

# Murchison

VOLUME 42 | EDITION 4

*November/December*

2022

# *Monologue*



**murchisonshire**

*Ancient land under brilliant skies*

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## *Editor's Message*

Hello Everyone

I hope you all enjoy this edition of the Murchison Monologue.

I would like to take this opportunity to send out a safety precautions reminder to all travelling our region

- \* Carry Adequate Fuel, Water, Food Supplies, Spare Tyres & Road Maps.
- \* Carry a Satellite Phone.
- \* Carry First Aid Kit.
- \* Beware of Stock and Wildlife on Roads - Avoid Night Driving.
- \* Drive to Conditions.
- \* Do Not Camp in Waterways – Flash Floods Can Occur Without Warning.
- \* Remain With the Vehicle in the Event of Mechanical Breakdown.
- \* In the event of a medical emergency call the Royal Flying Doctor Service on 08 9417 6389.

### **Calling For Submissions**

If you have any articles you would like to add to the next Monologue edition, please contact the Shire Office. We want to hear from you. *Steven*

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## *Roscoe's Rundown*

Hello All,

While acknowledging that a big area of regional WA was hoping for late spring early summer warm dry easterlies so they could get stuck into their grain harvest.



I suspect most Murchison residents have really appreciated the cooler than average run of weather these past few months – I certainly have.

A pretty significant milestone was recently reached with the completion of the bitumen seal from the Settlement to our Shire's southern Boundary. My sincere thanks go to all that have been a part of this major project that first began with the sealing of the Jiggernoo Airstrip and overtaking lane in the early 2000's.

After what seemed like a slightly over the top amount of scrutinising and then re-scrutinising by our legal friends, the Shire recently signed a road maintenance agreement with Main Roads that covers the projected extra road use coming up as part of the SKAO project. Exact timing will be dependent on the starting date of the construction phase, but we currently are planning to get this extra attention on the affected sections of road underway in the first half of next year.

The cultural heritage survey along the proposed route of the fibre cable that has been promised for Pia and the Settlement has been completed. We don't as yet have any firm dates for when the next steps of installation may occur but at least some activity seems to be cranking up.

Early in November I was privileged to be invited to the 20-year birthday celebration of the Pia Wadjarri School. The staff and kids put on a first-class day, and I really enjoyed seeing their pride and excitement in what had been achieved.

The Shire (and I'm sure quite a few in the community) were sad to say goodbye to Rachel and her kids who have headed off to a new home

in the wheatbelt. I always found Rachel to be a reliable, practical, and friendly member of the community, whether it was in her work as part of the Shire's administration or as a long-term Settlement resident. I would like to wish Racheal, Matilda, and Jai all the best for their new adventure down at Tammin.

Until next Time.

*Regards*

*Roscoe*



*Racheal, Matilda, and Jai*

## *CEO's Snapshot*

Mmm! I'm not sure about what a year end "Snapshot" means but as leaf through a pile of papers and documents on my occasional tidy desk, I also reflect on the year that staff, councillors, and the community generally, have had and, as usual, I ponder that question..... Why?

Perhaps this is the most difficult question to answer. Local Government is very good at specifying what we do ... or should do. Usually, we find its relatively easy to work out how. But to work out the "Why"??? That's more difficult.

Still, there are quite a quite few 2022 "gems", even if they are only showcasing the "What" as outlined elsewhere in this issue. For the "Why", perhaps the hidden reasons in the wide-ranging Community Economic Development Sphere may provide some answers?



Despite being light on staff and always very busy, I continue to be impressed by everyone's commitment and efforts and of the support from all elected members.

On the works front - a very big thank you to Will and his ramshackle bunch of works crews. Around the Shire and Settlement there's lots of action in keeping power supplied and amenity in tow.

As evidenced on the roads front, as indicated with a "smashing" front cover pic, a major achievement to be very proud of is the completed sealing of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road from the Settlement south to the City of Greater Geraldton boundary. Records show that it took 20 years!!!! Any wonder

we organised a ribbon breaking pic! Since 2021 our construction crew (*Jonesy's Cavaliers*), with various sealing firms, have constructed and sealed an impressive 35.42km to 7.2m width, with 98km in the previous 17 years. Pretty impressive!!!



In the office many thanks to Racheal, who has now left for Tammin Shire, Vicki, Steven and Lisa for their tireless efforts and to Travis's financial expertise on a drive-in drive-out basis.

Since taking over as operators of the Roadhouse and Caravan Park in March 2021, with the support of Council and Nick and Pix as new lead staff, alongside a raft of casuals, our operation has steadily improved and continues to remain well respected.

So, we might be might large in size and incredibly tiny in numbers, but we continue to punch well above our weight. We might not yet be "*the mouse that roared*" but I suspect we are getting closer every year.



Finally, many thanks for all in the community that continue to support Kaye and I and make it worthwhile to continue to enjoy life in Murchison. Many, many thanks!!!

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Ciao  
*Bill*



## *Shire Works*

### *Construction*

Back in September the blast of a hill on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road, set off by Lisa Keen, created a fair amount of excitement as well as leaving a mountain of dirt to be moved.



Following clearing of an immense pile of rocks using two bulldozers, compaction and sheeting commenced early in the week of 19th September.



*Locals and passers by attending the blast of the hill*

Stabilised Pavements of Australia (SPA) cement stabilised a number of floodways ahead of final sealing works which were undertaken in November.



The new 9km of seal has been laid and, for the first time, we can say it was a painless experience. Bitutek clearly sent their A-team, they not only were on time but 2 days early and dealt with the few minor breakdowns promptly and efficiently. My thanks to Bitutek, Rob (Supervisor) and his crew.

On completion of this job the crews spent a few weeks patching potholes in the bitumen on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road before moving onto the Beringarra-Pindar Road.

They will then commence works approximately 2km south of the Greenough River, with two short re-sheet jobs, before moving south - picking up jobs in various locations including work on floodways and the removal of some old and undersized culverts at the Bumbinyoo Flat.

Eventually the crew will end up at the Wreath Flowers Section, where a dual carriageway will be created as a safety measure funded in part through Main Roads Blackspot Funds. This work will only be completed in the new year after the crew return from their Christmas break.

### *Gardener/Handyman*

After Ryan's resignation we welcomed Des O'Brien to the team. Des has brought considerable experience with him, appears to have settled in and is getting on with the job at hand. We welcome Des and Wendy into the community and hope it turns out to be a long stay.

### *Pothole Patching*

The crews recently spent 4 days patching potholes on the sealed section of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road, there are still some minor potholes to be done sometime in the new year.

### *Maintenance*

In September the maintenance crew completed the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Road, New Forrest-Yallalong Road, Coolcalalaya Road to the Rabbit Proof Fence on the Northampton side, and are re-grading the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road north of the Settlement. They were also subsequently involved in the pothole patching.

In October the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Rd was completed and in November the crew headed north on the Beringarra-Pindar Rd before heading back towards Talling to do some more tidy up work, as well as rectifying some offshoot drain intakes that have vegetation and sand blocks.

The maintenance crew are continuing up the Beringarra-Pindar Road heading north. With flood damage work underway their work is a little adhoc, sometimes being behind and at other times ahead of the Squires Resources crew. They have also sorted out a few troublesome grids on the Mt Wittenoom Road. At least 2 of these will need to be replaced in the new year.

### *Flood Damage*

By September flood damage packages had cranked up for Floods 8, 9 and 10. Squires Resources commenced work (package 1) on the McNabb-Twin Peaks Road.



They then moved onto the Beringarra-Pindar Road from our south boundary to about Boolardy homestead. Squires Resources continue to progress well, with work on Meeberrie-Wooleen,

Woolgorong, New Forest-Yallalong, Coolcalalaya, Errabiddy, Butchers Track and Muggon Roads nearing completion.

THEM Earthmoving (package 2) are due to commence work on Monday 21 November starting on the Byro-Woodleigh Road.

### *Beringarra-Cue Road – revert to unsealed road*

By October Rowe Contractors completed conversion of around 40km of sealed road back to gravel as well as putting in several new bunds.



Apart from some weather delays they are progressing very well and delivering work of a very high standard, including sorting out the drainage on certain sections. By the end of November there should be a little less than 25km left. We are well ahead of schedule time wise and right on budget.



### *6 Kurara Way*

In September AGFIX Multitrades made a start on the repair and renovation of 6 Kurara Way with scheduled completion in the new year.



### *Settlement Water Supply*

Comments and suggestions have been sent back to GHD with regard to pipe type and size, disinfection and firefighting facilities.

### *Maintenance Vehicle*

Budget provided for the replacement of the Maintenance Gang's Isuzu truck with a Landcruiser utility. New vehicles are now notoriously difficult to secure without a long waiting period but fortuitously, by acting quickly, we were able to source one in Perth.

### *MRWA Regional Road Group Funding*

Submissions for the reconstruction and widening of the following sections of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road were submitted for Regional Road Group Funding for 2023/24.

- ~ SLK 190.21-193.42 north of the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Road
- ~ SLK 222.83-226.47 north of the Ballinyoo Bridge.

Estimated cost for each project is \$450k, with funding on a 2:1 basis (\$300k each). Both were subsequently assessed by Main Roads and the Technical Working Group and have been accepted. A request for additional Reserve Projects to be submitted was also endorsed.

The Murchison Regional Roads Sub Group also examined a floodway discussion paper prepared by the CEO and have recommended that a floodway criterion be examined for inclusion into the scoring matrix.

It was noted that the Technical Working Group will also be examining the Road Type descriptions, specifically in relation to criteria for seal widths for sealing roads within the region. In part it has been noted that traffic criteria were set in 1999 and now do not now relate to what is happening, which, in practice, is sealing a road to a minimum of 7.0m width.

The option of sealing only 4.0m is not current best practice. Both these aspects are welcome.

### *Niche Wall*

Murchison Rammed Earth have completed the niche wall at the cemetery.



### *Main Roads WA SKA Roads Access Agreement*

In October the final Main Roads WA SKA Roads Access Agreement was reviewed by the delegated Councillor Working Group who authorised its signing.

A Stage 1 Works Program will be prepared and submitted to Main Roads for sections of the Twin Peaks-Wooleen, Wooleen-Mt Wittenoom, Boolardy-Wooleen, Beringarra-Pindar and Boolardy-Kalli Roads associated with SKA Construction Traffic.

### *Seal Widening Works*

Initial planning and budgeting for sealed widening works on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road in the new year envisaged stabilisation of the existing pavement with additional pavement material with cement also required in some floodway areas.

Work is in progress on the best way to achieve seal widening works cost effectively and efficiently. We are now also looking at other stabilisation possibilities given that we may not have to cart material which we have yet to find, and / or have to cart material considerable distances depending on the source of gravel supply if and when found.

### *Sealed Pavement Cost Contribution*

Greenfield Technical Services were commissioned to undertake a preliminary assessment of the potential impact of heavy vehicle traffic on typical sealed pavements, with particular emphasis on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road. The need to quantify a contribution that heavy vehicles make to the wear tear and damage over and above "normal" use, given expected future mine

operations who may use this road is a key future strategy.

The models prepared in the assessment highlight the need to further develop this analysis and possibly reduce the range of uncertainty within the model. Conducting testing of the CBR of the existing insitu pavement and/or subgrade material, as well as undertaking pavement dippings to establish the typical pavement thickness for various roads in the Shire, is required.



In conjunction with Greenfields we will soon commence such a testing program and will also continue to collect and improve the quality and completeness of the Shire's traffic data to reduce uncertainty in any future model.

#### *Road Asset Management*

2022 saw a revaluation of Council's buildings and road assets as part of 5 yearly cyclic update, the results of which will be reflected in the 2021/22 Financial Reports.

Rather than just addressing this legislative requirement, additional detailed work is being undertaken to use the information collected to improve road management operations to also address a raft of future road upgrade requirements, and to include additional funding that Council has been able to attract.

It is expected that in early 2023 this will lead to an update to the current 2013 Asset Management Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan.

#### *Carnarvon-Mullewa Road Seal Completion*



On Saturday 19 November 2022 the Shire finally completed sealing to 7.2m width the remaining 9.0km gravel section on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road between the Murchison Settlement and our southern Shire boundary.



This means we have constructed and sealed to a 7.2m width 35.42km since 2021!!!!



As shown above with the symbolic "breaking" of a ribbon we are very proud of this achievement. As the history shows there has been a cumulation of some 20 years work to construct and seal the 133.42km from 7.2km north of the Murchison



Settlement to the southern boundary with the City of Greater Geraldton boundary. This includes the replacement of the historic Ballinyoo Bridge.

*Carnarvon-Mullewa Road Seal Progression*

Comments		SLK from	SLK to	Year
4.0m seal widened for floodways and at Settlement	End of Seal	146.23	152.28	2016
		152.28	153.49	2005
	Settlement	153.49	153.69	2005
	Settlement	153.69	154.05	2005
		154.05	154.75	2005
		154.75	160.39	2012
		160.39	163.12	2010
		163.12	167.36	2012
		167.36	187.39	2002
		187.39	189.77	2010
		189.77	190.27	2017
		190.27	192.68	2010
		192.68	193.49	2004
		193.49	193.92	2010
		193.92	198.78	2004
		198.78	199.46	2005
		199.46	216.70	2013
		216.70	219.64	2014
		219.64	225.55	2010
		225.55	230.52	2002
4.0m seal widened for floodways	Ballinyoo Bridge	230.52	230.63	2016
		230.63	231.88	2016
		231.88	241.92	2018
	Concrete F'way	241.92	241.93	2012
		241.93	241.98	2018
		241.98	242.01	2020
		242.01	242.40	2018
		242.40	245.81	2021
		245.81	250.61	2022
		250.61	250.67	2019
7.2m seal section		250.67	254.58	2022
		254.58	262.53	2021
		262.53	262.59	2002
		262.59	266.66	2021
		266.66	267.18	2002
		267.18	271.02	2021
		271.02	271.50	2017
		271.50	271.62	2000
		271.62	272.18	2017
		272.18	279.61	2021
	CGG Boundary	279.61	279.65	2006



Prior to 2021 the road was sealed to a 4.0m general standard, with widened sections at floodway areas, but since 2021, following a policy review by Council, the minimum seal width was increased to 7.2m.



Meanwhile Council continues to work with the City of Greater Geraldton in an attempt to get them to complete the remaining 27km section within their boundary.



## *Murchison Settlement Redevelopment*

With Mid-West Development Commission funding, concept designs and a business case for an SKA Interpretive Experience Project in Murchison has been finalised by lead consultants UDLA and others. The final draft, *"Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case"*, has been submitted to Council prior to undertaking public consultation. It includes elements such as an Interpretive Centre, extensions to our Caravan Park and provision of glamping accommodation. It is a significant, regionally focussed economic project.

The overall aim is to integrate elements such as star gazing, local Wadjarri art and culture, pastoral heritage and discovery walking trails. Stage 1 spend is around \$10.4m with further stages foreshadowed totalling \$11.5m over around a 10-year period. The business case shows a profitable operation after 2 years. Significant levels of external funding will be required.



This comes on the back of Preliminary Masterplan works, including a space themed playground, swimming pool and splashpad, community centre and museum improvements plus improved roadhouse operations, funding for which Council is separately pursuing.



Through funding support from Lottery West and others work is well underway in preparing for the inaugural "Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival" on 15-16 April 2023

Meanwhile our Council managed Roadhouse and Caravan Park operations continues to work well with positive reviews.





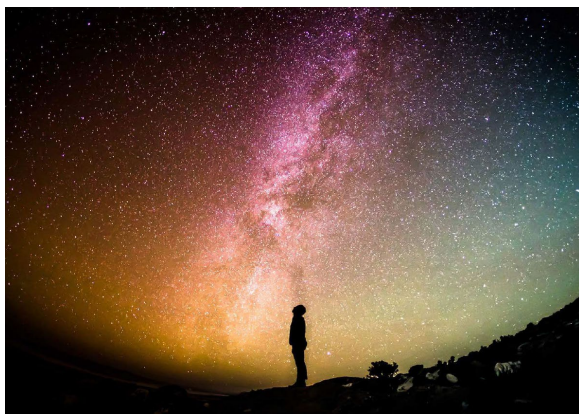
## *Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case Public Comment Request*

As outlined previously under the Murchison Settlement Redevelopment, at the November Council Meeting, the final draft “Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case” was submitted to Council, where it was resolved that it be endorsed in principle and that public comment be sought.



### *Outline*

Development progress for the draft Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case has been significant, involving a range of stakeholders including Settlement Redevelopment Working Group Members Cr Emma- Foulkes-Taylor, Cr Michelle Fowler, Frances Pollock, CEO, Community Manager–DCEO and Works Manager.



Work commenced in around November 2021 with several stakeholder workshops. At the October Council Meeting day Scott Lang from UDLA presented the final draft to councillors and representatives from CSIRO and PIA Wajarri.

The final draft of the Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case is in many ways a development with potential transformative effect. It ticks an abundance of boxes such as strategically linking Dark Sky tourism, showcasing SKA / CSIRO, providing an accessible outback feel without camping out, increased GeoTourism and broader tourism within a regional context and purveying local history and pastoral influence, inclusion of local Wajarri Aboriginal development opportunities, improved discovery walking trails, as well as enhancing recruitment and retention opportunities for the Shire in an improved, visually attractive environment.



The work undertaken by UDLA, and others has led the Midwest Development Commission to have the project high on their priority list for potential major funding for the next State Budget.



#### Context

The entire business case should be seen as being complimentary to the Murchison Settlement Masterplan and Roadhouse development plans that have already been undertaken.

The business case has been written and presented in a form that meets what external funding bodies will be looking for. This enhances potential for funding but also makes it easier to reference for funding applications for other separate but integrated projects.

Stage 1 spend is around \$10.4m with further stages foreshadowed totalling \$11.5m over about a 10-year period. Business Case shows a profitable operation after 2 years. Significant levels of external funding will be required.



Even if Stage 1 works are not funded, there are significant elements that can be incorporated and delivered as part of the existing Settlement Masterplan Redevelopment. Eg Dark Sky, SKA related elements and Wadjarri Stories and Culture.

When viewing the Draft Business Case it is essential that it be viewed in context that any delivery will likely be very long term with significant external investment, and that this will also need to align with other Murchison Settlement developments already identified.



#### PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT REQUEST

Copy of the Draft Murchison Vast Sky Experience Business Case is located on Council's Website <https://www.murchison.wa.gov.au/>

Public Comment and Input is requested so just email [admin@murchison.wa.gov.au](mailto:admin@murchison.wa.gov.au) by close of Business on Thursday 16 February 2023



## *Welcome Des & Wendy*

Please give a warm welcome to Desmond and Wendy, who have recently joined the team, taking on our parks and gardens.



Wendy "Kiwi Kid" lived in Australia most of her life. She enjoys gardening/cooking/reading/and living various adventures with Des... She is very adaptable to most situations and so here she is....

Des "Outback Jack", born in Geraldton, will tackle just about anything and is always willing to give it a go. Married to Wendy...Des has said on a number of occasions when driving through the Murchison settlement, "This is a lovely place, I could live here".

Then, out of the blue and by chance, a position for maintenance/parks & gardens became available...so fate led us to be working and living in this beautiful, unique Murchison Settlement.

## *Farewell Racheal*

*Small Boss Racheal...*

Racheal may be small, and until this week, has had a small chair, small car and, like her 'now not so small kids', can aptly sit on the floor filing and doing no end of stuff. But really, Racheal is the wonder woman, the glue that holds it all together, makes it happen and keeps all of us on the straight and narrow... We just don't know it!!! Watch out Tammin Shire. Murchison's Small Boss is coming!"

It is with simplicity that we can say this on behalf of everyone at the Shire, the region, and all those residing at our special 'Red Dirt Oasis Settlement.' ... Racheal will always be remembered as a special community member whose friendship is valued by all...It has been a pleasure working with you Rach, the Office will not be the same without you...



On behalf of Murchison Shire, we wish you, Tilda and Jai all the very best on your future endeavours and look forward to hearing from you ... Good on you Rach! You're a Star!! "





## *Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park*

### *Accommodation*

Accommodation for campers and caravaners- Please ensure that all requests for accommodation, meals or grocery lines are phoned or emailed before you get here. 6 motel rooms available -3 with ensuite facilities and 3 without. Please phone ahead to book.

### *Contacts*

Phone: (08) 9961 3875

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Email: [oasis@murchison.wa.gov.au](mailto:oasis@murchison.wa.gov.au)



*Pixie saves the day*

### *Patron Feedback*

My husband and I recently spent a couple of nights at the Oasis caravan park in one of the cabins on our return trip from MT Augustus.

I would like to thank all concerned for their consideration of people with mobility issues when designing and constructing this facility. The extensive use of ramps and flattish, cleared pathways contributed to me having a most pleasurable stay! I was able to access all areas using my gopher, a pleasant and much appreciated surprise. Even access to the wonderful museum was easy!

Your shire council and community are to be commended for such a well thought out facility. Thank you for making my experience so positive!

*Regards, Julie (25 August 2022)*

*Trading Hours\*\*Subject to staff availability*

*Please note that the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park will be closed between*

*22nd of December 2022 to 8th of January 2023. Re-opening on Monday 9th of January 2023.*

*Public toilets will remain open, and fuel will be available with 24-hour access to fuel bowser with card swipe facility.*

Normal Trading Hours are shown below.

<b>Winter hours (1 May - 30 Sep)</b>	<b>Summer hours (1 Oct - 30 April)</b>
Monday to Friday 7.30am - 6.30pm	Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm
Saturday 8.00am - 6.00pm	Saturday 8.30am - 4.00pm
Sunday 8.00am - Midday	Sunday 9.00am - Midday
Public Holidays 8:30am - 4.00pm	Public Holidays 8:30am - 4.00pm Closed Christmas Day

## *New Roadhouse Staff*

Nick and Pixie have welcomed back Jack Richter who needs no introduction and is very excited to return to Murchison. We also welcome Winnie Lin from Taiwan who joined our wonderful Oasis Roadhouse team.





## *Chamberlain Tractor Club of WA Inc*

The Oasis Roadhouse was visited by the Chamberlain Tractor Club on the 23 & 24 August where we provided them with dinner on the 24 August.



The Club's trek this year started at Kellerberrin on 16 August then up through Morawa and Mullewa to us, then north to Landor before heading south on the Gt Northern Highway to Meekatharra, over to Wiluna and down the Goldfields Hwy to Lake Perkolilli, just east of Kalgoorlie.

Arriving there on 17 September in time for the Red Dust Revival Car racing event. They will then head home at the event's conclusion on 26 September. Another amazing trek considering the tractors have a top speed of about 50km/hr towing caravans and camper trailers.



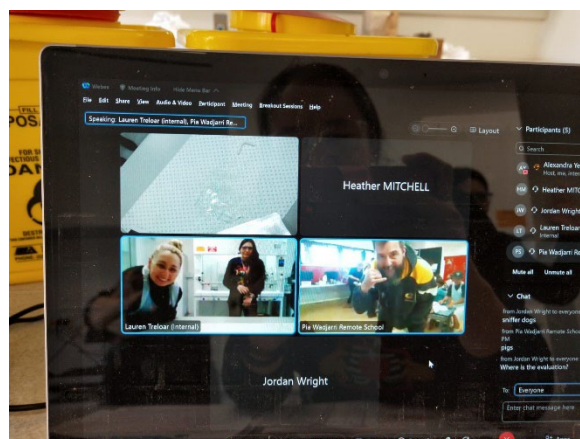
Good luck to all the Chamberlain Tractor mob and we all wish you a safe trip back to home.

## *PIA Wadjarri STEM Project*

Pia Wadjarri Remote School were very lucky to be one of two WA schools involved in a new STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) project funded through Curtin University. The students participated in many projects and engaged with the presenters; they walked up to the screen to show their boomerangs that they made from polymorph and participated in many other activities.



The project was successful with 68 students and 4 teachers across the two schools. Our neighbours at Yalgoo Primary School were the other lucky students.



"We really enjoyed running this event and being able to reach such remote schools and meet with students and staff (via online system) as part of National Science Week"

*Dr Magdalena Wajrak*

## *Vet Visit*

The Vet Visit Program was again delivered.

*Cue*

Started in Cue on Sunday 16 October with work was done on Monday 17 October.

*Mt Magnet*

Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 October

*Yalgoo*

Thursday 20 October

*Pia Wadjarri Aboriginal Community*

Friday 21 October



*Vet Staff welcomed at Murchison Roadhouse*

*Murchison Settlement*

Saturday 22 October

*Burringurrah Aboriginal Community*

Sunday 23 and Monday 24 October

Travel Burringurrah to Carnarvon and set up

Tuesday 25 October.

*Carnarvon*

Surgeries performed in Carnarvon at on Wednesday 26, to Friday 28 October.

*Pia Wadjarri Feedback*

"On behalf of the Pia Wadjarri RCS we would like to say a huge thank-you for the invaluable experience you provided us with on Friday 21st November when Dr Peter Ricci and his entourage of 5th year vet students, nurses and qualified vets from Murdoch University, Communities Outreach Program, The Animals Hospital set up clinic in our Wadjarri Room to perform desexing and preventative health checks on the dogs and cats in the community."



The students were totally engaged; watching the desexing procedures on both male and female cats and dogs, asking questions, assisting the nurses and vets when asked, looking for parasites on a saliva sample through the microscope, patting the animals to keep them calm.



It has provided a huge amount of information for the students to process and write about back in the classroom. The senior students have added the professions of vet, vet nurse, and ranger to their Pathways board.





The vet students themselves provided an important role model to the Pia students, as this is what learning at University level looks like. The younger students spoke about their feelings they experienced over the day and why they felt that way.



It has encouraged an understanding of not letting the animals' breed unnecessarily and desexing is a way to prevent that happening.



All in all it was an amazing experience!!

*Marea Billig, Early Childhood Educator, Pia Wadjarri RCS*

## *20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pia Wadjarri School*

Pia Wadjarri RCS celebrated 20 years of education in the Community on 4th of November 2022. A scrumptious light morning tea at 10.30 a.m. followed later in the day with a big lunch.

Murchison Shire President, Cr R Foulkes-Taylor and Cr Emma Foulkes and various Shire staff members were invited along and extremely pleased to attend to witness such a terrific day.



The children performed a translated version of Gina Williams 'Welcome' song. This was just one of the amazing things Pia arranged for the day to showcase their school.



Tours were undertaken of the school and gardens and were each invited to include their hands to this amazing sand art piece.





We all wish another 20 wonderful years for the Pia Wajarri school staff, students and community! Congratulations.



The event celebrated the SKA-Low Telescope that will be built in the Murchison on Wajarri country. Amazing artwork was unveiled by Leonie Boddington and Artist, Judith Anaru with the official launch of the Wajarri Planisphere.



### *Stellar Stargazing in the Murchison*

The 14 October was a fun filled night of Stellar Stargazing where attendees were able to explore the universe under a world-class dark night sky. We heard about the incredible SKA project with spectators taking part in a green laser pointer tour of constellations and planets and then a look through telescopes to discover the wonders of the cosmos.



Another big attraction was the showcasing of the "Beyond the Milky Way" VR Immersive production which was running hot all evening so a huge thanks goes out to all those involved at ICRAR (International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research) for supplying those headsets.

A further thanks to DSIR (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) and CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation), volunteers and community members for a spectacular evening that everyone enjoyed and, with all the positive feedback received, the Shire is working to make this event part of next year's Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival!



## *Wajarri SKA ILUA Signing Celebration*

On 5 November 2022 at the Murchison Settlement Community Hall, and after 7 years it was time to celebrate the conclusion of the ILUA negotiations and the signing of the agreement.

Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, has welcomed a new Wajarri Yamaji traditional name for its radio astronomy observatory in Mid-West Western Australia.

The name *Inyarrimanha Ilgari Bundara* means 'sharing sky and stars' in the Wajarri language



*Indigenous Elder Lenny Merry, Dr Tony Buti WA Minister for Indigenous Affairs and CSIRO representatives.*

The traditional name is part a new Indigenous Land Use Agreement, or ILUA, signed by Wajarri Yamaji. CSIRO, Australian and Western Australian Governments, recognising the Wajarri Yamaji people as the Traditional Owners and native title holders of the land on which the *Inyarrimanha Ilgari Bundara*/ SKA Observatory sits.

The agreement enables expansion of CSIRO's radio astronomy observatory site to allow for construction of the international SKA-Low telescope, part of the global SKA Observatory, alongside existing instruments, including CSIRO's ASKAP radio telescope.

During an on-Country event on 5 November 2022 to celebrate the ILUA, the Wajarri Yamaji

announced the gift of a traditional name for the expanded observatory site.

The traditional name was suggested by Wajarri woman Shakira Whitehurst for a competition run by the Wajarri Yamaji Aboriginal Corporation (WYAC) and selected by members of the Wajarri Minangu Land Committee, the Traditional Owners of the observatory area on Wajarri Country.

The Wajarri name will be one part of a new dual, official name for the site: *Inyarrimanha Ilgari Bundara*, the CSIRO Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory.





*Dr Tony Buti, WA Minister for Indigenous Affairs*

Jennylyn Hamlett, WYAC Chairperson and Minangu Land Committee member, said the meaning of the Wajarri name for the observatory site is 'sharing the sky and stars'.



*Cake Cutting Celebration*

CSIRO Chief Executive Larry Marshall said he was humbled that the Wajarri Yamaji had chosen a name connecting the rich heritage of the region's first astronomers to Country with the modern scientific instruments on the site.

"Protecting heritage and Country are critical elements of the ILUA, and CSIRO is proud to be partnering with the Wajarri Yamaji in the land management and cultural heritage protection of the observatory site, ensuring that we leave our footprints carefully in the sands of time as we walk side by side into a better future together."

Through its Reconciliation Action Plan, CSIRO is committed to building genuine partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

through education, science, innovation and research.

The new ILUA with the Wajarri Yamaji People demonstrates this commitment by fostering a culture that respects and honours the rich history of the nation.



Construction of the SKA-Low telescope at Inyarrimanha Ilgari Bundara, the CSIRO Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory, is expected to begin later this year.

The SKA-Low telescope, alongside its counterpart SKA-Mid in South Africa, will explore the universe in more detail than ever before, transforming our understanding of the cosmos and benefitting society through global collaboration and innovation.

Shire President Rossco Foulkes-Taylor was happy to express his appreciation of the successful event and the milestone it represents.



*Shire President Rossco Foulkes-Taylor – ABC Interview*



## *Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance*



The Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance (SRPA) is a non-profit incorporated community association governed by a Board of 9 members, all pastoralists in the Southern Rangelands, which encompasses all of the land area south of the Pilbara, excluding the Agricultural Zone of the South West Land Division.

### *SRPA Aims*

The Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance was formed to provide leadership and support for sustainable pastoral production and diversification in the Southern Rangelands.

### *SRPA Vision*

Connected, Producer-Driven, Healthy Landscapes, Better Business

### *SRPA Mission*

To lead change by sharing knowledge, and facilitating research and innovation based on industry needs.

The Shire is one of the early financial supporters of the SRPA and, as reported to the October Council Meeting, Crs Rossco and Emma Foulkes-Taylor attended the Alliance's Forum in Geraldton on 24 October 2022.

The event was well supported, with around 30 people from 15 different stations and another 50 odd industry reps in attendance. The spread of stations represented was from near Carnarvon, north-east area of the UG Shire, a few hundred km north and east of Wiluna, eastern Goldfields and several areas in between.

Nutrien, as principal sponsor for the day, had several of their reps attending, alongside soil health/ carbon experts, animal health specialists/researchers, Ag, Emergency, Water depts. With the Minister for Agriculture there for half a day a total of about 55 attended.

With presentations on animal nutrition, climate forecasting, fire season potential, cattle breeding and water bore licensing requirements, much of the information seems regularly distributed by media releases, industry newsletters etc.

Presentations on ruminant methane emissions, soil health, photosynthesis/carbon cycles, potential drone usage for vermin control and setting up a computer/electronics-based station monitoring system were particularly interesting.

Minister for Agriculture Alannah MacTiernan's presentation was a breath of fresh air, with her enthusiasm, knowledge and aspirations for the

future of the Southern Rangeland areas strongly evident.



The Minister seems incredulous, almost furious, that cattle and sheep carbon emissions (mainly through methane) are put in the same category as a coal fired power station.

She strongly articulated that the animal cycle is one of consuming plants (which stimulates more photosynthesis thus removing extra carbon from the atmosphere), disturbs and aerates the soil, converts cellulose and carbohydrates into useable protein (meat) and then drops dung which nourishes the same soil. While this process does emit methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) back into the atmosphere, to have it in the same category of digging up a fossil fuel and burning it in a one-off process to provide power, just doesn't stack up.

## *Blast From the Past*

### *ASKAP Opening Ceremony 10th Anniversary*

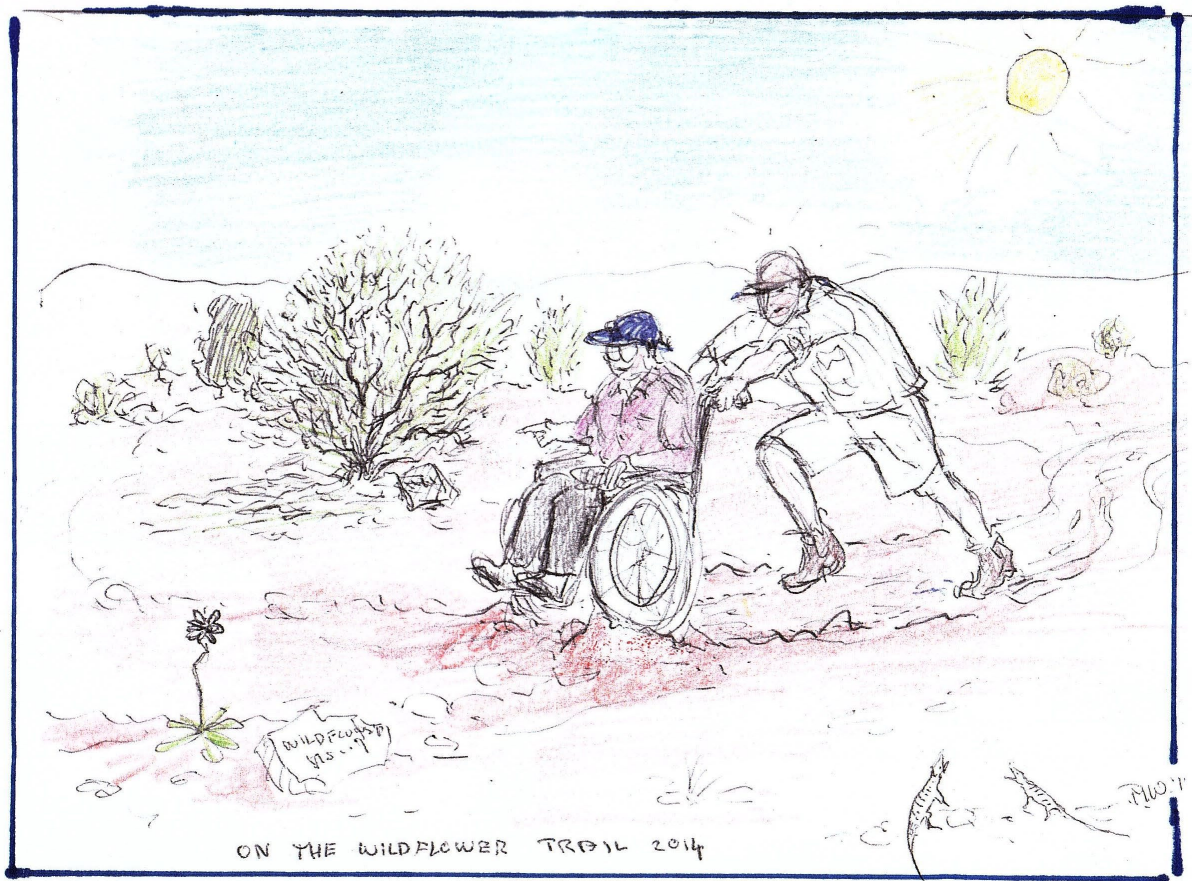
On Friday 5 October 2012, ASKAP was officially opened by Senator the Hon Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research and CSIRO CEO Dr Megan Clark.

The event was held at the Murchison Radio Astronomy Observatory with a few hundred people in attendance, many being flown in via charter flight for the day. The event was live streamed to all the CSIRO Space and Astronomy sites where local celebrations were held.

Enjoy watching history as it happened 10 years ago via this link

<https://www.atnf.csiro.au/video/askap-opening-ceremony/>

### **Blast From the Past... Extra**



Looking through some old Monologue's, I came across this drawing by Marie Wendland of David Pollock pushing her around the botanical walk at the Shire of Murchison when it was opened in August 2014.



## Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival

15-16 April 2023 - Save the Date

**THE SHIRE OF MURCHISON PRESENTS**

# ANCIENT LAND UNDER BRILLIANT SKIES FESTIVAL

MURCHISON  
SETTLEMENT GROUNDS  
15 -16 APRIL  
10AM - 9PM  
ALL AGES WELCOME  
FREE EVENT

MAGIC SHOWS  
& MORE

CELESTIAL PARADE

MONSTER TRUCKS & BIG RED

LIVE MUSIC

ZAIN LAUDHER  
BENNY MAYHAM

ZAP CIRCUS

 SHIRE OF MURCHISON



WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA



## *Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Snapshot*

Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival Saturday and Sunday 15 & 16 April 2023		
Saturday 15 April 2023      10am – 9pm		
Red Dirt 9.30am – 4.30pm Brilliant Sky 4.30pm – 9pm		
9.30am – 12noon	2 Hours	<b>Workshops</b> Celestial Costume Making with Fly by Fun Creating weird and wacky dance moves / musical instruments with Junkadelic
12noon – 1.00pm	1 hour	<b>Mud Slides</b>
12.15-12.35pm	20min	<b>Shattered Silence Monster Trucks Show 1</b>
1.00pm-2.00pm	1 hour	<b>Lunch</b>
2.00pm- 2.20pm	20min	<b>Shattered Silence Monster Trucks Show 2</b>
2.20pm – 4.00pm	40min	<b>Workshops</b> <b>Activity Park</b>
4pm – 4.20pm	20min	<b>Shattered Silence Monster Trucks Show 3</b>
<b>4.30pm – 9.00pm</b>		<b>Main Stage</b>
4.30pm- 4.40pm	10min	Welcome & Acknowledgements
4.40pm – 4.45pm	5min	Welcome to Country
4.45pm – 5.00pm	15min	CSIRO Costume Parade
5.05pm – 5.35pm	30min	Zain Laudher
5.35pm – 6.20pm	45min	Ben Mayhem
6.30pm – 7.20pm	50min	Zap Circus
7.30pm- 8.00pm	30min	Zain Laudher
8.10pm- 8.55pm	45min	Benny Mayhem
8.55pm – 9.00pm	5min	Close
All Day:		
Big Red Big Board Games Bucking Bull		
Activities		
12noon -1.00pm	Mud Slide	
All day	Large Yard Games – Jenga	
All day	Bucking Bull	
Sunday 16 April 2023		
	Free Tours of Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory (MRO)	
	Virtual Reality “Beyond the Milky Way”	
	Stellar Stargazing	

*\*Subject to Change*



## Christmas Tree Invitation



You are invited to the  
Murchison Sports Club for our  
annual community

# Christmas TREE

December 17th 2022

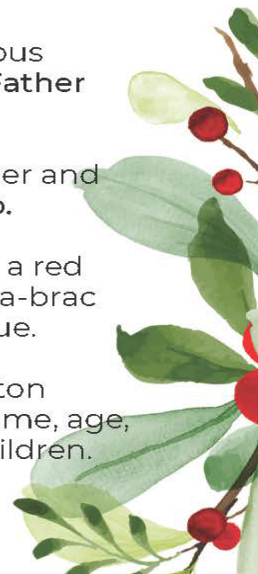
## DETAILS:

We will kick off at 2.15pm for various  
community meetings, followed by **Father  
Christmas** at 5pm and dinner.

Please bring a **salad** to share for dinner and  
something for afternoon **smoko**.

Join in the fun of a **Kris Kringle** with a red  
themed, gender-neutral gift (no bric-a-brac  
please). Homemade or \$10 in value.

Parents please **RSVP** to Sam Walton  
(Waldo\_253@hotmail.com) with the name, age,  
gender, and interests of your child/children.

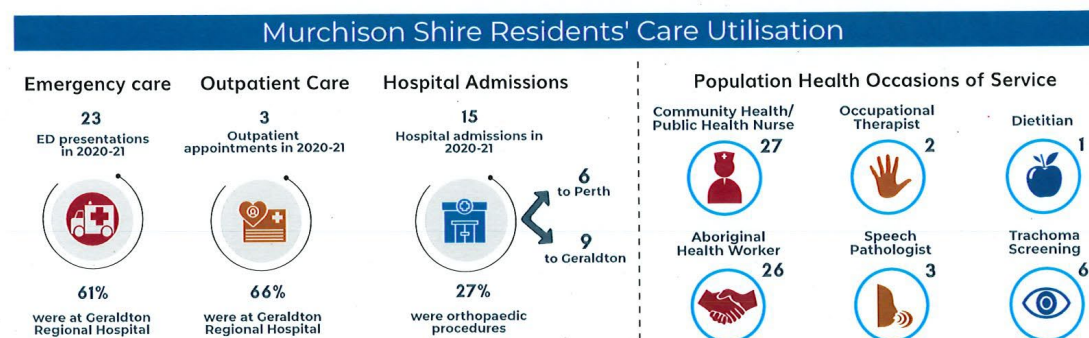
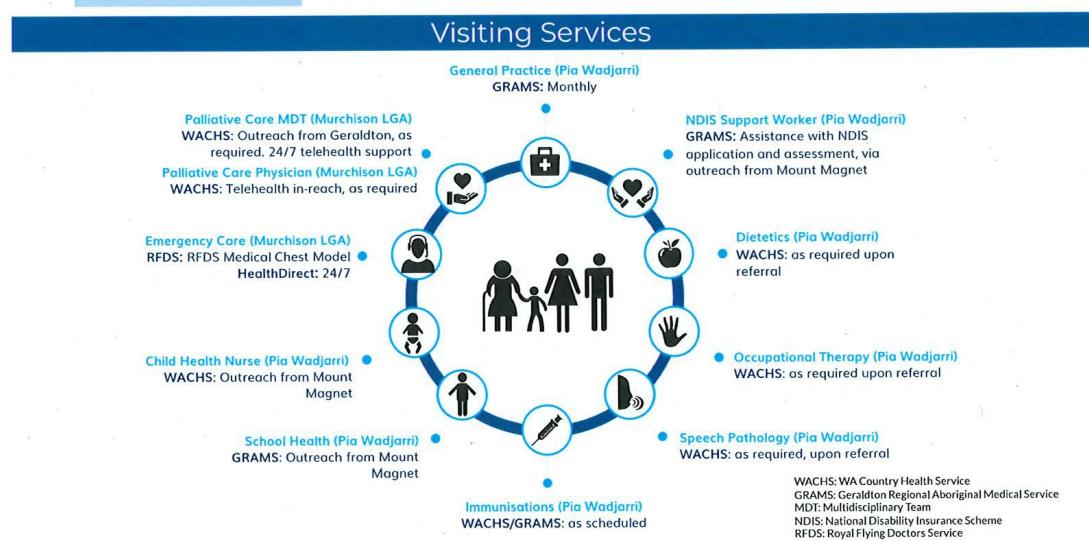
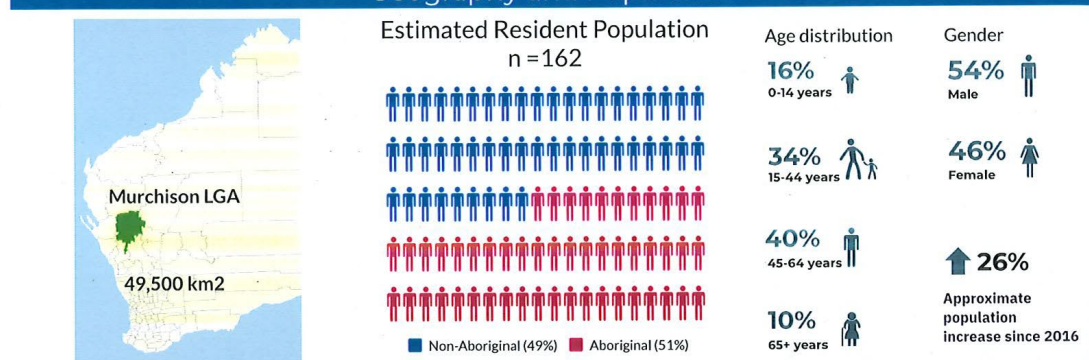
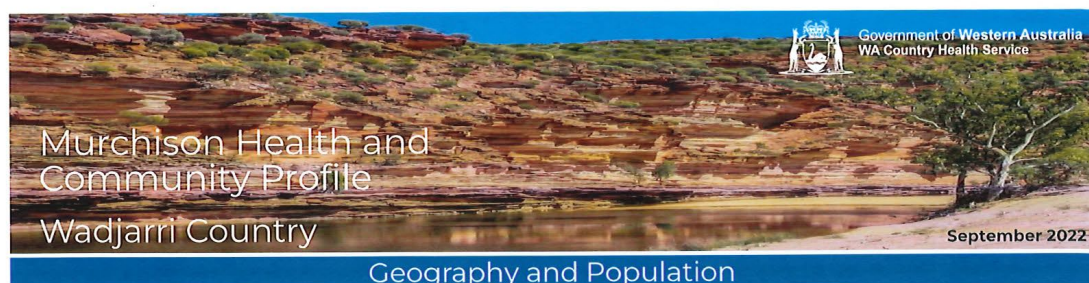


**As we wrap up another year, please note the following meetings taking place on  
Saturday 17 December at the Murchison Settlement**

<b>12:00 Noon</b>	<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chambers</b>
<b>2:15pm</b>	<b>Bush Fire DFES Meeting held in the Community Meeting Room</b>
<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Sports Club Meeting held in the Community Meeting Room</b>
<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>Community Meeting held in the Community Meeting Room</b> Will include a 20-minute presentation by Dr Balhsar Imdermuehle (CSIRO)
<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Christmas Tree held at the Sports Club</b> (Invitation above)

## Murchison Health & Community Profile

Prior to the October Council met with Natasha Watson from WA Country Health Service – Strategy & Change and Merewyn Templeton WACHS Director of Nursing Murchison to discuss local Murchison Health needs with councillors, representatives from the PIA Wadjarri Community and School and two local residents.





## *Christmas Office & Roadhouse Closure*

### **Shire Office**

The Shire Office will be closed from Monday 19 December 2022 and reopening on Tuesday 3 January 2023, after the Monday 2 January 2023 public holiday.



### **Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park**

The Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park will be closed between 22nd of December 2022 to 8th of January 2023. Re-opening on Monday 9th of January 2023.

Public toilets will remain open, and fuel will be available with 24-hour access to fuel bowser with card swipe facility.



## *Merry Christmas*

From all Council Staff we all wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year  
Please travel safely



