

Newsletter

October 2016



President's Message

Bushfire preparedness

Once again the bushfire risk period is almost upon us and now is the time to get the fuel loads on your property controlled. Compliant firebreaks should be in place and plant matter below the specified maximum heights. Permits to burn are now required as we are in the Restricted Burning Period until November after which burning is generally prohibited.

Capital Works program

The Shire has again adopted a significant capital works program for the year aimed at continual renewal of our generally ageing assets. Rural roads remain a key focus with the winter grading program well underway. The full list of roads we will be working through is available on our website www.northam.wa.gov.au.

Community Strategic Plan

This cornerstone planning document is up for formal review and Council has resolved to seek a consultant to undertake the review. The review is expected to commence in November and finish by March, 2017.

This plan guides all major activity that the Shire undertakes involving Workforce planning, Long term financial planning and Asset Management planning as well as the day to day corporate business plan outcomes.

Opportunities to engage in this process will be available so if you have an interest in the future of the Shire of Northam please contact the Shire to ensure you are aware of when community consultation opportunities are available, as we want as many people as possible to have their input into this critical plan.

Maintenance works

Our "ICS" system is designed to document and manage minor maintenance type requests and I encourage anyone who has identified an issue that the Shire should be aware of to lodge a request with the Shire. You should get an ICS number when you do this so that you can track progress on us attending to the matter. Some matters will need long term strategies to manage so please be aware that not everything can be attended to immediately. We do prioritise requests to ensure we attend to the most urgent matters first.

Swimming Pools

With the warm weather, thankfully, once again with us, I am pleased to advise that both of the Shire's swimming pools are expected to be open for public use from 1st November as usual. Recent significant vandalism at the Wundowie pool is being addressed and the Northam pool filtration equipment has been repaired following the failure which caused the early close to the pool last year.

Verge weed maintenance

The Shire is unable to attend to mowing or spraying of all street verges across the Shire so we rely heavily on residents to address the verge immediately adjacent to their properties. Can I ask that residents again assist with the visual amenity of the Shire by mowing or slashing, as appropriate, the verge? If your neighbour is unable to assist, can I also ask that you seek their permission to attend to their verge too?

This may help promote a friendly arrangement with your fellow residents.

NOTICE - Burning Permits Now Required

From 19 Sept to 31 October permits are now required for controlled burns in the Shire of Northam. If you require a permit please contact the Shire for information.

Note that between 1 November and 28 February burning is prohibited.

Restrictions and fire mitigation legislation compliance applies equally to both rural and townsite properties.



Northam Library School holiday Programme

The Northam Library School Holiday Program consists of two Pizza and Popcorn Harry Potter movie nights. Children aged 10 years and over are invited to register for their Golden Ticket and dress as their favourite Harry Potter character when attending this Library extravaganza.

The first movie night features Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone to be held on Thursday 29th September 2016 from 4.30pm - 7.00pm. On Thursday 6th October 2016 the fun and excitement continue with the screening of The Chamber of Secrets. Pizza and Popcorn shall be served plus a variety of games to be played during the evenings with prizes for the best costumes.

eWatch Now Includes Wundowie

eWatch is an email based system that keeps you connected to your local police and council. It is a way of keeping the community up to date with local crime trends and statistics, safety initiatives and emerging issues so that we can all be informed and work together to make our community safe and secure.

The Shire of Northam and the Northam Police have been delivering eWatch for some time however, Wundowie Police have now come on board to ensure that the Wundowie community is kept up to date.

Join eWatch by going to ewatch.com.au. You will receive regular email updates specifically relating to the Shire of Northam.

eWatch is a free service provided through WA Police and Neighbourhood Watch, proudly supported by WALGA and Crime Stoppers WA.

Keep our Swans Safe.

With the works currently being undertaken on the swan enclosure our white swans are wandering onto the road around Minson Ave more often than usual.

While our rangers are making every effort to move them to safety, the Shire asks people to please be aware and slow down when driving in that area.

The works are expected to be completed before Christmas and will result in a significantly more appealing and safer environment for the birds and our community members.

What's On		
October		
7	Playgroup Open Day	Northam
8-16	National Sheepdog Trials	Northam
14	WAM at the Riverside Hotel	Northam
15	Alzheimers Auction	Northam
22	Nats Bush Band & BBQ	Southern Bk
30	Muresk 90th Birthday	Northam
November		
8	Silver Fair	Northam

Wundowie Library Children's Events

Throughout the month of October Wundowie Library with Louisa at the helm in the afternoons shall be holding the regular Wriggle and Juggle afternoon for toddlers and young children on the 11th October 2016 between 2pm - 3pm.

The ever popular and growing in numbers Lego Club shall be held on the 18th October from 3.30pm - 3.45pm, with Creation Station - 3D paper fun taking place on 25th October from 3.15pm - 3.45pm.

Scavenger Hunt

Throughout the school holiday period children visiting both Northam and Wundowie Libraries shall be invited to join the Library Scavenger Hunt. They shall be provided with a detailed list encompassing pictures and words they need to find at the library.

This is a funfilled event is for all children to participate in at their leisure, to peruse the shelves and acquaint themselves with the variety of facilities the library has to offer.

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 supported by COTA For Older Australians.

Supreme National Sheepdog Trials

The finest working dogs in the Nation will be coming together in Northam 8-16 Oct for the Supreme National Sheepdog Trials sponsored by Coprice and supported by the Shire.

Around 80 competitors are expected for the prestigious event that is a qualifier for the Australian International Sheepdog Team selection.

These extraordinary dogs are expertly trained to drive a small herd of sheep out of a pen through three complex obstacles before returning the sheep to the pen over multiple heats.

Competition continues over an eight day period, commencing at 6.30am each morning. Many competitors and their dogs will be camping at the Northam Rec Centre oval during this period.

Spectators are welcome and entry is free. The event rotates around the Country so this is a rare opportunity to see these amazing animals in action.

200 sheep will be brought in each day of the event.

Wundowie Community Consultation Update

The first round of community consultation for the Wundowie Community Plan 2016-2026 is now completed.

Strategies and actions plans are currently under development and will be taken back to the community for consideration in October.

Planning is underway for the commencement of the community plan for Bakers Hill and Clackline, with Grass Valley taking place in the new calendar year.

Community Meetings

Early this year the Shire commenced regular community meetings in rural centres across our Shire.

The meetings provide the opportunity for regional based members of the community to meet with senior Shire staff to share information on shire services and local community needs.

The next meeting will be held at the Grass Valley Community Hall on 26th October, starting at 5.30pm.