

APRIL 2026

MONTHLY UPDATE



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



As you will read in the newsletter, it has been another busy month across the Council.

The new lighting at John Kerr Park is installed and working - just in time for the mighty Cunnamulla Rams to shine with two wins against Charleville and Thargomindah. The day was well attended and everyone seemed to have a great time. Winners are indeed grinners.

We have now entered tourism season and it is fair to say it has been a slow start with fuel availability and pricing causing travellers to rethink their travel

plans. The South West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils has proactively launched the SWQ Fuel Tracker to provide residents and visitors with greater visibility in relation to fuel availability. I encourage you to access it at <https://fueltracker.swqroc.com.au> or via our Emergency Dashboard on our website.

As tourism season ramps up so do the events around our region. I attended my first ever Motorbike Gymkhana on the Easter long weekend. A great event although the flies were a bit too friendly for my liking.

One of Council's signature events is coming up between 17-19 April; being the Outback River Lights Festival. Ian, Tammy and their team have pulled together a great program of community-focused events so please come along and make the festival a success.

Our Infrastructure team together with many local contractors continue to power ahead with our roads program. The long awaited Hungerford Road works are planned to commence late April/early May, a little later than we had hoped but it is happening soon.

Finally, staff changes have been a large part of the last month and I am delighted to welcome David Burges back into the Interim Director of Infrastructure role while we look to recruit a permanent replacement for Ajay Agwan. I also want to welcome Peter Taylor, who has been appointed as Workshop and Fleet Coordinator and Rob King who has been promoted to Supervisor – Parks & Gardens.

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

April entries are now open!

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



"River Reflections" by Dani Young

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

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

JOB VACANCIES

- Director of Infrastructure
- Finance Manager
- Local Laws Officer
- Town Orderly - Wyandra
- Casual positions within the Infrastructure Team

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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ANZAC DAY SERVICES

Council invites all community members to attend this year's ANZAC Day Commemorations on **Saturday 25th April**.

These events provide an opportunity to come together to honour and remember the service and sacrifice of Australian and New Zealand servicemen and women, past and present.

Cunnamulla: at the Cunnamulla Cenotaph Dawn Service: 5:30am | March: 10:30am | Main Service: 11am

Eulo: starting at the Eulo State School at 10am, followed by refreshments. Tennis and social gathering at the courts in the afternoon, everyone welcome.

Wyandra: at the Cenotaph at 5.30am. Main Service: muster at 9.15am at the Post Office then march to Cenotaph at 9.30am

Yowah: at the General Store at 6am then proceed to the monument. Light breakfast and refreshments to follow.

COUNCIL MEETS WITH TELSTRA CEO TO ADVOCATE FOR BETTER SERVICES

Council welcomed Telstra CEO Vicky Brady, non-executive director David Lamont and members of Vicky's executive team in March to discuss connectivity of Telstra services across the Shire.



Council raised a number of concerns with the Telstra CEO including improvements to services, the impact of AI on their services, the requirement for a generator to support the Yowah Telstra tower, concerns about Telstra's withdrawal of High-Capacity Radio Concentrator (HRC/CAN radio/RADIO landlines) and ADSL services amongst a number of other matters.

Vicky and her team were very generous with their time and listened keenly to the concerns raised. We thanked them for making the trip out west and look forward to their responses to our concerns.

WELCOMING PEOPLE WELL

Council is pleased to support an upcoming Disability Awareness Training session being held in Cunnamulla on **Tuesday 21st April from 9am - 12.30pm**.

This free workshop, delivered by Community Resource Unit (CRU), is designed to help community members, businesses, services and organisations build confidence in creating more inclusive environments for people with disability.

With 1 in 5 people in our communities living with a disability, this session focuses on practical approaches to inclusion.

For more information and to register visit <https://events.humanitix.com/disability-awareness-training-cunnamulla-2026>

Deadly Choices Cunnamulla Colour Run

Saturday 11th April from 10am at the Cunnamulla Pool

Noorama Picnic Races

Saturday 11th April at the Noorama Racecourse, 6742 Jobs Gate Rd, Cunnamulla

Outback River Lights Festival

17th - 19th April in Cunnamulla

Disability Awareness Training

Tuesday 21st April from 9am - 12.30pm in the Kookaburra Room, CCEC

Community Impact Program

Wednesday 22nd April from 8.30am - 12.30pm in the Kookaburra Room, CCEC



ANZAC Day

Friday 25th April

Cunnamulla ANZAC Day Races

Friday 25th April from 12pm at the Cunnamulla Racecourse

Cunnamulla Fishing Club Annual Fishing Comp

2nd - 3rd May, anywhere along the Warrego River Register from 3-6pm on 1st May at John Kerr Park

Labour Day Public Holiday

Monday 4th May

Cunnamulla Gun Club Mother's Day Weekend Shoot

From Friday 8th May at the Cunnamulla Gun Club

Markets

Cunnamulla Sunday Markets

Where: Centenary Park
When: Sunday 19th April & Sunday 10th May
Time: 10am - 2pm

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

The RMPC crew has recently completed 26km of shoulder grading works in the Wyandra area, improving road safety, drainage and driving conditions.

Great progress is being made on the Country Road Connect (CRC) project along Jobs Gate Road, with Council's construction crew having been hard at work on site. Around 6.5km of formation and trimming works have now been completed, to prepare the road for sealing. RPQ Spray Seal Pty Ltd has been appointed as the contractor for sealing the road, which is on track to finish in April - weather and site conditions permitting.

Council is pleased to announce the completion of the Widegeegoara Creek floodway on Jobs Gate Road, delivered under the Roads to Recovery (R2R) program. The new floodway improves safety and access for the community, particularly during wet weather, providing more reliable travel along this key route.



The Widegeegoara Creek floodway has been successfully completed.

NEW TRACTOR BOOSTS LOCAL OPERATIONS



We're pleased to welcome a new tractor to our fleet, strengthening our ability to maintain and improve community spaces across the region.

This investment will support a wide range of essential works, including parks and roadside maintenance, infrastructure upkeep, storm and recovery response, and rural and environmental management.

The addition of this equipment will help our teams work more safely, efficiently, and effectively, ensuring we continue to deliver high-quality services for our community.

REWARDING UNSUNG HEROES

Mayor Beresford, Deputy Mayor Rick Brain, Councillor Tom King and CEO Martin Leech travelled to Yowah last month to celebrate the awarding of service medals to the Rural Fire Service volunteers.

These men and women are the unsung heroes in our community and Council was delighted to be able to attend the awards ceremony and celebrate their service.



**OUTBACK RIVER LIGHTS FESTIVAL:
17-19 APRIL**

Mark your calendars - the Outback River Lights Festival is set to light up Cunnamulla from 17-19 April!

Across the weekend there'll be free live entertainment, cooking demonstrations, workshops, family-friendly activities, and of course the festival lantern parade!

To view the full program and secure tickets to the ticketed events, visit
<https://cunnamullatourism.com.au/outback-river-lights-festival/>



EULO

The Eulo Motorbike Gymkhana weekend was a fantastic success, with riders and spectators enjoying the action across the whole weekend.

A highlight of the weekend was the Sam Beresford Memorial Double Barrels, with Jake Reid taking home the big money.

Saturday night was another standout, with the raffle and Calcutta raising a fantastic amount for Angel Flight.



The Easter Bunny even stopped by for a special visit, which was a hit with the kids.

Events like this don't happen without a huge amount of effort behind the scenes, so a sincere thank you goes out to all of the volunteers and sponsors who got behind the weekend and helped make it the success it was.

The Eulo Anzac Day service will start at the school, commencing at 10am, followed by refreshments. That afternoon there will be tennis and a social gathering at the courts, with everyone welcome to come along.

Carmel Beresford presenting Jake Reid with the prize for the Sam Beresford Memorial Double Barrels

WYANDRA

As the season begins to change and we look ahead to the upcoming tourist period, there are great things happening in Wyandra.

We're pleased to share that TRACC funding has been secured to support two upcoming community events - a craft workshop and a fun day gymkhana. Dates are still to be confirmed, so keep an eye out for more details and come along to be part of it.

The town is also currently seeking a new Town Orderly, and we encourage anyone interested to get in touch with Council.

POLICE BEAT

As I prepare to transfer to a new location, I want to take a moment to thank the Cunnamulla community for your support during my time as Officer In Charge of the Cunnamulla Police Station.

Working within Cunnamulla has been a blessing to me, both personally and professionally, and my (almost) three years here have absolutely flown by.

It has been an honour to work alongside our residents, community leaders, and all of our local partners, with our continued aim of positively influencing community safety within Cunnamulla.

I am grateful for the partnerships we've built and the trust that has been placed in myself, and the team. I will leave Cunnamulla with cherished memories and a great appreciation for this community.

Thank you for your support, and I wish you all the very best for the future.

Senior Sergeant Stephen Miller



YOWAH

There are some exciting things on the horizon for our Yowah community - and a bit of recent rain and warm weather has certainly kept the Town Orderly busy, with the grass growing quicker than you can mow it!

The Yowah Nut Cafe will be opening from Tuesday 14th April, operating Tuesday to Sunday from 9am to 2pm.

Who could say no to Fish and Chips Tuesdays, and Pizza Fridays in the heart of opal country? Not us!