Meekatharra Dust



Vol. 385

SEPT / OCT 2025
FREE

NOW FREE!

THE SPIRIT OF MEEKATHARRA FESTIVAL

Take a look at what happened over the weekend of the festival.

FREE POOL ENTRY THIS SEASON!

Free entry to the pool this season. Let's support our youth in getting to school.

LIFESTYLE UPDATES

Find out how to keep our pets safe from Canine Parvovirus (parvo).

Artwork: 'Dining Under the Stars' Collaborative Mural on Canvas

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.

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, 25 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
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.
Please contact the Community Development Officer to provide submissions on

08 9980 0600
cdo@meekashire.wa.gov.au

and follow us on our socials!

Welcome!

Welcome to the latest edition of The Meekatharra Dust!

It's been a busy and exciting few months here in Meekatharra, with our community coming together to celebrate, connect and make the most of the season.

The 2025 Spirit of Meekatharra Festival was a huge success, bringing colour, music and community spirit to town once again. From the community workshops and live performances to the market stalls and family fun, it was a wonderful showcase of local pride and talent, we even got to listen to our local community member Timika King sing some soulful and original tunes on stage! Thank you to everyone who joined in and helped make it such a memorable weekend!

As the weather's warmed up, it's also been fantastic to see everyone back at the Meekatharra War Memorial Pool, which opened early this 2025/26 summer season as part of our festival weekend celebrations. Entry to the pool is free for all community members this season, but a reminder that the long-standing School for Pool policy remains in place, encouraging school attendance as part of the swim entry program.

Our newly elected Councillors have officially taken their seats, a big congratulations to all, and thank you to everyone who voted and supported local democracy in action.

Out on the land, the wildflowers have been putting on a spectacular show, brightening up our drives and bushwalks across the Midwest. It's a beautiful time of year to explore our region and appreciate the unique landscape that makes Meekatharra so special.

We would love to hear your thoughts about the Spirit of Meekatharra Festival, be sure to have your say in the Community Feedback Survey to help shape future Shire-led community events and festivals.

Here's to another season of working together, celebrating our town and looking forward to what's next for Meekatharra!

Community Happenings | Spirit of Meekatharra Festival

A few highlights from the festival!

The Spirit of Meekatharra Festival took on a new name this year and some exciting new elements for the community while still keeping the essence of the beloved annual Meekatharra Outback Festival.

The festival was scheduled to commence on Wednesday 24 September, however a bush fire up near Broome meant that our workshop facilitators Bobbi Lockyer and Zach Green the Storyteller Chef, had to wait until the Great Northern highway was re-opened before they could continue the drive to Meekatharra.

And the delays didn't stop there when their journey between Port Hedland and Newman came to a halt with another road closure. Fortunately, they made it safely to town and the community got to sample some tasty food inspired by native ingredients while taking part in the creation of some beautiful artworks.

We hosted our first ever outdoor dining experience at the stunning Peace Gorge on Friday 26 September. Co-hosted by Catalyst Metals and Endurance Mining, and with the support of our many sponsors, Ozland Group, Capricorn Metals, Yulella Aboriginal Corporation, Mark Smith Plumbing Pty, and Curtin Volunteers.

The weather was perfect and attendees were welcomed to Country by respected Elder Ms Rhonda Shay. The Storyteller Chef Zach Green, curated a unique dining experience using a blend of native and locally sourced ingredients with the invaluable assistance from the team at Yulella Aboriginal Corporation.
Attendees participated in a collaborative mural on canvas while listening to the captivating acoustic sounds of Stephen Pigram and his grandson Chase, bringing their country, folk, blues style to the evening. Attendees also enjoyed an additional bonus when some of the Pigram Brothers joined later in the evening to provide additional entertainment!







Photo credits: Eleonora Zibetti

Community Happenings | Spirit of Meekatharra Festival





Free Community Workshops & Mural at Meekatharra District High School

This year we had some free community workshops for the community to attend as part of the Spirit of Meekatharra Festival.

The Shire held two Cooking & Yarning workshops with Zach Green the Storyteller Chef and two collaborative 'Mural on Canvas' workshops with renown indigenous multi-disciplinary artist Bobbi Lockyer. The workshops were held on Thursday 25 September and Saturday 27 September.

One of our local legends, Bev Brosnan led a Meeka Creatives mural at the oval on Saturday 27 September which was also very well received by the community.

Along with the free workshops, the Shire was supported by Lotterywest, Westgold Resources Ltd, and Meekatharra District High School to provide a mural workshop led by Bobbi Lockyer at the school on the last day of term. Despite the school holidays fast approaching, the students turned out to participate in another fantastic collaboration.

Thank you to everyone involved for your support!!





Photo credits: Eleonora Zibetti

Community Happenings | Spirit of Meekatharra Festival



Collaborative Mural on Canvas with Bobbi Lockyer | Thursday 25 September



Collaborative Mural on Canvas with Bobbi Lockyer | Saturday 27 September

Community Happenings | Spirit of Meekatharra Festival

‘Meeka Made’ Art Exhibition & Community Markets

The ‘Meeka Made’ Art Exhibition made a colourful debut at this year’s Spirit of Meekatharra Festival, showcasing the incredible talent and creativity of our local artists.

From paintings and craftwork, to sculpture and emu egg carving, the exhibition and community markets highlighted the diverse ways our community expresses its connection to Meekatharra’s people, landscapes and stories.

Festivalgoers also enjoyed wandering through the Community Markets, where local makers and stallholders offered handmade goods, delicious food and unique finds. The markets were buzzing with energy, a true reflection of Meekatharra’s community spirit.

Congratulations to all the artists, stallholders and volunteers who helped make this celebration of Meeka pride such a success!

Remember to take part in our survey and share your thoughts.

If we don’t know, we can’t grow!









Photo credits: Eleonora Zibetti

Community Happenings | Spirit of Meekatharra Festival













Community Happenings | Spirit of Meekatharra Festival













Community Event | The Spirit of Meekatharra



Community Event | The Spirit of Meekatharra

A big thank you to our sponsors!

We could not have made this happen without the support of our amazing sponsors and volunteers!

The Shire of Meekatharra would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank everyone who was part of bringing this event to the community.

Lotterywest

catalyst METALS LTD

ENDURANCE MINING

CAPRICORN METALS LTD

WESTGOLD

OZLAND MINING SERVICES

YULELLA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Mark Smith Plumbing

HONESTY IN ONESELF

Curtin University

youthfocus

Meekatharra Community Resource Centre

Your local connection

Community Happenings | The Pool is Open!

Wow! It's pool season already!!

The Meekatharra War Memorial Pool has officially reopened for the 2025/26 season, just in time for the warmer weather! It re-opened on Sunday 28 September and everyone got a treat with the inflatables set-up ready for some fun, a DJ pumping cool tunes and a free sausage sizzle.



The pool is a much-loved community space where families, friends and visitors can cool off, stay active and enjoy the summer together.

We're also pleased to let everyone know that **entry to the pool is free this season**, making it easier than ever for the community to enjoy this great local facility.



The long-standing **School for Pool Policy** will continue this year. The policy encourages regular school attendance by offering free access to the pool for students who attend school. If parents or carers have transport concerns, please remember that the school has a pick-up and drop-off service to help children get to class.
We look forward to another safe and fun season at the Meekatharra Pool — see you by the water!



Community Happenings | Youth Services

SCHOOL FOR POOL POLICY REMINDER

Meekatharra War Memorial Swimming Pool has a No School – No Pool policy in place.

This means all school-aged children and youth who permanently reside in Meekatharra must go to school to receive pool entry for each school day.



Go to school each day to earn your pool band

Only students with a pool band get to enjoy afternoon swims!

No School - No Pool

School aged children and youth are not permitted to use the pool during school hours, regardless of age.

We thank everyone for helping to support our children and youth to attend school.

Kids Zone & Youth Centre

Kids Zone and the Youth Centre are open most of the year round. Both facilities provide after school programs for youth from ages 5yrs-17yrs and give them a safe space to connect with others.

Both areas have staff trained to supervise and guide the youth in what they want to do. The facilities are well equipped to provide a broad range of resources and activities to keep young minds busy.

Kids Zone welcomes children from age 5yrs-9yrs years, while the Youth Centre welcomes youth from age 10yrs-18yrs.
All youth are welcome to attend.

Opening Hours

Kids Zone: **3:00pm - 5:00pm | Monday to Friday**

Youth Centre: **Re-opening soon!**
Apologies for the inconvenience

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



St John

search St John Volunteer

Our volunteers are *Legends*
And you can be one too!

Seeking Volunteer Support Officers

Help restock, tidy, support, and keep us running!

Benefits Include

Free ambulance cover, training, discounts, events, rewards, and recognition.



Want to find out more? Contact

0437 681 562

meekatharra.subcentre@stjohnwa.com.au

Community Happenings | Meekatharra St John

August with Meeka's Emergency Services



During August in Meekatharra the DFES volunteers, WA Police, St John Ambulance volunteers, and the Royal Flying Doctor Service come together for a hands-on training exercise. The session put our local crews through their paces with casualty triage, extrication, scene management, and caring for an unwell patient.

The day was a great chance for everyone to learn more about each other's roles and how we can all work together when it really counts. A big shout-out goes to the fantastic Meekatharra CRC volunteers, Jo and Sam, who gave up their time to be "casualties" – you made the training feel real and helped everyone get the most out of the day.



These kinds of joint sessions remind us just how lucky we are to have such committed emergency services in our town. And if reading this makes you think, "I'd like to give that a go," both DFES and St John Ambulance are always looking for new volunteers. It's a fantastic way to learn new skills, meet new people, and make a real difference in your community. **Jennie McGowan**



St John

Join St John Ambulance
Contact the Community Paramedic
0437 681 562
cp.midwesteast@stjohnwa.com.au

W.A. FIRE & RESCUE

Join Fire & Rescue Service
recruitment.midwestgascoyne@dfes.wa.gov.au

HLTAID011

Provide First Aid

1 day course + online learning



St John Ambulance (Western Australia) Ltd | **RTO 0392**
ACN 165 969 406; ABN 55 028 468 715

Nationally Recognised Training

Shire of Meekatharra
A Golden Prospect

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCAN ME!

Spirit of Meekatharra Festival 2025
Feedback Survey



Community Facilities | Available For Hire

Lloyds Conference Room

Lloyd's Outback Plaza Conference Room is a state-of-the-art conferencing facility set to accommodate a maximum of 25 people.

Location: Lloyd's Outback Plaza, 64 Main Street, WA 6642

Amenities include kitchenette, external toilets to conference room (incl. disabled access toilet) and on-street parking.

Contact the Meekatharra Community Resource & Visitor Centre to hire this venue.

(08) 9980 1811
hello@meekacrc.com.au



Lloyds Plaza Conference Room

Town Hall

One of the most important buildings in town, our beloved Meekatharra Shire Hall is a multi-purpose space where your team, or family can utilise for almost anything.
This space accommodates a maximum of 250 people.

Location: Savage Street, WA 6642

Amenities include: kitchen, walk-in cool room, toilets, outdoor twin BBQ, separate bar area, equipment hire, projector, inflatable screen and on-street parking.

Fees & Charges
Please contact us for a full break down of charges dependent on your needs.



Meekatharra Shire Hall

Sporting Complex and Oval

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

The Meekatharra Sporting Complex and Oval might be the space for you.
It boasts a luscious green oval with peaceful views of the area.
It is accompanied with an indoor function space that accommodates a maximum of 50 people.

Location: Landor Meekatharra Road, WA 6642

Amenities include: kitchen, internal & external toilets, outdoor twin BBQ, equipment hire and ample parking.

Night Light Usage
$10.00 per hour - Basketball, Tennis Courts, Oval
Night light key bond $50.00



Sporting Complex and Oval

Please contact us directly for any queries, or to book a facility.

08 9980 0600
shire@meekatharra.wa.gov.au
www.meekashire.wa.gov.au

Community Facilities | Sport & Recreation



Gym

The gym is located at the Sporting Complex off the Landor Meekatharra Road behind the main building and can be accessed daily.

This unmanned gym has all the equipment you will need to complete your workout.

Access to the gym is with a membership which can be purchased from the Shire Office. Make sure to sign up and check out the space.

Access is restricted to 16 years of age and above.

Opening Hours: 5:00am - 10:00pm

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

Meekatharra War Memorial Pool
Open: October - March

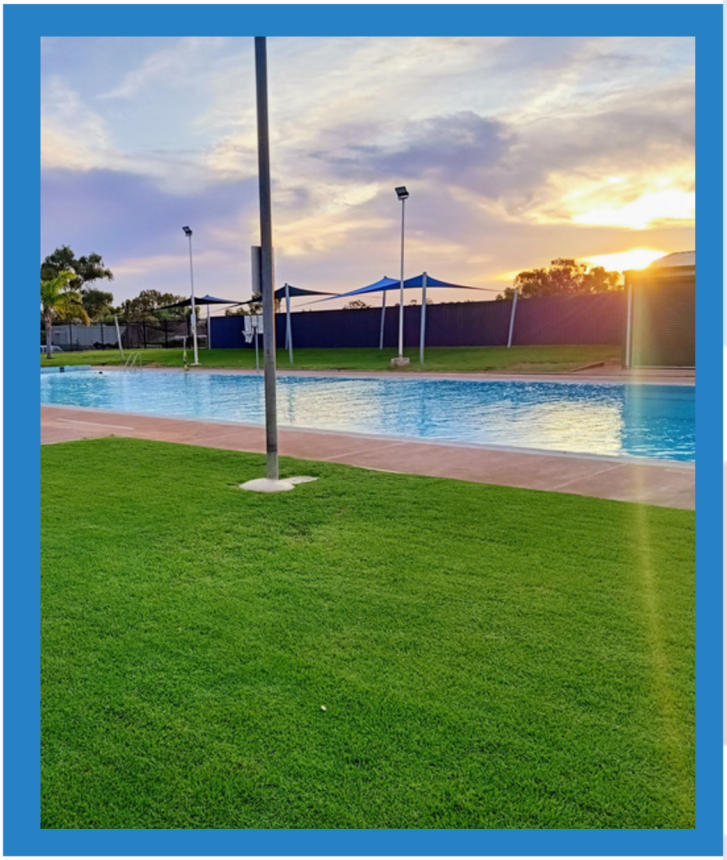
The Meekatharra War Memorial Swimming Pool is located on Main Street in the center of town. A much loved community asset, it's the perfect place to cool off during the warm summer months, socialise with friends or improve your fitness.

Seasonal Hours: **1 October to 31 March each year**

Monday - Friday: 12:00pm to 6:00pm
6:00pm to 7:00pm - Adults Only

Saturday - Sunday: 11:00am to 6:00pm

Fees & Charges
Community usage is now FREE for the 2025/26 pool season.
The 'Pool for School' policy still remains in place during school terms.



Please contact us directly for any queries, or to book a facility.

08 9980 0600
shire@meekatharra.wa.gov.au
www.meekashire.wa.gov.au

Meekatharra War Memorial Swimming Pool

Shire of Meekatharra
A Golden Prospect

FREE POOL ENTRY FOR THE 2025/26 POOL SEASON

The Shire of Meekatharra is happy to announce that public entry is free to the public for the 2025/26 pool season.

The **School for Pool** policy still remains in place.

SCHOOL FOR POOL POLICY REMINDER

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We thank everyone for helping to support our children and youth to attend school.

Community Happenings | What's On!

OCTOBER

2025

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	2	3	4 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	5
6	7	8 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	9	10	11 Meeka Markets 9:30am - 1pm Main Street	12
13	14	15 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	16	17	18 Meeka Creatives 9am - 11am Lloyd's Plaza	19
20	21	22 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	23	24	25 Council Meeting 11:30am	26
27	28	29 Blue Light Halloween Disco 5pm - 8pm Ages 5yrs - 18yrs Town Hall	30 Meekatharra CRC 30th Anniversary Celebration 6pm - 8pm Lloyd's Plaza	31		

Community Happenings | What's On!

NOVEMBER

2025

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1 Containers for Change **8am - 12pm** Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	2
3	4	5 Containers for Change **8am - 12pm** Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	6	7	8 **Meeka Markets** **9:30am - 1pm** Main Street	9
10	11	12 Seniors Week Event **More details coming soon!**	13	14	15 **Meeka Creatives** **9am - 11am** Lloyd's Plaza **Council Meeting 11:30am**	16
17	18	19 Containers for Change **8am - 12pm** Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	20	21	22 Containers for Change **8am - 12pm** Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	23
24	25	26 Containers for Change **8am - 12pm** Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	27	28	29 Containers for Change **8am - 12pm** Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	30

WA SENIORS WEEK 2025 | SUNDAY 9 NOV - SUNDAY 16 NOV

Community Happenings | What's On!

DECEMBER

2025

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	4	5 Community Christmas Party 3:30pm - 6:00pm Town Hall	6 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	7
8	9	10 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	11	12	13 Meeka Markets 9:30am - 1:30pm Main Street	14
15	16	17 Containers for Change 8am - 12pm Yulella Aboriginal Corporation	18	19 Council Meeting 4:00pm	20 Meeka Creatives 9am - 11am Lloyd's Plaza	21
22 Shire Office Christmas Closure	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 Shire Office Christmas Closure
29 Shire Office Christmas Closure	30 Shire Office Christmas Closure	31 Shire Office Christmas Closure	1 Shire Office Christmas Closure	2 Shire Office Christmas Closure	Shire Office Christmas Closure	Shire Office Christmas Closure

Community Facilities | Sport & Recreation

Squash Court

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

This is an unmanned facility.
Unfortunately we do not hire racquets or balls.
Opening Hours: 5:00am - 10:00pm

Fees & Charges: *(as of July 2024)*

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





Basketball Courts

The basketball courts are located at the Meekatharra Sporting Complex off the Meekatharra Landor Road and is a free-usage community space.

This is an unmanned recreational space.
Opening Hours: 5:00am - 10:00pm

Fees & Charges: *(as of July 2024)*

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

Tennis Court

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

This is an unmanned recreational space.
Unfortunately we do not hire racquets or balls.
Opening Hours: 5:00am - 10:00pm

Fees & Charges: *(as of July 2024)*

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







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 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 format, large print, 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 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. Items can be borrowed for three weeks.

Opening Hours:
9:00am - 4:00pm
Monday - Friday
**closed Public Holidays*

75 Main Street
08 9980 0600
shire@meekatharra.wa.gov.au

VOL_NTEER
WE NEEDU
wa.gov.au/volunteering

Shire of
Meekatharra
A Golden Prospect

Advertising in the Meekatharra Dust

The Meekatharra Dust is a community newsletter produced by the Shire of Meekatharra. It highlights local events and helps to distribute information relevant to the area.
Distribution channels are via postal subscriptions, online views on the website and local distributors.

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

To advertise in the Meekatharra Dust, please contact the Community Development Officer on **cdo@meekashire.wa.gov.au.**

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

Prices (from 1st of July 2025)

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

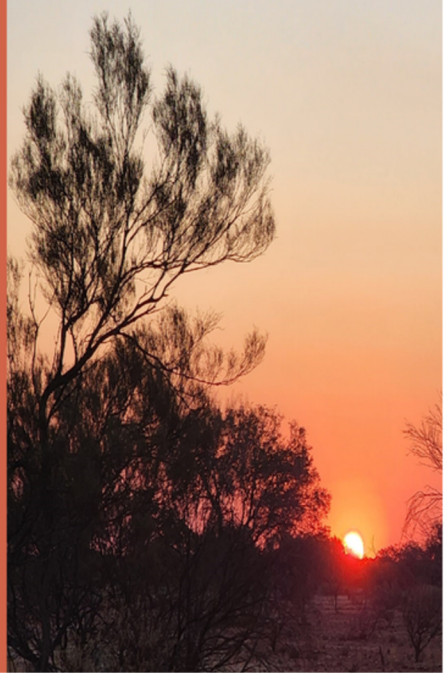
Mission Australia Meekatharra

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.

Lifestyle | **First Aid Tips**

Snake Bites

What to do:

1. Follow DRSABCD St John WA Action Plan.
2. Urgent medical aid. Call Triple Zero (000) for an ambulance.
3. Ensure the casualty does not move.
4. Lay the casualty down, rest and reassure.
5. If the bite is on a limb, apply a broad pressure bandage over the bite site as soon as possible.
6. Then apply a further elasticised or firm bandage - start at fingers or toes and move up the limb as far as can be reached. Apply tightly but without stopping blood flow.
7. Splint the limb including the joints on either side of the bite.
8. Write down the time that the casualty was bitten and when the bandage was applied.
9. If the casualty becomes unconscious and not breathing normally, Commence CPR and Defibrillation.

Signs and symptoms

- Visible in an hour or more after the person has been bitten.
- In children, signs and symptoms may appear within minutes.
- Paired fang marks, but often only a single mark or a scratch mark may be present. Marks or scratches may bleed.
- Nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.
- Headache, drowsiness, giddiness or faintness.
- Double or blurred vision, drooping eyelids.
- Voice changes, trouble speaking or swallowing.Pain or tightness in the throat, chest or abdomen.
- Breathing difficulties, respiratory weakness or arrest.

Do not wash the venom off the skin (it may aid in identification).
Do not cut the bitten area and try to suck the venom out.
Do not use a tourniquet.
Do not try and catch the snake.

Join Now

St John

Lifestyle | Pet Safety

Understanding Parvovirus in Dogs



Canine Parvovirus (often called Parvo) is a virus that affects dogs, particularly young puppies and those that are not vaccinated. It is a highly contagious virus that primarily impacts the gastrointestinal system, leading to symptoms such as:

- Vomiting
- Bloody diarrhoea
- Lethargy
- Loss of appetite
- Dehydration

The virus spreads through contact with infected dogs or contaminated surfaces such as soil, food bowls, or kennels. It is extremely resilient and can survive in the environment for months.



The best way to protect dogs against Parvo is through vaccination. Puppies should start their vaccinations at 6–8 weeks of age, with follow-up boosters as advised by a veterinarian. Adult dogs should also be kept up to date with their vaccinations.

Maintaining good hygiene and avoiding exposure to unvaccinated dogs or potentially contaminated areas can also help reduce the risk.

If a dog shows any signs of illness, especially if they are young or unvaccinated, it is important to seek veterinary care as soon as possible.

Lifestyle | Consumer Protection

Department of **Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety**

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Regional Column

Consumer Protection 140 William Street Perth Western Australia 6000
Email: cpmedia@lgirs.wa.gov.au | www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au | www.wa.gov.au

With Senior Regional Officer for Midwest – Natasha Pirrottina

The old-school hack for debt-free shopping

Whether or not you want to admit it, Christmas will be here before you know it. To avoid a frantic rush to the shops, you might like to get your present shopping done early and maybe take advantage of a sale or two.

Instead of falling into a buy now pay later (BNPL) debt trap or paying interest on the credit card, have you considered using good old-fashioned lay-by?

When money is tight, lay-bys are a great budget-friendly option. For many households, it is also an easy way to manage larger or seasonal purchases without financial strain.

You pay a deposit, around 10 per cent, and then make regular payments over an agreed period. Lay-bys typically run for 10 weeks, and you'll usually have to pay a small set-up cost. For most large retailers this is fee is about $3.

You can't take the items home with you until they're paid off, but the upside is you don't have to worry about finding a hiding spot for the pressies.

When you enter into a lay-by agreement make sure you receive it in writing and that you understand it before signing. This is your contract with the store, and it must set out key details such as the total price, the amount of the deposit, how much is still owed, the payment schedule, and the shop's contact details.

The agreement must also explain what happens if you or the store cancels the lay-by, including any fees that apply.

You can change your mind and end the agreement before collecting the item. You'll get back any money you've already paid but the store may charge a cancellation fee. This is usually between $10-20. This fee must be reasonable and reflect the store's actual costs.

For example, if a shopper cancels a lay-by for summer sporting gear late in the season, the store may need to discount the equipment, and the termination fee could cover that loss.

If the store breaks or damages the product before the customer collects it, no cancellation fee can be charged.

Stores also have rights under lay-by agreements. If you don't keep up with payments or break the rules of the contract, the shop may cancel the agreement. When this happens, the store must return the money already paid, minus any fees.

If you are finding it hard to make a payment, contact the store first to discuss your options before cancelling the lay-by.

Most large retailers offer a lay-by service but it's worth asking anyway, some will offer it a couple of months out from Christmas time.

Lifestyle | Consumer Protection

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CONSUMER PROTECTION WESTERN AUSTRALIA

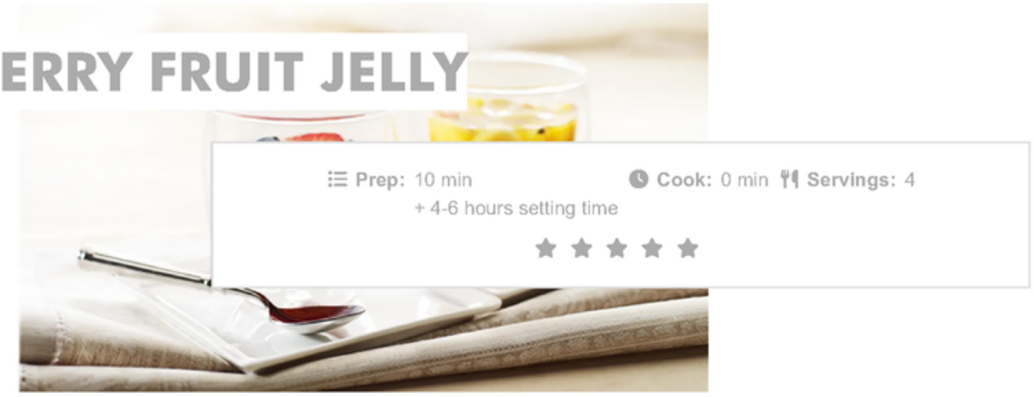
Remember, lay-by is a great way to budget your spending and steer clear of unnecessary debt, making it a smarter option than using your credit card or BNPL scheme.

If you have an issue with your lay-by agreement, contact Consumer Protection for free advice on 1300 30 40 54

Lifestyle | Live Lighter Recipe

LIVELIGHTER®

HEALTHY BERRY FRUIT JELLY RECIPE



Ingredients

- 2 cups no-added-sugar apple and blackcurrant juice
- 3 tsp powdered gelatine
- 1/2 tsp rosewater essence, optional
- 250 g strawberries, quartered or 300g frozen mixed berries or blueberries

Cook Mode Prevent your screen from going dark

Method

1. Place ½ cup juice and gelatine into a 1-litre microwave safe jug. Microwave on HIGH for 1 minute to boil and dissolve gelatine.
2. Mix well while pouring in remaining juice and essence.
3. Divide fruit among four 250ml (1-cup) capacity serving glasses.
4. Pour juice over fruit and carefully stir with a teaspoon to distribute fruit through jelly.
5. Cover each glass with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight until set.

Hint

These jellies are best made 6 to 8 hours before serving. If left for more than 24 hours, the fruit will begin to soften in the jelly. Rosewater essence is found in baking aisle of supermarket with other flavourings and vanilla. It is inexpensive and adds a subtle sophisticated 'Turkish delight' flavour.

https://livelighter.com.au/recipe/295/berry-fruit-jelly

Serving Suggestion: For a special occasion, jellies present beautifully in a long stemmed wine or martini glass garnishes with mint and extra chopped fruit.

Lifestyle | **Cyber Health**

Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

OFFICIAL

Introducing the Cyber Health Check Tool



The Australian Government has developed a Cyber Health Check Tool designed for small businesses, not-for-profit organisations and individuals.

PRIORITISING CYBER SECURITY

- All Australians have the right to be **secure online**
- **47%** of Australians experienced at least one form of **cybercrime** in 2024
- Cyber incidents are projected to cost Australian businesses more than **$150 billion** over the next 10 years

BENEFITS OF USING THE TOOL

By identifying areas for improvement, this tool helps Australian organisations and the community take simple steps to **strengthen** their defences and become more resilient to cyber incidents by:

- ✓ **Protecting personal information**
- ✓ **Maintaining system and device security**
- ✓ **Identifying and preventing scams**
- ✓ **Managing access to devices and accounts**

ABOUT THE TOOL

- ✓ The Cyber Health Check is a **free** and **fast** 5 minute self-assessment made up of easy to understand questions to measure your cyber awareness.
- ✓ The tool provides you with a **tailored action plan** with customised advice to improve your cyber security.
- ✓ The tool will be hosted on **www.cyber.gov.au**



UNDERSTANDING YOUR RESULTS

Your customised tailored action plan includes:

- Your health check **score** and rating
- Suggestions on what to **prioritise now** and improvements to make in the **future** to your cyber security.

To access the **Cyber Health Check Tool**, visit: www.cyber.gov.au/cyberhealthcheck

For more information, visit: https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/cyber-security/cyberhealthcheck

OFFICIAL

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Backyard Buddies

Your monthly guide to pests, weeds and diseases

August 2025

European wasp successful season



European wasps feed on grapes and other fruit, human and pet food, insects and dead animals like rats, kangaroos and bandicoots.

The European wasp 2024-25 season has drawn to a close with 31 nests found and destroyed!

Western Australians can now relax and enjoy the coming few months knowing that the aggressive and invasive pest has once again been thwarted in its efforts to establish itself in WA. Every year fertilised queens enter WA via vehicles, freight and cargo from interstate where they are well established and a major social, environmental and economic pest.

WA has been entrenched in a battle for the past 48 years to prevent this pest from calling our state home. Since the first detection in 1977 WA has undergone a surveillance and eradication program, developing early detection techniques and trapping systems to locate and destroy any nests that spawn in WA. A large part of this success is due to public awareness and reporting of wasp sightings. Three of the nests destroyed this season were due directly to public reports.

The majority of nests were detected and destroyed in the City of Belmont and City of Canning in industrial areas that take delivery of interstate freight, as well as around the interstate rail freight yards. There were two regional nests destroyed: one in the suburb of Webberton in Geraldton and one in the town of Napier just north of Albany. Around 3000 surveillance traps were deployed in the Perth metropolitan area and in strategic higher risk regional centres.

What to look for

There are similar looking black and yellow wasps in WA, so look for these key characteristics:

- **Scavenging** on human food and drinks, fruit like grapes, apples and stone fruit, pet food and roadkill (carrion).
- **Nest underground -** nests are HUGE, growing larger than a basketball in a single season, and have a small (golf ball sized) entrance hole.
- Completely **black antenna.**
- **Legs up** in flight (rear legs don't dangle).

Learn more or report

For more information about the eradication program and how to identify wasps see European wasps: declared pests in Western Australia | Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development or contact our Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS). Reports of suspected European wasps can be made to PaDIS or the MyPestGuide® team. Please include as much information and photos where you can.

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

OFFICIAL

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Backyard Buddies
Your monthly guide to pests, weeds and diseases

September 2025

Biosecurity Blitz 2025: Scanning for Land and Water Invaders

Vigilance is key

Spotting invasive species early helps prevent pest outbreaks and protects our local environment. When community members report what they see, we can identify these species quickly and act before they spread. Your observations make a real difference in managing these threats.

Power in numbers

Keen-eyed observers across Western Australia can sign up to take part in DPIRD's Biosecurity Blitz 2025 **(16 October to 16 November)** to report not just pests, but also unsung beneficial organisms that play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance, pollination, and naturally help control pest populations.

Past Biosecurity Blitz observations revealed increased sightings of beneficial bugs like hover flies and lacewings in urban gardens, clear signs that habitat-friendly practices are taking root across local communities. Predators, such as lacewings, ladybirds, and predatory mites, actively hunt and consume pests. Parasitic wasps, hover flies, and even some spiders, lay their eggs on or inside pest species. Their larvae then feed on the host, often killing it in the process.

Community observations help shape the story of WA's biodiversity. What new discoveries will this year's Biosecurity Blitz uncover? DPIRD encourages people of all ages to sign up, download the MyPestGuide® Reporter app, submit sightings, and share photos to help map beneficial species and confirm the absence of exotic pests across WA.

Don't forget the waterways

Biosecurity Blitz 2025 isn't just about gardens and bushland—it's also about what's lurking in our waterways. Invasive aquatic species like carp and the carpet sea squirt (*Didemnum vexillum*) threaten WA's biodiversity and can spread through floods, fishing, boating, and pet release. Other pests like non-native crustaceans, molluscs, and worms, can disrupt ecosystems and impact industries like aquaculture and tourism.



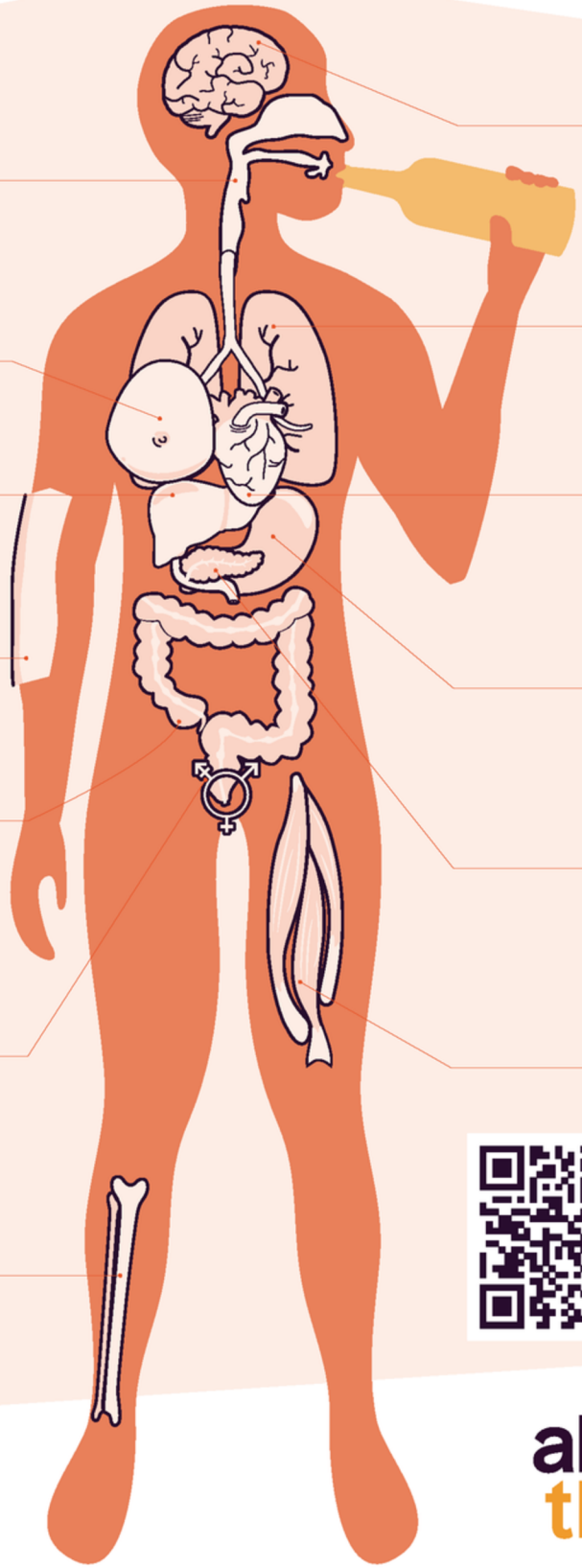
Carp (Koi) – Canning River pest survey.

Even hardy aquarium fish can become invasive if released. Pearl cichlids, for example, are not native to Australia and compete aggressively with local species. Originally 5–15 cm as pets, they've grown to over 30 cm in Perth waterways!

While taking part in the Blitz, report any sightings of released aquarium fish using the MyPestGuide® Reporter app. Your actions help protect WA's aquatic ecosystems. Happy hunting!

Report damaging pests on land or water with MyPestGuide®Reporter

How alcohol can damage your body



Mouth & Throat

- Mouth cancer
- Upper throat cancer
- Voice box cancer
- Oesophageal cancer

Breast

- Cancer

Liver

- Fatty liver
- Hepatitis
- Cancer

Skin

- Dehydration
- Flushed skin
- Skin conditions

Bowel

- Colon cancer
- Rectal cancer

Sexual & Reproductive Organs

- Sexual dysfunction
- Fertility issues
- Harm to unborn baby

Bone

- Decreased bone density
- Weakened bones
- Increased risk of injury

Brain

- Brain injury
- Memory loss
- Dementia
- Stroke

Lungs

- Weakened immune system
- Respiratory infections

Heart

- High blood pressure
- Heart attack
- Irregular heartbeat

Stomach

- Inflamed lining
- Stomach ulcers
- Digestive problems

Pancreas

- Pancreatitis
- Secondary diabetes

Muscle

- Loss of muscle mass
- Weakness (myopathy)

Scan for more info

alcohol thinkagain

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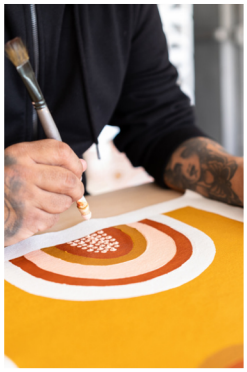



For more information please contact our Community Hub Coordinator
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Beer Garden


Pub

Activities

Word Search

Farm Animals

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

BEES
TURKEY
ANIMALS
BUFFALO
HORSE
DUCK
BIRDS
DOG
GOAT
FISH
CHICKEN
CALF
LLAMA
DEER
GOOSE
SHEEP
BISON
HEN
GEESE
LAMB

Play this puzzle online at : https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7/

Sudoku

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

#96829 Difficulty: moderate

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

#95819 Difficulty: easy

Solutions



Solution of sudoku #96829:

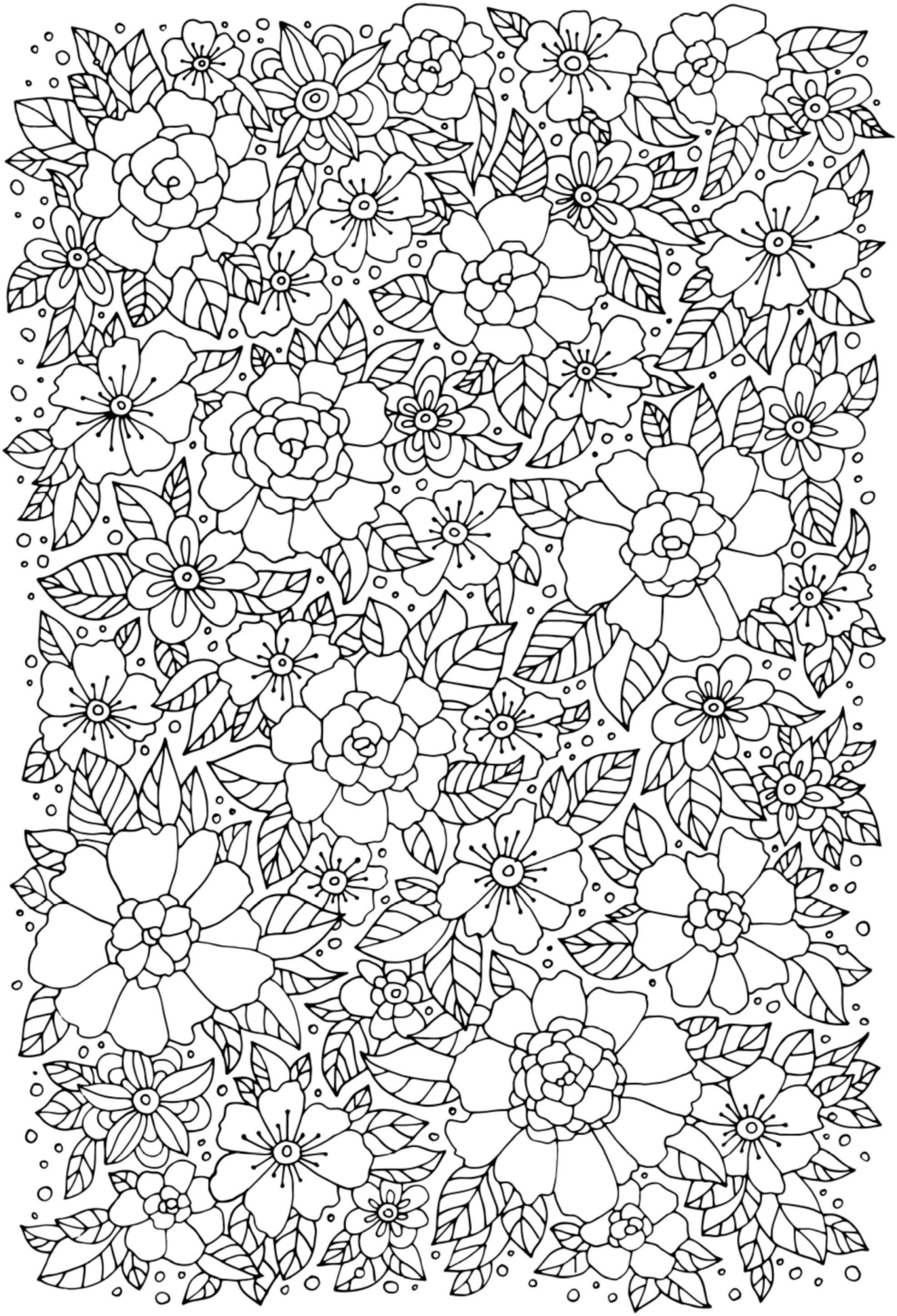
2	9	1	5	3	7	4	6	8
6	3	4	8	2	1	5	7	9
7	5	8	6	4	9	2	1	3
9	1	2	7	6	4	3	8	5
3	4	6	9	8	5	1	2	7
8	7	5	3	1	2	6	9	4
4	6	9	2	7	3	8	5	1
1	2	7	4	5	8	9	3	6
5	8	3	1	9	6	7	4	2

Solution of sudoku #95819:

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

Activities

Colouring Sheet



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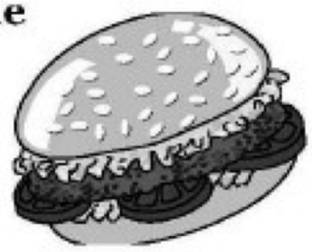

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