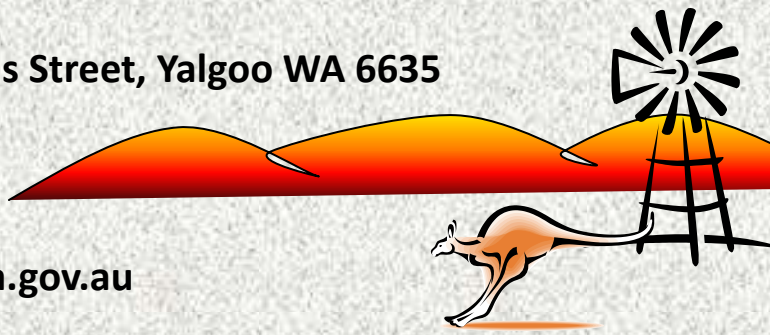




PO Box 40, 37 Gibbons Street, Yalgoo WA 6635
Ph: 08 9962 8042
Fax: 08 9962 8020
E-mail:
reception@yalgoo.wa.gov.au



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Photos of Australia Day 2016



GENERAL DISCLAIMER

The Yalgoo Bulldust is published by the Shire of Yalgoo as a public service for the community.

Contact— Shire of Yalgoo
Mail— PO Box 40, Yalgoo 6635
Phone— 99628042
Fax— 99628020
Email— reception@yalgoo.wa.gov.au



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Accordingly, no responsibility is accepted or taken by the Shire of Yalgoo, or the authors and editors of the Yalgoo Bulldust, for any damage or loss suffered by any party acting in reliance on any matter, comment or advice contained here in.

REMINDER – DEADLINES FOR BULLDUST ENTRIES

The deadline for articles and notices to go into the Yalgoo Bulldust is the second last Friday of every month. Contributions can be left at the Shire of Yalgoo Office or email to reception@yalgoo.wa.gov.au

Advertisement

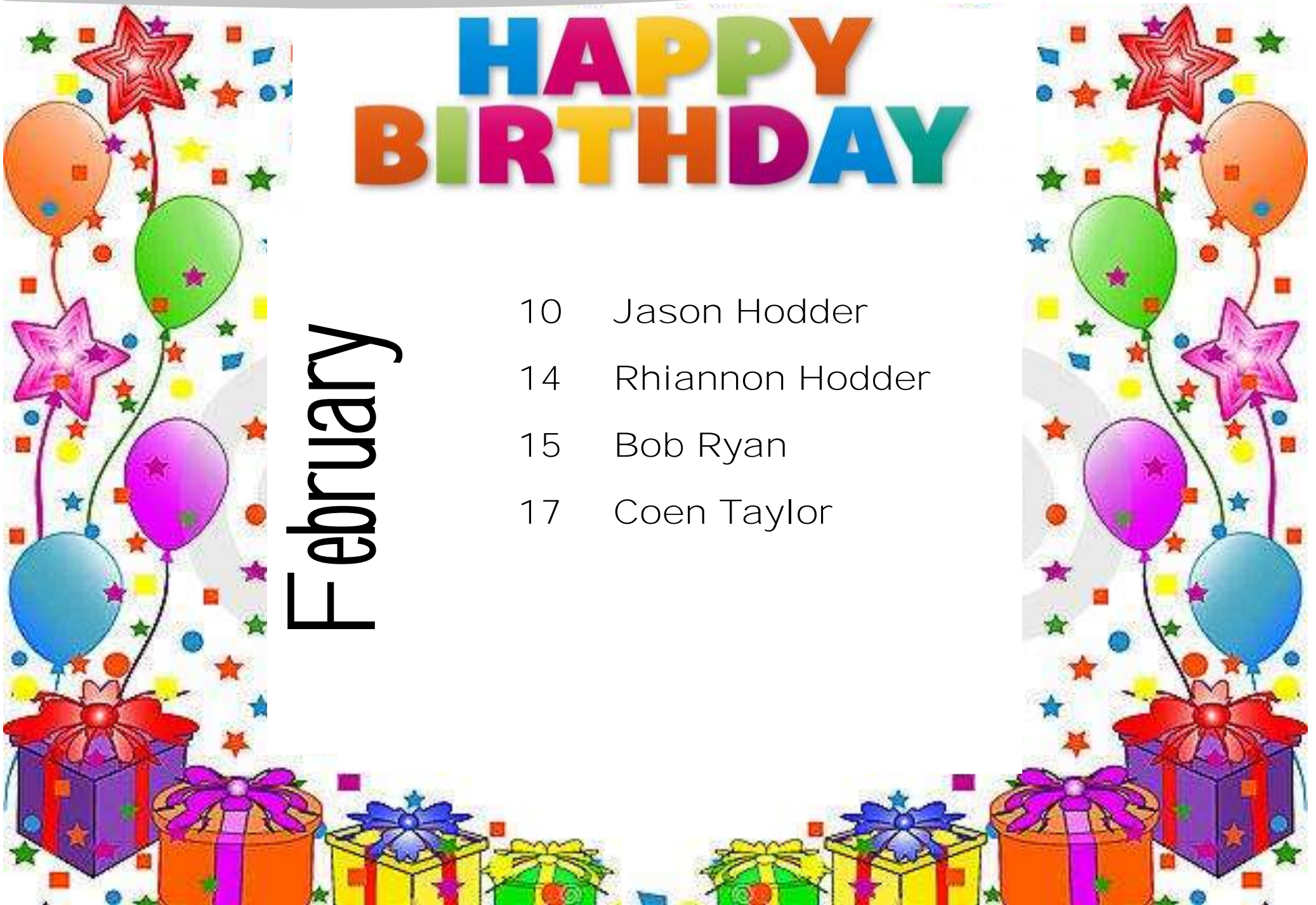
Do you want to promote what you have to offer?

The Yalgoo Bulldust can help you.

At the Shire we can place an advertisement in the bulldust for the following charges:

Advertising Commercial - Full Page	(Black & White)	\$35.00
Advertising Commercial - Half Page	(Black & White)	\$25.00
Advertising Commercial - Quarter Page	(Black & White)	\$18.00
Advertising Community - All of above	(Black & White)	<u>FREE</u>
Advertising Commercial - Full Page	(Colour)	\$60.00
Advertising Commercial - Half Page	(Colour)	\$45.00
Advertising Commercial - Quarter Page	(Colour)	\$30.00
Advertising Community - All of above	(Colour)	<u>FREE</u>

Please call the Shire If you have any enquiries on 08 9962 8042



If you would like to see yours or even a loved ones birthday displayed in the Bulldust for all to see
Please contact the shire to let us know.

Here is one to think about!

Wake up every morning
with the thought that
something wonderful is
about to happen.



Ordinary Council & Committee Meeting Dates for 2016

The Shire of Yalgoo schedule of meeting dates and locations for 2016 are as follows:

▪	Thursday	21	January	2016	Electors' AGM	YALGOO
▪	Friday	22	January	2016	Ordinary	YALGOO
▪	Friday	19	February	2016	Ordinary	YALGOO
▪	Friday	11	March	2016	Audit Committee	YALGOO
▪	Friday	18	March	2016	Ordinary	YALGOO
▪	Friday	22	April	2016	Ordinary	PAYNES FIND
▪	Friday	13	May	2016	Finance Committee	YALGOO
▪	Friday	20	May	2016	Ordinary	YALGOO
▪	Friday	17	June	2016	Ordinary	YALGOO
▪	Friday	15	July	2016	Finance Committee	YALGOO
▪	Friday	22	July	2016	Ordinary	YALGOO
▪	Friday	19	August	2016	Ordinary	YALGOO
▪	Friday	23	September	2016	Ordinary	PAYNES FIND
▪	Friday	21	October	2016	Ordinary	YALGOO
▪	Friday	11	November	2016	Audit Committee	YALGOO
▪	Friday	TBA	December	2016	Electors' & Rate Payers	TBA
▪	Friday	16	December	2016	Ordinary	YALGOO

Ordinary Council and Committee meetings commence at 11.00 am and are held in the Council Chambers, Gibbons Street, Yalgoo, or in the Community Centre, Paynes Find.

The Ordinary Council and Committee meetings are open to the public.

Silvio Brenzi
Chief Executive Officer

NOTICE

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Yalgoo Shire
Depot and Equipment is

OFF LIMITS

Unless you have permission from
the Chief Executive Office or
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

This applies to all residents for their own
personal safety



Yalgoo Library

The library is open during
office hours 9am to 4pm
Mon - Fri

New books arrive every month

If you are looking for a particular book or author
you can request books just ask Elisha or Diane
at the front desk

Games and Puzzles are available for kiddies
(Ask at the front desk)



Government of Western Australia
Department of Transport



Licensing

Open
Mondays to Thursdays
9am - 12pm

For any information regarding
Drivers licence
Computer/Practical & Hazard Perception Test
Bookings for Driving Assessments
Learners Permits
vehicle registrations
Plate Changes
Firearm Licence Renewals
Transfers of vehicles
Transfer of Interstate/overseas Licence
Permits for Unlicensed vehicle
Order & Replacement Copies of Licence
Or any other request

contact the
Shire of Yalgoo
(08) 9962 8042
Ask for Elisha or Diane
Email: reception@yalgoo.wa.gov.au

Riddle for Adults

Q. Arnold Schwarzenegger has a
big one

Michael j fox has a small one
Madonna doesn't have one
the pope has one but he never

uses it
Bill Clinton Has one and he uses it
all the time!
What is it?...

Read more at Buzzle: <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/brain-teasers-for-adults.html>

Answer : Surname

YALGOO CARAVAN PARK

Your Outback Adventure Starts Here

Phone: 08 9962 8472 Email: cpark@yalgoo.wa.gov.au

Website: www.yalgoo.wa.gov.au

Accredited Tourism Business

Thru Sites For Large Motorhomes

Quality Twin or Double Units

Tourist Information

Pet Friendly



Yalgoo is home to popular events such as Yalgoo Races, Emu Cup & Goo Fest.

Local Attractions include Joker Tunnel, Meteorite Crater, Paynes Find Gold Battery & from August to October, white, yellow and pink everlastings.





Expression of Interest

Looking for a rural change?

MMG Golden Grove are seeking expressions of interest for a person, couple or family to caretake the historic Muralgarra homestead.

The homestead is situated on the Muralgarra Station, approximately 54km south east of the Yalgoo township. As the homestead caretaker, you will be responsible for maintaining the homestead which involves keeping the property secure, looking after the gardens and undertaking minor household repairs. MMG Golden Grove will cover a number of the costs associated with the property and provides a monthly allowance to cover some living costs.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please send an email to GGCommunity@mmg.com and we will send you further details on the caretaker position and an Expression of Interest application to fill out.

Applications close on 11 March 2016. Following an assessment of the applications, successful applicants will be notified by end of March 2016.



Mount Gibson Mining Limited
ABN 32 074 575 885

Extension Hill Hematite Operations – Closure Planning Update

Mount Gibson Mining Limited would like to provide an update to the local community on the planned closure and potential expansion activities at the Extension Hill Hematite Operation.

When: 6pm – 7pm on Tuesday 29th March 2016

Where: Yalgoo Community Hall

Tea, coffee and cakes will be provided and MGM personnel will be available immediately after the presentation to answer any questions.

If you have any questions regarding this event please contact Reece or Jess on (08) 6314 0215.



Centrelink & Medicare Access Point
Meedac Office
Phone: 9962 8323



MEEDAC UPDATE

Changes in Meedac

We are happy to announce there is a new case manager by the name of Peter Sweeney, also that Craig Simpson has taken on the supervisors role for Working for the Dole for the next 3 months. And for the next 3 months Mr Keith O'Connor has take on the role as the maintenance man for MRAC (Murchison Regional Aboriginal Corporation).



MEEDAC will also mow your lawn

Just let Keith know at MEEDAC and your name will go on the list.

Don't forget to tidy your lawn before mowing day, if there are rocks, cans, bones and rubbish all over your lawn do not expect it to be done.



Yalgoo Districts Jockey Club Inc

Yalgoo Post Office. Yalgoo WA 6635

Jockey Club Meeting

Postponed till further notice



Community Development Officer

Linaire Hodge

Kiaora every one

Well done to all whom attended and participated in Australia Day ,we all enjoyed the BBQ breakfast with fruit platters and refreshments through out the day from the flag ceremony ,to cooking and serving up meals ,engaging with the children in activities of treasure hunt, Karaoke with Elaine, Bob and their son .

First prizes went to young Jerrell Taylor in the children's category and Phillip Hill for the adults.

There where great singers and entertainment before our dinner and movie to end a great day and evening Thank you to everyone whom cleaned up the Rage cage and Hall .

To the volunteers I thank you all ,and for promoting LDAG by wearing your shirts and caps

Atahua kia Kautau katoa (use looked beautiful)

Water Corp in Geraldton thank you for supplying our town with water to quench our thirst through out the day .

Inspiration Mullewa thanks you for our yummy salads

Mick Davies Butchers Geraldton thanks for the meat

Thank you Tamihana from Centacare pai taku mahi most appreciated .

Thanks to Adam for your music and songs

Photos to follow .

Zumba and Box fit up and running Monday Wednesday Thursday for youth ,men and women .Great participation with a lot of laughter and sweat we are getting up to 30

participants including the children whom are trying not to get in the way . All are welcome as we can all get fit and healthy together .

Ladies we will be running work shops in March on health and well being /Candle making /Hair cuts and applying your make up .

I have more material for the ladies whom would like come and participate in sewing at the Hall .



BANNERS IN THE TERRACE COMPETITION 2016

That time again for Banners in the Terrace
competition

The Theme is LOCAL IMPACT

Come in with your thoughts and ideas for this years theme .I have
had some great input from some locals around boundaries of land
and the **local Impact** it will have on Yalgoo community .

This is a great way to get your feelings and thoughts heard in a re-
spectful manner



ANZAC DAY

Monday 25 April

2016





Centacare

Yalgoo Centacare Office
Gibbons Street, Yalgoo WA 6635

Ph: 08) 9962 8207

Email: Tamihana.cummings@centacareyalgoo.org.au

Play Group

Hello to all the New Year is here and the days seem to be rushing by, the learning centre/ play group will continue to open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am to 12pm. Look forward to seeing all the little people of Yalgoo here learning through play and time spent with mums, dads and grandparents. The simple act of reading to your child can set them on their way to greatness, come along and take advantage of what we have to offer. The play group is not just for the little people it's a place for families to come and support each other, relax with each other and builds a community that services each other. We have the power to set the foundations for young people to reach great heights; all we need to be is involved.



Women's Group



Hello to all the Ladies that came and shared their time and company with us throughout the last six months of 2015, along with Linaire(CDO) we look forward to the new year and all that it may bring. It was good to meet the new primary school principal last Wednesday, after a bit of a yarn it was nice to see that he is very supportive of the idea that we make lunch for the children. Lastly to all the mums I know at times our best is not good enough when it comes to our children's decision making. If you have issues with your children or family do not hesitate to come see me, I may not have the answer, between us I am sure we can come up with some solutions; we only need to be involved.

Op Shop



Op shop continues to open on Thursday; we have slowly been turning over stock in the last few months, we have lots of adult and babies clothing as well as toys for the tiny tots. Come get a bargain and support the op shop with your donations. We have a few sewing machines that can be accessed at the drop in centre, if you feel you have the ability to repurpose clothing / redesign clothing come on down so we can form a sewing group. The raw material for this could come from the clothing we have in the op shop, food for thought? All it takes is for you to come down and get involved!!!!!!!

Men's Group



The men's group has finally come together, we had a great meeting a few weeks back the youth were part of this meeting and as a group we have decided to include our youth to be part of our team. We believe by creating a space that fathers and son, uncles and nephews can work and create together can only be good for the individual, family and community as a whole. We have been offered a load of old bikes that I believe will give us the chance to create a program with the teenagers that gives the children an opportunity to build, create, and use their grey matter, with the support of dads and interested community members. Once again thank you to the shire for the use of the buildings at the gun club, as a group we will be utilising this space in the near future. I have been talking with Keith in the last few days and I believe that if we work together and utilise all the spaces and expertise we have available to us we will be able to create meaningful activities for the youth and men. Keith needs a hand to tidy up and get the big work shop in order so we can use this space; the community garden also needs to be addressed so we can start to produce food for all. A community work bee is all that is needed to get these spaces producing; the work is too much for one man, as a community we could get this blown out in a day or two. A

community that works together strives together; you only need to be involved!

If you have any enquires regarding any of the services we offer here at Centacare do not hesitate to ring me on 99628207 or drop into the office, Tamihana.

If you have any donations of clothing etc for the op shop you can contact Tamihana or Tamisha on 99628207.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



If we break our own community through property damage and disrespect for our own place, we all own the shame and the cost. To fix a broken spot light at the Rage Cage takes up to \$2000, that's \$2000 we don't have to run programs, buy art gear, or put diesel in the bus so we can go see the world outside of Yalgoo.

HOW MANY WINDOWS GET BROKEN IN YALGOO A YEAR!!!!!!!

To kill animals and birds with sticks and stones to have no regard for life, is not the way one looks after country or all that country supplies us. We kill to eat not for fun, kicks or because we are board, respect for country is choice make the choice that brings pride to your mob and looks after your country, country man!!!!!!!!!!

MEETINGS

LDAG meeting to be held in Community Hall Sunday 21-2-2016, 7pm, we can formulate a committee, get our child checks completed, and discuss issue regarding funding, parent helpers, projects we can create and run.

Come down and get involved!!!!



Counselling Service

Northern District Community Support Group - Morawa Family Counselling Service. Family and Financial counsellors are available to provide support to individuals and families; through counselling, information and education, this is a FREE service to the families in Yalgoo.

Address: Morawa Family Counselling Service

PO BOX 6, MORAWA, WA 6623

Phone: 08) 9971 030

For more information contact Anne Hague directly or Tamihana at the
Centacare Office

Centacare Office Hours

Due to the increased use of the community hall during the day and the evening I have changed the hours I work to facilitate these programs, by changing my work hours I feel that I am able to make better support the programs and the community.

Monday and Wednesdays

Play group/learning centre 10am- 1pm Tamisha/ Tamihana

After club/ 7 to 12 year olds 2.30pm to 5pm

Zumba/ Community Hall (Mon) Box fit/Community Hall (Wed) 6pm to 7.30pm

For the ladies and young women of the community

Box fit for men and youth/Railway Hall 6pm to 7.30pm

Tuesdays

Helping hands (Meedac) 8am to 1pm

After club/ 7 to 12 year-olds 2.30pm to 5pm

Box fit/ Men and Youth/ Railway hall 6pm to 7.30pm

Thursdays

Office work/ Op shop open 10am to 1pm

After club/ 7 to 12 year-olds 2.30pm to 5pm

Zumba/Community- Hall Box fit/Railway hall 6pm to 7.30pm

Fridays

Office day 8am to 1.30pm

Parents of the younger children are most welcome to come see me, we have the play group room that could be used for the littlest people of Yalgoo, this can only happen if parents are prepared to come and build and supervise the after club program that works for the 3,4,5,6 years old. Come see me have a yarn and get involved!

I am happy to open the play group room for children and parents outside of play group hours when I am at work, the main issue for me is that children have fun, parents become the first teachers of their children and the place is left the way you found, clean and tidy with all toys packed away.

Harmony is a Community Hall we all use, enjoy and respect by the way we leave it for the next family member to use.

Knowledge is power,
community is
strength and
positive attitude is
everything.

Lance Armstrong

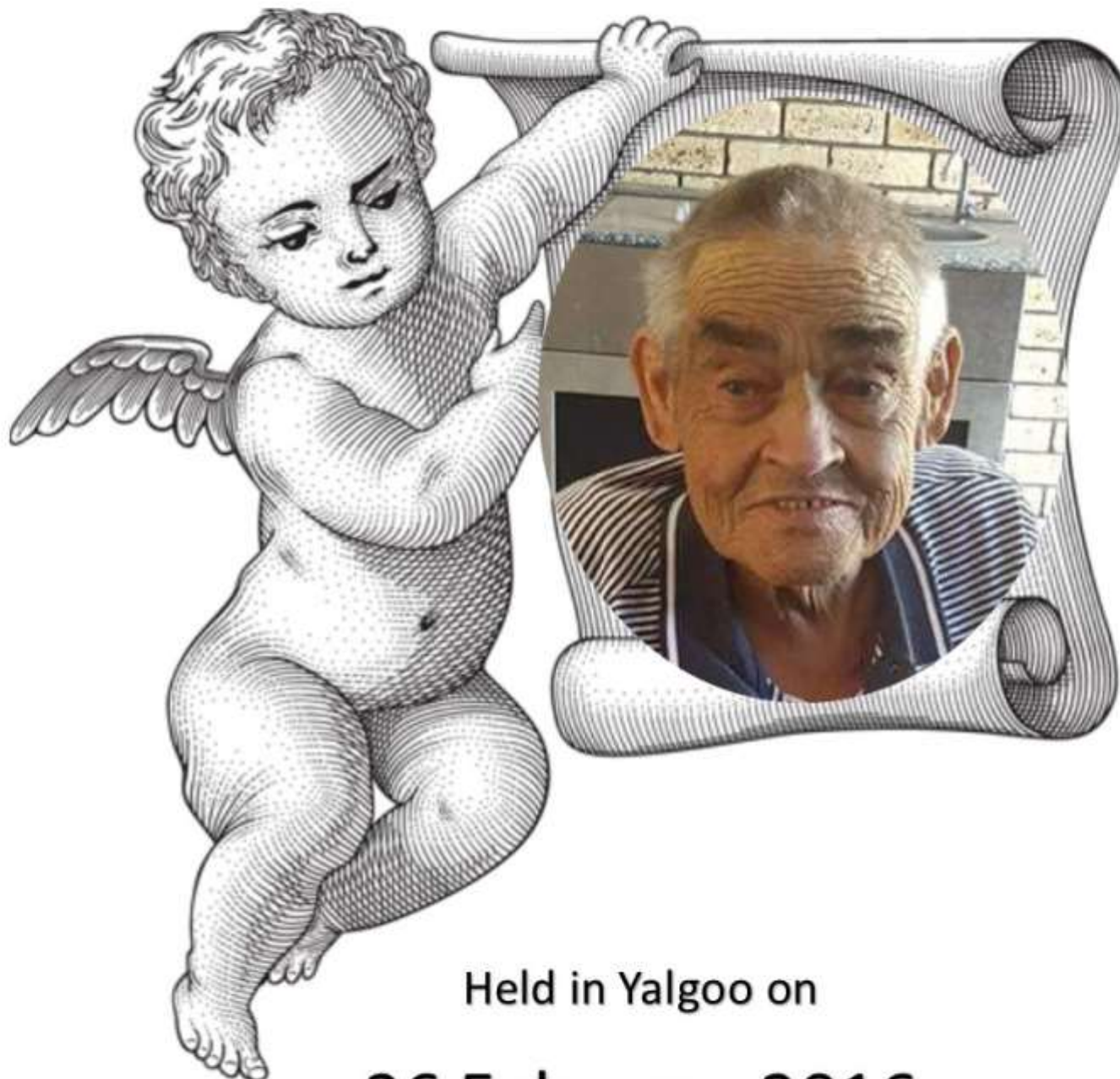
maandla.com



FUNERAL NOTICE

For the Late

Clifford Frances Hodder



Held in Yalgoo on

26 February 2016

2.00pm

Yalgoo Community Town Hall

Dress Code Dark Blue and Purple



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

YALGOO HEALTH CENTRE

Clinics for March

RFDS Doctor Thursday 3rd March PM

Thursday 17th March AM

Thursday 31st March PM

Mental Health Nurse 3rd and 31st March

Physiotherapist 17th March AM

Mobile Dental Service 22nd and 23rd March

Child Health Nurse 15th March

**GRAMS 14th March - Doctor, Podiatrist, Diabetes Nurse
Educator, Aboriginal Health Worker**

GRAMS Psychologist Gary, call the Health Centre for dates.

***Please call Mary-Kate or Sondra at the clinic on 9962 8600 if
you would like to make an appointment.***

Mary-Kate Walsh Community Health Clinical Nurse

Working together for a healthier country WA

Our Values: Community | Compassion | Quality | Integrity | Justice



Drowning remains the leading cause of preventable death for children under five years of age in Western Australia. On average one toddler drowns every week somewhere in Australia. The tragedy is that **ALL** of these deaths **ARE** preventable!

Toddler drowning facts:

On average over the last decade, one child under five years of age has drowned every week somewhere in Australia

- For every drowning death it is estimated that between four and 10 children will be admitted to hospital. A number of these children will be left with some long-term impairment as a consequence of drowning
- **86 toddlers drowned in Western Australia in the 15 years between 1999 and 2013**
- **Two out of three children who drown are boys**
- In Western Australia, approximately half of toddler drowning deaths occur in swimming pools
- Inflatable paddle pools, bathtubs, buckets, fishponds, dams and even pet water bowls are all potential drowning hazards
- **Drowning is a risk for toddlers all year round, not just in summer**

Prevention Strategies

Supervise — Always keep watch of your child in arm's reach when around water

Prevent your child's access to water at all times

Learn — Teach your child to be water confident

Respond — Learn CPR & call 000 in an emergency

Source: www.keepwatchwa.com.au



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

Staying healthy in the heat

In the hot weather you need to take care of your health.

Tips for keeping cool

- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Try to stay inside with a fan or air conditioner on.
- If you have to go outside, go in the early morning or late evening and stay in the shade.
- Wear light-coloured, loose clothing and a hat and sunglasses when outside.
- Always use plenty of sunscreen.
- Don't do a lot of exercise outside.
- To help you sleep, use a water spray mist on your face and body.

Heat stress

Heat stress is when your body cannot cool itself enough to maintain a healthy temperature (37 °C). When it is very hot, you may be at increased risk.

Who is at increased risk?

People more likely to experience heat stress:

- babies and young children
- older children and teenagers
- people with existing physical and mental health conditions or using certain medications
- the elderly
- people who exercise
- people who work outside
- overseas travellers who are not used to the heat.

What are the signs and symptoms?

Signs of heat stress include:

- muscle cramps
- pale skin
- dizziness
- confusion
- headache
- fainting
- excessive sweating or no sweating with high temperature and hot, dry skin
- urinating less often.

The following are severe symptoms:

- high body temperature – above 37 °C
- nausea
- dry, red, hot skin
- rapid heart rate.

How can I prevent heat stress?

- Rest in a cool, well-ventilated area.
- Remove excess clothing.
- Drink plenty of water and fluids.
- Apply cool wet cloths, cold water or ice packs (armpits and groin) to the skin.
- Seek urgent medical advice

Where to get help

- If you have severe symptoms, always dial triple zero (000) to call an ambulance in a medical emergency.
- See your doctor.
- Visit a GP after hours.
- Ring healthdirect Australia on 1800 022 22.

More information

- Visit www.healthywa.wa.gov.au



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

Yalgoo Health Centre



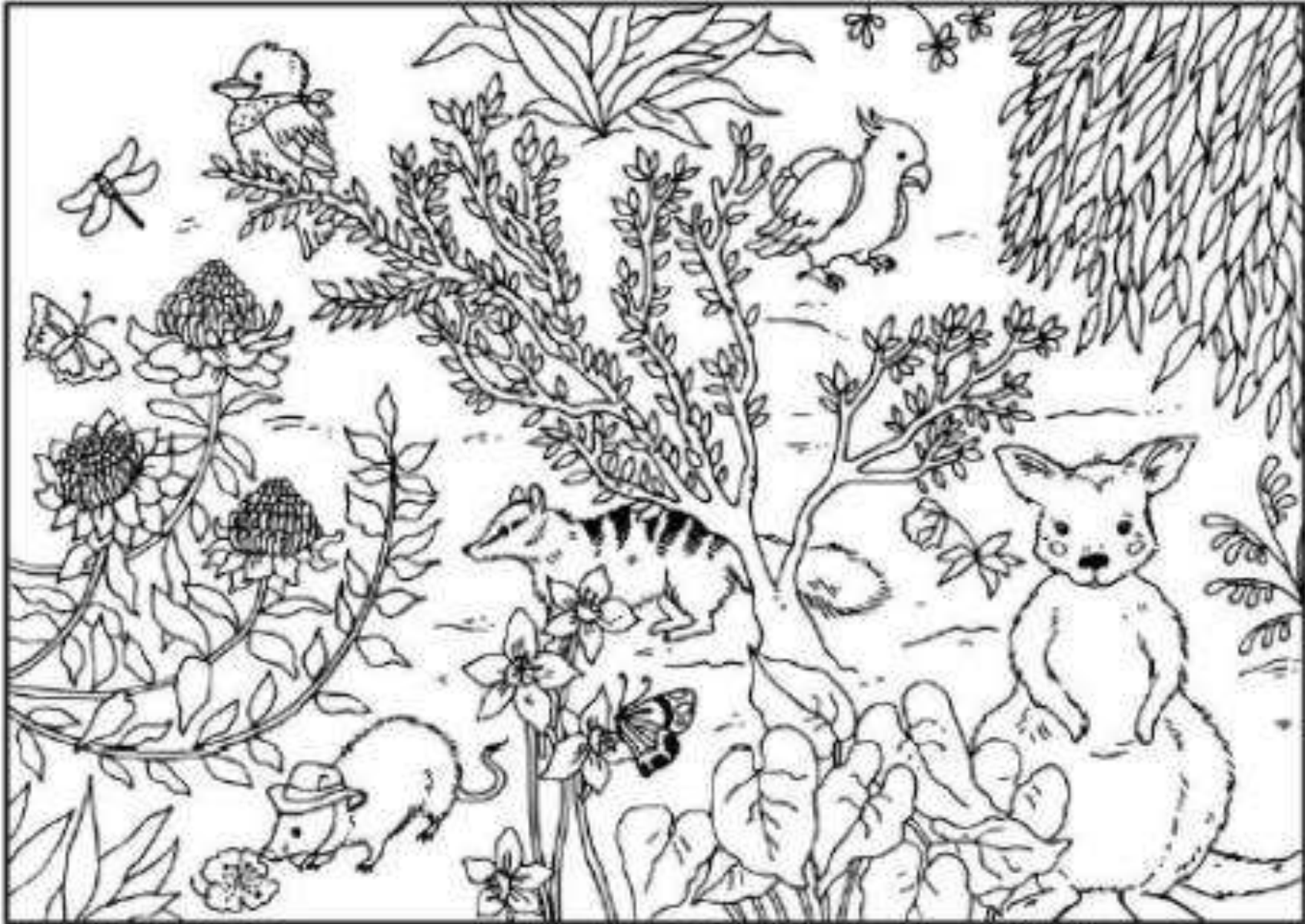
There is the opportunity for an Optometrist to visit Yalgoo on a regular basis. They need to know the demand for this service before committing to a regular visiting schedule.

Could you please contact me at the clinic as soon as possible to indicate if you would like to have an eye and vision consultation with an Optometrist?

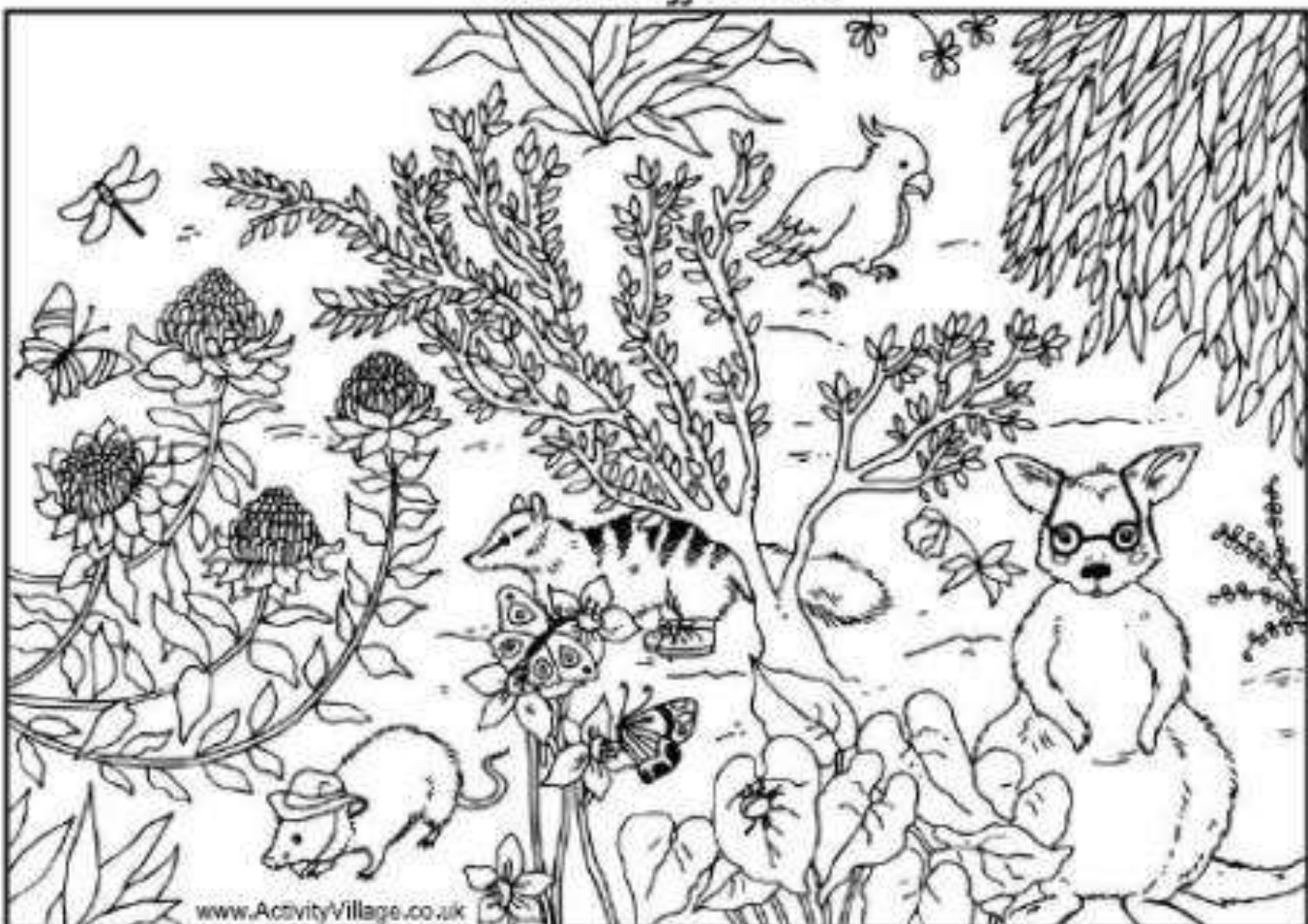


Mary-Kate Walsh Community Health Clinical Nurse
Yalgoo Health Centre T 9962 8600

KIDS' CORNER



Find the differences!





R e c i p e s



Ingredients

- 1 onion
- 4 rashers bacon
- 125 g mushrooms
- 1½ kg chicken pieces
- 2 tablespoons flour
- salt, pepper
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 can mushroom soup
- 1 teaspoon chopped parsley
- 60 ml water
- 40 ml cream

Creamy Chicken Casserole



Instructions

1. Peel and chop onion finely. Chop bacon and slice [mushrooms](#).
2. Coat [chicken](#) pieces in flour seasoned with salt and [pepper](#).
3. Melt butter in a frying pan. Fry [chicken](#) pieces until golden brown. Lift out of pan and put into a casserole dish.
4. Saute onion, bacon and [mushrooms](#) in butter until onion is tender (about 5 minutes).
5. Add soup to the [vegetables](#) and bacon in the pan. Stir well. Add parsley, water and cream
6. Mix thoroughly and pour over [chicken](#).
7. Cover casserole dish and bake in a moderate oven for 1 hour or until chicken is tender
8. Serve garnished with small [mushrooms](#), bacon and onion rings.

LOVE
FOOD



NEXT MONTH

**The Yalgoo Community is invited to a
FREE MOVIE NIGHT AND SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

The Red Dirt Film is planned to be
Showing at the Yalgoo community hall

On

Friday 4 March 2016



**Copies of the Red Dirt Film will be available
for purchase soon**

Photo's from
The Prince-Wright Productions Premiere.





THANK YOU TO ALL

We achieved well over our target for 2014

A special thank you to the Doctors and team that travel monthly to Paynes Find to supply services and support to the Community.

An extra special thank you also goes out to the locals, the wider community, the trucking industry, tourist and many more that have donated in 2015, you have all had a positive input in the grand total raised in Paynes Find to keep the Flying Doctor flying.

\$6271.70



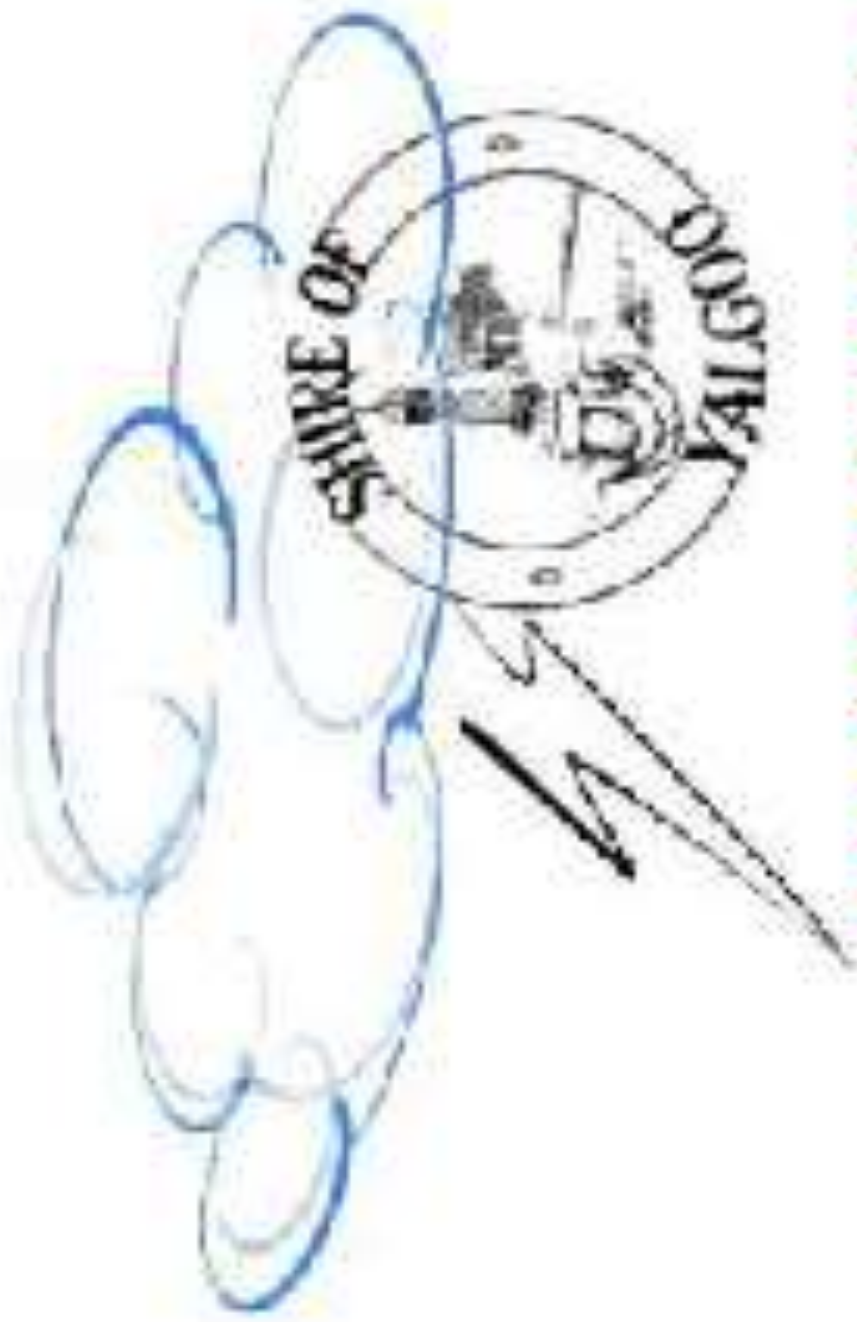
On ground at Paynes Find



Taxiing out for take off



Off ground for Perth



SHIRE OF YALGOO

Local Emergency Management Committee

11:00 am Thursday 17 March 2016

To all LEMC members, company OH & S representatives and interested parties:

The next Shire of Yalgoo LEMC meeting will be held at the Railway Sporting Complex (Geraldton-Mt Magnet Rd) Yalgoo, 11:00 am Thursday 17 March 2016, followed by a light lunch.

If there are any late items you wish to be discussed, please forward the items for consideration to the LEMC Chairperson, at pa@yalgoo.wa.gov.au

If you would like to attend the meeting, please confirm by email or phone 9962 8042.

Doray Minerals have kindly donated a bunch of Mattresses to Yalgoo



If you are interested

Please call into the Shire administration Office and put your name and address down.

(Yalgoo Residents only)

3 mattresses per house hold

If you miss out on this first lot your names will be put on top of the next list.

**MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST**

Fire Benefit Concert

**Huge Programme
of Midwest
Musicians**



Find us on Facebook

Children's activities
and entertainment
Food/ Coffee
available

To be
held at



NUKARA

Escape | Experience | Enjoy

Tickets available from
Geraldton CD Centre

Feb 20, 2016

Gates open 3pm Family Concert - Concert 4pm to 9.30

Strictly No Camping

BYO

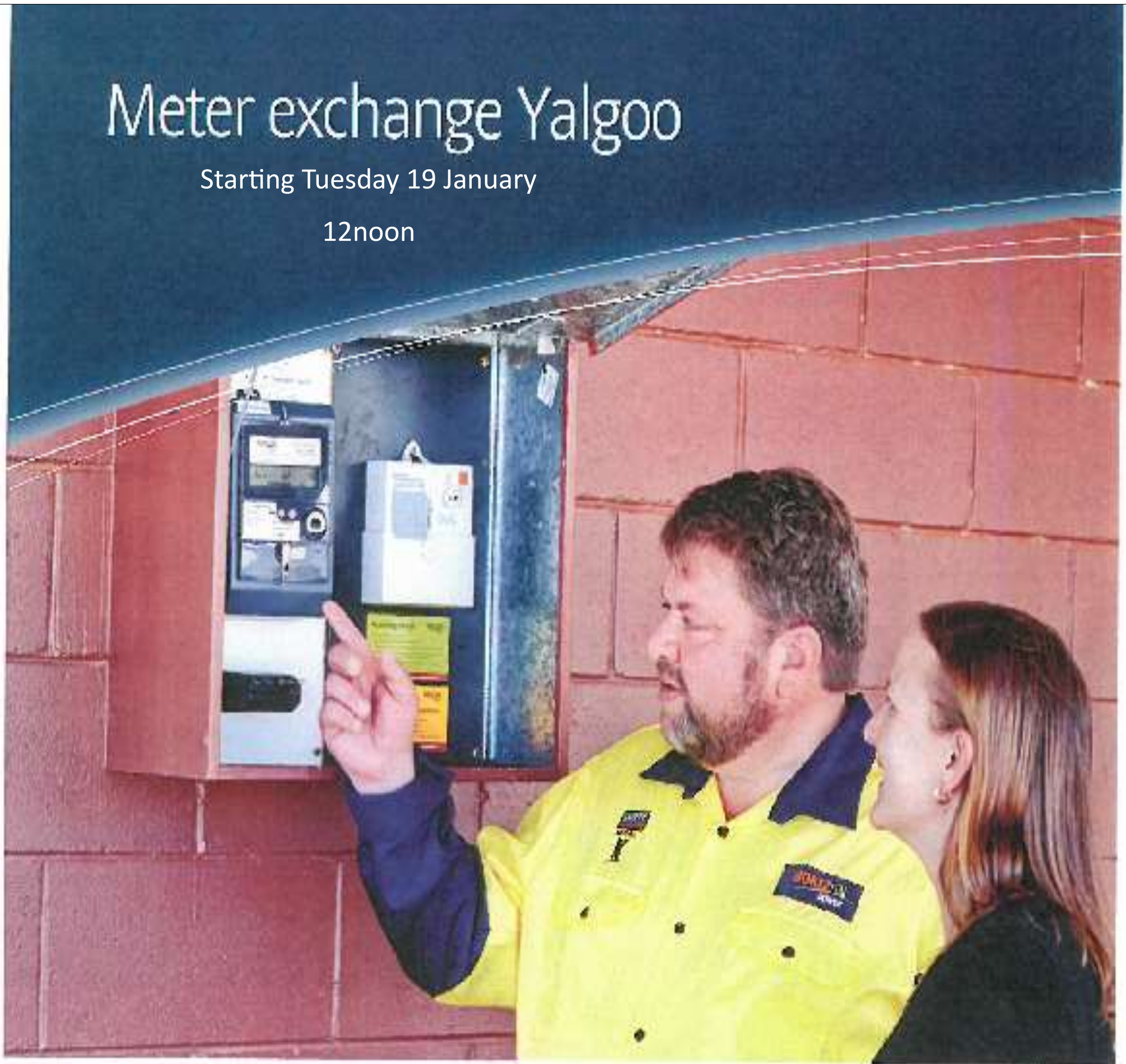
Tickets – Adults \$20
Kids 5 – 16 \$5
Kids under 5 free

To show We Care – Midwest Fundraiser for SW Fire Victims

Meter exchange Yalgoo

Starting Tuesday 19 January

12noon



Horizon Power crews will be in your town soon to exchange the electricity meters at your property.

There will be an outage of approximately 30 minutes when the exchange takes place.

The new meter will automatically read your electricity use which means soon Horizon Power will no longer physically read the meter. Estimated bills will then largely be a thing of the past.

Please ensure we have access to the meter. If you are not the owner of the property, please ensure the owner provides you with keys to the meter box. In the event of a disconnection, you will need to access the meter to reconnect.

Horizon Power would like to remind customers to call our Customer Contact Centre immediately if you have any concerns about paying your bill so we can assist you with a payment plan or financial hardship advice.

Call **1800 267 926** for more information

HORIZON
POWER
energy for life



Snake bite

Warning

DO NOT wash venom off the skin.
DO NOT cut the bitten area.
DO NOT try to suck venom out of wound.
DO NOT use a tourniquet.
DO NOT try to catch the snake.

- **Signs** are not always visible but may be a puncture marks, bleeding or scratches.
- **Symptoms** developing within an hour may include headache, impaired vision, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, breathing difficulties, drowsiness, faintness, problems speaking or swallowing.

What to do

1. Follow DRSABCD.
2. Reassure the patient and ask them not to move.
3. Apply a broad crepe bandage over the bite site as soon as possible.
4. Apply a pressure bandage (heavy crepe or elasticised roller bandage) starting just above the fingers or toes of the bitten limb, and move upwards on the limb as far as can be reached (include the snake bite). Apply firmly without stopping blood supply to the limb.
5. Immobilise the bandaged limb with splints.
6. Ensure the patient does not move.
7. Write down the time of the bite and when the bandage was applied. Stay with the patient.
8. Regularly check circulation in fingers or toes.
9. Manage for shock.
10. Ensure an ambulance has been called.

+ first aid

In a medical emergency,
call Triple Zero (000) for
an ambulance.



© St John Ambulance Australia. St John first aid protocols are for the Australian market only. All care has been taken in preparing the information but St John takes no responsibility for its use by other parties or individuals. This information is not a substitute for first aid training. St John recommends practical first aid training courses.

SAVE A LIFE – BE FIRST AID READY
WWW.STJOHN.ORG.AU 1300 360 455

Version Sept. 2014



DFES
Department of Fire and
Emergency Services
Western Australia

Information Note

September 2014

Mulch and Cigarette Fires

Key Points

- Cigarettes discarded from slow-moving or stationary vehicles can start mulch fires.
- In WA, cigarettes start over 500 mulch fires a year.
- The requirements for a mulch fire to start are: hot and dry conditions, fine, aerated fuels and a heat source such as a cigarette.

* Source— CSIRO, 2003, *Fire fact of the Month—No butts about it*, Bushfire Behaviour and Management.

DFES attends more than 500 mulch fires a year. Most mulch fires are caused by discarded cigarettes under hot, dry conditions—smouldering for extended periods along roadsides, particularly at traffic lights.

When mulch fires are likely to occur

Mulch fires are likely to occur:

- after long periods without rain, generally between December and April
- when the moisture content is low (less than 7%)
- when temperatures are high (above 30°C)
- when the relative humidity is low (below 30%).

How mulch fires are likely to occur

Local governments and other agencies use mulches, such as green waste, for landscaping verges and median strips to control weeds, prevent erosion and conserve water.

The type of mulch affects how easily a fire can start. Fine shredded and aerated mulches catch fire more easily than coarse and compacted mulches. Coarse woodchip mulches are recommended as they are harder to ignite.

How a cigarette is discarded will influence whether a fire will start. Experiments by the CSIRO* show that, unless under extreme bushfire conditions, a fire is more likely to start from a cigarette disposed of from a slow-moving or stationary vehicle than from a vehicle travelling at 80km/h.



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For more information contact the Environmental Protection Branch on 9395 9300 • email: environment@dfes.wa.gov.au or visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au

NOW A \$200 FINE NO BUTTS ABOUT IT

Flicking your cigarette from a vehicle can result in a \$200 fine.
Please dispose of your cigarette butt responsibly.

LIT BUTTS
\$500 FINE



Department of Environment and Conservation
Waste Authority

