

the 2025 year that was

At this time each year we come together as a community on the Shire Christmas Tree Day to coordinate a raft of community meetings and, importantly, thank everyone involved as we celebrate all things Murchison. This year is no different, and we thought that perhaps we should finish the year with a bit of memorabilia to take away showing what we have been up to during the year. It's just a snapshot, compiled from extracts of this year's Monologue Council Reports and other sources. It's there for you to read, keep, or not.... as you wish, but otherwise, *please enjoy!!!*

Shire President Rossco Foulkes-Taylor, Deputy Shire Presidents Andrew Whitmarsh and Greydon Mead, Crs Emma Foulkes-Taylor, Quentin Fowler, Michelle Fowler, Paul Squires and Shire Staff.

Roscco's November Monologue Intro

Hello All,

As the temperatures creep up and the odd storm starts to appear, I hope this November Monologue finds you in good shape.

As you know we have recently held council elections. I'd like to congratulate Greydon Mead and Emma Foulkes-Taylor on their return to council and, following an extraordinary election process, welcome Paul Squires back on, after several years off. I wish former Councillor Michelle Fowler all the best for her next endeavours.

It has taken a while to get underway, but work has begun on the establishment of a new power supply setup for the Settlement. For those not familiar, the basic plan is to move the generators to the south side of the Depot and to construct the new system such that, hopefully, a solar power supply component can be added in the not-too-distant future. Reducing the generator background noise the residents currently endure by moving them further away will be decent improvement, I hope.

Well done to the Works Team for their efforts in completing another stretch of replacement bitumen around the area immediately south of the Jiggernoo Airstrip. While not everyone gets to see so much of the maintenance grader crew doing their thing, they also have made a good fist of covering plenty of kms around the north of the Shire recently. One of their graders was away for a few weeks, having quite expensive transmission surgery, but is now back on deck. There was some positive feedback regarding road conditions from attendees at the Landor Races which was welcome.

Financially, the Shire remains in a sound position, and while I can't claim to fully understand every graph and ratio I read through in our financial statements, I do know enough to say that we are continuing along well within our budget parameters.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable start to summer — and I look forward to catching up with many of you at the Christmas Tree on Dec 13 at the Settlement and trying out the new pool! If there is water in it you have my word, I will be jumping in. If all the Health Dept permits and approvals we need, and seem to be taking a very long time, aren't completed by then I may not be allowed to invite everyone else in. Having said this though, if everyone just decided they really felt like using the pool or splash pad I suppose I wouldn't be able to stop them.

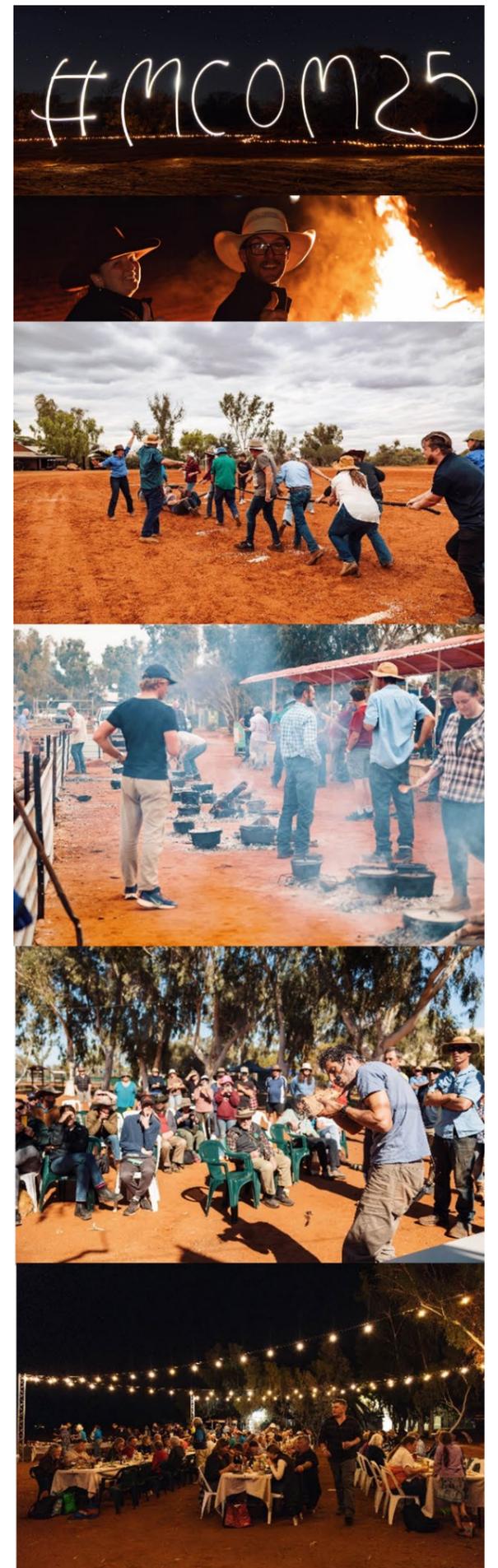
Community Input and Support

In July, the Murchison Polocrosse Association successfully hosted the annual Murchison Polocrosse Tournament, drawing participants and spectators from across the region. Alongside the tournament, the local community organised a Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser in support of cancer research, showcasing the spirit of generosity and togetherness that defines Murchison as well as the annual Anzac Day Celebration and associated working bee around the Museum and Community Garden.



Camp Oven Muster Festival

1-2 August saw our second Camp Oven Muster Festival held in and around the Settlement, with positive feedback once again received on a well-run and successful, and now signature, event.



Shitbox Rally

On 20 June 2025, Murchison proudly hosted the opening day of the 2025 Shitbox Rally. These events collectively raise over \$8m each year for cancer research, driven by the passion and commitment of approx 950 participating teams from across Australia. The rally's name stems from its signature requirement; each vehicle must be purchased and prepared for under \$1,500, adding to the adventure and spirit of the event.

Murchison welcomed 516 participants in 258 vehicles, marking the start of their 4,000km journey to Darwin. The evening was a resounding success, with respectful and enthusiastic patrons enjoying a night of great food provided by external caterers using the Sports Club and kitchen facilities. Murchison Sports Club bar experienced a particularly busy and positive night, reflecting the energy and goodwill of the event.



Settlement Building & Infrastructure Works

New Caravan Park Ablutions and sealed internal road



Provision a chlorinator to provide potable water with licencing and commissioning to follow before supply can be potable compliant in 2026.



Power Supply upgrade with new powerhouse with a scheduled 2026 completion.



Community Centre upgrade works included external access improvements to support disabled access, as well as upgrades to external amenities such as paving, turf installation, and reticulation. Kitchen improvements, including new tiling, new stoves and a commercial-grade dishwasher. Enhancements bring the facility up to a standard suitable for commercial kitchen use, supporting future community and catering needs.



Construction of 5 new, two-bedroom transportable dwelling units has commenced, with Fox Modular from Wangara being the successful supplier.

Three are to be located for roadhouse staff accommodation, thereby freeing up the roadhouse for internal renovations and future extensions, whilst two will be located on the corner of Kurara Way and Mulga Cres. Meanwhile new 3 room caravan park cabin accommodation is also underway. Delivery expected April 2026.



Settlement Pool & Splash Pad

Construction of our new Community Splashpad and Caravan Park Pool has been completed and, following a significant amount of commissioning work by staff, opens on Christmas Tree Day with Shire President Roscco taking the first "official" dip.

*We woke up this morning feeling fine.
We've got swimming pool on our mind.
Roscco always said we'd so it ... oh yeah!!!
Something tells me we're into something blue...*



Roadhouse

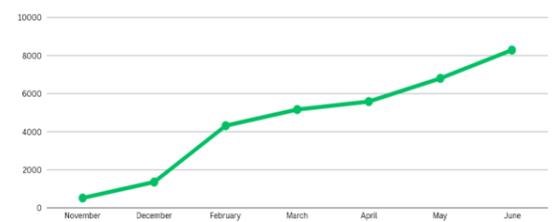
Shire staff, comprising managers and raft of casuals including locals and backpackers, directly operate the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park as a community business, with the aim of ensuring that Murchison Settlement is an attractive focal point and delivering a range of services, providing local support, local employment and tourism attraction.



Containers for Change

Containers for Change commenced in October 2024 with income derived directed to the Murchison Museum, Sports Club, Arts Council and Community Garden. We thank the community for their support of this initiative.

Containers collected and donated to the Shire for Community Groups



Community Garden & Orchard

An uplift in the operation of the Community Garden continued in 2025, providing an expanded array of veggies to residents and roadhouse and growing a few chook eggs to share with appreciative contractors working around the Settlement.

The Shire was successful in securing a grant to establish a community orchard. Works included the excavation of 25 deep planting holes to penetrate the underlying coffee rock and planting a range of fruit trees. The orchard will serve as a shared resource, supporting seasonal produce and strengthening community ties.



Roads Roads Roads

With a land area of 49,000 sq km and 1,948km of roads to look after, 142km of which are sealed, the Shire is not small and roads comprise a significant portion of Council's budget.

Gravel, sealed road construction, gravel road maintenance- generally being up to our necks supporting a big international radio telescope project through an Agreement with Main Roads WA, to manage what is regarded as the SKA Route. (Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd, including gravel section within the City of Greater Geraldton, Twin Peaks-Wooleen, sections of the Meeberrie-Mt Wittenoom, Boolardy-Kalli, Beringarra-Pindar and Boolardy-Kalli Roads.)

During 2024/25 we completed 21.26km gravel resheets, 6.64km sealed road upgrades, 4.23km reseals and 2.02 km new seals (Mulga Crescent)



Thank You

Thank you again to all staff, contractors and community members that helped our "small" Shire achieve what it did in 2025. Wishing you a safe summer.

Roscco

