

What's on Today

Shire of Northam Events

From 10am | **Citizenship Ceremony & Community Awards**

Welcome to Country

Minister's Message

Citizenship Ceremony

Presentation of the Community Citizen of the Year Awards



From 10am | **Activities at the Pools**

Wundowie Pool - Free entry (12pm-5pm)

Northam Aquatic Facility - Free entry (10am-5pm)

Free slides (12pm-4pm)

Games & prizes, inflatables & free BBQ.



3pm-7pm | **Activities on Bernard Park**

Giant Inflatable water obstacles & slides

Entertainment & LIVE Music on The Soundshell

FREE Ice-cream - limits apply



Dr. Pedus Eweama 2024 Australia Day Ambassador



Being a medical practitioner, Dr Pedus Eweama contributes to the City of Swan community by providing his help and expertise on health matters. During his experience and training, he has been exposed to the gaps in community service in Western Australia, since moving here 18 years ago. His desire to contribute to the wellbeing of Australians both physically and mentally, combined with his personal journey as a Nigerian migrant, has led to him having a profound impact on his community. Outside of his medical practice, Pedus is chairperson of the Nigerian Association of Western Australia (NAWA) and chairperson of the

Council of Nigerian Association Presidents in Australia (CoNAPA). He is also involved with the Organisation of African Communities in WA (OACWA).

"Through my community leadership, I have seen a new generation of young people striving to achieve excellence in their chosen careers, engage more proactively with their families and communities, and willing to support the growth of an inclusive, healthy and prosperous multicultural community."

While he strives to make WA an even more inclusive society, Pedus is a community advocate and proud Australian. He speaks of the professional development opportunities he has been given thanks to being "part of a progressive society that encourages a fair-go for everyone without parochial considerations." He proclaims that he has been able to pursue his "hopes, dreams and aspirations in a society that values and rewards diligence, dedication to duty and personal responsibility." And he describes community as being the foundation upon which families – the bedrock of society – thrives and succeeds, which is why it's so important for people to contribute to theirs.

While he appears to be a natural born leader, Pedus recommends a three-step process for aspiring young leaders, called the UTE of Leadership.

"Understand the terrain of leadership; Test your potentials as a leader; and Explore the enormous opportunities. Essentially, every emerging leader needs that suitable UTE that can drive them to succeed."

In acknowledgement of his contributions to community, Pedus received the 2023 Community Citizen of the Year Award from the City of Swan. He credits the award for demonstrating Australia to be a country of fairness, equity and justice; fostering greater ties between African organisations and the council; and encouraging him to continue to advocate for African leaders within a multicultural WA.

Community Citizen of the Year Awards 2024 Nominees



Australia Day

Community Citizen
of the Year Awards

Young Citizen of the Year

Callum Norrish

Callum has made significant contributions to the Northam sporting community. From a young age, Callum has demonstrated leadership through coaching, umpiring, and serving on committees, including establishing a new senior cricket team to increase participation.

He has been involved in umpiring and coaching junior football, coaching junior cricket, and serving on committees for both sports. He is also a member of the Northam Lawn Tennis Club and coaches junior players. Callum's dedication and involvement in the community make him a positive role model for both youth and adults.



Dylan Campbell



Dylan is being nominated for the Young Community Citizen of the Year Award for dedication to his community. Dylan volunteers his time to attend emergency situations and mentor other ambulance officers in Wundowie. He offers his expertise to other sub-centres when needed and is committed to improving his knowledge and skills for the benefit of his community. He has completed a diploma in pre-hospital care and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in paramedicine, all while working full-time for St John WA.

Damon Geary

Damon provides support and contributions to the Northam community's Indoor Hockey club, volunteering in various organisational and operational roles such as coaching, umpiring, and as a committee member. He has also established personal training sessions for talented youth, providing opportunities to improve their pathways to higher entrance levels. He has focused on positive reinforcement and encouragement to youths, providing healthy social interaction and community connection. Damon has strong leadership abilities and a real passion for the sport and the local community. His understanding of complex skill development and strategies has been put to good use in his coaching role. Damon has been recognized in several media events and club awards locally and on local sports sites.



Senior Citizen of the Year Nominees



Australia Day Council of
Western Australia

Christine Watson

Christine has been devoted to the Northam Agricultural Society for years, contributing her time and effort tirelessly. She spends countless hours throughout the year organizing raffles, participating in community events and providing fundraising support.

During Poultry Auction events, Christine arranges White Elephant stalls and raffles. She collects prizes from local businesses and creates handmade items to raffle. She is knowledgeable about

the history and people of Northam and encourages participation in community events. Christine is passionate about Northam's growth and actively seeks new ideas to make the show interesting and engaging. She is a beloved member of the community, always kind and pleasant to everyone, making her a valuable asset.



Paul Reynolds



Paul Reynolds is an active member of the Grass Valley Bush Fire Brigade and a prominent member of the Northam Agricultural Society. He runs a family farm and cartage contracting business, and provides inspiration to young people in the community.

Paul is known for going above and beyond in his various roles, and has received life membership in the Northam Agricultural Society. Despite his extensive contributions, he remains a humble and quiet achiever.

His involvement with Grass Valley Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade includes a recognition Medal from FESA for 50 years of Service, Life Membership awarded 6.11.23, a Lieutenant of the Brigade plus a Bush Fire Control Officer.

Bruce Boff

Bruce has worked extensively on the conservation and heritage of St. John's Church precinct buildings, conducted historical research, and provided leadership as the Chairperson for the Parish Council. Despite his significant contributions being voluntary, he has not sought recognition. Bruce is a valuable member to any community and a worthy nominee for Senior Citizen of the Year.

Active Citizenship or Event Nominees

Blue Light Disco

Northam Blue Light Unit is a program run by the Northam Police in partnership with Northam PCYC. They organize Blue Light Discos to engage with young people and foster positive relationships between the police, young people, and their families. The program has received support from local businesses and agencies with donations of prizes, food, and setup. The Northam Blue Light Unit is part of a network of over 60 units in Western Australia.



2023 Northam Swimming Country Pennants

The Northam Swimming Club successfully organised the 2023 Annual Country Swimming Pennants Championships, bringing over 590 competitors from more than 30 Western Australian clubs to Northam. The event was managed by a dedicated group of volunteers who coordinated hundreds of officials, swimmers, spectators, food, merchandise, trophies, and presentations. The event showcased the local



aquatic and recreation centres and boosted the local economy by visitors staying in the Shire of Northam and Avon Valley and visiting local cafes, shops, and attractions. The club's management of the event was recognised, and it was nominated as Regional Club of the Year in the Swimming WA Awards of Excellence for 2023.



STRYKA Fight Team

STRYKA Fight Team has provided over 400 hours of community service, including delivering 36 tonnes of free firewood to those in need. They are teaching their young team about community spirit and raising future caring citizens.

Active Citizenship or Event Nominees



Australia Day Council of
Western Australia

Northam Netball Association

Northam Netball has been supporting and developing young people in netball since 1948, providing a safe place for them to meet friends and express themselves. They also offer a senior program that promotes physical and mental health and wellbeing for adults in the community.



Comfort Quilts Against Cancer



Comfort Quilts Against Cancer is a non-profit organization with 40 volunteers in Australia who create care packages of handmade quilts, sewn, knitted, and crocheted for people battling cancer. Founder Bronwyn Dunn gifted the first quilt in 2012 and has delivered 3,700 to date. Comfort Quilts has received recognition as a finalist in the Community Achievements Group Awards and as a semi-finalist in the SA Help Awards, and testimonials from recipients are posted on their Instagram and Facebook pages.

2023 Women's World Ballooning Championships

After successfully hosting National Championships in 2015 and 2017, the committee's dedication led to Northam being awarded the National Championships and the 5th FAI Women's World Ballooning Championships in 2023. The event brought the community together, showcased Northam positively, and had a significant economic impact on the town and surrounding areas.



The exposure through media and social media was invaluable for tourism, attracting both national and international pilots and crews, who also explored the state. The committee's hard work continues to provide a beautiful skyline for Northam and surrounding areas during the flying season, and they look forward to future events.

Community Citizen of the Year Nominees

Esther Bliss

Esther Bliss – is an active member of the Northam community, involved in various initiatives such as fundraising for RU OK Day and Pink Up Northam. As the Vice President of the Northam Women In Business Executive Committee, she works towards the betterment of women in business. Esther also takes it upon herself to clean shop fronts, lobby for additional bins, and rally people to return shopping trolleys. Her enthusiasm and ideas have gained recognition from the Town Teams movement, and she has been invited to speak at their major event in Perth.



Matt Chomiak



Matt is a dedicated volunteer for multiple community organisations. He is currently the club secretary of Northam BMX Club, Vice President of Northam Springfield Football Club and an integral member of Northam VFRS. Matt's willingness to help goes beyond expectations, often doing jobs without being asked or recognised. His contributions to the community are significant, including writing proposals, developing policies, supporting fundraising efforts, coaching Aussie Hoops and more. Matt's experience, caring nature, and calmness have benefitted many in the community and surrounding areas.

Nina Brown

Nina Brown is a social worker at Northam Hospital where she goes above and beyond to assist with rehoming and finding accommodation for people. Nina works tirelessly with local and non-local businesses to ensure her clients' needs are met. Nina contacts her clients regularly to keep them informed of progress and shows genuine care and concern for their well-being.

Community Citizen of the Year Nominees

Riley Sargent

As a disabled person, the nominator struggled to find help with their car window issue. After being turned away by multiple businesses, they remembered Riley who had helped them before and sought him out. Despite being busy, Riley took the time to fix the window and even offered to call about ordering a new regulator. The nominator offered to buy him a drink, but he kindly declined and said he was happy to help. The nominator was grateful for his kindness and willingness to help, especially when others had turned them away.

Bronwyn Dunn



After losing a dear friend to breast cancer in 2011, Bronwyn established Comfort Quilts Against Cancer, a charity organization that provides support to cancer patients. With the help of 40 volunteers across Australia, the organization creates and donates quilts to those in need. The charity relies solely on sponsors, donations, and fundraising efforts as they do not receive any government funding. Bronwyn has received various awards and a grant from Lotterywest for her work.

Grenville Putland

Grenville Putland – has been instrumental in establishing Northam as a ballooning hub for tourism. As a founding member of the Northam Aero Club and the Western Australian Balloon & Airship Club, he has played a pivotal role in supporting record attempts, hosting national and international ballooning events, and establishing the first commercial hot air balloon company in Western Australia. Gren has actively sought sponsorship and support from wider associated businesses and industry, contributing significantly to the way in which Northam has become synonymous with hot air ballooning. His contribution has nurtured a sense of community ownership and pride throughout the whole community, engaging individual clubs and businesses and making ballooning a key feature of Northam Tourism.



Community Citizen of the Year Nominees

Kevin Augustynek

Kevin is always eager to help the community by initiating fund-raising, contributing financially and physically to those in need, and volunteering for local causes. He is generous and great at encouraging others to lend a hand. He has organised Easter giveaways, donated money to various fundraisers, and volunteered to pay for school camp for underprivileged children. His acts of kindness and generosity are numerous.

Fiona Brown



Fiona Brown volunteers a great deal of her time for the community in a number of roles including the Grass Valley Bush fire Brigade, Girl Guides and Farmers Show. Fiona is the Chief pavilion steward and plays a crucial role in organising the annual Northam Farmers Show, including fundraising and overseeing the pavilion competitions and displays with a group of volunteers. Her efforts have been recognised with a life membership of the society. Fiona was also heavily involved in the Girl Guides having volunteered for over 15 years and received the Boronia Award for her services.

Lindsay Newland

Lindsay Newland chairs the Avon Valley Arts Society and creates an inclusive and welcoming environment for local people to create and connect in the art space. She sets up free art stalls at Northam events, holds regular art classes, weekly art nights, and facilitates local artists displaying their art.

She also leads the running of the annual Killick Art Awards in May and the Northam Art Prize exhibition in November.

Lindsay recently attended Artlands 2023, as one of 80

regional artists and art facilitators from across Australia to attend the annual event. She volunteers her time to the arts and is passionate about developing local facilities to support emerging artists.

