


Gassy Gossip



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A very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
to you all from the
Shire Councillors & all
Staff at the
Shire of Upper Gascoyne
2018

Dear Readers

November has been relatively challenging and somewhat interesting to say the least. Our CEO John McCleary was away for a good period of the month. He returned to work on the 5th of November 2018 then had to leave again on the 14th of November and was back at work again on the 19th of November 2018.

In the periods of his absence I was appointed to the position as the Acting CEO and worked together with John to keep the organisation functioning as normal. John left again on 29th November, and I am sure John is happy for me to inform you that he begins treatment on the 3rd December. We expect him to be back at work in early February. I would personally like to wish John all the best with his treatment and look forward to his return.

Ullawarra Road has been very time consuming, we have received a bank guarantee for the sum of \$1M but the remaining \$1.6M needed has not yet been provided. The road remains closed to certain types of traffic and will not be re-opened until we start work on the repair of the road. The repairs are contingent on the Shire receiving the required compensation as identified by an independent engineering consultant. We will continue to work with both TALIS and Hastings to get a workable solution in place.

From an Administrative perspective I am pleased to be able to advise that Peter Hutchinson has received a Certificate of Appreciation from WALGA for the return of the 2017/8 Road Assets and Expenditure Report. I can also report that the CEO has for the third year in concession been awarded the 'Good Driver Award' which gained the Shire a rebate of \$3,830.99.

The 2017/18 Annual Report has been adopted by Council at the November Audit meeting. This report runs from July 2017 through to June 2018; as such it is difficult to write as many things have occurred during these dates. In addition this is the first year of reporting against the revised Community Strategic Plan that was adopted in June 2017.

The recent VET program by Murdoch Veterinary students was again a good success with nine dogs brought to the clinic. Five were sterilised and four were given health checks. If you haven't already registered your pets please pop into the shire office and register them. Pet registrations are due 31st October every year.

We have made application for a further two grants, one being under the Commodity Freight Roads Fund and the other under the Building Better Regions Fund. These are considered to be long shots; however going into an election year can always throw welcome surprises. In any event we now have two very strong business cases that are written and these can be utilised for other grants that may become available.

The works crew have been busy re-sheeting a section of the Pimbee road near the Winderie turnoff, works are expected to be completed in March 2019. The crew will begin preparing to shut down for their well-deserved Christmas break and return in February next year. We will use this time to engage contractors to carry out maintenance on all of the shires equipment.

Westerly Contractors were here for two days carrying out tree lopping around town. The crew focused on trees that posed any risk to infrastructure and housing. While in town they also carried out some private work for other community members.



Council has resolved to engage Bitutek to carry out our 2018/19 bitumen reseals of the Carnarvon Mullewa road and town streets, we will also be putting down 1km of new seal where the bitumen currently stops just to the east of Bidgemia. This renews our focus to seal between Gascoyne Junction and Meekatharra.

On behalf of John McCleary and myself I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the Shire staff and Councillors for their efforts and commitment this year, we are a small team and we certainly punch above our weight. I would also like to wish the entire community a safe and happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all next year.



Jarrold Walker

Acting CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2019

Wednesday 13th February 2019

Wednesday 27th March 2019

Wednesday 24th April 2019

Wednesday 29th May 2019 (Mt Augustus)

Wednesday 26th June 2019

Wednesday 31st July 2019

Wednesday 28th August 2019

Wednesday 25th September 2019

Wednesday 30th October 2019

Wednesday 27th November 2019

Thursday 19th December 2019

All Audit Committee meetings commence at 8.00am. Council meetings commence at 8.30am. All meetings will be held at the Shire Council Chamber, 4 Scott Street, Gascoyne Junction, with the exception of the May meeting being held at Mt Augustus.



Newsletter

14/12/2018

PRINCIPAL'S POST

Good morning Parents, Carers and Community members,

What a wonderful night the Shire Christmas Party was for all. It seems to evolve just a little every year to a better version of itself.

Thank you to the Shire and the hard workers who assisted in ensuring this event was so enjoyable.

The school's Celebration of Learning evening has become a programmed item as part of the Shire's

Christmas event. We are seeking feedback about this and hope you will participate in a short survey by clicking this link.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZQSC8K3>

We are proud of all students at the school and the achievements each and every child made during the course of the year.

Nevertheless we have three students who deserve recognition for their learning journey throughout the course of the year.

Our award recipients for 2018 were:

Highest Achiever: Damian Leighton

Sponsored by the Gascoyne Development Commission and presented by Cr Alys McKeough.

Citizenship award: Damian Leighton

Sponsored by the Hon. Jacqui Boydell MLC and

The Old Bastards Carnarvon. Presented by Ms Jodie Gibson.



Most Improved: Chase Chong Wee

Sponsored by The Old Bastards Carnarvon.

Presented by Mr Peter Polakiewicz.



SPIRIT of the Gascoyne: Bridie Walker

Sparkle, Passion, Imagination, Resilience, Integrity and Tenacity.

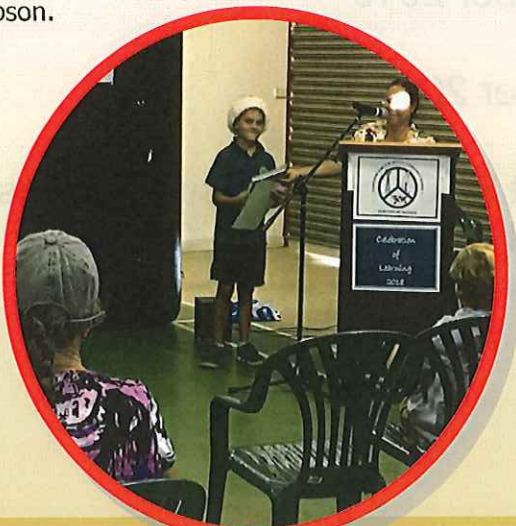
Sponsored by Isolated Children's Parents Association and presented by Cr Alys McKeough.

2018 has been a year of consolidation and clearing the clutter ready for action! 2019 brings us a year full of promise and, for me, reflection on the feedback from parents and Community members and how I can further improve my leadership. I look forward to working with you.

On behalf of all staff and students I wish you all a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chris Polakiewicz

Principal



Celebration of Learning

2018



Gascoyne Junction Remote Community
School

Celebration of Learning 2018







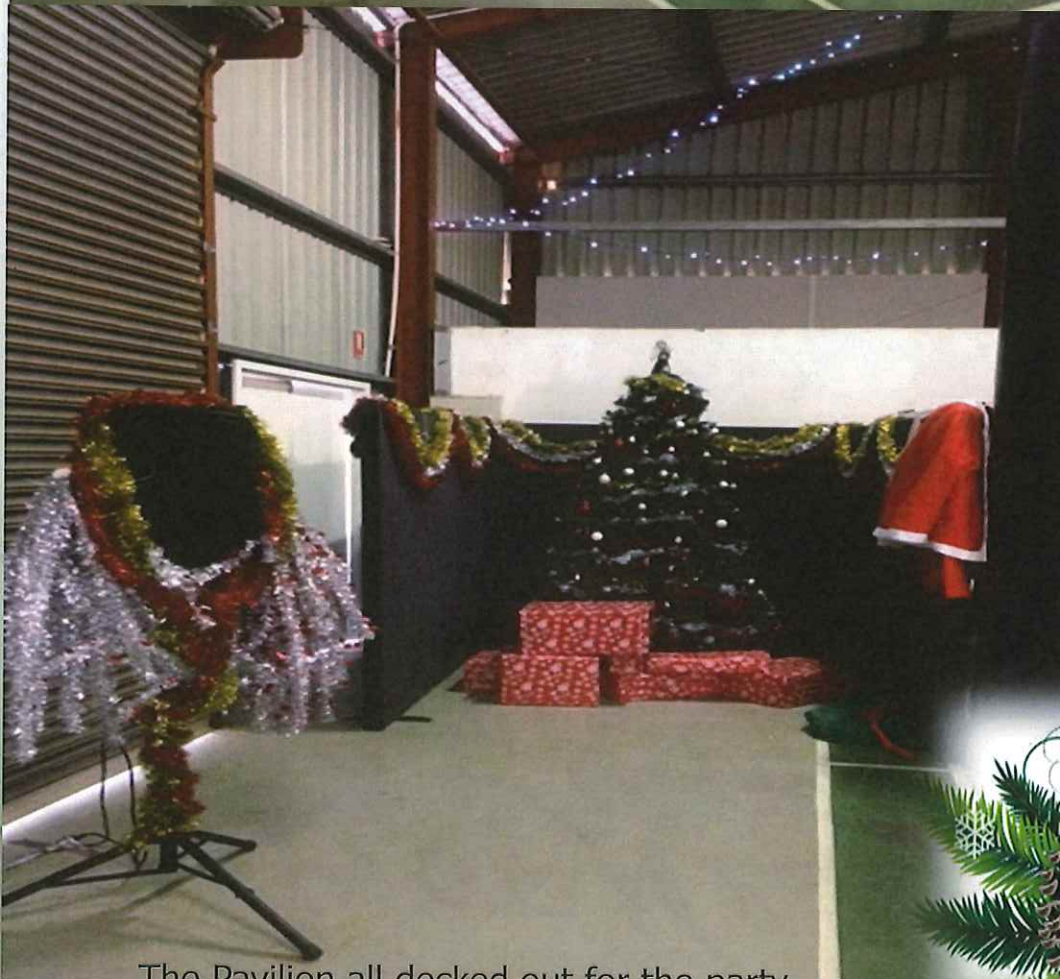






Merry
Christmas and
Happy New Year

Photos from Gascoyne Junction Community Christmas Party 2018



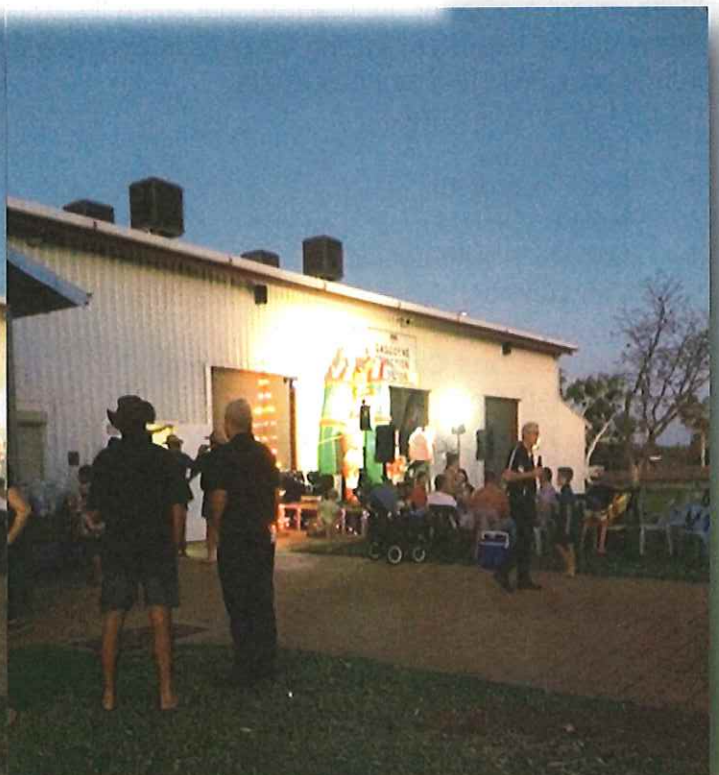
The Pavilion all decked out for the party.



Faded, illegible text, possibly a list of names or a program.



Merry Christmas



The Local Community came along to join in for the Christmas festivities.



Gascoyne Catchments Group Library List

The Gascoyne Catchments Group (GCG) library list has been compiled to provide Gascoyne land managers with a compact collection of the most useful and relevant arid rangeland material available.

The group's web site is: <http://www.gascoynecatchments.com.au/>

The library site is: <http://www.gascoynecatchments.com.au/library.html>

The library contains material that covers rangeland management, livestock management and marketing.

Material ranges from academic, including papers from Pringle/Tinley and Le Houérou on rangeland landscape function, to practical information such as the EMU manuals and MLA husbandry and phosphorous manuals on rangeland and livestock management respectively.

For your information, this is the current library list:

Arid rangeland management

1. Rangeland Rehydration Field Guide
2. Rangeland Rehydration Manual
3. Pigeon Hole handbook 2007
4. Environmental constraints and limits to livestock husbandry in arid lands, Le Houérou 2006
5. Are we overlooking critical geomorphic determinants of landscape change in Australian rangelands? Pringle, Tinley 2003
6. Restoration of degraded grazing country in the semi-arid areas of NSW
7. Introduction to Soil Erosion Vegetation & Land Management Natural Resource Management Division Alice Springs 2007
8. Darryl Hill Erosion Control Workshop notes
9. Making and using "sieve rolls" fact sheet, EMU 2015
10. Erosion Control with Envirorolls, Bestprac 2013
11. Planning and managing farm roads in Namibia: "Let it go, let it flow"

Grazing management

'Selfherding' A smarter approach to managing livestock and landscapes 2018

Investigating Intensive Grazing Systems in Northern Australia, MLA 2011

Rangelands Self Herding newsletters

Pasture photo standards:

1. Buffel grass
2. Buffel regrowth
3. Mulga
4. Spinifex desert uplands
5. Cunyu Station Case Study: An example of profitable, sustainable pastoralism
6. Pigeon Hole handbook 2007

MLA publications Cattle management

1. Beef cattle nutrition
2. A guide to best practice husbandry in beef cattle
3. Weaner management in northern beef herds
4. Phosphorus management of beef cattle in northern Australia
5. Guidelines for the development of extensive cattle stations in northern Australia
6. Improving the performance of northern beef enterprises
7. Could your herd be more productive?

This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program, supported by Royalties for Regions.

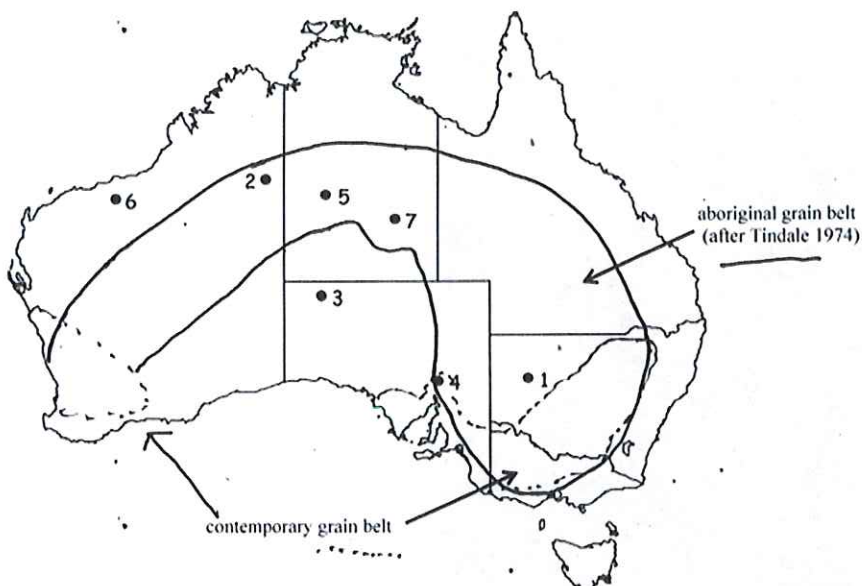


NATIVE GRASSES

I have recently read the book, *Dark Emu*, by Bruce Pascoe. Much of the book is focused on the Aboriginal development of agriculture, and within that, what is of interest to us as pastoralists, is their use of perennial grasses for grain production.

Based on the observations of early explorers, aboriginals were growing, managing and harvesting a huge variety of perennial grasses for cereal grains. Researchers think that over 140 different native grasses were farmed. These are exactly the grasses that pastoralism was established on, and that made our stations so profitable in the early days.

The map below, from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC), is based on documented Aboriginal grain harvests of perennial grasses. For comparison, it also shows the contemporary grain belt, based on our annual crops.



Apparently, settlers found that the best soils were usually covered in grass or yams and were devoid of trees, thus good for pastoralism. Aboriginals used fire to control tree regrowth so that the best land could be used for pastures and/or crops, with poorer soils left for forest. Australia's wide and rich grasslands ensured a good return for early pastoralism, but many of the early settlers also found that within a few years *'the long, deep rooted grasses, died out'*.

It seems that many of our early grasslands were managed monocultures of grain. If our native grasses seem fragile in their persistence, the answer may lie in the effect of Aboriginal agriculture on the characteristics of them. Selection of seed, preparation of soil, irrigation, harvesting the crop, winnowing, storing and trading, over thousands of years, all have an impact on the morphology of plants so that, just like our wheat, these plants have become dependent on humans for their life cycle.

Whilst it won't be easy, what this knowledge now gives us is the opportunity to re-create good stands of native grass, if we can determine how to best establish and manage these grasses to best effect.

This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program, supported by Royalties for Regions.

Rainfall Use Efficiency in our arid rangelands

We all want to see best use of the small amount of rain that falls on our stations. In that sense we all want better Rainfall Use Efficiency (RUE).

RUE is a measure of the amount of dry matter (DM) produced from a given area over a given period of time per unit of rain, usually expressed as Kg DM/ha/yr/mm. Arid rangeland ecosystems in good condition have a RUE in the range of 3-6 kg DM/ha/yr/mm. Degraded rangelands may have a RUE below 1.

Example of calculating RUE

A simple way of assessing dry matter quantity is to use a pasture photo standard. The following photo comes from the QLD DPI Buffel Grass standard. You can find a variety of standards here: <https://futurebeef.com.au/knowledge-centre/pasture-photo-standards/>



Buffel grass photo standard of 1650 kg/ha Dry Matter

If the above photo represents our pasture production for the year, and we have a hectare of it, and our annual rainfall has been 220mm, then:

$$\text{RUE} = 1,650/220 = 7.5\text{kg DM/ha/yr/mm}$$

In this very simple example, 7.5 is a high number, usually associated with 400-550mm rainfall zones. In the rangeland context, you will have parts of land types that achieve high levels of production, but rangeland is full of a lot of areas that are far less productive, which drags the average down.

Arid rangeland landscapes

Arid rangelands are characterised by run-off and run-on areas. The run-on areas are where nutrients gather and the vegetation grows that drives production. Run-off and run-on areas in rangeland in good condition are close together. Thus rainfall that runs off is caught within a few tens of metres, or hundreds of metres at the most.

If rangeland becomes degraded, by the removal of vegetative cover, water runs further. It is no longer caught by local vegetation or litter. Soil over large areas becomes poorly structured due to a lack of organic matter. It caps over and the rain runs off further.

Once run off increases like this there are fewer obstacles to slow it down. This leads more degradation as water concentrates and accelerates leading to scouring. Thus, run-off and erosion works to continually lower RUE and pastoral production.

The importance of ground cover

What improves RUE is the ability of rain to infiltrate into the soil in our run-on areas. Ground cover is the thing that modifies the soil and allows your rain to infiltrate, without ground cover, you lose the rain.

To see the effects of ground cover yourself, and measure infiltration, a test is readily done with some pipe and water. Generally results show that infiltration is orders of magnitude higher in the presence of ground cover. For example, a test done recently in the southern rangelands found water could infiltrate under ground cover up to 1.5 meters deep, and on some bare ground, only 30 mm.

Thus, in arid (<250mm annual rainfall) landscapes it is well understood, at least among rangeland ecologists, that **production is primarily a function of rangeland condition (and its associated RUE)**; as opposed to the amount of rainfall you actually receive.

In other words, if you have ground cover, you will grow a lot more grass for any given amount of rainfall. If your rangeland is mostly bare, your production may well be equivalent to what you'd get off a car park.

Grazing pressure and ground cover

The amount of total grazing pressure present is the primary driver of ground cover, and thus, your RUE. If you can manage grazing pressure to keep and/or increase ground cover you can begin a chain reaction of improvement being:

- production of above and below ground dry matter;

- production of litter;

- incorporation of litter into the soil;

- increase of organic matter content in soil;

- increased permeability of soil to air and water;

- increased water-holding capacity due to increased organic matter (each 1% of organic matter in the soil increases water-holding capacity by 12%);

- decreased runoff;

- speeding-up of the turnover of minerals, hence increased fertility and primary productivity;

- increased growth of perennial plant species, enhanced ecosystem functioning, increased productivity and production.

If you can get the above chain of events started you will see your land condition improve. Run-on areas will expand and new run-on areas will form. And a good RUE figure will ensure the best pastoral production possible.

This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program, and made possible by Royalties for Regions.



MELISSA PRICE MP

Federal Member for **Durack**



Standing Committee leaps on cane toad spread

30 November 2018

A new parliamentary inquiry will examine the effectiveness of measures to limit the spread of the habitat-destroying cane toad that is rapidly advancing through the north-west of the Durack electorate.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy is keen to understand how well current control measures are working in the fight against the spread of the destructive pests, and whether there are other measures that should be added to the toolkit.

Federal Member for Durack and Minister for the Environment Melissa Price welcomes the inquiry and said the government wants to ensure it is doing all it can to limit the impacts and minimise the threat from this rapidly-spreading pest that is now prevalent in northern Australia.

"Their spread has been difficult to arrest," she said, "cane toads have no known predators in Australia and they are toxic at all points in their life cycle.

"They are an increasing threat to the environment, destroying native species and biodiversity.

"The committee is calling for submissions to the inquiry and I strongly encourage Durack residents to make a submission," said Minister Price.

The committee is chaired by the Hon Andrew Gee MP and submissions are open until Thursday, 31 January 2019. Public hearings are expected to be held in Canberra in mid-February.

Submissions must address the inquiry's terms of reference:

- The effectiveness of control measures to limit the spread of cane toads in Australia
- Additional support for cane toad population control measures

Details on how to make a submission can be found on the parliamentary website:

<https://www.aph.gov.au/canetoad>

Cane toads were introduced to Queensland from Hawaii in 1935 to potentially eradicate beetles that were destroying the sugar cane crops. They are prolific breeders that breed all year round and have spread across northern Australia with a serious impact on ecosystems.

You can find out how to correctly identify a cane toad by going to:

https://www.dnaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/plants-animals/animals/canetoads/20120459A_Kimberley_Is_it_a_cane_toad_v11.pdf

ENDS

Pic: Cane toad_credit DBCA

Caption:



Eggs

The egg masses (spawn) of cane toads are unlike those of most native frogs. Toads produce chains of black eggs about one millimetre in diameter enclosed in a thick, transparent, gelatinous cover forming long strands about three millimetres thick.



Cane toad eggs

Native frog species eggs

Tadpoles

Cane toad tadpoles are different from native species; toad tadpoles are jet black and reach a maximum of about 30 millimetres long from head to tail. They have non-transparent abdomen skin, and their tails are nearly the same length as their bodies. The tail has a jet black central muscle with totally transparent fins with no spots or pigment. The tadpoles of native frogs can be very dark (but not jet black) with lighter or transparent abdomen skin and longer tails.



Toad tadpoles form large, slow-moving groups that do not rise to the surface to 'breathe'. In contrast, tadpoles of native frogs do rise to the surface, having developed lungs earlier.

Juvenile toads

Newly formed toads (metamorphs) are small in size (nine to 11 millimetres) compared to adults, and can be identified by their large numbers and daytime activity near water breeding sites.

For native frog identification download the Cane toad app through iTunes.

For more information and assistance contact:

For Kimberley residents and visitors please call the Department of Parks and Wildlife's Kununurra office on (08) 9168 4200

For all other areas of WA please call 1800 44 WILD (9453)

Poisons Information Line: 13 11 26

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/canetoads

Information current at July 2013.
This publication is available in alternative formats on request.

Is it a cane toad?

Up to two-thirds of suspected toads turn out to be harmless native frogs, so it is important to correctly identify them.



For more information about identifying native frogs visit www.museum.wa.gov.au/frogwatch



Department of Parks and Wildlife

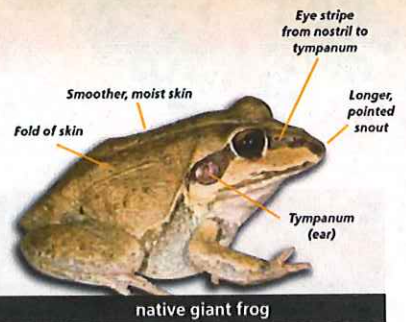
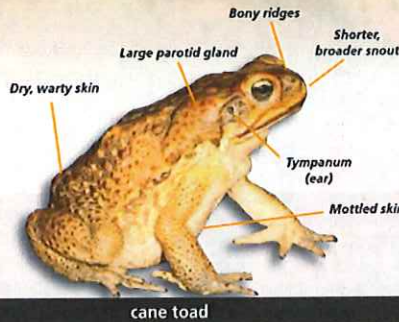


Here are some tell-tale features:

Cane toads are the only true toads present in Australia. They are heavily built and typically 10 to 15 centimetres in length. They are able to grow to more than 23 centimetres and can weigh more than one kilogram. However, in areas with high toad densities, individuals rarely exceed 10 centimetres in length.

Appearance

The skin of a cane toad is dry and rough, rather than moist and slippery like the skin of many native frog species. The backs of male toads have raised warty lumps that feel like sandpaper when they are rubbed, while females have slightly smoother skin with less prominent lumps. The colour on top of an adult cane toad body ranges from dull brown to yellowish or blackish (never bright green, though juveniles have a brighter camouflage pattern that dims with age). The under parts are usually a dirty cream colour and juvenile toads have a grey and cream mottled pattern that may fade with age.



The large glands on the shoulder can sometimes exude a poisonous milky substance when the toads feel threatened. Other distinctive features include a mango-shaped eye and an 'm'-shaped bony ridge on the head. These features separate them from some native species that are commonly confused with cane toads, such as the ornate burrowing frog and the giant frog. The lack of suckers (enlarged toe pads) on the digits separates the cane toad from the tree frog.

Behavioural characteristics

The call of the male is a guttural trill sustained for about 30 seconds. It is very different to most native frog calls.

On land, toads walk and bound short distances. They are not capable of climbing smooth surfaces. Cane toads typically sit more upright than native frogs.



For more information about identifying native frogs visit www.museum.wa.gov.au/frogwatch

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10 tips for a healthy holiday season



The upcoming festive season doesn't have to mean a time of over-indulgence. We've put together ten simple tips to make your Christmas a healthier one.

1. Don't go out on an empty stomach.

Before heading off to a party, have a healthy snack such as an apple or carrot. You're more likely to reach for the snacks high in fat, salt and sugar if you arrive hungry.

2. Bring healthy snacks

You're probably not the only one looking for the healthy option this time of year. Help your friends and yourself by bringing healthy snacks to gatherings. Healthy dips, fresh fruit platters, mini frittatas, [oven roasted chickpeas](#) or homemade chicken pizza are some ideas. Check out our [LiveLighter website](#) for more recipe ideas.

3. Re-think your drinks

Sugary drinks can add extra kilojoules very quickly. Even seemingly healthy suspects like flavoured water can be [packed full of sugar!](#) Stick to plain still or sparkling water and flavour it up using fresh citrus, berries or these [fruit ice cubes](#). Top tip: try pomegranate seeds for a festive look.

4. Choose fruit and veg first, then go for lean meats

If your function has fruit or vegetable options on offer, go for those first. After that, choose lean meats, skinless poultry and make sure you trim off any visible fat before cooking (or eating!).

5. Super salads

A warm, summer Christmas is the perfect time to whip up some super satisfying salads. Think big, bold and colourful - add roast veggies, fruit or tasty chickpeas or beans - check out our [LiveLighter website](#) for some delicious ideas.

6. The grazing table

Grazing tables are all the rage and can be a super easy way to feed a crowd if you're hosting an event. Make your grazing table healthy by using a wide range of delicious summer fruits, healthy dips and veggies. Try these easy and vegetarian-friendly LiveLighter recipes: [blueberry and banana bread](#), [summer mango salsa](#) and [caprese wonton cups](#).

7. Make exercise part of your day

Catch the bus or train and walk to the station if you're going out. Or if you are organising an event plan an activity into it - bowls, dancing or backyard cricket anyone? You could even try a scavenger hunt or hide and seek with the kids (or big kids!). Keep active and aim for 30 minutes of physical activity every day.

8. Be SunSmart

If you're heading to an outdoor function, remember to take a broad-brimmed hat. Or if you're hosting a function outside, ensure you do it when the UV is below three and provide plenty of shade.

9. Watch your alcohol intake

Over the festive season alcohol is everywhere. Without some planning we can easily end up drinking every day. Did you know that [alcohol causes 6000 Australian deaths per year, with cancer responsible for one in three](#)? Plan in advance which days to drink and which to skip. When you do choose to drink, try not to have more than two standard alcoholic drinks per day.

10. Avoid food as gifts

Give up the old box of chocolates and think outside the square with your gifts this year. What about a succulent bowl, handmade candle, indoor plant, flowers, puzzles or even better, a [present with purpose](#)?

Want more tips for a healthy festive period?

Cancer Council WA delivers the LiveLighter initiative, which aims to encourage Australian adults to lead healthier lifestyles - to make changes to what they eat and drink, and to be more active.

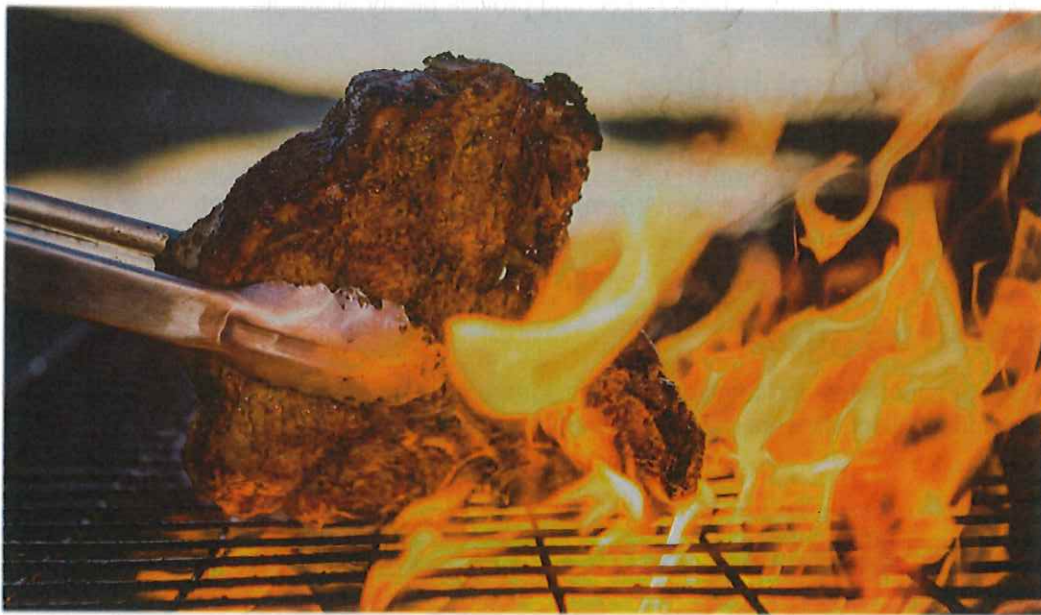
You can find lots of great tips, resources and information at livelighter.com.au, including our fact sheet for [hosting a healthier Christmas](#).

SUMMER BBQ

Every Wednesday

Only At

**Junction Pub & Tourist
Park**



**24hr Marinated Scotch Fillet,
Spicy Chicken Wings, Lamb & Greek
Salad**

Only \$15.00



Junction Phone Book 2019



We are currently in the process of updating the local phone book if you want to add or make any changes to your details please fill out the form below and return to the Shire Office or email to

adminmanager@uppergascoyne.wa.gov.au

Name: _____

Station Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Other Building's Phone: _____

Satellite Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Mobile/s: _____

Email: _____

UHF Channel: _____

If you own a business and wish to advertise in the Phone Book, Please fill out the details below and return to the Shire Office. Business advertising cost, is \$20.00 per year.

Business Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

What you can offer: _____



Mt Augustus Tourist Park

Camp on green shady sites or stay in our comfortable accommodation

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Conquer the 'world's biggest rock' and explore the National Park's walking trails.

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A great get away for the whole family.

More information :

0899430527

www.mtaugustustouristpark.com



Gassified



December

- 1 Damian Leighton
- 1 Donald Kelly
- 27 Levi ChongWee

January

- 3 Ella Hoseason Smith
- 3 Hazel McTaggart
- 3 John McCleary
- 17 Nat Rogers

Got a Birthday coming up? Contact
the Gassy Gossip by email at
crc@uppergascoyne.wa.gov.au

WANTED

Aluminium Cans

Dear Community members please take your aluminium cans to the wool bales at the Junction Pub. So they can be sent to Carnarvon and sold for scrap where the money is then donated back to community groups such as the Gascoyne School of the Air and the Royal Flying Doctor. The Old Bastards Carnarvon would like to wish the Gascoyne Junction Community a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

John Wheelock

Carnarvon



Create the ultimate Christmas centrepiece with this towering French onion dip platter.

1kg cream cheese,
softened 40g sachet French onion soup mix
1 cup grated tasty cheese
1/3 cup finely grated parmesan
1/3 cup chopped sun-dried tomatoes in oil
1 bunch fresh at-leaf parsley leaves,
chopped 6 x 25g packets mini Ritz crackers
1 cup almond kernels
150g jar red cocktail onions, drained,
halved 80g packet pretzel sticks
1 slice tasty cheese Assorted crackers, to serve
Vegetables, to serve

METHOD Step 1 Using an electric mixer, beat cream cheese until light and fluffy. Add soup mix. Beat until well combined. Add grated cheeses and tomato. Season with pepper. Beat until well combined. Cover. Refrigerate for 1 hour or until firm enough to shape.

Step 2 Place a large piece of plastic wrap on a flat surface. Turn cheese mixture onto plastic. Using clean hands and plastic wrap, form mixture into a tree shape (base of tree will need to be 15cm in diameter). Place on a serving platter. Step 3 Press parsley all over cheese. Brush excess parsley from platter. Open 4 packets of crackers. Using picture as a guide, decorate tree with almonds, onion, Ritz crackers and 3/4 of the pretzels. Using a 4cm star-shaped cutter, cut a star from cheese slice. Carefully push into top of tree. Serve with remaining pretzel sticks, assorted crackers and vegetables.

INGREDIENTS

- 5–6KG LEG HAM
- 100G TUB QUINCE PASTE
- 1 TABLESPOON SHERRY VINEGAR
- 3/4 CUP (265G) GOLDEN SYRUP
- 3 FIRM BROWN PEARS (ABOUT 600G), THINLY SLICED USING A MANDOLIN

METHOD

1. Using a small, sharp knife, carefully score the skin around the hock. Gently ease off the skin by pushing your fingers underneath it. Discard the skin.
2. Preheat oven to 180°C (350°F). Place the quince, vinegar and 1/4 cup (90g) of the golden syrup in a small saucepan over high heat and whisk to combine. Bring to the boil and cook, whisking continuously, for 2 minutes or until thickened slightly. Set aside. Cover the ham hock with baking paper and tie with kitchen string to secure. Brush the ham with the quince mixture.
3. Cover with the pear slices, ensuring they overlap slightly. Carefully brush with the remaining golden syrup and place on a lightly greased oven tray lined with non-stick baking paper.
4. Cook for 40–50 minutes, brushing gently every 12–15 minutes with the golden syrup and pan juices or until the pears are golden and caramelised. **Serves 8–10.**

TIPS

- You can keep your ham in a cloth ham bag for up to five days. Just make sure to rinse the bag with white vinegar and water after each use.
- + We used beurre bosc pears, but any firm pear will work just as well.



Wasabi-Crumbed Prawn Skewers With Shoestring Fries



INGREDIENTS

- 1KG SEBAGO (STARCHY) POTATOES, PEELED AND CUT INTO 5MM STRIPS
- ¼ CUP (60ML) EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL
- SEA SALT FLAKES
- 1 TABLESPOON WASABI
- ½ CUP (160G) JAPANESE MAYONNAISE
- 24 MEDIUM GREEN TIGER PRAWNS, PEELED AND TAILS INTACT
- 2 CUPS (150G) PANKO BREADCRUMBS
- LIME WEDGES, TO SERVE

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 200°C (400°F). Place the potato, oil and salt in a large bowl and toss to combine. Place on 3 large oven trays lined with non-stick baking paper and cook for 25–30 minutes, turning occasionally, or until golden. Set aside and keep warm.
2. Increase oven temperature to 240°C (475°F). Place the wasabi and mayonnaise in a small bowl and mix to combine. Place half the mayonnaise mixture in a large bowl, add the prawns and toss to coat. Set aside for 10 minutes to marinate.
3. Place the breadcrumbs in a large bowl, add the prawns and toss to coat. Thread each prawn onto 1 metal skewer and place on large oven trays. Cook for 6–8 minutes or until cooked through and golden. Serve the skewers and fries with lime wedges and the remaining wasabi mayonnaise. **Serves 4.**

Chocolate and Date Pudding

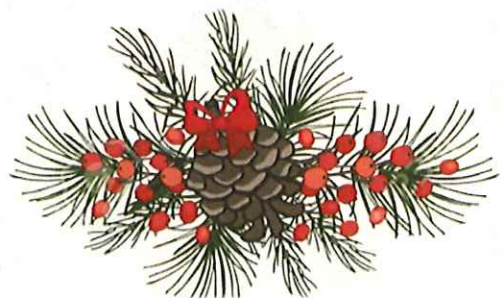


INGREDIENTS

- 2 CUPS (360G) FRESH (MEDJOO) DATES, CHOPPED
- 1 CUP (250ML) BOILING WATER
- 1 TEASPOON BICARBONATE OF SODA
- 100G UNSALTED BUTTER, CHOPPED
- ¾ CUP (135G) BROWN SUGAR
- 2 EGGS
- 1 CUP (150G) SELF-RAISING FLOUR, SIFTED
- 2 TABLESPOONS COCOA POWDER, SIFTED
- VANILLA ICE-CREAM, TO SERVE

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Place the dates, water and bicarbonate of soda in a bowl and set aside for 5 minutes. Place the date mixture, butter and sugar in the bowl of a food processor and process until combined.
2. Add the eggs, flour and cocoa and process until well combined.
3. Divide the mixture between 4 x 1½-cup-capacity (375ml) ramekins, place on a large baking tray and cook for 25–30 minutes or until cooked when tested with a skewer. Serve warm with ice-cream. Makes 4.





Smoko Corner

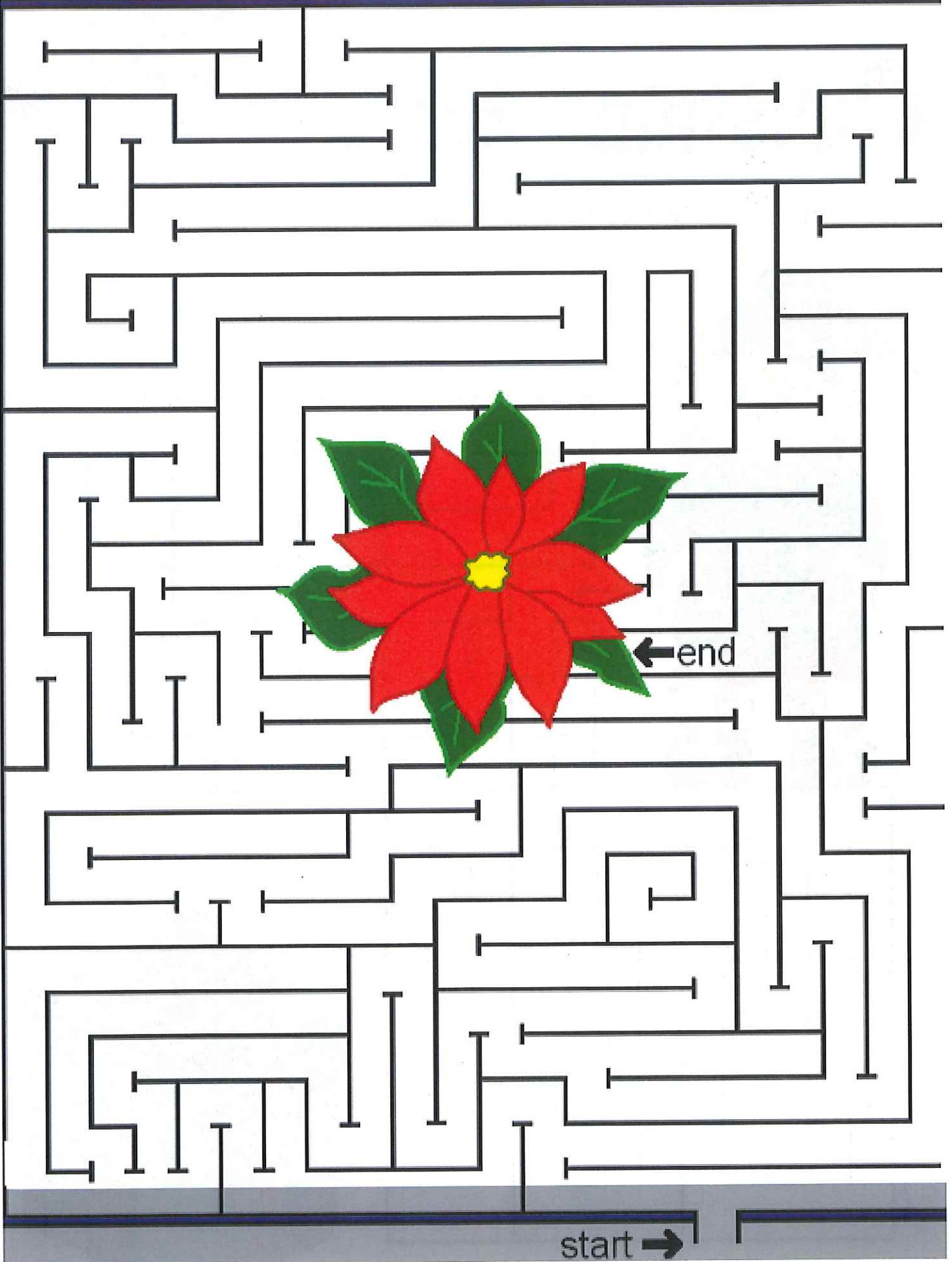
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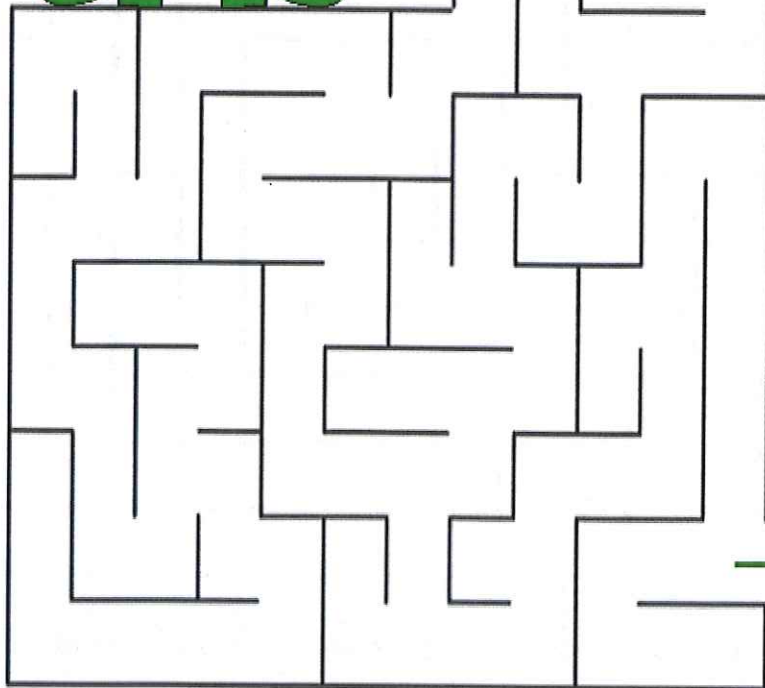
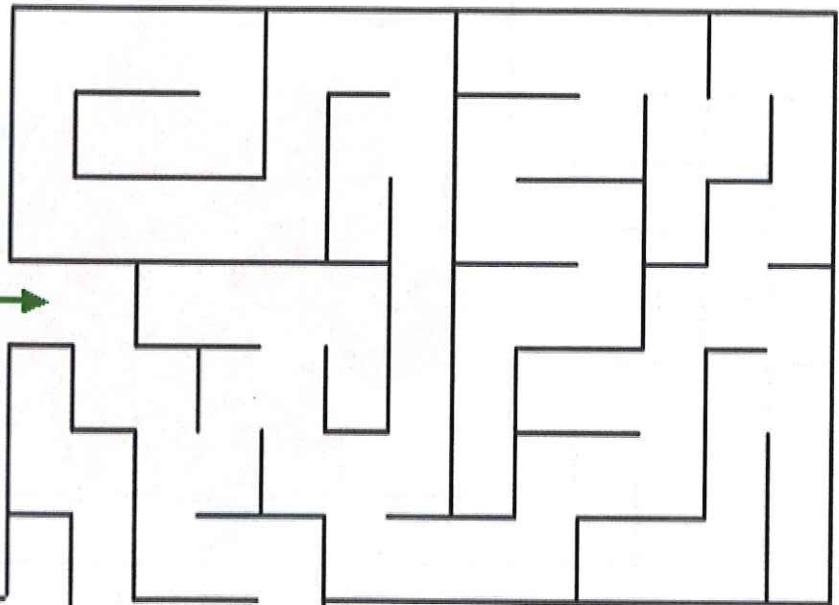
Poinsettia Maze



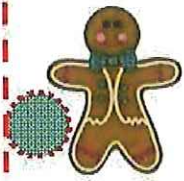


Christmas Maze

Help Jo Jo the elf find the missing Christmas present!



Christmas crosswords



DOWN ↓

10. Sit down near the *** if you are cold
 11. Decorating the door
 12. Santa's means of transportation
 13. Santa's favourite animal
 14. People kiss under the ***
 15. Father Christmas



The crossword puzzle grid consists of 15 numbered squares. The grid is as follows:

- 1: 5 squares across, 1 square down.
- 2: 3 squares across, 1 square down.
- 3: 1 square across, 1 square down.
- 4: 4 squares across, 1 square down.
- 5: 10 squares across, 1 square down.
- 6: 1 square across, 1 square down.
- 7: 3 squares across, 1 square down.
- 8: 3 squares across, 1 square down.
- 9: 6 squares across, 1 square down.
- 10: 1 square across, 1 square down.
- 11: 1 square across, 1 square down.
- 12: 1 square across, 1 square down.
- 13: 1 square across, 1 square down.
- 14: 10 squares across, 1 square down.
- 15: 1 square across, 1 square down.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| A. Bells | I. Mistletoe |
| B. Candle | J. Presents |
| C. Chimney | K. Reindeer |
| D. Christmas tree | L. Santa Claus |
| E. Elf | M. Sleigh |
| F. Fireplace | N. Stocking |
| G. Gingerbread man | O. Wreath |
| H. Holly | |

ACROSS →

1. On top of the house
 2. Small man helping Santa
 3. With a star on top
 4. The light on the Christmas table
 5. A Christmas cookie
 6. Stuffed with sweets
 7. A plant with red berries
 8. Jingle ***
 9. Children get excited when they see their ***



DECEMBER 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 <i>Council Meeting & Christmas Party</i>	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 <i>Shire Office Shutdown</i>	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	 <p>Merry Christmas</p>					

Upcoming Events

January

7th

*Shire Office
Reopens for
Business*

February

13TH

Council Meeting