

President's Message

As the first message of the new year, I'd like to wish all Shire residents and their loved ones a safe and prosperous 2017.

February will see our children returning to school, some for the first time. Please be vigilant on the roads and remember school speed restrictions during the mornings and afternoons.

This is also our warmest month of the year, when fire risk is at its greatest. I cannot stress enough the importance of people heeding warnings and constantly considering whether their activities may pose a fire risk. Let us all have a summer without the loss and devastation of bushfire. Sign up to the Shire's free fire ban notification service by contacting the administration office.

2017 got off to an excellent start with some great news. Thanks to some funding through Tourism WA's Royalties for Regions Regional Event Programme plus the success of the 2015 event, Northam has once again secured the National Ballooning Championships to be held in September this year. This is truly an iconic event and a spectacle not to be missed.

The upgrade and relocation of the Northam Pool has also taken a major step forward with \$1.5M in grant funding from the State Department of Sport and Recreation.

Shire works on the agenda over the next month or so include the asphaltting of Strickland Ave, Perina Place, Lawley Ave and Lance Street in Northam plus Wilson Street, Grass Valley. On Spencers Brook Road works include widening and drainage improvements. Gravel resheeting will be taking place on Chinganning Road Wundowie and Leaver Road Copley. The rural verge crew will focus on reinstating vegetation clearance envelopes on Sims Road and Hawke Ave Wundowie plus Douglas Road Copley.

The new swan enclosure is now complete, I can highly recommend a visit if you have not done so already.



2017 should also see the opening of some of the fantastic developments currently under construction including Dome Café, the new wine bar, the redevelopment of Northam Boulevard and solar panel project, the Aboriginal and Environmental Interpretive Centre and the new St John Ambulance station and training centre.

2017 promises to be an exciting year for our Shire.

Thank you,
Steven Pollard, President, Shire of Northam

'I'm Alert' Dog Ownership Learning Tool

Sadly all too often Council rangers are the people called when dog owners fail to take responsibility for their animals. Sometimes they see cases of cruelty and neglect but more often than not, people just don't know what they should be doing to ensure their dog is happy, healthy, obedient and safe.

This is why Council support the 'I'm Alert' interactive digital pet ownership learning tool.

Offered as a free service to the community, residents can log into the programme via the Shire's website. The program is presented in an easy to follow, entertaining format that includes the ability for the user to print a certificate upon completion of the program to keep as a record of training completion.

Our rangers strongly encourage everyone, both young and old, to access the programme. It is available at <http://www.imalert.com.au/dog/northamdog/northamdog-dog.php>



Northam Shire - Where to 2022?

The review of the Shire's principal planning document, the Strategic Community Plan 2012-2022 is underway. Council undertakes their first workshop on 8 February 2017 and later in the month residents will receive surveys asking about priorities for Council expenditure over the next five years.

This is an important opportunity to have your say and influence Council decision making. It's your chance to let Council know where you believe they should be focussing on, for example, on roads and verges or mainstreet development.

The Review is expected to be completed in in June 2017.

Wundowie Community Plan

The public comment period for the Wundowie Community Plan is now closed. The final draft of the Plan will be presented to the community later this month for final adoption.

The Plan is the principal document that will inform Council on funding priorities over the next decade.

The Wundowie Wishing Tree sculpture, created by the men's shed, will be given a permanent home as a piece of public art and a reminder of community aspirations.

Shire of Northam Community Grants - Open

The Shire's annual Community Grants Round will open 13 February this year, closing 13 April 2017.

Community not-for-profits, sporting groups and schools can apply for funding of up to \$5,000 for events and/or projects.

Community Project Grants can include equipment purchase, facility development and community based projects or programmes. Priority will be placed on projects that promote skill development, enhance safety or increase participation and inclusion.

Community Events Grants can be for festivals, networking functions and activities that demonstrate significant reach and benefit, promote social inclusion, and encourage partnerships and collaboration in the community.

The Shire also offers Club Sponsorship Grants of up to \$500 to assist sport and recreation groups to hosting club events or competitions. These grants are simple to apply for and can be very useful for getting planned activities across the line.

These grants are only offered once per year so it is important for clubs, groups and schools to plan ahead and prioritise.

Throughout the year the Council also offers Quick Response Grants of up to \$500. These grants are to support innovative responses to community needs either as a whole or for specific target groups such as children, youth, seniors. These are suited to capturing opportunities that arise at short notice or for short term projects that require a quick response. Applicants receive a decision within six weeks of receipt of their application.

All Shire grant applications are assessed against the criteria pertaining to the type of grant they apply for. Further information, grant guidelines and application forms are available from Community Development Officer Michelle Blackhurst on 9266 6100 or cdo@northam.wa.gov.au after 13 February.

Bakers Hill Community Plan

The official launch of the Bakers Hill Community Plan consultation process is scheduled for 10am to 12 midday, Sunday 12 February, at the Bakers Hill Rec Centre.

The Baker's Wishing Well sculpture will be unveiled with residents being invited to complete the words "Bakers will be better if...." on golden coins to place in the well. A time capsule will be created to store the coins for the 10 year life of the Plan, to be opened in 2027.

The launch will be a fun event for all the family and include a free BBQ brunch plus lots of activities for the kids.

Residents will also be able to contribute to the Plan through surveys and workshops.



2017 National Ballooning Championships

The 2017 National Ballooning Championships are returning to Northam, following the success of the 2015 event.

The Northam National's Committee successfully placed a bid for funding from the Tourism WA's Regional Events Program, which is made possible by Royalties for Regions.

The Championships will begin on 1st September with pilot registrations and test flights. Official competitions commence on the 4th and continue until the finale on the 9th of September.

The 2015 Championships attracted large numbers of visitors, and it is expected that the 2017 event will substantially exceed these figures in both competitors and spectators. The Northam National's Committee and Northam Aero Club have worked tirelessly over the past two years to return the Championships to Northam.

The Shire will be hosting the Northam Balloon Fiesta on Saturday 2nd September as the official opening of the Championships. The Fiesta will be held at the Northam Recreation Centre, and will provide a fantastic opportunity for local families to meet competitors and experience first-hand the world's first human-carrying flight technology.

For more information on the Championships, contact the Shire of Northam's Events Team through the Northam Visitors Centre.

