

THE ONE STOP PROPERTY SHOP



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Community

Helping hand for homeless

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Lifestyle

Glitz and glam from Marble Bar

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Sport

Women's footy in full swing

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Wild dogs kill park's animals

Robert Dougherty

A community-run animal park has been left reeling after wild dogs killed more than 30 of the animals in eight attacks within the past year.

The loss of the animals at the park forced the Newman Lions Club, which runs it, to ask the Shire of East Pilbara if it could use \$6000 originally allocated for improvements to the facility for fences instead.

Newman Lions Club president Anthony Middleton said the fencing would allow the animals to be moved to a more appropriate space, away from the fenced children's playground where they were currently housed.

"Some of our members have scared the dogs off by yelling at them when they come in," he said.

"That's prevented a fair few attacks, we've tried patching the fence over and over again but they just keep digging through. It's upwards of a dozen, (dead) goats and sheep."

Mr Middleton said the animals were easy prey for the dogs, which were simply killing them for a thrill. "They are just using the opportunity because they are locked up in a pen to just prey on them," he said.

Shire of East Pilbara councillors unanimously agreed to refocus the \$6000 contribution into installing the perimeter fencing at their ordinary council meeting late last month. "The welfare of the animals is what is paramount to us and as a result, fencing in the facility is what must take priority before upgrades," Shire president Lynne Craigie said.



2018 Pilbara Girl finalist Alice Shields, 19, at the competition heat on Friday night. Picture: Alicia Perera

Pilbara Girl contestants a force for good

Alicia Perera

The Pilbara's next crop of young Aboriginal female role models took their place in the spotlight at the heat for this year's Pilbara Girl competition on Friday.

Nine girls, part of the indigenous women's empowerment program, showed confidence, poise and beauty in a professional-looking extravaganza involving fashion parades and entrant interviews at Karratha's ibis Styles Hotel.

But by the end of the night, those

nine were narrowed down to six as judges made difficult decisions about who should go through to the grand final.

Competing for the title of Pilbara Girl 2018 will be Cynthia Turland, Hannah Weigomasz, Mikaila Saylor, Verinia Bin Saad, Alice Shields and Holly Spurling.

Pilbara Girl founder and Goolarri Media chief operations officer Kira Fong said the program was all about inspiring Aboriginal girls to become confident young women who were a force for good in their

communities. "It's giving us young role models and young leaders in these communities," she said.

"And we're also trying to develop a network of resilient, strong women who can pass on that resilience and nurture future generations."

Pilbara Girl is now in its ninth year, having started as a companion to the highly successful Kimberley Girl program in 2010.

The grand final will be held in Broome in October.



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