



Shire of Cunderdin Project Plan

CONNECT

Community Opportunities for Networking, Nurturing,
Engagement, Celebrations and Togetherness

Community Events Program 2027

Table of Contents

1. Project	2
1.1 Problem or Opportunity	2
1.2 Project Description	4
2. Outcomes/Benefits	5
3. Implementation	6
3.1 Project Tasks	6
3.2 Governance	8
4. Stakeholders	10
5. Budget Summary	12
Attachment A – Detailed Event Information	16
1. HERITAGE IN MOTION: STEAM & DRAUGHT HORSE FESTIVAL (MUSEUM-LED):	16
2. HALLOWEEN AT THE MUSEUM (MUSEUM-LED):	18
3. CMT SENIORS 'BE HAPPY DAYS' & DAY BUS TRIPS (CMT SENIORS LED):	20
4. STRIVE YOUTH PROGRAM (SHIRE OF CUNDERDIN LED WITH SUPPORT FROM THE CUNDERDIN YOUTH COUNCIL):	22
5. TINY TOTS PROGRAM (CRC LED):	29
6. CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK (CRC LED):	32
7. SUMMER MOVIE SERIES (CRC LED)	35
8. COMMUNITY CHILL & GRILL SESSIONS (CRC LED)	38
Attachment B – Detailed Events Budget Breakdown	41
Attachment C – Letters of Support & Funding Confirmation	51
Attachment D – Risk Management	52
Attachment E – Supporting Evidence: Community Cohesion, Social Cohesion and Mental Wellbeing in Regional Communities	55
Attachment F – Supporting Evidence: Alignment with Local Community Planning and Consultation	59

1. Project

1.1 Problem or Opportunity

As small regional Wheatbelt communities, Cunderdin and Meckering face challenges associated with geographic isolation, limited access to services and activities, and fewer opportunities for regular social interaction compared with metropolitan areas. These factors can contribute to social isolation, reduced community participation, and fewer opportunities for people of different ages and backgrounds to connect.

The 2021 Census highlights the unique demographic profile of the area. The Shire of Cunderdin has a population of approximately 1,300 people, while Meckering has a population of just over 230 residents. Median ages of 37 years in the Shire of Cunderdin and 45 years in Meckering reflect a community that includes both significant youth and ageing populations. Residents aged under 20 years represent approximately one-quarter of the Shire's population, while around 20% of residents are aged 65 years and over, creating a strong need for activities that foster intergenerational connection and inclusion.

Income levels are also lower than many metropolitan areas. The median weekly household income in Meckering is approximately \$1,083 and around \$1,500 across the Shire of Cunderdin, reflecting the economic realities often experienced in regional communities.

Community feedback and discussions with local organisations, including the Shire, Cunderdin Community Resource Centre, Cunderdin Youth Council, Cunderdin Museum Committee and CMT Seniors Committee, have identified a desire for more regular and diverse community events that bring residents together, celebrate local culture and heritage, and create opportunities for participation across all age groups. While many local groups deliver valuable activities independently, there is an opportunity to strengthen collaboration and develop a coordinated calendar of events that maximises community participation and volunteer capacity.

Recent community consultation undertaken through the Shire's Youth Strategy, Age Friendly Community Plan, Local Public Health Plan, and Community Strategic Plan has consistently identified the importance of community connection, participation, wellbeing and belonging. Across these consultations, residents highlighted a desire for more opportunities to come together through community events, activities and shared experiences. Young people identified the need for greater access to social, recreational and community participation opportunities, while older residents expressed

the value of activities that reduce isolation, support active ageing and foster social connection. Broader community engagement also highlighted the importance of strengthening community spirit, celebrating local identity, supporting volunteerism, and creating opportunities for residents of all ages to connect. These plans collectively recognise that community events play a vital role in enhancing wellbeing, fostering inclusion, and building a vibrant and resilient community.

This project directly responds to the priorities identified through the Shire's strategic planning and community consultation processes. By bringing together local organisations to deliver a coordinated program of inclusive events and activities, the project will create meaningful opportunities for residents to connect, participate and contribute to community life. The program will support the objectives of the Youth Strategy, Age Friendly Community Plan, Local Public Health Plan and Community Strategic Plan by promoting wellbeing, social inclusion, active citizenship and community resilience across Cunderdin and Meckering.

The WAAMH and Centre for Social Impact (UWA) report *Going the Distance: Making Mental Health Support Work Better for Regional Communities* (2023) highlights that regional communities experience significantly higher levels of social isolation, service access barriers, and unmet mental health needs compared to metropolitan areas. The research emphasises that mental wellbeing in regional areas is strongly influenced by social determinants such as community connection, belonging, and participation, with “one in five” residents reporting experiences of loneliness or social isolation. It also identifies substantial gaps in early intervention and non-clinical supports, noting that treating mental health in isolation is insufficient without strengthening social cohesion and community-based supports. In particular, the report underscores the importance of place-based, community-led initiatives that build social networks, reduce isolation, and increase opportunities for participation as key protective factors for mental wellbeing in regional communities

Research consistently demonstrates that community events play an important role in regional communities by strengthening social cohesion, increasing participation, fostering a sense of belonging, supporting mental wellbeing, and building resilience. Community events also provide opportunities for volunteers to contribute, develop skills, and strengthen local networks. In small towns, volunteers and community organisations are often the backbone of community life, making collaboration between groups critical to sustaining vibrant and connected communities.

This project presents a significant opportunity for the Shire, Cunderdin Community Resource Centre, Cunderdin Youth Council, Cunderdin Museum Committee, CMT Seniors Committee and other local organisations to work together to deliver a year-long program of inclusive community events. By leveraging local knowledge, volunteer contributions and community partnerships, the project will create meaningful opportunities for connection, participation and engagement, while strengthening the capacity of local groups to work collaboratively for the benefit of the wider community.

The project will help address social isolation, increase participation in community life, celebrate the unique identity of Cunderdin and Meckering, and contribute to a more connected, inclusive and resilient community.

1.2 Project Description

This project will deliver a coordinated, year-long program of inclusive, free or low-cost community events and activities across Cunderdin and Meckering, designed to strengthen social connection, wellbeing, and community participation. The program will engage youth, seniors, families, women, and broader community interest groups through a diverse calendar of social, cultural, recreational, educational, and heritage-based activities.

Delivered through strong partnership between the Shire of Cunderdin, Cunderdin Community Resource Centre (CRC), Cunderdin Youth Council, Cunderdin Museum Committee, and CMT Seniors Committee, the program brings together local organisations, volunteers, and community leaders to collaboratively design and deliver events that reflect local identity and community priorities. All activities will be free or low-cost (generally under \$5) to ensure accessibility and reduce barriers to participation.

The program includes the following key events and activities:

- Heritage in Motion: Steam & Draught Horse Festival
- Halloween at the Museum Community Event
- CMT Seniors 'Be Happy Days' & Day Bus Trips (5 events)
- STRIVE - Youth Activities (15 youth activities focussing on different interests)
- Grill & Chill Sessions (2 events)
- Christmas in the Park Community Festival
- Summer Movie Sessions (4 events)

- Tiny Tots Program (9 themed activities)

Together, these events form a coordinated annual program that maximises the use of local assets, strengthens collaboration between community organisations, and builds volunteer capacity. The program ensures regular opportunities for residents to connect, participate, and contribute to community life, while celebrating the unique identity and heritage of the Cunderdin and Meckering communities.

Please refer to Attachment A for further information of each event.

2. Outcomes/Benefits

This program of events will deliver a range of cultural, social, educational, and economic benefits that strengthen community connection, wellbeing, and local identity across Cunderdin and Meckering.

Community Connection and Wellbeing

Across all events, the program will strengthen social connection, reduce isolation, and build a stronger sense of belonging. Activities will bring together residents of all ages in safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments, encouraging participation, interaction, and shared experiences. In particular, targeted activities for youth and seniors will support wellbeing, inclusion, and ongoing community engagement.

Youth, Family and Inclusive Participation

Events will provide accessible, fee-free opportunities for young people and families to participate in positive recreational and cultural activities in a regional setting where such opportunities can be limited. Creative and themed experiences (such as festivals and youth activities) will encourage engagement, self-expression, and enjoyment while supporting inclusive community participation.

Seniors Wellbeing and Social Inclusion

Regular seniors-focused activities will reduce social isolation, promote mental stimulation, and support active ageing. Transport support and accessible programming will ensure equitable participation for seniors from surrounding and outlying areas, strengthening regional connections and reducing barriers

to engagement. These activities will also recognise and value the contribution of older residents to community life.

Economic and Community Activation Benefits

The program will activate local community spaces, including the museum and public recreation areas, increasing awareness and utilisation of local facilities. Events will attract visitors to the region, supporting local businesses, suppliers, and tourism-related activity. This contributes to broader regional economic benefits while enhancing community vibrancy.

Community Pride and Cultural Expression

The events will strengthen local identity and pride by celebrating shared history, culture, and traditions. Opportunities for creative expression through costumes, performances, storytelling, and themed celebrations will further enhance cultural participation and community engagement.

Heritage, Culture and Education

The Heritage event will preserve and showcase local heritage by demonstrating traditional skills, machinery, and agricultural practices that are at risk of being lost. They will provide immersive, hands-on learning experiences for children, families, and visitors, supporting informal education outside the classroom. Intergenerational knowledge sharing will be strengthened by enabling experienced community members to pass on skills and stories to younger generations, fostering appreciation of local history and identity. Some of the Youth Activities will provide opportunities for education and skill development while being fun, interactive and providing opportunities for socialisation with peers.

3. Implementation

3.1 Project Tasks

Project Area	Key Tasks	CIF Alignment
Event Preparation & Coordination	• Coordinate logistics, venues, approvals, and safety requirements for each event	Inclusive Communities – removes barriers through accessible planning Connected Communities – strengthens volunteer

	• Recruit, train, and support volunteers across all partner organisations • Confirm event programs, roles, and delivery responsibilities	participation and social ties Vibrant Communities – activates local spaces through community-led delivery
Event Delivery	• Deliver annual program of community events: Steam & Drought Horse Festival, Halloween at the Museum, CMT Seniors Be Happy Days & bus trips, STRIVE Youth Program, Christmas in the Park Community Festival, Tiny Tots Program, Grill & Chill Session, Summer Movie Sessions. • Ensure events are free or low-cost (generally under \$5) • Provide safe, welcoming, inclusive environments for all ages	Connected Communities – increases social interaction and participation Inclusive Communities – reduces cost and access barriers Healthy Communities – improves social wellbeing and reduces isolation Vibrant Communities – activates public spaces and community identity
Monitoring, Reporting & Evaluation	• Collect attendance, participation, and engagement data • Gather feedback from participants, volunteers, and partners • Report progress to Project Steering Group • Prepare final evaluation and funding acquittal report	Healthy Communities – measures impact on wellbeing and connection Connected Communities – tracks engagement and participation growth Vibrant Communities – demonstrates community activation outcomes
Sustainability & Legacy	• Document successful event models for future replication	Connected Communities – long-term collaboration between organisations

	• Strengthen ongoing partnerships between community organisations • Identify opportunities for continuation or expansion beyond funding period	Vibrant Communities – sustained community-led programming Healthy Communities – lasting improvements in social wellbeing
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3.2 Governance

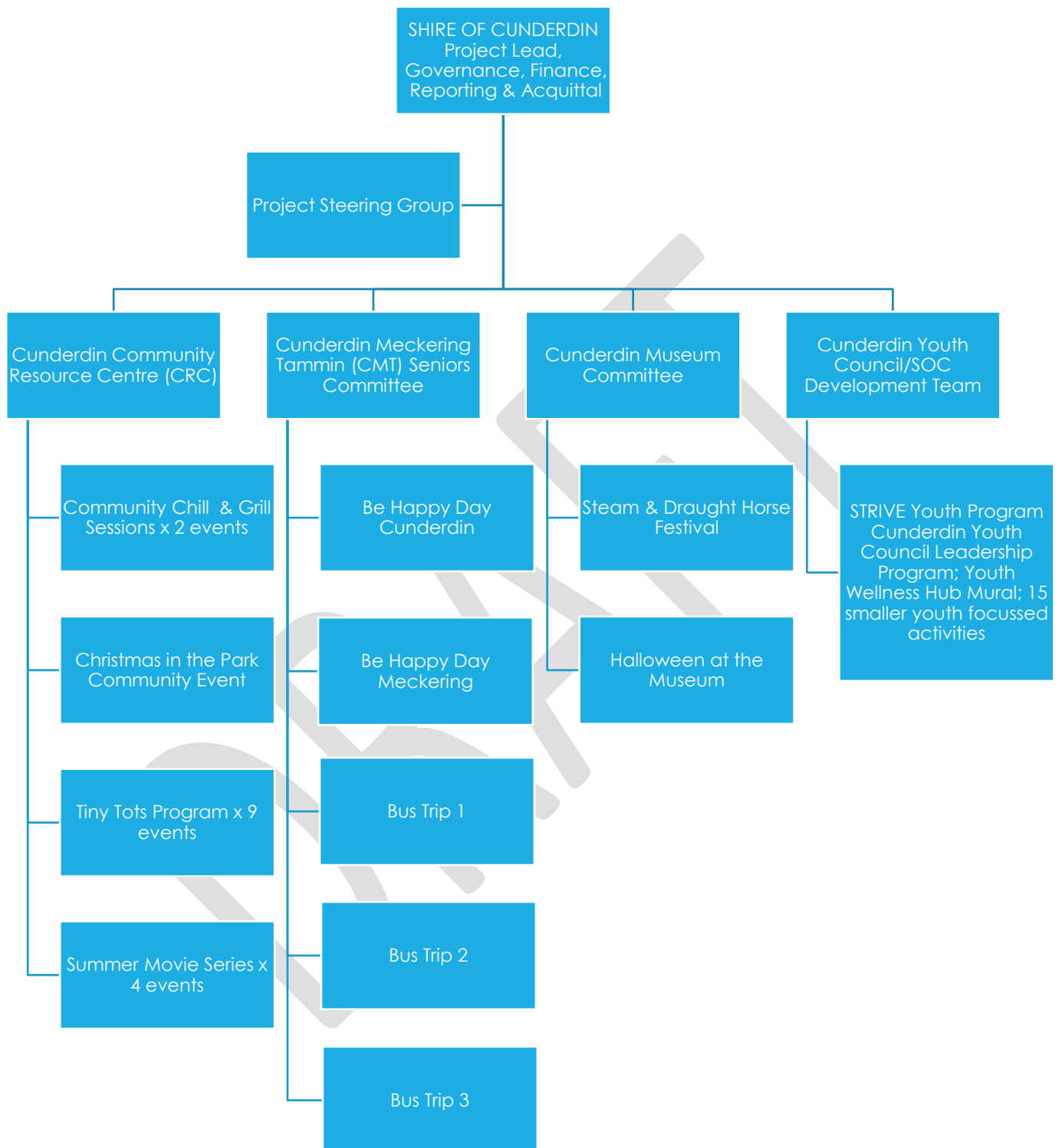
The Shire of Cunderdin will act as the lead organisation for the Community Events Program and will be responsible for overall project governance, grant management, financial administration, reporting, and acquittal. This includes ensuring compliance with funding requirements, overseeing the project budget, monitoring project performance, and reporting outcomes to the funding body.

A Project Steering Group will be established to provide strategic oversight and coordination of the program. The Steering Group will comprise representatives from the Shire of Cunderdin, Cunderdin CRC, Cunderdin Museum Committee, CMT Seniors Committee, and Cunderdin Youth Council. The group will meet regularly throughout the project to coordinate planning, monitor progress, manage risks, share information, and review outcomes.

Each partner organisation will be responsible for the planning, coordination, and delivery of their allocated events and activities within the broader program. This includes managing event logistics, engaging and supporting volunteers, promoting community participation, and ensuring activities are delivered in line with agreed objectives and timelines.

Partner organisations will provide regular updates to the Project Steering Group, including attendance data, activity summaries, expenditure information, and outcome reflections. This collaborative governance model ensures clear accountability, effective communication, and shared decision-making, while empowering community organisations to lead activities that reflect their expertise, strengths, and community connections.

By leveraging the skills, resources, and networks of local organisations, the program will strengthen community capacity, foster collaboration, and support the sustainable delivery of inclusive community events across Cunderdin and Meckering.



4. Stakeholders

Stakeholder Group	Organisation / Group	Role in Project	Type (Internal / External)
Lead Agency	Shire of Cunderdin	Grant lead, financial management, project coordination, reporting and acquittal, Event delivery support & coordination	Internal
Community Resource Centre (CRC)	Cunderdin CRC	Event delivery support, coordination of community events (e.g. Christmas in the Park), volunteer coordination, promotion	Internal
Museum Committee	Cunderdin Museum Committee	Delivery of heritage-based events (Steam & Drought Horse Festival, Halloween at the Museum), volunteer engagement	Internal
Youth Council	Cunderdin Youth Council	Co-design and delivery of youth activities and support for family/community events (youth activities)	Internal
Seniors Committee	CMT Seniors Committee	Coordination and delivery of seniors events and bus trips, participant engagement	Internal
Volunteers	Community Volunteers	Event delivery support, setup, coordination, hospitality, and local engagement	Internal
Community Members	Residents of Cunderdin & Meckering	Participants and beneficiaries of events and activities	External

Schools	Local schools (Cunderdin area)	Youth engagement, participation in youth and family activities	External
Local Businesses	Cunderdin & Meckering businesses	Potential sponsorship, in-kind support, promotion, and community participation	External
Regional Community Organisations	Nearby Shires and community groups	Participation in seniors bus trips and regional connection activities	External
Funding Body	Lotterywest (or relevant funder)	Funding support, compliance monitoring, and outcome reporting	External

The table above outlines the key stakeholders involved in the project and their respective roles. The Shire of Cunderdin will act as the lead agency, responsible for overall project governance, financial management, reporting, and acquittal. Internal delivery partners, including the Community Resource Centre, Museum Committee, Youth Council, Seniors Committee, and volunteers, will each lead and support the delivery of specific events and activities, drawing on their existing community networks, expertise, and local relationships.

External stakeholders include community members, schools, local businesses, and regional organisations who will participate in and benefit from the program. This collaborative model ensures strong community ownership, builds local capacity, and enables a coordinated approach to delivering inclusive, accessible, and community-led events across Cunderdin and Meckering.

5. Budget Summary

BUDGET SUMMARY	Amount
Total Cash Income	\$82,080
<i>Shire of Cunderdin</i>	<i>\$18,075</i>
<i>Cunderdin CRC</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>
<i>Cunderdin Museum</i>	<i>\$3,500</i>
<i>CMT Seniors Committee</i>	<i>\$1,250</i>
<i>Participant Fees</i>	<i>\$825</i>
<i>Lotterywest Request</i>	<i>\$56,930</i>
Total In-Kind Contribution	\$31,690
Total Project Costs	\$113,770

This project is delivered through a blended funding model combining grant funding, confirmed partner cash contributions, and significant in-kind support from local organisations and volunteers. The majority of value is leveraged through volunteer labour, staff time, and shared delivery responsibilities across the Shire of Cunderdin, CRC, Museum Committee, Youth Council, and Seniors Committee, ensuring strong community ownership and cost-effective delivery of a year-long program of inclusive community events.

For a detailed budget breakdown related to each event, please see Attachment B.

Breakdown by events:

Income Source	\$ Value (excl GST)	Description
Shire of Cunderdin	\$18,075	Cash contribution – confirmed
<i>CMT Seniors Events</i>	\$2,750	
<i>Steam & Heritage Festival</i>	\$1,500	
<i>Christmas in the Park</i>	\$3,225	
<i>Chill & Grill Sessions</i>	\$600	
<i>Strive Youth Activities</i>	\$10,000	
Cunderdin CRC	\$1,500	Cash contribution – confirmed
<i>Christmas in the Park</i>	\$1,500	
Cunderdin Museum	\$3,500	Cash contribution – confirmed
<i>Halloween at the Museum</i>	\$1,500	
<i>Steam & Heritage Festival</i>	\$2,000	
CMT Seniors Committee	\$1,250	Cash contribution – confirmed
<i>Seniors Event Series</i>	\$1,250	
Lotterywest Grant Request	\$56,930	Cash contribution – unconfirmed
<i>Seniors Event Series</i>	\$7,225	
<i>Halloween at the Museum</i>	\$5,900	
<i>Steam & Heritage Festival</i>	\$9,000	
<i>Christmas in the Park</i>	\$10,000	
<i>Summer Movie Series</i>	\$1,600	
<i>Tiny Tots Program</i>	\$3,000	
<i>Chill & Grill Sessions</i>	\$2,000	
<i>Strive Youth Activities</i>	\$18,205	
Participant Contributions	\$825	Estimation – Seniors Event Series
TOTAL CASH INCOME	\$82,080	

Event Expenditure CASH	\$ Value (excl GST)	Description
Heritage in Motion: Steam & Drought Horse Festival	\$12,500	Equipment hire, event infrastructure, materials, promotion, steam machinery hire, safety/compliance
Halloween at the Museum	\$7400	Decorations, activities, entertainment, supervision, promotion, DJ & disco equipment, equipment hire
CMT Seniors Be Happy Days & Day Trips	\$12,100	Bus hire, transport, catering, activities, venue/excursion costs
STRIVE Youth Activities	\$28,205	Activity materials, facilitation, venue/equipment, promotion
Summer Movie Series	\$1,600	Projector hire, screen hire, movie licence, speaker hire
Christmas in the Park Community Event	\$14,755	Inflatable hires, catering, petting zoo, face painter, advertising, event fencing, lighting towers, event staff, posters/printing/advertising
Tiny Tots Program	\$3,000	Books, craft supplies, sensory play resources, outdoor equipment, advertising, printing, refreshments, cleaning & hygiene
Grill & Chill Series	\$2,600	Musician, catering, CRC Staff time
TOTAL CASH EXPENDITURE	\$82,080	

Event Expenditure	\$ Value	Description
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION		
CMT Seniors Event	\$13,600	Venue, morning teas, tablecloths/decorations, advertising, printing, insurance, volunteer & staff time
Halloween at the Museum	\$5,200	Venue, equipment, decorations, insurance, printing, advertising, first aid & security, volunteer & staff time
Steam & Heritage Festival	\$4,800	Venue, equipment, heritage items, insurance, permits, volunteer & staff time
Christmas in the Park	\$665	Volunteer time
Summer Movie Series	\$920	Venue, Staff time
Tiny Tots Program	\$5265	Staff time, volunteer time & venue hire
Chill & Grill sessions	\$440	Volunteer time
Shire of Cunderdin (Project Administration)	\$800	Staff time: coordination, reporting, governance, partner meetings (20hrs @ \$40/hr
TOTAL IN-KIND	\$31,690	

Attachment A – Detailed Event Information

1. HERITAGE IN MOTION: STEAM & DRAUGHT HORSE FESTIVAL (MUSEUM-LED):

This event is a large-scale, family-friendly heritage event celebrating the agricultural and industrial history of the Wheatbelt through live demonstrations, interactive experiences, and working heritage machinery.

The event will feature operational steam-powered machinery alongside working draught horses, demonstrating traditional farming and transport practices that were once essential to life in the region. Visitors will have the opportunity to see steam engines in action, observe harnessing and ploughing demonstrations, and learn directly from experienced operators and volunteers with specialist knowledge.

The museum grounds will be activated with a range of engaging elements including guided heritage talks, interpretive displays, children's activity areas, and hands-on learning experiences. Demonstrations will be scheduled throughout the day to ensure accessibility and allow visitors to fully engage with each aspect of the program.

This event will highlight the importance of preserving working heritage skills and machinery, many of which are increasingly rare. It will also provide a platform for knowledge sharing between generations, ensuring that traditional practices are documented and appreciated.

The festival will be designed to be inclusive and accessible, offering a low-cost day out for families, visitors, and community members. Local vendors and community groups may also be invited to participate, contributing to a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere.

Proposed Event date: April 2027

Target Audience:

- Local families and community members
- Heritage enthusiasts and history interest groups
- Visitors to the Wheatbelt region

- School-aged children and young people
- Volunteers and individuals with an interest in traditional trades and agricultural practices

Anticipated participation numbers: 150

Community Benefit:

This event will deliver significant cultural, educational, and social benefits, including:

- **Heritage Preservation:** Demonstrates and safeguards traditional skills, machinery operation, and agricultural practices that are at risk of being lost.
- **Intergenerational Knowledge Sharing:** Enables experienced operators to pass on practical knowledge to younger generations in a meaningful, hands-on environment.
- **Community Engagement:** Strengthens local identity and pride by celebrating the region's history and shared heritage.
- **Educational Outcomes:** Provides immersive learning experiences for children and families, supporting informal education outside the classroom.
- **Tourism and Economic Impact:** Attracts visitors to Cunderdin, supporting local businesses and increasing regional visitation.
- **Social Connection and Wellbeing:** Creates a welcoming event that encourages participation, connection, and a sense of belonging.

Stakeholders:

- Cunderdin Museum Committee & volunteers
- Shire of Cunderdin Staff
- Community members from Cunderdin and surrounding Wheatbelt towns

2. HALLOWEEN AT THE MUSEUM (MUSEUM-LED):

Halloween Night at the Museum is a family-friendly community event designed to transform the Cunderdin Museum into a vibrant, immersive “fun house” experience for all ages.

The event will feature a themed Halloween disco, roving stilt walkers in costume, interactive performance elements, and creatively designed spaces throughout the museum grounds. Visitors will be invited to explore decorated zones including a “not-too-spooky” haunted walkthrough, games and activity stations for children, and quiet sensory-friendly areas for younger attendees.

The disco component will provide music, lighting effects, and a safe, inclusive environment for children, young people, and families to celebrate together. Professional performers, including stilt walkers and costumed entertainers, will add a sense of spectacle and excitement while remaining appropriate for a broad audience.

The event will prioritise accessibility, affordability, and inclusivity, ensuring that families across the community can participate regardless of background or income. Food vendors and local groups may also be invited to participate, further enhancing the community atmosphere.

Halloween Night at the Museum aims to activate the museum space in a creative way, encouraging new audiences to engage with the site while strengthening community connections.

Proposed Event date: October 2027

Target Audience:

- Local families with children
- Young people and teenagers
- Community members from Cunderdin and surrounding Wheatbelt towns
- Visitors seeking accessible, low-cost community events

Community Benefit:

This event will deliver strong social and community benefits, including:

- Community Connection: Provides an opportunity for families and residents to come together in a safe, welcoming environment.
- Youth Engagement: Offers a fun, inclusive activity for young people in a regional area where entertainment options can be limited.
- Wellbeing and Inclusion: Encourages participation in a positive, low-cost event that promotes joy, creativity, and social interaction.
- Activation of Community Space: Brings new audiences into the museum, increasing awareness and appreciation of the facility.
- Economic Benefit: Supports local performers, suppliers, and vendors, contributing to the local economy.
- Cultural Participation: Encourages creative expression through costumes, performance, and themed experiences.

Stakeholders:

- Cunderdin Museum Committee & volunteers
- Shire of Cunderdin Staff
- Cunderdin Youth Council & volunteers
- Community Members

Anticipated participation numbers: 100

3. CMT SENIORS 'BE HAPPY DAYS' & DAY BUS TRIPS (CMT SENIORS LED):

CMT Seniors 'Be Happy Days' & Day Bus Trips are a coordinated series of inclusive, seniors-focused events delivered across an eight-month period, designed to support social connection, wellbeing, and community participation for older adults across Cunderdin, Meckering, Tammin and surrounding regional towns.

The 'Be Happy Days' include a mix of morning and afternoon teas, full catered lunches, guest speaker sessions, gentle activities, General Knowledge Quiz's and modified games are organised to encourage seniors to participate and be active. Events are hosted once a year at each of the host towns of Cunderdin, Meckering and Tammin, with transport provided to ensure accessibility for participants who may otherwise face barriers to attendance.

CMT Seniors will also organise 'three bus-supported day trips' per year to sites of historical, scenic or of cultural interest.

Activities will be tailored to suit a wide range of abilities and interests, including heritage talks, light creative workshops, music and entertainment and guided tours. Care is taken to ensure all activities are senior-friendly, culturally appropriate, and inclusive, with options for quieter engagement where needed.

The inclusion of multiple regional towns will encourage broader participation, helping to reduce isolation and build stronger connections between communities.

CMT Seniors aims to create a welcoming, supportive environment where seniors feel valued, engaged, and connected.

Proposed Event dates: Bus trip 1 - May 2027
 Bus trip 2 – August 2027
 Bus trip 3 – November 2027
 Be Happy Day Meckering – October 2027
 Be Happy Day Cunderdin – July 2027

Target Audience:

- Seniors aged 60+ from Cunderdin, Meckering, Tammin and surrounding regional communities for the Be Happy Days (Kellerberrin, Bruce Rock & Quairading)
- Isolated or mobility-limited older adults
- Members of local senior groups and community organisations
- Residents of nearby towns with limited access to social programming

Community Benefit:

This program will deliver meaningful and lasting benefits, including:

- **Reduced Social Isolation:** Provides regular opportunities for seniors to connect, fostering friendships and reducing loneliness.
- **Improved Wellbeing:** Encourages active participation, mental stimulation, and a sense of purpose.
- **Accessibility and Inclusion:** Transport support ensures equitable access for those in outlying areas or with mobility challenges.
- **Community Cohesion:** Builds stronger links between regional towns and encourages shared experiences across communities.
- **Lifelong Learning:** Talks, excursions, and activities provide opportunities for ongoing learning and engagement.
- **Valuing Older People:** Recognises and celebrates the contribution of seniors, ensuring they remain active participants in community life.

Stakeholders:

- CMT Seniors Committee & volunteers
- Shire of Cunderdin Staff
- Shire of Tammin Staff
- Cunderdin CRC Staff
- Community Members - Seniors

Anticipated participation numbers: 180 (for all 5 events)

4. STRIVE - YOUTH ACTIVITIES (SHIRE OF CUNDERDIN LED WITH SUPPORT FROM THE CUNDERDIN YOUTH COUNCIL):

The STRIVE events program is an initiative designed to strengthen relationships, belonging, and social connection for young people in regional communities. It responds to local feedback showing that while young people generally feel safe in their community, there are limited regular opportunities for engaging, enjoyable activities that bring them together.

Young people and families have also highlighted differences in access to social and recreational opportunities between towns, with many travelling elsewhere to participate in sport, events, and group activities. STRIVE responds by creating consistent, local opportunities for young people to connect, spend time together, and build positive relationships within their own community.

The events program is centred on shared experiences that are fun, inclusive, and social. Across the year, young people will participate in 15 group-based activities that encourage connection, teamwork, creativity, and enjoyment.

By increasing opportunities for young people to spend time together in positive settings, providing opportunities to volunteer and build leadership skills, the program also supports improved mental wellbeing through reduced social isolation, stronger peer relationships, and a greater sense of belonging.

Building Connection Through Shared Experiences:

A core focus of STRIVE is creating opportunities for young people to connect through enjoyable, shared experiences.

Activities such as high ropes challenges, escape rooms, and group-based problem-solving experiences are designed to bring young people together in a fun and supportive environment. These experiences encourage natural teamwork, conversation, and shared achievement, helping to strengthen friendships and build trust between participants.

The emphasis is on doing things together, creating moments where young people can interact outside of school or sport and build new connections across different peer groups. This will address items

identified in the Youth Strategy which includes 'boredom', loneliness, mental health.

Active, Social and Enjoyable Activities:

STRIVE includes a range of movement-based and hands-on activities such as dance and movement sessions, cooking experiences, shared meals, and community sports days.

These activities are designed to be relaxed, inclusive, and social, encouraging young people to participate at their own level while engaging with others in a positive group setting. The focus is on enjoyment, participation, and connection rather than performance. This will provide young people the opportunity to develop practical healthy living skills, develop new skills and build confidence in a non-competitive setting.

These shared experiences help create informal spaces where friendships can form naturally and where young people feel comfortable spending time together.

Time to Reflect, Create and Connect:

The program also includes creative and reflective group activities such as journaling, vision boards, art-based sessions, and nature-based mindfulness experiences.

These sessions provide young people with calm, supportive environments where they can connect with themselves and others in a low-pressure setting. Often delivered in groups, they encourage conversation, shared expression, and mutual support.

By reducing social isolation and creating space for reflection alongside peers, these activities contribute to a stronger sense of belonging and emotional wellbeing.

Shared Learning and Real Conversations:

STRIVE includes interactive workshops that explore real-life social situations in a relatable and engaging way.

These may include scenario-based activities, creative storytelling, simulation games, and group discussions designed to encourage conversation, shared learning, and reflection.

Rather than being instructional, these sessions are designed to feel interactive and youth-led, giving participants space to talk, share experiences, and learn from each other in a supported environment.

Community Participation and Local Pride:

A key part of STRIVE is creating opportunities for young people to feel more connected to their community through shared participation.

This includes volunteering activities, practical skill-based workshops, and youth-led community projects where young people work together to contribute to local spaces and events.

These experiences help build connection not only between young people, but also between young people and their wider community. They support a sense of pride, belonging, and visibility within the places they live.

Funding will support facilitators, materials, venues, and community partnerships to ensure activities remain accessible, welcoming, and locally relevant.

Cunderdin Youth Council Camp:

In addition, following the election of new Cunderdin Youth Council members for the 2027 term, participants will attend a two-night leadership camp designed to support their transition into the Cunderdin Youth Council—a group of passionate young people who represent local youth voice, contribute to community decision-making, and lead the planning of youth-focused initiatives and events. This immersive experience provides an opportunity for members to build relationships, strengthen teamwork and leadership skills, and collaboratively plan their calendar of events for the year ahead. The camp will introduce the structure and expectations of the Youth Council, including meeting processes, leadership roles, and effective communication, while also allowing space to ask questions and build confidence in their new positions. Engagement with youth services from the Perth region will further broaden their understanding and

networks, setting a strong and supportive foundation for a successful year on council.

Mural Art Project:

As part of this year's program, we are working toward the installation of a vibrant mural within the Youth Wellness Hub, created by a local young Nyikina artist and educator. This artwork will be a meaningful, youth-led expression that reflects themes of community connection, identity, resilience, and prosperity. More than just a visual feature, the mural will act as a culturally grounded space for storytelling and belonging, celebrating local voices and strengthening pride among young people. The project will foster a welcoming and inclusive environment that encourages connection, wellbeing, and positive engagement—aligning strongly with our commitment to empowering young people and creating spaces where they feel seen, valued, and inspired.

Proposed Event dates:

Youth Council Leadership Camp	Feb 2027
Mural Installation – Youth Centre	March 2027
Healthy living & Connection Session	April 2027
Outdoor Adventure & Team Challenge	6 April 2027
Community Garden & Growing Together	9 April 2027
Scavenger Hunt Day	8 May 2027
Social dance, music and movement class	12 June 2027
Cooking and Shared meal experience	6 July 2027
Creative Space – Journals, Art & Vision boards	8 July 2027
Team First Aid Challenge	14 July 2027
Safe Social Spaces & Group Conversation session	7 Aug 2027

Peer Connections & Leadership Circle	10 Sept 2027
DIY Makers & Create Together Session	28 Sept 2027
Walk, Ride & Explore Together Day	1 Oct 2027
Music, Stories & Connection Session	8 Oct 2027
Nature Connection & Chill-Out Day	13 Nov 2027
Games & Team Challenge Day	26 Nov 2027

These activities are a proposed list of activities which may change after consultation with new Youth Council members selected in November/December 2026 for the 2027 calendar year.

Target Audience:

- Young people in Cunderdin & Meckering aged 10 -25

Anticipated participation numbers: 15 events x 20 kids - 300

Community Benefit:

The STRIVE events program will have a positive impact on regional young people by creating safe, welcoming, and enjoyable opportunities that prioritise social connection, friendship building, and a stronger sense of belonging. The program responds to the need for more regular, engaging local activities that bring young people together in meaningful and fun ways, particularly in regional settings where opportunities to connect outside of school and sport can be limited.

Through shared experiences such as group challenges, creative sessions, outdoor activities, and community-based events, young people will have regular opportunities to meet new people, strengthen existing friendships, and build positive peer relationships. These experiences support improved emotional wellbeing by reducing social isolation and increasing feelings of connection, inclusion, and being part of a community.

These events also provide opportunities for young people to connect with positive role models and peers through leadership, volunteering, and group participation. These shared experiences help strengthen communication, trust, and cooperation, while encouraging young people to feel more confident and comfortable engaging within their community.

The Youth Council leadership camp will further support connection and belonging by bringing young people together to build relationships, develop shared goals, and work collaboratively as a group. Similarly, the youth-led mural project will provide a visible and meaningful expression of youth voice, strengthening pride, identity, and connection to place.

Overall, STRIVE focuses on creating opportunities for young people to feel connected, included, and engaged in their community through positive shared experiences, supportive relationships, and enjoyable activities that encourage them to spend time together in safe and welcoming spaces.

To summarise, this program will deliver meaningful and lasting benefits for young people, including:

- **Stronger Social Connections and Friendships:**
Creates regular opportunities for young people to meet, connect, and build positive peer relationships through shared experiences.
- **Reduced Social Isolation and Increased Belonging:**
Encourages inclusion and connection, supporting young people to feel part of their community and less socially isolated.
- **Positive Community Engagement and Participation:**
Provides opportunities for young people to be actively involved in community-based activities, strengthening pride and connection to place.
- **Improved Wellbeing Through Connection:**
Supports emotional wellbeing by fostering supportive relationships, enjoyment, and positive social interaction. This program provides a safe, inclusive, and non-competitive environment where young people can build confidence, learn new skills, and develop at their own pace.

- Youth Voice and Shared Ownership:
Empowers young people to contribute ideas, participate in youth-led projects, and feel represented within their community.
- Inclusive and Accessible Opportunities:
Ensures regional young people have regular access to fun, social, and engaging activities close to home.
- Stronger Community Relationships:
Builds stronger connections between young people, peers, and the wider community through shared participation and positive experiences.

Stakeholders:

- Cunderdin Youth Council & volunteers
- Shire of Cunderdin Staff
- Cunderdin CRC Staff
- Cunderdin Police Officers
- Headspace Northam
- Cunderdin District High School
- Holy Oake Northam
- Community Members – Youth aged 10-25

5. TINY TOTS EVENTS (CRC LED):

The Tiny Tots Events are an early childhood initiative designed to provide regular, structured, and inclusive sessions for children aged 0–5 years and their parents or caregivers. These events will deliver nine sessions over the project period, creating a consistent and welcoming space that supports early childhood development while strengthening social connections within the community.

Each session will incorporate a range of play-based and developmentally appropriate activities, including creative craft, sensory play, music and movement, and early literacy experiences such as story time. These activities are designed to support children's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development during a critical stage of early learning.

These sessions will also create opportunities for parents and caregivers to connect with one another in an informal and supportive environment. This peer interaction is an important component of the events, helping to reduce social isolation and build stronger community networks, particularly for families who may have limited access to services or support.

Sessions will be facilitated by experienced staff with established relationships in the community and experience delivering early childhood and family programs. Staff will coordinate and deliver activities, ensure a safe and inclusive environment, and encourage participation from children and caregivers.

These events will be delivered in an accessible community venue, with all sessions provided free of charge to ensure there are no financial barriers to participation. Light healthy refreshments will be provided to create a welcoming atmosphere and support engagement.

Event resources, including books, craft materials, sensory play items, and outdoor equipment such as a mud kitchen, will be used across sessions to enhance activity quality and engagement. Early childhood books purchased for the program will be donated to the community library at the conclusion of the project, ensuring ongoing access to literacy resources for local families and extending the impact beyond the funded period.

Overall, the Tiny Tots Events will provide a safe, inclusive, and engaging environment that supports early childhood development, strengthens

family connections, and contributes to building a more connected and resilient community.

Proposed Event dates: 8 February 2027
15 March 2027
17 May 2027
14 June 2027
12 July 2027
16 August 2027
20 September 2027
18 October 2027
22 November 2027

Target Audience:

The primary target audience for the Tiny Tots Events are children aged 0–5 years and their parents, caregivers, and families within the local community.

The activities will also support families from neighbouring towns, including Tammin and Wyalkatchem, where access to regular early childhood programs and family-focused activities may be limited.

The Events will particularly support families who may experience social isolation, including new parents, caregivers with limited access to services, and those living in regional and remote areas.

The activities are designed to be inclusive and accessible to all members of the community, including those from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. By providing free sessions in a welcoming environment, the program aims to engage families who may not otherwise participate in structured early childhood activities.

The Tiny Tots Events will also support parents and caregivers by creating opportunities to build social connections, share experiences, and develop informal peer support networks across the wider region.

Anticipated participation numbers: 30 attendees x 9 events = 270

Community Benefit:

The Tiny Tots Events will provide important developmental and social benefits for both young children and their parents or caregivers.

For children aged 0–5 years, the activities supports early development through play-based activities that encourage social, emotional, cognitive, and physical growth. Activities such as sensory play, craft, and story time help build communication skills, confidence, and early literacy, setting a strong foundation for future learning.

For parents and caregivers, the events offers a chance to connect with others in a relaxed and welcoming environment. This is particularly important for families in regional and nearby communities such as Tammin and Wyalkatchem, where there are fewer opportunities to attend regular family-focused programs. These connections help reduce social isolation and build informal support networks.

By offering the activities free of charge, financial barriers are removed, making it accessible to families from a range of backgrounds. This helps encourage participation and creates a stronger sense of community belonging.

Over time, the activities will help strengthen community connections, with families more likely to engage in future activities and events. This contributes to building a more connected and supportive community.

Resources developed through the activities, including children's books that will be donated to the community library, will continue to benefit families beyond the program itself by providing ongoing access to early learning materials.

Overall, the Tiny Tots Events will support children's development, strengthen family connections, reduce isolation, and contribute to a more connected community.

Stakeholders:

Cunderdin CRC Staff & Volunteers

Cunderdin Community Members (Parents and bubs)

6. CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK (CRC LED):

Christmas in the Park is a well-established annual community event held at O'Connor Park in Cunderdin, bringing the community together to celebrate the festive season in a welcoming outdoor setting.

The event is delivered as a free, family-friendly celebration and transforms the park into a vibrant community space featuring live entertainment, interactive activities, and market stalls. The open layout supports a relaxed, picnic-style atmosphere where attendees can move freely between activities and enjoy the event at their own pace.

A key feature of the event is a strong program of entertainment and activities. This includes large inflatable attractions, a petting zoo, face painting, and live music performances, providing a mix of passive and active experiences throughout the evening. A range of food options are also available, including a community sausage sizzle and complimentary treats such as ice cream, fairy floss, and candy canes.

Market stalls are positioned throughout the park, offering opportunities for local small businesses, artisans, and community groups to showcase their products and engage with attendees. This contributes to the overall atmosphere and supports local participation.

The event also plays an important role in supporting community wellbeing by providing an inclusive and accessible space for people to connect in the lead-up to the holiday season. In a regional community, this time of year can be challenging for those experiencing isolation, and the event offers a welcoming environment that encourages social interaction and strengthens a sense of belonging.

The event is supported by essential infrastructure including lighting, fencing, and clearly designated activity areas to ensure a safe and well-organised environment. Delivery is coordinated by the Cunderdin CRC with support from local organisations and volunteers, including the Cunderdin Volunteer Fire Brigade assisting with Santa's arrival and the Cunderdin Creative Team supporting setup and event logistics.

With consistent attendance of around 300 people, Christmas in the Park is a well-supported and established event within the local calendar, providing a structured and engaging community celebration in the lead-up to Christmas.

Proposed Event date: 10 December 2027

Target Audience:

Christmas in the Park is an inclusive, whole-of-community event designed to bring people together and strengthen social connections across Cunderdin and the wider Wheatbelt region.

The primary audience includes:

- Local families and children, who benefit from a safe and engaging environment to connect and participate in shared activities
- Individuals and families experiencing social isolation, particularly during the holiday period
- Older residents and community members without immediate family support, who may otherwise miss opportunities for social interaction
- Young people, who are provided with a positive and supervised community environment
- The broader community across Cunderdin and surrounding Wheatbelt towns, encouraging participation across all age groups and backgrounds

The event plays an important role in creating a welcoming and supportive space where community members can connect ahead of the Christmas period, a time that can be particularly challenging for those experiencing isolation or loneliness. By providing a free and accessible event, barriers to participation are removed, ensuring all residents can be included regardless of financial circumstances.

With typical attendance of 300 people, the event demonstrates strong and consistent community engagement and highlights the importance of accessible social opportunities in a regional setting.

Anticipated participation numbers: 300-400

Community Benefit:

Christmas in the Park provides meaningful social and wellbeing benefits by creating a welcoming space for connection and community engagement across Cunderdin and the wider Wheatbelt region.

The event supports increased social interaction by bringing people together in a relaxed and inclusive environment, helping to strengthen relationships and build a stronger sense of community. This is particularly valuable in the lead up to Christmas, when some individuals may experience increased isolation.

By offering free and accessible activities, the event ensures all community members can participate, regardless of financial circumstances. This reduces barriers to inclusion and allows families to share positive experiences together, contributing to overall wellbeing.

The event also fosters community pride and belonging by creating a shared local experience that residents look forward to each year. In addition, participation by local businesses and community groups strengthens community networks and supports local engagement.

Overall, the event contributes to:

- Increased social connection and community cohesion
- Reduced isolation during a high-risk time of year
- Improved wellbeing through inclusive community participation
- Strengthened sense of belonging and community pride
- Greater local engagement and support for small businesses

With consistent attendance of 300 people, Christmas in the Park demonstrates a strong and ongoing positive impact on the local community.

Stakeholders:

- Cunderdin Youth Council & volunteers
- Shire of Cunderdin Staff
- Cunderdin CRC Staff & Volunteers
- Cunderdin Town Team Volunteers
- Local & Regional Market Holders
- Monsterball Amusement (external)
- Magnitude Sweets (external)
- Cunderdin IGA/Butcher (external)
- Tinsel Tones (external)
- Wheatbelt Ice Cream (external)
- Critters Up Close (external)
- Paint the Town (external)

7. SUMMER MOVIE SERIES (CRC LED)

The Summer Movie Series will provide important social and wellbeing benefits for community members by creating a safe, cool, and welcoming space during the peak summer period. By delivering four free daytime movie screenings throughout January, the program offers an accessible and enjoyable activity at a time when extreme heat can limit opportunities for safe recreation, particularly in our regional community.

For people of all ages, the series creates an opportunity to gather in a comfortable indoor environment at the Cunderdin CRC, supporting both physical wellbeing and social connection. Families, young people and Elders can come together in a relaxed setting, helping to reduce isolation during the holiday period when regular routines and services may be reduced. The shared experience of film provides a simple and inclusive way for community members to connect and strengthen relationships.

The program is free to attend, ensuring there are no financial barriers to participation. This encourages broad community involvement and helps create a welcoming environment where everyone feels able to attend. A small refreshment at each session further supports a positive and engaging atmosphere.

Over time, the Summer Movie Series will help build stronger community connections by establishing a regular activity that people can look forward to each week. By offering a safe alternative to outdoor activities during extreme temperatures, the project supports wellbeing while creating opportunities for positive social interaction.

Overall, the Summer Movie Series responds directly to the challenges of the summer season by providing a practical, accessible solution that reduces isolation, supports wellbeing, and contributes to a more connected community.

Proposed Event dates: 8 January 2027
15 January 2027
22 January 2027
29 January 2027

Target Audience:

The target audience for the Summer Movie Series is the broader Cunderdin community, including families, young people, and Elders. The program is designed to be inclusive and accessible to people of all ages, providing a shared space where community members can come together in a safe and comfortable environment.

A key focus is supporting families and young people during the summer holiday period, when structured activities are limited and extreme heat can restrict outdoor recreation. The series provides a safe indoor option at the Cunderdin CRC where young people can take part in a positive, supervised activity.

The program also supports community members who may be more vulnerable to heat or social isolation, including older residents and those without access to cool, air-conditioned environments at home. By offering a free and welcoming activity, the project ensures these individuals have a safe place to go during the hottest part of the day.

The Summer Movie Series is particularly relevant in our regional community, where there are fewer opportunities for low-cost, accessible activities. By removing financial barriers and delivering the program locally, it encourages participation from across the community.

Overall, the program aims to engage a diverse audience and strengthen community connections by providing a safe and inclusive space during the summer months.

Anticipated participation numbers: 80

Community Benefit:

The Summer Movie Series will benefit the target audience by improving wellbeing, increasing social connection, and providing a safe environment during periods of extreme heat. By offering a free daytime activity at the Cunderdin CRC, the program reduces exposure to high temperatures and supports physical comfort during the hottest part of the day.

For families and young people, the series provides a positive and engaging activity during the school holidays, helping to reduce boredom and encouraging participation in a safe, supervised setting. The weekly format supports routine and gives participants something consistent to look forward to.

For older community members and those experiencing social isolation, the program creates opportunities to engage with others in a relaxed and inclusive environment. These interactions help strengthen social connections and contribute to a greater sense of belonging.

By removing financial barriers, the program ensures all community members can participate, supporting inclusion and encouraging broader community engagement.

Overall, the Summer Movie Series will lead to increased community participation, improved social wellbeing, and stronger community connections during the summer period.

Stakeholders:

- Cunderdin CRC Staff & Volunteers
- Shire of Cunderdin
- Cunderdin Community Members

8. COMMUNITY CHILL & GRILL SESSIONS (CRC LED)

The Grill & Chill Community BBQ Series will deliver two free, inclusive community events held in Cunderdin and Meckering. These events are designed to create welcoming, informal spaces where community members can come together, build connections, and strengthen their sense of belonging.

Each event will centre around a shared BBQ meal, complemented by live local music and relaxed social activities. By offering a free and accessible environment, the events remove financial and social barriers to participation, ensuring that individuals and families from all backgrounds can attend.

The project recognises that in small regional communities, opportunities for social connection are essential but can be limited. Factors such as distance, cost of living pressures, and fewer organised activities can contribute to social isolation. These BBQ events provide a simple but highly effective way to foster interaction, encourage inclusion, and support community wellbeing.

The events will feature:

- A free BBQ meal using locally sourced meat and fresh salad supplies
- Live music performances from local artists (Sophie Jane and Chris Gibbs), supporting regional creative talent
- Informal gathering spaces encouraging conversation and connection
- Family-friendly, relaxed atmospheres suitable for all ages

The project will be coordinated by the Cunderdin CRC, who will oversee event planning, promotion, and delivery. The two events will be held in Cunderdin and Meckering to ensure broader regional reach and equitable access for surrounding communities.

The Grill & Chill events are designed to be low-barrier, inclusive, and community-driven, creating welcoming spaces where people can connect in an informal and relaxed environment.

Proposed Event dates: 19 March 2027

22 November 2027

Target Audience:

The Grill & Chill Community BBQ Series is designed to engage a broad cross-section of the Cunderdin and Meckering communities, with a focus on inclusivity and accessibility.

The primary target audiences include:

- Families seeking low-cost, local recreational activities
- Young people who may have limited access to social events in regional areas
- Older adults and seniors, particularly those at risk of social isolation
- Individuals experiencing loneliness or disconnection
- New residents and community members looking to build local connections

The events are open to all community members, with no cost to attend, ensuring there are no financial barriers to participation. The informal and welcoming nature of the BBQ setting encourages attendance from people who may not typically engage in structured or formal programs.

By hosting events in both Cunderdin and Meckering, the project also supports equitable access for people across the broader region, including those who may face transport or distance challenges in attending community activities.

Anticipated participation numbers: 100

Community Benefit:

The Grill & Chill Community BBQ Series will have a positive and meaningful impact on participants by creating opportunities for connection, inclusion, and improved wellbeing.

For families, the events provide a free and safe environment to spend time together, reducing financial pressure while increasing access to local recreational activities.

For young people, the events offer informal social opportunities that can strengthen peer connections and reduce feelings of isolation often experienced in regional areas with limited activities.

For older adults and seniors, particularly those at risk of loneliness, the BBQs provide a welcoming space to engage with others, fostering a greater sense of belonging and community support.

For individuals experiencing social isolation or disconnection, the relaxed and informal setting reduces barriers to participation, making it easier to attend without the pressure of structured programs or expectations.

For new residents, the events act as an important entry point into the community, helping them build relationships and feel connected more quickly.

Overall, participants will benefit from:

- Increased social connection and reduced isolation
- Improved mental health and wellbeing through positive social interaction
- Greater sense of belonging within the community
- Strengthened relationships across different age groups and backgrounds

By providing inclusive, low-barrier events across two locations, the project ensures that a wide range of community members can access these benefits, contributing to a stronger, more connected, and resilient local community.

Stakeholders:

- Cunderdin CRC Staff & Volunteers
- Shire of Cunderdin
- Local or regional musicians (Sophie Jane & Chris Gibbs)
- Cunderdin Community Members

Attachment B – Detailed Events Budget Breakdown

CMT Seniors Events & Bus Trips

CMT Seniors Events & Bus Trips	Be Happy Day Cunderdin	Be Happy Day Meckering	Bus Event 1	Bus Event 2	Bus Event 3	TOTAL
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – CASH						
Catering	2,000	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	8,500
Guest Speaker	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	2,000
Entrance Fees/Activity Fees \$20/p x 25	0	0	500	500	500	1,500
Venue Hire	250	0	0	0	0	250
Bus Hire/Fuel			250	250	250	750
	3,250	3,000	1,950	1,950	1,950	12,100
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – IN-KIND						
Venues	0	250	0	0	0	250
Morning Teas	500	500	500	500	500	2,500
Tablecloths/decorations/ advertising/printing/activity materials/advertising	500	500	200	200	200	1,600
Insurance and compliance items	100	100	100	100	100	500
Volunteer/Staff time – coordination, planning, setup, event management, cleanup etc. (10hrs – 7 committee members per event @ \$25/hr)	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	8,750
	2,850	3,100	2,550	2,550	2,550	13,600
						25,700
INCOME						
Participant fee (\$5/p) – 50 for Be Happy day & 25 for Bus trips	250	250	125	125	125	875
Shire of Cunderdin	1,000	1,000	250	250	250	2,750
CMT Seniors Committee	250	250	250	250	250	1,250
Grant Request Lotterywest	1,750	1,500	1,325	1,325	1,325	7,225
	3,250	3,000	1,950	1,950	1,950	12,100

Halloween at the Museum

Halloween at the Museum	\$ value excl GST
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – CASH	
Entertainment	\$2,500
DJ & Disco Equipment	\$1,500
Event Styling & Decorations (fun house elements, props, signage)	\$1,800
Equipment Hire (Marquees, fencing, power, staging)	\$1,200
Activity Materials	\$400
	\$7,400
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – IN-KIND	
Venues/facility	\$1,000
Equipment/decorations/ advertising/printing/activity materials/advertising/marketing	\$1,100
Insurance and compliance items	\$100
Security & First Aid	\$800
Insurance & Permits	\$700
Volunteer/Staff time – coordination, planning, setup, event management, cleanup etc. (6hrs – 10 committee members per event @ \$25/hr)	\$1,500
	\$5,200
INCOME	
Participant fee – free	0
Community Partnership/sponsorship	\$500
Cunderdin Museum Committee	\$1,000
Grant Request Lotterywest	\$5,900
	\$7,400

Steam & Heritage Festival

Steam & Heritage Festival	\$ value excl GST
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – CASH	
Steam machinery transport, setup & specialist operators	\$3,500
Draught horse team hire, handlers & animal welfare costs	\$2,500
Equipment hire (fencing, barriers, staging, PA system)	\$1,500
Safety compliance (traffic management, insurance, permits)	\$1,200
First Aid and event safety personnel	\$800
Marketing & promotions (regional advertising, print, digital)	\$900
Interpretation materials (signage, educational displays)	\$800
Children's activities and engagement materials	\$500
Amenities (portable toilets, cleaning, waste management)	\$800
	\$12,500
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – IN-KIND	
Venues/facility/equipment/collections	\$1,500
Loan of equipment, heritage items from community members	\$500
Insurance and compliance items	\$100
Insurance & Permits	\$700
Volunteer/Staff time – coordination, planning, setup, event management, cleanup etc. (8hrs – 10 committee members per event @ \$25/hr)	\$2,000
	\$4,800
INCOME	
Participant fee – free	0
Local sponsorship/donations	\$500
Cunderdin Museum Committee	\$1,500
Shire of Cunderdin	\$1,500
Grant Request Lotterywest	\$9,000
	\$12,500

Christmas in the Park

Christmas in the Park	\$ value excl GST
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – CASH	
Inflatable hire x 4	\$5,500
Fairy Floss - 150 orders, Slushies - 100 orders	\$500
Ice Cream Van - 200 free orders	\$1,800
3x 45min set	\$1,300
Petting zoo – farmyard	\$1,800
Face painting	\$485
Candy Canes	\$30
Bandicoot Express, Tammin Tabloid	\$250
Lighting tower	\$220
Temporary fencing	\$450
Fence installation, pickup and delivery	\$650
Sausage sizzle x200 people, snags, rolls, onions, foil trays	\$350
Event posters	\$20
Event Staff	\$1,200
Secretarial	\$200
	\$14,755
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – IN-KIND	
Volunteer Hours – 19hrs	\$665
	\$665
INCOME	
Participant fee – free	0
Cunderdin CRC	\$1,500
Shire of Cunderdin	\$3,255
Grant Request Lotterywest	\$10,000
	\$14,755

Summer Movie Series

Summer Movie Series	Description	\$ value excl GST
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – CASH		
Projector hire	\$60 × 4 sessions	\$240
Screen hire	\$15 × 4 sessions	\$60
Speaker hire	\$50 × 4 sessions	\$200
Movie Licence	\$250 × 4 sessions	\$1,000
Refreshments	\$25 × 4 sessions	\$100
		\$1,600
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – IN-KIND		
Room hire	\$120 × 4 sessions	\$480
Staff time	Event set up, pack up, secretarial, finance officer	\$440
		\$920
INCOME		
Participant fee – free		0
Cunderdin CRC	(in-kind only)	0
Grant Request Lotterywest		\$1,600
		\$1,600

Tiny Tots Program

Tiny Tots Program	Description	\$ value excl GST
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – CASH (9 Tiny Tots sessions)		
Books	Early childhood books to support sessions and be donated to the community library	\$600
Craft supplies	Paper, crayons, paint, glue, and age-appropriate activity materials	\$400
Sensory play resources	Playdough, sensory bins, textured materials, and early learning tools	\$400
Outdoor equipment	Mud kitchen for play-based outdoor learning	\$600
Advertising & promotion	Local advertising (Bandicoot Express) to promote participation and post event write ups	\$400
Printing & activity materials	Worksheets, colouring sheets, learning resources, event flyers, permission slips,	\$180
Healthy refreshments	Fresh fruit for each session to support participation and wellbeing	\$270
Cleaning & hygiene supplies	Wipes, sanitiser, and general cleaning materials	\$150
		\$3,000
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – IN-KIND		
Staffing support	Program coordination, session facilitation, set-up, support, and pack-down. 9 hrs × \$40 × 9 sessions	\$3,240
Volunteer support	9 hrs @ \$25	\$225
Venue hire	Community space provided for all sessions. \$200 × 9 sessions	\$1,800
		\$5,265
INCOME		
Participant fee – free		0
Cunderdin CRC	(in-kind only)	0
Grant Request Lotterywest		\$3,000
		\$3,000

Chill & Grill Sessions

Chill & Grill Sessions	Description	\$ value excl GST
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – CASH		
Goodfield Quality Meats	BBQ Meat x 2 events	\$300
Costco	Salad Supplies x 2 events	\$500
Chris Gibbs/Sophie Jane	Live Music 3 x 45min sets x 2 events	\$1,000
Bandicoot Express	Advertising and post event write-ups	\$200
Cunderdin CRC	Event staff	\$600
		\$2,600
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – IN-KIND		
Volunteer hours	11 hrs	\$440
		\$440
INCOME		
Participant fee – free		0
Cunderdin CRC	(in-kind only)	0
Shire of Cunderdin		\$600
Grant Request Lotterywest		\$2,000
		\$2,600

STRIVE Youth Program

STRIVE Youth Program	\$ value	Description
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – CASH		
Youth Council Leadership Camp	\$5,000	Catering, Leadership and social activities, Accommodation, Bus hire and Fuel.
Mural Installation – Youth Centre	\$8,000	Supporting Concept Design, Materials, Travel, Installation of Mural. 2.7 x 10.5 = 28.35m ² (Artist lead)
Healthy living & Connection Session	\$1,650	Activity cost (external)\$1200; bus hire; catering; advertising and printing
Outdoor Adventure & Team Challenge	\$540	Activity cost; catering; advertising/printing; materials and stationery
Community Garden & Growing Together	\$1,010	Activity cost; materials and stationary; catering & advertising/ printing
Scavenger Hunt Day	\$740	Activity; catering/ advertisement/printing and venue hire
Social dance, music and movement class	\$2,045	Activity (external); bus hire; catering; advertisement/ printing
Cooking and Shared meal experience	\$510	Activity; catering; advertisement/ printing
Creative Space – Journals, Art & Vision boards	\$920	Activity costs, materials and stationary; catering; advertising/printing; venue
Team First Aid Challenge	\$740	Activity cost; materials and stationary; catering; advertising and printing
Safe Social Spaces & Group Conversation session	\$440	Activity costs; bus hire; catering; advertisement/ printing
Peer Connections & Leadership Circle	\$1,310	Activity cost; materials and stationary; catering; advertising & printing

DIY Makers & Create Together Session	\$740	Activity cost; materials and stationary; catering; printing/advertising
Walk, Ride & Explore Together Day	\$1,840	Activity cost (external); catering; advertisement/printing and venue hire
Music, Stories & Connection Session	\$890	Activity cost; catering; advertisement/printing
Nature Connection & Chill-Out Day	\$990	Activity costs; catering; stationary and materials; advertisement/printing
Games & Team Challenge Day	\$840	Activity costs; catering; advertisement/printing; venue
	\$28,205	
EXPENDITURE ITEMS – IN-KIND		
Youth Council Leadership Camp	\$2,250	Staff time (Youth Development, CRC Representative and Police Representatives)
Mural Installation – Youth Centre	\$928	Staff time (12hrs); 8 x 2hrs volunteers
Healthy living & Connection Session	\$515	Staff time (10hrs); 2 x hrs volunteers
Outdoor Adventure & Team Challenge	\$370	Staff time (5hrs); 4 x 6hrs volunteer time
Community Garden & Growing Together	\$295	Staff time (5hrs); 2 x 3hrs volunteer time
Scavenger Hunt Day	\$295	Staff time (5hrs); 2 x 3hrs volunteer time
Social dance, music and movement class	\$515	Staff time (10hrs); 2 x 3hrs volunteers

Cooking and Shared meal experience	\$251	Staff time (4hrs); 2 x 3hrs volunteers
Creative Space – Journals, Art & Vision boards	\$320	Staff time (5hrs); 2 x 4hrs volunteer time
Team First Aid Challenge	\$295	Staff time (5hrs); 2 x 3hrs volunteer time
Safe Social Spaces & Group Conversation session	\$295	Staff time (5hrs); 2 x 3hrs volunteer time
Peer Connections & Leadership Circle	\$340	Staff time (6hrs); 2 x 3hrs volunteer time
DIY Makers & Create Together Session	\$295	Staff time (5hrs); 2 x 3hrs volunteer time
Walk, Ride & Explore Together Day	\$295	Staff time (5hrs); 2 x 3hrs volunteer time
Music, Stories & Connection Session	\$340	Staff time (6hrs); 2 x 3hrs volunteer time
Nature Connection & Chill-Out Day	\$295	Staff time (5hrs); 2 x 3hrs volunteer time
Games & Team Challenge Day	\$320	Staff time (5hrs); 2 x 4hrs volunteer time
	\$8,214	
INCOME		
Participant fee – free	0	
Shire of Cunderdin	\$10,000	
<i>Grant Request Lotterywest</i>	\$18,205	
	\$28,205	

Attachment C – Letters of Support & Funding Confirmation

CMT Seniors Committee

Cunderdin CRC

Cunderdin Youth Council

Cunderdin Museum Committee

Shire of Cunderdin

? CDHS

? Cunderdin Police

? Any other

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Attachment D – Risk Management

Risk Management Approach

The Community Events Program will be delivered through a collaborative governance model led by the Shire of Cunderdin and supported by community partners. Risks will be monitored throughout the project by the Project Steering Group and reviewed regularly during planning and delivery phases. Appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise impacts on project outcomes, participant safety, and funding obligations.

Risk Management Table

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Strategy	Responsible Party
Low community participation and engagement	Medium	Medium	Deliver a diverse program targeting youth, seniors, families and community groups; utilise partner networks and local promotion; schedule events at suitable times and locations.	Shire & Event Partners
Volunteer shortages or limited partner capacity	Medium	Medium	Share delivery responsibilities across partner organisations; recruit volunteers early; provide support and recognition; maintain clear roles and responsibilities.	Event Partners & Steering Group
Adverse weather or event disruption	Medium	Medium	Monitor weather conditions; develop contingency plans; utilise alternative venues where available; communicate	Event Leads

			changes promptly to participants.	
Health, safety or participant wellbeing incidents	Low	High	Undertake event risk assessments; implement safety procedures; ensure adequate supervision, first aid and emergency response arrangements at all events.	Event Leads & Shire
Budget pressures or unforeseen costs	Low	Medium	Monitor expenditure against budget; obtain competitive quotes; utilise in-kind contributions and maintain contingency provisions where possible.	Shire of Cunderdin
Project delays or event cancellation	Low	Medium	Establish annual event schedule early; maintain regular communication with partners; adjust delivery timelines or event formats if required.	Shire & Event Partners
Failure to meet reporting, governance or funding requirements	Low	High	Maintain project records, attendance data and evaluation information throughout the project; undertake regular progress reporting and acquittal planning.	Shire of Cunderdin

Accessibility and inclusion barriers	Low	Medium	Ensure events are free or low-cost; utilise accessible venues; provide transport support for seniors where appropriate; promote events broadly to diverse community groups.	Event Partners
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Key Project Strengths That Reduce Risk

The project benefits from several factors that significantly reduce delivery risk:

- Strong partnership between the Shire of Cunderdin, Cunderdin CRC, Cunderdin Museum Committee, Cunderdin Youth Council, and CMT Seniors Committee.
- Many events are managed by groups who have extensive events management skills and history of successful events delivery.
- Significant volunteer and community support already exists.
- Existing governance structures within partner organisations.
- Activities are distributed across multiple organisations, reducing reliance on any single group.
- Events are low-cost and accessible, reducing participation barriers.
- Regular monitoring and reporting through the Project Steering Group.

Overall Risk Assessment

Overall project risk is considered Low to Moderate. The project builds on existing community events, established partnerships, experienced volunteers, and proven delivery models. With appropriate planning, governance, and ongoing monitoring, identified risks can be effectively managed while achieving the project's intended community outcomes.

Attachment E – Supporting Evidence: Community Cohesion, Social Cohesion and Mental Wellbeing in Regional Communities

EVIDENCE FROM WAAMH RESEARCH: GOING THE DISTANCE – MAKING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT WORK BETTER FOR REGIONAL COMMUNITIES (2023)

The proposed Community Events Project responds directly to issues identified in the Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) and Centre for Social Impact (UWA) report *Going the Distance: Making Mental Health Support Work Better for Regional Communities*.

The report highlights that regional communities face unique challenges that contribute to poorer mental health outcomes and reduced wellbeing, including social isolation, limited access to services, transport barriers, workforce shortages, stigma, and fewer opportunities for social connection.

The research found that:

“Regional communities experience significant life challenges and pressures, coupled with increased difficulties in accessing support for mental health and other issues.”

Importantly, the report identified that mental wellbeing cannot be addressed through clinical services alone. Participants consistently highlighted the need for stronger community-based supports that improve social connection, participation, belonging, and overall wellbeing.

Social Connection as Early Intervention

A key finding of the report was that many regional residents experience unmet needs relating to social connection and community participation.

The report found:

“There are gaps in supports available that address a holistic range of needs like social connections, financial security and physical wellbeing.”

Researchers concluded that treating mental health only through crisis responses or clinical intervention is insufficient, particularly in regional communities where access to services is often limited.

The report noted:

“Treating mental health in isolation, addressing symptoms only, and only providing crisis care without early intervention is not seen as appropriate or effective.”

This finding supports the importance of community-based activities that strengthen social networks, encourage participation, and provide opportunities for people to connect before issues escalate into more significant mental health concerns.

Wheatbelt Communities Face Additional Challenges

The research identified the Wheatbelt as one of the regions experiencing the greatest difficulty accessing support.

Key findings included:

- 71% of Wheatbelt survey respondents reported needing mental health support during the previous 12 months.
- Of those respondents, 55% reported they did not receive the support they needed.
- Wheatbelt respondents experienced greater difficulty accessing services than respondents in many other regional areas.

The report notes that these challenges are influenced by:

- Geographic isolation.
- Distance to services.
- Limited availability of local support options.
- Transport barriers.
- Workforce shortages.

Participants reported travelling considerable distances to access support, with some needing to drive several hours to access face-to-face mental health services.

Social Isolation and Loneliness

The report identified social isolation as a significant issue affecting wellbeing in regional communities.

Researchers found:

“One in five were struggling with social isolation or loneliness.”

The report further noted that social isolation, financial stress, housing pressures, and physical health concerns are all social determinants that influence mental wellbeing and community resilience.

Participants consistently identified the need for more opportunities to connect with others, participate in community life, and access local supports that foster belonging and inclusion.

Young People and Early Support

The report also highlighted concerns regarding the wellbeing of young people in regional communities.

Researchers identified:

“High distress, low wellbeing and ongoing unmet mental health needs, especially in young populations.”

The report further found:

“There is widespread concern about the mental health of young people and a lack of options for them to get the support they need early in life.”

This reinforces the importance of local youth activities, leadership opportunities, mentoring programs, and community engagement initiatives that provide positive pathways for young people.

Community-Led Responses are Critical

A strong theme throughout the research was the importance of place-based, community-led approaches that build on local strengths and social networks.

Participants called for:

- Community-specific supports.
- Peer support opportunities.
- Education programs.
- Locally driven initiatives.
- Greater community participation and connection.

The report emphasised that regional communities require solutions that reflect local needs and circumstances rather than one-size-fits-all approaches.

Relevance to the Community Events Program

The Community Events Program directly responds to the needs identified in the WAAMH research by providing a coordinated program of free and low-cost events that increase social connection, community participation, volunteering, intergenerational engagement, and local belonging.

Through heritage festivals, family-friendly events, youth programs, seniors activities, community celebrations, and volunteer opportunities, the project provides practical early-intervention opportunities that strengthen protective factors known to support mental wellbeing.

The program contributes to:

- Reducing social isolation and loneliness.
- Increasing social connection and community participation.
- Supporting youth engagement and leadership.
- Promoting inclusion and accessibility.
- Strengthening community pride and belonging.
- Building local volunteer capacity and social capital.
- Creating opportunities for positive mental health and wellbeing outcomes.

The proposed project aligns strongly with the report's findings that community connection, social participation, and locally led initiatives are essential components of improving wellbeing and resilience in regional communities.

Reference

Kaleveld, L., Crane, E., & Hooper, Y. (2023). *Going the Distance: Making Mental Health Support Work Better for Regional Communities*. Centre for Social Impact, The University of Western Australia, commissioned by the Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH).

Available at:

<https://waamh.org.au/assets/documents/systemic-advocacy/reports/regional-report-online-version-june-2023-1-.pdf>

Attachment F – Supporting Evidence: Alignment with Local Community Planning and Consultation

The Community Events Project has been developed in direct response to priorities identified through extensive community consultation undertaken by the Shire of Cunderdin. The program aligns strongly with the Shire's strategic planning framework, including the Age Friendly Community Plan, Strategic Community Plan, Local Public Health Plan, and Youth Strategy.

Collectively, these plans identify the importance of social connection, community participation, inclusion, wellbeing, volunteerism, and opportunities for residents of all ages to engage in community life. The proposed program responds to these priorities through a coordinated annual calendar of community events targeting youth, seniors, families, volunteers, and the broader community.

Shire of Cunderdin Age Friendly Community Plan 2026-2030

The Shire's Age Friendly Community Plan identifies the importance of supporting older residents to remain active, connected, and engaged within their community.

Community consultation undertaken during the development of the plan highlighted the need for:

- Increased opportunities for social participation.
- Activities that reduce social isolation and loneliness.
- Accessible community events and programs.
- Improved opportunities for older residents to connect with others.
- Transport options that support participation.

The World Health Organisation's Age Friendly Communities framework recognises social participation and inclusion as critical contributors to healthy ageing and wellbeing.

Project Response

The Community Events Project directly responds to these priorities through:

- Seniors Be Happy Days events.
- Regional seniors bus trips.

- Intergenerational community events.
- Accessible and affordable community activities.
- Volunteer opportunities for older residents.

These activities provide opportunities for friendship, participation, lifelong learning, and community connection while helping reduce isolation and supporting positive ageing outcomes.

Shire of Cunderdin Integrated Strategic Plan 2026-2036

The Strategic Community Plan identifies community connection, wellbeing, participation, and community pride as key priorities for the future of Cunderdin and Meckering.

Community feedback highlighted the desire for:

- More community events and activities.
- Increased opportunities for residents to connect.
- Stronger collaboration between community organisations.
- Greater activation of local facilities and public spaces.
- Initiatives that build community pride and belonging.

The Plan recognises that vibrant and connected communities contribute to community resilience, population retention, and quality of life.

Project Response

The Community Events Project delivers a year-round calendar of events that:

- Activate community spaces and facilities.
- Encourage participation across all age groups.
- Strengthen partnerships between local organisations.
- Celebrate local heritage and identity.
- Build community pride and belonging.

The collaborative delivery model also strengthens relationships between community groups and increases community capacity through shared planning and volunteer involvement.

Shire of Cunderdin Public Health Plan 2026-2030

The Local Public Health Plan recognises social connection, community participation, and wellbeing as important determinants of health.

The Plan identifies opportunities to:

- Improve mental wellbeing.
- Reduce social isolation.
- Increase participation in community activities.
- Strengthen protective factors that support health and resilience.
- Encourage healthy and connected communities.

Research consistently demonstrates that social connectedness is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing and can help reduce the impacts of loneliness and isolation.

Project Response

The Community Events Project contributes to public health objectives by:

- Providing regular opportunities for social interaction.
- Supporting positive mental wellbeing.
- Encouraging volunteering and community participation.
- Creating welcoming and inclusive environments.
- Strengthening social networks across the community.

The program represents a practical, community-led approach to early intervention by fostering connection, belonging, and engagement.

Shire of Cunderdin Youth Strategy 24/25-29/30

The Cunderdin Youth Strategy identifies the importance of ensuring young people have access to meaningful opportunities to participate, connect, learn, and contribute to their community.

Consultation with young people identified priorities including:

- More activities and events for young people.
- Increased opportunities for leadership and skill development.
- Safe and positive recreational opportunities.
- Stronger youth voice in community decision-making.

- Improved wellbeing and connection.

The Strategy recognises that providing positive pathways for young people contributes to resilience, confidence, community engagement, and long-term wellbeing.

Project Response

The Community Events Project addresses these priorities through:

- School holiday youth activities.
- STRIVE youth development activities.
- Youth Council initiatives and leadership opportunities.
- Volunteer opportunities within community events.
- Participation in community celebrations and projects.

These activities support young people to build confidence, develop leadership skills, strengthen social connections, and become active contributors to community life.

Building Stronger Communities Through Collaboration

A common theme across all strategic planning documents is the importance of collaboration, community participation, and shared responsibility for community wellbeing.

The Community Events Program brings together the Shire of Cunderdin, Cunderdin CRC, Cunderdin Museum Committee, CMT Seniors Committee, Cunderdin Youth Council, volunteers, and community members to deliver activities that reflect local priorities and community aspirations.

This partnership approach:

- Strengthens community capacity.
- Supports volunteerism and civic participation.
- Encourages shared ownership of community initiatives.
- Builds stronger relationships between organisations and residents.
- Creates sustainable foundations for future community development.

The Community Events Project directly responds to priorities identified through the Shire of Cunderdin's Age Friendly Community Plan, Strategic Community

Plan, Local Public Health Plan, and Youth Strategy. Community consultation consistently identified the need for increased opportunities for social connection, participation, youth engagement, healthy ageing, community pride, and wellbeing.

By delivering a coordinated program of inclusive, affordable, and community-led events, the project will strengthen social cohesion, reduce isolation, support mental wellbeing, increase community participation, and contribute to a more vibrant, connected, and resilient Cunderdin and Meckering community.

Reference

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