



SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wish to begin this month's column with an acknowledgement to Mr Ron Allen and Freeman of the Shire, who recently passed away peacefully at Brookview in Northampton. Ron served as a councillor for the Shire of Northampton for a total of 28 years, in two different time periods: from 1973 until 1994 and again from 2002 until 2009. He was President for 15 years from 1979 until 1994. He was also Chair of the board of the Mid West Development Commission from 1994 until 2000. Ron has been described as a wonderful advocate for our region, who had a vision for Kalbarri. In particular, he worked to connect Kalbarri to Northampton and to the rest of the Mid West. Council observed a minute of silence to pay respect to Ron at our April meeting. I was honoured to speak at Ron's funeral and I hope that some of that information may appear elsewhere in this paper.

I also would like to acknowledge the Kalbarri community, who have lost a number of other significant community members, in recent weeks.

Alison Glass was a pioneer of Kalbarri who came to town in the 1950s, after she met the love of her life. She was soon after, the first school teacher at the Kalbarri School which opened in 1959. This was in a holiday shack near Chinaman's Beach, which belonged to Fred and Edith Blood and who lived at Murchison House Station. Alison lived the rest of her life in town and her connection to the Allen family, was the reason Ron and Dreda moved to Kalbarri.

Marion Elliot, nee Drage, grew up at 'Jib Jib' north of Northampton and with her husband Bob, although they lived in Geraldton, spent a large amount of time in Kalbarri. They worked to establish the land development at Brown's farm on the hill south of town. Bob and Marion also played a part in supporting the building of the Kalbarri Airport.

Neville Simmonds, a longtime resident of Kalbarri, serviced the Kalbarri and the Northampton area with his pest control business for many years. Neville was also a keen member of the Northampton bowling club.

Tom Newman, was a wonderful gentleman of Kalbarri, who served the community for many years with his volunteer work with St Johns.

Deepest sympathy to all the family members and that's enough for now, please. I overheard a family member of one these services, remark to the funeral director, "I think it's time for a wedding now."

Council is beginning the planning stages of a new budget period for the 2024/25 year. We have some carry-over projects from last year that haven't been finalised, due to a whole raft of delays and workforce shortage issues. A year of consolidation is necessary. We are also in the process of establishing a Community Grants Scheme which will aim to enable local organisations to have better access to applying for small amounts of funding in a more workable fashion.

I'm also very pleased to report that the recovery works to the Kalbarri foreshore areas has been signed off by the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement, DRFA. The Shire of Northampton has begun the tendering process to secure a contractor and commence the work as soon as possible.

As I write, the wind is howling outside and I dearly hope this is a sign of a change in the weather soon. Last night there was a ring around the moon and I met an echidna crossing the road, on the drive home from Kalbarri to my place at Ogilvie. I didn't know this was a sign, but my friend who lives 50 km away at Chapman Valley, also spied an echidna and she passed this weather folklore on to me! Apparently other signs of rain coming include:

- The sound of crickets – which I thought when someone gave you crickets, it was giving you deathly silence;
- Leave curling up on the trees – the leaves on some of my farmyard trees are curled up because the trees are dead;
- Reclining cows – I thought cows sat down when they had had sufficient to eat and I can report at present, our cows would most definitely not think they've had enough to eat! I asked my husband if he'd seen any cows lying down this morning and he replied, "yes, I saw a cow lying down because it was dead."

Oh dear...

I can honestly report that we are spending lots of time and money feeding our cattle to keep the nutrition up to them. In all seriousness, the lack of rain and the lack of feed for animals is a genuine concern for much of the ag. region across the state. I

know there are many of you who are genuinely desperately looking for any signs of pending rain, so hopefully it is coming sooner rather than later.

In the meantime, be grateful that we live in some wonderful communities surrounded by people who look out for each other.

I went to the opening night of netball and junior football (the seniors have been training for a while) at the Northampton Community Centre last Friday and NEVER let it be said that life in the country is dull! The building was bursting at the seams with people of all ages, enjoying the sport and the catch-ups with one another. Congratulations to all the organisers and the participants – some who travel from Geraldton, Kalbarri, Yuna and Chapman Valley – who each do their little bit for sport and community.

Liz Sudlow
Shire President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

The 22 May 2024 marks the completion of my first year of employment with the Shire of Northampton. Upon arriving I did not quite expect how busy it was going to be, and this has impacted my ability to get out and about and meet more of the community.

Some of the achievements of the organisation to date under my oversight include:

- Organisational restructuring with a view toward a contemporary and dynamic future organisation;
- Significant progress toward TC Seroja coastal infrastructure repair and a temporary workers caravan facility in Kalbarri;
- Building of strategic relationships with Federal and State agencies and elected members of parliament;
- Navigation through very large proposals for renewable energy and hydrogen with a focus to protect and maximise opportunity for the community;
- Meaningful engagement with Traditional Owners and the Corporations that underpin their operations;
- Delivery of significant infrastructure projects as part of the Shire's budget program;
- Opening discussion with prospective commercial operators in the tourism industry and housing sectors;
- Making a significant funding application for the Kalbarri Multipurpose and Evacuation Centre;
- Purchasing suitable property for the Kalbarri Men's Shed and Community Garden;
- Advocating strongly for the Northampton bypass section of the Dongara-Geraldton-Northampton (DGN) heavy vehicle road alignment;
- Acquiring the Kalbarri Workers Accommodation land from the State Government at no cost;
- Reviewing Shire land holdings across the district in strategic preparation for future opportunities;
- Coordinating consultation in preparation for a funding application to produce a Strategic Growth Plan for the future;
- Partnering with the Mid West Development Commission to advocate for funding to commence works identified by the Kalbarri Foreshore Master Plan;
- Identifying and correcting deficiencies in commercial, not for profit, and residential lease agreements;
- Focusing on organisational governance compliance to ensure high standards are achieved and maintained;
- Commencement of a regulatory program to correct many compliance issues currently scattered throughout local

communities particularly in the building, planning, environmental health and ranger areas;

- Creating new approaches to improve the way the Shire deals with Community Grants and Bush Fire Brigades;
- Partnering with Synergy to facilitate an appropriate location for an EV charging station in Kalbarri as part of the State Government's Electric Highway; and
- Overhauling the Council meeting system to reflect industry best practice.

Finally, I would like to advise that Grant Middleton, Executive Manager of Corporate Services has resigned from his position effective 31 May 2024 to take on a new role in Perth. On behalf of the organisation, I would like to sincerely thank Grant for his contribution to the Shire over more than ten years and wish him well for the future.

Andrew Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

TROPICAL CYCLONE SEROJA COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS IN KALBARRI

After a substantive design and approval process, the Shire has released the Tender for the repair of the damaged coastal infrastructure in Kalbarri. Works are proposed for Chinaman's Beach, Blue Holes, Jacques Point and to a lesser extent, Red Bluff. Works are expected to cause some disruption to normal activities. The Tender also includes the Temporary Workers Caravan Facility. Works are large and are expected to cost millions of dollars fully funded by the Federal Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Key proposed dates are as follows:

- Tender release 20 April 2024 for four weeks;
- Tender opening, assessments and reporting by 11 June 2024;
- Tender considered by Council 20 June 2024;
- Contract execution by 5 July 2024;
- Site establishment by 20 July 2024;
- Practical completion by 8 November 2024; and
- Project completion and grant acquittal by 31 December 2024.

Tender documents showing detailed design can be found on the Shire website.

EV CHARGING STATION - KALBARRI

In partnership with Synergy, the Shire is pleased to notify the Kalbarri community of the commencement of works on the EV Charging Station in the long vehicle car park at the rear of the Allen Centre. Works are scheduled to commence on 29 April 2024 and be completed by the end of June 2024. During this time the car park will remain open but there may be some traffic management in place at various times in the areas highlighted below.



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>

ENGINEERED STONE BAN

Silica dust presents a significant threat to workplace safety and health. Engineered stone, composed mainly of crushed quartz, resin binder, and various additives, is prone to generating silica dust during cutting, drilling, polishing, or grinding processes. Despite its minute size, silica dust particles can deeply penetrate the lungs, causing irreversible damage, including severe ailments like silicosis and lung cancer.

In response to the recognised dangers of silica dust exposure, authorities are enacting a ban on specific engineered stone products, including benchtops, slabs, and panels. This ban is scheduled to come into effect on July 1, 2024, in most regions, although the particulars may vary by state or territory. Certain areas may allow a transition period for contracts entered before December 31, 2023, permitting limited work with engineered stone until December 31, 2024.

Despite its praised durability and cost-effectiveness, the surge in popularity of engineered stone in Australia during the 2000s has been accompanied by alarming trends. Medical professionals have raised concerns due to a notable rise in silicosis cases among stonemasons, highlighting the pressing need to address silica dust exposure in workplaces. This landmark decision follows the emergence of silicosis cases among hundreds of workers engaged in engineered stone fabrication, particularly for kitchen benches and bathroom vanities.

DIVIDING FENCES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A standard dividing fence will not attract Planning or a Building Application, however, a variation needs to be looked at a bit closer to satisfy street amenity and the structural integrity of the proposed variation.

A standard fence stands no more than 1.8m in high and recedes down to 1.2m maximum at the front boundary. The fence can be manufactured out of color bond, cellulose fibre, timber or masonry as standard products, other variations will require Planning/Building approval.

Unapproved variations may come under scrutiny by insurance companies during a wind event and become void due to being non-conforming with the manufacturer's specifications. Please also note that the Shire of Northampton is in a Wind Region B2 and certain construction requirements need to be adhered to.

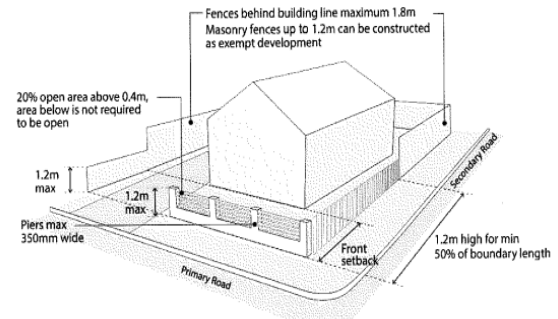


Figure 4: Fencing terms explained

REFUSE SITE OPENING TIMES

Kalbarri

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

Northampton

Wednesday 1-00pm to 5-00pm
Saturday & Sunday 8-00am to 5-00pm

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.

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 WA *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 or by phone to (08) 99341202.

NEW WASTE OPERATOR - KALBARRI

The Shire of Northampton welcomes Mr Paul Van De Logt as the new Refuse Supervisor at the Kalbarri Landfill Site, who commenced work with the Shire on 12th April 2024. While Paul's background is in the mining industry, he is keen to start a new career in waste management.

Thank you to Mr Steve Weisse and Mr Colin Guy for assisting to keep the Kalbarri Landfill open 7-days a week after Cyclone Seroja and then more recently after the sudden passing in November 2023 of our previous Refuse Supervisor, Mr Seby Parasiliti.

EVENT APPLICATION – KALBARRI GALA 11 MAY 2024

The Shire received and approved an Event Application from the Kalbarri Development Association to hold the Kalbarri Gala Ball Event between 5:30pm – 11:30pm on Saturday 11th May 2024.

This event will be located on the grassed area at Chinaman's Beach. This event is a fundraising event where funds will be given to community groups or used by the KDA to improve facilities around Kalbarri.

This event was first held in May 2023 and was to be a means of bringing the community together especially after the trauma of Cyclone Seroja. It was reported to be a success with all or nearly all tickets having been sold, and everyone enjoying themselves with no incident reports.

So dust off your frocks and suits, and be part of this unique event.

For more information, please visit the Kalbarri Development Association's website.



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

2024 COUNCIL MEETING DATES (now held the third Thursday of the month commencing at 2pm)

- 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