

JUNE 2026 | ISSUE 14

FROM THE RIVER TO THE REEF

CARNARVON & CORAL BAY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



PHOTO: GNULI FESTIVAL

In this issue

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Shire of
CARNARVON
CATCH A *taste* OF THE GREAT LIFE

COMMISSIONER COLUMN #1

Welcome to my first contribution as Commissioner of the Shire of Carnarvon.

My term commenced on 27 May 2026 and will continue until the Council meets for the first time following the ordinary election scheduled for December 3.

I am no stranger to local government having served as the Shadow Minister for Local Government in the State Parliament and as a member of the Select Committee into Local Government that has informed many of the recent reforms to the sector. I am passionate about regional communities and the role that local government plays in delivering services and infrastructure expected by each community.

My role is to act as Council, that is to fulfil the duties previously undertaken by your President and Councillors. I am not an investigator nor am I a monitor who reports to the Local Government Inspector. Whilst I appreciate the unusual circumstances in which a majority of your Council resigned from their positions, my focus is and will remain on ensuring stability for the Shire and to guarantee that its priorities continue to be delivered.

At times this may prove challenging for an outsider like myself. My commitment to you is to be available, to listen and to ensure that every decision taken is necessary, informed and in the long-term benefit of your community.

I have had numerous professional and personal reasons to visit your towns and region over the years, and I look forward to further engagement with you. My contact details including mobile number are publicly available and I will shortly advise of other opportunities for you to engage with me during my term.

Can I close by thanking the former Council for their service to the Shire. The role of an elected member can at times be enormously challenging and the sacrifice that they make in the interests of their community is not often well understood. The commitment by their families and loved ones must also be recognised in supporting their contribution.

I will speak more of the opportunity that exists in coming months for the community to consider the role that they might play in nominating for Council, supporting a candidate for election or at the very least ensuring they are enrolled to vote and indeed vote in the election.

Thank you,

Hon Martin Aldridge

Commissioner, Shire of Carnarvon

Contact Commissioner Aldridge

Mobile: 0428 308 279

Email: commissioner.aldridge@carnarvon.wa.gov.au



COMMUNITY APPRECIATION

A big thank you to New Heights Tree Service, T&S Mowing Contractors and GRS – Gascoyne Regional Services for their efforts in helping prepare Carnarvon for the tourism season and the WA Tourism Conference.

In the lead-up to these important events, their teams worked tirelessly across town undertaking tree maintenance, palm pruning, mowing and verge tidy-ups to help ensure Carnarvon looked its very best. Their work played an important role in creating welcoming, safe and well-presented public spaces for both residents and visitors to enjoy.

We appreciate their commitment, professionalism and contribution to showcasing the pride we have in our community and helping present Carnarvon as a vibrant destination for all who visit.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY BY BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

Volunteering is a meaningful way to give back to the community, meet new people, build new skills, as well as improve your mental and physical health. Whether you can offer a few hours occasionally or a regular commitment, your time and energy can have a lasting impact.

To find out more about existing volunteer roles and to register with Centacare Volunteer Services, please text 0455 669719 or email cvs@centacarecarnarvon.org.au or visit our website – centacaregeraldton.org.au.

Facebook: Centacare Family Services Carnarvon

Website: centacaregeraldton.org.au



THROUGH THE RJED PROGRAM

The Shire of Carnarvon's RJED Program continues to create meaningful local employment opportunities, with the Verge Maintenance Team already making a positive impact across the community.

One of the team's first projects was refreshing the verges at Carnarvon Hospital, helping improve the presentation of an important community facility while gaining valuable hands-on experience working together as a dedicated team.

Working throughout Carnarvon, the team is helping maintain verges and public spaces, contributing to a cleaner, tidier and more welcoming town for residents and visitors. Along the way, team members are developing practical skills, building

confidence and increasing their independence through meaningful employment and on-the-job learning.

The program is about more than maintaining public spaces. It is creating opportunities for local people to gain experience, develop workplace skills and build pathways towards long-term employment. It is also fostering a strong sense of pride, with team members seeing the direct results of their work in the community every day.

The Shire is proud to support local employment through the RJED Program and to see participants growing in confidence, capability and community pride while helping make Carnarvon an even better place to live.

BEFORE



AFTER



RECOVERY CONTINUES FOLLOWING EX-TROPICAL CYCLONE NARELLE

Nearly three months have passed since Ex-Tropical Cyclone Narelle and the associated flooding impacted communities across Carnarvon and Coral Bay.

While the immediate response phase has concluded, recovery continues for many residents, businesses, growers, pastoralists and community organisations. The Shire continues to work alongside government agencies, local organisations and community stakeholders to coordinate recovery efforts and support those affected.

A dedicated Community Recovery Officer has joined the team and is working directly with residents,

businesses and community groups to help connect people with available support and recovery opportunities. Supporting growers, pastoralists and local businesses remains a key focus, alongside practical assistance provided through organisations such as BlazeAid.

As recovery progresses, attention is also turning towards resilience and preparedness. Work is underway on the Shire's Local Operational Recovery Plan, while funding opportunities remain available through the Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle Recovery and Resilience Fund to support community-led recovery projects.

Recovery takes time, but the resilience and community spirit shown across Carnarvon and Coral Bay continues to be inspiring. The Shire thanks everyone who has contributed to recovery efforts and remains committed to supporting our community as we recover, rebuild and prepare for the future.



CYCLONE NARELLE RECOVERY PORTAL

The online Recovery Portal has recently been updated to make it easier for residents to access important information in one central location.

The Recovery Portal includes:

- Recovery updates and important notices
- Frequently asked questions
- Financial assistance and support information
- Important contacts and wellbeing services
- Community recovery information

Scan QR Code



WHERE TO FIND HELP AND INFORMATION

To stay informed and access the latest recovery information following Ex-Tropical Cyclone Narelle, scan the QR code. This will take you directly to a central hub of information, including recovery updates, frequently asked questions, key contacts and available financial support options.

If you prefer to speak with someone directly or need further assistance, the Shire of Carnarvon is here to help. You can contact the team on 08 9941 0000 or via email at community.recovery@carnarvon.wa.gov.au, and staff will guide you to the appropriate support services.





Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle Recovery and Resilience Fund

Social, Economic and Environment Recovery Flexible Grants

\$ Available funding: Minimum \$2,500 up to a maximum of \$50,000

Local organisations impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle can apply for financial assistance to support recovery and future resilience through the **Social, Economic and Environment Recovery Flexible Grants** program.

This flexible grants program is designed to deliver activities and events that support communities to **recover, reconnect** and **build resilience** for the future.

Who can apply?

- Shires of Ashburton, Exmouth and Carnarvon
- Industry bodies or peak organisations that support businesses or groups in the impacted area
- Incorporated not-for-profit organisations
- Community organisations operating within impacted communities

What can funding be used for?

Eligible projects and activities must support recovery, resilience and preparedness and can include (but are not limited to) activities such as:

Recovery



Environmental restoration



Repairing
community
facilities



Community events

Resilience



Business
adaptation
& resilience
initiatives



Community-led
risk reduction
initiatives

Preparedness



Emergency
management
education &
training



Business
continuity
planning training
& workshops



For more information and to apply, visit recovery.dfes.wa.gov.au/recoveries/cyclone-narelle-recovery or scan the QR code.

Applications close 6 July 2026

This program is funded through a donation from Rio Tinto, and administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Gnulli Festival

The Gnulli Festival was a vibrant celebration of community, culture and Country held on Yinggarda Country, bringing together locals and visitors to celebrate the people, stories and traditions that make Carnarvon unique. Showcasing the Yinggarda and Baiyungu cultures that shape our region, the festival creates opportunities for connection, learning and celebration while sharing our community with visitors from across Western Australia and beyond.

Across several incredible days, the Gnulli Festival transformed Carnarvon into a hub of music, art, culture, food and community spirit. From powerful cultural experiences and live performances to family activities and shared moments on Country, the festival demonstrated what makes our region so special.



YARNING CIRCLE

Gnulli Festival began at Gwoonwardu Mia with a Yarning Circle that brought community members together for an afternoon of culture, conversation and shared experiences.

Community members joined the cast from Which Way Home by Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, who explored themes of identity, family and connection to Country through storytelling and discussion. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with the performers and reflect on the experiences shared throughout the session.

The event also featured a special performance by the Gwoonwardu Boys, whose didgeridoo playing and cultural performance added a powerful celebration of culture and community to the afternoon.



GWOONWARDU Mia GUIDED TOUR WITH WOORAMULLA

Festival guests and community members spent the afternoon immersed in culture and storytelling during a special guided experience at Gwoonwardu Mia led by Rennee Turner from Wooramulla Eco Cultural Journeys.

The tour provided an opportunity to connect with Yinggarda Country through bushfoods, storytelling and shared cultural knowledge, creating a meaningful and immersive experience that deepened connections to place, people and culture.

A sincere thank you to Rennee and Wooramulla Eco Cultural Journeys for generously sharing culture, stories and knowledge with the community.



WHICH WAY HOME - YIRRA YAAKIN

Day one of Gnulli Festival concluded with an outstanding performance of Which Way Home by Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company at Camel Lane Theatre, attracting more than 200 attendees.

The moving production explored themes of family, identity, belonging and returning home to Country, taking audiences on an emotional journey filled with humour, reflection and heartfelt moments. Performed by real-life father-and-daughter duo Derek and Shaquita Nannup, the production created a deeply personal and memorable experience for those in attendance.

GNULLI STREET FESTIVAL

Carnarvon came alive as day two of the Gnulli Festival transformed the town centre into a hub of activity. Locals and visitors enjoyed a packed program featuring markets, kids' entertainers, community demonstrations, creative workshops, native food experiences, weaving, art activities and hands-on cultural experiences.

A highlight of the day was a live cooking demonstration by Matt Moncrieff, who showcased local flavours and ingredients while sharing stories and knowledge through food. Families also enjoyed storytime with Brooke Blurton and a range of activities for all ages.

Cultural dance performances celebrated the many cultures that make up our community, while the opening of Portraits of Yinggarda Elders II at the Library and Art Gallery honoured the stories, knowledge and strength of local Elders. The Street Festival created an energetic and welcoming atmosphere, bringing people together throughout the day



GNULLI SOUNDS ON THE LAWN

As the sun set on day two of Gnulli Festival, Gwoonwardu Mia came alive with music, dance, language and culture for Gnulli Sounds on the Lawn. Guided by emcee Matt Moncrieff and opened with a Welcome to Country by Yinggarda Elder Kath Ryan, the evening featured performances from the Gwoonwardu Boys, Mary E, X@RO, the JNF Band, Sundown, Razzy Mak, Red Ochre and Shane Howard and the Great Western Band.

A standout moment was the powerful performance of Solid Rock by Shane Howard and the Great Western Band, featuring lyrics developed alongside Baiyungu Elder Hazel Walgar and sung in Baiyungu language. The evening brought together local talent, renowned artists and community members for a memorable celebration under the Carnarvon sky.

COMING HOME TO CARNARVON WITH BROOKE BLURTON

Sunday morning created space for connection and reflection as Brooke Blurton joined the community at Gwoonwardu Mia to share stories from her memoir, Big Love. Through an honest and heartfelt conversation, Brooke spoke about identity, culture, family, healing and belonging, sharing personal experiences and encouraging meaningful conversations around connection to self, community and Country. The session created a warm and inspiring space for storytelling, reflection and shared experiences.



GNULLI FESTIVAL

The 2026 Gnulli Festival concluded with a spectacular celebration at the Fascine, attracting around 2,000 locals and visitors for an unforgettable finale on Yinggarda Country. The evening featured performances from Shane Howard and the Great Western Band, Proud Mary, Caravãna Sun and Kankawa Nagarra (Olive Knight), creating an atmosphere filled with energy, music and celebration.

As the evening unfolded, First Lights – Gudjirah, a breathtaking drone show presented by Fremantle Biennale, illuminated the night sky with stories inspired by Country, culture and connection. The spectacular display was followed by a fireworks finale, delivering a fitting end to three days of celebrations and showcasing the spirit, pride and vibrancy of Carnarvon and the wider Gascoyne region.

The success of Gnulli Festival would not have been possible without the support of our partners, sponsors, performers, volunteers, businesses, Traditional Owners and wider community. A special thank you to Principal Sponsor Chevron, along with Tourism WA and Leichhardt, for helping bring the festival to life and showcase Carnarvon and the Gascoyne region.

SCAN QR CODE
FOR
EVENT PHOTOS





For three days, Carnarvon proudly hosted tourism leaders, businesses, operators and industry professionals from across Western Australia for the 2026 WA Tourism Conference.

While the conference itself focused on tourism, innovation and regional collaboration, for Carnarvon and Coral Bay it represented something much bigger, an opportunity to showcase our region, support local businesses and demonstrate what can be achieved when a community comes together.

From accommodation providers and restaurants through to tour operators, volunteers, community groups and local businesses, the conference created opportunities across the region while placing Carnarvon and Coral Bay firmly in the spotlight.



DAY ONE – SHOWCASING OUR REGION

The conference began by taking delegates beyond the conference rooms and into the experiences that make our region unique. Delegates participated in local tours, cultural experiences, visitor centre sessions and industry showcases designed to highlight the diversity of experiences available throughout Carnarvon and Coral Bay. Delegates explored local history, culture, agriculture and tourism experiences through activities including guided cultural tours, heritage walks, industry showcase tours and local produce experiences.

The day concluded with a spectacular networking sundowner at Quobba Station, where delegates experienced the stunning Carnarvon coastline while connecting with tourism operators, businesses and industry leaders from across the State. The event also showcased the growing popularity of station stays across the Gascoyne, highlighting the unique outback hospitality and authentic experiences that continue to attract visitors to the region.

Behind the scenes, countless local businesses, volunteers, tourism operators and community members worked together to help bring the first day to life and create memorable experiences for visitors.

DAY TWO – LEARNING, COLLABORATION AND CELEBRATION

Tuesday marked the official opening of the conference with a Welcome to Country by Kath Ryan, followed by addresses from Tourism Minister Hon Reece Whitby MLA and Shire of Carnarvon CEO Mandy Dexter. Throughout the day, delegates explored topics ranging from tourism trends and regional air access through to artificial intelligence, marketing and the future of tourism.

That evening, delegates gathered beneath the iconic satellite dish at the Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum for the Conference Awards Dinner, experiencing one of Carnarvon's most unique attractions while celebrating tourism excellence across Western Australia. Approximately 200 guests attended the evening, which included presentations for the Tourism Town Awards and industry recognition. Guests enjoyed a menu created by renowned chef Don Hancey and his team, showcasing exceptional local Gascoyne produce. The dinner also provided a valuable learning opportunity for hospitality students from Geraldton TAFE and Carnarvon Community College, who worked alongside industry professionals to gain hands-on experience preparing and delivering a gala dinner for tourism leaders from across the State.

One of the biggest moments of the evening came when Carnarvon was awarded with Silver in the Small Tourism Town category, an achievement reflecting the dedication of local businesses, volunteers, tourism operators and community members who continue working to showcase the region. Our region was further celebrated with Coral Bay named a finalist in the Tiny Tourism Town Awards, highlighting the outstanding visitor experiences and strong tourism offering.





DAY THREE – EXPERIENCING CARNARVON

The final day focused on partnerships, storytelling and the future of tourism before delegates once again headed out into the community to experience Carnarvon firsthand. Delegates visited local businesses and attractions including Bumbak & Sons, the Sweeter Banana packaging facility, Gwoonwardu Mia and Sea Harvest. Learning more about the industries, people and projects shaping the future of the region.

Tours also highlighted major projects helping shape Carnarvon's future, including updates on Van Dongen Park, The Pier development, the One Mile Jetty project and restoration works underway on the historic Tramway Bridge.

The conference concluded at the One Mile Jetty Precinct with a special closing event featuring performances from the Perth Symphony Orchestra alongside talented local students, creating a fitting end to a conference built around connection, collaboration and celebrating regional Western Australia.

MORE THAN A CONFERENCE

While the delegates have returned home, the benefits of hosting the WA Tourism Conference will continue long after the final session.

The conference provided immediate economic benefits across accommodation, hospitality, retail and tourism businesses while creating valuable opportunities to showcase Carnarvon and Coral Bay to influential tourism professionals and decision makers from across Western Australia.

Just as importantly, the conference gave our region the opportunity to tell its story. Delegates experienced firsthand the innovation, hospitality, culture, tourism experiences and community spirit that make Carnarvon and Coral Bay unique. For many visitors, the conference challenged outdated perceptions and highlighted a region that is growing, evolving and full of opportunity.

Throughout the week, Carnarvon was shining. From local businesses and volunteers to tourism operators, community groups and residents, the pride shown in welcoming visitors demonstrated what our community does best, working together and showcasing the very best of our region.

The success of the conference would not have been possible without the incredible efforts of volunteers, businesses, community groups, sponsors, tourism operators, Traditional Owners, contractors, performers and community members who gave their time, energy and passion to help showcase the very best of Carnarvon.



Perth Symphony Orchestra at the closing event performing with St Mary's students



Tony McCann from DTIM presenting on the One Mile Jetty at the Industry Showcase Tour



Bec from Cuppa and Crumb Cafe supplying lunch for delegates



Mandy Dexter, Shire CEO, on a panel discussion on regional air access



Tour visit at Sweeter Banana's packing facility



TAFE students at the Conference Award Dinner

Scan QR Code for
event information
& photos



CARNARVON COMMON GROUND LAUNCH INVITES COMMUNITY TO CONNECT, CONTRIBUTE AND LEARN

The community is invited to attend the official launch of Carnarvon Common Ground on Wednesday, 17 June, from 10am to 12pm at 13 Stuart Street, Carnarvon. The launch marks an important milestone for the newly formed Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO), established to support local people through community-led services and solutions.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the Elders and community members whose leadership, knowledge and lived experience have helped shape Carnarvon Common Ground, while learning more about the organisation's services and programs.

A key feature of the event will be an interactive "Issues vs Solutions" display, where community members can identify local challenges and suggest ideas to help address them. The activity aligns with Carnarvon Common Ground's Working Groups and provides an opportunity for community voices to be heard.

Community members will also be among the first to explore the new Carnarvon Common Ground website, which will showcase services, resources and information while providing opportunities for ongoing feedback.

The launch will feature the premiere of a new social media storytelling campaign developed with local filmmaker Hugh Sando, sharing stories that reflect the voices, experiences and aspirations of the community.

Speeches from representatives of the Gascoyne Development Commission, Carnarvon Common Ground and the Elders Advisory Council will highlight the collaborative journey behind the initiative and its vision for the future.

Community members are encouraged to come along, connect, contribute ideas and learn more about services built by community, for community.

For catering purposes, RSVP to info@carnarvoncommonground.com.au.



AUSTRALIA POST MURAL CELEBRATES CARNARVON



A vibrant new mural now brightens the Australia Post building in Carnarvon, celebrating the people, culture and places that make our region unique.

Created by local artist Tay from Meraki Boho, the eight-piece stamp mural showcases some of Carnarvon's most iconic landmarks and landscapes. The artwork was inspired by ideas developed earlier this year by the Deadly Girls group, who participated in workshops through their after-school youth program, sharing what Carnarvon means to them and helping shape the creative direction of the project.

The mural reflects the spirit, culture and stories of our community, while also highlighting the importance of youth voices in public art projects. A special thank you to Leanne Gillham for her support throughout the project and to everyone involved in bringing the artwork to life.

The project was proudly funded by the Department of Justice and can now be viewed at Australia Post in Carnarvon.





MISSING A PET? HERE'S WHAT TO DO

Losing a beloved pet can be stressful, but there are a few simple steps you can take to help reunite with your furry family member as quickly as possible.

If your dog or cat is missing, contact the Shire Rangers on (08) 9941 0000 to check whether your pet has been collected and taken to the Animal Pound Facility. If your pet is wearing a current registration tag or is microchipped, Rangers will attempt to contact you directly.

If your pet has been impounded, an appointment must be made before collection. Animals can be reclaimed

Monday to Friday between 8:30am and 4:00pm, with applicable fees payable before release. Pets must also be registered and microchipped, with proof of sterilisation required where applicable.

If you find a wandering dog, contact the Rangers rather than trying to locate the owner through social media. Rangers may already have the owner's details and can assist with returning the animal safely.

Remember, Rangers do not monitor or respond to social media posts or private messages. For all animal-related enquiries, including lost pets, found animals, wandering dogs, barking complaints or dog attacks, please contact the Rangers directly on (08) 9941 0000 or via email at rangers@carnarvon.wa.gov.au.

Keeping your pet's registration and microchip details up to date is one of the best ways to ensure a quick reunion if they ever go missing.



MARINE RESCUE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WE'RE HERE FOR YOUR SAFETY



CARNARVON MARINE RESCUE

LOG ON. LOG OFF.

VHF CHANNEL 16



1. LOG ON BEFORE YOU GO
Call us on VHF Channel 16 and provide:

- Boat name & registration
- Number of people on board
- Departure location
- Destination / trip details
- Estimated return time



2. STAY IN TOUCH WHILE YOU'RE OUT

- Maintain a listening watch on VHF 16
- Update us if your plans change



3. LOG OFF WHEN YOU RETURN
Let us know you're safely back.
If you don't log off, a search may be initiated.



4. IN AN EMERGENCY CALL MAYDAY ON VHF CHANNEL 16



5. WE'RE HERE FOR YOU
Carnarvon Marine Rescue is a volunteer service dedicated to keeping our community safe on the water.



Stay safe. Log on. Log off.



VHF CHANNEL 16



IN AN EMERGENCY CALL MAYDAY ON VHF CHANNEL 16

VOLUNTEERS SAVING LIVES



HEADING OUT ON THE WATER?

Whether you're fishing, boating or exploring the coastline, taking a few minutes to log on with Carnarvon Marine Rescue before heading out could make all the difference in an emergency.

Before you leave, contact Marine Rescue on VHF Channel 16 and provide your boat name and registration, the number of people on board, your destination, estimated return time and DPI number. While you're on the water, keep your radio tuned to Channel 16 and, most importantly, remember to log off when you return safely.

If you don't log off, Marine Rescue may assume you're overdue and initiate procedures to locate you.

Carnarvon Marine Rescue is a volunteer service dedicated to keeping our community safe on the water. In an emergency, call MAYDAY on VHF Channel 16.

Log On. Log Off. Stay Safe.

MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE

Supported by:



MAY HIGHLIGHTS

- As part of the Shire's Local Connect & Create project, the installation of the functional public art to the front of the Civic Centre and near the Gascoyne Bakery were completed. The custom-designed seating and sandblasting elements, crafted by W&C Co. Mechanical and Civil with the support of local carpenter Stuart Parker, feature designs by artist Peta Riley and incorporate salvaged timber from the historic One Mile Jetty.
- Two new light art structures - the angel wings at the Civic Centre and a tree arch tunnel on the Fascine - were installed and enjoyed by locals and tourists alike. The illuminated structures aim to help create a more vibrant, welcoming and activated environment during events and busy periods. They form the start of the next phase of the Local Connect & Create project which will see the development of an art-lighting trail within the town centre.
- Restoration works to our iconic Tramway Bridge continue to progress. A key component of the Tramway Walk Trail project, these essential works to the Fascine foreshore-end of the bridge, will protect this asset for years to come, ensuring it remains a safe, beautiful part of the community's landscape.
- The tender for the Minilya-Lyndon Road Grid Installations & Road Reinstatement Work has been awarded to ABBL Contracting & Maintenance. The project will see the nine existing grids, each measuring 6 metres by 2 metres, upgraded to dual-lane grids, measuring 8 metres by 2 metres, to improve safety and traffic flow.



Coming Up!

- The landscaping and construction of Van Dongen Park Stage One, awarded to First Class Constructions WA Pty Ltd, will commence in the coming months. We look forward to seeing the Van Dongen Park, affectionately known as the "Big Banana Playground", come to life.
- Installation of interpretive signage and seating along the Tramway Walk Trail by local carpenter Stuart Parker will commence this month as part of the Tramway Walk Trail project.
- The Shire has received Main Roads WA Blackspot program funding to improve road user safety on Speedway Road adjacent to the Browns Range Waste Facility, Carnarvon. Tender 02/2026 is now open and will close 4pm WST on Friday 10 July 2026. Tender documents are available on the Shire website.

Scan QR Code for more information
on current & completed projects:



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: TONI EDNEY

Local artist Toni Edney is a proud Yinggarda woman whose story is deeply connected to Country, culture, resilience and community.



Born in Carnarvon, Toni's roots stretch across the Gascoyne. Her mother is from Gascoyne Junction, her father from Burringurrah, where she spent much of her childhood.

Growing Up on Country

Toni remembers a time when community was at the heart of everyday life. "Everyone respected everyone, like friends and families, and everyone was connected altogether," she said. "That's how it was back in my young days, and everyone was happy." Life was simple. Toni lived alongside her parents, siblings and Elders, learning to live off the land. The family hunted for food, gathered water from river soaks and spent their days exploring the country around them.

She recalls swimming in waterholes, searching for emu eggs among the spinifex, and learning from the old people who shared stories, culture and knowledge of Country. It was also where Toni's passion for art first took shape. As a child, she used charcoal from campfires to draw on gum tree bark, capturing the hills, sand dunes and landscapes around her home. Inspired by the old people who raised her, she also carved emu eggs using makeshift tools, reflecting a creative spirit that has remained with her ever since. Growing up with strong cultural connections,

Toni spent much of her time listening to Elders share stories and knowledge about Country. Today, she still feels a strong connection to those places and the people who came before her. "When I go down to the river, I feel the old people's presence," she said. "I can hear the birds and the trees, and I'm at peace."

Finding Strength Through Loss

In the 1990s, Toni left Carnarvon with her son and spent many years travelling from town to town. Following the loss of her son, she returned to Carnarvon in 2016 to feel close to him. Arriving with little more than a bag, she faced homelessness and one of the most difficult periods of her life.

Despite the challenges, Toni remained determined to keep moving forward. She credits her son as her greatest inspiration and still carries his words with her today. *"Don't give up painting, Mum. You've got beautiful paintings. No matter which way the wind blows, keep painting."*

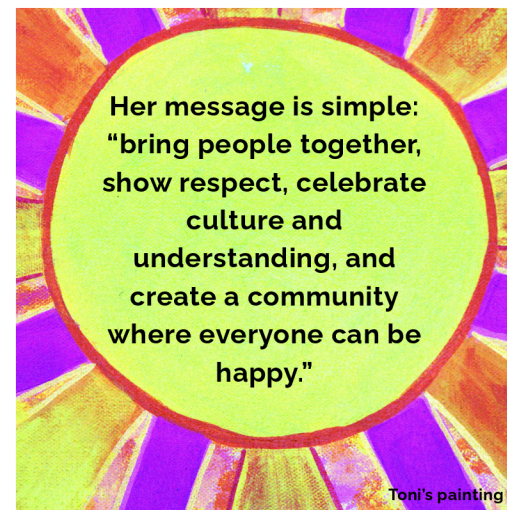
Those words became a source of strength during some of the most difficult periods of her life. Rather than falling into the traps of negative influences and vices, Toni stayed focused on her art and rebuilding her life. *"Painting is a healing for me. It brings peace to my soul and lifts my spirit up,"* she said.

Giving Back to the Community

With support from the community, she gradually found her feet again. She became an Artist in Residence at the Cultural Centre before eventually joining the Community Art Hub, where she now helps facilitate workshops, school holiday activities and creative programs for local children and families.

Today, Toni enjoys meeting new people, sharing stories and encouraging others to connect with Aboriginal culture and Country. She is proud to see her artwork displayed throughout the community and values the support she has received along the way. One of the most important lessons passed down by her parents and Elders was to respect other people, a value she carries with her every day.

She believes Carnarvon has changed for the better, with more opportunities for people to connect with culture, creativity and community. Looking ahead, she hopes to continue sharing her stories, culture and connection to Country with younger generations.



Toni's painting



A strong Yinggarda woman, Toni continues to draw strength from her culture, her Country and the people around her, proving that with a good mindset, good people and a strong sense of purpose, it is possible to keep moving forward.



Upcoming

Gentle Gym

Wednesdays 3.00pm - 4.00pm
Fridays 9.00am - 10.00am
Senior Citizens Hall



**WA Country
Health Service**

Elder's Yarning Circle

Fridays until end of
September
10.00 - 11.00am
Gwoonwardu Mia



Friday Night Footy

Fridays
5.00pm onwards
Festival Grounds



Craft Group

Mondays
6.00pm - 9.00pm
Jubilee Hall



Courtyard Craft Markets

Saturdays
8.00am - 11.30pm
Carnarvon Visitor Centre



Guided Walks and Seed Collection

Saturdays throughout June
10.00am - 11.00am
Arboretum



Protecting Your Information

Tuesday 16th June
1.00pm - 2.00pm
Library & Art Gallery

Be Connected
Every Australian online.
Ready to build
YOUR DIGITAL SKILLS?

BE CONNECTED
TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS



Bingo

Wednesdays
6.00pm
Senior Citizens Hall



Carnarvon Races

Friday 26th June
12.00pm - 6.00pm
Carnarvon Race Club



Gascoyne Art Awards

Friday 3rd July till Saturday
29th August
TBC
Library & Art Gallery

**GASCOYNE
ART AWARDS**

Monster Book Sale

Saturday 4th July
8.00am - 11.30am
The Woolshed



NAIDOC Youth Ball

Thursday 9th July
5.30pm - 8.00pm
The Woolshed

**NAIDOC
WEEK**
**50 YEARS
DEADLY**
5-12 JULY 2026

Events



Jag the Joker
Mondays
6.00pm - 9.00pm
Bill's Bar



ECU Tax Clinic
Tuesdays in June
10.00am - 1.00pm
2.00pm - 4.30pm
Butcher Street Playgroup Building

ECU Tax Clinic

Need help with taxes?
Backlog of past tax returns?
Tax debt? **We can help.**

The ECU Tax Clinic (ECUTC) supports the community by aiding unrepresented taxpayers with their taxes through Edith Cowan University students, supervised by experienced tax practitioners.

Please bring along your Photo ID, Tax File Number and MyGov account.

154 3281 618 6304 6180 (ECU Tax Clinic)

To apply for assistance:
Email: taxclinic@caranvon.edu.au or scan the QR code.

ECU Tax Clinic representative: Cameron, Dr. Les Fullerton
A Government funded initiative supported by the Shop of Carnarvon

When
Tuesdays
10:00am-1:00pm
2:00pm-4:30pm

Where
Carnarvon Library & Art Gallery
18 Egan Street, Carnarvon

Cost
Free

You & Me AFAFE Playgroup
Tuesdays & Wednesdays
9.30am - 12.00pm
30 Egan Street Carnarvon

WHO
For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families with children 0-4 years of age

WHERE
30 Egan Street

WHEN
Tuesdays and Wednesdays
9:30am - 12pm

YOU & ME
LEARNING TOGETHER

AFAFE Playgroup
Aboriginal Families As First Educators

Storytime
Tuesdays
10.00am - 11.00am
Library & Art Gallery



Express You Creative Self
Thursday 18th June
3.00pm - 4.30pm
Library & Art Gallery



Stargazing Nights
Monday 22th June
5.00pm - 8.00pm
Gwoonwardu Mia



Watch the Road Signs
Tuesday 23rd June
5.00pm - 6.00pm
Library & Art Gallery



The Coral Bay Ultra Marathon
Wednesday 24th June
3.00am
Coral Bay



Tradies Day
Friday 10th July
1.00pm - 2.00pm
Carnarvon Race Club



Friday Film Club
Friday 10th July
1.00pm - 3.00pm
Library & Art Gallery

FRIDAY FILM CLUB

FREE MONTHLY FILM SCREENINGS!
ENJOY A RANGE OF FILM GENRES INCLUDING:

AUSTRALIAN
DRAMA, COMEDY AND ROMANCE
LITERARY ADAPTATIONS
CLASSIC GEMS

1-3PM - AGES 18+

Minions and Monsters - Movie
Monday 13th July
3.00pm - 5.00pm
Camel Lane Theatre



Tiny Hands Craft
Wednesday 15th July
10.00am - 11.30am
Library & Art Gallery



For more Information visit our website
www.carnarvon.wa.gov.au/community/events

Community

CELEBRATING ALL MOTHERS



It was a sweet Mother's Day celebration hosted by Kestrel Café to spotlight all mothers who play such an important role in our lives.

Families gathered for a relaxed morning of good food, live music and quality time with loved ones, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for a special day.

There was no shortage of smiles, laughter and lively conversation, with espresso martinis proving a popular addition to the breakfast of champions.

Thank you Kestrel Café for setting up this event to honour all mothers.



AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA & Mother's Day Celebration

The Senior Citizens Hall was filled with laughter, connection and community spirit on 13 May as locals gathered for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea and a special Mother's Day Celebration.

The event brought together people from young families and children through to seniors, all enjoying a wonderful morning of homemade

food, fantastic prizes and great company.

A big thank you to the Senior Citizens Hall for hosting such a successful community event and creating a welcoming space for everyone to come together and celebrate.



STORIES, FLAVOURS AND CONNECTION AROUND THE FIRE PIT

Gwoonwardu Mia came alive on 8 May as community members, industry partners, trainers and students gathered for the first Around the Fire Pit Dining event of 2026.

Delivered in partnership with WA Tourism, Activated Hospitality and guest chef Daniel Lyndon from Bimba Food, the evening showcased the region's incredible produce and native flavours. Guests enjoyed a menu featuring local seafood, slow-roasted goat, smoked crocodile wontons, BBQ kangaroo skewers and native-inspired desserts, all served in a relaxed atmosphere under the night sky.



Photo by Real Futures Pty Ltd

The event provided a valuable opportunity for hospitality participants to apply their training in a real-world setting, with students handling food preparation, service and customer engagement while being supported by program alumni who returned to mentor and encourage the next generation of hospitality professionals.

Following the success of the event, participants have continued gaining hands-on experience through opportunities at Jardilunji Mia Café, putting their newly refined skills to work in a real-world hospitality setting, further strengthening their confidence and industry experience.

BRINGING COLOUR, CHARACTER AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT TO CARNARVON

Anyone driving into Carnarvon along North West Coastal Highway and turning left onto Robinson Street is likely to spot three colourful Minions keeping watch outside KenJen's Plantation Shop, bringing a smile to locals and visitors alike.



The eye-catching characters are the latest project by plantation owner Ken and local artist Markham, who transformed a collection of water tanks into the beloved movie characters after Ken spotted their resemblance to the famous yellow figures.

The Minions are just one part of Ken's efforts to add character to the community. Further along North River Road sits Humpty Dumpty, another local landmark that Ken has been working to restore and revitalise. Like many growers across the region, Ken was significantly impacted by Cyclone Narelle, with damage affecting both his plantation and the Humpty Dumpty property. With support from the

Shire, the Humpty Dumpty structure itself was restored, although the building behind it remains significantly damaged.

Despite the challenges, Ken remains committed to improving the site and has plans to continue revitalising the area. "I want to give Humpty a home," he said.

A long-time Carnarvon resident and volunteer with the Carnarvon Fire and Rescue Service, Ken is passionate about giving back to the community. From the colourful Minions welcoming visitors into town to the ongoing restoration of Humpty Dumpty, his projects are helping add character, creativity and community pride to the Carnarvon landscape.

CWA RETURNS TO CARNARVON WITH SWEET SUCCESS

The Gascoyne Branch of the Country Women's Association has officially returned to Carnarvon, marking an exciting new chapter with the first cake stall of the year held at the local markets.

Following years without a local branch, the newly re-established Gascoyne Branch has quickly gained momentum, already growing to 65 members and becoming the largest branch in Western Australia. The branch brings together women from both Carnarvon and Gascoyne Junction, strengthening connections across the wider region.

The monthly cake stall forms part of ongoing fundraising efforts to

restore the former CWA Hall on Stuart Street, which has sat unused for many years. With fundraising already underway and repairs planned to begin soon, the group hopes to transform the building into a welcoming community space once again.

The return of the CWA represents more than just the reopening of a branch. It reflects the strength of community, connection and supporting one another through both good times and challenging periods. Congratulations to everyone involved in bringing the CWA back to Carnarvon and helping create another positive asset for our community.



If you would like to join the CWA, create your profile online via the CWA website member portal at cwaofwa.asn.au or contact the Association Office via email at membership@cwaofwa.asn.au.

G STOP AIN'T STOPPING



Gosia Talylor of G Stop continues to make a lasting impact through her passion for creativity, storytelling and community connection.

Following her recent residency with North Metro TAFE Art School in Perth, Gosia showcased a new body of work exploring personal narrative, childhood memory, resilience and identity. The collection reflected her ongoing commitment to using art as a tool to open conversations around healing, and the power of storytelling.

With more than 20 years of experience across public art, community engagement and arts facilitation, Gosia has delivered impactful projects throughout Western Australia's Gascoyne, Midwest and Irwin regions. Her dedication to fostering inclusive and creative communities continues to inspire those around her and highlights the important role the arts play in bringing people together.

She also played an important role in guiding the creation of portrait paintings honouring Yinggarda Elders for Reconciliation Day, helping bring together culture, storytelling and artistic expression in a powerful community project.

[Portraits of Yinggarda Elders II](#)

Exhibiting at the Library & Art Gallery until 13 June.



CLAIRE SCHMIDT TAKES ON THE FINKE DESERT RACE

We would like to congratulate local rider Claire Schmidt on her outstanding performance at the 2026 Tatts Finke Desert Race, one of Australia's toughest and most iconic off-road events.

Held between Alice Springs and the Aputula (Finke) community, the race attracts hundreds of competitors from across the country. This year, Claire finished an impressive 254th overall out of more than 600 riders and placed 5th in the Women's Class 9 category.

"The track was brutal and in its worst condition," Claire said. "Most of the race was done blind because of the dust. Not only is Finke physically challenging, it's mentally challenging too. The will to keep going and push through is like no other."

For Claire, simply crossing the finish line was one of the biggest achievements of all.

"The greatest challenge is keeping the bike upright and having a clean run over the two days. To finish Finke in its 50th year was a huge achievement."

One of her most memorable moments came after accidentally riding past her fuel stop on day one.

"I kept going and found some spectators camped alongside the track. They were kind enough to give me some fuel and help keep me going."

Claire completed the event with the support of her father, Warren Schmidt, who had always wanted to experience the famous race, especially during its milestone 50th year.

Congratulations to Claire on an incredible achievement and for representing Carnarvon on one of Australia's biggest off-road stages. The community is proud of your determination, resilience and success.



WEATHERING THE CURVEBALLS, CELEBRATING THE WINS



CARNARVON HORNETS

The Carnarvon Hornets Women's Softball Team travelled to Geraldton over the long weekend in May to compete in the annual Geraldton Softball Association June Carnival, joining 59 teams from across Western Australia in one of the largest regional softball events.

With seven divisions contested across 16 diamonds and two venues, the carnival delivered a busy weekend of competition, camaraderie and community spirit. The weather also threw a few curveballs throughout the tournament, but players, volunteers and officials stepped up to the plate, helping knock the weekend out of the park despite the challenging conditions.



Competing in Division 7, the Hornets put together a strong performance, demonstrating determination, teamwork and resilience across the weekend to secure an impressive third-place finish.

Beyond the result, the weekend highlighted the positive impact that sports can have on both individual mental wellbeing and community connection. Events such as the June Carnival bring together people from all walks of life, creating opportunities to build friendships, strengthen support networks and share memorable experiences. As the tournament slogan says, "Mud washes off. Carnival memories don't."

It is always wonderful to see a community-led organisation come together to collaborate in delivering an event like this. A special thank you goes to those involved in preparing for this tournament, from jerseys to accommodation, as well as to Leichhardt for their support and Real Futures for providing transport. Without their contributions, this would not have been possible.

Next up for the Hornets is a trip to Port Hedland in September for the North West Championships. Join them in bringing more glory to the Team and Carnarvon.

EMAIL: ANTOINETTE.ROE@HOTMAIL.COM

CONTACT: JARED 0450 494 323



**Carnarvon
Litter Legends**

MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP

A huge thank you goes to the Litter Legends who rolled up their sleeves to help tidy the town ahead of the Gnulli Festival and Tourism Conference WA.

Meeting behind Woolworths before spreading out across Carnarvon, volunteers dedicated their morning to collecting litter and helping showcase the community at its very best. Their efforts not only enhanced the appearance of the town but also demonstrated the pride and care that residents have for Carnarvon.

The impact of their efforts was evident in the positive feedback received from visitors attending the Gnulli Festival and Tourism Conference WA, with many commenting on the town's presentation and welcoming atmosphere.

Community initiatives like this rely on the generosity of volunteers who give up their time to make a difference, and their contribution does not go unnoticed. Every bag of rubbish collected helps create a cleaner, more welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the clean-up a success. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and continue to make a positive impact on the community.



AFL HALL OF FAMER FROM CARNARVON

Michael Mitchell designs Dreamtime guernsey for Richmond Tigers

Michael Mitchell, a Carnarvon local, alongside his daughters Meghan and Sam worked together to design Richmond's 2026 Dreamtime guernsey which was worn at the Dreamtime Clash against Essendon. The guernsey design carries strong personal and regional significance, with three circles symbolising Mitchell's football journey through Warriors FC in Carnarvon, Claremont and Richmond.

A red-tailed cockatoo featured on the back of the guernsey pays tribute to Mitchell's parents, representing their guidance, love and protection throughout his life and career. The front sash includes imagery of a dugong and turtle, reflecting Mitchell's connection to Shark Bay and the marine life that is deeply associated with the area.

The colour palette also draws inspiration from Western Australia and Mitchell's football journey, with deep reds and blues representing the desert landscapes and ocean surrounding Carnarvon, while the gold yellow acknowledges the Richmond colours worn during his playing days.

Mitchell's achievements across football continue to leave a lasting legacy. Widely regarded as one of Richmond's most exciting players during his time in the VFL/AFL, he famously claimed both Mark of the Year and Goal of the Year honours. Before making the move to Richmond, Mitchell built an outstanding career with Claremont, where he won the prestigious Sandover Medal and earned All-Australian selection on two occasions.

Beyond his playing career, Mitchell continues to make an impact off the field through his involvement with mental health and wellbeing initiatives. He currently sits on the steering committee for Tackle Your Feelings and is the program's only First Nations facilitator in Western Australia.



**NAIDOC
WEEK**
50 YEARS
DEADLY
5-12 JULY 2026



Photos: Carnarvon Race Club Facebook

RACING SEASON IN FULL SWING AT Carnarvon Race Club

May was a big month for the Carnarvon Race Club, with racegoers enjoying two fantastic race meetings, including the popular Ladies Day on 16 May and another exciting day of racing on 30 May.

Ladies Day once again brought plenty of glamour and colour to the track, with 14 entrants taking part in the Fashions on the Field competition. Months of preparation were on display as competitors showcased their race day style, making for a closely contested event. Congratulations to Stephanie Condo, who impressed the judges and took home the top honours.

While fashion was certainly a highlight, the racing itself remained the main attraction across both meetings, drawing locals and visitors together to enjoy the excitement of country racing. The events provided a great social atmosphere and continued a long-standing tradition that is an important part of Carnarvon's community calendar.

Race days also play an important role in supporting the local economy, attracting trainers, jockeys, horse owners and visitors to Carnarvon while providing opportunities for local businesses and hospitality venues.

Congratulations to the Carnarvon Race Club and its dedicated volunteers for delivering another successful month of racing and community events.



2026 GASCOYNE FOOD FESTIVAL

The 2026 Gascoyne Food Festival is set to deliver another incredible celebration of the region's world-class food, produce and experiences.

The festival was officially launched on the 20th May at Perth City Farm by Hon. Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Gascoyne, alongside Gascoyne Development Commission Board Chair Burke Maslen and CEO Tim Bray.

Showcasing the very best of the Gascoyne, the festival will feature a calendar packed with more than a dozen of events throughout August, highlighting the region's renowned seafood, fresh produce and pastoral products while bringing together locals, visitors, chefs, growers and tourism operators.

We are proud to support the festival alongside Tourism WA through the Regional Events Program, as well as the many sponsors and partners helping bring the festival to life, including Sea Harvest, Bullara Station, Australia's Coral Coast, Real Futures, The Business Social, Ningaloo Distillery, Whalebone Brewing Company, Exmouth Wild Prawns and many more.



CARNAR-FIN HOOKS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The waters around Carnarvon were buzzing with excitement as fishers from across the region came together for another successful Carnar-Fin competition, celebrating the community's love of fishing, the outdoors and friendly competition.

The event kicked off with a packed registration night before a week of daily weigh-ins, impressive catches and plenty of movement on the leaderboards. With favourable fishing conditions throughout the competition, participants enjoyed some fantastic fishing and a healthy dose of competition right through to the final day.

A highlight of this year's event was the strong family participation, with parents, grandparents and children spending time together on the water. Junior competitors impressed throughout the week, while the popular Kids Fishing Competition at the Fascine brought plenty of smiles, prizes and family fun.

The competition concluded with the annual awards dinner, where competitors, volunteers, sponsors and supporters came together to celebrate the week's achievements and share stories from the water.

Events like Carnar-Fin are about more than fishing. They bring visitors to Carnarvon, support local businesses, showcase our incredible coastline and strengthen the sense of community that makes our region so special.

Congratulations to the Carnar-Fin committee, volunteers, sponsors and competitors for another fantastic event. The Shire of Carnarvon is proud to support Carnar-Fin as a sponsor and to help deliver an event that continues to be a highlight of the region's annual calendar.



Coral Bay

REMEMBERING BILL BROGAN

The Carnarvon and Coral Bay community recently farewelled William (Bill) Brogan, a pioneer whose vision and passion helped shape Coral Bay into the tourism destination it is today.

Arriving in Australia as a "10-pound Pom", Bill first became involved in Coral Bay in the early 1970s when he purchased a glass-bottom boat and began sharing the wonders of Ningaloo Reef with visitors. What started as a love of the ocean grew into a lifelong commitment to Coral Bay, with Bill and his family establishing and operating several local businesses that continue to contribute to the community today.

Known for his dream of creating the "Rotto of the North", Bill saw the



Photos: Ningaloo Coral Bay

incredible potential of Coral Bay long before it became one of Western Australia's most loved coastal destinations. His vision, determination and entrepreneurial spirit played an important role in growing tourism in the region and introducing countless visitors to the beauty of Ningaloo Reef.

A passionate diver and ocean lover, Bill remained connected to the water throughout his life and was a strong advocate for protecting the reef for future generations. His contribution to Coral Bay's tourism industry leaves a lasting legacy that

continues to benefit the community today.

The Shire of Carnarvon extends its condolences to Bill's family and friends and acknowledges his significant contribution to Coral Bay, tourism and the wider Gascoyne region.

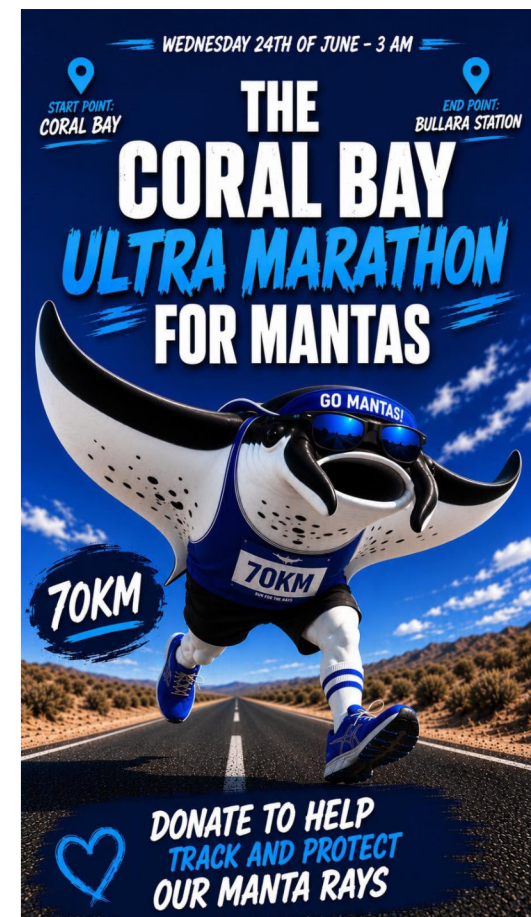


Photos: Facebook

CORAL BAY JOINS THE CELEBRATION

The WA Tourism Conference was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the entire Gascoyne region, with tourism operators from Coral Bay joining delegates in Carnarvon to showcase the experiences, hospitality and natural beauty that make our coastline so special.

Together, Carnarvon and Coral Bay proudly welcomed visitors from across Western Australia, highlighting the strong community spirit, collaboration and passion that continue to drive tourism throughout the region.



Library

TIMMY'S PICNIC SOCCER ADVENTURE



On Wednesday 3 June, **Timmy Turtle** held his annual picnic at Gwoonwardu Mia! From 9-11am, local organizations from the *Gascoyne Early Years Network* entertained children aged 0-5 from the Carnarvon community with stories, music, craft, interactive play, sporty activities, and more. Timmy Turtle himself helped read a very special story with Renee Williamson, President of the Carnarvon Junior Soccer Association: *Luna Roo the Kangaroo Baller* by Adam Jackson and Adrian Lloyd, the 2026 *National Simultaneous Storytime* picture book that's all about a spirited kangaroo and her friends as they chase their football dreams across the outback!

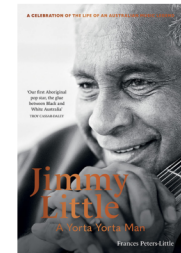
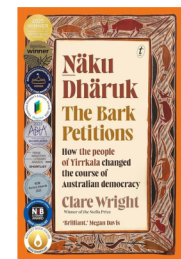
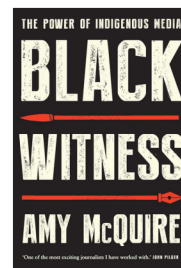
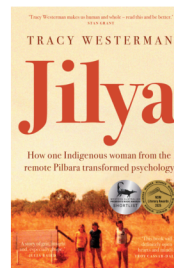
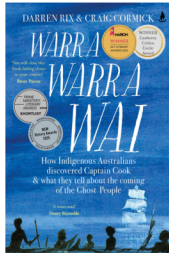
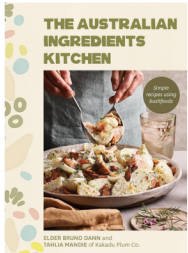
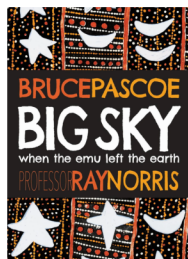
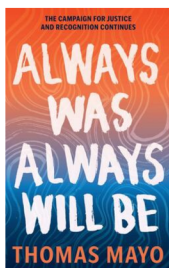


DISCOVER THE LIBRARY'S ABORIGINAL COLLECTION

History, Art, and Cuisine
Reconciliation and political history
Biographies about Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people
and more!



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this collection may contain images, voices or names of deceased persons.



MEMORY LANE CAFE

In April and May, Carnarvon Library & Art Gallery held two **Memory Lane Cafe** events for the 2026 *Australian Heritage Festival*.

The first Cafe on Wednesday 29 April focused on the different family history resources available to help intrepid genealogical researchers: how to navigate ancestry.com, the National Library of Australia's online repository of historical records Trove, and helpful tips on searching the Post Office directories. The second Cafe event focussed on First Nation's family history: such as how to find and navigate specific online resources like the Storylines database at the State Library of WA. It was inspiring to see Carnarvon community members discover real-life examples of finding historical records as they watched live on-screen how their own family names could be searched and entries relating to their grandparents found in the databases! Thank you to everyone who came along, stay tuned for information of more upcoming family history sessions.



MONSTER BOOK SALE

The library is holding its biggest book sale in years!
Adult, teens, & children's books, DVDs and more, all for sale at bargain prices.

8-11.30am
Saturday 4 July

Gold coin donation
Bring your own bag!
THE WOOLSHED, Carnarvon



BE CONNECTED TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS

**Ready to build
YOUR DIGITAL SKILLS?**

1pm Tuesday 16 June

Protecting your personal information online

- Discover why information privacy matters
- How to keep your information secure
- Impersonation scams to look out for
- Where to go for help

FREE ~ Ages 50+

Light refreshments provided
Carnarvon Library & Art Gallery
RSVP (08) 9941 3727



Australian Government

Be Connected

Every Australian online.



ART GALLERY

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN CARNARVON

National Reconciliation Week concluded in Carnarvon with a meaningful gathering that celebrated culture, connection, and shared understanding under this year's theme, "All In."

Hosted at the Shire of Carnarvon Library and Art Gallery, the final day of National Reconciliation Week on Wednesday 3 June brought together Yinggarda Elders, artists, community members, and special guest, the Hon. Martin Aldridge, for a lunch and celebration of the Portraits of Yinggarda Elders 2 exhibition.

The event was held on 3 June, a significant date in Australia's reconciliation journey. It marks the anniversary of the landmark Mabo decision, which overturned the doctrine of terra nullius and paved the way for the recognition of Native Title through the Native Title Act 1993. The Mabo decision also helped create the pathway for the Gnulli Native Title Claim, which was lodged in 1997 and successfully determined in 2019, recognising the traditional rights and connection of local Aboriginal people to Country.



The Portraits of Yinggarda Elders 2 exhibition showcases the powerful relationships formed between local artists and Elders through the process of portraiture. Artists spent time getting to know the Elders, listening to their stories, and capturing not only their likeness but also their spirit and contribution to the community.



- Marion Crowe painted by Carmen Reilly
- Merle Dann painted by Helen Brooks
- Sharon Crowe painted by Dave Stewart
- Philomena Dodd painted by Rowena Christ
- Esther Edney painted by Senia Samuelu-Eastmure

Special acknowledgement was also given to Gosia Taylor, who facilitated and supported the artists throughout the project.

The portraits now form part of the Shire of Carnarvon Community Art Collection, housed at the Library and Art Gallery, with opportunities being explored for future exhibition partnerships with Gwoonwardu Mia.



YOUTH EXPERIENCE THE EXHIBITION

Following the Elders Lunch, the gallery space welcomed participants from the Shooting Stars program. The young visitors spent time studying the portraits before creating their own drawings, with some excitedly recognising family members featured in the exhibition.

The students demonstrated a strong understanding of National Reconciliation Week and the significance of the Mabo decision. When asked about Gnulli, one enthusiastic response was simply, "It's the festival!" — a reminder of the important role community events play in fostering cultural awareness and pride among younger generations.

The response also highlighted the strength of the partnership between Baiyungu Aboriginal Corporation, Yinggarda Aboriginal Corporation and the Shire of Carnarvon, who came together to deliver the Gnulli Festival the week prior, shining a light on Carnarvon's own Native Title story and celebrating local culture, history and community.



The day reflected the spirit of National Reconciliation Week: bringing people together, honouring the stories of Elders, and strengthening connections between generations as we continue the journey of reconciliation together.

GASCOYNE ART AWARDS 2026 OPENS WITH EXCITING AWARDS NIGHT

The Gascoyne Art Awards is set to launch with a vibrant opening and awards night, showcasing an impressive collection of artworks from talented artists across Western Australia.

Popular MC Sharron will host the evening as winners are announced. Guests can enjoy light refreshments, admire the artworks available for sale, and cast their vote for the People's Choice Award in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

The full exhibition runs from 4 July to 29 August 2026 at the Carnarvon Art Gallery, 18 Egan Street. Opening hours are Tuesday to Friday 9:30am–5:00pm and Saturday 9:30am–12:30pm.

All entries will be judged by three independent arts professionals. The judges' names will be published in the exhibition catalogue and announced on opening night.

Get ready for a night buzzing with colour, creativity and community spirit. This is your chance to celebrate the outstanding talent emerging from the Gascoyne, discover breathtaking works, and be part of an inspiring celebration that brings the region's artistic heart to life. Come along, vote, mingle, and enjoy an unforgettable evening!

Prizes and Categories

Best Overall Artwork – \$8,000 (Acquisitive prize – will become part of the Shire of Carnarvon Art Collection)

Runner Up – Best Overall Artwork – \$1,500

People's Choice Award – \$500 (voted by the public throughout the exhibition)

Individual Category Prizes – \$800 each



We gratefully acknowledge the support of our Sponsors



Categories and Sponsors:

Gascoyne Seascape

Sponsored by Telomac Tackle and Camping

Gascoyne Landscape

Sponsored by Gascoyne Development Commission

Abstract Art

Sponsored by Carnarvon Community Art Hub

Three-Dimensional Art

Sponsored by Carnarvon Mitre 10

Human Form

Sponsored by Carnarvon Medical Centre

Gascoyne First Nations Artist

Sponsored by Gwoonwardu Mia



Photo: Gnulli - Sound on the Lawn

Shire Administration

3 Francis Street, Carnarvon

Monday - Friday

9.00am - 4.00pm

Closed Public Holidays



Text or call 0427 410 046



(08) 9941 0000



shire@carnarvon.wa.gov.au

Library & Art Gallery

18 Egan Street, Carnarvon

Tuesday - Friday

9.30am - 5.00pm

Saturday

9.30am - 12.30pm

Closed Monday, Sunday & Public Holidays



(08) 9941 3727



library.gallery@carnarvon.wa.gov.au



Join Our Team!

Exciting career opportunities are now open at the Shire of Carnarvon! Explore current vacancies and take the next step in your career at:

www.carnarvon.wa.gov.au

Civic Centre

For information relating to the hire of the Woolshed, contact the Visitor Centre



(08) 9941 1146



shire@carnarvon.wa.gov.au

Visitor Centre

Cnr Robinson Street/Camel Lane

May - October

Monday - Friday

9.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday

9.00am - 12.30pm

Closed Sunday

November - April

Monday - Friday

9.00am - 3.00pm

Closed Saturday & Sunday



(08) 9941 1146



info@carnarvon.wa.gov.au

SPONSOR:

