

Murchison

VOLUME 42 | EDITION 3

September

2021

Monologue



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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Editor's Message

Hello Everyone,

It is so good to head into summer with a Shire-wide good season under our collective belts! I am trying to absorb the season into my bones and fill my cup in preparation for however long it will be before we have another one like this.

There are a few dates to pop in your diaries as you read through this edition, and I hope you are able to attend a few of the community events lined up. Before you know it we will be sharing another Christmas Tree- I cannot believe how fast this is approaching!

As always, if you have any contributions to the next Monologue please send them through to Steven at cm@murchison.wa.gov.au

Until next time.....*Emma*

CEO's Desk

The past month has been extremely busy including: the finalisation of the 2021/22 budget, 2019/20 Financial Report and Annual Report and 2021 Murchison Settlement Masterplan.

Budget

A copy of the Budget Snapshot is included but, as always, look on the Council's website for more details. There is a continuation of last year's ambitious economic stimulus program, now assisted with over \$2.0m in Commonwealth Grants. Roads are a key feature but also water, power and economic development generally.

Annual Electors Meeting

Delays in finalising the financial report component of the Annual Report. were due to lack of resources locally and

also pressure and time commitments placed on external auditors. This is the sole reason for delays in the Annual Electors which can now be legally held.

This is scheduled for the next Council Meeting Day and, as always, the meeting includes a generous time allowance for general business.



ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

The Annual Meeting of Electors of the Shire of Murchison will be held at

3:00pm on Thursday 23 September 2021

at the Murchison Community Centre,
Murchison Settlement.

Business

- 1 Consideration of the 2019-20 Annual Report
- 2 General Business

A copy of the Annual Report is available on the Shire's website.

Settlement Masterplan

For those that haven't yet seen the Murchison Settlement Masterplan, later in this issue there are a few brief "tid bits" on what things "might" look like.

This year we have a new Ablution Block for the Caravan Park to do plus a transfer to reserves of a financial sum for other future projects that need some detailed scoping and refinement.

Feedback has been very supportive with Council deciding to include comments received as an attachment to the adopted report.

Ciao

Bill Boehm

Henry Foulkes-Taylor 2021 Mid-West Rural Ambassador

Congratulations Henry Foulkes-Taylor named winner of the 2021 Mid-West Rural Ambassador Award!



Henry Foulkes-Taylor

He will go on to represent the region at the Perth Royal Show. More than 100 people gathered at Nabawa Community Centre on Saturday night as the Chapman Valley Agricultural Society hosted the awards, which recognise young rural leaders who have a passion for living and working in their communities.

Full article in *The Guardian* August 6, 2021.

"CHIRPY" - The "I Wonder Bird"

We first met Chirpy when Nick and I came to Murchison to check it out and see if we would like to work here and become a part of this settlement.

Chirpy is a friendly little guy, part cockatiel, part pink and grey, part corella and anyone's guess after that. With his little bald head and spots of wispiess, it's a bit hard to tell. He is allowed to look wispy, after all he is 70+ years, who doesn't??



Walking into the back of his "digs" was a creepy experience. A couple of stacks of old wooden drawers, several massive tyres, and a discarded motor bike, all

dripping in dust and cobwebs, where on the floor I was surrounded by dismembered vermin. It reminded me of that scene from the Charles Dickens novel, Great Expectations and Miss Havisham's dining room. After feeding him, I started wondering about the dismembered bodies. Was there a "Killer Razorback Rat" at large or maybe Chirpy the (I) wonder bird. "Hmmm!!" Food for thought.

Time will tell I suppose, but for now, I choose to run with the "Killer Razorback Rat" for I don't really want to think that a 70+ year old bird, with a vocabulary of "Hello" and "See Ya" would be capable of such a thing.

"Pixie"

That's 'a Wrap

After the successful launch of series one of **1 MAN & A BIKE** televised on Channel 7 in late 2020, Visage Productions have wrapped up filming series two for broadcast later this year. In the first series they travelled WA's Goldfields, the Midwest, the Central West and the Wheatbelt.



Series Two of '1 Man & A Bike' will provide a specific branding and marketing opportunity for the Murchison.

While the Murchison region is mostly considered a transit point for travellers enroute to farther destinations, it encompasses a wide geographical, socio-economic, and cultural context which, for tourism purposes, sits under the umbrella of geo-tourism.

The crew arrived at Yuin Station where they were introduced to Shire President Rosco Foulkes-Taylor. They discussed the exciting opportunity to be working with CSIRO and what the impressive SKA Project brings to the region.



Ian Blackley and Shire President Rosco Foulkes-Taylor at Yuin Station

The next stop was the beautiful tourist attraction Wooleen Station that represents the very heart and soul of Australia's outback. They were met by long-time resident Frances Pollock who was delighted to share her story before enjoying a sunset tour of the oldest lands in the world.



Ian Blackley and Frances Pollock at Wooleen Station

After visiting the stations, the crew headed off to Errabiddy Bluff, followed by a relaxing evening at the Roadhouse where Nick and Pixie shared some exciting stories.



Errabiddy Bluff, Murchison WA

The series will now attract tourism to the Shire while boosting the socio-economic and cultural enrichment and regeneration for the Settlement and the broader region.



Ian Blackley and Roadhouse Manager Pixie

Virtual Family and Domestic Violence Support Extends to the Murchison



Specialist regional domestic violence organisation DVassist is set to extend its support services to Murchison from September this year.

It means people living in the Shire will have access to a domestic violence telephone helpline and webchat staffed by qualified counsellors with experience in regional, rural, and remote communities.

DVassist's website and online information hub will also be updated with geographically relevant domestic violence support services and resources which can be searched via location.

Expansion of the service to Murchison for the next 12 months has been made possible through the NAB Foundation Community Grants program which supports local projects that help communities prepare for natural disasters, support long term recovery and building resilience against future disasters.

NAB State Business Banking Executive WA, Jeff Pontifex, said with more Australians being impacted by natural disasters, it's vital that local support is available to help communities before, during and after a natural disaster.

As a bank, we know we have a vital role to play to support our customers and local communities when they are impacted by natural disasters. Through the NAB Foundation Community Grant program, we're providing funding to local projects that help communities better prepare for natural disasters and assist in their long-term recovery. That's why we're getting behind DVassist to support them as they extend their vital services to more West Australians."

DVassist Chief Executive Officer, Esther Schwald said up until now the non-profit organisation had only been able to service 16 regional pilot areas in Western Australia.

"But we need to extend our support and communities at risk of natural disasters are a priority as they have added challenges and pressures which can compound relationship violence," she said.

"We are extraordinarily grateful that NAB Foundation has recognised the critical need to support us as we extend our services to some of the smaller and more remote towns where people can be socially isolated, physically distant from services and live in fear of stigma or retribution."

Ms Schwald said as a virtual service DVassist can provide confidential and anonymous help to people living in Murchison without compromising safety or privacy.

"Whether it's you or someone you love who's experiencing family or domestic violence, we can talk to you no matter where you are or what you are doing."

DVassist's helpline and web chat is available Monday to Friday, 10am to 10pm

Free-call 1800 080 083 or visit dvassist.org.au

Council Works

Maintenance

Maintenance grading heading south on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd as far as the Settlement. Work has started on Butchers Track. The crew's next move will be onto the Beringarra-Pindar Rd, starting at Pindar and working North.

Construction

The Construction Crew are moving along at a remarkably good pace and by the end of the month should have laid

out around 8 km of pavement on the Carnarvon Mullewa Road. A start should also have been made on the Pinegrove corner re-alignment with a new grid being installed. Sealing works are planned for around November.

These works are part of Council's adopted 3 year rolling construction program, a portion of which is shown below.

Murchison Shire - Portion of a 3 Year Rolling Road Construction Program Section on Carnarvon -Mullewa Road

Year	2022	2023	2023	2024	2022	2022	2021	2022	2021	2021	2024	2021
SLK Start	241.74	245.04	248.34	251.22	254.10	257.40	261.91	266.00	266.52	269.70	270.35	271.50
SLK End	245.04	248.34	251.22	254.10	257.40	261.91	266.00	266.52	269.70	270.35	271.70	278.83
Length km	3.30	3.30	2.88	2.88	3.30	4.51	4.09	0.52	3.18	0.65	1.15	7.33
Funding	Council Main Roads WA	Council LRCIP Phase 3	Council Main Roads WA	Council Main Roads WA	Council LRCIP Phase 2	Council LRCIP Phase 2	Council LRCIP Phase 1		Council LRCIP Phase 1			Council Main Roads WA LRCIP Phase 1
Type	Hills Section Gravel to Seal						Seal					

Notes LRCIP Phase 3 Funding to be used to supplement all projects within Gravel to Seal Section



Council Meeting Notes

A full account of Council's formal actions is shown on Council's website <https://www.murchison.wa.gov.au>

Meanwhile below is a few brief actions from the 31 August 2021 meeting not otherwise highlighted elsewhere.

- ~ Councillors received a Zoom Presentation with an update of the SKAO Project from Antony Schinckel (SKAO), Rebecca Wheadon (CSIRO) and Geoffrey King (CSIRO) prior to the meeting
- ~ Council's Audit Committee, who oversee various financial and governance actions, presented their

report on the 2019/20 financials and also various matters arising. This included comparisons with other Shires.

- ~ Presentation of progress on Elected Member Essentials Training undertaken by all councillors.
- ~ Agreement to authorise the CEO to extend the current Freight Services Contract for 12 months subject to terms of a mutually agreeable contract.
- ~ Agreed to enter into negotiations with Main Roads WA for the Shire to manage construction and maintenance of the SKA Access Route within the district.

Murchison Oasis Roadhouse Happenings

Nick and Pixie are doing an amazing job with the Roadhouse, and word on the street is that people are making their plans around coming here just to eat at the Roadhouse...With travellers coming from Carnarvon just to try Nick's Hamburger ... and I can tell you from experience "It's Worth It!"

The Perth Adventure Riders were back in town again this week as well as many others...Pixie also gave a glowing interview for the 1 Man & Bike series which is featured in this edition but you will need to tune in to Channel 7 in December to see the new episode ...for a Shire without a town...there is never a dull moment.

Works

Upgrade Works undertaken over the past month include installation of irrigation to Caravan Park and construction of a new veranda to new 3 Bay staff / contractor units.



3 Bay staff / contractor units Before



3 bay staff / contractor units After

Council Elections



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION RESULTS

Following the close of nominations for the Saturday 16 October 2021 Local Government Elections, candidates for the vacancies on the Council of the Local Governments listed below have been elected unopposed. It is therefore advised that the following persons are elected to the office of councillor, until the date set out next to the person's name.

SHIRE OF MURCHISON

3007 Carnarvon-Mullewa Road, Murchison 6630

RETURNING OFFICER: Bill Boehm

TEL: 9963 7999

EMAIL: ceo@murchison.wa.gov.au

Offices Elected Unopposed Terms of Office:

DISTRICT

FOULKES-TAYLOR, Emma 18 October 2025

FOWLER, Shelly 18 October 2025

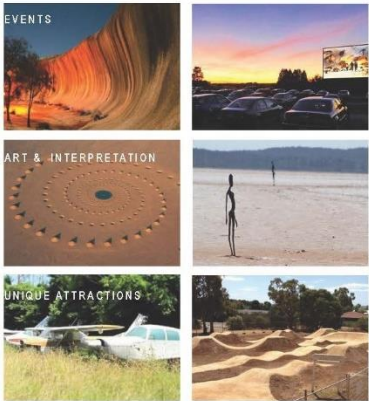
One vacancy 4 year term

Murchison Settlement Masterplan Tid Bits

By directly responding to improvement opportunities identified in 1.5 and the vision statement and design principals in 1.7, the Settlement masterplan provides a framework for the future development of the Murchison site. These proposed changes are intended to revitalise the Settlement and provide amenity for the visitors and community, while promoting longer stays and job opportunities.



2.9 OTHER OPPORTUNITIES



Introduction

Under the current COVID-19 Response arrangements there has been a significant amount of emphasis by the State and Commonwealth Governments to advance maintenance and capital spending on projects that benefit the community during the COVID-19 Pandemic. In March 2020 Council resolved to support this approach in principle but obviously this will be carried out in a financially responsible manner.

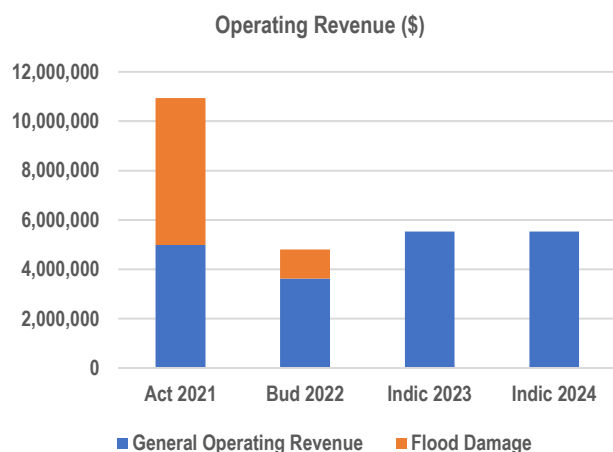
Additional Government specific COVID-19 inputs included allocations from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP). Phase 1 - \$602,446 completed by 30 June 2021, Phase 2 - \$405,889 to be completed by 31 December 2021 and, Phase 3 - \$1,204,892 to be completed by 30 June 2023. Council also added to these amounts

3-Year Indicative Budget Approach

Budgets are set and delivered on an annual basis. In reality works and services are delivered on a continuous basis with the financial year merely a point in time. In the current COVID-19 environment it is also considered prudent to at least look at the situation of at least a 3-year period, given the anticipated changes in an abnormal environment. Part of the 2021/22 budget processes therefore involved examining such a 3-Year indicative budget. The Budget Reserves Net Current Assets Summary Graph at the end of this summary highlights this 3-year approach.

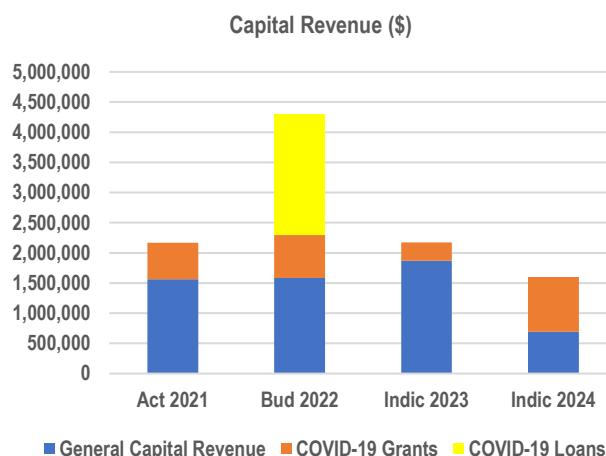
Operating Revenue

A summary of operating revenue is show below. Revenue associated with Flood Damage Repairs tend to significantly impact on Councils normal level of operations. At this stage the 2021/22 Budget has not included any revenue for rainfall events in the early part of 2021 which have been declared but actual amounts not yet known



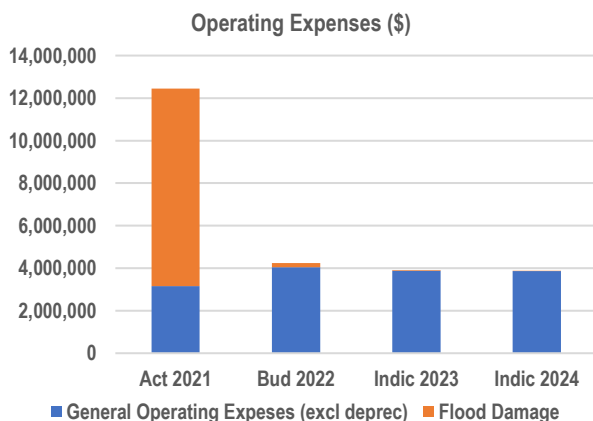
Capital Revenue

Elevated levels in 2021 to 2024 are as a result of additional government grants and Council loan related to COVID-19 related stimulus measures.



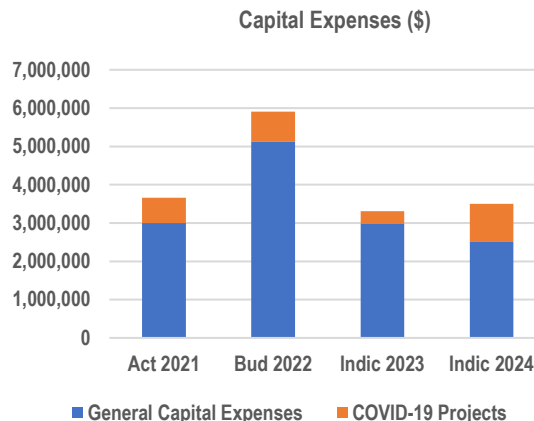
Operating Expenses

As shown although substantially funded, expenses associated with Flood Damage Repairs tend to significantly impact on Councils normal level of operations.



Capital Expenses

As shown elevated levels in 2021 to 2024 are mainly due to COVID-19 related stimulus measures



Rates

Budgeted rate revenue of \$532,000 is to be derived via the following differentials as approved by the Minster for Local Government.

Differential Rate Type	Rate in dollar cents	Min Payment (\$)
UV Pastoral	3.874	600
UV Mining	26.543	600
UV Exploration	9.618	600

Plant Replacement

Plant to be replaced includes scheduled replacement of an Isuzu 5 Tonne Truck plus a 2nd hand grid roller, tractor, flat deck and dolly. Total Gross Cost **\$455,000**.

Settlement Works

Council has finalised the 2021 Settlement Masterplan Report which includes a separate list of capital works projects as listed below in around the Murchison Settlement.

These projects identified below are listed in no priority order. Once detailed scoping and design has been completed and then works prioritised it is expected Council will work through the final priority list until the funding runs out.

A budget allocation amount of **\$1.30m** has been transferred into Reserves. Proj F is to proceed in 2021/22. Proj K is to be developed and scoped with additional funding to be sought.

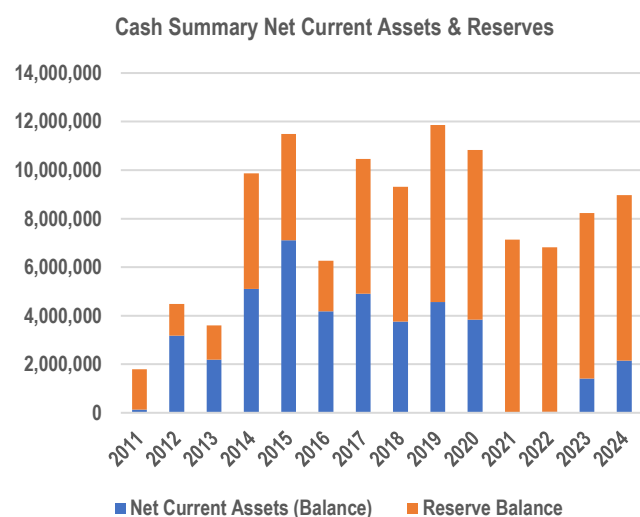
PROJ A	Transportable Classroom
PROJ D	Community / Sports Centre Upgrade
PROJ E	Community Swimming Pool / Splash Pad
PROJ F	New -Caravan Park Ablution Block
PROJ H	New -Caravan Park 2 Ensuite Units
PROJ I	General Settlement Amenity Improvements
PROJ J	Playground Upgrade
PROJ K	Interpretive Centre

Loans

Budget provides for a roadworks loan of \$2.0m, and Solar Power loan of \$0.75m. Both were a carryover items from 2020/21. Loan repayments for the Solar Power Loan are anticipated to be substantially recovered through reduced diesel operating costs at the Murchison Powerhouse.

Budget Reserves Net Current Assets Summary

The following Budget Cash Summary is a graphical representation of the summary of our Reserves (Restricted Cash) and Net Current Assets (Unrestricted Cash)



Capital Works

The 2021/22 budget includes the following Capital Works in \$.

Job	Description	Budget 2022
Administration		
	Council Meeting Tables	15,000
	Library Floor Upgrade	11,000
	Purchase Furniture & Equipment - Admin	10,000
	Administration Vehicles	70,000
Housing		
	Renovation 6 Kurara Way	95,000
Refuse Removal Tip sites & Sewerage		
	Tip Site Development Works	50,000
Town Planning & Other Community Amenities		
	Niche Wall for Settlement Cemetery	30,000
Construction Roads Footpaths Drains Bridges Depot		
	Road Sealing Program	171,839
	Carnarvon Mullewa Road SLK 254.10 to SLK 257.40 Reconstruct Resheet Prep & Seal	278,667
	Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd SLK 0.0 Bilung Creek Crossing Reconstruction	690,000
	LRCIP Phase 2 Works	405,889
	LRCIP Phase 3 Works	301,223
	Beringarra-Cue Rd - Convert to Gravel	767,188
	Grids General	140,000
	Purchase Buildings & Imp - Roads, Bridges, Depot	15,000
Road Plant Purchases		
	Purchase Major Plant & Equipment - Road Plant Purchases	455,000
Airport		
	Airport Taxiway Turnaround Flood Lighting	38,120
	Airport Lighting Upgrade - Own Source Funds	15,000
Other Economic Services		
	Provision of Solar Power	900,000
	Improvements To drinking Water reticulation	200,000
	Roadhouse Cool room/Freezer Room Combination	34,987
	Point of Sale System Roadhouse	22,000
	Washing Machines	7,500
	New Caravan Park Ablution Block	350,000
	New verandah three Accommodation Units	27,500
	Roadhouse Business Works	29,652
	Total Capital Works	5,130,565

Summary

Overall, Council aims to responsibly provide a positive COVID-19 Response Budget and still retain the Murchison Shire and Settlement in a sound long-term sustainable position.

Further Information

Please check Councils Website <https://www.murchison.wa.gov.au/> for further details of the Budget.

Upcoming Community Events

Shinema Bus & Live Band "Fresh and Salty"



Council is pleased to present another exciting opportunity for the community to get together and enjoy a night under the stars.

5pm starts the evening with live music so people can chat, eat, listen to music and mingle...

By nightfall there will be a series of short movies for 30 mins with a chance to grab your popcorn before the feature presentation....'**The Furnace**'

Live music from 3 piece band '**Fresh & Salty**'

A big thank you to the



Chapman Valley Menshed are heading this way and bringing the **Shinema Bus** to the Murchison.

Astro Rocks Fest

Go For 2 and 5 Children's Week

Children's Week is an annual national event held during the fourth week of October across Australia. In WA, this week is dedicated to celebrating children across our state and highlighting their right to happiness. It is an opportunity for the community to engage in a variety of activities that facilitate, support and encourage children and their families to celebrate, play and discover together. The event will include a children's healthy lunch that will be followed by a fun Character Party (2hrs).

The Character Party includes face painting, and a range of interactive musical games, treasure hunt, parachute games, magic show, balloon games and more with the character of the Shire's choice.

The entertainer will use the stars and galaxy as a theme for the party and will bring the music, slap band prizes, stickers, and everything else needed for the entertainment. I hear there will be an Astronaut in attendance!

After the Character Party, there will be opportunity for a CSIRO representative to chat to the kids and adults, updating them on the SKA project and how its developing while they take turns stargazing using the telescope.



STAR LIGHT-STAR BRIGHT

Go For 2 and 5 Children's Week



Join us at the Murchison Settlement on the 26th October 2021 for a family fun afternoon!

Children, mums, dads, and family members are invited to join in an afternoon of fun, celebrating Children's week.

Commencing at 3pm, the Shire of Murchison and CSIRO are proudly sponsoring an afternoon and evening of celebrations, where children can connect, attend a themed party, eat a delicious and healthy dinner and spend an evening of cool activities and star gazing, teaching children about the wonderment of the moon and stars in our night skies.



Kindergarten Enrolments 2022



The Meekatharra Outback Festival is an annual event held in the town of Meekatharra. The annual event is held over the Queen's Birthday long weekend each year. The weekend consists of Races, Outback Ball, Art Exhibition and a Side Show complete with rides, food vans and much more.

The 2021 event held on the 24th, 25th and 26th of September will host a Las Vegas Ball, Races and Side Show. Click [here](#) for the 2021 brochure.

For more information on the event keep up to date with the Meeka Outback Festival on the Shire's [Facebook Page](#) or contact the Shire on 9980 0600.

Mid West Murdoch Vet Program Schedule

Below is the itinerary for the upcoming Murdoch Sterilization Vet Program.

Sunday 17 October	Travel to Cue
Monday 18 October	Surgery Cue all day pack up. Stay in Cue Monday night.
Tuesday 19 Wednesday 20 October	Travel to Mount Magnet and perform surgeries. Tue/Wed. Stay Wednesday night
Thursday 21 Friday 22 October	Travel Yalgoo Thursday morning. Surgery Thursday and half a day Friday. Leave Yalgoo around 1:00pm and head to Murchison Via Mullewa. Arrive Murchison for Friday night.
Saturday 23 October	Travel to Pia Wajarri Aboriginal Community for surgeries. All day. Travel back to Murchison for Saturday night.
Sunday 24 October	Surgeries and pet checks in Murchison Settlement. If no surgeries, planning to depart approx. 1:00pm and travel to Gascoyne Junction for the night.
Monday 25 October	Surgeries in Gascoyne Junction all day
Tuesday 26 October	Travel Burringurrah surgeries

Landor Races 2021

Program of Main Events

For full list of events visit landor.net.au/program-of-events/

Friday 1st

6:30pm - 8:00pm
8:30pm
10:30pm

Childrens Party - 1920's Theme
Calcutta - Ladies Bracelet
Music & dancing with band Leather & Lace & DJ Rev on the decks

Saturday 2nd

9:00am
11:00am
1:20pm
9:00pm
11:00pm

\$1000 Barrel Race time trial
Bar opens
Ladies Day with 1920s theme Fashions on the Field
Outback Ball, 1920s theme
Mr Mulga & Miniritchie Rose announced

Sunday 3rd

8:30am
1:00pm
5:00pm
8:00pm
9:30pm
10:30pm

Gymkhana – 14 & Under girls & boys, 10 & under, lead-ons
Gymkhana – Ladies & Gents
Tug-of-War and desert dash, open to all
Bar opens
Calcutta – Elders Landor Cup
Music & Dancing with band Leather & Lace and DJ Rev

Monday 4th

12:00pm
12:35pm
2:00pm
8:00pm

Bar Opens
Elders Landor Cup with Traditional Fashions on the Field
Final of the \$1000 Barrel Race
Bar opens, two up, music & dancing

Celebrating One Hundred Years of the Landor Races Event

Landor Races are celebrating 100 years as a club at the annual race meeting, to be held on the weekend starting Friday 1st October to Monday the 4th October 2021

The weekend will kick off at the Thursday evening sausage sizzle with the Spirit of Landor front bar, entertainment and the Landor book launch.

Friday kicks off with the kids' party in the hall, followed by the Calcutta in the hall then the night's real entertainment gets underway with music from Leather and Lace.

Saturday starts with casual morning market stalls, followed by the Ladies Day at the races with a 1920's theme. Saturday's Fashion on the Field will be open to any Bearcat fitting the 1920s dress code.

Ball on Saturday night will be a 1920s theme.

Sunday is a full day's entertainment, with a gymkhana followed by the mighty tug -o- war

Monday is another full day of racing including the Elders Landor Cup.

Please keep up to date, with program details on our website landor.net.au or follow our Facebook page.

NO TICKETS AVAILABLE AT GATE

Safe and Sound Program

Are you concerned about a loved one or person in your care going missing?

There may be important pieces of information you are able to provide Police in the event that you or the person you are caring for has gone missing.



This information takes valuable time to collect, time better spent searching.

For less than \$1 per week, **Safe & Found** helps you plan ahead by storing a detailed profile of the missing person, to be accessed by Police in an emergency. Purchase your Safe & Found ID bracelet to wear to help with a safe return home.

As a joint initiative of WA Police Force and Australia Medic Alert Foundation you have peace of mind that your information is stored safely and accessed quickly.

Safe & Found WA is a joint initiative of:



For more information:
Visit safeandfound.org.au
Call 1800 88 22 22



Shire Contact Details

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MIDWEST FREIGHT: Mark Teal

Mobile: 0419 427 686

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MEDICAL

Dr Nalini Rao

Mullewa Medical Centre

Thomas Street Mullewa

Phone: 9961 1063



Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.



murchisonshire

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