

SHIRE SNIPPETS

News and updates from the Shire of Morawa

A message from the President

CR. KAREN CHAPPEL



Electoral Reform

The Premier announced on the 15 September 2021, that legislation to change Upper House elections to be effectively one vote one value will be going ahead. Under the proposed legislation, the current six electoral regions will end, with an increased 37 Upper House seats determined on a state-wide allocation of votes.

The concept of one vote one value has logic as a theoretical exercise but in practice runs the real risk of disenfranchising regional communities like ours as it ignores the unique attributes of WA as an electoral region, in particular our vast distances and extremes of population density. The result of this change will inevitably be even fewer MPs based in the regions. Concerns raised across the regions will likely be diluted but more importantly access to Members of Parliament would be severely curtailed for regional West Australians. I am continuing to challenge the State on this change to support the best interests of the Morawa Community.

Bush fire preparedness

It is more important than ever to ensure you, your staff, your equipment and your PPE are ready in case of any bush fire events this year. Higher than average fuel loads are generating concerns across the community and if anyone has any issues or questions, they are encouraged to touch base with their local Fire Control Officer or the Shire's Community Emergency Services Manager, Rick Ryan on 0427 717 020.

Insurance issues post cyclone

The Insurance Council visited Morawa on 3 October but there has been feedback from the community that the visit did not do enough. I encourage any community members who are hitting significant hurdles with their insurance company to persevere with your complaints and reach out to me if you need assistance with the Insurance Council.

Tourist Centre Volunteers

This year has seen a high number of visitors for the fantastic wildflower season, and I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the volunteers at the Tourist Centre who have done an amazing job in providing a valuable service to all the visitors to our town.

Graduations

Congratulations to students at the WA College of Agriculture Morawa and the Year 12s at the Morawa District High School for your upcoming graduation. The hard work you have put in has paid off and it is fantastic that you completed your education in Morawa.

Council News

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS - SEPTEMBER 2021

Endorse the CEO to join the Regional Waste Collection Contract process

Shire of Morawa to become part of the Regional Waste Collection Contract being formulated in the Mid-West.

Closure period for the 2021/2022 Christmas and New Year Period

The Shire of Morawa Office, Library and Depot facility to be closed to the public from 4pm on Friday 24 December 2021 to 9:00am on Wednesday 5 January 2022

Request for Short Term Lease of an Industrial Business Unit

Lease of an Industrial Business Unit to Tony Smith-Holley for a period not to exceed 6 months.

NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

View full details of Council Meetings at:

21 OCTOBER 2021

www.morawa.wa.gov.au/shire/your-council/council-meetings

Local Government Council Election Results

Following the close of nominations for vacancies at 4pm on the 9 September 2021, the four candidates for the 2021 Local Government elections at the Shire of Morawa have been elected unopposed. It is therefore advised that pursuant to Sections 4.55 and 4.77 of the Local Government Act 1995, the following persons are elected to the Shire of Morawa Council for a four (4) year term, commencing 17 October 2021, with the expiry of office being 18 October 2025. The roles of President and Deputy President will be elected at the Special Council Meeting to be held on 18 October 2021.

- **Dean Carslake**
- **Karen Chappel**
- **Debra Collins**
- **Ken Stokes**

Citizenship Ceremony

The Shire of Morawa conducted a Citizenship ceremony on 16 September 2021. Congratulations to Katrina Milloy and Hanna North on becoming Australian Citizens. The Shire takes great pride in being able to present citizenship certificates to our residents.



Shire Project Updates

Old Road Board Building

Works commenced on the 22 September 2021 to help breathe new life into the inside of the Old Road Board/Council Office Building.

To date, sand has been formed for a new access ramp at the entrance to the building. Some walls have been removed to open up parts of the facility to allow improved accessibility, and the building electrics have been made compliant.

Golf and Bowling Club

The refurbishment project at the Morawa Golf and Bowling Club has commenced. Patrons visiting the club will now be able to enjoy the new ducted air conditioning in the main bar area, with the old split systems now servicing the kids' room and kitchen, providing a more enjoyable environment for all. The club have removed the old kitchen and work has commenced with retiling the space ready for new stainless steel commercial kitchen benches. The outside of the building is also being revamped with the guttering and other woodwork receiving a new paint job to help extend the life of the facility.



Greater Sports Ground Drainage Improvement Works

The town oval site has been surveyed and drainage levels mapped. The outcome is that the site is very flat which does not assist with drainage, and there will always be some puddles after heavy rain, even if additional drainage solutions are implemented.

In order to improve general site drainage, the Shire will be undertaking works early next year to grade certain areas and enhance run off with the existing culvert near the airport being lowered.

Roads Update - Nanekine Road

Works on Nanekine Road are set to be completed by 11 October 2021. With the gravel standard now improved to a 7m sealed standard

Community News

Morawa Swimming Pool Managers

The Shire has employed two new staff members through the, Geraldton Sporting Aboriginal Corporation, who will be co-managing the Morawa Swimming Pool and Youth Centre for the 2021/22 summer season. Seeing these two community services working in tandem to deliver great community outcomes especially for the Morawa Youth will be fantastic. The temporary nature of this engagement is due to our usual Swimming Pool Manager, Sandy, being on extended leave this summer.

Swimming Pool Opening

The Morawa Swimming Pool is set to open on 16 October 2021. There have been some changes to the opening hours this year with the pool to be open from 12 noon to 7pm, Tuesday to Sunday. The pool will remain closed on Mondays. Season pool passes are available from the swimming pool kiosk as well as from the Shire office.



Recognise a local hero!

Do you know someone who makes our community an even better place? Nominations for the Community Citizen of the Year Awards are open and can be made online www.citizenshipawards.com.au/nominate until 31 October 2021.

Hard copies of the nomination form are available from the Shire of Morawa office.

There are four categories:

- Community Citizen of the Year (over 16 years)
- Senior Community Citizen of the Year (over 65 years)
- Young Community Citizen of the Year (under 25 years)
- Active Citizenship Award (community group or event)

Cyclone Recovery Update

Cyclone Seroja Recovery Hub

The Cyclone Seroja Recovery Hub team and DFES held a meet and greet morning tea in September at the Pioneer park opposite the CRC. This was a chance to catch up and check in with people to see how they were travelling post Seroja. Community Recovery Officers are available to assist if you need help with anything and are available in person and over the phone. Don't hesitate to get in contact.



Information on immediate support options, financial assistance and grant programs to assist with cyclone recovery are updated regularly on the DFES website.

Visit the website at www.dfes.wa.gov.au/emergencywa/recovery.html

If you would like to speak to someone in person about your options, you can visit the Welfare Hub at the Morawa CRC.

Shire Burning Periods

The Shire of Morawa's restricted burning period started on 01 October 2021. To obtain a permit to burn during a restricted burning period, contact the Chief Fire Control Officer. Prohibited burning Period is from 15 October 2021 to 28 February 2022, when no burning at all is permitted. Burning is then again restricted between 01 March 2022 and 15 March 2022. The Shire of Morawa conducts inspections to ensure that properties comply with fire hazard reduction requirements. Take action to ensure your property complies with requirements. Infringement notices may be issued which could result in a fine.

Firebreaks and Fire Hazard Reduction Works must be completed by 15 September 2021 and maintained until 15 March 2022

Employment Opportunity!

Risk and Safety Officer

The Shires of Morawa and Perenjori are working together to improve their performance in the core areas of risk and safety. If you have a passion or experience in these areas, then please head online or visit the office to review the role. For more information, visit www.morawa.wa.gov.au/employment

