

President's Message

With the holiday season upon us I'd like to firstly remind all Shire residents to put safety first when indulging in seasons festivities.

Remember that there is no text message, phone call or celebration worth the risk of speeding, using mobile phones while driving and of course, driving under the influence. Too often the media is full of stories of families losing loved ones at a time that would otherwise be full of love and good cheer.

If you are going on holidays remember that if you are using social media, there are opportunists out there who will take advantage of knowing you are not home. Please don't give them that opportunity, save your holiday snaps for when you get back.

Within our Shire, bushfire is a constant risk at this time of year. Please adhere to holiday period harvest, vehicle movement and hot works bans and remember to contact the Shire office on 9622 6100 to sign up to our free service that will text you when bans are in place. Up to the minute fire advice can be found at www.emergency.wa.gov.au Please call 000 to report any fire emergencies

On a more positive note, consultations commenced for the review of the Shire's Strategic Community Plan 2012-2022 at the Christmas on Fitzgerald celebrations. Residents provided some fantastic ideas for Northam Shire - Where to 2022 at a photo booth stall. There are some fabulous photographs on the Shire facebook page www.facebook.com/shireofnortham. Consultations will continue in the new year with Shire residents getting a range of opportunities to have their say on priorities for the next five years.

The biggest event on the Shire Calendar in January is of course Australia Day, (January 26) and this one promises to be bigger and better than ever with live music from the wonderful Murphy's Lore and lots of family friendly activities.

On behalf of all Shire of Northam Councillors and staff I wish all our residents a safe and happy new year.

Thank you,
Steven Pollard, President, Shire of Northam

Social Sport Registrations

Registrations are now open for teams and individuals to join a range of social sports activities during term 1 2017.

Currently the following sports are available:

- Monday Night: Mixed Floorball
- Tuesday Night: Mixed Field Soccer
- Wednesday Night: Mixed Social Soccer & Volleyball
- Thursday Night: Mixed Social Netball
- Friday Night: Mixed Social Touch Rugby

Registrations will close on the 30th January 2017. Term commences 6th February until approximately the 7th April 2017. Please call 9622 5153 for more information.

Shire Recognised for Early Literacy

The Shire of Northam has been commended for excellence in the field of early literacy for its programmes with pre-school and primary aged children run through the Northam Library.

The prestigious award under the Children's Environment and Health Local Government Report Card Project is offered by the Public Health Advocacy Institute of WA.



Northam Shire - Where to 2022?

The Shire of Northam launched the community consultation phase of the review into the Strategic Community Plan 2012 - 2022 with a photo booth at Christmas on Fitzgerald in December.

Top themes emerging from the photo booth include, longer opening hours for Northam stores, a tip shop, a heated pool, cinema, water park, hydrotherapy pool and more.

Shire residents will be able to contribute their thoughts via a number of different mechanisms depending on the level they wish to be involved. Over the next few months there will be opportunities for people to name their priorities for the future, answer surveys and contribute to focus groups. The consultation will culminate in a regional summit "Northam Shire - Where to by 2022" planned for late March next year.

Wundowie Community Plan

The Wundowie Community Plan is set to become a public document in the coming weeks. The draft document was endorsed by Council before being released for public comment in December.

The final draft will be presented at a public workshop early in the new year prior to finalisation.

Bakers Hill Community Plan

Wundowie and Districts Men's Shed have moved on from the Wundowie Wishing Tree to create a 'Wishing Well' sculpture to launch the Baker's Hill Community Plan. The innovative design includes a portion of the Golden Pipeline and other materials connected to the town's rich history.

The project is scheduled to be launched 12 February with the unveiling of the well and a family fun day kicking off the consultation process.



Rules Change for Community Clubs

Community clubs and associations.... Did you know that recently the rules have changed on how to make changes to your constitutions??

If you would like to check that your group is up to date with its information, please contact Shire of Northam Club Development Officer Rachel Gunn on 9622 5153.

Alternatively follow the link below... www.commerce.wa.gov.au/who-we-assist/not-profit

Northam Rec Centre School Holiday Fun

This school holidays there are a host of activities to keep the kids entertained. Swimming lessons are available at both the Northam and Wundowie pools. The PCYC are running fun and fitness programmes for kids and Avon Youth are putting on movie nights at the Northam Rec Centre.

To find out what's on phone the Rec Centre on 9622 5153 or get onto their facebook page www.facebook.com/northamrecreationcentre/?fref=ts

Holiday Harvest, Vehicle & Hot Works Bans

Please be advised that the Shire of Northam has imposed a Harvest, Vehicle Movement and Hot Works Bans for the following periods:

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PERIOD:
6pm Saturday 24th December 2016 until Midnight Tuesday 27 December 2016.

NEW YEARS:
6pm Saturday 31st December 2016 until Midnight Monday 2 January 2017.

AUSTRALIA DAY:
Midnight Wednesday 25 January 2017 until Midnight Thursday 26 January 2017.

Harvest, Vehicle Movement and Hot Works Bans means:

- The use of vehicles in paddocks is not permitted unless using a diesel vehicle for the purpose of watering and tending of livestock
- The use or operation of any engine, vehicle, plant, equipment or machinery is not permitted in the area likely to cause a bush fire or contribute to the spread of a bush fire.
- Any "hot works" (e.g. welding, grinding, cutting, heating etc.) in the "open air" is not permitted.

The above bans are imposed in an attempt to mitigate the risk of fire during these public holiday periods.

If you have any queries in relation to this information or would like to be on the Harvest Ban SMS list, please contact the Shire of Northam on 9622 6100.



Northam Youth Precinct

One of the most important projects underway from the point of view of our younger residents is planning for a dedicated youth precinct in Northam. It is vital that the young and young at heart get behind this project and talk to the Shire about what facilities are really needed in our town.

There are two workshops being held at the Northam Rec Centre on Jan 25, 11-1pm and 6-8.30pm. Alternatively we are also seeking feedback at the Australia Day Pool Party the following day.

For more information contact Community Development Officer Michelle Blackhurst on 9622 6100.

Australia Day Celebrations

Bernard Park will explode into action from 5pm 26 January for the Shire's annual Australia Day celebrations.

Premier Perth Band Murphy's Lore will rock us to the core with classics old and new. There will be a ceremony to welcome our newest Australian citizens and a speech from our official Australia Day Ambassador. The Shire will also present our annual Community Citizen of the Year awards.

For the family there is free facepainting, tattoos, bubbleology and a BBQ.

What's On		
26	Northam Pool Party 1-4pm	Northam Pool
26	Australia Day 5pm	Northam Bernard Park