MEEKATHARRA DUST

Vol. 378

NOVEMBER/
DECEMBER 2024

$2.50

MEEKA COMMUNITY AWARDS 2025

Nominations have now closed. Join us for the Awards Ceremony on Sunday 26th January, 2025.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Take a peek at the fun that was had during our annual festive gathering.

MEEKA'S EMERGENCY SERVICES LEGENDS!

Check out what Meeka's Emergency Services Agencies have been up to.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Meekatharra acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout this region, and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.

We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present.

shire of meekatharra
a golden prospect

SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2025

ORDINARY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

In accordance with section 5.25(1)(g) 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 2025 calendar year are as follows:

Saturday, 18 January 2025

Saturday, 15 February 2025

Saturday, 15 March 2025

Saturday, 12 April 2025

Saturday, 17 May 2025

Saturday, 21 June 2025

Saturday, 26 July 2025

Saturday, 16 August 2025

Saturday, 20 September 2025

Saturday, 18 October 2025

Saturday, 15 November 2025

Friday, 12 December 2025

All meetings are held in Council Chambers located at the corner Main & Savage Streets Meekatharra and commence at 11.30am (except the 12 December 2025 meeting which commences at 4:00pm).

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Nathan Cain
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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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We would love to hear from you so please feel free to contact us on

08 9980 0600

and ask for the Community Development Officer, or email;

cdo@meekashire.wa.gov.au

or give us a follow on our socials

Scan me!

Community Happenings

WHAT'S CURRENTLY HAPPENING IN MEEKA?

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS | Community Christmas Party

Meeka Community Christmas Party 2024: A Day to Remember!

The 2024 Meekatharra Community Christmas Party was a huge success, bringing joy and festive cheer to our community!

The event kicked off with a special visit from Santa, who greeted many excited attendees, spreading holiday magic and handing out presents to all the children.

Adults and children took part in the festive cheer with the craft and activities to participate in, as well as enjoying the giant games such as Naughts & Crosses, Jenga, and the classic, Connect Four.

Afterward, the wonderful team from Westgold served up a delicious BBQ dinner, ensuring everyone was well-fed and ready for more fun. As the afternoon continued, the party moved to the pool, where the community enjoyed a splash in the water, grooved to the beats of the DJ, and treated themselves to a cool ice cream (courtesy of Santa) to beat the 40 degree heat.

It was a fantastic celebration of community spirit, with families, friends, volunteers and local organisations coming together to enjoy the festive spirit, great company, and unforgettable memories.

Thank you to everyone who attended and made this event so special!

A special acknowledgement also goes to Westgold Resources Ltd, Contract Aquatic Services, Timika King, John Gallano, Eleonora Zibetti, Youth Focus, Mission Australia, Meekatharra District High School, Shooting Stars and Yulella Aboriginal Corporation.

Photo credit: Eleonora Zibetti

shire of meekatharra a golden prospect

WESTGOLD

Contract Aquatic Services

Meekatharra District High School

MISSION AUSTRALIA together we stand

YULELLA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

ShootingStars

youthfocus

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS | Community Christmas Party

Photo credit: Eleonora Zibetti

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS | Community Christmas Party

Photo credit: Eleonora Zibetti

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a golden prospect

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MISSION AUSTRALIA | together we stand

Meekatharra District High School

youthfocus

YULELLA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Thank you!

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS | Meekatharra Airport

Photo credit: Sarah Cuthbertson

What's been happening at the airport over the last few months!

There's always lots happening out at the airport that we don't see, Hercules planes performing training exercises, emergency services mass casualty training, real-life emergencies and general busy-ness.

Back in September this year, two Hercules RAAF C-130J-30 aircraft came to Meeka Airport and practiced a series of 'touch and go' exercises. "What does a touch and go exercise involve?" you ask. Well it's exactly that, the aircraft pilot comes in to land on the runway, touches down on the runway before taking off again.

To break it down a little more, it's a manoeuvre performed by a fixed wing aircraft and often used in training and upskilling new and seasoned pilots. During a touch and go exercise, the pilot approaches the runway to land, configures the plane for landing, and briefly touches down on the runway.
Instead of coming to a stop and taxiing off the runway, once the wheels touch down, the pilot reconfigures the plane for takeoff and executes a takeoff without stopping. Pretty impressive to watch when it happens!

The C-130J-30 Hercules is a medium-sized tactical air-lifter which can deliver cargo to airfields with short unsurfaced runways, and airdrop cargo and paratroops by parachute.

The Australian Defence Force relies extensively on the Hercules aircraft when deploying personnel and aid. The aircraft can also be used in other roles, such as search and survivor assistance, and medical evacuation.

These aircraft can carry up to 124 passengers, or eight pallets of cargo and can work alongside other airlifters, including the C-27J Spartan and C-17A Globemaster III.

References:

https://www.pilotmall.com/blogs/news/what-s-a-touch-and-go-landing-and-why-it-s-used?
Royal Australian Airforce https://www.airforce.gov.au/aircraft/c-130j-hercules

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS | Meekatharra Airport

Practice exercise turned real life!

Also held in September this year, was the biennial Airport Emergency Exercise. Meekatharra Emergency Services - St John Ambulance, Western Australia Police Force (WAPOL) and the Meekatharra Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services (VFRS) got to showcase their emergency response skills in a joint training exercise.

The Airport Emergency Exercise is mandatory and undertaken to test and assess each airports' Aerodrome Emergency Plan (AEP) with all responsible emergency service agencies.

All airports throughout Australia, are required to undertake an Airport Emergency Exercise every 2 years to meet Federal Airport legislation.

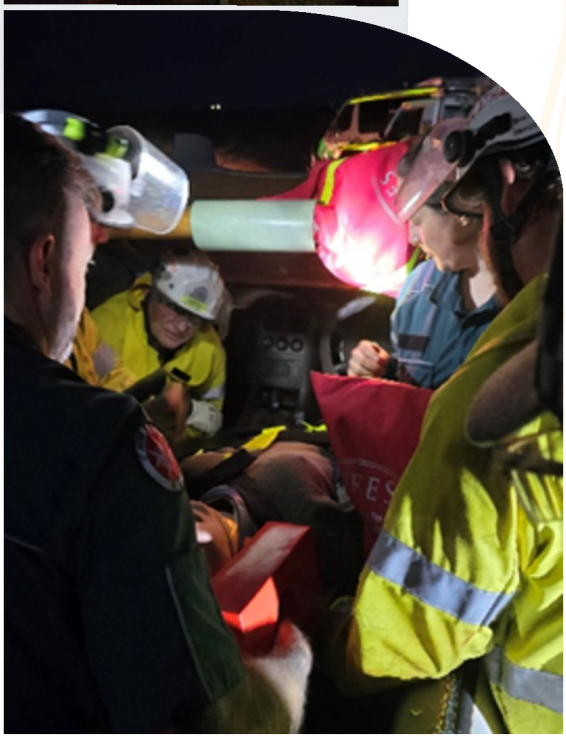
And then surprisingly, on Friday 15th November this year, there was a real-life airport emergency incident. This incident allowed the Airport personnel, Aircraft PAX and Meekatharra Emergency Services to join together and put their training into action. How exciting!

Fortunately there were no casualties in this incident, and it was seen as a great opportunity for our volunteers and service personnel alike, to put their training into action!

Airport Emergency Incident | Friday 15th November

Airport Emergency Exercise | Saturday 14th September

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS | Meekatharra SJA & DFES Training Night



Combined Emergency Service Training Night

This month the Meekatharra St John Ambulance and Fire and Rescue Service volunteers came together for a joint road crash rescue training session, strengthening their collaboration and skills in emergency response. Held on an unused section of bitumen just out of town, the training simulated real-life car crash scenario, giving volunteers valuable hands-on experience.

In the exercise, firefighters practiced safely cutting open vehicles to free “trapped” passengers, while ambulance officers focused on providing immediate medical care and spinal stabilisation. These simulations were designed to help both teams understand each other’s roles and improve coordination during real emergencies.

This training event highlighted the dedication and teamwork of these community members, who volunteer their time to protect and support their local communities. A big thank you to all of the volunteers who gave up their evening to train. Through shared training like this, they are better prepared to respond quickly and efficiently when it matters most.

Have you thought about volunteering?

There is a role for everyone!

W.A. FIRE & RESCUE	**Join Fire & Rescue Service** recruitment.midwestgascoyne@dfes.wa.gov.au
St John	**Join St John Ambulance** Contact the Community Paramedic 0437 681 562 cp.midwesteast@stjohnwa.com.au

St John Ambulance

St John

Upcoming first aid course

HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid

Course type: Accredited | **Duration:** 1 day in class + Online learning

Price: $170.00

When: Sunday 23 February - 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Where: Lloyds Plaza Conference Room, 64-66 Main Street, Meekatharra WA 6642

Understand first aid

Learn about first aid theory and action plans

CPR and defibrillation

Practise CPR skills and how to apply a defibrillator.

Injury management

Treat and manage injuries in interactive training scenarios.

Ready to make a difference?

Book a first aid course with us

St John First Aid Training

St John Ambulance (Western Australia) Ltd. RTO Code: 0392

St John Ambulance Western Australia Ltd - ACN 165 969 406; ABN 55 028 468 715

St John Ambulance

St John

Upcoming first aid courses

HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid

Course type: Accredited | **Duration:** 2 days in class

Price: $275.00

When: Monday 24 February - 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Tuesday 25 February - 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Where: To be advised, Cue WA 6640

Understand first aid

Everything you need to know about first aid theory and action plans.

CPR and defibrillation

Put into practise your CPR skills and defibrillation technique.

Injury management

Bolster treatment skills in an interactive training scenario.

Ready to make a difference?

Book a first aid course with us

St John First Aid Training

St John Ambulance (Western Australia) Ltd. RTO Code: 0392

St John Ambulance Western Australia Ltd - ACN 165 969 406; ABN 55 028 468 715

Family and domestic violence is not always physical

If someone is controlling and does something bad over and over, it can make you feel scared, shame and no good

...it's called

COERCIVE CONTROL

and it's not part of our culture

Look up on the internet

wa.gov.au/familyviolence

Community Facilities Available in Town

Lloyds Conference Room

Lloyds Plaza Conference Room is a state-of-the-art conferencing facility set to accommodate up to a maximum of 25 people. *Hire fees are $12.50 (including GST) per hour, minimum of 4 hours hire.*

This facility **can be booked online.** Alternatively, please contact us directly at **9980 0600** or email us at **cso@meekashire.wa.gov.au**

Lloyds Plaza Conference Room

Town Hall

One of the most important buildings in our town, our beloved Town Hall is a multi-purpose space where your team, or family can utilize to whatever way you think it'll fit. This space can accommodate up to 250 people.

This facility cannot be booked online.

Please contact us directly at **9980 0600** or email us at **cso@meekashire.wa.gov.au** for any enquiries or bookings.

Town Hall

Sporting Complex and Oval

Looking for a space to use for a big event in town?

The Sporting Complex and Oval might be the space for you. With it's luscious grass and wide field, accompanied with an indoor space to keep shade when needed, this space can accommodate up to 50 people indoors.

This facility cannot be booked online.

Please contact us directly at **9980 0600** or email us at **cso@meekashire.wa.gov.au** for any enquiries or bookings.

Sporting Complex and Oval

GYM

The gym is located at the Sporting Complex off Landor Road behind the Club Rooms and can be accessed between 5am-10pm.

This unmanned gym has all the equipment you will need and more to complete your workout. To access the gym a swipe card is needed from the Shire Office. Make sure to sign up and check out the space.

We have recently upgraded the facility and equipment, so we can deliver the best gym in the region!

Access is restricted to 16 years of age and above.

Opening Hours
5am - 10pm

For any enquiries, please contact us directly at **9980 0600** or email us at **cso@meekashire.wa.gov.au**

Fees & Charges *(as of July 2024)*
$20 once-off sign up fee + then only $32 per month
Concessions available
Fees apply for lost cards

SWIMMING POOL

The Meekatharra War Memorial Swimming Pool is located centrally in town on Main Street. A much loved community asset, it's the perfect place to cool off during summer, socialise with friends or enhance your fitness.

Opening Hours
1 October to 31 March each year

Monday - Friday
12pm to 6pm
6pm to 7pm - Adults Only

Saturday - Sunday
11am to 6pm

Fees & Charges
Daily, weekly & full season passes available for children, adults and families. Concessions available.
'Pool for School' policy in place, rewarding school attendance with free entry to the Pool.
Enquire at the Shire Office for details or on **9980 0600** or email us at **cso@meekashire.wa.gov.au**.

Squash Court

The Meekatharra Squash Court is located behind the Club Rooms at the Sporting Complex off Landor Rd. The key and light tokens are available from the Shire Office.

This is an unmanned facility and can be accessed between the noted opening hours below.

Opening Hours

Temporarily out of action, repairs in progress.

Fees & Charges *(as of July 2023)*

- Court Hire - $10 (per hour/token)
- Key Bond - $50 (cash only)

We do not hire equipment (racquets, balls etc.)

*For any enquiries, please contact us directly at **9980 0600** or email us at **cso@meekashire.wa.gov.au***

Tennis Court

The Tennis Court is located at the Sporting Complex off Landor Road and is a free facility to use for the community.

This is an unmanned facility and can be accessed between the noted opening hours below.

Opening Hours

5am - 10pm

Fees & Charges

- *Court Hire - No charge*
- *Lights - $10 per hour*
- *Key Bond (lights) - $50 (cash only)*

We do not hire equipment (racquets, balls etc.)

*For any enquiries, please contact us directly at **9980 0600** or email us at **cso@meekashire.wa.gov.au***

Basketball Courts

The Basketball Court is located at the Sporting Complex off Landor Road and is a free facility to use for the community. There are regular events held by the Youth Services Team at the Basketball Courts.

This is an unmanned facility and is able to be accessed between the noted opening hours below.

Opening Hours
5am - 10pm

Fees

- Court Hire - No charge
- Lights - $10 per hour
- Key Bond (lights) - $50 (cash only)

*For any enquiries, please contact us directly at **9980 0600** or email us at **cso@meekashire.wa.gov.au***

Kids Zone & Youth Centre

The Kids Zone and Youth Centre are open during the School Term and the School Holidays. They provide after school programs for the youth in Meekatharra, and give them a space to connect with others.

Both areas have adults who can supervise and guide the youth in what they want to do. The facilities and resources are well equipped for the youth to use.

Kidzone welcomes children from age 5-9 years, while the Youth Centre welcomes youth from age 10 - 18 years. All youth are welcome to come and even bring their friends or siblings with them.

Opening Hours
Kidzone & Youth Centre:
3pm - 5pm, everyday Monday to Friday

Youth Centre:
6pm - 8pm everyday Monday to Friday

*For any enquiries, please contact us directly at **9980 0600** or email us at **youth@meekashire.wa.gov.au***

Senior Youth Officer: Kadisen King

Library & Museum

The Meekatharra Public Library is located at the Shire Office and is combined with a small museum. The library is a great resource and is available to all members of the community. The library contains a comprehensive collection of fiction, and non-fiction books, large print books, audiobooks, and DVDs for adults and children. There is a regular exchange of books to ensure up to date and varied stock.

A selection of new books is displayed on our feature tables until the next supply of stock arrives.

A large variety of resources are available upon request and include titles in audio formats, larger print, books written in languages other than English, and an extensive DVD collection.

You can also apply for the following:

- **Membership -** There is no cost for library membership for all residents of Meekatharra.
- **Visitor Membership -** Visitors can become a member of the Meekatharra Library. The requirements are the same as for residents.
- **Borrower Rights -** Please bring your library card when borrowing or renewing items. You can borrow a combination of books, audiobooks or DVDs. Items can be borrowed for three weeks.

Open from 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday to Friday.

Meekatharra Public Library is located at 54 Main Street Meekatharra
Ph: (08) 9980 0600
Fax: (08) 9981 1505
cso@meekashire.wa.gov.au

SERVICE PROVIDER | Mission Australia

Mission Australia helps people move towards independence by standing together with Australians in need until they can stand for themselves

Mission Australia provides a range of community services in the Midwest and Gascoyne regions of Western Australia.

Family and Domestic Violence Service

Monday to Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm Call "000" or Local Police on 08 9918 7120 24-hour service through Police.

Public Tenancy Support Service

Monday to Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Remote Education and Learning – Ijaba

Monday to Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Monday to Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Mental Health Support Service

Monday to Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Meekatharra Housing Support Service – Gumbarra Urda

Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Emergency Relief

Monday 9:00am – 11:00am

Phone for an appointment on the day, walk-ins accepted

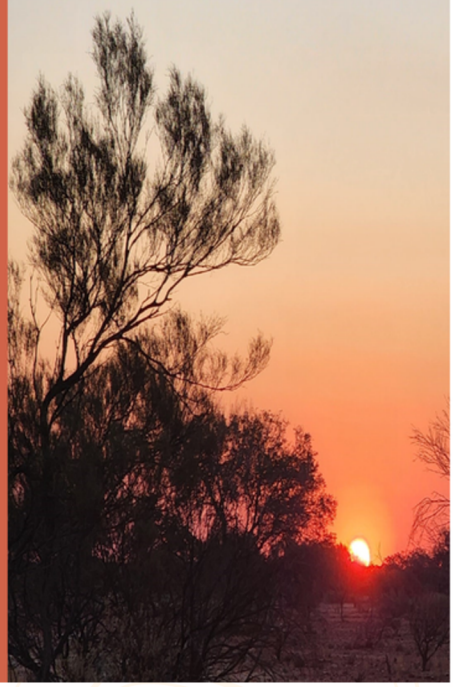
Mission Australia Meekatharra

61 Main Street/PO Box 59

Meekatharra WA 6642

08 9956 5100

Midwest and Gascoyne Services Meekatharra



Family and Domestic Violence Service

This service offers a community response to women and their children (if present) who are experiencing domestic violence or are concerned about their safety.

Support Includes:

- Crisis accommodation up to 72—hours or with a Police Order
- Arranging transportation and alternative accommodation
- Essential emergency items such as food
- Links to counselling and other culturally appropriate services

Meekatharra Housing and-Support Service—Gumbarra Urda

Transitional Accommodation will provide a pathway for families, women and children who have a desire to transition out of unsafe and/or unstable housing situations with support. MHSS will provide medium term accommodation combined with case management and community development.

Remote Education and Learning—Ijaba

This service works with families and community to increase school attendance in Meekatharra.

Our team acknowledges that school attendance is a 'whole of community' responsibility and has adopted a family focused model to work specifically with parents, carers and other family members as well as Elders, the school, local residents, community organisations and government agencies.

Our aim is to identity and address the short and long term challenges that families encounter, which may impact on children and young people attending and staying at school.

Public Tenancy Support Service

This service supports people living in Public Housing who face difficulty maintaining their tenancy.

Our team aims to support tenants to increase their ability to avoid reaching the point of eviction, debts and property standards.

Mental Health Support Service

This service provides information support, advocacy, referral and counselling to Aboriginal people living in Meekatharra, Cue and Mount Magnet who experience and live with mental ill health.

Our team adopts a recovery-orientated model, placing significant emphasis on the choices and decisions of the individual. We aim to support people to make positive changes and reach their goals while continuing to participate fully in the community.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

This service supports grandparents living in Meekatharra, Cue and Mount Magnet who are the sole or primary carer of their grandchildren.

Emergency Relief

This service is offered to people experiencing significant financial distress, homelessness and other life challenges.

Immediate relief is available once every three months in the form of food hampers. In addition to referrals to other services. Appointments to Emergency Relief are essential.

MEEKA COMMUNITY AWARDS | Sunday 26 Jan

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a golden prospect

Life Style

THINGS WE DO HERE IN TOWN.

SERVICE PROVIDER | Yulella Aboriginal Corporation

Community Connectors Bus

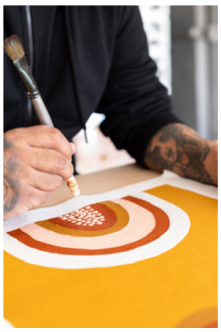
Phone Number
0467 953 411

Hours
8am to 1pm
6pm to 9pm
Monday to Friday
(No bus service on weekends or Public Holidays)
Some exceptions if by prior arrangement

ndis | Yulella Aboriginal Corporation — Core Services

We are now able to assist NDIS participants with their Core Service needs.

- FOOD FOR THE MOB
- TRANSPORT
- SERVICES FOR APPOINTMENTS
- YARD & GARDENING SERVICES
- SOCIAL PARTICIPATION CLASSES
- HOUSE CLEANING



For more information please contact our Community Hub Coordinator
Email: communitycoordinator@yulella.org.au
Phone: 0499 462 829

Yulella Aboriginal Corporation

1 Animal Management
We can treat your animals for parasites and give you some tips on keeping a healthy parasite free animal

2 Pest Control treatments
We can deploy cockroach and mice traps throughout your house and give you some tips on how to keep them away

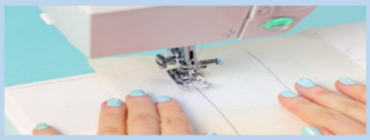
3 Community Housing
We can complete a Healthy Home Check on your house & fix minor plumbing issues along with much more!

4 Distribution
We can provide you with soaps, linen, emergency relief meals if eligable, and much more!

5 Education
We do education sessions on disease prevention and provide tips and tricks on how to keep your home disease free

Call Melissa on 9980 1339

Yulella Aboriginal Corporation



Sewing Group

If anyone wants to learn how to sew, stitch and dress making come on down to the Yulella Community Hub

Bring your supplies and create your master pieces.

Afternoon tea or Hot Soup will be provided.

Tuesday's Elders 4pm to 6pm

Wednesday's Youth 4pm to 6pm

Thursday's Collaboration 4pm to 6pm

LIFESTYLE | Cancer Council Message

Leigh Bright
Regional Education Officer – Midwest/Gascoyne
Cancer Council Western Australia
Leigh.Bright@cancerwa.asn.au

Find Cancer Early: Tips when visiting your doctor about a possible symptom.

As we get older, many of us don't often think too much about a change to our body. This can result in us expecting and accepting changes over time as being normal.
But it is important to not be tempted to put something unusual down to 'getting older' before you've told your doctor, clinic nurse or Aboriginal health worker. Always have a chat and let them know what you've noticed, even if you're not concerned by it. Chances are it is nothing to worry about, but it's better to be on the safe side.

When you decide to make an appointment, lots of different questions and concerns can pass through your mind, such as:

- The doctor is always too busy.
- It's too hard to get an appointment.
- When I get to my appointment my mind goes blank.
- What could happen when I see the doctor or health worker?
- I don't have a doctor.
- I feel embarrassed or shame.

Tips when you are visiting your doctor/health professional:

- Be clear about your symptoms.
- Calling early in the morning is often the best time to arrange an appointment and if you feel it is urgent let the receptionist know this when you call.
- If your usual health professional isn't available that day, ask for their earliest available appointment, or ask to see another doctor.
- Write down why you've made the appointment and what you want to tell your health professional.
- Keep a symptom diary of what's been happening, how long for, and how often it occurs – you can take this with you.
- Health professionals are there to help you – don't be embarrassed to let them know about any unusual changes you've noticed in your body.
- Take someone with you as a second pair of ears to listen & perhaps to take notes for you to clarify what is said at your appointment.

Become familiar with common cancer symptoms.

We encourage adults, especially those over 40 years of age, to be aware of some common symptoms of cancers. You can give yourself the best chance to **Find Cancer Early**, by going to see a doctor straight away if you have symptoms, so that treatment is easier, and you can be around longer to do the things you love doing with the people you love.

Where else can I get advice?

- Cancer Council WA – Information and Support line - **13 11 20**
- Visit findcancerearly.com.au
- GP, nurse practitioner or pharmacist

Report a cybercrime, cyber incident, or cyber vulnerability at

cyber.gov.au/report

Or call the 24/7 Australian Cyber Security hotline on 1300 CYBER1 (1300 292 371).

Your reports assist us in building the national threat picture and ensures we collectively combat cyber threats to Australia.

If you are an individual your cybercrime report will be referred directly to the relevant state or territory law enforcement agency.

Learn how to better protect yourself or your business at **cyber.gov.au**

Australian Government
Australian Signals Directorate

ACSC Australian Cyber Security Centre

Photo from: wanderingwarwickswonderment.wordpress.com

Meekatharra

Commercial Hotel

Facilities:

- Hotel/ Motel
- Pub
- Bottle'o
- Outdoor Beer Garden
- Air conditioned Dining Room

Located at:

77 Main Street,
Meekatharra, 6642

For bookings and enquiries:

Telephone
99811020
Email
commieh@westnet.com.au
Website
www.commercialmeeka.com.au

RECOMMENDED
THE WORLD'S LARGEST TRAVEL SITE
tripadvisor

We serve excellent counter meals daily

Lunch

12 noon - 1:30 pm
(Mon-Sat)

Dinner

6-8 pm
(Sun-Sat)

Accommodation includes

- 18 Modern Motel units with en suite, Tv, & Air con-

-Located at the rear of Hotel with enclosed parking-

-Traditional Hotel rooms with TV & air con-

-Located upstairs in original building-

Motel Rooms

Motel Rooms

Beer Garden

Pub

Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CONSUMER PROTECTION WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGIONAL COLUMN

www.demirs.wa.gov.au www.wa.gov.au

How can something so tiny kill in a matter of hours?

These days, stimulating toys are all about interactivity, lights, and movement. To activate, a button sized battery generally needs to be inserted, but if swallowed by a child has the power to cause severe injury in less than two hours and can even kill.

Button batteries are a small power source used not just for toys but for an increasing number of common household items such as remote controls, watches, clocks, and hearing aids.

A University of Sydney-led research study showed batteries 20mm or more in diameter are the most dangerous. They are small enough to be easily swallowed but not small enough to reliably pass through a child's throat.

What happens next will shock you, literally!

An electrical current is immediately triggered by saliva, causing a chemical reaction to cause severe burns to the child's throat and major internal organs within as little as two hours and the results can be fatal.

The study, which examined over 400 cases of button battery injuries and fatalities worldwide, shows while Australia has introduced the world's first mandatory safety standards with child-resistant packaging, the industry still needs to do more.

Once the packaging is open there is a vital need for safe storage, safe use, and safe disposal of batteries.

When buying button battery operated products, parents should look for products where the battery compartment can't be opened without the use of a tool.

If the compartment is not securely fastened with a screw or similar fastener, the product may not comply and could be added to the product recall list.

Even when old or used, button batteries can still be a threat, so safely dispose of them by wrapping them in sticky tape and putting them in a child resistant container, out of reach of children until you can recycle them safely. Recycle collection points can be found at www.bcycle.com.au.

If you suspect a child has swallowed a button battery do not let the child eat or drink and do not induce vomiting. Immediately call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 for additional treatment information.

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of **Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety**

CONSUMER PROTECTION WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Parents can check the product recall list for items with button batteries on the Product Safety Australia website: https://www.productsafety.gov.au/recalls.

If parents spot non-compliant button batteries or devices containing them on shop shelves, report them to Consumer Protection at consumer@demirs.wa.gov.au or call 1300 30 40 54.

For more information about button battery safety, guides and disposal see Consumerprotection.wa.gov.au

MEEKATHARRA

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

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Backyard Buddies
Your monthly guide to pests, weeds and diseases

December 2024

It's Starting to Look a Lot Like Christmas…Spiders.

Melanistic form of *Austracantha minax*, and the typically coloured form at Canning regional park. (Photo left: Caitlin Henderson. Photo right: MyPestGuide user David.)

Have you ever been in the garden, or out walking in the bush and spotted a miniature Christmas bauble with legs? You might have encountered *Austracantha minax*, otherwise known as the Christmas or jewel spider, Australia's very own living holiday decoration! Some might say it gets its common name from the time it's most prolific, but where's the fun in that?

All about these beauties

These spiders are found throughout mainland Australia and surrounding islands. They're easily recognised during the summer months by their shiny black bodies adorned with patterns of white, yellow, or orange. Their most striking feature is the six spine-like projections on their abdomen. Females are larger, measuring 7 to 12 mm in length, and brightly coloured, whereas males are smaller at 3 to 5 mm and dark red/brown.

They are skilled web builders, creating intricate, interconnected webs ~ 1 to 2 meters from the ground, there are often as many as 30 individuals in these aggregations. Interestingly, they add white silk tufts to their support threads, making them visible to larger animals and preventing accidental damage.

Christmas spiders may be a sign of summer and the holidays here in Perth, but why don't we see them the rest of the year? The answer is they're around but don't get those dazzling colours until they reach maturity, so much less conspicuous at other times.

Speaking of colour, it has been observed that later in the autumn months (typically from March to April), some Christmas spiders undergo a dramatic colour change, becoming melanistic - entirely dark brown to black in colour. It's speculated that darker coloration could allow the spiders to absorb heat more efficiently during the cooler autumn months, potentially extending their active period. 'The mysteries of these spiders, like other spiders, may continue to be revealed as the ever passionate but very few spider scientists record observations and do studies in the spiders likewise dwindling bushland homes.' - Dr Leanda Mason.

How to encourage them into your garden

As with trying to encourage any wildlife into your garden it is important to minimise the use of pesticides, as well as provide natural habitats and appropriate vegetation. Spiders flourish where there is good hunting, a diverse garden provides food sources and shelter for a greater variety of insect life. Remember, if there's no food for the bugs then there's no bugs for the spiders!
Happy Holidays from the Backyard Buddies team.

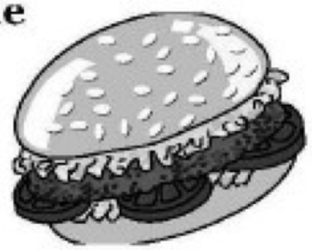
Report your observations
MyPestGuide® Reporter via app or online mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au
Pest and Disease Information Service (08) 9368 3080 | padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

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

Extraordinary Outback Experience

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

Coral Coast * Ningaloo * Karijini * Goldfields Highway * Woolwagon pathway *

Mt Augustus Tourist Park

Heart of the Gascoyne at the World's Biggest Rock

0899439527
mtaugustustouristpark@skymesh.com.au

CALLING FOR Submissions!

The Shire of Meekatharra will pay $100 for articles that *are related to Meekatharra.*

Send your submissions 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

Business hours

over Christmas

WISHING YOU A
Merry Christmas
AND A SAFE NEW YEAR
Our office will be closed from:
12noon, Friday 20th December 2024
until
8am, Monday 6th January 2025
For any emergencies, please call 08 9980 0600.
shire of meekatharra
a golden prospect

WISHING YOU A
Merry Christmas
AND A SAFE NEW YEAR
Youth Services will be closed from:
12noon, Friday 20th December 2024
until
3pm, Monday 13th January 2025
For any emergencies, please call 08 9980 0600.
Meekatharra Youth Services
shire of meekatharra
a golden prospect

Christmas POOL HOURS
Tuesday 24th Dec (Christmas Eve) OPEN
Wednesday 25th Dec (Christmas Day) OPEN
Thursday 26th Dec (Boxing Day) OPEN
Friday 27th Dec OPEN
Saturday 28th Dec OPEN
Sunday 29th Dec OPEN
Monday 30th Dec OPEN
Tuesday 31st Dec OPEN
Wednesday 1st Jan (New Years Day) OPEN
Yes! We are open!!

MURCHISON RUBBISH SERVICES

Christmas & New Year Rubbish Schedule

Christmas Week collection:

Monday 23rd Dec
Friday 27th Dec

New Year week bins as normal

Tuesday 31st Dec
Friday 3rd Jan

Have a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Youth Focus Meekatharra will be closed from 23rd December 2024 until 6th January 2025

If you need to talk to someone over the holiday period, please think about using the following hotlines and asking for help:

Lifeline - 13 11 14
Suicide call back service - 1300 659 467
Kids helpline - 1800 551 800

If you are in crisis please call 000 or seek help from Meekatharra Hospital

Merry Christmas

As we approach the festive season, we want to take a moment to reflect on the year that's been. For many in our community, 2024 has been a challenging year. Yet, one thing that stands out is the incredible resilience of our Meekatharra community and how we continue to come together to support one another.

The holiday season is a time to cherish the love of family and the strength of togetherness. It's a chance to find hope in the small joys around us, to reconnect with loved ones, and to celebrate the bonds that make us stronger. No matter what challenges this year may have brought, the spirit of family, friendship, and community can carry us forward with hope into the new year.

To the young people of Meeka, we hope you have a safe and enjoyable Christmas filled with fun activities and time with loved ones. If you're heading out of town, please travel safely and take care on the roads.

As we step into 2025, let's hold on to hope for a brighter future. Together, we can continue to build a strong, connected, and supportive community where every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

From all of us here at Youth Focus Meekatharra – Paulette, Astrid, Gary, Milton, and Timika – we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this season bring moments of joy, love, and hope to you and your families.

Take care and see you in 2025!

youthfocus

From everyone here at Mission Australia,
we are wishing you a

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Our office will be closed on:
23rd of December - 6th of January 2025
If you need immediate support please contact:

Emergency | 000
Local Police | 9918 7120
Hospital | 9981 0600
Lifeline | 13 11 14
Beyond Blue | 1300 22 4636
Mensline | 1300 78 99 78
Qlife | 1800 184 527
Suicide Callback Service | 1300 659 467

MISSION AUSTRALIA | together we stand

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 (Nyarlu Duwa Women's House, Family and Domestic Violence Response Service)	0458 881 488	1800RESPECT	1800 737 732

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

meekatharra
a golden prospect

Produced by the Shire of Meekatharra

LIFESTYLE | What's On In Meeka

DECEMBER

2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1
2	3	4 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	5	6 Community Christmas Party 3:30pm - 6pm Shire Hall	7 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	8
9	10	11 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	12	13 Council Meeting 2:00 pm	14 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation Meeka Markets 9am - 1pm Community Resource & Visitor Centre	15
16	17	18 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	19	20	21	22
23 Shire Office Christmas Closure	24 Shire Office Christmas Closure	25 Shire Office Christmas Closure	26 Shire Office Christmas Closure	27 Shire Office Christmas Closure	28	29

LIFESTYLE | What's On In Meeka

JANUARY

2025

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
30 Shire Office Christmas Closure	31 Shire Office Christmas Closure	1 Shire Office Christmas Closure	2 Shire Office Christmas Closure	3 Shire Office Christmas Closure	4	5
6	7	8 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	9	10	11 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	12
13	14	15 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	16	17	18 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation Council Meeting 11:30 am	19
20	21	22 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	23	24	25 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	26
27	28	29 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	30	31		

ADVERTISING IN THE MEEKATHARRA DUST

SIZE	COLOUR	B & W
Full Page	$77.00	$49.50
Half Page	$44.00	$27.50
Quarter Page	$27.50	$16.50
Eighth Page	$16.50	$11.00

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 copies sold around town, copies sent in the mail, and those viewed online.

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

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 2024)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Media Release | 10 December 2024
Shane Love MLA
Opposition Leader

Shane Love MLA Slams Cook Labor Government's Process for Pastoral Lease Renewals

The Leader of the Opposition, Shane Love MLA, has strongly criticised the Cook Labor Government over its handling of proposed changes to pastoral lease renewals, calling for an immediate extension to the consultation period which closes on the 16th of December.

Mr. Love expressed deep concern that current pastoral leaseholders were not directly notified about the proposed changes or made aware of advertised consultations and the opportunity to submit feedback. "I find it incredible that pastoralists were not directly advised of the proposed changes and given every opportunity to contribute to what will directly impact them and their business." Mr Love said the draft lease conditions will have major implications for the pastoral sector, particularly:

- Security and Duration of Leases.
- Native Title Compensation.
- Compensation for non-renewal of leases
- Insurance Requirements and Indemnity Clauses.
- No right provided to soil or timber.

"In order to plan long-term, implement sustainable agricultural practices, and raise finance, pastoralists need security of tenure and long-term leases." Mr Love said.

"The provisions around insurance and indemnity both present real issues for pastoralists. Without a cap on the level of public liability insurance required, pastoralists are open to exploitation by insurance companies, including the possibility of insurers refusing to offer cover."

Mr. Love highlighted that some pastoral properties might also include existing or old mining tenements with contaminated sites, making it unfair to burden pastoralists with the indemnity provision.

"Pastoralists can't stop prospectors from accessing their property. Does this mean they are liable for any accident or mishap that might occur on their station? It is unjust that pastoralists—the leaseholders—are required to indemnify the state—the landlord," Mr. Love said.

"Furthermore, the requirement for pastoralists, as leaseholders, to carry the compensation liability to native title parties is unreasonable," Mr. Love continued. "The Cook Labor Government is trying to shift this cost to pastoralists when they renew their leases, but the state owns the land and should retain the liability for native title compensation."

Mr. Love said that given the technical and legal nature of the proposals, additional time is necessary to seek expert advice and engage meaningfully with the consultation documents. "For this reason alone, it is appropriate that the deadline for submissions—presently listed as 16 December 2024—be extended by three months, and all pastoralists notified of the consultation on the proposed changes," he added.

"The proposed changes have the potential to reshape the pastoral industry. It is critical that the consultation process allows for broad, inclusive, and thorough feedback to ensure the long-term viability of Western Australia's pastoral industry."

Classified Ads & Miscellaneous

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT MEEKA

100,000 temporary jobs

Register to work at the federal election

Work before, on and after election day in metro, regional or remote areas.

All jobs are paid

No experience is needed

Paid training is provided

Register now

AEC Australian Electoral Commission

aec.gov.au/electionjobs

If you registered before July 2024, you need to re-register.

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 10 Mort Street, Canberra, ACT

AEC24-2064 Original Artwork by Marcus Lee Design

Peter Foster MLC

MEMBER FOR MINING AND PASTORAL REGION

YOUR VOICE IN THE COOK GOVERNMENT

peterfostermlc.com.au

Shop 49, 5 Sharpe Street Karratha WA 6714

(08) 9144 4187

peter.foster@mp.wa.gov.au

PeterFosterMLC

@peterfostermlc

Authorised by P. Foster, 49/5 Sharpe Avenue, Karratha, WA 6714

LIFESTYLE | Live Lighter Recipe

Drink | Vegan | Gluten-free | Dairy-free | BBQ | Summer | Quick | Nut-free | Egg-free | Footy Finals | Melbourne Cup | 5-Ingredients | Drinks | Water with a twist | Hydrate

Cook Mode Prevent your screen from going dark

Ingredients

- 1 kiwifruit, chopped
- 1 medium lime, chopped
- 1/4 whole pineapple, chopped
- 4 medium strawberry, chopped
- 1/2 cup mint leaves
- 500 mL water

Method

1. Wash and cut each fruit into a size slightly smaller than the ice cube tray moulds.
2. You can add several pieces to each mould.
3. Fill trays with a variety of fruits and mint, either keeping to a colour theme or including a variety of colours in each mould. Once trays are filled top up with water and freeze.
4. Add to still or sparkling water.

Variation:
Use other fruits and herbs such as frozen mixed berries, lemon, orange, sage leaves, thai basil, thyme, cucumber or cherries.

Serving Suggestion:
Tip: Children enjoy these hand held treats on a hot day.
https://livelighter.com.au/recipe/510/fruity-ice-cubes

Healthy tip!

Having a party? Serve vegie sticks and water crackers with salsa rather than high-fat chips and dips.

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
VOL_NTEER
WE NEEDU
wa.gov.au/volunteering

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

From 1 July 2023

Department of Transport Servicing

Tuesday 9am to 1pm

Thursday 9am to 1pm

And when the Testing officer is visiting.

Please note, that for people from Stations, Wiluna or Burungurra.

We will be able to help you when you come in.

-Jo from CRC

Activities

Word Search

Friends

R	O	E	E	W	A	I	T	R	E	S	S	E	Y
C	E	J	B	U	A	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T
R	U	C	E	N	T	R	A	L	P	E	R	K	R
T	G	A	E	R	Y	E	B	E	O	H	P	E	I
F	W	E	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	L	B	T	B
N	R	Y	L	L	R	O	S	S	N	A	D	G	B
G	C	N	A	L	B	E	L	T	T	A	M	E	I
M	U	R	R	B	E	T	T	L	M	P	E	J	A
E	A	E	A	R	S	R	M	A	J	O	O	A	N
F	L	E	H	C	A	R	N	T	E	E	N	E	I
G	U	N	T	H	E	R	K	S	Y	B	S	R	G
W	O	R	D	U	K	A	S	I	L	A	N	T	P
B	U	F	F	A	Y	Y	K	R	O	Y	W	E	N
L	A	C	I	N	O	M	R	B	I	N	G	A	B

JOEY
GELLER
TRIBBIANI
GUNTHER
RACHEL
MATT LEBLANC
BUFFAY
MONICA
ROSS
LISA KUDROW
GREEN
APARTMENT
WAITRESS
NEW YORK
CENTRAL PERK
FRIENDS
PHOEBE
BING

Play this puzzle online at : https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/143/

Sudoku

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

#13707 Difficulty: hard

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

#188107 Difficulty: moderate

Solutions

Solution of sudoku #13707:

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

Solution of sudoku #188107:

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

Activities

Colouring Sheet

shire of meekatharra
a golden prospect

Subscriptions

If you would like to subscribe to the Meekatharra Dust, simply complete the form and send your payment to us.

Subscription Price is $39.65

Subscriptions are for a 12-months period. Including GST and postage costs. ***Alternatively, you can get a free copy online via our website.*** *If needing assistance, please give our office a call.*

TO: The Meekatharra Dust
PO Box 129,
Meekatharra WA 6642

NAME: _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

_____

_____