



Murchison Monologue

April 2011

AGM of Electors

The AGM of Electors was held on Friday 25 March 2011 and was attended by twenty two community members and Tony Turner, a Town Planning Consultant. Tony gave an outline of his background and his observations of the Settlement in terms of Town Planning. The ensuing questions, answers and discussion were lively and constructive and everyone had ample chance to put their point of view regarding the proposed Heritage precinct and other issues pertaining to Town Planning of the area. The general consensus showed that many people are in favour of relocating the stables to create an area that would link the precinct to the current buildings and that a Heritage walkway to link all buildings would be an asset to the overall plan. There were mixed reactions regarding whether to relocate the shed from Boolardy Station or construct a new purpose built building in keeping with what is already in place.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the differing implications of Leasehold vs Freehold in a possible future Town Plan and the possible advantages/disadvantages of both.

Following the meeting a community dinner was enjoyed (courtesy of the Lord Mayor's Distress Fund). Owing to the after effects of the weather that we have been experiencing during the last few months there has been little opportunity for social occasions at the Settlement and everyone appeared to enjoy catching up over dinner and a few drinks.

Bush Fire Brigade

The risk of bush fires next season has been heightened with the undergrowth that has appeared as a result of the excellent rains the region has experienced. In order to be able to respond to possible fires a Bush Fire Brigade is being reformed.

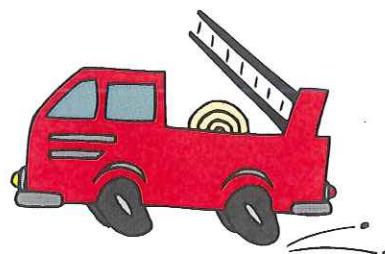
If you would like to become a part of this highly valuable and necessary community team please contact Mike Sully by one of the methods below to register your interest.

Mike Sully—Chief Executive Officer

Ph: 9963 7999

Fax: 9963 7966

Email: ceo@murchison.wa.gov.au



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Important Dates

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| 25 April | Anzac Day Service & Fun Day |
| 2 May | Murchison LCDC Meeting |

Council's visit to the Murchison Radio-Astronomy Observatory

The February Ordinary Meeting of Council was held at Boolardy Station and Councillors and staff (mug shots below) were treated to an escorted tour of the construction site. The radio telescopes are an awesome sight on the landscape and will be even more amazing once all the proposed towers are in place.

The Council meeting came to an abrupt end when a wild weather warning was received and attendees were faced with roads that had been dry on the outward journey being transformed into rivers for kilometre after kilometre. This, of course, was the precursor to another period of forced isolation for Murchison residents, but the resultant green lush pasture makes it worthwhile putting up with the inconvenience.



Murchison's Roads

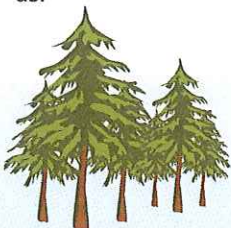
There are a number of people who query why the Shire's roads have been closed for so long. The difference at the moment is that we have had two floods in a short period of time and the region was declared a 'Disaster Area' after each event. There is a process to be followed to be able to access Disaster funding to repair our roads and, if this process is not followed the Shire stands to lose all or part of the funding.

Work cannot commence on the roads until after they have been appraised by Main Roads and the level of damage assessed. Given the very dire circumstances in Carnarvon and the Shire of Gascoyne the process was delayed.

The damage was assessed at \$4.75M after the first flood and, because we followed the rules the Shire has been granted the total amount of funding. There may be a further sum granted to cover extra damage sustained in the more recent flood.

'Opening up' can take place to allow people to get in and out. However to make roads safe there are processes that need to happen and this includes extensive signage. This is a large Shire and it takes time to assess what is a vast network of unsealed roads. When they are impassable for the Community they are also impassable for the Shire staff and some of the assessment is undertaken from the air.

It is appreciated that there is a great deal of inconvenience for everyone when the roads are closed, but to miss out on the funding available because we are too hasty would be detrimental to our ratepayers and irresponsible practice. Please bear with us.



A frog story (Way to go)

Recently the Psychic Hotline and Psychic Friends Network have launched hotlines for frogs. Here is the story of one frog and his discussion with his psychic.

The frog telephoned the Psychic Hotline and is told, "You are going to meet a beautiful young girl who will want to know everything about you."

The frog says, "This is great! Will I meet her at a party, or what?"

"No," says the psychic, "Next term in her biology class."



Astrofest is coming to the Murchison

The Astrofest Committee met for the first time on Wednesday 23 March 2011 with a number of members not knowing quite what to expect. They were very pleasantly surprised. Committee Members are made up of people from ASKA, Midwest Development Commission, Councillors, Staff and Community.

It is proposed to hold the Astrofest on Saturday 20 August 2011 at the Settlement so keep that weekend free if you can. It promises to be a great day and it is hoped to attract at least 150 people to the Settlement for the occasion. The basis of the Astrofest is to look at the sky through powerful telescopes and learn about some of the many features of our stars and planets. The date has been chosen to fit in with the moon's cycle.

It is planned to involve the community fully in a number of aspects of the day which promises to be different, suited to the uniqueness of the area and provide a lot of fun for participants.

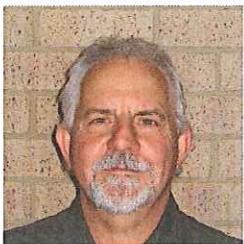
**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER NEWS OF THIS EVENT.
WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED.**



QUOTE OF THE MONTH: Who in the community believed we are having an ASHTRAYFEST?

Profile—Who is Mike Sully?

Mike is the Shire's new Chief Executive Officer and he and his wife Joyce hope to make Murchison Settlement their home for some time to come. Mike's most recent position prior to coming to Murchison was as Director of Corporate & Community Services for a larger local authority that employed him for 10 years. Prior to this Mike managed supported workplaces for People with Disability for 14 years. During these 14 years he also spent time as an Elected Member of the Shire of Busselton both as a Councillor and Shire President. He reluctantly left Council owing to a work promotion and was very happy when he was able to return to Local Government which he is passionate about (especially as he now gets paid).



Mike is really keen to see Murchison achieve what its residents want and he and Joyce enjoy the friendliness of the community and the warm welcome that they have received.

The first few months here have not been easy as a number of administrative areas had fallen behind and, together with the extra work load generated by the floods, it is difficult to get ahead and concentrate on the current issues. Mike and the administrative staff have been working very hard to bring everything up to date and are slowly winning the battle.

Mike and Joyce look forward to becoming a valued part of this great community.



Snippets from the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse



Doesn't time fly> It's nearly Easter already! I travelled to Geraldton last week and was shocked by the amount of Easter goodies on display at all the shops. Mind you I haven't been out of the Settlement for 6 weeks, so throwing myself into some serious retail therapy was definitely on the cards—I'm a chocolate and toy addict so Easter and Christmas time are my favourite times of the year.

With the roads now opening and traffic starting to once again pass by, I've noticed that travellers from all walks of life are quite relaxed by the time they get here. It must be the distance between stops, but definitely a nicer atmosphere when people are not in a hurry. Some are regular visitors and others are first timers, but all enjoy the little oasis that Murchison has to offer. The more I talk to people the more I learn about the lifestyle here and the changes over the years.

The frogs have always been here I've been told, so will try not to grumble—but trying to avoid squishing them between my toes when I toddle off to the loo at two in the morning is not a pleasant experience. However, like the mozzies lately, they too seem to have depleted in numbers—or am I just getting used to them?

With the start of April we have welcomed into our lives a new baby! Of the hairy type. We are now the proud parents of a 7 week old Kelpie puppy and, with cuddles and puddles, it is like having a toddler around the house again. We needed to give her a name though and we went through a whole variety of choices—but I wanted to give her one that would suit her now and later on, what a dilemma! (She came very close to being called "WEE-POO", for obvious reasons) With mum's name Coco(nut) and Dad Choco (late) our only result was "Bounty". It wouldn't stick, so while she was called "Puppy" and then "Poopy" eventually she became "Poppy" (Poppett). So now Poppy is the thief that hides my shoes, runs down the hall with the toilet paper and takes great delight in piercing our ears if we let her get too close to our face. What fun she is though. I don't even mind

picking up the little deposits she makes occasionally—not a lot of difference between doggy doos and wet frogs between the toes—yucko!

Thank You FESA

Sincere thanks is extended to FESA, particularly Jim McNamara, and Geraldton Air Services for their marvelous, timely response during the times of flooding recently.

From making sure that people got home (Mike and Joyce & Bob and Trish from Meka) to a number of food drops for isolated people they did a great job.

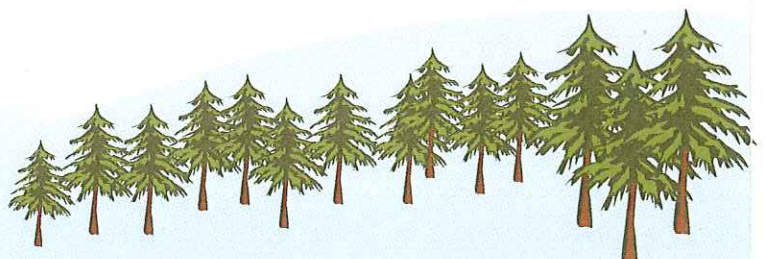
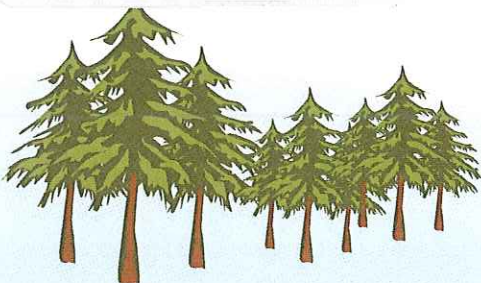
These services have been stretched to the maximum during the floods given the area they have needed to cover. We all thank you.

Footy tipping has become the topic of conversation around the Roadhouse lately! Everyone has their opinion and where did all these experts come from? Personally I have no idea about football although even I sat up and watched the first game of the season and admittedly had a few words to say about the umpire's decision on some penalties called. My only experience with football was when my son joined Auskick as a 6 year old and played two seasons mostly with a pocketful of marbles at the goal end, on his knees with the boy from the other team, engaged in a battle of "doogs". He just wasn't that interested in that funny shaped ball (although he loved the trophy presentation at the end of the season) and I spent most of my time there in the canteen. Motocrosse was his true love so I never became one of those fanatical Sunday Footy Mums!

A quick kitchen tid-bit, wrap your bunch of spring onions in newspaper before putting in the fridge and that helps to slow that wilting process!! Oh, and a little bit of wisdom from our CEO—sink strainers in the plug holes stops those slimey little kermit from invading our bathrooms!! (although he isn't having much luck with the swimming pool).

Sid, once again, has his say about the world—not much point in complaining, the world still turns and the dishes remain in the sink, but can anyone explain why his radio gets static on some days and not on others?

Until next time, Tani



Have you seen Meg?

Meg is the loved pet of Glenn and Gerry Scott at Woolgorong Station. Meg went walkabout on Thursday 31 March and hasn't been seen since. Glenn and Gerry were able to track her to the main road, but there the tracks ended. Glenn and Gerry believe that someone may have picked her up. Meg is a two and a half year old chocolate brown terrier cross and was wearing a collar with tags.

If you know anything about Meg's whereabouts please contact Glenn or Gerry on 9963 7981 or email decwool@bigpond.com

Alternatively you can pass any information to the Shire office staff on 9963 7999 or

library@murchison.wa.gov.au



Monologue Contact Details

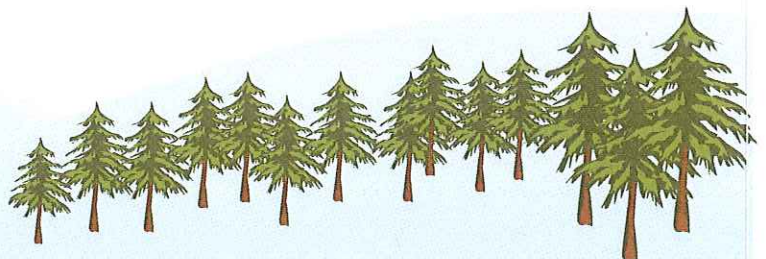
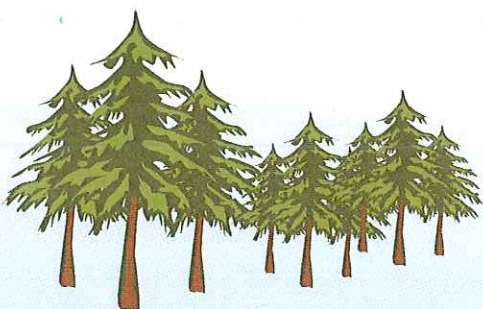
Shire of Murchison

Joyce Sully - 9963 7999

library@murchison.wa.gov.au

Next edition first week May 2011

Get your submissions in early! Cut off date 29.04.11.



LIBRARY CORNER

There are now 450 new books on the shelves of the Library for your enjoyment. The Library is open for Issue and return of books between 10.00am and 4.00pm.

If you are accessing the Library could you please ensure that your items are checked in or out as it becomes very difficult to keep accurate stock records if this isn't done. Your cooperation will be appreciated.



The West Australian SPELLING BEE

Can you spell?

If so and you are in years 5-8 then you could win a trip to Hong Kong, Disneyland for you and your family!



RSYWA 2011

Randolph Stow Young Writers Award



Encouraging young writers in the Mid West Region

Entry forms and details are available from your school, Geraldton-Greenough Regional Library or download from www.library.cgg.wa.gov.au (and follow the prompts)
Closing date: 08/07/2011

Geraldton-Greenough Regional Library
37 Marine Terrace, Geraldton 9956 6659 library@cgg.wa.gov.au

That's right thanks to Kinetic Education you and your family could be off to Disneyland in Hong Kong.

REGISTER NOW!

Register on www.spellingbee.org.au and spell ten words a week for six weeks.

The grand Spell Off will take place at the State Library of WA on 14th April 2011 and the winner for each group (years 5/6 and 7/8) will be off to Disneyland!

Heaps of other prizes each week for both you and your school - check out our updates online.

HEAPS OF PRIZES!

Kids that live out of Perth, you and your parent will be flown to Perth by Skywest - so it doesn't matter where you live - you too can BEE a winner!



SPONSORS FOR 2011

Upgraded mosquito-borne disease risk in northern and central WA

The Department of Health today upgraded the warning to people living and holidaying in northern and central Western Australia to take extra care to avoid mosquito bites. This warning follows widespread detection of the mosquito-borne Murray Valley encephalitis and Kunjin viruses and an increase in reports of people with Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus diseases.

The Department of Health's surveillance program (undertaken by The University of Western Australia) has detected widespread activity of Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) virus and Kunjin virus in several locations in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne regions. While there have been no confirmed MVE or Kunjin infections in people to date, infection with these viruses can cause very severe illness.

Department of Health Medical Entomologist Sue Harrington said recent rainfall and flooding in the northern half of the state had resulted in large numbers of mosquitoes that could be carrying these viruses.

"Murray Valley encephalitis virus and Kunjin virus are both carried by mosquitoes, and while the risk of being infected and becoming unwell is low, the illnesses can be severe and people should take sensible precautions to avoid mosquito bites," Ms Harrington said.

"Initial symptoms of MVE include fever, drowsiness, headache, stiff neck, nausea and dizziness and people experiencing these symptoms should seek medical advice quickly. In severe cases, people may experience fits, lapse into a coma, and may be left with permanent brain damage or die," she said.

"In young children, fever might be the only early sign, so parents should see their doctor if concerned, particularly if their child experiences drowsiness, floppiness, irritability, poor feeding, or general distress.

"Kunjin virus usually causes milder illness than MVE virus, but in rare cases, it also causes severe symptoms, including headache, neck stiffness, fever, delirium and coma."

Ms Harrington said people most likely to be affected by Kunjin or MVE viruses were newcomers to affected regions, such as babies, young children, tourists or new employees, but anyone experiencing these symptoms should seek medical advice quickly.

In addition, a large number of cases of Ross River virus disease have been notified in people from the Kimberley and Pilbara regions. Cases of Barmah Forest virus disease are also being notified from the Midwest region. Large populations of mosquitoes in the Murchison region mean that people in this area are also at risk.

The illnesses caused by Ross River and Barmah Forest viruses are similar, with symptoms including painful joints, aching muscles, lethargy, fever, headache and skin rashes, and symptoms may last from days to months.

"There are no specific cures or vaccines for any of these mosquito-borne diseases so it is very important that people take care to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes."

Ms Harrington said controlling mosquitoes in most rural regions of WA was generally not possible because of the large size and inaccessibility of natural mosquito breeding habitat.

People do not need to alter their plans to visit the Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne, Murchison or Midwest regions, but it is important to avoid mosquito bites by taking a few simple steps, such as:

- avoiding outdoor exposure from dusk and at night
- wearing protective (long, loose-fitting) clothing when outdoors
- applying a personal repellent containing diethyl toluamide (DEET) or picaridin to exposed skin or clothing. The most effective and long-lasting formulations are lotions or gels. Most natural or organic repellents are not as effective as DEET or picaridin or need to be reapplied more frequently
- ensuring insect screens are installed and completely mosquito-proof: use mosquito nets and mosquito-proof tents
- ensuring infants and children are adequately protected against mosquito bites, preferably with suitable clothing, bed nets or other forms of insect screening.



Anzac Day Service
Motorbike Gymkhana

and

Family Fun

At the
Murchison Shire
On April 25th

An Anzac Service will commence
at 10am at the Shire Office

Followed by

Morning Smoko and Best Anzac Biscuit Competition

Novelty Events for All

Motorbike/Pushbike Gymkhana—Children, Ladies'
and Men's classes

Limited to the following events; bending race, barrel race,
flag race, slow race and early morning race

Helmets, boots and long pants must be worn.

Dinner and Best Camp Oven Stew Competition

Change of Date

Murchison LCDC Meeting

When: 2nd of MAY 2011

Where: Wooleen Station Homestead

Time: 11:30 – 12.00 for a BYO Lunch
Meeting will kick off at 1:30pm

Agenda will be circulated prior to the meeting.
If you have any agenda items please let us know.

Mark Halleen and Brian Wake will be presenting reports about their recent trip to Adelaide for the National TGP workshop.

Michael Clinch of Nallan Station, Cue will also be attending after giving an inspirational presentation in Adelaide.

Karen Johnson, our Regional Landcare Facilitator for the Southern Rangelands, will be coming along to have a chat.

After the meeting finishes we will head off to the Wooleen lake (or stay at the homestead, depending on everyone's feelings and weather) and have a BBQ dinner supplied by the LCDC. If you need accommodation, just let us know. You are more than welcome to stay the night.

If you haven't already RSVP please do so we can get catering numbers right. (08) 9963 7973 or wooleen@bigpond.com



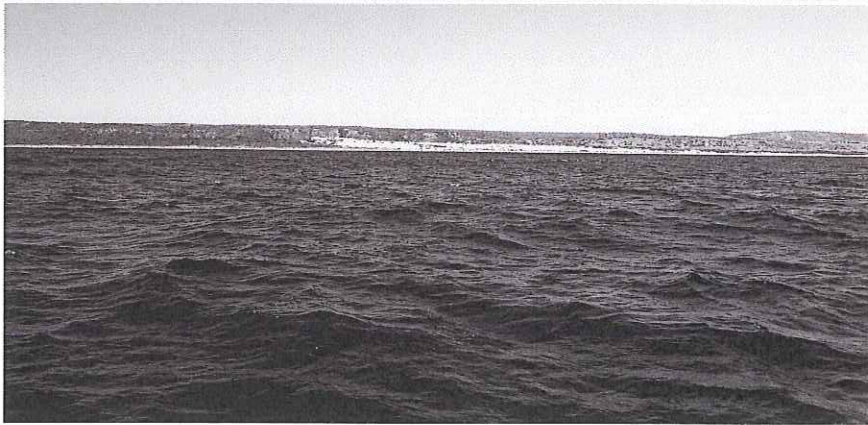
PROJECT UPDATE

MARCH 2011 ISSUE 16



OPR Project Schedule Agreed

2011 will be a year of significant milestones for the Oakajee port and rail mid-west iron ore supply chain project, with a revised project schedule agreed by the Government and a number of recent developments paving the way for further progress.



OPR continues to work with the State Government, our three foundation customers and local industry in the realisation of this project, with key activities targeted for 2011, including:

- Completion of environmental and Indigenous approvals
- Establishment of Supply Chain Agreements with foundation customers
- Finalisation of feasibility studies
- Negotiation of Implementation Agreements (comprehensive construction and operating agreements) with the State Government

OPR is building on the significant work undertaken to date to deliver on the key elements of the project, including:

- Draft Bank Feasibility Study submitted to State in March 2010

- Memoranda of Understanding signed with three foundation customers in August 2010
- Well advanced environmental management planning for both the port and rail
- Heritage and Native Title negotiation framework agreements with Aboriginal groups
- Rail corridor finalised
- Land access agreements with 60 freehold and pastoral leaseholders to enable feasibility works
- Project due diligence underway with the State and foundation customers
- Implementation Agreements substantially progressed with State agencies
- Completion of the technical engineering studies for the port and rail infrastructure.

A key element of the development is securing environmental approval for the port terrestrial area and the rail corridor. In March 2011, the Environmental Protection Authority recommended conditional approval of the port terrestrial and rail components, representing a significant milestone for OPR.

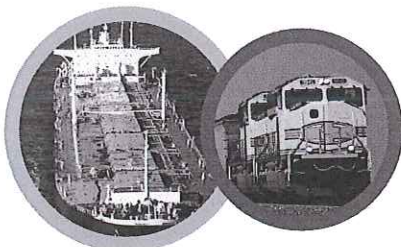
The recommendations include a number of conditions to ensure factors such as noise, dust and vegetation are appropriately managed. OPR is reviewing the conditions and looks forward to continuing to work with the EPA, Government agencies and stakeholders to finalise project approvals and the proposed management approach.

Other streams of work continue apace, including engagement with the State Government, mutual due diligence with foundation customers to finalise supply chain arrangements and preliminary market testing to scope operating services.

OPR, together with its joint owners Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd and Murchison Metals Ltd, is confident, and committed to meeting the milestones and looks forward to advancing the infrastructure project to commence early works late in 2011, with construction continuing to the end of 2014/ early 2015, and first ore on ship in early 2015.

Sign up for eNewsletter

Register online
at www.opandr.com
to receive your email copy
of the OPR eNewsletter.



murchison

Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd

For Information
OPR Geraldton: 08 9964 7698
Kim Pervan GM Government and Community Relations
OPR Perth: 08 9486 0777
or Visit www.opandr.com



OPR is a 50/50 joint venture between Murchison Metals Ltd and Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd.
Oakajee Port & Rail Pty Ltd ABN 25 117 240 007