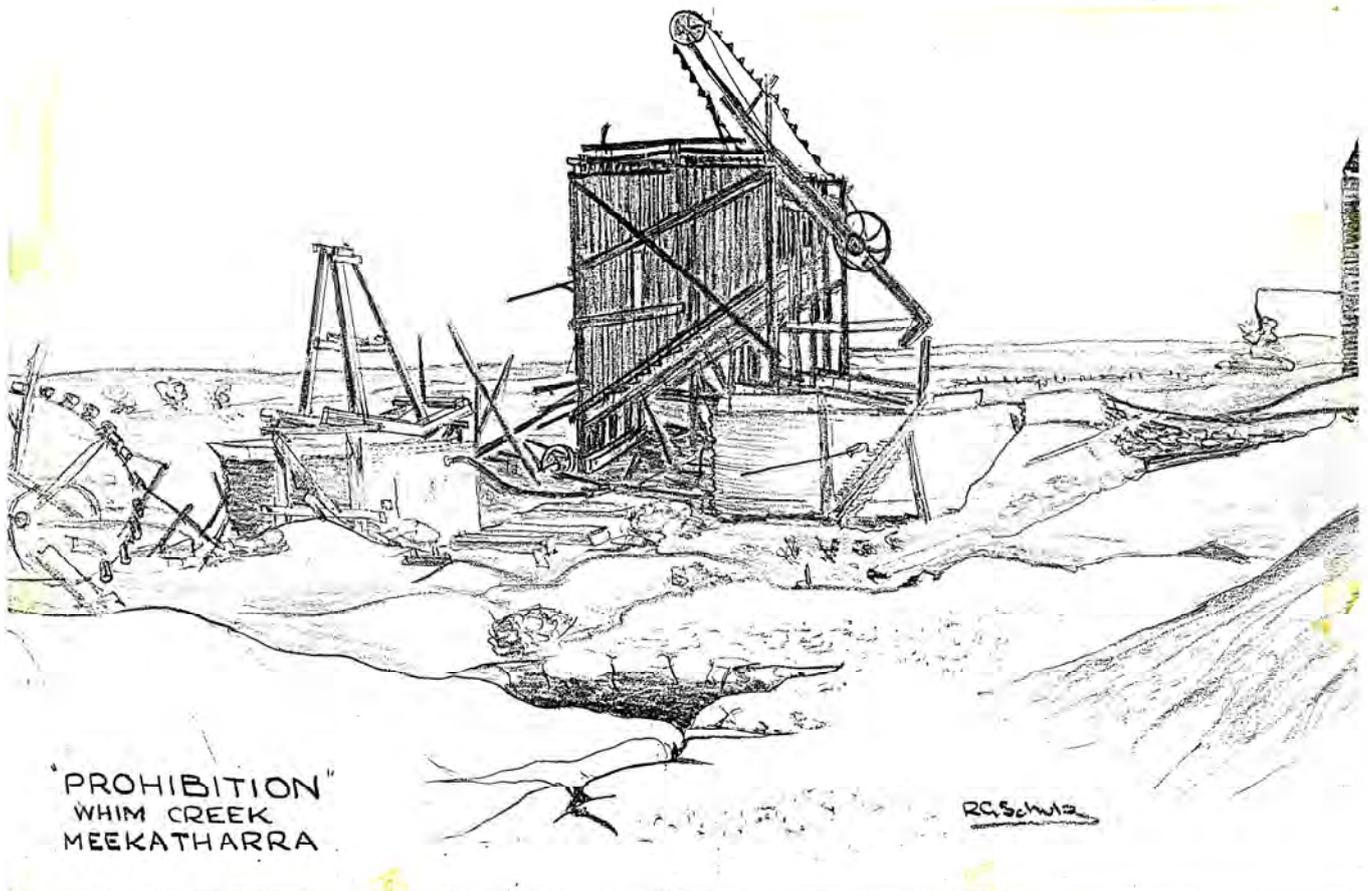
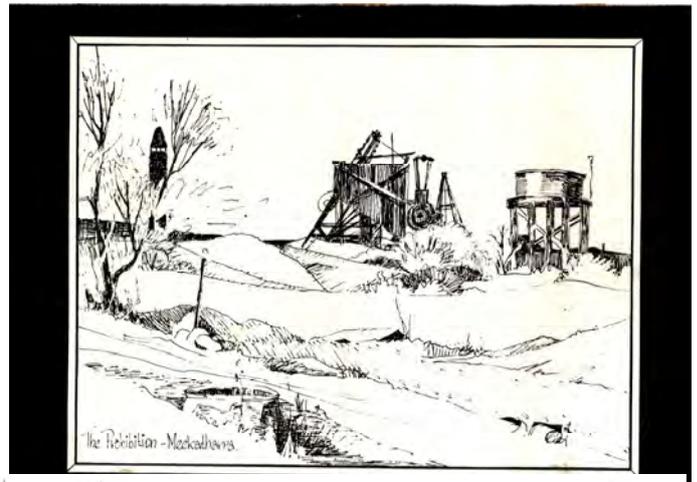
KIDS CORNER



MEEKATHARRA HISTORY

Gayle Crude came to Meekatharra recently to teach swimming lessons. Whilst here she came into the Shire to ask if we would like copies of some historical photos (see below) and information she had. Gayle's grandparents, Annie Hovel, born in Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo and Arthur Wilfred Spencer (Spinny) born in Bendigo, met and married in Meekatharra. They owned the Prohibition Mine in Meekatharra under the name of Spencers Gold Mines Ltd and operated it from the late 1930's. In 1937 the Spencers leased it to the WA Mining and Exploration Company, who promptly went bankrupt. The Liquidator prevented the Spencers from working the mine as he claimed the plant and machinery on the lease belonged to the WA Mining and Exploration Company.

Some long term Meekatharra people will remember Gayle's Uncle, Jack Spencer, who owned a garage in Main Street.





MOUNT MAGNET GYMKHANA

SATURDAY | **8 APRIL**
Easter Long Weekend
2023

OPEN BARREL RACE - \$3000 PRIZE POOL
First Prize \$1700

JUNIOR BARREL RACE - \$500 PRIZE POOL

\$2000 CASH PRIZE POOL - All Additional Events

*Programme & prize money breakdown coming soon

Bar
& Canteen
Available



All enquiries to

 mountmagnetgymkhanaclub@outlook.com

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with event information  **Mount Magnet Gymkhana**



Department of Transport



Department of Transport Remote Services

Visiting: Meekatharra

When: Wed 15th March 1 - 4pm & Thur 16th 8 - 10am

Where: Yulella Offices

We will be able to help you with the following services:

- theory test
- photo card applications
- driver's licence applications
- change of address
- registration and driver's licence renewals
- vehicle transfers
- return of vehicle plates
- driving assessments

To enable us to help you, please ensure you bring your birth certificate, Medicare card, bank card and two types of proof of residency, along with cash or card for payment.

For enquiries please call: Karen - 9216 8194

Swap queue time, for you time



Online services available 24/7

Sign up to DoTDirect online services for around the clock services, payments, and applications, to manage your personal details, and more.

www.transport.wa.gov.au/dotdirect

DoTDirect

IMPORTANT DATES

March 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27 February	28 February	1 Rhyme Time 10am-10:30am Containers for Change 12:30pm-4:30pm Adults Sports 6pm Women's Group 6-8pm @ Youth Focus	2	3	4 Containers for Change 8am-12pm Meeka Goes Green 9am-11am 	5
6 Labour Day Public Holiday	7	8 Rhyme Time 10am-10:30am Containers for Change 12:30pm-4:30pm Adults Sports 6pm	9	10	11 Meeka Markets + Cemetery Info Session 9.30-11am @ Lloyds Containers for Change 8am-12pm Meeka Goes Green 9am-11am	12
13 Yoga 5pm @ Shire Hall	14 Cemetery Consultation and Info Session @ Lloyds 10am	15 Dept Transport @ Yulella 1-4pm Rhyme Time 10am-10:30am Containers for Change 12:30pm-4:30pm Adults Sports 6pm Women's Group 6-8pm @ Youth Focus	16 Dept Transport @ Yulella 8-10am	17	18 Containers for Change 8am-12pm Meeka Goes Green Recycling 9am-11am Ordinary Council Meeting 9:30am	19
20 Yoga 5pm @ Shire Hall	21	22 Rhyme Time 10am-10:30am Containers for Change 12:30pm-4:30pm Adults Sports 6pm Women's Group 6-8pm @ Youth Focus	23	24	25 Containers for Change 8am-12pm Meeka Goes Green Recycling 9am-11am	26
27 Yoga 5pm @ Shire Hall	28	29 Rhyme Time 10am-10:30am Containers for Change 12:30pm-4:30pm Adults Sports 6pm	30	31 Last Day for the Pool	1 April Containers for Change 8am-12pm Meeka Goes Green Recycling 9am-11am	2 April