



Shire Bulletin June 2026

Our CEO, Andrew Campbell resigned from the position at the end of April to take up a position with the Shire of Narrogin. I would like to thank Andrew for his work with the Shire of Northampton over the last three years, in what has been a particularly busy time for our local government. Many of the changes made to the organisation will put us in a strong position, moving forward. I wish Andrew and Tammy all the very best for their future.

Council met in the second week of May to commence the process of recruitment for a new CEO. This is a process which is determined by the Local Government Act, and will take some time. It is likely to be more than 6 months, until we have a new substantive CEO in the role.

I acknowledge that leadership changes have the potential to create uncertainty within the organisation. Please be assured that Council will be working diligently with a reputable Recruitment Consultant and including an Independent Panel Member, who has Local Government knowledge, to attract the best person for the role.

In the interim, it is my wish that each and every staff member should continue to feel valued and supported by the Executive team and by Council, to continue to carry out the good work that each person does. It is also my wish that from a customer service perspective, it will be business as usual for the residents across the local government area.

On the 20th May, we were honoured to have the Governor of WA, his excellency Governor Chris Dawson and Mrs Dawson, along with their entourage, join us to tour the shire. This included a luncheon community reception at the Allen Centre in Kalbarri and an afternoon community reception at the RSL Hall in Northampton.

The event was organised at relatively short notice and I was thrilled with the fantastic representation from the many volunteers groups and business owners from our



area, who attended to meet the Governor and Mrs Dawson. Mrs Dawson has an interest in education and I'd especially like to thank the schools for their willingness to contribute to the event. Coinciding with Volunteer Week, it was a very timely opportunity for the Governor to thank all of the people in our communities, who do such fantastic work.

I attended the Kalbarri Gala on May 16th, which is the fourth such event. The event was first held to celebrate all of the fantastic volunteers who had worked so hard for the community after the cyclone.

This year, there were six individuals and one group nominated for the award, those being: Marney Teasdale, Milly White, Melissa Finlay, Judy Bulk, Ross Weaver and the Australian Order of Old Bastards. The eventual winner selected was Marney Teasdale. Marney was nominated for her continued work across many community groups including the KDHS P & C, Kalbarri RSL and KDA. Previously she worked tirelessly for the Kalbarri playgroup and childcare groups. She is generous, reliable and has a particular commitment to seeking the best outcomes for children and young people. Congratulations to all the nominated volunteers.

Continuing with the theme, many volunteers assisted with DFES and DBCA to undertake strategic burning around Kalbarri a couple of weeks back. Being surrounded by National Park, right up to the town boundary, Kalbarri is somewhat vulnerable to the threat of bushfire. Thanks to all the organisations and volunteers who assisted, a fantastic video has been produced to demonstrate the work done and the numbers of people involved was staggering.

Also over this period, there has been a Biggest Morning Tea events at Murchison House Station and in Northampton, at Cathy and Stuart Oman's exquisite garden, to raise awareness and funds for Cancer. Thanks to Belinda from Murchison House and the KDA team, as well as Jo Luxton and her enthusiastic band of helpers, along with Cathy and Stu.

So, as I've said repeatedly in my brief presentations over the Volunteer Week period, I am exceptionally proud of the strength of volunteering that occurs in our communities. I do believe people who volunteer, are happier and more connected, than those who do not.

Following our most recent Council meeting in Kalbarri, a citizenship ceremony was held where four shire residents became Australian citizens. There was a full house and lots of celebration in the room. Presiding over these ceremonies is one of the greatest privileges of my role – there is something very special about watching people give an oath to Australia and for everyone present, to take a minute to reflect on how lucky we are to live in this country.

Also on the day, Council and senior staff met with representatives from KDA and the Kalbarri Visitors' Centre to hear about the great work that each is doing. The 'Faraway Closer' rebranding, which promotes Kalbarri as a destination where you can 'see and experience it all' only a day's drive from Perth, is very powerful. We wish the KVC all the best of luck with their third nomination for Tiny Town Tourism Awards, having taken out the prize for the previous two years.

Until next month,

Liz Sudlow
Shire President

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

A Citizenship Ceremony was held after the Council Meeting held Thursday 21 May 2026.

Congratulations to our new Citizens who were ably supported by family and friends contributing to a very cheerful celebration cherishing diversity.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

For some time now mice numbers in our communities have had a significant impact on our daily lives. Whether it has been mice impacts on seeding operations for farmers, mice activity in commercial or public places, or mice creating havoc in residential homes, it is an unfortunate part of living in regional areas and can be quite overwhelming for many.

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.

Finally, after much advocacy from industry stakeholders, the regulators have authorised an increase in the chemical strength of bait permitted to be used by farmers and this should assist in reducing mice numbers significantly in rural areas. For safety reasons Zinc Phosphide baits are not permitted to be used outside of the rural environment and everyone else must use other means to control mice numbers.

Recognising the seriousness of the problem, the State Government recently announced funding of up to \$10,000 to Local Government's impacted by the mouse plague in Western Australia and the Shire of Northampton has access to this funding. The Shire intends to source mouse bait and provide this bait to the community through the Shire offices in Northampton and Kalbarri. Whilst \$10,000 worth of mouse bait won't completely solve the mouse problems in our town sites, it should go some way to reducing mouse numbers and assist in breaking breeding cycles. I would encourage the community to utilise this program, which should be up and running by the time this article goes to print.

At the Council meeting held 21 May 2026 Council agreed for the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) to conduct an Extraordinary Election to replace the Councillor position created by the resignation of former Councillor Tim Hay. The WAEC have nominated the election date of 24 September 2026, and the election will be by Postal Vote. Prior to reaching this point, normal election processes will commence including an enrolment period and a call for candidate nominations. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor please watch out for advertised information or contact the Shire directly.

Andrew Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

PRACTICAL ASSESSMENTS

Practical Driving Assessments (PDA) are held at the Shire of Northampton office on a fortnightly basis (Tuesdays). They are undertaken by a qualified assessor that comes from Geraldton. There are only three timeslots for these assessments, and they are booked as the times become available (you can't book the last appointment if the previous two are not booked.)

If you wish to book an assessment, come and see our friendly staff who can look into your situation to confirm you have completed all of your requirements.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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 Grant Fund Round 2 (2025/26) is now closed, and grant recipients have been announced. We appreciate all the organisations that applied this round. Stay tuned for updates on the next round opening soon!

DRIVING

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Update from Your Local Community Emergency Services Manager – Tatiana Vafiades

On the 22nd of April we ran a Women's Rural Fire Awareness training. There was a great turnout from ladies from both Northampton and Chapman Valley communities. We had a guest speaker Penelope Tee, who spoke to our group about the importance of having a plan and being bushfire ready and highlighting the mental impacts on young children and youth. We were very grateful to have Penelope visit from Perth for the course and we received some extremely positive feedback and look forward to running more courses in the future.

For the Kalbarri community over the last fortnight, it has been quite smokey with joint stakeholders partaking in a week of strategic mitigation burns and hazard reduction for the townsite. Stakeholders including DBCA, Water Corporation, DFES and Local Government. Some fantastic results have come from these planned burns to keep the townsite safe. It is extremely humbling to have some amazing volunteers wanting to help and give back to their community and many thanks to the Kalbarri VFRS for housing us for our morning briefings and organising all our lunches.



We are still having quite a few bushfires or escaped burns. I would like to urge everyone in the community to keep vigilant and be prepared and have the correct equipment for burning. It is still extremely dry with the lack of rain with a lot of fuel load around.

Please feel free to pop in and visit any time or give me a call to discuss anything.

NORTHAMPTON WASTE OIL FACILITY

The Northampton Waste Oil Facility has recently been filled in record time which is concerning. It was only emptied by Wren Oil in February this year. Normally we only need to empty the facility once a year.

User are reminded to empty their own small containers of waste oil (waste motor oil only; NO watery oil and NO cooking oil) into the storage tank only via the raised channel at the front of the tank. If people have place oil filters there to drain, please move them out of the way first, pour your oil into the tray, and then place the oil filters back on the raised channel to continue draining.

Any large containers such as metal 44-gallon drums or 1,000lt drums or IBC pods must be sealed and not leak onto the ground.

Farmers are reminded that if you have 1,000Lt or more of waste oil on your property then Wren Oil will come to your farm and pump the waste oil from your containers. You can contact Wren Oil by telephoning (08) 9725 4002 or emailing them at administration@wrenoil.com.au

If you have any questions regarding this facility, please contact Shire Environmental Health Officer, Wendy Dallywater at the Shire office on 99341202 or email at eho@northampton.wa.gov.au

COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2026

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)

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