



Shire Bulletin

February 2026



SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope readers have had the opportunity to have a break over Christmas and have started 2026 in a positive way.

I enjoyed a welcome break with my family over Christmas and until early January. I have relished in the extra interaction I've had with my two grandchildren (and their parents), who have returned from living in Adelaide.

With the capable assistance of the Community Development Officers, Cresta and Andrea, the Shire of Northampton is planning a community event, "Story Harvest". This is to be held on Saturday 11th April, which is the 5th anniversary of Cyclone Seroja. The event will recognise the resilience and history of our community and the Northampton area. The evening will take the format of a dinner and a series of presentations and "stories", designed to celebrate aspects of the whole history of Northampton. As most of you will know, our history is rich and worth celebrating!

A small part of the evening will be dedicated to the wonderful examples of individual and community service that occurred in the aftermath of the cyclone. It is designed to be an uplifting event. With the help of local historians, Sue White and Helen McQuie, a great night is planned, which will include a subsidised dinner, live music and some great presentations. Numbers will be limited, so keep your eyes out for more information.

We are hoping that the event will springboard an interest in some special local history anniversaries which are fast approaching and important to recognise.

In 2029 it will be 400 years since the wreck of the Batavia. It will be 190 years since George Grey carried out his exploration north of the Swan River Colony and subsequently was shipwrecked at Kalbarri. It will be 150 years since the opening of the first government railway line between Geraldton and Northampton.

2028 marks 180 years since lead was discovered in the Murchison River and 170 years

since Charles von Bibra established Murchison House Station and began to grow wheat and sheep to feed the lead miners at Geraldine near Ajana. Let me know if there are other pending special historical dates I've forgotten.

In other Shire news, welcome to the new Executive Manager of Works and Technical Services, Mr Jamie Muir who commenced work at the start of January.

The Annual Electors' Meeting was held in Kalbarri at the Allen Centre at 5pm on Thursday Jan 29th.

There have been a number of fires during the Christmas/January period, including very close to the Northampton town centre and I thank each and every person who assisted, to ensure these were not catastrophic events. My thoughts are with those fire-fighters and families in the south of the state, who continue to fight some exceptionally large blazes.

Good luck to all those students and their families as the 2026 school year gets underway.

Liz Sudlow
Shire President



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Just like that we enter into 2026 and the month of January is already over! Most of the Shire administration had a short break over the holiday period, however I would like to sincerely thank those employees that remained at work during the period to deliver essential Shire services and support emergency services.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Jamie Muir who commenced as the Executive Manager Works and Technical Services on 5 January 2026. Jamie replaced the long serving Neil Broadhurst and has hit the ground running with several capital works projects being prepared for delivery. One particular project is the Fifth Ave Drainage which was unfortunately not able to be delivered in 2025 due to insufficient budget and timeframe required for completion. Jamie is working through those issues following approval to extend the project timeframe for the grant funded project.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) has become a very complex and time consuming process in the Shire's attempts to navigate funding to repair roads significantly damaged in June 2024. As frustrating as this process is, we are getting closer to approval which should see works completed on at least twenty one roads across the Shire district. Further announcements will be made when funding is endorsed.

It has been quite a busy bush fire season already and as everyone would realise, bush fires normally present at the worst times of heat and wind. I would like to thank all volunteers for their firefighting and support efforts in our Shire district but also when called upon outside of our boundaries. There is no doubt our bush fire response capacity has improved considerably under our new Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Tatiana Vafiades. Whilst there is still some improvement work to do, a collaboration between the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Shire of Northampton and Shire of Chapman Valley will see the appointment of a Community Emergency Safety Manager (CESM) shortly. This will significantly improve our capacity and capability to deal with bush fire scenarios and further open grant funding opportunities for equipment and mitigation.

The Shire has commenced work to develop our Corporate Business Plan following the adoption of the Strategic Community Plan. It is expected that the Corporate Business Plan will be ready in time for the 2026/27 budget considerations by Council. The Shire will be using feedback from community consultation during the Strategic Community Plan process.

The provision of a non-potable water supply to Port Gregory continues to create issues for the Shire. Excessive water use by residents for irrigation is contributing to problems and the Shire is actively engaging with the community through education to try

and conserve water especially during busy times. If the community education does not work, the Shire will have no choice but to consider other restrictive options similar to what Water Corporation do with the reticulated potable water supply.

Over the past few months the Shire has been working with St Johns in Kalbarri to establish a Patient Transfer Facility at the Kalbarri Airport. Once final arrangements are agreed, the facility will be constructed by St Johns which is intended to significantly improve conditions for patients awaiting transport with the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The Shire will soon be releasing an Expression of Interest for the "Management and Operation of Caravan Facilities at Lot 500 Anchorage Lane, Kalbarri to Support Local Employment". The EOI is open to commercial providers and Not for Profit community groups with submissions to be determined by Council. If you are interested in the EOI, please look out for information that will be advertised shortly. Alternately you can contact the Shire office on 99341202 and register your interest to receive the advertising material when it is released.

The detailed design for the Kalbarri Multipurpose Evacuation and Community Centre is to commence with the Shire about to appoint consultants to undertake the work. The Shire will collaborate with the Kalbarri Sport and Recreation Association to ensure the principles of the original conceptual design are adhered to. This process will not only deliver a "tender ready" proposal but will also determine a more accurate capital expenditure estimate that can be used for significant grant funding applications.

The Kalbarri Foreshore Revitalisation project has commenced with consultants undertaking design review work in preparation for a final design. An Advisory Committee meeting involving various representatives, including from the community, has been held which provided useful feedback to the consultants and when the final design has been produced it will be made available for viewing.

NBN Co. activated "Fibre to the Premises (FttP)" technology in the Northampton town site late in December 2025. This is now available for use by businesses and residents if you are in the designated coverage area. The inferior "Fibre to the Node (FttN)" technology still remains in place for use however the improvement in internet speed is considerable with FttP. To provide a personal example, I am in the process of upgrading to FttP from FttN with my provider. The difference for me on a relatively basic plan is going from 50mbps (up) / 20mbps (down) plan to a 500mbps (up) / 200mbps (down) plan for an additional \$2 per month. If you are interested in this service please contact your internet provider for further information. The Shire is also advocating for FttP in Kalbarri town site with NBN Co., watch this space!

Andrew Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

PANACEUM NORTHAMPTON

The Doctors Surgery in Northampton is reporting strong support from the community which is a fantastic outcome. Community support is essential to ensure that the service remains viable and continues to be supported by the Shire.

Panaceum Northampton are exploring extending their service in Northampton to four days per week from three days per week soon. If that additional day is further supported by the community, subject to doctor availability, Panaceum Northampton will look at some stage in the future to add the fifth day and therefore provide a full weekly doctor service to Northampton.

Panaceum Northampton
51 Robinson Street, Northampton
Telephone: (08) 9934 1001
Email: northampton@panaceum.com.au

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Exciting news!!

Story Harvest - Echoes of the Past

Save the Date: Saturday 11 April 2026

The Shire of Northampton is hosting a fantastic community event to celebrate the resilience of our community. This event will feature a 3-course meal, oral presentations of contemporary and historical significance and live entertainment. Keep an eye out for more information in the coming months. Tickets go on sale in March!

Build-a-Mind Robotics Program



During the January school holidays, our young innovators had a blast taking part in exciting sessions held in Northampton, Horrocks, and Kalbarri! Made possible with support from the Shire of Northampton

and generous funding from the State Library of Western Australia, this project has become a reality!

Featuring Lego robotic building, coding, stop motion animation and engineering principles, children engaged in creative ways to build and design their own moving robot and short animated films.

These meaningful STEM learning classes, sparked curiosity, problem solving and working as a team, all combined in a hands-on fun filled day with friends.

Shire of Northampton Community Grant Round 2: 2025-26 Now Open!

The Community Grants Program aims to enhance community liveability and connectedness, boost local events, engage youth, and provide financial support for funding applications.

Cat 1a Community Group projects
Cat 1b Community Groups financial hardship
Cat 2 Youth Groups
Cat 3 Events
Cat 4 Skill and Capacity building
Closes 31 March 2026

Andrea & Cresta are on hand to support you with your project and provide more information.

Scan the code below to book an appointment.



SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER COMPLIANCE & MAINTENANCE

Do you own or occupy a property with a Swimming Pool? Are you aware of your responsibilities as a Pool owner?

As an owner or occupier of a property with a Pool, you are responsible to ensure your pool barrier is always compliant with pool barrier standards. The Department of Local Government Industry, Regulation and Safety has published a guide for owners and occupiers on the safety barrier requirements for swimming and spa pools in Western Australia called Rules for Pools and Spas. This publication along with other general information can be found at:

www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/rules-pools-and-spas

The website includes a guide for compliance with relevant swimming pool standards, a barrier checklist and information on portable pools.

The Shire of Northampton is required to inspect your barrier within a 4 year period of your last barrier inspection. You can expect to be contacted when your swimming pool is nearing the end of your 4 year cycle. If you would like to organise an inspection that suits your timing or seek advice relating to your pool barrier, please contact Jon Trotter on 0408 111 810 or email jon.trotter@northampton.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 9th February right up to Valentines Day the 14th February you can check your mystery date.
- Blind dates are a lot less nerve wracking when you'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 within the Shire of Northampton, along with a contact number and we can set up your membership while you browse the library. Remember, membership is FREE.

VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADE MEMBERS TO RECEIVE FIRST AID TRAINING

As part of the Shire's commitment to training of its Bush Fire Brigades, the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – Tatiana Vafiades is currently co-ordinating a First Aid Training Course for Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Members within the Shire of Northampton.

Training will be provided by St John's for up to 18 volunteers, with 6 vacancies remaining at the time of this article.

If you are a registered Volunteer with a Bush Fire Brigade in the Shire please contact Tatiana or the Shire of Northampton to express your interest.

COMPLIANCE WITH ANNUAL FIREBREAK NOTICE

The Shire of Northampton would like to thank those landowners and occupiers of land that have complied with the requirements of the Shire's 2025/26 Annual Firebreak and Fuel Reduction Notice.

However, inspections undertaken to confirm compliance with the Shire's Annual Firebreak and Fuel Reduction Notice within the Rural area has identified a disappointing level of compliance. Shire Rangers will be liaising with those landowners emphasizing the

importance of compliance and issuing warnings for this year.

With the protection of life and property being the primary aim, non-compliance in future years may result in fines being issued.

FIRES - WHEN TO CONTACT 000

If you see smoke or a fire, 000 needs to be alerted. As with any car accident or medical emergency, please call 000 to ensure a timely response.

It is extremely important to report every incident, even if it may have already been reported. Emergency Services can not be dispatched if they are unaware.

UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT

Development, building or other construction work within the Shire is considered unauthorised if:

1. You have NOT received appropriate planning approval from Council for the building work (if applicable).
2. You haven't received a building permit for the work.
3. Your building or planning permit has expired (they expire after two years, extensions are available).

Examples of works requiring prior approval include site works, new development or land uses.

In addition to the Shire potentially taking legal action for unauthorised works, the implications can be substantial for landowners as unauthorised works can result in insurance claims being denied by insurance companies.

Member of the public are encouraged to contact Shire Officers in Planning, Building and Environmental Health to confirm if prior approvals are in fact required prior to completing any proposed works on their property.

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.



Photo Credit : Richard Burges

COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2026

19 February 2026 – Kalbarri

19 March 2026 – Northampton

16 April 2026 – Northampton

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 Tim Hay, Deputy President – 0488 212 566

Cr Roslyn Suckling – 0429 200 143

Cr Chad Smith – 0428 932 476

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)

EMAIL

council@northampton.wa.gov.au

WEBSITE

www.northampton.wa.gov.au

