
**GRIFFITH PIONEER PARK MUSEUM COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2026 AT 4:00 PM**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Confirmation of Minutes
- 3 Business Arising
- 4 Declarations of Interest
- 5 Items of Business
 - CL01 p7 Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Action Day - 3 April 2026
 - CL02 p11 Qtr 1 Review - Free Local Entry Trial
 - CL03 p16 Quarter 3, Visitation Statistics Jan - Mar 2026 (Excluding Cultural and Community Use)
 - CL04 p18 Quarter 3, Community and Culture Statistics - Jan - Mar 2026
 - CL05 p20 Committee Member Agenda Item - Denis Couch
 - CL06 p23 Operational Update - Prickly Pear and Kangaroo Management
 - CL07 p24 Presentation - Review of Griffith Pioneer Park Strategic Plan
- 6 p25 Outstanding Action Report
- 7 General Business
- 8 Next Meeting

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Councillor Laurie Testoni, Councillor Jenny Ellis, Denis Couch (Community Representative), Desma Newman (Community Representative), Dolf Murwood (Community Representative), Jenna Thomas (Community Representative), John Nikolic (Community Representative), Michael Rohan (Community Representative), Neil Dal Nevo (Community Representative), Peter Taylor (Community Representative), Robyn Turner (Community Representative), Virginia Tropeano (Community Representative)

Director Business, Cultural and Financial Services, Matthew Hansen; Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Manager, Jenny O'Donnell; Curator, Fox Darcy Administration Officer, Tabbitha Williams and Minute Taker, Leanne Austin

Quorum = 3

If you are unable to attend this meeting please notify the Minute Secretary prior to commencement of the meeting by email or by telephoning Council on 1300 176 077.

This Committee meeting may be attended remotely and recorded by audio or audio-visual means for administrative purposes. No other recording is permitted.

Acknowledgement of Country

Griffith City Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters, and their deep knowledge embedded within the Aboriginal community.

Council further pays respect to the local Wiradjuri Elders, past, present and those emerging, for whom we acknowledge have responsibilities for the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of the local Wiradjuri people.

**GRIFFITH PIONEER PARK MUSEUM COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 4:00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Councillor Laurie Testoni, Councillor Jenny Ellis, Denis Couch (Community Representative), Dolf Murwood (Community Representative), John Nikolic (Community Representative), Jenna Thomas (Zoom) (Community Representative), Neil Dal Nevo (Community Representative), Virginia Tropeano (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

Director Business, Cultural & Financial Services, Matthew Hansen, Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Manager, Jenny O'Donnell, Curator, Fox Darcy, Administration Officer, Tabitha Williams and Minute Secretary, Antoinette Galluzzo

1 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

Absent: Desma Newman (Community Representative), Michael Rohan (Community Representative), Peter Taylor (Community Representative), Robyn Turner (Community Representative).

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Jenny Ellis and Councillor Laurie Testoni that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 November 2025, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

Members making a pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members making a significant non-pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members making a less than significant non-pecuniary interest declaration may stay in the meeting and participate in the debate and vote on the matter.

There were no less than significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 COMMITTEE MEMBER AGENDA ITEMS - NEIL DAL NEVO

Mr Nikolic entered the meeting at 4:05pm.

Mr Dal Nevo explained the issue of kangaroos at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum. The two main issues are the ongoing maintenance to the facility and the safety for visitors.

Ms O'Donnell noted that there has been an increase in kangaroos at the Park and informed the Committee they are able to jump over the fences and come back in.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Neil Dal Nevo and Denis Couch that staff investigate options and liaise with Committee members in regards to the kangaroo issue at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum.

The Committee also discussed the current Prickly Pear issue at Pioneer Park. In response Ms O'Donnell informed the Committee that she has discussed this issue with Council's Biosecurity Officer and he has provided advice on how to attend to this issue.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Neil Dal Nevo and John Nikolic that the Committee note the issue of the Prickly Pear eradication and an update be reported back to the next Committee Meeting.

Mr Nikolic left the meeting at 4:20pm and returned at 4:22pm.

CL02 POSSIBLE FUTURE ATTRACTION FOR GRIFFITH PIONEER PARK - COMMITTEE MEMBER AGENDA ITEM - VIRGINIA TROPEANO

Ms Tropeano advised the Committee that she had recently attended a light show in another town and suggested that a similar event could be successfully delivered at the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum. Staff advised the concept aligns with the organisation's Strategic Plan and has the potential to enhance community engagement and increase visitation to the Museum.

Mr Hansen left the meeting at 4:32pm and returned at 4:34pm.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Denis Couch and Councillor Jenny Ellis that the Committee support the investigation of night time events at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum, including regional vivid and light show experiences.

CL03 Q2, VISITATION STATISTICS OCT-DEC 2025 (EXCLUDING CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY USE)

Ms Thomas asked how the figures in the report for the last quarter compare with the year before in regards to tourism? This was **TAKEN ON NOTICE** and the response will be circulated via email to Committee members.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Denis Couch and Neil Dal Nevo that the Committee note the report.

CL04 Q2, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE STATISTICS OCT - DEC 2025

The Committee discussed the statistics presented in the report, acknowledging the participants and usage of the park during the second quarter of the 2025/26 reporting year.

Councillor Blumer asked if an Outdoor Play Park at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum is being considered in the Park Plan. This was **TAKEN ON NOTICE**.

Mr Murwood requested the previous statistics be circulated to compare the figures.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Laurie Testoni and Dolf Murwood that the Committee note the report.

CL05 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FREE LOCAL ENTRY TRIAL

Mr Couch expressed his concerns in regards to the lack of advertising for the free entry initiative. In response Ms O'Donnell informed the Committee there has been a media release, radio advertising, billboard advertising, social media posts via Facebook, and information published on the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum website.

Mr Hansen suggested there is further opportunity to continue and enhance the advertising efforts.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Jenny Ellis and Jenna Thomas that the Committee note the report.

CL06 SPRINGFEST CATERING SERVICE

The Committee discussed the catering service provided during the Springfest visitation period. The Committee acknowledged the significant contribution of the volunteers and commended the initiative as a successful event.

Councillor Blumer suggested the promotion of how to become a Council volunteer during volunteer week.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Jenna Thomas and Virginia Tropeano that the Committee note the report.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The action report was discussed and noted.

Jenna Thomas left the meeting at 5:18pm.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 2030 Strategic Plan for Griffith Pioneer Park Museum

Mr Couch suggested that the Committee start exploring and preparing for the 2030 Strategic Plan. In response Councillor Blumer and Mr Hansen suggested reviewing the current strategic plan.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Jenny Ellis and John Nikolic that a review of the implementation and progress of the current Griffith Pioneer Park Strategic Plan be carried out on a quarterly basis.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Committee is to be held on Wednesday, 20 May 2026 at 4:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 5:25pm.

CLAUSE	CL01
TITLE	Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Action Day - 3 April 2026
FROM	Jenny O'Donnell, Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Manager
TRIM REF	26/54224

SUMMARY

1. Overview

Action Day 2026 marked another successful delivery of this long-standing community event, attracting a recorded total of 1,982 attendees. The event featured a range of family-focused activities, entertainment offerings, and paid attractions, contributing to both strong engagement and revenue generation.

This report provides a summary of attendance, revenue performance, and key insights to inform future planning and continuous improvement.

2. Attendance Summary

Total attendance for Action Day 2026 was **1,982**, with the following demographic breakdown:

- **Adults (18+):** 1,263 (64%)
- **Youth (5–17):** 576 (29%)
- **Children under 5:** 143 (7%)

Key Observations:

- The event continues to attract a predominantly adult audience, while still maintaining strong family participation.
- The proportion of youth attendees highlights the importance of maintaining and enhancing family-friendly programming.
- Possible children under 5 data not captured correctly, gate volunteers required to be consistently reminded to input the under 5 for data collection.
- Attendance was maintained despite competing with the Leeton Balloon Glow (reported 10,000 attendees), demonstrating event resilience while also highlighting opportunities to grow visitation through enhanced programming or unique attractions.

3. Ticketing and Entry Analysis

Key Observations:

- The majority of tickets were purchased at the gate, indicating a strong reliance on same-day attendance.
- Pre-booked ticket sales, while still lower than gate sales, showed improvement compared to online sales in 2025.
- The current booking platform (Bookable) presents limitations, particularly with SEO visibility (SEO shows your *potential* to get traffic based on ranking strength), making tickets difficult to find via search engines. Alternative ticketing solutions should be explored.
- Family pass uptake was modest relative to total attendance, suggesting an opportunity to review pricing, perceived value, or promotional strategies.

4. Financial Outcomes

Financial outcomes are not yet finalised due to outstanding invoices; however, the event is expected to deliver a positive financial result. Gate and ticket sales totalled \$17,018, with additional revenue from food, beverages and activities totalling \$22,668. This brings the total expected income to approximately \$39,686. Based on historical event expenditure averages of approximately \$18,000, the event is anticipated to achieve a strong positive return.

5. Activity Performance and Revenue

Key Observations:

- The **Train Ride** was the highest-performing attraction in both usage and revenue, positioning it as a key feature of the event.
- All activities performed consistently, with no significant underperformance.
- The even distribution of participation indicates a well-balanced activity offering.

6. Kids' Activities Performance

- Total Kids Packages sold: 247
- Scavenger Hunt pages distributed: ~700
- Under 18 tickets recorded: 719

Key Observations

- The Kids Package was a highly successful product, driving engagement across multiple activities.
- The package simplified the visitor experience and encouraged broader participation.
- Community feedback indicates a need to introduce multiple purchase points for the package across the site.
- Introducing scheduled train ride times will be explored to reduce wait times and improve visitor flow.

7. Key Insights

Strong Community Engagement:

High attendance numbers demonstrate continued community interest and reinforce Action Day as a key annual event. General feedback indicates a high level of satisfaction, with strong engagement across activities, demonstrations, and family-oriented offerings.

Revenue Growth Opportunities:

While activity revenue was strong, further opportunities exist to:

- Increase pre-event ticket sales
- Improve family pass uptake
- Expand bundled or premium experience offerings

Operational Improvements:

- Improve data capture processes, particularly for free-entry attendees
- Introduce train scheduling to enhance visitor experience
- Provide additional sales points for popular products (e.g. Kids Packages)

Digital & Ticketing Strategy:

- Review and potentially replace the current ticketing platform to improve SEO visibility and user experience

- Strengthen online promotion to drive pre-bookings and reduce gate congestion

Program Development:

- Continue investing in youth-focused activities to maintain strong family attendance
- Ensure activities remain interactive, accessible, and evenly distributed across the site

Volunteer Contribution and Community Ownership

Significant volunteer involvement contributes to both cost control and the authenticity of the event. The presentation of the Museum grounds and exhibits was noted as a key strength.

Summary

Action Day 2026 was a strong and successful community event, attracting 1,982 attendees this year. The event delivered a well-balanced program that appealed to both adults and families, with particularly strong engagement in youth-focused offerings such as the Kids Package and scavenger hunt.

While attendance relied heavily on gate sales, there is a clear opportunity to grow pre-bookings through improved ticketing platforms and digital visibility. Operational improvements - particularly around data collection, queue management for the train, and increasing purchase points for popular products will further enhance the visitor experience. Staff have commenced work on addressing these improvements.

Action Day remains a valuable event for both community engagement and revenue generation. However, ongoing considerations around resourcing, risk management (particularly traffic/pedestrian safety), and program development will be important to ensure the event remains sustainable and continues to grow.

Looking ahead, Action Day 2027 presents a significant growth opportunity. The timing of Easter falling during the mid-term school holiday period, combined with the absence of the Leeton Balloon Glow event, is expected to increase local visitation and family attendance.

Overall, Action Day continues to demonstrate strong community value and aligns with strategic goals around engagement, financial sustainability, and program development.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Council Strategic Plan

3.2 Ensure Council's financial sustainability through effective financial management that is transparent and accountable.

4.4 Provide a range of cultural facilities, programs and events.

Museum Strategic Plan Alignment

3.1 — Engage with locals, visitors, school students and community groups.

3.1.6 — Develop experiences or activities that respond to youth audiences.

4.2 — Establish and build meaningful relationships with Griffith's migrant communities.

4.2.1 — Undertake regular engagement with key multicultural communities.

5.1 — Ensure the ongoing sustainability of the organisation.

5.1.1 — Diversify and increase revenue from retail, programs, workshops, commercial hires and tourist admission fees.

5.1.2 — Undertake a policy review to identify gaps and needed updates.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

CLAUSE	CL02
TITLE	Qtr 1 Review - Free Local Entry Trial
FROM	Jenny O'Donnell, Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Manager
TRIM REF	26/54961

SUMMARY

This report provides a balanced overview of the first quarter of the Free Local Entry Trial for residents within postcodes 2680 and 2681. The report reviews visitation trends, marketing undertaken, operational impacts and preliminary financial implications during the January to March 2026 period.

Overall, visitation reflects steady but modest local engagement, with attendance strongly influenced by events, exhibitions and targeted programming. Word-of-mouth continues to be the primary visitation driver, which is consistent with regional visitation patterns. The report also identifies operational and financial impacts associated with the trial while recognising the ongoing value of community access and volunteer contribution.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee note the report.

REPORT

A total of 191 local visitors attended Griffith Pioneer Park Museum during the January to March 2026 period under the Free Local Entry Trial, with February recording the highest monthly visitation at 77 visitors.

Visitation was predominantly adult-based, with consistent attendance levels recorded across all months. Family and concession visitation tended to occur in clusters and were generally associated with specific activities or programs.

Word-of-mouth (WOM) remained the dominant visitation driver, which is expected within a small regional community context.

Event vs General Visitation

The data indicates that higher local engagement occurs during events, activations and temporary exhibitions, reinforcing that locals are more likely to visit when there is a specific purpose or experience attached to the visit. e.g. 13 visitors for Valentine's exhibit (Valentine's day).

Out-of-Area Access/General Entry figures

Approximately 29 visitors accessed free entry during the period despite residing outside the designated local postcode areas. This included visitors from surrounding district towns such as Darlington Point and a small number of international visitors, as well as participants attending as part of organised group visits.

Local Visitation Comparison

Comparison with previous years indicates a notable increase in local visitation during the Free Local Entry Trial period.

Year	Quarter	Local Visitors
2023	Q1	119
2024	Q1	83
2025	Q1	30*
2026	Q1 Trial	191 – 29 (non locals) = 162

*Museum closed for the full period of January 2025, no visitation recorded.

The 2026 trial period recorded higher local visitation than the corresponding periods in previous years. While it cannot be conclusively determined how many visitors would have attended under a paid admission model, the data suggests that the free entry initiative and additional advertising have likely contributed to increased local participation.

It is also acknowledged that visitation outcomes are influenced by a range of factors, including seasonal conditions, events, exhibitions, programming, tourism activity and operational circumstances.

Operational Impact

Approximately 26% of visitation is related to either group visitation or non-local access arrangements.

The free entry model has also altered typical visitor behaviours and booking practices. Historically, organised groups such as disability support groups, aged care providers and Vacation Care programs would generally book visits in advance and participate in structured activities, including train tours and guided experiences.

During the trial period, some groups instead attended informally under the free entry arrangement without prior notification. As a result:

- Train tours and structured experiences were not always scheduled.
- Opportunities for staff preparation and visitor engagement were reduced; and
- Secondary revenue opportunities associated with train tours and catering were impacted.

This has particularly affected accessibility-focused services, as train tours are commonly utilised by visitors with mobility limitations and are typically organised in advance to ensure staffing and operational availability.

The introduction of free local entry has also created some visitor expectation challenges regarding additional paid experiences. For example, during the first Sunday in April, more than 20 visitors participated in a train tour under the assumption that the experience formed part of the free entry model. Operationally, it was difficult for staff and volunteers to interrupt the experience to request separate ticket purchases once the tour had commenced.

While there is community sentiment that additional experiences could also be provided free of charge, train tours remain a separately operated activity with associated staffing, operational and maintenance costs. Ongoing consideration will be required regarding how these experiences are managed and funded within the broader free entry framework.

Marketing Undertaken

Marketing activities focused on low-cost and localised promotional strategies, including:

- Social media promotion across Museum, Council and community platforms;
- Promotion through Council communication channels, including *Council Catch-Up*;
- Public address (PA) announcements during Action Day activities;
- Promotion during school excursions, encouraging students and families to return and access the Museum through the free local entry initiative;
- Digital advertising campaign conducted from 6 January to 31 January 2026; and
- Media releases issued to support community awareness and visitation visibility.

Limitations

No video content was produced during the period due to budget limitations. Video content is generally recognised as a higher-performing digital engagement format.

Financial & Operational Impact

Lost Admission Revenue

Based on 191 local visitors:

- **191 visitors × \$12 = \$2,292 potential admission revenue**

Secondary Revenue Impact

Reduced opportunities associated with:

- Train rides;
- Retail purchases; and
- Catering expenditure.

Estimated impact:

- \$804

Staffing Cost – Volunteer Training

Implementation of the trial required additional volunteer training and operational support.

- 3 weeks × 7 days = 21 days
- 4 hours/day = 84 hours
- 84 hours × \$37.766 = **\$3,172.34**

Additional Operational & Administrative Time

Additional operational requirements included:

- Customer service management;
- Free entry eligibility handling;
- Procedure and policy development;
- Marketing coordination; and
- Reporting requirements.

Estimated cost:

- \$1,510.64

6.5 Overall Direct Financial Impact

Item	Estimated Impact
Lost admission revenue	\$2,292.00
Lost secondary revenue	\$804.00
Staffing and administration costs	\$4,682.98
Total Direct Financial Impact	\$7,778.98

6.6 Volunteer Investment (Non-Cash Contribution)

Using external benchmarking through Volunteering Australia, the estimated volunteer training and contribution value during the implementation phase is:

- \$5,412

Volunteers continue to provide significant long-term operational value and remain a critical component of Museum operations and visitor service delivery.

FORWARD PLAN

The next three months will focus on maintaining visitation momentum while preparing for the six-month review and evaluation period. April remains a high tourism and event period, with operational focus shifting toward broader Museum programming and event delivery.

Marketing Approach

The Museum will continue to utilise:

- Social media promotion;
- Word-of-mouth to events/schools/groups
- Council Catch-Up communications; and
- Media releases where appropriate.

Upcoming Initiatives

Planned engagement initiatives include:

- Heart Week activation;
- Teddy Bear Picnic (July), including a free scavenger hunt; and
- Additional local engagement opportunities.

Six-Month Benchmark Survey

A formal benchmark survey will be undertaken:

- 1 July – 1 August 2026
- Managed by Council's Communications Team
- Results to be presented to the August 2026 Committee Meeting

CONCLUSION

The first quarter of the Free Local Entry Trial demonstrates stable local visitation and positive community participation outcomes. The data also indicates that attendance significantly increases when supported by events, targeted activities and purpose-driven experiences.

The trial has, however, resulted in measurable financial and operational impacts, including reduced admission income, reduced secondary spending opportunities and increased staffing and administrative requirements.

Future success of the initiative will likely depend on:

- Creating clear and engaging reasons for locals to visit;
- Continuing to strengthen event and activation programming; and
- Balancing community accessibility with long-term financial sustainability.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 3.2 Ensure Council's financial sustainability through effective financial management that is transparent and accountable.

LINK TO MUSEUM STRATEGIC PLAN

3.1 - Engage with locals, visitors, school students and community groups.

- **3.1.3** – Reduce general entry fees for residents of Griffith LGA
- **3.1.6** - Develop experiences or activities that respond to youth audiences.

4.2 - Establish and build meaningful relationships with Griffith's migrant communities.

- **4.2.1** — Undertake regular engagement with key multicultural communities.

5.1 - Ensure the ongoing sustainability of the organisation.

- **5.1.1** — Diversify and increase revenue from retail, programs, workshops, commercial hires and tourist admission fees.
- **5.1.2** — Undertake a policy review to identify gaps and needed updates.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

CLAUSE	CL03
TITLE	Quarter 3, Visitation Statistics Jan - Mar 2026 (Excluding Cultural and Community Use)
FROM	Jenny O'Donnell, Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Manager
TRIM REF	26/54965

SUMMARY

The third quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year saw consistent visitation at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum, with a total of 756 general visitors attending between January and March 2026. Visitor numbers increased steadily throughout the quarter, with March recording the strongest monthly attendance.

These figures represent general Museum visitation only, visitors entering specifically to view exhibits and displays. They do not include attendance associated with cultural and community use, such as events, regular programs, venue hires, educational activities, or other non-exhibition functions, which are reported separately.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

REPORT

1. Monthly Attendance Summary

Month	Visitors
January	214
February	241
March	301

- **Total visitation:** 756 visitors
- **Average monthly visitation:** 252 visitors
- **Busiest month:** March

Visitor numbers increased progressively across the quarter, with March showing a notable uplift in attendance compared to January and February, as is the typical trend for this season.

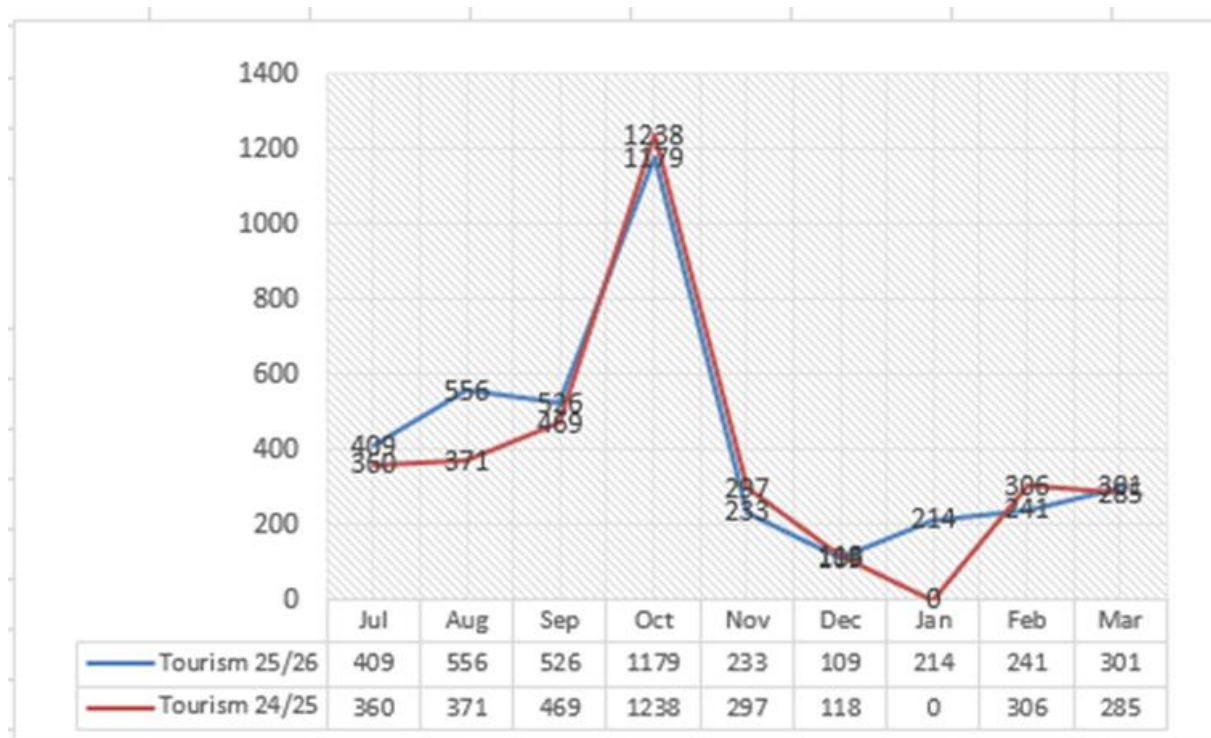
2. Key Insights

- Visitor numbers increased steadily across the quarter.
- March recorded the highest attendance for the reporting period, indicating positive momentum heading into the autumn tourism season.
- General visitation remains stable despite normal seasonal fluctuations.
- There is a continued opportunity to increase local and repeat visitation through targeted programming and promotional activity.

3. Recommendations

- Marketing Focus: Continue leveraging regional visitor centres and tourism networks for targeted advertising.
- Data Tracking: Expand data collection on group visits and repeat visitors to measure long-term engagement better.

4. Tourism Comparison Statistics (24/25 vs 25/26)



[LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 5.6 Promote Griffith as a desirable visitor destination.

[LINK TO MUSEUM STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

This item links to the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Strategic Plan (2023) items:

3. Deeper engagement with museum audiences
4. Tell the stories of Griffith and district residents, past and present.
- 5.1.1 Diversify and increase revenue from retail, programs, workshops, commercial hires and tourist admission fees.

[ATTACHMENTS](#)

Nil

CLAUSE **CL04**

TITLE **Quarter 3, Community and Culture Statistics - Jan - Mar 2026**

FROM **Jenny O'Donnell, Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Manager**

TRIM REF **26/54967**

SUMMARY

The third quarter of the 2025/2026 reporting year (1 January – 31 March 2026) recorded continued growth in participation across venue hire, community programs, tours, school activities, and special events, with a total of 1,374 participants recorded during the quarter. Participation increased steadily throughout the reporting period, reflecting strong community engagement and ongoing use of the Museum as both a cultural destination and community gathering place.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

REPORT

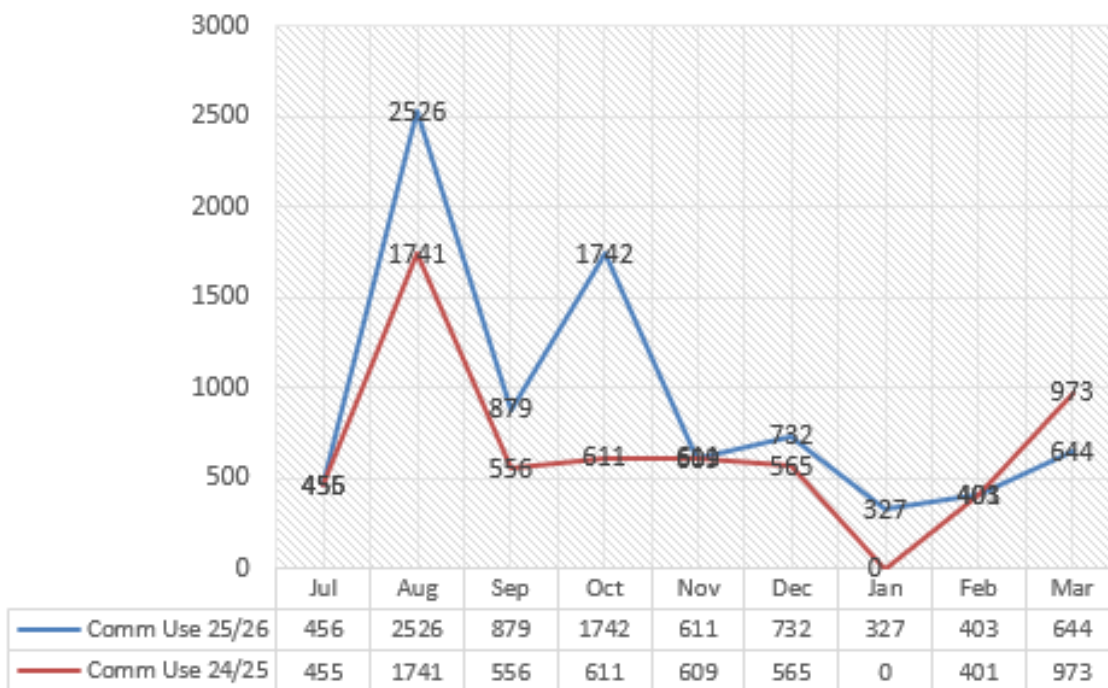
Community & Program Participation

Monthly participation figures for the quarter were as follows:

Month	Participants
January 2026	327
February 2026	403
March 2026	644

Participation was strong across the quarter, with March recording the highest attendance. These figures reflect continued community engagement through venue hire, community groups, school programs, tours, and special events held across the Museum's grounds and facilities during the Museum's quieter summer season. Attendance patterns suggest many visitors opted for school holiday activities and summer-themed venues and attractions during the warmer months.

Community & Cultural Comparison (24/25 vs 25/26)



[LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 4.4 Provide a range of cultural facilities, programs and events.

[LINK TO MUSEUM'S STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

These items link to Griffith Pioneer Park Museum's Plan.

3.1 Engage with locals, visitors, school students, and community groups.

6.4 Provide hospitality facilities that enhance the visitor experience to the Museum.

[ATTACHMENTS](#)

Nil

CLAUSE **CL05**

TITLE **Committee Member Agenda Item - Denis Couch**

FROM **Antoinette Galluzzo, Governance Officer**

TRIM REF **26/56475**

SUMMARY

Please find attached email received from Committee Member Denis Couch on 12 May 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

For the Committee to discuss.

REPORT

Please note in relation to the second point raised in the attached email, the following has been completed.

2. Free Entry for 2680, 2681 residents. There appears to be poor community recognition of the Local Free Entry initiative. We need a more comprehensive approach to advertising this.

Response: Advertisements have been made in the Council Catch-up regarding free entry on the following dates; 10/04/2026, 6/03/2026, 20/02/2026, 13/02/2026, 16/01/2026, 5/12/2025. Other advertisements have been made for Action Day 27/03/2026 and Valentine's Day 6/02/2026.

On the Digital Noticeboard at Griffith Central there has been advertisements up on:

- Free Entry: 6 January 2026 - 31 January 2026
- Action Day: 9 March 2026 – 2 April 2026
- Free Entry: 15 May 2026 – 30 June 2026 (scheduled).

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Committee Member Request - Denis Couch - 12 May 2026   21

Governance Mailbox

From: Denis Couch [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 12 May 2026 1:46 PM
To: Governance Mailbox
Subject: Re: Pioneer Park Museum Committee - Call for agenda items

On 6/5/26 11:39, Governance Mailbox wrote:

Good morning,

Can you please ensure any agenda items for the above-mentioned Pioneer Park Museum Committee meeting are sent to me, by COB Tuesday, 12 May 2026.

Kind regards,

Could we please include the following items for deliberation at the next PPM meeting.

Agenda Items for Pioneer Park Committee Meeting May 2026

1. At the previous Committee meeting, there was a discredited suggestion to begin planning our next strategic plan. The consensus of the meeting was the existing plan should serve as the management vehicle, with addendums to incorporate new initiatives.

With the downsizing of the Griffith Historical and Genealogy Society, the job of representing our regional history falls into the purview of Pioneer Park. Much of the regional history is being forgotten and we should plan for exhibition of the vital industries that formed our current enterprises.

Examples of these enterprises are below:

- Farmer cooperatives – supplies and processing
- Cannery & juice industries
- Citrus & stone fruit / dried fruit production.
- Expanded view of the wine industry.
- Rice, cereals, coarse grains production & processing mills
- Early and recent cotton production & gins
- Bartter Enterprises / Baiada massive poultry production
- Large scale vegetable production & processing
- Beef / sheep husbandry & processing.
- CSIRO and IREC in Griffith.
- Engineering companies that have been prominent in advancing agricultural enterprise.

Pioneer Park is already crowded with disconnected exhibits, and despite the large area, there needs to be more gallery style exhibitions to achieve this objective.

The Shearers Quarters precinct is a logical space to develop such exhibitions.

Money and enthusiasm is low at present, but the planning of such initiatives needs to be conducted now.

2. Free Entry for 2680, 2681 residents.


There appears to be poor community recognition of the Local Free Entry initiative. We need a more comprehensive approach to advertising this.

What resources from Griffith City Council can be marshalled?

- Regular display in the Council Roundup newsletter.
- Roadside VMS display at rotated locations in Griffith.
- Electronic billboard display .
- TV / radio community billboard inclusion.

Thank you

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Regards
Denis Couch
dengineering


CLAUSE **CL06**

TITLE **Operational Update - Prickly Pear and Kangaroo Management**

FROM **Jenny O'Donnell, Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Manager**

TRIM REF **26/54250**

SUMMARY

This report provides an operational update regarding current management activities associated with Prickly Pear treatment and Kangaroo population management across Griffith Pioneer Park Museum grounds.

Following contact with Peter McGrath in February 2026, investigations have continued into appropriate treatment methods for Prickly Pear within the Museum grounds. Information has been provided regarding recommended treatment processes, required equipment, chemical use and associated safety procedures. The option currently being considered is undertaking works internally using appropriately trained staff and volunteers.

It is understood that personnel undertaking chemical application are required to hold AQF3/ChemCert accreditation. Preliminary investigations have identified that some certifications may require renewal or retraining. A site meeting between staff and the noxious weeds officer has been undertaken, and he has provided a clearer operational understanding of the treatment process and resource requirements. At this stage, the treatment process is understood to require a minimum two-person team to safely undertake the works. The works have been scheduled to start with the above accreditations and resources.

The Kangaroo population within the Museum grounds has also increased significantly in recent times and is creating operational, maintenance and WHS concerns. The increase in numbers has resulted in damage to lawns and gardens, increased mowing requirements and large volumes of droppings throughout public areas, requiring additional cleaning and grounds maintenance.

To address the issue, Museum staff have undertaken two coordinated “walk-through” operations aimed at gradually moving kangaroos from the main Museum grounds into the upper paddock area. Before these activities, damaged fencing and gates were repaired to improve containment and assist with animal movement. Initial results from this approach have shown some success, and the Museum will continue monitoring the effectiveness of this method over the coming months.

As part of broader investigations into management options, preliminary discussions have also occurred with a locally licensed and certified shooter experienced in kangaroo population management for councils, golf clubs and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. No decisions have been made regarding this option at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

CLAUSE **CL07**

TITLE **Presentation - Review of Griffith Pioneer Park Strategic Plan**

FROM **Jenny O'Donnell, Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Manager**

TRIM REF **26/56391**

SUMMARY

At the previous Committee Meeting held on 18 February 2026, the following recommendation was made.

***RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Councillor Jenny Ellis and John Nikolic that a review of the implementation and progress of the current Griffith Pioneer Park Strategic Plan be carried out on a quarterly basis.*

Staff to present to the Committee (to be tabled).

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee note the information.

REPORT

Nil

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 1.1 Provide clear, accessible, relevant information.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil


TITLE Outstanding Action Report

TRIM REF 26/55425

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Action Report - Griffith Pioneer Park Museum Committee - 20 May 2026   26

ACTION REPORT**GRIFFITH PIONEER PARK MUSEUM COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Officer	Comment
18 Feb 2026	7.1 2030 Strategic Plan for Griffith Pioneer Park Museum	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Jenny Ellis and John Nikolic that a review of the implementation and progress of the current Griffith Pioneer Park Strategic Plan be carried out on a quarterly basis.	Jenny O'Donnell	11/05/2026: To be presented at this month's meeting and then become an ongoing agenda item.
18 Feb 2026	CL05 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FREE LOCAL ENTRY TRIAL	Mr Couch expressed his concerns in regards to the lack of advertising for the free entry initiative. In response, Ms O'Donnell informed the Committee there has been a media release, radio advertising, billboard advertising, social media posts via Facebook, and information published on the Griffith Pioneer Park Museum website. Mr Hansen suggested there is further opportunity to continue and enhance the advertising efforts.	Communications	14/05/2026: Advertisements have been made in the Council Catch-up regarding free entry on the following dates; 10/04/2026, 6/03/2026, 20/02/2026, 13/02/2026, 16/01/2026, 5/12/2025. Other advertisements have been made for Action Day 27/03/2026 and Valentine's Day 6/02/2026. 20/05/2026: Continued advertising through social media, announcements on Action Day and general advertising.
18 Feb 2026	CL04 Q2, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE STATISTICS OCT - DEC 2025	Mr Murwood requested the previous statistics be circulated to compare the figures.	Jenny O'Donnell	20/05/2026: Will be presented alongside this Quarter and then ongoing.

18 Feb 2026	CL04 Q2, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE STATISTICS OCT - DEC 2025	Councillor Blumer asked if an Outdoor Play Park at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum is being considered in the Park Plan. This was TAKEN ON NOTICE .	Jenny O'Donnell	20/05/2026: Pending response.
18 Feb 2026	CL03 Q2, VISITATION STATISTICS OCT-DEC 2025 (EXCLUDING CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY USE)	Ms Thomas asked how the figures in the report for the last quarter compare with the year before in regards to tourism? This was TAKEN ON NOTICE and the response will be circulated via email to Committee members.	Jenny O'Donnell	20/05/2026: Will be presented alongside this Quarter and then ongoing.
18 Feb 2026	CL02 POSSIBLE FUTURE ATTRACTION FOR GRIFFITH PIONEER PARK - COMMITTEE MEMBER AGENDA ITEM - VIRGINIA TROPEANO	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Denis Couch and Councillor Jenny Ellis that the Committee support the investigation of night time events at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum, including regional vivid and light show experiences.	Jenny O'Donnell	20/05/2026: Noted support. Staff will continue work on this item and report back when there has been suitable progression.
18 Feb 2026	CL01 COMMITTEE MEMBER AGENDA ITEMS - NEIL DAL NEVO	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Neil Dal Nevo and John Nikolic that the Committee note the issue of the Prickly Pear eradication and an update be reported back to the next Committee Meeting.	Jenny O'Donnell	20/05/2026: Update given. Can be removed from the Action Report.
18 Feb 2026	CL01 COMMITTEE MEMBER AGENDA ITEMS - NEIL DAL NEVO	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Neil Dal Nevo and Denis Couch that staff investigate options and liaise with Committee members in regards to the kangaroo issue at Griffith Pioneer Park Museum.	Jenny O'Donnell	20/05/2026: Update given. Can be removed from the Action Report.
12 Nov 2025	CL07 FREE GENERAL ADMISSION (LOCAL RESIDENTS) TRIAL	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Virginia Tropeano and John Nikolic that:	Jenny O'Donnell / Matthew Hansen	04/02/2026: Amended implementation plan being rolled out as the start date was January 2026. The initial marketing campaign

		<p>(a) The Committee note the preparation of the Risk Management Action Plan – Free Entry (October 2025) and the draft Free General Admission Project Management Plan, which outline the structured implementation and evaluation of the 12-month free general admission trial for local residents.</p> <p>(b) These documents be reviewed to ensure alignment with the Committee’s intent that the trial consist of a continuous 12-month period of free general admission, and any changes be reported back at the next meeting.</p> <p>(c) Staff prepare a marketing campaign for the free trial, including costings, for consideration at the next meeting.</p>		<p>has already commenced with Council Communications and GPPM team. A marketing strategy is being developed and will be forwarded to SMT as per operational protocol.</p> <p>An early update report is included in the 18 Feb 2026 agenda.</p> <p>20/05/2026: As the trial commenced in Jan 2026, this is no longer relevant. CL05 Action above supersedes this item. Item to be removed from the agenda.</p>
30 April 2025	GENERAL BUSINESS – ACCESS TO BUILDINGS	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Robyn Turner and Denis Couch that the Committee seek clarification on access to buildings requiring works located on land subject to Aboriginal Land Claims.	Jenny O’Donnell / Matthew Hansen	<p>6/08/2025: Awaiting confirmation – report to the next Committee Meeting.</p> <p>6/11/2025: Report to Committee 18 February 2025.</p> <p>04/02/2026: Query forwarded to Council’s Corporate Property Officer and Native Title</p>

				<p>Coordinator for written response.</p> <p>20/05/2026: Written advice received from Crown Lands indicates 'that under Section 24J, Council, as the CLM, can do any activity that could be logically permitted under the reservation.' The advisor also recommends advice from Council's legal provider if unsure. This indicates that, as CLM, we have the authority to replace the existing structure.</p>
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