

Murchison

VOLUME 42 | EDITION 3

August

2022

Monologue



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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Editor's Message

Hello Everyone,

I hope you enjoy this August edition of the Murchison Monologue. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in the Health Services Survey Monkey.

And Congratulations to Mike Keen who won the special Murchison Wordfind puzzle in the last edition.

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.

Steven

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murchisonshire

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Roscoe's Rundown

Hello All,

I hope the middle two months of winter treated you well.

Thank you and well done to all the very dedicated volunteers who put in their usual significant amount of time and effort to ensure the annual Murchison Polocrosse carnival was successfully staged. I think the Murchison Shire does a commendable job also, in providing wood, facilities and plenty of ground upkeep support leading up to and during the weekend.

Sometime in early July a few bits of property were vandalised within the Settlement and some household items were stolen from the Museum Caretakers' Cottage. This type of unsavoury behaviour has no place within our Settlement and hopefully the few remedial steps that have been taken ensure it won't continue. As the Shire President (and, more importantly, as a lifetime local) I am fiercely protective of our Shire staff and families' rights to enjoy a safe, secure place to live, and will make every effort to make sure that is the case.

A significant amount of progress has been made towards returning the degraded sealed sections of the Beringarra Cue Rd to gravel. While the roadworks crew are there the Shire is also endeavouring to rectify, as much as practical/possible, water drainage mistakes that were by the mining company during construction of the seal.

Our CEO Bill Boehm has committed to two more years, meaning his current contract will wind up in August 2024. Council looks forward to working with Bill on what looks like a couple of reasonably full years ahead.

I wish I had a more substantial update on the optic fibre connection that Pia and the Settlement have been promised, but I can only say that the new Federal Govt has committed to carrying this out, so hopefully construction on the ground will start in due course.

Until next time.

Roscoe



CEO's Snapshot

Administratively this time of the year is always hectic, with end of financial year wrap up and budget preparation.

This year additional work was undertaken to assist Council's Auditor to finalise the 2020/21 financials. This has now been completed with unqualified audit opinion being provided.

Many thanks to Shire staff, Travis Bate (Financial Accountant RSM), Racheal King and Lisa Keen who greatly assisted. Now for 2021/22!!!

As indicated within this issue, there has been a continuation of positive community economic development actions and activities which is very pleasing.

From a Shire perspective we have been able to advance a number of community economic development projects with the Pia Wadjarri Community, including an Indigenous Language and Arts Mosaic Works Workshop program. Other National Science Week work and Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival, to be held 15 April 2023, are also on track.

Shelly's Biggest Morning Tea Cancer fundraising event was again a success.

Both Kaye and I were able to attend PIA's NAIDOC celebrations which were a huge success and extremely enjoyable as a community led event integrated within the school environs. New School Council chair, Pricilla Simpson, is also committed to the school and the community partnership.

I am particularly pleased with council support for our staff generally and for the positive commitments to our Roadhouse staff as "newbies." 2021/22 represents 12 months of successful operation.

On a personal front, Kaye and I are pleased the Council is happy for me to continue in the CEO role for a further two years. We live in an idyllic place and have councillors and staff that are committed, work diligently and with positive energy.

Ciao.

Bill

Shire Works

Following our works crew successfully assisting the annual polocrosse event, construction staff have now reverted to their second home- aiming to complete the reconstruction and sealing of the remaining 9km of gravel on the south end of the Carnarvon Mullewa Road. Will has made arrangements for a large hill to be blasted within the next few weeks so that a 1.5km section can have the vertical alignment improved.

Meanwhile, contracts for roadworks associated with flood damage restoration, and other supporting roadworks, have been finalised with Squires Resources and THEM Earthmoving. Squires are expected to start in September and THEM a bit later.

Following advice earlier in 2022 that Council was unsuccessful in relation to our 2021 Clean Energy Fund Application for a new microgrid project, budget allocation was deferred and included in the 2022/23 Budget.

Hybrid Systems have since been advised, and will now complete their design work, which was put on hold, but will now incorporate new technological improvements, including costs associated with upgrading the existing switchboard, which is at capacity.

It seems most likely that a new powerhouse located closer to the proposed solar panels will be required and that the Gensets will need to be encased in an airconditioned environment and generally made much quieter.

Details of what will be a very compressive works program will form part of the 2022/23 Budget.

Parliamentary Member Shire Visit

The Hon. Peter Foster, MLC Member for Mining and Pastoral Region visited the Settlement on 20 July 2022.

The prime purpose of this jointly desired visit was to meet Council to learn about our Shire and discuss ways he might assist us through his role.

Peter also took the opportunity to announce the State Government's support, through the Lotterywest grant, for the Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival to be held 15 April 2023.



This event will align with the festivities taking part in the region around the solar eclipse, and value adding to Dark-sky tourism and Astrotourism unique to the Murchison.

Shire President Rossco Foulkes-Taylor and Councillors Michelle Fowler and Greydon Mead welcomed Mr Foster, along with CEO Mr Bill Boehm and Community Manager/DCEO Mr Steven Cosgrove.



Peter was given a tour of the Settlement, so he could see firsthand what infrastructure and operations make up the Settlement, as well as being briefed on a number of development projects including: the Settlement Masterplan, Roadhouse, Murchison Interpretive Experience Project and Carnarvon-Mullewa Road upgrade.

Peter congratulated Murchison Shire, noting that the Shire punches very much above our weight.

Beringarra Station

Beringarra and Milly Milly Station have been sold. Steven recently visited Beringarra Station to meet and welcome new managers Phill and Janette Thompson, who are working with the owners to get Beringarra Station and homestead back to its former glory. Both are originally from the wheatbelt.



Phill comes from the farming life. He got a trade as a boilermaker but has been involved in many facets of farming life from cropping and shearing to land management and heavy haulage truck driving. Phill has also spent the last 30 years as a volunteer ambulance driver.

Janette, coming from a farm, has always been involved with animals so became a veterinary nurse and has done this all her working life. She loves her horses and is involved in the Australian Light Horse Association and rides in full 10th LH uniform to remember our fallen and past. Janette is hoping to be able to ride at our Remembrance and ANZAC day memorials.

They are loving life at Beringarra and are working to get a station stay up and running. They have already had a number of guests, whom we are told, have enjoyed their hospitality, meals and accommodation. They plan to turn the old homestead shop into a museum. If anyone has something that may be of interest to the museum give them a call. If you are driving past drop in for a coffee or just a chin wag, Phill and Janette would love to see you.

Dark Sky Tourism

Steven recently attended the WA Tourism Council Conference. In attendance was Basil Zemplis, who opened the event by stating that Perth is the City of Lights and finishing with the observation that WA's rural and remote towns are home to the world's least light polluted areas.

This was the perfect segway into a panel discussion around 'Dark Sky Tourism & the 2023 Ningaloo Eclipse', facilitated by Ross Dowling AM and included Paul Hanlon, Shire of Ashburton Manager Business and Economic Development, Carol Redford, Astrotourism WA Founder, Jim Sharp, Tourism WA Ningaloo Eclipse Working Group Chair and Rick Tonello, Gravity Discovery Centre & Observatory Chief Astronomer.

With Murchison Shire's recent successful grant applications towards the 'Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival' in April next year, (aligning with the Solar Eclipse) it sure was a hot topic in the networking that followed.



"Western Australia is perfectly placed to become the stargazing capital of the world and grow an Astrotourism economy across the State. Increasing artificial light pollution across Earth has quickly reduced humanity's ability to see the stars. The ever increasing artificial light that spills up into the night sky, means we see less stars and, now, more than 80% of the world's population live under a light-polluted sky."

Regional areas like the Murchison are ideal locations where communities can use the night sky to attract visitors. Being a night time activity, Dark Sky Tourism can increase overnight stays which leads to greater economic returns for regional locations. Opportunities for new Dark Sky Tourism experiences, including Aboriginal Astronomy

storytelling, can further increase visitor spending and drive the tourism economy.

In April 2023, WA will be the best place in the world to see a Total Solar Eclipse that will be visible from the Ningaloo coastline. This event will attract tens of thousands of extra visitors to WA and will bring along with it, world-wide media attention. This global spotlight gives WA a platform to promote its tourism attractions, including the world-class day night sky to an international audience.

"Carol Redford CEO Astro tourism WA"

Biggest Morning Tea

At our Biggest Morning Tea Fundraiser on the 23rd June, 'Picnic' being the theme in memory of Jano F-T, the sun shone brightly and the food was aplenty. I'm sure Jano would have been pleased.

As always, everyone excelled in coming along with a beautiful array of baked goods and items to add to the raffle/auction or sell. A recipe book was compiled so that some of our favourite family recipes could be shared.



Thank you to the Murchison Shire for the very generous dollar matching. The final total for the fundraiser was \$2337- a great result and effort by our community.

Our fundraising will go a long way in helping the Cancer Council provide vital support services to ensure that no patient or family faces cancer alone, as well as funding ground-breaking research into gentler and more effective treatment methods - to help create a cancer free future.



Thank you to our Sponsors (Pictured above)



The Fundraiser is also to help raise awareness for those in need, as well as our local Cancer Council in Geraldton, who are a great help if ever you are in need.

Polocrosse

Well done to Mark Jones and crew for the smooth running of operations, and our Roadhouse crew, Nick, Pixie, Leela and Deliah who did an amazing job over the 40th Anniversary Polocrosse event.



Murchison Results 2022

Junior E Grade

Sponsored by	Tessa Mitchell
Runners Up	Mullewa Mix
Winners	Walkaway
Best Pony	<i>Hot Shot</i> ridden by Amber Odwyer

E Grade

Sponsored by	Bronny and Tubey Bain
Runners Up	South/Midwest
Winners	Walkaway/Mullewa
Best Pony	<i>Smirnoff</i> ridden by Jedd Adams

D Grade

Sponsored by	Kiya White & George Tunstill
Runners Up	Mullewa
Winners	Southern Zone
Best Pony	<i>Booty Up</i> ridden by Sally Williams

C Grade

Sponsored by	Stuart Broad & Sam Walton
Runners Up	Moony Jason
Winners	Walkaway
Best Pony	<i>Roadworx</i> ridden by Paige Adams

B Grade

Sponsored by	Tom and Hayley Levett
Runners Up	Mullewa
Winners	Irwin
Best Pony	<i>Aibi</i> ridden by Anita Grima

A Grade

Sponsored by	Smyth Agri Services
Runners Up	Greenough
Winners	Walkaway
Best Pony	<i>Crescent</i> ridden by Adrian Cobley

Congratulations to Frances Pollock!

Frances Pollock from Wooleen Station won WA Tourism's 'Individual Excellence in Customer Service' Award, being recognised as a wonderful ambassador for the tourism industry.



The judges praised Frances' considered and friendly customer service journey that sees guests experience a personalised and authentic homestead experience.



National Science Week

As previously reported, the Shire of Murchison was successful in securing funds for National Science Week and was able to put on a special event. In attendance were a crew from Scitech who delivered a 'Solar System Workshop' and a 'General Public Show'.

Chris Brayton and Kirsten Fredericksen of CSIRO were also in attendance and participated in facilitating this event. CSIRO further sponsored the event and kindly arranged some delicious catering – many thanks.



Perth Adventure Riders

It's that time of the year again and the Perth Adventure Riders have once again gathered together at the Murchison Settlement and Oasis Caravan Park for their annual shindig and catch up.

Ride Safe!



Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park

Phone: (08) 9961 3875

Fax: (08) 9961 3876

Email: oasis@murchison.wa.gov.au

Accommodation

Accommodation for campers and caravanners. 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.

Trading Hours** Subject to staff availability

Winter hours (1 May - 30 Sep)	Summer hours (1 Oct - 30 April)
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

Staff Recruitment

Roadhouse operates on an open-ended invitation for various positions in the overall running of the facilities. This includes assisting in the café / meals area, cleaning and servicing accommodation. Roadhouse Manager Nick Drew is regularly looking to recruit suitable casual roadhouse staff with advertisements in a range of locations. Anyone interested in a casual position should contact Nick by phone or email.

Camp Quality Visit

"This year we adventured to the Murchison and were lucky enough to spend a night in this little slice of heaven! We had a wonderful and pleasant lay day at the Oasis Caravan Park.



A huge thanks for allowing us to steal the bowling green to host our Annual "Get Laid Tournament". And thanks to all who came and joined in on the fun! The games were an absolute hoot - Special thanks to the Sports Club and those who helped out, the event followed on with an awesome BBQ and the company was great!

The 'Wesbies' Fundraising is never too hard and not a single cent will ever be taken for granted.

Chris Jenour

*Team Toy Story
General Manager*

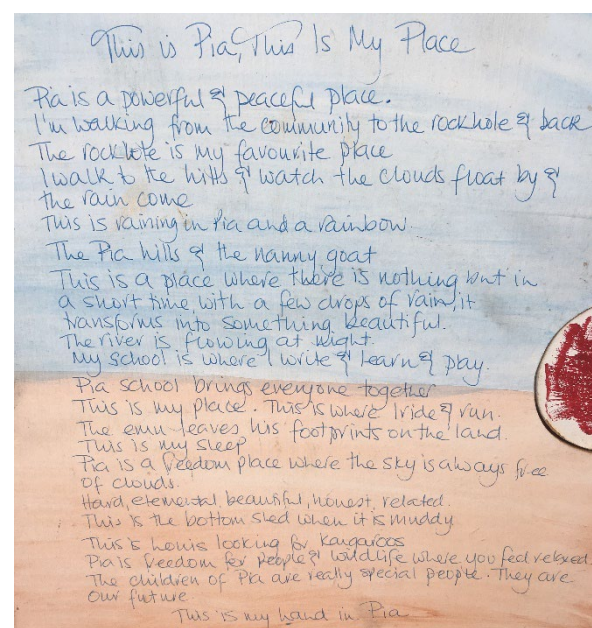


PIA Wadjarri NAIDOC Celebrations

NAIDOC Celebrations were held at the Pia Wadjarri Community on 12 August 2022. This followed on from a "yarning" session around a firepit on August 10th, where sentiments of what NAIDOC means were expressed by members of the community. The overall theme for the year was expressed succinctly by the banner made for the event.



The following art snapshot highlights the importance PIA is to the community



Overall, the celebrations were a huge success and extremely enjoyable as a community led event integrated within the school environs.



Many thanks to Kylie Simpson and others, plus School Principal Susan Trigwell and staff at the school, for such a terrific program which included plenty of bush tucker, cakes and treats plus workshops in hair braiding, tee shirt and cup painting, face painting and jewellery making. Above all, a welcoming environment.





Preparation a community effort when it comes to disaster season

nbn has launched its 2021 Emergency Preparedness campaign by reminding Australians to put safety measures in place this disaster season and follow some simple tips to help maintain communications during emergency events.

Disaster season provides an opportunity to refresh contingency plans and make sure family members are aware of what to do.

nbn has these top tips for households:

1. Stay Mobile

Keep a charged mobile phone and portable mobile battery pack ready to use in a power outage, or if your nbn™ connection is disrupted in an emergency event. Consider turning off mobile data on unnecessary apps to save battery.

2. Stay Updated

Local radio is a good source of information during an emergency, so include a battery powered radio in your emergency communications kit. Also follow emergency services, including your state Fire and Rescue and Police Services, as well as utility companies and nbn (@NBN_Australia) on social media for updates.

3. Back up

To make sure you can access important information and essential documents from anywhere, including insurance policies and financial documents, consider creating a digital back up on a USB or in the cloud.

4. Alternative Power

If there is a power outage, equipment connected to nbn™ services will not work. For home needs during these times, you might want to consider investing in an alternative power source, like a generator. Unfortunately, alternative options like generators will not bring back home internet if the nbn™ network is also experiencing a power loss.

nbn is continuing to roll out the **nbn™** Disaster Satellite Service and units are being installed at designated emergency management sites and evacuation centres across regional Western Australia.

The **nbn™** Disaster Satellite Service services provide a back-up communications connection using satellite technology and will be switched on during an emergency event, providing free full satellite broadband functionality, including Wi-Fi and video streaming.

“Emergency preparedness is truly a community effort; we are prepared with our contingency measures and if households are prepared with those tips, we can work together to manage the impacts of emergency events and stay connected.”

To organise an Emergency Preparedness Briefing for your Shire or Community Group, please contact:

Jenny Thomas

Community Engagement Manager, **nbn** - Gascoyne, Midwest & Wheatbelt

Email jennifertthomas1@nbnco.com.au

STELLAR STARGAZING CELEBRATING THE SKA IN MURCHISON

Explore the Universe under a world-class dark night sky! Australia is hosting its first ever mega science project! This event celebrates the SKA-Low Telescope that will be built in the Murchison on Wajarri country.

Hear about the incredible SKA project, see an amazing green laser pointer tour of constellations and planets. Look through telescopes to discover the wonders of the cosmos.

FRIDAY, 14TH OCTOBER 2022

6.30pm – 7:00pm | SKA Presentation

7:15pm – 9pm | Stargazing on the Oval

Murchison Settlement – Community Hall
3007 Carnarvon-Mullewa Road, Murchison

Enter the draw to win a telescope on the night!

BBQ Sizzle provided.

BYO chairs, rugs, picnics, drinks, torches, warm clothes, fly net, insect repellent

Free Community Event

RSVP required, email to: cm@murchison.wa.gov.au

This event will go ahead rain, hail or shine.

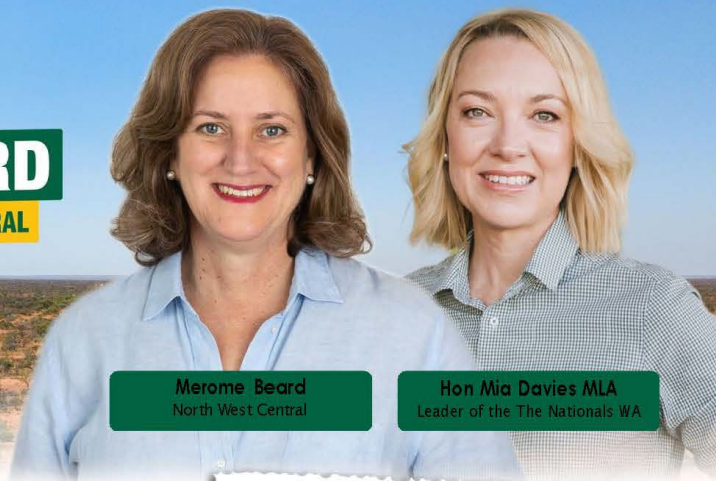
Australia will be the host of the SKA-Low Telescope, to be built at CSIRO's Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory on Wajarri Yamatji country. SKA-Low is part of the SKA Observatory, a global radio-astronomy facility that will transform our understanding of the Universe.



VOTE 1

MEROME BEARD

CANDIDATE FOR NORTH WEST CENTRAL



Merome Beard
North West Central

Hon Mia Davies MLA
Leader of the Nationals WA

Hi, I'm Merome Beard, but most people call me Mem. I'm your Nationals WA candidate for the North West Central by-election.

My family and I have a long connection to the region, and we call Carnarvon home. It's where my husband and I run our business the Port Hotel for nearly 20 years, raised our kids and volunteered in the community.

As a fourth generation local, raised in the region and a proud School of the Air graduate - I know first hand what makes this region great. Whether you live in the Gascoyne, the Pilbara or the Murchison, I understand the issues, challenges and opportunities across North West Central.

The Labor Government is failing to tackle important issues to you such as health services, crime, housing, staff shortages and the cost pressures of doing business and living.

Meanwhile they've decimated regional representation in Parliament and under spent in regional WA, all while boasting a \$5.7 billion budget surplus.

That's why I'm asking for your support, so I can continue to take up the fight in Parliament on your behalf.

Thanks, **Mem!**

"Your vote can send Mem to Parliament to be the strong voice your community needs - part of the team dedicated to regional WA. She's the right person for the job."

Hon Mia Davies MLA
Leader of The Nationals WA



MeromeBeardforNWC



@merome.beard



0476 040 696



merome.beard@nationalswa.com



www.meromebeard.com.au

THE NATIONALS
for Regional WA

Authorised by Paul Dixon, 39 Gascoyne Road, Carnarvon WA 6701



Pulse oximeter

What you need to know!

- ☐ Are you non-Aboriginal and over 65?
- ☐ Are you Aboriginal and over 50?
- ☐ Are you pregnant?



If you answered YES to any of the above – collect a free pulse oximeter from your local government today!

What is a pulse oximeter?

It is a small, peg-like device that clips onto your fingertip to read your heart rate and blood oxygen level. It takes only one minute to work, is reusable and can be shared between other people in your household.



Why do I need one?

If you become COVID-19 positive, you may need to be remotely monitored through the WA COVID Care at Home program. By having a pulse oximeter already in your home, a health professional can assess you and provide health advice from the comfort of your home. Visit [WA COVID Care at Home](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/COVID-Care-at-Home) for more information.

Where do I get one?

Visit your local government to collect a free pulse oximeter for you and your household (each eligible household will receive one pulse oximeter).

Do **not** pick up a pulse oximeter if you are already COVID-19 positive. If you have already received a positive COVID-19 test result, the Department of Health will contact you and provide further information.

Visit [COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) \(healthywa.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/COVID-19-(coronavirus)) for more information.

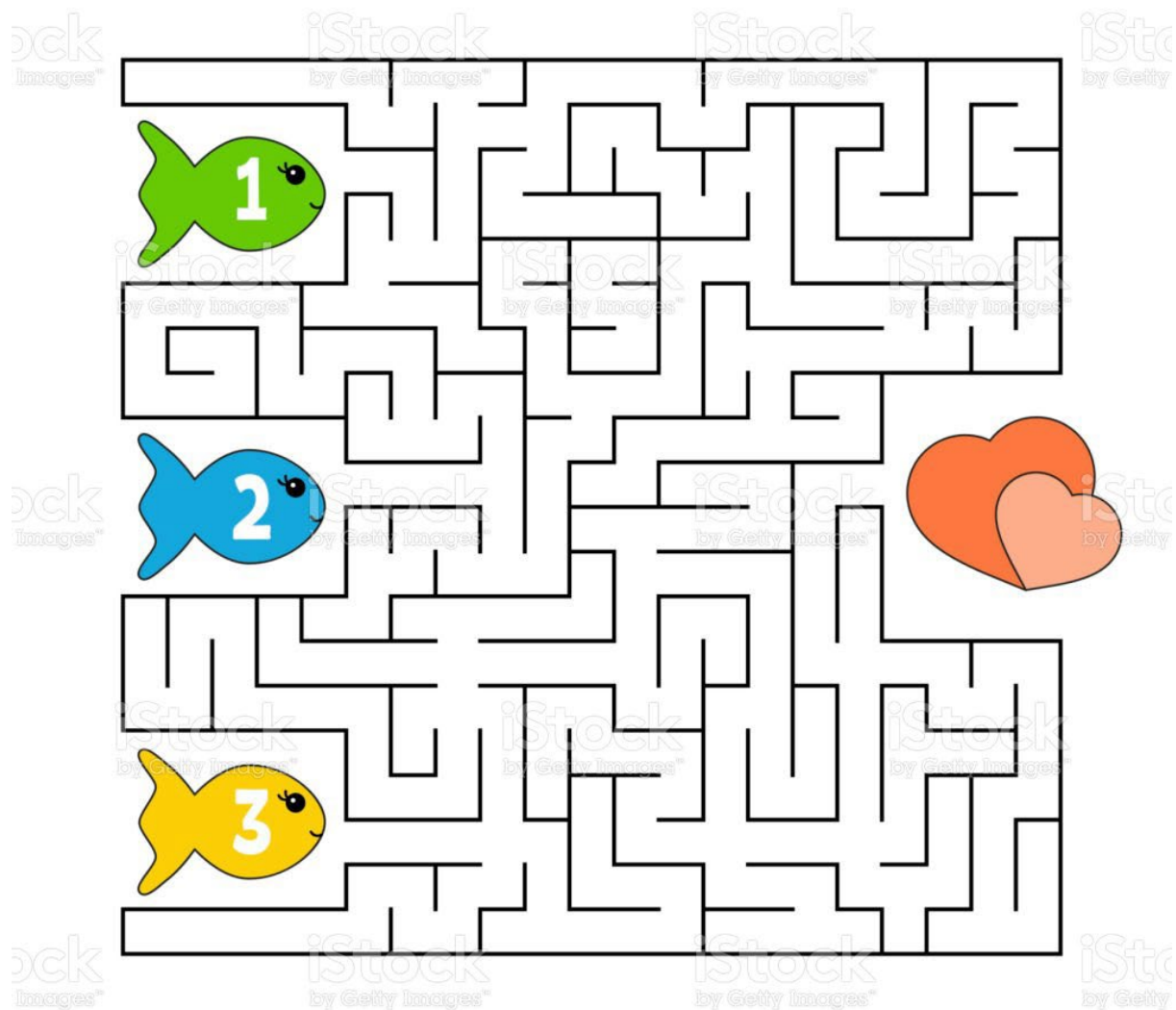
This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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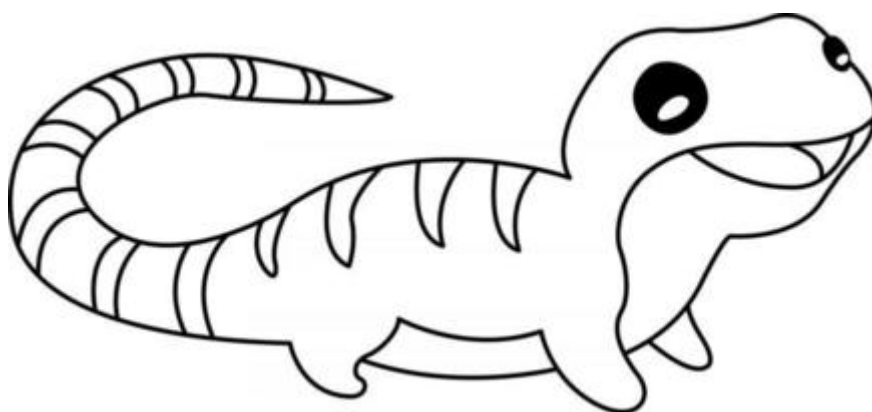
healthywa.wa.gov.au

Fun for the Kids



1164750786

Grab your pencils and colour me in 😊



PINK

GREEN

WHITE

BROWN

BLUE

GRAY

PURPLE

ORANGE

YELLOW

RED

BLACK



O	R	A	N	G	E	R	E
A	Y	E	L	R	E	E	G
B	P	I	R	E	D	N	B
L	P	O	L	E	G	E	R
A	U	P	I	N	K	N	O
C	R	P	U	R	P	L	W
K	P	G	R	A	Y	B	N
G	L	E	E	N	E	L	E
Y	E	L	L	O	W	U	A
N	A	W	H	I	T	E	B

Dot to Dot Sun

Connect the dots from 1 to 25
to make today sunny!

