

VOLUME FORTY-TWO. EDITION TWO. 2019

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# MURCHISON MONOLOGUE

LIFE IN THE SHIRE OF MURCHISON, WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Photo: Mustering at Byro Station, May 2019

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If you have any articles, information about events or photo's you wish to share with our readers, then please do not hesitate to contact the office. We would love to include them.

Contribution closing date for the October issue is: Friday, September 20th, 2019.





# FROM THE SHIRE PRESIDENT

HELLO FROM PRESIDENT ROSSCO FOULKES-TAYLOR

**Hello All,**

**Hope this edition finds you in reasonable shape and that, like me, you are enjoying some winter weather. I have been fortunate to visit country from the north eastern parts of the Gascoyne Shire, most areas of the Murchison Shire and right down to the southern part of the Yalgoo area since last I reported.**

To see the country make some progress towards freshening up a bit after a long, quite dry, period is most heartening. I know some areas, such as the middle part of our Shire, have done considerably better than others but it is great that all parts have at least had a reasonable amount of timely rain. We don't get a heap of wintery weather in this country so I plan to enjoy it.

As mentioned in my last report, our former CEO Peter Dittrich has headed off and Eddie Piper is currently the Acting CEO. I thank Peter for his good work and wish him well with whatever he gets up to down the track. I have previously sent out a notification that Council has appointed Bill Boehm as CEO and would like to again say that we are looking forward to Bill and his partner Kaye joining us in Murchison around early August.

Council continues to work through various issues including finishing off the flood damage work by the three different crews throughout the Shire, the ongoing work of our maintenance and construction teams, the planned road upgrade for the SKA project, exploring the best way to create more housing for shire staff and finding a cost effective system that satisfies the health regulations whilst providing a decent amount of potable water for the Settlement, to name a few.

Thank you Frances for putting this edition of the Monologue together.

All the best

Rossco

# INTRODUCTION

## HELLO FROM OUR INCOMING CEO AND HIS WIFE

### **Bill**

I am really rapt to have been chosen as the next Murchison CEO and to working with Rossco, Councillors and staff.

It seems many years since I left suburban Melbourne as a junior civil engineer after my late dad threatened to “cut off my legs ”as encouragement to succeed in order that I didn’t become a roof tiler! Once I experienced country life have never returned. Appointments in Bairnsdale, Mirboo North, Wycheproof, Rupanyup, Warracknabeal in Victoria; Bordertown and Roxby Downs in South Australia and recently Flinders Island in the Tasmanian Bass Strait have all been satisfying professionally; but more importantly I have enjoyed and loved every community that I have lived in. I have made many friends, played all sorts of sports and activities and enjoyed and adapted to every culture that existed. My kids also benefited greatly as a result.

Murchison promises to be even more exciting, adventurous, unique and a fitting next stage in my partner Kaye’s life. The opportunity to become involved and contribute and bring my skills to assist your community in what you want is the main attraction. Learning about the region, your heritage, culture and Western Australia generally is an added bonus I look forward to meeting everyone and becoming involved.

### **Kaye**

Wow! I am so looking to coming up to the Murchison with Bill.

My Mum and Dad with three children lived in Big Bell for some time prior to my birth! So, looking forward to tracing some of the family history! Oh I am a “sandgroper” so another reason for being happy to come to the Murchison. My passion has always to be involved in the community I live in! So, looking forward as to

what you want me to do! Oh, but I do hope we can all get together and celebrate International Women’s Day March 2020!

As a family Bill and I have 6 boys between us (Bill 4 and Kaye 2)! And eight grandchildren with 4 living in Perth!

Bill & Kaye



## Anzac Day 2019

SHIRE PRESIDENT WELCOME:  
Rossco Foulkes-Taylor

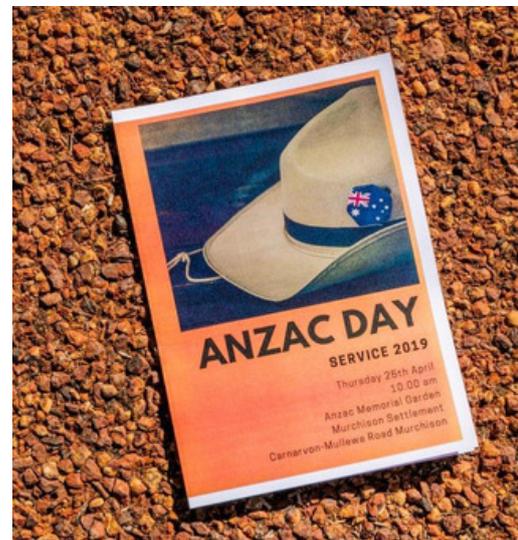
ANZAC POEM: Frances Pollock  
To the Sunburnt Ear (by Tony  
Gunter)

LAYING OF THE WREATH: Bella  
and Eliza Pumpa

WORDS: shared by Jano Foulkes-  
Taylor regarding the  
effects of war on women

ODE: Sandy McTaggart

LAST POST  
ONE MINUTE SILENCE  
REVEILLE/ROUSE



- MURCHISON 2019 -

# VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

## PAUL LUKITSCH

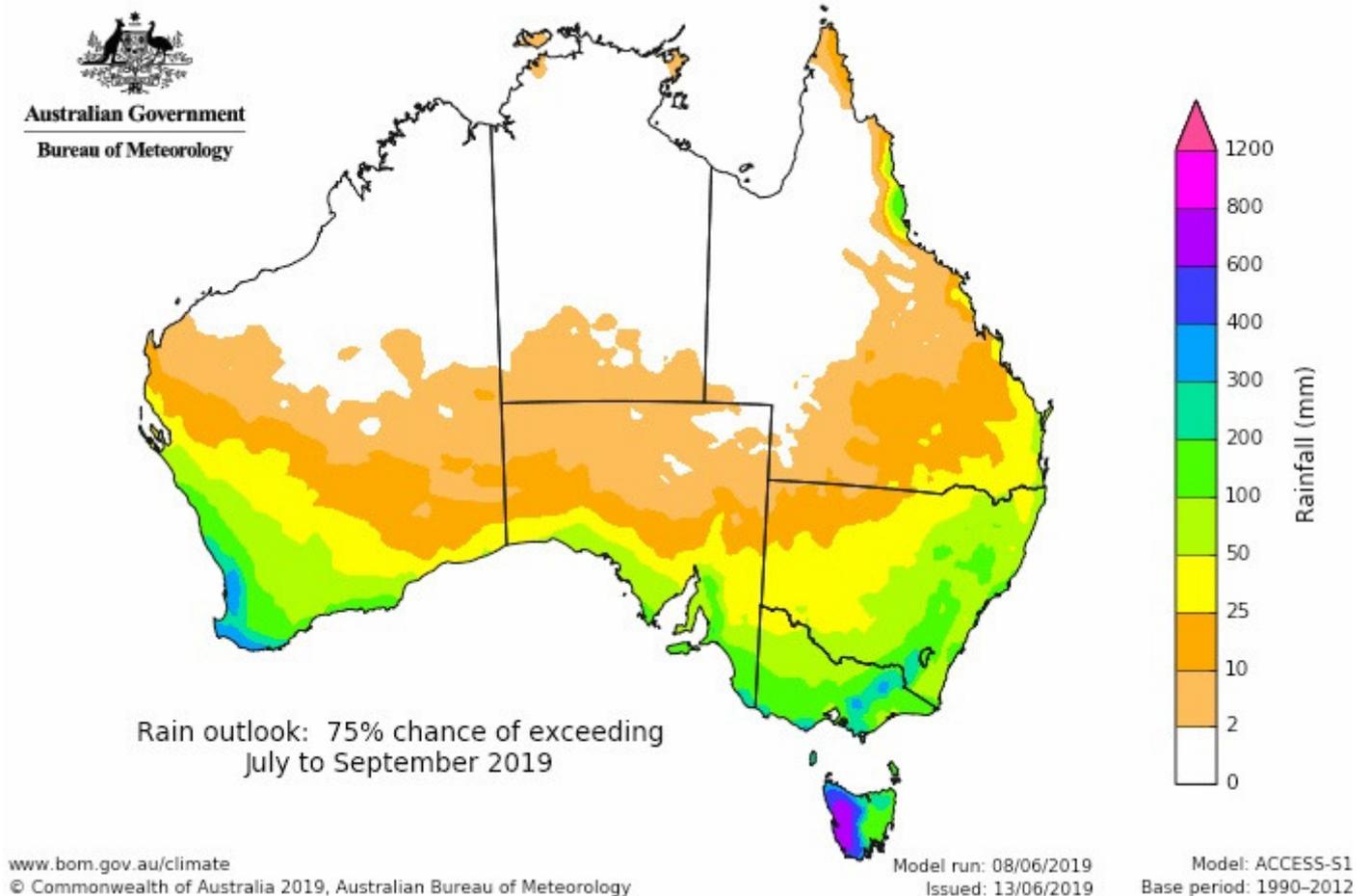
On the 25th of April 2019 the community gathered at the sports hall for morning tea and the announcement of the 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award. The award was given to Paul Lukitsch.

Paul is well deserved of receiving the award for his tireless efforts and work in the community tunnel garden, maintaining the cemetery plantings, Anzac memorial, poultry run, as well as the museum plants. He spends most days consumed in planting, watering, harvesting vegetables, caring for the gardens, hen house and citrus trees.

He has been contributing to the Murchison Settlement for over 5 years with much of the produce grown in the tunnel being passed on at cost with all proceeds donated to the RFDS

Congratulations Paul. Thank-you for your contribution to the Murchison Community





## Seasonal Climate Outlook - Australian Bureau of Meteorology

The July to September climate outlook, issued 13 June 2019, suggests a drier than average three months is likely for most of Australia.

July to September daytime temperatures are likely to be warmer than average, except for parts of the Top End and northern Queensland. Nights are likely to be warmer across much of northern Australia and the southeast. With more cloud-free days and nights expected, there is an increased risk of frost in susceptible areas.

Climate influences include a likely positive Indian Ocean Dipole, a weakening of El Niño-like patterns in the tropical Pacific, and the

tendency for higher pressures over southern and eastern Australia keeping cold fronts further south than usual. The autumn (March to May) climate outlook, issued 28 February 2019, indicates a drier than average season is likely for the eastern States, the southern two-thirds of the NT and eastern SA. Inland western WA has a weak tendency towards a wetter than average season.

Warmer than average autumn days and nights are very likely for almost all of Australia.

The Bureau's ENSO Outlook is currently at El Niño WATCH, meaning there is a 50% chance of El Niño developing; this is double the normal chance. See the Climate Influences section for more information.

# If a difficult season or other challenges are affecting your business, you don't need to go it alone.

The Rural Financial Counselling Service of WA is a free and confidential service that can help get your business back on track after experiencing financial difficulty.

Financial counsellors can help you with:

Business strategies to manage financial stressors;

Negotiations with banks or other lenders and review loans;

Information about assistance schemes that may be available; and

Identifying options to plot a course forward for your business.

Our skilled financial counsellors have practical business know-how, financial experience and industry knowledge and can visit you at home or on farm.

To talk to your local financial counsellor Graeme Chopping, call 0439 984 543 or email [rfc6@rfcswa.com.au](mailto:rfc6@rfcswa.com.au).



# News from Pia Wadjarri RCS

It has been a full Term 2 here at Pia Wadjarri School. We are pleased to see students coming to school and participating in class activities. Our Business Plan is completed and staff are looking forward to supporting strategic directions and priority targets.

NAPLAN was completed without computer lapses. Years 3, 5 and 7 students participated. I was pleased to see all our students come to school and complete the assessment diligently.

We have been successful in gaining two Grants. The first grant is from Sports Australia. The chosen sport for our students is athletics. We have been granted two, 3 hour sessions. The first session is on Monday 1 st of July and the second on Wednesday 3 rd of July in Week Ten.

Our second Grant is from the Department of Local Government, Sport and cultural Industries. This Grant will be used for our bush Tucker Program.

It has been a Term of opportunities for our school. We had a representative from WA athletics come to our school and take our students through some awesome conditioning and skill activities. I would like to thank Mr. Shane Ellis for his passion and commitment, sharing his knowledge with us and providing a wonderful suite of skill-based activities.

Many thanks to Mr. Rick Ryan from Community Services for coming to our school to observe our Fire evacuation procedure. Rick brought with him a theatre smoke machine to mimic a fire scenario. We had our drill and from all accounts Rick thought it was a great success. Thank-you Rick for taking the time to come to our school.

We were fortunate to have a visit from GRAMS to discuss with the students the dangers of smoking. There was a competition to design a poster on smoking cigarettes and how it affects your lungs. Our posters have been sent off for judging, hopefully some of our students can win an I-pad or scooter!

Unfortunately TLG had to be cancelled due to rain. We look forward to their care and expertise in Term 4.



This Term our students have chosen to focus on their class work. They are taking more responsibility for their actions and are seeing that they have more choices. I have seen across Junior and Senior classes an improvement in maturity this Term. Well Done Staff.

Miss Paula, our visiting nurse, gave the students a talk about mouth and teeth health and distributed toothbrushes etc for use. Many thanks Miss Paula. We were very thankful; and are checking our brushing habits.

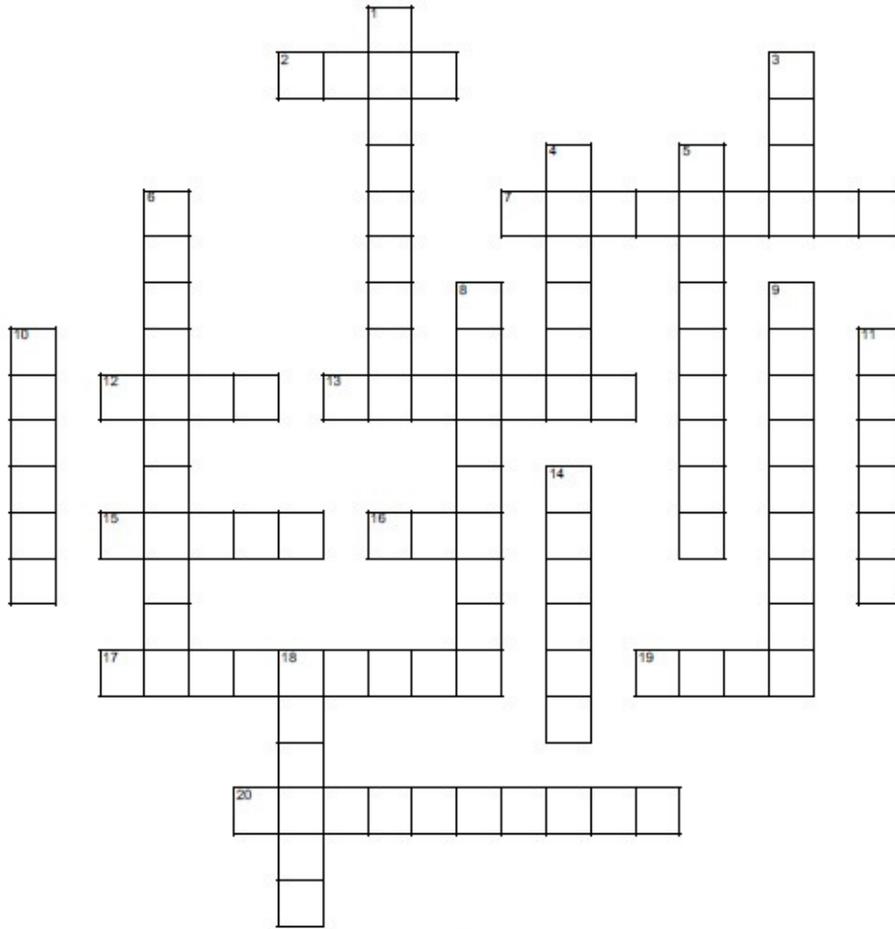
As you can see from one of the images, Miss Jennifer's students enjoyed a well-earned break from their hard work with a tea party.

A BIG thank-you to our visitors for their commitment in providing our school with these opportunities. We look forward to Term 3 and what lies ahead for our students to experience.

Many thanks  
Ted Cousens  
Principal, Pia Wadjarri RCS  
99613842



# Murchison Muddler



## Across

2. The oldest resident in the Shire of Murchison
7. The name of the emergency airstrip south of the Settlement
12. Our founding industry
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Land Under Brilliant Skies
15. Approximately how many thousand square kilometers is the Shire of Murchison
16. A neighbouring shire
17. The oldest rocks in the world are in which range?
19. The \_\_\_\_\_ Plains
20. A big event in July

## Down

1. The second longest river in WA
3. The first pastoral lease in the Murchison
4. The oldest rocks ever found
5. The epicentre of an earthquake in 1941 was on this station
6. Native shrub with bell shaped flower
8. An old copper mine is found here
9. The only high level bridge in the Shire
10. Sports Club President, \_\_\_\_\_ Broad
11. A popular pool, just west of the Carnarvon Mullewa Rd, 5km north of the Wooramel River
14. Which station hosted the last picnic race meeting in the Murchison
18. Works supervisor, William \_\_\_\_\_



# JICAMA

Recently, on Gardening Australia the vegetable Jicama was mentioned as suitable for growing in the arid zones. I did a bit of research about it and subsequently bought some seeds to plant this spring. I thought some Monologue readers might be interested also. I bought seeds from Eden Seeds. [www.edenseeds.com.au](http://www.edenseeds.com.au)

**Botanical Name:** Pachyrrhizus erosus

**Common Names:** Jicama (pronounced he'-cama) has a variety of common names including climbing yam bean and Mexican water chestnut. It is a member of the pea family.

Jicama is a vigorous, subtropical and tropical, climbing legume vine from South America. It has a pretty, big, blue pea flower.

Unfortunately, the flowers should usually be removed as the bean pods and seeds are toxic, they also take a lot of vigour from the plant and reduce the harvest of tubers considerably. Let just one plant go to see for you next year's crop.

Jicama is perennial but it is usually grown as an annual because the root tuber, the perennial part, is the part that is harvested for eating. Jicama can be propagated from a tuber or seed. The plants die back in winter in cool climates but, if left in the ground the tubers will shoot again in spring. The roots develop to the size of turnips (up to 5 per plant). Even though the vine can reach up to 6m tall it is usually pruned to about 1- 1.5m as removing the flowers can double the yield of tubers.

**Sowing:** Jicama is frost tender and requires 9 months frost free for a good harvest of large tubers. It will produce tubers in areas that have at least 5 months frost free but they will be smaller.

*Warm Temperate Areas:* Sow seed 8-10 weeks before the last spring frost. Bottom heat will be needed as jicama needs warm soil to germinate.

*Subtropical Areas:* Sow seed once the soil has warmed up in spring.

*Tropical Areas:* Sow all year round.

## Planting:

*Seed Preparation:* Soak the seed in warm water overnight to soften the seed coat and speed germination.

*Planting Depth:* Sow the seed 5cm deep

*Spacing:* 20-25cm apart in rows 60 – 90cm apart

*Position:* Full sun

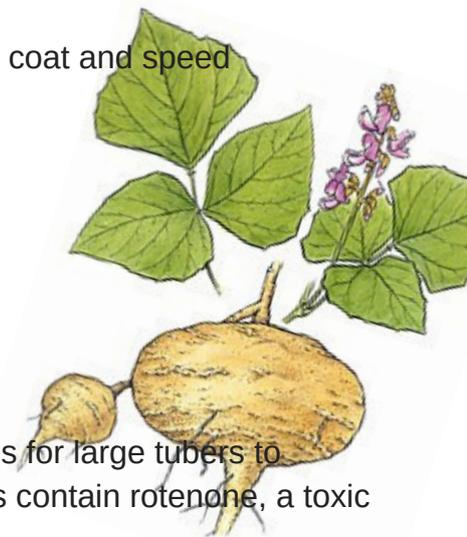
*Soil Type:* Jicama prefers a rich, moist, sandy loam with good drainage that is high in potassium.

## Harvesting:

Jicama can be harvested from 4 months for small tubers but it takes 9 months for large tubers to develop. The seed pods and seeds are toxic and dangerous to eat. The pods contain rotenone, a toxic substance often used as an organic insecticide.

## Eating:

The sweet, juicy, crisp tubers are eaten raw or lightly cooked. To prepare, peel off the brown skin. The raw tubers taste like a cross between a water chestnut and an apple and do not discolour when cut. Can be used in salads and stirfries and used as a crudité. Jicama is low in calories.



# BEST CHOCOLATE BROWNIE

Provided by Emma Foulkes-Taylor

\*See note below about prunes

There are a lot of brownie recipes around and choosing a good one can be a bit hit and miss but, trust me, after you've tried this one your search will be over. This is my go-to recipe when I find out at short notice that we've got people for dinner. It can be served with ice cream, custard, Greek yogurt, cream, or even sour cream. You are welcome to add nuts (macadamias and walnuts work well) if you like them.

## Ingredients

180 g butter  
180 g dark chocolate, chopped  
3 eggs  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
250 g caster sugar  
110 g plain flour  
½ tsp salt

## Preparation

Preheat oven to 180°C.  
Line a 20cm square tin with baking paper.  
Melt the butter in a saucepan. Add the chopped chocolate to the hot butter and stir until combined.  
Beat the eggs, vanilla and caster sugar together until light and doubled in bulk. Sift the flour and salt together. Add the flour and melted chocolate to the beaten eggs and fold to combine using a spatula or large metal spoon.  
Pour into the prepared tin and bake in the preheated oven for 20- 25 minutes. Take care not to overcook the brownies or they will lose their deliciously gooey texture. Allow to cool before cutting.

\*I keep jars of prunes in port in my pantry and I add one on top of each serve before I bake- either 9 or 12 depending who I am baking for!

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