

MAY 2026

MONTHLY UPDATE



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Cunnamulla is a finalist in the 2026 Queensland Top Tourism Town awards. How good is that!! Voting opened on Monday 11th so please jump onto the Queensland Tourism Industry Council website and vote for Cunnamulla – the link is in this newsletter.

On top of the Top Tourism Town nomination, eight of our local businesses have secured Best of Queensland Experience awards. Obviously the word is getting out about what the Paroo Shire has to offer.

Whilst tourist numbers are certainly down we are seeing a modest pick in activity as confidence in fuel supply improves and the number of events across the South West increases. One such event was the Outback River Lights Festival. It was a great success primarily down to fantastic organisation by Ian, Tammy and their team and the support of our community. Visitor numbers were down but the community came out in force.

The new CCTV system has been installed throughout Cunnamulla and is providing the Queensland Police Service with state-of-the-art equipment to monitor the town and assist in solving crimes.

The long-awaited Hungerford Road works have commenced, and we continue to work on both the Jobs Gate and Gamarren Roads to service our rural residents. The DRFA road repairs with an estimated total value of \$66 million are progressing well and it is important to highlight that all this work is being undertaken by local Paroo Shire companies. Ensuring this significant body was delivered by local companies was a very conscious decision by the Council to buy local.

Again, staff changes have been a large part of the last month, and I am delighted that Guy Davenport has transitioned into the role of Community Recovery and Resilience Officer and Christina Doyle into the Team Leader Community Services role. New recruits for the Wyandra Town Orderly, apprentice and trainee plumbers, general labourer and Administration Support Officer (Depot) positions are also commencing shortly. In April we farewelled Christine Johnston, our WHS Officer. Thank you CJ for all your efforts to keep our staff safe. Recruitment for this role will commence very shortly.

We'd like to congratulate the April winner of the 2026 Paroo Shire Photography Competition!

May entries are now open!

www.cunnamullatourism.com.au/whats-on/photo-competition



Full Moon at Yowah Bluff
by Summer Rain Mulvey

COMMUNITY
ENABLES US TO
WELCOME AND
HELP PEOPLE IN A
WAY WE COULDN'T
AS INDIVIDUALS

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 19th May
- 16th June
- 21st July
- 18th August
- 15th September
- 13th October
- 17th November
- 15th December

JOB VACANCIES

- Administration Officer
- Trainee Plumber
- Finance Manager

For more info visit
www.paroo.qld.gov.au/employment or email
hr@paroo.qld.gov.au

WWW.PAROO.QLD.GOV.AU

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SNAP SEND SOLVE

Paroo Shire Council has partnered with Snap Send Solve to make it easier for our community to report an issue.



Snap Send Solve is a free app that makes it easy for the community to report a maintenance issue to Council, just download it from the app store, snap the issue and send it off.

No waiting on the phone, no forms to fill out, just a few taps and your Snap is on the way to being Solved.

Download the app from QR code above or at www.snapsendsolve.com

PAROO SHINES IN BEST OF QUEENSLAND AWARDS 2026



Congratulations to **Charlotte Plains, Cunnamulla Bakery, Cunnamulla Tourist Park, Club Boutique Hotel, Cunnamulla Hot Springs, Warrego Hotel Motel**, and the **Cunnamulla Artesian Time Tunnel, Museum & Art Gallery** for receiving a Best of Queensland Experience Award for 2026!

If you would like to learn more about how to be considered for this award, feel free to drop into the Visitor Centre for a chat. It's free to enter, easier than many businesses think, and open to any tourism business in Queensland.

Art Hub Collection Exhibition Opening

Thursday 21st May from 6pm
at the Cunnamulla Art Gallery

Cunnamulla & District Race Club Autumn Race Club

Saturday 23rd May from 12pm
at the Cunnamulla Racecourse

Vegetation, Fire & Mapping Workshop

Tuesday 26th May from 8am - 3pm
in the Kookaburra Room, CCEC

Eulo Polocrosse Carnival

Saturday 6th June from 8am
at the Eulo Sporting Grounds

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

Shoulder grading is now completed on the Charleville Road along with tractor slashing on the Charleville Road with the Barrington Road almost complete. The Bollon and Thargomindah Roads are next.



TMR has approved the Flood Damage on the Eulo-Hungerford Road and we are in the process of getting the gravel pushed in three pits.

The Hungerford Road Flood Damage works include heavy formation grading over 61,266 metres. The gravel tender has been successfully awarded, and the contractor has commenced works on site. Works started on the 5th May and are scheduled for completion by 4th September 2026. The project is currently in the early stages and progressing as planned.

We plan to re-sheet 6km for TMR and will commence in conjunction with the Eulo Hungerford Road Flood Damage.

Gamarren Road will undergo resealing of the existing bitumen and rehabilitation of failing pavement under Roads to Recovery funding, with a total project value of \$2,000,000. Works are now planned to commence in late July 2026. The rehabilitation phase is scheduled from 27th July to 7th August 2026, followed by seal and reseal works from the 10th August to 13th August 2026. Bitumen tenders have been issued.



For a more detailed overview on roadworks read **Roaming Paroo Shire's Roads** on Council's website at www.paroo.qld.gov.au/roadworks



Cunnamulla & District Diggers Race Club Pink Ladies Day

Saturday 6th June from 12pm
at the Cunnamulla Racecourse

Free Skateboard Workshops

29th - 30th June from 9am - 3pm
at the Cunnamulla Skatepark

Markets Cunnamulla

Where: Centenary Park
When: Sunday 14th June
Sunday 12th July &
Sunday 9th August
Time: 10am - 2pm

List Your Event

To list your event on both the Paroo Shire Event and tourism calendars email council@paroo.qld.gov.au

Eulo

Where: Town Park
When: Sunday 24 May

TOURISM UPDATE

A huge thank you goes out to everyone in the local community who supported this year's Outback River Lights Festival. Whether you attended events, volunteered, hosted visitors, entered the Festival Competitions, ran a workshop or helped behind the scenes, your contribution played a big part in making the event a success.



While visitor numbers were impacted by broader travel and fuel conditions, the strong community turnout and involvement helped create a fantastic atmosphere across the weekend. The positive feedback received from visitors, vendors and performers has been overwhelming, and it is clear the festival continues to be a valued part of the region's calendar.

The 'All Aboard Sound & Light Show' is now running 7 days a week, making it easier than ever for locals and visitors to experience this unique attraction. Set in the purpose-built theatre at the historic Cunnamulla Railway Station, the show brings Cunnamulla's railway history to life through immersive storytelling, sound and light.

COMMUNITY RECOVERY & RESILIENCE OFFICER



Council is proud to announce Guy Davenport has been appointed as the Community Recovery and Resilience Officer (CRRO).

In this fully funded role, Guy will focus on strengthening resilience, preparedness, recovery and community connection across the Paroo Shire.

A large focus of the role will also be around strengthening community resilience through collaboration and connection.

Guy's experience strongly aligns with building resilient and connected communities having previously held leadership roles through Life Saving Victoria, including serving as President of Dromana Bay Life Saving Club. His background includes emergency response coordination, volunteer leadership, community engagement, training and large-scale event operations.

Guy is based at the Council office and can be contacted on (07) 4655 8428.

Read more about the role at www.paroo.qld.gov.au/crro

VOTE NOW - TOP TOURISM TOWN AWARDS 2026

We're incredibly proud to announce that Cunnamulla has been named a finalist in the Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) Top Tourism Town Awards for 2026!

This award celebrates the very best tourism destinations across Queensland and shines a spotlight on the towns that offer unforgettable visitor experiences. Being recognised as a finalist is a huge achievement for our community. But now we need YOUR help!

Public voting is open and every single vote counts as we aim for GOLD in the Top Tiny Tourism Town category.

Vote now at <https://hubs.la/Q04g2DK00>

CUNNAMULLA'S RICKY STARS ACROSS AUSTRALIA



Ricky, a Central Bearded Dragon and resident of Cunnamulla, shone a spotlight on the Paroo Shire featuring in the Clean Up Australia national wrap!

Thanks to Ella for bringing Ricky, but we are not sure how much rubbish Ricky actually picked up.

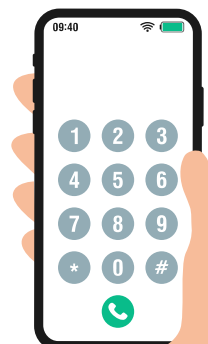
Read the blog at www.cleanup.org.au/clean-up-australia-day-2026

NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR CUNNAMULLA AMBULANCE

The new number for Cunnamulla QAS is (07) 4655 9300.

This is the number for booking an ambulance for an event or any general enquiries.

Remember, in an emergency ALWAYS call 000.



YOWAH

Excitement is building as the Yowah Opal Festival banners are officially up! You know it's getting close to one of the region's most anticipated events when the wonderful members of YOMCSI are spotted out and about putting up the festival signs.

Some more exciting festival news is that thanks to the generous support of Queensland Tourism Development, the Yowah Opal Festival has successfully secured funding to help promote the 2026 event. With the valued support and guidance of Ian Stone from Paroo Shire Council throughout the application process, this funding will allow us to expand our reach through social media, radio, and television advertising.

A huge thank you to everyone who continues to support us and help spread the word.

Thank you also to Denny for retrieving the large Yowah Artesian Spa sign at the Yowah-Thargomindah turn-off that was blown away during a storm. And to Dave and Gary for repairing the sign and reinstating it in place.



WYANDRA

On this Anzac Day we honoured the past and present soldiers who have served our country with courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication. In Wyandra, as in communities across Australia, we gathered to remember those who stood in the face of adversity so that we might live in peace and freedom.

We reflect not only on the battles fought long ago, but also on the service of those who continue to wear the uniform today. Their commitment reminds us that the spirit of ANZAC lives on - resilient, selfless, and enduring. As we stood together in remembrance, we gave thanks for their bravery, their mateship, and the legacy they have left for generations to come.

Our event each year is coordinated by Tricia Agar and we thank her for her dedicated time and effort and to all other individuals who contributed to the day. Lunch on the day was kindly donated by the Wyandra Progress Association and catered for by the Wyandra Post and General Store team.

The Wyandra Progress Association AGM has been set for Friday 29th May, all are welcome to attend.



EULO

Recently, the Eulo community came together to commemorate ANZAC Day with a wonderful service led by the staff and students from Eulo State School. A big thank you to everyone involved in making the morning so special and respectful.

Following the service, the community enjoyed morning tea in the park before the kids spent the afternoon having a great time playing tennis with Coach Michael. Later in the day, there was social tennis and a community get together, and it was fantastic to see so many people catching up and enjoying the afternoon together.

Don't forget - the Eulo Community Markets are back up and going again, so be sure to come along and support the local stalls.



POLICE BEAT

May is Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about the devastating impact of domestic and family violence and to reaffirm our commitment to creating a safer Cunnamulla.

Cunnamulla Police are dedicated to supporting victims, holding perpetrators accountable, and working to minimise DFV in our community.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic or family violence, please know that help is available. Your police are here to listen, provide support, and take action to ensure your safety.

Remember to reach out to your local Police or call 000 in an emergency.