

Newsletter

November 2016



President's Message

Bushfire season

A reminder that 1 November marks the commencement of the Prohibited Burning period. With such a damp winter behind us, fuel loads are generally high so attending to your responsibilities in complying with our Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice is necessary to mitigate risks for the upcoming fire season.

The Shire has a SMS service available to let residents know if harvest and hot works bans are in place so please call the Shire on 9622 6100 if you want to register for that free service. The phone number for all fire emergencies is 000.

Maintenance requests

A reminder that our "ICS" system is available for anyone who has identified an issue that the Shire should be aware of. When you lodge your request with the Shire you should get an ICS number so that you can track progress on the matter if necessary. Some matters will need longer term strategies to deal with an issue so please be aware that we do prioritise requests to ensure we attend to the most urgent matters first.

Any afterhours genuine emergency matters can be dealt with by ringing 0419 910 319 otherwise please call the Shire on 9622 6100 or visit during our office hours 8:30am to 4:30pm. Requests can also be emailed to records@northam.wa.gov.au.

Remembrance Day 11th November 11am

Just a quick reminder to get along to a RSL service near you for this annual commemoration event marking the cessation of hostilities from World War 1. We live in a great country and owe our forebears a debt of gratitude for that so 15 minutes of your time a few times a year to show your appreciation is not a big task.

Verge weed maintenance

Thank you to everyone who has assisted the Shire by mowing the road and street verges immediately adjacent to their properties. I think the Shire has done an excellent job by being proactive in this area, particularly across our town sites and the fruits of that work are showing now.

Thank you,
Steven Pollard, President, Shire of Northam

Review Northam Strategic Plan 2012-2022

Concurrent with the development of community plans for the Shire's regional centres is an initiative to review the Shire's overarching Strategic Community Plan.

The Northam Strategic Community Plan 2012 to 2022 is the Shire's principal planning document for the Shire over the next ten years. It acts as an umbrella under which regional community plans and a host of other planning documents for specific areas of Shire policy, operations and budget sit.

The Shire is currently in the process of appointing consultants to undertake a major review of the 2012 Plan. The Community will be asked to contribute and comment as part of the process.

For those residents that have been so recently contributing to the Wundowie Community Plan as well as those soon to commence their own regional community plan, it is important to distinguish between the two projects.

Regional Community Plans ask the communities to focus on what is required to improve liveability, commerce, services and infrastructure within the geographical boundaries of their defined regional area.

The Northam Strategic Community Plan asks residents to comment on the same basic aspects of community life but at the level of the Shire as a whole.

Warning Dog Owners

Parvovirus is here.

A local Dog has recently died.

Vaccinate your pet now!



End of an Era for Wundowie Library

Wundowie local icon, Library Services Officer Kaye Towle has handed in her keys to the Wundowie Library, retiring after more than 12 years of service.

Members of the community and senior Shire staff gathered at the Library Saturday Oct 15 for a farewell morning tea for a lady who has helped bring the joy of reading to so many Library users.

The speeches flowed in celebration of the contributions Kaye has made over the years from local dignitaries, friends, colleagues and library users. A presentation was made of a stunning piece of artwork by local artist and friend, Trish Hamilton, as well as other gifts.

Kaye has given a great deal to the community through actively volunteering to numerous local groups and associations including being one of a team of three locals to develop Wundowie's Iron Festival. Retirement is not about to stop her though as she continues to give her time to Silver Wings and several other groups.

A resident for more than 30 years, Kaye spent the majority of her married life and raised her family in the town. She has held different roles for the Shire of Northam at different times since 1990.

Kaye holds intimate knowledge of the reading tastes of many people, actively seeking new material and expanding horizons into new territory.

She will be greatly missed at the library by so many people but at least we can all take solace in the knowledge that she isn't far away.

New Service - Free Skip Bin

Regional areas in the Shire of Northam can now apply for a FREE skip bin for 1 week per financial year, instead of the previous bank of regional skip bins located in the town sites.

There are a limited number of bins per week available to these areas and they will be therefore allocated on a "first in" basis.

Residents can book Avon Waste on 9641 1318 directly at least 2 weeks in advance and normally dropped off to the property on a Wednesday and collected the following Wednesday. These bins are only for domestic household junk and there is a 2 tonne weight limit.

NO hot or burning ashes, bricks, rocks and soil, paints, solvents, liquid waste, tyres, asbestos or hazardous material are to be disposed of in these bins.

NOTICE - Firebreaks 1 November

All owners and/or occupiers of land within the Shire of Northam are required to carry out fire prevention work in accordance with the Shire of Northam Fire Break Notice by 1 November. Failure to comply with the requirements of the Notice may result in an infringement.

A well prepared property will help to stop the spread of a bushfire and provide the opportunity for emergency workers to have clear access to your property during a fire. A well prepared property could save your life.

Further information can be obtained from the Are You Bushfire Ready website www.areyouready.wa.gov.au or from the Shire of Northam website www.northam.wa.gov.au

National Seniors Week - Silver Fair 8th November

In celebration of Seniors Week the Northam Recreation Centre is hosting a Silver Fair on Tuesday the 8th of November 10am – 2pm.

The event is free and includes live entertainment, morning tea mind games and activities, an indoor bowls demonstration and exhibitors.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

The event is funded by COTA For Older Australians.

Brick by Brick Northam Library 3 Nov

Come and join the Northam Library to experience this hand's on exhibition celebrating the Nation's Capital containing over 30,000 Lego bricks.

Build a replica of one of our Nation's iconic buildings or design something you feel Canberra needs, perhaps your own version of NASSA and Cape Canaveral.

The exhibit is free to the general public until January 30th. The Exhibition comes to us from the Canberra National Authority and is open during normal library hours. Adult supervision is required for children ten years and under.

XMAS on Fitzgerald 3 Dec

Support local business, pick up a bargain and enjoy entertainment for the whole family at the 2016 Xmas on Fitzgerald celebration.

From 3pm to 9pm 3 December Fitzgerald st retailers are offering discounts of up to 50% for your Xmas shopping. The Shire will be turning on the Xmas lights and there will be live performances, markets, food stalls, giveaways and activities on the Green.

Snakes on the Move

With the weather warming up, snakes are once again getting on the move.

The Shire of Northam's 'Snake Man' Ray Adams offers some advice on keeping safe while the snakes are on the move.

"If you happen to find yourself face-to-face with a snake remember that snakes have limited vision and are instantly aware of movement by detecting the vibrations from footsteps.

If you freeze the snake will continue past so wait until the snake is twice its length from you and move away slowly and quietly. If you stampede away it may feel threatened and strike at you."

Snakes are attracted by mice. If you have a mouse problem, try purchasing some phenol (bin cleaner) and mix a half of a cup to nine litres of water, and drizzle around your fence line. If redone every 10 days this will remove the scent of the mice and deter snakes.

Good quality solar powered snake deterrents that vibrate the ground DO ACTUALLY WORK if they have multiple vibration pulses.

If you are bitten by a snake call medical help immediately. Remain calm and remember most snake bites are not fatal.

If you have a problem with a snake, contact the Shire of Northam Ranger Services on 9622 7267.

What's On		
Nov		
1	Melbourne Cup	Various
3	Brick by Brick Exhibition	Northam
8	Silver Fair	Northam
11	Remembrance Day	Northam
Dec		
3	Xmas on Fitzgerald	Northam

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For further information visit www.northam.wa.gov.au