

# Community Development Plan

2014-2024



*Shire of*  
**Chittering**

## **Shire of Chittering**

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## Executive Summary

The Community Development Plan has been established to develop a ten (10) year Strategy to assist for future planning and provide the Community within Chittering a strategic direction. The Strategy provides for the high-level objectives of the Shire in relation to the wider community development.

This Plan has been produced to work in conjunction with the Shire of Chittering's Strategic Community Plan and to capture and enhance the community aspirations for the future and how we can achieve these.

In respect to community development, the following are considered as imperatives for the Shire:

- Planning for and facilitation of provision of age appropriate services, facilities and opportunities, including planning for a growing retired population who may have insufficient retirement funds at their disposal (Aged friendly community);
- Provision of a high standard of infrastructure to cater for community demands for Sports & Recreation, community services and cultural development opportunities;
- Establishment of a policy position of co-location of services and facilities;
- Support systems for those less able to provide entirely for themselves;
- Planning for a youth services.

Other existing Shire Plans that link with this Community Development Plan are:

- Strategic Community Plan 2012-2022
- Sports and Recreation Plan 2012-2022
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan
- Chittering Trails Network Master Plan 2012-2023

## ***Introduction***

The Community Development Plan has been established to develop a ten (10) year Strategy to assist for future planning and provide the Community within Chittering a strategic direction. The Strategy provides for the high-level objectives of the Shire in relation to the wider community development.

During the Shire's Strategic Community Planning process in 2012 it was recognised that there was a need to support and resource community development initiatives within the region.

The appointment of a fulltime Club and Community Development/Grants Officer was the first step in developing Community Services.

### ***What is Community Development?***

Community development is the process of helping a community strengthen itself and develop towards its full potential. As facilitators, we work in partnership with local people and organisations to meet identified needs.

### ***Objectives of Community Development***

There are a number of inter-related objectives for engaging in Community Development.

#### **To build up the capacity of the community to help itself**

Community development should strive to build up the capacity of individuals and groups in the communities to participate in actions based on community interest. It should seek to enable people within the communities to understand, upgrade and use their capacity to improve their lives. They should be able to assume active roles in actions that are conducive to the benefits of the community.

#### **To foster the spirit of mutual help in the community**

Community development should assist members of the community to develop, support and communicate with networks within and outside the community, so as to foster a sense of mutual help among members of the community.

#### **To address the needs of and to empower disadvantaged communities**

Community development should motivate members of disadvantaged communities or groups to seek appropriate services and to solve their own problems, and provide services to disadvantaged communities through active involvement of members of such communities. Such services should serve to complement existing social services.

#### **To enhance community cohesion and harmony**

Community development should promote integration of disadvantaged and vulnerable communities with the mainstream society, as well as to foster better understanding and cooperation among people from diverse backgrounds. The purpose is to foster community harmony, as well as respect for human rights and equal opportunities for all.

### **To motivate community participation**

Community development should encourage and provide opportunities for members of the community to participate in activities to improve their quality of life.

### ***The Shire's Role in Community Development***

There are a number of possible key roles that may be taken by the Shire in the performance of its Community development responsibilities. Roles will differ depending on the nature of the intended outcome, the level of involvement and the level of expertise within the Shire, the community and other stakeholders or the legislative responsibility of the Shire as opposed to other levels of government or the non-government sector. The key roles, with a brief explanation, are:

#### **Develop working relationships with communities and organisations**

- Make relationships within communities.
- Build relationships within and with communities and organisations.
- Develop strategic relationships with communities, organisations and within partnerships.

#### **Encourage people to work with and learn from each other**

- Contribute to the development of community groups/networks.
- Facilitate the development of community groups/networks.
- Facilitate ways of working collaboratively.
- Promote and support learning from practice and experience.
- Create opportunities for learning from practice and experience.
- Support individuals, community groups and communities to deal with conflict.
- Take action with individuals, community groups and communities to deal with conflict.

#### **Work with people in communities to plan for change and take collective action**

- Work within communities to select options and make plans for collective action.
- Contribute to collective action within a community.
- Support communities to plan and take collective action.
- Ensure community participation in planning and taking collective action.
- Contribute to the review of needs, opportunities, rights and responsibilities within a community.
- Work with communities to identify needs, opportunities, rights and responsibilities.

#### **Work with people in communities to develop and use frameworks for evaluation**

- Support communities to monitor and review action for change
- Facilitate the development of evaluation frameworks.

#### **Develop community organisations**

- Encourage the best use of resources
- Review and develop funding and resources

## Our Shire

The Shire of Chittering’s southern boundary is located approximately 56kms from Perth CBD and covers an area of some 1,220 square kilometres.

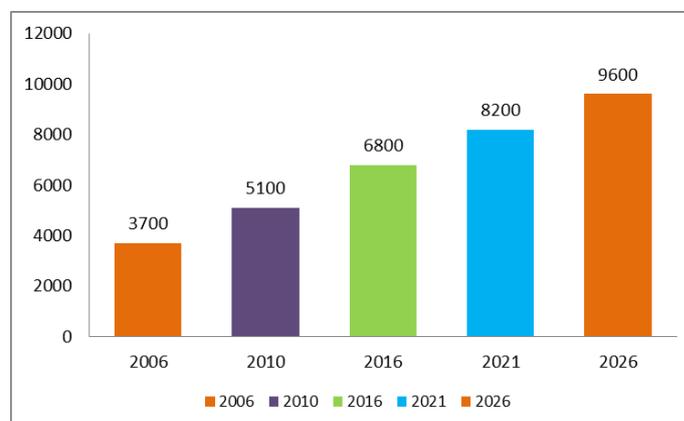
Generally the Southern part of the Shire is composed of small rural subdivisions, wineries and some broad acre farming and a small amount of industry including extractive industry, Tiwest and The Muchea Livestock Centre.

North of Bindoon is generally broad acre farming, with some vines, orchards and extractive industry.

There are three gazetted townships in Chittering, Bindoon (where the Shire offices are located and main shopping area), Muchea to the South of Bindoon and Wannamal to the North. There is also a strong sense of community in the districts of Upper Chittering, Lower Chittering, both south of Bindoon and Mooliabeenee north of Bindoon.

## Population

Census data of Population and Housing from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Census records show that the population for Chittering in 2011 was 4,427. It is expected to grow to 9,600 by 2026. The annual (June 2010 to June 2011) population growth rate of 4.9% is significantly above the State average. Most population growth is occurring in the southern part of the Shire with people choosing a semi-rural lifestyle.



Figures provided from “WA Tomorrow - Report #7, Feb 2012” published by WAPC

The Shire has the second largest youth population in the Wheatbelt, Northam being the largest. (*Wheatbelt Youth Strategy 2012-2017 Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt WA.*)

There are a comparatively large number of children aged 0-14 living in the Shire (978 or 22.1% of population) but this figure drops significantly for the 15-29 age bracket (representing 615 or 14% of the population). *Source ABS 2011.*

The northeast metropolitan area will continue to grow, in line with the *Western Australian Planning Commission "Direction 2031 and Beyond Strategic Plan"* and with this growth comes the requirement for improved services. In particular, Bindoon and areas south will become an even more viable option for people seeking a semi-rural lifestyle whilst still able to access metropolitan employment opportunities.

Over recent years residents purchasing property in Chittering are seeking a semi-rural lifestyle whilst still maintaining an expectation to have access to services and facilities equivalent to the metropolitan area. An ever-increasing number of people are commuting to Perth for work and there is a high level of absent landowners who perhaps are in a transition, gradually relocating from metro to country or establishing a retirement hideaway.

The Chittering community resembles a series of communities with differing needs and expectations. The balance between accepting differences whilst endeavoring to build a strong sense of community and belonging is a difficult task.

Figures provided by WA Tomorrow – Report #7, February 2012 published by the Western Australian Planning Commission indicates the Chittering population is changing and is predicted to double by 2026. We have a significant number of children who will need recreation, education and lifestyle choices.

### **Social**

Socially our communities tend to celebrate events within their own areas e.g. Wannamal, Bindoon, Muchea, Upper and Lower Chittering. There are some events e.g. Bindoon and Districts Agricultural Society Show Day, ANZAC day and Australia Day in which the communities will get together, however they still tend to hold their separate breakfast or lunch celebrations within their area. The Shire would like the community to embrace being part of Chittering however this may take some time for the culture to change. One way of trying to achieve this is by ensuring that events are spread around the district.

### **Natural Environment**

Chittering has a unique natural environment, which our communities have shared a commitment to preservation of the natural environment and resources, ensuring future generations enjoy the natural beauty of our biodiversity.

Chittering is a great place live and visit, where community and visitors enjoy the natural beauty of our lakes, wetlands and nature reserves.

### **Recreational**

The Shire of Chittering recognises the importance of sport and recreation to the Shire's residents. The Shire and the community play an important role in the provision of sport and recreation opportunities which are part of our social fabric and provide enjoyment and generate community cohesion. The Shire of Chittering Sport and Recreation Plan 2012-22 outlines the future needs of the community and provides strategies and actions to improve the planning and provision of sport and recreation in the Shire of Chittering over the next ten years.

## **Built Environment**

Our communities have expressed a desire to have a sustainable built environment that continues to meet its needs and reflects our lifestyles and values.

## **ROLE OF THE PLAN**

The Shire of Chittering's Community Development Plan 2014-2024 has been produced to work in conjunction with the Shire of Chittering's Strategic Community Plan and to capture and enhance the community aspirations for the future and how we can achieve these.

- Identify the current and future social and recreational needs of the community.
- Providing direction for the Shire's Community Development Services.
- Informs the community, staff and Council of the level of service, and types of events and activities delivered by the Community Development Services.

## **Community Engagement**

The need for the development of this plan has been based on the community feedback received during the development of the Shire's *Strategic Community Plan (SCP)*.

Community involvement techniques for the development of some of the initiatives identified in this plan will vary depending on who is being involved and the nature/complexity of the issue. Available resources will also determine the type of techniques that can be utilised ie. the timeframe, funds and staff available.

The Shire will ensure that the Community is involved on issues which impact on and/or are of concern to the Community or to any group within the Community in a timely manner to allow adequate involvement to occur and be analysed in order to inform decision making processes.

It is Council's intention that this plan will be reviewed regularly to ensure its relevance.

## Youth

The Shire of Chittering will develop a Youth Services Plan in the future, addressing issues such as services, events and future facilities required. The proposed Youth Plan will focus on the following outcomes for youth activities that will be delivered by the Shire:

- Introduction of additional new youth services;
- The development of strategies to involve young people in the development of youth services and programs; and
- Cooperative working relationships and partnerships with other government and non-government agencies in the Shire and the region to ensure efficient and effective service provision for all young people (residents, students, visitors, workers) in the Shire.

The “Youth Plan” will address the following social issues:

- Access to services and support;
- Participation in decisions affecting their lives, now and into the future; and
- Development of a community that recognises, values and encourages the contribution of all young people.

The plan will be based in part on consultation with young people to determine:

- What is important to young people (their expectations and aspirations);
- How the Council can improve the provision of programs and services for and with young people; and
- How information on programs and services can be communicated in a manner that is relevant and appropriate.



### *What's been done to date*

In January 2013, the Shire established a youth working group made up of youth, parents, youth agencies, Shire Community Development Officer and volunteers. This group is now called the Chittering Youth Krew (CYK). Youth provide a valuable contribution to the community and the Shire of Chittering can assist by creating opportunities for the youth to develop their talents in a fun social environment.

Subsequent meetings have resulted in the first event organised by the CYK being the “Band in the Park” in April 2013 followed by their assistance with the Muchea Youth Festival in May 2013 and “Minute to win it” game show in August 2013.

**(Action)**

- 1. Prepare a Youth Development Plan.**
- 2. Use the plan to seek external funding for its implementation.**

## ***Aged Care Services***

Recent reports on aged care suggest the government policy, action and funding is directed around the following elements:

- maintenance of independence
- illness prevention
- hospital avoidance
- support and care at home
- residential care for complex care needs

The Shire of Chittering will develop an Aged Care Services Plan in the future, that attempts to address issues such as services, and future facilities required. The proposed Aged Care Plan will focus on the following outcomes for Aged Care activities that will be delivered by the Shire;

- Assist with the introduction of additional new aged care services:
- Creation of an Aged Friendly Community
- The development of strategies to involve aged people in the development of aged services and programs; and
- Cooperative working relationships and partnerships with other government and non-government agencies in the Shire and the region to ensure efficient and effective service provision for all senior people in the Shire.

The “Aged Care Plan” will attempt to address the following social issues:

- Access to services and support:
- Participation in decisions affecting their lives, now and into the future; and
- Development of a community that recognises, values and encourages the contribution of aged people.
- Develop stronger relations with service providers

The plan will be based in part on consultation with aged people and their careers to determine:

- What is important to senior people (their expectations and aspirations);
- How the Council can support/improve the provision of programs and services for and with aged people; and
- How information on programs and services can be communicated in a manner that is relevant and appropriate.

### ***What’s been done to date***

In in the 2011/2012 financial year Council expended \$177,607 on the refurbishment of Ferguson House (6138 Great Northern Highway, Bindoon) as Aged Care Day Centre, which is operated by Silverchain.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission have recently undertaken an Aged Care study and published a Wheatbelt Integrated Aged Care Plan that has identified a number of recommendations for the various Regional Organisation of Councils for implementation. The Shire belongs to the Avon Regional Organisation of Councils (AROC).

**(Action)**

- 1. Prepared a brief for the development of a local Aged Care Services Plan, that incorporates relevant recommendations from the Wheatbelt Integrated Aged Care Plan.**
- 2. Prepare and seek funding for the development of a local Aged Care Services Plan by a suitably experienced consultant in conjunction with Shire staff.**

## Recreation & Sport

The Shire of Chittering recognises the importance of sport and recreation to the Shire's residents. The Shire and the community play an important role in the provision of sport and recreation opportunities which are part of our social fabric and provide enjoyment and generate community cohesion.

The Shire of Chittering has developed a Sport and Recreation Plan 2012 -22, which was endorsed by Council on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

A major project that was identified in the Plan was the development of a regional sports community facility in the lower part of Chittering.

A feasibility study will be required to determine:

- the viability of the project (Need & nexus) - review existing sporting facilities and their ability to meet current and future demands
- the scale of the project ie types & how many playing fields
- the buildings required eg Change rooms, club house/civic function centre etc
- suitability of the proposed land site (10 hectares)
- the estimated cost of the project

### *What's been done to date*

A site of 10 hectares has been identified in Lower Chittering in the Maryville estate Stage 11. The site is to be released as a condition of subdivision as a reserve that will vest in the Shire.

Council has also collected a small amount of developer contributions for the development of this site which would be used to fund this study.

#### **(Action)**

- 1. Prepared a brief for the development of a feasibility study for a regional sports centre within the Shire of Chittering**
- 2. Call for submissions from suitably qualified consultants for the development of a feasibility study in conjunction with Shire staff.**

## ***Community Events***

For a complete guide to current shire and community events please refer to appendix 1.

## ***Community Groups***

For a complete guide to current shire and community groups please refer to appendix 2.

## Appendix (1) - Chittering Events, Services and Activities

<b>Events, Services and Activities</b>				
<b>Event/Activity/Service</b>	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Child car restraint check – Free Service	Parents	Shire of Chittering offices - Bindoon	Shire office hours	Selected trained Shire staff
Library Services and Internet Services	Residents	Shire of Chittering offices - Bindoon	Monday – Friday 8.30am – 4.30 Saturday 9am – 12 noon	Shire Staff Volunteers on Saturday
Volunteer Week	All volunteers	Different locations each year	June	Community Development Support Officer
Seniors Week	Seniors	Bindoon Primary School	November	Community Development Support Officer
Christmas Celebrations	All residents and visitors to Chittering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wannamal</li> <li>• Lower Chittering</li> <li>• Muchea</li> <li>• Bindoon</li> </ul>	December	Local Progressive or Community Groups. Bindoon Playgroup
‘Stay on your feet’ – Exercise Classes	Senior citizens	Wannamal Community Centre	Weekly	Be Active Coordinator
Chittering Farmers Markets	All residents and visitors to Chittering	Bindoon – Edmonds Reserve. Periodically in Lower Chittering Hall	Fourth Sunday of each month	Chittering Farmers Market Committee with Shire representation.
Taste of Chittering – local festival	Encourage visitors to area, all welcome	Lower Chittering Hall and Oval	End of October early November	Economic Development Officer
Muchea Youth Festival	Families, extended families and youth	Muchea	May	Community Development Officer and Chittering Youth Krew
Youth events	Youth, families, extended families	Held in different locations throughout the district	Bi-monthly	Community Development Officer and Chittering Youth Krew
Bindoon Agricultural Show	Residents and visitors of Chittering	Bindoon	October	Bindoon and Districts Agricultural Society

## Appendix (2) - Areas within Chittering

### Wannamal

Wannamal is situated approx 32kms north of Bindoon. The population of Wannamal is approximately 150 people and is predominantly an agricultural area producing grain crops, hay, sheep and cattle. The countryside consists of red, loamy soils to the east on the Darling Scarp and light, sandy soils to the west on the Dandaragan Plateau. The area consists of large holdings in the vicinity of 1200 to 1600 hectares, a few smaller lots of 12 to 40 hectares and town site lots to 2 hectares.

The recreation area at Wannamal, situated on the Bindoon Moora Road, has a hall, playground, synthetic tennis courts with lighting and an oval area. The hall is leased from the Chittering Shire by the Wannamal Community Centre Inc. This group is a very active body and is supported by a very proud community. The Wannamal Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade fire station is situated on the northern end of the oval area. The oval area is also hired out to visiting caravan clubs who use the hall facilities. On the reserve at the south end of the oval there is a refuse compound that is serviced by a private contractor every fortnight. Community members bring their green wheelie bins into this area for collection. The refuse compound was the result of community and shire consultation several years ago when the local rubbish tip was closed.

Opposite the recreation area is the Wannamal School site (1967-1984) now named the Robert Hindmarsh Rest Area. This area is managed by the Shire of Chittering and regularly used as overnight travel stop and offers toilet facilities, barbecue, picnic tables, shade, shelter and information for passing travelers.

A Heritage Walk Trail commences at the Rest Area. The walk trail brochure takes people on a self-guided, wander around the town site. Though very few buildings exist today we would like people to remember how it was when the town site was the bustling business and social centre of the district. This walk is dedicated to the pioneer men and women who toiled hard not only to establish the farming land but to provide and maintain the necessary public services and amenities. The first land lease was in 1853 and the town site was gazetted in 1908. The pioneers settled along the route of the railway and adjacent area before extending east to the Great Northern Highway. Railway gangers contributed to the early population of the district with some of them becoming landowners.

The lush green pastures in harmony with the spectacular natural lake and bushland provide essential sanctuaries for the extraordinary variety of flora and fauna. During September/October wildflowers abound in bushland around the town site, at Udumung Reserve on Hay Flat Road and along the North Road. During November/December the orange *Verdicordia* is spectacular on the Wannamal West Road. Birdlife is plentiful at the Wannamal Lake north of the town site.

#### Community Groups:

Wannamal has numerous clubs and community groups that new and existing residents can join. All of these clubs are made up of proactive volunteers. The following are some of the clubs, contacts of

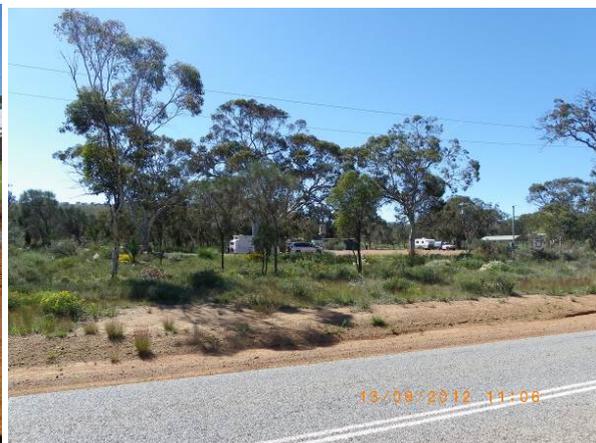
which can be obtained by the Shire of Chittering’s Community Development Officer.

Wannamal Chittering Regional Herbarium  
 Wannamal Sporting Clays  
 Wannamal Lake Catchment Group  
 Wannamal Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Wannamal Community Centre  
 Wannamal Indoor Bowling  
 Wannamal Tennis Club



*One of the murals in Wannamal by Fire Station*



*Robert Hindmarsh Rest Area*



*Exercise classes at Wannamal Community Centre*



*Synthetic Tennis Courts at Wannamal*

***Bindoon***

Bindoon has a population of approximately 500 residents and has a small shopping centre on the main highway (Binda Place) comprising of a Petrol Station, Grocery Store, Hardware, Real Estate Agents, Doctors and Dentist Surgery, Butcher, Chemist and Bendigo Bank. Across the road there is the Post Office, Tourist Centre, Machinery Store, Public Toilets and a Town Hall. Within the township area there is also a Day Centre (Ferguson House), Ambulance and a Fire Station in Bindoon and Upper Chittering and a walk trail behind the township linking to another park. The Chinkabee Complex has a Bowling Club, netball/basketball courts, Playgroup, children’s playground and an oval.

Residents residing in this area work in agriculture, horticulture, the businesses within the township, the Shire of Chittering, Primary School, Agricultural College or commute to other areas, or are

retired and just enjoying the rural aspect of the environment. Bindoon has many attractions including walking trails and sculpture trails currently being upgraded.

The formation of the Chittering Farmers Markets on the fourth Sunday of each month has added to the attractions and the social interaction within the communities (held in Bindoon and Lower Chittering). Other attractions include the Bindoon Bakehaus and Scottalian Hotel. Within Chittering we also have many wineries which include, Bindoon Estate, Glenown Wine, Stringybark, White Dog Farm and Briery Estate.

Community Groups:

Bindoon has numerous sporting clubs and community groups that new and existing residents can join. All of these clubs are made up of proactive volunteers. The following are some of the clubs, contacts of which can be obtained by the Shire of Chittering’s Community Development Officer.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Bindoon Seventh Day Adventist Church       | Bindoon and Districts Bowling Club       |
| Bindoon and Districts Agricultural Society | Bindoon and Districts Historical Society |
| Bindoon Arts and Crafts                    | Bindoon Basketball Association           |
| Bindoon Chittering Retirees                | Bindoon Cricket Club                     |
| Bindoon Little Athletics                   | Bindoon Men’s Shed                       |
| Bindoon Netball Club                       | Bindoon Playgroup                        |
| Bindoon Primary School Parents & Citizens  | Bindoon Range Pony Club                  |
| Bindoon Sing Australia                     | Bindoon Sport and Recreation Association |
| Bindoon Tai Chi Group                      | Bindoon Tennis Club                      |
| Bindoon Theatre Company                    | Chittering Bindoon CWA                   |
| Bindoon Volunteer Fire Brigade             | Chittering Cancer Support                |
| Chittering Tourist Association             | Chittering Riding Club                   |



*Chittering Farmers Market – Edmonds Reserve*



*Chittering Wildflower Show, Bindoon*

## Lower Chittering

Lower Chittering is where the future growth is projected in our district and is made up of several estates such as Maryville Estate, Old Winery Estate, Wandena Estates. The region comprises predominately of agricultural, wineries and life style blocks. Due to this area being close to Bullsbrook and the metropolitan area, a high percentage of residents commute to work heading south. There is a private Catholic Primary School (Immaculate Heart College), the local Lower Chittering Hall which also has a tennis court, hand ball, playground, cricket/football oval and BBQ facilities. The Shire has recently built a playground in Maryville Estate, complete with basketball practice area and BBQ facilities.

### Community Groups:

Lower Chittering has a number of clubs and community groups that new and existing residents can join. All of these clubs are made up of proactive volunteers. The following are some of the clubs, contacts of which can be obtained by the Shire of Chittering's Community Development Officer.

Chittering Valley Wine Trails Inc

Chittering Wildlife Carers

Chittering Valley Progress and Sporting Association

Chittering Scout Group

Lower Chittering Cricket Club

Lower Chittering Volunteer Fire Brigade

Upper Chittering Volunteer Fire Brigade

Lower Chittering Zumba



*Lower Chittering oval and hall*



*Sussex Bend Playground – Maryville Downs*

## Muchea

Muchea is a picturesque rural village, with plenty of green areas and trees. They have a local store which is considered as a "one stop shop" hosting the news agency, petrol station, post office, takeaways and groceries. There is also a stock-feed/irrigation store and a local electrician with a store. Muchea has some strong sporting clubs e.g. Polocrosse, Pony Club, Cricket, Football, Netball, Judo and Zumba. The employment breakdown for residents living in Muchea is approximately one third working for Tronox, one third working in employment south of Muchea in the wider Perth areas, and the remaining third either as local contractors, self employed or retired. The Shire manages three playgrounds in Muchea, one at the Polocrosse Grounds used by the Play Group, in central Muchea at John Glenn Park and beside the Muchea Hall. Behind the Muchea Hall there are netball courts and adjacent is a large oval. Muchea also has some public bridle paths and walk trails.

Community Groups:

Muceha has numerous sporting clubs and community groups new and existing residents can join. All of these clubs are made up of proactive volunteers. The following are some of the clubs, contacts of which can be obtained by the Shire of Chittering's Community Development Officer.

Muceha Judo Association  
Muceha Playgroup  
South Midlands Polocrosse Club  
Chittering Junior Football Club

Muceha Netball Club  
Muceha Senior Cricket Club  
South Midlands Pony Club  
Muceha Zumba



*Polocrosse at Muceha*



*John Glenn Park*



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