



# PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL MONTHLY UPDATE

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

**JANUARY 2025**



## **UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- 18th February
- 18th March
- 15th April
- 20th May

## **JOB VACANCIES**

- Senior plumber and/or Plumber
- Environmental Field Officer
- Administration Officer
- Waste Treatment Plant Operator
- Building and Facilities Officer
- Finance Officer
- Operations Manager (Infrastructure)
- Multi Combination Truck Drivers
- Procurement Coordinator

**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**

On behalf of Mayor, Councillors and Staff, I welcome everyone back for a 2025 year and hope the festive season was both restful and rewarding.

2025 looms both as a very progressive yet challenging year ahead with the anticipated appointment of a new CEO towards the new financial year.

There are many projects in the pipeline given an extensive capital works program in the 24/25 budget, including improvements to roadworks, water and sewerage assets, cemeteries, airport and housing.

Late last year Council entered into a contract with REX Airlines to provide, baggage, marshalling and refuelling services at the Cunnamulla airport to enable this service to continue to operate for the benefit of our community and will continue providing this service.

Staffing has again been challenging but I am pleased to announce a number of new members to our community have or will be joining Council and look forward to officially welcoming them at our Welcome to Cunnamulla celebration on 5th March.



## **AUSTRALIA DAY 2025**

The Paroo Shire invites the community to come together for a celebration of Australia Day on Sunday, 26 January, with events planned across Cunnamulla, Yowah, Wyandra, and Eulo. This year's celebrations will feature Australia Day Ambassador Peter Bongiorno (pictured), President of the Ukrainian Community of Queensland Inc., as the special guest.

Peter Bongiorno is a passionate community leader and advocate for cultural inclusivity.

Recognised with the Queensland Government's Minister's Multicultural Award in 2023, Peter's dedication to multiculturalism and community leadership has made a significant impact in Queensland's cultural landscape. His inspiring vision, strategic expertise, and collaborative spirit have enriched Queensland's multicultural communities, making him a fitting ambassador for Australia Day celebrations. See website for a full schedule of Shire events.

# 2024–2025 VOLUNTEER GRANT OPPORTUNITY GUIDELINES

Download the guidelines here

Opening date:	26 February 2025
Closing date and time:	5:00 pm AEDT on 12 March 2025
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Social Services
Administering entities:	Community Grants Hub
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact Community Grants Hub Phone: 1800 020 283 (option 1) Email: <a href="mailto:support@communitygrants.gov.au">support@communitygrants.gov.au</a> Questions should be sent no later than 5.00 pm AEDT on 4 March 2025

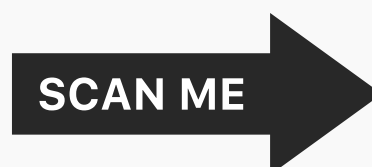


## LIBRARY UPDATE

The Library team has hit the ground running since they returned to work earlier this month, with budget and program planning. The Spring Fair will be held this year on Thursday 25th September, which is the first week of the school holidays and is always a highlight of our year. The Indigenous Literacy Foundation are coming out the first week of the April holidays, to commence the process of local kids writing their own book. Every child in the Shire will receive a free book once the book is completed. We are extremely grateful to ILF for this opportunity for our community kids. All costs associated with the publishing of the book will be met by the ILF.

## GREAT OUTBACK TREASURE HUNT

It is with great excitement that Council announces the upcoming Great Outback Treasure Hunt, an exhilarating two-day event set to take place on the 5th and 6th of April 2025. This adventure promises to bring participants from all walks of life to the heart of South West Queensland, showcasing the unmatched beauty, resilience, and spirit of the Paroo Shire. Designed to support local businesses, boost tourism, and foster community inclusion, this annual event is more than a fun-filled escapade. It's an opportunity to make a lasting economic and social impact in our region, which has faced significant challenges in recent years, including the effects of drought. The Great Outback Treasure Hunt is proudly supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) (Queensland Section), an organisation integral to the health and wellbeing of remote communities like ours. Proceeds from this event will directly benefit the RFDS, ensuring they can continue their vital work across the outback. See council website for more information.



## TOURISM UPDATE

April is traditionally the start of the tourism season, but there is still a lot for locals going on.

This April and over Easter there is something for everyone in the Shire; music, art, racing, sports and adventure.

### April Highlights:

5th & 6th April – Beat The Heat – Cunnamulla Triathlon.

For information contact Jock Jones: 0417 076 443

11th – 13th April – Outback River Lights Festival

12th April – Noorama Picnic Races Easter Weekend – Eulo Gymkhana & Motor Sports

25th April – Cunnamulla & District Diggers Anzac Day Races

28th & 29th April – Queensland Music Trails Ballads & Bush Yarns



## RURAL ADVISORY GROUP UPDATE

The first meeting of the newly formed Rural Advisory Group was held on 16th January 2025 and resulted in some positive outcomes towards addressing the issues of main concern to rural residents.

Establishment of the Rural Advisory Group came from a community consultation meeting suggestion which Council endorsed. These meetings are seen as an important forum for identifying region-wide issues and opportunities as well as advising Council about effective policy and service provision regarding roads and rural related matters within the Paroo Shire.

The group consists of up to eight rural representatives, two from each sector of the Shire, Councillors and Executive Officers. Those representing the rural areas are Andrea McKenzie, Don Dunsdon, Andrew O'Brien, Sam Clements, Clare Steele, Carol Godfrey and Sam Todd.

A vacancy exists for a further representative from the north-west of the Shire and anyone interested in joining the group should forward their details to the [CEO@paroo.qld.gov.au](mailto:CEO@paroo.qld.gov.au)



## WELCOME TO *Paroo*

NEW RESIDENTS AND LONG STANDING LOCALS WITHIN THE PAROO SHIRE ARE INVITED TO COME TOGETHER TO MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS, BUSINESSES, CLUBS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS AND PLAY A GAME OF BAREFOOT BOWLS

**FREE BBQ DINNER**



### CUNNAMULLA BOWLS CLUB

5:30PM | WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH 2025

EMAIL: [COMMUNITY@PAROO.QLD.GOV.AU](mailto:COMMUNITY@PAROO.QLD.GOV.AU) OR PHONE 07 4655 8400

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO HOST A STALL

# INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

My name is Dave Burges and I'm here in Paroo Shire helping the Council on a range of issues and now am the Interim Director of Infrastructure with the recent departure of Kerry Jones. I have a long background in local government with over 32 years' experience in a range of roles including 13 years as a CEO (9 years as CEO of Quilpie Shire so I'm familiar with the Southwest) and 9 years as a Director of Engineering in Goondiwindi. I'm enjoying being back out in the West and helping councils like Paroo to provide critical services to the communities we serve, and I look forward to meeting many locals over the next little while.

## Shire Road Crews

Crews are currently undertaking heavy shoulder maintenance on the Bollon Road and the Charleville Road. One of these crews will then start re-sheeting on the Bollon Charleville Road[DB1] .

Shoulder grading has been done on the Eulo Toompine Road and when gravel is ready, widening of sections of this road will commence. Together with drainage works and culvert extensions, Council, in partnership with the Department of Transport and Main Roads, will be spending approximately \$2M on this road this financial year.

## Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA) Flood Repair Works – Council has 4 flood events in progress as follows:

- Event 1 (January 2022)

All quarry and construction work are completed and the financial acquittal with the state government is approximately 95% complete.

- Event 2 (September 2022)

Works are progressing well with approximately 60% of the construction works completed. Local contractors are working in all four quadrants of the Shire.

- Event 3 (January 2024)

4 separate submissions have been made to the state government, one for each of the 4 quadrants we divide the Shire into for delivery by contractors. The total estimated value of the submissions to date is \$10.2M.

When the scope of works is finalised tenders will be called for the winning and crushing of gravel and construction of the works.

- Event 4 (December 2024)

This event has been activated and lodged with QRA and a rapid assessment of the entire road network has been completed. The emergent work pick up has commenced in the NW Quadrant as this area was the most severely impacted.

A detailed damage assessment ahead of undertaking the emergent works has commenced, focusing on the NW Quadrant as a priority.

The emergent works are currently being scheduled and should be completed by March and the detailed damage assessment and submission lodgments are forecast to be completed by mid-year to allow restoration contracts to be prepared and awarded later this year.

## Water Pipe Replacement Scheme

This project is well advanced and should be completed by March 2025. The reinstatement of the trenches across the town streets has commenced and more will be done soon.

