

Newsletter

Shire OF
Wiluna



Issue 7

September/October 2009

Inside this issue:

<i>Major Michael Jefferies visits Wiluna</i>	1
<i>Shire of Wiluna Council News</i>	2
<i>BHP Billiton Yeelirrie Project</i>	3
<i>Curtin Academics visit Wiluna</i>	4
<i>Bondini Road Closure</i>	5
<i>Trip to IIPurla</i>	6
<i>International Cricket Australia Vs Scotland</i>	7
<i>Community Uranium Meeting</i>	8
<i>Wiluna Football Players apply for Clontarf</i>	9
<i>Regional Partnership Agreement News</i>	10
<i>Wiluna Enchanted Masked Ball</i>	11
<i>Tourism News</i>	12
<i>Art Gallery News</i>	13
<i>Sport and Recreation & Swimming Pool News</i>	14
<i>Swimming Pool Opening Times</i>	15
<i>Photos page</i>	16
<i>Sport and Recreation Timetable</i>	17
<i>Wiluna Community Calendar</i>	18

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Major General Michael Jeffery visits Wiluna

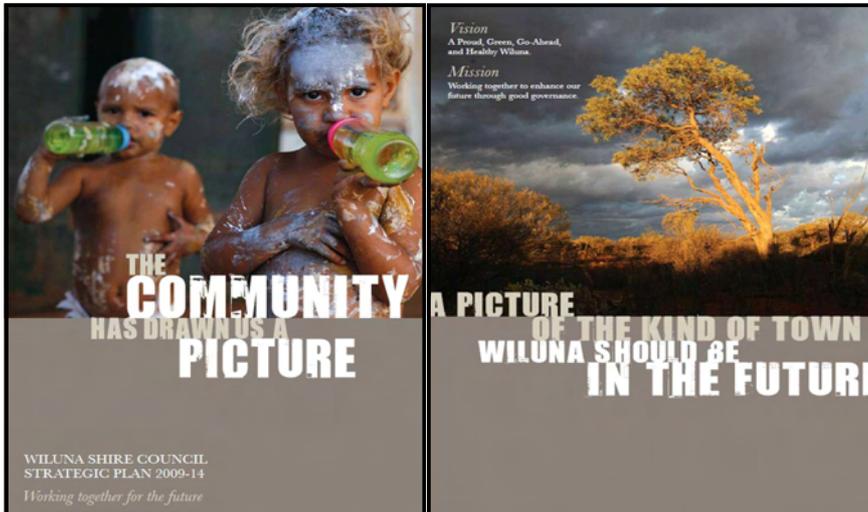
On Monday 21 September, 2009 Major General Michael Jeffery visited Wiluna for two hours. Major General Jeffery was on route between Meekatharra and Kalgoorlie as the new Chairman of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The Shire put on a luncheon in Tjukurba Art Gallery. Major General Jeffery was presented with a painting and a copy of the 2009-14 Strategic Plan by the past Deputy Shire President Anne Geary. He was delighted with both.

Major General Jeffery was born in Wiluna and has continually supported Wiluna with the most obvious being the building of the new Wiluna Remote Community School two and a half years ago.



Council News



Wiluna Shire Council Strategic Plan 2009 - 14

The Wiluna Shire Council Strategic Plan has gone out to all residents in the Shire and partners of the Shire and Regional Partnership Agreement.

Feedback to date has been very positive and the commitment from the residents to participate in the community projects has been welcomed, namely the Street Beautification Project.

Hon John Castrilli, Minister for Local Government will be in Wiluna to launch the 2009 - 14 Strategic Plan.

Hiring Shire Equipment

When hiring Shire Equipment, the community will be required to complete a 'Hire Equipment' form that can be obtained at the Shire Office. The form will be processed and an answer will be given within 24 hours.

Requirements to hiring Shire equipment will be outlined in the 'Hire Equipment' form. These will include the return of equipment in a timely manner and the equipment is returned in the same condition it was hired out.

Local Government Council Elections

Local Government Council Elections were held on Saturday 17, October 2009.

Council Candidates were:

Chris Webb
Anne Geary
Jim Quadrio
Dave McCutcheon
Zac Koroicure

The election results are:

Chris Webb 64 votes
Anne Geary 43 votes
Jim Quadrio 58 votes
Dave McCutcheon 43 votes
Zac Koroicure 58 votes

Congratulations to the new Shire of Wiluna Councillors Chris Webb, Jim Quadrio



and Zac Koricure.

The election for President and Deputy President was held during the October OCM.

Mr John Kyanga was re-elected as President and Mr Graham Harris is the new Deputy President.

BHP Billiton–Yeelirrie Project

Current Status

BHPb are currently in the pre-feasibility stage of the project, with work focused on upgrading the status of the Yeelirrie deposit to declare a mineral resource. There are about 40 people on site involved in this drilling program, and in a range of environmental studies which are being undertaken as part of the environmental impact assessment process.

Community visits

Since commencing the community consultation program in May, BHPb's community consultation team has visited Wiluna, Lenora, Menzies and Kalgoorlie-Boulder to discuss the project with

community members and local governments. A range of queries have been raised, covering topics such as the mining process, project time frame, transportation, environment, radiation, workforce and contract opportunities. BHPb has a range of information sheets available on these topics. You can find out more by contacting Carolyn Walker on 9450 1445.

Community Reference Group

The community reference group (CRG) met in August and September. It will play a key role in enhancing communication and consultation for the project. At the September meeting, the CRG heard about radiation from guest

speaker Jim Hondros, who is a Member of the Australian Radiation Protection Society and Environmental Institute of Australia. His presentation focused on various aspects of radiation and Uranium, including sources, exposures, health effects, controls and regulations.

Upcoming Activities

BHPb will be holding community information sessions as the Project progresses. If you want to learn more about the Yeelirrie Project, look out for future Project Updates.

If you have any questions, talk to your local CRG representative, Cr John Kyanga, Cr Graham Harris and Alan Ashwin.

Meeting Henry Ward and Stan Gratte

The Shire CEO and Tourism Officer were in Geraldton on the long weekend and met with Henry Ward and Stan Gratte. Henry Ward is a Pastoralist from Glen-Ayle station in Wiluna Shire. His family have been there since the early 1900s. Henry can tell many a story about his life and station work; which he did. Henry turned 90 this

year. Stan Gratte told many stories including the adventure he and Mudjon and his searching party had when looking for and bringing in Warri and Yatungka from the bush for the first time. He also showed never before seen footage, outside of his immediate family, of when his search party first met

Ben Brown and his family. It was a great honor to meet these two wonderful men who have so much knowledge of Wiluna.



Curtin Academics Visit to Wiluna

Recently 21 senior academic staff from Curtin University in Perth, and three staff from the Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health in Geraldton, visited Wiluna. One main aim of the program was to help university lecturers learn more about Aboriginal culture and remote health so they have a better understanding to pass on to staff and students studying in health careers. For many participants it was a first time experience going to a remote town. One of the many highlights was the opportunity to spend time with families from Bondini, Windidda, Kutkabubba and Ullula. Curtin university Professor Lorna Rosenwax summed up her thoughts, "Wiluna was an amazing experience in many ways. I can't believe that one minute I was in an Aboriginal community sitting in the dust, swatting flies, preparing damper and being included so generously into a family activity - and then hours later I was back in Perth doing my emails. I feel like I've been through a very special, time/place warp". Over the three days they spoke to many Wiluna people, as well as

organizations such as the school, DCP, Shire, Police and NAHS.

All of the academics and staff wish to express their thanks to people and families in Wiluna who participated in the program and also acknowledge the support of the Shire, NAHS, Police, DCP, school, and BHP Billiton at Mount Keith's operations who provided the flight back to Perth.



Bondini Road Closure

The Wiluna back track has been closed due to a number of reasons;

The safety concerns as drivers are not licenced and vehicles being used were not road worthy. Those persons using the back track without being licenced or using unlicenced vehicles were not covered by Third Party insurance and were at risk of facing large bills if involved in an accident.

Vehicles using the main road were getting confused as vehicles were approaching them on the wrong side of the road whilst using the back track.

There were a number of people using the back track continuously when they were drunk, creating a major safety issue.

Use of the back track to enter town also required driving on town roads to access services.

Wiluna Police are fully supportive of every person in Wiluna obtaining a drivers licence. There are a number of options available including obtaining an extra-ordinary drivers licence. Police will assist everyone to obtain a licence, we have access to a driver training vehicle for training and driving tests, we can run a short course on road rules and obtaining a licence tailored to the individual needs. Let us know at the station of your interested.

Please come into the Police Station and see Shelley or one of the Police Officers

who will provide accurate advise on the current status of your drivers licence and what steps you need to take to obtain your licence.

Remember that you can pay your fines off with a small payment each fortnight and as soon as you organise the payments, the fines suspension will be lifted allowing you to a) drive if you are licenced or b) apply for your licence if not.

If you have any questions at all regarding the back track or any Policing issues please come and see either myself or one of my staff.

Written by Sergeant Dave McCutcheon

Officer in Charge, Wiluna Police Station

Big Aussie Swap Meet

On Friday 13 November, 2009, there will be a community swap meet. The 'Big Aussie Swap Meet' is part of celebrating National Recycling Week with Planet Ark. Everyone in the community are invited to participate in the event.

People need to bring one to five good items that they no longer want and are given one token for each item. The item/s are then placed on a table. During this time people can browse at the items but not buy them. Once everyone has received a token for their items, people can exchange their token for an item of their choice. Should more than one person want to have the same item, they are then encouraged to play scissors, paper, rocks to win the right to buy the item with their token. There is no money involved in this fun filled swap meet. Its about recycling our goods that we don't want anymore. The Shire supports this activity in accordance with the "Green Wiluna" strategy in the 2009-2014 Strategic Plan.



On Saturday 19 September 2009 an investigative party from members of the Wiluna Volatile Substance Use Action Group travelled by road to Ilpurla in the Northern Territory, returning to Wiluna on Friday 25 September 2009. The travelling group consisted of a representative from WAPS, NAHS, Ed Dept, DCP, Apex Mine & ABC Journalist; community members from Wiluna were invited and encouraged to attend, however, at this point in time and for various reasons were unable to accompany the group.

The purpose of the trip was to Firstly: ascertain whether Ilpurla NT could be a suitable option for Wiluna VSU users and their families when considering individual circumstances/needs. Secondly: the appropriateness or otherwise of Wiluna VSU users attending Ilpurla NT for rehabilitation purposes without infringing on cultural, customary, spiritual and family identity & values. Thirdly: whether the Ilpurla NT model could be replicated here in the lands of the Martu people.

It was also important for the travelling group to gain an understanding of how other communities experiencing VSU dealt with this issue first hand and therefore informal meetings with some agency representatives enroute at Warburton,

Trip to Ilpurla

Ngaanyatjarra-Giles (Warakurna) & Docker River were subsequently held.

Ilpurla is located 1278kms east of Wiluna, over 200kms south west of Alice Springs and is owned and operated by Mr Barry Abbott with the assistance of family members most notably his wife and grandson. Given its remoteness access to Ilpurla is by high clearance 4wd only and when accessed was surprisingly well resourced and appeared to be an adequately funded modern facility comprising excellent accommodation for both VSU clients and workers. It soon became apparent to the travelling group that Barry Abbott is a well known and highly regarded individual with a strong history in supporting VSU users and it must be mentioned that the Ilpurla facility is recognised by the NT Government as an "alternative to detention" for young offenders subject to VSU and finding themselves in the justice system with some current clients spoken to there subject to court orders.

Ilpurla is all encompassing and will accept VSU users without favour and avails itself to those presenting with or without court based orders and Australia wide. It is not restricted to Aboriginal clients and in fact encourages non Aboriginal clients to participate in its unique rehabilitation service with the goal of moving those clients from chronic to reformed users before returning to their respective home lands wherever that may be.

Although he has lost count Barry Abbott guesstimated about 600 youth have come and gone over the years coupled with a 75%



success rate. Surely this is testament to the theory that one person can not only make a difference but can make a lot of difference.

(The writer directs those interested on hearing about the Ilpurla NT story to access recent interviews conducted that have been captured on the ABC radio web site.)

Fortunately the communities mentioned above are not experiencing the same type/quantum of VSU users currently in Wiluna, although each are coming to terms with fluctuating petrol sniffing and have chosen to either increase diversionary programs (Warburton), collective community "zero tolerance" (Docker River) and the use of a facility in Alice Springs (Warakurna).

As we all know accessing some services in rural and remote WA can be difficult requiring in some instances the need to travel afar. Ilpurla NT is certainly a long way from Wiluna, however, it may be considered upon further investigation by affected individuals to be the closest to their needs and they should be supported if and when those decisions are ever made.

In conclusion, should the Martu people feel that an Ilpurla NT type rehabilitation facility be constructed in their lands, then this should be vigorously pursued and I for one will assist where possible.

Written by DCP Officer
Barrie Seldon.

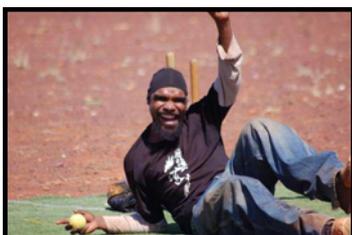
International Cricket held at Bondini



National Child Protection Week (NAPCAN) got off to a flying start in Wiluna where the inaugural "Scotland v Australia" cricket match was held at the Bondini Aboriginal Community. The focus of the event being Communication - Interaction - Participation.

Approximately 75 people attended Bondini to be part of and witness this historical event, 40 of whom participated, majority being children.

War paint duly applied, the Scots were sent into bat and faced fierce bowling from the Aussies and at the conclusion of 20 overs they achieved 120 runs for the loss of a mere 10 wickets, after which refreshments were swiftly consumed and the Aussies sent into bat.



Unfortunately the Australian team were not up to the attack of the Scottish bowlers and although try as hard as they could, achieved a gallant 95 runs for the loss of 14 wickets.

A brilliant day was complete when everyone including spectators sat down for a scrumptious BBQ lunch and to rehash some of the memorable moments of the game.



The scene was set for the return leg at Bondini Community on Sunday 13 September where the Scottish cricket team won the game on the day.

Thanks go to the following without their generous help this event could not have taken place:-

DCP for supplying the cricket equipment, prizes and BBQ and refreshments.

Apex Mining for help setting up the pitch and supplying bottled water.

Ngangganawili Aboriginal Health Service (NAHS) for providing BBQ food, helpers and transport for the town players/spectators.

Wiluna Remote Community School who helped setting up wickets and manufacturing some equipment.

Aidon from Wiluna Shire who umpired/refereed/cooked.

Bondini Community members for their total support/sportsmanship and for becoming Scottish for a day.

Wiluna townsfolk who made up the Aussie team and coming out to support their country.

Finally to the CEO of Wiluna Shire who adjudicated that the pitch was technically wrong (length) this resulted in a short delay that allowed for adjustments.

Written by DCP Officer Barrie Seldon.



Community Uranium Meeting

On Thursday, 30 October, 2009 a community meeting was held at the Shire Training Room to discuss uranium mining. A community BBQ followed.

Over 50 people attended the meeting including 12 Martu community members.

Representatives from BHP Billiton, Mega Uranium, and Toro Energy presented to the community and answered many community concerns.

Darren Farmer asked that the companies remember that the Martu people have a close cultural connection to 'Country' and requested that the companies convince the community that Uranium mining is safe culturally and environmentally.

Presenters assured the community that local bush tucker would not be affected. The companies indicated that there will be future consultations with the local community to determine the Martu

cultural values.

Darren also suggested that the mines need to have a united approach and work together. All presenters agreed that this process was vital for the companies to have a united front on Uranium mining.

Fact sheets and further information were handed out at the end of the community meeting and can be obtained from the Shire training room.



Wiluna Football Players apply for Clontarf



During August 28 - 30 2009, young local Martu football players travelled to Perth for a football trip.

Past Sport and Recreation Manager Adam Wiringi spoke to Karl Pirrottina from the Clontarf Foundation on the tip and he shared with Adam that he was proud of Zareth Long

participation with the football trip to Perth. Zareth Long was a graduate of Clontarf. Karl felt that it was great to hear that Zareth was working and still continuing to play football, furthermore, Karl was happy to see Zareth being seen as a role model for the younger generation of Wiluna.

Clontarf have advised there are positions available for the youth of Wiluna and Adam Wiringi is in the process of submitting applications for the following boys:

Ishmael Williams

Andrew Lee

Leithan Williams

Duran Patch

Adam has spoken with the parents and/or guardians of the boys and they are very supportive for the boys to attend Clontarf should the applications be successful. Adam will keep the community updated with the boys progress.

FACET Conference in Mt Magnet

The Tourism Officer and Community Development Manager (CDM) attended a tourism conference held in Mt Magnet, October 18 - 21, 2009.

During the conference, the CDM and Tourism Officer gave a presentation about the Shire of Wiluna Strategic Plan and Tourism in and around Wiluna. The presentation was well received. Over the course of

the conference, many people commented about the uniqueness and easy reading of the Shire of Wiluna Strategic Plan.

Overall the conference was a valuable experience. Both Shire staff increased their knowledge about promoting and marketing Wiluna, gained insight into taking a regional approach to selling tourism products,

Geo-tourism (using the landscape we have for tourism) and forming partnerships and networks.



Regional Partnership Agreement News



On Tuesday, 22 September, 2009, the RPA Partners met at the Shire Training room.

Fifty three people attended including fifteen Martu people representing the community, government officers, State and Federal and Industry partners.

The community representatives spoke about the limited opportunities of employment for local people and the importance of Industry and Government to work on helping the community find these employment opportunities.

There was discussion about the need for better understanding and awareness from agencies about how culture works in



peoples everyday lives in Wiluna.

Daren Farmer stated that "there needs to be a holistic approach, where workers do get to bed early, there is food on the table for breakfast, an understanding

of cultural matters, overcrowding of houses, kids going to school and counselling for those that need it".

Regina Ashwin asked "that agencies come out to the community and see us, sit down and have a yarn and find out what really is going on in the community."

Mr Kenny Farmer supported Regina's statement by claiming that the employment agencies "need to get to know what people want and to see people face to face, really talk to Martu people."

Delvene Patch said that "we need to be encouraging our youth, getting them to be part of this group, so the young people can be part of the decision making for them and their community. By involving the youth, the youth can get confidence in themselves."

Everyone in the community is invited to attend these meetings.

The RPA will put posters around for the next RPA community meeting.



Wiluna Enchanted Masked Ball

On Saturday 12 September, 2009 the Adult Enchanted Masked Ball was held. The committee consisting of Rebecca Barnett, Catherine Carton, Kitty Peck and with support from their family members put a lot of hard work and effort into the event.

Men and women donned their ball dresses, suits and masks. It felt like you were in an enchanted castle as you entered the netball courts.

The DJ laser lights flickered in every direction with fairy lights sparkling throughout the area. The atmosphere

was absolutely enchanting which was very fitting for the event held.

It was a successful event with everyone dancing late into the evening.



Ranger News

New Ranger in Wiluna

Rebecca Barnett has completed her training and is now a qualified Ranger working for the Shire of Wiluna. The position is funded for ten hours per fortnight. Apart from dog complaints, Rebecca will be working with the community to ensure that all domestic dogs are

registered.

Pack Dogs

There have been problems with dogs travelling in packs and attacking domestic dogs and station animals. The Ranger has had to euthanized four dogs so far. If anyone sees any feral dogs, please notify Rebecca by contacting the

Shire Office on 99818000.



Tourism News

BOOKS FOR SALE IN THE TOURISM OFFICE

A review of books we have for sale in the Shire Office and other books you can purchase from **Hesperian Press** Ph 9362 59 55 [email: books@hesperian.com](mailto:books@hesperian.com).

The Last of the Nomads -- \$ 22.95 by W J Peasley

The Last of the Nomads tells of an extraordinary journey in search of Warri and Yatungka. The intriguing story of their rescue and how they survived alone for the previous thirty years in the unrelenting western Gibson Desert region of Australia makes absorbing reading.

Wiluna Edge of the Desert --- \$65.00 by PR Heydon

The history of the town of Wiluna and its surrounds, its people and incidents in the height of the goldrush.

Droving with Ben Taylor--- \$33.00 by Len Hill

Up and down the Canning Stock Route in 1946.

Droving with Ben Taylor is based on the diary of a

Canning Route drover. It is the only droving diary known from the 50 years of operation of the CSR, the longest and most remote stock route in the world.

Here, detailed, the old hand, Ben Taylor, teaches the youthful Len Hill the art of droving in the desert lands.

With horses and camels from Wiluna to Billiluna, and return with cattle, this unique account describes the pleasures and duties of a drovers life, the cattle, the land, and its inhabitants.

Len Hill is a retired Kimberley pastoralist. Among his many local roles he was a Halls Creek Shire Councillor, a member of the Kimberley Zone Development Committee, and a JP.

This book is available from **Hesperian Press**

Spinifex and Sand--- \$28.00 by David Carnegie

A first hand account of the Coolgardie gold rush, the suffering of the prospectors, great gold discoveries, his own long march with typhoid fever, desert tribes, the constant search for

water, the death of one of his men, and the vastness of the surrounding desert. All are woven together in one of the most readable accounts of exploration in Australia.



Art Gallery News

Port Hedland Art Awards

Three artists are currently represented at the Courthouse Gallery for the Port Hedland Art Award, which closed on 24 October. To date, two paintings have sold.



Newmont Exhibition

Preparations are under way for an Exhibition and Sale in November at Newmont's Perth Office. The show will run over two days and two artists will be attending with the Art Gallery Manager to assist with sales and paintings on site.

Painting Workshops

Paul Miller from Mangkaja Arts, Fitzroy Crossing was in Wiluna working with the Artists in Painting Workshops. Groups of seven and eight artists have participated each day, exploring a variety of methods of producing their paintings.



Headsox contracts

Contracts have been exchanged between Artists Roxanne Anderson and Dallas Harris, and a Melbourne Company who has now re-produced their designs on their versatile garment known as Headsox.

Headsoxs are available for sale for \$25.00 each from the Gallery and the Tourism Office at the Shire.

We hope the Wiluna community will be "covered" by Headsoxs shortly.

In addition the company selling the headsox's has secured the job of supplying all the Airports around Australia. We are investigating further potential markets with the assistance of the Mid West Development Commissions Tradestart.





Sport and Recreation News

Sport and Recreation Manager

Anton Knezevich has accepted the position of Sport and Recreation Manager. Anton has a range of experience working in gyms and as a personal trainer.

October School Holiday Program

During the school holidays NAHS and Sport and Recreation organised arts and crafts, cooking and some fun sports events. In total over one hundred children attended all activities which were run by

the Perth volunteers, Curtin University students, NAHS and Shire sport and recreation staff.

Wiluna Cinema

The Sport and Recreation have acquired a inflatable cinema with a large screen, DVD player and speaker equipment. The cinema will allow for up to two hundred people to view the movie. A movie was shown on Thursday 8 October with a sausage sizzle. In total 30 youth including adults attended. The movie 'Hairspray' shown on the big screen was a huge hit. The Sport and Recreation centre

intend to view regular movie nights for the youth and community in the future.



The Gym

The Sport and Recreation Manager is currently developing a program for community referrals with one on one and group training sessions. In developing the gym referral program, the Sport and Recreation Manager is working with Dr Toby to fulfil the Gym BHC requirements. Anton is also looking to find a maintenance provider to service the gym equipment.

Swimming Pool News

Pool Manager

The pool manager position has been filled with the arrival of Kea Pereira on 9 October, 2009. Kea has extensive experience in not only pool operations, but also working in gyms.



Repairs done on Pool

There were repairs carried out on the swimming pool over the last few months, the pool had been losing a lot of water. After investigation, workmen were hired to repair a broken pipe and holes found on the lino flooring. The holes on the lino floor of the pool were made from rocks being thrown into the pool. The Shire paid just over \$10,000 to repair the pool. We ask that the community

inform children that any rocks thrown into the pool may mean the closure of the pool. Repairs were also made to the shade cloth that hangs over the toddlers pool. The damaged was caused by people hanging from the shade cloth breaking the shackles and tearing the cloth. The shade cloth has been fixed and erected over the toddlers pool.

Please see the new timetable in this newsletter.

Swimming Pool Timetable

MONDAY	6.00AM – 7.00AM (Lap swimmers only)	
	3.00PM – 6.00PM	
TUESDAY	3.00PM – 6.00PM	
WEDNESDAY	6.00AM – 7.00AM (Lap swimmers only)	
	3.00PM – 6.00PM	
THURSDAY	3.00PM – 6.00PM	
FRIDAY	6.00AM – 7.00AM (Lap swimmers only)	
	3.00PM – 6.00PM	
SATURDAY	12.00PM – 6.00PM	
SUNDAY	12.00PM – 6.00PM	

Photo's from Sporting Activities

Wiluna Football Players in Perth August 28—30, 2009



Sports & Recreation Activity Timetable

Due to the weather warming and pool opening, children are not attending the drop in centre during the hours from 2.30pm to 5.00pm. **This is the new timetable.**

Monday 5.45pm

Basketball/Netball

Tuesday 5.45pm

Touch Rugby/Cricket

Wednesday 5.45pm

Football/Softball

Thursday 5.45pm

Basketball/Netball/Volleyball

Friday 7.00pm

Quiz Night * First Friday of each month

2 x Movie Nights plus BBQ each month

Disco Night * Last Friday of each month

Saturday

6.30pm to 8.30pm

Wiluna Community Calendar

NOVEMBER

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4 12pm Cooking Every Wednesday	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 12pm Cooking Every Wednesday	12	13 Aussie Swap Meet at old Marrawayurra Office	14	15
16	17	18 12pm Cooking Every Wednesday	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 12pm Cooking Every Wednesday	26	27	28	29
30						