

Murchison

VOLUME 43 | EDITION 1

June

2023

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, which is a tad later than usual, representing a 6-month period.

In this issue please also note analogies in a tongue in cheek way to "roaring mice" as explained in this issue.

As always, we might be large in size and incredibly tiny in numbers, but we continue to punch well above our weight, much like that historical Mouse that Roared.

Importantly we are always looking to receive information, pictures, event details, stories of life in Murchison and adverts from the community.

So, if you have anything you would like to add to the next ofuture Monologue editions, then please contact the Shire Office.

We'd love to hear from you!!

Ed



murchisonshire

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Roscoe's Rundown.

It's been several months since last I penned a few lines to update locals on what we have been up to on Council, and a fair bit has happened in that time.

It was great to see a reasonable amount of late summer/early autumn rain around the district. The northeast of the district and adjoining areas in the Meekatharra Shire had particularly heavy falls which resulted in the highest levels in the Murchison River for around a decade. Some roads in this area (particularly the Beringarra-Mt Gould road) suffered some bad erosion. Council has gone through the normal process of assessment following a widespread, road damaging rain and it looks like some flood damage relief will be forthcoming to assist with getting these roads back up to scratch.



The Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival was held in late April and judging by the feedback from many who attended, it was a much-enjoyed event. I am very appreciative of the significant volunteer efforts that went into organising the event.



The two contractors who were carrying out the last of the flood damage repairs, from an event two years ago, have now finished their work. The bureaucracy that makes these processes so drawn

out is pretty frustrating for Shires right around WA and often leads to locals not quite sure what flood event they are connected with, but we can't seem to avoid that, I'm sorry.

Work is well underway with upgrading the Settlement's water supply infrastructure and Council looks forward to the day when we can be free of the "this water is not potable" guidelines our health directives currently insist on.

SKAO is meant to be ramping up construction work at the Boolardy site over the next few months and, in anticipation of this, Main Roads has released some of the road maintenance/preparation funds it is holding so the Shire can get work on the access road underway. Some of you would have noticed this preparatory work being done on the Wooleen/Boolardy Rd.



The Oasis Roadhouse Managers Pix and Nick are heading off to pursue new challenges and I thank them for their good work and wish them well.



Until next time,

Roscoe

CEO's Snapshot

Thus far, despite staff absences, 2023 has seen a continued progression in a range of areas, a number which have been outlined thought this issue.

Apart from a number of impressive road related actions, as we learn new road construction techniques, and finally being able to get cracking in upgrading the water supply in the Murchison Settlement, work by the community in delivering an excellent Ancient Lands Under Brilliant Skies Festival was impressive.



Despite the later than desirable programming, dealing with raft of unforeseen issues- including a high river that reduced numbers, the effort by all is to be applauded. This issue highlights this with aplomb.



This issue has plenty of “mouse roarings” by our incredibly small community.

Ciao

Bill

Shire Roadworks

Carnarvon-Mullewa Road

The construction crew are progressing steadily with their current task of preparing the first of a number of sections of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road to be rehabilitated widened and then sealed. Works currently underway focus on sections between the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Road and Ballinyoo Bridge.

The process this time around is different to anything we have attempted to do. As this pavement will be stabilized, we need a pavement that will be more than 250mm, which we will comfortably achieve with the new gravel carted in and the insitu gravel and old bitumen we have reclaimed. Also, in order to drop the pavement to an acceptable level we have had to cut out the sub-base and used this to pick up the excessively deep table drains. The original pavement height was around the 500mm mark higher than the surrounding natural ground level in some places, fortunately not for the entire length we are preparing.



During the past few months, following discussion with both Greenfield and Blacktop, it would appear the best form of pavement stabilization will be about a 0.5% inclusion of cement, with the floodways getting 2%. Initially we had some delays as the crew were getting their heads around the new process, however it now appears to be all systems go. There will also be a lot more emphasis on getting our levels more accurate, especially around the three new floodways that will be installed.

Meanwhile, on 24 May 2023, we were advised by Main Roads WA that all 3 road widening and

rehabilitation projects on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road (SLK190.23-193.42, SLK 222.83-226.47 and Reserve Project SLK 214.32-230.34) for 2023/24 would now be fully funded. The increase in reserve project funding is \$82,431.

Beringarra-Cue Road.

While a considerable amount of water went over this road the damage was surprisingly little. (Nookawarra recorded 80mm over one night) Some lessons we can learn from this are more bunds are better and their location is critical. Short, flat bottom drains were more effective than the old deep and long v-drains. Correct pavement level and construction play a major role in protecting the asset as well as being environmentally responsible. Not having massive table drains to channel water alongside the pavement prevents scouring and, in many cases, loss of pavement formation.



SKA Road Upgrade

Walladar are progressing well with their section of the work and have continued upgrade works on the Wooleen Mt. Wittenoom Road. They seem to have overcome dealing with some hard material and are progressing well.

After the RFQ closed last Thursday 18 May 2023 Squires Resources should be making a start on the section south of the Boolardy homestead and then moving on to the Boolardy-Wooleen Rd.

Meanwhile, a small floodway section of the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Rd, adjacent to the end of the seal near the Murchison River, seems to have been missed when the river crossing was upgraded by Main Roads a few years ago as its this section that now appears to be the reason that the road remains closed when the river levels have

subsided elsewhere. In conjunction with Main Roads WA, we are looking at addressing this, if possible, in future SKA roadworks.

Wreath Flower Signage

This will get underway as soon as all the signage arrives. The new, dual carriageway arrangement will then become operational.



Flood Repair Works

Squires Resources have completed their Flood 8 & 9 packages and we await further correspondence from DFES for the go ahead for flood 10 (AGRN 1021)



Twin Peaks-Wooleen Road

Them Earthmoving are still busy with their Flood 8 & 9 package and are currently working from the north boundary on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. back toward their camp, opposite the Beringarra-Byro Rd intersection. As with Squires Resources we are waiting for the go ahead for AGRN 1021.

Meanwhile, on 24 May 2023, we were advised that Flood 11 for the event for AGRN1062 Midwest-Gascoyne and Pilbara Regions – Storm and Associated Flooding (29 March – 4 April 2023) had been accepted by DFES as eligible for disaster relief funding.



AGRN 1021 (Flood 10)

Once again there appears to be a hold-up with progressing these works. DFES have come back with what the CEO and I believe to be an unacceptable and inappropriate method and implementation of the works to be done. Some Local Governments have apparently accepted the DFES assessment decisions, but we are of the belief that it needs to be challenged. It is recognised that DFES have their own requirements and pressures, which may or may not be a contributing factor, but it seems clear that there is a lack of understanding with regard to maintenance and repair of remote roads, water behavior etc., especially relating to gravel roads.

It is clear that a collaborative approach would serve everyone better and the CEO has again indicated a willingness to proactively assist and suggest improvements which will serve everyone. He has also submitted this view to DFES and indicated that whilst this specific project could be used to assist as a case study, the approval of this project should be undertaken ASAP as per our submissions given the significant delays already incurred by DFES.

Unfortunately, this situation is not dissimilar to other Shires who have similar experiences.

Beringarra- Pindar Road

Rowe Contractors should make a start on the Beringarra-Pindar Road re-sheet and drainage repair works sometime during after the week of 19 June 2023.

New Plant

The new construction grader arrived on Thursday May 25th. The smooth drum roller that was ordered at the same time will be about a month or so later.



Settlement Works

Settlement Water Upgrade

A start was made on Monday 8 May and at the time of writing there is about 400m or so of trenching left before the last of the pipe can be buried. The two crossing points over the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. are complete and will be re-sealed in the spring or early summer after the infill has had a chance to settle. Progress has been remarkably quick. So far with all of pipe that has been laid has already been buried.



We are in discussion with Petro Min Engineers trying to sort out some of the gremlins that have popped up regarding getting power to the new compound now that the new fence has been erected and it can be locked.

Murchison Gas and Plumbing have progressed at an impressive pace, nearly all piping has been buried, compound enclosure completed, tanks in place and awaiting connection and all internal plumbing in the shed completed.

The CEO and our health inspector are also pursuing various options regarding funding for the chlorination plant. We await the arrival of the chlorinator and the installation of the electrics which is a work in progress.



Settlement Power Upgrade

So far there is not a lot of progress to report on apart from what has been mentioned in the water upgrade. I am also waiting for Hosken Electrical to get back to me on when the cable replacement will happen on Kurara Way, hopefully it will be while Murchison Plumbing and Gas have trenching gear on site.

ARRB Pavement Testing

The Australian Road Research Board Pavement Testing Vehicle was scheduled to arrive on Council Day to examine the sealed sections of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road between Mullewa and the end of the seal just north of the Murchison Settlement.

It is rare that these vehicles examine local roads, and we thank Main Roads WA in facilitating the trip and for the City of Greater Geraldton's support in ensuring that their gravel section was graded prior to the visit, given the sensitive nature

of the testing equipment that is an integral part of the vehicle.

As luck would have it, testing was able to be conducted on the day of the June Council meeting with a small stopover in the Settlement that fortuitously coincided with councillors lunch break.

Councillors were able to take the opportunity to view and tour the Australian Road Research Board Pavement Testing Vehicle and make a small book presentation to the operators.



Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival

Located in the heart of Wajarri country, the Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies festival is celebrating the land and skies of the Murchison region at the Murchison Settlement. 14th and 15th April



Over the two days, visitors and locals learnt how to cook in a camp oven, took a scenic helicopter flight, wandered the local market stalls of artisan-made goods, participated in a bushtucker talk and admired Aboriginal art. There was plenty of star-studded science during the event too, with expert talks on the world's largest radio telescope the SKA, which is being built on Inyarrimanha Ilgari Bundara, the CSIRO Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory.

Circus acts, face painters, costume making and more made the outback come alive for our little ones. Everyone relaxed, sat back amongst the gum trees of the oasis of the Murchison and enjoyed good food supplied by local caterers and culinary enthusiasts. As the evening rolled in, everyone enjoyed fantastic performances and participated in a stellar stargazing event, including three laser-pointer tours of Southern Hemisphere constellations.

The River was up for a few weeks and, whilst welcome by all pastoralists, did cause some disruption for east-west traffic making it difficult for those to attend the Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival and a cancellation of CSIRO's associated planned tours of the Inyarrimanha Ilgari Bundara, CSIRO Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory.

The Working Group and many others are to be congratulated for putting on a very successful festival event which, from all accounts, was extremely well received.

Obviously, numbers were down due to the high river but nevertheless feedback has been extremely positive.

Opportunities were also taken up to obtain video footage through Destination WA and to have the Festival professionally photographed. All of this work will become usable by the Shire moving forward and is opportune given we haven't much in place.

Congratulations to everyone including, but not limited to, the following people:

Working Group Members

Cr M Fowler, Bill Boehm, Steven Cosgrove, Vicki Dumbriis, Nick Drew, Will Herold and Lisa Keen (Council), Megan Howlett (Megan Howlett Business Concepts), and Community Members Frances Pollock, Julia Foulkes-Taylor, Kylie Simpson and Sam Walton and Chris Brayton (CSIRO).

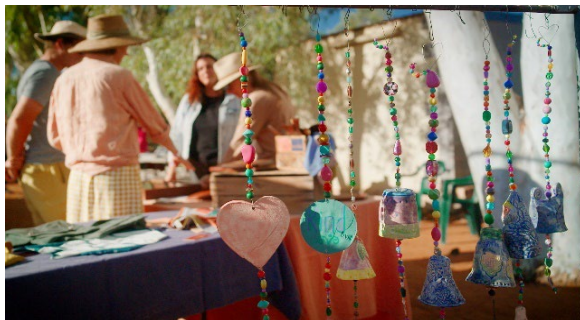
Funding Partners

Lottery West, Tourism WA, and CSIRO

Sponsors

Greenfield Technical Services, Yuin Contracting, Squires Resources, Them Earthmoving and Hosken Electrical.





Destination WA

As a part of Tourism development within the region, the Shire was able to work with Destination WA to develop three TV segments for the Region which naturally also focused on the Festival. These have been produced and run on Perth's Channel Nine Television Destination WA Program. They may be viewed on the following web link.

<https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/Zxc4bufxd2>

Photos

There are so many photos by the awesome photographer Dylan Alcock, who operates the West Beach Studios in Perth. We cannot include all in this issue, but an example of his work and the day's events are shown below as well on the back cover. Enjoy!!



Murchison River and Flooding

A large amount of rain was received at the end of March beginning of April which saw a number of our roads closed. Whilst this was generally throughout the Shire, a very large amount fell in the upper reaches of the Murchison River catchment, in and around Meekatharra.

Everyone watched as the waters rose at various crossings throughout the Shire, especially at the Ballinyoo Bridge which was reported to be the highest river since the new bridge was built in 2016.

Along with other Shires, a successful application was made to the Department of Emergency Services to have this rainfall event declared as eligible for disaster recovery funding. We will now proceed with submitting a schedule of repair works



Welcome Robyne

Please give a warm welcome to Robyne, who has recently joined the team, taking on Finance and assisting in administration.

Robyne has worked previously in local government and is a welcome addition to the team.

Robyne grew up on her parents farm at Yuna, along with her 3 sisters and 1 brother.

Robyne attended high school in Geraldton and then moved to numerous towns, working as she went.



Robyne was working in Perth but missed the peace and quiet of the country lifestyle so has settled into the Settlement very easily.

Pop in and say hi if you already haven't already.



The first local to welcome her here was one of our residential bungarras, perhaps one that is reputed to live under the CEO's house.

Farewell Nick and Pixie



It is sad to have to say good bye to Nick and Pixie who have been running the Roadhouse for the Murchison Shire since they started back in May 2021.

Many changes have happened whilst they have been the managers and, whilst some of it has been challenging, they have taken it all in their stride and soldiered through it.



Everyone wishes them all the best in their next endeavour and hope they enjoy a well earned break.

No doubt they will miss Chirpy.



Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park



Accommodation all ready 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.

We are also a postal agency so why not buy a post card or two and post them on your way.

Public toilets remain open, and fuel is available with the 24-hour access to fuel bowzers using a card swipe facility.



Contacts

Phone: (08) 9961 3875

Fax: (08) 9961 3876

Email: oasis@murchison.wa.gov.au

Normal Trading Hours are shown below

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



Roadhouse Staff

New Managers Warren Tomlinson and Olive Martina soon to arrive in early July.

Meanwhile Jack Richter and Winnie Lin will fill in between and be available in an ongoing capacity



Flying Doctor Car Rally Fundraiser

The rally visited the Settlement on the 1st June on their way to Darwin. Their next stop after the Settlement was Shark Bay.



The Outback Car Trek is an annual event that donates the funds it raises each year for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Since their inception in 1990 they have raised in excess of \$32,500,000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The Outback Car Trek is widely acknowledged as the premier Charity Car Rally in Australia today.

Trek 2022 finished in Hervey Bay on 11 June 2022 and was a resounding success – raising more than \$1,000,000 for the RFDS.

Trek 2023 will start in Geraldton WA on the 30th of May 2023, and we will finish in beautiful, tropical, iconic Darwin on the 11th of June 2023.

This route is one that will take us to truly unique locations (9 brand new overnight towns), through stunningly beautiful landscapes, and mostly on roads the Trek has not ever travelled during our 34-year history.



Pia Wadjarri Mosaic Workshop



The Shire recently received funding for the Pia Wadjarri children and elders to participate in creating 4 mosaics.

The workshop ran from the 29th March through to Friday 1st April.

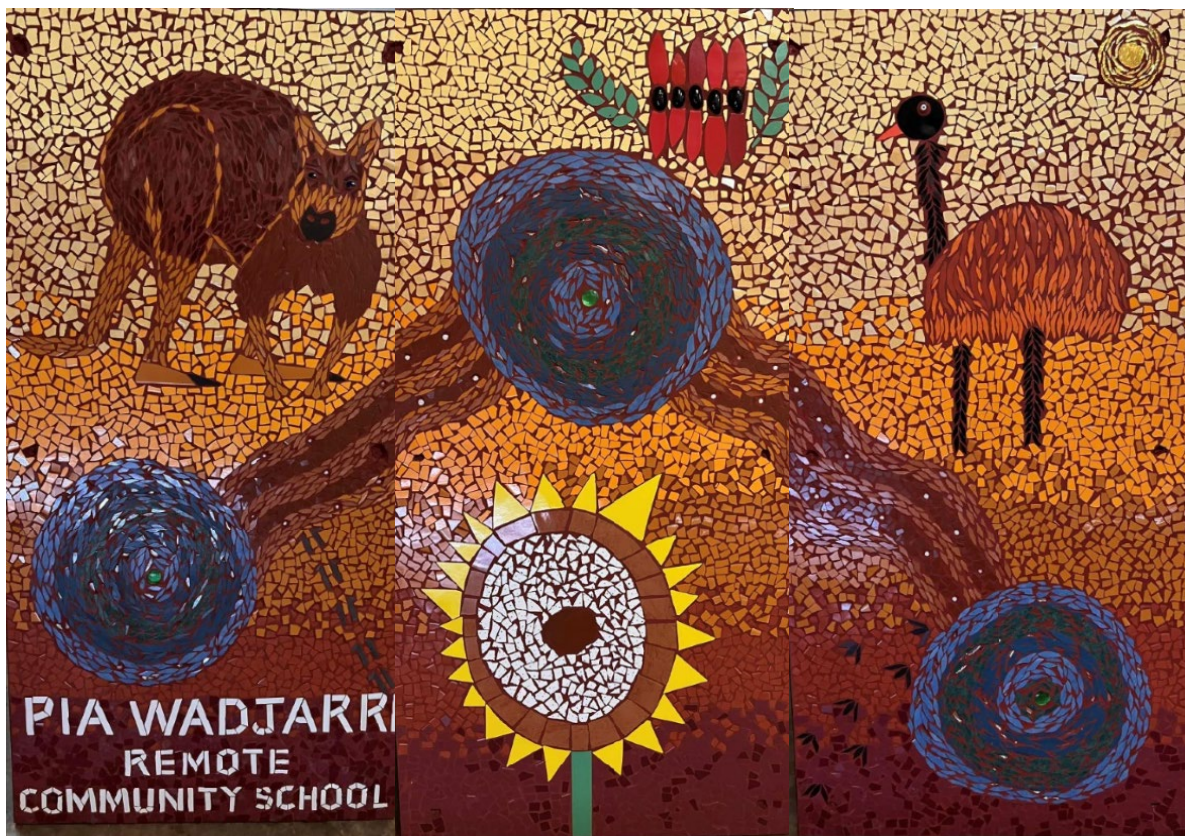
Unfortunately, the rains saw the Pia Wadjarri crew unable to come on the last couple of days, or see their works displayed at the ALUBS festival.

Everyone should be proud of the work completed as they are amazing.

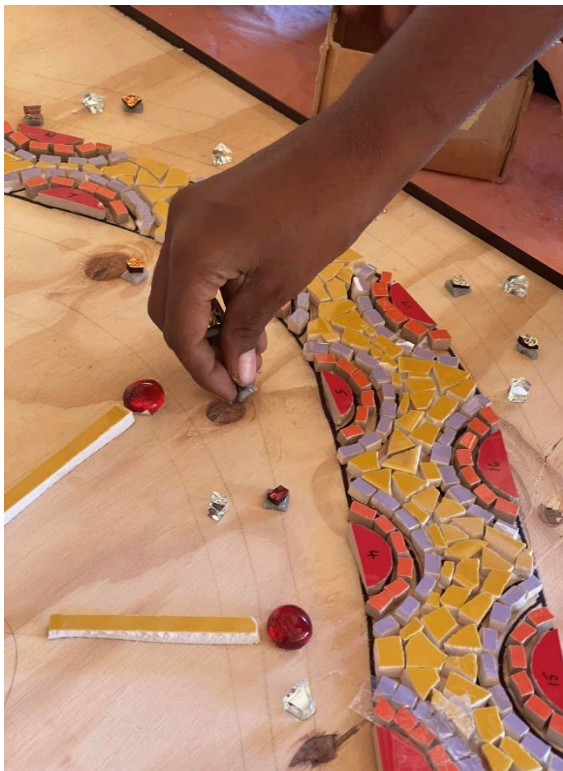
The project was very successful with the students and teachers, and everyone involved thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Hopefully another date can be set to do some more lovely displays.

Meanwhile this Mosaic adjacent is located in the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse for all to see whilst the three separate mosaics below are to be shown at the Pia Wadjarri Community School.



Three Murals Side by Side



Murchison Settlement Community Garden

Talk was happening around the Murchison Settlement about waking up the tired old garden dome.

On the 18th May a very keen group of locals started this process by attending a garden workshop to learn the ways of growing vegetables with the wicking concept.

David de Vries of Food Gardening In Remote Australia conducted the workshop. David travels the country encouraging those in remote areas to use this system, making it easier and accessible to grow and extend the growing season in our hot climate.

The morning was spent being shown how to make use of whatever you have; from a 2-litre plastic milk bottle up to an IBC to build your garden bed. These beds have a water reservoir at bottom, followed by a layer of geotextile then on with the potting mix/soil and composted mix. The idea being the plants draw up water as required and shouldn't need as much attending.



David then explained the Bubble tank; a microbial mix brewed overnight, which then became a great brew to dilute and inoculate the garden soil with. Using a whole IBC (with the top cut out) we then made a compost brew, layering different manures, soils and lawn clippings. This was then filled with water to soak overnight- the following day water would be drained off for the fruit trees. Later, worms would be added to turn this tasty looking lot into some great compost.

Breaking for lunch allowed us to exchange ideas before getting back to work.

Our very enthusiastic group then set about cutting up IBCs, with one bin becoming two beds, and setting out the beds in the Tunnel. Along the way David suggested we test all our soils and potting mix. The wandarri/local dirt turned out

spot on for the right pH level but, unfortunately, of the three different brands of potting mix we had only one turned out to be the correct pH. However, with a combination of potting mix, local dirt and local compost the vegies we planted should do okay.

Worms were another part of this system, so each bed started with a happy family of worms.

Conducting the workshop in the Community Tunnel was a great use of a community resource and many hands made light work of helping to get a vegetable garden sorted for those who make use of it.

We ended up with 6 large beds, one being for the Museum caretakers so they can pick a few lettuces or fresh herbs during their stay.

It would be great to see more garden going into the Tunnel as it's a great spot to tend the vegies or just catch up with others at the end of the day while grabbing some veg for a meal. Some great ideas came out of our workshop and it was just a very enjoyable activity to do as a community group.

Many thanks to all who put in a great effort to attend, help source gardening supplies and set up for the day.

Thanks to the Community Fund for funding David's costs and to Mullewa Farm Supplies who were able to donate some extra IBC.



Shelly Fowler

Anzac Day

Anzac Day, 25 April, is one of Australia's most important national occasions. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War.

A small gathering arrived in the Murchison Settlement for the Dawn service to remember the fallen, followed by a small gunfire breakfast held at the Sports Club.



*They shall not grow old
As we who are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning,
We will remember them.
Lest we forget.*



Biggest Morning Tea

On 22 June 2023 Cr Michelle Fowler, with assistance of a large array of helpers, for the third year in succession ran a very successful Biggest Morning Tea Fundraising event at the Murchison Sport Club.

This event continues to showcase local produce as well as raising significant funds for Cancer Research. Council has again also agreed to provide matching funds up to \$500 to aid in this endeavour.



Shire Notices

Annual Meeting of Electors

The Annual Meeting of Electors of the Murchison Shire Council will be held at 2:00pm on Thursday 27 July 2023 at the Murchison Shire Council Chambers, Murchison Settlement.

Business will involve consideration of the 2021-22 Annual Report and General Business.

A copy of the Annual Report will be available on the Shire's website from 3 July 2023.



Community Meeting Advance Notice

As part of the 2022 Shire Christmas Tree last year, the Shire was also able to facilitate a Meetings of the Murchison Sports Club and Murchison Bush Fire Brigade with a general Community Meeting also being added for the first time. All were well attended and successful.

Given this success, residents are also advised that Council intends to again hold a separate Community Meeting on our Christmas Tree day, 16 December 2023.

Carnarvon-Mullewa Road Picnic Celebration

Residents are advised that Council intends to hold a Community Picnic to celebrate the sealing of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road between the Murchison Settlement and Southern Shire Boundary.

Proposed date Friday 8 September 2023



Further information be sent out separately. Meanwhile please note this

Advance Notice to come and celebrate so please Save This Date

Travelling Precautions

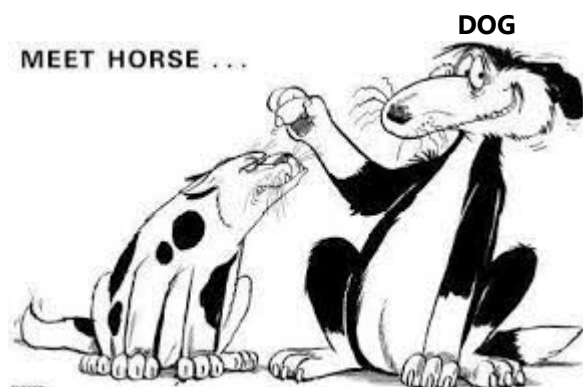
We would also like to take this opportunity to send out a safety precaution reminder to all travelling our region to:

- * 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.



Pet Registration



If you have acquired a new pet, remember that they all need to be registered with your local shire and have a microchip.

Please visit our website for a registration form. Remember, always keep your pet's registration and microchip up to date so they can be safely returned to you if they become lost.

Shire Office



Shire Office is open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm excluding public holidays. Public Library is open the same hours so you can borrow a book or two for your stay.



We also undertake Department of Transport Services including local registration plate renewals and nameplates.

Community Information

Rescue Helicopter

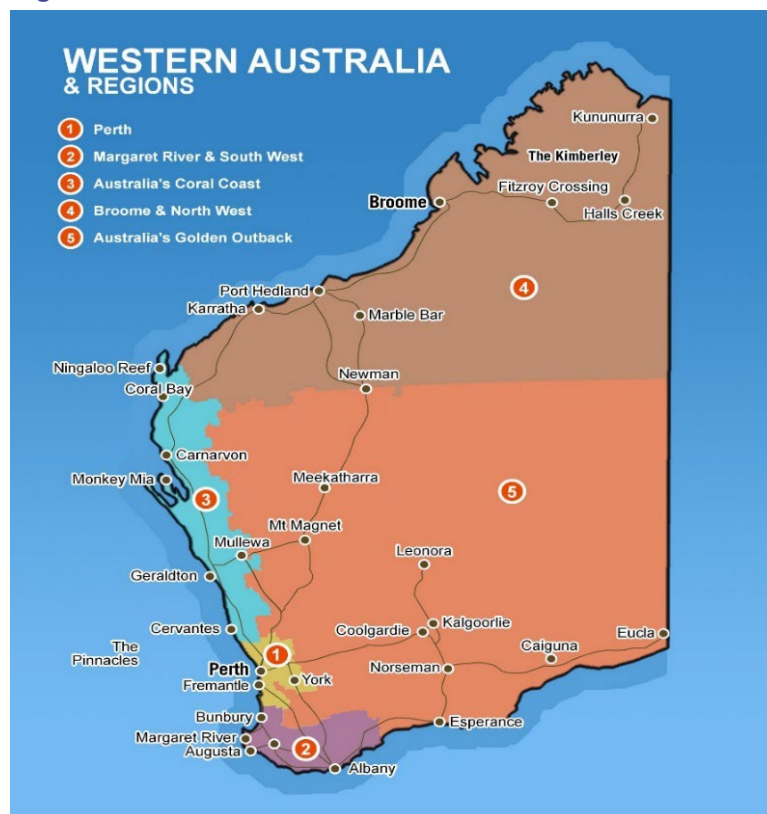


Regional Lives Matter!

- The Rescue Helicopter is manned by highly trained medical personnel and is equipped with advanced life support systems.
- A trauma patient's chances of survival increase by 50% when these enhanced medical capabilities are delivered within the "Golden Hour"
- The nearest Rescue Helicopter to the Midwest is at least 2 hours away
- People living in the Midwest and other Regions are just as entitled to this life saving service as every other Australian
- A new petition calling for a dedicated Aeromedical Rescue Helicopter to be stationed at Geraldton is available on the WA Parliament website
- To sign the petition, scan the QR Code or go to <https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/LCePetitions.nsf/petitions/23-0017>



West Australian Regions





Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

PATS process and forms have changed

(Patient Assisted Travel Scheme)

Your GP no longer needs to sign your PATS application form

What is the new process?

- 1** You complete a PATS application form and include any requests for consideration outside the current guidelines.
- 2** You submit your PATS application form in person, by post, fax or email to your local PATS office.
- 3** Your application will be assessed internally by WACHS. Your GP may be contacted for additional information, as required to support the decision.



Ready to get started?

Contact your local PATS team or scan the QR code to visit the PATS internet page.

Geraldton, Midwest & Murchison

(08) 9956 2216

PATS.Geraldton@health.wa.gov.au

Gascoyne

(08) 9941 0313

PATS.Carnarvon@health.wa.gov.au



Financial Assistance for Primary Producers



Nicole Graham, who is the Farm Household Case Officer for Services Australia has provided an introduction as one of Two Farm Household Contact officers located in Western Australia. This is to advise of a program for assistance that is available to assist Farmers and their families by offering Financial assistance and support to those experiencing financial hardship.

The program supports farmers to improve their financial self-reliance.

There are 5 key support elements to the program:

- 1 A fortnightly income support payment.
- 2 Ancillary allowances (e.g. rent assistance, telephone, pharmaceutical) and a Health Care Card.
- 3 Case support from a Farm Household Case Officer (FHCO).
- 4 A financial assessment of the farm enterprise worth up to \$1,500.
- 5 \$10,000 activity supplement (lifetime capped) to help develop skills, access training and pay for advice to increase the capacity for financial self-reliance.

Nicole's contact details information links to Services Australia and Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry websites below.

[Farm Household Allowance - Services Australia](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/search?search_api_fulltext=farm+household+allowance)

https://www.agriculture.gov.au/search?search_api_fulltext=farm+household+allowance

Nicole Graham,
Farm Household Case Officer
Nicole.Graham@servicesaustralia.gov.au
Phone: 08 949 39606 Ext: 939606 Mob: 0436 847 333
WA/QLD Community Engagement Hub
Zone WA
Face to Face division

SERVICES AUSTRALIA
servicesaustralia.gov.au



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety**



Consumer Watch

Consumer Protection 50-52 Durlacher Street, Geraldton WA 6530
Tel: (08) 9920 9800
Email: candice.evans@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Avoid tax time scams

Ongoing cost of living pressures mean many Western Australians will be looking forward to receiving tax refunds, but the end of a financial year is also a time when scammers emerge with false promises of monetary windfalls.

In a sign scammers are once again ramping up their tax-time efforts, our WA ScamNet team has received reports of a phishing email claiming to be from the Australian Tax Office (ATO), but is actually from a completely unrelated email address.

The fake email (which even comes with stolen Australian Government logos) promises a refund of several hundred dollars, but only if the recipient sends across their personal and financial information in return. The scammers would then likely use this information to commit identity theft and steal their money.

Unfortunately this email is just one of many ways scammers target their potential victims, with more than 19,000 scam reports received by the ATO during the 2022-23 financial year alone.

Along with text messages and threatening phone calls, scammers are increasingly turning to social media. Both the ATO and myGov have expressed concerns about fake social media accounts impersonating their organisations, staff and senior executives that ask users to send a direct message so they can make phony offers of help with taxes or fake refunds.

No matter how you're contacted, the best way to stay safe from tax-time scammers is to 'practice the pause' on calls, emails and messages that come out of the blue and never send your personal or financial information to someone you don't know or trust.

For social media messages, investigate the account that has messaged you – look for verified ticks showing the account is genuine, then check the follower numbers and recent activity for any red-flags. On emails, click or hover over the sender's name to find the full email address. If you receive a phone call, hang up and call back the organisation using contact details you have independently sourced.

Report suspicious calls, emails or messages claiming to be from the ATO to reportscams@ato.gov.au or myGov to reportscam@servicesAustralia.gov.au

Learn more about tax scams on WA ScamNet's website at www.scamnet.wa.gov.au and if you have handed over personal information, immediately contact IDCARE at www.idcare.org

Upcoming Events

Murchison Polocrosse

MURCHISON POLOCROSSE TOURNAMENT **08 & 09 JULY 2023** **MULTI- HORSE**



Grades A (Capped at 45 points), B, C, D, E, & Subbies

Teams to be submitted online by
Tuesday 4th July, 9:00PM

Website: www.nswpolocrosse.org.au

Player fee of \$20.00 to be paid by Tuesday 5th July into:

Murchison Polocrosse Club

BSB: 633 000

Acct: 192 705 069

Please ensure club captains attend the meeting Friday night @ 7pm

- Plenty of yards and camping available - STRICTLY NO FLOATS, TRUCKS OR HORSES ON CARAVAN PARK LAWN
- *****ALL PLAYERS/SPECTATORS MUST BOOK TO CAMP IN GRASSED AREA - CALL OASIS ROADHOUSE 08 9961 3875 \$15 PER NIGHT**
- Kitchen open all weekend with dinner Saturday night
- Bar open from Friday 5pm - Sunday night - Games Saturday night
- The Murchison Roadhouse will have fuel & some food available over the weekend
- **BRING CASH!** There are no EFTPOS facilities at clubhouse, and no ATM at roadhouse

For enquiries please call:

Tessa Mitchell (Captain) - 0429 130 192

Claire Macleod (President) - 0428 800 390

MID WEST ART PRIZE 2023



Call for entries

Acquisitional Major Prize - \$20,000

ENTRIES CLOSE 8 SEPTEMBER 2023

To apply visit <http://artgallery.cgg.wa.gov.au>

Opening night event Saturday 9 December



Variety Bash



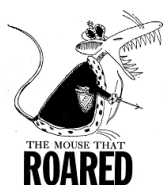
The 2023 Variety Bash will start **Friday 8 to Saturday 16 September 2023. Kicking off in Merredin and finishing on the coast in beautiful Denham.** We're talkin' about a 'carnival on wheels', adrenaline-pumping off-the-map tracks, all to raise essential funds for WA kids living with sickness, disadvantage and disability.



This WA event is one for the events calendar every year. There really isn't anything quite like it! The camaraderie and devotion each basher has speaks for itself hence why we see so many regular participants returning to the event year after year

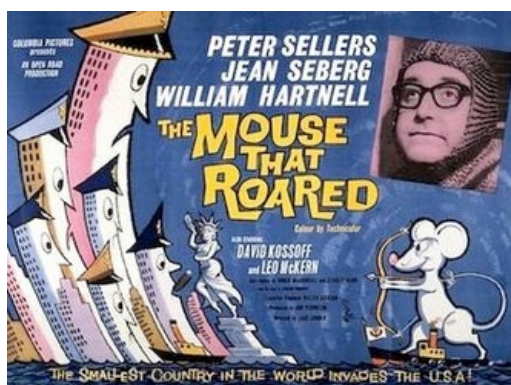
This WA fundraiser helps kids receive a fair go.
**The Variety Bash are expected in the Murchison Settlement on
Friday 15 September 2023**

The Mouse that Roared Explained



From time to time within this and other issues of our Monologue you may see this caption and the term "Mouse that Roared". In essence it's a bit of "my eye and merry foot" nonsense.

However, it's actually based on 'The Mouse That Roared', a 1959 British satirical comedy film on a Ban The Bomb theme, based on a 1955 book of that name. Its currently running on SBS and SBS on Demand and worth a look.



Essentially the movie highlights fictitious minuscule European Duchy of Grand Fenwick is bankrupted when an American company comes up with a cheaper imitation of Fenwick's sole export, its fabled Pinot Grand Fenwick wine. Crafty Prime Minister Count Mountjoy (Peter Sellers) devises a plan: Grand Fenwick will declare war on the United States, then surrender, taking advantage of American largesse toward its defeated enemies to rebuild the defeated nation's economy.

A contingent of 20 soldiers in medieval chain mail armour book passage across the Atlantic on a small merchant ship, arriving in New York Harbor during an air-raid drill that leaves the city deserted and undefended.

What transpires is the theft of a bomb, with the US then agreeing to terms that the knock-off wine will be taken off the market, Grand Fenwick to receive monetary aid from the US and the bomb: held by "the little countries of the world" as a weapon of last resort if the superpowers refuse to disarm.

The movie might be old but parallels to Murchison "mouse roaring" are obvious.

As always, we might be large in size and incredibly tiny in numbers, but we continue to punch well above our weight.

Menu Ideas to share with friends

Stuffed sweet potatoes with chipotle and lime yogurt

Warm yourself up with this amazing low-calorie recipe, perfect for a cold winter night!

Serves 4

Cooking time 50 mins

Ingredients list

- ~ 4 small to medium sweet potatoes
- ~ 2Tbsp olive oil
- ~ Freshly ground black pepper
- ~ 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- ~ Half tsp dried chipotle chili powder
- ~ 1Tbsp fresh lime juice
- ~ 1 cup cooked black beans (drained and rinsed if using canned)
- ~ 1 avocado, cubed
- ~ 2Tbsp chopped coriander
- ~ 2tsp chopped fresh chives

Method

- ~ Preheat the oven to 200c and line a baking tray with a sheet of aluminium foil
- ~ Place the sweet potatoes on the tray and bake until fork-tender (40 to 45mins)
- ~ Remove from the oven. Slice the potatoes lengthwise into two halves. Fluff the flesh with a fork whilst still hot.
- ~ Drizzle a Tbsp of olive oil and a pinch of salt and pepper into each potato and mix well.
- ~ For your yogurt dressing-add chili powder and lime juice to your yogurt and stir
- ~ To serve, add 2-3 Tbsp of black beans, 1Tbsp of cubed avocado, fresh coriander and chives on top of each potato
- ~ Drizzle the chipotle-lime yogurt and freshly ground black pepper

Share and enjoy!!



