



## January

**T**WO Pilbara Iron ore trains collided with a communications systems failure blamed for the incident that derailed four locomotives and a dozen carriages.

The driver of a stationary train near Mesa J mine, close to Pannawonica, looked up and saw a second train on a collision course and left his locomotive just in time.

An investigation was launched immediately.

*Pilbara News* sought the help of the local community to solve a mystery decades old and spanning thousands of kilometres and three continents.

A Croatian newspaper contacted *Pilbara News* with information that a local fisherman had found a message in a bottle on a Croatian beach.

Written on a tattered piece of canvas inside, John Pash Dew pleaded for help after a cyclone shattered his boat's transmitter.

Mr Dew described a frightening encounter with robbers who shot at his vessel and appealed for the person who found the note to contact a friend possibly living in the Middle East.

Volunteer numbers dropped sig-

nificantly in January from Port Hedland to Paraburdoo with St John's Ambulance, Fire and Rescue and the State Emergency Service all reporting a "seasonal" drop in local volunteer numbers.

Two massive cryogenic heat exchange towers arrived in Dampier after a round-the-world voyage from Germany.

A healthy woman, formerly of Karratha, who allegedly solicited donations after claiming to have a rare form of cancer was hit with a number of fraud charges.

## February

**T**HREE Karratha families vowed to nail a cowboy builder whose dodgy workmanship cost them more than \$15,000 to repair.

Renters flocked to Roebourne to save hundreds each week on some of the region's most affordable rental accommodation.

A 41-year-old man was charged after accidentally shooting his wife in the buttocks on New Year's Day.

Colette McEntee took over the reins at the Walkington Theatre after leaving behind London's glitzy West End.

Karratha's community events

were disappearing in February – folding one-by-one because there were no volunteers to run them.

Hundreds of Pilbara music fans packed into planes and cars bound for Perth's 2007 Big Day Out – helping make it the biggest ever.

Karratha police Constable Gay Henry was selected as a one-in-a-million match to donate bone marrow to a terminally ill child in Poland.

Pregnant women looking to deliver their babies in Karratha were told they could be forced to travel to Port Hedland or Perth due to a shortage of qualified doctors and midwives in the town.

The debate over daylight savings raged as Nationals WA planned to come out swinging in Parliament with a private members' bill to do away with winding clocks forward.

Dampier lost highly respected general practitioner Dipti Halder to breast cancer.

Karratha powerlifter Nathan Baxter set his sights on the Australian Powerlifting Championships after bench-pressing an astonishing 250kg in training.

## March

**P**ILBARA News revealed amphetamine use was on the rise with locals sharing their stories of hard drug use increasing across the region.

One 25-year-old Karratha woman revealed couples were spending up to \$1500 per week on amphetamines.

More than 4000 Karratha locals signed a petition to get lucky and score a free one night stand with Australia's hottest bands.

Organisers feared it was not enough and called for everyone to sign the Triple J One Night Stand competition petition.

Two male juveniles were expected to face jail after terrorising a young mother, her 13-month-old daughter and partner in their Pegs Creek caravan with a machete.

The Eastern Guruma people secured native title rights to more than 6000sqkm of mineral rich land in the Central Pilbara.

Cyclone George hit Port Hedland late at night claiming three lives and injuring many others.

Pilbara News revealed sex sells but what men really wanted was company – particularly deprived single blokes on the hunt for their elusive Pilbara princess.

A crocodile was spotted at the Cossack boat ramp by caretakers at the local backpackers and a perent attacked a Karratha man at local smash repair yard.

Wickham police seized \$13,500 of ecstasy and amphetamines in a midday raid at a converted shed in Point Samson.

The David Wirrpanda Foundation officially opened its Wickham office.

## April

**A**T LEAST half a dozen nearby boats ignored repeated cries for help from a stricken vessel in Nickol Bay, which raised questions about water safety in the area.

Cyclone rains have flushed

rivers, creeks and waterholes across the Pilbara, which left the region overflowing with chances for weekend water fun, according to the Karratha Visitor Centre.

Wakathuni Aboriginal Corporation had won a grant of up to \$1000 to help stage the Wakathuni Youth festival.

Karratha Senior High School Year 11 and 12 history classes planned an education camp as part of their trip to Europe.

All Seasons Karratha management thought outside the square to solve the staffing problems with plans to build a 10-bedroom house as soon as approvals were in place.

North West Self Venture secured a major sales increase with long-term Japanese customer Tohoku Electric Power Company.

Eighty kindergarten and pre-primary children participated in an awesome Easter extravaganza with their parents.

Karratha rockers Ride the Melon cranked up the volume at Gecko's Bar in a huge goodbye gig to farewell their loyal fans.

An Australian broadbill record tumbled after a hugely successful Gamex 07 in Exmouth.

Fire destroyed the famed Sandfire Roadhouse between Broome and Port Hedland leaving motorists without fuel for the 450km stretch between Pardoo and Roebuck Plains roadhouses.

Some of the best underwater destinations in WA were locked up and protected from over fishing with a final management plan released by Environment Minister David Templeman.

Taking his first hurried look at ancient rock art on the Burrup Federal Heritage Minister Malcom Turnbull said the area would be registered as a national heritage site.

## May

**S**AUDI Aramco, the world's largest oil producing company, announced a major recruitment campaign for skilled

Australians to work on planned major projects.

Action was ramped up in protest to protect ancient indigenous rock art on the Burrup Peninsula.

Karratha's ANZAC Day dawn service attracted upwards of 2000 people and many believed it to be the biggest attendance yet seen in the town.

Teacher shortages were continuing in the Pilbara despite efforts by the WA Government and the Education Department to address the issue.

St Luke's College and Karratha Senior High School were lucky enough to get a visit from former AFL star and Bali bombing survivor Jason McCartney.

Tougher anti-hoon laws came into effect this month giving police the ability to act on public evidence showing hoon activity.

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation and Pilbara TAFE joined forces to train local indigenous people to work at the Karijini Eco Retreat.

A Karratha-based soldier, who braved extreme danger to conduct post-blast investigations on terrorist bombs in Iraq, was awarded a prestigious US medal for his efforts.

Mining leaders poured into Karratha this month for a major mining talkfest set to tackle issues of accommodation and skills shortages.

Pilbara Rugby League started with a bang with a double header at Bulgarra Oval.

## June

**P**ILBARA News revealed a phantom investor was in secret talks with the WA Government to develop a site on the Burrup Peninsula as explosives manufacturer Dyno Nobel flagged its own intentions to move into the North West.

Karijini National Park played host to a State Emergency Service cliff rescue training exercise.

Roebourne residents claimed

their community was being unnecessarily exposed to asbestos fibres while Horizon Power continued to excavate soil for underground powerlines.

Roebourne Shire Council was advising all Bulgarra resident dog owners that the potentially deadly Parvovirus had been found in the

area.

The Burrup Mountain Bike Club Six-Hour ride was held with riders enduring a gruelling course in searing heat.

Two Karratha teams fought for bragging rights in the North West Netball Championships Division 1 Grand Final held in Karratha with

Karratha 1 doing it easily against Karratha 3.

Karratha woman Donna Collins spoke out about the father, uncle and dear family friend who went missing off Queensland earlier in the year.

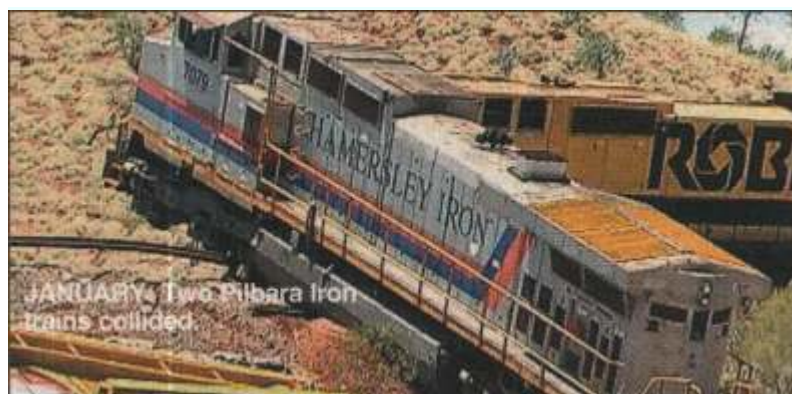




**MARCH:** A mother and daughter were terrorised at knife-point by two juveniles.



**FEBRUARY:** A local police officer donated bone marrow to a child in Poland.



**JANUARY:** Two Pilbara Iron trains collided.