



# PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL MONTHLY UPDATE

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

OCTOBER 2024



## COUNCIL NEWS

### Message from the CEO

Neil Polglase (Polly) has returned as the Interim CEO for an extended period (up to 12 months) whilst Council reviews and then undertakes its recruitment strategy for the new CEO.



### End of Year Closedown

The Council offices and libraries will be closed from 4.30pm on Friday 20th December 2024 and will re-open on Monday 6th January 2025. The Council outdoor employees will commence leave on Monday 16th December 2024 and recommence work on Monday 6th January 2025.

### Council donates \$4,400 to SWIN for free breakfasts

The Cunnamulla Breakfast club located at the SWIN Office will now be able to offer 25 students breakfast each day. The Breakfast Club is an important way of supporting children to have a healthy breakfast in a safe and secure environment before school, particularly important for families who do not have the time or resources to provide breakfast for their children. After breakfast, Letisha, Sport and Recreation Officer, runs activities for the children before they head to school.

## OUTBACK RIVER LIGHTS 2025 NEEDS YOU!

Each April, the Outback River Lights Festival lights up the town with a celebration of arts and culture, and we're gearing up to make 2025 the best year yet! We're seeking talented performers, artists, and cultural contributors to shine on our stage.

We'll be bringing in some incredible acts from across Australia, but we want to ensure our local talent is featured just as prominently. So, if you can entertain, perform, act, dance, cook, sing, or have other talents worth showcasing, we want to hear from you!

Don't miss your chance to be a part of this iconic celebration. Get in touch now, as we're locking in our program soon!

Email: [visitor@paroo.qld.gov.au](mailto:visitor@paroo.qld.gov.au)

Join us and help make Outback River Lights 2025 an unforgettable experience!

## UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 19th November
- 12th December

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION DATES

- Noorama - 25th November
- Yowah and Eulo - 27th November
- Wyandra and Cunnamulla - 28th November

## JOB VACANCIES

- Road Crew Maintenance Supervisor
- Plumber
- Senior Plumber
- Operations Manager Coordinator

For more info see

[www.paroo.qld.gov.au/  
council/employment](http://www.paroo.qld.gov.au/council/employment)

## LIBRARY UPDATE

Our Annual Under 8's Spring Fair certainly didn't disappoint once again this year. The "under the sea theme" was very popular as were the inspiring, clever performers. Much to the delight of the children there was a mermaid and seahorse doing the most awesome "under the sea" tattoos, while out the front of the hall the cutest jellyfish, was making enormous bubbles and inviting the children to make them too. All the while the pirates kept the kids in the tattoo line amazed and amused with their tricks and antics. We are extremely grateful to all our sponsors: Paroo Shire Council, CACH, Project HOPE, REX Airlines and Lifeline. Without their continued support this annual event wouldn't be possible.

We are very excited about the unveiling of our new library mural that was unveiled on Thursday 3rd October, with a good roll up witnessing the unveiling by Mayor Beresford and Sue Eustace Earle, from HOPE Project. This beautiful and updated mural was painted onsite at the library, to the delight of patrons/visitors who were able to see its transformation on the spot. Mr. Mark Paddick was the talented painter who painted it for us. HOPE Project donated it to the library, and we are very grateful; and excited to have this beautiful artwork displayed out the front of the library.

## STATE AWARD FOR LIBRARY

The Cunnamulla Library has won Library of the Year 2024 for libraries with a population under 35,000. This is the library's 5th QPLA Award since 2013, including the Delegates Award. This year's nomination was about organisations we partner with such as The Indigenous Literacy Foundation, HOPE Project, CACH etc. and all the opportunities partnering with such organisations can bring about. The prize for winning the award is \$1000, which will go towards purchasing something for the community, as well as a framed certificate.



## Australia Day Award Nominations

Australia Day is a time to celebrate the nation's achievements and recognize the contributions of its citizens. Nominations for awards are open to individuals and organisations who have made a significant impact in their community, whether through volunteer work, cultural contributions, or outstanding achievements and events. Nominate someone who has inspired you and made a positive difference in your community.

Australia Day nomination forms will be available next week.

Look out for them on Council's website, call our staff on 07 46558400 or pick up a copy at the office in Cunnamulla.

# FLOOD RESTORATION PROJECT OCTOBER UPDATE

- SHEPHERD have now completed the January 2022 event delivery with the remaining treatments completed on Linden Nebine Road, Amenda Tinnenburra Road, and Rocky Road now completed back to their former condition. The QRA funded work of new reconstructed roads, drainage, and table drains make the roads safer and more resilient during future rain and flooding events.
- While completing the current delivery of the January 2022 event for the reconstruction of Council public assets to their original condition, SHEPHERD Inspectors have also proactively set out around 90% of the treatments for the September 2022 event.
- All four contractors have continued exceptional work in all four quadrants for the delivery of the September 2022 Event. The closing out of treatments is currently at 30% completion to date with contractors progressing well and on target with their prospective programs with an estimated completion date of the 30 April 2025.
- Tender evaluation meetings have progressed, and contracts will be awarded after this month's Council Meeting for Humeburn Road and Yerrel Road submissions.
- Schmidt Contracting in NWQ is currently working on Jandell and Blackgate Roads. Schmidt Plant Hire in the NEQ is currently working on Linden Nebine and Yarmouth Roads. Russell Grader Hire in the SWQ are currently working on Pitherty Road, while Tuckwell Transport & Earthmoving in the SEQ is currently working on Gamarren Road. Contractors are progressing well and are on target with their prospective programs.
- To assist Council to capture evidence of infrastructure damage during the September 2022 event as well as future activations of new events, SHEPHERD have provided a complimentary RACAS® (Road Asset Condition Assessment System) camera. RACAS® takes high resolution images every 10 metres as well as capturing precision GPS and roughness data of the road as it is driven. If you see SHEPHERD's RACAS® Road Survey Vehicle out and about, please give us a wave hello!



## ROUND 2 NOW OPEN!

Got a brilliant idea that's been bubbling away in your mind? RADF Round 2 is your chance to bring it to life! We're on the hunt for creative visionaries in our community who are ready to turn their projects into reality. Whether it's art, craft, culture, or innovation, if you've got a spark of inspiration, we'd like to help fuel it.

### DON'T MISS OUT

APPLY FOR RADF FUNDING TODAY AND MAKE YOUR VISION A REALITY!

Applications open 14th October 2024 and Close on the 20th November 2024

Contact RADF Liaison Officer if you need assistance.  
At: [Community@paroo.qld.gov.au](mailto:Community@paroo.qld.gov.au) or Phone: 07 4655 8400  
For more information see [paroo.qld.gov.au/radf](http://paroo.qld.gov.au/radf)



The Paroo Shire Council Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Paroo Shire Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

## ROAD SURVEY UNDERWAY with RACAS®

Powered by [shepherdservices.com.au](http://shepherdservices.com.au)  
road asset condition assessment system



## LGMA Rural Management Challenge

Congratulations to the 12 amazing teams that took part in the Southern Queensland Rural Management Challenge on 10th October in Roma. Everyone showed incredible teamwork, dedication and got totally involved.

The Dusty Road Runners from Paroo Shire Council are Teresa King, Bradley Palmer, Bea Todd and Jari Branfield-Bradshaw. They worked very hard on the pre-challenge activities and on the day were amazing to watch working together to complete the 10 challenge activities. Each activity related to a fictitious event, but an event that they may come across in Council on any given day. I was very proud to have the opportunity to be their mentor and to see them work together while also learning so much about themselves and each other.

The team had to be fully self-sufficient, taking whatever they thought they may need to complete the challenge activities, whilst not knowing what that might be. The only thing provided was a work area and lunch. They needed to organise laptops, charging devices, flip charts, power boards, cords, stationery, and snacks (brain food). Some teams came with props or costumes for their introduction, whiteboards, trolleys to carry their gear, laminated signs, and fairy lights and lots of other interesting bits and pieces. As usual Paroo Shire Council was able to make do with less. Their workspace might not have been the prettiest, but the team did the job all the same and exceeded their own expectations and acquitted themselves admirably and took care of each other during the challenge.

Thank you to all our colleagues whose stayed behind and kept the wheels of Council turning allowing the Team to participate in this event. It is a big ask to take 5 staff out over 3 days and for everyone else who remained to pick up their duties for that time.

The other teams were:

4 Western Downs – Western Downs Regional Council

Team MANA – Western Downs Regional Council

Bendemere Broncos – Maranoa Regional Council

Maranoa Rural Champions – Maranoa Regional Council

Goal Diggers – Somerset Regional Council

Ro-roombas – Toowoomba Regional Council

Hilltop Floral Knights – Toowoomba Regional Council

The Nutty Bunch – South Burnett Regional Council

Sustainable Scenic Warriors – Scenic Rim Regional Council

Taking Care of Business – Lockyer Valley Regional Council

The Heart of the Valley – Lockyer Valley Regional Council

The challenge winners will be announced in the next couple of weeks.

