NOVEMBER 2026 | ISSUE 19

FROM THE RIVER TO THE REEF

CARNARVON & CORAL BAY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



PHOTO:BMX WORKSHOP

In this issue

UPCOMING EVENTS | COMMUNITY NEWS | SHIRE UPDATES

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

A FRESH CHAPTER FOR CARNARVON CENTRAL



Carnarvon Central is already looking different following its acquisition by AOL Investment. In just two months, the new owners have improved the centre's presentation and repaired potholes in the car park, with more upgrades planned.

As a key local shopping hub, Carnarvon Central supports businesses, jobs and everyday community life. The improvements already made, along with those planned, will help enhance the overall look and feel of Carnarvon, creating a more welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike.

As an important shopping destination for people visiting our region, a well-presented centre also contributes to a positive first impression of Carnarvon, supporting our town's appeal as a place to live, visit and invest.

LOCAL INVESTMENT • MORE IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED

Wooramel River Retreat Expands Tourism Experiences



Exciting developments are underway at Wooramel River Retreat, with construction progressing on the new Birdrong Billabong, a nature-based swimming and wellness experience scheduled to open in April 2027.

Building on the retreat's popular artesian baths, the Billabong will feature a natural-style swimming pool filled with cooler, mineral-rich artesian water, a sandy entry and a chemical-free filtration system using native plants and fish.

The development also includes plans for a sauna, mud and salt baths, yoga, private bathing sessions and spaces for cultural experiences and retreats.

With the pool excavation, rock edging and filtration system already completed, the next stages will focus on landscaping and additional facilities.

This private commercial investment is another positive step for tourism in the Gascoyne, creating new experiences that encourage visitors to stay longer and explore our region throughout the year.

BIRDRONG BILLABONG • PLANNED OPENING APRIL 2027

CORAL BAY AIRSTRIP: INVESTMENT IN ESSENTIAL ACCESS



A positive step forward for Coral Bay, with the Shire of Carnarvon progressing important upgrades to the airstrip.

At the 19 October Ordinary Council Meeting, Council awarded a contract worth approximately $149,500 for pavement reshaping and stabilisation works at the Coral Bay Airstrip.

The improvements will focus on strengthening and reshaping the existing airstrip surface, improving drainage and helping the facility withstand challenging weather conditions.

For a small and remote community like Coral Bay, reliable aviation infrastructure is essential. The upgrades aim to improve the airstrip's long-term safety and reliability, supporting access for residents, visitors and essential services.

This investment marks another important step in maintaining essential infrastructure and supporting Coral Bay's future.

$270,000 PROJECT BUDGET • CONTRACT AWARDED

TURTLE NESTING SEASON RETURNS TO NINGALOO



As the warmer months arrive, turtle nesting season is underway along the Ningaloo Coast, with female turtles making their way onto our beaches to lay their eggs.

From October through to March, the coastline around Coral Bay becomes an important nesting area for marine turtles. It's a special time of year and a reminder of the incredible wildlife that shares our backyard.

Residents and visitors can help protect these vulnerable animals by following a few simple guidelines: avoid using torches and flash photography, move slowly, keep your distance and never disturb nesting turtles or hatchlings.

Artificial light and sudden movements can interrupt nesting, while newly hatched turtles need a clear path to reach the ocean safely.

WANT TO LEARN MORE? SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ THE OFFICAL TURTLE WATCHING CODE OF CONDUCT.

HAVE YOUR SAY. MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT.

ELECTION DAY
THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER

VOTING CLOSES
6:00PM

Voting is voluntary. Postal voting packs are being delivered to eligible electors. Read about the candidates, complete your ballot, then post it back or bring it to the Shire Administration Office and place it in the ballot box in time for your vote to be counted.

HOW TO VOTE

1. **Check your mail**
Your postal pack contains ballot paper(s) for the Shire President election and your Ward election, where applicable, along with candidate details, voting instructions, an elector declaration and a reply-paid envelope.

2. **NUMBER YOUR PREFERENCES**
Place 1 beside your first-choice candidate. You may vote for one, some or all candidates. If you add preferences, number them 2, 3, 4 and so on, without repeating numbers.

3. **COMPLETE & RETURN**
Follow the instructions, sign the elector declaration and return your completed package by post using the reply-paid envelope, or deliver it to the Shire Administration Office ballot box.
Your completed voting package must be received by 6.00pm on 3 December, not just posted by that date.

DON'T LEAVE IT TOO LATE

Post your ballot as early as you can. If there isn't time for it to arrive by mail, check the Shire election website for authorised hand-delivery locations.

Lost or damaged ballot? Visit the Shire Administration Building for assistance or contact Returning Officer, David Payne on 0499 356 614.

David Payne - Returning Officer

Phone:
0499 356 614

Email:
LGxro_Carnarvon@elections.wa.gov.au

YOUR CANDIDATES

If you are an eligible elector in the Shire of Carnarvon, you can vote for the Shire President, regardless of which ward you are enrolled in.

You can also vote for the Council Member candidates standing in your ward, where a ward election is being held.

This means your postal voting pack may contain more than one ballot paper — one for Shire President and one for your Ward election.

POSITIONS BEING CONTESTED

Shire President (Shire-wide)
Town Ward (4 positions)
Gascoyne/Minilya Ward (1 position)

ELECTED UNOPPOSED

Coral Bay Ward and Plantation Ward councillors.

WHO IS STANDING?

Scan to read official candidate profiles and statements.

NEED A GUIDE?

Scan to learn how to vote and return your postal pack.



HON MARTIN ALDRIDGE

COMMISSIONER, SHIRE OF CARNARVON

This is my sixth and final column as Commissioner of the Shire of Carnarvon. By this time next month, the community will have elected seven Councillors and a Shire President, who will collectively resume the functions of Council.

Two Councillors have already been elected unopposed, with Mark Young representing the Coral Bay Ward and Paul Shain representing the Plantation Ward. I congratulate both Councillors-elect on their election. There are also twelve candidates contesting the remaining five Council positions and three candidates vying for the position of Shire President. Candidate profiles and contact details are available on both the Shire's and the Electoral Commission's websites. I encourage all electors to ensure their postal ballots are returned to the Returning Officer by 6pm on Thursday, 3 December.

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve the Shire over the past six months. While I may not have been able to resolve every challenge or agree to every request, I hope the community has found my approach to be transparent and accountable, and that I have been accessible when needed.

Earlier this month, the Local Government Inspector announced the appointment of Ms Katrina Crute as the Shire of Carnarvon Monitor. The CEO and I have welcomed Ms Crute's appointment and recognise the significant senior leadership and local government experience she brings to the role.

The Monitor will play an important role in supporting the transition to an elected Council and fostering a professional and constructive relationship between elected members and the administration.

My focus during my tenure has been on strengthening the Shire's governance and reviewing policies and procedures to support positive outcomes for the community. I am confident this work will continue under the new Council, with the support of the Monitor.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank the community and Shire staff for their immeasurable support during my time as Commissioner. As an outsider, stepping into the responsibilities of Council has at times been enormously challenging. However, the task has been made so much easier by the unwavering support I have received, including the wise counsel of former elected members, community members and staff.

We may not have always agreed, but I have genuinely valued your fearless and frank advice. It is this willingness to speak openly, combined with an enormous passion to ensure we do better for our community, that drives so many of our regional communities to strive to be the best they can.

I often describe it this way: we might not always win, but we will get a bloody nose trying.

I wish the Shire and its community all the very best for the future. Carnarvon is a special place, and I look forward to returning to see the progress that has been achieved.

Thank you,
Hon Martin Aldridge

OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Atthe19 Octobermeeting,Councilmadedecisionssupportingculture,localenterprise, essential services andlong-termcoastalplanning.

Gnulli Festival to Return in 2027

$250,000 in funding

Following the success of this year's celebrations, Council endorsed the continuation of the Gnulli Festival in 2027, accepting $250,000 in sponsorship from Chevron. The festival plays an important role in celebrating and sharing the Gascoyne's rich Aboriginal culture, bringing Traditional Custodians, residents and visitors together through cultural experiences, storytelling and community events. Beyond its cultural significance, the festival supports local businesses, attracts visitors and strengthens community connections. A festival working group will also be established in collaboration with the Baiyungu and Yinggarda Aboriginal Corporations to support future planning and cultural involvement.

Supporting Local Tourism Businesses

$115,000 in funding

Council accepted $115,000 through the Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants Program to support the growth of local tourism businesses and the development of new visitor experiences.
The funding will primarily support the purchase of a 12-seater four-wheel-drive bus as part of a tourism business development initiative. By providing access to shared resources and practical support, the project aims to help emerging operators overcome some of the financial barriers to establishing and growing their businesses. The initiative will create opportunities for more locally operated tourism experiences, encouraging visitors to stay longer, explore the region and contribute to Carnarvon's economy.

Investing in Roads and Infrastructure

FLEET RENEWAL

Council approved the replacement of several ageing Shire vehicles and equipment, including a grader, crane tipper truck and two tipper trucks, as part of the 2026–27 budget. These purchases reflect the Shire's commitment to responsible asset management, ensuring essential equipment is maintained and replaced when necessary to support reliable and efficient service delivery. For a regional Shire responsible for an extensive road network, having dependable equipment is particularly important. The investment will strengthen the Shire's capacity to undertake road maintenance, respond to emerging issues and maintain infrastructure that residents, businesses and visitors rely on.

Planning for Our Coastal Future

COASTAL PLAN

Council adopted the Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) following community consultation in Carnarvon and Coral Bay. The plan identifies and assesses long-term risks associated with coastal erosion and inundation, providing an evidence-based framework to guide future planning, infrastructure investment and environmental risk mitigation. With both communities closely connected to the coastline, understanding and preparing for potential coastal hazards is essential to protecting public infrastructure, community assets and the natural environment. While the plan does not approve specific coastal protection works, it provides an important foundation for responsible, informed decision-making, helping the Shire plan for a changing coastal environment and build long-term community resilience.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS

AGENDA BRIEFING
TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER | 12.30PM

ORDINARYCOUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER | 5.30PM

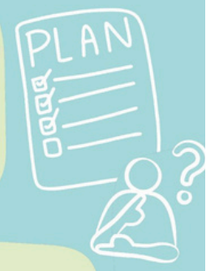
Council Chambers, 3Francis Street, Carnarvon • Meetings are open to the public

Get support to build your emergency plan

Your plan can help keep you, your family and your friends safe this season!

Wed 25 Nov - Carnarvon Library
9.30am-11.30am & 2.00pm-5.00pm

Thurs 26 Nov - Gwoonwardu Mia
10.00am-3.30pm



Free drop-in sessions
Everyone welcome!
Drinks and snacks provided
Just bring along your phone or laptop

Call Rose if you have any questions: 0459 712 192

Developed in partnership by WA Council of Social Service, The WA Digital Inclusion Project, and The Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Delivered with support from the Shire of Carnarvon.

Digital Skills for Emergencies

Support your clients and community members to access critical information during an emergency

Everyone in Carnarvon deserves to have access to the information they need to keep themselves, their families and their communities safe. But we know a lot of people don't have the digital skills or technology confidence they need.

As part of preparations for the high-risk weather season, come along to this free train-the-trainer workshop! You will **learn to deliver an easy-read community education module covering essential emergency digital tools,** including:

- Emergency WA
- Bureau of Meteorlogy
- Main Roads WA

Where and when?
1.00pm-3.00pm
Tuesday 24th November
Carnarvon Library

Register here

Who can attend?
Staff and volunteers from all local community organisations

Developed in partnership by WA Council of Social Service, The WA Digital Inclusion Project, and The Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Delivered with support from the Shire of Carnarvon.

rex.

SUMMER FLIGHT SCHEDULE 2026-27

PLANNING TO TRAVEL OVER THE SUMMER?

Rex has released its temporary summer flight schedule for Carnarvon and Mokey Mia, covering **24 December 2026 to 31 January 2027.**

Flight days and departure times vary throughout this period, so make sure to check the timetable before planning your trip.

Scan the QR Code to view the full summer flight schedule.





BRINGING OUR COMMUNITIES TOGETHER TO PREPARE FOR THE FIRE SEASON

The Shire of Carnarvon recently joined forces with emergency management agencies and community organisations to deliver two community engagement sessions focused on preparing for the upcoming severe fire season.

The first session, held at the Carnarvon Growers Association, welcomed approximately 20 community members who had the opportunity to speak directly with representatives from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Red Cross, Rural Aid and the Shire of Carnarvon.

A second session, specifically tailored to Carnarvon's Vietnamese community, attracted approximately 60 participants and provided an important opportunity to share preparedness information, ask questions and strengthen connections with local support agencies.





Both events provided valuable opportunities for residents to better understand seasonal risks, access practical preparedness information and connect with organisations available to support them before, during and after an emergency.

The strong turnout and positive community engagement highlighted the importance of working together, recognising the diversity of our community and ensuring everyone has access to information and support.

The Shire extends its sincere appreciation to the participating agencies, community representatives and everyone who attended and contributed to the success of these events.

Building stronger community connections today helps create a safer, more prepared and resilient Carnarvon for tomorrow.

STAY INFROMED. STAY PREPARED. STAY SAFE.

Emergency WA
Live emergency warnings, evacuation advice and recovery information.

Weather & Cyclones
Severe weather forecasts, cyclone tracking and official weather warnings.

Main Roads WA – Travel Map
Road closures, flood-related restrictions and travel conditions.



HELPING LOCAL PETS STAY HAPPY AND HEALTHY!

The Shire of Carnarvon has received a one-off grant to help local residents access essential veterinary care for their dogs and cats.

Through this initiative, eligible pet owners can receive assistance with desexing, vaccinations, microchipping, and flea and tick treatments, helping improve the health and wellbeing of pets across our community.

Places are limited, and residents are encouraged to register their interest early.

To apply, visit the Shire Administration Building during office hours to complete an application form, or call (08) 9941 0000 to provide your details and register your pet.

This initiative is supported by the Western Australian Government through the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's Animal Welfare Grant Program, helping improve access to animal health and veterinary services.

GOLDEN CROWNBEARD IS BACK

A little action now can prevent a lot of spreading later!

The Shire's Environmental Health Team is reminding residents to keep an eye out for Golden Crownbeard (Verbesina encelioides), an invasive weed that can spread rapidly throughout Carnarvon.

With its bright yellow, daisy-like flowers and greyish-green leaves, Golden Crownbeard may look harmless, but it can quickly take over gardens, roadsides and natural areas, threatening native vegetation and livestock.

SPOT IT? REMOVE IT BEFORE IT SPREADS!

- **Pull it out:** Wear gloves and remove the entire plant, including the roots.
- **Bag it up:** Carefully collect all flowers, seeds and plant material in a strong garbage bag.
- **Dispose safely:** Seal the bag and place it in your general waste bin. Never compost it or place it in green waste.
- **Keep checking:** Monitor the area for new seedlings and remove them before they flower.



Every plant removed helps reduce the spread! By working together, we can protect Carnarvon's gardens, public spaces and natural environment.

Spotted Golden Crownbeard on public land? Report it through Snap Send Solve or contact the Shire on (08) 9941 0000. Include the location and a photo where possible to help our team respond.

BUILD IT. FLOAT IT. RACE IT!

The Carnarvon Litter Legends Regatta is coming to Town Beach on Saturday 16 January 2027, from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Community teams are invited to build a boat from recycled materials and put it to the test.



There are kids', adults' and family races, with $500, $300 and $200 prizes for first, second and third in each category. Enjoy food vans, markets and family activities.

Entry is free. Boat registrations close 16 December.

Scan the QR code to register your boat, view the rules and start building!

SAT 16 JAN 2027 • 10AM–1PM • TOWN BEACH



FUNDED BY LEICHHARDT

Carnarvon Main Street Christmas Party

Saturday 12 December 2026

Robinson Street Carnarvon

From 4 PM



The festive season is almost here, and Carnarvon is getting ready to celebrate with the return of the Main Street Christmas Party on Saturday 12 December 2026!

Robinson Street will come alive with market stalls, delicious food vendors, live performances from local dance groups and plenty of Christmas cheer.

Families can look forward to children's activities and a special Santa booth, bringing a little extra Christmas magic to the evening.

It's a wonderful opportunity to come together, support local businesses and celebrate the festive season with our community.

Bring the family and join us for a magical evening in the heart of Carnarvon!

Bigger and better than ever!

Express Yourself! Carnarvon All Abilities Street Parade



Get ready for a colourful celebration of creativity and inclusion as the Carnarvon All Abilities Street Parade takes to the streets on Thursday 3 December 2026, celebrating International Day of People with Disability.

Proudly supported by Developmental Disability WA, the parade invites people of all abilities to express themselves through bold costumes, giant puppets, colourful banners and music.

Leading up to the event, the Community Art Hub is hosting free Drop-In & Create sessions every Tuesday from 12.30pm to 2.30pm, where everyone is welcome to make costumes, decorations and parade creations. No experience is needed!

On parade day, participants will start and finish at the Community Art Hub, followed by a shared lunch.

THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER • 12.30-2.30pm • ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

OCTOBER SPARKS CREATIVITY



Young people decorated birdhouses, painted candles and designed Polaroid frames during October's Creative Sparks activities, including a session with the High School Girls Group at the Youth Hub.

November activities include flower bouquet cupcakes, vision boards and memory boxes. The program creates space to try new ideas, make friends and have fun.

Want to get involved?
Scan the QR code to explore upcoming Creative Sparks activities and register for your favourite sessions.

Creative Sparks is proudly funded through the Creativity and Wellbeing for Young People Program, created by Healthway and the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (DCITS).

SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER • FROM 4.00PM

BMX Workshops Bring Action to the School Holidays!



Jaxon with his new bike

The Carnarvon Youth Precinct was buzzing with excitement during the school holidays as local young people hit the ramps for a series of action-packed BMX workshops.

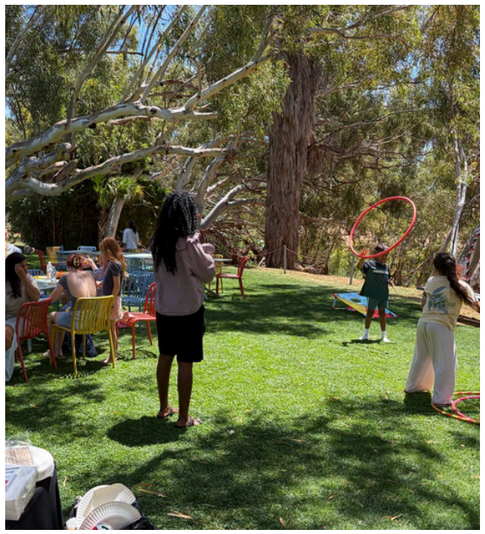
Led by visiting BMX riders Ziggy and Shane from Perth, the workshops gave participants the opportunity to develop their riding skills, learn new tricks and build confidence while having fun and encouraging each other.

A highlight was the brand-new BMX bike giveaway, generously supplied by Dead Fast Racing. Congratulations to Jaxon, who was the lucky winner and rode away with a new set of wheels!

The workshops were proudly funded by the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport as part of the School Holiday Program.

SKILLS • CONFIDENCE • FUN

Celebrating Our Carers During National Carers Week



Local carers were treated to a special lunch at Rivergums Plantation Café in celebration of National Carers Week, recognising the important contribution they make to families and the wider Carnarvon community.

The gathering provided a wonderful opportunity for carers to enjoy delicious food, share stories and connect with others. It was also a chance to acknowledge the dedication, patience and compassion they show every day in supporting their loved ones.

A heartfelt thank you to Rivergums Plantation Café for hosting, Cuppa & Crumb Café for the catering and the Department of Communities for their support.

The celebration was proudly supported by Carers WA and Lotterywest.

REGULAR EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Monday
Craft Group
6.00–9.00pm
Jubilee Hall

Monday
Jag the Joker
6.00–9.00pm
Bill's Bar



Monday
Kajabi Playgroup
9.30–11.30am
9 Butcher Street



Tuesday
Senior Morning
9.00am–12.00pm
Senior Citizens Hall



Tuesday
Story Time
10.00–11.00am
Library & Art Gallery



Wednesday
Craft Group
10.00am–2.00pm
Jubilee Hall

Wednesday
Bingo
7.00pm
Senior Citizens Hall



Wednesday
Burger Fest
Lunch & Dinner
Bill's Bar



Thursday
Fish & Chips + Karaoke Night
Karaoke from 9pm
Bill's Bar



Saturday
Shoppe
10.00am–1.00pm
Jubilee Hall

Saturday
Toy Library
8.30–9.30am
9 Butcher Street



SUNDAYS
Sunday Sessions
10.00am–5.00pm
Carnarvon Yacht Club



UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

16 NOV
Kindy & School Rediness Series: Screen Time
10.00am - 11.00am
9 Butcher Street



16 NOV
Girls Soccer Clinic
5.00pm - 6.15pm
Carnarvon PCYC

17 NOV
Mental Health First Aider
9.00am - 4.00pm
Gwoonwardu Mia



17 NOV
Jabi-Nature Playgroup on Country
10.30am - 12.00pm
Space & Technology Museum



17 NOV
Woolworths Cricket Blast 2026
4.30pm - 5.15pm
Festival Grounds



17 NOV
Smash Cricket Series
4:30pm - 6:30pm
Festival Grounds



17 NOV
Poetry Night
6.30pm - 8:00pm
Gascoyne Hotel



19 NOV
Safe Space Cafe
10.30am
Cuppa & Crumb Cafe



20 NOV
Christmas Cake & Sip
6.00pm - 8.00pm
Cuppa & Crumb Cafe



21 NOV
Gascoyne Show n Shine
11.00pm - 3.00pm
Civic Centre



28 NOV
Kids Christmas Decorarting Class
10.00am - 11.00am
Cuppa & Crumb Cafe



4 Dec
Gingerbread House Making Workshop
6.00pm - 8.00pm
Cuppa & Crumb Cafe



Events are subject to change.
Please refer to the organiser's Facebook page or website for the latest updates.

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

Life on the Land – Stories, Memories & a Living History



Step into the Gascoyne's pastoral history with Life on the Land, an evolving exhibition at the Carnarvon Library & Art Gallery, celebrating the International Year of the Pastoralist.

Featuring treasured photographs, objects and personal items generously shared by local families and stations, the exhibition brings to life the people, experiences and traditions that have shaped our region.

With new items continually being added, there's always something different to discover, whether it's a familiar family name, a treasured memory or a glimpse into life on the land.

Visitors can also enjoy a listening station featuring six episodes of the Voices of Gascoyne podcast, sharing firsthand stories from those who have lived and worked on stations across the region.

EXHIBITION • 20 OCT–17 DEC 2026 • Carnarvon Library & Art Gallery

Carnarvon's Stories Inspire a New Book



Award-winning author and scientist Cristy Burne recently spent a week in Carnarvon gathering inspiration for her upcoming children's historical verse novel, Moon Over Carnarvon.

The book will explore Carnarvon's important role in humanity's journey to the Moon, celebrating the local people and stories behind this remarkable chapter in history.

During her visit, Cristy joined a Yarning Circle at Gwoonwardu Mia, explored the Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum and connected with long-time residents who shared their memories.

She also engaged with young people during Children's Week and delivered two creative writing workshops, encouraging the next generation to discover their own stories.

This project is supported by Creative Australia, the Australian Government's principal arts investment and advisory body.

MOON OVER CARNARVON • STORIES OF PEOPLE & PLACE

Carnarvon's Early Years Approach Showcased Statewide



The Shire of Carnarvon's work in supporting young children and families was highlighted at the inaugural Early Years Forum, attended by more than 130 local government and community representatives from across WA.

Gail Law-Davis, the Shire's Early Years Community Engagement Officer, showcased how local childhood development data is helping strengthen partnerships and guide community programs.

Through the Early Years Program, local families can enjoy activities that encourage creativity, movement, social skills and learning through play, delivered by skilled local community agencies and service providers.



Carnarvon is one of 12 local governments receiving funding through the WA AEDC Local Government Early Years Grant Program, supporting initiatives for children aged zero to five.

The presentation highlighted how collaboration between the Shire and local service providers is helping deliver community-focused programs and give our youngest residents the best possible start in life.

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS TO GROW OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Small Business Resilience Program - CCTV Rebate



Local businesses looking to improve their security may be eligible for financial assistance through the WA Government's Small Business Resilience Program – CCTV Rebate.

The program offers up to 50% of the cost of purchasing and installing a new or upgraded internal CCTV system, capped at $2,000. The initiative aims to help protect staff and customers, deter theft and vandalism, and improve business security.

Eligible businesses include retail and customer-facing businesses with fewer than 20 employees, an active ABN and GST registration.

Find out more: Visit smallbusiness.wa.gov.au/cctv or scan the QR code for program details and applications.

Rennee Turner Recognised on the National Stage

Congratulations to Rennee Turner, founder of Wooramulla Eco Cultural Journeys, who received Bronze at the inaugural 2026 National First Nations Tourism Excellence Awards.

A proud Yinggarda woman and Traditional Custodian, Rennee is passionate about sharing her people's culture, stories and connection to Country through meaningful tourism experiences.

Over recent years, her business has continued to grow, building strong partnerships and creating new opportunities for First Nations tourism in the Gascoyne.

For Rennee, the award represents more than recognition. It celebrates keeping culture strong, sharing knowledge and ensuring stories continue to be told by Traditional Custodians.

Rennee also acknowledged the family, community and industry partners who have supported her journey.



BRONZE • FIRST NATIONS TOURISM EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Carnarvon Lecturer Recognised at WA Community Achievement Awards

Congratulations to Phuntsho Om, a lecturer at the WA Centre for Rural Health (WACRH) in Carnarvon, who was recognised as a semi-finalist for the Badgingarra Roadhouse Local Legend Award at the 2026 7NEWS WA Community Achievement Awards.

Om received the recognition at the awards gala in Perth on 24 October, celebrating her valuable contribution to rural healthcare.

Based in Carnarvon, Om supports nursing education, student placements and community partnerships, helping future health professionals build clinical confidence, strengthen culturally safe practices and explore careers in regional communities.



Congratulations, Om, on this well-deserved recognition and your contribution to strengthening healthcare in the Gascoyne!

RECOGNISING REGIONAL HEALTHCARE LEADERSHI

A Different Kind of Cast

Tom Curtain's live performance brought together music, horses, working dogs and even goats, creating a unique show filled with entertainment, laughter and a few unexpected moments.

From horses moving together in perfect harmony to working dogs showing off their skills and goats riding horseback, the show highlighted the incredible bond between Tom and his animals.

Behind the entertainment was a powerful message about patience, trust and understanding, demonstrating how every animal learns differently and how strong connections are built over time.





The performance also shared important messages about kindness and mental wellbeing, including Dolly's Dream's Be Kind message and a moving tribute encouraging people to speak up and support one another.

More than just a show, it was a reminder of the importance of compassion, connection and looking out for each other.

MUSIC • ANIMALS • OUR CULTURE





SAYING YES AND FIGURING IT OUT ALONG THE WAY

When Kara Stalker moved to Carnarvon nearly 18 years ago, she never imagined she would one day be running her own floristry business and helping bring junior cricket back to the community.

Growing up in Serpentine, Kara's passion was horses. From making decorative horse browbands as a teenager to working at a Quarter Horse stud, she always imagined her future would revolve around them. But a chance connection brought her to Carnarvon, where she met Garth and eventually made the town her home.

After almost seven years working at Amcal Pharmacy, a friend's suggestion inspired Kara to try floristry. What began as selling simple bouquets at the Saturday markets soon grew into OutBack Floral Designs, her own business, alongside raising a family and renovating their 110-year-old home.



Horse Browband handmade by Kara

When her son wanted to play cricket, Kara discovered there was no local junior competition. Despite knowing little about the sport, she helped establish the Carnarvon Junior Cricket Association.



Kara's first market stall at Carnarvon Growers Markets, 2018

Through her business, Pony Club and junior cricket, Kara has embraced the opportunities that come with being part of a small community.

"I feel like Carnarvon is one of those places that if you're immersed in it, what you give it comes back tenfold."

Scan QR Code to read the full stories



BUILDING SKILLS, CREATING WORK AND CARING FOR COUNTRY

Real Futures is helping local people build practical skills, gain confidence and create pathways into employment, while making a positive difference to Carnarvon's environment.

Through its Country Protection Program, participants complete 12 weeks of training in first aid, chemical use, pest management and machinery operation before putting their new skills into practice.

The team is currently tackling invasive plants, including mesquite, and expanding into fire mitigation work to help protect local plantations and infrastructure.

The program is already creating employment opportunities, with two participants from the first intake securing jobs at the salt mines after completing their training and gaining relevant qualifications.

Beyond environmental management, Real Futures offers hands-on experience in horticulture and mango growing, hospitality training and support to obtain driver's licences. The organisation also works with local schools and jobseekers to help people enter or return to the workforce.

Through partnerships with training providers, local businesses and community organisations, Real Futures is helping turn practical learning into meaningful employment opportunities.

08 9928 9100

1800 732 538

REAL Futures

15 Stuart Street Carnarvon, WA, 6701

Discover the opportunities right here in Carnarvon! Scan the QR code to explore our Live, Work & Invest webpage and learn more about local business opportunities, investment and the future of our region.

October Highlights

- The shade structures, concreting, soft fall, landscaping and car parking at Van Dongen Park are now complete. The final touches on the bespoke banana play equipment and perimeter fencing are underway with the park furniture and functional art pieces to be installed in the coming weeks.

- The design of the public toilet facility for Van Dongen Park is underway with works expected to commence in the coming months.

- The Tramway Walk Trail project continues to move forward with work on both the Healing and Tramway Shelters progressing, by local contractor Trac Building. This project also includes Stage One restoration works to our iconic Tramway Bridge, by contractor Ventia.

- Planning continues for the Urban Forest project, which aims to improve the quality and quantity of strong street planting to create connected canopies along key arterial routes, to promote the town as an "oasis in the desert".

- The Speedway Road Alignment construction works have now commenced and will continue through to 30 December 2026. The project aims to improve road user safety on Speedway Road and is possible due Main Roads WA Blackspot program funding received by the Shire.

- The works for Request for Tender 06/2026 Coral Bay Airstrip Pavement Reshape and Stabilisation was awarded. The project is intended to maintain the airstrip in a safe and trafficable condition through the reshaping and stabilisation of the existing pavement.

- Council approved purchase of a new Grader in order to maintain its road construction and maintenance capability and support reliable delivery of the Shire's works program.

- The Minilya-Lyndon Road (SLK 142.0 to 150.0) project has commenced and will address potholes, surface erosion, and pavement subsidence through road re-sheeting work to improve road condition, safety and reliability for all road users.

- The Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaption Plan (CHRMAP) was adopted at the 19 October Ordinary Council Meeting.



Tramway Shelter



Speedway Road Alignment construction

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

Supported by: Australian Government BUILDING AUSTRALIA, lotterywest, Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure



Coming Up!

- The Tramway Bridge Refurbishment and Reinstatement Stage One works, will be completed in early 2027 by contractor, Ventia. Once completed, the refurbished section of the bridge will be reopened to the public. Funding opportunities to support the restoration for the remainder of the bridge are currently being explored.

- The Tramway Walk Trail project will be concluded in 2027 with the completion of both the Tramway and Healing Shelters by local contractor, Trac Building.

- The current works at Van Dongen Park are expected to be completed in the coming weeks. The installation of the toilet facility in early 2027 will mark the final component of the project.



Carnarvon Cheers on Mr Monaco at the Melbourne Cup!

Carnarvon had its very own horse to cheer on during the 2026 Melbourne Cup, bringing locals together for an afternoon of racing excitement and community spirit!

The Carnarvon Race Club was one of only two racing clubs in Western Australia selected to be matched with a Melbourne Cup runner, giving our town a special connection to Mr Monaco.

Residents gathered in the Visitor Centre courtyard to watch the race livestreamed on the Shire's big LED screen, while others joined the celebrations at the Carnarvon Hotel.

There was plenty of excitement as Mr Monaco made a strong start, running as high as third place before eventually finishing 17th. While he didn't take home the Cup, he certainly gave Carnarvon something to celebrate!



Centacare Volunteer Services - Christmas Card Drive

The gift of kindness costs nothing but means everything! Spread Christmas cheer one card at a time! Come along to the Christmas Street Party on 12th December and help create Christmas cards to brighten someone's holiday season. Join us in writing Christmas cards for community members who would appreciate a little extra warmth and connection this festive season.

Volunteering doesn't always have to mean a long-term commitment. Sometimes, even a small act of kindness and just a few minutes of your time can make a meaningful difference in someone's day.

We would love to see you there!

Any questions regarding volunteering in Carnarvon? Reach out to Isa at cvs@centacarecarnarvon.org.au or call 0455 669 719.

Carnarvon Comes Together for WA Day Celebrations!

Gwoonwardu Mia came alive with colour, laughter and community spirit on 9 October, as residents and visitors gathered to celebrate WA Day and everything that makes Carnarvon and the Gascoyne special.



The free family-friendly festival offered plenty of entertainment, including Fluffy the Dinosaur, Red Dirt Reptiles, Old MacDonald's Farm, face painting, cookie decorating and a silent disco.

The celebrations continued with vibrant cultural performances, live music, delicious food and spectacular fire sculptures that lit up the evening.

The festival was a wonderful opportunity to bring people together, celebrate our region's cultural diversity and strengthen community connections.

CULTURE • FAMILY FUN • COMMUNITY CONNECTION

OUR SHIRE, OUR PEOPLE, OUR SAFTEY

Shire of CARNARVON
CATCH A taste OF THE GREAT LIFE

Work with us at the Shire of Carnarvon

Meaningful careers. Great people. Real community impact.





PREPARING WHILE RECOVERING

Cyclone Narelle recovery continues, so this season is going to look and feel different. Now is the time to come together with your neighbours, family and friends to prepare, so you're safe if severe weather threatens your community.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE

MAKE YOUR CYCLONE PLAN

It is important for everyone in your household to agree on a cyclone plan. Your plan should include a safe location to shelter if strong winds or flooding from a cyclone are forecast to impact your town.

If you are currently living in a mobile home or property with existing damage, you need to consider your shelter options. Chat with your neighbours, family and friends to decide on an alternate safe shelter in advance of severe weather.

Visit dfes.wa.gov.au/cyclone/prepare for a list of prompts that will help you make a cyclone plan.

PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY

If your property is currently damaged and temporarily repaired, or undergoing building works, it is important to secure loose items, such as cyclone debris and building materials, that could cause further damage or personal injury in high winds.

If your property has no obvious damage from Cyclone Narelle, you need to check it for loosened or damaged structural parts that could compromise its ability to withstand future severe weather.

If your roof has been tarped by your insurer, the Insurance Council of Australia advises you to check the tarp is secure (if it is safe to do so).

If you can not check your tarp, or it is not secure, please call your insurer and ask them to arrange an inspection and/or re-affix the tarp.

Visit dfes.wa.gov.au/cyclone/prepare to read the DFES Tropical Cyclone Preparedness Guide for information about how to prepare your property.

PREPARE YOUR EMERGENCY KIT

Ensure you have an emergency kit packed and ready to go. Pack a first-aid kit, important documents, non-perishable food, battery-operated radio and lights with spare batteries, toiletries, protective clothing, spare house and car keys, spare clothes, and medical items. Store all these items in a waterproof bag.

Visit dfes.wa.gov.au/cyclone/prepare for a complete list of items you will need for your emergency kit.

STAY INFORMED

Staying informed is a key part of being prepared. When severe weather is forecast, DFES works with the Bureau of Meteorology to keep you informed.

To help prepare and make decisions to stay safe when severe weather is on its way, check the alerts and warnings at emergency.wa.gov.au, follow DFES on Facebook, or listen to your local ABC Radio.

For local contact information and available recovery support, scan the QR code or visit recovery.dfes.wa.gov.au.

GET PREPARED

SEARCH CYCLONE SAFETY WA

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DFES Department of Fire & Emergency Services



Rubbish Collection

Monday
Morgantown / Babbage Island

Tuesday
South Carnarvon

Wednesday
Brockman

Thursday
East Carnarvon / Kingsford / Brown Range

Friday
Plantations - North / South



Brown Range Waste Disposal Facility

Monday - Friday
7:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday
8:00am - 2:00pm

Closed Saturday & Public Holidays



CARNARVON
PIONEER CEMETERY

Step back in time and discover Carnarvon's rich history. The Carnarvon Pioneer Cemetery is now open to visitors.

The cemetery welcomes visitors daily for self-guided visits.

9AM - 4PM DAILY

Ready to explore?
Scan the QR code to register your visit online and receive your access code before arriving.





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 - 12:00pm

Closed Sunday

November - April

Monday - Friday
9.00am - 3.00pm

Closed Saturday & Sunday

(08) 9941 1146

info@carnarvon.org.au

SPONSOR: Centacare Family Services