



PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL MONTHLY UPDATE

Community enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals

APRIL 2025



COUNCIL NEWS

Message from the Acting CEO Dave Burges

It certainly has been a trying time since Council's last Community Newsletter with record floods across many parts of the region. Council has been working very hard to respond to this event and our minds are now collectively turning towards the recovery phase. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way over the past weeks to the efforts to protect our communities, their homes and their livelihoods.

Rest assured that Council will put every effort into the recovery phase as we set up a Local Recovery Group to coordinate and make available the many avenues of assistance available from the various levels of government. These recovery activities will kick off in earnest as soon as the river systems to the west of Cunnamulla allow access.

To keep up to date with the recovery information and available services, Council has established a website for the community here <https://www.paroo.qld.gov.au/after-a-disaster>. I encourage all affected residents and property owners to visit this website or contact Council for assistance or information.

On other fronts, Council and the organisation have been busy preparing the 2025/26 budget and more information will be available on that soon. Various budget workshops have been held, and more are scheduled over the coming six weeks to ensure Council can deliver the best possible outcomes in the next financial year.

It's great to see the River Lights Festival go ahead during these challenging times, albeit in a slightly different format to what we had planned. I hope locals and visitors alike got some joy and entertainment from the festivities and that the tourists take up the call to come out to our communities this season to help our economic recovery.

We'd like to congratulate the March winner of the 2025 Paroo Shire Photography Competition!

"Right Place, Right Time" by Belinda Palmer
April entries are now open!

<https://cunnamullatourism.com.au/whats-on/photo-competition/>



Belinda Palmer

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 20th May
- 17th June
- 15th July
- 19th August
- 16th September

JOB VACANCIES

- Library Team Leader
- Work Health and Safety Officer
- Community Support Officer
- Casual Employment

For more info see

www.paroo.qld.gov.au/council/employment



If you'd like an electronic version of our newsletter, please scan QR Code to subscribe!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF

Paroo Shire Council welcomes on board:

Samuel Thomas – Casual Labourer – Infrastructure

Dean Watson – Truck Operator/Labourer



UPCOMING EVENTS

Anzac Day Services

Cunnamulla – Dawn Service muster 5:30am in front of the old RSL building. Main Service muster 10:30am at the Court House.

Eulo – Dawn Service 5:00am at Cenotaph. Main Service 10:00am at Eulo State School.

Wyandra – Dawn Service 5:30am at Cenotaph. Main Service muster 9:30am at the Post Office for 10am start.

Yowah – Dawn Service 6:00am at General Store and then proceed to the monument.

Anzac Day Races

When: Friday 25th April

Time: Gates open 12 noon

1st Race 1:30pm

Entry Fee: \$20

Cunnamulla Fishing & Restocking Club

Annual Fishing Competition Saturday 3rd – Sunday 4th May.

Mother's Day Weekend Shoot – Cunnamulla Gun Club

Friday 9th to Sunday 11th May.



CURRENT GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Rural and Remote Playgroup Grants Program

Play Matters Australia is committed to supporting playgroups in rural and remote communities. In 2025 we are providing financial assistance through a Playgroup Grants program. These grants aim to enhance playgroup facilities, resources, and experiences for families, fostering inclusive and engaging environments for children and caregivers.

There are small and large grants available.



Application Deadline: Sunday 27th April

For more information or to apply for a grant please visit the Play Matters Australia Website.

playmatters.org.au/playgroup-grants.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

Paroo Shire Council was successful with a grant application in 2023 under round 1 of the Disaster Ready Fund administered by the Australian Government. The funding was for the purchase, installation and commissioning of back-up power supply generators for a range of bore pumps stations, sewerage pump stations, Council's Works Depot and the Cunnamulla Shire Hall. In total, eleven back-up generators have been provided for the continuation of critical services in times of an emergency.



The total project cost is \$445,250 with 50% of that, being \$222,625, funded by Council. The installation of the generators has been completed in all locations and final testing and commissioning is underway.

We're thankful that these emergency power provisions weren't required for the recent floods however Council is very aware that planning and investment in critical infrastructure is imperative for our communities in times of need.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expressions of Interest are invited from community members to work with Council on a volunteer or casual basis assisting at the Cunnamulla Airport. Duties include assisting with REX flights, refuelling and general airport operations. Training will be provided.



Interested parties should contact Council on

E: Council@paroo.qld.gov.au or PH: (07) 4655 8400 in the first instance.

TOURISM UPDATE



Exciting News for Cunnamulla!

Cunnamulla Tourism, in partnership with QLD Music Trails, is thrilled to present a special director's cut pre-final edit of the highly anticipated Darby McCarthy movie, "In a Life Time"!

Produced and directed by David Waddington, this inspiring film tells the incredible story of Darby McCarthy – a local legend from Cunnamulla who rode to victory on over 1,000 winning horses around the world. Parts of the movie were even filmed right here in Cunnamulla, making this a truly special event for our community.

While the first screening for Qld Music Trails Reels & Railways event at the Cunnamulla All Aboard on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, is fully booked, we have great news! David Waddington has generously granted Cunnamulla Tourism permission for an exclusive screening just for our locals on Wednesday, April 30, 2025. Stay tuned for the official screening time – you won't want to miss this chance to celebrate Darby's incredible legacy with the community!

WYANDRA

What's Been Happening in Wyandra:

Please meet Raigan Manley, our new police officer in Wyandra.

A warm welcome to Raigan, her partner Dave and Teeter their pet Dorper wether, just two years old, but already wears the blue uniform. Our local children love meeting him.





Wyandra (Con't)

We had a fabulous four days with Michele from Milhardwork Glass Art and Jobella from Wedgetail Studio being creative and having lots of fun! Thank you, Paroo Shire and FRRR for allowing us to undertake this through your generous funding for our community.

YOWAH

Application forms are now available for the Yowah Opal Festival, 18th to the 20th of July 2025. We are looking forward to welcoming you to another great festival in our friendly community.



Contact Ben: 0427 554 161

Congratulations to Tanya and Eddie Maguire who have been asked to exhibit at the opening of the Australian Opal Centre in Lightning Ridge a little later this year.

EULO

As many of you will have heard, Col, our local publican at the Eulo Queen Hotel, will soon be finishing up. Col has been a familiar and welcoming face behind the bar and a big part of the community for years. We wish Col the very best for the future.

Unfortunately, due to the recent weather event and the resulting floods, the Eulo Motorbike Gymkhana has been cancelled. It's always a favourite on the local calendar, but the conditions didn't allow for it this time around. We're already looking forward to next year's event!

On a brighter note, we'll be holding a Tennis Day after the ANZAC March in Eulo, and everyone is welcome. It's a great chance to come together as a community, share a few laughs, and enjoy a hit of tennis after we pay our respects.

Bring your racquets, your mates and your best backhand!



POLICE BEAT

The Southwest has experienced some significant weather over the last few weeks causing general flooding, inundation of homes, isolating our communities and devastating losses for our property owners. Through this time, police have been out and about helping where we can, with search and rescue, sandbagging and general assistance. You may have noticed a few new faces too, as officers from further east volunteered to come and assist throughout the southwest.

I'd also like to pass on our thanks to the community who stuck to the road closures and remembered, 'If it's flooded, forget it'. See you next month.