

SHIRE SNIPPETS

News and updates from the Shire of Morawa

A message from the President

CR. KAREN CHAPPEL



COVID-19 Update

There has been a significant lifting of many restrictions, but with infection levels still high both in metro and regional areas, mask wearing is still required.

Cr Carslake Resignation

Cr Dean Carslake served as an elected member of the Morawa Shire Council since 2009 and was elected Deputy President in 2013. With his resignation in March 2022 Dean ends a 13-year term on Council that has seen him make significant contributions to the district. On behalf of Council and the community I wish to thank Dean for his commitment and passion and wish him all the best in his future pursuits.

Strategic Community Plan

Council would like to formally acknowledge the time, energy, and enthusiasm with which the CEO, Scott Wildgoose, has approached the major review of the Strategic Community Plan. He has worked hard to engage with the community, and we look forward to seeing the plan starting to come together.

Easter Holiday Message

I hope everyone enjoys the April Holidays, including School Holidays, Easter and upcoming ANZAC day.

Please keep safe when travelling around for your break and especially be alert and aware while driving .

Moving Forward

12 months on from Cyclone Seroja the impacts on our community are still evident but we can all be proud of our resilience and positivity during this challenging period.

This was exemplified recently when over 385 people turned out for the free community event – Tom Curtains – We're Still Here Outback Show. Whilst Tom was referencing his time in WA with the title of his tour, the Shire thought it was a fitting title to recognise the outstanding efforts of our community post Seroja, given we still stand strong even after the toughest of times.

The Shire thanks DFES, Red Cross, Department of Communities, and Regional Men's Health for their contribution towards the success of the event.

The Shire encourages anyone struggling with their mental health in the wake of the 12-month anniversary of the Cyclone to reach out to the recovery hub at the old shire office or contact the in-town Desert Blue Connect Counselling Service on 0419 348 006 (9-5 Mon to Fri) .



Employment Opportunity

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The Shire is seeking to appoint a highly motivated, energetic, and suitably qualified and/or experienced Community Development Officer to join our dedicated Corporate and Community Services team.

Applicants will need to demonstrate their abilities to plan and facilitate community development initiatives and events in a range of areas including youth, club development, arts and culture, seniors, health and wellbeing, and other areas as required. A pivotal component of this role is the ability to open, manage and activate the Morawa Youth Centre for children age between 8 to 12 years old to the benefit of the Morawa Youth, and the broader community, so a passion for working with young people is key to achieving fantastic outcomes in this area.

This position comes with an attractive cash component of \$55,000 to \$70,000, superannuation up to 15%, shire housing, relocation costs and 4 weeks annual leave per annum.

To be considered for this position, you must obtain a Candidate Information Package and address the Selection Criteria. To obtain a package, please email wa@logoapp.com.au or contact Geraldine Kistnasing, Senior Recruitment Consultant, LO-GO Appointments on 08 9380 4505 should you require further information.

Applications close at 5:00 pm, Wednesday 27th April 2022

Council News

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 17 MARCH 2022

Adoption of revised Policy – Appointment of Acting CEO

Council adopted the Council Policy – ELM20 Appointment of a Temporary or Acting Chief Executive Officer.

LRCIP Phase 3 Project Nomination

Council directed the CEO to respond to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communication's Phase 3 Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program funding allocation requesting to allocate funds to; Morawa Recreation Centre Roof Replacement, Town Hall Storage and Cemetery Entrance upgrades.

2021 Compliance Audit Return

Council Noted and accepted the Morawa Shire Compliance Audit Return for 2021.

Purple Bench on Winfield Street

Council approved the donation of an old park bench to the Morawa CRC and once painted purple by the CRC, to recognise that CRC's offer a safe space for women, approved the installation of the purple bench in the front of the Morawa CRC (Winfield street footpath).

2022 Financial Management Review

Council adopted the Financial Management Review 2022.

Report on Significant Matter raised in Annual Financial Report Audit Opinion

Council endorses the report addressing the matter identified as significant by the auditor in the audit report relating to the Shire's Annual Financial Report 2020- 21

Approval to Display Public Art for Morawa Drug Aware Youth Week

Council approved the display of public art created for 'Art on Wheels – Morawa Drug Aware Youth Week Event,' at the town entrances

Minutes of WALGA State Council Meeting held 23 February 2022

Council received the Minutes of the WALGA State Council Meeting held 23 February 2022.

Implementation of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

Council recommended the motion be brought to the National General Assembly that "This National General Assembly calls on All State and Territory Governments to fully implement Recommendations 11.1 and 11.2 of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster.

Appointment of new Executive Manager of Works & Assets

Council accepted the Appointment of Mr. Paul Devcic to the Position of Executive Manager Works and Assets (EMWA) at the Shire of Morawa.

Date Change of April Ordinary Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting has been changed from Thursday, 21 April 2022 to Wednesday, 20 April 2022.

NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

20 April 2022 at 5:30pm

View full details of Council Meetings at:
www.morawa.wa.gov.au/council-meetings

Strategic Planning – Engagement Update

The Morawa Strategic Community Plan is due for a major review and the Shire has combined its engagement for this plan with the development of new Arts and Culture and Tourism Plans.

The Shire of Morawa thanks everyone for their inputs so far and provides the below as a simple summary of what has happened so far and what general commentary is being made by the community.

As a follow up to this engagement summary the Shire is asking anyone with extra comments or points to add to either complete the Shire's survey online www.morawa.wa.gov.au/scp or email your thoughts to ea@morawa.wa.gov.au by 12 May 2022.

Engagement so far

The Shire has used a variety of mechanisms to engage with the community:

- A letter was sent to all electors/ratepayers informing them of the major review taking place and inviting their comments, providing workshop dates and a hard copy of the community sentiment survey
- The major review and engagement were advertised multiple times in the Shire Snippets and on the Shire Facebook page
- 4 open community workshops were undertaken

- A broad community sentiment survey was available on the Shire website and in hard copy at the Shire office and at events
- A few more focussed workshops were also undertaken

Overall, over 100 people have provided inputs so far with ages ranging from 8 to 80+

Resident/ratepayers have overwhelmingly dominated the inputs so far.

Over half of the people providing inputs suggested they didn't provide inputs to the previous plan.

About 65% of the engagement has been with female members of the community.

There have been inputs from community members from a variety of age ranges with the most underrepresented group currently being those aged 18-30. It is hoped this group will engage more once a draft plan has been developed for inputs.

Morawa as a whole

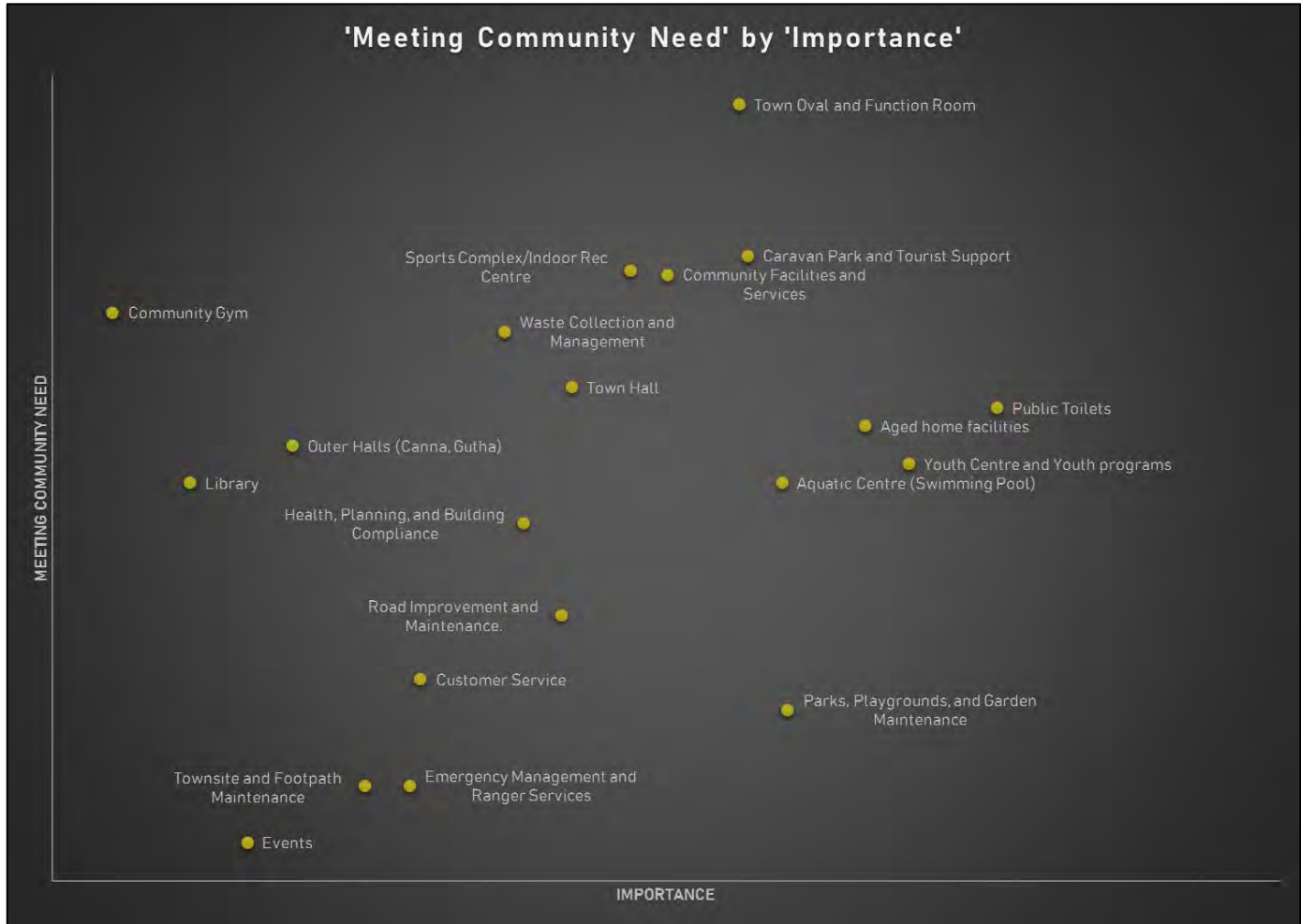
Overall, the Community and People were broadly thought of as the best and most unique things about living in Morawa.

Other positive sentiments seemed to revolve around the location, natural beauty, country living, wildflowers, sports, and education options.

The communities' negative sentiments generally revolve around the heat, the tired appearance of the town, the general liveability, and businesses/services available.

Public Services and Facilities

Overall, the community placed all areas assessed in the medium to high importance category and in general all areas were doing well at meeting community needs. When reviewing the data further and comparing the scores on a relative scale it generates the graph below.



S.W.O.T Analysis

Overall, the community seems to think that Morawa’s greatest:

- Strengths are its recreation, educational, and medical facilities
- Weaknesses are its variety of retail options especially eateries, the general aesthetics of the townsite and the cost of living.

- Opportunities are tourism, unmet consumer demand and underutilised facilities
- Threats are community fatigue; population decline and the climate.

The current plan

Our vision

A welcoming and inclusive community with diverse regional partnerships that have created a vibrant and growing economy.

Objectives

Objective 1: A diverse, resilient, and innovative economy

Objective 2: Protect and enhance the natural environment

Objective 3: A community that is friendly, healthy, and inclusive

Objective 4: A connected community with strong leadership

In general, the community seems indifferent about the current plan and objectives with some people stating they didn't know a plan existed.

The community is generally thought of as welcoming and inclusive although togetherness and opportunities to breakdown social barriers are mentioned regularly.

The biggest area of concern in the current plan is the vibrancy and growth of the economy with many people mentioning that it seems to have declined with less businesses and community services than before.

The environment was mentioned as an attractor for the area for both liveability and tourism, but the community seems to be looking for a bigger focus on sustainability.

Key Messages

In brief the Morawa community is looking for:

- reduction in crime, vandalism, graffiti, and other antisocial behaviours
- Everyone to have a positive attitude and talk more about the good things about Morawa
- Allied health services and other wellbeing options
- More businesses especially those offering food and drink, and a social space
- Improved private property standards and generally pride in the townsite appearance
- Fun whole of community events and activities
- Arts and cultural exploits especially utilising the town's Indigenous culture
- Recycling and renewable energy use
- Plants, trees, shade, and basic amenities around the townsite
- Options to keep tourists in town longer or for more of the year and improved accommodation options including an expanded caravan park
- Broader scope of education options – vocational, higher, early year, and mature age etc.
- The Shire to be a little more diverse and provide more information/information in a more accessible form

Key Messages cont.

- Opportunities to keep young people and retirees in Morawa
- More recreational options ranging from community gardens and trails to motorbikes and diving boards
- General improvements to roads, drainage, footpaths, and particularly access roads and areas of safety concern
- Improved telecommunications
- Improved maintenance and activation of public use facilities

CEO's thoughts

As Shire CEO it has been a pleasure to be taking the lead in this space as it has given me a real hands-on opportunity to see and hear what the community think and feel about Morawa and how to make it better.

I particularly enjoyed working with the young people from the MDHS Student Council and seeing the way the young people approached the workshops and valued being involved.

There were some fantastic ideas generated by the community and they have all been recorded and will be analysed as part of the next stages of the Strategic Community Plan and other planning processes.

Below are my top five out there ideas for the future:

1. Cactus/succulent farm for making tequila
2. Make Morawa a hot air ballooning mecca
3. Chartered helicopter flights from Morawa to take in the outback, mines, farms, and wildflowers from the sky
4. Revamp the pool so that it is heated with a wave pool, a giant slide, and useable year round
5. Get a Perth to Geraldton passenger train via Morawa

I thank everyone for taking the time to contribute so far and I look forward to hearing the feedback on the major re-draft of the plan.

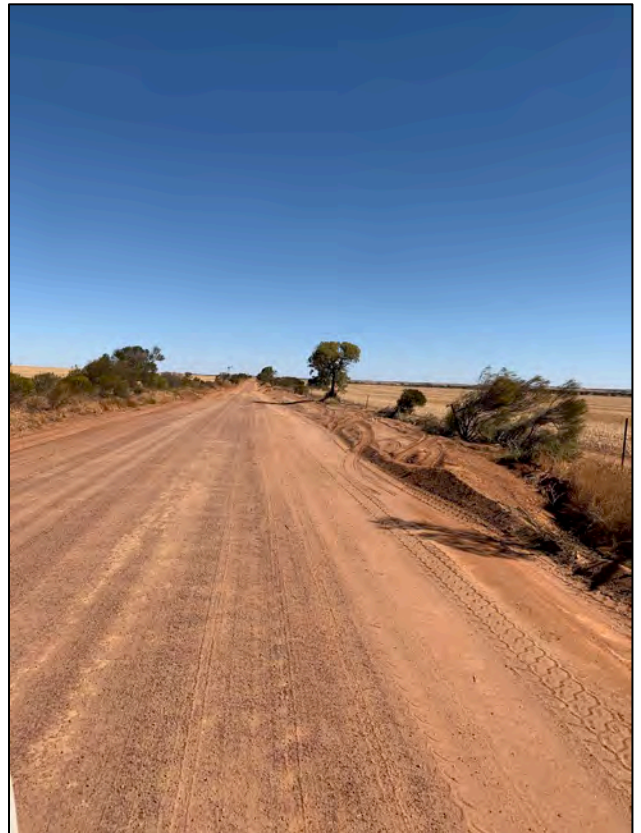


Shire Project Updates

Solar Powered Street Lights

The Shire recently installed a new solar street light in Winfield Street and plans to replace all the old lights with solar lights next financial year. This initiative will assist to reduce electricity costs and will update the old infrastructure that is becoming a hazard.

It was opted to purchase lights in a similar style to the iconic street lights that were already in the main street.



Roads Update

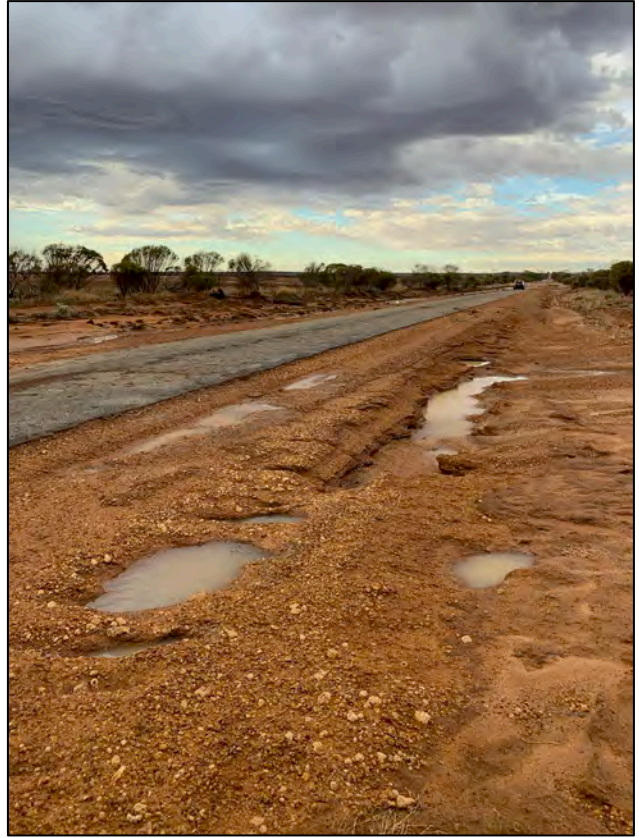
The road maintenance staff at the Shire have been busy working on gravel sheeting out at Koolanooka South Road.

Although it has been good to have some wet weather, the heavy rains we experienced have been detrimental to some of the roads in our district.

The flood event is estimated to have caused close to half a million dollars worth of damage to our roads and the Shire is working with the Disaster funding team to ensure we can put a suitable claim in for necessary repair works. We appreciate your patience and urge caution whenever you are driving in wet conditions or on roads that may have been damaged. Do not try to cross flooded roads and be aware that there can be damage you cannot see during these times.

The Shire works to have our roads maintained throughout the year and unexpected heavy rain events cause damage outside the normal scope of works and will require contracted personal to rectify.

As see in the image right, Yalgoo Road has had considerable damage.



Images left and below show flooding around the Yalgoo Road and show the extent of how much water can accumulate during times of heavy rain like we experienced recently.



Community News

Art on Wheels - Drug Aware Youth Week Project

This year the Morawa Shire partnered with Chayce and PJ from the Morawa Burnout Group to host this year's Youth Week Project.

Two old cars have been painted by local youth with vibrant colours and drug aware messaging. Thanks goes to local Geraldton artist Shah Jackey who helped guide the young people in their artistic journey.

The vehicles will be proudly displayed at the townsite entrances in time for next weekends Speedway event.

Festival of Small Halls

A music event is set for the Morawa Town Hall on Thursday 12 May. Tickets are available online - www.smallhalls.iwannaticket.com.au/event - with spaces limited.



2022 Morawa Art Awards & Exhibition

Calling all Artists

The 8th biennial Art Awards and Exhibition will next take place from Friday 5th August to Sunday 14th August and will be held at the Morawa Town Hall.

Entries are now open

The Shire of Morawa is pleased to announce the opening of entries for the 2022 Art Awards and Exhibition, inviting submissions for original and new work (post 2018) across a range of mediums from local and Western Australian artists.

The Awards will be judged and announced at the Award Presentation Evening and Exhibition Opening Night which will be held on Friday 5th August 2022 and will be a ticketed event.

The exhibition will be professionally curated and hopes to attract over 300 entries.

Entry Forms can be downloaded from the Morawa Shire Website at:

www.morawa.wa.gov.au/art-awards

Further enquiries, contact Emily Sutherland Left of Centre Concepts and Events - emily.loc@bigpond.com

2022 8TH BIENNIAL

Art Awards & Exhibition

THE MORAWA ART AWARDS AND EXHIBITION IS A BIENNIAL EVENT ESTABLISHED IN 2006.

THE ART AWARDS BRINGS TOGETHER OUR REGIONAL AND STATE ART COMMUNITY IN SUPPORT OF SHOWING VISUAL ARTS LOCALLY.

\$20,000
IN PRIZES.

ENTRIES CLOSE FRIDAY
8TH JULY 2022

EXHIBITION OPENING
NIGHT FRIDAY,
5TH AUGUST 2022



2018 SOM ACQUISITIVE WINNER
LORETTA EGAN / EVERLASTINGS ORIGINAL

CATEGORIES

| ACQUISITIVE AWARD | PRIZE | YOUTH CATEGORIES | PRIZE |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--|-------|
| Shire of Morawa Acquisitive Award | \$7500 | Youth Art Award (Local Artists) 13-18yr olds | \$500 |
| | | Young Art Award (Local Artists) 5-12yr olds | \$100 |
| NON-ACQUISITIVE AWARDS | PRIZE | AWARDS VOTED | PRIZE |
| Mid West Indigenous Art Award | \$3,500 | People's Choice Award | \$500 |
| Works on Canvas | \$1,750 | | |
| Works on Paper | \$1,750 | | |
| 3 Dimensional Piece | \$1,750 | | |
| Indigenous Award | \$1,750 | | |
| Photography Award - Theme 'joy' | \$900 | | |

ENQUIRIES

Emily Sutherland,
Left of Centre Concepts and Events,
emily.loc@bigpond.com or 0427 426 596



AUTUMN TOUR 2022

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WOODFORDIA INC. PRESENTS

Festival of Small Halls

COMING

TO A SMALL

TOWN NEAR

YOU

AUTUMN TOUR 27TH APRIL - 15TH MAY 2022

Morawa Town Hall - Thursday 12 May 2022

Purchase tickets online at: www.smallhalls.iwannaticket.com.au/event

Adults: \$15.00

Child 5-17, Pensioners & Health Care Card Holders: \$5.00

Family (2 Adults, 2 children): \$25.00



Catering by Morawa Speedway from 6.30pm

Alcohol Free Event



GINA WILLIAMS AND GUY GHOUSE



JACK DAVIES



WWW.FESTIVALOFSMALLHALLS.COM