



## SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm sure for all of you, conversations over the last few weeks will have involved the weather. I suspect even those of you who love Summer and the heat, may be over the persistent high temps. Last Sunday, when we were at home feeding and watering farm animals, our place did have slightly fiery, apocalyptic aura. To discover that the Gascoyne and Midwest area was the hottest location in the world, with temperatures nudging 50C accompanied by a blast-furnace easterly, was not something to relish.

Is this the hottest it's ever been in our patch? Some of our most respected older residents say yes... although the memory of Christmas day 2021, when upwards of 47C, the power went out - is still joked about by my family, who visited us from Perth that year. They haven't been back!

Strangely, I'm comforted to discover the records will show that Geraldton reached 47.3C on January 5th 1969 and again on February 20th 1985, and 47.7 C on January 9th 1954. Two of those dates were well before our reliance on air-conditioning. I remember as a kid, our brick house would heat up like an oven when the 'hot spell' seemed to go on and on. The wet flannel or towel was our best companion, especially when travelling in the car; and sleeping outside on a fold-up bed was a fun way to get a bit of respite between the sweltering days.

I think the 'in-our-face' data and the regular news items of breaking 'this record or that', somehow adds to the weather grimness. And I'm told by those same older residents (maybe it's the optimistic farmers), that we need a hot summer to get a good winter season. And don't get me started on our need for rain!

At the end of January, Councillors met with Hon Don Punch, Minister for Regional Development, who paid a visit to Kalbarri. The Minister was accompanied by Hon Sandra Carr, MLC, MWDC Chair, Rob Houwen and CEO, Nils Hay; and we thank them for their interest and advocacy in our area. A number of projects were discussed, including foreshore repairs at Kalbarri, workers' accommodation, housing, Multi-purpose Centre and the Foreshore Development Plan. Minister Punch was previously the CEO of the South West Development Commission and it was excellent to be able to talk through some of the concerns in a pragmatic way.

In September last year, the Shire of Northampton undertook the services of a consultant to prepare an Economic Development Framework document, which is the starting point to the production of a Shire district strategic plan for the future. This has involved meeting with approx. 16 stakeholders and individuals targeting potential future development. The framework was endorsed at the February meeting of Council and the intent is to submit for funding

to the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program. It's vital that the Shire of Northampton and the northern Mid-West region is well-prepared for the future.

And talking of the future, the KDA is again organising another Kalbarri Gala, set to take place on Saturday 11th May. Tickets will be on sale very soon. The event last year was a huge success: while enjoying fine food, drinks and dancing, it celebrated local volunteers and the proceeds raised went, and will go, directly back to community. My favourite is the event tag line: "everything's better when we're together."

**Liz Sudlow**  
Shire President

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Since my last update I have spent a lot of time onboarding our new Executive Manager Community, Development and Regulation, Mr Brian Robinson. The purpose of this is to bring Brian up to speed on our significant issues and proposals to allow him to transition to the new role quickly and effectively.

Speaking of Brian's appointment, you will now start to see our approach to development concepts and proposals shift into a collaborative undertaking. What this means is Shire employees will be looking to assist you with relevant advice on your concepts and proposals which will make the whole process easier for you to understand and complete, whilst reducing the time required by the Shire to clarify submissions and seek additional information. To make use of our services please contact the Shire office directly to arrange an appointment.

I am pleased to advise that the Shire's compliance focus has commenced and appears to be working with quite a number of development compliance matters now resolved. Often these issues will take some time to resolve and people who are impacted as a direct result of the non-compliance need to be patient as we work through to resolution.

Council has established a Community Grants Advisory Committee which met for the first time on 15 February 2024. This is a change to the way the Shire will provide financial support to community groups throughout each financial year. The Committee is currently working on a process to follow, and it is likely that there will be two funding rounds during the course of each financial year. The Committee will also be seeking corporate sponsorship to increase the pool of funds available for the program. Watch this space as more information will be distributed as the process is finalised in preparation for the 2024/25 financial year.

The Shire has had some recent difficulty managing the Port Gregory water supply due to power outages and air locks in the system. Just a reminder to water supply users in Port Gregory, please be always mindful of your water consumption (particularly lawn and garden watering) as the water we can provide is limited and we do not want the water to run out and not be available for your basic household needs.

**Andrew Campbell**  
Chief Executive Officer

### **GRANNY FLATS - ANCILLARY DWELLINGS**

The WA Government recently announced changes to planning approvals for ancillary dwellings commonly known as granny flats. These changes in the Residential Design Codes have removed requirements for 350m<sup>2</sup> minimum lot size and will enable granny flats on grouped dwelling/strata lots (previously only applicable to Single House sites).

Further information can be found at the link below, including an Information Sheet on Granny Flats:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-planning-lands-and-heritage/amendments-residential-design-codes-medium-density-codes>

### **REPORTING ILLEGAL DUMPING OF DEMOLITION MATERIAL INCLUDING ASBESTOS**

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and Crime Stoppers WA have joined forces to combat the unlawful dumping of demolition waste and asbestos. The unlawful dumping of demolition material is an ongoing problem in some parts of Western Australia so the aim is to step up efforts to catch offenders, including demolition companies that occasionally do the wrong thing.

Feedback in the past has indicated that some people did not know how to make a report, so the partnership between DWER and Crime Stoppers WA means that members of the community don't need to remember which organisation to call if they observe demolition or asbestos waste being dumped or come across it. They can simply [contact Crime Stoppers WA online](#) or by phoning 1800 333 000.

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/weve-teamed-crime-stoppers-wa-battle-illegal-dumping>

### **THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES (DLGSC)**

**DLGSC has a number of grant opportunities currently open, with more scheduled to open throughout the year.**

Below is a list of grants currently open that may be suited to the Shire of Northampton:

#### **Active Regional Communities – open all year round**

The Active Regional Communities (ARC) Grants program aims to increase the opportunities for regional people to participate in sport and active recreation activities in regional Western Australia and is tailored to meet the ever-changing demands and challenges of sport and active recreation groups within the nine diverse regions of the State.

<https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/funding/sport-and-recreation-funding/active-regional-communities-grants/active-regional-communities-grants-guidelines>

### **Arts Short Notice Activity Program – closes 4pm 6 June 2024**

The Arts Short Notice Activity Program (Arts SNAP) for individuals and groups offers funding for regional, national and international short notice activities for artists and creative industry professionals.

<https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/funding/arts-funding/arts-short-notice-activity-program>

### **GOVERNMENT GRANTS – YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

Wondering if your business is eligible for a government grant? The Small Business Development Corporation have put together an overview explaining the availability and eligibility of grants for small business.

Check out their post to learn about:

- Incentives and grants available;
- Business activities that grants are available for;
- How to prepare a grant application; and
- Where to find grants.

<https://www.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au/blog/government-grants-your-questions-answered>

### **REQUESTS FOR PROPERTY PLANS AND INFORMATION**

Any requests for property information or house plans need to be authorised by the current owner(s) of the property and attracts a fee of \$30 per request. A copy of the "Request for Plans and Information" can be obtained through the Northampton and Kalbarri offices.

### **URBAN GREENING**

Urban Greening is a natural way of cooling residential Dwellings by providing shade to buildings and reducing the need to compensate with air conditioning. Infrastructure in urban environments is made up of materials that absorb heat which takes a long time to dissipate and places a reliance on artificial means to compensate heat. The use vegetation to shade buildings also has a myriad of other benefits including social, economic, and mental wellbeing by cooling and visual effect.

The Building Code of Australia requires all domestic Dwellings to conform to a minimum of a 6 star rating to enhance the buildings Energy Efficiency which equates to a lower need for artificial energy to run a house. Combining these two areas into building design is a simple and cheap solution to making buildings and communities more livable.

An urban canopy can be established using vegetation that only grows to around 3 -4 meters in height, larger trees can "Scalped" to prevent leaves clogging up gutters and becoming too top heavy that they dislodge in a wind event. To enhance the growth of the canopy, ground cover should be used to prevent water evaporation and establish a micro environment for other fauna.

Urban Greening can mitigate urban heat through the shading and evaporative cooling provided by plants. They can provide other co-benefits or services such as trapping air pollutants, reducing noise and controlling stormwater flooding and erosion.

### **REGISTER FOR eRATES**

Did you know you can receive your rate notices via email instead of post. You can now register for eRates via our website.

<https://www.northampton.wa.gov.au/shire-services/rates/register-for-erates.aspx>

## EVENT APPLICATIONS – KALBARRI OPEN AIR

The Shire has received an Event Application from Jamart Sound Lounge of Perth to hold a 2-day music festival event called the Kalbarri Open Air (KOA) Music Festival at the Kalbarri Oval on Friday 15th & Saturday 16th March 2024. The event will commence at 2:00pm and finish at 10:00pm each day. There will be approximately 14-16 bands coming from Bunbury through to Geraldton playing sets each day, and the music genre will be soft rock, hard rock, punk, acoustic, alternative, and there are 2 heavy metal bands.

Band merchandise will be available for sale. The Kalbarri Sport & Recreation Committee will be operating a bar for the event within the Sport & Recreation Centre so the event is licensed and patrons cannot bring their own alcohol into the event area. There will be a few mobile food vans present.

Gaps in the oval fencing are hopefully going to be filled soon to try and stop kangaroos accessing the oval to feed, and the Shire would appreciate it if people would not take down or push through the fill-in fencing. The Shire has arranged to have the oval treated for ticks and ants prior to this event to reduce the possible annoyance to patrons from these insects.

So mark this event on your calendar if you like watching live bands and a mix of different genre.

## 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.

## SIGNAGE

If you are proposing to erect any form of advertising or signage (including feather/flutter flags) relating to your business or community group, you will need to refer to the relevant policies and guidelines that manage advertising. This includes Main Roads

*Guide to the Management of Roadside Advertising* and the Shire's own signage policy. The purpose of the Shire of Northampton's Local Planning Policy (LPP) *Signage* is to provide guidance on design and placement of many forms of advertising within the Shire. This helps ensure the visual character and quality of

locations is maintained, it minimises clutter and a proliferation of signage and maintains a degree of control appropriate to the locality. The LPP has guided decisions made in relation to advertising signs within the Shire since 2006. If you are thinking about a form of advertising for your business or community group, don't hesitate to contact the Shire's Planning Officer, Michelle Allen, by email to [planning@northampton.wa.gov.au](mailto:planning@northampton.wa.gov.au) or by phone to (08) 99341202.



### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CASUAL POSITION

#### GENERAL MAINTENANCE / CLEANER / LABOURER – HORROCKS (L2)

The Shire of Northampton is seeking expressions of interest from person/s for the above casual position on a as needed basis.

Conditions of employment are in accordance with the Shire of Northampton – Collective Agreement 2021. (Local Government Industry Award 2020).

Interested person/s can make inquiries on the position to the Shire of Northampton's Executive Manager of Works and Technical Services Mr Neil Broadhurst on 0428 341 202.

Expressions of interest detailing qualifications and experience must be received by the undersigned no later than 4.00pm on Wednesday 13th March 2024, and marked "Shire of Northampton – Positions Vacant".

Applicant/s must be prepared to undertake a pre-placement medical including drug and alcohol screening at the Shire's expense and nominated Doctor. (This will need to be undertaken prior to start of casual employment).

Emailed expressions of interest will be accepted and can be sent to [finance@northampton.wa.gov.au](mailto:finance@northampton.wa.gov.au) or mailed to P.O. Box 61, Northampton, WA 6535.

**Andrew Campbell**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## REFUSE SITE OPENING TIMES

### Kalbarri

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

### Northampton

Wednesday 1-00pm to 5-00pm



## 2024 COUNCIL MEETING DATES (now held the third Thursday of the month)

- 21 March – Council Chambers Northampton
- 18 April – Council Chambers Northampton
- 16 May – Allen Centre Kalbarri
- 20 June – Council Chambers Northampton
- 18 July – Council Chambers Northampton
- 15 August – Allen Centre Kalbarri
- 19 September – Council Chambers Northampton
- 17 October – Council Chambers Northampton
- 21 November – Allen Centre Kalbarri
- 19 December – Council Chambers Northampton



### COUNCILLORS

Cr Liz Sudlow, President – 0427 362 025  
Cr Rob Horstman, Deputy – 0418 795 368  
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 Tim Hay – 0488 212 566  
Cr Karl Suckling – 0427 839 274

(please note that as of 21 October 2023 the Shire of Northampton has no Wards)

### 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)

### EMAIL

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

