



YOUR AD HERE

Please contact Tracey
(agm@wiluna.wa.gov.au) or Katrina
(admin@wiluna.wa.gov.au)
Or ring 9981 8000 if you wish to
put in an ad



NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

The Wiluna Wire



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Hello and welcome to the November edition of the **Wiluna Wire**. In this edition we have submissions from a number of Wiluna agencies and individuals. We would love to make the **Wiluna Wire** into an informative, interesting and entertaining newsletter, that includes submissions from all sections and ages of the Wiluna community. The newsletter will only be as good as the submissions we receive!

If you have any feedback, suggestions and or submissions, please come into the Wiluna Shire and have a chat. Contact can also be made by phone— 9981 8000 or email admin@wiluna.wa.gov.au

Regards Wiluna Shire staff

November Weather Almanac

Mean Maximum Temperature (°C)

34.0

Mean Minimum Temperature (°C)

17.9

Mean Rainfall (mm)

11.7

Decile 5 (median) rainfall (mm)

4.8

Mean number of days of rain ≥ 1 mm

1.9

Mean Number of Clear Days

15.9

Mean Number of Cloudy Days

3.3

Mean 9am temperature (°C)

26.4

Mean 9am Relative Humidity (%)

30

Mean 9am Wind Speed (km/h)

12.7

Mean 3pm Temperature (°C)

32.7

Mean 3pm Relative Humidity (%)

19

Mean 3pm Wind Speed (km/h)

12.3



ONE



TWO



THREE



FOUR



FIVE



SIX



SEVEN



EIGHT



NINE



TEN

Colour us in

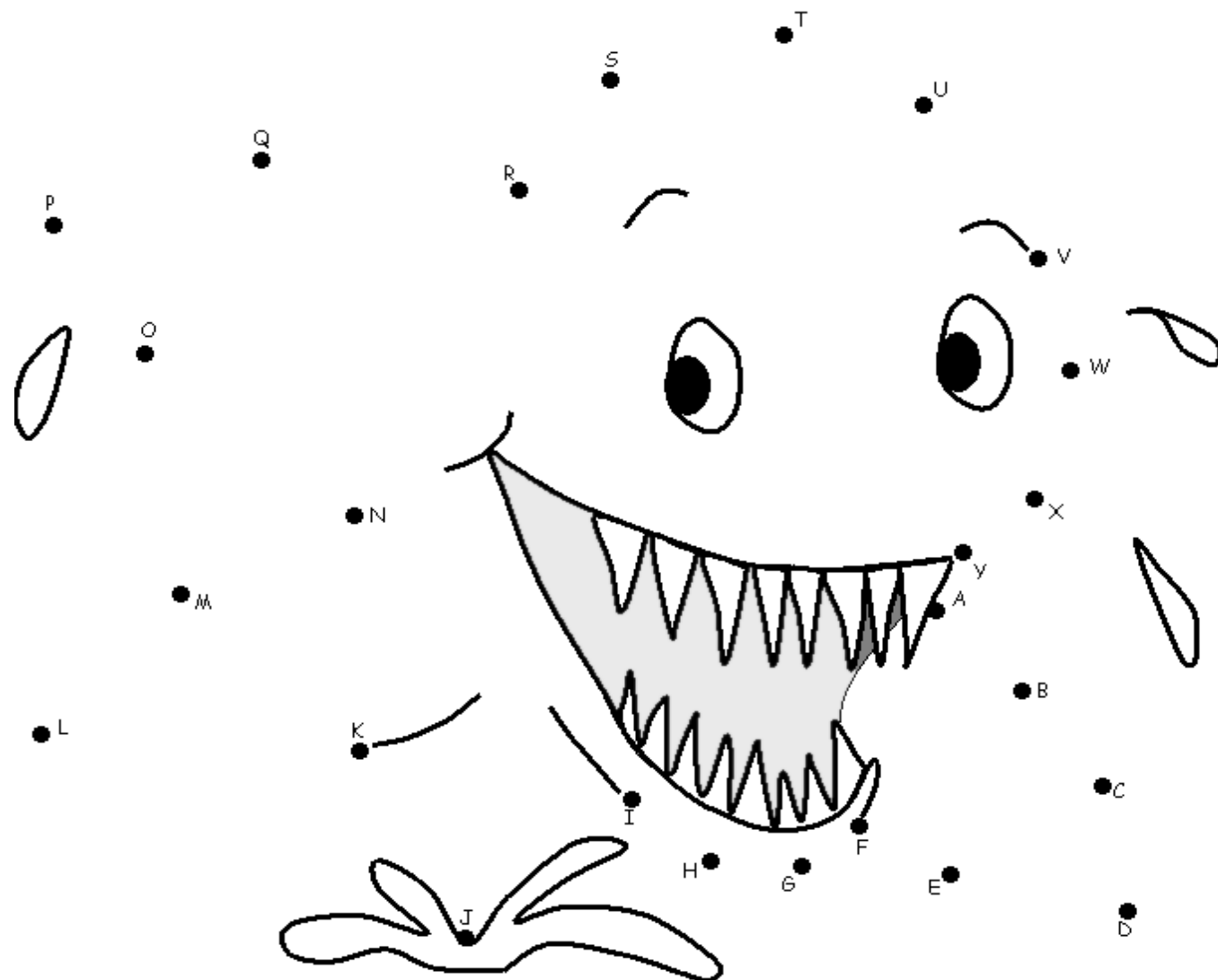
Sudoku Answers

7	6	8	5	2	9	1	3	4
9	1	5	3	6	4	7	2	8
2	3	4	1	7	8	5	6	9
6	5	9	4	8	1	3	7	2
1	4	2	6	3	7	9	8	5
3	8	7	2	9	5	6	4	1
5	9	3	7	4	2	8	1	6
8	2	6	9	1	3	4	5	7
4	7	1	8	5	6	2	9	3

No 1

6	1	3	8	2	4	9	5	7
4	9	5	1	6	7	8	2	3
2	7	8	9	5	3	4	6	1
5	8	9	4	7	1	6	3	2
7	6	4	5	3	2	1	9	8
1	3	2	6	8	9	5	7	4
8	4	7	2	9	5	3	1	6
3	5	1	7	4	6	2	8	9
9	2	6	3	1	8	7	4	5

No 2



Christmas Closure

The Shire Administration Offices will be closed for the festive season from 8.00am Thursday 21 December and re-opening on Monday 7 January 2018

Community Christmas Party

**Monday 11 December at 5.30pm in the Main Street
Kids get a present from Santa who will be arriving on the back of the Fire Truck.**

**Free BBQ
All welcome**





CEO's Report

On behalf of the Shire, I would like to congratulate the newly elected council members and thank those who nominated for Council but were not successful at the election. As a result of the election, all of the seven positions have now been filled as followed:

Cr Jim Quadrio, Shire President	2021
Cr Stacey Patterson, Deputy Shire President	2019
Cr Graham Harris	2019
Cr Norma Ward	2019
Cr Caroline Thomas	2019
Cr Lena Long	2021
Cr Peter Grundy	2021

Councillor contact details can be obtained from visiting the Shire's website
www.wiluna.wa.gov.au

The Wiluna Public Swimming Pool has now opened for the season and to encourage the community to use the swimming pool, the Shire has continued its practice of not charging for entry. During the off season the Shire had awarded Belgravia Leisure the management contract to operate the swimming pool and part of the contract includes holding regular community events. As a result of this change the Shire expects there will be more events and activities at the Swimming Pool this season.

The Shire is planning to hold the 2017 Wiluna Christmas party on the 11 December 2017 at Wootton Street, Wiluna. Further information about this event can be obtained by contacting Tracey Luke on (08) 9981 8000.

After an extended period of time in the position of Acting Chief Executive Office, Council had appointed myself as the Shire's Chief Executive Office for the next three years. I am excited by this appointment as there are a number of projects that will have a long term impact in Wiluna such as a main street upgrade, creation of a new civic centre and renovation of the Wiluna caravan park.

The Shire is currently collecting various historical items at the old Goods Shed site. These items will be display items for the new outdoor museum. If anyone has any historical items they wish to donate to the outdoor museum, please don't hesitate to contact Tracey Luke, Executive Manager Community & Cultural Development.

A reminder that the fire season is upon us again and that the Wiluna Volunteer Bushfire Brigade is looking for new members. For further information on how to join the Wiluna Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade please contact the Shire on (08) 9981 8000.

Colin Bastow
CEO

Kid's Pages

FRUITS
WORD SEARCH

A	K	O	L	I	M	E	C
B	I	R	E	G	E	P	A
F	W	A	M	R	L	E	P
R	I	N	P	A	O	A	R
U	F	G	L	P	N	R	I
I	N	E	U	E	L	G	C
T	L	E	M	O	N	E	O
S	C	H	E	R	R	Y	T

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THESE WORDS!

FRUITS APPLE ORANGE MANGO
APRICOT PEAR MELON CHERRY
KIWI LIME PLUM LEMON FIG

Joke Page

The most wasted
of all days
is the one
without
Laughter
-E.E.Cummings

**LIFE IS
BETTER
WHEN
YOU'RE
LAUGHING.**

IF YOU
LAUGH
A LOT,
WHEN YOU GET OLDER
YOUR WRINKLES WILL BE
IN THE RIGHT PLACES.



Help us spread the message that could
save lives this bushfire season

You SHOULD NOT rely on scheme water during a bushfire

Residents living in or near bushland are reminded not to rely on public water supplies if they plan to stay and defend their homes during a bushfire.

If you plan to stay and defend your home you must have an **INDEPENDENT** water supply and pumping capability. Scheme water may not be available due to damaged infrastructure, extreme demand depleting supply and pressure, or a cut to power which is used to pump water.

We have made our own preparations for the 2017-18 bushfire season by readying equipment and systems to cope with extreme conditions. Despite these efforts, it is likely there will be a reduction in water pressure, and scheme water supply tanks may run empty in the event of fire.

For more information about preparing a bushfire survival plan and what you will need to actively defend your home, visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website www.emergency.wa.gov.au/prepare

A message from the Department of Water

The Department of Water has advised people in bushfire prone areas with bores and access to surface water that they can take and store water to support bushfire plans.

For more information on how the Department of Water's rules support bushfire preparedness, visit www.water.wa.gov.au/fireplanning

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For more information on how the Department of Water's rules support bushfire preparedness, visit www.water.wa.gov.au/fireplanning



Emergency Numbers	
Fire or life threatening emergencies	000
SES Emergency Assistance	132 500
Emergency Information	13 DFES (13 13 37)

Enquiries: Nicole Sullivan
 Our Ref: 15/8609
 Your Ref:
 17 October 2017

Shire of Wiluna
 PO Box 38
 Wiluna WA 6646

Dear Sir/Madam,

Notification of Construction - Heavy Vehicle Parking Bay Goldfields Highway

Main Roads WA will be upgrading an existing parking bay on Goldfields Highway near Albion Downs Road, in the Shire of Wiluna.

It is expected that these works will commence in late October 2017 for a period of four weeks.

A locality map is attached for your reference.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact our Customer Service Officer on 9080 1473.

Yours sincerely

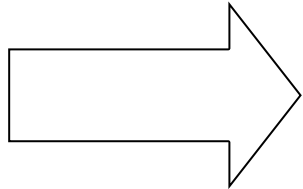


Ammar Mohammed
 NETWORK MANAGER

Sudoku

Sudoku, is a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle. The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 subgrids that compose the grid contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

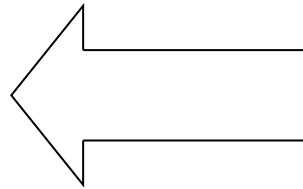
No. 1
Easy



7	6				9	1		
		5			4	7		
2		4	1		8			9
								2
			6					
	8	7	2			6		
	9	3				8		
				1		4		
7			8	5				

		3			4		5	7
	9	5		6		8		3
						4		1
			4			6		2
			5				9	
	3	2			9		7	4
8						3		6
		1	7					
							4	5

No 2
Hard





Ngangganawili
Aboriginal Health Service

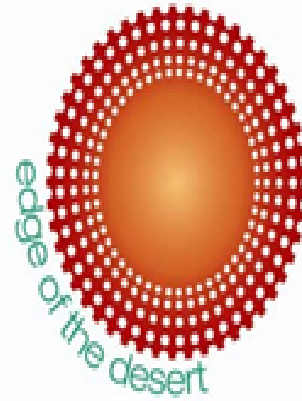
Ngangganawili
Aboriginal Health Service

Select Date: Year:

November 2017						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
30 RFDS Dentist	31 ENT RFDS Dentist	1 RFDS Dentist	2 RFDS Dentist	3 RFDS Dentist	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	



**Shire OF
Wiluna**



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDINARY POSTAL ELECTION
NOTICE OF RESULTS
Shire of Wiluna**

The result of the Ordinary Election conducted as a postal vote on Saturday, 21 October 2017 is as follows:

Ward	Position	Candidates	Votes	Term of Office
District	4 Councillors	GRUNDY, Peter	50	4 year term
		QUADRIO, Jim	51	4 year term
		LONG, Lena	51	4 year term
		CALLOW, Pauline	26	
		HARRIS, Graham	35	2 year term
		WELLER, Bernard	26	

James Peter QUADRIO is elected as Councillor for the Shire of Wiluna and will hold office until 16 October 2021.

Lena LONG is elected as Councillor for the Shire of Wiluna and will hold office until 16 October 2021.

Peter Damien GRUNDY is elected as Councillor for the Shire of Wiluna and will hold office until 16 October 2021.

Graham Allen HARRIS is elected as Councillor for the Shire of Wiluna and will hold office until 19 October 2019.

Warren OLSEN
RETURNING OFFICER
9981 8000
0429 400 519



**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission**



Annette Williams had some of her art on display at the Revealed Exhibition.

Congratulations Annette

Exhibition Catalogue | 2017 Revealed Exhibition: New & Emerging WA Aboriginal Artists

Published on Oct 27, 2017

In the Revealed exhibition more than 60 of the best new and emerging Aboriginal artists from all over Western Australia demonstrate the vitality and diversity of contemporary WA Aboriginal Art. The exhibition was open at Fremantle Arts Centre from 8 April - 21 May 2017. [See Less](#)



Fremantle Arts Centre

FOLLOW 62



Image left: Lindsay Malaj, Yolanda - My Country's Country, 2017, natural ochre and pigments on canvas, 10 x 10 cm.
Image above: Annette Williams, Dingo Dreaming, Dingo Dreaming and Dingo Dreaming, 2017, acrylic on canvas, 24 x 16 cm.
Photography by Jessica Ryan

“A Drover’s Life”
By the King of the Canning Stock Route, the late Wally Dowling

As I write this little ditty perhaps I’m feeling blue,
 For my swag is wet and soggy and the fly has blown in too.
 The wind is coming heavy and the rain is rather chill,
 And I somehow feel like howling like the dingo on the hill.
 Then the old joke comes to memory, ‘twas written long ago,
 That a drover’s life has pleasures the townfolk never knows.

You are sitting on your Nighthorse on a dark and stormy night,
 And you see the white horns glistening in the lightning’s ghastly light.
 The thunder crashes round you, you’re soaking to the skin.
 A tongueing for some nicotine, you’ve don your tobacco in.
 And as you sit there you wonder if the cattle jump, which way they’ll go,
 Yes the drover’s life has pleasures the townfolk new knows.

You climb aboard a youngster with greenhide monkey halt,
 He’s a quiet horse they tell you, but he’ll sometimes buck and bolt,
 You kick him in the shoulder with a pair of three inch spurs,
 Next think you’re sitting in a bunch of bloody burrs.
 Then you might agree with Banjo, and what he wrote years ago,
 That a drover’s life has pleasure that the townsfolk never knows.

It’s great to be out in the bushland and see the wondrous glory of everlasting stars.
 When your only sole companions are a mob of mad galahs.
 And when you have to eat the babbler’s brownie t’is best to close your eyes,
 For it’s difficult to tell between the currants and the flies.

For camp cooking is always tasty, but in any camp it’s extra so,
 After blowflies have had a gutfull, and the bees and ants have had a go.
 There’s times I rather doubt it, perhaps I wouldn’t know,
 That a drover’s life has pleasures that the townsfolk never knows.

You are branding cattle in the dust and heat,
 A young mick with a grievance makes a beeline for your seat.
 You try to make the panel but the mick’s got too much toe,
 Yes the drover’s life has pleasures that the townsfolk never knows.

When the feed is very scanty and the water holes are dry,
 The squatters sitting on your back, it’s enough to make you cry.
 And you battle down a dusty stage to a bore that’s broken down,
 Or a tank full of bullet holes by some yokel from the town.
 Then they wonder why you hit the grog and curse this lousy station,
 Why many a man has cut his throat in sheer desperation.
 There’s times you think you’ll chuck it away and give another job a go,
 Yes the drover’s life has pleasures that the townsfolk never knows.

You are coming down the Canning where the lonely stages are,
 And the stock agent comes to see you in his Rolls Royce car.
 And pulls up with a jerk, while the dust he raises,
 Mixes with that churned up by the hoofs that you are droving.
 Some of which he will probably eat.

And you are whipping water till your bellows nearly burst,
 And your water camel sulks and your bullocks cry in thirst.
 Then you swear to hell you’ve had it, going to give another job a go,
 Going to buy a one way ticket with a big cheque on your hip.
 But when you reach Wiluna you meet your cobber Joe,
 And so the Wiluna pub, brother Drovers, is just as far as you go.
 So let this be a warning to the young fellows of the town,
 Who want to go adrovering where the bullock road comes down,
 Tis very true, you will find it so,

That a drover’s life has lots of pleasure that are better not to know.



RFT 2017-11 Aerodrome Management

Tenders are invited on a fixed-price basis for the provision of a suitably qualified and experienced part-time Aerodrome Manager/Document Controller.

Tender (RFT) documents can be obtained from the Shire’s tender portal at <https://www.tenderlink.com/wiluna/>.

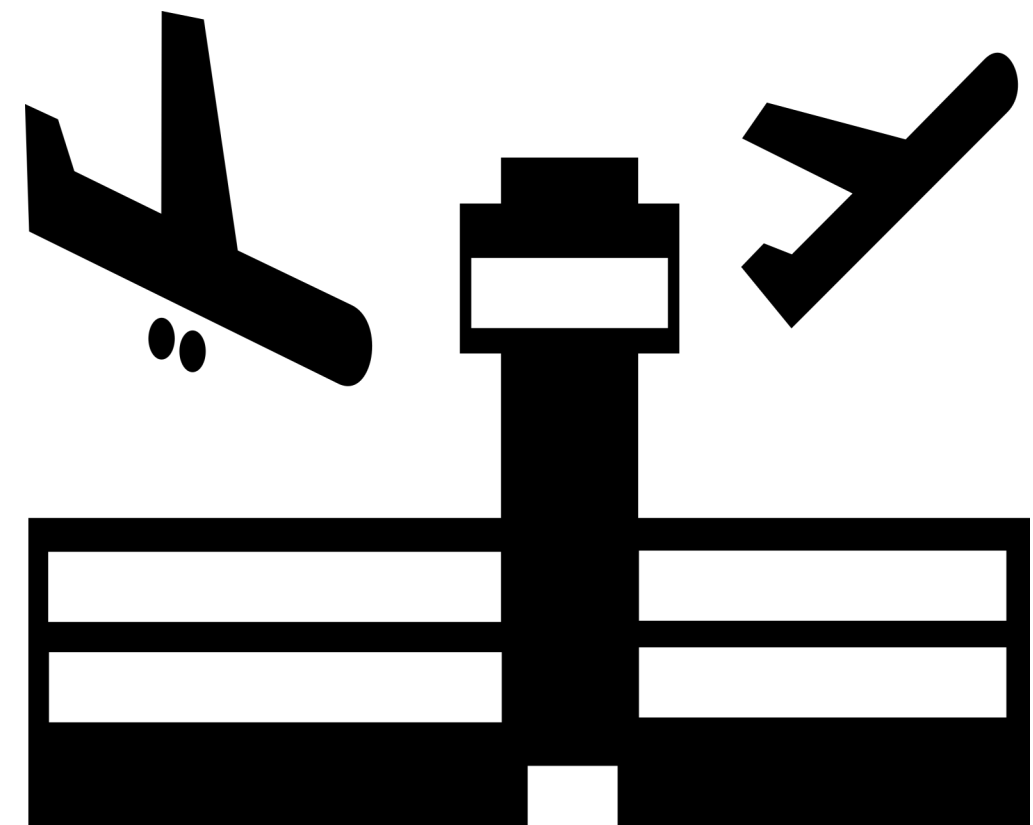
Enquiries can be directed to the Shire’s Acting Manager of Engineering & Development Services, Ms Angela Hoy, ph. 0429 817 010 or email wm@wiluna.wa.gov.au.

Tenders must be submitted in the form prescribed in the RFT document, in PDF format uploaded to the Shire’s tender portal <https://www.tenderlink.com/wiluna/>.

Tenders by fax or email will not be accepted. Do not send tenders by post or courier as they will be rejected if they are not received before the closing time.

Tenders must be submitted by 2pm WST on Friday 10th November 2017. Late tenders will be rejected without consideration of their merits.

The Council will not necessarily accept the lowest or any tender.



Who's new in Town



Mac Jensen is working for the Wiluna Remote Community School as its training coordinator. He has an extensive civil and military background in remote area operations, training and capacity building. Mac is originally from Aramac, a very small town (smaller than Wiluna!) near Longreach in western Queensland. After completing a university degree and Army officer training, Mac worked for 4 years as a ringer in the NT and Kimberley in the dry seasons and ran an Aboriginal Army Reserve unit in Arnhem Land in the wet seasons. He then transferred to the Regular Army and ran an Aboriginal Army unit in the Kimberley; recruiting and training Aboriginal soldiers from remote communities across the Kimberley. He served on attachment to British Special Forces for 12 months in 1991, including extensive participation in NATO training exercises in Europe and involving significant military parachuting activities. He has also served the US Rangers at Fort Benning, USA; and also with the Inuit (Eskimo) Canadian Rangers in the Arctic Circle in mid-winter for two months, after receiving a Prince of Wales Award for his service leading and training Aboriginal soldiers. Mac went on to become a Major in the Regular Army, commanding Kimberley Squadron.

After 20 years of Regular and Reserve military service, Mac left the Army and worked as an Aboriginal Ranger trainer and coordinator in the Kimberley and Cape York and then became the Remote Area Coordinator and Indigenous Liaison Officer for the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS), based in Broome, for 5 years. This involved coordinating scientific survey work by land, air and sea across northern Australia (Kimberley, NT and Cape York), mostly in collaboration with remote Aboriginal communities and Ranger groups. This work got Mac involved in aerial shooting operations, which he continued in his work with the Department of Agriculture after moving south almost 10 years ago.

Mac managed biosecurity in the southern rangelands of WA (including Wiluna) for many years, working closely with the pastoral industry and their representative groups. Mac assisted the Ashwin family with Windidda Station in 2009 and 10. Mac also coordinated the national Australian Feral Camel Management Project (AFCMP) in WA for four years (2010-13). This was a large remote area Aboriginal engagement project across four West Australian deserts – the Gibson, Great Victoria, Little Sandy and Great Sandy Deserts, right up to the NT and SA borders. It involved significant liaison, consultation, training and collaborations in remote communities, including Wiluna. 50,000 feral camels were culled in WA alone by aerial shooting operations in these deserts, greatly reducing their impact on the landscape, cultural sites and pastoral production. Mo Pawero from DSS worked with Mac on this project in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands and around Kiwirrkurra. After the completion of this project, Mac continued to manage biosecurity in the southern rangelands of WA, including coordinating and leading the annual large feral herbivore (LFH) aerial shoot's in the east of Wiluna Shire, before joining the Education Department to run the training centre in Wiluna.

In 2015, Mac brought his close friend Keith Payne VC AM to Wiluna where he visited the Shire, many town enterprises and some local cattle stations. A civic reception was also held. In 2014, Mac had accompanied Keith and his wife Flo to London for a Victoria Cross reunion, which included meeting the Queen in Buckingham Palace and having supper with Prince Harry at St James' Palace. Keith was the last Australian to be awarded an Imperial Victoria Cross. Keith continues to be an advocate for Wiluna.

Mac has been working with Wiluna residents and stakeholders for almost 10 years and is enjoying the opportunity and challenge of assisting Wiluna RCS students and adults to develop their vocational skills and increase their competitiveness for local and regional employment.

Canning Stock Route

The Canning Stock Route is a track that runs from Halls Creek in the Kimberley region of WA to Wiluna in the mid-west region. With a total distance of around 1850kms it is the longest historic stock route in the world.

The stock route was proposed as a way of breaking a monopoly that west Kimberley cattlemen had on the beef trade at the beginning of the 20th Century. In 1906, the Government of WA appointed Alfred Canning to survey the route. When the survey party returned to Perth, Canning's treatment of Aboriginal guides came under scrutiny leading to a Royal Commission. Canning had been organising Aboriginal hunts to show the explorer where the waterholes were. Despite condemning Canning's methods, the Royal Commission, after the Lord Mayor of Perth, Alexander Forrest had appeared as a witness for Canning, exonerated Canning and his men of all charges. The cook who made the complaints was dismissed and Canning was sent back to finish the job.

Canning was appointed to lead a construction party and between March 1908 and April 1910, 48 wells were completed along the route. Commercial droving began in 1910, but the stock route did not prove popular and was rarely used for the next twenty years. The wells made it difficult for Aboriginal people to access water and in reprisal they vandalised or dismantled many of the wells.

A 1928 Royal Commission into the price of beef in WA led to the repair of the wells and the re-opening of the stock route. Around 20 droves took place between 1931 and 1959 when the final droving run was completed.

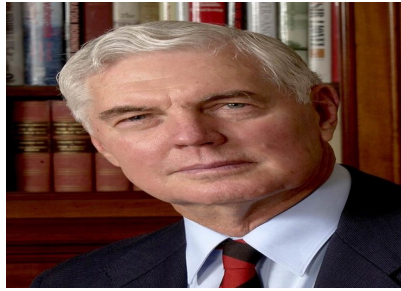
The Canning Stock Route is now a popular but challenging four-wheel drive trek typically taking 10-20 days to complete. A few adventurers have traversed the track on foot, by bicycle, and in two-wheel drive vehicles.

There are two small settlements on the track where fuel and other supplies may be obtained; Kunawarritji approximately 1,000km north of Wiluna and Billiluna 173km south of Halls Creek.

The building of the stock route impacted on the cultural and social life of the more than 15 Aboriginal language groups and today the Aboriginal history of the track, recorded through oral and artistic traditions, is increasingly being recognised.

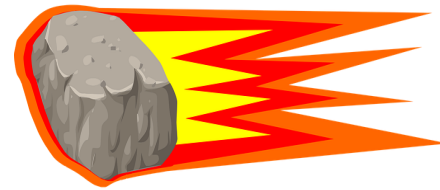


Did You Know?



Major General Philip Michael Jeffery AC, CVO, MC (born 12 December 1937) was the 24th Governor-General of Australia (2003–2008), the first Australian career soldier to be appointed governor-general. He had previously served as Governor of Western Australia (1993–2000). Michael Jeffery was born in Wiluna, Western Australia and was educated at Kent Street Senior High School.

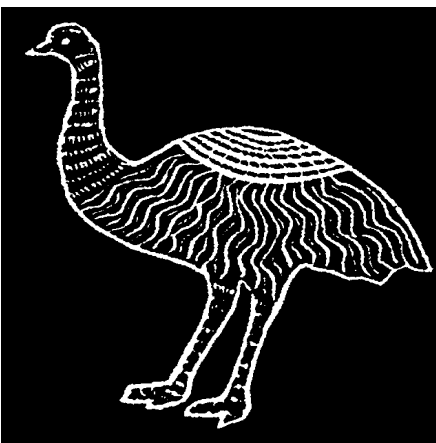
In October 1960, two station workers names Fred Vincenti and Frank Quadrio were opening a fence gate on the Millbillillie-Jundee track 11kms from Wiluna when they witnessed a bright fireball falling into spinifex grassland to the north of their location. The debris from this meteor became known as the Millbillillie meteorite and is understood to be actual pieces of the asteroid Vesta that had at some point been knocked off by a collision in the asteroid belt.



shutterstock - 124632427

1952—As a counter balance to the diminished goldmining activity the Perth firm of Plaistowes was using the underground supplies of water to grow peanuts in Wiluna. The plants grew well, and the runners pushed their spikes into the ground. On the end of these spikes the peanuts formed. There were many who confidently hoped that the peanut industry would make Wiluna as famous in the days to come, as the gold had in earlier days.

1931—The Wiluna Convent. The convent was originally the Convent as Sandstone, the building was pulled down and re-erected in Wiluna. When they opened the school they had 11 children. The Convent was situated opposite the railway station and each afternoon two sisters used to catch a bus into town and make house to house visitations. The result of this was that by the end of February the school had 50-60 children. The parish priest at that time was Father Prendergast. The convent



Emu Farm—1970. It was decided to try to farm emus at Wiluna in the 1970's, and a company named Applied Ecology began operations in Wiluna. It was found that most parts of the emu could be used, for example, the pelt for high class garments, the meat in high class restaurants, the oil, the eggs for carving, and the feathers. The farm also attracted interested groups of tourists. The wild emu is protected by legislation in WA, and other emu farmers had to purchase chicks from Wiluna only, which slowed the rate of growth in the industry. ground



Above: Mac meeting the Queen

Below: Mac with Keith Payne VC AM



Training Commences at Wiluna Remote Community School Training Centre (old TAFE)

The old Wiluna TAFE, now part of the Wiluna Remote Community School (Wiluna RCS) complex, and called the school vocational and educational training (VET) training centre, is now fully operational again. Commencing last term, Wiluna RCS has partnered with Central Regional TAFE (CR TAFE) to deliver Certificate I training courses in Automotive and Conservation and Land Management (CALM). The students are mostly Wiluna RCS high school students, plus some adult Rangers whose participation is funded by Desert Support Services (DSS). CR TAFE lecturers from Kalgoorlie are delivering the courses in blocks at the VET training centre, assisted by the Wiluna RCS training coordinator, Mac Jensen. The training is practical and relevant, and preparing students for real jobs in the region.

A direct benefit of the training has been increased attendance and retention rates of school students over the entire term. These rates are consistently high with most students electing to stay at the training centre after school to continue their training and development. The students understand the direct link between this training and regional employment.

There has been significant community support for the new training centre, including direct contributions from the Shire and in-kind contributions from Blackham Resources. CR TAFE has made a significant investment in resourcing the training centre, in order to most effectively deliver relevant training. CR TAFE hope to expand on the current courses and offer other training in Wiluna in 2018. DSS has also provided direct assistance and support, particularly in getting the training centre functional and safe prior to course commencement.

Local senior Traditional Owners, through the School Council, have provided ongoing support and guidance to Wiluna RCS in relation to the establishment of the training centre and the training offered, and continue to visit and observe the training regularly. Traditional Owners and local pastoralists have also supported the training by offering access onto their tenures during field trips, where new practical knowledge is applied.

The automotive course recently undertook a 3-day road trip around the Shire, inspecting pastoral station workshops and maintaining equipment as they went. The students had fully serviced and repaired a couple of trailers before the trip, including repairing/changing 4 punctured tyres, servicing wheel bearings and repairing a number of faults that required welding and oxy acetylene treatment. These trailers were then taken on the field trip.

Wiluna RCS now has a new, extensive and fully fenced 20-bed vegetable garden, put in by the CALM students. They have learnt about work-based occupational health and safety, garden construction and preparation, irrigation system installation and maintenance, vegetable and tree planting, and fencing. Wiluna RCS has commenced harvesting these vegetables for consumption in the school. Another 30 existing garden beds were redone with new reticulation. These beds supply a range of herbs and vegetables for school cooking classes.

The success of the training centre represents tangible, relevant and very visible goals for students. The training embodies the 3 priorities of the Wiluna School Council – language and culture, health and attendance. It also demonstrates the school's *Stand Strong* concepts of mentoring, modelling and collaboration. Other community benefits include long-term partnerships which engender continuity, sustainability and growth; and providing motivation and meaning to education that can be so elusive to many students in remote communities.

The Wiluna RCS Learning Centre is a great example of community collaboration and cooperation, delivering tangible and enduring benefits to the town and the region.

Permission to subdivide and sell part of the land to raise extra funds.

The new buildings made up three sides off a quadrangle, with the recently built men's ward making up the fourth (north) side. The buildings were linked by concrete floored verandahs.

The new hospital, called Wiluna District Hospital, was officially opened on 2 June 1934 by WB Phillipson, JP, accountant at Wiluna Gold Mines, chairman of the Wiluna Road Board and chairman of the Wiluna Hospital Board of Management. The new buildings, including furniture, had cost £7,200 of which the State Government contributed £3,000. The Board's share included subscriptions and the Wiluna Gold Mine was generous in its donation of an x-ray room and other items. The Wiluna miner reported that the new hospital was 'up to date in every respect and is said to be the most modern and completely equipped outside of the metropolitan area'.

Most of the old hospital buildings were sold by public auction for a total of £488 17s 6d and removed from the site. The only building remaining from the Lake Way Hospital was the women's ward, which was used for domestic staff accommodation.

The main hospital buildings were not clad until later in 1934, when fibrolite was used. New quarters for the Matron, were also built at this time.

By 1936, the population was over 6,000 and over 1,000 men were employed at Wiluna Gold Mine. Staff at Wiluna District Hospital comprised the matron, seven nurses, six nursing assistants, a cook, a kitchen maid, three ward maids, a laundress, orderly and part-time gardeners. The average daily number of patients was thirty—the maximum the hospital could accommodate. The hospital board was successful in securing funds from the Lotteries Commission and the Health Department for a new maternity wing, which was built for £1,246.

In 1938, the night nurse's quarters were constructed to the rear of the main hospital buildings. This consisted of a one room building with surrounding verandah.

In the early 1940s, when the population of Wiluna was declining due to WWII and decreased production at Wiluna Gold Mines, the hospital board had difficulty in securing a doctor. Wiluna Gold Mine closed in 1946 and by the end of the year, the population had dropped to about 1,000. Average bed occupancy was 7.8 patients per night the number of staff was dropped accordingly..

The Royal Flying Doctor Service commenced operations in the Meekatharra—Wiluna area on 1 July 1948. By October 1950, Dr Ekstein was resident in Wiluna. At some stage between 1954 and 1958 the Matron's flat and the night nurse's quarters were removed from the site, presumably sold by the hospital board. By this time, the matron was the only qualified nursing staff member. Occupancy was down to an average of six per day.

By the early 1960s, buildings were in need of repair and the hospital board pushed for a new more compact building, to entice qualified staff and to better serve the outlying pastoral areas and the increasing Aboriginal population.

With the daily bed occupancy down to 1.5, the decision was made to close the hospital. This happened in December 1967. A two bed nursing post was established in the administrative wing. Patients requiring hospital treatment were transferred to Meekatharra by ambulance or the Flying Doctor Service. From November 1969, the remainder of the buildings were leased to JJ Parr for the accommodation of about 12 employees from this fruit growing operation, Desert Farms.

In 1970, the Silver Chain built a new nursing post in Thompson Street.

The Wiluna District Hospital site was gazetted as Reserve 32988 and vested with the Shire of Wiluna for accommodation and storage purposes. In 1975, Wiluna Shire Council decided to convert the old Administrative Wing for use as its own administrative centre. The building was refurbished and was opened by June Craig MLA, Minister for Local Government, on 5 June 1980.

A new entry statement was built in the mid-1980s, comprising a pergola style structure dedicated to the memory of George Lukin, owner of Lake Way Station. George Lukin was a member of the Wiluna Shire Council from 1961 to his death in an airplane accident in 1983. From 1974 until his death he was the Shire President. In the early 1990s, a war memorial was added to the area.

Wiluna District Hospital
Other Names : Lake Way Hospital; Shire of Wiluna Civic Centre



Wiluna District Hospital (fmr) comprises the morgue (c. 1900s), the main hospital buildings (1933), hospital quarters (c. 1900s or 1933) and former maternity ward (c. 1936). The main hospital buildings are a group of four single storey buildings enclosing a central grassed courtyard.

Although a site for a hospital was selected at Lake Way (later Wiluna) in 1897 and a Board of Health established the following year, it was not until 18 December 1903 that reserve 8468 was set aside for hospital purposes. Timber framed and iron clad buildings, lined with canvas were built on the site and the hospital was known as Lake Way Hospital. A morgue, claimed to have been built by the Road Board, and a Doctor's house were part of the original complex..

In 1923, the average hospital occupancy rate was one person per night, and there was no resident doctor, as the population had dwindled to less than 200. The following year, the Wiluna Chronicle described the Lake Way Hospital as a timber framed structure, clad with corrugated iron and lined with canvas. It was whitewashed outside and painted inside. The corrugated iron cladding did not cover the full height of the walls to allow for ventilation through the rooms.

Also in 1924, the Wiluna Gold Corporation commenced reopening the old Gwalia Consolidated Mine. By 1931, Wiluna Gold mine was in production and employing hundreds of men. With so many people now in the town, the hospital soon proved inadequate. A women's ward was added to the site c. 1926 and a school house was re-erected on the site about the same time to provide additional accommodation.

In 1927, a deputation from the Hospital board urged the Minister for Mines to add a female ward to the hospital as the ward currently used for maternity cases was divided from the main ward only by a thin hessian curtain. The Minister advised that he intended to relocate a four roomed building from Nannine if it was available.

During this period (c 1922 to c 1929) there was no resident doctor at Wiluna, the nearest being at Meekatharra. Sister Backhouse was in charge of the Lake Way Hospital during this time. In 1930, the staff comprised a medical officer, the matron, a staff nurse and domestic staff. By this time, accommodation was stretched to the limit. Tents were erected in the grounds for extra beds; other patients had to be treated in their homes.

After much lobbying and complaints in the press, the Health Department offered the Wiluna Hospital Board £2,000 on a pound for pound basis for a new hospital. However, the Boards' plans (which included new Nurses' quarters the Health Department did not think necessary) were estimated at £5,500.

This situation, together with the immediate need of a new Men's Ward, prompted the Hospital Board to take matters into its own hands. In May 1933, the Board called tenders for a men's ward to be located behind the existing hospital buildings. The building was positioned in such a way that 'the new hospital as planned can be erected at any time'. The contract was awarded to T. Lees at £1,325. Tenders were again called in June for new staff quarters after the original quarters were destroyed by fire.

The Health Department called tenders for the rest of the buildings, comprising the Administrative Wing with consulting rooms, dispensary, offices and operating theatre, the women's ward and the kitchen wing, which included a staff dining room and two maid's rooms. The contract was awarded to Todd Bros in November 1933 for £4,380 6s 6d. During the building process the hospital reserve was cancelled and the land, comprising 20 acres, was granted to the Hospital Board. The Board then applied for, and received,



The Wiluna Remote Community School (WRCS) Training Centre has had another successful month in October.

Wiluna RCS and Desert Support Services (DSS) students participated in an intense week of automotive training where they serviced vehicles and trailers, used hand and power tools and equipment and repaired a number of tyres used for bush training activities.

The students then drove out to Well 6 (Milyinyiri) on the CSR to support a DSS land management activity. Lena and Caroline Long and Rita Cutter also came out and Lena took the students on a big walk around Milyinyiri and showed them a number of significant cultural sites in the area. Lena, Caroline and Rita also talked to the students about the importance of training and standing strong, and getting themselves in the best position to compete for regional employment opportunities.

The students then participated in a week of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) course training, wrapping up the CALM training for the year. This included harvesting the spring crops and planting the summer crops in the 20-bed vegetable garden they have constructed, irrigated and maintained.

The training continues to maintain high attendance and retention rates, with strong support from Wiluna families.

WRCS appreciates the terrific assistance and support it is receiving from community groups to deliver the most effective and interesting training possible. We look forward to another exciting month of training in November.



Swimming Pool

Swimming Pool

Operating Hours

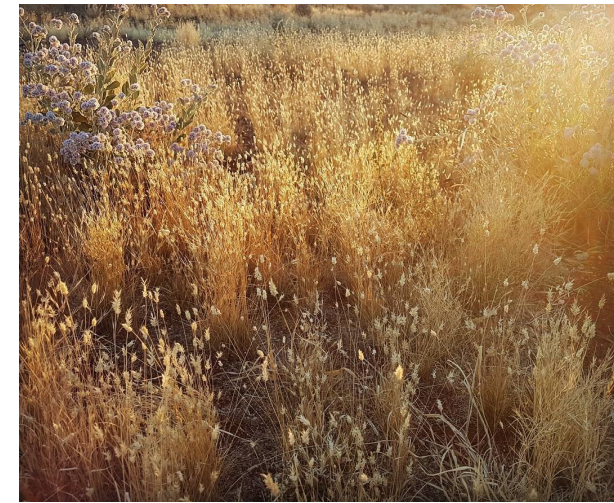
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday - 6.00 am to 7.00 am; 10.00 am to 12 noon and 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Weekends and Public Holidays - 10:00 am to 12 noon and 1.30 pm to 7:00 pm

School Holiday Weekdays - 6.00 am to 7.00 am; 10.00 am to 12 noon and 1.30 pm to 7:00 pm



Photo Page



These photos were taken by Sara Walker, the Coordinator of Arts, Heritage and Tourism at the Shire.

If you would like to share a photo please send them to:

admin@wiluna.wa.gov.au

