



SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm writing this from southern Queensland, where Tony and I are spending a few days having a drive around before we meet up with our family in Noosa. It will be the first time I've seen my three-year old grandson for quite some time and I'm not sure who's more excited about counting the sleeps! His younger brother will celebrate his 1st birthday with us all next week.

On the 2nd August, along with Councillor Roslyn Sucking, I attended the 94th birthday celebration of the Northampton branch of CWA. The CWA is celebrating its centenary this year, and interestingly, the Northampton Branch started just six years after the first West Australian branch was established. It was a fabulous birthday celebration, including with cake, a delicious morning tea catered for by St Marys P & F and complete with live coverage from ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt. Congratulations to the members who did a fabulous job of organising the event.

I gave a brief presentation about some influential CWA members who have/had a connection to the Northampton. I did include this information in an earlier column, but given this event, will mention it again!

Heather Allen, who runs a farming business with her family in Ogilvie, was the State President from 2016-2019. She was awarded Life Membership in July 2023. Perhaps her greatest achievement was her determination for CWA to advocate for regional education and hold a rally outside Parliament House to protest some budget cuts, including the planned closure of Schools of the Air and funding cuts to Agricultural Colleges.

Lyn Diepeveen, was the daughter of Ken and Mary Veal who ran a supermarket in Northampton. After working and travelling away from Northampton, Lyn married Joe, a Dutchman who after working as a shearer, took up a conditional purchase farm at East Binnu. Lyn held many roles with CWA over her 51-year

membership, but was passionate about public speaking. She was awarded Life Membership in 2013.

Sadly, Lyn lost her battle with cancer at the end of 2022. Lyn's son Piet and daughter-in-law Dale live at Binnu and run the farm.

Lillian Higgins, moved with her husband, John (Jack) to take up a conditional purchase property in Wandana, Yuna in 1930. Lillian is credited with starting a kindergarten and helping to educate students via correspondence in Yuna, as well as starting the Yuna CWA branch. This is while living 26 miles north-east of Yuna on a virgin block with no running water, no power and no telephone – and through the Depression years, and with a mobility disability. Lillian was awarded Life Membership in 1961. Lillian is the mother of Noelene Drage, who sadly passed away last year, and grandmother of Robin Simkin from Kalbarri and Mick and Simon Drage of Northampton.

Agnes Barnes (nee Patrick), was my paternal grandfather's sister and is credited with starting the CWA Cookery book. Before she married a farmer from Doodlakine, Agnes along with her parents and family took up land north of Northampton. Her niece is Northampton resident, Mary Pluschke. I'm proud of Agnes' legacy, and my favourite recipes from the book are Pikelets (no 1) and Honey Bread (Very Good) - which is a perfect choice for when the chooks aren't laying! Sadly, I'm not sure Agnes' cooking skills have passed the genetic test – I'm not much of a baker! But I share her advocacy for country women and aspire to have just a pinch of her determination and persistence.

Just as a reminder, the Agenda for our meetings as well as relevant attachments are available on the Shire of Northampton website. This may assist residents in keeping up to date with Council matters.

It is well and truly tourist season in what is proving to be a burster of a wildflower season in the Mid West. I

have never seen them look so spectacular! I recently attended the Kalbarri Visitors Centre meeting and the Northampton Tourist Association AGM and General Meeting. I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the staff and volunteers of these organisations who do an amazing job of promoting our region.

It is also busy time with winter sport finals upon us and final preparations for the Northampton Show Day. My favourite aspect of the Show are the exhibitions – including the school displays from all four of the schools in our Shire. Good luck to the Rams in the bid for the finals!!

Liz Sudlow
Shire President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

We are very pleased to now have the Tropical Cyclone Seroja Coastal Infrastructure repairs underway after years of navigating the Disaster Relief Funding Arrangement process. Contractors are fully mobilised and are working at Chinaman's and the Anchorage Temporary Caravan Facility. Soon they will be extending their mobilisation to Jacques Point in preparation for the significant rebuild to occur. Additional works are scheduled to occur at Blue Holes and to a lesser extent, Red Bluff before the end of the year. The project must be finalised by 31 December 2024 and whilst works are ongoing, the Shire appreciates everyone's patience.

The first house is scheduled to be located at the Kalbarri Workers Accommodation site at 15 Woods Street, Kalbarri before the end of November 2024 which will satisfy the condition of sale of the property to the Shire imposed by the State Government. The Shire is working with funding providers to provide additional housing on the site in the future and further engagement with employers will occur as new dwellings are proposed and become available.

With the greater than normal amount of rain across the district since June this year, our roads have been severely impacted. Widespread damage has occurred and with a very saturated catchment, it seems that every time we have a bit more rain we need to put further restrictions on our roads. There is no question the rainfall has exposed existing road deficiencies, but there is also damage that can be solely attributable to the volume of water in the catchment. As such the Shire is now pursuing disaster relief funding across the road network which will involve detailed assessment and submissions by a consultant. The Shire is very cognisant of this years' harvest and will be doing whatever we can to prepare the roads to a suitable standard for heavy vehicles. It is also important that everyone is patient as we must wait until road conditions are suitable to undertake maintenance, otherwise we risk damaging roads further.

Andrew Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

HOW YOUR RATES ARE CALCULATED

The amount of rates payable is determined by three factors – the method of valuing the land; the value of the land and improvements; and the rate in the dollar applied to the valuation by the Local Government.

The Minister for Local Government determines the appropriate method for the valuation of land according to the relevant legislation and the current rating policy, which determines whether the Unimproved Value (UV) or the Gross Rental Value (GRV) of the land applies. The purpose for which land is held or used determines the classification (ie. UV or GRV).

You will also find an 'Emergency Services Levy' included on the rate notice. Local Government collects this levy each year on behalf of the State Government and funds are then disbursed to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. This levy funds various operating costs, training and capital equipment purchases for the Bush Fire Brigade, Career and Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service and the State Emergency Services.

Pension Rebates

The Pensioners and Seniors Rebate Scheme is a mechanism that provides a rebate or deferment of charges to eligible pensioners and seniors. Concessions apply to Local Government rates charges, water service charges, emergency services levy and underground electricity connection charge. Pensioners or seniors who hold an eligible concession card and own and occupy residential property on or before 1 July may be entitled to a rebate.

The Water Corporation accepts applications over the phone (1300 659 951) or via an online application facility via www.watercorporation.com.au. More information can be found online in the form of a Fact Sheet titled *Pensioners and Seniors Concessions Scheme*.

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>

Register for e-Rates

SHORT-TERM RENTAL ACCOMMODATION REGISTER

The Short-Term Rental Accommodation Register (STRA) is an initiative of the Western Australian Government through the *Short-Term Rental Accommodation Act 2024*.

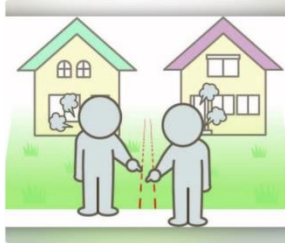
The register will open on 1 July 2024 and will become mandatory for all Short-Term Rental Accommodation Providers on 1 January 2025. Initial Registration to the portal is \$250 and there is a renewal fee of \$100 per year.

Register your property with the STRA between July and September 2024 to have the initial registration fee of \$250 waived.

For more information visit the Short-Term Rental Accommodation Register website:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/short-term-rental-accommodation>

WHY ARE PROPERTY BOUNDARIES IMPORTANT?



Property boundaries define the extent of your land and are crucial for avoiding disputes caused by encroaching on your neighbour's property.

Knowing where your property lines are located

is important for a variety of reasons, including:

- **Establishing your property rights:** Your property boundaries define your ownership rights, including the right to use, develop and transfer the property.
- **Avoiding arguments with your neighbours:** Property line disputes are common and can lead to friction, drama and even legal conflicts. Knowing your property boundaries can help you avoid encroaching on other people's property and vice versa.
- **Compliance with zoning and building;** Property boundaries are crucial in determining whether your construction or renovation plans comply with local zoning and building regulations.

While you can identify your property lines by looking at public records or using online mapping tools, it is not always accurate. More importantly, **do not** rely on the location of a neighbouring fence or structure to determine your lot boundary. Recently, a number of examples have come to light clearly illustrating that many structures are not accurately located within property boundaries.

So, in some cases you may need to hire a licensed surveyor who will accurately locate your boundary lines and mark those lines with survey pegs (or boundary pegs) which are driven into the ground at the corners of the property. The surveyor will produce a survey plan that accurately shows the location of property boundaries.

CONTROLLING YOUR DOG



Dogs play an important role in our community providing companionship and security.

But when dogs are not cared for, they can have a negative impact on neighbourhoods and our environment. All dog owners have a responsibility to ensure

their dogs are registered and are not left to wander. A wandering dog can be a safety risk to people and other dogs. As an owner you have a number of responsibilities as outlined in the *Dog Act (1976)*.

Your dog **MUST**;

- Wear a collar with an attached registration (Your name and phone number on an ID tag is also very helpful).
- Be registered and microchipped.
- Must not be able to escape your property.

You **MUST**;

- Only have two dogs residing at your property (unless approved by Ranger Services).
- Renew the registration when expired.
- Control your dog at all times even when off a lead.
- When your dog is off the lead, you **MUST** be able to control your dog to avoid a potential dog attack.
- If your dog is off the lead and runs up to another person, if that person feels fear, that is classed as a dog attack. It is important you have the ability to be able to call your dog back to you should he run toward another person or dog.

A dog attack is defined as:

- An attempt to attack or behave in such a manner toward a person that the person fears physical injury.
- Your dog rushing towards a victim acting aggressively.
- Attempting to attach. Tearing clothing. Biting.
- Causing any physical injury.

If you have any questions, please contact Shire of Northampton Rangers on 99341202.

PLANNED RETIREMENT OF KALBARRI RANGER, RIC DAVEY

Ric Davey has tendered his resignation, with a planned retirement date in the first week of January 2025. Ric is taking his long service leave/annual leave before retiring, commencing on Thursday 5 September which means his last day in the office will be Wednesday 4 September.

Ric joined the Shire of Northampton just under 11 years ago and in addition to his work for the Shire he has been an active volunteer for many community groups in Kalbarri including, but not limited to, the Kalbarri Volunteer Marine Rescue and the local Bushfire Brigade.

We wish Ric well in his future endeavours and in line with his wishes we look forward to celebrating his retirement with him at the Shire's end of year function.

NOW THERE'S A SIMPLE WARNING SYSTEM FOR DISASTERS



As of 15 July 2024, Western Australia has adopted the Australian Warning System (AWS) for bushfire, cyclone, flood and storm warnings.

The AWS is a national approach to emergency information that aims to deliver consistent warnings to Australian communities, so people know what they need to do to stay safe in an emergency, no matter where they are.

Consistent warning levels, colours and hazard icons supported by a clear and concise action statement will make warnings easier to understand.

Find out more at [www.https://www.australianwarningsystem.com.au/](https://www.australianwarningsystem.com.au/)

BUILDING AND PLANNING

Unauthorised work 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).

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/w/eve-teamed-crime-stoppers-wa-battle-illegal-dumping>

LIBRARY NEWS

The Big Sky Readers and Writers Festival is being held again and this year the Northampton Library is pleased to announce this year's author talk is with renown crime writer, Chris Hammer.

With his thrilling narratives and complex characters, his crime fiction crafts a world where justice and mystery collide. Join Chris Hammer in conversation with David Whish-Wilson, on the art of spinning the web of intrigue. Chris Hammer's latest book *The Valley* will be published in October – Includes book signing and light refreshments.

Date: Friday 11 October

Time: 12.45pm – 2.00pm

Venue: Northampton RSL Hall, Cnr Essex Street and North West Coastal Highway, Northampton

Tickets: FREE Event

All events (both free and paid) are ticketed. Tickets are booked via the library website or Humantix, Be quick as tickets move fast and we hope to see you there.

www.library.cgg.wa.gov.au

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

WEBSITE

www.northampton.wa.gov.au

