



Shire Bulletin April 2025



SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we sit between two elections, with the state behind us and the federal one looming, I'd like to take a minute to acknowledge the local members who act on our behalf. We are blessed in our area of WA to have representation from people who work damn hard to represent us! Whatever their political persuasion, there are some genuinely good people who put their hands up for the right reasons. I'd like to sincerely acknowledge outgoing members, Lara Dalton and Mem Beard for their service to the seats of Geraldton and the North West.

Congratulations to those who were successful: Shane Love in the Mid-West, Kirrilee Warr in Geraldton, both representing the Legislative Assembly, and Sandra Carr, Rob Horstman and Julie Freeman who will represent all of WA, in the Legislative Council.

Kirrilee has recently announced her resignation as the President of the Shire of Chapman Valley and after almost 12 years of service, will be genuinely missed in that organisation. Kirra is an amazingly hard worker, very determined, is a wonderful advocate for Geraldton and the Mid West and I wish her all the very best in her MLA role.

Good luck to those candidates for Durack in the Federal space, and to those nominating to represent WA in the Senate.

At the time of writing this, our Vice President Rob Horstman is yet to resign from the Shire of Northampton, as he is waiting for the imminent official notification of his election to Upper House.

Rob was elected to the Shire of Northampton in 2021, having already made a significant contribution to the community in roles with basketball, education, Covid support and community support work after Cyclone Seroja. His impact on Council was immediate, being elected as Vice President at the first meeting. He continued his passion with assisting the community in cyclone recovery, as Chair of the Local Operation

Recovery Plan Group, which was a combined committee with the Shires of Northampton and Chapman Valley and included many government and other stakeholder groups.

Rob is not the first politician to come from the Northampton Shire, but I have no doubt he'll be amazing and the best! Sir David Brand, grandson of Samuel Mitchell, and the longest serving Premier of WA 1959- 1971 spent some of his early childhood on a farm on the Ogilvie sandplain. My great grandfather, William Patrick Snr was an MLC from 1904-1916. His son, my great uncle, William Patrick Jnr served on the Northampton Road Board from 1918 - 1930 and was MLA for Greenough from 1930 - 1943. Interestingly, he was also Leader of the Opposition in 1936, at a time the then Country Party had more reps than the Libs - so that has also happened before this last political period.

It has been my absolute privilege to work with Rob over the last four years. He has supported myself and Council through some difficult times and I am genuinely sad to see him leave. He has grown in his time as a Councillor and will be an asset to the National Party, with his intelligent, measured and balanced consideration of topics, his sense of teamwork and compassion and care for others. Plus, I will really miss his sense of humour, which the older I'm getting, am realising I rely on more and more!

Congratulations to Cr Nicole Batten who was elected President of the Shire of Chapman Valley and to her Deputy, Cr Trevor Royce. Both are wonderful advocates for Chapman Valley and the broader region, and I look forward to continuing to work with them.

Things are heating up in the renewable space in our local government region, with the announcement last week of a \$814 million injection of Federal Government funding to the Murchison Green Hydrogen project. I met with representatives of the company last week and heard that they were seeking ways to make green hydrogen financially compared to blue, so that the project could progress. This is off the back of the

February Ordinary Meeting of Council, where a proposed lease of Murchison House Station the MGH was an Agenda item, where the Council was asked to respond to DPLH on this matter. Given there is still a planning application before the Shire to amend the land use to enable an industrial plant to operate, we felt this was premature and did not endorse support.

Given its magnitude, the project, should it go ahead, will change the face of Kalbarri, the Shire of Northampton and the broader region. Murchison Green Hydrogen are planning to hold a public meeting in the first couple of weeks of April and I urge you to attend, so that you can be fully informed.

Tickets for the Kalbarri Gala on 24th May, are now on sale, so don't delay. Get your tickets, this is an amazing event!

As we get into April, I'd like to wish all growers in the region a smooth seeding operation and hope that the growing season is an ideal one, with rain falling at all the optimal times: plenty - but not too much! Feeding the world's people is vital and food producers face ever-increasing challenges, but thankfully they are passionate and optimistic about what they do. The growers and farmers in the Mid-West and Wheatbelt of WA are some of the most efficient in the world. Please remember them each time you sit for a meal!

Until next month...

Liz Sudlow
Shire President

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

With our CEO on some much deserved annual leave, I stepped into the role of Acting Chief Executive Officer for a period of four weeks on 10 March and a busy period it has been, with all staff working hard to implement the remaining 2024/25 annual budget.

Significant projects that have just been completed, are underway, or about to commence include:

- Final works are underway for the temporary workers accommodation camp off Anchorage Lane in Kalbarri;
- Remaining contractor works for the Kalbarri Coastal Infrastructure Repairs;
- The installation of replacement water tanks at Port Gregory and Horrocks has been completed. The Port Gregory upgrades being essential work to improve the town water supply;
- Installation of a new footpath connecting the Eco Flora Estate with the existing path network that finishes at Red Bluff Road;
- Design work has been completed and all required approvals are now in place for the upgrading portion of Little Bay Road. The Shire will be seeking quotes for the construction shortly.

- Improvements to the Kalbarri Oval surface and fencing;
- Finalisation of the Port Gregory Carpark;
- Completion of a new Parks and Gardens Depot Shed at the rear of the Shire of Northampton Administration Building;
- Installation of the Whiting Pool Stairs in Horrocks. With all materials now in stock, contractors on behalf of the Shire will be completing the work shortly; and
- The Shire's two Modular Homes, one in Kalbarri, one in Northampton are nearing completion, with remaining works scheduled, although the Shire is still waiting on Western Power and Water Corporation services.

With several major road upgrading projects yet to be completed within the remaining months of the financial year, motorists may experience some disruption to their daily routine. Your patience is appreciated.

As reported by the CEO in the March 2025 Bulletin, the Shire has been making significant progress on compliance issues within the Shire. To assist Shire Officers in the collection of evidence, five wireless cameras were purchased early in the financial year. The cameras have been used at various locations within the Shire to great effect so far, with evidence obtained regarding illegal activities and a fine issued for the unauthorised disposal of tyres at Port Gregory.

The cameras are fully portable, motion activated and will be used over coming months to assist in enforcement relating to unauthorised camping, use of land fill sites, unauthorised entry and other enforcement tasks.

On a final note, it looks highly likely that the Shire will be losing our highly valued Vice President to State Politics, with Cr Rob Horstman highly likely to be elected to the States Upper House. Once Cr Horstman has been officially elected and resigns from the Shire, Council will be required to appoint a new Vice President. Approval will be sought to the State to 'hold over' election of a replacement representatives given that Council is required to reduce from 8 to 7 elected members this September.

On behalf of the staff at the Shire of Northampton, we wish Cr Horstman well in his new role.

Brian Robinson
Acting Chief Executive Officer

KALBARRI FORESHORE MASTERPLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

At its meeting held on 20 March 2025, Council considered the 201 submissions that were received in response to the Shire's survey regarding Stage 1 of the Kalbarri Foreshore Revitalisation Project.

By way of summary, the submissions showed a clear majority of support for the project, with the exception of the following elements:

- Approximately 92% of respondents being against the use of the National Park Style Shade Shelters. Rather than use this design, the majority of participants supported use of designs to match existing shelters on the foreshore, which can be locally manufactured and installed;
- Establishment of a shaded viewing area on the roof of the Kalbarri Volunteer Marine Rescue Building, which was opposed by 72% of respondents;
- Establishment of a new lookout off Grey Street, with 87% of respondents opposing this element; and
- The State Government's proposed Zuytdorp Memorial Sculpture and Lookout. Whilst many of the submissions supported improvement of the lookout, 148 of the submissions were opposed to the artwork.

By not proceeding with the above elements, a significant level of funds will potentially be available for other works within the foreshore reserve. To facilitate identification of the alternative works, Shire Officers will now be working with the State to review the Foreshore Master Plan with the view to implementing other elements of the Master Plan currently not included within this Stage.

In addition to specific feedback on the elements proposed to be included in Stage 1 of the Revitalisation Program, an extremely wide range of suggestions were received. These suggestions will now be considered by the Kalbarri Foreshore Revitalisation Advisory Committee, before being further considered by Council as part of the Master Plan review.

Thank you again to all who took the time to fill out the Kalbarri Foreshore Revitalisation Works Survey.

COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDING

Community Grant Funding applications under the second round of funding for 2024/25 closed on **March 28** with funding being sought by many valuable community groups within the Shire.

At the time of writing this article, it was anticipated that up to 18 applications for funding were to be received from groups located in the Shire. With the total amount of funding applied for exceeding the funds remaining within the Community Grants Budget, it is anticipated that not all applications will be successful this round.

For those applicants who are un-successful, it is recommended that you work with the Shire's Community Development Officers to resubmit your applications for the first round of grant funding in the 2025/26 financial year, which opens in July 2025.

From here, the current grant applications are to be considered by the Shire's Community Grants Advisory Committee, who will make recommendations to Council. It is anticipated that the grant applications will be determined by Council at its April 2025 meeting.

Applicants will be advised of Council's decision following the Council meeting.

In the meantime, please contact the Shire's Community Development Officers for updates or discuss future applications for grant funding.

Northampton - Andrea Teakle
0476 532 000

Kalbarri - Cresta Viellaris
0400 476 952

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AGENCIES

In April, the Shire is being visited by Lotteries West and the Small Business Development Corporation who are looking to support community groups and business located within our communities.

Lotteries West will be attending the townsites of Northampton and Kalbarri, seeking to speak to local community groups about potential funding of their projects.

The Small Business Development Corporation attended Kalbarri earlier this year, so a visit is being planned for Northampton only.

SBDC are experienced small business advisers who live and work in the region, so they understand the unique challenges and opportunities local small business owners face.

If you are a commercial not-for-profit, small business owner or run a social enterprise SBDC Regional advisers offer expert guidance on small business topics including:

- Assessing new business ideas
- Steps to starting a business
- Business licenses and permits
- Business planning
- Market research
- Financial management
- Marketing

They can also refer local businesses to specialist services available via the SBDC. SBDC can travel to Northampton or Kalbarri.



See more from consumerwa

Consumer Protection will also be visiting Northampton and Kalbarri in the coming months. They can assist with.

- Handling Customer Complaints
- Scams awareness
- Buying a vehicle
- Retirement villages
- Funeral insurance

If you would like to know more about Consumer Protection or Small Business Development Commission, please don't hesitate to contact your local Community Development Officer.

EVENT APPROVALS

Events are defined as regular or one-off events where people assemble for civic, social, educational, entertainment, sporting, religious, business, or other purposes. Examples include concerts, shows, festivals, exhibitions, and similar events.

To hold a public event in the Shire you need to apply for approval. This process involves providing a range of documentation with your application including site plans, evidence of public liability insurance, comprehensive risk, and emergency management plans. You may also need to consider and provide documentation and plans for traffic management, first aid and emergency service access etc.

As there are a number of laws to comply with, the application that you need to submit will depend on the type of event you are planning. As a starting point, you should consider contacting the Shire's Community Development Officers.

PARKING LOCAL LAWS ON THE WAY

At its meeting held on 20 March, Council adopted for the purposes of advertising the draft 2025 Parking Local Laws. The purpose and effect of the Local Laws being:

Purpose – to provide for the management and regulation of parking throughout the Shire of Northampton.

Effect – to require a person parking a vehicle within the district is to comply with the provisions of this local law and any restrictions within areas specifically signed or marked.

Once finalised the Local Laws will provide the Shire Rangers with the ability to enforce all normal parking requirements that would be expected in an urban community.

Whilst a primary approach of driver education will be used, the Local Laws will ensure the Shire Officers have the necessary tools to address inappropriately parked vehicles, including an ability to tow and impound vehicles where absolutely necessary.

Advertising of the draft Local Laws will commence shortly.

SEEKING FORGIVENESS -VS- PRIOR APPROVAL

Historically landowners and contractors have from time to time undertaken work on private property without first obtaining the required approvals from the Local Authority. Required approvals can include, but are not limited to:

- Development (Planning) Approval;
- A Building or Demolition Permit; and
- Effluent Disposal and other Environmental Health Approvals.

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

By adopting the approach of seeking forgiveness rather than obtaining the required prior approvals, both the landowner and their contractor have the potential for modified penalties to be issued by the Shire or legal action to be taken against them.

This recent month a landowner placed a modular building on their property with no approvals. In this case, a modified penalty was issued under the Planning and Development Act 2005 and legal action is being taken under the Building Act 2000. It is likely that the court will impose a substantial penalty for proceeding without the prior Building Permit.

Members 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 works on their property.

NUMBER PLATE INFORMATION

If you are the proud owner of a District Plate did you know that if you had one of your plates missing or stolen you lose that number and new plates need to be reissued?

The Department of Transport has brought in a new system named Optional Plates. For a fee you will secure that special number to yourself and it gives you flexible options where it can be sold, transferred, changed to trailer issue and can be reissued to you if one or both of your plates go missing.

Did you know you can have your number plates remade? If you have state or district plates you can have your plates remade and also have the option of three colours. Blue WA, black on white background or black on yellow background. Please see one of our friendly staff members for further enquiries.

Department of Transport services are available Tuesday to Friday 8:00am – 3:30pm.

BEN SIGNS

Quoting the information on the nearest BEN sign will help emergency services accurately pinpoint the location of the Emergency.

When visiting the beach, take note of the closest BEN sign location and information. There are 22 signs throughout our Shire, from Bowes River NR1436 to Kalbarri, Northern Boat Ramp NR7031.



There were several events over December and January where BEN signs were used to help call the emergency services for help including drownings, motorbike accidents and reported shark bites.

A map of locations can be found here, www.fish.wa.gov.au/searchbensigns and you can search for individual signs and see where other signs are placed throughout WA. These signs can also be used to report shark sightings to the Water Police by calling 9442 8600 where this information is automatically added to the SharkSmartWA website.

REMAINING COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025

17 April 2025 – Northampton
15 May 2025 – Kalbarri
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 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

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