

# SHIRE SNIPPETS

*News and updates from the Shire of Morawa*

## A message from the President

CR. KAREN CHAPPEL



### Upcoming Harvest Season

I would like to thank the community for their consideration during the wet winter with constant unsealed road closures due to the weather. Disrespect of road closure notices causes extraordinary budget expenditure and damage caused to the road inconveniences other road users. I urge all road users to please be extra vigilant and patient when travelling on the roads, particularly our unsealed road network, as there will be an increase of Heavy Vehicles using the roads.

### Wildflower Season

Following a welcomed wet winter we have just wrapped up a fantastic wildflower season. We had many tourists visiting our wonderful town and exploring our natural landscape. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the dedicated volunteers at the Morawa Tourist Centre and the Morawa Historical Museum



### Prohibited Burning Period

With the hot weather nearly upon us, I would like to remind the community that the Prohibited Burning Period will begin on Tuesday 22 October 2024. All rural firebreaks must be completed by 15 October 2024 with town sites being completed by 1 October 2024. With another hot summer forecast for Australia and a large roadside fuel load, we must all do our part to reduce the likelihood of bushfires this season. DFES have developed a Rural Fire Awareness Online Course designed for those working in Agriculture. More information and how to enrol in the course can be found on page 7.

### CEO Farewell

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our departing CEO Scott Wildgoose for his time and dedication to the Shire of Morawa. Scott's final day will be Wednesday 16 October 2024. We wish him well in his new role for the Shire of Gingin. The recruitment process is under way with final candidates being interviewed shortly. Jackie Hawkins has been appointed as temporarily Acting CEO, having worked with the Shire in a managerial role and Deputy CEO since 2021. Jackie is very experienced and well equipped to manage the Shire until a suitable candidate is appointed. We have also secured Michael Cole to fill a temporary role of Acting Executive Manager Corporate and Community Services. Michael has many years' experience in Management roles within Local Government and we look forward to welcoming him and his wealth of knowledge to Morawa.

# Council News

## COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS – 19 September 2024

### **Christmas Closure Period 2024-2025**

Council have approved the Shire Depot and Administration Office Christmas closure period to commence from 4:00pm on Monday, 23 December 2024 to at 9:00am on Monday, 6 January 2025.

### **Request from Main Roads Western Australia to assess the suitability of a section of Canna North East Road to modify the Restricted Access Vehicle Network (RAV) rating**

Council have agreed to support Main Roads WA's request for a section of Canna East Road, Fabling Rd & Offszanka Rd SLK 0.00 to the CBH Entrance SLK 0.56 being upgraded from a Tandem Drive Network 4 (RAV 4) rating to a Tandem Drive Network 7 (RAV 7) rating. Council has also requested Main Roads WA to monitor RAV 4 network sections Canna North East Road and Fabling Rd for road user compliance.

### **Art and Cultural Centre Feasibility and Establishment**

The establishment of a large and small gallery space within the Old Roads Board building has been approved following approval of grant funding from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. The Shire will deliver an 18 month art program to confirm the feasibility of the area becoming a permanent art space.

### **Morawa Tennis Club – Support for Court Renewal Project**

Council have agreed to support the Morawa Tennis Club in their grant application to upgrade the existing tennis courts and commit to underwrite the financial contribution equivalent to one third of the total project costs.

### **Development Approval – Lot 409 (No.26) Prater Street, Morawa**

Council have agreed to grant development approval for the proposed Morawa Early Childhood Education and Family Centre on Prater Street, subject to outlined conditions being met and grant funding being secured.

### **Confidential Report – Disposal of Property – 11 Broad Avenue, Morawa**

Council have approved the disposition of 11 Broad Avenue to N. Edwards and D. Butler subject to outlined conditions being met.

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NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**14 OCTOBER 2024 at 5:30pm**

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

# Shire Updates and News

## Road Works

Maintenance graders have been working on our unsealed road network in the Canna and Merkanooka area, preparing for the upcoming Harvest Season.

Resheeting works have been completed on Norton Road.

We have been busy completing maintenance works at the Aerodrome which include rolling the runways and slashing vegetation adjacent to both airstrips.

Vegetation control on road verges has also been underway in preparation for summer.

## Parks and Gardens

Our Parks and Gardens team have been busy getting all our green spaces ready for the upcoming summer. With the completion of coring and fertilising of grassed areas, as well as keeping the Sports Oval mowed and maintained for upcoming events to be held at the oval.

All Shire blocks have had necessary firebreaks completed and overgrown blocks have been slashed and maintained.

Dams and water catchments have been baited for Mosquitoes and we have been busy mosquito fogging town.

Contractors have been employed to carry out tree pruning and they will return shortly to complete pruning at Prater Park.

Designs have also been drafted for an upgrade of Prater Park which will include new lawn, rock garden and metal art sculptures.

## Community Citizen of the Year Awards

Nominations are now open for the Community Citizen of the Year Award. The Shire hosts an award ceremony every year on Australia Day to celebrate the community contributions made by our nominees. This is a fantastic opportunity to show your appreciation to a community member who is going above and beyond for Morawa.

There are 4 categories including- Community Citizen of the Year, Senior Community Citizen, Youth Community Citizen and Active Citizenship (Group or Event). Simply head to the Auspire website to complete your nomination.

**Nominations close 31 October 2024**

<https://www.citizenshipawards.com.au/>

The poster features a grid of six circular portraits of diverse individuals. The text 'ALL PART OF THE STORY' is arranged around the portraits. At the top right is the 'Community Citizen of the Year Awards' logo with the tagline 'Ambition Day'. Below the portraits, it says 'Presented by' and lists 'Auspire' and 'Australia Day Council of Morawa Australia'. It also lists 'Principal Partner: Government of Western Australia Department of Communities' and 'Media Partners: 9NEWS and GPR'. A large 'Nominate now' button with a QR code is prominent. At the bottom, it lists the award categories: 'Citizen of the Year', 'Senior Citizen of the Year', 'Youth Citizen of the Year', and 'Active Citizenship (Group or Event)'. The closing date is '31 October 2024' and the website is 'citizenshipawards.com.au'. The footer reads 'Local Government Recognising Community Champions.'

# Shire Updates and Community News

## School Holiday Program

We had another successful School Holiday Program at the Youth Centre over the September/ October School Holidays. With a fantastic turn out to all the activities organised, our Community Development Officer Arsh made sure there was something for everybody. Activities included canvas painting, bush walk, outdoor games and finished the holiday program with a movie night. The kids had a great time and enjoyed the activities. Thank you again to Blue Light for joining us on a few events and bringing some fresh fun ideas for the kids to enjoy!



## Bike Week

To celebrate WA Bike Month, we held a pedal fest event on Sunday 6 October 2024. Even though limited numbers attended, those that did had a great time. The day included a team cryptic treasure hunt, obstacle course, bike race and finished the day with a bike safety workshop and sausage sizzle.



## Sinosteel Grant Recipients

Thank you to all associations that applied for the 2024-2025 Morawa Sinosteel Future Fund Grant. The below organisations have qualified to receive grant funding

Grant Recipients	Project Description	Value
Morawa Community Resource Centre	To purchase Christmas decorations for the Annual Christmas Street Festival	\$10,000
Morawa District High School P&C Association	Install a Yarning Circle within the school grounds	\$4,984
Morawa District Historical Society	To create historical displays around Morawa	\$3,360
Morawa Tennis Club	Contribute to funding a consultant to write a business case to assist in applying for grant funding to reconstruct the exiting Tennis Courts	\$10,000
Morawa Tourist Information Centre	Create a tourism promotional video and purchase new shelving	\$4,656

# Employment Opportunities

If you want to make a valuable contribution to the Morawa community whilst utilising and developing your skills in a supportive environment, then the below role with the Shire might interest you.

For further information, download an application package and position description from [www.morawa.wa.gov.au/employment/](http://www.morawa.wa.gov.au/employment/) or submit your resume to [ea@morawa.wa.gov.au](mailto:ea@morawa.wa.gov.au)

## Casual Cleaner Position

The Shire of Morawa is seeking applications from individuals interested in joining our team as a Casual Cleaner.

The Shire of Morawa is committed to providing clean and safe facilities for the community and visitors. This position has varied hours dependent on the usage of Council facilities, with on job training provided. Skills required for this position:

- Reasonable level of fitness.
- Ability to manage time effectively
- Awareness of health and safety procedures.
- Math skills for measuring cleaning fluids
- Punctual, reliable, and trustworthy.
- Ability to work both alone and in a team
- Reading skills for following instructions.

## Customer and Corporate Support Officer

The Shire of Morawa is seeking a motivated and hard working Customer and Corporate Support Officer to be the first point of contact for customers and assist all administrative areas with corporate functions. Applicants with local government, transport services, and general finance administration experience will be highly regarded, but the main requirement of the role is the right attitude, the ability to learn, and a commitment to excellence at all times.

The position of Customer and Corporate Officer will be primarily based on the Shire's front counter but may also be deployed into the Finance, Governance, Community Support, or other administrative teams. We welcome applications that are new to the workforce, with all on job training provided for the successful applicant.

# New Shire Employee

## Michael Cole

Michael or Mike as he is known, has joined our team in a temporary role as Executive Manager Corporate and Community Services until the role of CEO has been filled. Mike has extensive experience in management roles in Local Government having spent 22 years working for the City of Nedlands, Wanneroo Albany. As well as being a qualified accountant Mike is also a board member of Local Government Professionals. Mike and his wife Maxine were ready to hit the road and travel Australia with their caravan after retiring in July 2024 but was happy to jump back into work to lend his support to our Acting CEO Jackie Hawkins.

Mike enjoys bike riding, swimming, walking his dog and paddling his surf ski when at home. As a passionate Fremantle supporter Mike and Maxine are members of both the Eagles and Dockers Football Clubs to show their support for WA footy! He also loves spending time with his wonderful grandchildren. Mike has found Morawa to be a very welcoming community and is looking forward to exploring the area.





17 October 2024

Dear Ratepayer,

### **LETTER FROM SHIRE PRESIDENT – PAYMENT PLAN SUPPORT**

The Shire of Morawa Council understands the current financial stress and pressure affecting many in our community, and whilst rate increases have been necessary to manage the 2024-2025 budget, Council wanted to provide some flexibility and support. As such at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 14 October 2024 Council resolved to waive interest charges associated with approved instalment plans or payment arrangements that pay outstanding rates by 30 June 2025. As well as waiving any administration charges associated with the instalment or payment arrangement plans.

#### **What this means for you:**

- 1) If you have paid the first instalment of your rates and any prior year outstanding amounts, then you need to do nothing. The automatic interest calculation will be switched off until 30 June 2025 and a credit for the instalment administration charges will be applied to your assessment.
- 2) If you sign up for a Payment Arrangement (form available from the Shire office) that pays your rates in full by 30 June 2025 then interest will be switched off and no administration charges will be charged.

If at 30 June 2025 you have not paid your rates in full then interest charges will be calculated as from the date of your first overdue balance and the applicable administration charges will be applied to the relevant assessment.

Council hopes this extra payment flexibility and support reduces some of the pressure being experienced.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Karen Chappel AM  
**Shire President**

# Shire of Morawa Online Bush Fire Training

Be prepared this Fire Season and Enrol in the Rural Fire Awareness Online Course.

This course is designed for Farmers, Pastoralists, and Seasonal Workers to equip participants with essential knowledge about fire ground safety, suppression strategies, and how to maintain safety while operating in fire-affected areas.

You do not need to be a registered volunteer with the Shire or DFES to access and complete the training.

Simply scan the QR code or visit [www.eacademy.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.eacademy.dfes.wa.gov.au) and follow the instructions to register for the training.

Upon completion of the training, please send a copy of your certificate to Rick Ryan at the Shire of Morawa for record-keeping purposes.

Rick Ryan  
Richard.Ryan@dfes.wa.gov.au  
0438 277 582



SCAN ME! >>



Email: [admin@morawa.wa.gov.au](mailto:admin@morawa.wa.gov.au)  
Phone: (08) 9971 1204

## RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

If you have any animal complaints or enquiries please email them through to the Shire of Morawa admin, where possible please include pictures and as much information as possible

### Dog Ownership

Dogs over the age of 3 months must be:

- 🐾 Microchipped
- 🐾 Registered with the Shire of Morawa
- 🐾 Wearing a collar with a current registration tag



### Cat Ownership

Cats over the age of 6 months must be:

- 🐾 Microchipped
- 🐾 Sterilised
- 🐾 Registered with the Shire of Morawa
- 🐾 Wearing a collar with a current registration tag



All dog owners have a responsibility to ensure their dogs are registered and are not left to wander in order to protect not only the safety of people, but dogs alike. Shire Rangers are authorised to investigate all offenses under the Dog Act (1976) and conduct regular patrols throughout the Shire. Impounded dogs will not be released from the Dog Management Facility (Pound) unless they are registered and microchipped.

When registering your pet, please consider the following:

- Updating your contact details (address, telephone number and dog status) if recently changed, you must inform the Shire within 28 days by Filling out a change of details form; this can be picked up from the Shire office.
- If you have relocated to Morawa within Western Australia you can exchange your current registration tag for a Shire of Morawa tag.
- Proof of sterilisation and microchipping is required. Sterilisation certificates are provided by your veterinary surgeon for this purpose.