Newsletter

Shire of Northam
Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle

April 2017

President's Message

Shire President Steven Pollard

April is once again upon us, and it is time for talented locals to showcase their skills in the Fred Killick Art Award. The pieces will be on display in the Lesser Town Hall from Saturday 1st April, until Saturday 8th for those wishing to see what Northam has to offer, and the opening weekend will be a busy one around Northam with the running of the 2017 Northam Motorsport Festival. Please be mindful of road closures during this time, full details of which are available via the Shire of Northam website.

For those of you looking to donate your old clothes, the Good Samaritan clothes recovery bins that were at Coles are now located at the waste disposal site on Old Quarry Road.

The Shire of Northam is currently conducting a survey of local residents to assist with the review of our Strategic Community Plan. Your input is vital to this process, and will assist Council with our strategic focus over the coming years.

Given the recent rain levels Northam has seen, we have noticed around the Shire that Caltrop plants are growing well. We are trying to deal with the problem areas as quickly as possible, but your assistance to remove small patches around residential areas if you see them would be much appreciated.

Council is continuously trying to improve its processes in respect to how customer requests are handled. If you see something you feel we need to know about, please remember to lodge a request with our staff. This can be done via email, phone, or in person at the Shire Administration Centre. Once a request has been received it will be allocated a unique 'ICS' reference number which can be used to track the progress of your request.

Lastly but by no means least, I'd like to offer congratulations to Central Regional TAFE graduates who have recently completed their studies. We recognise the importance of education, and as such, sponsor awards each year for Aboriginal Student of the Year, and Trainee of the Year.

April School Holiday Inclusion Program

The Shire of Northam is teaming up with local Community groups and organisations from Perth to put on an Inclusion program for the upcoming Easter school break. The program includes an activity for children to take part in every single day of the holidays!

Most of the programs on offer are free of charge, and food and drinks are offered at each session. Activities including crafts, sports, cooking classes, movies, and even day trips out for some of the older children will be offered, and the programs will be running from the 10th – 21st April.

If you would like to register your child or enquire about the program, please contact the Northam Recreation Centre on 9622 5153, or send an email to commsoff@northam.wa.gov.au. For more information, watch out for the poster, visit the Shire of Northam website or like the Northam Recreation Centre Facebook page.

Shire of Northam- Where to by 2022?

The Shire is asking you to help it develop the right strategies needed to take the community forward into a bright future by having your say on the review of our Strategic Community Plan. This plan is the Shire's key strategic document that guides decision-making. Your views are really important to the Shire and your feedback will assist in refining its priorities, as well as setting a clear direction for the future of our community.

Key themes for the Strategic Community Plan are already being identified through focus groups and a community survey. This information will be presented to the Summit, followed by a facilitated workshop for participants to work on priority areas for action to guide decision-making into the future.

Elected Members and senior Shire officers will be in attendance to hear your input.

Bakers Hill Community Plan

Consultation for the Bakers Hill Community is drawing to a close with some key themes emerging around footpaths, drainage, playgrounds and improvements to Great Eastern Hwy.

The consultation process included residents being asked to complete the sentence 'Bakers will be Better if…' to place in the wishing well sculpture, along with surveys and workshops.

The Plan is expected to be presented to Council for endorsement in the near future, prior to the final launch in the community. The Plan will guide Council decision making and prioritisation over the next ten years.

Grass Valley will be the next sub-region in the Shire to commence the planning process.

Northam Share and Care Community Services Group and the Shire of Northam's Community Safety Committee present an opportunity for community members to have their property marked for identification purposes.

Marking your property makes ownership clear and gives you a greater chance of having your belongings returned if they are stolen.

If you would like some help to mark your property or you would like to borrow a property marking UV Pen, please come along!

PROPERTY MARKING DAY

Where: Share and Care Community Services Group
Corner Gordon Street and Wellington Street Northam

When: Friday, 31 March 2017 from 9am to 12noon

Cost: Free

Shire of Northam Community Grants - Open

The Shire's annual Community Grants Round I opened 13 February this year, closing 13 April 2017.

Community not-for-profits, sporting groups and schools can apply for funding of up to $5,000 for events and/or projects.

Community Project Grants can include equipment purchase, facility development and community based projects or programmes. Priority will be placed on projects that promote skill development, enhance safety or increase participation and inclusion.

Community Events Grants can be for festivals, networking functions and activities that demonstrate significant reach and benefit, promote social inclusion, and encourage partnerships and collaboration in the community.

The Shire also offers Club Sponsorship Grants of up to $500 to assist sport and recreation groups to hosting club events or competitions. These grants are simple to apply for and can be very useful for getting planned activities across the line.

These grants are only offered once per year so it is important for clubs, groups and schools to plan ahead and prioritise.

Throughout the year the Council also offers Quick Response Grants of up to $500. These grants are to support innovative responses to community needs either as a whole or for specific target groups such as children, youth, seniors. These are suited to capturing opportunities that arise at short notice or for short term projects that require a quick response. Applicants receive a decision within six weeks of receipt of their application.

All Shire grant applications are assessed against the criteria pertaining to the type of grant they apply for. Further information, grant quidelines and application forms are available from Community Development Officer Michelle Blackhurst on 9266 6100 or download at www.northam.wa.gov.au/funding-opportunities.aspx

2017 Northam Motorsport Festival

On Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd April, the streets will come alive with the sounds of vintage cars.

The event incorporates the Mount Ommanney hill climb, SCBC Motokhana on the Saturday, and the Northam Flying 50 around the town on the Sunday. You can also freely access the car display areas, market stalls, retail, cafe and hotel outlets as well children's rides and activities in the family fun area.

For those music lovers out there, the fantastic Rum Jungle Band will be putting on a show not to be missed in the Bernard Park Sound Shell on the Sunday.

The Northam Motorsport Festival is a major highlight on the Shire of Northam annual calendar, and is a great opportunity for all ages to enjoy the history and spirit of classic racing cars.

For those of you with friends or relatives wishing to visit from Perth or Toodyay, there will be a special event train provided by Trans WA. The service will run as follows:

Depart Midland at 8:30am/ Arrive Northam at 9:50
Depart Northam at 4pm/ Arrive Midland at 5:18

A free shuttle bus will be provided from the Northam Train station to the event. Ticket costs between Northam and Midland will also cover train travel between Midland and Perth.

Please refer to the Shire of Northam website for information on road closures around town during this event.

2017 Anzac Day Services- 25th April

There will be a number of services held around the Shire for Anzac Day. Please see below for a list of services advertised to date (please note that times may vary slightly, and are subject to change- please check the Visit Northam Facebook page for updates):

Northam Dawn Service: 6am- Fitzgerald St
Northam Day Service: 11am- Fitzgerald St
Wundowie: 9.30am- Wundowie Hall
Bakers Hill: 10.30am- Hooper Park
Grass Valley: 9am- Doug Christmass Memorial

Road closues will be in place around Northam on this day. Please refer to the Shire of Northam website for details

Wundowie Community Plan

The Wundowie Community Plan 2016-2026 was launched to the Wundowie Community at the Shire's annual Community Meeting on March 1st 2017. Hard copies are available from the Wundowie Library and electronic copies can be downloaded from the Shire website www.northam.wa.gov.au