



ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020



ABOUT US

Welcome to the Shire of Laverton – Discover the Outback Spirit!

Covering some 183,198km² of predominantly desert and pastoral country, Laverton has something for everyone, from spinifex plains, mulga woodlands and unique granite rock outcrops to rich Aboriginal and European History and Culture.

Wongi people, collectively known as Wongutha or Wankatja people, have occupied the Laverton area for thousands of years. Their first known contact with Europeans was around 1860 when Sir John Forrest travelled through the area on an expedition to search for the remains of Ludwig Leichardt. Many other explorers followed Forrest, including Frank Hann and David Carnegie, surviving by the teachings and knowledge of the Aboriginal people.

These early explorers are recognised in the Great Beyond Visitor Centre – Home Of the Explorers Hall of Fame.

During the 1880's, sandalwood cutters travelled through the area looking for the valuable aromatic timber and their tracks opened up much of the region. In the decades since, many tonnes of sandalwood have been exported from the Laverton district.

In 1886 gold was discovered in the area – suddenly eager prospectors arrived in droves from Coolgardie, eager to strike it rich. The rapidly growing settlement was soon called British Flag after the first successful mine.

One such keen prospector was Dr Charles Laver, a British doctor who rode his bicycle from Coolgardie to the Laverton area the same year. He soon became an enthusiastic promoter of the region and travelled back to Britain a number of times to raise funds for local mining ventures, however his priority remained to attend to the sick and injured. He had an excellent rapport with his coworkers and patients and got on very well with the local Aboriginal people.

Without his energy (and his capital) Laverton may well have faded away at this point.

By 1897 an informal town had sprung up to the west side of the Craiggimore mine. This proved an unsuitable location for the permanent settlement, so an alternate site was chosen about three kilometers away. In July 1900 the new town was gazetted as Laverton, in honour of Dr. Laver who had done so much to ensure the prosperity of the area.

Today the town is an important service Centre for a range of mines that operate in the area, for the continuing pastoral industry and for the people of the Western Desert regions. Laverton is also an important tourism hub, acting as a True gateway to Australia's outback.

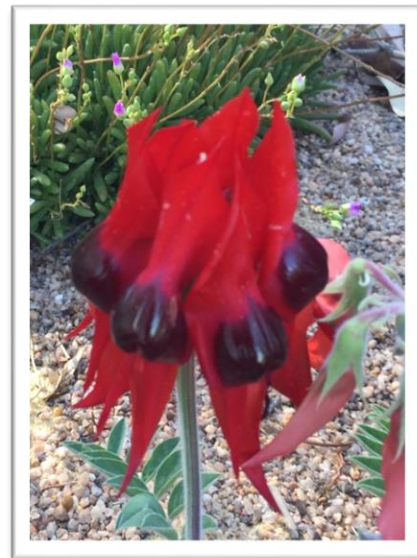
OUR VISION

The Shire of Laverton will strive to work with the community to fulfil their needs and support their aspirations while acting with fairness and demonstrating leadership.

Aspirations and values

Our community identified the following aspirations and values:

- An oasis for locals and visitors.
- Oasis in the desert.
- A harmonious and sustainable community.
- A healthy and vibrant place to live, work and visit.
- A place we are proud of.
- A memorable destination; and
- A thriving green and attractive hub



Community Strategic Plan - Summary of Objectives and Outcomes

The Shire of Laverton delivers services to its community in line with four key objectives set out within this Plan, being: social, economic, environment and civic leadership.

Each of the four objectives has several desired outcomes Council is aiming to achieve over the 10+ years of this Plan.

The following table summarises the strategic objectives of achieving the vision and the desired outcomes of working towards these objectives.

Objectives		Outcomes
SOCIAL	<i>Proud, spirited, harmonious and connected community</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong sense of community pride and ownership
ECONOMIC	<i>Prosperous local economy attracting businesses, opportunities, and people</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable tourism • Improved economic development opportunities
ENVIRONMENT	<i>Revitalised, green, welcoming, and safe natural and built environment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and efficient transport network • Modern, well maintained Other Built Infrastructure • Clean, safe, and tidy environment
CIVIC LEADERSHIP	<i>A financially strong and knowledgeable Shire, leading an empowered community</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective communication and stakeholder engagement • Organisational Development • Improved planning

SHIRE PRESIDENTS REPORT



In opening, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors in their support and allowing us as a group to ensure that the Shire of Laverton is seen in a positive light in so many circles. It is a pleasure to represent the Council.

The following is a brief summary of what has occurred in the last 12 months and the major issues which have impacted on the Council along with the myriad of meetings and representations made on behalf of Council.

Covid-19 played a major interruption in January 2020 and Laverton was impacted upon with the restrictions of tourists travelling both intrastate and interstate and also the overseas travellers who are wanting the adventure and heat of the outback.

The Council continues with the established agreement with the Pier Street Medical practice to provide medical services to the town and district. This is essential to ensure that there is medical services at the hospital and for the community. The support to the medical services is supplemented by contributions from the mining companies within the Shire area. Furthermore, the essential aspect of the new hospital only defines the importance of providing the medical service to the new hospital and the council is continuing to ensure that the hospital is built and the appropriate funding is provided for the completion of this facility.

Following approval of Government funding for up to 50km of roadworks upgrading of the Great Central Road, as part of the Outback Way Highway project. The Outback Way continues to gather interest and funding \$40.5 million has been secured to undertake further construction and sealing of further sections of this road.

The Federal government has additionally provided another \$115 million to keep the project rolling along and it was pleasing to see the interest of the Federal government with the Deputy Prime Minister visiting Laverton to see the works first hand.

The Outback Highway Committee made up of local governments and through their General Manger is further seeking additional funding to ensure that the entire road will receive funding to complete the seal from Laverton to Winton in Queensland.



OHDC Annual General Meeting and funding announcement by Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack.

The 2020 Sheila Laver Award was presented to Councillor Robyn Prentice in recognition of her service to the community of Laverton.

The Department of Social Services is responsible for the rollout of the Cashless Debit Card Program and the Council continues to provide a space at the Community Development Office and three staff members are employed on a part time basis (funded by DSS) to assist in continuation of the roll out. It has been a success to date and hopefully this initiative continues.

The Council allocated \$450,000.00 in its budget to upgrade the lighting at the Laverton Airport, with 50% funded by the Department of Transport through the Regional Airport Development Scheme in accordance with the Shire of Laverton Airport Master Plan and this upgrade has been completed as the council further plans to extend the airport infrastructure as charter flights regularly are utilising the airport.

The Council considered the expansion of the Great Beyond with an extension of this wonderful facility with a building cost of \$2.6 million with matching Council funds and support from State Government with a grant of \$1.3million. The aim is to future proof the Council and capture the market as Outback Highway continues to be sealed and the visitor increases accordingly.

The Laverton Community Hub Project has been completed and this magnificent facility will be open for the 2019/20 swimming pool season by the Premier, Mark McGowan and Minister MacTiernan present.

The cost of the new build pool, and the renovation of the town hall was \$8,252,964.00 and made up as follows:

Funding Bodies	Amount
Sport and Recreation	\$850,000.00
Lottery West	\$678,362.00
Royalties for regions	\$4,717,815.00
Council	\$2,006,787.00
Total	\$8,252,964.00



Cr



Cr Patrick Hill with the Premier Mark McGowan, Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan at the official opening of the Aquatic Centre.



An overview of the new Aquatic Centre



Inside the Town Hall



As the Aquatic Centre sits in the townscape

Source: Source: WA Mineral and Petroleum Statistics Digest 2018/19 and 2019/20

Goldfields-Esperance Region Value of minerals and petroleum by region by local government area		
	2018/19	2019/20
Coolgardie	3,418,087,046	3,594,037,264
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	2,051,269,360	2,829,223,269
Laverton	2,605,983,116	3,675,188,884
Leonora	1,919,979,840	2,264,283,820
Ravensthorpe and Dundas	883,284,841	126,428,747
Menzies	706,857,131	845,694,243
Esperance	Combined with Menzies	104,107,650
Goldfields-Esperance Total	11,585,461,334	14,252,408,428

The mining industry is the powerhouse of the community with the council deriving 94% of its rates income from the mining industry. The growth can be identified with Laverton being the leader within The Goldfields-Esperance Region for value of mining in each local government region.

In closing for this financial year, there is so much optimism for the future and the Council is ready and willing to lead the community into another fruitful year where the many projects being considered will come to fruition.

I again personally thank all the councilors for their support and the Chief Executive Officer Peter Naylor who admirably leads the administration to achieve for the community.

Patrick Hill

Shire President

COUNCILLOR RENUMERATION

In accordance with the Local government Act 1995 and under the guidelines of the State Salaries & Allowances Tribunal, the following allowances were paid to Councillors in 2019/2020 financial year.

President (including Presidents Allowance)	\$33,400.00
Deputy President (including Deputy Presidents Allowance)	\$15,400.00
Councillors	\$ 9,400.00

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT



In opening, the 2019/2020 financial year has been an interesting one with the influence around the world of Covid-19. Whilst Laverton has gone about business as normal, the rest of the world has not fared well.

The Community Hub which includes the new Pool, and the renovation of the Town hall has been finalized, it certainly provides facilities which can be used by the wider community and allows the community to participate should they wish to with quality facilities. I find that Council has a dedicated work force, and they produce excellent results through trying conditions of being a remote community.

The Council and especially the leadership of the Shire President and councillors has been refreshing in the support of undertaking initiatives for the community.

In closing, I would like to thank the community, councillors and staff for their assistance and commitment to the future of Laverton.

The following is a summary of items of interest which have been undertaken for and with the Laverton Community over the last 12 months and reflects the diversified nature of work undertaken by the council for the community.

Peter Naylor

Chief Executive Officer

Works and Services

Flood Damage

Works continued from the previous year's flood damage with the following roads being reinstated to previous flood damage status:

- Bandy Road
- Erlistoun Road
- Prenti Downs Road
- White Cliffs – Yamarna Road
- Great Central Road
- Lake Wells Rd, etc.



The following Roadworks projects including sealing, gravel re-sheeting etc. were completed in the 2019/2020 financial year.

- Mount Margaret Road
- Bandy Road
- Black Spot funding for Bandy Road Creek Crossing
- Old Laverton Road
- Great Central Road
- Mt Weld Road



Depicting the standard of road works achieved.

Plant Replacement

- Various Council vehicles and a Light truck

Laverton Cemetery

The Laverton Cemetery received an upgrade, and the following items were attended to bring it back to a standard with the council committing funds for:



Laverton Car Park

- New Car Park to the south of the existing entrance and perimeter fencing
- Shelters and seating



Laverton Cemetery Shelter



Laverton airport with extensions to the Apron and Taxi - Way



Great Beyond

Stage 2 Expansion of the Great Beyond Visitor Centre

After a two year mission to secure funding for the Stage 2 Expansion of the Great Beyond Visitor Centre, the project is set to become reality after funding was secured from the WA State Government.

Premier Mark McGowan, Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan and local Member for Mining & Pastoral Kyle McGinn visited Laverton in September 2019 to announce a State Government contribution of \$1.3m to the project.

Expansion to the Centre will include a new entry foyer, merchandise area and café; expanded administration office, public amenities, and storage areas; improved disability access to interpretive displays; undercover alfresco dining space; and the Giles Oasis cultural garden and interactive displays.

Promotional Opportunities & Tourism Initiatives

Many opportunities to positively promote our region arose throughout 2019/20. Staff have completed the GEMS (Goldfields Esperance Must See) project with a website and APP now live. The GEMS project was funded by the Goldfields Esperance Development Commissions' economic development grant with the intention of encouraging visitors and residents to explore the region. Now established, the GEMS project will rely on local councils, business, and attractions to maintain their information.

Electric Pictures had another successful season of filming Aussie Gold Hunters which is set to air in mid-2020. Both Aussie Gold Hunters & Outback Opal Hunters featured miners from the Laverton Area and will be aired on Foxtel's Discovery Channel.

The Shire of Laverton was host to the 2019 Outback Highway Development Council (OHDC) Annual General Meeting. Members from Alice Springs, Boulia, Winton, the Ngaanyatjarra Lands and local councils, organisations and mining companies attended the three day AGM and workshops. Each year the OHDC use this time to do forward planning and collaborate on several projects to do with infrastructure, tourism, and employment.

Additional to the AGM, staff of the Great Beyond assisted renowned Australian photographer Sean Scott with his trip across the Outback Way by providing information on things to see and do along the route and in the Laverton area. The aerial and night-time photography from the adventure turned out to be nothing short of amazing. Great Beyond staff also helped with the update of the Geocache trail with the replacement of Cache Boxes, update of coordinates and a short training in the online maintenance required for the Caches.

Some new additions to the Great Beyond gift shop are some local made products. The Great Beyond has facilitated the making, branding, and selling of 'Bush Medicine' made by local resident Raylene Evans. The Bush Medicine has proven to be a popular item with regular visitors from the region coming in to stock up on the well-known product. Additional to this, the Great Beyond has partnered Martna Sandalwood to be a stockist of their new Pulse Point Sandalwood Oil. Martna Sandalwood is a Leonora built business that is attempting to sustain the sandalwood industry by harvesting the oil from dead sandalwood trees, while planting new trees in their place. Their harvesting area includes land northwest of Laverton, and the initial launch of their product has been prosperous.

Great Beyond Staff have completed an education and development course with the Australian Museums & Galleries Association (WA branch) during 2019/20. The mentoring style course was designed to ensure that organisations across the state are up to date with policies, procedures and standards as well as providing practical tools, advice and support for volunteers and staff of museums. The course was held over eight months and included four days hands on training in Kalgoorlie. Staff from the AMaGA branch visited Laverton and took a tour of our facilities, collections, and attractions in town.

Events

Again, Shire staff hosted several events throughout the year, the Great Beyond was proud to facilitate or host a number of these events including the town's NAIDOC Celebrations in Kalgoorlie, Carols by Candlelight, the CRC's annual Christmas Lights Competition and Clean Up Australia Day.

Although COVID-19 has had an impact on the preparation of Laverfest, planning for the festivities is still going ahead.

Laverton Men's Shed

Through grant funding, fundraising and donations from local mining companies & the Shire of Laverton, the members of the Laverton Men's Shed were able to build a purpose built shed on the site of the Old Court House. Members and guests officially opened the 'Shed' on Saturday 27th July 2019 and have been busy setting the facility up for weekly gatherings.

See pictures below.



AMaGA Western Australia Executive Director, Natalie Evans, visited Laverton along with Projects and Communications Coordinator Jess Davies following the 'Open the Doors' training program in Kalgoorlie. Photo: AMaGA Facebook



Clean Up Australia Day, March 2020





Men's Shed members cutting the ribbon at the official opening of the new Shed.

Community Resource Centre

The Laverton Community Resource Centre continues to provide a needed and popular service to the Laverton Community. The programs, workshops, events, and services we provided throughout 2018-19 promoted inclusiveness, involvement, engagement and assisted with strengthening relationships with community and partnerships with local and visiting businesses, services, and organisations.

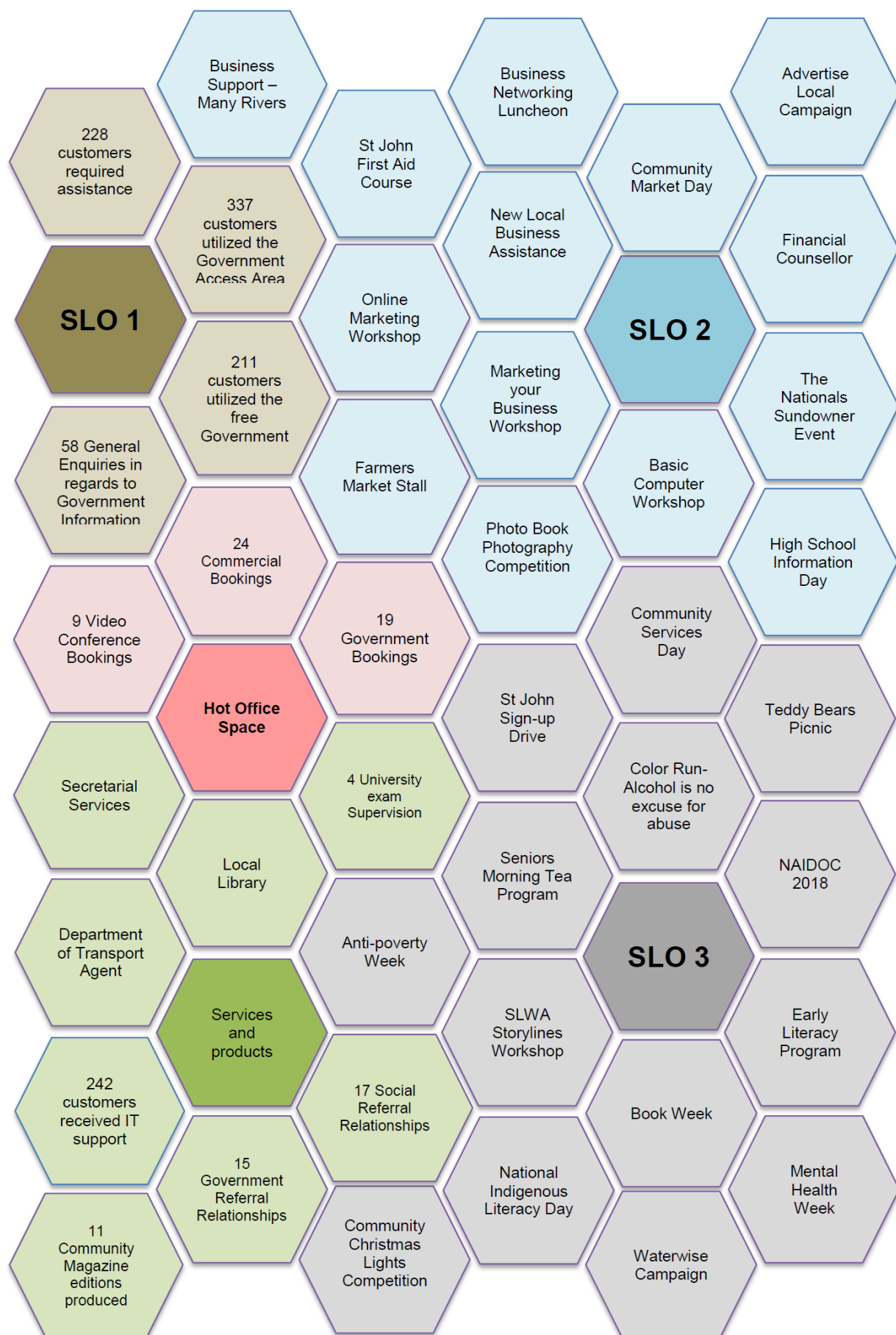
Throughout 2018-19 Laverton CRC met and exceeded in some areas our Service Delivery contractual requirements with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. The Service Level Outcomes the CRC must provide deliverables for are.

- SLO 1- Community members are provided with access to state government and community information and services.
- SLO2- Local Businesses and Workforce have access to activities and initiatives that improve skills and capacity to foster economic growth in the local community.
- SLO3- Community members have access to activities and initiatives that create or improve community connectedness and capacity.
-

The table below provides statistical information of people utilising the CRC services.

SLO1	Services	Statistics
Community members are provided with access to state government and community information and services	Government Access Point	337 customers utilized the Government Access Point
	Video Conference	Video Conference was utilized 9 times
	Office Space	Utilised 24 times by commercial agencies and 19 times by government agencies.
	IT Support	242 customers received IT support
SLO 2	Workshops/Events	Statistics
Local Businesses and Workforce have access to activities and initiatives that improve skills and capacity to foster economic growth in the local community.	14 workshops and events delivered	80 customers accessed the workshops and events
SLO 3	Programs/Events	Statistics
Community members have access to activities and initiatives that create or improve community connectedness and capacity.	Early Literacy Better Beginnings program	240 children and 175 parents attended
	Seniors Morning Tea	59 seniors attended the 10 morning teas
	14 events throughout 2018-19	419 people attended the events

The honeycomb diagram provides a snapshot of the 2018-19 deliverables the CRC has provided to Laverton for each service level outcome.



CRC highlights throughout 2018-19 include.

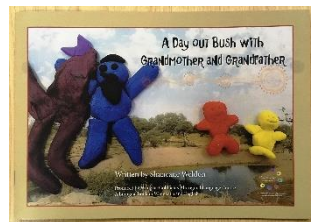
St John First Aid Course



Community Market Day



National Indigenous Literacy Day



Christmas Lights Competition



NAIDOC Celebrations



Community Development

Australia Day 2020

Over 125 people joined the Council in celebrating Australia Day with a Pool Party, fun activities, and a BBQ Breakfast.



Shire of Laverton celebrates International Day of People with Disability

International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) is a United Nations Day that promotes inclusivity and celebrates the achievements and contributions of people with disability.

By gathering to celebrate this day, we can help to break down barriers for the 4.3 million Australians living with disability and contribute to positive change in our community.

The Shire of Laverton commemorated International Day of People with Disability on Monday 2 December 2019, by holding a Pool Party – a fun-filled afternoon of games, activities, an Aquafit session, and a delicious sausage sizzle at the newly built, accessible Aquatic Centre.

Following its success, we aim to make celebrating IDPwD an annual event. Working together through the Shire of Laverton's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, (DAIP) 2019 to 2024, we hope to remove some of the barriers for people with disability and create a more inclusive community for people to reach their full potential. was launched at the event.



Laverton welcomes Coolgardie youth in a Swim 4 Fruit Challenge

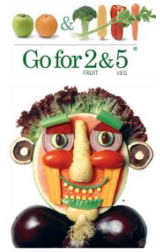
Continuing with a swimming pool theme, The Laverton Aquatic Centre have been running a popular and very successful Royal Life Saving Society, Swim 4 Fruit program since October 2019.

Supported by Laverton Youth Services, this fun initiative aims to



get kids active in the pool, improving their swimming skills and safety around water and promotes healthy lifestyle habits to the community. The Shire of Coolgardie have been running a similar program.

The two Aquatic Managers Janine Rowe (Laverton), Kathy Brooking (Coolgardie), Lifeguard Krystal Thomson and Laverton Youth Services, organised a Swim 4 Fruit Fun Challenge at Laverton pool in early February.



Laverton Aquatic Centre welcomed 13 children and staff from Coolgardie, for an afternoon of swimming activities and games, followed by a BBQ lunch with plenty of healthy fruit too!

Laverton youth have been invited to a reciprocal trip to Coolgardie pool next season.



Shire of Laverton Awards

The Shire of Laverton's Youth Services team were selected as one of the top three finalists for the **Western Australian Regional Achievement and Community Awards** - Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Making a Difference Award

The Youth Services team were recognised for their work at the **Local Government Children's Environment and Health Policy Awards**, winning in the **Child Health and Development** and **Aboriginal Child Health** categories.

Remembrance Day 2019

Remembrance Day 2019 included attendance from all the staff and children from Laverton School.

Appreciation goes to Xavier Murray and Sophie Taylor who beautifully presented readings and poems and laid a wreath on behalf of Regis Resources Ltd.

It was wonderful to see the young people and next generation, participating in such an important event.



Laverton commemorates ANZAC Day a different way #Driveways #AtHome

Due to COVID-19, the Shire commemorated ANZAC Day 2019 in a different way. The ANZAC Day 2019 service was played over a loudspeaker for residents to hear from their driveways and front porches.



Cashless Debit Card

The Cashless Debit Card (CDC) aims to reduce the levels of harm underpinned by alcohol, illicit drug use and gambling, by limiting participants' access to cash and by preventing the purchase of alcohol or gambling products.

The Cashless Debit Card is testing whether reducing the amount of cash available in a community will reduce the overall harm caused by welfare fuelled alcohol, gambling, and drug misuse.

Eighty per cent of CDC participants' Income Support Payments, as well as other supplementary payments, are directed to a restricted bank account, accessed by the Indue debit card, with the remainder of these payments accessible through a normal (unrestricted) bank account.

The CDC is being trialed in the Goldfields region and has been extended until December 2020. The Shire of Laverton has a local partner agreement with Indue to operate a front facing service to co-ordinate and implement the roll out of the Cashless Debit Card.

During the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, the CDC Team have been busy:

- Helping participants in activating their CDC
- Supporting participants in setting up an email address, CDC Indue account, My Gov account; learning how to check bank balances, edit their accounts and change passwords, setting up rent and bill payments, fund transfers and become more confident when self-managing their account online.
- Providing information and referrals for participants in relation to support services such as money management and budgeting.
- Supporting participants with extension declaration forms for Housing payments, vehicle purchase and Power of Attorney
- Working with community to encourage individual self-help for transactions such as checking bank balances and arranging bank transfers.
- Providing temporary cards to those who have lost or had a card stolen and replacement cards.
- Supporting participants who wish to exit the CDC. The team have helped 10 participants to submit and exit application, and a number of those have been successfully removed from the CDC.
- Providing choices and alternative options for loan applications such as WA No Interest Loans and supporting with applications. The Laverton Supermarket has become a 'white goods' provider for WANILS.
- Liaising with the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) to support community members with Indue and other business.
- In the CDC building, donated clothing and small household items continue to be available for our local Community members to collect. Regular donations and contributions are received from individuals and organisations.

The CDC Team have dealt with a total of 1,333 queries relating to the implementation and activation of accounts between July 2019 and June 2020.



Laverton Youth Services July 2019 - June 2020

Laverton's Youth Services Team provide a structured program of interactive, cultural, creative, artistic, educational, healthy, challenging, and fun activities for children and young people. The service operates every day after school in term time. In addition to this, an extensive and exciting package of activities and events are run during school and public holidays.

Youth Services celebrated **NAIDOC week 2019** by working with Elders to put on several cultural events and activities. From bush dyeing of materials made from plants, fruits, veggies, and other natural resources to cooking Marlu (kangaroo) tails and going 'Out Bush'.

The Curtin Volunteers helped with the school holiday activity programs and Youth Services provided a range of exciting fun things for the kids to do.



Minarli - Boys activities. Responding to community concerns, the Laverton Youth Services team have set up a Responsible Motorbike Program. With a focus on riding responsibly, young people have been taken out of town and taught how to ride safely and repair their bikes by Kevin our Youth Officer, who is a qualified mechanic.

Participation was only for those who had submitted consent forms signed by their Parent/Carer and who had protective clothing and helmets.



The **Pallet Project** has been designed to enhance social and developmental behaviours, provide social inclusion and community connection, identify coping strategies, build resilience, and help young people express feelings and emotions. This period saw the boys build and complete shelves and tables which were delivered to members of community.



Swim 4 Fruit program. The Laverton Aquatic Centre began running a popular and very successful Royal Life Saving Society, Swim 4 Fruit program. Supported by Laverton Youth Services, this fun initiative aims to get kids active in the pool, improving their swimming skills and safety around water and promotes healthy lifestyle habits. The program runs every Tuesday and Thursday after school throughout the Pool season. For every four laps each child swims, they received a piece of fruit.

Perth Mentor visit. Youth Services has been actively involved with the Big Picture Program at Laverton School. Weekly based classroom sessions focusing on improving communication, interpersonal relationship skills and improve vocational skills and knowledge of a specific career and possible pathways.

Big Picture students participated in a “Leaving to Learn” camp in Perth. Students were exposed to a range of career pathways while on camp including the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, St John ambulance, Carey training, Army, Air Force, and the Navy. In addition, students participated in some fun activities such as visiting the Eagles new training facility, rock climbing, trampolining, laser tag and Time Zone. A fantastic time was had by all!

Healthy Cooking initiative. Following consultation with the Laverton Youth Council, the weekly **Kidz Kitchen** program was established. Every Friday after school, a small group of ‘chefs’ prepare and cook/bake a dish that is then eaten and shared together. Recipes must be researched, and a list of ingredients given to the Youth Officer for purchase.



Blue Tree Project. The Blue Tree Project's 'mission is to help spark difficult conversations and encourage people to speak up when battling mental health concerns. Painting a tree blue aims to spread 'the message that 'it is OK to not be OK', and to break down the stigma that is still largely attached to mental health.'

Laverton Youth Services team with a group of young people cleared and prepared the sites and were actively involved in painting two trees in Laverton.



See our YouTube video from the day <https://youtu.be/JUn91PZ6Rng>

The Youth Centre was closed for 3 months to comply with government restrictions and requirements in relation to Covid-19. Youth Services still maintained Covid safe contact with community via social media and care packages containing toys, books, and activity packs.

During the 37 weeks of Youth Service provision within the annual reporting period a total of 2494 children and young people attended activities.

COMPLIANCE

Freedom of Information

Sections 96 and 97 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* require Local Governments to publish an information statement annually.

In summary, the Shire of Laverton's Statement indicates that the Shire of Laverton is responsible for the good governance of the Shire and carries out functions as required including statutory compliance and provision of services and facilities.

All Council meetings are open to the public and meeting dates and venues are advertised on a regular basis. Members of the public are invited to ask questions during Public Question Time shortly after the commencement of each meeting.

The Shire of Laverton maintains records relating to the function and administration of the Shire and includes such documents as the Minutes of Meetings, Rate Book, Town Planning Scheme, Local Laws, Codes of Conduct, Register of Financial Interests, Register of Delegated Authority, Financial Statements and Electoral Rolls.

These documents can be inspected free of charge at the Shire Office, 9 MacPherson place, Laverton during office hours.

Wherever possible and practical, and in line with privacy laws, the Shire of Laverton makes personal information readily available free of charge.

No Freedom of Information requests were made during the reporting period.

Record Keeping

The *State Records Act 2000* is an Act to provide for the keeping of State records and for related purposes. Section 19 of the Act requires each government organisation to have a Record Keeping Plan that has been approved by the State Records Commission.

The registration number of the recordkeeping plan is 2011029.

On 17 March 2017, the State Records Commission approved the continuation of the Shire of Laverton Record Keeping Plan with the next review due to be completed and submitted to the State Records Office.

The objectives of the Shire of Laverton's Record Keeping Plan are to ensure:

- Compliance with Section 28 of the *State Records Act 2000*,

- Record keeping within the Local Government is moving toward compliance with State Records Commission Standards and Record Management Standard AS ISO15489,
- Processes are in place to facilitate the complete and accurate record of business transactions and decisions,
- Recorded information can be retrieved quickly, accurately, and cheaply when required; and the
- Protection and preservation of the local government's records.

Register of Minor Complaints

Section 5.121 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (Register of certain complaints of minor breaches) requires the complaints officer for each local government to maintain a Register of Complaints which records all complaints that result in action under section 5.110(6) (b) or (c) of the Act (Conduct of Certain Officials).

Section 5.53 (2) (b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires that details of entries made under section 5.121 during the year in the Register of Complaints, including:

- The number of complaints recorded on the Register of Complaints.
- How the recorded complaints were dealt with, and.
- Any other details that the regulations may require to be disclosed in the Annual Report.

In accordance with these requirements, a complaints register has been maintained.

As of the 30 June 2020, no complaints were recorded. Therefore, no action was required.

Public Interest Disclosure

The Public Interest Disclosure Code was established by the Commissioner for Public Standards under section 20 of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003*.

One of the principles of the Code is not just to provide protection of those who make disclosures (and those who are the subject of disclosures), but also to encourage a system of transparency and accountability in the way government officials act and utilise public monies.

Matters that fall into the category of public interest include:

- Improper conduct (irregular or unauthorised use of public resources).
- An offence under State Law including corruption (substantial unauthorised or irregular use of, or substantial mismanagement of, public monies)

- Administration matters generally (conduct involving substantial risk of injury to public health, prejudice to public safety or harm to the environment)

Matters that relate to the Shire of Laverton should be referred to the Shire of Laverton's Public Interest Disclosure Officer. Disclosures to the Public Interest Disclosure Officer can be made not just about officers of the Shire of Laverton but also, its elected officials.

There is an obligation of the Public Interest Disclosure Officer in the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003* to ensure that the disclosure is confidential and that the person making a disclosure is provided adequate protection from reprisals, civil and criminal liability, or breach of confidentiality.

More information can be found at www.publicsector.wa.gov.au.

The Shire of Laverton had no Public Interest Disclosures during the reporting Period.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP)

The Shire of Laverton revised the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan during 2019/2020 and the Shire of Laverton DAIP was approved by the Department of Communities for the period 2019/2024.

The following are general comments regarding the DAIP activities where the council had an involvement:

- Establish a Disability Advisory Committee.
- International Day of people with a disability with a pool party to highlight the facilities available at the Aquatic Centre.
- Install pram ramps at Hawkes Place Laverton in conjunction with the staged footpath construction.
- The opening of the Aquatic Centre and Town Hall which are all accessible.

Payments to Employees

Section 5.53 (2) (g) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 19B of The *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* require all local Governments to report in their Annual Report, any employees receiving a salary more than \$130,000 per annum.

Set out below (in bands of \$10,000) is the number of Shire employees entitled to an annual salary of \$130,000 or more:

Employees with employment under the Councils Enterprise Bargaining Agreement and a fixed term contract where the salary is more than \$130,000:

Salary Range \$	No of Employees
\$130,000 to \$180,000	2
\$180,000 to \$240,000	1

Integrated Planning and Reporting

In 2015/2016, Council undertook a comprehensive review of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) following which the Corporate Business Plan was reviewed and updated.

The Corporate Business Plan was again reviewed in 2019/2020 resulting in only minimal change to the Plan.

The Corporate Business Plan aims to fulfil the strategic direction set by Council to Progress the Council's vision while keeping with the community's aspirations and values. Copies of both documents are available at the Shire Administration Office and on the Shire of Laverton's website.

Actions identified in the CSP are ongoing and include:

- 3.1.2.1 Maintain and improve rural road network. - This is a continuum each and every year and the council determine priorities based on funding and asset management.
- 3.1.3.1 Continue implementation of Airport Master Plan. - Continues with the expansion of the Airport Apron and Taxiway.
- 3.2.2.3 Seek funding for Great Beyond Visitor Centre Stage 2. Funding of \$1,300,000 has been received from the State Government with the Council to match these funds in the 2020/2021 budget.
- 3.2.2 Well maintained service provision buildings – The Cemetery has had funding allocated and works have commenced, and this has emanated from the Friends of The Laverton Cemetery. Works undertaken include fencing, Gazebo, seating, and vegetation plantings.

The Old Coach House has commenced restoration and improvements to house the CRC function of the Council.

The Old Court House was renovated and is now utilised by a church and is readily available for other uses.

- 3.1.1.3 Continue the sealing and upgrade program of Outback Way in accordance with funding availability. – The Outback Way has secured long term funding for the sealing of the Road.

