

Murchison

VOLUME 42 | EDITION 5

December

2021

Monologue



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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Editor's Message

Hello Everyone and Season's Greetings!

Well, I hope you are all far more organised than I am with your preparations for Christmas because, honestly, it would be hard to be less prepared. As I look around the room I am sitting in there are daddy long legs in every corner of the ceiling, the window are smeared with frog juice, there are toys everywhere and I could write my name in the dust on the furniture. I have purchased precisely one present and there is not a single decoration to be seen in this house. On the upside- I *have* made my Christmas cake and this morning we killed and dressed Bruce Almighty the rooster, who will make a delicious contribution to our Christmas lunch. (Bruce was a meat chook that we let grow out and he dressed at around 6kg if anyone is interested) And now I have edited the December edition of the Monologue...winning 😊

I'm very much looking forward to our Community Christmas Tree and catching up with lots of you. Let's hope we don't get a 44 degree day like last week!

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Monologue and if you have any feedback or wish to make a contribution, please don't hesitate to send it through to Steven.

Emma

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Rosco's Rundown



Hello All,
Time flies a bit because it only seems like five minutes ago that I was providing a brief update in the October Monologue and here we are again.

I am not a Landor Race goer but I do observe with admiration the fantastic amount of volunteer work that gets performed by both current and former residents of this region and I take my hat off to them for putting on the very significant event that the 100th anniversary turned out to be.

Some pretty warm weather has already started to turn up and, as we are aware, with this comes a need for some reasonably conscientious preparation if heading off for a road trip or out into the bush for work. We have already had a couple of passers-by through Yuin in a spot of trouble, with no spare tyre and not enough drinking water on board. So, at the risk of being patronising, I would remind everyone to please use common sense when getting ready to head out, and make sure someone knows roughly where you're going.

An extraordinary Council election was recently held to fill the last remaining position on Council. Thanks to Sam, Bradley and Greydon who put their hands up and congratulations Greydon on securing a four year term. I'm looking forward to going about our Council activities with a full complement of six councillors again. The current State Govt is planning to bring in new legislation for Local Govt and one of the proposals is for shires with a population of less than 5000 to have a maximum of 5 Councillors, so if that is the outcome then we would have five in future.

The RFDS has made a couple of very welcome (and a bit overdue given the attention some other joints get in my biased opinion) visits to the Settlement to carry out some COVID vaccinations plus a few other items of health-related assistance.

Lucia and Steve Human from Yallalong are going to become Australian Citizens at a ceremony sometime after Father Christmas and before dinner at the annual Christmas Tree on the

afternoon/evening of December the 18th which will be a pretty special occasion.

I hope summer treats you all well.

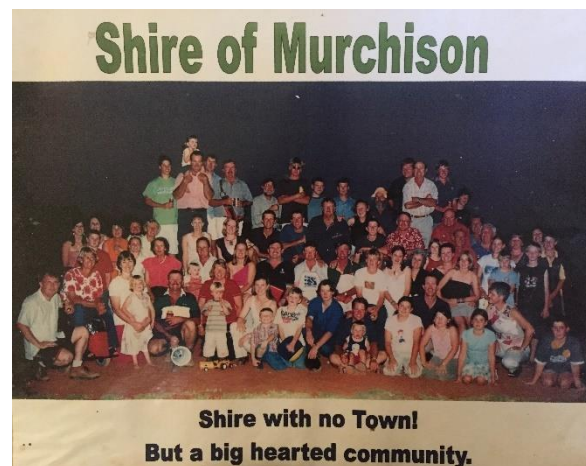
Rosco

CEO's News Desk

Mmm! I'm not sure about what value that comes from my desk, given that its only occasionally tidy, but as I leaf through a pile of papers and documents, and also reflect on the year, staff, councillors, and the community generally, there are a few hidden 2021 gems, most of which are outlined elsewhere in this issue.

Despite being down on staff and always very busy I continue to be impressed by everyone's commitment and efforts and of the support from all elected members. Many thanks!

Once upon a time many of the Community Economic Development Actions that were completed, including the preparation of the Monologue, would have been undertaken by many of those in our pastoral sector.



Now with population decline our fledgling community development team has been very busy and, as the Community Economic Development Snapshot in this issue shows, there are a raft of new initiatives either started, completed or in the pipeline.

Perhaps one to highlight is the tour and performance by Yuck Circus.

For those involved prior, on the night and post-performance we all realise how the relationship with all performers and support staff was and is "the story" and potentially an everlasting one. They were rapt to be here and were amazed. Murchison was the highlight and experience of

their tour. This sentiment being from international artists!

At a recent Circuit West WA Showcase event in Perth the Murchison Shire was also mentioned on a few occasions by the Yuck Circus. Georgia (Leading Team manager of Yuck Circus) used the Shire in her opening speech at the conference to help illustrate just how far the Arts are willing to travel.

This recognition is pivotal in developing change where the Shire is viewed as more than a stop for fuel; with an engaging community and values in supporting arts and bringing people together.

In return the Yuck crew were extremely delighted when Kaye and I were able to attend their recent "wrekd" performance at The Rechabite in Northbridge. The performance was, by the way, awesome and not to be missed!

On the works front - a very big thank you to Will and his ramshackle bunch of works crews. Around the Settlement lots of action in keeping power supplied and amenity in tow. On the roads front, road maintenance remains of a high order and by the time of the Christmas Tree 26 km of 7.2m wide seal will have been completed, along with realignment at the Pinegrove turnoff. Throw in the long overdue reconstruction of the Bilung Creek Crossing and 2021 Works actions have been pretty impressive.

In the office many thanks to Rachel, Vicki, Steven and Grot for their tireless efforts which have been advanced due to Keith White's financial expertise on a drive-in drive out basis. We have all learnt much and Keith's wife Dianne was also able to assist in roadhouse support work.

It only seems yesterday that in March we were thrown in at the deep end as operators of the Roadhouse and Caravan Park. With the support of Council and Nick and Pix as new lead staff, and a raft of casuals, our operation is steadily improving and remains well respected.

So, we might be might large in size and incredibly tiny in numbers, but we continue to punch well above our weight. We might not yet be "the mouse that roared" but I suspect we soon will be.

Finally, many thanks for all in the community that continue to support Kaye and I and make it worthwhile to continue to enjoy life in Murchison.

It is not often that individuals should be signalled out but as I reflect on what I see one 2021 encounter comes to mind: a brief chat with Jano Foulkes-Taylor. I had heard plenty of Jano's reputation as a positive matriarch but in one half hour session I learnt heaps. Apart from incredible strength and resilience what a magic and positive contribution she has made to Murchison. Many many thanks!!!

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Ciao..... Bill

New Councillors

Shelly Fowler



My name is Shelley Fowler and I reside at Mt Narryer Station where my husband is the manager.

Our family came into the Murchison 15 years ago, since then we have endeavoured to be part of the community as much as possible. I believe we have a forward-thinking community where distance isn't a hurdle. Our local events are always well received, and I enjoy being part of them.

I'm looking forward to representing our Shire and participating in the decision process that makes this unique part of Western Australia a part to be proud of.

Kind Regards Shelly Fowler

Greydon Mead

Following the 27 November Extraordinary Election Greydon Mead was duly re-elected for the balance of a 4-year term ending in October 2021.





Preparation a community effort when it comes to disaster season

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

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

nbn has these top tips for households:

1. Stay Mobile

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

2. Stay Updated

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

3. Back up

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

4. Alternative Power

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

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

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

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

Community Economic Development

Year 2021 has been a very busy and successful. There are many highlights to mention, and so I would like to start by taking this opportunity to thank you all again for welcoming me into the Settlement. You are a great group of people residing here, which makes for a very comfortable living space and lifestyle.

These past 6 months have been full of opportunities for us to grow and build capacity.

Opportunities

The role is varied and all-encompassing with opportunities to attend the Astro Festival and Deep Dive seminars in Mount Magnet which presented valuable networking. The opportunity to film the polocrosse event, with the footage used in the video 'One Man & A Bike' which was televised on Channel 7 and showcased the Murchison Geo-region.

Meeting with Merve at Nookawarra Station was interesting and a valuable opportunity to learn about the use of camel drays for carting timber, and to view restored machinery. Further visits to stations to come in 2022.

In terms of grants, funding applications have been plentiful. We were successful in securing grants that have presented opportunities to engage and collaborate with CSIRO to facilitate a Children's week event at the Settlement. The Indigenous Arts and Culture Mosaics application for Pia Wadjarri has been granted and will commence early next year. The Regional Events Scheme Funding Application is up for submission and, if successful, will either host an inaugural family day or value add to the annual Polocrosse event making it even bigger with an extra day of festivities.

Roadhouse

In early 2021 the Shire took over the running of the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse. It has been a delight to watch the roadhouse prosper under Shire management. Ongoing positive feedback from tourists visiting our unique spot in the landscape demonstrates what an important destination the Settlement plays for visitors to the Murchison region.

Staff and community members have had Skin Spot screen checks and COVID vaccinations with many thanks to LGIS and RFDS for these services.

Further thanks to DFES and St John for First Aid Courses and Bush Fire Training for staff and community members.

Thank you to Dani, Pete, Kalam and Allison for their commitment and community participation. Dani was always first to help out with every community event, and it did not go unnoticed. Pete's work ethic and humble character will be missed, and I'm sure he will be a great asset in Mt Magnet. Kalam successfully completed a Work Experience program with the Shire and has since been offered an apprenticeship with the popular Butcher in Mount Magnet - we wish him the best. The end of the year will also see our friendly Roadhouse helpers, Nicki and Jack, who have been a blessing especially for Nick and Pix, head off and we wish them all the best.

Website

The new Murchison Shire website will go live in the new year. It's exciting, looks great and I am keen to see it up and running! Roll on 2022.

Coz 😊

Yuck Circus



As CEO Bill said under his news, pretty speckie event.

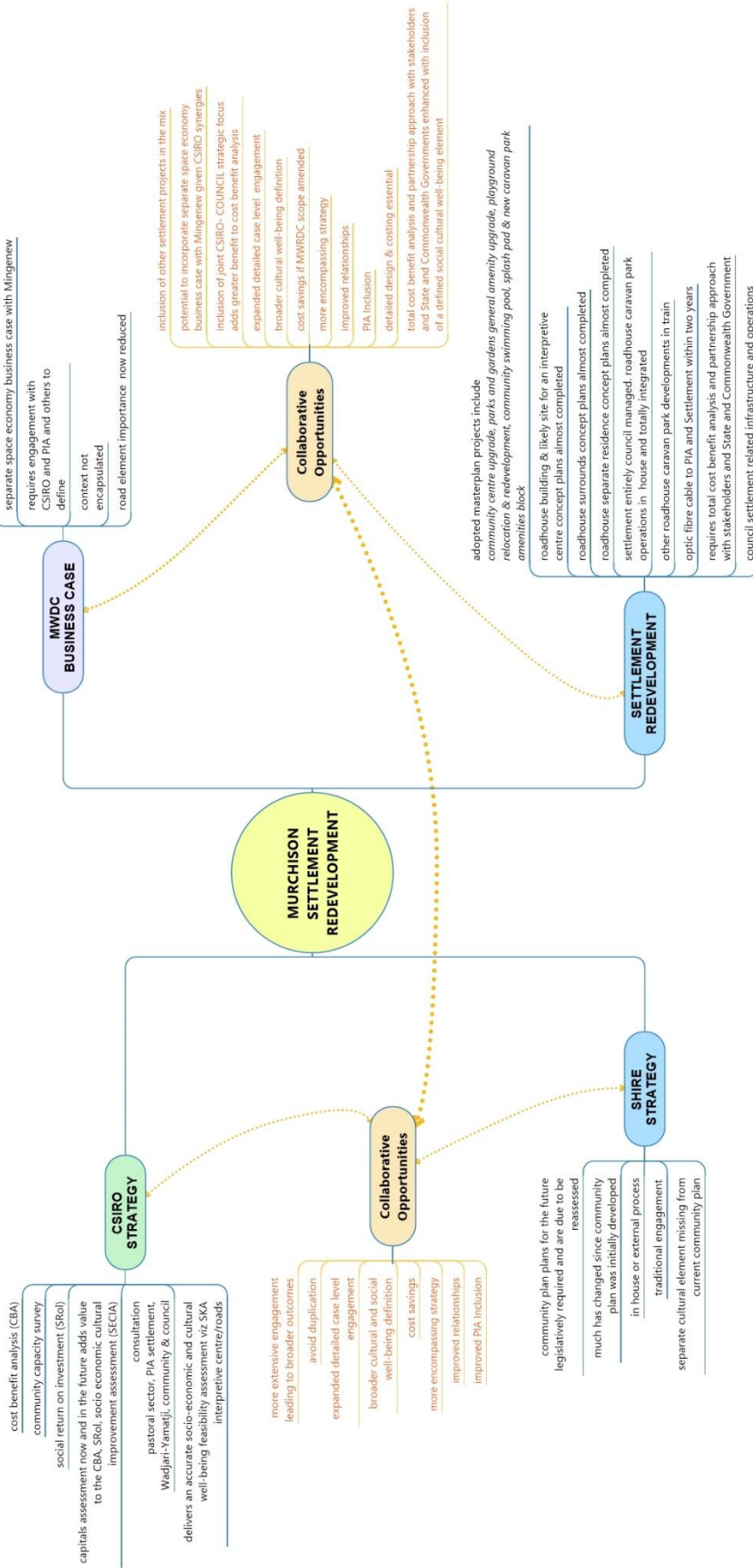
CSIRO Collaboration

Recently we had the pleasure of continuing to build working relationships with CSIRO, which has resulted in an opportunity for the Shire to work with CSIRO to on a range of activities. This includes creating a feasibility study / business case for an SKA Interpretive Experience assisted by Royalties for Regions Funding through the Mid West Development Commission. Collaboration for a wider socio-economic and cultural analysis, community capacity audit and a return on investment of future infrastructure development for the Shire is also proposed.

A schematic overview is attached which shows the range of inter-related projects involved....

murchisonshire CSIRO collaboration opportunities

well-being



note schematic illustrative layout only
 entire implementation will significantly increase outcomes at a much faster rate but also enhance integrated long term strategic partnerships

MEG Meeting

The Murchison Shire hosted the final Murchison Executive Group (MEG) meeting for 2021. MEG regularly meets throughout the year and comprises of all CEOs in the Murchison Country Zone of the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA); namely Murchison, Meekatharra, Cue, Mt Magnet, Yalgoo, Sandstone. The Mid West Development Commission and Regional Development Australia Mid West and Gascoyne also attend.

MEG has been around for many years and its main focus is on Economic Development outcomes, with joint tourism marketing and promotion being two notable outcomes.

Meetings are always lively and friendly and provide the opportunity for joint collaboration on projects that would otherwise be impossible to achieve if each Shire went its own way.

1 Man And A Bike

For those who missed the Murchison GeoRegion episode on 1 Man and A Bike on 7TWO on Sunday, or would like to share internally and externally, below is the full episode (sent through from Visage Productions).

<https://vimeo.com/639863188>

Go For 2 and 5 Children's Week

I am wanting to send this email in acknowledgement of the fantastic work that the Community Manager Deputy CEO (Steven) has done in organising an event on Tuesday 26th October that included Pia Wadjarri community. The whole event was amazing from Steven organising and driving a bus to Pia Wadjarri to pick up community and school people and then organising the return travel at the conclusion of the event (and even procuring his bus license to ensure that he could transport people to the event).

The children thoroughly enjoyed the bouncy castles and the entertainer who thoroughly engaged the children. Steven had organised for CSIRO to support the event. Everyone enjoyed a delicious bbq with a variety of salads and there were goody bags for all children to enjoy. Steven gave me left over goody bags to bring back for the children (and for me to enjoy a morsel too).

I had to leave early but as I was leaving I noticed wood being placed in big fire pits to warm everyone up once the cooler air came in. CSIRO had brought telescopes and a huge contingent of staff to enable those who attended the event to view the night sky.



I am so impressed and appreciative of the work that Steven has gone to, to make this event happen for the community, he gave a short speech before dinner and presented some two-way science books to Pia Wadjarri Remote Community School. Steve mentioned that there is another event on the weekend, which I cannot attend, but I look forward to attending the Christmas Party and am excited and over-awed that Steven has secured a \$22,000 grant for our school to participate in a Mosaic's project. For a little school like Pia Wadjarri and the students and staff who attend the school, this is going to be an amazing experience that the students will be able to create an artistic piece that will be a long lasting testament to all who have produced it and see it. Steven has impressed me by his willingness to build relationships and support the community and shire.



Marika Stefanini

Junior class teacher Pia Wadjarri RCS



Council Works

Update

Construction Crew

By the time Council meets the Construction crew should have finished the works on the Pinegrove Corner, the single cement stabilised floodway and be well into final preparation for sealing. If all goes according to plan, sealing should start on December 7 and be completed by the December Council meeting. After completion of the sealing work, we will still have considerable tidy up and drainage work to complete, which I suspect will only be finished in the new year. My thanks and congratulations to Mark and his men on a job well done, they can be proud of their work over the past year.

Maintenance Crew

The Maintenance crew have continued with the program, having finished the Beringarra-Pindar Road up to the MRO intersections, the Boolardy-Wooleen Rd, the Wooleen-Mt Wittenoom Rd, and should be close to completing the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Rd by the time Council meets. They will then make a start at the North boundary on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd.

Sealing Works

Downer were awarded the Quotation through the WALGA list of suppliers to perform sealing as mentioned, work should start on December 7.

Settlement

Various works have been done around the Settlement over the last month. The main works being an additional leach drain at the new houses and construction of the concrete slab for a new floor in the library.

Snapshot

A snapshot of various works undertaken in 2021 include the following

Bilung Creek Crossing

Council has been looking at upgrading the Bilung Creek crossing for some time. Following a survey and design in 2020, an unsuccessful Flood Mitigation Application, and a request for quotation process, Yuin Contracting were engaged to undertake an upgrade with a wide section spanning the two tributaries of the Bilung

Creek, just short of the Upper Gascoyne Shire Boundary. See below.



Carnarvon-Mullewa Road

By the time of the Christmas Tree 26 km of 7.2m wide seal will have been completed along with realignment at the Pinegrove turnoff. Our Works Crew has been camped virtually all year down south with dramatic positive effect

Over the past 3 years there has been a stronger strategic focus by Council in upgrading this road; firstly, by committing to a 7.2m wide sealed standard rather the existing 4.0m seal and secondly committing additional funds for construction and sealing of remaining gravel sections within our Shire as a priority.

In 2021 this saw an additional 15.25 km completed north from the City of Greater Geraldton boundary in June. Two sections totalling 11.11 km are scheduled for completion in December. We were also successful in the latest 2022/23 Main Roads WA funding round with two projects to construct and seal 5.76km, such that we expect the remaining gravel sections within our Shire to be sealed by the end of 2022.

To illustrate, the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road portion of a 3-Year Rolling Construction Program is shown below.

Murchison Shire - Portion of a 3 Year Rolling Road Construction Program Section on Carnarvon -Mullewa Road - Nov 2022

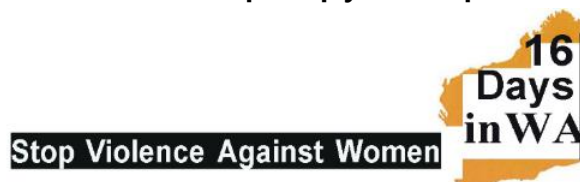
Year	2022	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2021	2022	2021	2021	2024	2021
SLK Start	241.74	245.04	248.34	251.22	254.10	257.40	261.91	266.00	266.52	269.70	270.35	271.50
SLK End	245.04	248.34	251.22	254.10	257.40	261.91	266.00	266.52	269.70	270.35	271.70	278.83
Length km	3.30	3.30	2.88	2.88	3.30	4.51	4.09	0.52	3.18	0.65	1.15	7.33
Funding	Council Main Roads WA	Council LRCIP Phase 3	Council Main Roads WA	Council Main Roads WA	Council LRCIP Phase 2	Council LRCIP Phase 2	Council LRCIP Phase 1		Council LRCIP Phase 1			Council Main Roads WA LRCIP Phase 1
Type	Hills Section Gravel to Seal						Seal					

Notes LRCIP Phase 3 Funding to be used to supplement all projects within Gravel to Seal Section



Stop the Violence

Come by the Shire Office and pick up your "Stop the Violence" badge and raise awareness!



Hello

The annual 16 Days in WA to Stop Violence Against Women campaign, which runs from 25 November to 10 December is here.

Led by the Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, the campaign runs from 25 November to 10 December, with an aim to unite and inspire communities to promote equality and respectful relationships, violence-free spaces and safer communities.

We sent you a copy of our promotional kit, which includes a range of information to help you get involved in the campaign. This is also available to download on our dedicated 16 Days in WA webpage (www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-communities/16-days-wa).

As part of the 16 Days in WA campaign, you are welcome to wear a 'Stop the Violence' button badge to help raise awareness of the campaign and its aims. A small number have been included with this letter.

If you have any questions about the 16 Days in WA campaign, please don't hesitate to contact email 16DaysinWA@communities.wa.gov.au

Thank you.
16 Days in WA coordinating team

Department of Communities
Locked Bag 5000, Fremantle WA 6959

Wcommunities.wa.gov.au

Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities

School of Isolated & Distance Education

Murchison Shire, earlier this year was involved in putting together a workplace experience program for Kalan Nitschke through the School of Isolated & Distance Education and was recently issued a Certificate of Appreciation for completing the project.

The program included a varied degree of opportunity for Kalan, and through a team effort by Shire staff, he was able to gain experience with Office administration duties, Depot duties, and Roadhouse duties.

Thank you to all you involved.



Murchison Christmas Tree



You are invited
to the



Murchison Christmas Tree

At 5pm, Saturday 18th Dec

at

the Sports Club

The Shire wishes everyone a safe and Merry Xmas and invites you all to attend our Christmas Tree party!

Meat, bread and dessert will be provided.

Please bring a salad or vegetable dish per family to share

For catering purposes can you please RSVP to Sam at waldo_253@hotmail.com with approximate numbers or call on 0428269035 or 99637310. Alternatively, you may contact Steven at the Shire Office with any queries.



Murchison Bush Fire Brigade Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Murchison Bush Fire Brigade will be held at the Murchison Community Centre commencing at 3:30pm

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

USE THE CLUES TO COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



Across

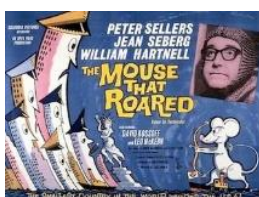
- 1. One of Santa's Reindeer
- 3. Santa's Helpers
- 5. December 25th is _____.
- 7. Christmas Drink
- 10. The name of a popular snowman.

Down

- 2. Christmas Month
- 4. He hates Christmas!
- 6. You hang them by the chimney.
- 8. On Christmas morning we unwrap our _____.
- 9. ___ to the world!



WWW.THRIFTYMOMMASTIPS.COM



Christmas Spot the Difference



Can you find all 8 differences between these pictures?



mamageek.co.uk

Roadhouse

In the words of the late, great John Lennon,

“So, this is Christmas

And what have you done”

Well, it’s nearly Christmas, and what a time we’ve had. So many adventures in the past 8 months whilst living\working here at Murchison. Events, such as hosting Perth Adventure Riders, Yuck Circus, Polo Cross, a tourism program, and various important meetings, and functions. We have met the most awesome people and having them as our guests at the Roadhouse for a relaxed and social dinner. We’ve even been on the TV.hahaha. Beautiful early morning walks, in this magical setting, visiting Chirpy (the, I’m still wondering bird) and his partner in crime, Rastas. Such a privilege to be greeted by such wildlife, bungarras, roos, and such magnificent bird life to start my day. You certainly don’t get that in the “big smoke” Pats on the back, for a job well done, and kindness from perfect strangers, who are now our friends. We thank you.

Support from Shire and Council members and people from surrounding Stations, and not to forget, Andy, for protecting our fauna, which I enjoy every morning and our dedicated Postal Lady, Kylie. We thank you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Danni and Kalan for their hard work over the past 8 months, and we wish them all the best for the future. Enjoy your apprenticeship Kalan, and I am sure you will make your family proud.

Merry Christmas to all and have a safe and prosperous New Year.

Nick and I are looking forward to many more adventures in 2022.

Our Operating Hours over the Off-Peak period are as follows:

- **Mon – Fri** **8.30am – 5.30pm**
- **Sat** **8.30am – 4.00pm**
- **Sun** **9.00am – Noon**
- **Public Holidays** **8.30am – 4.00pm**
- **Christmas Day** **CLOSED**

NOTE: We will open for breakfast and dinner for Motel guests as required.

Pixie

Office Closure

Shire of Murchison administration office is closed from Monday 20 December 2021 and will be reopening on Tuesday 4 January 2022, after the Monday 3 January 2022 public holiday.



murchisonshire

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