

# MURCHISON MONOLOGUE



August—September 2018 Edition Vol 40 Number 3

*Thank you to William and Colleen (Curbur Station) for the stunning photos of the wildflowers in this Edition*



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## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MONOLOGUE

If you have any articles or information about events or photo's you wish to share with our readers, then please do not hesitate to contact the office. We would love to include them.

Contribution closing date for the December issue is

Friday November 30th.

# News from the CEO's Desk

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Hello Community Members,

Spring is definitely underway. We have relocated our first snake of the season, a brown snake that was enjoying lunch near one of the staff houses. Both Stuart and Ryan are qualified to capture and relocate snakes.

Thank you to those community members that were able to attend the community meeting with the CSIRO at the end of August. It was a positive meeting. One of the outcomes of that meeting was that the Mid West Development Commission (MWDC) has undertaken to organise a field day at the Settlement.

An email was sent out to the community requesting a registration of interest in attending the field day. If you have not had the opportunity to register your interest, please do so as soon as possible. Areas that we hope will be covered include:

The MWDC are endeavouring to organise the following:

- Experts from CSIRO's Astronomy and Space Science division to advise on suitability of electric fencing energisers and other equipment within the RQZ.
- Technology in action (Pastures from Space, Drones, RFID cattle tags, remote monitoring)
- Agersens E-Shepherd– showcase of GPS enabled virtual boundaries for stock.
- Remote water monitoring expertise; including a local case study.
- Pastures from Space
- Wild Dog update (DPIRD)
- Animal health (Bob Nickels – Vet)
- CRT suppliers (Gallagher, and others).

The Shire works Crew has continued to complete outstanding work under the leadership of William Herold. I wish to thank both he and the crew for their commitment to delivering quality work. It is pleasing that we have received a number of compliments from visitors to the settlement in relation to our gardens and the quality of our roads. Our unsung hero, Stuart, keeps everything moving.

Work on the flood damage repair is continuing and should be fully ramped up by the end of October. Due to the extensive nature of the damage it may take up to twelve months for the works to be completed.

We were pleased to be able to host a School of the Air camp at the Settlement. Thank you to the teachers for traveling out to the Settlement and to the parents for working together to make it a successful camp.

A special thank you to Sam for helping in the office whilst Vicki and Ivor were away. During this time Rose, Tatjana, and Bernie have managed to complete the Budget and the Annual Financial Statements whilst keeping the organisation running.

Regards

Peter Dittrich



## Update from the Shire President

Hello All,

I hope this finds everyone in good spirits and health.

The Community/CSIRO interactive gathering held at the Sports Club in late August was well attended. I feel everyone had a fair crack at expressing some of their queries and concerns and overall the day was pretty constructive. On the subject of CSIRO, they also recently held a Murchison Residents' open day which included a tour through the facilities at the MRO. Thank you to the CSIRO crew for the effort you made towards this day. Hopefully both of the above events are a good kick start to getting CSIRO – Community relations back on track after a period slightly off-track, one might say.

In some sad news Lawrence Merry passed away a few weeks ago. Lawrence was a long term, respected member of the Murchison Community and my condolences go to his family.

The Shire Construction Crew has been doing some very good re-sheeting work down the south end, on Tallering. While taking good advantage of the moist conditions created by the winter rain down there, I think they have just about had enough of the 50-100 cars a day visiting the wreath flowers during the peak period.

William Herold has stepped pretty smoothly into the role of Works Supervisor recently vacated by Brian, and the atmosphere in the works depot, construction and maintenance crews seems pretty productive.

Flood damage tenders were awarded to Robbro Earthmoving, THEM Earthmoving and Squires Resources, with this work due to be fully up and running by mid to late October.

With all tenders for the returning of the Beringarra Cue Road to a gravel surface coming in well over budget, Council did not proceed with any and is currently looking at alternatives regarding a suitable/affordable approach to this project.

In recent months I've had several reports from passers-by/visitors of very positive impressions of our Settlement and roads and I thank all those concerned for their contributions towards creating a good impression of the Murchison.

Until next time

Regards

Rosco



## **A Community Meeting was held 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018 to discuss the impact of the SKA on the residents of the Shire of Murchison**

Approximately 45 people attended the meeting including pastoralists, Councillors, CSIRO representatives and interested residents.

President R Foulkes Taylor opened the meeting and welcomed all. He invited the attendees to introduce themselves and provided a background to the meeting. The meeting had been arranged to open communication with the SKAO/CSIRO and the Shire of Murchison and the Residents of the Shire.

Some issues were identified as being of concern to stakeholders including :

- ◆ Road issues & access to gravel pits and water – shire for public works
- ◆ Status on land tenure – maybe invite Karel Eringa
- ◆ Opportunities for R&D in the district
- ◆ Fencing – both actual boundary fencing and implementation of virtual fencing
- ◆ Exclusion of local labour and services if not in the state Aboriginal Directory and where does the Wadjarri business directory sit?
- ◆ Interpretive centre
- ◆ Lines of communication between CSIRO and stakeholders. Particularly notice of tradies, choppers for vermin control, etc coming to do work share resources and position on stray cattle, maybe organise community musters
- ◆ Use of drones for monitoring rangelands condition and soil carbon as well as future restrictions on solar pumps and electric fences
- ◆ RFI - Mobiles, UHF radios, mobiles, Wi-fi and the restricted zones (RALI MS32) – impact on tourism, mustering and local businesses, especially safety
- ◆ Management of vermin control (CSIRO input and streamlining processes with pastoralists and CRBA) and fire control personnel and assets available on occasions of fire or emergency rescue, including update on progress of fast attack unit at Boolardy after meeting with Andrew Whitmarsh and Sandy McTaggart.

David Luchetti, representing the SKAO, provided an overview of the status of the SKA project.

Agreements with at least 12 member countries have been negotiated. A convention which is to be approved and signed by each member country's government and then ratified by those governments should be completed by the end of 2019. Once the convention has been ratified, a council will be established to manage the procurement for the project. Building activity should start in late 2020 or early 2021.

Current unfunded elements include :

An Engineering Centre – possibly located in Geraldton

Permanent Accommodation at the site

A Regional Data Centre – possibly located in Perth

An in principle ILUA has been reached with the local Wajarri people.

Additional information provided following questions from the floor:

- ◆ The SKAO would be happy to set up a Community Consultation Committee
- ◆ The future camp population is estimated to be 70 to 90 staff
- ◆ The antenna will be approximately 2m high and look like a Christmas tree
- ◆ The CSIRO is currently looking at what to do with the land not being used by the telescope, this may take 2 to 3 years
- ◆ Local input will be sought in relation to future land management
- ◆ CSIRO is not looking at disposing of part of the land by way of lease or sale
- ◆ CSIRO may consider allowing others to use land not required by the telescope in the future
- ◆ The CSIRO has no plans to acquire additional land
- ◆ The lease is currently a pastoral lease however a new lease is currently being negotiated
- ◆ The CSIRO does not pay Council Rates

Carol Wilson, representing CSIRO, to give an overview of the radio quiet zone.

Carol explained that radio quiet does not mean radio silence. Radios may always be used in the case of emergency. She provided a brief explanation of the various classes of radio licence.

She advised the group that all equipment and technology will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Additional information provided following questions from the floor:

The CSIRO will follow up what frequency will be used by virtual fencing

If pastoralists are unable to use current or future technology, and face economic or other disadvantage as a result, they should approach the CSIRO to negotiate a mutually satisfactory outcome. There is no provision for a global compensation package.

Current drones do not operate on a restricted frequency. The motors may emit signal in a restricted frequency.

Questions were invited from the floor

A Summary of the discussion is shown below

- ◆ CSIRO Property Services is currently looking at the maintaining boundary fencing
- ◆ The provision of a directional mobile phone coverage along the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road would be a Telstra decision and CSIRO would look at the potential impact on the SKA when and if an application was made
- ◆ There is no current restriction on the use of satellite phones covered by the relevant class licence
- ◆ CSIRO is not able to relocate project that may be beneficial to the Shire community due to internal budget constraints
- ◆ Current opportunities for work on the site are limited to heritage and fencing
- ◆ There are 3 local people out of a staff of 9 used to manage the accommodation facilities
- ◆ PSG, which manages the accommodation facilities, is an eastern states company with a mandate to develop local indigenous businesses
- ◆ CSIRO currently has processes in place to restrict staff and contractors going on to areas of cultural significance. They will contact Lenny Mary to discuss concerns
- ◆ CSIRO is developing a plan to manage day to day pastoral activities
- ◆ There will be opportunities for suppliers other than Wadjjarri businesses in the future
- ◆ DFES has assisted with a fire management plan
- ◆ CSIRO will work with pastoralists in relation to electric fencing and will test three fences on Yuin station
- ◆ Kevin Ferguson, Head of WA Observatory Operations, has been appointed as the single point of contact for the CSIRO. His contact details are:  
Email: [kevin.ferguson@csiro.au](mailto:kevin.ferguson@csiro.au) P +61 8 6436 8761 M 0472 805 900



# Murchison Shire Residents Open Day

*Thank you to Kevin Ferguson, head of WA Observatory Operations, Astronomy & Space Science, CSIRO for permission to include the following article which was published in MRO News August-September 2018 issue*



On Friday 14 September, our local neighbours from the Murchison Shire (pastoralists and shire staff) were welcomed to a special “Open Day” at the MRO. Around 25 people attended. Some have done contract work for us in the past, and some had never been to the MRO but they are our closest neighbours and we have got to know some of them well over many years.

The day started with morning tea and Brett Hiscock, MRO Site Manager welcomed everyone to the Observatory. After a brief HS&E overview we went for a walk to the ASKAP core. Anthony Dann and his grand-daughter delivered the Welcome to Country and talked about well-known Wajarri families such as the Simpsons and Merrys, who have lived in the area for many generations and worked on many of the stations in the area.

Brett explained the operation of the ASKAP antennas and in particular the PAFs, which provide a unique wide-field view of the sky. Suzy Jackson kept the younger visitors entertained with antenna driving lessons! We then returned to the control building where Suzy and Shaun Amy discussed various aspects of the instrumentation, infrastructure, computing and networks.

After lunch, it was off to the MWA where Brett and Shaun talked about the low-frequency capabilities of MWA and the work being done to support the design work for the SKA1-LOW telescope. The numbers for SKA1-LOW really got people thinking!

The day concluded with a brief visit to the hybrid diesel/solar power station. Our neighbours were surprised to see the number of solar panels tucked away in the bottom corner of the MRO.

By all accounts the day was a great success.

# MURCHISON LIBRARY NEWS

G'day to all. What a beautiful time of the year it is. The wildflowers are just divine! And what a better way to spend some of those lovely warm sunny spring days (without the wretched wind) with ya nose in a good book.

I have been relieving Vicki whilst she's been away, although it was a tough start to my librarian duties I seem to have everything under control and in order.

We have had another delivery of new books come in including the quite interesting read of the Murchison Murders, stones for boys who dare to be different, garden styles, a few well illustrated books for the young child and for those who aren't a fan of reading some exciting DVD's.

If anyone is interested in loaning some books or has any requests please call me or email the Shire office.

Samantha Walton





## The Mysterious Wreath Flower

The wreath flower mainly found east of Geraldton is an intriguing ring of flowers that stop almost everybody in their tracks to have a look at. This year has been an exceptional year for the wildflower season.

The *Lechenaultia Macrantha* (also spelled *Leschenaultia*) called red wreath flower because of its flat, wreath-like growth habit is usually 150 mm or less in height, spreading between 30 cm and 80 cm in diameter, grow's mainly in the red-sand country east of Geraldton. They bloom in Mid-spring and normally start coming out in June and start to fade well up until after September.

The wreath has significant meaning for the season. Its circular shape represents eternity, for it has no beginning and no end. The evergreen, most frequently used in making wreaths, symbolizes growth and everlasting life.

The flowers are usually individual rings but some are interlocked to form a pretty, coloured chain against the ochre sand.

Just north of Pindar, located East of Mullewa on the Beringarra-Pindar Road is a large stretch of an abundance of multi-coloured wreath flowers. Such a show stopper, so if you haven't already gone, go and have a look at nature's beautiful treasures or definitely make a trip to see them next year.



**Our thanks to Kevin McKenna, Principal for allowing  
us to publish the following**



#### Principals Message

This is the last newsletter for term 3, and it has been a very busy term. I am looking forward to the holidays to relax and recharge and I think most teachers, students and families are as well!

One of the highlights of this term has been the Cultural Trip to Jurong Rock.

On Tuesday 14th August, our whole school hopped into cars and onto the school bus and were led to an incredible place normally hidden from people outside the Wadjarri community. Jurong Rock is in an isolated part of Boolardy Station. It is a large exposed granite outcrop with incredible views from the top and covered in ancient art and remnants of past life.



Lenny Merry and his partner Julie Ryan, along with members of their family were our guides for the day. We were also accompanied by a professional photographer and videographer to record some of the important stories and sights



Ancient petroglyphs were inscribed in many of the flat areas around the base. Some of the meanings are lost now, but from the extensive amount of work and time that they must have taken to carve, this was obviously an important site.



There was an ancient gnamma hole that was still full of beautiful fresh water, and what looked like a jumble of flat rocks nearby.



Lenny explained what the formation was, and used his granddaughter to demonstrate how the “old people” assembled a “hide” from the flat rocks and squatted in there with their spear resting on the edge waiting for a kangaroo to come and drink from the water hole below.



There was an eerie sense of being in the presence of many people who have lived and hunted and celebrated on these rocks in times past.

We were incredibly lucky to be guided through these treasures by Lenny and his family. His stories and explanations and description of how he was entrusted by the old people to look after these carvings was very moving.

# “Seed Networking”

Looking for interested locals to start a Local Seed Network. The idea being to encourage those already who save their garden seeds for the next year and those who don't to take an interest in doing so.

Varieties of vegetables, flowers, herbs and fruits that we may find suitable in our climate, can be shared with others, giving our gardens a more consistent success rate.

Saved heirloom seeds are more suited to the home gardener as they produce over a longer growing period, hardy, tasty and we can individualise our gardens.

I'm suggesting a Community Seed Library for the Murchison, where seed can be stored and available for others to try. What you grow, some you save which is returned to the 'Library', adding more varieties along the way, hoping to encourage you to try something different.

If you are interested, Shelly

[Balgownie@hotmail.com.au](mailto:Balgownie@hotmail.com.au)

Some garden thoughts I have come across in garden books lately, for you to chew over.....and add if you need to.

Under the right circumstances, it takes 100 years to form just one inch of topsoil and there are more organisms in a teaspoon of soil than people on Earth. So no excuse to get out in your garden, you are not alone!

Soil contains a natural soil bacterium's that triggers the release of Serotonin( a chemical that regulates mood). Serotonin makes you feel better, lowers anxiety and improves memory.

So how does that explain a forgotten tap left on!

Kind regards,

Shelly.



All species pictured below are endemic to the Murchison region



# SNAKES

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | <b>Mulga Snake / King Brown (Pseudechis Australia)</b> | <b>Dangerously Venomous</b>                       |
| 2 | <b>Western Brown / Gwardar (Pseudonaja Nuchalis)</b>   | <b>Dangerously Venomous</b>                       |
| 3 | <b>Ringed Brown (Pseudonaja Modesta)</b>               | <b>Highly Venomous — not considered dangerous</b> |
| 4 | <b>Spotted Mulga (Pseudechis Butleri)</b>              | <b>Dangerously Venomous</b>                       |
| 5 | <b>Western Brown / Gwardar (Pseudonaja Nuchalis)</b>   | <b>Dangerously Venomous</b>                       |
| 6 | <b>Western Brown / Gwardar (Pseudonaja Nuchalis)</b>   | <b>Dangerously Venomous</b>                       |
| 7 | <b>Mulga Snake / King Brown (Pseudechis Australia)</b> | <b>Dangerously Venomous</b>                       |
| 8 | <b>Mulga Snake / King Brown (Pseudechis Australia)</b> | <b>Dangerously Venomous</b>                       |

**Give any snake some room and they will retreat  
- you are not a food item to them but a threat !**

## First Aid for a Snake Bite.....

- ◆ **Call medical help immediately if possible**
- ◆ **Remain calm, remember most snake bites are not fatal**
- ◆ **Minimise movement if possible**
- ◆ **If you are bitten on the arm or finger remove any rings, bracelets or watches**
- ◆ **Apply a pressure bandage to the bitten limb**
  - ◆ .....beginning at the joint above the bite bandaging towards the bite—then a separate bandage from the joint up and splint the bandaged limb if possible
  - ◆ September and October adults are “out n about” looking for a mate
  - ◆ November onwards juveniles will be out n about

Our thanks to Ryan Prow for providing the above information on snakes

Ryan Prow & Stuart Broad are both qualified to capture and relocate snakes

# Vegeticious

Thank you Emma Foulkes-Taylor for this delicious contribution !

With summer ahead you might be starting to think about salads at meal times. I'm not talking about throwing a bit of lettuce and tomato in a bowl, but something a little more interesting and substantial, to serve as a side with some protein or just on it's own.

It might just be what I read and who I speak with, but I believe that in the last couple of years vegetables are enjoying somewhat of a revolution in Australia. A number of cookbooks centred on vegetables have hit the cookbook best seller list in recent years and these are not books written specifically for vegetarians and vegans but for the mainstream....although I'm sure a lot of vegetarians have embraced them.

Yotam Ottolenghi, an Israeli born Londoner, is leading the pack with his books 'Plenty' and 'Plenty More' and Australian cook (now living in America) Hetty McKinnon, has wowed us with 'Community' and 'Neighbourhood'. Famous for his 'Meat' book, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, has produced 'River Cottage Veg Everyday', and well known Australian cook and writer, Belinda Jeffery, has joined the fray with 'The Salad Book'. I'm sure there are many others....these are just some that can be found in my, ever-increasing, kitchen book shelf.

One thing all these cooks have in common is that they look at vegetables in a whole new way to that of our parents and grandparents.....They cook them differently eg char grilled brussels sprouts...incredible! and combine them with grains, pulses, noodles, breads, nuts, seeds, herbs, cheeses, fruits and divine dressings. These recipes make veggies front and centre; they have moved from a side dish to the main plate.

We all know we should eat more veg and it needn't be a chore when you have such delicious, creative ways to prepare them at your fingertips. I must admit that, although I possess a swag of cookbooks, I am not a slavish follower of recipes. I do however use them to inspire me. Let's face it, I'm a long way from the shops (as are most of you, I know)

and if I haven't got something it's just too bad, I'll use something else or, more often than not, I will have got an idea of what I'm going to do and I'll just shut the book and make it up. With a few (OK, it's more than a few I'll admit) fridge and pantry staples to combine with a couple of ordinary vegetables (like carrots) and a generous handful of chopped herbs from the garden you can produce a fabulous, unique and delicious salad, any day!

## Pantry Staples

Grains - Freekah (roasted green wheat) Quinoa, rice (white and brown)

Couscous- small and large Israeli/pearl

Pulses eg cannellini beans, chickpeas, lentils (tinned are quick and easy, dried and cooked at home are cheap and taste better than tinned)

Noodles - soba, rice (different widths) short pasta

Spices - ground and/or whole - cumin, cinnamon, coriander, fennel, sumac, chilli, za'atar, salt flakes, black pepper

Nuts -Almonds, walnuts, pistachio, peanuts, hazelnuts

Seeds- pepita, sesame, sunflower, poppy

Oils - Extra Virgin Olive, vegetable, sesame

Vinegars - balsamic, red wine, rice wine

Sauces - soy, kecap manis

Pickles, pastes and preserved things in jars - olives, capers, artichokes, dried tomatoes, dijon mustard, tahini

## Fridge Staples

Cheese - feta (buy it in tubs in brine and it lasts for ages) blue, parmesan

Greek yoghurt

Ginger and garlic

## Garden Staples

Parsley, basil, mint and coriander (not in summer unfortunately), sage, thyme, rosemary, chilli, spring onions  
Bay tree, kaffir lime tree, lemon tree

Now comes the fun bit!

Choose the veg from the fridge that most needs using or is all you have left before the mail truck arrives! Prep it, then roast it, barbeque it, griddle it, fry it, blanch it or leave it raw. In other words, experiment! The brassica family (broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, cabbage) taste brilliant with a bit of caramelisation, so try roasting your cauli or frying some shredded Brussels sprouts. You can roast and saute carrots, chargrill eggplant and capsicum and eat beetroot raw.

You might like to toss the veg with a spice or woody herb before cooking, e.g. carrots with thyme, cauli with cumin, pumpkin with sage (Note: toss your veg in olive oil and sprinkle with salt before roasting or grilling.) Add a cooked grain, pulse, pasta/noodle or even some croutons....maybe add some crumbled/shaved cheese, throw in some nuts or seeds, a sprinkle of something pickled and a generous handful of fresh herbs.....toss with a dressing made from oil and acid and maybe some grated garlic, mustard or toasted spice and voila!

Here's an example from Hetty McKinnon's book, Community:

### **Chargrilled Broccoli with Chickpeas, Almonds, Lemon and Chilli**

2 heads broccoli (1kg), cut into florets  
6 tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
Sea salt and black pepper  
80g capers, rinsed and drained  
2 cloved garlic, finely chopped  
1 long red chilli, thinly sliced  
500g cooked chickpeas (about 2 cans) drained  
1 cup baby spinach leaves  
Zest and juice of 1 lemon  
1 cup flat leaf parsley leaves, roughly chopped  
1 cup mint leaves  
80g parmesan  
50g flaked almonds, toasted



Toss the broccoli in 2-3 tablespoons of the olive oil and season with salt and pepper.

Heat a griddle pan or barbeque until it is smoking hot and then add the broccoli in batches. Turn the florets so they get char marks all over. Continue until all the broccoli is cooked. Put all the broccoli into a large bowl.

Put the rest of the oil in a small saucepan with the capers, garlic and chilli. Place over medium heat for 30 seconds or so until the garlic just begins to turn golden. Remove from heat and pour oil mixture over the broccoli.

Combine broccoli with the chickpeas, spinach leaves, lemon zest, salt and pepper and mix well. To serve, squeeze over the lemon juice and top with parsley, mint, parmesan and almonds.

Serves 8-10 as a side dish and goes superbly with a barbequed lamb chop!



## **ASK ABOUT THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN AGRIBUSINESS**

Curtin University and the Geraldton Universities Centre have been progressing arrangements for the inclusion of a Geraldton based cohort in the new Associate Degree in Agribusiness to be run by Curtin University at Muresk (Northam) in 2019. The model would see GUC support students for theoretical units, with students travelling to Muresk for the practical intensives associated with the course.

The two-year course will provide an understanding of agricultural production systems combined with the business skills associated with the production, processing, marketing and distribution of food.

Admission pathways into this course will be broad and include recent secondary education; vocational training and education; and work and life experience.

**To express your interest in this course please visit:**

[www.guc.edu.au/courses/agribusiness/](http://www.guc.edu.au/courses/agribusiness/) or phone the GUC: (08) 9920 4400



geraldton universities centre