

# PAROO

REVIEW

EDITION 7 | SUMMER 2019/20

## Fella Festival *a treat for all*

Paroo Honour Board  
has a new home

Meet the new additions  
to the executive team



# Contents



**On the cover:**  
Young local, Angus Daly, enjoys the spoils  
of the Cunnamulla Fella Festival.  
For more information  
see pages 14 and 15.

## SHIRE WORKS

### 9 **New change rooms for John Kerr Park**

NRL quality change rooms are the next upgrade on the way

## ART SCENE

### 12 **Outback brushstrokes**

Samantha Meurant's new exhibition is open in the art gallery

## TOURISM

### 13 **Award-winning centre**

State-wide tourism award brought home to Cunnamulla

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### 4 **New round of drought support open**

Funding of up to \$3,000 per household available

## HOME AND BACKYARD

### 7 **New homes for dogs**

The pound isn't the end of the road for Paroo pooches

## COUNCIL NEWS

### 20 **Civic Centre update**

Council are one step closer to a new civic and community building

## SPORT AND REC

### 22 **Need to use John Kerr Park?**

How to make a booking to use John Kerr Park's facilities

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*Servicing the communities of Cunnamulla, Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah.*

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# Hello

It's been a great first few months and I have felt very welcome. It is an honour to step into the role of Chief Executive Officer at Paroo Shire Council and there is lots of positive news to report in this issue of the Paroo Review.

Although the drought is ongoing, there have been some little storms here and there recently, and whilst you're lucky to be underneath one – it's certainly better than what I heard this time last year was like when there was nothing happening at all. Hopefully this trend will continue into some big storms for the shire.

Despite only coming on board in September, I can see that Council have been busy this year having accomplished a large range and number of infrastructure projects. This includes road works, sewer relining and reticulation, Paroo Shire Hall asbestos removal and refresh and many more in the works such as the new Civic and Community Enterprise Centre, digital connectivity project, and street lighting and CCTV cameras just to name a few.

It's been encouraging to see how the community comes together to bring awareness to causes such as the 'Say No to Violence' march and Movember. I'm very much enjoying being a part of this community, it is a beautiful and safe place to raise my baby son Elijah.

With the local government elections coming up on 28 March 2020 I wish anyone who chooses to run all the best for their campaign. I look forward to working with whoever sits on our Council next year to bring forward positive changes to Council and the Paroo Shire community.



**Emil Moul**  
**CEO, Paroo Shire Council**



## Cunnamulla Police's mo-moment to shine

If you noticed that some local Police looked a little bit different back in November, you wouldn't have been imagining it! Six of the Cunnamulla Police Force sported a new addition to their top lips, all for a good cause of course!

Senior Sergeant Isa Tolete says that the moustache that until recently had taken up residence wasn't just a bold fashion statement.

"We were aiming to raise funds and awareness this Movember for all the dads, brothers, sons and mates in our lives to support men's health," he said.

"The Movember Foundation is tackling some of the most significant health issues faced by men and that was a good enough reason for Brenden, David, Dean, Steve, Vaughan and myself to grow the mos. Although it is obvious that mine was far superior."

Movember is a charity that encourages men to grow their mos during the month of November.



By 2030, Movember aim to reduce the number of men dying prematurely by 25% and since 2003 the charity has funded more than 1,250 men's health projects around the world and transforming the way health services reach and support men.

## Round 2 of Drought Community Support Initiative (DCSI) available

Drought Community Support Funding of up to \$3,000 per household is available for eligible farmers, farm workers, farm suppliers/contractors in the Paroo Shire.

To be eligible the applicant must:

- Derive their primary income from being a farmer, farm worker or farm supplier/contractor
- Live or work in an eligible Local Government Area
- Be experiencing hardship as a result of the drought
- Be over 18 years of age
- Be an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident.

Paroo Shire Council encourages people to not self-assess their eligibility and to submit an application.

For people living in the Paroo Shire, St Vincent de Paul Society is administering the funds, but for other areas The Salvation Army is the designated charity.

Only one payment per household is accepted as part of Round 2, but those who received funds as part of Round 1 are able to and encouraged to apply for Round 2.

**To apply if you live in the Paroo Shire visit <https://drought.svdp.org.au/apply>**



# Say no to violence and yes to respect

In Australia, during 2019 so far - 48 women, 20 children and 13 men have been killed as a result of domestic and family violence. One in two women will experience domestic violence during their lifetime. One in three young people don't think controlling someone is a form of violence. There's no doubt that these are confronting statistics.

But Rachael Johnson the Strong Families Strong Communities (SFSC) Operations Coordinator and Anita Wharton the Far West Indigenous Family Violence

Service (FWIFVS) Coordinator say they are proud of how the community came together on Monday 25 November for the 'Say No to Violence' March and Event. "Our organisations worked collectively to bring the day together to raise community awareness of domestic and family violence," Anita said.

"The amount of people we had, especially considering we are such a small town, goes to show that Cunnamulla is saying loud and clear that domestic and family violence is not ok. Not here, and not anywhere."

Over 140 people turned out for

day which included the march through Cunnamulla, BBQ breakfast, art installation in the Art Gallery, group oath, and the Films4Change Launch.

The Films4Change Launch was especially exciting as most of the actors featured are students from the Cunnamulla State School.

"SFSC hired Films4Change to put together a series of films that go into what kids see as issues in our community," Rachael said.

"It was quite eye-opening as a group of adults had initially come up with a list but when the kids went through it they changed

most of it and it generated a lot of discussion. They had a huge amount of creative freedom with the Films4Change team so have a sense of ownership about the content.

"They've titled the series of 11 films 'Yes to Respect' which will be available after the launch for any individual or organisation to use as educational tools."

**For more information on the services SFSC and FWIFVS provide or about the 'Yes to Respect' film resources contact Anita at 0427 900 319 or Rachael at 0488 670 491.**



## Playgroup on wheels for South West kids

Living in a remote community can sometimes mean missing out on services that are commonplace in metropolitan areas. But the Paroo Contact Children's Mobile (PCCM) is an exciting and innovative project that aims to relieve disadvantage and isolation and provide assistance to young children in geographically isolated areas. First established in 1987, PCCM has been operating for decades but recently came upon a hard time when its usual funding source was withdrawn.



In an effort to gain new funding the committee decided they needed to prove that early childhood education and playgroup services are desperately needed in the region. Through a successful Tackling Tough Times Together grant funded by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) program, a survey was undertaken which led to PCCM securing Playgroup QLD funding to continue their services for the region.

This new funding has resulted in three new jobs PCCM had to recruit for (one part-time Coordinator and 2 casual Play Helpers) and lots of happy kids and parents! With the first round of new playgroups kicking

off in August in Cunnamulla, Thargomindah and Quilpie, new Coordinator Amy Palmer says that enrollments have been strong.

"Over the three locations we have over 50 kids enrolled, and although not everyone can turn up to every session, the playgroups have been going really well.

"We have a weekly playgroup in Cunnamulla, and fortnightly playgroups in Quilpie and Thargomindah," she said.

"As we get further into the program the kids are forming really great friendships, interacting a lot more. It's great for them to socialise."

Although the activities are mainly for the children and include crafts, reading, games, sensory and role play - the playgroups are definitely not for just the kids. Parenting can often feel like lonely work, even with a small person attached to your side 24/7!

"As a parent myself, I feel that it's as much about getting the parents together as it is about the kids," Amy said.

"Playgroup provides the opportunity for parents to talk with other Mums and Dads about any issues they are having, or to just socialise with another adult! We support the adults as much as the kids - and in a remote area it is especially important.

"Some people are travelling as far as 100km to come into playgroup which proves how in demand early childhood activities such as playgroup are in the bush."



Everyone with pre school-age children are welcome and encouraged to attend PCCM's playgroup sessions.

*Cunnamulla – weekly on Wednesday at the Cunnamulla State School from 9.30am – 11.30am*

*Quilpie – fortnightly on Mondays at the Quilpie Shire Library from 10.30am – 12.30pm*

*Thargomindah - fortnightly on Fridays at the Thargomindah State School from 10.30am – 12.30pm*

**For more information about PCCM and their playgroups, visit [www.paroomobile.com.au/playgroup](http://www.paroomobile.com.au/playgroup), follow PCCM Inc on Facebook, or phone Amy Palmer on 0460 426 737.**





# Impounded dogs go to loving new homes

The saying goes that 'a dog is a man's best friend'. But sometimes due to reasons out of someone's control, they have to surrender their dog to the pound.

Council's Local Laws Officer Joe Lewis says that this is always a sad outcome but it's definitely not the end of the road for the Paroo pooches. Over the past 12 months, over 101 dogs have been re-homed – both locally and in close-by towns, plus in the city thanks to Lucky Paws Rescue.

"All dogs that end up in the pound are really well fed and looked after by Council, but it's not somewhere you want to have a dog stay long-term. Dogs love the comfort

and company of a home," Joe said.

"To make sure that the dogs find a new loving home, we work with Lucky Paws Rescue who travel all the way out from the Gold Coast to collect the dogs and take them back to be re-homed.

"Not only that, but they have donated dog food, worming tablets and medical treatments to Council's pound to help cover the

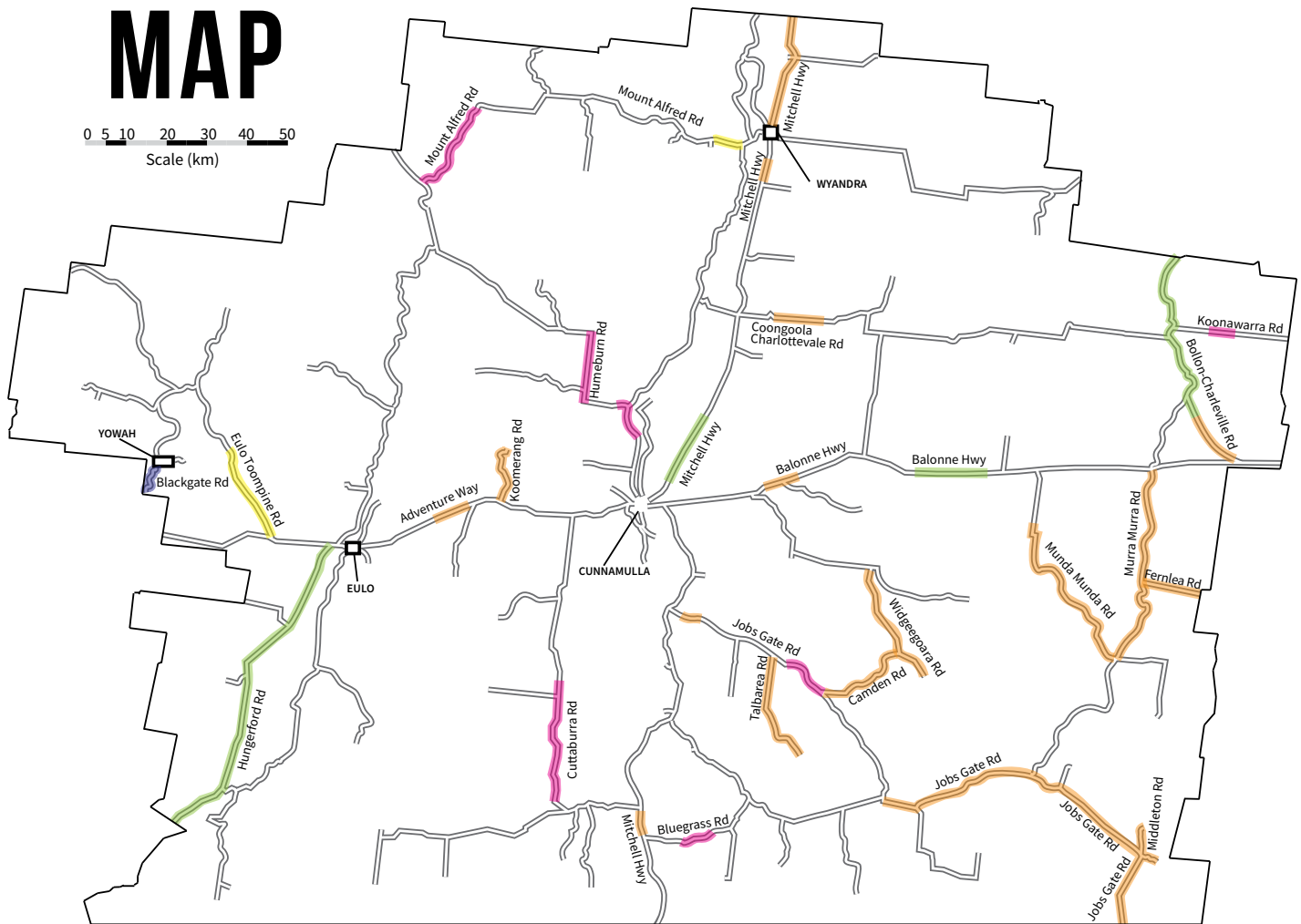
extra time dogs are impounded until they can come get them."

All of the dogs that are collected in Cunnamulla and taken to the Gold Coast go straight to foster households, and not another pound or shelter. Lucky Paws Rescue have 80 foster paw-rents on hand, with a lot of them having a 'foster-fail' by falling in love with the Cunnamulla canines and adopting them themselves!

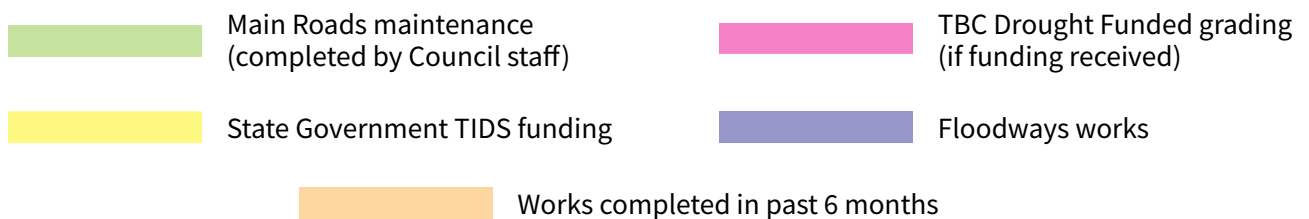
Council encourages all pet owners to have their dogs desexed to reduce the amount of unwanted litters of pups that are surrendered to the pound. Although they are cute when they are small, they do grow up eventually!



# WORKS MAP



Although effort has been taken to make this map as accurate as possible, please note that it is not exactly to scale.



## Drought funded grading works

Council has submitted an application, which included travelling around Paroo and documenting the damage, for \$3.3 million in flood recovery roadworks. If successful, the funds will be used to repair damage to roads across the shire after the rain event in April 2019.

The outcome of the application is expected sometime in December 2019, and if successful the works will need to be completed over the next two years.

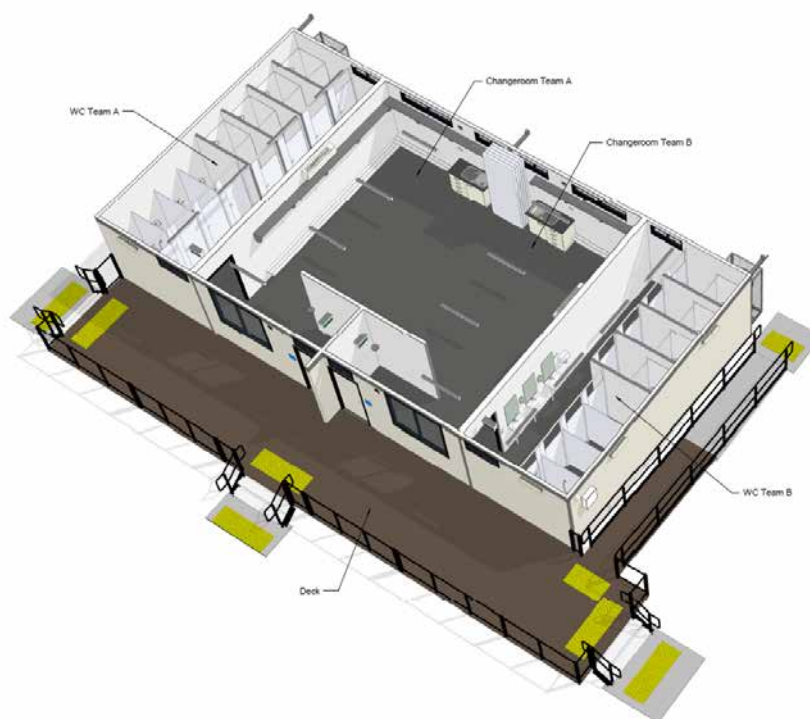


## Upgrades to John Kerr Park continue

A brand new NRL quality, air-conditioned change rooms with showers and toilets will be installed in March/April 2020.

In addition to the showers and toilets, there will be a retractable dividing wall which will make the facility incredibly versatile and enable it to be used for other purposes such as meetings and classes.

This next exciting new upgrade will be a great addition to the works already completed at the park and the community groups will continue to be consulted throughout the process.



*Bird's eye view of the inside of the new John Kerr Park change rooms.*

## More street lighting and CCTV cameras on their way

Paroo Shire Council has received a grant to make Paroo Shire safer for residents and visitors alike, with new street lighting plus over 25 CCTV cameras to be installed. The project is costing just over

\$250,000 and will be entirely funding through a federal grant from the Safer Communities program.

An audit on the street lights and cameras in Cunnamulla, Eulo,

Wyandra and Yowah will be completed before Christmas and along with feedback from local Police, the outcomes of the report will determine where the lighting and cameras are most needed.



## Face-lift nearly complete for the Paroo Shire Hall

As one of the most prominent buildings in town, the Paroo Shire Hall has recently undertaken a transformation. Thanks to funding from the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program the asbestos panels on the façade have been removed and replaced with new modern panels and all traces of the old faded red have been given a fresh coat of paint.

But it's not quite done, with a 3m x 2m projector screen set to be installed front and centre which

will be able to be used to display information, welcome people into Cunnamulla and even videos.

The cherry on top is that the new LED lights are energy efficient, require less upkeep and can be set to a rainbow of different colours. Look out 'Paroo in Pink' next year!

Thank you to the contractors DJ Buckley Builders who did a fantastic job and throughout the project spent over \$48,000 with local stores and suppliers in the Paroo Shire.

## Digital connectivity expanding across Paroo Shire

The way the world works now – both in a business and social sense – is heavily reliant on having access to high speed internet. How much we are already dependent on the internet can be imagined by the chaos and anxiety experienced should it ever be unavailable for a few hours unexpectedly.

From cloud-based accounting, telehealth, new agricultural technology, education possibilities and enabling human connection – Council understands the important of internet in today's society.

In the first quarter of 2019, Paroo Shire Council was awarded a \$1 million grant from the State Government's Building Our Regions program (Round 4).

This project will comprise of building much needed digital connectivity infrastructure to improve Paroo Shire's residents' access to fast, affordable and reliable internet. Field Solutions Group (FSG) has been selected as the supplier to build this infrastructure and are already underway determining the needs of the shire and best locations for the new towers.

It is definitely just the start, a "backbone" of infrastructure through the shire, with the ultimate plan to expand and build wider and wider coverage.

On that note, Council has made it to the final stage of Round 5 of the Building Our Regions program. If successful, the funding will be used to expand the footprint to cover more of Paroo.

We hope that in the next edition of the Paroo Review we will have positive news to report on the outcome of the Round 5 funding!

## New lights to shine on Cunnamulla Aerodrome

Brand new, state-of-the-art LED lights are set to be installed at the Cunnamulla Aerodrome. Thanks to a grant from the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program (Federal Department of Industry, Innovation and Science) plus a

contribution from Council, the lights will bring the facility up to industry standard and increase the safety and ease of use for night-time landings.

The main use for night-time landings at the moment is the

Royal Flying Doctor Service, so the current lights will continue to be functional until the works are completed and the new lights are turned on.

Works will start before Christmas and will be completed by January.

## Tribute to ancient water flows

Did you know that the first bore to be sunk in Queensland in 1887 was in the Paroo Shire on the property now known as 'Noorama'? In honour of that, a new water feature has been built out the front of the Cunnamulla Fella Visitor Centre.

Council's works, parks and gardens, and tourism teams worked together to make the project come to life.

It's been a popular talking point amongst visitors and a great homage to the artesian water that flows under the Paroo Shire.



## Deep Creek Bridge upgrade in the works

A design analysis is currently being undertaken to determine what works are required to ensure the bridge's structural integrity in the long-term.

The analysis will be completed by Christmas with the tender going out in the new year to find a supplier to carry out the recommended works.



*Do you know of an upcoming event?  
Send details to [events@paroo.qld.gov.au](mailto:events@paroo.qld.gov.au)  
for inclusion in the online events calendar and it might  
feature in the future editions of the Paroo Review as well!*

# Summer events

## December

13

### **Bush Spirit Christmas Event & Draw**

**From 6pm**

**Paroo Shire Hall, Cunnamulla**

Get into the Bush Christmas spirit and celebrate with your community with the Cunnamulla & District Chamber of Commerce Christmas event.

Don't forget to buy local leading up to the event to be in the running for some great prizes which will be drawn on the night.

Food and drinks will be available for purchase. BYO chair.

**For more information visit the Cunnamulla & District Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.**

31

### **New Years Eve Celebrations 9pm and 12am**

**Cunnamulla Racecourse,  
Mitchell Highway, Cunnamulla**

Start the new year with a bang! With music, food and drinks - it's the perfect way to bring in the new year with friends and family.

**For more information call ON  
Toni-Lou Pender on 4655 8421.**

## January

26

### **Australia Day Celebrations 8am - 11am**

**Cunnamulla Swimming Pool  
42 John St, Cunnamulla**

Come celebrate what's great about our nation with Cunnamulla's annual Australia Day activities. Enjoy a free barbeque breakfast, free entry to the pool, novelty games and activities.

The announcement of the Australia Day Award recipients will also take place.

**For more information call  
Toni-Lou Pender on 4655 8421.**



# Australia Day celebrations

What's better than a dip in the pool on a hot day? We can't think of many things!

The annual Australia Day Celebrations is on again at the Cunnamulla Pool, so pack your togs and your Aussie spirit and join the community on Australia Day. Starting from 8am, celebrations

will include a yummy BBQ breakfast and novelty games that everyone can join in on, and of course the pool will be open to cool off and have a splash.

The announcement of the 2020 Australia Day Award recipients will also take place which recognises our everyday Australian community members who are

going the extra mile to make a difference in Paroo. We thank last year's winners for all their efforts and look forward to bringing in the new recipients this Australia Day.

**For more information visit [www.paroo.qld.gov.au/australiaday](http://www.paroo.qld.gov.au/australiaday) or phone 4655 8400.**

## Outback brushstrokes a stroke of local creativity



Not a lot of people feel at ease with a paint brush in their hand, but local artist Samantha Meurant is certainly one of those people.

Samantha describes herself as a city girl turned country 'lady' and, amongst a lot of other things, an

artist who specialises in acrylic on canvas paintings.

Samantha's most recent exhibition 'Outback Brushstrokes' features native flora, fauna and bird life with some having a modern twist of a bright pop of colour in the background.

Describing her latest exhibition, Samantha says that it is a combination of Australian beauty and positivity.

"Since moving to Cunnamulla I am constantly inspired by the animals and beauty of the native plants that surround me here and on my travels," she said.

"This exhibition is a culmination of this and the bright colours used intend to shine a positive light

during these tough times."

**The 'Outback Brushstrokes' exhibition opened on Thursday 5 December and will be on display in the Cunnamulla Fella Centre Art Gallery until February.**





## Paroo honours servicemen and women of the past

Thanks to funding received in June 2019 from the Queensland Veterans' Memorial Grants Program, the Paroo Honour Board has been restored and relocated to the Cunnamulla Library.

As one of only two memorial monuments in the Paroo Shire, Council were keen to ensure that the honour board is kept in good condition for future generations to view and remember the people that served and sacrificed for our freedom.

The new location for the honour board was decided upon due to its central location and the diverse visitors the library attracts.

Council's Librarian Tammy Hickey is more than happy for the Cunnamulla Library to be the Paroo Honour Board's new home. "The library does a lot of work with the kids around ANZAC Day, so having the honour board on site fits in perfectly with our programs

around that," Tammy said.

"I've conducted a survey among community members since the board's relocation on Tuesday 26 November and all feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

"It has really reinforced that the decision to relocate the Paroo Honour Board to the library was the right one."

The relocation also has the full support of the RSL with Michael Boyd (RSL Regional Co-ordinator for the South West), Bruce Allardice (President of the Cunnamulla RSL), Ruby Gamble (Citizens Auxiliary Committee), and RSL members Trevor Wighton and Richard Hayes all visiting the day after the board was installed and expressing their excitement about the restoration and relocation.

"Thanks Council for what they have achieved with this board. They should give themselves a pat on the back," Bruce said.

*The Queensland Government, through the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), has established the Queensland Veterans' Memorial Grants Program to encourage and assist Queensland veterans' groups and other organisations in the creation, upkeep and conservation of monuments, memorials and public memorial sites acknowledging Queensland veterans' war or conflict service.*



## TOURISM

### Cunnamulla Visitor Centre beat big-shots to win state award

With a team of only five people, the Cunnamulla Fella Visitor Centre has won a Highly Commended award for Visitor Information and Services in the 2019 Queensland Tourism Awards.

Beating much larger visitor centres such as Ipswich, Bowen and Moreton Bay, Tourism Team Leader Barb Mason says her team always go above and beyond to make visitors' feel welcome when they come to town.

"The other visitor centres that entered do a fantastic job, so it's really encouraging and exciting to

win an award this year – the first time we entered.

"We've concentrated a lot of our efforts and time this year on promoting Paroo Shire and improving the marketing materials we have to do so," Barb said.

"Over the year we launched a new website, brochures, and maps as well as honing in on our processes and procedures – which aren't as exciting as a new website but allow the team to make tourists' experience here as smooth and enjoyable as possible."

The Visitor Information Services award recognises the consistent delivery of high quality and face to face information services to the visitor. It is open to Visitor Information Centres/ Tourist Offices, Local Tourist Associations and Regional Tourism Organisations. The Gold Award was taken out by Julia Creek Visitor Information Centre, Silver went to Mackay Region Visitor Information Centre, with Bronze awarded to Hervey Bay Visitor Information Centre.

# 2019 Cunnamulla Fella Festival one of the best yet

The click clack of horses' hooves could be heard in the street, live music filtered out of pubs and caravan parks, and the eight-second buzzer was ringing out of John Kerr Park. All these things combined plus more was the sound of the 2019 Cunnamulla Fella Festival. Deemed as one of the best yet with a total patronage of 5,686 people over the week-long festival period.

This year's events and activities extended into the week prior with the Dusty Demons Motorbike Gymkhana and Enduro, Cosentino magic show, Tricia Agar art exhibition, Globe of Death and circus acts, and barrel racing just to name a few. This encouraged

tourists to come earlier and stay longer with the Cunnamulla Fella Visitor Centre reporting record numbers passing through the doors.

The 'toughest sport on dirt' aka the PBR Bull Ride once again featured on Saturday night with the mini bulls proving especially popular with the crowd, country music star Adam Brand provided entertainment for festival-goers after the bulls had retired for the evening.

Entertainers and suppliers have already been contacting the Tourism team with requests of coming to the festival in 2020, so hold onto your hats as 2020 is going to be a cracker!









## New start for the Cunnamulla & District Chamber of Commerce

As a small community, we have to stick together. And that's what the Cunnamulla & District Chamber of Commerce is all about.

This is reflected in the newly adopted vision statement of 'Building a strong community by building strong businesses and organisations.'

Another big change for the Chamber is the totally new committee with Samantha Meurant coming on as President, Bec King as Vice President, Lauren Schmidt as Treasurer and Kelly Churchill as Secretary.

Samantha says that she's excited about what the future holds for the Cunnamulla & District Chamber of Commerce.

"The overall feeling at the AGM and Meeting was that of progress and action. Everyone was open to hearing about new ideas that will benefit the region as a whole," she said.

Lots of positive ideas were thrown around at the meeting including the idea of sourcing funding for a mural art festival to encourage people to come and stay in Cunnamulla on the way to or from the Big Red Bash.

But the first big job for the committee and members is to pull together the annual Christmas 'buy local' promotion and Christmas Event which will be held on Friday 13 December at the Paroo Shire Hall.

"We're lucky to have the support of both Council and CACH for the event, so we're all currently working together to put on the best event possible for the community.

"It's all about 'bush spirit' – that sense of perseverance and enduring good humour that country people have during the good times and not so good times." Samantha said.

The 'Bush Spirit Christmas Event and Draw' is on from 6pm at the Paroo Shire Hall on Friday 13 December, come down and celebrate Christmas time with your community – and hopefully your ticket will be drawn out of the barrel!

**For more information visit the Cunnamulla & District Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page.**

## Remote work far from a remote possibility

When you think 'remote work' what comes to mind? Working in the middle of nowhere, with no one in sight for miles? Well, in terms of the recent Remote Work Workshop – you'd be close, but no cigar.

Remote work is quickly becoming a popular buzzword, and for good reason. With digital technology improving, it's now possible to work for a business or company without physically being in their office.

The workshop held on 17 November aimed to build confidence in both business owners and professionals to consider remote work as an option for business growth and employment. Attendees found

that a lot of the pointers and tools shared were also applicable to their non-remote jobs and day-to-day lives.

Workshop facilitator and Founder & Managing Director of Pointer Remote Roles Jo Palmer explains that there are benefits for both businesses and workers when it comes to working remotely.

"Of course, hiring a local for your local business is always the best case scenario – but sometimes that just doesn't work out. If you've got internet and mobile phone service you have the opportunity to either access talent from anywhere or the ability to live where you love but still access meaningful work," Jo said.

"On this tour I started up in

Blackall then went to Tambo, Augathella, Charleville and finished up in Cunnamulla.

"It was a whirlwind of a week but I met some fantastic people and I hope everyone took away something that can benefit their job or business."

Thank you to the Augathella & District Progress Assn for initiating the workshops and including Paroo in the schedule.

**If you're interested in finding out more about working remotely whilst living in the Paroo Shire, please contact the Economic Development Officer at [kelly.churchill@paroo.qld.gov.au](mailto:kelly.churchill@paroo.qld.gov.au) or 4655 8404.**

*The workshops were funded by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal's Tackling Tough Times Together Program.*



# Council's summer shut-down hours



Council services will close over the Christmas and New Year's period to give staff a well-deserved break and time to spend with their family and friends over the festive period.

**The last day of operation for 2019 will be Friday 20 December, with the office reopening on Monday 6 January at 8.30am.**

All Council services will not be operating during shut-down (including the visitor information centre and libraries), with the exception of the

Cunnamulla Swimming Pool.

**The pool will remain open on its usual schedule except for closure from 23 – 27 December and 1 January.**

The after-hours numbers will still be operational, for water/sewerage phone 0428 764 362 and for general emergencies phone 0457 731 540.

**For more information phone Council on 4655 8400 or visit [www.paroo.qld.gov.au](http://www.paroo.qld.gov.au)**

## Paroo staff member awarded \$5,000 bursary

Paroo Shire Council's Management Accountant Nori Luff has recently been successful in receiving a \$5,000 bursary from the Local Government Finance Professionals Queensland (LGFP QLD).

Nori found out about her win while she was attending the LGFP QLD Annual Conference in November.

"I was very happy to have won as it's a very competitive process, and I would like to thank Emil Moul, Stephen Harbort and Alison Shaw for helping and supporting me with my application," Nori said.

"I have always been interested with Asset management but never had the opportunity in my local government career to have an in-depth involvement with it.

"As well as analysing Council's data, I will be using some of the bursary money to visit other councils to see how they manage their assets and bring the best of it back to Paroo."

The bursary was open to the 77 councils across Queensland and only two bursaries were awarded. Nori is going to be



*Nori Luff (centre) accepting her bursary at the annual LGFP QLD conference.*

using the bursary to learn more about asset management, and how she can improve on Council's systems and processes.

The LGFP QLD bursaries are supported by Assetic and Commonwealth Bank and aim to support Queensland local government employees to undertake personal development and/or a business improvement initiative with a focus on long-term sustainability.

# Meet the newest additions



## to the Paroo Shire Council executive team



### **Tony Koch - Chief Corporate Officer**

#### **What are you looking forward to achieving?**

I look forward to contributing to the great things that are already happening across the shire. I will be focusing

on continuous improvement and looking for opportunities for these improvements as well as ensuring that Council is compliant with Local Government Legislation. And of course getting to know the community, and its challenges and opportunities.

#### **What is your previous work experience?**

My background is in finance and agribusiness, having worked for the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries as an Economist, for NAB as an Agribusiness Manager and the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) as Regional Area Manager.

#### **What do you love about Paroo so far?**

The people. I've been working in South West Queensland for the last decade or so and admire the get-in-and-have-a-go attitude.

#### **What do you enjoy about working in local government?**

This is my first gig in local government, and the staff and leadership of Paroo Shire Council are great to work with! Council and its staff are big contributors to the achievements of the community. Great things are happening (as detailed in this Paroo Review!!)

#### **What's the most unexpected thing you've done at a previous job?**

Shearing goats (and before anyone gets an idea... I have forgotten how!)





## Emil Moul - Chief Executive Officer

### What are you looking forward to achieving?

I want to work with Councillors and Management to bring about a renewed stability and direction to Council that will in turn strengthen our long-term

sustainability. This will ensure that Council will develop the strategy and so plan the resources needed to provide Paroo Shire's community with appropriate services and service levels. It is critical that I work with Councillors and Management to repair any previous damage perceived in the community to Council's reputation and help rebuild a high level of trust.

### What is your previous work experience?

I have worked as CEO for Councils in Far North Queensland, Central East Queensland and the Northern Territory. Prior to my local government career I was Chief Finance Officer, General Manager, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of listed, multi-national and private equity companies in Africa and the Middle East within the manufacturing, construction, energy and telecommunications industries.

### What do you love about Paroo so far?

I really love the bush and country towns. I have spent most of my life in rural/remote Africa and Australia. The community of Paroo is very friendly and helpful. It is a beautiful and safe place to raise my baby son Elijah. I do hope to be here for the long run and make a positive contribution to Paroo Shire Council and the community.

### What do you enjoy about working in local government?

The transition from the commercial sector to local government for me was relatively seamless as I treat Council as a business. Councillors as the Board of Directors and the community as shareholders and customers. A difference is that Councils do have the welfare of and service to the community as a focus – more so than the objectives of a corporate business. I do enjoy the challenges presented by working for local government particularly working to balance the expectations of the community with Council's limited resources.

### Anything else you'd like to add?

It will shortly be time again to hold our Local Government elections. These are set for 28 March 2020. I wish my current Councillors who intend to renominate all the best and the same good wishes for any new Councillors wanting to step up and serve their community.



## Stephen Harbort - Chief Finance Officer

### What are you looking forward to achieving?

I am rebuilding the finance team with a strong focus on supporting Council staff. I plan to do this through mentoring and working closely with all areas of the Council.

As part of the Executive Team I will also help the Council become more sustainable moving into the future.

### What is your previous work experience?

I was the CFO for the Townsville Hospital System - Central West, Head of Finance for Main Roads, and CFO for RoadTek.

### What do you love about Paroo so far?

It's great to wander in town on the weekend and chat to the locals as well as the tourists passing through. Matilda, my cattle dog, tells people that she is the official town petting dog. I like getting out and about so look out for me.



*Artist impression of the outside perspective from Louise Street.*

# Update on the Civic and Community Enterprise Centre

Council would like to thank staff and the community for their feedback on the new Civic and Community Enterprise Centre back in September. Lots of ideas were discussed and this has contributed to an updated building concept.

The next step is to finalise a tender package for the design

and construction of the building. While this is happening, Expressions of Interest have been advertised from which a shortlist of successful builders will progress into the design and construction tender phase. The shortlisted builders will receive the final tender information in January 2020 with the view to

start construction by the end of April 2020.

If all goes to plan, the brand new council and community use building will be completed by early 2021, and will be a fantastic facility for the entire shire.

**For more information visit [www.paroo.qld.gov.au/ccec](http://www.paroo.qld.gov.au/ccec)**



*Artist impression of inside entry.*



*Artist impression of internal office space.*



# Upcoming Council meetings

Our ordinary meetings are held around the shire once a month, keep an eye out on the Council website and Facebook page for the meeting locations.

Anyone is welcome to attend the Council meetings.

## **Tuesday 17 December**

The dates for 2020 have also been set:

## **Tuesday 21 January**

Paroo Shire Hall, Cunnamulla

## **Tuesday 18 February**

Paroo Shire Hall, Cunnamulla

## **Tuesday 17 March**

Wyandra Town Hall, Wyandra

## **Tuesday 21 April**

Paroo Shire Hall, Cunnamulla

## **Tuesday 19 May**

Noorama Racecourse, Noorama

## **Tuesday 16 June**

Paroo Shire Hall, Cunnamulla

## **Tuesday 21 July**

Yowah (location TBC)

## **Tuesday 18 August**

Paroo Shire Hall, Cunnamulla

## **Tuesday 15 September**

Paroo Shire Hall, Cunnamulla

## **Tuesday 20 October**

Eulo Town Hall, Eulo

## **Tuesday 17 November**

Paroo Shire Hall, Cunnamulla

## **Tuesday 15 December**

Paroo Shire Hall, Cunnamulla

**For more information, contact**

**Council on 4655 8400 or**

**visit [www.paroo.qld.gov.au/meetings-and-minutes](http://www.paroo.qld.gov.au/meetings-and-minutes)**



# So you want to be a councillor?

Local government elections are held every four years and on the same date for all 77 councils across Queensland. The next elections will be held on Saturday 28 March 2020.

All candidates for the March 2020 election need to complete the free training which is available online. This mandatory training must be successfully completed within six months before the nomination day for an election. The training includes new laws about a person's obligations as a candidate and a person's obligations as a councillor, if elected.

**More information about running for Council or being a Councillor is available at [www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/so-you-want-to-be-a-councillor](http://www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/so-you-want-to-be-a-councillor)**



## Need to use John Kerr Park?

The facility is still available for community-use, **if you need to make a booking phone Council on 4655 8400 or visit the front desk at the Broad Street Depot.**

The gates at John Kerr Park will now be locked unless a booking has been made prior.

John Kerr Park is available to book during the following hours:

### **Winter Season (March – August)**

Day time use: 6am – 5pm

Night time use: 5pm – 12am

### **Summer Season (September - February)**

Day time use: 6am – 6pm

Night time use: 6pm – 12am

Users are also reminded that vehicles are not permitted to enter the facility, with the exception of service and emergency vehicles.

## CUNNAMULLA CHRISTMAS, BOXING DAY AND NEW YEARS DAY BIN COLLECTION CHANGES

Due to the Christmas, Boxing Day and New Years Day public holidays, bin collection dates in **Cunnamulla** will change for these days only.

Instead of Wednesday 25 December, household bins east of Wicks St will be collected on **Friday 27 December.**

Instead of Thursday 26 December, commercial bins will be collected on **Friday 27 December.**

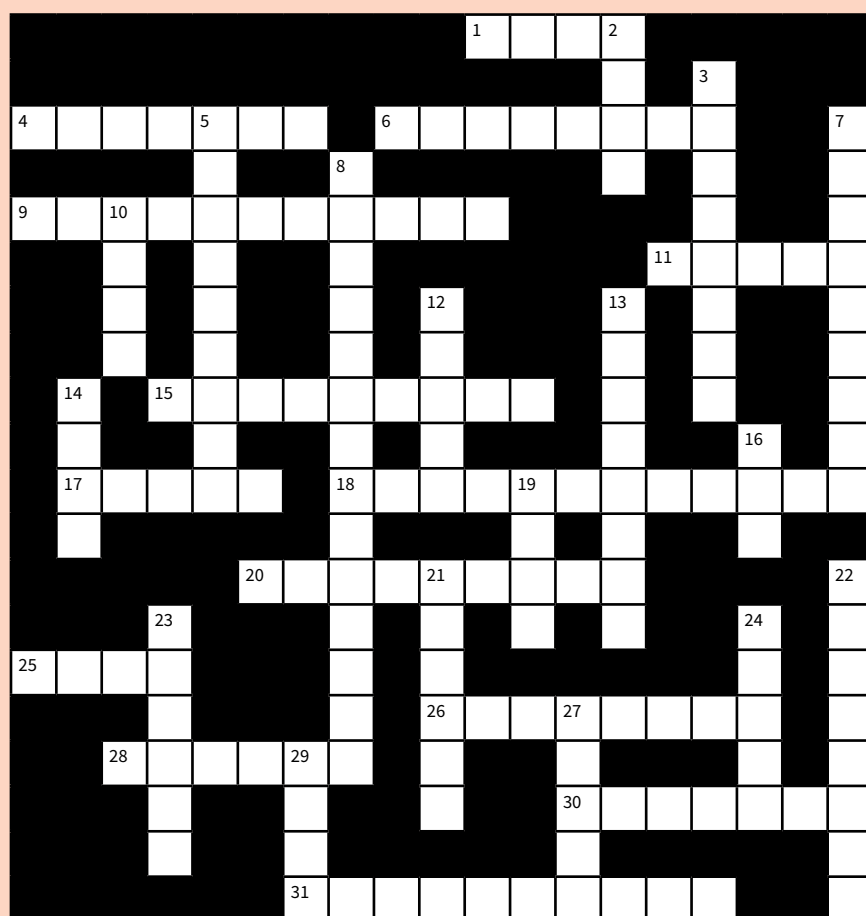
Instead of Wednesday 1 January, household bins east of Wicks St will be collected on **Thursday 2 January.**

**For more information contact Council on 4655 8400 or [council@paroo.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@paroo.qld.gov.au)**





# Crossword



## ACROSS

1. Another word for present.
4. Santa's door?
6. Animals that pull Santa's sleigh.
9. What people put on their Christmas tree.
11. Something on Santa's face.
15. The day after Christmas. (6,3)
17. Santa's helpers.
18. The day before Christmas. (9,3)
20. A piece of snow.
25. What Santa gives to bad girls and boys.
26. A sock that hangs by the chimney.
28. People put these bright things on their house.
30. A reindeer with a red nose.
31. A jolly man in a red suit with a beard. (5,5)

## DOWN

2. Something people decorate.
3. What people give each other.
5. Where Santa's workshop is located. (5,4)
7. A striped Christmas treat. (5,4)
8. Drink and food left for Santa. (4,3,7)
10. Something people send to each other to say 'Merry Christmas'.
12. The presents are usually \_\_\_\_\_ the tree.
13. The month of Christmas.
14. Look at a present before you should.
16. The colour of Santa's suit.
19. A common decoration for the top of the tree.
21. A famous snowman.
22. The place where Santa makes toys.
23. Santa's car?
24. Another common decoration for the top of the tree.
27. A Christmas song.
29. What Santa gives to good girls and boys.

**Joke** What do sheep say to graziers at Christmastime?

**Stumped? Answers for the joke and crossword from this edition of the Paroo Review magazine are available at [www.paroo.qld.gov.au/stumped](http://www.paroo.qld.gov.au/stumped)**

**PAROO**  
**SHIRE.**  
*live like a local*

