

# SHIRE SNIPPETS

*News and updates from the Shire of Morawa*

## A message from the President

CR. KAREN CHAPPEL



### End of an Era

The Shire of Morawa and people around the world received the news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on September 8 2022. As the longest reigning British monarch, on the throne for nearly 71 years, many of us have not known a time when she was not Queen as such her passing really does mark the end of an era. The national day of mourning public holiday was held last week and with the ascension of King Charles III as Head of State, the public holiday on 26 September was renamed for the King's Birthday holiday. The Queen dedicated a lifetime to the service of the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, and regardless of what we each hope happens next her 70 year reign will not be quickly forgotten.

### Harvest Approaching

As Harvest season approaches I encourage everyone to plan ahead, drive safely to road conditions, be alert and slow down where possible to protect our road networks.

### Celebrating our School and Students

Once again the Morawa District High School students have continued to impress with their attitude, knowledge, and energy.

Council was fortunate to host the Student Council at the September OCM. We enjoyed a pre-lunch with the students and engaged in some interesting discussions. Some of the Student Council representatives also asked questions at Public Question Time during the Council meeting. It was great to see our future leaders learning about civic leadership and the functions of government and we hope to continue this partnership with the Student Council moving forward.

On behalf of Council, I would also like to acknowledge and celebrate Miss Peta Humphries for her appointment as a member of the Western Australian Student Council in 2022-2023. We are very impressed with her accomplishments and wish her all the best with the endeavour.

I was also lucky enough to enjoy a medley of music from the Brass Band at Mellenby Station a few weekends ago, once again the talent and commitments of all involved shone through.

# A Message from the President

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## Zap Circus

Morawa hosted ZAP Circus with a school workshop on the 21 September followed by a Town Hall show on the 22 September. 180 tickets were sold and feedback from the event was magnificent.

It is great to see well supported events happening in our community and I would encourage everyone to continue to support events and activities where possible to ensure they continue to choose Morawa as a destination.

## Local Government Reforms

The Minister for Local Government has provided information to Local Governments regarding the proposed reforms that will impact on the 2023 Council elections. Over 60 Local Governments will be impacted in terms of the size of their Council, the manner in which they elect their President or Mayor, or their ward boundaries.

The Shire has received advice that our Shire and Council has been deemed to meet the reform criteria and as such we will not be mandated to make any changes to the size or structure of Council.

More changes relating to the reform process are likely to come into affect over the next 12 months, and the Shire will seek to be proactive in implementing simple and cost effective changes where possible.

## United in Diversity and Taste of India

Another successful event this month was the Taste of India Event held on 9 September at the Golf and Bowling club. Four of our local Indian families came together with United in diversity, to introduce themselves to the community and provide a feast of authentic Indian cuisine. United in Diversity has been working in conjunction with the Shire of Morawa to launch a migrant employment program and cultural exchange initiative in Morawa.

The Curry Night was a fabulous success and introduction to this initiative. Thank you to all who participated in the event, it was great to see so many of our community show their support. Thank you to those behind the scenes for cooking up a storm and sharing their wonderful cultural with us. Special mention also goes to Sandra Carr MLC for taking a detour to attend the event and her ongoing support of the pilot program and our community.

I would also like to take this opportunity as Shire President to formally welcome the two new migrant members of our community Mohammad and Halim.

## RAC Shortlisting

The Shire has submitted an application for funding under RAC's Reconnect WA Initiative to revitalise Jubilee Park with Indigenous design elements and amenities to support community coming together.

The project has been shortlisted by the RAC panel and has now moved to the member vote stage.

All RAC members are eligible to register to vote and voting opens from Friday 30 September for a two week period.

For more information visit - [RAC.com.au](http://RAC.com.au)

## Council News

### COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 15 SEPTEMBER 2022

#### **Construction and Maintenance of Firebreak**

Council directed the Chief Executive Officer to request DevelopmentWA to construct a firebreak of no greater than 15m on Lot 512 (Reserve 49257) and 3m Lot 9000, subject to obtaining the necessary clearing permits from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and endeavouring, where plausible, to protect Clerophyll Woodland; York gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba*). This resolution was in relation to new guidelines in relation to Bushfire Prone Areas that weren't in place when DevelopmentWA did their original subdivision.

#### **Christmas Closure Period 2022-2023**

Council noted the proposed office and depot closure period for the 2022/2023 Christmas and New Year Period from 4pm on Friday 23 December 2022 to 8:30am Wednesday 4 January 2023.

#### **Review of 2022 Morawa Art Awards and Exhibition**

Council noted the report and acknowledge Left of Centre Concepts and Events for their excellent management of the 2022 Morawa Art Awards and Exhibition

#### **Adoption of the Arts and Culture Plan, and Tourism Plan**

Council adopted both the Shire of Morawa Arts and Culture Plan, and Tourism Plan and acknowledged Element Advisory Pty Ltd. For their community engagement, document drafting and support with these plans.

#### **Modification to Morawa Swimming Pool Opening Times 2022-2023 Season**

Council adopted the revised opening hours for the Morawa Swimming Pool 2022-2023 Season.

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Closed	
<b>Tuesday</b>		2pm - 7pm
<b>Wednesday - Friday</b>	6am - 8am	2pm - 7pm
<b>Saturday and Sunday</b>	10am - 7pm	

#### **RAV Permit Request**

Council did not support a RAV 7 upgrade request for the access roads from Morawa-Yalgoo Road to the Karara Mine site.

### NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**20 October 2022 at 3pm**

View full details of Council Meetings at: [www.morawa.wa.gov.au/council-meetings](http://www.morawa.wa.gov.au/council-meetings)

# Shire Project Updates

## Gutha West Road and White Road

Terraform has completed road verge vegetation clearing along Gutha West Road and White Road in preparation for re-sheeting projects.

Thurkle Engineering has commenced preparing gravel pits to support road maintenance and construction projects. Re-sheeting of Gutha West Road has now begun.

## The cemetery car parking and drainage upgrades.

The Shire has received three submissions to prepare a detailed design of the cemetery car park and drainage upgrades. Assessments have been undertaken the week commencing Tuesday, 27 September.

## Rec Centre Roof Replacement project.

A structural report for the Rec Centre Roof Replacement project is now complete and will be provided to the Shire for review in the first week of October.



## Staff Update

The Shire of Morawa has welcomed Halim and Mohammadi to the team through the United in Diversity Migrant Employment Pilot Program.

### **Mohammad Zubair Mohammadi**

Mohammad has joined the Shire of Morawa Building Maintenance team this month. He has worked as a fabrication engineer in Iran for thirty-five years, moved to Afghanistan, started his business, and did projects for the Australian embassy, Canadian embassy, Finland embassy and Switzerland embassy.

In March 2022, Mohammad moved to Perth with his partner and four children. As he was eager to get a job related to his profession, he moved to Morawa hoping to do some projects with the Shire. He is enjoying his new role and the company of friendly and helpful colleagues. Potentially, his entire family will move to Morawa soon. For fun, he loves singing traditional music and listening to music.

### **Abdul Halim Bek Khaddam**

Halim will be working with the Parks & Gardens team. He has obtained experience in Perth as a handyman while doing his Certificate III course in the English language. He was an Air-Conditioning mechanic back in Afghanistan for over six years.

He likes the town as he has mentioned it as a "calm, quiet, and super friendly town". His wife and four kids are planning to move to Morawa end of this year.

He loves reading history books, and now he plans to get some Morawa history to read and understand the culture and history of this town.



### **New Shire Employees**

Left - Abdul Halim Bek Khaddam

Right - Mohammad Zubair Mohammadi



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Transport



# CYCLING MORAWA

**Sunday 16 October 2022 09.00AM**

**GREATER SPORTS GROUND**

- Safe riding workshop
- Obstacle course (age below 8)
- Bike Race (Age 8 to 12, 13 to 17)
- Slow Cycle Race (Age 18+)
- Bicycle rally (All ages)



**Get a **FREE** Helmet\* from us! Be one of the first 50 to register for the event.**



**Free lunch family event**

**\*Free helmets are only for ages below 18.**

- Helmets are compulsory, and all cyclists must wear an approved helmet while in motion.
- If you don't have a helmet, don't worry we will provide you with one (only for ages below 18).



For registration  
Rahul Ramabhadran  
0408946727

[cdo@morawa.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdo@morawa.wa.gov.au)

# Let's Join Us!

## School Holiday Programs



### Day 1

28 SEP 2022  
Open  
3PM to 6PM

### Day 2

29 SEP 2022  
Open  
3PM to 6PM

### Day 3

30 SEP 2022  
Open  
3PM to 6PM

### Day 4

03 OCT 2022  
Open  
3PM to 6PM

Day 1 - Pool Competition

Day 2 - Design Boomerangs



Day 3 - Fun in the Skate parks



Day 4 - Slime making (DIY)



Day 5 - Carrom Coaching



### Day 5

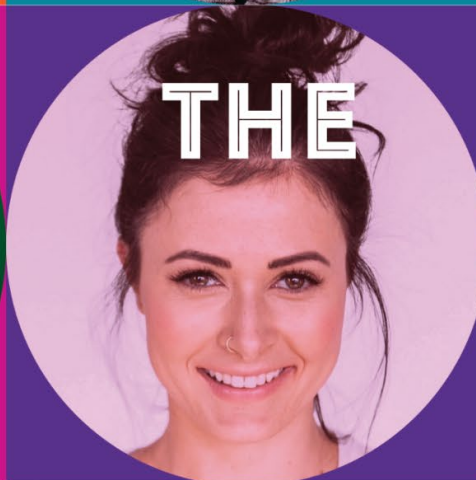
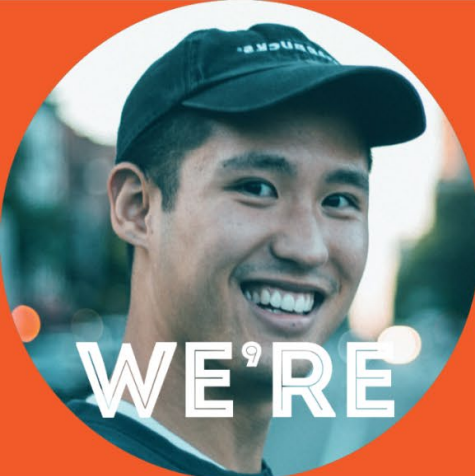
05 OCT 2022  
Open  
3PM to 6PM

Day 6 - Beaded bracelets Making

### Day 6

07 OCT 2022  
Open  
3PM to 6PM





Presented by:



Australia Day  
Council of  
Western Australia

Principal Partner:



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Communities

Media Partners:



WA today  
INDEPENDENT. ALWAYS.

# Nominate now

If you know someone, or a group, doing great things in our community, nominate them for a 2023 Australia Day Award, in our four categories.

- > Citizen of the Year
- > Youth Citizen of the Year
- > Senior Citizen of the Year
- > Active Citizenship (Group or Event)

[citizenshipawards.com.au](http://citizenshipawards.com.au) | Closing Date: 31 October 2022

Local Government Recognising Community Champions.



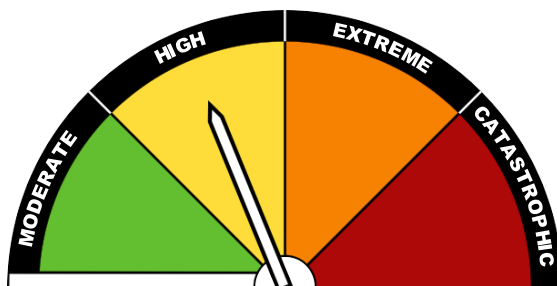
# Introducing the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System



Fire danger ratings describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start. They are important because they provide people with information so that they can take action to protect themselves and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires.

From September 1, Australians will have a simplified, action-oriented Fire Danger Rating System.

## The new Australian Fire Danger Ratings (AFDRS) levels are:



**MODERATE**

Plan and prepare

**HIGH**

Be ready to act

**EXTREME**

Take action now to protect life and property

**CATASTROPHIC**

For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

- The AFDRS will also introduce 'off' for those days where no proactive action is required by the community. On these days, you will still need to abide by local seasonal laws and regulations, but there is little or no risk of a fire that starts spreading in a dangerous or life-threatening way.
- The AFDRS is informed by one of Australia's largest social research projects which found that most Australians do not understand the current system, and would prefer a simpler, action-oriented set of fire danger ratings.
- The AFDRS is being implemented consistently across Australia and will mean that wherever you are across the country, you will be able to understand the threat posed on any given day and make appropriate decisions to keep you and your family safe.

## CHANGING THE SCIENCE:

- The current Fire Danger Rating System is largely based on science that is more than 60 years old. New technology and research have greatly improved our ability to accurately predict fire behaviour and the potential threat to the community.
- The AFDRS uses the latest scientific understanding about weather, fuel and how fire behaves in different types of vegetation to improve the reliability of fire danger forecasts. This strengthens the ability of those working in emergency services to be better prepared, make improved decisions, and provide better advice to the community.
- The new fire danger rating system is designed to be continuously updatable so that the system can take advantage of improving science, data and information into the future.
- By better understanding fuel types and fire behaviour on any given day of fire risk, agencies will be in a stronger position to respond to fires, adopting specific firefighting suppression strategies.



## BENEFITS:

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program is redesigning the forecasting of fire by:

- Improving the scientific accuracy behind fire danger predictions.
- Providing government and industry with better decision-making tools.
- Improving the way that fire danger is communicated.
- Reducing the costs associated with bushfire impacts.

The key benefit is a more prepared and resilient community resulting in a reduction in loss of life, property, and human harm.

The AFDRS calculates fire danger at a finer geographic scale than ever before so more relevant and specific information can be provided.

Significant cost savings are expected due to improved fire danger information leading to better decisions and more appropriate and timely action. It will also improve cross-border operations and support sharing of firefighting resources.

This is a national program funded by the Commonwealth and all the States and Territories and delivered by local implementation teams. The AFDRS is being coordinated by NSW RFS and AFAC (the National Council for Fire and Emergency Services), with support from the Bureau of Meteorology.

A National Program Board, with representation from each of the State and Territories' fire agencies, is overseeing the program.

# FIRE DANGER RATINGS HAVE CHANGED

## KNOWING THE FIRE DANGER RATING MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE

Fire Danger Ratings are now simpler and easier to understand. By using the latest science and technology, they provide a more clear and accurate rating to save properties and lives.

The Fire Danger Ratings give you an indication of the consequences of a fire, if a fire was to start.

The higher the rating is, the more dangerous the conditions will be.



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Fire Danger Ratings have four levels, which are:

### MODERATE

Plan and prepare.

Most fires can be controlled.

- › Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.

### HIGH

Be ready to act.

Fires can be dangerous.

- › There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area.
- › Decide what you will do if a fire starts.
- › If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bush fire risk areas.

### EXTREME

Take action now to protect your life and property.

Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous.

- › These are dangerous fire conditions.
- › Check your bush fire plan and that your property is fire ready.
- › If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts.
- › Reconsider travel through bush fire risk areas.

### CATASTROPHIC

For your survival, leave bush fire risk areas.

If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.

- › These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire. Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire.
- › Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before.
- › Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave and help may not be available.

**NO RATING:** On days when there's minimal risk, the white bar meaning 'No Rating' will be used. Report any fires to 000.

# UNDERSTANDING FIRE DANGER RATINGS



Fire Danger Ratings describe the consequences of a fire if one was to start. They do not indicate the chance of a fire occurring, although this is a common misconception.



Fire Danger Ratings are declared for a Fire Area. These are based on local government areas.



Ratings are calculated using a combination of weather forecasting and information about vegetation that could fuel a fire.



During harvesting season, Harvest Safety Alerts may be issued for areas at High and above.



Total Fire Bans will typically apply at Extreme and above.



When the fire danger reaches High, permits may be suspended. Check any conditions on your fire permit.



You can use the Fire Danger Ratings as a trigger for action in your bush fire survival plan.

