



# Goldfields Highway secures Minister's support

**Wiluna has won a major battle in its bid to persuade the State Government to seal the last remaining stretch of the Goldfields Highway to Meekatharra.**

The Minister for Transport and Housing, Troy Buswell MLA has acknowledged that upgrading the existing route to connect the two communities is the most realistic option.

Minister Buswell, together with Ken Bastion MLC and Vince Catania MLA, visited Wiluna and was taken for a drive on the Goldfields Highway to see the road's low standard for himself.

"The Minister advised that the visit was valuable for him because he had not realised the Portlink proposed road option of Wiluna to Great Northern Highway would see it start in the middle of nowhere (5km past Magellan mine) and finish in the middle of nowhere (5km outside Kumarina)," said Shire of Wiluna CEO Samantha Tarling.

"He acknowledged this was to the detriment of the communities of Wiluna and Meekatharra when the alternative route of sealing the Goldfields Highway can see these two communities connected. The Minister will discuss this with the Premier."

The Shire was advised that a sealed route to the Great Northern Highway is a flagship priority in the Mid West Development Commission Investment Plan and the Government is considering the options on where this road would eventually be routed.

The Minister advised the cost of sealing the Goldfields Highway versus creating a new road was a cheaper option. The one hour extra travel time for freight companies was minimal and could be argued in favour of the economic and social benefits to the broader community.

*See also Page Five "Transport Services to get Minister's attention." and Page Eight "Decision expected on road before State Election"*

## Exploring prospects for business growth

Consulting firm Urbis has been engaged to undertake an Economic Assessment which will identify opportunities for economic growth in Wiluna.

In particular, the assessment will explore opportunities for Wiluna's businesses to capitalise on the significant resource activity that is occurring in the region.

As part of the process, Urbis will meet the business community to talk about current challenges faced, plans for the future and opportunities to grow. The Shire will be hosting a Sundowner which will provide an opportunity for local business and the broader community to hear more about the project, and to find out how to contribute.



*The finished artwork - designed by Jesse Brampton and installed by CDEP participants*

Standing proud in the corner of Wotton and Wells Street are featured steel cutouts depicting Alfred Canning and his men along with camels walking towards a Martu peoples for the first time.

This project was funded through a grant from the Royalties for Regions and Mid-West Development Commission. Mid West Employment & Enterprise Development Aboriginal Corporation (MEEDAC) CDEP trainees were contracted to install the cutouts.



# GALLERY GOSSIP

## Painting Workshop



*Annette Williams removes the mask from her painting*

Several Artists Development Workshops have been planned for the year. The first was conducted in February by Diana Abiad from Cairns.

Diana has been a professional artist in Australia for over 25 years. Building on a fine arts degree from Santa Monica College in California, Diana has completed further studies in Cultural Development and works closely with indigenous artists to help preserve and maintain cultural identity.

Artists were introduced to the masking method, creating beautiful layered paintings on paper and canvas.

### Australian Art Collector Magazine

Wiluna's Artstart Painting Group has been promoted in the Australian Art Collector Magazine, Issue 55, Jan-March 2011.

The advertisement included a striking collage of the children's work. The magazine has a wide distribution, including overseas.



*Nyapurla Morgan creates a design on lino, assisted by Basil Hall and Heather Charlton*



*Artist Andrew Harris cuts his woodblock with a Kalaya design*

## Printmaking Workshop

**In April**, Basil Hall Editions were called upon for the third year to conduct a printmaking workshop.

The art of both woodblocks and linocuts were adopted with spectacular results.

A number of the finished products found their way to the 'Connection 2 Place' Mid-West Art Centre Exhibition, which opened at the Geraldton Art Gallery in June. One print image is being licenced for a Headsox design.



# GALLERY GOSSIP

## Fabric Printing Workshop



*Jacquie Gilbert stencils her design onto tie-died fabric.*

Diana Abiad returned to Wiluna in June, this time working with fabrics to develop artists designs into printable product. Tie-dying and screen printing techniques were demonstrated, with several artists designs considered suitable for production.



*Diana with work in progress.*



# Good morning boot campers!!!

## *Wiluna wakes up with a dawn workout*



## Local Planning Strategy looks at Wiluna's future

The Shire of Wiluna has completed the draft Local Planning Strategy, which is the blue print for how the town of Wiluna will grow over the next 15 years.

As part of this process the Shire's Town Planning Scheme has also been reviewed.

The documents were presented to Council at the July meeting and will soon be forwarded to the Western Australian Planning Commission for their approval to advertise.

Following that approval, the community and industry will be invited to comment on the draft Local Planning Strategy and Local Planning Scheme No.2.

### There's a new dawn chorus in Wiluna.

It's the sound of groaning and giggling as a group of get fit enthusiasts are put through their paces by Head Coach and motivator Anton Knezevich.

Anton, Wiluna Sport and Recreation Centre Manager, has everyone up, dressed and stretched before sunrise ready for a brisk workout which sets them up for the day ahead.

Our pix show the healthy participants enjoying their wake up call.

# Transport Services to get Minister's attention

**Transport Minister Troy Buswell, MLA has agreed to look at transport services for Wiluna, following a recent meeting with the Shire.**

The Minister, accompanied by Ken Bastion MLC and Vince Catania MLA visited Wiluna to discuss issues around the town's transport infrastructure and services.

## **Bus service**

Councillors raised the matter of a weekly bus service from Kalgoorlie to Wiluna and drew the Minister's attention to the need to improve the regular public transport (RPT) air service to Perth. "The Minister suggested a number of solutions in regard to the bus service," said Shire of Wiluna CEO Samantha Tarling.

"One suggestion was that funding be given to the Shire or to a private operator in town to help stimulate the local economy by creating a local business."

## **Air travel**

Councillors drew the Minister's attention to several concerns raised by the community about the RPT service, particularly the fact that the service is regularly late arriving in Wiluna and late arriving in Perth, while chartered aircraft used by mining companies seem to be able to operate on time.

The Minister was told that the irregular service was having a negative and costly impact on Wiluna. Contractors were reluctant to travel to the town because of concern about making connecting flights and agencies using contractors were bearing the costs of additional expenses when flights were late or disrupted.

## **Increase flights**

More flights were also needed to meet demand.



*Minister Buswell, Ken Bastion MLC and Vince Catania MLA with Wiluna Shire Council*

"The Medical Service has reported it is unable to get patients on as required due to no seats being available. A number of recent cases can be cited," the CEO said.

"Mining companies have advised they have made alternative arrangements with Charter companies because they can't rely on the RPT. They are prepared to support RPT where possible, to support the town and are happy to reinstate their use of the RPT if it is reliable and affordable.

"Skippers is currently looking at a cheaper airfare for local residents of Wiluna and this customer service is to be applauded. However, the Shire would like to see a price review with other users once all matters have been discussed.

## **Price review**

"Service frequency and reliability are factors that will influence the price and provide a viable RPT for all users in the Shire of Wiluna, including mining companies."

"If the RPT was to be affordable and a five (5) day service, this would go a long way towards the user of present Charter flights using the RPT and then the current numbers would quadruple and the RPT would be viable for Skippers to put more flights on and at an affordable price."

These issues have been raised by the Shire with Skippers direct in the past and most recently through the Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Wiluna

Aviation Community Consultation Group. Individuals are encouraged to report their grievances on the Department of Transport and Skippers websites, making sure they outline specific details of their complaint.

Following the meeting with the Minister, the Shire submitted a written brief for his consideration and will await a response before further action.



# Windidda Saints 2011 Champions



## **DARLKA FOOTBALL CARNIVAL Wiluna 2011**

A triumphant Windidda Saints are celebrating their Grand Final win at the 2011 Darlka Football Carnival.

More than 200 supporters watched Windidda Saints score a convincing win over Jackman Blues in the Grand Final played under lights on the Wiluna Town Oval.

The win was the highlight of an extended week of "Footy and Friends" as out of town teams and supporters headed into Wiluna to take part in the football carnival.

Thanks to KP and his supporters who put together the amazing and nail-biting Darlka Football Carnival from Sunday 24 – Friday 29 July.

Final Score - Windidda Saints 10.2 (62) - Jackman Blues 6.10 (46).



*Top: Celebrating - the 2011 Darlka Grand Final Winners - Windidda Saints  
Below: Darlka Football Carnival – Best Supporting Team!*



# Strong message in fun event stay safe, take care on Wiluna roads



*Blessing of the Highways*

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 9 2011**  
**9.00AM START - WOTTON & WELLS STREETS**  
**WILUNA - WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Logos: Wiluna Remote Community School, Shire of Wiluna, Central Desert, W.A. Police, Ngangganawili Aboriginal Health Service, Seventh Day Adventist Church.

**REGISTRATIONS: SPORTS & REC CENTRE - 9981 8013**

**A new annual fun run will open the tourist season in the Central Desert this year with an important message – Stay safe on the roads.**

The Shire of Wiluna will launch the first “*Blessing of the Highways*” ceremony and fun run on Friday September 9.

The “*Blessing of the Highways*” ceremony has been developed in response to loss of life on Shire roads - particularly on the popular tourist attractions, the Gunbarrel Highway and the Canning Stock Route – but importantly, will cover all highways and roads leading into and out of Wiluna.

The blessing will take place the corner of Wells & Wotton Streets at 9am. Pastor Brown will provide a blessing and a Martu Smoking Ceremony will offer respect and remembrance to those whose lives have been lost on the roads.

The ceremony is intended to send a strong message to all those using the highways and roads to drive safely at all times.

Following the blessing, the 8.4km run will begin, heading out to the Bondini turn off and returning to town.

Those preferring an easier option can take a bus out to Bondini and enjoy a 4.2km walk back to the town oval where the event will finish with a community Barbeque.

The event has been funded thanks to a \$20,000 Dry Season Relief grant from the Department of Agriculture & Food (Rural Business Unit). It is designed to assist small business affected by the dry seasons of the past years.

Anyone wishing to put their name down for the walk or the run can register through the Sport and Recreation Centre.

Volunteers are needed on the day to help manage the event. Anyone wishing to help out should contact the Shire of Wiluna for further information.

## Wiluna in new electorate for 2013

In June, the WA state Electoral Boundaries Commission published proposed new electoral boundaries for 2011.

The significant change for Wiluna is the proposal to move the Shire from the seat of Kalgoorlie where it sat at the last election, to the newly named seat of North West Central. The boundaries of North West Central (formerly the North West) now form an electorate in the centre of the State.

The public comment period has just closed and the Commissioners will now consider the comments and publish the final boundaries on 10 October this year. These final boundaries will be used at the next state election in early 2013.

## A few new faces

**The Shire has some new faces which many of you have been seeing out and about in the town.**

Garry Agnew has been appointed Environmental Health Officer, Authorised Officer under the Food Act 2008 and Building Surveyor for the Shire of Wiluna following the resignation of Mr Bill Atyeo. Garry comes to Wiluna from the Mid West Regional Council.

Dominique Allis is the new Works Administration Assistant. Having grown up in Boddington, Dominique is enjoying her time back in the bush. She graduated at UNDA with a Bachelor of Arts, Double Major in Theatre Studies and Communications. Since graduating, Dominique worked in Real Estate, where she gained her Property Management Certificate, which came in good use when she was living in Melbourne whilst performing. Dominique also coaches our very own Wiluna Cheer! Competing since 2004, her highlight was representing Australia at the World Cheer and

Dance Championships in Florida, America. Dominique has coached since 2007 at an international level. She is currently completing her Graduate Diploma in Teaching.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer Linda Butterly, who is responsible for the Shire's Community Development, has worked throughout regional Western Australia from the Kimberley's in the far north to Albany in south and all in between.

Linda's life work has been in facilitating the growth and development of enterprise and regional communities (including remote & isolated Aboriginal communities). Prior to coming to Wiluna, Linda worked on a partnership project between World Vision Australia and BHP Billiton Iron Ore and completed some research into the design and implementation of more effective measures in managing mining benefits through negotiated Land Use Agreements with mining.

## Decision expected on road before State Election

**A decision as to whether the Wiluna-Meekatharra Road will be sealed is expected to be announced before the next State Election.**

A delegation of Wiluna Shire Councillors met the Minister for Regional Development, the Hon Brendan Grylls, MLA, in Perth to press the community's case for the road to be sealed.

Minister Grylls advised the delegation that an announcement would be made before the next election. The announcement would clarify how the government proposes to open up the Central Desert to the Pilbara, either by creating a new route joining the Great Northern Highway to the north, or by sealing the last stretch of the Goldfields Highway, i.e. the Wiluna-Meekatharra Road.

"The meeting went really well," said Chief Executive Officer Samantha Tarling. "The Minister told us we need to persuade the mining companies to contribute to the cost and it was also important to gain Commonwealth funding and support for the road."