

VOLUME FORTY-TWO. EDITION ONE. 2019

MURCHISON MONOLOGUE

LIFE IN THE SHIRE OF MURCHISON, WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Photo: Eliza Pumpa's prize-winning photo for the Rangelands NRM Photography competition

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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 July issue is: Thursday, June 20th.



FROM THE CEO'S DESK

AN OVERVIEW FROM CEO, PETER DITTRICH

Hello Community Members,

This will be my last contribution to the Monologue as CEO of the Shire of Murchison. I originally came up to the Shire to undertake a six week contract in 2016. Now almost three years later it is time to return to my family down south. I wish to thank Council for giving me the opportunity to take on the role of CEO for the past two years. We have made some great progress and the Shire is in a strong position moving forward.

Upon reflection, it struck me as to just how unique the Shire of Murchison is. There is a strong sense of community and pride in the country. We are self-sufficient and protective of our own. In a way our community is one large family, we may have our differences but when it is needed, we stand together. So, there is an understandable feeling of loss as I choose to move out of the area.

The start of the calendar year has seen the continuation of the repair of the flood damage caused in January 2018. This work will continue for most of the year. Our crew has continued with our normal program but has had to divert its resources to correct problems that have arisen on the Carnarvon Mullewa Road and the Beringarra Pindar Road as a result of the unusually high volume of heavy traffic.

The State Government is undertaking a review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. I would encourage all to review the documents at www.dplh.wa.gov.au as this will affect all members of our community.

The Shire was honoured to host Uncle Lenny and Aunt Julie and members of the Pia Wadjarri School on the 28th of February. President Rossco Foulkes-Taylor was presented with the new interactive book "Capture the Culture". It was great to see the children making use of the shire playground. In the weeks following this presentation media coverage has flowed in local and state newspapers. For anyone who was unable to attend, you can watch the event on YouTube by searching 'PWRCS Book Presentation Murchison Shire'. Some pictures are included in this edition of our Monologue.

On the 27th of March, the Shire hosted an Innovation Day at the community centre. I am grateful to those members of the community that supported the event and trust that the event will grow each year. With the support of the Mid West Development Commission and CRT in Geraldton, we were able to attract a great array of suppliers including Philmac, Gallagher, TruTest, Beachport Liquid Minerals, Franklin Pumps and Waratah. I was pleased to see our community engaging with the suppliers and learning about how these products could support and improve our pastoral businesses.

We have a lot to learn as technology in agriculture really begins to offer affordable and tangible solutions for managing large scale properties; it's certainly an exciting time. The verbal presentations about virtual

fencing and digital connectivity offer amazing opportunities for the future. However, the task of using this technology within the 70km radio quiet zone will continue to present challenges for some residents. With the assistance of CSIRO and the MWDC I hope we can find a way to overcome this challenge.

I was pleased to hear from those who made it over to Wooleen Station for part 2 of our Innovation Day; the theme of contemporary solutions continued on the 28th. Whilst I couldn't personally attend due to our council meeting, the feedback has been positive. David Pollock took participants for an informal trip in the station's coaster bus to look at monitoring sites. Discussion revolved around grasslands, rotational grazing, controlling grazing pressure and looking at techniques which have worked over the last 12 years.

It was a busy week of shire commitments and I would like to thank those who also attended the Annual General Electors Meeting on the 29th of March. A short and sharp meeting has led me to assume residents are content with the shires overall management. But perhaps the best assumption is that Murchison residents feel confident to talk with the shire or councillors at any time regarding concerns they may have. Another example of the community and pride in this shire.

All the very best,
Peter Dittrich



FROM THE SHIRE PRESIDENT

HELLO FROM PRESIDENT ROSSCO FOULKES-TAYLOR

Hello All,

I hope April finds you well and looking forward to enjoying another Murchison Autumn with hopefully a bit of moisture around the place.

Council has been going about its regular activities over summer with no major events to report. We have a good channel of communication with Main Roads who are steadily progressing towards starting the fairly major upgrade of the SKA access route. Just as a reminder this route will be from the Shire's South boundary north to the Twin Peaks turnoff then go northeast via Wooleen, past Pia and the Boolardy Homestead ending around 15km up the Kalli Road.

The Shire is also currently going through the process of employing a replacement CEO as, unfortunately, Peter Dittrich is leaving us in a few months.

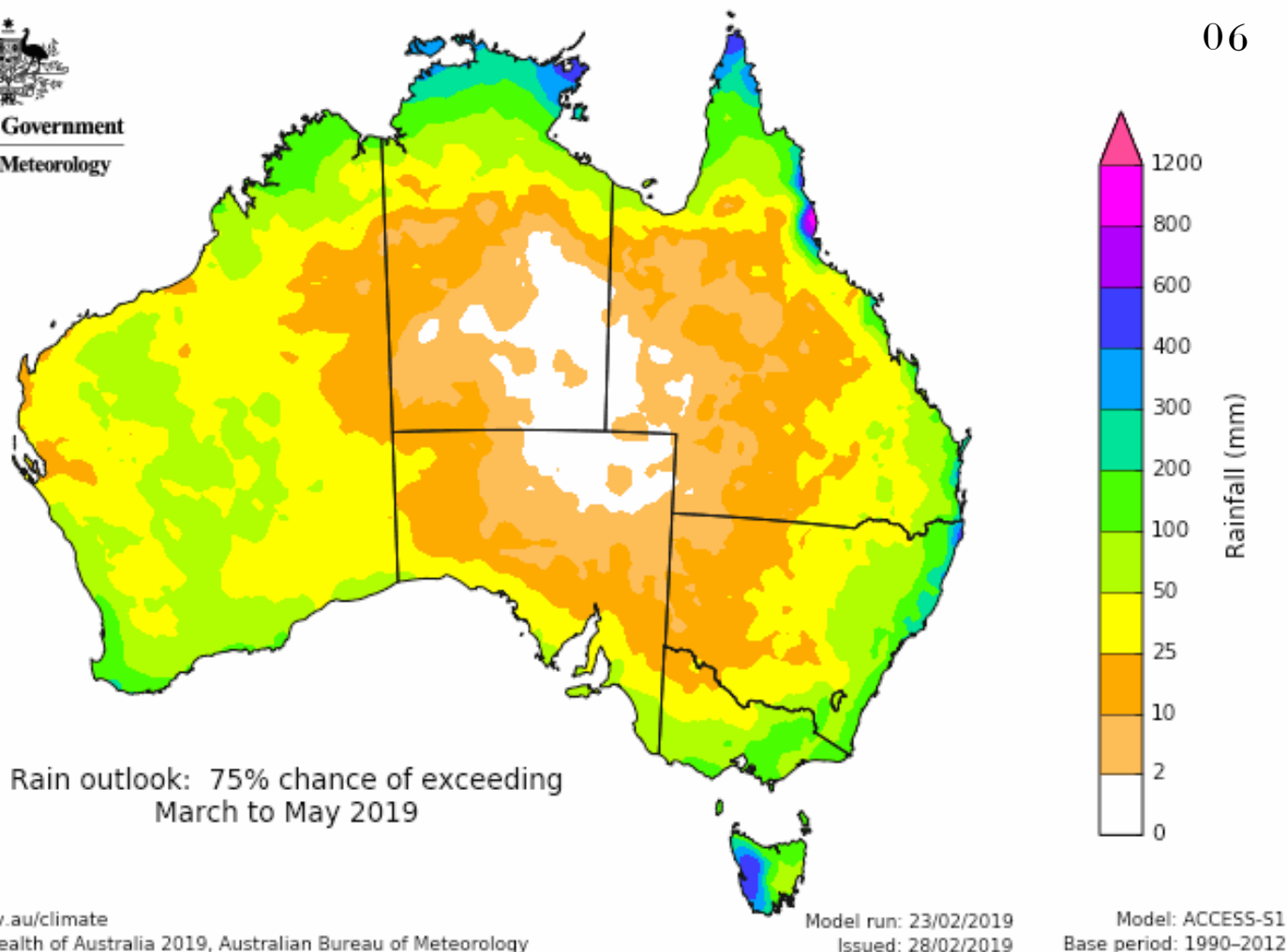
Cheers
Rossco



MURCHISON CHRISTMAS TREE

On the 15th of December the Murchison Community gathered at the settlement to celebrate Christmas. Santa arrived with plenty of presents and the crowd enjoyed a delicious Christmas meal. All in all, it was a wonderful evening





Seasonal Climate Outlook - Australian Bureau of Meteorology

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.

Autumn is likely to be drier than average over Queensland, NSW, Victoria, northern and eastern Tasmania, the southern two-thirds of the NT and eastern SA. In contrast, inland western WA is slightly more likely to be wetter than average.

March is likely to be drier than average across Queensland, NSW, far eastern SA, most of Victoria and the southern two-thirds of the NT. Parts of northern Queensland have a greater than 80% chance of a drier than average month. Conversely, parts of the Pilbara and Gascoyne in WA are likely to be wetter than normal.

Historical outlook accuracy for March to May is moderate for most of the country but low across the southeast and interior of WA, western Tasmania, and near the NSW-Queensland border. See map for details. .

COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Bella Pumpa – Murgoo Station

- 1) What is your favourite way to eat potatoes?
Dads mashed potatoes
- 2) How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
5 minutes
- 3) Who was your hero as a child?
My grade 1 & 2 teacher Miss Clapin
- 4) What would a world populated by clones of you be like?
Annoying!!!
- 5) ---
- 6) What was the last song you sung along to?
Click goes the shears

Sandy McTaggart – Mt Narryer Station

- 1) What is your favourite way to eat potatoes?
Roasted
- 2) How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
20 minutes
- 3) Who was your hero as a child?
John Fahey
- 4) What would a world populated by clones of you be like?
Boring
- 5) What goal do you think humanity is not focused enough on achieving?
Peace
- 6) What was the last song you sung along to?
On the babys knuckle or the babys knee where will the babys dimple be? Seems to me it'll be a sin if its always covered by a safety pin, where will the dimple be!!!!

Ant Schnickle –CSIRO (Boolardy Station)

- 1) What is your favourite way to eat potatoes?
Swedish or Hasselback potatoes !! Or just plain roast ...
- 2) How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
Only takes 20 minutes - but I spend an hour, so I can relax, read world news, do some emails ... and drink coffeEEEE!
- 3) Who was your hero as a child?
Neil Armstrong
- 4) What would a world populated by clones of you be like?
Awful! Needs smarter people & more artists & musicians !
- 5) What goal do you think humanity is not focused enough on achieving?
Climate management and trying to preserve the planet enough that there could be humans (and other species !) for more than the next few hundred years
- 6) What was the last song you sung along to?
Hotel California (oh, no actually it was The Angels - After the Rain !)

Bernie Peirl – Murchison Settlement

- 1) What is your favourite way to eat potatoes?
Sweet Potato – baked – cut in half and spoon over a Feta Salad - yummo !
- 2) How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
30 minutes – I think it's the mascara that takes the time !
- 3) Who was your hero as a child?
Micky Mouse
- 4) What would a world populated by clones of you be like?
Not a good look
- 5) What goal do you think humanity is not focused enough on achieving?
Addressing climate change
- 6) What was the last song you sung along to?
Quando Quando Quando - whilst cleaning our Mouse House at the Murchison on a Saturday morning !

Sammy Walton – Murchison Settlement

- 1) What is your favourite way to eat potatoes?
Definitely the good Ol mash
- 2) How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
mornings..... what are those when you have a wee bub.
Definitely not about myself anymore.
- 3) Who was your hero as a child?
Definitely my dad. And still is.
- 4) What would a world populated by clones of you be like?
Full of laughter, have plenty of pet animals and would be such a happy world
- 5) What goal do you think humanity is not focused enough on achieving?
Looking after the elderly and the people in need a hell of a lot more than what they are
- 6) What was the last song you sung along to?
Harley and Rose by the Black Sorrows (which I'm glad no one else can hear me)

Eliza Pumpa – Murgoo Station

- 1) What is your favourite way to eat potatoes?
Dads mashed potatoes
- 2) How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
1 minute
- 3) Who was your hero as a child?
My Mum
- 4) What would a world populated by clones of you be like?
Amazing!!
- 5) ----
- 6) What was the last song you sung along to?
Shotgun by George Ezra

Frances Pollock – Wooleen Station

- 1) What is your favourite way to eat potatoes?
Roasted
- 2) How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
5 minutes
- 3) Who was your hero as a child?
Cathy Freeman
- 4) What would a world populated by clones of you be like?
Busy, and pretty disorganised!
- 5) What goal do you think humanity is not focused enough on achieving?
Ending global poverty
- 6) What was the last song you sung along to?
Medicine - Robinson

Julia Davis – Yuin Station

- 1) What is your favourite way to eat potatoes?
Cut into chips and baked with oregano, sea salt and feta.
- 2) How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
Depends if Rosie is included in the equation.
- 3) Who was your hero as a child?
I can't remember having a hero but I did idolise the Spice Girls.
- 4) What would a world populated by clones of you be like?
Everyone would have to fend for themselves.
- 5) What goal do you think humanity is not focused enough on achieving?
Eating seasonally available food.
- 6) What was the last song you sung along to?
'Who's in the wiggles house' by The Wiggles.

A message from Paul Lukitsch

HELP !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Paul of Murchison Settlement would like to know if anyone has any proof to refute his claim to be : "the oldest resident of Australia's most sparsely populated shire". Paul is 80 years old and the Shire of Murchison has bout 350sq km per resident. He made this claim 3 times around Christmas and the New Year to Paul West, who was Macca's replacement on the Sunday 'Australian All-Over' programme. So far, no listener has made any effort to refute the claim.

Also, for the past 3 years Paul has tried to get the Guinness Book of World Records to set up the category of "The world's most sparsely populated unit of Democratic Government", which they have so far not done. He thinks that they are having difficulty in defining "democracy"

how are you feeling?

think MENTAL HEALTH

thinkmentalhealthwa.com.au

Think Mental Health can help connect you with the best information, support and services for your particular situation.

Use our **Mental Health Check-up Tool** to see how we can help you or someone you care about.

Talking and listening are powerful.

We all experience mental health issues. Check in on a mate if they're not going so well.

Visit thinkmentalhealthwa.com.au for more information

SKA NEWS



12th March 2019 in Rome: Countries involved in the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project have come together in Rome for the signature of the international treaty establishing the intergovernmental organisation that will oversee the delivery of the world's largest radio telescope.

Ministers, Ambassadors and other high-level representatives from over 15 countries have gathered in the Italian capital for the signature of the treaty which establishes the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO), the intergovernmental organisation (IGO) tasked with delivering and operating the SKA.

Dr. Catherine Cesarsky, Chair of the SKA Board of Directors, added "Rome wasn't built in a day. Likewise, designing, building and operating the world's biggest telescope takes decades of efforts, expertise, innovation, perseverance, and global collaboration. Today we've laid the foundations that will enable us to make the SKA a reality."

The amazing image below, sees six of the 12-metre wide antennas located on Boolardy Station each reflecting a colour of the rainbow against the backdrop of the Milky Way. It was created to mark CSIRO's inaugural participation in the Mardi Gras Parade.

Fifty CSIRO staff marched in the parade on the 2nd of March holding a giant double helix (DNA), celebrating the organisation's commitment to diversity.



Events 2019

Here is a small list of *some* regional events you might like to attend in 2019. Remember to check websites for details and other information!

1

Gascoyne Dash 18th April – 21st April 2019

www.gasdash.com

The Kickstarters Gascoyne Dash is a genuine desert race. It is an awesome challenge across some of the harshest and remote country in Australia. Situated between the seaside town of Carnarvon and Gascoyne Junction WA - the desert by the sea. The Dash is a motorsport event that pits car against car and bike against bike and then the quickest of each against each other to determine who will be crowned the "King of the River".

2

Mount Magnet Races: September 2019

Mount Magnet Race Club hosts one meetings each year in Spring, a full day of activities and entertainment. The Race Club runs a fully licensed bar on the day and two-up after the last race. The Mount Magnet Turf Club, located 2km north of town, was formed in 1896, establishing the foundation for what would become one of the most tenacious racing clubs in the country. Here, along with the thrill of the race in rich red earth, you can experience the enduring outback spirit.

3

Junction Races: 23rd – 25th August 2019

www.junctionraces.com

The Junction races is one of the oldest bush race meetings in Western Australia. Originally called "The Lyons and Minilya Amateur racing club" JRC was established in 1907. The first race meeting was held on the Box Gully Flats just outside of Gascoyne Junction township. Historically, most racehorses were from local stations and were walked for several days to the Junction to race.

4

Mount Magnet Astro Rocks fest - 20th & 22nd September 2019

www.mtmagnet-astrorocks.com/

Mount Magnet Astro Rocks fest is an annual, science based astro geo-tourism community event in the Murchison Geo Region of Western Australia

5

Meeka Outback Festival – 28th – 30th September 2019

www.meekafestival.com.au

The 2019 Meekatharra Outback Festival is on from Friday, 21 September to Sunday, 23 September 2018. Held over the Queen's Birthday long weekend in September, the jam-packed weekend will feature motocross stunts, camel rides, a colour run, mine safety demonstration, art exhibition, healthy cooking classes, indigenous cultural activities and much more!

Capture the Culture Book Presentation



"Hello, my name is Rihanna."

Last year we went out with Pop Lenny and Nanna Julie to some places and Pop Lenny told us his stories to include in the book. We were proud to visit these places that showed us our heritage. We are excited that the book represents the families of Pia Wadjarri. We are pleased to present a copy of our book 'Capture the Culture' to the Murchison Shire Library."

Rihanna Schwarze

Year 7 Student

Pia Wadjarri Remote Community School



Recollections from the Pia Students:

"Rhianna gave a speech and I loved it. It was great and we played at the park. I liked the recess, we had watermelon, cakes, pies, ice cream and juice." - from Patriannah

"It was awesome at Murchison." - from Jahlile

"We had lunch and a play at the playground. It was good." - from Jayeleen





WikiCamps Round-up

Visitor reviews of our shire: 2018

Murchison Museum

- @the.wildings

"What a fantastic museum. Open but unattended when we were there. Everything is very well presented. Info signs are well written. Make sure you watch the documentary 'The Truck Days'. Leave a donation to keep this fantastic initiative alive!"

- @outbacklover

"Such a beautiful well set-out museum which shows how proud the locals are of their history. Managed by volunteers during the season. Offered other brochures and information. Also a herbarium botanical walk trail which we enjoyed to stretch the legs."

Murchison Oasis Roadhouse

- @alison skuse

"This place is certainly an Oasis. Fantastic friendly staff, clean amenities, and the best burgers. Beautiful kept park with lots of green lawn. Bonus book exchange."

- @chrispydingo

"Lovely park. The two young staff members were very polite. Food delivered to our van was awesome. Amenities modern and clean."

- @user237612

"One of the best parks, the restaurant meals are great, the staff are more than helpful, stayed before and will stay again."

Bilung Pool

- @crossedthecreek

"Absolutely gorgeous. Even now there is still a great pool to have a swim in. Came down from Mt Augustus and road is excellent. Lots of work has been done."

Errabiddy Bluff

- @belglen

"Great views and the most ingenious bbq we've come across. Looks like people have camped here"

Wooleen Station

- @user1534466

"Rocky Outcrop is a great campsite. Plenty of space and one of the cleanest long drop toilets I have come across. Great information and lots to do. The sunset tour is a bargain. My Toyota corolla easily traversed the road to get there. Highly recommended."

- @twooldpeople

"Well worth the stay. Friendly and helpful. Hot showers at the homestead, fresh drinking water if needed. Lots to see and do. Good roads in. Thank-you."

MRO -ASKAP

- @outbacklover

Visited the observatory site on the open days in October 2018 whilst staying at Wooleen Station. The array is impressive and CSIRO did a great job of showing us around and explaining. We really hope you have more open days in the future.

Ballinyoo Bridge

- @gamefish

"Great spot. Black swans and pelicans on the water! Lots of room and easy access."

- @leoviersma

"So worth the stop"



Nic Duncan is a professional photographer who plans to be in the Murchison area late April - early May. Nic and her husband, Steve, are seeking unique places to camp with their fully self-contained camper. In exchange for providing a few nights camping Nic is offering professional photography. This could be a family portrait session or product shots for new and upcoming business in the Murchison - Gascoyne area. Nic is familiar with the Murchison and its landscapes - she was the photographer for Frances and David's wedding on Wooleen Station. Contact Nic to organise a shoot:

nic@nicduncan.com | 0417 925 433

Web: <https://www.nicduncan.com/>



KNOW THE SIGNS



HEAT EXHAUSTION

- Headaches
- Nausea and vomiting
- Fatigue, weakness and restlessness
- Thirsty
- Anxiety
- Poor coordination
- Weak, rapid pulse
- Sweating heavily
- Raised body temperature



HEAT STROKE

- Headaches
- Nausea and vomiting
- Rapid pulse
- Extremely thirsty
- Dry, swollen tongue
- Disoriented, dizzy or delirious, slurred speech
- Body temperature more than 40°C
- Convulsions, seizures or coma
- May be sweating, skin may feel deceptively cool

WHAT TO DO

- > Lie down in shade or air-conditioning
- > Drink water
- > Cool compress or tea towel
- > Cool shower or bath

WHAT TO DO

- > **Call 000 immediately**
- > Reduce temperature until ambulance arrives

Energy and Efficiency

There are currently three grants in this space open to applications from Durack constituents:

Energy Efficient Communities Program – Small Business Grants: This program is for small businesses throughout the electorate of Durack to apply for funding for up to \$25,000 to increase their energy efficiency, for example through the replacement of appliances or the installation of energy efficient systems.

Solar Communities Grants: This program is for community groups who wish to lower their electricity bills and increase their energy efficiency by installing solar and/or battery systems. The grant is capped at \$12,500.

Communities Environment Program: This program is for community groups who wish to undertake any project to benefit the environment and seek funding between \$2500 and \$20,000. Examples could include a community garden, a recycling program, or a feral animal eradication program.

To access EOI forms, visit here: <https://bit.ly/2l1710U>

Local Sporting Champions Round 3-2018/19

The Local Sporting Champions grant program provides financial assistance for coaches, officials, and competitors aged 12-18 participating in state, national, or international championships.

If successful, applicants will receive \$500-\$750 towards the cost of attending their championships. Applications are currently open until 11.59pm (AEST) on 30 June 2019 for Round 1, 2019. 20.

You should submit an application once you have been selected to attend the championships and your participation has been confirmed, but before the championships commence.

You can find more information including application steps by clicking here: <https://bit.ly/2ygjUyX>

2019 Community Heritage Grants

The Community Heritage Grants program provides grants of up to \$15,000 to community organisations such as libraries, archives, museums, genealogical and historical societies, multicultural and Indigenous groups.

Vince Catania welcomes \$2,250,000 funding for completion of Murchison wild dog fence

Nationals WA Member for North West Central Vince Catania has welcomed the recent announcement of funding by the Federal Government to support the final steps required to implement the much needed and long overdue Murchison Region Vermin Cell (MRVC) Fence (Dog Fence). Mr Catania said “The investment of \$2,250,000 into the Murchison Region Vermin Cell to complete the project is a very welcome addition to amounts totalling \$1.1 million and \$2.7 million previously invested through various Royalties for Regions programs to upgrade and extend the State Barrier Fence, with the ultimate goal being to eradicate wild dogs from the area”.



Knitted Washcloth Pattern

PATTERN AND PHOTO:

Julia Davis

Bored of sitting in front of the T.V. in the evening? Why not pick up those old knitting needles and make yourself a very handy washcloth! These durable cloths can used in the bathroom or kitchen and make wonderful presents.

Materials:

1 ball of 100% Cotton yarn, in a sport weight (5ply). I used Debbie Bliss Eco Baby but you can use any yarn.

Needles: 3.25 mm needles (size 3)

Abbreviations:

K – Knit

P – Purl

Sts – Stitches

Note: This pattern is knitted in moss stitch (seed stitch) with a garter stitch edge.

To Make:

Cast on 63 stitches.

K 6 rows.

Next row (right side) K5, (P1, K1) to last 4 sts, K4.

Next row K4, (P1, K1) to last 5 sts, P1, K4.

Next row K4, (P1, K1) to last 5 sts, P1, K4.

Next row K5, (P1, K1) to last 4 sts, K4.

The last 4 rows form the moss stitch pattern with the garter stitch borders and are repeated.

Continue in pattern until the cloth measures 9 inches from the cast on edge, ending with a wrong side row.

K6 Rows.

Bind off.



RSVP
BY THE 16TH
OF APRIL
TO SANDY
MCTAGGART FOR
CATERING
PURPOSES
08 9963 7972

ANZAC **DAY CELEBRATIONS**

WHEN: WEDNESDAY 25 TH APRIL 2019

TIME: 10.00 AM

AT: ANZAC MEMORIAL GARDEN
MURCHISON SETTLEMENT

Followed by

10.30am

Smoko at the sports pavilion

11am

Proceed to the gravel pit 2kms west of Narryer boundary grid 'for spot the wild dog' testing at 50m, 100m and 200m. Please advise Sandy of your participation.

12 noon

BYO lunch at the gravel pit site

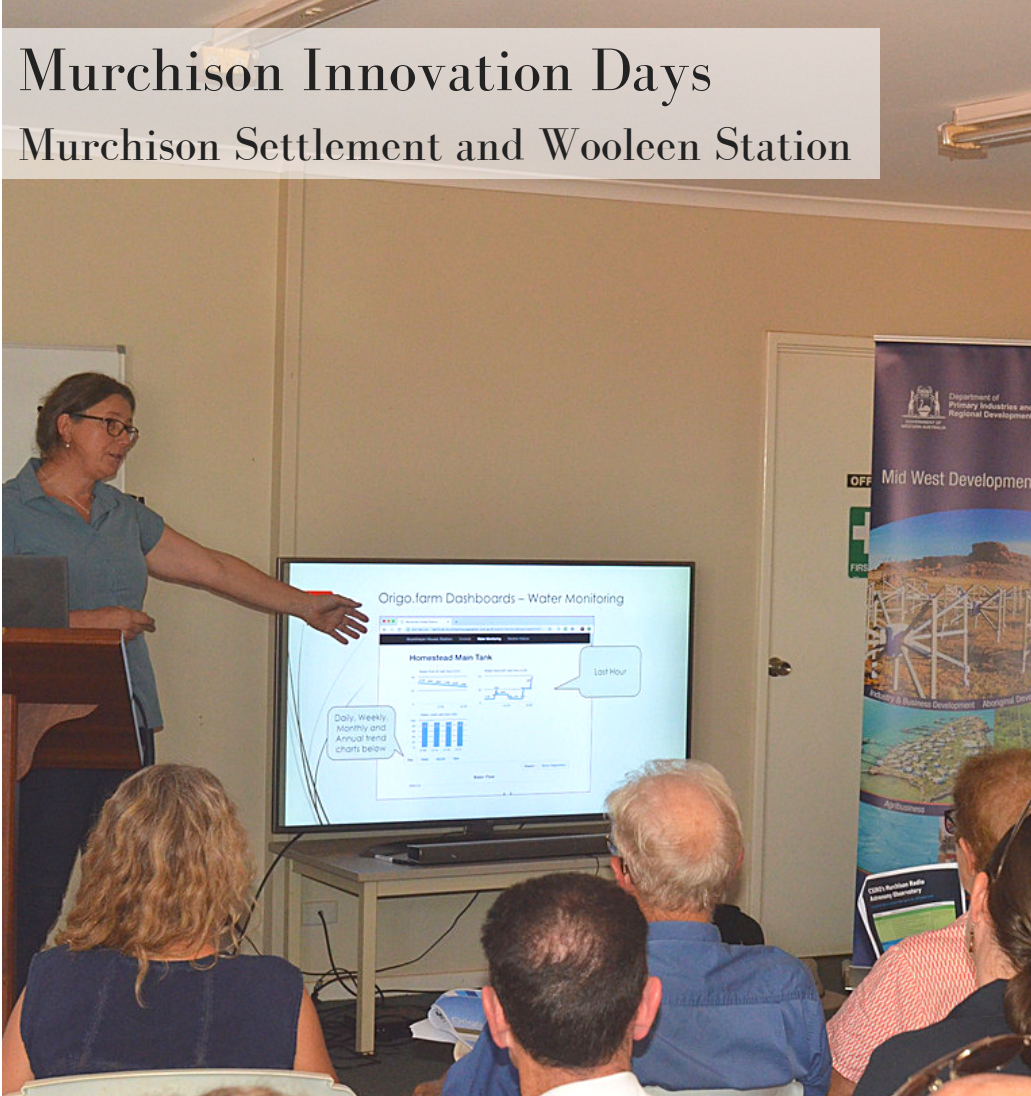
2pm

20 over cricket, tennis and bowls back at Murchison Settlement

Everyone is welcome to stay for a BBQ dinner. Meat will be supplied by the shire. Could each household please bring a salad to share. RSVP details are above.

Murchison Innovation Days

Murchison Settlement and Wooleen Station



Roast Pumpkin, Feta and Quinoa Salad

Provided by Vicki Dumbriis via the LGIS healthy intel newsletter.

Serves 4

Ingredients:

2 cups (400g) quinoa
1kg pumpkin, cut into wedges or cubes
2 tbsp olive oil
1 red onion, cut into wedges
1/4 cup (60ml) white wine vinegar
2 tsp caster sugar
1/3 cup chopped coriander leaves
1 x 400g can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
Marinated feta, crumbled, to serve

Method:

- 1.** Soak the quinoa in a saucepan with 3 cups (750ml) water for 15 minutes. Place the saucepan over high heat and bring to the boil. Reduce heat to low and cook, covered, for 15 minutes or until all the water is absorbed. Set aside.
- 2.** Preheat oven to 220°C. Place the pumpkin and half the oil on a baking tray and toss to coat. Roast for 10 minutes. Add the onion and roast for a further 10-15 minutes or until pumpkin is tender.
- 3.** Mix to combine the vinegar, sugar, coriander, chickpeas and quinoa. Top with roasted pumpkin and onion. Serve topped with feta.

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