

## COMMUNITY GRANTS 2026 - 2027

Council is introducing a new Community Grants Program to provide a more consistent, transparent and equitable approach to supporting local community organisations. Council has resolved to place the draft Community Grants Guidelines, Application Form and Acquittal Form on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.

The program will provide one-off grants of up to \$1,000 to eligible not-for-profit community organisations for projects, events and initiatives that benefit the Hay Shire community.

Funding will be available across five categories:

- Arts and Culture
- Diversity and Harmony
- Events
- Health and Wellbeing
- Other

The draft documents are now on public exhibition and can be viewed on Council's website [www.hay.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hay.nsw.gov.au) or at Council Offices, 134 Lachlan Street, with feedback invited until Friday, 2 October 2026.

Following the public exhibition period, Council will consider any feedback before adopting the final program. Expressions of Interest for 2026-27 community grants are expected to be called later this year.

Community organisations that have recently requested financial assistance from Council will also be invited to apply through the new Community Grants Program when Expressions of Interest are opened.

## John Houston Memorial Swimming Pool - 2026/27 Season

The John Houston Memorial Swimming Pool will open for an extended six-month season, weather permitting, from the October long weekend (Saturday, 3 October 2026) through to Easter Monday (29 March 2027).

Following positive community feedback on the unsupervised entry system trialled last season, the pool will be accessible 7am to 7pm, seven days a week. Pool Attendants will be on duty during supervised hours:

- Monday to Friday: 3pm-7pm, with Tuesdays 3pm-6pm
- Weekends, school holidays and public holidays: 12pm-7pm
- Christmas Day and Boxing Day: excluded

Council has resolved to operate the pool using Council staff for the upcoming season and are now seeking applications for pool attendants.

Swimming lessons and other bookings will continue, following the successful booking system used last season.

### Expressions of Interest - Pool Canteen

Council is also inviting expressions of interest from individuals, community groups or businesses in leasing the pool canteen for the upcoming season.

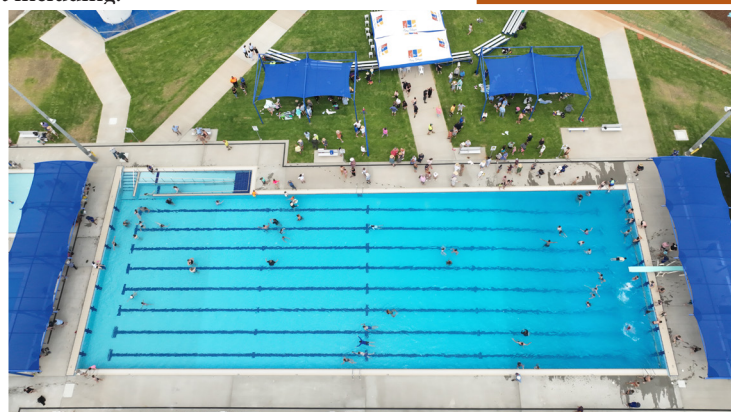
Key Details:

- Facility: Poolside canteen with the following kitchen amenities: cooktop and oven; deep frier; dishwasher; large drinks fridge, large freezer; fridge/freezer; meal prep benches
- Location: Within the John Houston Memorial Swimming Pool complex
- Lease Period: 2026-27 season lease - 3rd October 2026 to 29 March 2027
- Operating Hours: Aligned with pool opening hours (subject to Council requirements)
- Utilities: Usage costs may apply and are subject to negotiation

Council invites interested parties to submit an Expression of Interest including:

- Name and contact details
- Relevant experience (if any)
- Proposed use and operating model (e.g. menu style, staffing)
- Proposed lease fee (excluding GST)
- Public liability insurance (or intention to obtain)

Submissions close: 5pm, Friday 2nd October 2026. EOIs should be addressed to: General Manager Hay Shire Council 134 Lachlan Street, Hay NSW 2711 Email: [mail@hay.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@hay.nsw.gov.au). For further information or to arrange an inspection, please contact Council on (02) 6990 1100.



## Know Your Council



### Mayor

Cr Carol Oatway

### Deputy Mayor

Cr Martyn Quinn

### Councillors

Geoff Chapman

Lionel Garner

Will Miller

John Perry

Paul Porter

David Townsend

## EVENTS

### September

11-12 Hay Show

12 Cocktails in the yard - Toganmain Woolshed

### October

10 Hay Glow

23-26 Rust n Dust

Outback Rally

### November

12-15 Rainbow on the Plains

21 Hay Races



# Hay Shire Snippets

## Thinking of Running an Airbnb in Hay Shire? Here's What You Need to Know

Short-Term Rental Accommodation (STRA), such as Airbnb and Stayz, continues to grow in popularity across regional NSW. Whether you are considering renting out a spare room, a granny flat, or an entire house in our village or rural zones, Council is frequently asked: Do I need a Development Application (DA)? The short answer is no, provided your property meets specific state requirements.

Under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021, operating a short-term rental in an existing, legally built home is classed as Exempt Development. This means you do not need to lodge a DA with Hay Shire Council. However, to legally host guests, property owners must satisfy a few straightforward steps under the NSW framework.

### Key Requirements for Property Owners

1. **Approved Residential Dwelling Only** - STRA can only be conducted in a lawfully constructed house, secondary dwelling, or residential unit. Outbuildings, farm sheds, or shipping containers cannot be used for short-term stays unless they have formal DA approval for residential use.
2. **No Day Limits in Hay Shire** - Unlike some coastal or metropolitan areas that cap unhosted rentals at 180 days per year, hosts in Hay Shire are permitted to let hosted or unhosted properties 365 days a year.
3. **Fire Safety Upgrades** - Before hosting your first guest, your property must comply with the dedicated STRA Fire Safety Standard. Key requirements include:
  - Interconnected smoke alarms in all bedrooms and hallways.
  - A fire extinguisher and fire blanket installed in the kitchen.
  - An emergency evacuation map displayed near the exit.
4. **Register on the NSW Planning Portal** - All hosts must register their property on the official NSW STRA Register before advertising. Your registration number must be displayed on your online listing.
5. **Code of Conduct Compliance** - Hosts and guests must adhere to the mandatory Fair Trading Code of Conduct for the Short-Term Rental Accommodation Industry, which sets clear standards around noise, behaviour, and dispute resolution.

If you are thinking about starting a short-term rental or want to clarify whether your existing building is approved for residential use, Council's Planning Department is here to help.

- More information: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/the-planning-system/housing/short-term-rental-accommodation>
- Portal Registration: Search "Short-term rental accommodation" at [planningportal.nsw.gov.au](https://planningportal.nsw.gov.au)

## Bishops Lodge Museum - Function Hire

Council has updated the Bishops Lodge Museum hire arrangements to introduce refundable bonds for functions.

In addition to the existing hire fee, hirers will now be required to pay a refundable bond of:

- Functions with fewer than 50 guests: \$250 bond
- Functions with more than 50 guests: \$500 bond

The hire fee includes use of the grounds, commercial kitchen and toilets. The bond is refundable subject to the terms and conditions of the hire.



COME FOR THE LIGHTS STAY FOR THE FUN

GLOWING WITH FUN & COLOUR

I AM HERE HAY

OUTDOOR FAMILY FRIENDLY ALL AGES WELCOME!

HAY GLOW NEON Lights

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10, 2026 3.30PM - 9.30PM

HAY PARK

SILENT DISCO POP UP PUTT PUTT LIVE MUSIC MARKETS FOOD VANS

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND GLOW TOGETHER

All Ages Welcome

Hay Shire Council

## POSITIONS VACANT

**Looking for a rewarding career?** Council is inviting applications for exciting opportunities to join our team and help deliver essential services to our community:

**Utilities Operator or Trainee** – Play a hands-on role in looking after Council's vital water and sewer assets, including the operation of the Hay Water Treatment Plant and Hay Sewerage Treatment Plant. Whether you are already qualified or ready to start building a new career, this role offers the opportunity to gain training in Water and Wastewater Operations while contributing to services our community relies on every day.

**Mechanic** – Bring your skills to a varied and practical role overseeing the maintenance and management of Council's fleet, including large and small plant items. This is a great opportunity for a suitably qualified mechanic who enjoys problem-solving, taking ownership of their work, and keeping essential Council operations moving.

**Casual Pool Attendants** – Applications are invited for casual Pool Attendant positions at the John Houston Memorial Pool for the upcoming swimming season, commencing October 2026 through to the end of March 2027. It is desirable that applicants hold a First Aid Certificate and a current Pool Lifeguard Certificate; however, these qualifications are not essential as training will be provided to suitable applicants. Hours of work will vary.

### Why join Hay Shire Council?

- Enjoy genuine work-life balance with a fortnightly RDO system.
- Benefit from five weeks' annual leave.
- Work a 35-hour week while being part of a supportive, community-focused team.

**How to apply:** Ready to take the next step? Send your application, including a cover letter, response to the selection criteria, resume and referees, to: General Manager, Hay Shire Council, 134 Lachlan Street, Hay NSW 2711.

Prospective applicants can view a position description for these positions on Council's website at [www.hay.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hay.nsw.gov.au) or at Council's Administration Centre, 134 Lachlan Street, Hay.

Applications close: 4 PM on Friday, 18th September 2026. Please mark your envelope with the position you are applying for.

**Contact:** Suzie Panne, Executive Assistant- Corporate performance & Community Ph: 02 6990 1100 or Email: [careers@hay.nsw.gov.au](mailto:careers@hay.nsw.gov.au)