

MURCHISON MONOLOGUE



Ivor and Mark loving the new Kenworth

SHIRE CONTACT DETAILS

OFFICE: 9963 7999

Fax: 9963 7966

Web: www.murchison.wa.gov.au

CEO: Bill Boehm

E | ceo@murchison.wa.gov.au

DCEO: Tatjana Erak

E | dceo@murchison.wa.gov.au

Admin/Finance: Racheal King

E | admin@murchison.wa.gov.au

Customer Service/Finance: Vicki Dumbris

E | finance@murchison.wa.gov.au

DEPOT: 9961 3805

Works Supervisor: William Herold

E | works@murchison.wa.gov.au

Technical Officer: Kaye Doyle

E | to@murchison.wa.com.au

ROADHOUSE: Pete & Nicole Mahony

Phone: 9961 3875

Fax: 9961 3876

E | murchisonoasis@westnet.com.au

MIDWEST FREIGHT: Mark Teal

Mobile: 0419 427 686

E | mwfreight@iinet.net.au

MEDICAL

Dr Nalini Rao

Mullewa Medical Centre

Thomas Street Mullewa

Phone: 9961 1063



If you have any articles, information about events or photos you wish to share with our readers, then please do not hesitate to contact us as we would love to include them. Contact

Editor: Emma Foulkes-Taylor

E | cr.efoulkes-taylor@murchison.wa.gov.au

From the Shire President's Desk.....

Hello All,

Firstly thank you to Emma who has made a commitment to put the Monologue together for the next year or so.

This early summer edition sees quite a bit of activity around various parts of the Shire with baiting runs, mustering programmes and a bit of contracting for some all seeming to be going on at the same time. I hope those that handled stock were rewarded with reasonable numbers turning up and that their condition was also pretty good.

I hope the lead up to what you might call the festive time of year is safe and enjoyable for all members of our community.

Rosco

News from the CEO's Desk.....

Hi All,

My first Monologue contribution since commencing at work and Christmas is nearly here so as a start I would like to take this opportunity to wish all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Kaye and I have now been here for a bit over 3 months and our positive impressions ahead of the appointment have, as we expected, been realised. We have settled in well and adapting to the vagaries of ordering groceries online, of being one of perhaps only 4 or 5 in the Settlement at any one time and being run off our feet with people visiting!!!

The Shire is fortunate to have a dedicated and committed set of Councillors who are well connected to the community, understand the history and heritage and contribute in many ways outside their formal roles. Council's very small staff team actively assist in a complementary fashion and punch well above their weight.

Outgoing CEO Peter Dittrich has left a very positive platform in which to build on. Acting CEO Eddie Piper, who is well-versed with local government operations through his long-standing career, was put in place and I was fortunate to have 2 weeks to "learn a little bit" ahead of my scheduled start.

Council's DCEO Rose Jones resigned in early July 2019 and Technical Services Administration Officer Vanessa Crisp in March 2019. Following Bernie Peril's resignation in May 2019 there has been a bit of a reshuffle:

Tatjana Erak (Tat) is now Acting DCEO

Vicki Dumbris is now Administration Officer

Stephanie Jefferies as casual Customer Service Support

Kaye Doyle now actively working with and no doubt pestering Will, Ryan and Stuart at the depot

Tatjana's former position has now just been filled by Racheal King from Geraldton.

We are also delighted to welcome Steph Jeffries and Brent Cowmeadow's little girl "Indianna Hazel" born 8.52am 8/11/19 weighing 2.144kg (4lb 11.63oz) into the Murchison Settlement. Many congratulations to our two members of staff. With Rachel also bringing two children, at last reckoning the Settlement population has swelled by 18%.

Office staff have been terrific during this period as we have been significantly under resourced and behind in several areas. Our works crew continues to work positively under Will's leadership and I sincerely thank all staff for their dedicated service to the Shire. To Plant Operator Greg Barr, who will finish at the end of 2019, and Bernie Peril we wish you well in your retirement.

Since starting there has been a lot of positive things happening but first the negative.

Damage to roads that were closed at the time, being the Carnarvon-Mullewa and Coolcalalaya West Roads. Council are a bit exasperated as whilst we can legally recover costs for damage to roads, whether closed or not, it's very difficult when a bit of common sense should have prevailed. The Carnarvon-Mullewa has been repaired a month or so ago and Coolcalalaya West Road will be repaired by Christmas.

Despite this, lots of good stuff:

My first-time conducting elections which led to and the returning unopposed of Cr's Rossco Foulkes-Taylor, (re-elected President) Andrew Whitmarsh and Quentin Fowler.

Extension of the Roadhouse Lease to Nicole and Pete Mahony. We often receive great positive feedback and the contribution to recent Sports Club events including this year's AFL Grand Final has been great.

Continued progress by Will's Works Crew regarding road maintenance and construction. We continue to receive positive feedback from many grey nomads and others on the positive quality work by our guys. The work of Stuart and Ryan around the Settlement often is overlooked but is well appreciated.

Successful progress in commencing the conversion of the Beringarra-Cue Road from a poor-quality seal to gravel.

Successful completion of Flood 5 works with the Jan 2019 Flood 6 event now having funding approved.

Advancing several positive projects as works in progress including improved validation of assets, new housing and upgrade and greening of the Settlement's power supply. Watch this space.

I would also like to thank Frances Jones for her assistance in preparing recent editions of the Monologue and for Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor for taking on the role of Editor.

Personally, Kaye and I continue to look forward to learning and contributing; but it's not really such a difficult a task to understand how special Murchison is.

I look forward to catching up at the Christmas Party as we look forward positively to 2020.

Ciao

Bill Boehm

Pushing up gravel- prep work we are doing on the top section of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road



NAT'S NEWS.....

The Landor AGM will be held at Byron Bain's place in Woorree on the 7th December at 11 Ryland Terrace. Please phone Lisa re catering 0427 223 824. Gymkhana meeting starts at 11am and the race meeting starts at 1pm.

We went up to Landor which is an annual tradition ...Tyler is 5th generation to attend...his great great grandfather was a founding member....planning for the 100 year celebration is underway for 2021 and, if you are thinking of going, you will need to book online as there will be a cut off number.... so first in best dressed!!

Cobb Fowler graduated from Morawa Ag...so out into the big wide world he goes.

Georgie Broad went over to QLD to celebrate Jasmine Williams (formally from Dalgety Downs) engagement where she caught up with Minna Keynes.

Simon has started a new job as yard manager at Coolina Holding yards where he is working for his wife and sister in law!!!!...so if you are sending cattle down ..you need to ring to book them in...Simon's number is 0499 003 680.

Simon and Nat had tea with 2 ex shire office people on Sat...Jenny Goodbourne and Samantha Appleton, at Sam's house where we found out Sam is the executive officer for Cue Parliament!! And Jenny has handed in her notice at Morawa and will be joining Irwin Shire in December.



Nat's pottery

Natalie Broad

Nat held a stall with well-known Geraldton artist Chris Bolton at the Dongara Hanging of the Quilts where Nat sold pottery and Chris sold hand-made journals and pieces of furniture which were covered in recycled blankets that had been beautifully embroidered...bus loads of quilters came from near and far....an interesting day.

Jack Hills mine has changed hands from Mitsubishi to Sino Steel. Some employees have already moved on to other jobs so there will be a new broom sweeping in new management!



Sam, Stuart and Tyler at Landor





SEASONAL HOURS

The Roadhouse Team would like to advise that our seasonal hours are now in effect through to 31st March 2020

Monday – Friday 7 am to 7 pm

Saturday 8 am to 6 pm

Sunday 9 am to 12 noon

Take-away phone orders are welcome, although must be placed 1 hour prior to closing times

Dine in orders must be placed 1½ hours prior to closing

Cash Fuel is available during trading hours unless previously arranged*

***Please contact Roadhouse for Guest Room service after/before trading hours**

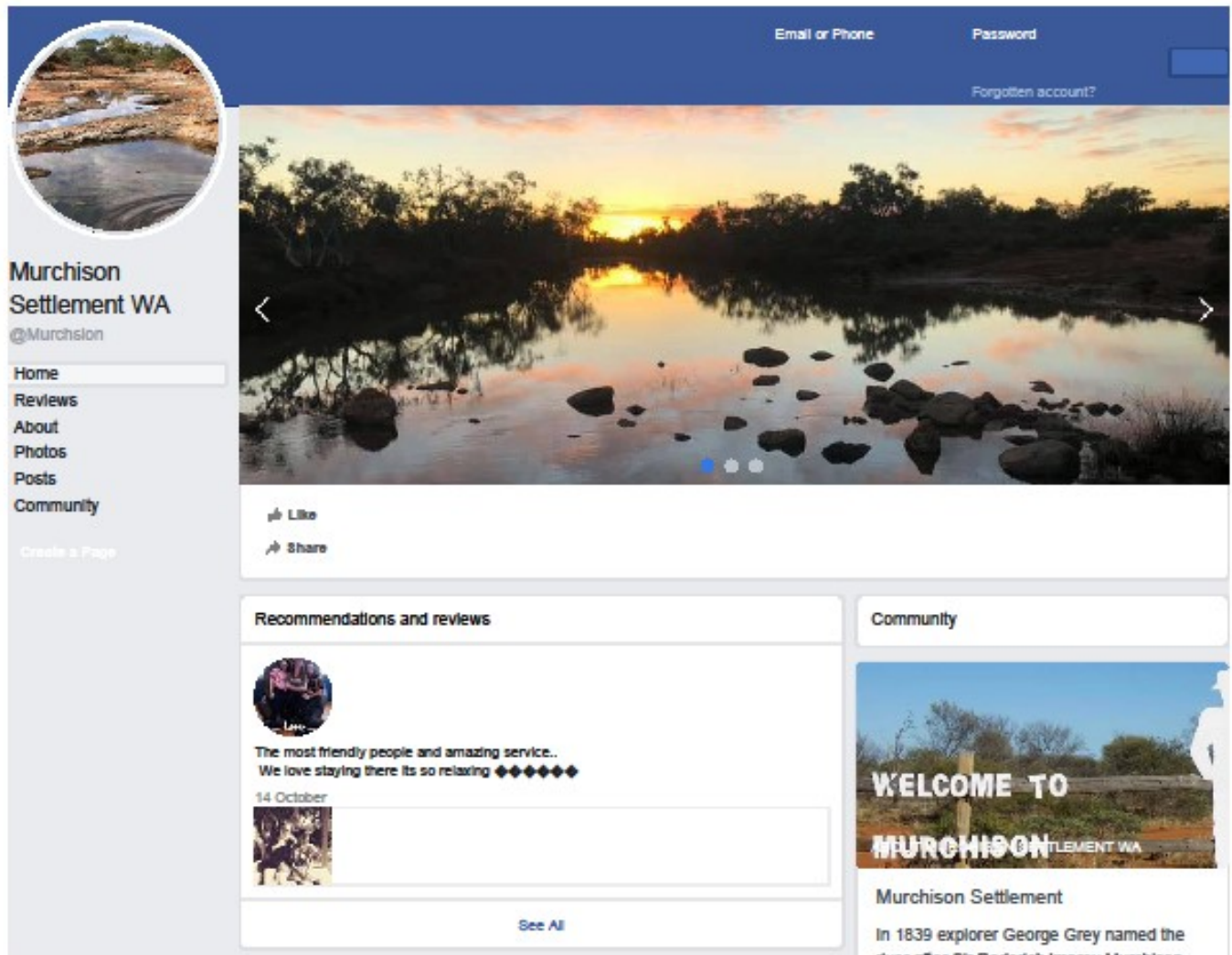
***This service is designed only for in-house guests with accommodation and meal requirements**

**Thank you –
Peter/Nicole and The Team.**

Murchison Now on Facebook

Sammy Walton has started a new Facebook page and invites you to 'like' it. Head to Facebook and search, "Murchison Settlement WA" and click on 'Like' to join.

Murchison Settlement WA - Home | Facebook



Murchison Settlement WA - Home | Facebook

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WELCOME TO MURCHISON SETTLEMENT WA

Murchison Settlement

In 1839 explorer George Grey named the river after Sir Rufusden Impey Murchison

See more of Murchison Settlement WA on Facebook

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www.murchison.wa.gov.au

Community

Page transparency See more

Facebook is showing information to help you better understand the purpose of a Page. See actions taken by the people who manage and post content.

Pastoral specialist joins team

THE Rural Financial Counselling Service of WA (RFCSWA) has welcomed on board a pastoral specialist as part of its rural financial counselling team.

WA's pastoral industry is a unique sector and it has faced challenging conditions in recent seasons. For that reason, this new Rural Financial Counsellor will focus solely on the pastoral industry — but he's actually not that new.

John Dymond had only recently retired from the RFCSWA but jumped at the chance to return when he was offered the opportunity to work with pastoralists and their communities.

He rejoined the RFCSWA team in June and has spent the past couple of months on the road, meeting people across the southern rangelands.

John's keen interest in the industry can be traced back to his first stint of on-farm work experience in the 1970s at a station just outside of Sandstone.

"I came from a grazing property in New Zealand, so it was a big eye opener — just to see the scale and understand how a grazing property like that operated," he said.

John spent more than 30 years teaching farm management at Muresk, including the arid land management course.

"It was a great unit, but it was also a really good excuse to take students on a tour through the rangelands and I got just as much out of it as they did," he said.

John has urged pastoralists and small businesses to get in touch with the RFCSWA if they



CLIENT STORY

Poor seasons and rising debt are situations that many Rural Financial Counselling Service of WA clients are familiar with and have worked with a Rural Financial Counsellor to successfully navigate.

South East farmers Jim and Jenny were hit by five years of drought, followed by two below-average seasons.

The poor seasons saw their business chew through its cash reserves, resulting in pressure from the bank to reduce debt.

Their Rural Financial Counsellor was able

to negotiate with their bank and explain the need for ongoing finance to run the business until a more permanent debt resolution could be organised.

"Just knowing that you can pick up the phone and there is somebody there that you feel comfortable with and you can talk to, that's one of the biggest helps," the couple said. "We can see our way clear now, to doing what we want to do with our future."

You can watch Jim and Jenny's story at: <https://www.facebook.com/rfcsww/videos/2104208809828382/>

have been feeling the financial pinch of poor seasons.

"I'm happy to come and visit anyone who would like to discuss their position," he said. "Rural Financial Counsellors can help to define your financial position and work with you to find options to deal with challenges."

The RFCSWA, which is funded by the State and Federal governments, is a not-for-profit organisation that provides free and confidential financial counselling to primary producers and regional small businesses.

To contact the RFCSWA, please freecall 1800 612 004 or visit www.rfcsww.com.au.

The Rural Financial Counselling Service of WA helps pastoralists, farmers and related small businesses. The service is free, confidential and independent.

HOW CAN THE RFCSWA HELP?

- » Review the financial position and structure of the business.
- » Identify solutions and plot a course forward.
- » Explore options to strengthen the business.
- » Negotiate with banks or other lenders and review loans.
- » Counsellors visit you at home or meet you at an agreed location.



For information, freecall 1800 612 004, find us on Facebook or go to www.rfcsww.com.au.

BABY
GIRL

Welcome Indianna Hazel



Congratulations Steph Jeffries and Brent Cowmeadow on the arrival of Indianna Hazel, born at 36weeks on the 8/11/19, weighing 2.14kg/4lbs 11.63oz. Indianna is having an extended stay at King Eddie's hospital until she's right to come home to Murchison. Steph said, "She melts our hearts daily!"



If you would like an emailed copy of this drone photo of the Murchison Settlement please contact Emma by email– details pg 2



Have Your Say on the Future Drought Fund

5 November 2019

- **Independent Committee's planned public consultations begin this week**
- **Meetings across Australia**
- **Opportunity to participate in person or online**

The Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee's public consultations across Australia have begun.

The committee has provided the government with their plan for drought resilience through the fund but must now consult the community as part of the process legislated by the government. The allocation of funds for projects and activities will be guided by the resulting Drought Resilience Funding Plan.

Federal Member for Durack Melissa Price is urging all farmers and pastoralists to have their say.

"This is an important opportunity for future planning for the Federal government to support Agriculture across Durack," Ms Price said.

"There is an option to book a meeting with the committee in Merredin next Tuesday November 12. However I appreciate that many people in Durack are now busy with the annual grain harvest or summer stock care so you can have your input online," she said.

The Consultative Committee is particularly interested in hearing from farmers, local communities and industry organisations.

Minister for Drought David Littleproud said the consultations will help inform the Committee on the best ways for the Future Drought Fund to invest in drought resilience.

"The Fund will provide \$100 million each year from 1 July 2020 for projects that enhance our preparations and responses to drought," Minister Littleproud said.

To have your say on the draft Drought Resilience Funding Plan, go to the **Have Your Say: Future Drought Fund** website. Register at <https://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/future-drought-fund> to attend a public consultation event with the Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee

Ends:

Media contact: Rose Crane 0427 587 395; Rosemea.Crane@aph.gov.au

Carnarvon CRBA Seeks Committee Members From Murchison

The Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association (CRBA) is a not for profit that assists pastoralists around the Gascoyne, including those within the Murchison Shire, with feral animal and declared plant control. The primary purpose of the CRBA is to "aid" in the control of these declared pests utilising funding from the Declared Pest Rates paid by landholders on pastoral stations. These funds are matched dollar for dollar by the WA State Government. The area the CRBA covers is well beyond the scope of funds it has access to, and therefore it is important to have input into key hotspot areas/properties that need addressing. Please let me emphasise the financial constraints and limitations on manpower to be able to provide an extended number of days to each property. The committee is diligent in ensuring areas are serviced .

The CRBA Committee is made up of volunteers, with numerous other volunteer roles required to run the group. We aim to have a mix of committee members and volunteers from within each shire region. Currently Sandy McTaggart, who has sat on the committee since 2014, is the only representative from the Murchison. Andrew Whitmarsh and Greydon Mead each hold two volunteer roles, being bait rack and LPMT co-ordinators.

With this in mind the CRBA asks pastoralists within the Murchison Shire to put their hand up to become members of the committee. This is important to ensure we are servicing the area as ratepayers expect, within budgetary constraints. Meetings occur face to face approximately twice per year, with phone meetings as required. The time commitment is minimal, however your input is very much needed and appreciated.

The CRBA Executive will be requiring a change; 1) due to term expiry, 2) fresh ideas to keep the dream alive and 3) Constitutional change requirements.

If you would like more information or to put your name forward, please contact the CRBA Executive Officer Krystie Bremer on 0417 183 705 or crba_eo@iinet.net.au

Justin Steadman
Chairperson, CRBA



Panforte di Siena

(Recipe from Australian Women's Weekly Italian Cooking circa 1988)

Panforte, or Siena Cake, is one of my favourite Christmas treats and it makes a wonderful gift. I came across this recipe at a family wedding recently and thought it was delicious. As it turns out, I already had the recipe in my old Women's Weekly Italian Cookbook! This version of panforte is a bit simpler (and cheaper) to make than some but I think the balance of spice, fruit and nuts is really good. I particularly like the inclusion of dried apricots. I think I will add some glace ginger when I make it because I LOVE ginger!

Ingredients

125g blanched whole almonds	2 tablespoons cocoa
125g roasted hazelnuts	1 teaspoon cinnamon
60g glace pineapple	60g dark chocolate
60g glace apricots	1/3 cup sugar
60g mixed peel	½ cup honey
2/3 cup plain flour	

Method

Grease and line the base and sides of a 20cm (8 in) round cake tin with baking paper (sandwich sponge tin is perfect and not too deep). Or you can divide mixture and make 2 or 3 smaller cakes.

Spread almonds on a tray and roast in a moderate oven until lightly golden (approx. 5-7 mins). Once cool to handle, chop the almonds and hazelnuts roughly and combine in a large bowl with the chopped glace fruits, mixed peel, sifted flour and cocoa, and cinnamon. Mix well to coat the fruit and nuts.

Melt chocolate gently in the microwave or over a double boiler. Place sugar and honey in a separate saucepan and heat and stir over a low heat until sugar has dissolved. Bring to the boil and reduce to a simmer, uncovered, for 5 mins. **Be careful as this mixture can boil over and be very hot.**

Combine melted chocolate and sugar mix with flour and fruit. Mix well and quickly as the mixture will start to set. Spread mixture quickly and evenly into the prepared tin.

Bake in a moderately slow oven for approx. 35 mins. Remove from oven and cool in tin.

Once cake is completely cool, take out from the tin and wrap in cling film and aluminium foil. For gifting you can wrap it in brown paper and tie with string for an authentic look. Dust with icing sugar before serving if desired. It will keep unrefrigerated for several weeks.





You are invited

to the

Murchison Christmas Tree

At 4.30pm, Saturday 14th Dec

at

the Sports Club



As per last year the Council Meeting is to be held on that day followed by a Fire Brigade meeting at 3.30pm in Council Chambers after which will be the opening of the New Fire Brigade Shed!

Ham, chicken, seafood, bread and dessert will be provided.

Please bring a salad or vegetable dish per family to share

For catering purposes can you please RSVP to Vicky at finance@murchison.wa.gov.au with approximate numbers.

*Merry
Christmas*

