

**FREE**



# **BUSH TELEGRAPH**

**December 2023 Edition**



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**The Shire of Sandstone**  
**Hack St, Sandstone WA 6639**  
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## Disclaimer

The Bush Telegraph is published by the Shire of Sandstone as a public service for the community.

The opinions expressed have been published in good faith on the request of the person requesting publication, and are not those of the Shire of Sandstone.

All articles, comments, advice and other material contained in this publication are by way of general comment or advice only and are not intended, nor do they purport to be correct advice on any particular matter or subject referred to.

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## Contributions

Please contact the Shire of Sandstone Administration Office if you wish to contribute to the Bush Telegraph and take part in a chance to win a \$50.00 cash prize.

You can email your contributions to [reception@sandstone.wa.gov.au](mailto:reception@sandstone.wa.gov.au) or drop it into the Shire Administration Building.

If you wish to stay anonymous, you can put your contribution in an envelope, write Bush Telegraph on the front and drop it in the red mailbox at the Shire Administration building.

**Cut-off time for all contributions is the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month which will allow our staff time to include your contribution. Contributions made after the 25<sup>th</sup> will be included in the next edition.**

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## Feedback

Tell us what you liked, what you didn't like, what could be improved and what you like to see.

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Cut out and drop your feedback form in the Shire office at Reception or email to [reception@sandstone.wa.gov.au](mailto:reception@sandstone.wa.gov.au)



# SHIRE NEWS

SHIRE OF SANDSTONE  
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## From the Desk of the DCEO

There was no Council Meeting in November so nothing to report for November. Our next Council Meeting is scheduled in for 14<sup>th</sup> December.

On the weather front, we enjoyed a good downfall of rain on the 12<sup>th</sup> November, accompanied by some hail which was a bit of a hard refresher!

Almost 2024, where did 2023 go?

2023 went by fast but looking back, there were a few noteworthy projects completed. Amongst them was the purchase, renovation and opening of the Post Office Café which received a lot of positive feedback from visitors and locals alike.

We painted three murals around town, two entrance statements and the War Memorial Wall. In addition, the water tanks also received a beautiful make-over.

The Town Hall ceiling was restored.

Council planted some 125 trees around the By-Pass, and they are still looking great.

Tidy Towns judges came to judge our beautiful town.

The grids were given grid signs.

We also said goodbye to some of our staff and welcome to other staff, including our new Acting CEO, Peter Money.

Looking forward to what the new year has in store.

Hope everyone has a great Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Selina Sergeant



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## Bush Fire Brigade Secretary

We are looking for a Bush Fire Brigade Secretary who will be responsible for managing the Bush Fire Brigade's administration, including meeting preparation, Brigade correspondence and working with Shire representatives.

This is a volunteer based position.

Please call the Shire Office on (08) 9963 5802 for further information.





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## Council meeting dates 2023

December 14<sup>th</sup>

Meetings commence at 1:00pm in Council Chambers  
located at the rear of the Shire Administration Centre

Meetings are open to the public

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The Environmental Health Officer for the Shire of Sandstone is David Hadden.

David's contact details are: **Principal EHO/Building Surveyor**

**Mobile 0483 350 133**

**Email [eho@mtmagnet.wa.gov.au](mailto:eho@mtmagnet.wa.gov.au)**





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## Christmas Closure

The Shire Administration Building will be closed  
during Christmas and New Year

from

21<sup>st</sup> December

to

1<sup>st</sup> January inclusive

Mail will be available on

21<sup>st</sup> December

And

28<sup>th</sup> December

From 9:00am to 10:00am only.



## Christmas Message from the Shire President

With the festive season almost upon us, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow councillors and shire staff for their support and hard work during the past year. I look forward to the year ahead working with you all to make the most of opportunities, and overcoming challenges as we strive to keep Sandstone a safe, inviting place to live, work, and visit.

To the residents of Sandstone, I wish you a very safe and joyful Christmas, and may 2024 be happy , healthy, and kind to us all.

To those who are travelling to be with friends or loved ones, please take care, and drive safely over the busy holiday period. We want you back safe and sound.

Merry Christmas everyone.

Beth Walton  
Shire President



## Community Christmas Party

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm  
at the  
Sandstone Recreation Centre!**

*We look forward to seeing you there!*



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### **Christmas Lights Competition**

Hope all Christmas decorations passed the mark  
because we are fast approaching  
Christmas and our Christmas Lights Competition.

One of our staff will be driving an anonymous judge around  
in December to admire and judge the Christmas decorations.

The lucky winner will win \$100, runner-up \$50.00.

We look forward to seeing your wonderful creations.



## Melbourne Cup

Pictures Karan, Beth and Karen

Melbourne Cup on the 07<sup>th</sup> November has come and gone as quickly as the race itself! How time does fly...

The winner with first place was #3 Without A Fight,  
Second was #6 Soulcombe,  
Third, #14 Sheraz,  
And 4th #11 Ashrun.

The Community had a great get-together on the day, dressed up in attire from the roaring 1920's. Most had a hilarious time playing Crimes Against Humanity, one was shocked...



Tegan and Karan



Group picture with all the ladies



David And Mark



Andy and Shane



Geoff and Bobbie



Shane and Darryl



Darryl and Tracey



Kathrine and Tegan



Tracey



Karen and Shane



David, Beth and Gary



Katherine



Bobbie and Andy



Mark and Tegan



Gary and Beth



Mark and Tania



David, Gary and Andy



Group Picture

## Hail in Sandstone

Pictures Tegan and Shire Staff

Yes, we had hail on the 12<sup>th</sup> November! And 11.75mm at Black Hill Station.

Dark rumbling clouds were approaching Sandstone at around 3pm. I opened the doors to let the nice cool breeze in and parked the car in the open air so it could get a bit of a “wash”.

I stood outside for a while watching the lightening display before heading back inside to settle down with a book. The rain was pouring down but after half an hour or so, I heard loud clashing on the roof which sounded like more than just very heavy rain drops.

Heading outside, I couldn't believe what I was seeing. It was hail! Thinking of dented cars and smashed windows (I have heard some hail horror stories), I rushed inside to grab the car keys, ran through ponds of water, got into the car and quickly drove it under the cover.

Next step was to take the camera out and snap some pictures for the Bush Telegraph.

Hail is actually common in mid-latitudes during early summer. The surface temperature is warm enough to promote the instability associated with strong thunderstorms, and the upper atmosphere is still cool enough to support ice.

Hail forms when updrafts inside a thunderstorm lift raindrops upwards. As the drops move higher, the temperatures drops below zero degrees and causes raindrops to freeze and become hailstones.

The biggest hail stone ever recorded in Australia was 16cm in diameters. A resident managed to collect some of the stones and stored them in the freezer. They were sent to the University of Queensland in Brisbane, where they were measured, scanned and cut open.

The worst hail storm in Australia's history was South of Sydney on the afternoon of Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 1999. It struck the city's eastern suburbs, including the central business district, later that evening. The storm dropped an estimated 500,000 tonnes of hailstones in its path.



## No Santa Claus in Belgium

Article by Shire Staff

Yes, you read that right, in Belgium we are all on the naughty list and Santa Claus does not visit. Thank goodness we have Sinterklaas though!

Sinterklaas is one of my favorite childhood memories. In fact, as I'm thinking of it now, a lot of memories come flooding back! Going down the stairs in the morning and opening the door to the living room to find a dining table covered with sweets, mandarins and toys! I think mom and dad stayed in bed until we got up to this wonderful surprise (I never kept up with dates as a child so it was always a surprise to me).

And then in December, there were the children's shows on TV where Sinterklaas, riding his white steed called either "Mooi weer vandaag" or "Slecht weer vandaag"<sup>1</sup>, and Zwarte Piet had all these adventures, the Sinterklaas arts and crafts at school, and lets not forget the Sinterklaas themed sweets like marzipan, biscuits, speculoos, chocolates...

Not only did the children get spoiled at home, schools and other social clubs also organised a Sinterklaas evening where they got a toy, sweets and mandarins.

Sinterklaas is actually called Sint Nikolaas and is the patron saint of children, unwed maidens and sailors. Like Santa Claus, he is an older man with a full white beard, wearing a bishop's tall hat, red cape, a massive ruby ring and a golden hooked staff. He is always accompanied by Zwarte Piet who is black because of soot as he is the one climbing down the chimneys.

Sinterklaas also keeps track of the good and naughty children in his big red book.

So what is the story behind Sinterklaas? Well, it's a bit of a horror story actually... but with a happy ending!

Nikolaas Sinterklaas was born in Myra, Asia Minor, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century and became a bishop there. That's it. Little more is known except that he loved children.

Just kidding...

As the story goes, three little boys dined at a restaurant and after eating their fill, they told the innkeeper they couldn't pay their bill. So the innkeeper went Sweeney Todd on them. He chopped them up into little pieces and cooked them in a stew.

Nikolaas heard about the innkeeper's actions, went to the inn and found the boys boiling away in the pot. Nikolaas said to the innkeeper that if he, Nikolaas, could find a little piece of goodness in each boy, he would perform a miracle and bring them back to life.

<sup>1</sup> "Nice weather today" or "Bad weather today"

Every child has goodness in them which was also true for the three boys so Nikolaas brought them back to life and took them into his care.

Why do children get chocolate in the shape of coins, wrapped in golden or silver foil?

Another story told is about three beautiful sisters who were the daughters of a poor peasant. They each fell in love with a pleasant young man but they couldn't get married because they had no dowry. This made them very sad. One night, Nikolaas saw the three sad sisters through a window. He found out they couldn't marry the young men because they were poor and decided to help them out. He went back to his palace and gave Grampus<sup>2</sup> three bags with a hundred golden ducats each and told him to drop them into the girls shoes. The girls became rich and each married their nice young man. Today, children leave a carrot in their shoes hoping to attract Sinterklaas' attention and reward.

Sinterklaas arrives from Spain on a boat on the 5<sup>th</sup> December. This is where the mandarins come from.

In Belgium, he visits children during the night of the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Spoiler alert...

How did I find out there was no Sinterklaas? Well, one morning, he left me a note to say that I shouldn't be so mischievous... written in my dad's handwriting... hmmm...

Writing this article brought back so many happy and beautiful memories!

So, thank you mom for creating these memories for both my sister and I.

And just letting you know, I won't mind if you break into my home early December to spread toys and sweets around ... 🧚 After all, we all still have an inner child, whether we want to admit it or not.



2: Grampus: Faithful half-man / half-beast sidekick.

## Chickens

Chickens, we all know them one way or another... But do we really know them...?

Someone asked if I knew that chickens eat stones? I was aware of the fact but the follow-up question was, what happens with the stones? Do they stay in their crop or come back out, one way or another...? Of which I thought, good question...

So here we go, some interesting facts about chickens!

- Chickens are living descendants of dinosaurs, more precisely the Tyrannosaurus Rex. They are the closest living relatives!
- Chickens were domesticated about 8,000 years ago. They evolved from the Red Junglefowl. These could fly to escape predators and to roost in high up trees. The domestic chicken today can still fly but only for short distances.
- This is an interesting one... Chickens can dream just like us. They experience Rapid Eye Movement and they have a sleep phase called unihemispheric slow-wave sleep. This means that one half of their brain can be asleep while the other half is still awake! Basically, they can sleep with one eye open. Creepy and awesome at the same time.
- Not only do chickens have colour vision, they can also see ultraviolet light, which means they can see the colours we see when using a black light. Hmmm, a chicken at a crime scene... If only they could talk...
- Which brings us to the next "did you know..." Chickens have over 30 unique vocalisations used for communication in a wide variety of messages to other chickens.
- Chickens can recognise over 100 different faces, even after being separated for an extended period of time so they have long-term memory capabilities. This includes human faces so not just other chickens.
- Chickens use dirt to keep themselves clean. They have an oil gland on their back that is used to spread oil over their feathers, making them waterproof. The oil however goes stale over time so they need to wash the old oil off which is done through a dust bath. The stale oil sticks onto the particles of dirt and get shaken off.
- The colour of the egg shell is determined by the hen's earlobe. Hens with red earlobes lay brown eggs, hens with white earlobes lay white eggs. There are however a few exceptions.
- Chickens are self-aware and can distinguish themselves from others. They learn from one another such as a chick learns from their mother which foods are good to eat. They also demonstrate complex problem-solving skills.
- And now for the ham question, what happens with the stones they eat? The stones go past their crop and into their gizzard where they are used to ground the food into digestible sizes before it enters the stomach. The stones slowly wear out and exit the body through droppings.





Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety**



### **Hotel hackers: scam alert for holidaymakers**

If you're looking forward to a dream holiday, then watch out for a sophisticated new scam that could risk it turning into a nightmare.

Consumer Protection's WA ScamNet team is warning travellers about unexpected messages from their accommodation providers seeking additional credit card verification, as it could be the work of scammers who have hacked into the hotel's computer system.

This two-pronged scam begins with the scammer targeting a hotel by posing as a genuine customer who needs help with downloading some 'important' information regarding an upcoming stay. They might claim to suffer from allergies to cleaning products and need the hotel to cross-reference the substances used, or they could ask for a map they've created to be printed off for their technology-challenged parents.

Whatever the excuse, the endgame is the same – once the hotel employee downloads the malware-infected documents, the scammer will have full access to their sensitive information, including login credentials, financial details and contact information for their other customers.

That's when the scammer ups the ante by sending a convincing message to the hotel's future guests asking for additional credit card verification as soon as possible via a fake booking link.

With the message originating from within the hotel's own booking system – and it being about a genuine upcoming trip – WA ScamNet is concerned that even the most scam-savvy consumers could be more inclined to hand over their credit card details than they otherwise would.

While this is a very sophisticated scam, consumers can beat the scammers by following WA Scamnet's usual advice to protect against malware and phishing. This includes to avoid clicking on unexpected or unsolicited links, even from trusted businesses. Instead, contact the company directly at an official email address or phone number to confirm the veracity of the message. Do not rely on contact details in an unexpected message.

Be suspicious of messages encouraging you to act quickly and never enter personal or banking details into any website unless you are certain it is genuine and you have checked the URL carefully for indicators of deception.

If you have provided your financial information through a suspicious link or in response to an unexpected message, contact your financial institution immediately and follow their guidance on securing your finances.

To report a scam or get further assistance, contact WA ScamNet by making an online report at [www.scamnet.wa.gov.au](http://www.scamnet.wa.gov.au) or call 1300 30 40 54.



## *Christmas Stargazing!*

with Carol Redford and Donna Vanzetti, Astrotourism WA

With Christmas just around the corner, it's a hectic and crazy time. So why not take a breather, head outside and look up at the beauty of a star-filled night sky. Stargazing is awe-inspiring and yet peaceful and calming at the same time. It's bound to refresh your spirits and get you ready to tackle the Christmas preparations with renewed vigour.

This month, stargazers will be treated to a special display from the Geminids Meteor Shower. On a dark night, away from artificial light pollution, you might see up to 120 meteors (or "shooting stars") an hour!

The Geminids meteor shower is generated from asteroid 3200 Phaethon and is one of the most active and best meteor showers to see.

**When and where to look:** The best time to watch is after midnight until early morning on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December. Look to the northeast and north about 45 degrees above the horizon.

Throughout December the planets are also celebrating Christmas by putting on a 'Parade of Planets'! From our perspective here on Earth, as the planets continue their never-ending path around the Sun, their orbits can sometimes bring the planets together, along with the Moon, to form incredible conjunctions.

On Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, we have a special Christmas Eve treat. From 8pm, high in the north, the brightest star you can see is not a star at all – it's Jupiter! And to the east of Jupiter, a very bright moon lights up the sky!

To end our cosmic year on a high, early risers on New Year's Eve will be treated to quite a show in the low eastern sky. A bright Venus sits near to the constellation of Scorpio, while Mars and Mercury huddle together just underneath. Look from 4.30am-5.00am, 31st December.



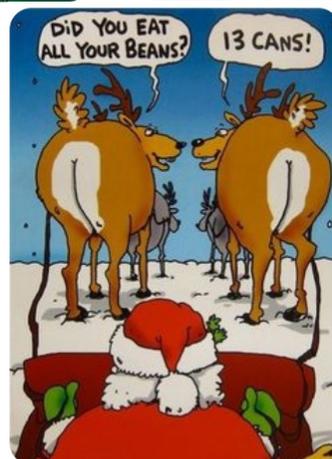
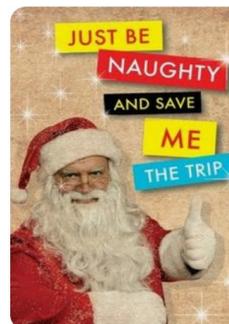
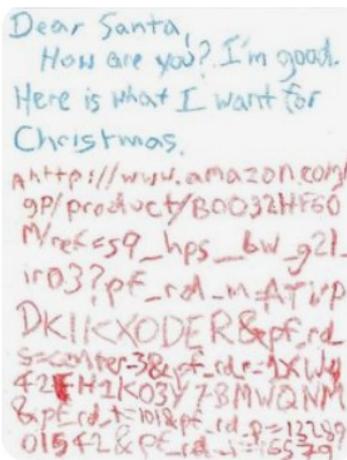
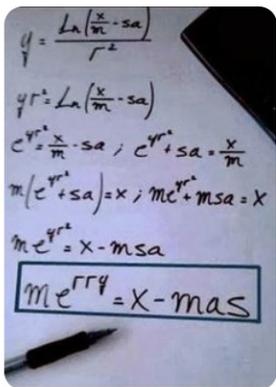
Use the Quasar Publishing image as a guide. To find out more about what to see in the night sky, grab a copy of their latest Astronomy Australia almanac at [Quasar Publishing](#).

Have a wonderful Christmas from the team at Astrotourism WA. We will have more stargazing tips and helpful hints coming up next year! Have a star-filled Christmas!

For more stargazing tips, visit [www.astrotourismwa.com.au](http://www.astrotourismwa.com.au).



# Christmas Funnies



# Normal Funnies - Because there can never be enough funnies

## Try This...

Submitted by Myrna Bianco, a Faithful Our Town Reader

How smart is your right foot?

This is hysterical. You have to try this.

It is absolutely true. I guess there are some things that the brain cannot handle.

1. While sitting in a chair, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.
- 2 Now, while doing this, draw the number '6' in the air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction.

I told you so! And there is absolutely nothing you can do about it! You and I both know how stupid it is, but before the day is done you are going to try it again, if you've not already done so.



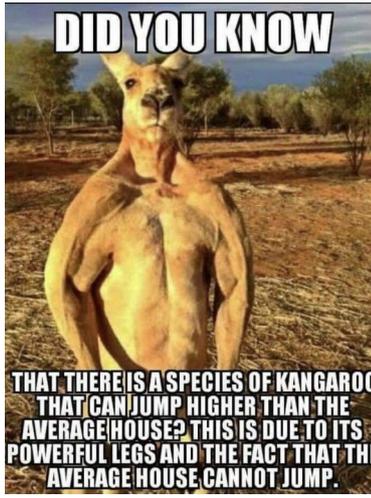
### "It's 3 AM, wanna start crying again?"



### First you want me to walk and talk..



### Then you want me to sit still and keep quiet



**FOR SALE BY OWNER**

Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica, 45 volumes. Excellent condition. No longer needed, Got married last month.

**Wife knows everything.**

## Phone Etiquette

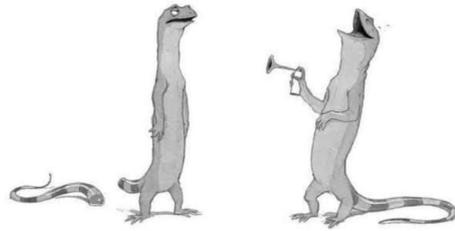
After a tiring day, a commuter settled down in his seat and closed his eyes. As the train rolled out of the station, a woman sitting next to him pulled out her mobile phone.



She started talking in a loud voice: "Hi sweetheart. It's Sue. I'm on the train." "Yes, I know it's the six thirty and not four thirty, but I had a long meeting. No, honey, not with that Kevin from the accounting office. It was with the boss. No sweetheart, you're the only one in my life. Yes, I'm sure, cross my heart!" Fifteen minutes later, she was still talking loudly. When the man sitting next to her had enough, he leaned over and said into the phone, "Sue, hang up the phone and come back to bed." Sue doesn't use her mobile phone in public any longer.



The company asked them to come to work with clothes they used to wear on their zoom meetings



"Never fight until you have to. But when it's time to fight, you fight like you're the third monkey on the ramp to Noah's Ark... and brother, it's startin' to rain."



When you ask for the Keanu but get the Farquaad

## How to prevent your children from borrowing the car...



# RECIPE

## Chocolate Date Bark



### Ingredients:

- 10-12 pitted dates, sliced in half
- 2tbsp peanut butter (in drippy consistency)
- 2 tbsp chopped peanuts
- Half a cup of dark chocolate chips
- 1tsp of olive oil
- Flaky sea salt

### Method:

- Line a baking tray with parchment paper. Slice the dates vertically.
- Press the halves down onto the sheet, making sure they overlap a little so they stick together.
- Drizzle peanut butter on top and use a spoon to spread it across evenly. Sprinkle some chopped peanuts on top.
- Melt the chocolate chips with olive oil. Use a spoon to spread it over the peanut butter layer until it gets completely coated.
- Sprinkle some sea salt over the chocolate and pop the baking sheet into the freezer for 10-15 minutes or until the chocolate is set.
- Take the tray out of the freezer and chop the bark into 10 pieces and enjoy.

# Christmas Magic



## Christmas Word Puzzle

Some teamwork may be required. There was no solution on the website.

### Merry Christmas Word Search

All-Star Puzzles sends Season's Greetings to you with this Word Search stuffed with 98 Christmas words and phrases.

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

ANGEL	GOOD WILL TO MEN	ROOFTOP
BETHLEHEM	GREEN	RUDOLPH
BLITZEN	GRINCH	SACK
BOWS	HO HO HO	SANTA CLAUS
CANDLE	HOLIDAY	SCROOGE
CANDY CANE	HOLLY	SHEPHERDS
CARDS	ICICLES	SHOPPING
CAROLERS	JOLLY	SILENT NIGHT
CHILDREN	JOSEPH	SILVER BELLS
CHIMNEY	JOY TO THE WORLD	SLED
CHOIR	LIGHTS	SLEIGH
CHRISTMAS	LUMP OF COAL	SNOW
CHRISTMAS EVE	MAGI	ST NICHOLAS
COMET	MALL	STABLE
COOKIES	MANGER	STAR
CRECHE	MARY	STOCKINGS
CUPID	MERRY	SUGARPLUM
DANCER	MISTLETOE	TIE FOR DAD
DASHER	MRS CLAUS	TINSEL
DECEMBER	MYRRH	TINY TIM
DECORATIONS	NAME TAGS	TOYS
DOLL	NOEL	TREE
DONDER	NORTH POLE	TWELVE DAYS
EGGNOG	NUTCRACKER	VACATION
ELECTRIC TRAIN	ORNAMENTS	VIXEN
ELVES	PARTY	WINDOW DISPLAY
FAMILY	PEACE ON EARTH	WINTER
FRANKINCENSE	POINSETTIA	WISH LIST
FRUITCAKE	PRANCER	WORKSHOP
GARLAND	PRESENT	WRAPPING PAPER
GIFTS	REINDEER	WREATH
GINGERBREAD HOUSE	RED SUIT	YULETIDE
GOLD	RIBBON	

## CHRISTMAS - DID YOU KNOW ...

### **Christmas wasn't always on December 25**

While Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the actual date of his birth got lost in history. There is no mention of 25<sup>th</sup> December in the Bible and many historians say Jesus was most likely born in the spring. Some historians mention that the date was originally chosen because it coincided with the pagan festival of Saturnalia, which honoured the agricultural god Saturn with celebrating and gift-giving.

### **Gift giving, both Christian and Pagan.**

*Christians have grown up learning that gifts are giving at Christmas to mimic the presents the Three Wise Men brought for baby Jesus, however, the tradition of gift giving also has its roots in Saturnalia.*

### **The Christmas Tree**

This tradition goes all the way back to the Ancient Egyptians and Romans, who decorated with evergreens during the winter solstice to signify that spring would return. Evergreens reminded them of all the green plants that were to grow once the sun returned.

### **Coca-Cola Made Santa's image**

*Prior to 1931, Santa was actually depicted as a spooky-looking elf. He wore a bishop's robe and a Norse Huntsman's animal skin. Coca-Cola hired an illustrator called Haddon Sundblom to depict the jolly old man for magazine ads.*

### **Rudolph was a marketing ploy**

Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer first appeared in 1939 when Montgomery Ward department store wanted to create a Christmas story for children that the store could distribute as a promotion.

In the first year, 2.4 million copies were distributed and in late 1949 Gene Autry recorded the song "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer".

### **Christmas decorating sends nearly 15,000 people to the ER**

An estimate is made that 14,700 people visit hospital emergency rooms each November and December from holiday-related decorating accidents, which is about 240 injuries per day. The most common accidents involve falling, lacerations and back strains.

**Block for Sale**

Sandstone Town Block

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Lot 544, 6 Griffith St SANDSTONE

Water and Power to site

\$22,000 ONO

Phone: 0483 815 262

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**Plumbing & Gas**

Call Matt from Plumbing & Gas

If you have any Plumbing & Gas work to be done.

He is scheduling in a time to come to Sandstone

in December if there is enough work for him.

**0416 307 843**

## Sandstone Community Craft Group

Our group meets Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am to 2:30pm in the Sandstone Community Hall, Hack Street, from April to October, primarily to Knit/ Crochet (and all other types of craft) for Charity.

Came along and learn new skills or pick up old ones. Free and easy patterns are available and we have some donated wool.



Needles and hooks are also available to get you started.

Bring your own project or if Knitting and Crocheting isn't your forte but Needlework, Tapestry, etc. is, still come along and join us for the day.

Tea and coffee will be proved. Bring a small plate for morning tea / light lunch to share.



All are welcome 😊

For further information, please feel free to contact Karan on **0418 905 090**.



## Lawn Bowls

### Sandstone Community Rec Centre



**2 sets of Lawn Bowls are available  
at the Visitor Centre, however,  
anyone wanting to play  
can arrange to collect the key  
from the Shire Office  
Monday to Friday  
between 08:00 and 17:00**

# Sandstone Community Bus

travels to Mount Magnet for Shire business

The bus leaves from the Shire Office at **10:00 am** and from Mount Magnet at **1.30 pm** for the return trip home.

**The Community Bus is a free service provided by the Shire**  
*Limited seats are available and bookings are essential*

**Please book your seat by visiting the Shire Office  
in person or by phoning (08) 9963 5802**

**The next and last trip for the year will be on Wednesday**

**13<sup>th</sup> December**

**We require a minimum of 3 people to guarantee a trip**





## **The Sandstone Bush Fire Brigade is looking for volunteers**

Meetings are held regularly  
at the Bush Fire Brigade Station  
Lot 73, Rowe Street

New volunteers are needed or anyone willing to  
lend a hand and participate if required.

**For more information, please call**

**The Shire Office on**

**(08) 9963 5802**





Before attending the nursing post on Doctor days,  
please contact Lana to make an appointment.

Lana can be contacted at home on 08 9963 5831  
or  
at the nursing post on Thursdays on 08 9963 5808

Thank You

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## **Sandstone Physiotherapy Visiting Dates 2023**

December 11<sup>th</sup>

The Physio is currently provided via Telehealth

To make an appointment, please phone  
Geraldton Physiotherapy Reception

08 9956 2204



## Meekatharra RFDS Flying clinics 2023 / 2024

**December**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Sandstone**

**Dr.**

**This is the last one for the year.**

**4 weeks until the next RFDS Clinic**

**January**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Sandstone**

**Dr.**



## SANDSTONE NURSING POST

IRVINE ST SANDSTONE  
Nurse - Lana Lefroy 9963 5808 or 9963 5831



# Health Services

## Wiluna Medical Services Available

The following medical services are available from visiting specialists through the Wiluna Medical Centre.

These services are provided free of charge to Sandstone residents and the travelling public.

To make an appointment with visiting specialists, contact Wiluna Medical Centre on **(08) 9981 8600**

**Dentist (Monthly)**  
**Gynaecologist**  
**Audiologist**  
**Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)**

## Mount Magnet Medical Services

**Ph for appointment with the GP (08) 9940 3222**

### Specialist & Allied Health

#### Services include:

- Cardiologist
- Sonographer
- Respiratory Physician
- Clinical Nurse Specialist
- General Physician
- Dietician
- Diabetes Education
- Podiatrist
- Audiologist
- Physiotherapy
- Renal Education
- Palliative Support Team

#### How do I see a visiting specialist?

To see the visiting specialists at Murchison Outreach Service (Mt Magnet) you must see the GP who will refer you to the appropriate specialist.

Need to know more? Contact our Specialist Clerk or specialist Nurse for further information on



# Health Services

## TELEPHONE HELP LINES

### [Mental Health Emergency Response Line](#)

(formerly Psychiatric Emergency Team)

Perth WA 6000 Tel: 08 9224 8888

### [RuralLink](#)

Tel: 1800 552 002

4:30pm - 8:30am weeknights

24 hours on weekends and public holidays

**Emergency Number**  
**Royal Flying Doctor Service**

**1800 625 800**

## **Police, Fire and Ambulance Dial**

**000**

Sandstone is a remote township which currently has  
NO EMERGENCY MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICE

If you require **EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE** dial

**1800 625 800**

This will put you in contact with the **Royal Flying Doctor Service**,  
who will provide immediate advice to you.

### **SANDSTONE NURSING POST**

Irvine Street, Sandstone  
RFDS Doctor in attendance every second week  
9:00am - 11:30am.

Nurse in attendance until 4:00pm

Nurse in attendance every Thursday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Phone Number	(08) 9963 5808
After Hours	(08) 9963 5831
Contact person	Lana Lefroy

Should you be traveling and require medical assistance,  
24 hour / 7 day services are provided at :

### **MOUNT MAGNET NURSING POST**

Corner of Criddle and Welcome Street, Mt Magnet  
Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:00pm. Closed for lunch

Staff on call for emergencies (08) 9963 3100

### **MEEKATHARRA HOSPITAL**

Savage Street, Meekatharra

24hour casualty service (08) 9961 0600

# PUBLIC NOTICES

Pastoralists and D.E.C. in Sandstone and surrounding Shires have an ongoing wild dog bait programme.

**Baits are on the ground**  
**ALL year round**

Dogs are **NOT PERMITTED** on a pastoral lease unless permission has been given



To avoid being penalised all dogs and cats must be kept in your yard **OR** on a leash at all times.

**Please clean up after your dog!!!!**

All dogs **must** be registered.

If your dog is not registered or you are unsure, please contact the Shire office.

Dog registrations are due at the end of October each year.



# Directory of Services to Sandstone




**KARL IBBOTSON**

Phone: (08) 9963 4004  
 Fax: (08) 9963 4074  
 Mob: 0427 991 893  
 Email: [murchisonpower@bigpond.com.au](mailto:murchisonpower@bigpond.com.au)  
[karlibbotson@bigpond.com.au](mailto:karlibbotson@bigpond.com.au)  
 Web: [www.murchisonpower.com.au](http://www.murchisonpower.com.au)  
 Lot 483 Criddle Street  
 PO Box 204 Mt Magnet WA 6638

EC 006509

- Construction & Maintenance of all Power Systems
- Licensed Shotfirer
- HV and LV Cable Jointing
- Crane/Borer and Pole Jinker Hire
- Elevated Work Platform
- Switching Operator
- Tree Lopping
- All Electrical Applications (Domestic / Commercial / Industrial)

**JPB Contracting**

**Paul (Scruffy) Bennett**

**Ph: 0427 841 888**

**IF YOU REQUIRE THE SERVICES OF A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PLEASE CALL MARGARET DUHIG ON 0412 652 835 FOR AN APPOINTMENT. THIS IS A FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE.**



Please note this is NOT a service provided at the Shire of Sandstone so please call for an appointment .



**YOU MUST CONTACT THE SHIRE OF SANDSTONE PRIOR TO DISPOSAL OF ANY ASBESTOS MATERIALS**

Phone (08) 9963 5802  
 Mondays - Fridays  
 8:30 - 4:00pm

**LEGAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN FOR NON-COMPLIANCE**

**Westcoast Seafood**  
 Email: [coral@westcoastseafood.com.au](mailto:coral@westcoastseafood.com.au)

# Directory of Services to Sandstone

PL9934 | GF6916 | BF7329



## PLUMBING & GAS

SERVICING MID WEST & GOLDFIELDS REGIONS

MINING | COMMERCIAL | RESIDENTIAL | INDUSTRIAL

### 24/7 EMERGENCY

PH : 0416 307 843 | [ADMIN@LEISKHYDRAULICS.COM.AU](mailto:ADMIN@LEISKHYDRAULICS.COM.AU)

# Community Bulletin Board



## Ordinary Meeting of Council

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council  
is Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
from 1:00pm in Council Chambers

When prepared, the Agenda can be viewed online  
at [www.sandstone.wa.gov.au](http://www.sandstone.wa.gov.au) or at the Sandstone Library



## Heritage Museum & Visitor Centre

**Is now closed**



# Community Bulletin Board

## Useful Sandstone Telephone Numbers

Shire of Sandstone Office & Post Office	08 9963 5802
Sandstone Museum & Visitor Information Centre	08 9963 5061
Alice Atkinson Caravan Park	08 9963 5859
Sandstone Nursing Post	08 9963 5808
Justice of the Peace	0412 652 835
Main Roads - Road Conditions (24 Hr Customer Contact Centre )	13 81 38
National Hotel	08 9963 5801
Mt Magnet Police	08 9963 3222

### ROTARY CLUB

We are the very first Rotary Club that is based purely online in WA. This enables people living in remote/regional areas the option to still provide a service to their local community by joining Rotary E club of E.WA. It's a new and vital Rotary Experience.

We meet via online webinars and the use of Facebook, both open to the public and private sessions.

**Name:** E-WA Rotary  
**Address:** [www.ewarotary.org.au](http://www.ewarotary.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/ewarotary](http://www.facebook.com/ewarotary)  
Ph 0408 802 490

Community Group Name:

E-WA Rotary—Kerry O'Shea  
[rotaryewa@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryewa@gmail.com)

We'd love to hear from you :)

# Community Bulletin Board

## Mount Magnet Post & Lotteries

Gifts, cards, stationery, art supplies.  
Passport photos and much more  
Drop in and browse

Check out the website [www.mtmagnetpost.com](http://www.mtmagnetpost.com)

**Sandstone Library is located within the  
Shire Administration Building  
Monday - Friday 8.00am - 4.30pm**

- Interlibrary Loans
- Audio Books
- Internet access
- DVDs
- Fiction and non Fiction books



### Looking for Gold? Want to Prospect near Sandstone?

Please contact the  
Department of Mines and Petroleum,  
Cr Hepburn and Richardson Streets,  
**Mount Magnet**

**Telephone (08) 9963 4509**  
**Fax (08) 9963 4488**

If you have a story, photo,  
birthday, or something else you  
would like to see in the Bush  
Telegraph, please email the  
Shire Office at

[reception@sandstone.wa.gov.au](mailto:reception@sandstone.wa.gov.au)

## Community Feedback

If you have any ideas that could benefit our community, please feel free to let us know, whether it's activities, workshops or something you would like to see in the near future.

Cut out and drop your feedback form in the Shire office at Reception, post to Shire of Sandstone, Hack Street Sandstone WA 6639 or email to [reception@sandstone.wa.gov.au](mailto:reception@sandstone.wa.gov.au)

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### **Do you know where the DEFIBRILATORS are in town?**

They can be found at the following locations:

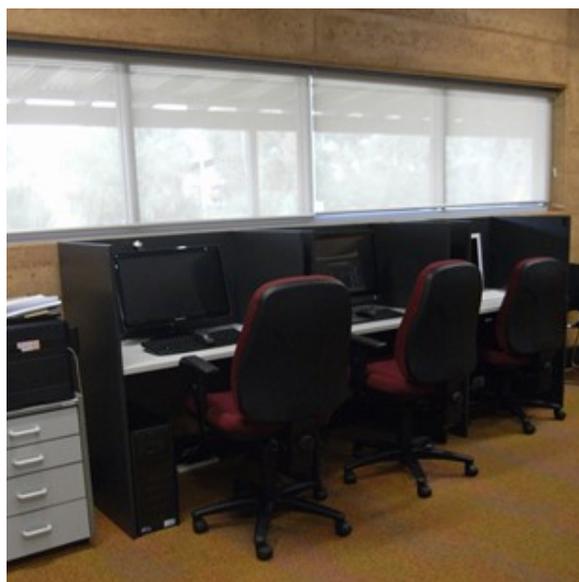
1. Shire Administration Office.
2. The Caravan Park Office.
3. The Sandstone National Hotel.

Please take note of their location—just in case!



# December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Nurses Post	8	9
10	11	12	13 Bus to Mt Magnet	14 Doctors Clinic Council Meeting	15	16
17	18	19	20 Office Closure	21 Nurses Post Office Closure	22 Office Closure	23
24	25 Christmas Office Closure	26 Office Closure	27 Office Closure	28 Office Closure	29 Office Closure	30
31						



Internet access is available at Sandstone Library in the Shire Administration Building using our computers

**Monday - Friday  
8.00am - 4.30pm**

Please note :  
**We don't have public WIFI**

If you would like your event to appear on the Community Planner please contact the Shire of Sandstone - Phone: 08 9963 5802 Email: [reception@sandstone.wa.gov.au](mailto:reception@sandstone.wa.gov.au)