



Northam News

June 2016

Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle

President's Message

Community members who volunteer their time to activate their communities are the lifeblood of small towns.

May 15 saw the annual Wundowie Iron Festival unfold thanks to efforts of the Wundowie Progress Association and other local volunteers who worked tirelessly to put on a fantastic day out for families.

The event had live performances and activities going on all day. The art exhibition was of a very high standard and it was wonderful to see artwork from local children alongside professional works. The iron sculptures are always a special treat and remind us all of the intimate connection between the town and the Wundowie Iron Foundry. It was also good to note that so many of the stallholders were from the local area.

I'd really like to extend my sincere congratulations to all those involved in this terrific event. The Shire is very pleased to provide financial support to the Festival each year.

Council is eagerly awaiting the feedback to come in to the Northam swimming pool survey. With responses well above 600 we are very pleased to see so many members of the community taking the time to make comment.

Northam Library Wellness Expo

Monday the 20th June between 10.00am and 3.00pm will see the Library host a mini Wellness Expo with presenters on a number of different topics including nutrition, aromatherapy, and available support services in the Wheatbelt.

Tables will be spread throughout the library featuring different alternative approaches to health and wellness and patrons are invited to speak with consultants and or listen to various presenters over a cuppa. This is a free event.



Out on the Range

When people think of Rangers, many only see images of impounding dogs and cats, or perhaps even imposing fines for walking dogs off-lead. While sometimes these things must be done, this is far from all that our Rangers do, and in fact, such actions are seen as last resort.

Life on the range is far from mere enforcement of local law, it includes community education and the protection of our environment, especially when it comes to domestic pets, livestock and wildlife.

Northam Shire Rangers Chris and Carmody care deeply for the animals in our community.

They regularly visit our local schools and day care centres providing talks to children covering a range of topics including responsible pet ownership, staying safe around pets and wildlife, and even fire safety. Talks are practical and fun, with children provided colouring books to help them remember key messages.

Recently our rangers have also been working with a team of people from Fresh Start who have volunteered their time to assist in relocating our Western Long Neck Turtles from the Swan enclosure.

The relocation is to protect the turtles from work soon to commence on upgrading the swan enclosure and also prevent the turtles eating the eggs of nesting swans and other birdlife.



Isiah Kickett A Young Man on a Mission

Isiah Kickett is a young man on a mission. Isiah is in his second year doing a school based traineeship with the Northam Shire Rangers. He is doing a Cert 111 in Community Services.

At school, Monday to Thursday, Isiah comes in on Fridays to work with Ranger Chris performing all the duties of a Shire Ranger.

Isiah is a great asset to the ranger team with his friendly attitude and 'can-do' approach to his work. A love of animals has inspired Isiah to aspire to being employed as a ranger full time when he completes his studies.

Isiah even comes in and works on a volunteer basis during his own free time.

Ranger Chris and the Team look forward to Fridays when Isiah comes in and thanks Northam Senior High School, Clontarf and SMYL Community Services for making the traineeship possible.

New Office in Wundowie

The Shire of Northam has opened an office in the Wundowie library in an effort to make it easier for residents in the West of the Shire to directly connect with Council.

Community Development Officer, Felicity Gilbert will be in the office during library opening hours 9am to 12.30pm every Thursday. Ms Gilbert is a resident of Wundowie, joining the Shire earlier this year.

Residents will be able to call in or book appointments to see Ms Gilbert to discuss any ideas or concerns they may have on community issues. Should Ms Gilbert be unable to answer queries herself, she will follow up with the appropriate Shire staff and report back.

Council will consider rotating staff from other departments to the Wundowie office if demand exists.

Anyone wishing to make an appointment to see Ms Gilbert may do so by calling Library manager Kaye Towle on 9573 6205.

Showerhead Swap

Are you a Water Corporation Customer? If so, did you know that Water Corp is offering to replace up to 2 of your old showerheads for brand new, water efficient models, FREE of charge.

To receive your free showerheads just bring two of your old showerheads and a recent Water Corp bill down to the Northam Shire Administration Office, 395 Fitzgerald St Northam.

Before removing your old Showerheads, make certain that you read the terms and conditions of the offer to ensure that the showerhead swap is right for you and your home at www.watercorporation.com.au/programs

The program was to have finished on 30 April however Water Corp have decided to continue the initiative so get on down to the Shire for your new showerheads.

Northam Pool Survey

The Shire is excited to report that well over 600 public responses were submitted via post and online concerning the future of the Northam Public Pool.

The historic Northam Pool has been a local landmark for over 5 decades, servicing generations of residents in the Shire and beyond. Over time the facility has aged, developing significant maintenance issues that need to be resolved.

Shire residents were invited to provide their views on a number of development options that include renovating the existing facility and building an entirely new one.

The results of the survey are now being collated and will be reported to Council prior to the results being made public.



Northam Library Artist in Residence

Our Artist in Residence for June will be the students from CY O'Connor Institute on Tuesday the 14th from 9.30 am till 3.00 pm.

The students and Lecturer Robert McCaffrey will be located on the mezzanine. Robert will give a brief presentation between 10.30am and 11.30 am.

The general public are invited to come and interact with the students to ask questions and learn about formal education for fine arts. Robert will be available to discuss the various visual arts courses on offer at the Institute. Enrolment forms for the college will be available.

Active Smart Program

The Shire is excited to be collaborating with the State Government to bring ActiveSmart to our community. We're all working with a common goal of the community to get more active, and as a result, healthier.

ActiveSmart is a behaviour change program designed to increase people's activity levels and change long term habits. Residents are encouraged to become more active and connected to others in their community.

Participants will be able to access personalised telephone coaching, as well as a range of information about opportunities to get active in the local area. This tailored approach moves away from the traditional focus on exercise, catering to different lifestyles and making getting active accessible for all.

The program is being rolled out across 12 local government areas: Beverley, Dowerin, Goomalling, Koorda, Merredin, Moora, Narrogin (town and shire), Northam, Toodyay, Wyalkatchem and York.

Keep a look out for your information letter in the mail. For more information, check out the ActiveSmart website www.activesmart.com.au

