







The Crosswords is produced by the Southern Cross CRC, PO Box 178, Canopus St, Southern Cross WA 6426

Phone: 08 9049 1688 Fax: 08 9049 1686 Email: crc@yilgarn.wa.gov.au

Crosswords Disclaimer:

The Shire of Yilgarn supports the production of this community newsletter the content of which will include articles or comments from advertisers and contributors. The Shire does not accept responsibility for the content or accuracy of any of the information supplied by advertisers or contributors.

Shire of Yilgarn Emergency information hotline

Call (08) 9487 8777

for information relating to bushfire issues including vehicle movement & harvest bans, road closures, flood or other local emergency matters.

Southern Cross Landfill Times

The Tip Shop will also be open during the below hours.

Monday	1:00pm to 4:00pm
Tuesday	1:00pm to 4:00pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	Closed
Friday	1:00pm to 4:00pm
Saturday	10:00am to 4:00pm
Sunday	10:00am to 4:00pm

Crosswords Advertising Rates 2021/22 (as of 1 July 2021)

Business Advertisements (Business premises outside of the	Blo	Black		Colour	
Shire of Yilgarn)	No Typesetting	With Typesetting	No Typesetting	With Typesetting	
Full Page (A4)	\$35.00	\$55.00	\$160.00	\$180.00	
1/2 Page (A5)	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$90.00	\$100.00	
1/4 Page	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	

Local Business and Non-Profit Organisations Advertisements

(Business premises within the Shire of Yilgarn)

Full Page (A4)	\$30.00	\$50.00	\$130.00	\$160.00
1/2 Page (A5)	\$15.00	\$18.00	\$70.00	\$90.00
1/4 Page	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$35.00	\$40.00

Lineage (Employment, Real Estate, Garage Sales maximum 6 lines) \$8.00

Advert size specifications for Crosswords (W x H)

1/4 page vertical90mm x 120mm1/4 page horizontal180mm x 60mm1/2 page vertical90mm x 270mm1/2 page horizontal180mm x 120mmA4 Full page180mm x 270mm



A5 adverts which are not horizontal will be displayed in print on their side to ensure no modification to advertisements.

DON'T FORGET!

Crosswords' submissions close every 2nd Tuesday at 12.00 noon

2021 Publishing Dates

Deadline 12 noon	Publishing Date
7/12/2021	9/12/2021

2022 Publishing Dates

Deadline 12 noon	Publishing Date
4/01/2022	6/01/2022
18/01/2022	20/01/2022
1/02/2022	3/02/2022
15/02/2022	17/02/2022
1/03/2022	3/03/2022
15/03/2022	17/03/2022
29/03/2022	31/03/2022
12/04/2022	14/04/2022
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19/07/2022	21/07/2022
2/08/2022	4/08/2022
16/08/2022	18/08/2022
30/08/2022	1/09/2022
13/09/2022	15/09/2022
27/09/2022	29/09/2022
11/10/2022	13/10/2022
25/10/2022	27/10/2022
8/11/2022	10/11/2022
22/11/2022	24/11/2022
6/12/2022	8/12/2022

Church Notices / Updates



48 Altair Street, Southern Cross

SX Presbytery: 9049 1049 (Sun to Mon)

Bruce Rock Presbytery: 9061 1094 (Tues to Sat) Email: yilgarnwestoniacatholic@gmail.com

Facebook: Yilgarn/Westonia Catholic Community

YouTube: Yilgarn Westonia Catholic

As at publication, Our Lady of Montserrat church is operating at 100% capacity. Please check the parish Facebook page for any updates. COVID-19 protocols are posted as a notice on the front door of the church. Please read this notice carefully before entering.

Mass Times

Saturday 6:00pm @ Bruce Rock parish Sunday 5:30pm @ OLM church

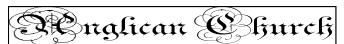
Saturday evening Mass will be live-streamed from Bruce Rock parish each weekend. The live-stream is for those for whom getting to OLM church on Sunday evening is impractical. Live-streamed Masses will continue to be available in "Catch-up" mode via the parish YouTube channel.



Services for the Uniting Church are held on the first Sunday of each month.

Contact:

Cheryl Auld 9049 8026 Diane Della Bosca 9049 1149



Antares Street, Southern Cross Enquiries: Leonie Gethin Ph.: (08) **9049 1222**

Anglican services at Christ Church Southern Cross for 2021

All services are held on Saturday at 11.00am Everyone is warmly invited to come along

Saturday 18th December at 11am. (Christmas service)



2021/2022 CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SHIRE OFFICE AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE CLOSURE

It is hereby notified for public information that the Shire Administration Office and Community Resource Centre will be closed on the following dates over the 2021/2022 Christmas/New Year holiday period:-

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
20/12/2021	21/12/2021	22/12/2021	23/12/2021	24/12/2021
			Open in Morning	
Open	Open	Open	Closed Midday	Closed
	·			
27/12/2021	28/12/2021	29/12/2021	30/12/2021	31/12/2021
Public Holiday	Public Holiday	Closed	Closed	Closed
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
3/01/2022	04/01/2022	05/01/2022	06/01/2022	07/01/2022
Public Holiday	Open	Open	Open	Open

Motor Vehicle Licensing

All matters pertaining to Motor Vehicle Registrations and Drivers Licences will be unable to be transacted during the above period and therefore residents are encouraged to have all their licensing requirements attended to prior to 3.00pm Wednesday, 22 December 2021. You can also perform some licensing enquiries and payments through DoTDirect www.transport.wa.gov.au/dotdirect/dotdirect.asp or phone 13 11 56.

TRANSWA

During the above closure period you will be unable to book/print train tickets at the Shire of Yilgarn office. Please visit https://bookings.transwa.wa.gov.au/dates to book online, or call 1300 662 205. Concession holders will need to ensure all tickets are booked and printed before the Shire Office closes as you are unable to purchase online or over the phone.

Library Books

Users of the Shire of Yilgarn Library are requested to exchange their books prior to midday Thursday, 23 December 2021 in order that they have adequate supplies over the Christmas/New Year Holiday period.

Councillors and staff wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Nic Warren

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



SHIRE OF YILGARN

2022 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

In accordance with Section 12 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, it is hereby notified for public information that the following dates and times have been set for the Shire of Yilgarn's 2022 Ordinary meetings of Council:-

Monthly Ordinary Council meetings to commence at 4:00pm on the following dates: -

January 2022	No Meeting Schedul	led
Thursday, 17 th	February 2022	Council Chambers Southern Cross
Thursday, 17 th	March 2022	Council Chambers Southern Cross
Thursday, 21st	April 2022	Council Chambers Southern Cross
Thursday, 19 th	May 2022	Council Chambers Southern Cross
Thursday, 16 th	June 2022	Council Chambers Southern Cross
Thursday, 21st	July 2022	Council Chambers Southern Cross
Thursday, 18 th	August 2022	Council Chambers Southern Cross
Thursday, 15 th	September 2022	Council Chambers Southern Cross
Thursday, 20 th	October 2022	Mt. Hampton Hall
Thursday, 17 th	November 2022	Council Chambers Southern Cross
Thursday, 15 th	December 2022	Council Chambers Southern Cross

The above meetings are open to the public and commence at **4.00pm**. A 15 minute Public Question Time is allocated at the commencement of each meeting where residents are welcome to ask questions, with or without notice, or raise an issue considered relevant to the operations of Council. In some cases prior notification of a proposed question is considered prudent, particularly if the matter requires some research. Residents are also welcome to attend the whole meeting however, they are not permitted to speak (unless directed by the Shire President) or take part in debate on any agenda item.

Other meetings such as the Annual Meeting of Electors and Special Meetings of Council called for a specific issue are advertised separately.

Nic Warren

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



APPRENTICE CARPENTER (Certificate III Carpentry and Joinery)

The Shire of Yilgarn invites applications for the position of Apprentice Carpenter. The primary responsibilities of the position is the applicant must be self-motivated and work well in a team environment maintaining Council's buildings and facilities and completing labouring duties in a safe, efficient and effective manner under the guidance of Council's Building Maintenance Tradesperson. The applicant must commit to a full 4 year contract to complete the apprenticeship.

Students who are about to complete or have completed Year 10 and above are encouraged to apply. The successful applicant will undertake Certificate III in Carpentry and Joinery through on-the-job and TAFE training. Further information relating to this position can be obtained by contacting Council's Executive Manager Regulatory Services, Mr Shane Chambers, on 0407 491 027.

Interested candidates are requested to obtain an information pack from:

office - 23 Antares Street, Southern Cross, or

telephone - 08 9049 1001, or

email - <u>ea@yilgarn.wa.gov.au</u>.

Applications must be received by **4:00pm on 6 December 2021** and should be marked "Confidential" and addressed to:

"Apprentice Carpenter Position"

Mr Nicholas Warren Chief Executive Officer Shire of Yilgarn PO Box 86 SOUTHERN CROSS WA 6426

PLEASE NOTE: Canvassing of Councillors will disqualify. The successful applicant is required to obtain relevant police checks, and to provide evidence of all claimed qualifications prior to commencing employment. This position is subject to a Pre-Employment Medical including Drug & Alcohol Screening and further random screening on employment. The applicant must be physically fit as this position requires manual work.



APPRENTICE PLANT MECHANIC

(Certificate III Mobile Plant Technology)

The Shire of Yilgarn invites applications for the position of Apprentice Plant Mechanic. The primary responsibilities of the position is the applicant must be self-motivated and work well in a team environment maintaining Council's fleet of well-maintained and near new road construction plant, light vehicles and numerous small plant items under the guidance of Council's Plant Mechanic. The applicant must commit to a full 3½ year contract to complete the apprenticeship.

Students who are about to complete or have completed Year 10 and above are encouraged to apply. The successful applicant will undertake Certificate III Mobile Plant Technology through on-the-job and TAFE training.

The position operates out of the depot office located on Arcturus Street, Southern Cross under the supervision of the Executive Manager Infrastructure and Plant Mechanic.

Interested candidates are requested to obtain an information pack from:

office - 23 Antares Street, Southern Cross, or

telephone - 08 9049 1001, or

email - <u>ea@yilgarn.wa.gov.au</u>,

Applications must be received by 4:00pm on 6 December 2021 marked "Confidential" and addressed to:

"Apprentice Plant Mechanic Position"

Mr Nicholas Warren Chief Executive Officer Shire of Yilgarn PO Box 86 SOUTHERN CROSS WA 6426

PLEASE NOTE: Canvassing of Councillors will disqualify. The successful applicant will be required to obtain relevant police checks, and to provide evidence of all claimed qualifications prior to commencing employment. This position is subject to a Pre-Employment Medical including Drug & Alcohol Screening and further random screening on employment. The applicant must be physically fit as this position requires manual work.



BUSHFIRE SEASON

It is almost bushfire season. If you live in on or near bushland, you are at risk from a bushfire and developing a **bushfire survival plan** is critical. Being prepared for a bushfire can help save you and your family's lives, your property and your livelihood.

You need to think about the bushfire risk to your family and home:

- Do you live in or near bush?
- Does your local area have a bushfire history?
- Do you have trees and shrubs within 20 metres of your house?
- Is your house built on a slope?
- Is your bushfire survival plan more than one year old?

If you answered yes to one or more of these questions then being impacted by a bushfire is a real risk to you and your family. You need to have a bushfire survival plan and keep it updated.

When developing your plan decide together if you will leave for a safer place, which may be to relocate to family or friends or to a Shire shelter if an evacuation is initiated, or stay to actively defend your home. Make sure you write everything down. If you live alone consider creating a plan with a neighbour or friend.

Everybody should have their own tasks and have a list of actions to take if there is a bushfire. Keep your bushfire survival plan in an easy to find place and make sure everyone knows where it is. Practice your plan regularly and review it every year.

For more information on bushfire preparedness, internet search "DFES Bushfire Safety".

Being prepared for a bushfire can save your life and property.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

There have been some changes this season to the local rules for burning and lighting fires

Burning Garden Refuse

The burning of garden refuse on the ground is **NOT PERMITTED** during the restricted and prohibited burning times, being from the 19th September through to 31st March, throughout the Yilgarn district.

Camp Fires

The lighting or use of fire in the open air for camping and cooking purposes is **NOT PERMITTED** during the prohibited burning period, being 1st November to 15th February, throughout the Yilgarn district. Enclosed gas appliances are permitted, as long as they are used as per manufacturer's instructions, and are used in a safe manner.



EMERGENCY INFORMATION

There are a number of ways you can stay up to date with emergency information through the Shire and other organisations.

Harvest Bans

Current information on harvest and vehicle movement bans within the Shire of Yilgarn can be heard on the Shire's Emergency Information Service Hotline: (08) 9487 8777.

The service is updated daily and also includes information on road and airport closures; and will also be used to provide information in the event of an emergency so it is vital for everyone, not just farmers, to store this number in their phones or at home.

Whispir Alert System

The Shire of Yilgarn has an alert system for fires, road closures, harvest bans, airport closures, emergency information and community events. The alert system works via email and SMS. This is not just for farmers, as any relevant information during an emergency will also be dispersed via this method where possible.

If you would like to receive alerts from the Shire or wish to update your details, please contact the Shire office by phone on 9049 1001 or by email reception@yilgarn.wa.gov.au with "Whispir" in the subject line and provide your preferred email and mobile phone number and which alerts you wish to sign up for.

ABC Radio Harvest Ban Announcements

Closer to summer, ABC Local Radio will begin on air harvest ban announcements. The times will be advised closer to the commencement of announcements.

Bushfire Volunteer Brigade

The Yilgarn Bushfire Volunteer Brigade is currently seeking members, if you would like more information on becoming a member please contact the Shire on 9049 1001.

REDUCTION OF FIRE FUEL RISKS

The Shire of Yilgarn, in conjunction with the Yilgarn Bush Fire Brigade are calling on all townsite residents and land owners to ensure their properties are free of all fire fuels.

As per the Shire's Fire Break Notice, from the 1st November 2021, all flammable materials must be removed from land within Yilgarn townsites, including dry weeds, grass or other organic materials. Due to the high rainfall and subsequent high fuel loads there is a high risk of bushfire, and as such, the Shire will be monitoring compliance closely.









IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...

SENIOR'S CHRISTMAS



The Shire of Yilgarn are once again sending out Christmas gift vouchers for 2021.

If you are 60 or over and are unsure if you are on our current list please contact Jodie Karra before COB

Monday 29th November 2021 at:

aso@yilgarn.wa.gov.au

or

9049 1001

Please remember we are not mind readers!!







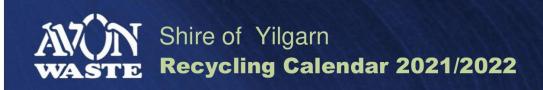
SOUTHERN CROSS HARDWARE & NEWS AND SHIRE OF YILGARN

Christmas Lights Competition 2021

Wednesday 15th December 2021

There are two (2) x \$100 gift vouchers to be won!
An invitation is extended to all Yilgarn residents

Registration required for out of Southern Cross town site areas







IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

There will be no changes to your collection service for the Christmas & New Year Public Holidays.

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30	31					

February 2022							
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May 2022								
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Marvel Loch, Moorine
Rock & Bodallin Rubbish Only
Southern Cross
Rubbish Only
Southern Cross Rubbish
and Recycling, Marvel Loch,

Moorine Rock & Bodallin RC



WHAT CAN GO INTO YOUR RECYCLE BIN

- Glass All glass and ceramics, whole and broken
- Plastic All plastic containers and plastic wraps (empty with lids off)
- · Paper All paper, junk mail and glossy magazines
- Cardboard All cardboard products
- Aluminium & Steel All metals, steel & aluminium excluding aerosol cans
- · Liquid Paperboard Milk, juice and laundry detergent cartons.

There will be no changes to the service over the Christmas Period.

Refuse Collection Day

- Southern Cross bin collection day is Friday.
- Marvel Loch bin collection day is Thursday.
- Moorine Rock bin collection day is Thursday.
- Bodallin bin collection day is Thursday.

Recycle Collection Day

- Southern Cross recycle bin collection day is every 2nd and 4th Friday.
- Marvel Loch recycle bin collection day is every 2nd and 4th Friday.
- Moorine Rock recycle bin collection day is every 2nd and 4th Friday.
- Bodallin recycle bin collection day is every 2nd and 4th Friday.







We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.



Colouring competition prize winners 0—5 years











Eli Christie



Colouring competition prize winners 6—12 years





Gracie Lawrence

Felix Lawrence

Congratulations to our prize winners!

Be on the lookout for the next colouring competition in Crosswords...

Government services—closer than you think

At the Southern Cross CRC you can access Centrelink, Medicare and other government programs and services.

We are an Australian Government Agency of Services Australia Access Point.

Using our computer, you can log in to your MyGov account and do your business on the spot.

There is a phone for you to access phone self-service or speak to an agency service officer.

If you would rather use your mobile phone or tablet, we have free Wi-Fi available 24/7.

You do not need a password so you can get online straight away.

You can also use the Wi-Fi to download and install the Express Plus mobile apps.

Our staff will even certify your identity documents for you.

So next time you need to do some government business, drop in and see us.

We are open Monday to Friday, 8.30am—12noon, 1.00pm to 4.30pm at the CRC building on Canopus Street, Southern Cross.



Yilgarn Local Action Group: Skeleton Weed

The Yilgarn Local Action Group would like to wish all its landholders well for 2022.

Plants are out and flowering so watch out!

There have not been changes to the Skeleton Weed program for the 21/22 season, as directed by the Department of Primary Industry & Regional Development:

- New Finds, Code 1 & Code 3 paddocks are eligible for search assistance (\$6/ha.)
- <u>Code 2 paddocks:</u> If you find plants, it immediately becomes a Code 1 and eligible for search assistance after a FULL search is carried out.
- All code one paddocks need to be <u>searched</u> by the <u>31st of December</u>
 2021. All other codes need to be searched by the <u>31st of January</u>
 2022.
- All property and paddock records to be sent in by the 15th February
 2022.
- Whilst invoices need to be sent in by March 15th, the sooner you complete paperwork, the sooner you'll be paid. :)



For any further information please contact:

Robbie Della: 0427 791 135

Email: <u>yilgarnLAG@outlook.com</u>

(fax no longer connected, please email returns.)

Or: PO BOX 179, Southern Cross, WA 6426.



Mutated plant.



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE:

St Joseph's Primary School Awards Night and Concert

8TH DECEMBER 2021
COMMENCING AT 6:30PM ON THE SCHOOL OVAL
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BYO PICNIC AFTER THE
CONCERT!



Carols by



Candlelight

Friday 17th December 2021 7.00pm

Southern Cross Senior Citizen's Centre

Supper provided

Tickets for raffle on sale

Come along and sing!





Southern Cross CWA &

St Fire Ball invite you to the

SOUTHERN CROSS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE & VOLUNTEER THANK-YOU BBQ

BBQ MEAT + SALADS PROVIDED BYO ALCOHOL + DRINKS

SUNDAY DEC. 19, 2021 • 5:30PM - LATE (SANTA ARRIVING AT 6:00PM) ROTARY PARK

GIFTS PROVIDED TO CHILDREN UP TO YEAR 7

\$10 PER CHILD - INCLUDES GIFT, JUICE BOX & LOLLIE BAG RSVP WITH NAMES AND AGES OF CHILDREN FOR GIFTS BY 1ST DECEMBER TO TASH CREES ON 0408 447 035 OR CWA.SXBRANCH@OUTLOOK.COM

CWA PAYMENT DETAILS: BSB 036 128 ACC 280026



YILGARN COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP / ROADWISE & SHIRE OF YILGARN

Once again, it is our intention to operate the **DRIVER REVIVER VAN** during CHRISTMAS.

The dates and times include:

THURSDAY 23rd DECEMBER – 12PM to 6PM FRIDAY 24th DECEMBER – 10AM to 6PM TUESDAY 28th DECEMBER – 10AM to 6PM

Please remember we will be operating from the Pioneer Cemetery (near the Caravan Park)

If you can help we would be very grateful if you would sign your name on the roster which is inside the SX HARDWARE & NEWS now!



Community News

Yilgarn Bowling Club

Mens

November

Sat 27 Pennants: Yilgarn v Civic Blue

Sun 28 Club Day

December

Sat 4 Pennants: Yilgarn v Westonia @ SX

Sun 5 Club Day

Sat 11 Pennants: Bruce Rock Purple v Yilgarn @

Bruce Rock

Sun 12 Club Day

Sat 18 Pennants: Corrigin Gold v Yilgarn @

Corrigin

Sun 19 Club Day Sun 26 No Bowls

January

Sun 2 Club Day

Ladies

November

Fri 26 Champ of Champ Fours @ Narembeen

Tue 30 Social Bowls

December

Fri 3 Corrigin Carnival @ Corrigin

Tue 7 Social Bowls

Tue 14 Pairs Championships @ Southern Cross

Tue 21 Social Bowls
Tue 28 No Bowls

January

Tue 4 Social Bowls
Tue 11 Social Bowls

Moorine Rock Tennis Club

27/11 Social Tennis, 3pm start BBQ tea & pooled salads

4/12 Social Tennis, 3pm start

Pizza tea

12/12 Social Tennis, 3pm start

BBQ tea & pooled salads

18/12 MRTC Christmas Party

Open invitation to all community Members, Fun Clock Tournament Sponsored by Moorine Rock Ag

Supplies, 3pm start Hot beef roll dinner

<u>Carol Truran's</u> <u>Pop-Up Shop</u>

Selling lots of home-made items such as: cards, hand-towels, quilts, pot-holders and other great Christmas gift ideas.

Starting at 9am on
Friday 26th November
down the main street
in between the
Stationery Store and public toilets.

Call Carol for more information on: 0429 491 272

Second Header available with Operator. Gleaner R75 with 36ft front.

Phone Aarron Panizza
0448 510 740 for further details.

WANT TO PLACE A FOR RENT OR HOUSE FOR SALE ADVERT?

Contact the CRC on 9049 1688 or crc@yilgarn.wa.gov.au to organise your ad to appear in our next edition!



Díd you know?

Did you know that Southern Cross has two cemeteries? The original or pioneer cemetery is situated opposite the hospital and alongside the caravan park. The first burial took place in January 1889 when Fred Thompson was killed by a dynamite explosion. Southern Cross was only six months old.

Another man dying of natural causes was buried nearby in July 1890. These early burials led to the area being gazetted a cemetery in 1891. However the cemetery closed eight years later because the railway line to Kalgoorlie was laid through the middle, as was the goldfields water pipe. This led to our present cemetery on the north side of town being opened in 1898.

All burials in the old cemetery had been confined to the area facing Great Eastern Highway, the railway line not disturbing these graves. But the old cemetery fell into disrepair when no longer used, with broken fences allowing animals to trample headstones and crosses. The newspaper accused the Cemetery Committee of being deader than the inmates.

Vandalism and stealing also impacted over time. The old cemetery ended up a sorry sight. During the 1970's the Historical Society gathered up headstones and re-laid them in a memorial park on the edge of the cemetery. The memorial is now a tourist attraction. A total of 237 inmates are buried in the old cemetery, 100 being typhoid victims and 84 children and babies. Individual grave sites are not known, these records being destroyed by fire in 1933 when an arsonist burnt down the town hall.

Trivia – For many years the undertaker used a horse drawn hearse. The hearse was eventually retired to a shed, and replaced by a motor vehicle. In 1950 the old hearse was saved from destruction and presented to the State Museum. It is now on display at South Perth in Windmill Park, near the Narrows Bridge.

©Lance Stevens



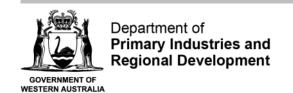
Southern Cross General Practice would like to notify the community that Dr Nwoko will be attending a Personal Development Course **Thursday 25/11/2021 to Wednesday 01/12/2021, inclusive.**

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in obtaining a locum doctor, and will be without a Doctor for this period. However, the Practice will remain open during this time for half days for admin purposes and basic nursing appointments (closed Wednesday 01/12/21, as per usual).

As always, in case of Emergency please call 000 immediately.

If urgent medical attention is required please phone Southern Cross Hospital on 9081 2222 or attend Southern Cross Hospital for triage by a nurse, and a doctor will be contacted if required.

Kind regards, Southern Cross General Practice Staff



Media release

15 November 2021

Gearing up for summer skeleton weed search campaign

The summer search campaign for the significant agricultural plant pest, skeleton weed, is about to commence across the Grainbelt with ground and drone searching.

Skeleton weed is a declared plant that ties up nitrogen and soil moisture, reducing crop yields.

The 2021 program, led by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) in collaboration with seven Local Action Groups, will cover more than 400,000 hectares.

Targeted surveillance activity will cover 200 properties across more than 56,000 hectares to find and map infested areas for followup treatment, while additional searching will be undertaken to identify areas where the weed could spread.

Aerial surveillance using drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), now account for a large part of the targeted surveillance activity, with a total of 22,000 hectares to be surveyed by the devices in 2021-22.

DPIRD project manager Martin Atwell said drones had proved to be a valuable addition to the surveillance activity and the development of the technology was advancing quickly.

"We have learnt a lot about how best to use drones to accurately detect skeleton weed over the past five years," he said.

"The drones are installed with digital imaging technology to accurately and confidently capture, record and map the presence of skeleton weed to aid eradication strategies and treatments."

The Skeleton Weed Program's activities are funded by growers through the Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Funding Scheme.

While the program provides support directly to landholders in target areas to control the weed, Mr Atwell reminded all landholders to remain vigilant and report observations to the department.

"Harvest is the best time to observe the weed, providing an opportunity for early detection and making eradication more feasible," he said.

"Skeleton weed is easily distinguished by its bright yellow daisy flowers during summer and autumn, with upright and usually leafless stems, which gives the appearance of the skeleton of a plant."

A full review of the Skeleton Weed Program in 2019-20 confirmed the value and effectiveness of the program and made additional recommendations to refine the research and development investments.

The overall aim of the research program is to reduce the level of new infestations and/or increase the level of cleared infestations so the overall infestation is decreasing or constant and includes herbicide trials, precision mapping and historical data analysis.

DPIRD senior research scientist John Moore is leading new projects, including time lapse photography to examine emergence of the weed, machine learning to aid detection, microwave weed destruction and preparation for biocontrol.

"The cutting edge research is combining image analysis with machine learning to detect skeleton weed plants, to determine if new plants are coming from old crowns or dormant rootstocks or seedlings,"

Mr Moore said.

"The same technology is also being used to determine the effect of skeleton weed treatments on crop growth."

DPIRD researchers are also examining the use of microwave radiation to kill skeleton weed in small sensitive areas, where chemical treatments are inappropriate.

For more information about the Skeleton Weed Program visit agric.wa.gov.au/skeletonweed.

Any suspect skeleton weed plants should be reported to DPIRD using the MyPestGuide Reporter app or to the department's Pest and Disease Information Service on (08) 9368 3080 or padis@dpird.wa.gov.au.



Picture caption:

DPIRD's annual Skeleton Weed Targeted Surveillance Program has commenced, with seven Local Action Groups.

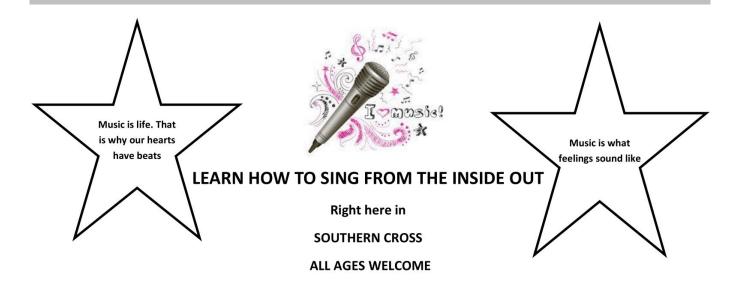


Picture caption: DPIRD senior research scientist John Moore is investigating the use of microwaves to kill skeleton weed, as part of a reinvigorated research and development program.

Media contacts:

Martin Atwell, skeleton weed project manager Megan Broad/Katrina Bowers, media liaison +61 (0)8 9881 0242

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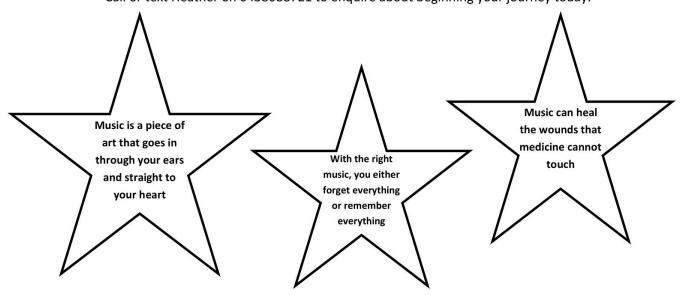
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Co	lendar of Events			
25—26 Nov	Southern Cross COVID-19 Clinic @ Senior's Centre (see page 13 for times)			
Thu 2 Dec	Pat & Chat Mobile Vet in town			
Wed 8 Dec	St Joseph's Primary School End of Year Awards Night and Concert @ St Joseph's Primary School 6.30pm			
Fri 10 Dec	SCDHS End of Year Presentation Night on School Grounds			
Sat 11 Dec	Moorine Rock PS End of Year Concert & Community Christmas Party			
Thu 16 Dec	Shire Council Meeting @ Council Chambers 4pm			
Fri 17 Dec	Carols by Candlelight @ Senior Citizen's Centre, 7pm			
Sat 18 Dec	Shire of Yilgarn Extraordinary Election 2021			
Sun 19 Dec	Southern Cross Community Christmas Tree & Volunteer Thank-You BBQ			
Thu 23 Dec	Shire & CRC closing at 12 noon for Christmas/New Year			
Tue 4 Jan 22	Shire & CRC reopens for 2022 at 8.30am			

Looking to get involved in a group or club? There are many local groups you can join!

- ✓ Art Group
- ✓ Country Women's Association
- ✓ P & C / P & F Organisations
- ✓ Patchworking
- ✓ Progress Associations
- ✓ Scrapbooking
- ✓ Senior Citizen's Centre activities
- ✓ Southern Cross Gardening Club
- ✓ Southern Cross Hospital Auxiliary

- ✓ Southern Cross St John Ambulance
- ✓ Southern Cross Vol. Fire & Rescue
- ✓ Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
- ✓ Yilgarn Agricultural Society
- ✓ Yilgarn Community Support Group
- ✓ Yilgarn Entertainers
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- ✓ Tennis

Jan 28

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Recycling Days 2022

Nov 26 Dec 10 Jan 14

Dec 24 Feb 11

