



PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL MONTHLY UPDATE



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

Merry Christmas

DECEMBER 2024



UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 21st January
- 18th February
- 18th March
- 15th April
- 20th May

JOB VACANCIES

- Town Ranger – Local Laws Officer
- Senior Plumber and/or Plumber
- Environmental Field Officer
- Administration Officer (Infrastructure)
- Administration Officer (Corporate)
- Road Crew Maintenance Supervisor

For more info see

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

COUNCIL NEWS

Message from the CEO

This year has been both a very exciting but also challenging year for Council. There have been several highlights for the year most notably, the opening of the \$11M Cunnamulla Hot Springs bringing renewed vigour and vibrancy increasing our tourism traffic throughout the Shire. Major infrastructure project the Cunnamulla Town Water Reticulation Upgrade is due for completion in March 2025. Increased road maintenance, repairs and improvements including flood damage works have been undertaken through assistance from both the Federal & State Government Departments.

Staffing levels have been difficult to maintain throughout the year with Council currently advertising a number of workforce vacancies. Council has also had difficulty in finding a replacement CEO following the departure of our previous resident Ms Cassie White, with Council to go back to the market early in 2025 to fill this vacancy. In closing as the Interim CEO, I extend to the Community, Councillors and Staff the hope of a very Merry Christmas and Joyful New Year. If people are travelling during the festive season, please travel safely and I look forward to seeing everybody again in 2025 with renewed spirit for a rewarding year ahead.

Best Wishes,

Neil Polglase

End of Year Closedown Reminder

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.

Rural Lands Update – Wild Dog Control

There have been 9 wild dogs claimed for the bounty in November 2024 being 1 adult male, 4 adult females and 4 mixed sex pups.

A coordinated baiting campaign commenced on Friday 1st November and concluded on Friday 8th November. A total of 12,000 kilograms of baits were distributed during the campaign. 5,670 kg of meat was prepared as wild dog baits and 6,330 kg of meat was prepared as feral pig baits. 11,510 kilograms of meat was supplied by Council and 490 kilograms was brought to the bait stations by landholders wishing to use their own meat. Total of 64 properties participated in the November campaign.





Rural Lands Update cont - Land Care

A local landholder provided pictures to the RLCO wanting to identify a cactus discovered on their property. The initial identification from the photos presented showed Snake Cactus (*Cylindropuntia spinosior*) these pictures have been forwarded to the Qld Herbarium for a final determination.

To find out more about Snake Cactus visit <https://bit.ly/49DFqy4> or scan the QR Code below.



LIBRARY UPDATE

November has been very busy month for the library doing the Glamour Photos. This year the team have photographed over 110 children and adults. Photos were taken for our First5Forever attendees, Eulo State School, both Cunnamulla P – 12 State School and Sacred Heart students who met the criteria, as well as some of the seniors and the beautiful Clinch children, who live out of town and are frequent borrowers and visitors to the library.



The Clinch Family

The First5Forever break up was held on Monday 2nd December. The children were very excited to have Santa visit and give them a small gift. A glow party followed much to the delight of the children, who danced away to “glow tunes”.

On 4th December in partnership with TRAAC (Tackling Regional Adversity through Connected Communities) and QLD Health we held a children’s clothing sale and Street Stall at the library. Both events were very well attended and supported. All funds went to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. The children’s clothing was made out of used police uniforms and hand sewn.

On the 9th and 10th December robotic workshops were held. The workshops were well attended, and we were even able to visit the hospital with the robotics, much to the delight of the patients.

FLOOD RESTORATION PROJECT – DECEMBER UPDATE

SHEPHERD has successfully completed the delivery of the January 2022 event. These QRA-funded works included newly reconstructed roads, drainage systems, and table drains. The completed projects significantly enhance road safety and resilience during future rain and flood events.

While finalising the January 2022 event, SHEPHERD Inspectors have proactively advanced the September 2022 event, with approximately 95% of treatments already set out.

Contractors working across the four quadrants have shown exceptional progress, with 55% of treatments completed to date. Work remains on schedule, with the estimated completion date set for 30 April 2025.

Current Projects in Progress

- Northwest Quadrant: Contractor James Schmidt is working on Rosevale and Claverton Park Roads.
- Northeast Quadrant: Contractor Rupert Schmidt is progressing on Truganinni Road.
- Southwest Quadrant: Russell Grader Hire is making excellent progress on Rockwell Road.
- Southeast Quadrant: Contractor Tuckwell is currently working on Bluegrass Road.

To assist Council in capturing evidence of infrastructure damage from the September 2022 event and any future activations, SHEPHERD has continued to provide a complimentary RACAS® (Road Asset Condition Assessment System) for the Shire. The RACAS® system captures high-resolution images every 10 metres, along with GPS and road roughness data. If you see SHEPHERD’s RACAS® Road Survey Vehicle out, be sure to give us a wave!

TOURISM UPDATE

We've had a successful year for tourism in the Paroo Shire in 2024. The grand opening of the Cunnamulla Hot Springs has cemented our region as the Hot Springs Capital of Australia, drawing visitors from around Australia to experience its rejuvenating waters. This addition has significantly boosted our reputation as a desirable destination for relaxation and wellness.

Building on this momentum, the Tourism team is gearing up for an even brighter 2025 with several exciting projects in the pipeline:

- **Town Revitalisation:** New town flags and a modern flagpole system will revamp the town centre, creating a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere for residents and visitors alike.
- **Outback River Lights:** As part of Outback River Lights Festival 2025, permanent light installations are planned to illuminate key trees around town, adding a magical touch to evenings and showcasing the beauty of our natural surroundings all year round.
- **Warrego Riverboat Cruise:** Infrastructure is already in place for the much-anticipated Warrego Riverboat Cruise. This new attraction will offer visitors a unique way to experience the Warrego River.



Our vision for 2025 is to position the Paroo Shire as a must-visit destination for wellness, relaxation, cultural experiences, nature exploration, and outback adventure.

We're excited about what's ahead and look forward to sharing these developments with the community and visitors in the coming year. Stay tuned as we continue to make the Paroo Shire shine brighter than ever!

QUEENSLAND HOUSING FINANCE LOAN REGIONAL TRIAL

Under the 'Help for first homeowners' pillar of Homes for Queenslanders, the QLD Government want to bridge the gap for regional Queenslanders who struggle to get home loan finance because of where they live. In a 2-year trial, they'll increase the income eligibility threshold for the existing Queensland Housing Finance Loan specifically for regional Queenslanders. This will make it easier for people to stay in rural areas close to their families, jobs, and community connections.

This trial is for people living in regional and remote areas who can afford to buy or build a home but can't get private finance from a bank or building society.

This trial will help more Queenslanders in regional areas become homeowners and inform future decisions and planning across regional and remote Queensland. To find out more and check your eligibility see <https://www.housing.qld.gov.au/initiatives/qld-housing-finance-loan-regional-trial> or scan the QR code.



RAAF'S EXERCISE CHRISTMAS HOP 2024

Today, Cunnamulla was buzzing with excitement as the RAAF's Exercise Christmas Hop 2024 made its highly anticipated stop in town! From the arrival of the C-27J Spartan to the heartwarming festivities, it was a day to remember for the Paroo Shire community.

Highlights from the day:

- A grand arrival by 35SQN and their guests, greeted with smiles at the airport.
- Junior Cricket Club kids had their moment in the spotlight with a special photo opportunity alongside the RAAF team.
- Gifts delivered for local children.

The day continued at the Cunnamulla Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Centre (CACH), where attendees were treated to lunch and inspiring introductions of RAAF members and special guests:

- Tanya Osborne – Local rugby legend and proud Cunnamulla girl.
- Tracey Thompson – Rugby league pioneer and trailblazer.
- Annie La Fleur – Olympian and basketball superstar.
- Caleb Law – Paris 2024 Olympian making waves in athletics.
- Aunty Lorraine Hatton – Army Elder, Afghanistan veteran, and community leader.

The afternoon included a yarning session that highlighted stories of perseverance, pride, and inspiration from our remarkable guests.

We extend a huge thank you to RAAF, their guests, and everyone who came out to celebrate this special event. Days like these remind us of the strength, unity, and spirit of our community.

