



Shire Bulletin June 2025



SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The timing of the deadline for this column is a bit early for a number of fabulous events that are about to take place across the local government area - and by the time you read this they will all have happened:

1. The fabulous Kalbarri Gala, where 10 Volunteers will be recognised and one selected as the Kalbarri Volunteer of the Year. This is the 3rd Gala. The event was first held to celebrate all of the fantastic volunteers who had worked so hard for the community after the cyclone.
2. The Biggest Morning Tea, which will be held at Cathy Olman's Northampton garden, 'Gum Gully' and is organised by mother/daughter duo, Kaye Simkin and Jo Luxton and a merry squad of helpers. It is a fabulous event to raise funds for cancer research.

And happening on the June long weekend:

3. Make a Wagga Workshop at Chiverton House Museum. For those who don't know, a Wagga is a quilt made from anything available, such as old clothes, bags, hessian, that could be re-purposed into a quilt. This event pays homage to a by-gone Australian era where recycling was an intrinsic, essential part of life.
4. The Port Gregory Jetty Swim, a 2km swim walk or kayak, followed by a bbq lunch, with the goal of starting a conversation about mental health.
5. The Kalbarri Festival, a collection of events including the Adventurethon and Ram vs Railways Football Fixture is an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful Kalbarri outdoors.

It's fabulous that there are so many events on offer for residents and visitors to our region. The Northampton Ag Society Committee is also busy preparing for our annual show in September, so please offer to assist them. The Shire of Northampton, through the Community Grants Program has contributed sponsorship funds to some of these events. We are happy to consider your event in the future!

As I write, it is Volunteer Week. Thank you to all the amazing volunteers across so many organisations throughout our Shire, who contribute to making our communities better places to live, by the on-going donation of your time and skills. This is what makes our communities strong and such fantastic places to live.

Sincere sympathy to the families and friends of Peter Holt and Lyn Drage who recently passed away. Peter, who was a fantastic baker, first became a Northampton main street identity when he owned and operated the café (in what is now The Burnt Earth café premises). As Pete's health deteriorated, he continued to be a main street identity driving his gopher up and down the street and parking himself outside IGA to happily chat to anyone who came passed! Lyn, was an exceptionally talented artist and contributed to the regional arts community over many years. Both Pete and Lyn had wicked senses of humour and brought joy to others.

I've recently had the privilege of having been away on an Angus cattle trip – the World Angus Forum, to be exact. This event is a bit like the Olympics for the Angus breed. It's held every four years in a country selected by the World Angus Committee. This year was Australia's turn and was an event that began in Sydney and moved north to Brisbane, via Tamworth. It was fascinating to be a tourist in my own country, alongside people from 26 other nations! Most of the country we travelled through had recently had plenty of rain (and since then, sadly there's been more flooding), while other Aussies on the tour, some from southern NSW, Vic and SA are facing the driest season on record. I was reminded of what a vast country we live in and fingers crossed the rains get to those who need it soon– including us here in the Shire of Northampton!

Liz Sudlow
Shire President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

On 7 May 2025 the Western Australian Grants Commission held a public hearing in Northampton as part of their regional consultation. Financial Assistance Grants form a significant part of Shire revenue and the public hearings are designed to provide information of how the State distributes Commonwealth funding to Local Governments in Western Australia. During the proceedings, the Shire has identified several areas of focus that have resulted in a resubmission of relevant information to this year's process and in addition to this further information will be provided for future consideration by the WA Grants Commission. Collectively it is expected that the additional information provided will result in a considerable increase in grant revenue for the Shire.

I recently undertook a strategic review of the non-potable water supply system for Port Gregory and reported the findings, with recommendations, back to Council at the meeting 15 May 2025. As a result, Council is considering immediate and medium-term improvements to the water supply system through budgeting processes. The focus of my review was between the bore sites and the tanks servicing the Port Gregory town site. An additional review is being conducted by consultants GHD which will focus on the reticulated water system within the town site.

Contractors RDH have been engaged to improve portion of the road to Little Bay from Horrocks. Funded by the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program, works must be completed by 30 June 2025. Whilst there is likely to be disruption, the Shire is negotiating with the contractor to ensure access to Little Bay is maintained at all times.

Whilst on the subject of the LRCI program, another project scheduled for completion by 30 June 2025 is the Whiting Pool Stairs at Horrocks which has now commenced with contractor Lane Hose Contracting undertaking the work. Another LRCI project currently underway is the animal proof fencing to surround the Kalbarri Oval. Once completed the fencing will assist in reducing the impact of kangaroos and rabbits on the oval surface.

On a disappointing note, following on from my last communication about theft of plants from Hampton Gardens, the Shire has had two portable security cameras stolen from the Port Gregory landfill site. The cameras were secured with a locking mechanism that has been removed with a portable angle grinder. To deter future theft of these types of security cameras, the Shire is exploring the use of cameras connected directly to our systems to provide near real time image downloading.

The Shire is continuing to work with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DRFAWA) to finalise road damage impacted by rainfall events in June 2024. At the time of writing, the Shire had an open Tender for contractors to repair damage and it is expected that Council will award this Tender at the Council meeting 19 June 2025.

The Kalbarri Foreshore Redevelopment is progressing with a Financial Assistance Agreement being signed with the State Government for the release of \$300,000 to do more planning and engineering work. It is expected that once funding is received, work on this project will commence.

The Shire is also negotiating a Financial Assistance Agreement with the State Government for \$250,000 for detailed design and business planning for the Kalbarri Multipurpose Community and Evacuation Centre following the 2025 State election. This project will commence as soon as funding is received by the Shire and is intended to position the project for a higher chance of grant funding success.

At the meeting of 15 May 2025 Council awarded Community Grant Round 2: 2024/25 funding to multiple groups operating within the Shire district. There was a significant oversubscription in the value of applications, and this resulted in funding either being reduced or not awarded. Groups that have missed out this time are strongly encouraged to revise their applications and re-apply in 2025/26 for Round 1 of Community Grants. Round 1 has a total allocation of \$60,000 which can be spread further throughout the community.

Andrew Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

HOLLOMBY FOUNDATION

Congratulations to Amy Teakle who was awarded a Hollomby Foundation scholarship sponsored by the Shire of Northampton. Amy is studying to be a Registered Nurse.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Shire of Northampton Community Grants Program Round 2 closed on the 28th of March 2025.

Community groups and organisations have now found out if they were successful at securing grant funding for their project and events.

We had a huge response with 27 applications received. If your group was not successful, the community grant program will reopen in July 2025! Alternatively, if you are seeking funding for an idea or project from external sources please contact your community development officer in your area.

The Shire of Northampton will start community consultation this month focussing on a Disability Access and Inclusion plan. Your Community Development Officers will be out in the community asking you to fill out surveys! Please help us understand the needs of our community by participating. Check the Shire website for dates when the pop-up stalls will be in your area.

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

KALBARRI FESTIVAL

The Kalbarri Development Association (KDA) submitted an event application to the Shire for the Kalbarri Festival to be held on Saturday 31st May & Sunday 1st June 2025, which was approved. Kalbarri has had a two-day event most years on the May/June long weekend for many years and the Kalbarri Festival is the latest iteration of the evolving event.

There were market stalls on the grassed area at Sally's Tree, children's games on the east side of the nature playground, the Army Band played Saturday evening, and local bands performed Sunday evening.

On Sunday between there was a Community Colour Ride that extended from the large carpark opposite Clotworthy Street following a course along designated footpaths to finish at west of the Kalbarri VMR building. Participants needed to stop at all 4 colour stations where they will receive a different colour powder over them.

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:

- Visiting 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/>

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Shire of Northampton is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all employees, contractors, volunteers, and visitors. Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) isn't just about ticking boxes – it's about looking out for one another and ensuring everyone goes home safe each day.

We're actively working behind the scenes to:

- Identify and reduce risks across our worksites and facilities
- Provide staff and volunteers with safety training and support
- Monitor compliance with current WHS legislation
- Maintain emergency preparedness and reporting systems

REMAINING COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025

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 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

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Kalbarri Office

70 Grey St, Kalbarri

Phone: 9937 1097

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm

(closed for lunch 12.30pm - 1pm)

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WEBSITE

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