

ROCTEL

Date: 25th January 2024

Edition: 98



40-42 Johnson Street

Phone: 9061 1687

Fax: 9061 1704

E-mail: reception@brucerockcrc.com.au

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The Roctel is published and provided to the Bruce Rock Community by the Bruce Rock Community Resource Centre.



Phillip & Susan Negri
Lindsay & Elvie Butler
John & Margaret Foss
Marie & Paul Steber



Bruce Rock Craft Shop



Summer Break Closure

**Bruce Rock Craft Shop will be closing from Saturday
23rd December, 2023**

Re-opening Monday 29th January, 2024

**We the Shareholders wish all our Customers
A Happy New Year
and thank you for your support during 2023**

Dr Jegede Surgery Roster
Ph 90611166

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1ST JAN	2ND JAN	3RD JAN	4TH JAN	5TH JAN
		Dr Brown	All WEEK		
AM	CLOSED	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12
PM		1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	8TH JAN	9TH JAN	10TH JAN	11TH JAN	12TH JAN
		Dr Brown	ALL WEEK		
AM	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12
PM	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	15TH JAN	16TH JAN	17TH JAN	18TH JAN	19TH JAN
AM	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
PM					

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	22ND JAN	23RD JAN	24TH JAN	25TH JAN	26TH JAN
AM	8.30-12 Reception only	9-1	9-1	9-1	PH CLOSED
PM	Dr in Md	2-5	2-5	2-5	

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	29TH JAN	30TH JAN	31ST JAN	1ST JAN	2ND FEB
AM	8.30-12 Reception only	9-1 Dr Olga Ward	9-1	9-1	9-2
PM	Dr in Md	2-5	2-5	2-5	



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

BRUCE ROCK MEMORIAL HEALTH SERVICE

ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY / OUTPATIENT CARE

Emergency Phone Number – 000

24 hour service staffed by a Registered Nurse with a Medical Officer on call and the use of the Emergency Telehealth Service (ETS) 24/7 if GP not available.

Emergency evacuation via Ambulance and Royal Flying Doctor Service

Patient Accommodation and Travel Scheme (PATS) Assistance

HEALTH DIRECT – 1800 022 222

Allied Services (by appointment only)

Community Health – Child & School	9081 3222
Community Mental Health	9081 3222
Community Midwife 	90813 222
Counselling Services (Central AgCare Counselling) 	0427 133 711
Dietician (on request)	9081 3222
Occupational Therapy	9081 3222
Physiotherapist 	9081 3222
Podiatrist 	9061 0222
Rural Link - (After Hrs Mental Health Telephone Service)	1800 552 002
Social Work	90813 222
Speech Therapist 	90813 222

ACUTE INPATIENT CARE

Crisis Intervention	General Medical	Minor Surgical	Paediatric
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CONTINUING CARE SERVICES

Hospital Palliative Care Services	Hospital Respite services	Nursing Home Type Accommodation	Pathology (Mon-Fri) by 3pm
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COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM

Centre Based Day Care – Tuesdays	Domestic Assistance	Home Gardening	Meals at Home
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OUTPATIENT DRESSING CLINIC STRICTLY 2.00pm – 3.00pm DAILY

For any further information, please contact Bruce Rock Hospital on (08) 9061 0222



St John

Bruce Rock Subcentre

FOR ALL EMERGENCY'S PLEASE CALL

000 FOR AN AMBULANCE

Bruce Rock now has an admin, she will be in on the
1st & 3rd Wednesday each month from 9am – 2pm, Look out
for the A frame sign out the front. So pop in and say “Hi” to
Sam for all your enquires, membership renewal/payments &
first aid kit supplies, Or Email

brucerock.subcentre@stjohnwa.com.au

Alternatively for all memberships & payment information please contact

Treasurer – Robyn Jones on 0428 365 693

For Ambulance Bookings, First Aid kit orders, Coursers and general
information please contact

Chairperson – Valmai Buller on 0429 197 220





WA Seniors Card Information Session

When: 10am Tuesday 6 February

**Where: Community Resource Centre
40/42 Johnson St, Bruce Rock**

**Join WA Seniors
Card to find out
how having a
seniors card can
benefit you!**



WELCOME TO OUR

Newsletter

we're so glad you're here!



HEY, HOW ARE YOU?

Community Christmas Lunch

'Twas the most wonderful time of the year, so we put on our Santa hats and hosted a Community Christmas feast! We devoured a glorious festive feast and shared the spread with 40 other shining stars from our community.

Huge shout-out to Michelle and her fabulous helpers who cooked up a storm and served us with smiles! Santa himself would be proud!

The Youth Booth was pumped and primed for visitors thanks to our trusty CRC little helpers! We cranked up the aircon to combat the sweltering heat outside, creating a chill and comfortable space for everyone to gather.



New Team Member Alert

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A TRAINEE

We are pleased to announce that we have been selected to provide another traineeship within the CRC this year. If this opportunity might be of interest to you, please feel free to contact Rochelle for additional information and a application package.



**BRUCE ROCK COMMUNITY
RESOURCE CENTRE**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



Trainee Administration Officer

Bruce Rock Community Resource Centre is excited to announce that we will be offering a 2024 Traineeship.

If you are looking to return to work or have just finished school, then this might be the opportunity for you.

Not only will you get to work in a great environment, you will also complete one of the following certificates:

- **Certificate III in Business**
- **Certificate III in Business - Customer Engagement**
- **Certificate III in Tourism**
- **Certificate III in Events**

For more information or to register your interest contact Rochelle at coordinator@brucerockcrc.com.au



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development





Aged Care and Community Services



Our Latest Project

WE LOOK FORWARD TO BRINGING "STAYING IN PLACE" TO BRUCE ROCK

Do you need support to remain living in your home independently?
We can help you live your life, your way.

It's all about you



SENIORS CARD



WORKSHOP Coming Up

**SENIOR CARD SEMINAR AND
CARD REPLACEMENT**

**TUESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2024
10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

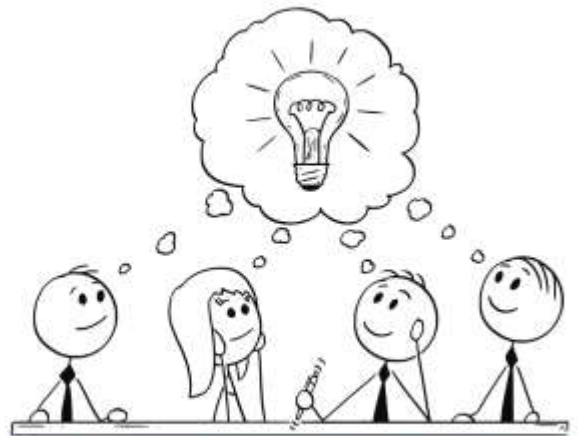
Free Resource

LEARN HOW TO DO IT YOURSELF

Hey, guess what? We've got more devices than a spy movie and the internet at our fingertips! So, if you're feeling adventurous, pop on in and give it a whirl with one of our fab staff.

They're here to make your experience a breeze!

Bruce Rock Tourism Group



**Hey there, Bruce Rock enthusiasts!
We're on the hunt for some community
superstars to join our tourism group in
2024.**

**If you're a passionate local with a heart for
making a difference,
we want YOU!**

THE 2024 ROCK REVIEW MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

Membership & Electronic Subscription

2024

I _____ wish to become a Rock Review Member and receive "The Rock Review" via my nominated email address and to receive 10% off all products and services purchased from the CRC.

My email address is: _____

My billing details are: _____

- I agree to pay **\$36.80 directly to the CRC or EFT to the below bank account. (BSB 036105 Account 206368, quoting "RR Your Name") to access "The Rock Review" electronically for 12 months and to receive a 10% discount on all products and services purchased from the CRC.

All costs involved with receiving the emails, accessing the website, printing of the paper and scanning for viruses are my responsibility.

- I understand that once I have forwarded payment in full for this service, the Bruce Rock Community Resource Centre will send me an email containing the current issue of the paper until my subscription runs out. Prior to this time, the Bruce Rock Community Resource Centre will forward me a new tax invoice that I need to pay, prior to further Rock Review issues being made available to me in the future.

- I agree that I will not forward these emails to another email address.

- I give the Bruce Rock Community Resource Centre permission to cease my subscription rights if I break any of the above clauses and I will forfeit all monies paid for this service.

- I agree that the Bruce Rock Community Resource Centre may use my email address to contact me to help promote any events that they are involved with.

**price increase

Signature _____



Bruce Rock CRC

THE 2024 MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

Membership

2024

_____ wish to become a Member and receive a discount on all products and services purchased from the CRC.

Paid to the Bruce Rock CRC - BSB 036105 Account 206368, quoting "Your Name")

Email address is:

Billing details are:

- I agree to pay \$20.00 to receive a 10% discount on all products and services purchased from the CRC.
- I agree to pay \$30.00 to receive a 15% discount on all products and services purchased from the CRC and 1 half page advert in the Rock Review.
- I agree to pay \$60.00 to receive a 20% discount on all products and services purchased from the CRC, 1 half page advert in the Rock Review and Free Audit.
- I agree to pay \$100.00 to receive a 25% discount on all products and services purchased from the CRC, Free Audit and Sublimation products up to the value of \$50.00.

Signature





HAVE FUN AND RELAX WITH

Barefoot Bowls

Starting Friday 9th February 2024 for 4 weeks.
The Bruce Rock Bowling Green

TEAMS
OF 3

FREE
SAUSAGE
SIZZLE

\$2 EACH
TO PLAY

6PM
START





**The Roctel and Rock Review are proudly published by the
Bruce Rock Community Resource Centre.**

Monday to Friday: 9am - 1pm

40—42 Johnson Street

Phone: (08) 9061 1687

Fax: (08) 9061 1704

Email: reception@brucerockcrc.com.au

DEADLINES AND EDITIONS

All articles and advertisements must be submitted to the Bruce Rock CRC
NO LATER than 9am Tuesdays of each week.

NEXT DEADLINE

30th January 2024

NEXT EDITION

1st February 2024

ADVERTISING PRICES

1/4 Page	\$8.00
1/3 Page	\$11.00
1/2 Page	\$16.00
3/4 Page	\$24.00
Full Page	\$32.00

All Classified Advertisements are Free

ST JOHNS AMBULANCE

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Please Please Please use your membership number as your payment reference.

With thanks, your volunteer Treasurer.

Opp Shop Opening Hours

The Opp Shop is open Mondays and Thursdays
8.30am-12.30pm

Thanking everybody for shopping at the Opp
Shop

Bruce Rock Men's Shed

The Bruce Rock Men's shed are collecting old batteries as a fundraiser.

We will travel to farms if required, or please leave them at the door of the Men's Shed.

Town residents can leave batteries at letter box for pick up.

Expressions of Interest Open
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE
EASTERN DISTRICTS COMBINED WINTER SPORTS
COMMITTEE

The Eastern Districts Football League, Corrigin and Districts Netball Association, Eastern Districts Hockey Association and Roe Districts Hockey Association together with the Winter Sports Working Group have agreed to form a Combined Committee to:

- ✓ **Improve communication across sports and communities,**
- ✓ **To work together to produce a set of Winter sports fixtures that will be recommended to each association for adoption,**
- ✓ **To work together on any joint policies, and**
- ✓ **Support players, officials, coaches and volunteers participate in community sport.**

Membership to the Eastern Districts Combined Winter Sports Committee will include the:

- Eastern Districts Football League President
- Corrigin and Districts Netball Association President
- Eastern Districts Hockey Association President
- Roe Districts Hockey Association President
- A community representative from each of the 11 communities - Kellerberrin, Burracoppin, Merredin, Narembeen, Bruce Rock, Southern Cross, Kukerin (including Lake Grace), Corrigin, Kulin, Kondinin and Hyden.

The inaugural Committee will be formed in February 2024. A Chair of the Combined Committee will also be appointed from the membership and must be a community representative.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Community representatives must commit to their position for 2yrs (2024/25). The community representatives will:

- Work towards the vision of one day Winter sport in the eastern district region.
- Establish and maintain relationships with the local Winter sports clubs in the community and other nominated community representatives and association Presidents.
- Attend and actively contribute to Committee meetings (likely 3 a year in a central location).
- Provide input into fixtures from a whole of community perspective.
- Liaise with local Winter sports clubs regarding meeting outcomes.
- Gather local feedback, data and insight to present back to the group.

HOW DO YOU NOMINATE?

If you are interested in representing your community as a COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE please express your interest directly to your local Winter sports club (footy / netball / hockey) by **FEBRUARY 5th 2024.**

You must be unanimously supported by all three Winter sports clubs in your community (except in Kukerin/Lake Grace and Kellerberrin).

Clubs must notify the Winter Sports Project Officer of their unanimously nominated representative by FEBRUARY 19th 2024.

Further information: Caroline Robinson E caroline@150square.com.au | 0403 225 900



Public Notice

Annual Meeting of Electors

Thursday, 8th February 2024
Shire Hall Meeting Room
Commencing at 5pm

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Electors Meeting is to be held on Thursday, 8th February 2024 at 5pm. This meeting will present Council's Annual Report and Audited Financial Report. This is a requirement in the Local Government Act 1995 and gives residents of the district the opportunity to discuss with Council the events of 2022/23.

The purpose of the meeting and order of business is:

1. Welcome by the President
2. Record of attendances and apologies
3. Confirmation of the 2023 minutes of the AGM of Electors
4. Business arising from previous minutes
5. Receiving of the 2022/23 Annual Report
6. General Business
7. Closure of meeting

The Annual Report can be viewed at the Shire Office or downloaded from our website
www.bruce-rock.wa.gov.au

54 Johnson Street,
Bruce Rock, 6418
PO Box PO Box 113, Bruce Rock WA 6418
Phone (08) 9061 1377
Fax (08) 9061 1340
Email admin@brucerock.wa.gov.au
brucerock.wa.gov.au

Darren Mollenoyux
Chief Executive Officer



MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST (Part-Time)

BRUCE ROCK MEDICAL CENTRE

The opportunity

The Shire of Bruce Rock is seeking a friendly and enthusiastic person to take on the role of Part-Time Medical Receptionist, and be part of the committed team based in the Bruce Rock Medical Centre. There will be a minimum of one day of work per week (Friday), with the occasional requirement to work extra hours or days for relief cover.

Essential requirements

The successful applicant must possess:

- A strong customer service focus.
- Good time management and organisational skills.
- Skills and experience in computer software/Microsoft Office products.
- Good verbal and written communication skills.
- Commitment to work as part of the Medical Centre team.
- Commitment to confidentiality and discretion.
- Willingness to work in a flexible, part-time arrangement.

Employment conditions

- Permanent appointment upon completion of a three-month probation period.
- Conditions in accordance with the Local Government Officers (Western Australia) Award, level 2.1 (\$24.67 per hour) to 3.1 (\$27.20 per hour), depending on skills and experience, plus 5% over award allowance.
- Generous superannuation options (11% on commencement, plus employee contributions matched by the Shire up to 6%).
- Training and development opportunities.
- Uniform allowance.

How to apply

Please provide a written application including a covering letter outlining how you meet the selection criteria for the role (as per the Position Description), plus a CV detailing your work history and providing two recent work-related referees. Please mark your application as follows: "Receptionist – Medical Centre".

You can post, personally deliver or email your application to:

Post

Shire of Bruce Rock
PO Box 113
BRUCE ROCK WA 6418

In person

Shire of Bruce Rock
54 Johnson Street
BRUCE ROCK WA 6418

Email

nerea.ugarte@brucerock.wa.gov.au

Applications must be received by 4.00pm on Monday, 29 January 2024.

Application package and more information

An application package and more information (including the Position Description) can be obtained at the Shire's website (www.brucerock.wa.gov.au) or by contacting Rachael Hearne (on 9061 1377 or rachael.hearne@brucerock.wa.gov.au).



Sale of Surplus Supermarket Items

Expressions of Interest are called for the outright purchase of the following items from the temporary supermarket:

1. Epson USB and Parallel Thermal Receipt Printer
2. Laxmark CX522 A4 Colour Multifunction Printer
3. Zebra Grocery Scanner Scale
4. Cash Register

For further information on the items or for inspection, please contact Rachael Hearne on 08 9061 1377.

**** Please note: All items are PICK-UP ONLY.**

All tender submissions must be received by 4pm on Monday 5 February 2024, and must be marked 'Private and Confidential – Sale of Supermarket Items'. Submissions can be lodged:

- By email – nerea.ugarte@brucerock.wa.gov.au
- In person
54 Johnson Street, Bruce Rock WA 6418

Nerea Ugarte
Acting Chief Executive Officer

54 Johnson Street,
Bruce Rock, 6418
PO Box PO Box 113, Bruce Rock WA 6418
Phone (08) 9061 1377
Fax (08) 9061 1340
Email admin@brucerock.wa.gov.au
brucerock.wa.gov.au

Item 1: Receipt Printer 140Hx140Wx200D



Item 2: A4 Lexmark Printer 445Hx420Wx550D



Item 3: Zebra Grocery Scanner Scale 398L x 292W



Item 4: Cash Register 100Hx410Wx410D





Volunteer of the Year Awards

2024 NOMINATION FORM

The 2024 Shire of Bruce Rock Volunteer Awards consist of three categories: Under 25, Adult and Community Group. Nominations will only be accepted on official nomination forms.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES MAY HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN OVER NUMEROUS YEARS, AND DO NOT NEED TO BE LIMITED TO THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

Under 25 Volunteer of the Year Award

For individuals under the age of 25 who have contributed to an association, club, organisation or the community in an outstanding manner. Nominees do not necessarily need to be a member of a club, and may volunteer generally in the community.

Adult Volunteer of the Year Award

For individuals who are aged 25 and over, and who have contributed to an association, club, organisation or the community in an outstanding manner. Nominees do not necessarily need to be a member of a club, and may volunteer generally in the community.

Community Group Volunteer of the Year Award

For a community group, club or organisation that is not for profit and provides services and/or assistance to members of the community.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PERSON SUBMITTING THE NOMINATION

Please tick appropriate box:

- Under 25 Volunteer of the Year Award
- Adult Volunteer of the Year Award
- Community Group Volunteer of the Year Award

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

ORGANISATION REPRESENTED (IF APPLICABLE)

OTHER PEOPLE WHO MAY BE CONTACTED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON NOMINEE

PERSON 1 NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL (Home) _____ EMAIL _____

PERSON 2 NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL (Home) _____ EMAIL _____

DETAILS OF PERSON BEING NOMINATED

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL (Home) _____ EMAIL _____

OCCUPATION _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ (AGE) _____

REASONS FOR WHICH THE PERSON IS BEING NOMINATED:

HALL UPDATE



We are now accepting
bookings for the **Shire Hall!**



To book your meeting, event or function at the Hall please contact the Shire Office by phone 90611377 or email admin@brucerock.wa.gov.au

Senior Citizens Update

Bingo : 30th January 2024

In Betweeners : 2nd February 2024

Indoor Bowls : 7th February 2024

More information contact
Mary Schick
bkseniors2023@gmail.com

An illustration of a kangaroo on the left and a koala on the right, both in a teal-colored frame. The kangaroo is brown and has a joey in its pouch. The koala is grey and is sitting on a log, eating a green leaf. The background is a bright yellow shape that resembles a map of Australia.

Australia Day

January
26, 2024

**Start your morning with a
Free Community Breakfast
at the Rec Centre.**

Bacon & Egg Rolls 8am - 10am

Then, head to the Aquatic Centre:

Free Entry 10am - 6pm

BBQ packs available

**Pool inflatables, cricket, mini golf
& more!**

For more information contact :
90611377 or email caris.negri@brucerock.wa.gov.au

SAVE THE DATE

COMMUNITY SUNDOWNER

23 . 02 . 2024

Volunteer of the Year Awards
Annual Sporting Awards
Live Music
Kids Entertainment
Meals & Refreshments

Award nomination forms available from
Shire Website or email details below

Contact caris.negri@brucerock.wa.gov.au
for more information





Corellas in the Wheatbelt

In partnership with Cooperative Bulk Handling (CBH), Avon Regional Organisation of Councils (AROC) and Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils (WEROC), Wheatbelt NRM has initiated a three-year project to explore management options for corellas in the central Wheatbelt area.

Management of corellas is important. All but one of the pest species are native to Western Australia, however they have expanded from their original geographic locations and increased in number through landscape modification, mainly due to agriculture.

Flocking in large numbers, corellas negatively impact on agricultural production, community amenity and the environment. Corellas damage electrical cabling and other infrastructure particularly those made of wood, they wreak havoc on sporting surfaces both living and artificial. The birds also damage surviving trees in the environment through pruning and take nesting hollows from threatened black cockatoo species.

This project will take a coordinated management approach across the central Wheatbelt. A variety of management options will be investigated, and some


approaches will be selected for Shire Councils and CBH to trial in the region.

An important part of the project is a yearlong survey to capture sightings of corellas, to map their distribution and seasonal movements throughout the area. The survey also provides an opportunity for councils, businesses, and residents to identify damage and attempt to quantify the economic impact of the birds.

The information gathered from trials and from the survey will be used to inform a coordinated management approach to this collective issue.

Your input into the survey is very important. We need your eyes on the ground. To complete the survey, go to <https://aroc.is/014XO9> or scan the QR code pictured.





PAT & CHAT

Dr Andrea Roberts BVMS, PO Box 543 MERREDIN WA 6415 Ph:0428212945 ABN99774533081

2024 BRUCE ROCK Visiting Dates for Dr Andrea Roberts VETERINARIAN

CONSULTING DAYS

Fri 5th Jan, Tues 20th Feb, Tues 19th Mar, Wed 17th Apr, Tues 14th May,
Tues 11th June, Wed 24th July, Wed 21st Aug, Tues 17th Sept,
Tues 15th Oct, Tues 12th Nov, Tues 10th Dec.

SURGERY DAYS

Wed 6th March, Mon 29th Apr, Mon 24th June,
Mon 2nd Sept, Mon 28th Oct.

Please ring or text Andrea on 0428 212 945 for appointment.



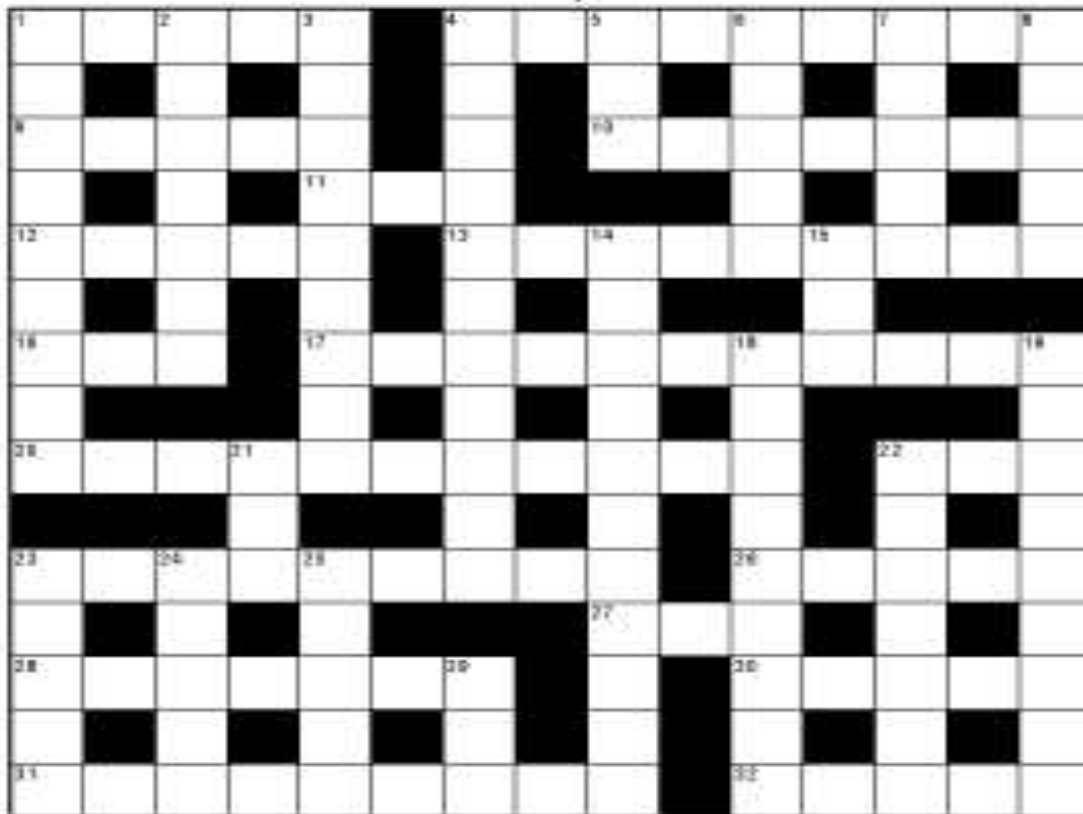
It's National

*Irish Coffee
Day!*

January 25th



Australia Day Crossword



© Denise Sutherland AD02

Across

1. Victorian town, gateway to Otway Ranges (5)
4. Addition to food, eg mint sauce (9)
9. Sceptic (5)
10. City paired with Albury (7)
11. Japanese carp (3)
12. Corroded, discoloured (5)
13. Sydney suburb with great beaches, near Collaroy (9)
16. Whichever (3)
17. *Whispering Jack* singer (4,7)
20. Socceroos' World Cup 06 star (5,6)
22. Metal mined at Renison Bell (3)
23. Actress, featured in *Elizabeth*, Cate _____ (9)
26. NSW town & shire at foot of the Snowy Mountains (5)
27. Roman three (3)
28. Small black toxic spider (7)
30. *You're the _____*, by 17A (5)
31. Lengthens (9)
32. Burn lightly (5)

Down

1. Household pest (9)
2. Artist & author, famous for *The Magic Pudding* (7)
3. Golden syrup, coll (5,1,3)
4. *Storm Boy* author (5,6)
5. Fourth largest state in Australia, abbr (3)
6. Movie starring Judy Davis, *A Passage to _____* (5)
7. Actor, _____ Dingo (5)
8. *The Ghan* is a _____ (5)
14. *Contemplations* (11)
15. *Awake is the New Sleep* musician, _____ Lee (3)
18. Family (9)
19. Toothless egg-laying mammal, eg echidna (9)
21. AFL player, _____ Barassi (3)
22. NZ *Split Enz* musician (3,4)
23. Ill-fated explorer, travelled with W.J. Wills (5)
24. Recorded sound (5)
25. China-born Australian heart surgeon, Victor _____ (5)
29. Sydney-based fashion designer, _____ Willow (3)

Grain Brokers Australia Weekly Market Report
Written by Peter McMeekin – January 23, 2024

China's grain imports up in 2023, but total trade down...

China's General Administration of Customs (GACC) released the nation's December import statistics on Thursday of last week, completing the 2023 data set, which saw total grain imports for the year rise to 162 million metric tonne, 12 per cent higher than in 2022. Second only to the record of 164.5mmt set in 2021, the value of the 2023 grain import program was US\$82.3 billion, down slightly from US\$82.65 billion the previous year.

Grain imports in December jumped 38 per cent compared to the previous corresponding period to 18.27mmt, boosted by corn receipts of a record 4.95mmt. This corn number was up from only 870,000 metric tonne twelve months earlier and beat the previous record for any month of 3.59mmt, which was set a month earlier. Prior to that, the monthly record had been the June 2021 total of 3.57mmt.

Corn imports for the 2023 calendar year came in at 27.13mmt, 31.6 per cent higher than the 20.62mmt total in 2022. Corn imports surged in the last four months of the year, with Chinese buyers lured by attractive prices out of Brazil, after a bumper harvest in South America's biggest producer boosted global supplies and pushed export values lower. Imports in the September to December period totalled 12.21mmt, 45 per cent of last year's total.

While Ukraine continues to be a significant supplier, China embarked on a corn origin diversification program following Russia's invasion of its neighbour almost two years ago to ensure it did not become beholden to the United States. Import approval for Argentinian corn has reportedly been granted, replicating the same move from Brazilian corn early last year, and flows out of South Africa also took off in 2023.

China's consumption of feed grains is expected to increase by 5mmt for 2023-24 and reach record levels, according to Anamaria Martins, senior analyst at S&P Global. The USDA left China's 2023/24 corn imports unchanged at 23mmt in this month's global supply and demand update, up from 18.71mmt. While China did produce a record 288.84mmt of corn this season, the current import pace suggests the USDA may be on the low side by the season's end.

Soybeans made up almost 54 per cent of total grain imports in December, with 9.82mmt discharged at various ports around the country, down from 10.55mmt a year earlier. Total 2023 soybean imports finished at 99.41mmt, up from 91.08mmt a year earlier, after Chinese buyers took advantage of cheaper supplies from Brazil. The total value of the soybean purchase program came in at US\$59.76 billion, 72.3 per cent by value of total grain imports in 2023.

Brazil now dominates the Chinese soybean market with imports from South America's biggest producer jumping by 29 per cent year-on-year to 69.95mmt in 2023. At the same time imports for the US fell by 13 per cent to 24.17mmt. Soybean arrivals from Brazil last month were 94 per cent higher than December 2022 at 4.98mmt, while those from the United States were 31 per cent lower at 3.85mmt.

A shrinking pig herd is expected to see Chinese soybean imports fall by as much as 20 per cent in the first quarter of 2024. Imports in the first quarter of 2023 were 23.1mmt but dwindling demand could see a drop to less than 18.5mmt this year, suggesting that USDA's current 2023/24 import estimate of a record 102mmt is already looking extremely optimistic. A demand slump in the hog sector late last year reportedly triggered a rush to slaughter pigs as farmers battled plummeting prices for their produce.

China's largest pig breeder, Muyuan Foods Co, allegedly sold 6.6 million animals in December, up 25 per cent month-on-month and up 10 per cent compared to December 2022. Wen's Foodstuff Group Co, a part of the same group, sold 2.97 million hogs last month, up 15 per cent on the month and 58 per cent annually. However, the soybean crush margin has been smashed with fewer pigs to feed in the world's largest breeder and consumer. Dalian soybean meal futures have fallen 8 per cent this month to their lowest level since August 2023.

Meanwhile, China's December wheat imports totalled 610,000mt, down 7.6 per cent on the month. Total imports for the year rose 21.5 per cent to 12.1mmt, well above China's tariff-rate quota of 9.636mmt. Australia exported 6.383mmt to China in the 11 months to the end of November, making up 52.8 per cent of total Chinese imports in 2023, with the December export data yet to be released.

On the barley front, Chinese imports of barley topped 1mmt in each of the past four months. The buoyant demand coincided with the lifting of the ban on Australian barley in August last year. Incoming shipments in December totalled 1.66mmt, 36.1 per cent above the November number of 1.22mmt. Total barley imports in 2023 were 11.32mmt, up from 5.76mmt a year earlier. Since Australian barley exports resumed to China in August shipments have totalled 1.81mmt to the end of November. August was relatively tame at only 55,700mt, but the execution campaign ramped up quite quickly thereafter, with 371,000mt in September, 664,000mt in October and 721,000mt in November.

Conversely, China's sorghum imports fell dramatically in 2023, particularly in the back end of the year. December receipts were 35.2 per cent lower than November at 350,000mt, and total imports for 2023 were 5.21mmt, 48.6 per cent lower than the 10.14mmt discharged in 2022. By the end of November, Australia had shipped 2.06mmt, 39.5 per cent of the total, with 1.91mmt of that exported in the March to September period.

Last week's data also revealed an annual fall in total Chinese exports for the first time since 2016, despite the December number beating expectations. December exports rose 2.3 per cent in US dollar terms last month but fell 4.6 per cent for the year compared to the prior corresponding periods. Imports told a similar story, with the December number 0.2 per cent higher than November, but they fell 5.5 per cent on the year, the first fall since 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic decimated global trade.

Another interesting, but certainly not surprising, tidbit from last week's data was that trade between Russia and China hit a record high in 2023, as geopolitical tensions pushed commerce with the United States lower for the first time in four years. China-Russia trade topped US\$240 billion last year, a year-on-year increase of 26.3 per cent. On the other hand, trade with the US was 11.6 per cent below the 2022 level at US\$664 billion. China's exports to Russia climbed 47 per cent, a rare bright spot in last year's export data, and imports from Russia rose by almost 13 per cent.

Call your local Grain Brokers Australia representative on **1300 946 544** to discuss your grain marketing needs.

The Bunker has had a couple of plaques added to the outside walls. Call by and have a look they are a great added feature.







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