

# SHIRE SNIPPETS



## President's Message

Welcome to the first edition of the Shire Snippets for 2026! I hope everyone had a refreshing break and is settling back into the rhythm of work and school as the summer heat begins to mellow. It is a pleasure to officially welcome all the new faces to Morawa this year. To our new teachers arriving for the school year and the entrepreneurs opening new businesses in town: welcome. It is truly heartening to see people choosing to live in our Shire and investing their future in our community. Your presence adds to the vibrancy of our town, and we are glad to have you with us.

I am very pleased to announce that the Shire has officially renewed the contract with Dr Bovell. We are incredibly fortunate to have such high-quality medical facilities right here on our doorstep. Having consistent, trusted medical care is a cornerstone of our community's wellbeing, and we look forward to Dr Bovell's continued service to our residents.

We all take pride in how Morawa looks, and the Shire is continuing our initiative to help residents "tidy up" their properties. To assist with this, we are offering a free car body and scrap metal disposal service at the Waste Facility. If you have old machinery or car shells taking up space, now is the perfect time to clear them out at no cost. Let's work together to keep our Shire looking its best.

A huge thank you must go to the Shire staff and outdoor teams for their hard work over the busy summer months. From coordinating a fantastic Australia Day celebration to keeping the Shire pool a refreshing oasis during the hot weather, your efforts do not go unnoticed. Our community spaces have looked great and remained functional thanks to your dedication.

Finally, I want to encourage everyone to stay engaged with our local democracy. We have an election coming up, 26 March. Local government makes decisions that affect your daily life, from roads and rates to recreation and health. I strongly urge all eligible residents to use your postal votes and make your voice heard.

*Best Wishes* President Karen Chappel



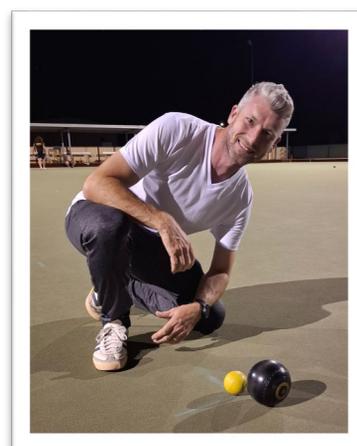
## CEO Message

I recently had the privilege of MCing my first Australia Day and Citizenship Ceremony as CEO. It was wonderful to witness the strong community support and the genuine warmth extended to our newest residents. Events like these reflect the inclusive and welcoming spirit that makes Morawa such a lovely place to live. I would like to extend my congratulations to Francesca and Brandon on becoming Australian citizens.

The Shire is currently undertaking its Mid-Year Budget Review. This important process allows us to reassess our project priorities, review expenditure, and ensure our financial resources are being allocated effectively and responsibly. Council will consider and vote on the adoption of the updated budget during March's council meeting.

Also upcoming is our extraordinary council elections. I urge all residents to participate and vote in the election for your new community council representative. Ballot paper will be arriving through the mail shortly, for more information see pages 3-5 of the Shire Snippets.

I recently had the opportunity to try my hand at lawn bowls after joining the Shire's Corporate Bowls team. It was my first time stepping onto the green, and after a quick lesson from the team, I managed to deliver one respectable bowl for the evening! While I don't think I'll be selected for the Morawa team anytime soon, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and it was a great opportunity to connect with people in a relaxed environment.



Thanks  
Marty Symmons CEO



## 2026 Extraordinary Election Candidate Profiles

### Candidate Details



Ballot paper name

**BARBUTO, Bradley**

Candidate name

**Bradley Dominic BARBUTO**

District

**Shire of Morawa**

Nominating for

**Councillor for Shire of Morawa**

Election type

**Extraordinary**

Enrolment status

**BARBUTO, Bradley is eligible to stand for election as a resident of the Shire of Morawa.**

I'm putting my hand up for local council because I'm already deeply involved in our community and care about its future.

I'm the Captain of the Morawa VFES, working alongside volunteers to keep our community safe. I'm also President of the Morawa Bowls Club and a Net Set Go netball coach, supporting local sport and helping our kids build confidence, teamwork, and connection.

I work as a Farm Technical Officer, educating and supporting future farmers and cattle producers, and I understand the realities of regional life and agriculture.

Many people also know me as DJ Batman, volunteering at community events, fundraisers, and celebrations that bring people together.

I'm a father of four, with strong family connections to our community, and a proud Aboriginal man who believes council needs stronger Aboriginal representation. Our voices and lived experience matter.

I'm not a career politician I'm a local who shows up, listens, and gets involved.

**Postal Address:** PO Box 265 MORAWA 6623

## 2026 Extraordinary Election Candidate Profiles

### Candidate Details



Ballot paper name	<b>FRANCIS, Naomi Jean</b>
Candidate name	Naomi Jean FRANCIS
District	Shire of Morawa
Nominating for	Councillor for Shire of Morawa
Election type	Extraordinary
Enrolment status	FRANCIS, Naomi Jean is eligible to stand for election as a resident of the Shire of Morawa.

#### About me:

I'm genuinely proud to have strong roots in the Morawa community and a heartfelt commitment to it. Having lived, worked, and volunteered here in Morawa on and off for over 50 years, I have been involved with the community for most of my life, whether with my children when they were growing up or during my time as a volunteer ambulance officer. My current role as a Rural Service Support Officer for counselling services allows me to engage with the community and hear their voice.

My goals in becoming a councillor are to advocate for community well-being and safety, and to support health initiatives and accessible community programs. Encouraging local events, shared spaces and opportunities to come together. Maintaining and enhancing green spaces and public facilities for current and future generations. Listening to the community and ensuring residents' voices are heard and reflected in council decision-making.

**Mobile:** 0407 809 959

**Email:** nome\_1971@bigpond.com

# Australia Day 2026 Citizenship Ceremony

With a welcome break from the heat and a relatively mild day, the community came together to celebrate Australia Day 2026.

As part of the Australia Day festivities, we kicked off the morning celebrations by welcoming two new Australian citizens, Francisca (Fran) and Bahram (Brendan) at a special citizenship ceremony held at the Town Centre on Winfield Street, which was part of our Australia Day event.

Our new citizens were welcomed by Cr. Karen Chappel, the officiating officer at the ceremony. Australian citizenship ceremonies hold significant importance in our nation's celebrations, as our newest citizens now join us to commemorate their citizenship anniversary each Australia Day.



Both of the new citizens and their families proudly call Morawa home and are actively involved in the community. We concluded the morning ceremony with a delightful morning tea and coffee catered by Daphne's Timeless Treats accompanied by live music from Lloyd Reidy.



Fran and husband Joe.



Brendan (Center) with his Family

# Australia Day 2026 Family Fun Day!

Our celebrations continued at the Morawa Swimming Pool with a Family-Friendly Pool Party.



The day featured bouncy castles and inflatable waterslides from Midwest Bounce and Fun, a tasty BBQ sausage sizzle lunch, personalised caricature sketches by Marion Le Crayon, and live music from the Karloo Rockers, who during 2025 have been working with Morawa District High School to lend their musical expertise to students during music classes and also work with the students to create a new school song.

Special thanks also go to the wonderful local volunteers from the Historical Society: Peter, Daphne, Johnette and local helpers Glenda, and Katrina, who helped make the day a spectacular success.

A special acknowledgment to the Australia Day Council for funding the event, allowing us to celebrate Australia Day as a community in style!

We are always looking to get feedback on our events to help plan future events, please scan the QR code and complete the short survey-



AUSTRALIA DAY: POOL PARTY



# Summer School Holiday Program



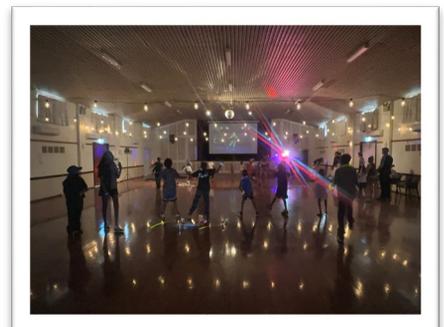
We hosted another action-packed School Holiday Program over the December 2025 – January 2026 school break, and what a fantastic few weeks it was!

We kicked things off with our friends from Atlas, who hosted a fun wheelchair basketball skills clinic. The kids had a great time learning new skills, building confidence and giving the sport a go.

Fair Game then joined us for a fun-filled visit, running sports-based activities at the Youth Centre and swimming pool. Alongside all the action, they also shared valuable tips about making healthier lifestyle choices.

For our more creative kids, Play More hosted a cardboard creations workshop. With imaginations running wild, the young artists designed and built some truly amazing masterpieces and an impressive cardboard fort!

We wrapped up the program with a Blue Light Disco at the Town Hall, with all the kids showing off their dance skills! A special thank you to our local Police Officers from the Blue Light Program for co-hosting several of the events and helping make the program such a success.



The Youth Centre offers drop-in services after school during school terms with school holiday available to the local youth.

Want to help out?

We are always keen to hear from volunteers who can support activities and create a welcoming space for young people.

For volunteering enquiries please contact Muthuri on 0408 946 727 or email: [cdo@morawa.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdo@morawa.wa.gov.au)



## Upcoming Events & Activities

Mark your calendars! Here are the key dates for fun and activities happening in the Morawa community:



Colour Run from 2023 Community Connection Event

### Community Connections Expo: Saturday 18 April 2026

We have teamed up with Desert Blue Connect to co- host an amazing opportunity to connect with local services, community groups and supports available in Morawa and surrounding communities. Includes fun family activities and food! See page 12 for more information.

### Art & Cultural Centre

We are currently organising exhibitions to show in our Art and Cultural Centre located at the Old Roads Board, but we need your help! Simply scan the QR code and fill out our short survey to have your say!



### April School Holiday Activities

We are currently finalising our April School Holiday Program at the Youth Centre. Keep an eye on our community calendar, website or Facebook for an itinerary of all the amazing activities to entertain the kids!

### Stay Connected

For a full list of everything happening in the community, make sure you check the Shire's Community Calendar on our website:

[www.morawa.wa.gov.au/events/](http://www.morawa.wa.gov.au/events/)

We invite community members to notify us of your local events so we can help spread the word!

## Upcoming Events & Latest News

### Morawa Daycare Update

We are pleased to announce that REED WA has officially reopened the Morawa Daycare facility as of Monday, 9 March 2026. The facility is currently licensed to care for up to 15 children and operates Monday to Thursday, 8.00am – 5.00pm.

For more information, including queries about enrolment, please contact REED WA at [morawa@reedwa.org.au](mailto:morawa@reedwa.org.au) or visit their website:

<https://reedwa.org.au/enrolment-morawa/>

The reopening of the service is a positive step for the Morawa community, supporting local families with access to early childhood care.



### 2026 Biennial Art Awards & Exhibition

We are excited to once again be hosting one of the largest regional art exhibitions in Western Australia. Make sure you save the date for the Biennial Art Awards and Exhibition opening night on Friday, 21 August 2026.

This highly anticipated event celebrates artistic talent from across the region, featuring a diverse range of categories and creative styles. Awards include the Shire of Morawa Acquisitive Award, Best Work on Canvas and Paper, Mid West Indigenous Art Award, Tony Tropiano Photography Award, and Best Mixed Media to name a few!

The exhibition will also highlight the creativity of our local community with dedicated categories including:

- People's Choice – Local Resident
- Young Artist Award (5–12 years)
- Youth Artist Award (13–17 years)

Entries for the exhibition will open on Thursday, 21 May 2026, so get creating!

Further details, including the full list of award categories will be available on the Shire website:

[www.morawa.wa.gov.au/community/directories/morawa-art-awards-and-exhibition.aspx](http://www.morawa.wa.gov.au/community/directories/morawa-art-awards-and-exhibition.aspx)

# Shire Updates

## Community Bus

A reminder that following some minor repairs the Community Bus is now available for public hire! For more information or to download a hire form simply contact us on 08 9971 1204 or visit our website-

[www.morawa.wa.gov.au/community/facilities/community-bus.aspx](http://www.morawa.wa.gov.au/community/facilities/community-bus.aspx)

## Morawa Transfer Station Update

The Morawa Refuse and Transfer Station is now open to the public. We wish to remind the community that currently the facility is only open for local residents and we will only be accepting general waste, green waste, and fridges/washing machines. No industrial steel or tyres will be accepted until further notice. A reminder that opening hours are as below:

Opening Days : Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday

Opening Hours: 8.00am-12.00pm & 12.30pm-4.00pm



## Road Works and General Works

Resealing Works have been completed on Broad Street and Jones Lake Road.

Gravel Re-sheeting work has started on Malcolm Road. As part of our commitment to a safer and more accessible Footpath network within the Morawa townsite, new footpaths have been completed on Prater Street.

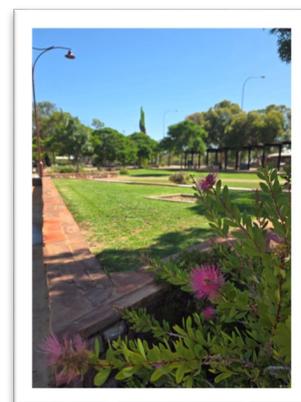
Mosquito fogging within the townsite is scheduled to take place on Monday, 30 March 2026.

## Parks and Gardens

Our parks and gardens team has been hard at work maintaining our local green spaces.

We have been working with Water Corp to finalise the installation of a new reticulation water meter at the Winfield St Town Centre.

Damage to the reticulation pump during the Christmas period has left the Football and Hockey ovals in poor condition. We are actively exploring alternative solutions for watering the ovals to prevent this issue from recurring. Our team is working tirelessly to ensure that the ovals will be up to standard for the upcoming sports seasons.



## Prohibited Burning Period

A reminder that the prohibited burning period is in place until 28 February 2026. With the restricted burning period in place until 16 March 2026. Conditions are constantly reviewed, depending on conditions with the potential of extensions. Keep up to date on all fire related information on our website and Facebook page.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

# MORAWA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS EXPO

MORAWA GREATER SPORTS GROUND, EVANS STREET

## SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2026

### 3.30PM - 7PM



- ★ FOOD & DRINK STALLS
- ★ ENTERTAINMENT
- ★ FAMILY ACTIVITIES
- ★ BOUNCY CASTLE
- ★ VOLUNTEER GROUPS
- ★ MENTAL HEALTH GROUPS
- ★ FESTIVAL OF COLOURS



**WEAR A WHITE SHIRT FOR THE FESTIVAL OF COLOURS 'COLOUR RUN' IN THE EVENING**



**FOR MORE: CALL US: 0437 768 183 EMAIL US: NAOMIF@DESERTBLUECONNECT.ORG.AU**



# WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SMOKE ?

With bushfire season approaching, it is crucial to know how to respond if you spot smoke to ensure the safety of our community.



## CHECK EMERGENCYWA

Stay calm and check [emergency.wa.gov.au](http://emergency.wa.gov.au) or the Emergency WA App for current fire information!

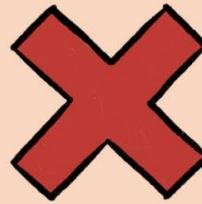
If the fire has been reported, it will pop up in the 'incident' list.



## CALL 000

What if the incident is not on the Emergency WA Incident list?

Call Triple (000) immediately and give as much detail as you can including location and any other vital details.



## KNOW WHO TO CALL

**DO NOT** call your local fire brigade directly!

Our local fire brigade is made up of volunteers, if a fire unit needs to be dispatched, triple 000 will organise this.



## STAY INFORMED

DFES will mobilise the right resources and respond if required.

If the smoke is close by, stay indoors and close all windows and doors, turn off air conditioners and stay informed through the EmergencyWA app or website.

## WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

Keep informed about any total fire bans or emergencies in your area, by visiting Emergency WA website: [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au) or download the app.

For helpful information on how to prepare for a fire visit the DFES website: [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au)

For details about Firebreaks, Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans, Restricted Burning Periods and much more, please visit the Shire of Morawa's website: [www.morawa.wa.gov.au/services/community-safety-ranger-services/fire-services.aspx](http://www.morawa.wa.gov.au/services/community-safety-ranger-services/fire-services.aspx)

