



## Shire Bulletin May 2026

Last week I was sad to receive the resignation of Deputy President Tim Hay. I would like to sincerely thank him for serving as a Councillor since 2017 and for stepping into the Deputy role in March of last year, when Rob Horstman was elected as an MP. Tim's practical knowledge, and his ability to quickly assess all manner of situations and his confidence to speak up, sometimes in difficult situations, has been an asset to our Council group. Having been in business, he fully understands how important money and resources are. I have also very much appreciated his genuine support of me as President during his service as Deputy. On behalf of all of Council, I would like to wish he and Sam all the best for the future.

Congratulations to Cr Richard Burges on being elected at last Thursday's Ordinary Meeting of Council, as our new Deputy Shire President. On behalf of us all, thanks for stepping into the role. Tim's resignation means that now we have a vacancy and we will be required to have an Extraordinary Election when it can be organised. If you are interested in serving on Council, I encourage you to contact one of the Councillors to see what is involved.

I was very aware of the recent threat of Cyclone Narelle caused much anxiety throughout the region. I was actually away in SA, until Tony and I decided we needed to come home. In Andrew's absence, I'd like to sincerely acknowledge the work of Acting CEO at the time, Brian Robinson and all staff at the Shire, for their efforts in making sure we were prepared, and also for the regular communication to myself and others. Our new Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM), Tatiana Vafiades, was put to the challenge and proved herself to be highly capable. It was exceptionally encouraging to see the various stakeholder groups come together in effective planning and preparation. And it was incredibly fortunate that in the end, it was all a practice run-through.

The Shire event that was held on Sat 11th April at the Northampton Community Centre, on the 5th anniversary of TC Seroja, was a fantastic success and



thanks to all who attended. Sincere thanks must go to our Community Development Officers, Cresta and Andrea for their efforts, as well as to Mrs Sue White and Mrs Helen McQuie for their energy, extensive knowledge of local history and for their on-going generosity to the community.

Part of the night was dedicated to honouring the resilience of our people, including after Cyclone Seroja. I would very much like to thank the Hon Rob Horstman for hosting the panel session, and to the five people who generously shared their stories. Thanks also to Arran Teakle and Nell Eastough who spoke about being young, energetic people involved in agriculture. Thanks to Richard Casley for sharing his family's story about the Hutt River Province.

The quality and quantity of food is always a maker or breaker of an evening and thanks to Ricky from the Bottom Hotel, it was simply outstanding. Special thanks to Barbara Williams for the table decorations. I would also very much like to thank the people who attended from Kalbarri. We are one Shire and it is so important that we take the opportunities to work and socialise together. Thanks Martin and Ellen who generously drove the KDA bus down to assist.

Finally, thanks to Paul Hasleby, who did a fantastic job of honouring our local sports stars and for being the MC for the evening. Given both his paternal and maternal great grandfathers came out from England on the same ship in the early history of WA, he was the perfect choice! To summarise, the feedback I have received about the evening, was that it was a wonderful evening to hear, read and share some stories; and in regard to Seroja, was a night of grace and healing.

I extend my sympathy to the family of Mrs Julie Atkinson who recently passed away. Julie was married to Charlie Atkinson, who was a former Northampton Shire President. Julie was an independent, educated woman, who first came to the region as a school teacher, at the one-teacher school at Galena, Ajana. She and Charlie were a wonderful duo and I'm sure

Julie's influence was a factor in Charlie being an excellent President.

Until next month...

**Liz Sudlow**  
Shire President

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Just prior to the Council meeting held on 16 April 2026, Councillor Tim Hay resigned from his position of Councillor and effectively his position of Deputy Shire President. Due to changing life circumstances with Tim moving permanently to Geraldton, he made the decision to leave the Council following more than eight years as a Councillor. On behalf of the administration of the Shire of Northampton we sincerely thank Tim for his commitment to the organisation and wish Tim, Sam and family all the best in the future.

Following Councillor Hay's resignation, an election was conducted for the position of Deputy Shire President until 15 October 2027. Councillor Richard Burges was duly appointed to the role. In addition to this, an extraordinary election will be required to fill the Councillor vacancy and Council will consider this matter at coming meetings. If you have any interest in being a Councillor, now would be a fantastic opportunity to put your hand up. I can be confidentially contacted to discuss your interest and answer any questions you may have.

At the Council meeting held 16 April 2026, Development Approval was granted for a new Mens Shed and Containers for Change Facility in Northampton. This project is a collaboration between the Northampton Mens Shed and the Shire of Northampton and is proposed to be located in the Northampton Light Industrial Area near the Shire Depot. Whilst Development Approval has been issued, the financial arrangements are still to be finalised. The purpose of the relocation of the Northampton Mens Shed and the Containers for Change Facility is to return the rail display to its original tourism intent.

You would have probably noticed that there is a significant vermin problem across the Shire district. This mouse plague is not only impacting farming and other commercial enterprises, but also how people go about their normal lives. Mice can carry disease, and it is strongly advised to try and control them with either mechanical or chemical means. If everybody works together, numbers will be reduced and less impacts will occur. From a sanitation perspective please ensure that food preparation surfaces and other high human contact areas are regularly disinfected, and everyone washes their hands regularly which will assist in preventing communicable disease in the community.

**Andrew Campbell**  
Chief Executive Officer

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Story Harvest - Echoes of the Past

What a night to remember! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the Story Harvest Event at the Northampton Community Centre on 11 April 2026. Your presence made it truly special.

The evening was filled with laughter, reconnection, and the kind of stories that stay with you long after the night ends. Sharing a beautiful meal together made it all the sweeter.

We would like to recognise all the work contributed by the event organisers, Liz Sudlow, Sue White, Helen McQuie, and Cresta and Andrea at the Shire of Northampton. We thank FRRR and the Shire of Northampton Community Grant Fund for sponsoring this event and making it possible.



### Exciting opportunity for community groups who hold events.

The Shire of Northampton is eager to hear your plans for 2026/2027 milestones, anniversary or event ideas. Share your big ideas with us and discover how our resources can support your vision and help turn them into reality. We can assist with developing an idea, budgeting, funding, planning and logistics.

Contact your Local Community Development Officer today to collaborate on something special.

## Community Consultation Opportunity

The Shire of Northampton currently has its Shared Foot & Bike Pathway Survey 2026 on its web page. Consultation period ends 24 May 2026. Alternatively, you can contact your local Community Development Officer. The link can be found on our webpage, under Latest News.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

### Update from Your Local Community Emergency Services Manager – Tatiana Vafiades

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself to those I have not met yet and reconnect with those who already know me. I moved to Northampton in 2021 from Toodyay, before that I was in Perth and originally from North Queensland. I have a military background as I served in the Royal Australian Navy for several years.

I moved to Northampton in 2021 and was heavily impacted by Cyclone Seroja, much like many others in our community. I live on a farm near Port Gregory and have been involved in Bush Fire Services for nearly 15 years. I am also part of the Port Gregory/Yallabatharra Bush Fire Brigade and the local Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for Northampton.

I have recently commenced in the role of Community Emergency Services Manager, working across both Northampton and Chapman Valley Local Government districts. I've been in the position for about six weeks now, and it's certainly been a busy start with plenty to learn.

I would like to sincerely thank the community and the Shire for the support shown during preparations for Tropical Cyclone Narelle. We were very fortunate with how the system tracked, but there was a lot happening behind the scenes to ensure we were ready. It was great to see all the planning and improvements made since Seroja come together so effectively. Preparedness is something we'll continue to focus on—there's always more we can do.

We have also held some Bush Fire Advisory Committee meetings, where we are reviewing procedures and looking at ways to make them more consistent and share them with neighbouring Local Governments.

Looking ahead, Mitigation Burn Week in Kalbarri is coming up from May 4 to May 8, weather permitting. You may notice some smoke during this time, but please be assured that highly trained crews are

managing the burns safely. It's an important week that helps reduce fire risk and gives our brigade members valuable training in a controlled environment. We are also planning to carry out some strategic mitigation burns around Northampton next year.

Our recent focus has been on compliance and getting all our training, vehicles and equipment up to the necessary standards since new legislation rolled out 18 months ago.

Both Northampton and Chapman Valley along with DFES are holding a Rural Women's Fire Awareness Training Day on the 22nd of April 2026 which has peaked a lot of interest, and we are excited to be running it for the community. Key focuses for this course will be the Rural Fire Awareness Course and how to prepare your home and family in the event a fire or disaster happens.

I'm very grateful to be in this role and look forward to meeting more of you. If you would like to chat about anything related to emergency services, please feel free to drop by. My office is in the building opposite the Shire office—right at the northern end. You can also call me on 0439883521 or email [tatiana.vafiades@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:tatiana.vafiades@dfes.wa.gov.au) and I look forward to working with you all.

## KALBARRI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Kalbarri Public Library was fortunate to receive a 2025/26 State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) Encouraging Promising Practice Grant to upgrade the furniture in our library. The grant has allowed us to upgrade our Junior section, Young Adult space and provide user friendly workstations.

Our Junior section has had a facelift with new mobile book bins, DVD spinner stand, bright floor rug, library shelving accessories and educational puzzles and toys. It is a welcoming space for children and their carers to come and spend some time – reading, playing and engaging with our library resources.



We have created a dedicated Young Adult space where young adults can access appropriate material tucked away in a cosy corner. Suitable for hanging out, reading, studying, completing a puzzle or some mindful colouring.



We have upgraded our desks and chairs that are available for people to work, study, relax and make use of library resources.

In addition to the upgrades the SLWA grant has afforded us, the library still has a lot to offer.

The library has a Public Access Terminal with internet access and Microsoft Office apps that are free to use. There is also free Wi-Fi in the building. We offer copying, printing, laminating, scanning and emailing services (charges apply).

Membership is free to residents and joining is simple. Membership allows you to borrow a large range of books, DVD's, audio books, jigsaw puzzles as well as access E-Resources that offer an extensive range of digital content including books, audio books, magazines, movies, TV Series, music and more. We receive a new exchange of materials once a month from the SLWA so there is always something current to choose from. We can also request to borrow materials from other libraries if we don't have what you are after.

We are grateful to the SLWA for the provision of this grant that has allowed us to improve access and engagement to our library for our community. A big thank you to Cresta (Community Development Officer) for securing the grant and to Jay (Works Staff) for putting all the furniture together for us.

We would love to see you making full use of our Library and all that it offers.

## COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2026

**21 May 2026 – Kalbarri**

**18 June 2026 – Northampton**

**16 July 2026 – Northampton**

**20 August 2026 – Kalbarri**

**17 September 2026 - Northampton**

**15 October 2026 – Northampton**

**19 November 2026 – Kalbarri**

**17 December 2026 – Northampton**

## COUNCILLORS

**Cr Liz Sudlow, President – 0427 362 025**

**Cr Richard Burges, Deputy President – 0417 912 901**

**Cr Roslyn Suckling – 0429 200 143**

**Cr Chad Smith – 0428 932 476**

**Cr Des Pike – 0417 919 814**

**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](mailto:council@northampton.wa.gov.au)**

## WEBSITE

**[www.northampton.wa.gov.au](http://www.northampton.wa.gov.au)**