

## President's Message

**Avon Bridge**  
The Shire is concerned with the state of the Avon Bridge regarding the narrow lanes and danger to pedestrians. We are working with Main Roads WA to facilitate a more permanent upgrade to the bridge. Unfortunately, it looks like any major capital works are going to take some years to facilitate, which is not how we would want the situation to be.

**Christmas**  
Yes, Christmas is fast approaching and the annual Carols in the Park event is scheduled for Saturday 14th December. A Christmas Festival is also scheduled for Sunday 15th December so please keep your eyes open for details in the coming weeks and join in the festive spirit.

**Firebreak Order compliance**  
It is pleasing to note the generally high level of compliance with the requirements to keep flammable material under the required maximum heights in built up areas. Firebreaks on farming land are also generally quite good, given the weed growth over winter. There are still a few non complying property owners and the Shire is dealing with them accordingly through Ranger Services. Please be very careful with fire this season and report any emergency fires to 000.

**Local Government elections**  
For anyone who has not followed the Local Government elections, the existing 6 Councillors who were up for election were all re-elected for another 4 year term. This indicates we are on the right track and I thank those who did vote for their confidence in us.

**Road Network**  
The Shire is aware of the declining quality of the existing road network and are preparing internal management plans to address the issues.

**Swimming Pools are open**  
We had a few technical problems with the filtration systems at both of the Shire's pools resulting in delays to opening the pools however these are now operational and hopefully ready to handle a long, hot summer.

Cr Steven Pollard  
Shire President

## Premier's Australia Day Citizenship Awards

Has someone you know made a positive impact in your community? With your help they can receive a well-deserved 'pat on the back' on Australia Day next year if you nominate them now for the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards.

- The three nomination categories are:
- Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award
  - Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award for a person under 25 years
  - Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award for a community group or event

To nominate an outstanding member, group or event in your community, pick up an award nomination form from Shire of Northam office or download a nomination form from the Australia Day Council of Western Australia's website at [www.ausdaywa.com.au](http://www.ausdaywa.com.au).

Exclusive to Western Australia, these prestigious awards are designed to reward local residents who demonstrate active citizenship and qualities of leadership, inspiration and community participation, resulting in enhanced community life.

Nominations close on Monday, 16 December 2013.

## Safe Swimming

Summer is here and pools everywhere are having their covers removed and water chlorinated. The pool toys are being taken out of the shed and blown up. Parents are bracing themselves for numerous sunscreen applications and hours of hearing the sounds of 'marco ..... polo' drift across the backyard.

The Shire of Northam's Senior Building Surveyor, says that although the summer months can be filled with fun in the pool, with pool ownership comes the responsibility to maintain a compliant pool barrier.

The Shire of Northam has commenced its required 4 yearly inspections of swimming pools which will occur from November 2013 until February 2014. A letter and pool checklist will be sent to each pool owner advising of the week of the inspection. We encourage owners to conduct their own inspections against the supplied checklists, to allow maintenance to be done prior to the Shire's inspection.

Portable wading pools containing water that is less than 300mm deep do not require a mandatory child safety barrier. However parents and carers need to be aware that these types of pools are still a constant source of danger to young children and should be emptied when not in use.

Pool barriers are mandatory but young children should always be supervised by an adult in or around any body of water. Constant adult supervision means ensuring you can see your child all the time and are close to them. This is the most effective way to prevent drowning.

## Winners

Winners of the 2013/14 early rates incentive prize competition are:

- Wendy Dymond & Graham Dunlop: \$500 cash kindly donated by Bankwest – Northam
- Kareena Crowe: \$250 cash prize kindly donated by the Avon Valley Advocate
- Wayne Smith: 2 Nights in a Superior Room at Mecure Perth
- Trevor Ducat: \$100 Voucher for Avon Computech
- Alfred Tuck: \$250 Car Detail at Avon Valley Nissan
- Kim Lawes: \$50 Lunch for 2 from Riversedge Cafe
- John Dwyer: \$100 Gift Voucher from Regional Physiotherapy and In Balance Fitness
- Frank Hasan & Noelene Starr: \$170 double passes to the West Australian Symphony Orchestra
- Norma Western: \$59 Cannon printer from Country Copiers Northam
- Colin Sparrow: \$50 Lunch for 2 from Managers Tearooms
- Ryan Bristow-Stagg: \$50 Meal Voucher from Panda Chinese Restaurant
- David Roser, Moya MacQueen, Cathryn Graham, Gregory Power, Paul Odriscoll & Murray Morehouse: 20 Litres Gulf Western Top Dog Oil from Neils Parts Pty Ltd – Northam
- Andrew Potocznyj: Dinner for 2 Riverside Hotel
- Robert Stockman, Tyson Turnock, John Lawrence, Brian Roberts & Shirley Martin: \$20 Gift Vouchers from Northam Garden Centre
- Kaylene Painter: \$50 Voucher for Quins Gourmet Butcher

Thanks to all the businesses who sponsored this competition; your support is greatly appreciated.

*Avon Valley*  
**Christmas Carnival**  
Northam Recreation Centre  
Sunday 15th December 3-7pm



- Free entertainment
- Free craft activities
- Giant indoor market
- Meet Santa in his grotto
- \$7 – all rides all afternoon (3 and under free)
- Free Animal Farm
- Food and beverages available for purchase
- Special guest arrives in style at 4pm!



## Mulch Available

The Shire of Northam is continuing its environmental initiative of mulching green waste at the Old Quarry Road Waste Facility. Mulch is available free of charge to householders in the Shire and is limited in size to one trailer or ute load. Self loading is required. Please enquire at the landfill gatehouse.

Any queries in relation to the mulch should be directed to Carmen Sadleir on 9622 6100 or [records@northam.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@northam.wa.gov.au).



## Photo Competition Results



Shire President Cr. Steven Pollard presents prize to Maureen Allert

Shire of Northam conducted a Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle Photographic Competition from 27th August to 28th October 2013.

We received a large number of quality entries especially from Tim Bryden, Maureen Allert, Arthur Roy, Mat Maynard, Louisa Dyer, Charmaine Schelfhout, Anne Ashman and Jay Harris.

The winning photo was taken by Tim Bryden and the second place by Maureen Allert. You can see the winning pictures at <http://www.northam.wa.gov.au/tourism/photography>

Northam Photography Group is conducting an exhibition on 28th November from 5:30pm to 8:00pm and 29th and 30th November from 10am to 3pm. at the Fitzgerald Hotel - Backroom.