
Murchison Monologue

Christmas Edition
2018



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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.

News from the CEO's Desk

Hello Community Members,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all a safe and happy festive season.

I would also like to thank the Shire staff, Council, and members of the community for their ongoing support during the year. The team at the Shire have worked through a period of new leadership and staff changes and have continued to provide an excellent service to the community. To the members of the community that were able to be involved in discussions and meetings with the Shire I offer my thanks and appreciation. Without your support and participation, the Shire cannot continue to grow.

Following the community meeting with the SKA held in August this year the Shire has been working with the Mid West Development Commission to hold a Innovation/Field Day within the Shire. The original planned date was mid November 2018 however due to unavailability of various people the day has now been moved to March 2019. A community email will be sent out well before the date to invite all to attend.

The Shire is continuing to work with the SKA stakeholder's group to ensure that issues raised by the community are resolved on an ongoing basis. Deputy President Andrew Whitmarsh has proven to be a strong champion in this matter.

Flood Works commenced in this last quarter of the year and will continue for the next 6 to 9 months. Please keep an eye out for road works and drive safely. Although not related to road works, there have been two serious accidents in the Shire within the last month. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries in either instance.

Finally, I would like to thank Fabien and Cannelle for their taking on the role of gardener for 7 weeks whilst staff had been reallocated to other projects. It has been wonderful to have these two high energy, skilled and happy people join our team, if only for a short while. We wish them well on their continued travels.

Regards

Peter Ditttrich



Update from the Shire President

Hello All

Since the last edition of the Monologue three major flood damage road projects are underway. Hopefully throughout the next year these significant works will restore the cyclone damaged roads to their former glory.

Thanks to my fellow Councillors and Shire Crew for their good work this year.

Council will not be meeting in January but if you have any Council related concerns over the Christmas period please don't hesitate to contact me.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy festive season and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Community Christmas Tree on December 15.

Cheers

Rosco



Events that may be on the 2019 Calendar

♦ Innovation Day — March / April 2019

The Shire and MWDC are planning to hold a field day in March/April 2019 which will be marketed to the wider community outside of the Shire. Areas covered may include:

- 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).



Remembrance DAY

11 NOVEMBER 2018



At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the Great War came to an end. More than 60,000 Australians were among the millions who had lost their lives. Since then, Australian men and women have continued to risk their lives serving in our defence forces. Photographs of one hundred members of the Australian Army who have served during the past century have been combined to create this portrait of Private Frederick James Adams, 8th Battalion, who was killed in action during the landings at Gallipoli.

anzacportal.dva.gov.au

 **Armistice**
1918-2018 | Australia Remembers

Murchison Settlement Anzac Memorial Park

The ANZAC memorial park in the Murchison Settlement is unique with large rock pillars engraved with plaques of remembrance thoughtfully placed in groups leading from the entrance and a "Lone Pine" thanks to Sandy McTaggart who sourced this tree from Rick Sullivan of Geraldton. (Rick's story about the Lone Pine seeds can be viewed on the net—ABC OPEN: Rick Sullivan). The Murchison's Lone Pine is believed to be an Aleppo pine and has been growing successfully for over two years—thanks to Paul's continual attention and care

Before the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day, the surrounding area was dutifully weeded and raked by Paul who on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, placed a posy of flowering Rosemary on the Memorial Rock and had a private moment to remember the sacrifices made by those who served and the tremendous loss of lives that resulted from the "war to end all wars".





A minor but intriguing aspect of World War I history is the controversy over the botanical identity of the famous Lone Pine at Gallipoli. This tree stood on a ridge on the battlefield, and until destroyed by gunfire, was a reference point for soldiers on both sides. In fact it was probably taken out by the Turks themselves as soon as they realised the ANZACs were using it for artillery registration. Since then, over the decades it has become symbolic and many memorials contain a specimen or grove of "lone pines", usually said to have been propagated from the original tree.

There is a typical example in Kings Park in Perth, Western Australia. Close to the War Memorial a pine tree has been planted which has a plaque at its foot, identifying the tree as an Aleppo Pine. The wording on the plaque goes on to claim that the tree was "grown from seed from the Lone Pine in Gallipoli". This is incorrect in several ways, not the least being that the original lone pine ceased to exist nearly a century ago.

The most likely source of the seed for the Kings Park tree is the Aleppo Pine growing at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. This tree was planted in 1934 by the Duke of Gloucester, raised from seed from a pine cone found in a Turkish trench and sent home from Gallipoli to his mother in NSW by Lance Corporal Ben Smith. The tree at the War Memorial is still alive, still produces seed and is the major source of "lone pines" regularly planted on Anzac Days all around Australia.



Plaque at the foot of "the Lone Pine" in Kings Park

However, the Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) was not indigenous to Turkey or the peninsula on which the Gallipoli campaign was fought. Although it has long been planted in woodlots and as an ornamental tree in many countries, it grows naturally only in Mediterranean countries like Spain, Syria and Morocco[iii]. Branches of Aleppo Pine were brought in to Gallipoli from plantations beyond the Dardanelles and were used to roof the Turkish trenches and dug-outs. It seems that this material was the source of Benjamin Smith's cone.

The pine tree that is native to Gallipoli is the Turkish Red Pine (*Pinus brutia*). Scattered specimens of Red Pine grew in the area that later became the battlefield, but all trees except one were cut down by the Turks for construction of their defensive trenches in the expectation of the ANZAC landings. The celebrated Lone Pine was certainly a Turkish Red Pine, and it is this species that should be acknowledged.

In fact, a cone from the “real” lone pine on Lone Pine Ridge was collected by Sergeant Keith McDowell who put it in his knapsack, where it remained until he returned to Victoria after the war. Four seedlings were raised from seed from this cone and planted at shrines and war memorials in several places in Victoria, including the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. These seedlings were/are indubitably *Pinus brutia*.

They are the only true descendants of the original Lone Pine at Gallipoli.

To add to the confusion, it is not possible that any Aleppo Pine seedlings could be grown from seed from the current “lone pine” now growing and revered by visitors at the ANZAC War Memorial at Gallipoli. This tree is a Stone Pine (*Pinus pinea*). Stone Pine is not native to this region either. It grows naturally in Italy, and



Does any of this matter?

In my view it is important that plaques should give accurate information. This is especially so in a botanic garden. The flaws in the plaque at "the lone pine" in Kings Park (the home of the Western Australian botanic garden) were drawn to the attention of the park managers some time ago, but no attempt has been made to correct the message.

On the other hand, the planting and nurturing of 'lone pines' can be regarded as a symbolic act of commemoration, a reminder of sacrifice and courage.

From this perspective, botanical accuracy does not matter: any species of tree will serve the purpose. Interestingly, one of the trees adopted in New Zealand as a representative Lone Pine is Radiata Pine (*Pinus radiata*) which comes originally from California ... but to the credit of New Zealanders it is not claimed that this tree is derived from seed from the original lone pine of Gallipoli.[iv]

Also to their credit, the Australian War Memorial does not claim that their memorial tree is a descendent of the original lone pine, and they acknowledge that the original was Turkish Red, not Aleppo Pine. However, Memorial historian Peter Burness says the taxonomy of the tree does not affect its symbolic significance. It is the connection to the bloody assaults and staunch defence on the Sari Bair (Lone Pine) ridge that is important, he says, because it reminds us of the lives that were lost.



The Aleppo pine (Pinus halepensis) at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, planted by the Duke of Gloucester in 1934

Taking Eremophila Cuttings

Advice from Dryland Permaculture's Julie Firth

Take a semi woody piece

Peel off stem with a heel

Strip all but top leaves

Dip bottom 5-10mm of cutting in Clonex Purple rooting hormone

Place 50% of cutting in soil or 2/3 in and 1/3 out

Growing Mix

½ river sand

¼ coir peat

¼ perlite

Plus slow release native fertiliser pellets

Water the soil in the pot before you do the cutting and only a very lightly water after you plant otherwise you'll wash the Clonex off. Give it a bigger water after 24 hours.

Never let dry out or become waterlogged

Grow under shadecloth



Eremophila Nivea



Eremophila Maculata



Eremophila Nivea

Byro Flora and Vegetation Survey for the FE1 Deposit

In November 2018, Athena Resources (Athena) completed a detailed level flora and vegetation survey on Byro Station at the FE1 Deposit. This was done by Phil Stanley and Paula Pavlovic of Goldfields Land-care Services. Phil Stanley has extensive flora and vegetation survey experience gained over 40 years. Paula, formerly a nuclear technologist, since meeting Phil 20 years ago, has dedicated much of her time to plant identification.

The purpose the survey was to build on information gathered last year, verify data base search results and fulfil requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency's technical guidelines. In 2017, Dr Chris Hancock completed a targeted flora survey. This year's focus was on the vegetation communities and mapping.

Results of the survey lead to an increase in numbers and distribution of two Priority 3 species and possibly identified a third. These were *Ptilotus beardii*, *Hemigenia tysonii* and maybe *Eremophila obliquisepala*.

The highlight of the survey was a Western Bower bird mimicking cats fighting, cocking the breach of a gun and a vehicle going over a cattle grid!



Plate 1 – Liam Kelly (Athena), Paula Pavlovic and Cathy Galli in the landscape at FE1



Plate 2 – Paula on the plain



Plate 3 – *Acacia grasbyi* Miniritchie



Plate 4 - *Ptilotus beardii*

In addition, following successful negotiation of Native Title Agreements between Athena Resources and the Yamatji Wajarri working groups, two mining licences were granted. Athena intends in the near future to develop the FE1 Deposit. We look forward to keeping you updated. No future work has been scheduled although plans include the continuation of baseline ecological surveys as company resources permit. Should you like to know more, please refer to our website at www.athenaresources.com.au.

Special thanks to the community members for making us welcome and to the Shire for the opportunity to include this article. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

We have a new "resident" in the Settlement !!!!!

Stuart Broad and Sam Walton bring to our community their new born son

Tyler Robert Campbell Broad



Pia Wadjarri Remote Community School

An extract from their November 2018 Newsletter



Principals Message

This is the first newsletter for term 4, and it has already been a very busy term.

Staff spent a very beneficial day and a half in Geraldton at the start of the term enjoying Professional Learning at Allendale Primary School at their "Big Day Out". It was very well organised and attended by nearly 500 teachers, with lots of activities to choose from.

In week 2, we were visited by Danika, Aska and Georgia from Scitech who showed the kids some amazing science experiments and tricks.



SciTech slingshots

Rubber band powered cars



Engineering challenge

“Taking technology developed inside of CSIRO, turned into a new Aussie startup through our innovation program and the CSIRO Innovation Fund, is a great example of accelerating science solutions to deliver real-world solutions.

“As an accomplished scientist, entrepreneur, and now CEO, Nancy Schellhorn is an inspiration to our next generation of women STEM leaders.”

Dr Schellhorn said the technology had huge potential for managing food and fibre pests around the world.

“Around the world, more than 900 million tonnes of insecticide is used to control insect pests every year, but 98 per cent reaches a target other than the intended destination,” Dr Schellhorn said.

“With RapidAIM technology, crop-protection products can be used in a more targeted way.”

The RapidAIM team was supported by CSIRO’s innovation program ON. Both Main Sequence Ventures and



Courtesy of CSIRO News release and statements

<https://www.csiro.au/en/News/News-releases>

SNAKES

Ryan captured this Western Brown (gwardar) - *Pseudonaja Mengndi* on Saturday October 21st—he had to walk it around a little to get it into a position that he could catch it—it didn't try to bite anything—demonstrating that they don't want to “have a go” at anyone they see. Christine was inside a metre of this snake without realising it and she wasn't threatened either.



CSIRO startup takes aim at world's biggest trade pest: fruit fly



Founded by researchers from Australia's national science agency CSIRO Dr Nancy Schellhorn, Darren Moore, and Laura Jones, RapidAIM provides real-time fruit fly detection and monitoring to help Australian producers battle against the devastating pest – and it could revolutionise pest monitoring around the globe.

Main Sequence Ventures, who manage the CSIRO Innovation Fund, is making the \$1.25M investment in the startup, which successfully trialled the technology with fruit producers in Victoria last year.

“Growers rely on weather radar and take action accordingly, but until now they haven’t had any pest ‘radar’ to support them against pests like fruit fly,” RapidAIM co-founder and Chief Executive Dr Nancy Schellhorn said.

“Existing fruit fly monitoring relies solely on manual trap checking, which limits the scale and depth of available information and costs valuable resources.”

Fruit flies lay eggs in fruits and vegetables as they ripen. The hatched maggots ruin the produce from the inside, creating huge losses for producers and costing millions in clean-up efforts. Current fruit fly monitoring involves manually checking traps containing pheromones or food to lure the pests in.

The RapidAIM system uses low-powered smart sensors to detect insects like fruit fly from their characteristic movements. The sensors, which can be placed by the thousands, send data to the cloud using a radio modulated technique, giving producers real-time data flow of the pest on their farms and regions through a linked mobile app.

Dr Schellhorn said the new technology can reduce crop loss and provide early warnings of future pest hotspots.

“Our new technology can reduce the time spent checking traps by more than 35 per cent, and provides an immediate picture of fruit fly presence in specific locations to enable a rapid response for control,” she said.

CSIRO’s Chief Executive Dr Larry Marshall said RapidAIM was set to make a huge difference to growers around the world.

“As Australia’s national science agency, we’re committed to solving Australia’s greatest challenges – in this case a more than \$300 million cost to Australian fruit and vegetable industry,” Dr Marshall said



Keeping Reason in the Silly Season

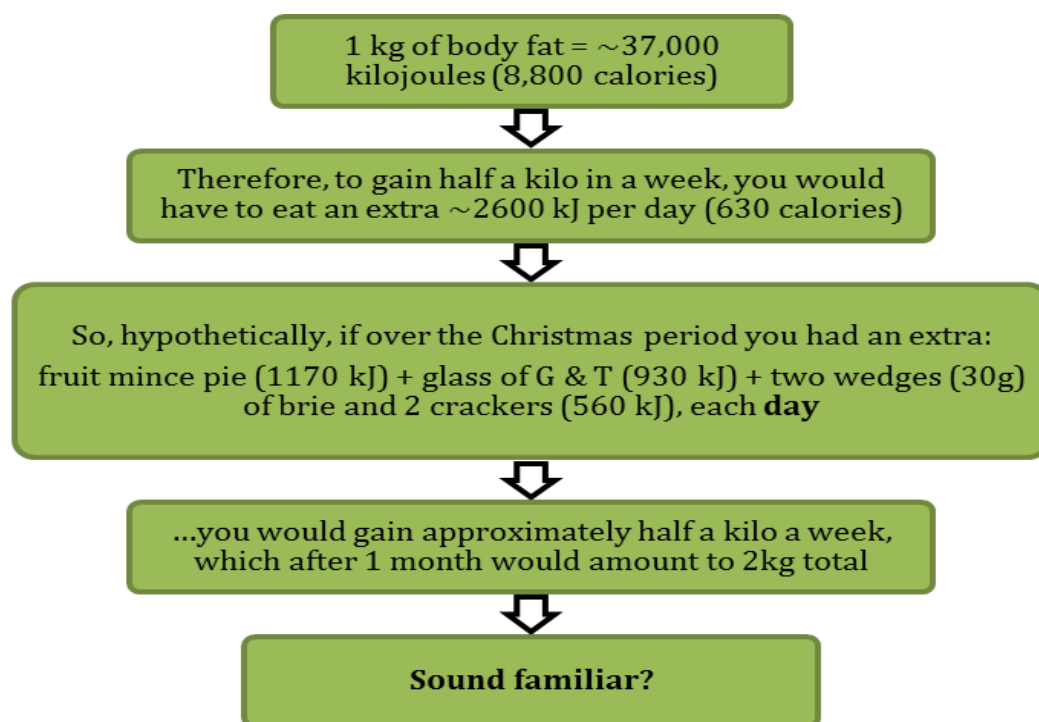
Everyone knows that it's ok to drink every night over the summer holidays, right? And it's perfectly acceptable to have nibbles before dinner, and to not do any exercise, and have a fruit mince pie at morning smoko....and afternoon smoko, and maybe some of that choccy after lunch that Aunt Berryl gave us (because it'd be rude not to). Well yes, everybody knows it, everybody except YOUR BODY. No matter how much we kid ourselves, there is unfortunately no 'holiday mode' switch we can turn on at the beginning of December that makes our bodies burn 1.5 times the energy they usually do. Sure, our body is pretty clever in that a few days of letting loose (I'm talking Xmas Eve/Xmas day/boxing day) are unlikely to see you swapping that tankini for an oversized kaftan to hide the damage. However, if we choose to overindulge for an extended period of time, then you can hardly be surprised or annoyed when on New Year's Day you have a meltdown in the mirror, can't do up the top button on your work shorts, or you find yourself puffing more than usual when walking to the shed.

In saying this I'm not suggesting your Christmas lunch should consist of sparkling water, wafer crackers and salad...give me the sangria, pork crackling and semi-freddo please! I am a realist, and I love my food just as much as the next person. Heck, anyone that knows me will be full aware of my ability to eat a ridiculous amount of food – once I even beat my brother in an eating competition (if you've met Henry, you'll understand this is a fair achievement). Anyway moving on, the point I'm trying to make is: choose the days that count, rather than extending the 'guilt-free-eating zone' until the new year or beyond, by which time the damage will be done. Most of us are all too aware that it's a hell of a lot easier to gain weight than it is to lose, so make your goal for the Christmas period to 'maintain weight' or to 'only put on ½ a kilo'...so then you can realistically get back on track when the silly season winds up.





To give you a concrete example of how easy it is to gain weight over the silly season, let's do some quick maths:



So while we may be able to fool our minds that a little extra here and there won't matter, unfortunately our bodies aren't as easy to manipulate. I'm not writing this to be the food Grinch, only to encourage mindful eating over the holidays, and to indulge on special occasions when celebrating with friends and family, rather than for the reason of "it's holidays yay now I can eat cake and drink wine every day guilt-free". So, enjoy Christmas and its delectable treats, but just choose your days of extra indulgence: your body and mind will thank you for it in the new year.

Fran Foulkes-Taylor

Accredited Practicing Dietitian



Community Questionnaire

Sandy McTaggart – Mt Narryer Station

- 1) What was the last picture you took with your phone/camera?
Rain
- 2) Which do you use more often, the dictionary or thesaurus?
Dictionary
- 3) Select one person from history and ask them a question.
Who is the person and what would you ask them?
Ernest Giles. Why did you do all the agony of crossing the Gibson Desert?
- 4) What colour is your toothbrush?
Blue
- 5) What is the first thing you do when you get up in the morning?
Put on kettle for Carols cup of tea
- 6) Use one word to describe your computer ability?
Ignorant, demonstrably. (After a failed attempt to email these responses 😊)

Frances Pollock - Wooleen Station

- 1) What was the last picture you took with your phone/camera?
The enormous pot-belly at Fraser Range Station
- 2) Which do you use more often, the dictionary or thesaurus?
Thesaurus
- 3) Select one person from history and ask them a question.
Who is the person and what would you ask them?
Gertrude Jekyll – just to ask if I could spend a week with her to learn more about her passion and projects.
- 4) What colour is your toothbrush?
Orange
- 5) What is the first thing you do when you get up in the morning?
Put the kettle on
- 6) Use one word to describe your computer ability?
Competent

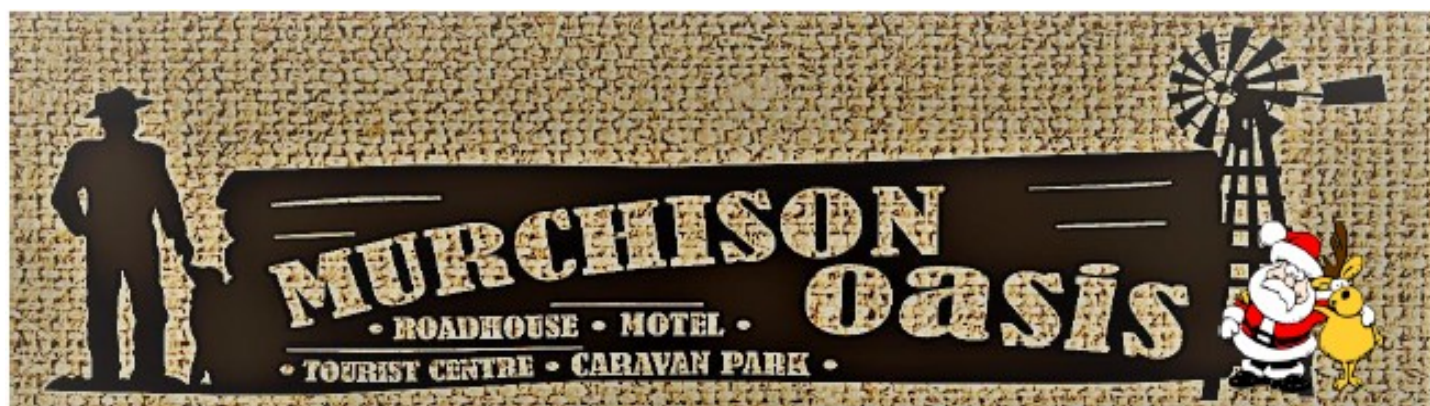
Jenny Mitchell – Ex Muggon

- 1) What was the last picture you took with your phone/camera?
My Roses
- 2) Which do you use more often, the dictionary or thesaurus?
Dictionary
- 3) Select one person from history and ask them a question.
Who is the person and what would you ask them?
Franklin D Roosevelt....and I would ask him to dinner....from what I have read he seems the most charming, charismatic man.
- 4) What colour is your toothbrush?
Green
- 5) What is the first thing you do when you get up in the morning?
Go to the Bathroom
- 6) Use one word to describe your computer ability?
Poor

Nat Broad – Ex Berrigarra Station

- 1) What was the last picture you took with your phone/camera?
A photo of my own creation. Driftwood hanger with my own pottery ends
- 2) Which do you use more often, the dictionary or thesaurus?
Dictionary
- 3) Select one person from history and ask them a question.
Who is the person and what would you ask them?
One off the Suffragettes... How did you keep the momentum up to achieve such a huge change in history?
- 4) What colour is your toothbrush?
Orange
- 5) What is the first thing you do when you get up in the morning?
The first thing i do is put my thongs on!!!
- 6) Use one word to describe your computer ability?
Average computer skills

06/11/2018: Simon should be back next week...he has been over at Melrose mustering with his brother David for a month... I have been enjoying the solitude!!! Still working for Bethanie as an in home care support person which i love plus i have my own private cleaning business plus now that the racing season has started i run corporate tents at Geraldton race club.....Georgie doing her mental health prac for nursing in Carnarvon this month..Christoffer is a heavy diesel mechanic at FMG...Stu and Sammy are expecting their first bub soon.....we are still loving the sea change and hope to see all at the xmas party.



Wink, Nicole, Eden, Clint & Sam
Thank you for your support in 2018
And would like to wish ALL our Customers, Guests,
Travelers, Family and Friends
Past- present-future.....

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR

**The Roadhouse Store and Kitchen will be taking a small
break over the Christmas period**

**And will be closed on Christmas Day Tuesday 25th
and Boxing Day Wednesday 26th December 2018**

Christmas Eve Monday 24th we will be open from 7 am to 7 pm.

Cash fuel will still be available as per our trading hours ie

**Tuesday 25th December 7 am to 7 pm
Wednesday 26th December 7 am to 7 pm**

We will reopen with normal trading hours on Thursday 27th December at 7 am.

We look forward to seeing you all again in 2019.

**Email: murchisonoasis@westnet.com.au
Phone: + 61 8 9961 3875**

***New steps on the historic bridge span north of the Ballinyoo crossing
have now been installed***





MELISSA PRICE MP

Federal Member for **Durack**



Changes to working holiday visa a boon for Durack

5 November 2018

Federal Member for Durack and Minister for the Environment Melissa Price applauded the Federal Government's announcement today, of changes to the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa program and the Seasonal Worker Program to target genuine workforce shortages in regional Australia.

"The Federal Government will increase the number of visa holders and allow them to extend their time in Australia without displacing Australian workers, this is good news for Durack," said the Minister.

"Naturally we want Australian people filling Australian jobs first, but when this isn't possible action was needed to ensure not only farmers but hospitality workers and other employers across the Durack electorate were not left without workers.

Backpackers make up a large contingent of working holiday makers and changes to the program include lifting the annual caps on visas, expanding the number of regional areas where WHM visa holders can work for three months in specified farming work, and allowing them to work for 12 months with the same employer.

"Now Backpackers will have the opportunity to increase the current two-year visa to a third year by undertaking an extra six months of regional work in their second year and will be able to undertake farm work where labour is required," Minister Price said.

"These changes will provide overseas backpackers with more flexibility in employment including in the hospitality and retail industries as well as farming for example.

"They also get the opportunity to experience living and working in Australia's regional and rural communities," the Minister said.

Changes have also been made to the Seasonal Worker Program, increasing the period of work in Australia to nine months for all workers; for some countries it is currently only six months making it easier for farmers to access workers for longer with less administration costs.

Changes to Working Holiday Maker visas:

- Work and Holiday makers (subclass 462) will be able to undertake regional plant and animal cultivation work in additional priority areas to become eligible for a second visa.
- Extension of the period a WHM (subclass 417 and 462) may work with the same agricultural employer from six to 12 months.



□ Introduction of a third year visa option for WHM (subclasses 417 and 462), who from 1 July 2019 onwards complete six months of regional work in the second year.

- Increase the number of places available for Work and Holiday Maker program (subclass 462) by lifting annual caps available to a number of countries participating in the subclass 462 visa program.

These changes require a strict workforce test to be applied to ensure Australian workers are given the first opportunity for work. Changes to the Seasonal Worker Program:

- Increase work period in Australia to nine months for all workers (currently six months for some countries).
- Increase validity of labour market testing prior to recruiting workers from three to six months.
- Reduce out of pocket expenses for employers (workers repay their full travel costs except for the first \$300; a reduction from the previous \$500).

ENDS

Media contact: Sue Chiera (08) 9964 2195 | Mob: 0427 587 395 | Email: Susan.Chiera@aph.gov.au

**Thank you to you Bella Pumpa for these very funny Christmas jokes—
- our readers will enjoy a giggle or two I am sure !**

Q. What did the cow say on Christmas morning?

A. Mooooey Christmas!

Q. What never eats at Christmas time?

A. The turkey - it's usually STUFFED!

Q. Why couldn't the Christmas tree stand up?

A. A Christmas tree does not have legs like we do!

Q. What is the most special part of your body at Christmas?

A. MistleTOE!

Q. What goes "oh, oh, oh"?

A. Santa walking backwards!

Q. What do monkeys sing at Christmas?

A. Jungle bells, jungle bells!

Q. What does a cat on the beach have in common with Christmas?

A. Sandy claws!

Q. What is green, white, and red all over?

A. A sunburnt elf!

Q. What rains at the north pole?

A. Reindeer!

Q. Which of Santas reindeer has bad manners?

A. Rude-olph!

A delicious recipe from Bella Pampa - yummo !

RUDOLPH SHORTBREAD



PREP: 35 MINS COOK: 25 MINS PLUS CHILLING

EASY

MAKES 8 BIG BISCUITS

These simple shortbread triangles are a great edible gift for kids to make over Christmas - decorate with Smarties or other sweets and wrap up with pipe cleaner 'reindeer' antlers

Ingredients

200g salted butter, softened

2 tsp vanilla extract

85g golden caster sugar

85g ground rice

225g plain flour, plus extra for dusting

3 tbsp icing sugar

8 red Smarties

16 white sweets or white chocolate buttons, for the eyes

black writing icing tube

You will also need

8 cellophane bags (15 x 25cm) or 8 x 40cm cellophane squares

8 brown pipe cleaners

labels and string or ribbon

22-23cm round plate, cake tin or cardboard template

Method

Put the butter, vanilla and sugar in a big mixing bowl and stir together with a wooden spoon until really smooth. Stir in the ground rice first, then the flour. If it starts to get dry, you might need to use your hands to squish everything together to make a smooth dough.

Put a piece of baking parchment on a baking sheet. Make the dough into a round ball in the middle of the parchment, then use your hands to push it down and flatten it. Get a rolling pin and dust it with some flour so it doesn't stick to the dough. Use the rolling pin to roll the dough out to a big circle.

Get your 22-23cm round plate, cake tin or cardboard template and place on top of the dough when you've rolled it big enough. Use a cutlery knife to trim round the edges to make a neat circle and throw away the trimmings.

Use a knife to mark the giant biscuit into 8 smaller wedge-shaped biscuits – pretend you are cutting a pizza into slices but don't actually cut it. Prick lines from the edge to the centre of the dough. Use the back of a fork to press all around the top of the circle along the edge to make a line pattern (it's going to be hair for your reindeer!)

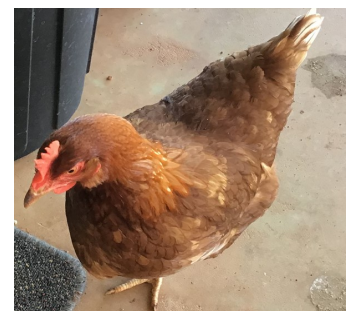
Cover with cling film and put the tray in the fridge for 30 mins to get cold. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Cook the chilled shortbread for 25 mins until golden. Cool completely on the tray, then use a sharp knife to follow the lines you made with a fork and cut into 8 wedges.

Mix the icing sugar with 1-2 tsp of water to make a thickish icing. Dunk each Smartie in and use like glue to stick one on the pointy end of each biscuit to make red noses. Dunk in your white sweets or chocolate buttons and stick them 2cm in from the edge at the other end to be eyes. Use the black writing icing tube to add dots to the white eyes, then let all the icing dry and go hard.

Carefully wrap each biscuit in a square of cellophane or put in a cellophane bag. Twist the middle of a pipe cleaner in a loop around the top of the bag or gathered cellophane to enclose the biscuit. Now twist each end of the pipe cleaner so it looks like the reindeer's antlers. Add labels and give to your friends and family, or hang on the tree. Will keep for up to 3 days in a cool, dry place.



Rhiannon (Tatjana's daughter) is pictured with one of her favourite chickens - "HaiHai"
We bought them at night and they are well trained , pretty funny and lay lots of nice
eggs. Haihai is one out of five and their names are Henny, Penny, Blue Bell and Cluck-
ette .



By

Eliza



Thankyou Eliza Pumpa for your beautiful Christmas tree drawing

Rose, Vicki, Tatjana & Bernie wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas



