



Shire Bulletin July 2025



SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Like many others, I'm thrilled with the magnificent rains we've enjoyed through June. It never ceases to amaze me how the landscape in our part of the world transforms from brown, parched and rather uninspiring at the end of summer, to green and lush, so soon after the first rains. It's been especially magical this year because the weather has been so warm, enabling excellent growth of crops and pastures – and wonderful for gardening!

Last month I mentioned a whole array of events that were due to take place. Congratulations to all the various groups on the fantastic successes of your respective celebrations. The Kalbarri Gala was amazing yet again, as was the Kalbarri Festival, the Port Gregory Swim and Walk to Start a Conversation, the Cancer Biggest Morning Tea, the Wagga Workshop, and the Midwest Variety 4WD rally through our area. The volunteers who organise these events are the heroes of our community and on behalf of all who live here - thank you!

Congratulations to Nicole Kielman, Lynn Randall, Jan Harkins, Illona Vissa, Kerryn Dunwoodie Syrup, Grant Ward, Maney Teasedale, Mark Hancock, Claire Stringer and Rita Hansen, who were nominated as outstanding volunteers in the Kalbarri community. Rita Hansen was awarded the overall Volunteer of the Year announced at the Kalbarri Gala, nominated by St Johns Kalbarri, and has subsequently been awarded Life Membership from St Johns. Congratulations Rita and sincere thanks for all you have done for well over 20 years!

It has been a particularly busy time for Shire of Northhampton staff and Councillors as we prepare our budget. We have also had visits from the new MLA for Geraldton, Kirrilee Warr and the new Minister for the Mid West, Hon Jackie Jarvis.

In the middle part of June, the CEO Andrew Campbell and I attended a Renewable Energy Forum in Perth where Ministers Sanderson and Carey gave

presentations and Draft Guidelines for Benefit Sharing were released. Submissions to this document can be made until 4th August, so I urge you to be part of the conversation. Transparent and fair Benefit Sharing is essential to growing strong communities, as we move closer to potential renewable developments throughout the Mid West.

Last week, Deputy President Tim Hay, CEO Andrew Campbell and I attended the WA Budget Luncheon function and heard from Minister Jarvis and Hon Sandra Carr as they explained specific budget implications for the Mid West. From the WA State Government, we will receive \$250,000 for planning towards the Kalbarri Multi-Purpose Centre, \$1M for an air conditioning upgrade to the Kalbarri Medical Centre, a new community bus for KDA, funds for DFES equipment in Northhampton and Kalbarri, as well as some funds to improve road safety across some roads in our local government area.

Under the Manager of Corporate Services, the leases of the various Shire buildings will be reviewed, which is a task that will take some time. This has commenced with the Northhampton Community Centre. Many of you will be aware of the importance of that facility to the sporting and cultural strength of the area. There are many adults and youngsters who travel from Kalbarri, from in and around Northhampton, as well as from Yuna and Geraldton to be involved in sport. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the NCC Committee for the diligent and sometimes difficult work that they do to keep the NCC operational, particularly at present, in the absence of a Manager. The Shire does contribute to maintenance matters, and does work with the NCC Committee, who deal with the day-to-day management of the facility. An open and respectful dialogue between all parties, including the various sporting clubs, supports this approach. As a player of sport in the community or social user of the facility, you can assist by paying your NCC

membership, saying thank you to those volunteers for their tireless work and maybe even offering to help!

Finally, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mrs Edna Lockyer, who passed away last week. Edna was a long-serving community champion who was born and bred in the area and worked over her lifetime to make Northampton a better place. She operated wildflower tours from her home on Stephen St when this was somewhat of a new tourist attraction. She opened Lockyers' Wildflower shop in Hampton Road, and there have since been two subsequent excellent gift shops in that premises. Edna loved music and the arts and was involved in many community concerts at the Alma Hall and the Community Centre. She was a fanatical Northampton Football Club member and supported both her sons in their football journeys. To a significant extent, we can acknowledge her for supporting her son, Andrew, who was our first AFL champion and encouraging her grandson Tarkyn to do the same. This initial success showed other local football potential stars, that a pathway was possible and gave them greatness to aspire to. Edna was a kind and generous lady who was loved by many and had a great sense of fun.

On the wildflower theme, not so long ago, I met the CEO of the Coral Coast, David O'Malley, who suggested that we should plant wildflowers where possible to increase the prevalence of them across the shire, particularly in drier seasons when they do not flourish so well, out in the bush. Tourists, as they travel through our towns would appreciate the spectacle. I know there is a greater prevalence of everlasting seeds from a couple of fundraisers this year (and thank you to the unknown person who dropped some jars of everlasting off to me at the Shire office). My challenge, as a way of honouring Mrs Lockyer, is to plant and nurture these everlasting and other native flowering plants to promote our magnificent wildflower attraction. She would love it!

And on that note, which makes me smile with memories of Edna – farewell for the month.

Liz Sudlow
Shire President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

With the recent welcome rains, the Shire's attention will again turn to ensuring our unsealed roads are kept in a trafficable condition. At the time of writing the Shire has yet to implement any temporary road closures and generally, the use of unsealed roads after rainfall events has been well managed by road users. By working together with the community, the Shire intends to keep our roads open as much as possible to ensure business continuity occurs for agricultural producers and school bus routes are safe. This needs to be a collaboration between the Shire and community to protect road assets and sometimes the application of

common sense particularly with heavy vehicles can prevent significant damage to the roads.

With the end of the financial year looming, our remaining Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) projects are being finalised. Whiting Pool Stairs at Horrocks has now been completed and feedback has been very positive from the local community. In addition, improvements to Little Bay Road are being finalised and will be complete by 30 June 2025. These improvements will assist with accessibility and safety.

Councillors and staff have been busy working on the 2024/25 Annual Budget with a plan to have it adopted before the end of July 2025. One particular focus this year in the draft budget has been around the maintenance of Shire owned buildings, including those currently leased to community groups. With a proposed increase in funds directed to maintenance, it is expected that some existing maintenance burden will be completed.

The Shire's Strategic Community Plan is nearing completion with the expectation that it will be adopted by Council in the coming months. Following this the Shire will move straight into the major review of the Corporate Business Plan to align with the fantastic submissions made by the community during the Strategic Community Plan phase.

Illegal camping across the district has increased substantially since April 2025 particularly in the coastal areas. The Shire is not alone in facing these issues with many reports from Local Government across Western Australia highlighting the issue. Since April 2025 Shire Rangers have issued around forty \$200 infringements for illegal camping in addition to education through warnings and we are continuing to address the matter. Where illegal camping is occurring regularly and you have concerns, please contact the Shire Rangers directly.

The State Government commitments to the Kalbarri Foreshore Redevelopment (\$8.1M) and Kalbarri Multipurpose and Evacuation Centre (\$250k) are currently being finalised through the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development via Financial Assistance Agreements (FAA). Once the FAA has been established, funds will be provided to the Shire to commence activities in line with the State budget of 2025/26.

The Port Gregory foreshore carpark is finally getting a facelift after delays. Community amenity is being improved with footpaths, parking rationalisation and shelters being provided. On the topic of Port Gregory, the Shire has undertaken a strategic assessment of the non-potable water supply provided to the Port Gregory community by the Shire. The intent of the review was to ensure compliance plus also planning for upgrades to increase capacity for residents and firefighting purposes.

Andrew Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Shire of Northampton 2025/26 Community Grants Set to Launch on July 1st! **

Get ready, community members! The Shire of Northampton will be opening their Community Grant on July 1st, and this round features an increased funding amount. If you missed out last time, now's your chance to give it another go!

Take inspiration from past recipients like the Northampton Historical Society. They organized an engaging Wagga workshop where participants came together to share stories through the art of sewing. Even the youth from NDHS participated, learning the time-honoured skill of sewing on a button! Meanwhile, Kalbarri Offshore hosted a fantastic fishing event, and the Kalbarri Gala was an incredible hit!

We are eager to support your events or innovative ideas, so don't hesitate to apply!

To help you with the application process, we'll be hosting Grant engagement sessions throughout July. Drop by for assistance and let us help you bring your vision to life!



Wagga Workshop



Kalbarri Offshore

Letters of Support

When requesting a support letter from the Shire of Northampton keep in mind how long it takes for a letter to be produced. When seeking a support letter from the Shire of Northampton, it's essential to plan ahead. For endorsements of events or projects, allow a minimum of 5 days, providing details such as the funding body and event date. For in-kind support, a notice of at least 30 days is necessary, as it may require Council endorsement. Grant applications often need to go through a Council meeting, typically requiring 30 days for approval. If requesting funding under \$5,000, apply through the Shire's Community Grant Funds, which opens twice a year and may take up to 6 weeks to receive an outcome. For amounts over \$10,000, present your request to the Council by April 30 for consideration in the upcoming budget. This process demands careful planning and patience.



Northampton - Andrea Teakle 0476 532 000
Kalbarri - Cresta Viellaris 0400 476 952

WESTERN POWER - GENERATOR HIRE OR PURCHASE PROGRAM

Have you been affected by planned power outages?

Western Power's Generator Hire or Purchase Contribution Program could help reduce the impact on your operations.

Western Power may reimburse certain costs incurred by eligible business applicants for the hire or purchase of a generator to be used during planned power outages. The maximum amount that Western Power will reimburse an eligible applicant is \$1,000 (including GST).

- For business use only (not residential).
- Valid for one planned outage only.
- Electricity use must be under 160MWh/year.
- Subject to Western Power's approval.

For more information and to see if you qualify visit:
<https://www.westernpower.com.au/issues-enquiries/make-a-claim/generator-hire-or-purchase-contribution-program/>

ENERGY EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS UNDER NCC

All new residential building permit applications lodged with the Shire of Northampton on or after 1 May 2025 must meet the new minimum 7-star energy rating standard.

If your application was lodged before 1 May 2025, the previous requirements under NCC 2019 Amendment 1 will continue to apply — even if additional information is requested later.

To assist with understanding the transition timeline, please refer to the infographic below:

Time application for building permit is made	BCA 2019 Amdt 1	BCA 2022 with BCA 2019 Amdt 1 Energy Efficiency & Condensation requirements	BCA 2022	BCA 2022 Amdt 1
Until 30 April 2025	✓	✓	✓	✗
From 1 May 2025 until 30 April 2026	✗	✗	✓	✓
From 1 May 2026	✗	✗	✗	✓

Note: Regulation 15C of the Regulations modifies the BCA such that the application of the livable (accessible) housing provisions and the energy efficiency heating and cooling load limits is voluntary in WA.

For more information visit: <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/understanding-ncc-2022-and-implementation-clarification>

2025 AUSTRALIA POST COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM



Australia Post is supporting eligible community projects that help people connect and stay mentally well. Apply now for a grant of up to \$10,000.

Applications opened – **Tuesday 10 June 2025**

Applications close – **Monday 7 July 2025**

Notification of successful grants – **late Sept 2025**

For more info.visit: auspost.com.au/grants

Kalbarri Library Secondhand Item Sale!

Due to a recent influx of donations (thank you), weeding of our Library shelves and new stock arriving monthly from SLWA we have a large selection of secondhand items on sale.

Come in and browse our selection of books, CD's, DVD's, audio books and puzzles at bargain prices. .

Books \$1
DVD's & CDs 50 cents
DVD Sets \$2
Puzzles \$1
Audio Books \$2

SENIORS INFORMATION RESOURCE

Hard copies of the Seniors Information Resource 2024-2025 are available. Whilst the 2024-2025 financial year is fast coming to a close, the publication is packed with valuable information on services, support and programs available to WA Seniors.

A FREE copy can be found at various outlets around town including Australia Post and Shire offices.



REMAINING COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025

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 Tim Hay, Deputy President – 0488 212 566
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 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)

WEBSITE

www.northampton.wa.gov.au