



## SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we are... August already! I have a theory that after mid-August, the Spring silly season launches with gusto and before one knows it... it's Christmas!

I was very sad to learn last week of the passing of Dr Ron Hutchison. Ron was the doctor in Northampton for more than 30 years and served the community so admirably. In July 1970 the President of the Shire, Mr Ern Teakle, travelled to Perth to bring Ron, who had arrived from Scotland, back to Northampton to commence work as the local doctor. Several months later Ron's wife, Sheila and their four children arrived by boat.

Ron was quite visionary in his approach to medicine. He advocated for a new hospital for the town and in 1976, the hospital in Stephen St was opened. He was responsible for building the Surgery in Robinson St and developing a Rural Medicine Centre. He insistently advocated the state government for a Community Care program, and versions of his model have become mainstream practise nowadays. I remember him advocating for natural childbirth practices where possible, using breathwork and meditation strategies. Many student doctors spent time in his practice, including Dr Margo Hope, who liked it so much she returned years later!

I understand there are a number of people who are keen to compile a more comprehensive history and stories of Ron's life in Northampton, so keep your eye out for it in a future edition of this publication. If you do have any memories you would like to share, contact Jenny Teakle or Justeen Varney.

I know there are many of us across the Shire who are mourning the loss of Mrs Pat Reynolds who recently lost her battle with cancer. Pat, like Ron contributed to our community on so many levels. She was an incredibly talented artist, photographer, writer and desktop publisher. She was involved with the Northampton News in the early days and stamped her delightful brand of humour and cartoons on the paper. Pat contributed to many fantastic community celebrations and concerts over the years. She kept our local history alive through her love of photography and knowledge of the past. Through the Northampton Home Movies and Photos Facebook Page, she made that history accessible to everyone and encouraged anyone with a connection to our area, to stay connected.

At her memorial morning tea last week, Kylie spoke of the gratitude the family had for the medical services in Northampton, for the care and respect given to Pat so that she could stay in her community. She told us not to take this for granted. I think Dr Ron would have

been quietly chuffed to hear Kylie remind us of how lucky we are to have these special health professionals living in our communities.

At the morning tea, a poem titled 'The Patchwork Quilt' was read by friend and family member, Helen Reynolds, herself a talented artist. The poem draws analogies about the fabric pieces being positioned together like family and community, and of the importance of repairing the frayed bits to keep them protected. Did Pat write this after the cyclone? The poem itself was a poignant work of art, and was as if Pat had written the poem with Helen in mind, to be read at her end-of-life celebration. My deepest sympathy to Pat's family in Geraldton, Northampton and Kalbarri.

I recently attended the Changeover dinner of the Batavia Rotary Club at the Geraldton Golf Club. The club has donated approximately \$17,000 to our community in the aftermath of Cyclone Seroja for projects at St Mary's School, to replace art display boards for our Ag Society and a contribution to the Creative Obsessions Building.

The past President was Mr Brendan Davies and the incoming President is Mr Shain Forth. Shain along with his wife Elise, through Leon Baker Jewellers, have been long term supporters of the Northampton Ag Society and have also donated display cabinets to the Northampton RSL branch to house items at the Visitors' Centre.

As a matter of interest, we have also received additional funding from the broader Rotary community (Greater Geraldton club and other clubs in WA), which was spent on a Leadership program run by Jon Haines for the secondary students at Kalbarri District High School. This excellent program was then extended to the other schools in the Shire and was funded by the JK Foundation.

Not for profit organisations such as these groups, noting also the Northampton Lions Club, the Northampton Tourist Association, the Kalbarri Development Association and the Kalbarri Old Bastard Assoc, to name a few (and there are many others!) do so much for our communities through service work, fund raising and volunteering. Andrew and I met last week with Jamie-Lee Loffler and Lauren Sweetman who, with their KDA based committee, raised \$25,000 from the Gala celebration in May, which will go back into the Kalbarri community. If you are involved in a service organisation, THANK YOU for the contribution that you make, and if you aren't... consider getting involved!

Liz Sudlow  
Shire President

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Recently I have been actively engaging people from the community, business and government trying to gain a better understanding of how the Shire of Northampton can meet its strategic and operational objectives. This will continue to be a focus for me over the next few months as I integrate into the CEO role and address priorities for the 2023/24 financial year.

### TC Seroja Update

Importantly the Shire has been able to make good progress to repair damaged coastal infrastructure in Kalbarri. Both the Chinamans Drive and Temporary Workers Caravan Accommodation facility concepts have been signed off by Council and can now progress to detailed design. Concepts for Blue Holes, Jacques Point and to a lesser extent, Red Bluff will also be considered by Council soon. Once detailed design work is finished, contractor procurement will occur, and works will commence. It is important to point out that funding for natural disaster infrastructure repair is provided for "like for like" replacement and whilst areas will not be reinstated exactly as they were, all works need to be very similar.

Council has also recently agreed to allocate some disaster funding to the replacement of the PCYC hall in Kalbarri with a multi-purpose facility that includes evacuation centre capacity at the Recreation Grounds. Additional grant funding for this project still needs to be sought and I have opened an early conversation with the recreation committee to ensure opportunities are maximised. In addition to this project, Council is also applying some disaster funding to Shire resources to facilitate community development.

### EV Charging Stations

The Synergy Electric Vehicle Charging station is operational in Northampton and a Development Application is now out for public comment for Kalbarri. The proposed Kalbarri EV Charging Station has been relocated from the foreshore to the Allen Centre car park after concerns were previously raised by the Kalbarri community. Please see the website for further detail.

### Coastal Erosion

Coastal erosion at Horrocks remains a significant concern for the Shire. As Horrocks has a designated CHRMAP (coastal hazard risk management and adaptation plan) it can be eligible for specific funding, and we are exploring those opportunities.

### Port Gregory Foreshore

The Shire is looking to quickly progress the redevelopment of the Port Gregory foreshore area. The redevelopment will include upgrading of existing infrastructure plus potentially a community led historical interpretation display.

### 2023/24 Annual Budget

Council will consider the 2023/24 Annual Budget at the Council meeting to be held in Kalbarri on 18 August 2023. There are many competing priorities feeding into this year's budget and please do not be disheartened if your project is unable to be supported as you are encouraged to resubmit for the 2024/25 budget process.

Andrew Campbell  
Chief Executive Officer



## COUNCIL MEETING DATES

18 August 2023 – Allen Centre Kalbarri  
15 September 2023 – Council Chambers  
Northampton  
20 October 2023 – Council Chambers  
Northampton  
17 November 2023 – Allen Centre Kalbarri  
15 December 2023 – Council Chambers  
Northampton

## ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT 2021

The new *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* came into effect on 1 July 2023. The new Act replaces the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

What has not changed with the new Act is the need to seek approval for activities that may harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. The Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH) have developed guidelines to implement the Act which are designed to guide proponents in navigating the new framework.

Fact sheets, guidelines and educational videos can be found on the DPLH website. The Shire is not able to provide comprehensive advice on this new legislation as we are not the agency tasked with implementation or enforcement of this Act.

Further advice can be obtained from DPLH on 08 6551 8002 or [info@dplh.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@dplh.wa.gov.au).

## BEACH EMERGENCY NUMBERS (BEN)

The Beach Emergency Numbers (BEN) system - named in honour of fatal shark bite victim Ben Gerring – is a coding system that aims to improve emergency response times by installing signs with unique codes at beach access points.

These signs provide specific location information which is vital when emergency services are deployed in the event of a shark sighting, bite or other beach emergency.

In December 2017, the Western Australian Government launched a grants program to provide financial assistance to Local Government Authorities from Geraldton to the South Australian border to introduce BEN signs at beaches. In December 2020, the program was extended to the 12 coastal LGAs from north of Geraldton to Kununurra.

In Northampton Shire 23 BEN signs have been installed at various locations and will be managed by DBCA, Department of Transport, the Shire and Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation.

When visiting the beach, users should become familiar with BEN signs and take note of the unique code on the beach access point they use. In the event of an emergency, dial 000 and quote the unique code and specific location information. Where possible, the caller should wait at the beach access point until emergency service crews arrive.

## EVENT APPLICATIONS

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 Environmental Health Officer, Wendy Dallywater by email to [eho@northampton.wa.gov.au](mailto:eho@northampton.wa.gov.au) or by phone to 0429 341 228.

## DIVIDING FENCES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

An area that can be confusing is residential fencing and what structures are allowed under the Shire's Local Laws and planning policies relating to fencing.

Any substantial structure built along a boundary is likely to require planning approval and a building permit issued prior to construction. This is particularly the case for retaining walls, walls that form part of the building, unusually high fences or fences made from unusual materials.

Fences that form part of a swimming pool or spa pool barrier also require a building permit prior to construction.

A standard, conventional fence surrounding the rear of a residential property can be up to a maximum of 1.8 meters high, decreasing at the front building setback to a maximum of 1.2 meters will not require planning approval or a building permit.

Also due to recent wind events, manufacturers recommendations on structural stiffening of the fence should be adhered to prevent any warranty/insurance issues arising in the future.

## REFUSE SITE OPENING TIMES

Kalbarri  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
9-00am to 2-00pm

Northampton  
Wednesday 1-00pm to 5-00pm  
Saturday & Sunday 8-00am to 5-00pm

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

## WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY



To reduce the risk of injury or harm to the health and safety of workers, a person conducting a business or undertaking should provide enough information, instruction, and training for people who work alone.

Often you may not be able to avoid working alone on construction sites, roads & farms, but a reliable means of emergency communication and emergency procedures can mean that you can get help quickly if something goes wrong. Where it's reasonably practicable, work near others to maintain communication to help reduce the risks.

**HIGH RISK** - Working alone without means of emergency contact or an emergency procedure.

**MEDIUM RISK** - Working alone with an agreed means of emergency Contact and an agreed emergency procedure.

**LOWER RISK** - Working alone, but within the same area as others and in constant communication.

[www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/safety-topic/hazards/remote-and-isolated-work](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/safety-topic/hazards/remote-and-isolated-work)

## COUNCILLORS

### NORTHAMPTON WARD

Cr Liz Sudlow, President – 0427 362 025  
Cr Rob Horstman, Deputy – 0418 795 368  
Cr Roslyn Suckling – 0429 200 143  
Cr Tim Hay – 0488 212 566

### KALBARRI WARD

Cr Trevor Gibb – 0417 920 125  
Cr Des Pike – 0417 919 814  
Cr Richard Burges – 0417 912 901

## 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 4.00pm)

### Kalbarri Office

70 Grey St, Kalbarri  
Phone: 9937 1097

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm (closed for lunch 12.30pm - 1pm)