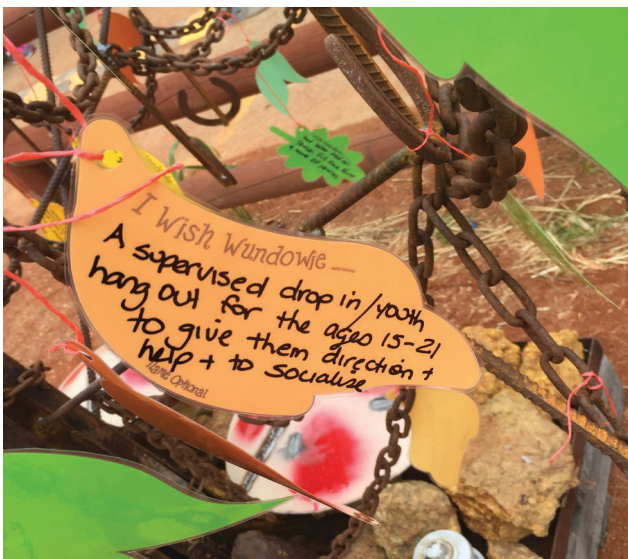




Northam News

Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle



Wundowie Surveys Open

Community consultation for the Wundowie Community Plan 2016-2026 kicked off on Saturday 16th July with the unveiling of the Wundowie Wishing Tree.

Community surveys have been delivered to all Wundowie PO Boxes this morning. They can also be completed online at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FWD39PN>

Completed surveys enter a draw for a \$250 voucher to be spent in a Wundowie business. Surveys close 12 August 2016.

Please join us in having your say on Wundowie's future development, your opinion is important to us.

Avon Readers & Writers Festival

Bigger and better than ever, this year's Avon Readers and Writers Festival is a must for anyone who loves a good story.

Commencing in York 9th August, the Festival opens in Northam Saturday the 10th before concluding in Toodyay Sunday the 11th.

The program this year includes 26 presenters, music, workshops and panel discussions with the Festival's signature event, the dinner, being held at the Riverside Hotel in Northam on the Saturday night.

Tickets start at \$16.50 and may be booked online at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/avon-valley-readers-and-writers-festival-tickets-25712563971>

Events programs are available from the Northam Library section of the Shire of Northam website www.northam.wa.gov.au

The Avon River Festival

The Shire of Northam is hosting the annual Avon River Festival from 4pm on Friday, August 5, 2016. The Festival launches the start of the Avon Descent, the biggest event on the regional calendar attracting more than 800 competitors with families and support crews.

Aimed at families, the Avon River Festival has attractions and activities for all age groups. There will be live performances from Perth band Murphy's Lore, a street parade plus roving performances, a fire show, BMX displays and a demonstration from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Side show alley will entertain the young at heart with a host of games and rides. There will be market stalls and food vendors offering local produce, arts and crafts.

The popular firework finale on the River closes the Festival and sets the scene for the start of the Avon Descent the following day.

The Avonlink train is running three extra services from Midland to Northam via Toodyay return to support the Festival, offering people the opportunity to leave the car at home. The revised timetable can be seen on the Shire of Northam website www.northam.wa.gov.au or by contacting TransWA on 1300 662 205.

President's Message

The Shire of Northam has met recently to discuss the 2016/17 Annual Budget.

The budget process has been ongoing for many months with the recent meeting a culmination of many hours of work by Elected Members and Staff.

A draft budget will now be advertised for public comment, along with our proposed rate changes. At the conclusion of the advertising period, Council will assess submissions and make a final determination on the budget, in early August.

There are a range of highlights in the budget including:

- \$470,000 on rural drainage
- Additional staff to focus on rural verges
- \$235,000 grant funded CCTV expansion
- \$4.3m to construct the Aboriginal & Environmental Interpretive Centre
- \$127,000 for maintenance to the Northam Town Hall heritage building
- \$100,000 to improve our parks and playgrounds
- \$1,500,000 to commence work on the new 50m Heated outdoor swimming pool at the Northam Recreation Centre
- \$880,000 to commence work on a youth space (including consultation with the community)
- \$305,000 on local footpaths
- \$3.7m road program
- \$201,000 to improve recycled water system
- 2.86% increase in general rates

There has been discussion over the past six years in relation to changing a significant number of properties across the Shire from unimproved valuations to gross rental valuations to ensure our rating system is equitable. This is being implemented this year which will result in some ratepayers in the rural areas having a more substantial increase in their rates.

In order to minimise this impact Council has chosen to phase the increases in over three years. The additional revenue generated this year will be utilised to create a new rural verges team which will commence in October/November 2016.

I would also like to thank the Wundowie Community for their enthusiastic participation in the Shire's launch for the commencement of the Wundowie Community Plan 2016-2026. Local businesses, community groups and individuals got involved to make the launch itself a success.

Attendance from local residents was very positive with more than 300 BBQ breakfast sandwiches served and 250 leaves placed on the wishing tree over the two hour period. The event generated a strong sense of community and it was great to see a number of new residents from Mauravillo Estate come down and get involved.

Delilah Brough - Library Experience

Northam Library take pleasure in welcoming Delilah Brough from Swan Christian College as the latest work experience candidate via the Worklink (Authority Developed Endorsed Program).

Delilah is scheduled to undertake 55 hours of monitored and assessed work experience throughout the next couple of months.

Delilah will assist with a number of library related tasks including shelf checking, stock allocation, memberships, loan and returns, plus a variety of other procedures and programs.



2016 Banners in the Terrace

West Northam Primary School have partnered with local artist Kirk Garlett to create the Shire of Northam 'Banners in the Terrace' banner for 2016. The theme this year was 'Local Impact' with the team choosing to represent through the re-vegetation of our river.

Banners in the Terrace is an annual state-wide local government competition designed to promote community diversity during Local Government week.

The banners can be seen on either St Georges or Adelaide Terrace between 24 July and 06 August

The Shire of Northam is proud to be represented by such a creative and eye-catching entry.

SilverSport

SilverSport supports eligible seniors to participate in sport and active recreation based on the highly successful KidSport program.

SilverSport can cover costs associated with sport club memberships or physical activity program fees of up to \$200 per person until 30 June 2017, subject to available funding.

Applicants can receive SilverSport for a range of activities delivered by clubs, groups, businesses and recreation centre's including; rehabilitation fitness, bowls, group fitness classes, walking groups, gym memberships, yoga or Pilates.

To be eligible, applicants must be 60 years or over and have a valid health care card or pensioner concession card. A Seniors Card is not suitable.

Administered by the Department of Sport and Recreation, the program started on the 1st of July 2016 and runs to 30 June 2017.

The Shire currently has 8 approved Service Providers and over 30 approved applicants. For further info please call the Northam Rec Centre on 9622 5153 or email snrec@northam.wa.gov.au

Help Our Lost Pets Find Their Families

The Shire of Northam is now posting all pets found around the Shire on our website. There are some very special cats and dogs desperately seeking their owners in Northam and Wundowie.

If you can help please go to our website <http://www.northam.wa.gov.au/pound/> Please share with others you know and reunite

Name the Northam Swans

Voting is now open.... Please go to the 'Have Your Say' section of our website to make your selection before 5pm 29 July.

These beautiful birds have laid eggs over the weekend. We expect the hatchlings to emerge around 20 August.

Let's give them some great names to help us report on their progress.

<http://www.northam.wa.gov.au/your-say-northam/10/name-the-northam-swans>