



Shire Bulletin February 2025



SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all readers and to everyone across the breadth of our local government area. Whether it was for a few days or a long, extended number of January weeks, I hope you had the opportunity to have a break over Christmas and the change of year.

In another life, I was a school teacher, and so loved that long summer holiday when kids, teachers and parents could all have a decent break and really disconnect from work and properly recharge. For me, the start of the holidays, before Christmas was always marked by luxuriously making a date with a book – and still, nothing says holidays like reading until you're sick of it.

By the time everyone reconvened at school, the kids were all taller and browner from running wild, and we were all ready to tackle the year with enthusiasm and gusto. I miss those days – the reality for me now is, while we have a couple of weeks break, at the end of December and into January, there is still work to be done. It's a super-busy time on the farm for us with our cattle. I'm sure I'm no orphan in feeling, with the busy pace of life, – its very hard to disconnect and there are always tasks and demands placed on us.

On 24th February the Shire of Northampton will host the Northern Country Zone of Local Governments, a total of ten, from Coorow through to Chapman Valley. This is a great opportunity to meet together and discuss what is happening in our local areas as well as discuss issues for the broader Midwest region and state Local Government issues. This time we will meet in Kalbarri.

In the next couple of weeks, there will be the opportunity to attend and be involved in a series of workshops in the various towns, to formulate our Strategic Community Plan. This occurs every four years and so much has occurred in the last four years, that I feel your involvement this time is especially essential.

I hope that for those who had the opportunity to comment on the proposed Foreshore Revitalisation Project for Kalbarri, you did. The Shire has done this because we recognise that a lot of time has passed since the creation of the Plan, which was endorsed by Council as a Concept only, and that there may need to be elements that are fine-tuned or altered.

I read a lot of commentary on the Kalbarri and Northampton Facebook pages and all I can say, is there are some VERY opinionated people out there. I love a good opinion and especially love community involvement, but some of the toxic commentary really does nothing to improve anything! It's worth remembering that most people are good and are just trying to do the best they can - particularly those who put their hand up for service and volunteer positions in our community.

Communities work best when everyone does their little bit to volunteer and make the place better in some way. Thank you to each and every one of you who do this! And thank you to those people who do make informed, thoughtful and respectful comments on the community pages – you also stand out!

Liz Sudlow
Shire President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

2025 is well and truly upon us and the Shire is looking forward to what it may bring. It certainly is looking like busy times for the Shire with a number of significant capital projects still to deliver from the 2024/25 budget including:

- Little Bay Road upgrade;
- Port Gregory carpark and foreshore upgrade;
- Finalisation of Coastal Infrastructure Repairs in Kalbarri (defects and final tidy up);
- Whiting Pool stairs;
- Port Gregory water supply;
- Stephen Street depot works; and
- Kalbarri-Ajana Road stage 2.

In addition to this the June 2024 flooding events across the Shire have caused significant damage to the Shire's road infrastructure. The event has been determined a natural disaster and the Shire is working with the consultants to quantify the damage to the State and Commonwealth Governments. This is expected to be a long process based on previous experience however the outcomes should be worth the significant effort required to obtain funding.

The Shire has a statutory obligation to undertake a significant review of its Strategic Community Plan every four years. This process commenced in late 2024 where an online survey was completed with 64 respondents. On February 12 and 13, 2025, the Shire along with consultant Steps and Co will be conducting Strategic Community Plan community workshops in towns in the Shire and I would encourage as many people to come along and participate.

The 2023/24 Annual Electors Meeting will be held at the Horrocks Community Centre at 5pm on Thursday 6 February 2025. If you would like to ask a question, please submit the question in writing to the Shire, 2 days before the meeting is held to enable an informed response to be provided.

Hopefully the community is starting to see the benefits of having dedicated Community Development Officers working for the Shire. Operating in a shared role out of both the Northampton and Kalbarri Shire offices, Andrea Teakle and Cresta Viellaris have hit the ground running with involvement in Community Grants, events and community consultation. It was fantastic to see the Shire supported screening of the film Runt in January with excellent numbers of families attending the free event.

The Coastal Infrastructure Repair in Kalbarri from TC Seroja has reached the Practical Completion point. Please be patient whilst defects and final tidy up occurs from the contractors. It is important for the community to understand that the Shire and its consultant have done what we can to obtain Disaster Recovery Funding in what has been a very complex and restrictive process. The rules only allow "like for like" basic replacement with some ability for coastal retreat of impacted infrastructure. As an example of the difficulty with the rules, revegetation within the project areas is not funded although it was certainly impacted by TC Seroja. The repair work also must comply with statutory requirements and Australian Standards. The Shire is acutely aware that further improvements will be required, however this will not commence until we accept handover from the contractors. The Shire also, where possible, intends to partner with local community groups to undertake further improvement.

Andrew Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

KALBARRI FORESHORE MASTERPLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

After the announcement of \$8.1M in funding for the Kalbarri Foreshore Revitalisation Project (Masterplan), the Shire has been requested to deliver the project by the Mid West Development Commission (MWDC). The Masterplan was a collaboration between MWDC and Tourism WA following preliminary consultation with the Kalbarri community in October 2021, six months after TC Seroja. From that point the Masterplan was developed and certain elements of it were funded by the State Government.

In consideration of the request to deliver the project, the Shire has identified that whilst targeted consultation has occurred with some stakeholders, a thorough public consultation process has not occurred. As a result, the Shire has undertaken substantive public consultation with the community to guide project delivery and these responses will be considered by Council at the meeting to be held 20 February 2025.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FREE MOVIE NIGHT RUNT

The recent Free Movie Night, sponsored by the Shire of Northampton, highlighted the importance of collective enjoyment and entertainment in bringing families and the community together. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and cheerful chatter as families settled into their seats, eagerly anticipating the film.

Adding an extra layer of excitement to the evening was the presence of one of the film's stars, Therese Mavros. Known for her engaging performance in *Runt*, she graciously introduced the film and shared insights about her experiences on set. Her presence transformed an already special event into an unforgettable evening for the community. Not only did she share behind-the-scenes stories, but she also opened the floor for a lively Q&A session, allowing attendees to ask about her journey as an actress and the filming process.

The Shire of Northampton would like to thank the Kalbarri Development Association, Horrocks Community Center, and Northampton Community Center for providing a venue and assistance that made the nights a great success.



COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDING

We're thrilled to share some fantastic news that could make a big difference to our community. If you have a fantastic idea or event in mind, we invite you to apply for one of our Community Grants. Your project could be the incentive for transformation in our community.

The Shire of Northampton has opened Round 2 of its Community Grants Program, offering funding for community projects, events, or youth initiatives.

Join us at our open days to discuss your vision and explore grant options:

Northampton @ RSL Hall (10:30 AM - 1 PM)**

- February Thurs 6
- February Thursday 13
- March Wednesday 12

Kalbarri @ Allen Centre (10:30 AM - 1 PM)**

- February Monday 3
- February Monday 17
- March Thursday 13

Don't forget to submit your applications by March 31, 2025!

We've had the privilege of supporting remarkable projects lately, such as:

Horrocks Community Centre's unforgettable New Year's Eve celebration

🎾 Kalbarri Tennis Club's inspiring junior coaching program

🎮 Northampton Hospital Auxiliary's interactive gaming device for residents

🎣 Kalbarri Offshore and Angling Club's upcoming 38th Sport Fishing Classic 🎣

These examples showcase the power of community spirit and what we can achieve together. If you're feeling inspired but need support, don't hesitate to reach out to your Community Development Officer—they are here to help you through the application process.

FORESHORE ENGAGEMENT

Last month, Community Development Officers Andrea Teakle and Cresta Viellaris set up pop-up information stalls to spotlight the much-anticipated Kalbarri Foreshore Revitalisation Works. The stalls drew crowds, demonstrating that our community is not only interested in development but also passionate about making their voices heard!

At the stalls, community members had the chance to engage directly with Shire representatives. It was

heartening to see locals sharing their ideas and feedback, contributing to the future of our town. The sentiment was clear: people want to "have your say about what is happening in our town," and this event provided the perfect platform for those discussions. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to the success of the pop-up stalls. Let's continue to work together, support one another, and make Kalbarri an even better place to live, work, and play!



RESIDENTIAL GLAZING REQUIREMENT

The National Construction Code and associated Australian Standards set down standards for appropriate glazing in certain circumstances. Areas where wind loading and human impact can occur need to comply with a safety standard to protect the occupants and infrastructure alike.

Recent wind events indicated that impact damage to glazing was the main cause to its failure, combined with water egress to the inside of the building resulted in a combination of further damage.

The failure of fixed glazing will allow wind pressure to enter the building and combined with the negative pressure (suction) on the exterior of the building can force the roof structure to fail. Glazing panels should have a stamp on the surface area indicating that the glass complies with AS 4055 but this may not always be the case.

Although Building Applications specify compliance with Australian Standards 4055, it is best to confirm with the glazier, via the builder, that this is the case. The glazier should be able to produce a "Certificate of Compliance" to indicate compliance with the appropriate standard. A non-conforming issue with the Australian Standards could give rise to the occupants safety and insurance claims in any future wind event.

DIVIDING FENCES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A standard dividing fence will not attract Planning or a Building Application, however, a variation needs to be looked at to satisfy street amenity and the structural integrity of the proposed variation.

A standard fence stands no more than 1.8m in high and recedes down to 1.2m maximum at the front boundary. The fence can be manufactured out of color bond, cellulose fibre, timber or masonry as standard products, other variations will require Planning/Building approval.

Unapproved variations may come under scrutiny by insurance companies during a wind event and become void due to being non-conforming with the manufacturer's specifications. Please also note that the Shire of Northampton is in a Wind Region B2 and certain construction requirements need to be adhered to.

LOW NUMBER DISTRICT PLATES

Low number District Plates are available at the Shire Office through the Department of Transport now. Numbers are random and guaranteed to be under NR1000. They are available on a first come first served basis with priority given to residing families.

If you are the proud owner of a District Plate did you know that if you had one of your plates missing or stolen you lose that number and new plates need to be reissued?

The Department of Transport has brought in a new system named Optional Plates. For a fee you will secure that special number to yourself and gives you flexible options where it can be sold, transferred, changed to trailer issue and can be reissued to you if one or both of your plates go missing.

Did you know you can have your number plates remade? If you have state or district plates you can have your plates remade and also have the option of three colours. Blue WA, black on white background or black on yellow background. Please see one of our friendly staff members for further enquiries.

Department of Transport services are available Tuesday to Friday 8:00am – 3:30pm.

EVENT APPROVALS

Events are defined as regular or one-off events where people assemble for civic, social, educational, entertainment, sporting, religious, business, or other purposes. Examples include concerts, shows, festivals, exhibitions, and similar events.

To hold a public event in the Shire you need to apply for approval. This process involves providing a range of documentation with your application including site plans, evidence of public liability insurance, comprehensive risk, and emergency management plans. You may also need to consider and provide documentation and plans for traffic management, first aid and emergency service access etc.

As there are a number of laws to comply with, the application that you need to submit will depend on the type of event you are planning. As a starting point, you should consider contacting the Shire's Community Development Officers.

RETIREMENT OF NORTHAMPTON REFUSE SUPERVISOR GRAHAM PATTERSON

Graeme Patterson resigned from his position as Northampton Refuse Site Supervisor on 16 December 2024. Graham joined the Shire of Northampton over 10 years ago and has provided a dedicated service to the Shire and Refuse Site users by coordinating the operations of the Landfill Transfer site in the town. In addition to his work for the Shire he has been an active volunteer for the local Bushfire Brigade

We enjoyed celebrating his retirement with him at the Shire's end of year function and wish him well in his future endeavours.

WELCOME TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER CRESTA VIELLARIS

We are pleased to announce the recent appointment of Cresta Viellaris as part-time Community Development Officer. Cresta commenced work in early January and is available to assist you with any project ideas or enquiries that you may have. Andrea Teakle and Cresta Viellaris have been appointed as part time Community Development Officers for the Shire of Northampton with Cresta operating primarily from the Kalbarri Shire office and Andrea operating from the Northampton Shire office. We officially welcome Cresta to her new role.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Cresta (cresta.viellaris@northampton.wa.gov.au) or Andrea (andrea.teakle@northampton.wa.gov.au) to discuss your proposed event, idea or project idea.

DOWNLOAD THE EMERGENCY WA APP

The Emergency WA app is now available for download from the App Store and Google Play. The app is a powerful tool that offers the fastest, most reliable access to alerts and warnings for hazards across Western Australia.

Users can set custom watch zones, tailor notifications, upload critical documents and listen to emergency broadcasts – empowering communities to stay informed and safe.

Don't forget, emergencies can happen suddenly and cause disruptions to power, internet and telecommunications systems. It's important you know how to access a range of official information sources.

Get information by:

- Visting Emergency WA, downloading the app and setting up your watch zones
- Calling 13 DFES (13 3337)
- Listening to ABC local radio and tuning into 6PR in the metropolitan area
- Following Department of Fire and Emergency Services WA on Facebook
- Staying in touch with neighbours, family and friends
- Being alert and aware of your surroundings

For more information about the Emergency WA app, visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/>

LIBRARY NEWS

To celebrate Valentines Day, Northampton and Kalbarri Public Libraries invite you to drop in and have a **Blind Date With A Book**

- From the 10th February right up to Valentines day the 14 February you can check out your mystery date. Blind dates are a lot less nerve wracking when they're with a book!

Not a Library member, not a problem call into your local Library, bring some ID with proof of residential address or temporary address with in the Shire of Northampton and a contact number and we can set up your membership while you browse the Library and remember, membership is FREE.

HYDRATION IS IMPORTANT

It's hot out there, and whether you're working the paddock or tackling a job site, dehydration can hit faster than a ute on an open road. Don't wait until you're bone-dry—keep that water bottle handy and drink regularly throughout the day.

Sweating buckets? Replace those lost electrolytes with water-rich snacks like watermelon or a sports drink. Skip the caffeine and sugary drinks—they'll leave you drier than a dusty track. And remember, feeling dizzy, tired, or like you're running on empty? Take five in the shade and hydrate before it gets worse.

Stay safe, stay cool, and keep those fluids up—because nothing slows down the day like dehydration!



KALBARRI OPEN AIR CONCERT

Jamart Sound Lounge of Perth has applied and received approval for the Shire to hold the Kalbarri Open Air (KOA) 2-day music festival event again in 2025 on the Kalbarri Oval and will include the use of the Kalbarri Sport & Community Centre. The dates are Friday 4th & Saturday 5th April in the hope that the weather will not be too hot for musicians and attendees. There will again be a variety of music styles showcased from country music, pop-rock,

alternative/indie/rock & roll including an Aboriginal band, heavy rock & roll, and heavy metal. Two of the bands were "unearthed" by Triple J radio.

Band merchandise will be available for sale at the venue. The Kalbarri Sport & Recreation Committee will be operating a bar for the event within the Sport & Recreation Centre so the event is licenced and patrons cannot bring their own alcohol into the event area. There will be a few mobile food vans present.

Gaps in the oval fencing are hopefully going to be re-filled soon to try and stop kangaroos accessing the oval to feed, and the Shire would appreciate it if people would not take down or push through the fill-in fencing. The Shire has arranged to have the oval treated for ticks and ants prior to this event to reduce possible annoyance to attendees from these insects.

The event application received and approved by the Shire was for the event to commence at 2:00pm and finish at 10:00pm as it did in 2024. Jamart Sound Lounge has recently asked if the approved finish time for the event can be extended to 11:00pm. Council will consider this request at the February 2025 Council Meeting after seeking comments from nearby accommodation businesses which will be most impacted by the event.

So if you like watching live bands from different music styles, check out the Kalbarri Open Air webpage to see who will be performing, and mark the event on your calendar.

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

The Shire of Northampton is developing the next iteration of our Strategic Community Plan, and we want to hear your vision and ideas for the next 10 years! Please join us at a community workshop to help shape the future of our community. You can register online at: <https://stepsco.com/northampton-scp/>

If you need help to register, please contact the Shire on (08) 9934 1202.

Horrocks: Wednesday 12th February 2025, 9:30am – 11:00am

Kalbarri: Wednesday 12th February 2025, 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Port Gregory: Thursday 13th February 2025, 9:30am – 11:00am

Northampton: Thursday 13th February 2025, 1:00pm – 3:00pm



COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025

- 20 February 2025 – Kalbarri
- 20 March 2025 – Northampton
- 17 April 2025 – Northampton
- 15 May 2025 – Kalbarri
- 19 June 2025 – Northampton
- 17 July 2025 – Northampton
- 21 August 2025 – Kalbarri
- 18 September 2025 - Northampton
- 16 October 2025 – Northampton
- 20 November 2025 – Kalbarri
- 18 December 2025 - Northampton

COUNCILLORS

Cr Liz Sudlow, President – 0427 362 025
Cr Rob Horstman, Deputy – 0418 795 368
Cr Roslyn Suckling – 0429 200 143
Cr Trevor Gibb – 0417 920 125
Cr Des Pike – 0417 919 814
Cr Richard Burges – 0417 912 901
Cr Tim Hay – 0488 212 566
Cr Karl Suckling – 0427 839 274

SHIRE ADDRESS

Northampton Office

Hampton Road, Northampton
PO Box 61 Northampton WA 6535
Phone: 9934 1202 Opening Hours: Mon - Fri
8.00am - 4.30pm (DOT closes at 3.30pm)

Kalbarri Office

70 Grey St, Kalbarri
Phone: 9937 1097
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm
(closed for lunch 12.30pm - 1pm)

EMAIL

council@northampton.wa.gov.au

WEBSITE

www.northampton.wa.gov.au

