



Celebrating 110 years of Northam RSL

Editor: Naomi Sherrington

editor@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au

Manager: Theresa Lee - 0427 472 729

manager@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au

Sales: Jodie Longmire - 0414 086 904

jodie@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au

Graphic, Pagination and Artwork:

Jodie Longmire jodie@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au

Sports: jodie@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au

Additional Stories: L.Lane

Proof Reader: Madi Byfield

Thanks to all the contributors from within the community who help make this paper come together every month.

Distribution

5000 copies printed with 2250 being delivered to the following locations: Northam Police Station; Coles Express Northam; Fresh Trading Northam; Northam Central News; Woolworths Northam; Warrick Newsagency; Coles Northam; 492 Celebrations at Howlett; Dunning's Northam EG Petrol Northam; Puma El Caballo; BP The Lakes; Home Bake Shop Bakers Hill; Route 94 Bakers Hill; Clackline Postal Agency; Beacon Co-Op; Bolgart Rural Merchandise; Yerecoin Traders; Shell Meckering, Draffin GD Meckering; Dunning's Toodyay; Roadhouse IGA Toodyay; Dunning's Toodyay Junction; IGA Toodyay; Cadoux Traders; IGA Express Wundowie; Calingiri Traders; IGA Koorda; Ballidu Trading Post; Bencubbin Newsagency & Post Office; BP Cunderdin Roadhouse, Cunderdin Newsagency; Wooroloo General Store; IGA York, Tammin Roadhouse, Caltex Roadhouse Merredin, BP Roadhouse Merredin; Doodlakine General Store, United Kellerberrin, Kellerberrin Pharmacy, Dowerin Roadhouse, Wyalkatchem Roadhouse, Yelbeni Store, Mukinbudin Trading Post and Wegner's Rural.

Remaining copies distributed by Mark Turnock will be available through Northam Chamber of Commerce, Northam Hospital, Wheatbelt Health Network, Grey Street Surgery, Northam Family Practice, Treasures & Pets, Rudeez, Lucy's Tearooms, Sandy D's Kitchen, Zax & Co, Happy Days Coffee Pot, BB's Diner, Northam Dental Surgery, Avon Valley Dental Centre, McDonalds, Dome, Spudshed, Avon Service Specialists, Northam Tavern, Riverside Hotel, The Rec, Hotel 190/Thirsty Camel, Liquor Barons, Northam Tourist Centre, Avon Valley Toyota, Avon Valley Nissan, Juniper Aged Care and waiting rooms across the Shire of Northam.

Please contact Jodie Longmire at email:

jodie@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au if you would like to be included in distribution within the Shire of Northam.



**Published by
Northam Chamber
of Commerce**

Printed by
Fair Maiden Printing

Editorial

Well, here we are in April – a quarter of 2026 gone already. For me – and for many Australians and New Zealanders – the most significant day this month is Anzac Day. I recently had the privilege of sitting down with members of the Northam RSL to discuss their ongoing role in the community and their continued support of veterans.

Conversations like these are a reminder that Anzac Day is not only about history – it is about people, service, and the responsibility to support those who have served. It is also a moment of reflection not only on past conflicts, but also those that continue to unfold. At the time of writing, I can only hope this year does not bring further escalation in areas already experiencing conflict – or the emergence of new ones.

Here in the Avon Valley, the effects of global instability are already being felt. Tensions in Iran are disrupting fuel supply and driving price spikes, placing increasing pressure on our region. Agriculture in Western Australia is deeply dependent on diesel at every stage. When supply becomes uncertain, the effects ripple beyond the farm – into freight, employment, export income, and the cost of living – reaching every Australian in time.

In recent weeks, the Northam Advertiser has raised these concerns directly with Federal MPs. Our farmers are central to Australia's food security and a significant contributor to the national economy, and their voices must be heard on this issue.

But beyond the economics, these pressures are a reminder of something deeper: despite all of our advancement, we have not yet learned how to live in peace. We celebrate multiculturalism, yet still struggle to ensure all people are treated with dignity and afforded basic human rights. In an interconnected world, the effects of harm often travel faster than those of compassion – but that does not have to be the case.

I was raised Catholic and, although I no longer consider myself religious, I value the message at the heart of Easter: renewal, forgiveness, and compassion. It is a message that transcends any one faith. Eid Mubarak to our Muslim readers, Passover for those of the Jewish faith, and Orthodox Easter also observed this month.

Closer to home, for the Ballardong Noongar people, April falls within Djeran – a season of balance and transition. It is a reminder that seasons are not just dates on a calendar, but relationships with the land itself.

In a time where global tensions feel closer than ever, it is easy for fear to take hold. But fear thrives in distance and fades with understanding. If we want a more cohesive society, that work begins with us – in conversations, in curiosity, and in a willingness to reach beyond what feels comfortable or familiar.

Because whether we are talking about global conflict or local pressures here in the Wheatbelt, the principle is the same: we are all more connected than we sometimes realise – and what affects one part of the community will, in time, affect us all.



If you see or come
across anything
suspicious, don't
hesitate to call:

NORTHAM POLICE
9622 4260
option 4

**The Police Station is manned
24 hours a day, 7 days a week**

Our Cover

the ^{Since 1893} **Northam**
advertiser **FREE**



This month's cover features representatives from the Northam RSL. From left to right Brenda McColl, Secretary/Treasurer of Auxiliary, Jim Symcock, RSL Warden and Donna Prytulak OAM, Life Member and Membership Officer for the Sub Branch and Auxiliary President.

See page 7 for the article on the Northam RSL.

Thank you to Angie Roe from Angie Roe Photography for capturing this image for us.

the ^{Since 1893} **Northam**
advertiser

**Missed out on seeing your business in this issue?
Book in time for the next issue and be seen by locals!**



Media Kit

For advertising contact:

jodie@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au

For editorial contact:

editor@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au
before 15 April.

Scan the QR code to view our Media Kit.

Acknowledgment of Country

The Northam Advertiser acknowledges and pays respect to; the Ballardong Traditional Custodians and Elders - past, present and future; the Nyoongar Nation and the continuation of their cultural, spiritual and educational practices.

Aboriginal People should be aware that this publication contains images or names of people who have passed away.

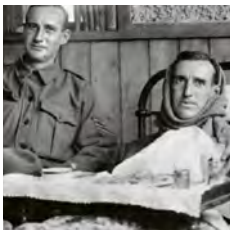
Warranty and Indemnity

The author who submits an article and the advertiser (or agent) who submits an advertisement for publication indemnifies the Northam Chamber of Commerce (its servants and agents) against all claims, demands, actions, proceedings, losses, costs, expenses and damages arising from publication of such, or any connection thereto (including but not limited to the laws pertaining to malicious falsehood, defamation, breach of copyright, design or trademark acts, the Trades Practices Act 1974, the Fair Trading Act 1987 and all consumer protection legislation) and warrants that the publication of such articles and advertisements will not infringe the legal, equitable or statutory rights of any third party depicted within the article or advertisement which would give rise to any claims, demands, actions, proceedings, losses, costs, expenses and damages against the Northam Chamber of Commerce being taken by such third parties or in any way infringe the aforementioned acts.

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of facts and information provided within this publication. Views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in the text belong solely to the author, and not necessarily to the publisher. Image copyright remains with the original author and images are reprinted in good faith of ownership and/or rights to republish.

Contents

4	Our Great Northam
13	Community News
20	Gardening
22	Environmental
23	Building & Renovating Feature
43	York Yarns
45	The Arts
47	Events
50	Health & Wellbeing
54	Business
59	Games
60	Motoring
62	Agriculture
64	Trades & Services
68	Classifieds
69	Sport



P4 Brothers in Arms



P17 Northam RSL



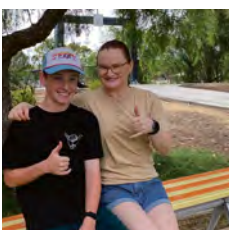
P8 A Bus Named Trevor



P14 St John Award winner



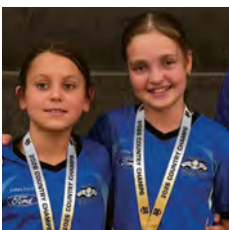
P18 LiveLighter Aged Games



P50 Shaka Project Ambassadors



P58 Global Politics



P72 Northam Basketball



NORTHAM
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

The Northam Chamber of Commerce will be releasing a 2026 Northam Business Directory this year.

Register your interest to be a part of this from the start.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

✓ **FREE** Community Group Listing

BUSINESSES

✓ Register your interest for a Business Listing



Get more info here

To discuss further call Theresa on 0427 472 729

10% OFF
FOR ALL SENIORS



**TERRA
MARE**

(08) 9615 5582
2 GREY STREET, NORTHAM
WWW.TERRA-MARE.COM.AU

Brothers in Arms

by Michelle Paul

This is a story of two brothers whose courage, loyalty, and friendship faced the horror of war.

Ric and Hugo Throssell were born in Northam, the youngest children of George Throssell and Annie Morrell.

As children the boys had a close bond and were rarely seen apart. They even had a special whistle which they used to call each other over long distances.

They spent their childhood playing together, exploring, and sometimes getting into mischief.

One instance involved the old Fermoy garden. Their father noticed that someone had been stealing peaches and offered a reward of half-a-crown to his older sons if they kept watch by night and caught the culprits. It was Cecil who claimed the reward, but the thieves turned out to be his younger brothers, Ric and Hugo.

Both brothers went to boarding school at Prince Alfred College in Adelaide, a prestigious school known for its strong emphasis on sport and cadet corps, which trained students in military drills, discipline and leadership. During their school years, both boys grew to be strong, athletic and over six feet tall.

After finishing school, Ric worked for the Armstrong Motorcycle Agency, while Hugo tried his hand as a jackaroo on cattle stations in the northwest.

In 1912, the brothers reunited to run a wheat farm at Cowcowing, a property their father bought for them. With so much ground to cover, their special whistle was a handy way to call each other on the 1000-acre farm.

Not long after they started farming, the brothers were loading a heavy tank onto a cart. Eric was driving while sitting on top of the tank. He turned around to speak to Hugo, when the wheel hit a stump. Ric was thrown to the ground, and the cart ran over his right arm, but somehow it didn't break. How he escaped injury was a miracle.

Their years on the land were extremely challenging, especially because severe drought hit the region soon after they started. Facing crop failures and the hardships of rural life only strengthened their bond, and their spirits remained unshaken. To lift the mood of their community, the Throssell brothers organised gala days full of sports and games.

After two years on the farm, the Ric and Hugo

answered their country's call and enlisted in the 10th Light Horse Regiment to serve in World War One.

During their farewell dinner at the Transcontinental Hotel in Northam Ric told the crowd, "The wishes of our Northam friends and old school will help us to make good when we get to the front". Hugo simply said that he would try to live up to the expectations of their friends.

Young, brave, and eager, the brothers embarked from Fremantle on separate departures, with Ric already promoted to corporal. He landed at Gallipoli in May 1915 and soon earned his sergeant's stripes.

Hugo stayed behind in Australia to complete officer training and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He joined Ric and his regiment at Gallipoli just two days before the fierce fighting at Walker's Ridge and the tragic charge at the Nek where the Light Horse suffered heavy casualties.

On that day, the Light Horse brigade faced the heaviest fire the Australian Imperial Force had ever seen. Four successive waves of the 8th and 10th Light Horse charged the Turkish, and each line was immediately cut down by enemy fire. Within minutes, nine officers and seventy three men were killed. Hugo was one of the leaders of the fourth wave which had seen the devastation of the three waves before it. Against all instinct, they bravely charged forward although the assault was called off after advancing only a few metres.

During the charge, Ric was hit in the chest by a bullet that pierced his lung. Again, he somehow survived and was evacuated to a hospital in Alexandria and later to England to recover, missing the brutal fighting that followed at Gallipoli.

Hugo continued with the 10th Light Horse which attacked a long trench on the summit of Hill 60 at 1am on August 29th. Hugo killed five enemy soldiers while his men hastily built a barricade before a fierce bomb fight began.

Throughout the night both sides hurled more than 3,000 grenades at each other. The West Australians caught bombs thrown by the Turkish soldiers and hurled them back just before they exploded. The Light Horse Brigade held onto their grenades until the last possible moment to prevent the enemy from throwing them back. It must've been horribly tense and terrifying.

As dawn approached, the enemy made three assaults



Lt. H V Throssell. Sitting.
No. 64. F E Throssell. Standing.
Brothers, both from Northam.

at the Australian trench but were stopped by heavy rifle fire and a hail of grenades. Amidst the chaos, Hugo assumed sole command. He was hit by a bullet in his shoulder, but took no notice of the wound, and two hours later he was hit in the neck but went on fighting for four more hours. Hugo, wounded and his face covered in blood from bomb splinters, refused to leave, shouting encouragement to his men until a captain ordered him to leave the trenches. Hugo played a crucial role in saving the situation at a critical stage of the battle. For his role at Hill 60, Hugo was awarded the Victoria Cross. It was the first V.C. won by a West Australian in the war and the only one ever awarded to a Light Horseman.

Though Hugo and Ric experienced the campaign in different ways, both brothers faced the awful realities of the front lines and the terrible cost of the Gallipoli offensives.

Hugo was evacuated to a hospital in London. Here he contracted cerebrospinal meningitis (a severe, sometimes life threatening inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord). While

Family and domestic violence is not always physical

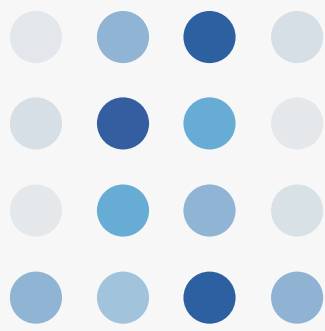
If someone is controlling and does something bad over and over, it can make you feel scared, shame and no good

...it's called

COERCIVE CONTROL

and it's not part of our culture

Look up on the internet [wa.gov.au/familyviolence](https://www.wa.gov.au/familyviolence)



VICE LEGAL

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

NORTHAM

SARAH SOMERS
IS NOW AVAILABLE
FOR APPOINTMENTS
AT VICE LEGAL
NORTHAM

EXPERIENCED LEGAL PRACTITIONERS SPECIALISING IN FAMILY LAW AND CONVEYANCING

We specialise in assisting parties in conflict to
deal with their legal matters.

DE FACTO & MARRIAGE PROPERTY SETTLEMENTS

We understand that property settlement at the end of a relationship is both stressful and essential. We are highly skilled in negotiating timely and effective property settlements that are fair and equitable.

PARENTING MATTERS

We often deal with parents in current states of conflict. We adopt a future-focused approach, where our aim, ideally, is to get all the parties back on track and moving forward, where appropriate, post-separation.

DIVORCE SETTLEMENTS

We are experienced in dealing with complex divorce matters, such as unlocatable spouses, parties from non-English speaking backgrounds, separations under one roof, and applications commenced in the Federal jurisdiction.

WILLS & ESTATE PLANNING

We offer fixed fees for Wills, Mirror Wills, Enduring Powers of Guardianship, Enduring Powers of Attorney, and Codicils. Our service includes complimentary binding of your original will, plus two certified copies.

Our main focus as family lawyers is to assist you and
your family to move past conflict post-separation.

Northam: 194-196 Fitzgerald Street, Northam

Phone: (08) 9621 1073 | Email: reception@vicelegal.com.au | Website: www.vicelegal.com.au

recuperating Hugo was introduced to Katharine Susannah Prichard, an Australian author who he later married.

Ric returned to duty in Egypt on February 14th, 1916, having been promoted to lieutenant, and for the next fourteen months he saw almost constant action across the Sinai Peninsula and Palestine. During the Battle of Romani on the 3rd to 5th of August 1916, a bullet tore through Ric's helmet but, like the bullet to his chest and the earlier cart accident on the farm, he miraculously survived. Ric's courage and resilience was recognised when he was promoted to second lieutenant and later to lieutenant.

Meanwhile, Hugo was sent home to Australia on medical leave. He returned to his unit in Palestine in January 1917 and took part in several engagements, then rejoined his brother and the 10th Light Horse Regiment in April. Hugo wrote home saying, "By a big stroke of luck I am up in the old regiment again, Ric and I are in the one squadron and both well and happy as Larry". But the brothers were only reunited for a few days.

The Second Battle of Gaza in Palestine began on 19 April 1917. The regiment faced intense fighting and by 7:45 pm, they had withdrawn, its firing line reduced to just thirty five men. The Throssell brothers had been in the thick of the fighting and Hugo was wounded in the arm and leg but was able to ride from the battlefield to the hospital, doing his best to keep up a cheerful front... until he learned that Ric was missing. Hugo hurried back to the battle and crawled across the field, under enemy fire, searching for his brother among the dead and dying, desperately calling his name and whistling the same signal they used as boys. Sadly, Ric's luck had run out. He had been killed.

The following morning, Ric Throssell was found lying where he had fallen, killed instantly by a bullet to the head. His body remained in enemy territory at a place called Man Kheileh until his effects were collected by one

of his fellow soldiers and he was buried where he lay.

Eric Throssell was not forgotten. In August 1918, a memorial tablet to Ric was placed inside Saint John's Anglican Church in Northam. The following year Ric's body was exhumed and reburied in the Military Cemetery Gaza.

After another breakdown in health, Hugo was sent back to Australia. He and Katherine Prichard married soon after, and two weeks later he was formally discharged from the army.

A few months later Captain Hugo Throssell returned to Northam and received a hero's welcome. That night he made a formal public speech, speaking with heartfelt emotion about the horrors he had seen and sorrow he felt. Then he announced that the war had led him to become a socialist. Today, a statue of Hugo Throssell stands on Fitzgerald Street at the very spot where he addressed the crowd.

Hugo and Katharine settled on a farm at Greenmount and in May 1922 they welcomed their only child – a son they named Ric.

Hugo's very public political opinion on the futility of

war damaged his employment prospects, and he fell into debt. Imagining that he could better provide for his wife and 11 year old son if he left them a war service pension, Hugo Throssell committed suicide on November 19th, 1933. He left the following note – "I can't sleep. My head appears to be going too fast or phut. It is not good for anyone concerned."

Hugo had made a new will the day before he died, bequeathing all his estate and belongings to his wife. On the back of the will Hugo had written a short note reading "I have never recovered from my 1914-1918 experiences, and, with this in view, I appeal to the State to see that my wife and child get the usual war pension. No man could have a truer mate."

In 1954 a stone gazebo memorial to Hugo was unveiled at Greenmount, opposite his home. It can be clearly seen as you travel up Greenmount Hill on Great Eastern Highway.

Hugo's death is a reminder of the toll taken by war and that the trauma of active service may never be overcome. Though Hugo's physical wounds healed, the horror he'd seen and the loss of his brother was a shattering blow which he never fully recovered from.



St Joseph's School

ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN

Year 7 - 2027 & 2028

Kindy & Pre-Kindy - 2027



Why families choose us:

Early Years through to Year 12

Year 11 & 12 without leaving the region

Values and family focussed

Academic excellence

**BOOK
A VISIT**

www.sjsnortham.wa.edu.au | 9621 3500

Northam RSL marks 110 years of service, support and remembrance

by Naomi Sherrington

The Northam RSL Sub-Branch is marking 110 years of service this year, reflecting on a legacy that stretches back to 1916 and continues to support veterans and the wider community today.

Established during the First World War, the Northam sub-branch is believed to be the oldest in Western Australia, originally meeting under the name Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Association (RSSA) at the Northam Bowling Club during the time of Premier James Mitchell.

More than a century on, its purpose remains clear.

"Supporting veterans and their families is at the heart of what we do," secretary Mr Stephen Dyer said.

More than remembrance

While Anzac Day remains the most visible part of the RSL's work, members say the organisation's role goes far beyond commemoration.

"If any ex-serviceman is having problems, the RSL will try to source help," Mr Dyer said. "It might not always be direct, but we'll find the right pathway."

In regional areas like Northam, that role is particularly important. Members say effective support often requires face-to-face engagement – something that can be difficult when services are based in Perth.

"We're not trained to deal with everything ourselves – and we shouldn't be," Mr Dyer said. "That's why it's so important to have people come up from Perth and provide that support on the ground."

The challenge of modern veteran welfare

The nature of veteran support has changed significantly over time.

Where earlier generations of soldiers returned home by ship, often with weeks to decompress alongside their peers, modern service personnel can find themselves back in civilian life within hours.

"They used to come back on ships and had time to talk with their mates," RSL President Denette Bernard observed. "Now they're on a plane and suddenly they're home."

That shift, combined with ongoing challenges within the system, has placed increasing pressure on veterans

navigating support services.

"There are two big issues," Mr Dyer added. "There aren't enough resources to help everyone – and the people who need help often avoid it. Getting help is a strength, but it can take a lot of courage to even start that process."

Members also pointed to frustrations with the complexity of the system, including difficulties accessing care and a high turnover of advocates within the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"They finally work up the courage to seek help, and then they get knocked back," Mr Dyer said. "That can be incredibly discouraging."

A place of connection

In many cases, the first signs that someone is struggling are noticed not by the individual themselves, but by those around them.

"Generally it's family and friends who reach out – not the person," Mr Dyer said.

That's where the RSL plays a crucial role: providing connection and a pathway to support.

Mrs Donna Prytulak OAM PHF, the first woman to join the 10th Light Horse in Northam, said the organisation exists for more than just its members.

"We're here to help veterans and the community – not just members," she said. "It doesn't matter if you've served five minutes or five years. That service stays with you. Everyone has a story, but no one is alone." It is a sentiment that really encapsulates the spirit of the RSL.

A continuing community role

Beyond veteran welfare, the Northam RSL remains an active part of the local community.

The Women's Auxiliary continues to support families and partners and was recently recognised at Australia Day. Younger people are also becoming involved, including students completing community service hours as part of their schooling.

"Many of them come back even after their hours are done," Mr Dyer said.

While the number of people marching on Anzac Day has declined over time, attendance at services continues to grow.



From left to right Brenda McColl, Jim Symcock, and Donna Prytulak. Photo by Angie Roe Photography.

"It's very important that younger generations stay connected," said Mrs Bernard. "That's how we keep it alive."

Looking ahead

As part of the 110-year milestone, the sub-branch is hosting a series of events, including a six-course dinner on 9 May, supported by local groups such as the Naval League and Lions Club.

Members say the future of the RSL will depend on continued community support and engagement.

"If you join the sub-branch, you're supporting the sub-branch," Mr Dyer said.

"And we're here to support the people who need it most."

Tickets for the Northam RSL's 110-year anniversary dinner on 9 May are available now.

Your local voice for The Avon Valley!

Here to help!

Northam Office

✉ lachlan.hunter@mp.wa.gov.au

☎ (08) 9622 2871

📮 PO Box 92, Northam WA 6401

📍 185 Fitzgerald St, Northam

LACHLAN HUNTER MP
MEMBER FOR CENTRAL WHEATBELT



Authorised by L. Hunter, 185 Fitzgerald St, Northam WA 6401



Trish Cook MP
Federal member for Bullwinkel

On Anzac Day, we honour all who have served and continue to serve.

The electorate of Bullwinkel, named after Vivian Bullwinkel, reflects the courage and valour of all who wear our nation's uniform.

Lest we forget.

2/14-16 Mead Street,
Kalamunda WA 6076
(08) 7079 0480
trish.cook.mp@aph.gov.au

Local
Nurse

Authorised by Trish Cook, Australian Labor Party (WA Branch) 2/14-16 Mead Street Kalamunda, Perth WA 6076

A Bus Named Trevor



by Mairi Barton

The longest-serving employee in the 50-year history of Share & Care, Trevor White, has had a number plate personalised with his name on the aged care bus he drove for decades.

While Mr White, aged 70, deeply feels the honour bestowed on him, to his children the previous number plate on the bus – NSC 007, for Northam Share & Care – was already a secret call signal for their Dad.

“When our children were little and Dad pulled up in the bus, which was NSC 007 after James Bond, they would say ‘here comes Dad, Not So Cool 007’,” Trevor’s wife Jenny White said.

Mr White retired from Share & Care in February after 34 years of service. He moved to Northam with his parents in 1969 from South Australia, attending Toodyay Primary School and high school in Northam.

During his career with Share & Care he drove the bus for all-but three years when he worked in the community service organisation’s former gardening service.

His most rewarding part of the job was looking after the elderly clients and helping them to get out and about.

“One lady just died at 106 and a few more were over

100,” Mr White said. “Getting to work with those people [is a happy memory] and most of them still had all their wits about them.”

“We had quite a few funny stories on the bus.”

One day while driving through town, Mr White heard a discussion in the seats behind him.

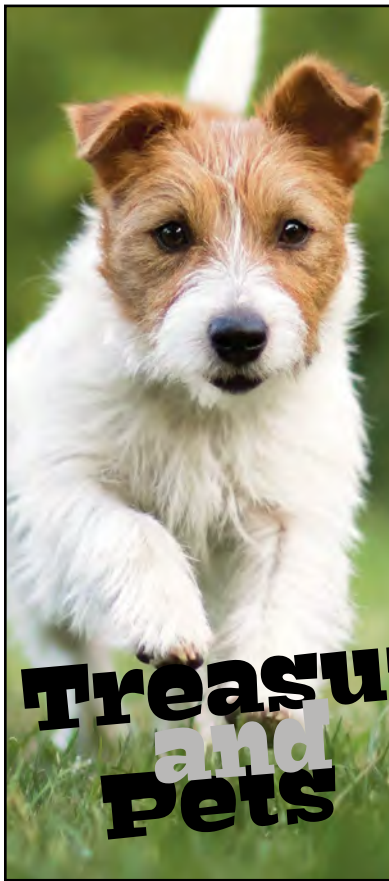
“So I stopped the bus and asked what’s going on,” he said.

A Scottish woman aged more than 100 years of age spoke up: “She called me a pom!”

“To A Scottish person, that’s quite an insult,” Mr White explained. “I had to keep an eye on the pair of them if they were ever on the bus together again!”

The numberplate is not the first honour for Mr White during his service. He ran the Olympic Torch in Northam in the Year 2000 and was awarded 1998 Citizen of the Year by the then Northam Shire and Town Council.

Thanking Mr White for his 34 years of service, Share & Care CEO Sarah Mencshelyi said Share & Care couldn’t be more proud to continue helping aged care clients to age in place in their local community with access to transport on a bus called ‘Trevor’.



Premium Dog Food



SPD
Fresh
Rolls



Big Dog
Pet
Foods



Petz
Tucka
Food
Rolls

Treasures and Pets

Get advice on the best food for your dog from our staff

Village Square Shopping Centre (next to Coles) Ph: 9696 5461 



Are you an apprentice in construction? Get the tools and support you need to build your future.

If you're an apprentice in construction, CTF offers cash bonuses to help you stay on track and succeed:



Apprentice Tool Allowance

The Apprentice Tool Allowance offers up to \$2,000 cashback on essential tools and safety gear.



Apprentice Support Bonus

The Apprentice Support Bonus offers up to \$3,000 in bonus payments to help pay the bills.



NORTHAM RACE CLUB

\$200,000 **TABtouch** G3 NORTHAM STAKES

Opening Day for the 2026 Season

Zax & Co Fashion on the Field

Refractory Road playing throughout the day

DeBortoli Wine tasting

Free children's rides & entertainment

Free Entry

**Sunday
3rd
March**

\$100
Membership
Fee

Race Club Membership - JOIN NOW

Love the races? Why not become a Member? Some of our benefits include:

- One membership badge (not transferable) & one guest badge entitling holder to free entry at each race meeting
- Entry into the Members Lounge, upstairs level of the Thomas E Murphy Grandstand with panoramic views of the entire racecourse
- Beverages at discounted members prices – in the members lounge only
- Complimentary Tea and Coffee – in the members enclosure only
- Reciprocal gate entry midweek to all Western Australian Provincial Racing Association Member Clubs (see office for more details)
- Newsletter to keep you up to date with the Club



175 Yilgarn Ave, Northam | 9622 7765



NORTHAM RACE CLUB

2026 Race Dates

MAY

Sunday 3rd - Tabtouch Northam Stakes

JUNE

Monday 1st - WA Day cup

Thursday 18th

Thursday 26th

JULY

Thursday 9th

Thursday 23rd - Christmas in July

AUGUST

Thursday 6th

Thursday 27th

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 3rd

Sunday 13th - Sunday Sesh

Wednesday 23rd

OCTOBER

Sunday 4th - Retro Raceday

Thursday 15th

Sunday 25th- Procon Developments

Australia Northam Cup

Thursday 29th



INTRODUCING OUR NEW GEN Z MEMBERSHIP

- 18-35 years, single membership only
- same member benefits as a full membership

18-35yrs
\$50
Membership
Fee



northamraceclub.com | info@northamraceclub.com



Northam

Making good things happen



When you bank with us, profits pour into the community. **over \$2,000,000** so far.
Here's who we've helped lately:

- Avon Community Services
- AVAS
- Essential Personnel
- Mortlock Pony Club
- Northam & Districts Little Athletics Club
- Northam Ballooning Events
- Northam Clay Target Club
- Northam Community Men's Shed
- Northam Golf Club
- Northam Railways Football Club

- Northam Town Team
- Shire of Northam Bilya Festival
- Shire of Northam Elevate Festival
- Stryka Fight Team

- Plus scholarships for students from
- Northam Senior High School
- St Joseph's High School
- Central Regional TAFE

Find out more. Call 9622 8159 or search Bendigo Bank Northam.



Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 237879 A1363473, OUT_47115126, 16/09/2025

Toodyay Lions Celebrate 40 Years of the Community Jumbo Auction

The Toodyay Lions Club is gearing up for one of its biggest celebrations yet; their 40th Community Jumbo Auction, to be held on Saturday, 18 April 2026. What began as a modest fundraiser in the mid 1980s has grown into one of Toodyay's most cherished annual traditions, drawing crowds from across the Wheatbelt for a day of bargains, laughter, and plenty of country charm.

This year promises to be the biggest and brightest yet, marking four decades of community spirit, fundraising, and good humoured fun.

A Legacy Built by Lions

Among those celebrating the milestone is Lion John Pearce, a charter member who has proudly served the Club for 50 years.

"This auction is more than just a fundraiser; it's part of the fabric of Toodyay," John says. "For 40 years it's brought people together. You see families who've been coming for generations. It's not just about buying a bargain; it's about belonging to something bigger."

John laughs as he recalls the early days: "We were thrilled if we got 100 lots and a bit of shade. Now we need near on an entire oval to fit everything in."

Fun Facts and Memorable Moments

The Jumbo Auction has seen its fair share of unforgettable moments. One crowd favourite was the year a vintage wheelbarrow, wobbly but full of character, sparked a friendly bidding war that lasted far longer than expected. The buyer, grinning from ear to

ear, didn't actually need a wheelbarrow but wanted the bragging rights. It was donated back and reappeared twice more before finally 'retiring'.

Then there was the legendary mishap still retold with laughter: a seller who became so caught up in the excitement that he accidentally bid on, and won back, his own item. "He shrugged, laughed, and said it must've been meant to stay with him," John recalls. "It's the kind of good natured moment that makes the day what it is."

A Seller's Perspective

Past seller says the auction is the perfect blend of community spirit and treasure hunting excitement.

"I've sold everything from old tools to a lounge suite," she says. "The atmosphere is what keeps people coming back, everyone's chatting, smiling, and enjoying the day. And the Lions make it so easy for sellers."

What to Expect in 2026

The 40th year will feature the classics, furniture, tools, antiques, collectables, household goods, garden items, and those wonderfully unexpected finds that have made the auction famous.

Buyers can enjoy:

- Affordable bidding across all lots
- A family friendly, high energy atmosphere
- Food, drinks, and Lions hospitality

- Rows of bargains to explore.

Want to Sell? Here's How

Residents wishing to submit items for auction can pick up a Sellers Registration Form from:

- Home Hardware Toodyay
- Makit Hardware
- Tony Maddox Real Estate
- Toodyay Real Estate and
- The auction's website.

Forms include details on acceptable items, drop off times, and conditions of sale.

Sellers' Fees for 2026:

- \$5 per lot (non refundable)
- 10% commission on each sale
- Unsold items must be collected at day's end.

All goods must be clean, safe, and in working order.

More Than an Auction – a Community Tradition

Funds raised from the Jumbo Auction support vital local projects, including youth programs, emergency relief, equipment upgrades, and community initiatives across Toodyay. This year's Auction beneficiaries include are our amazing Local Fire Brigades, Toodyay Youth Care Council, and the Forget Me Not Café.





COUNTRYSIDE PEST CONTROL

FAMILY RUN AND OWNED SINCE 1999'

OUR SERVICES

- ▶ Ant control
- ▶ Spider control
- ▶ General insect control
- ▶ Cockroach control
- ▶ Rodent control
- ▶ Commercial pest control
- ▶ Pre purchase timber pest inspections
- ▶ Timber pest inspections
- ▶ Termite control
- ▶ & So much more!



Your local pest control experts

📞 **08 9622 7221**

admin@countrysidepestcontrol.com.au

www.countrysidepestcontrol.com.au

Leaders of tomorrow celebrated at inaugural St John Academy awards

Northam's Lilly Clifford has been named St John Academy's Team Member of the Year for using her skills, compassion, and initiative to create a positive impact around her.

The St John Academy develops 12-17-year-olds as community leaders, equipping them with life-saving skills and a strong foundation for future healthcare careers.

For the first time ever, the Awards celebrate a youth member who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to their academy division, their own personal development and to making a meaningful contribution to their community.

The Team Member of the Year personifies leadership shown through actions, through supporting others and through stepping forward when it matters - the very best of what the St John Academy stands for.

Lilly was recognised for her leading role in the launch of Northam Division's Community Project, where she demonstrated outstanding leadership and community spirit.

The team created a local mural designed to spark conversations about mental health.

Students chose the creative 'blue tree' design in recognition of the Blue Tree Project - a grassroots initiative in regional Western Australia where trees are painted blue as symbols of hope and to spread awareness of mental health.

Lilly is passionate about the subject and proudly drove the group to complete the project.

"We wanted to do something aimed at the youth in Northam," Lilly said.

"We need the community that we are still learning to partake in to be a vibrant and accepting place where no one fears to admit they need help."

Lilly's contribution went well beyond simply participating; she helped bring people together around an important cause and demonstrated the powerful role young leaders can play in strengthening communities.

"I think this award is a testament to [Northam Academy Division Leaders] Tash and Steve and all the other people working in the background because last



Photo: Lilly Clifford receiving her award with Kevin Brown, Group CEO St John

year wouldn't have happened without them," Lilly said.

"It shows how far young people can go with the Academy - how much it can do for them and for the community."

Lilly's confidence has grown so much from being involved in the Northam project, she is now part of a mental health awareness project at her own school.

Kale Guthrie from Tom Price was named runner-up.

"A big part of the St John Academy program is community service," Megan O'Donnell, St John WA Chief Preventative Officer, said.

"These awards are about connecting team members and ensuring they can see a future through our volunteer pathways and also be part of us celebrating a collective impact on the community.

"And they play as big a role as any of our volunteers do because they are advocates at home and they're teaching their peers.

"They are the next generation of healthcare workers, volunteers and hopefully St John WA team members, and these two in particular [Lilly and Kale] were absolute stand outs.

"We'd love to see them on the team one day!"

Street Name Origins



Dring Street is a small street, running off Jacamar Drive in West Northam. The street is named after a sea captain and land holder in the Burlong area of Northam.

Captain David Dring (1801-1877) was one of the more colourful figures of Western Australia's early colonial years - a seafarer, trader and farmer whose ventures reached from the coast to the inland reaches of the Avon Valley.

Born in England in 1801, Dring arrived in the fledgling Swan River Colony in 1831 with his second wife, Emily. Like many early settlers, he divided his ambitions between land and sea. He acquired property at Goodwood on the Swan River and later secured around 1,400 acres along the Avon River near what would become Northam - then a developing agricultural outpost in the fertile Avon Valley.

Dring's time in the district was energetic, if not always harmonious. Newspaper records of the late 1830s show him involved in disputes over wandering stock and damaged crops. He attempted to sell his Avon landholdings more than once as economic conditions in the young colony fluctuated.

Beyond agriculture, Dring was deeply involved in maritime enterprise. In 1838 he was appointed manager of the Fremantle Whaling Company, and in 1840, while commanding the colonial schooner Champion, he assisted in surveying stretches of the Western Australian coastline, contributing to early navigation knowledge north of Perth.

By the early 1840s Dring had begun divesting his colonial properties and eventually left Western Australia, though he maintained trading interests abroad. He died in 1877, remembered as a determined and sometimes combative pioneer whose activities helped shape both the maritime and inland history of the colony's formative years.





**BENDIGO BANK
AVON VALLEY
ARTS TRAIL**



Hidden behind the doors of art studios across the Avon Valley, something wonderful is waiting to be discovered by you.

**This is your invitation
to go beyond the gallery wall**

30 MAY - 1 JUNE 2026
Toodyay & Northam

www.avonvalleyartstrail.org.au

Connect with local artists, see their processes & take home something extraordinary.
Free entry. 3 days. 25+ artists.
One unique art experience.







Northam Motor Sport

Festival



SUNDAY

9am-8pm • Northam CBD

- Flying 50 • 'Round the Houses' Races • Shannon's Show 'n' Shine • Another Fine Mess
- Harley Davidson Stunt Riders • AVAS & Bunnings Free Face Painting
- Carnival Rides & Bouncy Castle • Local Shops & Eateries open • Food Trucks • Markets
- Northam Boulevard Arcade Alley • Road Closures in Place

MONDAY

9am-4pm • Mount Ommanney

Road Closures in Place

**26 & 27
APRIL 2026**

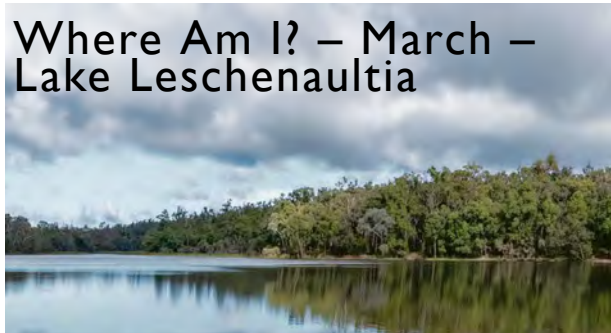
26 - Northam CBD
27 - Mount Ommanney

Email | events@northam.wa.gov.au
Facebook | [@northammotorsportfestival](https://www.facebook.com/northammotorsportfestival)

Event supported by the Shire of Northam



Where Am I? – March – Lake Leschenaultia



Lake Leschenaultia, nestled in the jarrah woodlands near Chidlow, has an unusual origin rooted in industry rather than nature. The lake began life as a large clay pit, excavated in the early 20th century to supply clay for brickmaking. The nearby Statham Brickworks, established to meet the demand for building materials in Perth and the eastern hills, dug extensively in the area, leaving deep pits in the landscape.

When clay extraction ceased, groundwater gradually filled the excavation, forming the freshwater lake seen today. Over time, the site was rehabilitated and developed into a public reserve, officially opening as Lake Leschenaultia in the 1970s. Facilities such as picnic areas, walking trails and a campground were added, transforming the former industrial scar into a popular recreation destination.

While not directly built for the railways, the lake's origins are closely tied to the rail era. The brickworks existed largely because of the Eastern Railway line, which allowed clay and finished bricks to be transported efficiently to Perth and beyond. Today, Lake Leschenaultia stands as a reminder of the region's industrial past and its successful transformation into a community asset.

Wundowie Primary School conference visit



Our Year 5/6 students recently had the opportunity to attend the Dream and Lead Conference, where they explored the importance of leadership, teamwork and believing in their potential.

The day was filled with engaging speakers and activities that encouraged students to think about their goals, develop confidence and consider how they can make a positive impact within our school and community.

Applications open for Arc's refreshed Community Grants Program

The program is targeted at small scale, grassroots initiatives across the towns and regions connected to Arc's 5,500-kilometre freight rail network in the southern half of WA.

The Community Grants Program is open to not-for-profit organisations, community groups, schools and individuals delivering community focused projects located on or near Arc Infrastructure's operational rail corridor.

Successful initiatives will align with at least one of Arc's key focus areas: rail safety, emergency services, community health and wellbeing, or liveable and sustainable communities.

The 2026 funding round opens on Monday 23 March and will close on Monday 20 April, with successful applicants announced on Tuesday 28 April. Applications are sought from each of Arc's five maintenance regions (Metro, South West, Mid West, Central, Goldfields), with a total annual allocation of \$5,000 to support local initiatives in each of those regions.

Arc Infrastructure Chief Executive Officer Stephanie Unwin said the new model will make the process easier for regional groups. "We know many community organisations rely on small grants to deliver important projects. This annual intake gives all groups an equal opportunity to apply and allows us to deliver a clearer and more streamlined process while still supporting the initiatives that matter most in our regions," Stephanie said.

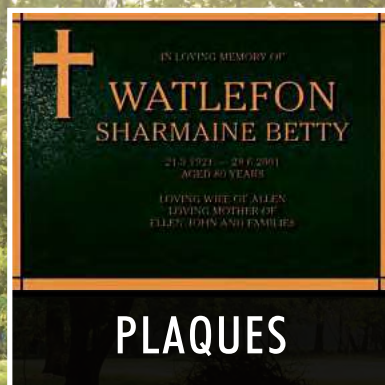
Full details and the online application form are available on Arc Infrastructure's website.

Countryside Memorials

Countryside Memorials provide monuments in a full range of materials including natural stone, marble, granite, bronze, concrete and terrazzo. They also offer repair and restoration services.



MEMORIALS



PLAQUES



MONUMENTS

**CALL OXTER SERVICES FOR A FREE QUOTE
9696 0466**

www.oxter.com.au oxter@westnet.com.au

Programs helping Aboriginal students thrive at Northam Senior High School

by Mia Davies

Mentors and educators behind Clontarf, Follow the Dream, Deadly Sister Girlz and Noongar language learning are helping Aboriginal students at Northam Senior High School build confidence, connection and future pathways.

A group of dedicated mentors and educators working through several key programs at Northam Senior High School are helping Aboriginal students feel more connected to school while building confidence, leadership and strong pathways for the future.

Programs including Clontarf Academy, Follow the Dream and the Waalitj Foundation's Deadly Sister Girlz initiative work alongside the school to support students both in the classroom and beyond. Together they provide mentoring, academic support and opportunities that encourage students to stay engaged in their education and think positively about what comes next.

For Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer and Noongar language teacher Sarina Narkle, the work is deeply personal. After more than 20 years working with young people, she says teaching Noongar language is about far more than learning words.

"When I'm teaching language I feel like my Nan is patting me on the back," she said.

Ms Narkle said learning language is helping students reconnect with culture while also strengthening connections between generations.

"It's revitalising language and creating generational healing," she said. "Students go home and start asking

their parents and grandparents about language and culture, and that brings families into the journey as well."

Ms Narkle is also continuing her own studies through the Lumen Wheatbelt University Hub, modelling lifelong learning for the students she supports.

Former Northam Senior High School student Gemma Reardon-Ryder has also returned to the school, working with the Waalitj Foundation to deliver the Deadly Sister Girlz program supporting young Aboriginal women.

"Our focus is on building cultural identity because if you're confident in who you are, you'll be confident in achieving," she said.

Ms Reardon-Ryder said perseverance and consistency were key messages she shared with the girls in the program.

"My measure of success is perseverance and consistency," she said. "I tell the girls they can't give up, they just have to keep showing up and keep their options open for the future."

She hopes the wider community recognises the effort students are putting in.

"I want people to know the students are trying, they're growing and they are showing up."

Academic pathways are also supported through the Follow the Dream program, coordinated locally by Joe Manning. Mr Manning began his work with Follow the Dream in Carnarvon before moving to Tom Price and has now been based at Northam Senior High School for seven years.

"If students feel safe and supported, anything is

possible," he said.

Building trust with both students and their families is central to the program, which combines academic mentoring with enrichment opportunities.

"The camps, visits to TAFE, universities and future employers really open students' eyes," he said. "You can't be what you can't see."

Clontarf Academy director Cameron Jackson, who previously worked in Kununurra, now leads a program supporting around 60 students at the school.

Mr Jackson said seeing young people grow and develop was one of the most rewarding parts of the role.

"It's really rewarding to be part of the community and see the boys finish school, find work and become positive contributors," he said.

Clontarf's employment partner program also works closely with local businesses to help students become work ready.

"There's an open door for any local business that wants to get involved and support the boys," he said.

Together, the programs and the people behind them are creating a strong network of support at Northam Senior High School, helping Aboriginal students build confidence in themselves and their futures.

Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Mundaring Opens



Photo: Trish Cook MP at the opening of the Mundaring Urgent Care Clinic with two nurses from the practice

The Albanese Government is delivering three new Medicare Urgent Care Clinics in Western Australia, in Booragoon, Mundaring and Yanchep.

The clinic in Mundaring is now open and offers walk-in care for urgent but non-life-threatening conditions and patients will be fully bulk billed. The clinic in Mundaring is open seven days a week, operating 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 9am-7pm on the weekends and public holidays.

"The new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Mundaring means families in Bullwinkel can access urgent treatment quickly, without worrying about the cost, delivering real cost-of-living relief for our community and easing pressure on our local hospitals," said Trish Cook MP.

The Medicare Urgent Care Clinics will help to ease pressure on WA local hospitals where around 30 per cent of presentations in 2024-25 were for semi-urgent or non-urgent conditions.

Nationally, Medicare Urgent Care Clinics have seen more than 2.5 million presentations since the first sites opened in June 2023 and across WA there have been over 271,700 presentations.

The Medicare Urgent Care Clinics were selected to operate following a competitive tender process led by local Primary Health Networks.

The Mundaring Medicare Urgent Care Clinic is located at 3 Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring and is contactable on 08 9463 7600.

Answers For Your Life

Home Bible Study

You Contact us. We do not contact you.



www.john316.au

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Free - Private - Online

SES Off Road Four Wheel Driving and Recovery



by Lin Booth

On a recent weekend Northam and Districts State Emergency Service Unit conducted an off-road driving (4 wheel drive) course and a vehicle recovery course.

Students came from Northam, Toodyay and Kalgoorlie with instructors from Northam and Rockingham/Kwinana SES units.

The courses are very demanding, requiring 5 hours on Friday night, and all-day Saturday and Sunday training.

In the Department of Fire and Emergency Services the SES is the only division that performs vehicle recovery training, and they do this training due to the wide range of natural disasters they have to work in to assist their local community.

In broad terms, the SES have to be able to work in all natural disasters except fire. They provide logistical and other support to the fire service, when requested to do so.

The courses, although demanding, did not prevent the students from enjoying themselves (most of the time).

In order to ensure the students are competent they have to be able drive in rough, sandy and muddy terrain, and recover vehicles from the same terrain. They have to convince the instructors they are competent in all phases of both courses. Not an easy task!

The slope the vehicle is on that is being recovered is actually steeper than it looks. The terrain really tested their skills. And they excelled. Well done to all students.

Be part of something big – step up, learn new skills and help keep your community safe.

To find out more, and the many interesting things they do, call Lin on 0499 362 990.

Seniors Shine at LiveLighter Aged Care Games in Northam

Northam came alive with energy, laughter and community spirit as seniors from across the region gathered for the annual LiveLighter Aged Care Games, hosted by the Seniors Recreation Council of WA (SRCWA).

The not-for-profit, volunteer-driven organisation has been delivering programs and events aimed at keeping older Western Australians active, connected and healthy as they age. This year marked the 15th time the popular games have been held in Northam, continuing a proud tradition of inclusion and wellbeing through friendly competition.

Seven communities took part in this year's event, bringing together 120 participants and carers, supported by 18 dedicated volunteers and three SRCWA staff.

The day featured a range of accessible and engaging activities, including seated hockey, seated passball, beanbag toss and skittles. A special carers' game also added to the fun, alongside awards for the oldest participant and best dressed team.

The purpose of the games is to encourage seniors in care—whether living in nursing homes, hostels, attending day care or residing in their own homes—to stay active both physically and mentally. Beyond the games themselves, the event offers participants the chance to reconnect with the camaraderie of team environments and enjoy meaningful social interaction.

Organisers say the benefits extend far beyond the scoreboard. The games are designed to boost confidence, improve mobility and foster a sense of belonging, all while adding a touch of friendly rivalry.

The event is led by SRCWA, with valuable support from LiveLighter Healthway, local councils and the Western Australian Government.

Competition on the day was strong, with the Goomalling Girls taking out first place and claiming the perpetual trophy, along with gold medals. The Narembeeries secured second place and were awarded silver medals and a plaque, while the Quairading Cuties finished third, taking home bronze medals and a plaque. All participants were recognised with medals, celebrating their enthusiasm and effort.

Special recognition went to Shirley Finnerty, aged 92, from the York All Stars, who was honoured as the oldest competitor. The Narembeeries also received the Best Presented Team award.



Photo: The winners: Goomalling Girls



Photo: Teams competing in the seated games

The event was officially opened by Shire President Cr Chris Antonio, while SRCWA State President Colin Steer served as master of ceremonies. Attendees were treated to a performance of the national anthem by Nathan Ward, with entertainment throughout the day provided by Kevin Bennett.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the organisation and volunteers for delivering a memorable and enjoyable day.

Teams interested in participating in next year's games can register their interest by contacting SRCWA via email, with teams required to consist of seniors in care.

As the event wrapped up, it was clear the spirit of the games—connection, activity and joy—remains as strong as ever.

RETAIL SPACES AVAILABLE



POP UP RETAIL - HIGH TRAFFIC LOCATION

Between Coles & Aldi

- 40sqm available
- Short-term leases
- Immediate start

Limited spaces - enquire now

hannah@windsorknight.com.au | 0455 117 067

Milestone success for the Northam Lawn Tennis Club celebrating 100 years



Centenary Group photo. Photo by Angie Roe Photography

by Kathy Saunders

A spectacular group photo was professionally taken on the lawn courts before heading into the cool of Springfield Lounge where the room was filled with tennis scenes of the past and present.

Some 70 current and past members of the 100 year old club were warmly greeted with cold drinks and canapés while reminiscing their tennis sporting prowess.

A memorabilia display featuring old wooden rackets in presses, a former tennis court line marker, an early blue china crockery set and more bought back memories of the past.

Further were a rolling screen of colour and black and white memories featuring many many players over the years, boards of old newspaper clippings, and further displays of decades of old minute books and files, Easter tournament draws, championship trophies and pennant shields.

Master of Ceremonies was long time member John Dwyer who conducted proceedings throughout the two course buffet luncheon along with entertaining afternoon presentations.

Speech makers spoke passionately on their given topics with the historic aspects by Kathy Saunders, Kevin Smith covered the Grounds and our Club Champions over the years, Dennis Saunders reported on the outstanding Easter Tournaments run by the club, and Kirsten Arthur talked about Northam's Pennant teams success over the years and delivered a humorous poetic recital relating to the Northam Grade B Pennant team.

Finally Geoff Hall, president of the Northam Country Club, congratulated the Northam Lawn Tennis Club on their historic milestone and spoke positively on the future of Northam tennis, that would need huge support from the Shire of Northam with a focus away from grass to more manageable synthetic courts that will entice more younger people to participate in the game of tennis in the future.

A centenary cake depicting a grass tennis court was cut by Jeanette Masters, the current longest serving member.

Attending presidents and life members over the years were acknowledged for their leadership and dedication to tennis over many years.

A roving microphone told many stories of the yesteryears of the once hugely popular game. It was not uncommon for tennis exhibition matches in Northam to attract some 400-500 spectators.

The May issue will see more photos and stories of this historic celebration of lawn tennis in Northam.



Photo: Robert Jamieson President of Northam Lawn Tennis and Lachlan Hunter MLA unveil the Northam Lawn Tennis Club Centenary plaque 1926-2026 in the Springfield Lounge at the Northam Country Club



Photo: Memorabilia display of old wooden rackets, former tennis court line marker and early blue crockery set

You are invited to YORK to enjoy a weekend of history, tradition, music and simple pleasures.



DAY 1
FRIDAY

APRIL 24

Spend the afternoon wandering through historic York.
Visit our world class Motor Museum, grab afternoon tea at the bakery and make your way to Avon park for the BYO family concert featuring top class local musicians Kim Anning Trio & Triple Engine starting @ 6pm.



DAY 2
SATURDAY

APRIL 25

Commemorate Anzac Day country style, Dawn Service on Mount Brown
Gunfire Breakfast
Parade & wreath laying at the memorial
Town Hall exhibits open @ 12pm
Afternoon tea with eminent historian Richard Offen presenting The History of Photography @ 2pm



DAY 3
SUNDAY

APRIL 26

Sunday @ Sandalwood including the Blues Breakfast Concert
Tickets \$15 @ Humanitix
Breakfast available to purchase.
Parade of Penny Farthings along Avon Terrace, Mad Tatters Morris, Kid's games, Devonshire Cream teas at CWA
Come along to The Imperial Homestead for a traditional bush band concert by Maggie's Delight starting @ 6.30pm.



DAY 4
MONDAY

APRIL 27

Do you have relatives who served in the Military?
WAMDLC would love to showcase their stories in their digital library!
Tour the iconic Town Hall, take a bus trip to Greenhills, learn of the history and hear the new owners exciting plans for the historic building.
Greenhills Tickets \$20 @ Humanitix includes morning tea.
Lunch @ Setters Tavern and explore the Amana Memorial and exhibit.

For more information contact Karen on 0418 936 214 or email info@yorkheritageweekend.com.au



In the Garden This Month - April

by Naomi Sherrington

I woke this morning to one of my favourite kinds of mornings — cool, cloudy, and just a little damp underfoot. After the seemingly endless heat, it felt like a turning point.

The sun was barely up, but I was already outside — coffee in one hand, my pet rooster Atlas in the other — sizing up a few spots for some tubestock I may have purchased somewhat impulsively a month ago. Gardening, it turns out, is not particularly good for my financial health.

April is one of the most important months in the gardening calendar. The heat begins to ease, nights cool down, and (hopefully!) we start to see some rain.

This is when the Avon Valley really comes back to life — and it's the perfect time to start planting.

Season Snapshot

April is all about transition from survival mode to growth mode.

If you do one thing this month, get your soil ready and start planting!

Garden To-Do List

Reduce watering frequency: as temperatures drop, you can start watering less often — but still water deeply.

Prepare garden beds: add compost and organic matter now so soil is ready for planting.

Top up mulch: essential for locking in moisture ahead of winter and protecting new plants.

Weed thoroughly: autumn weeds will start emerging — get on top of them early.

Light pruning and tidy-up: remove dead or heat-damaged growth, but avoid heavy pruning.

Check irrigation systems: adjust timers to reflect cooler conditions.

What's in Bloom

Kangaroo paws (continuing in many gardens)

Some grevilleas and banksias beginning their season

Late summer perennials still putting on a show

Ripe for Picking

- Late tomatoes and capsicums
- Eggplant
- Pumpkins (if planted early)
- Herbs like basil (before the cold knocks it back)

What to Plant Now

April is one of the best planting windows of the year.

Vegetables:

Lettuce
Spinach
Silverbeet
Broccoli
Cauliflower
Carrots
Beetroot

Natives & ornamentals:

Grevillea
Banksia
Hakea
Eucalyptus
Kangaroo paw

Herbs:

Parsley
Coriander
Chives

Planting now gives roots time to establish before next summer.

Why Autumn Is the Best Time to Plant in the Avon Valley

by Naomi Sherrington

If you've ever planted in spring and struggled to keep things alive through summer, you're not alone.

In our climate, the instinct to plant in spring is understandable — but in the Avon Valley, autumn is actually the best time to plant.

Nature gets it right: in the Wheatbelt, most natural plant growth begins in autumn. The soil is still warm from summer, air temperatures are cooling, and rainfall begins to increase. This combination creates the perfect environment for root growth.

In summer and even late spring, plants go into survival mode especially where young plants are often hit with extreme heat before they've had time to establish. When you plant in April, they are more likely to focus on establishing roots, rather than just surviving the heat. They settle in over autumn and winter, and then by the time summer arrives, they are far more resilient.

Autumn planting means less reliance on constant watering and better use of natural rainfall. This means stronger, deeper root systems – in a dry climate like ours, that's a major advantage. This is especially important for WA natives, particularly grevillea, banksia, hakea and eucalypts, which are adapted to this seasonal cycle.

Planting them in autumn mimics natural regeneration patterns and reduces transplant shock, giving them the best chance of long-term success.

Try this simple shift in thinking:

Instead of asking, "what should I plant in spring?" try asking, "what can I get established before summer?" That small shift changes everything.

In the Avon Valley, April isn't just another month — it's the start of the real gardening season. Plant now, and you're setting your garden up not just for winter, but for next summer as well.

Women's

WESTERN SHIRTS

Wrangler

HARD SLOG

Thomas Cook

NORTHAM VILLAGE SQUARE, NEXT TO ALDI. OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

RUDEEZ



Wheatbelt Futures Forum

Friday 1st May 2026 Northam Recreation Centre

Our keynote speakers this year:



Hon. Minister Stephen
Dawson MLC

Hon. Minister Stephen Dawson MLC will share the 2026 Ministerial Address outlining the direction of Western Australia and what this means for the Wheatbelt region.

Alan Duncan, Director Bankwest Curtin Development Centre will outline the economic landscape in relation to global trends, forecasts and the potential challenges and opportunities across the Wheatbelt.

Renee Manning, Acting CEO Wheatbelt Development Commission will summarise the days' conversation across the four key topics, and how the region will be supported by the Commission in the coming year.

INFRASTRUCTURE



Keynote Speaker:
*Stephanie Unwin, CEO, Arc
Infrastructure*

Stephanie has a strong track record of working in infrastructure and also in supporting regional development and communities.

RENEWABLE ENERGY



Keynote Speaker:
*Tim Bray, Deputy Director General,
PoweringWA*

Tim leads PoweringWA to drive the State's renewable energy transition and coordinate the delivery of critical infrastructure across the State.

CONSTRUCTION & HOUSING



Keynote Speaker:
*Professor Steven Rowley, Director
Australian Housing & Urban Research
Institute*

Steven has spent the last 25 years researching and writing on housing affordability, housing supply and the development industry.

HEALTH



Keynote Speaker:
*Danny Rogers, Executive Director
Wheatbelt, WACHS*

Danny is committed to strengthening equitable access to high-quality care for regional communities and plays a key role in driving strategic improvements to health outcomes across the Wheatbelt.

Keynote speakers will be joined by a panel of experts in their field to answer your questions.

TICKETS ONLINE:

wheatbeltfuturesforum.com.au

Theresa Lee, CEO
Northam Chamber of
Commerce 0427 472 729
info@northamchamber.com.au



WBN
WHEATBELT BUSINESS NETWORK
Connecting Business. Growing the Wheatbelt.

Peter Lowen, CEO
Wheatbelt Business
Network 9041 0100
ceo@wbn.org.au

Thank you to our Sponsors:



A Hollow is a Home

by Peter Weatherly of the Avon Valley Environmental Society inc

Hundreds of native animal species in the woodlands of Western Australia use hollows for shelter and breeding. They also use loose bark for the same purpose – think skinks and other lizards.

For some of our iconic birds – such as Carnaby's black-cockatoo (white-tailed) and the forest black-cockatoo (red-tailed) – tree hollows are essential for their survival as a species. They are far from alone in this requirement.

Other birds that have the same living requirements are the barn owls, tree martins, kestrels, striated pardalotes and western rosellas. A surprise inclusion is the Australian shelduck which is an aquatic species that nests in tree hollows yet spends its time in water. Ditto the wood-duck. Let us also not forget other aerial species such as Gould's wattled bat.

Unsurprisingly, reptiles from the large black-headed goannas to tiny skinks also need these important features in our bush landscape as does the Children's python – a common household pet that is for sale on the internet. It requires little upkeep being apparently satisfied with one mouse per month for sustenance.

Then there are our smaller marsupials such as the pygmy-possum and the tiny, mouse-like dunnarts – unique inasmuch as one of the species, the stripe-faced dunnart, has the shortest gestation (pregnancy) period of any mammal being only 11 days. Eat your hearts out ladies! The 5-10 young are no bigger than a grain of rice.

On the evidence presented we can hopefully agree then that hollows are essential if we wish to maintain our beautiful bushland with all its wonderful biodiversity and complexity. Whether they are on the ground and



Photo: From bush to bare

useful to our state fauna emblem the numbat (some say the black swan) or up in the trees – we need them.

There's a bit of a snag however – they are in diminishing supply and take a long time to form. Eucalypts are the most common household for hollows but at least 120 years is needed to form a small one. For the large ones, as required for our black cockatoos, the time period nearly doubles to 220 years. That means the tree has to have started growing before European settlement!

Yet despite all the hype about the absolute necessity for conservation from our various levels of government, we continue to clear the land and destroy the homes of all these creatures without giving them a thought.

The latest insanity is the prospect of clearing bushland – listed for conservation – in order to build more houses for people in the Wundowie area.

For heaven's sake, if you want a cleared block - buy a cleared block. Don't ever buy a bush block and then clear it!

Is it now time for there to be a complete ban on clearing native bushland? There is so little left, and it is so scattered that it is often in danger of deterioration simply because it does not have the required size for viable survival.

Almost every reserve I look at, I observe the creep of introduced weeds such as wild oats moving in from the boundaries. The future looks bleak.

Wake up Australia and rage against the destruction of our natural assets. Show some care for the homes of the creatures within it.

WHERE TO EAT DIRECTORY

Avon Valley French Hot Bread BAKERY

Bread, Pies, Pastries, Cakes, Salad, Asian dishes, Coffee and more...
...catering available

210 Fitzgerald Street Northam (08) 9622 1818 0432 404 543

Lucy's TEAROOMS
BREAKFAST | LUNCH | DINE-IN | TAKE AWAY

175 Fitzgerald St, Northam, WA 6401
T: 08 9622 8628
OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK

f @lucystearooms @lucys_tearooms

Mrs' Sippy BBQ

OPENING HOURS
10AM TO 8PM
WED-SUN

BBQ/BRISKET/BURGERS ON THE HIGHWAY, BAKERS HILL

NORTHAM RACE CLUB

FREE entry on race days
Kitchen open 11am - 5pm

www.northamraceclub.com f

Panda Chinese Restaurant

Open 6 days a week
Tuesday - Sunday
Lunch : 11.30am - 2.00pm
Dinner : 4.30pm - 9.30pm

57-59 Fitzgerald Street, Northam
國寶
9622 3344 or 9622 7777
Dine in or takeaway, B.Y.O.

the rec

(08) 9670 3450
197 DUKE ST, NORTHAM
WWW.THEREC.COM.AU

TERRA MARE

COFFEE
BREAKFAST
GRAB & GO MEALS
LUNCH + DINNER

(08) 9615 5582
2 GREY STREET, NORTHAM
TERRA-MARE.COM.AU

Yvette's
cakes & grazing tables

Cupcakes, cakes and catering
0419 957 706 f

Zax & co. Gift Store & Café

CALL US 0476 589 708 f
148 Fitzgerald Street, NORTHAM
zaxandco.com.au



Building & Renovating

Your Guide to Building & Renovating in the Avon Valley

Cover Image: Transformation project in Beverley by Merridale Building. Photo by Angie Roe Photography.

Building Trust from the Ground Up in Regional WA

In an era where scale often overshadows substance, Merridale Building, led by Cameron Price, is a reminder that smaller operations can deliver some of the highest standards in construction. Based in Beverley and servicing the Avon and surrounding regions, the company has built a reputation not on volume, but on precision, relationships, and trust.

At the heart of Merridale Building's approach is a deliberately small, agile structure. Rather than stretching resources thin across multiple sites, Price works with a consistent team of subcontractors—many local, others from further afield and metropolitan areas—who share a commitment to quality craftsmanship. This continuity fosters not just efficiency, but a level of accountability that is often difficult to achieve on larger, more fragmented projects.

"Being small means we can be agile on the job," Price explains. "Nothing is more important to me in the process than quality and communication."

This philosophy is evident in the company's construction methods. While the visible finishes of a home often draw the most attention, Merridale Building places equal—if not greater—emphasis on what lies beneath. High-spec framing techniques and rigorous moisture management systems ensure durability and performance over time, reflecting a deep understanding that true quality is not always immediately visible.

"It is often about the work that you can't see at the finish that makes the end product so high-quality," Price says.

Price's background in luxury construction has further sharpened this focus. The skills and standards developed in high-end projects are now being applied across builds and renovations throughout the region, raising expectations and outcomes alike. Clients benefit not



only from premium workmanship, but also from a builder who understands how to translate vision into reality without compromising structural integrity.

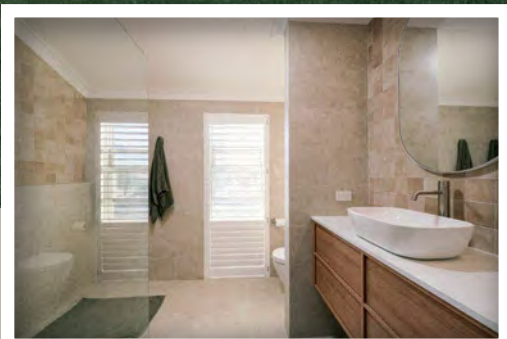
Equally important is Merridale Building's commitment to professionalism. As a registered builder, every project is fully compliant, insured, and transparently managed. This provides peace of mind for clients, ensuring that both the company and each individual project meet stringent regulatory and insurance requirements.

In regional communities, where word-of-mouth remains powerful, trust is everything. Merridale Building's steady growth suggests that clients value a builder who prioritises communication, consistency, and long-term quality over rapid expansion.

In the end, it's not just about constructing homes—it's about building confidence, one project at a time.



Photos by Angie Roe Photography



MERRIDALE
BUILDING

Local registered builder
based in Beverley, serving
the Avon Valley

Superior craftsmanship,
communication, and
high-spec construction

Specialists in Renovation & New Builds

P 0437 715 922 **I** merridalebuilding
E cameron@merridalebuilding.com.au

BC 104937
BP 104968

Renovating VS Building: The Pros and Cons

by Sjanna Sandalova

Sometimes it gets to a point when the house you're living in no longer meets your growing family's needs and you need to upsize, or you might be simply looking to upgrade.

If this is the case, many families choose to build or renovate rather than buy a new property because you can custom design to suit your family.

But deciding whether to start from scratch or make renovations to your current home can be daunting.

Before you start knocking down walls, you should consider the pros and cons of each.

Renovating

Pros

1. You can pick and choose what stays and what goes

If it's not broken don't fix it. The best part about renovating is that you can keep the aspects of the home that you love.

If you live in an older character home, you can keep the high ceilings and wooden floorboards if you choose to, as these features are generally not seen in modern builds anymore. Sometimes historical value should be admired and preserved, especially if it's what makes your a home a home.

You can save a lot of money by keeping what you love and making smaller extensions or upgrades to the things that need it.

2. Add value to your property

If you live in a sought-after location, any upgrades to the property will only increase its value meaning you could potentially sell the property at a profit to what you originally bought it for.

But of course, many things come into play here, like how much you spend on the renovations and how the property market is performing when it comes time to sell. To be safe, you should contact a local REIWA real estate agent who can give you insight into the value of your property.

3. You get to stay in a location you know and love

If you are familiar with your suburb, have children going to the local school or love your local café strip, it can be hard to switch suburbs.

Especially with the limited blocks of land available, which can potentially be in Perth's outer suburbs rather than the area you are used to living in.

That's why many choose to renovate instead building on a new block of land.

However, choosing to knock down your current house and build on top of it is also another solution if you decide to build from scratch.

Cons

1. More costly

Sometimes, renovating might cost more than starting from scratch depending on the extent of the renovations.

You need to ask yourself if the renovations will be enough to achieve your ideal home and will it achieve good resale value. Rebuilding a brand-new home in an established suburb is ideal. So, it just depends on your budget, your goals and resources.

2. Interference of the construction

If you have a family and decide to renovate, turning parts of your home into a construction site for a few months can be annoying.

Some people choose to move out somewhere short-term while they rebuild their new home.

However, for people who are more involved with the renovations it can be a thrill and quite a rewarding experience to watch the work in progress unfold.

3. Original layout of the house

This goes for if you are renovating or building on the same block of land. You need to first identify any structural compliances that come with your property.

It might turn out that you can't have a pipeline there or add in a swimming pool. Each council will have different rules, so make sure to check them before you start planning.

If your land is not flat, then it might make more sense financially to build on a new block of land.

Your builder will be able to help identify these issues with you and go through your options.

Building

Pros

1. Can design the perfect home for your family

Whether you build on a brand-new block of land or on your existing block, starting from scratch gives you the freedom to personalise everything to how you want it.

You don't have to compromise and work with what you have, as you can find a new design tailored specifically for your family.

Everything from the number of bedrooms, to the tiles, and every nook and cranny is approved by you in order to achieve your dream home.

This is a major advantage if your current house is outdated, too small or old.

2. More longevity

Building from scratch means you have all the newest materials, so you know that the structure and integrity of the home is sound, improving the home's longevity.

Generally speaking, new homes are easier to maintain, less susceptible to termites and more energy-efficient

and come with added peace of mind in the form of a construction warranty. Which is why you're probably better off rebuilding, if you want to make significant changes to your home.

3. Government building grants

It's clear the recent Federal and State Government building bonus grants have boosted transactions, with land sales increasing 289 per cent when the grants were announced in June.

It makes sense that many people are using these grants to their advantage to finally build their dream home.

Whilst this is a great initiative, this can also be a disadvantage if you are still looking to buy a block of land but are struggling to find something amongst the competition.

Cons

1. What to do with your current property

If you want to build on a new block of land, then you have to figure out what you will do with your current property. Therefore, it might make more sense for you to rent out your property, or this may lead you to knock down your current house and build.

If you are renovating, you technically don't have to leave the premises. While it may be a hindrance, it's short-term pain for long-term gain.

2. Stamp duty

If you are building on a new block of land, you will have to pay stamp duty, as well as all the legal and moving fees that come with buying a new property.

If you choose to knock down and build or just renovate then you don't have to deal with all the hassle and added costs that you would buying a new house.

3. Time consuming

Generally, building on a new block of land will be more stressful and time consuming. Not only do you have to search for a builder and design you like, but you also have to find the right block of land for you.

Now, with demand for land outweighing stock levels, it may be hard to find a block of land in the timeframe and location that you want whilst also competing with other buyers.

More information

So, it really depends on your current property and what your end vision is. If your current home only needs a few upgrades, then it makes far more sense just to renovate.

If you live in a desirable location that you aren't willing to part with, but the house needs to be replaced then it might be more convenient to knock-down and build from scratch.

Alternatively, if your current block is too small or can't be built on then perhaps buying a new block of land is the way to go.

Article taken from reiwa.com.au/the-wa-market/resources/articles/renovating-vs-building-the-pros-and-cons/

WE GO ABOVE, SO YOU CAN GO BEYOND.

MORE CHOICE WITH OVER 60 LENDERS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.

- FIRST HOME BUYERS
- REFINANCING
- NEXT HOME PURCHASING
- INVESTOR LENDING
- COMMERCIAL LENDING
- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- SMSF LENDING
- ASSET FINANCE

CALL CHRISSY - 0409 685 631 OR AMANDA - 0428 643 527

DROP IN FOR AN OBLIGATION FREE CHAT AT 204 FITZGERALD ST, NORTHAM

Local Broker Celebrated as Bankwest Regional Broker of the Year!

There's some exciting news for the local finance community, with our very own Chrissy Dunkerton from Loan Market being recently named Regional Broker of the Year by Bankwest at the lender's annual broker awards.

The recognition celebrates not only a strong year of lending results, but also the continued growth of a locally owned broking business that began with very humble beginnings.

What started as a small operation run from a home office has steadily grown into a thriving finance service for the community. Today, the team operates from their leased office at 204 Fitzgerald Street, providing a professional yet welcoming environment for clients who prefer to sit down and talk through their financial goals and objectives.

For Chrissy, the award is less about personal recognition and more about the relationships built along the way and the team that has helped secure such an achievement!

"Helping people achieve milestones like buying their first home, upgrading for a growing family or restructuring their finances is incredibly rewarding," she said. "This award really reflects the trust our clients place in us and the hard work of the team around me."

In recent years, the lending landscape has changed dramatically for regional communities. With many bank branches closing or reducing their opening hours, accessing personalised finance support has become increasingly difficult.

Recognising this shift, Chrissy joined forces with colleague Amanda Beer to ensure that local residents still had access to professional, face-to-face guidance. Together they created a service model focused on accessibility, transparency and community connection.

"Our goal has always been simple - to make sure people



Photo: Bankwest BDM Julia Cosentino, Chrissy Dunkerton and Adam Biffen Bankwest State Manager WA.

still have somewhere they can go, to sit down and have real conversations about their finances," Chrissy said.

One of the major advantages of working with a mortgage broker is choice. Unlike going directly to a single bank, the team has access to more than 60 lenders, allowing them to search widely for solutions tailored to each client's individual circumstances.

"If there's a home for a deal, we're going to find it!" Chrissy explained.

Mortgage brokers in Australia are also legally required to act in the client's best interest, meaning recommendations must prioritise what works best for the borrower rather than the lender.

That client-first philosophy appears to be resonating with the community. The business has now received

more than 250 five-star reviews on Google, with many clients praising the team's communication, professionalism and willingness to go the extra mile.

While the award is a proud milestone, Chrissy says the focus remains firmly on continuing to support local families, investors and business owners as they navigate what can often be a complex lending environment.

The team assists with a wide range of finance needs including home purchases, refinancing, asset finance, commercial lending and self-managed super fund lending.

For anyone looking to explore their finance options or simply have a conversation about their next step, the team welcomes locals to drop into the office and discuss their goals or reach out on 0409 685 631 (Chrissy) or 0428 643 527 (Amanda).

RED DUST

PAVERS • LIMESTONE
LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

UNBEATABLE PRICES!

TRADE & RETAIL WELCOME

08 9622 2599

Northam & Wheatbelt Supply

Beyond Cabinets brings Local Craftsmanship and Care to Wheatbelt Renovations

For homeowners across Northam and the wider Wheatbelt, renovating a kitchen, bathroom or laundry can feel like a daunting process. But one local business is simplifying the journey by offering a complete, start-to-finish service grounded in community values, quality workmanship and personal care.

Beyond Cabinets & Renovations, led by husband-and-wife team Shane and Kate Hayward-Waller, has built a strong reputation for delivering tailored renovation solutions with a distinctly local focus. From initial design through to manufacturing and installation, every stage of the process is handled right here in Northam—ensuring consistency, accountability and a high standard of finish.

What sets Beyond Cabinets apart is its commitment to being a single, reliable supplier. Clients don't need to juggle multiple contractors or suppliers. Instead, Shane and his team coordinate every aspect of the renovation, including managing all trades involved. Importantly, the business makes a conscious decision to work exclusively with local tradespeople, supporting the Northam economy while ensuring jobs are completed by people who understand the region and its homes.

Every project undertaken by Beyond Cabinets is entirely custom. There are no off-the-shelf solutions—each design is created to suit the individual needs, style and budget of the client. The process begins with a personal site visit, where the team works closely with homeowners to understand their vision and offer expert guidance. From there, designs are developed and brought to life in the company's Northam workshop, where all cabinetry is manufactured locally.

This hands-on approach not only ensures quality control but also gives clients confidence that their renovation is



Photo: Shane (centre) with his team at the Beyond Cabinets showroom in Northam

being managed with care and attention to detail at every step. "Our name and reputation are attached to every job we do," Shane says, a philosophy that underpins the business's commitment to excellence.

Beyond Cabinets also places strong emphasis on using Australian-made products wherever possible. This not only supports national industries but also ensures durability and quality materials that are built to last in Australian conditions.

Understanding that renovations can disrupt daily life, Shane and his team work closely with each client to carefully schedule projects in a way that minimises inconvenience. Clear communication and thoughtful planning help ensure timelines are realistic and tailored to suit each household's needs.

As a proud local employer, Beyond Cabinets invests in the future of the community by hiring local staff and supporting the next generation of tradespeople through apprenticeships. With two apprentices currently on the team, the business is helping to build skills and create opportunities within the region.

At its core, Beyond Cabinets & Renovations is more than just a renovation business—it's a family-run operation deeply connected to the community it serves. With a focus on quality, local collaboration and personalised service, Shane, Kate and their team continue to transform homes across Northam, one custom project at a time.

BUILT FOR REGIONAL WA. BACKED BY A LOCAL TEAM.

Evoke Living Homes specialises in quality modular homes designed for regional Western Australia. Our Northam based team is dedicated to building homes that are perfect for the Western Australian life style.



MEET THE NORTHAM TEAM BEHIND THE BUILD



Mark Lawrence
Site Manager



Catherine Egan
Sales Team Leader



Daniel Mitic
Production Coordinator



Rachelle Miller
Site Works Admin



WINNER 2025
Mid West Modular &
Prefabricated Housing

Beyond Cabinets & Renovations

Residential & Commercial **CUSTOM CABINETRY & RENOVATION**

- Custom Designs
- Precision Machinery
- We Build & Install
- Proud local Family Business

Experienced And Creative Cabinetry
Designs for your Unique Needs

SHANE
0419 194 468



Before



After

NEW SHOWROOM - NOW OPEN - 86 Old York Rd Northam

RESIDENTIAL

- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Laundries
- Robes

COMMERCIAL

- Office Fitouts
- Receptions
- Service Counters

beyondcabinets.com.au | hello@beyondcabinets.com.au





building a pool is easier than you think.

Try our online **Pool Planner** to see how a pool will look in your own backyard!



Scan to check it out!

countrywidepools.com.au | 08 9622 5571 | @countrywidepools

Why a swimming pool is becoming a must-have for Avon Valley homes

For many families across the Avon Valley, building a home is about creating a place to gather, relax and spend time together. Increasingly, a swimming pool is becoming part of that vision – and that’s where Countrywide Pools comes in.

Northam-based family business Countrywide Pools has been helping regional WA homeowners bring that vision to life for more than 20 years. Over that time, the team has installed more than 400 pools across the Wheatbelt and wider WA, working closely with families who want to create an outdoor space that suits the way they live.

A backyard pool often becomes much more than a place to cool off in summer. It becomes the gathering point for family barbecues, after-school swims, and long afternoons spent outdoors with friends and neighbours. For many families, it’s about creating a space where kids can grow up enjoying the outdoors and making memories right at home.

A swimming pool can also add significant appeal to a property. According to realestate.com.au, “swimming pool” consistently ranks among the most searched lifestyle features when buyers look for homes online. For many families, a pool isn’t just a luxury feature — it’s a lifestyle investment that enhances how a home is enjoyed every day.

Of course, the real value often lies in the memories created.

For Kulin farmer, Steph Bradford, installing a pool with Countrywide Pools quickly became the highlight of family life at home.

“We are so incredibly happy with our pool and still can’t believe how easy the process has been! The hardest part of the whole thing was trying to get the kids out of it last night!!”

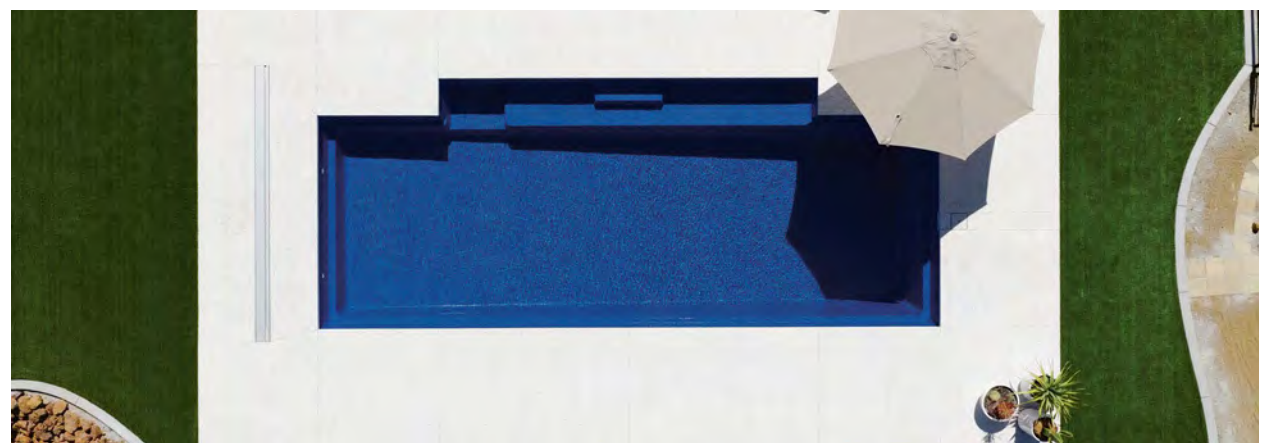
Feedback like this is what makes the work so rewarding.

The team takes great pride in delivering quality installations and is a proud member of SPASA (Swimming Pool & Spa Association of Australia), the industry’s leading professional body. Their commitment to craftsmanship has been recognised through numerous industry awards, including Project of the Year, Professional of the Year, Sustainable Project, Operational Excellence and Pool Sales Representative. These honours reflect excellence at every level — from the quality of each pool installation through to the professionalism of the team. In the past three years alone, Countrywide Pools has received more than 60 regional and national awards.

Despite this national recognition, Countrywide Pools remains a proudly local, family business at heart. Being locally owned means the team understands the unique conditions of building in regional areas, from site access and soil types to the practical considerations that come with rural properties. That local knowledge helps ensure projects run smoothly from design through to installation.

With more families choosing to invest in their outdoor spaces, pools are increasingly becoming the centrepiece of backyard living across the Avon Valley — bringing homeowners one step closer to the classic “Aussie dream”.

For those ready to start planning their own backyard space, Countrywide Pools is always happy to talk through the possibilities.



“According to realestate.com.au, ‘swimming pool’ is one of Australia’s most searched property features.”



*Servicing, Toodyay, Northam, Goomalling
Wongan Hills, York, Quairading,
Merredin & Surrounds*



- NEW Sectional & Roller Doors
- Industrial & Wind Rated Doors
- Service & Repairs to Doors & Motors
- Motors Fitted to existing Garage Doors
- Family Owned & Operated

SALES • SERVICE • REPAIRS

Shane Andrew
0409 089 994

allstrong.outdoors@bigpond.com



Mortgage Choice
part of  realestate.com.au

**Your local mortgage
broker in Northam**

Specialising in refinance and
construction loans.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| ✓ Investment loans | ✓ Construction loans |
| ✓ First home buyers | ✓ Home loans |
| ✓ Asset finance | ✓ Refinancing |

Call Elise on 0480 477 132 today.

Elise Hackett

m 0480 477 132
e elise.hackett@mortgagechoice.com.au
w MortgageChoice.com.au/elise.hackett



Mortgage Choice Pty Ltd ACN 009 161 979 (Australian Credit Licence 382849) and Smartline Operations Pty Ltd ACN 086 447 727 (Australian Credit Licence 385325) are owned by REA Group Ltd. Your broker will advise whether they are a credit representative of Mortgage Choice or Smartline.

In the Avon Valley, sheds are more than just buildings, they're part of everyday life



While homes are often the focus when people think about building, sheds quietly play an important role behind the scenes. They store tools and equipment, provide space for hobbies, support small businesses, and help families make the most of their properties. For many locals, a shed isn't a luxury, it's a necessity.

At Fair Dinkum Builds Avon Valley, we see firsthand how much value a well-designed shed can bring. As more families choose to settle in the region, and more people embrace lifestyle properties, the need for practical, reliable spaces continues to grow. Whether it's for work, storage, or simply creating extra room, sheds are becoming an essential part of how people live.

What's changed over time is how sheds are being used.

They're no longer just simple storage spaces. Today, they're workshops, garages, home business hubs, and places where families spend time together on projects or hobbies. That means every shed needs to be designed

with purpose, tailored to suit the people using it and the way they live.

Local knowledge is key to getting that right.

The Avon Valley has its own conditions to consider, from hot summers to changing seasonal weather. Building a shed that lasts mean choosing the right materials and ensuring it's designed to handle the environment. It also means understanding local council requirements and site conditions, so everything runs smoothly from start to finish.

For families and property owners, peace of mind matters.

That's why quality and durability are so important. A well-built shed should stand the test of time, providing reliable use year after year. While it can be tempting to focus on the lowest price, many people are now recognising the long-term value of investing in something that's built properly from the start.

At the same time, affordability remains front of mind.

Building a shed is a big decision, and it's important that it delivers real value. The goal is to create a space that works hard for the people who use it, without unnecessary costs or complications. With the right planning and design, it's possible to achieve both practicality and value.

Sheds also play a bigger role in the community than many realise.

They support local trades, help small businesses grow, and provide the infrastructure that keeps rural properties running smoothly. For families, they can become spaces where skills are shared, projects come to life, and memories are made.

As the Avon Valley continues to grow, the importance of these versatile structures will only increase. They offer flexibility, functionality, and the ability to adapt as needs change over time.

At their core, sheds are about making life easier.

They create space, support livelihoods, and help families get more out of where they live. And in a region like the Avon Valley, that kind of support goes a long way.

Because here, a shed isn't just an extra, it's part of the way we live.



Solar Power Rebates in Western Australia 2026: Complete Guide

As electricity prices continue climbing across WA, homeowners are seeking smarter energy solutions today. Many families now view solar panels as the most practical way to cut bills. With government incentives, switching to renewable energy has never been more financially rewarding. The solar power rebate WA residents can claim significantly reduces upfront installation costs in 2026.

Federal and state programs together make sustainable power an affordable choice for households statewide. The incentives assist homeowners in saving money and contribute to the clean energy transition in Australia. This guide explains WA's top solar rebates, eligibility rules, and steps to claim your benefits.

What Homeowners Should Know About WA Solar Rebates

Western Australia offers several solar power rebate programs that lower upfront solar installation costs. These involve the federal Small-Scale Renewable Energy Scheme, which gives tradable certificates. By June 2025, over 400,000 WA customers, around 36%, already had rooftop solar on their homes. This uptake shows how rebates and incentives have helped make solar a mainstream choice.

Under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme, households receive Small-Scale Technology Certificates for approved rooftop solar installations. These certificates are usually assigned to installers in exchange for a discount on system prices. Emerging battery rebates and changing national policies that have become aware of residential storage can also be used by WA homeowners. Understanding how these federal and state supports work together helps households plan compliant, future-proof solar upgrades.

2026 Key Solar Incentives: What WA Homeowners Can Claim

In 2026, the main solar panel rebate in WA is the federal STC rebate that helps reduce upfront solar installation costs. This incentive is built into quotes, so many households simply see a cheaper system price. On many common system sizes, the national subsidy typically covers around 20 to 30% of the upfront cost. Knowing how this federal support works helps WA homeowners compare options and plan solar upgrades.

Eligibility: Who Qualifies for WA Solar Rebate?

To get solar rebates in WA, your system needs to meet the following requirements:

- Systems must be under 100 kW and installed at an eligible WA property.
- Only new systems qualify; second-hand units or reused major components are not eligible.
- Approved panels and inverters listed by the Clean Energy Council are required.
- Design and installation need to be completed by a Solar Accreditation Australia-accredited installer.
- Installation and commissioning have to occur within the scheme dates, with incentives stepping down annually until 31 December 2030.

How Much Can You Save in 2026 With WA Solar Rebate?

In 2026, the solar rebate Western Australia can lower the upfront cost of installing a new solar system for eligible households. You generally see the discount applied automatically in the installer's quote, so you only pay the net price after rebates. If you installed a 6.6 kW solar system at a cost of \$8,140, the rebate would be \$1,800 leaving you with an out of pocket cost of \$6,340.

Step-by-Step Guide: How to Claim WA Solar Rebate

To claim the solar panels rebate WA, simply follow the easy step-by-step instructions below:

Step 1. Eligibility Check

The solar system must follow rebate rules, using approved parts and a properly accredited installer.

Step 2. Quote Review

Then, get a written quote that clearly shows how the rebate changes your overall price.

Step 3. Rebate Confirmation

After that, check the quote or contract to confirm the rebate appears as a discount.

Step 4. System Installation

Now, your chosen installer puts the solar panels on your roof and connects everything safely.

Step 5. Rebate Paperwork

Lastly, the installer handles the STC paperwork to let you only pay the lower upfront price.

Benefits of Installing Solar Panels and Batteries in WA for 2026

In 2026, the solar rebate in Western Australia cuts the upfront cost of panels and batteries. While panels save you money during the day, adding a home battery lets you use that free power at night. By combining both solar and battery rebates, you can maximize your savings and lower your total system cost, and gain full control over your bills.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the solar power rebate WA assists households to reduce initial price of the panels. Knowing the rebates, regulations, and time, it becomes simpler to prepare systems for high savings.

Article taken from: <https://homebattery.ecoflow.com/>

Need a shed, barn, garage, or a new space to work or play?



- Residential Sheds & Garages
- Rural & Farm Shed
- Commercial & Industrial Builds
- Carports & Patios



**POP IN AND SAY G'DAY OUR CONTACT US
TODAY**



(08) 9622 5535



avonvalley@fdbuilds.com.au



12 Yilgarn Avenue, Northam, WA



www.fairdinkumbuilds.com.au/avon-valley

Mon - Fri 8am - 4pm

**FAIR
DINKUM
BUILDS™**

Sheds & More

AVON VALLEY

The Design Trends Shaping Australian Homes in 2026

From nature-led interiors and nostalgic touches to thoughtful sustainability and a softer approach to colour, 2026 is less about statements and more about meaning. These are the design directions set to define how Australian homes will feel in the years ahead.

Earthy, warm and here to stay

This year, interiors continue to favour warm, earthy hues as an alternative to bold, high-contrast colour statements. Rather than committing to saturated tones that can quickly date a space, colours like ochre, caramel, clay and terracotta bring depth without overwhelming a room. They introduce personality in a quieter, more enduring way – particularly in spaces like kitchens, where colour is often played safe at the risk of feeling flat or overly clinical.

Design approaches shaping this trend include:

- Using warm-toned cabinetry, tiled splashbacks, or colour-veined stone to add character to kitchens
- Layering earthy colours with timber joinery, stone surfaces and woven textures for warmth
- Softening these palettes with greenery to keep rooms feeling relaxed and lived-in
- Applying colour to create atmosphere and comfort, rather than sharp contrast

These hues move interiors away from trend-driven statements and towards spaces that feel settled, expressive and designed to age beautifully.

A nod to nostalgia

Mid-century design had a real moment in recent years, reflecting a growing desire to honour eras with genuine reverence rather than surface-level styling. In 2026, that curiosity expands. Homeowners are no longer stopping at mid-century alone, instead committing to a chosen era and letting its design language guide the space. The

result is interiors that feel collected rather than curated, playful yet intentional.

This renewed love of eras shows up through:

- Honey-toned timbers and furniture that nod to mid-century forms and proportions
- Vintage or antique pieces paired with clean, modern silhouettes for contrast
- Refined Art Deco accents – think brass or gold inlays, marble details and confident geometry
- Natural patina, wear and texture are embraced as part of a home's evolving story

The appeal lies in restraint. One sculptural light, a curved banquette or a vintage find can shift the entire mood of a room, proving personality doesn't need to shout to be felt.

Let's hear it for the Colour of the Year

Pantone's 2026 Colour of the Year, Cloud Dancer, marks a notable shift. This soft, billowy white offers a soothing counterpoint to an overstimulated world, acting as a gentle backdrop rather than a bold statement.

Why Cloud Dancer will work in modern homes:

- Its balanced warmth feels softer than a stark white
- It creates a clean canvas for your choice of texture, colour and material
- It pairs effortlessly with earthy tones, timber and brushed metals

White is no longer minimal – it can be a strong foundation for your colour and design choices to work their magic.

Bringing the outside in

Biophilic design has been quietly influencing interiors for years, but in 2026, it feels more deeply rooted than



Photo from industville.co.uk

ever. Evolved from a desire to connect to nature, this approach focuses on creating homes that feel alive through light, greenery and organic materials. Beyond aesthetics, biophilic interiors promote calm, well-being and a sense of balance.

Rather than one bold gesture, biophilic design usually grows through:

- Maximising natural light through strategic window placement and flowing layouts
- Infusing spaces with indoor plants, from sculptural planters to statement trees
- Using natural materials such as timber, rattan, stone and linen in design and decor

When greenery and texture are layered, spaces feel grounded, restorative and deeply liveable.

Design that lasts

Sustainability continues to shape how homes are designed and styled in 2026, with a focus on longevity rather than fast trends. Well-made furniture, timeless materials and thoughtful layouts create homes that evolve with their owners.

Article taken from carlislehomes.com.au/home-files/dream/the-design-trends-shaping-australian-homes-in-2026/



Restoring the beauty of Heritage Windows

Tradition Stained Glass & Leadlights Perth

Artists in glass

- Bowing, cracked or loose leadlight windows
- Heritage stained glass restoration
- New designs for period and character homes
- Insurance & storm damage repairs
- Matching original heritage designs

Proud to be working on heritage projects across the Avon Valley, including Brackson House.



Servicing Northam and surrounding districts

KIM FITZPATRICK - MASTER GLASS ARTIST

9430 4707 or 0416 060 864

admin@traditionstainedglass.com.au

traditionstainedglass.com.au



Crafting Heritage into the Modern Home

Tradition Stained Glass and Leadlights Perth, led by third-generation glass artist Kim Fitzpatrick, brings expert craftsmanship and a passion for heritage preservation to homes across Northam and the Avon Valley.

With a family history steeped in stained glass artistry, Kim combines traditional techniques with modern methods, restoring heritage windows and creating new designs that complement period homes. The studio has twice been recognised with WA Heritage Awards (2021 and 2025), reflecting their commitment to quality and authenticity.

Currently, the team is booking for their upcoming Northam visit on 26th, 27th March and Saturday morning, offering installations, repairs, and restorations. Whether it's bowing, cracked, or loose windows, Tradition Stained Glass ensures each project is treated with the care it deserves.

For enquiries or bookings, contact: 08 9430 4707 | 0416 060 864 or admin@traditionstainedglass.com.au.



Front door restored at a Northam Home



Kim working on a stained glass window

The Role of Leadlight Windows in Australian Identity

By the 1920s and 1930s, stained glass windows had become a defining feature of Australian homes. The use of leadlight windows in Federation homes, in particular, contributed to a unique style of architecture that remains synonymous with Australian domestic design. Leadlight windows were not just decorative elements; they represented the craftsmanship and pride of the homeowners.

The leadlight windows installed during this period often featured bold outlines of lead that separated individual pieces of glass. These windows were intricate in design yet sturdy enough to withstand the harsh Australian climate. The use of coloured glass, combined with the craftsmanship of leadwork, made these windows a focal point in homes, often drawing attention to the entrance or key living spaces.

Today, many of these stained glass windows are considered valuable parts of Australia's architectural heritage. Homeowners of heritage-listed properties often take great care to preserve or restore the original stained glass features. Restoration efforts typically involve cleaning the leadlight and repairing any cracks or damage to the glass, ensuring that these stunning windows can be enjoyed by future generations.

Companies specialising in leadlight restoration and reproduction are in high demand as more people look to restore the original charm of Federation homes. These restoration projects not only preserve the past but also give new life to historical craftsmanship, keeping stained glass a celebrated feature in Australian homes.

In contemporary Australian architecture, stained glass continues to be appreciated, albeit with a modern twist. Custom designs are often used to complement minimalist interiors or to serve as striking features in homes. Modern homeowners are increasingly incorporating stained glass into places like kitchen splashbacks, bathroom windows, and even outdoor garden features, where the vibrant colours can add an artistic touch to otherwise functional spaces.

While stained glass in Federation homes often adhered to symmetrical patterns and realistic depictions of nature, contemporary designs lean towards abstract and geometric motifs. Advances in glasswork techniques, such as fused glass and slumped glass, allow for a broader range of textures and effects, blending tradition with innovation.

Today, stained glass is not only preserved in heritage buildings but also finds new life in modern Australian homes. Homeowners are incorporating stained glass in innovative ways, from kitchen splash-backs and shower screens to room dividers and garden features. These installations blend traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design aesthetics, offering unique focal points in interior spaces.

Article taken from <https://rhng.com.au/post/140/a-history-of-stained-glass-windows>

PROPERTY SETTLEMENTS



PROMPT
SETTLEMENT & CONVEYANCING
SERVICES

UNDER
NEW
MANAGEMENT

Your local hassle-free service

We take care of it all...

- Residential & Commercial
- Property Settlements
- Private Sale Transactions
- Change of Name on Titles
- Subdivision Applications
- Related Party Transfers
- Deceased Estates
- Vacant Land

(08) 9622 2900 | admin@promptsettlementservices.com.au | promptsettlementservices.com.au

Red Dust: Building More Than Just Landscapes

Across regional Western Australia, the land speaks for itself—through stone, soil, and the structures we build on it. At Red Dust Landscape Supplies, that's not just something we work with, it's something we take pride in shaping properly.

Formerly known as Brickmart, Red Dust Landscape Supplies has been given a fresh start under new ownership, bringing new energy, higher standards, and a sharper focus on service. Based in Northam, the team continues to supply the core materials locals rely on—stone, blocks, pavers, bricks, and artificial turf—while stepping up what they deliver on the ground.

Because it's not just about selling materials. Red Dust is just as focused on putting them together the right way. From retaining walls to paving and full outdoor jobs, the business handles both supply and installation, keeping things straightforward and accountable from start to finish.

That approach is showing in the kind of work now being delivered. Recent projects, like the large limestone entry feature walls out at Bakers Hill, are a step up from your standard landscaping job. These builds are solid, reinforced, and designed to last—proper structures that make a statement and hold up over time.

In an industry where a lot of work is rushed or cut short, Red Dust is focused on doing things properly—good prep, the right materials, and work that stands up in WA conditions. It's a simple approach, but one that makes a difference.

With rebranding underway, new developments coming through, and a range of specials on the horizon, Red Dust is moving into its next phase. The team—Christine Oliver, Marcus Lloyd, Jason Oliver and Mel Hughes—are ready to help you build your castle.

At the end of the day, it's not just about what goes into the ground—it's about what stays there.

Laid once, done right.

Increase your property's value with landscaping by Gavin Smith

Landscaping is not only a great way to increase your property's value, but it can also improve the first impression appeal, possibly resulting in more interested buyers.

The key is to maximise your property's value whilst only spending a minimum amount of time and money on the improvements. There are plenty of ways to create beautiful, yet low-maintenance gardens that potential buyers will love.

Keep it Simple

Even though you want to create an appealing front and back area, prospective buyers may lose interest if there are too many components that require regular maintenance. Some examples may include a fish pond, vegetable garden, swimming pool or even just a large area of grass. People probably don't want to spend a lot of time on the weekends mowing their lawn or paying someone else to do it.

Stay Undercover

A paved outdoor area is a must if you are trying to sell or rent your investment property. Outdoor entertaining is extremely popular, particularly during summer, so an outdoor area will help make your property more appealing. It is also important to create

an area that is weather resistant. For example, although shade sails are aesthetically pleasing, it is important to note that you may not be 100% protected if it's raining.

Go Green

Although plants can naturally improve the property's appeal, it is best to find ones that are low-maintenance. Not all areas will have the same plants available, so it is best to speak with your local nursery to see what options they have. Some examples you could consider include:

- Bird of Paradise
- Japanese sacred bamboo
- Camellia
- New Zealand flax

Go Solar

Solar lights add a nice touch to the garden without adding extra costs to the electricity bill and there are plenty of designs to choose from. They can be used to line the pathway up to the front door, hung up in the outdoor entertainment area or simply used to illuminate a garden bed. They are a quirky, yet cost effective way to improve your outdoor area.

Article taken from smartpropertyinvestment.com.au/investor-strategy/12986-increase-your-property-s-value-with-landscaping

Demolish & Build with WA Country Builders



10 Reasons to Consider a Demolish and Build

If you love where you live, why not stay put?

For many Western Australian homeowners, a demolish and build project is a smart alternative to renovating or relocating. Demolish and build projects let you remain in your much-loved neighbourhood while replacing an older home with a modern, functional property designed for your lifestyle.

Here are 10 reasons why a demolish and build project could be the right move.

1. Stay in the Location You Love

Rebuilding allows you to stay close to schools, work, friends, and family while upgrading to a home that better suits your needs. At WA Country Builders, we know the Wheatbelt communities and can design a home that fits seamlessly into the area.

2. Build a Modern Home

A new build gives you complete control over your design. Open-plan living, improved storage, and indoor-outdoor spaces can all be tailored to your lifestyle. Experienced local builders can ensure your home is functional, stylish and suited to regional living.

3. Make a Smart Property Investment

Demolish and build projects can be a savvy investment. At WA Country Builders, we can guide you through

subdivision options or design a home that maximises your land value with a contemporary home.

4. Avoid Extra Buying Costs

Rebuilding on your existing land can help you sidestep costs associated with purchasing elsewhere, such as stamp duty and real estate fees.

5. More Affordable Than Major Renovations

Extensive renovations often uncover hidden problems, from wiring to structural issues. Demolishing and building a new home can be more cost-effective, providing predictable costs and a fresh start.

6. Avoid Unexpected Renovation Surprises

Renovating older homes can reveal unforeseen issues. A new build removes these uncertainties, giving you more control over budget and timelines.

7. Make Better Use of Your Block

Older homes may not maximise the potential of your land. A rebuild allows you to design a home that optimises outdoor spaces, sunlight, and privacy, with layouts suited to your block.

8. Improve Comfort and Energy Efficiency

New homes meet modern building standards, including better insulation, glazing, and energy-efficient features, improving comfort and reducing running costs.

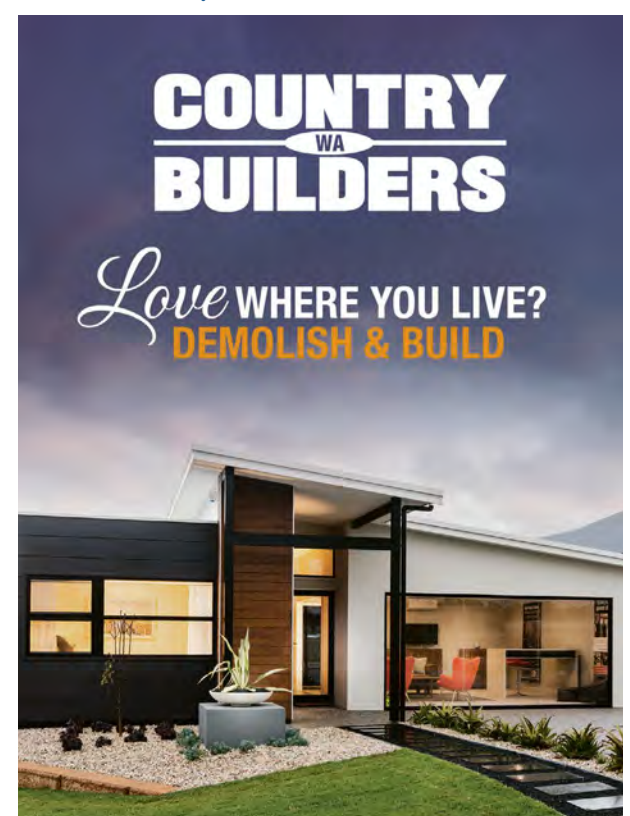
9. Lower Maintenance

Older homes often need ongoing repairs. A new build typically requires less maintenance in the first years, saving time and money.

10. Expert Guidance Makes the Process Easier

Demolish and build projects have unique requirements. Working with experienced local builders such as WA Country Builders ensures a smooth, stress-free journey from planning to completion, with expert guidance every step of the way. With the right team guiding the process, it's a straightforward, rewarding, and smart investment for your future.

For more information, you can contact one of our New Homes Consultants to discuss further on (08) 6141 9125 or visit wacountrybuilders.com.au.



COUNTRY WA BUILDERS

Stylish home designs built with
peace of mind from **\$345,483***



**PRICE HOLD
GUARANTEE**



**LIFETIME
STRUCTURAL
WARRANTY**



Move into your **dream home** sooner with the Express Series.
Nineteen home designs created for modern living.

Backed by our commitment to a *Better* building experience.

*Terms and conditions apply and vary between regional locations. Pricing may change based on location. Pictures for illustration purposes only. Not available in conjunction with any other promotion, competition, discount, or incentive. Offer ends 30th June, 2026.
For more information please contact a New Homes Consultant. BC11422.

the *Better* building experience.

Contact us: 6241 7000 | wacountrybuilders.com.au

OFFICE LOCATIONS | Albany | Bunbury | Busselton | Geraldton | Greater Perth

MEMBER OF THE
JWHGROUP

Built for Regional WA, Backed by a Local Team

In regional Western Australia, the way you build matters, and so does the team behind it.

Based in Northam, the team at Evoke Living Homes brings together local knowledge, hands-on experience, and a clear understanding of what works in regional conditions. It's a practical, considered approach, focused on delivering homes that suit the Western Australian lifestyle.

From design through installation, every stage is managed efficiently and with attention to detail. The process is streamlined, the communication is clear, and the outcome is a home built to perform where it matters most.

Evoke Living Homes continues to focus on what matters: delivering well-built homes, supported by a team that understands regional WA.

If you're considering building, take the time to see the difference for yourself and get in touch with the team at 1300 138 653 or sales@elhomes.com.au.



Modular home leaving the construction yard in Northam

Modular Homes Building a Faster, Smarter Future for Regional WA

Modular homes are fast becoming a popular housing solution across regional Western Australia, offering a practical, cost-effective and flexible alternative to traditional builds.

With housing shortages and rising construction costs continuing to impact regional communities, modular homes provide a streamlined approach. Built in sections within a controlled factory environment, these homes are then transported to site and assembled, significantly reducing construction time. In areas where access to trades can be limited, this efficiency is a major advantage.

One of the key benefits of modular homes is cost certainty. Traditional builds in regional areas can be subject to delays due to weather, labour shortages or supply chain issues, often resulting in budget blowouts. Modular construction minimises these risks, as much of the work is completed off-site under consistent conditions. This allows for more accurate pricing and fewer unexpected expenses.

Speed of construction is another major drawcard. While a conventional home build can take well over a year, modular homes can often be completed in a matter of months. For regional towns experiencing population growth or workforce shortages, such as those linked to mining, agriculture or health services, this faster turnaround can help meet urgent housing demand.

Modular homes also offer impressive design flexibility. Far from the basic "prefab" image of the past, modern modular homes can be customised to suit a wide range of styles, layouts and budgets. Homeowners can choose from various floorplans, finishes and features, allowing them to create a home that reflects their lifestyle while still benefiting from the efficiencies of modular construction.

Sustainability is another important advantage. Because modular homes are built in a factory setting, there is typically less material waste compared to traditional on-site construction. Many builders also incorporate energy-efficient designs, including improved insulation, solar-ready systems and water-saving fixtures—features that are particularly valuable in regional Western Australia, where energy and water costs can be higher.

Transport and installation have also become more refined over time. Experienced providers carefully plan delivery logistics to ensure modules arrive safely, even in more remote locations. Once on-site, the assembly process is quick and efficient, reducing disruption to the surrounding area.

Importantly, modular homes can also support local economies. While the structures are manufactured off-site, site preparation, installation and finishing work often involve local contractors and suppliers. This creates opportunities for regional businesses while still delivering a high-quality end product.

For first home buyers, downsizers and even businesses needing staff accommodation, modular homes present a smart and adaptable solution. They can also be expanded over time, with additional modules added as needs change—an appealing option for growing families or evolving enterprises.

As regional Western Australia continues to develop, innovative housing solutions are essential. Modular homes offer a modern, efficient and increasingly attractive option, helping to address housing challenges while delivering comfort, quality and long-term value for those choosing to call the regions home.



Choices Flooring by Dallimores

Your local flooring experts – specialists in carpet, luxury vinyl & rigid/hybrid hard flooring.

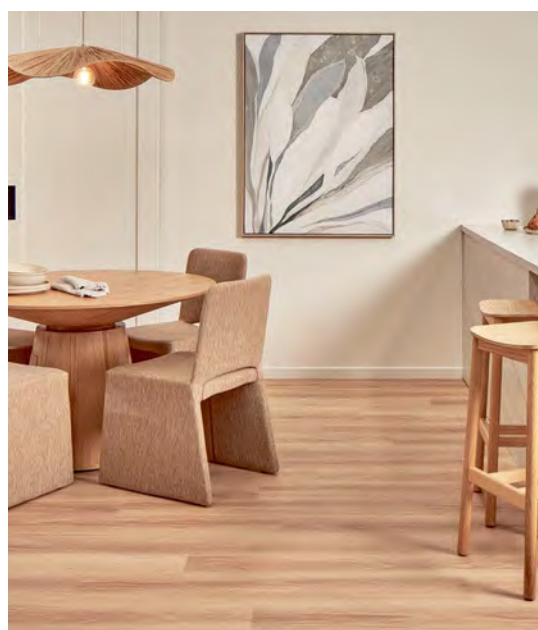
Welcome to Choices Flooring by Dallimores, where four generations of expertise meet a passion for quality floor coverings.

For 80 years, we've been the go-to destination in the Avon Valley & Wheatbelt areas, serving generations with top-notch service & unbeatable flooring solutions.

Visit us in-store or go to choicesflooring.com to view our wide range of products.

Helping you make the right choice...

258 Fitzgerald Street, Northam
08 9622 1154 • choicesflooring.com



nbn Delivers Faster, More Reliable Internet Across the Wheatbelt

Eligible homes and businesses in the Wheatbelt are now benefitting from local nbn upgrades to the fibre and fixed wireless networks.

Upgrades to the network included:

- Full fibre upgrades to homes and businesses in the Wheatbelt
- Upgrades to the local Fixed Wireless network under the Fixed Wireless Upgrade Program.

Upgrading to full fibre delivers a range of benefits for customers when compared to copper connections, including smoother video calls, enhanced streaming, quicker response times for gaming, and the ability to connect more devices simultaneously – including smart TVs, home security systems, and smart home technology.

To upgrade to full fibre, eligible new and existing customers have to place an order for an eligible high-speed plan (at least 100 Mbps download) through an internet service provider.

We have also rolled out a significant enhancement to the Fixed Wireless network.

With a \$750 million investment - \$480 million from the Australian Government and

\$270 million from NBN Co - we've brought faster speeds and greater capacity to more than 800,000 homes and businesses across Australia.

In the Wheatbelt this means better connectivity for communities utilising the nbn Fixed Wireless network.

Speeds have been significantly boosted with Fixed Wireless Home Fast now available to about 90 per cent of the expanded Fixed Wireless footprint and is expected to offer peak wholesale speeds of about 200-250/8-20 Mbps.

These improvements are already making a difference for families, students, and small businesses who need reliable internet for day-to-day operations and future growth.

Do you live in a 'smart' home? 5 reasons innovation and sustainability are non-negotiables

Making your home a smart one has loads of benefits – especially if you're moving into a new build or community.

Smart homes rely on automation to improve efficiency, comfort and sustainability, integrating clever, interdependent devices powered by a fast, reliable and secure internet connection – like one powered by the nbn network.

A good example is a smart home hub (like a video display) that's connected via Wi-Fi to the home's smart security system, communication tools and entertainment gadgets like speakers to enable the residents to control everything from the one device, whether they're at home or away.

These improvements are already making a difference for families, students, and small businesses who need reliable internet for day-to-day operations and future growth.

With that in mind, here are five reasons why a smart home that combines innovation and sustainability is an absolute non-negotiable.

1. You'll be better connected

Imagine you've set up that aforementioned smart home hub and linked it to every room and device in the house. You can take it to the next level by connecting it to the internet using a powerful internet connection like nbn, which delivers, via a retail provider, fast, reliable and secure broadband.

As a result, you're reliably connected to the different spaces within your property, giving you a bird's eye view of everything going on, no matter where you are.

2. Save time and create peace of mind

Another benefit of setting up a smart home is that it can make your property run a lot more efficiently.

Smart hubs can be operated by voice control alone, letting you manage your home while you focus on other tasks.

3. Your home will be more comfortable

Smart homes often integrate clever tools like smart thermostats that automatically adapt according to outside temps and personal preferences.

The result is a home that's vastly more comfortable and convenient to live in.

4. You'll help your home to operate sustainably

Particularly important is that a smart home can make your property a much more sustainable one.

By installing devices like smart lighting, smart thermostats, and smart irrigation, you can significantly reduce your home's energy consumption and emissions.

You can also go one better by purchasing appliances like smart fridges and washing machines, which monitor the loads inside them and adjust energy usage accordingly.

5. And more security

A smart home security system includes tools like video doorbells that let you see who's at the door, smart locks that rely on codes or fingerprints and allow you to track who's coming and going, and smart cameras and sensors that sometimes feature facial recognition technology.

Article taken from realestate.com.au/advice/do-you-live-in-a-smart-home-5-reasons-innovation-and-sustainability-are-non-negotiables/

FAST NBN® SPEEDS FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

To see what's available at your address visit nbn.com.au/check



CHECK YOUR ADDRESS

© 2025 nbn co ltd. 'nbn' and nbn logos are trademarks or registered trademarks of nbn co ltd | ABN 86 136 533 741



8 Ways to Add Value to Your Home

What adds value to your house? Well, turns out a lot of things. However, there are many more that can make a significant impact without requiring a massive investment. From simple cosmetic upgrades to smart home features, there are numerous ways to attract those prospective buyers and boost property value.

Whether you're planning to sell soon or simply want to enhance your living space, these 8 proven methods will help you get the most out of your Australian home. Let's explore how small changes can create an emotional connection with a prospective buyer, leading to big rewards.

Maximise Curb Appeal

Did you know that curb appeal can boost your Australian property by up to 20% or more? First impressions matter, and enhancing the exterior of your home can make all the difference. In fact, no matter how good your home's interior is, a lackluster exterior can turn potential buyers or visitors away before they even step inside.

Start with these simple improvements to make a lasting impact:

- **Install a Patio:** A well-designed patio made from durable pavers adds both style and functionality, creating an inviting outdoor space.
- **Add Pathways:** Paver pathways leading to your front door enhance both aesthetics and accessibility.
- **Maintain a Lush Lawn:** Keep your grass healthy and trimmed for a neat and tidy appearance.
- **Add an Outdoor Kitchen:** Build an outdoor kitchen area with a grill, countertops, and storage to create the perfect space for entertaining while increasing the appeal of your backyard.

Even smaller, overlooked aspects like your outdoor lighting, colour scheme, and other factors like modern house numbers or a clean driveway can significantly contribute to your home's curb appeal. These simple touches can elevate your property's overall look and make it stand out to potential buyers.

Add a Fresh Coat of Paint

According to Consumer Reports, applying fresh exterior paint or even making minor touch-ups can increase the financial market value of your home by 2-5%. It's one of the most cost-effective home improvement ideas on our list, offering a big difference without breaking the bank.

Similar to your home's outdoor space, its exterior walls play a significant role in its perceived value. After all, first impressions count, and the way your home looks from the street — its street appeal — can make a huge difference.

Note: A well-maintained, freshly painted exterior enhances the overall aesthetics and signals that the property is cared for and in good condition. Inside, using neutral colours for your walls can help make your space feel larger and more inviting, while also appealing to a wide range of buyers. Neutral tones are versatile, easy to pair with different furniture and décor, and can make your home feel more modern and spacious.

Make Your Home More Energy Efficient

Most of us know that you have to spend money to make money, and when it comes to home improvements, investing in energy efficiency can provide long-term

savings. Upgrading your home's insulation, windows, and heating or cooling systems can reduce your energy bills and create a more comfortable living environment.

Other energy-efficient upgrades which don't require huge upfront costs include:

- **Install a Smart Thermostat:** Controls heating and cooling efficiently and adjusts to your schedule.
- **Use Smart Lighting:** Switch to LED bulbs for less power use and remote control options.
- **Upgrade Insulation:** This keeps your home comfortable and reduces energy expenses.
- **Seal Windows and Doors:** Prevent drafts and maintain indoor temperatures.
- **Install Energy-Efficient Windows:** Reduces heat loss and keeps the house cooler.
- **Upgrade Appliances:** Choose energy-efficient models to lower power use.

Build a Granny Flat

Looking for a way to boost your property value and create a new income stream? A granny flat might be just what you need. These compact, yet practical living spaces can add extra room to your property without the hassle of major renovations. Whether you want to use it as a rental, a guesthouse, or a space for family, a granny flat offers plenty of versatility and can really add value to your property.

In popular suburbs, granny flats can bring in anywhere from \$200 to \$600 per week in rent. If you're unsure about how to get started or what would work best for your property, it's always a good idea to reach out to a local real estate agent for expert advice. They can help you figure out the best design, location, and rental options for your granny flat.

Increase Storage Space

One way to increase square footage without actually expanding your home is by enhancing storage space. This doesn't mean you need to build new rooms; it's about maximising the potential of the spaces you already have. Adding built-in shelves, utilising underutilised areas like attics or basements, or incorporating smart storage solutions in your garage can all help create a more organised and functional home.

Add Another Bedroom

While it can vary depending on location, a general rule of thumb is that adding an extra bedroom can increase your home's resale value by an average of 15% to 20%. That's a significant boost to your property's value!

To make this addition without breaking down walls, consider converting any spare rooms you have.

If possible, you could also look at spaces like large living areas or even basements to create an additional bedroom. This simple change can make a big difference in your home's appeal to prospective buyers.

Affordable Home Refresh

You don't need a full renovation to update your home. Simple modern updates, like replacing handles, taps, or light fixtures can instantly refresh any room without major renovations. This method requires only a small budget, making it a cost-effective way to give your home a fresh, modern look.

Consider painting outdated tiles or walls for an affordable facelift. Replacing old furniture, like a tired vanity or sofa, can greatly impact your property. Add new decorative pieces, or accessories such as mirrors, rugs, or storage solutions to complete the look.

These easy updates work across all rooms, and even your exterior. For example, you can fix any loose pavers or fence palings or refresh outdoor furniture to improve your curb appeal instantly.

Upgrade Your Landscaping

Upgrading your landscaping is an easy way to make a big impact on your home's curb appeal and value. A well-kept yard with lush greenery, colorful flowers, and features like paver pathways or decorative stone walls can create a warm, inviting feel. It's the first thing people notice, so having a beautiful outdoor space helps make that all-important great first impression.

Additional Improvement Ideas

Looking for more budget-friendly ways to upgrade your home? Here are some smaller projects that can make a big impact:

- **Install a Backsplash:** A new kitchen or bathroom backsplash can refresh the space. Peel-and-stick tiles are an easy DIY option for a quick upgrade.
- **Add Crown Molding:** Simple crown molding can give any room a more elegant and finished look.
- **Upgrade Window Treatments:** Replace outdated blinds or curtains with modern options like sheer panels or bamboo shades for a polished touch.
- **Refresh Caulking and Grout:** Re-caulking sinks, tubs, and windows or re-grouting tile makes these areas look clean and well-maintained.
- **Replace Interior Doors:** Swapping out old, hollow-core doors with new paneled or solid wood ones can elevate the look of your interior and make rooms feel more upscale.
- **Update House Numbers:** Install modern or stylish house numbers to enhance your home's curb appeal. This simple and affordable update makes a noticeable difference and adds a touch of character.

Conclusion

Boosting your home's value doesn't have to mean a complete overhaul or breaking the bank. From refreshing curb appeal and adding functional spaces to making simple yet impactful updates, these strategies can transform your home into a more attractive and profitable property. Whether it's adding a splash of fresh paint, enhancing your landscaping, or embracing energy-efficient upgrades, each project contributes to creating a home that sells better and faster.

Choosing the right improvements can set you up for a successful sale and maximize your profit. These enhancements don't just appeal to prospective buyers; they also make your home more enjoyable for year-round living. By focusing on upgrades that bring comfort, style, and functionality, you ensure your home stands out in a competitive market, bringing lasting benefits whether you're thinking of selling soon or enjoying your home for years to come.

Article taken from: propertyupdate.com.au/8-ways-to-add-value-to-your-home/



Property Market Update:

The regional property market across Western Australia's Wheatbelt continues to show solid activity and consistent demand, particularly for well-priced homes. Buyers remain active and are moving quickly once suitable properties become available, highlighting ongoing confidence in the regional market.

Recent trends indicate that while new listings are gradually coming to market, overall stock levels remain relatively tight. This is continuing to create a competitive environment, especially for well-presented homes in desirable locations. Houses remain the dominant segment of the market, with unit and vacant land activity still comparatively limited.

A standout highlight this month is Northam being ranked 10th by REIWA for highest growth among regional centres for March, recording an impressive 26.9% increase. Further strengthening this result, Northam's median house price has now reached \$500,000, while the median rental price sits at approximately \$530.00 per week — a clear reflection of the area's continued growth, strong rental demand, and increasing appeal to both investors and owner-occupiers.

Home Of The Month



40 Knight Street, Northam WA 6401
4 Bedroom 1 Bathroom
\$680,000

Claire Stylianou
0407 086 156
claire@connectwa.com.au

2026 Northam Motor Sport Festival

Sunday 26th & 27th April 2026



Rev your engines and get ready for an unforgettable experience at the 2026 Northam Motor Sport Festival. Whether you're a classic car enthusiast, a motorsport fan, or just love the thrill of sleek designs and powerful engines, this event has something for everyone.

Join us for a day of stunning cars, racing fun and so many amazing attractions that will keep the whole family entertained.

Sunday

Kicking off with the Flying 50 from 9am to 5pm for a full day of racing.

- Flying 50 • 'Round the Houses' Races • Shannon's Show 'n' Shine • Another Fine Mess • Harley Davidson Stunt Riders • AVAS & Bunnings Activities • Face Painting
- Carnival Rides & Bouncy Castle • Local Shops & Eateries open
- Food Trucks • Markets • Northam Boulevard Arcade Alley • Road Closures in Place.

Monday

Monday is set to bring the skid in to the Mt Ommanney Hill Climb

- Food & Coffee Trucks • Road Closures in Place

Don't miss out on this awesome event.

Selling, Buying, Renting, Investing

contactus@connectwa.com.au
(08) 9622 7007

120 Fitzgerald Street, Northam WA

How Much Does it Cost to Renovate a Heritage Listed House?

The average cost of renovations in Australia ranges from \$20,000 for minor renovations to \$300,000 or more for an extensive transformation. The average cost of renovations per square metre is \$2000 to \$4000 per m², while labour can cost \$50 to \$85 per hour.

When you buy an older home or a heritage listed house, there may be hidden renovation costs that you don't know about until it's too late. When you learn how much these renovations cost, an old home might not be such a bargain after all.

Find out what to expect with heritage building renovation costs and other considerations.

What is a heritage listed building?

Not all old homes are heritage listed properties. These are buildings that are considered to have historical significance. You can find out whether your home is listed by looking for its listing on the State Heritage Register for your state.

There are pros and cons to buying a heritage listed property. Some of the positives are that you may be eligible for funding through a heritage grant and will usually pay lower council tax and land tax compared to properties of similar size.

However, while you can buy, sell and maintain heritage properties as normal, there can be restrictions on repairs and modifications. These must be compatible and complementary to the original design and require approval from your local council.

Renovating a heritage listed property

When you carry out renovations to a heritage listed property, the council's main concern will be that you preserve the style of the building. While regulations vary, preserving the appearance of the front of the home and rooms in the front of the house are generally the priorities. This can mean:

- Sourcing matching materials for replacements
- Using traditional finishes (oils and waxes)
- Maintaining the aged patina of fabrics and other items
- Using a limited colour palette
- Repairing rather than replacing whenever possible



Heritage home in Northam, Byfield House

How much do home renovations cost?

The cost of renovating a heritage home isn't always more than a standard home, unless you need to source uncommon materials such as copper guttering that are more expensive than alternatives.

The average cost of renovations in Australia ranges from \$20,000 for minor renovations to \$300,000 or more for an extensive transformation.

The average cost of renovations per square metre is \$2000 to \$4000 per m².

The largest expense is labour, which can cost \$50 to \$85 per hour depending on where you live and other factors.

When you get quotes from builders for your renovation, check that this includes all the services you need or ask for an itemised bill so you can avoid surprises later. You should choose contractors with suitable experience of heritage listed buildings so they won't make costly mistakes.

Common issues with older homes

Any home deteriorates with age. When you buy an older or heritage listed property, you need to find out

how much it has deteriorated. This is where a pre-purchase inspection can be well worth it.

Some renovations can be inexpensive, but structural repairs or modifications can be very expensive. These may include:

- Asbestos removal
- Rewiring
- Foundation work
- Termite damage
- Roof replacement
- Load bearing walls
- Flooring

Ultimately, while renovating a heritage home can come with added challenges and unexpected costs, the reward lies in preserving a piece of history and creating a unique space that stands the test of time.

Article taken from hipages.com.au/article/how_much_does_it_cost_to_renovate_an_older_or_heri

ELECTRICAL COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATION & AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTOR



dgrafton@bigpond.net.au

0408 947 567

Serving the Avon Valley since 1951

EC005202 AU55626 ABN42833184395

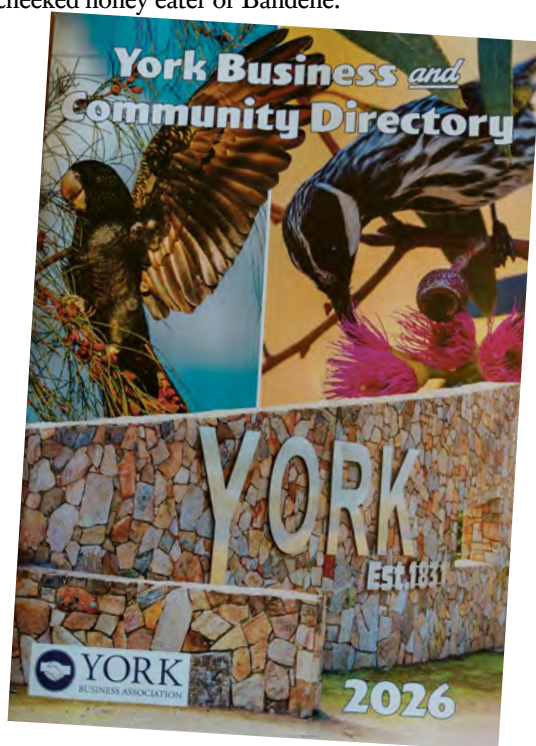


DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL
INSTALL AND SERVICE

York Yarns April

I am not sure how but somehow I have got to April and almost to Easter, without giving in; that is to buying hot cross buns! (failed in the chocolate department)! It may have something to do with the last packet of mince pies fast approaching the use by date or just the fact that I am a traditionalist and can't come to terms with some flavours currently on offer, Doritos? Rocky road? Mint slice? And what on earth is the point of fruitless? As usual, I digress, so I give in and I am off to the bakery! Lots of fruit in mine please, I'll add the butter. Enjoy.

Lots happening as usual in downtown York. Good to see the 2026 Business and Community directory has been distributed with great local information and a large range of fantastic local businesses to service York and surrounding areas. The front cover is amazing and the images are from talented local photographers. Bryn Watkins took the two stunning bird images, they are the endangered forrest red-tail or Kaarak and the white cheeked honey eater or Bandene.



Kai Keremata took the other great image of the York sign as you come into town from Great Southern Highway. It is great to have such skills right here in York especially when they are happy and willing to share that talent.

I promise I won't tell if anyone from Northam decides to opt for a quieter Anzac weekend and come to York rather than enduring ear shattering motor madness for the whole three days. York Heritage Weekend has lots on offer in the way of talks, exhibits and tours and the only 'noise' will be from our many and varied top class musical offerings! Hatch a plan, get tickets, don't miss out! Bring some friends and, like I said, I won't tell!! Here is some of what we have planned.

Friday 24th 6pm. Family Concert in Avon Park featuring local musos, River Birdz, Kim Anning Trio and Triple Engine. BYO, bring a picnic, chair and chuck in a jacket in case. Be early for a good spot and the preshow entertainment.

Book online with Humanitix for the Blues Breakfast Concert as part of 'Sunday at Sandalwood'. Hear Kerry B Ryan an experienced blues guitarist, vocalist, songwriter and performing artist who has performed live for over thirty years. He first picked up a guitar at thirteen and has carried it everywhere ever since. A great opportunity to enjoy this musical experience close to home and a great way to kick start the day!

We have presentations by historian Richard Offen on 'The History of Photography' John Viska on 'The History of Roses' Damain from Bee central on the 'History of the McNamara family' the family who brought honey production to the York area and Lilly Pilly design on restoring Lilly Pilly place a 1917 Federation home in Bayswater. So much to enjoy about our history.



Photo courtesy Residency Museum, York

Make time to pop into Settlers to see the Amana memorial and learn more details of this tragic aviation event the crash near York in June 1950 that left no survivors. You can rest your weary legs as well and take on some refreshments!

Sunday evening come to the Imperial Homestead to enjoy 'Maggie's Delight' Bush Band. No cover charge so grab a drink & something off the menu and have a fun night.

Monday 27th you can book a seat on the bus for a trip to Greenhills now operating as the Greenhills



Photo: Greenhills

Art Centre. Meet the new owners Johanna and Greg Larkin and hear their plans plus share stories from the old days of the Greenhills Pub, they would love to hear your tales, tall or short and are keen to learn about the building's history. Morning tea is included and a quick trip round the Greenhills townsite and we will even bring you back to York. Tickets at Humanitix, \$20 each. As a bonus Johanna has generously donated two glorious artworks that will be raffled during the weekend, one raffle each day Saturday, Sunday and Monday, tickets on sale at the town hall.

Check the York Heritage Weekend Facebook for updates and grab a printed programme from the visitor centre for all the info.

Wheatbelt Arts and Events also has a busy season ahead. On 6th June York Town Hall will host CATALPA: Flight to Freedom, a powerful theatrical retelling of the daring 1876 rescue of Irish political prisoners from Fremantle Gaol by Theatre 180. Tickets are available online & I understand are already selling fast! If you seen any of the other offerings by theatre 180 you know you will be in for a treat.

See you at the Heritage celebrations!

The York Scribe.



Photo: Artwork donated for the Heritage raffle 2026

“ a room without books
is like a body without
a soul ”
Cicero

Open Thursday - Sunday 9am-5pm



**BARCLAY
BOOKS**

Old Fire Station, 151 Avon Tce, YORK
p: 9641 1665
e: info@barclaybooks.com.au
w: barclaybooks.com.au

New, Used & Collectable Books. If it's not in stock we will find it for you!



Central
Regional

The Van is Here!

We are bringing new
opportunities to the

Wheatbelt

Hands-on hospitality training
delivered right in your town.

▶ Coffee skills ▶ Kitchen skills
▶ New opportunities!

**Got a group of 8 or more?
We'll bring the training to your town.**

MERREDIN | MUKINBUDIN | NUNGARIN | TRAYNING
WESTONIA | BENCUBBIN | BEACON | KOORDA | WYALKATCHEM
DOWERIN | NARROGIN | WAGIN | LAKE GRACE | DUMBLEYUNG
KUKERIN | WICKEPIN | WILLIAMS | BRUCE ROCK | CUNDERDIN
KULIN | BEVERLEY | GOOMALLING | QUAIRADING | PINGELLY
BODDINGTON | MOORA | MORAWA | DALWALLINU | LAKE GRACE
PERENJORI | COOROW | THREE SPRINGS | MECKERING
MOORINE ROCK | SOUTHERN CROSS | WONGAN-BALLIDU



Get in touch
enquiries@crtafe.wa.edu.au
centralregionaltafe.wa.edu.au
1800 672 700

**Supporting local people.
Supporting local businesses.
Supporting local futures.**

RT0: 52789



Artists Open Their Doors for New Avon Valley Arts Trail

by Lindsay Newland

A new arts initiative is set to bring creativity to life across the Avon Valley, with more than 25 artists now confirmed for the inaugural Bendigo Bank Avon Valley Arts Trail.

Taking place over the June long weekend, 30 May – 1 June 2026, the Arts Trail is a collaborative project between Avon Valley Arts Society and Arts Toodyay. The event invites visitors to step behind the scenes of artistic practice, exploring studios and creative spaces across both Northam and Toodyay.

Unlike traditional exhibitions, the Arts Trail offers a more immersive experience. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet artists in their working environments, view works in progress, watch demonstrations, and gain insight into the creative process, while also having the chance to purchase original artworks directly from the artists.

The strong response from artists across the area has exceeded initial expectations, with participation now surpassing the original target of 20 artists. The trail will feature a diverse range of practices with artists working across painting, printmaking, photography, mixed media, sculpture and ceramics.

Importantly, the event is designed not only to showcase local talent but also to encourage visitors to travel throughout the Avon Valley, supporting local businesses and experiencing the unique character of both towns and their surrounding landscapes.

The Arts Trail is supported by Bendigo Bank Northam

and Toodyay as part of a three-year sponsorship, helping to establish the event as a professionally coordinated and sustainable arts initiative for the area.

Organisers hope this inaugural trail will lay the foundation for a growing annual event, with potential to expand further across the Avon Valley in future years.

For more information, visit www.avonvalleyartstrail.org.au or follow Avon Valley Arts Trail on Facebook and Instagram for updates in the lead-up to the event.



UPCOMING at AVAS

Sketchbook Club

Teens, Wednesdays, after school - 5pm

Youth, Thursdays, after school - 4pm

Sketchbook Club is a chance to engage in creative practice, informal collaboration, and peer support. Bring your own sketchbook or purchase one from AVAS.

All other materials supplied

Cost: \$10

Life Drawing

Life drawing with Marie Fox and Ratna Knights

Friday 10th, 6pm

A relaxed and supportive class, featuring a professional life draw model. Open to all skill levels, Charcoal and basic materials provided.

Bookings Essential, limited to 10 participants

Cost: Members \$50 Non-members \$55

Trybooking/DKSQL

YAYA

YAYA - Young Avon Youth Artists Exhibition

Sunday 12 - Wednesday 16 April

Sun: 10am - 4pm | Weekdays: 12 - 4pm

Celebrate and support the creativity of young artists from across the Avon Valley. Free entry

**PURSLOWE
TINETTI
FUNERALS**

WA Family Owned

plan
YOUR
Goodbye
YOUR WAY

Call or email us for a free booklet to help you organise your future

Professional Burials & Cremations in Country & Metro Areas. Pre-paid Funerals & Bonds Available

Phone: 08 9622 1411

E: info@ptfnortham.com.au 264 Fitzgerald St Northam www.purslowetinettifunerals.com



AUSTRALIAN
FUNERAL
DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

Parents map new future pathway



Anyone who's had children understands how bleary-eyed those years with younger kids can be, which is why creating opportunities for parents to connect and support each other is so important.

Which was what happened when more than 30 Northam mums and hubs came together recently at the Bilya Koort Boodja centre for a community session, run by the Mums Collective, designed to build connection, share experiences and access expert advice.

Delivered by Training Alliance Group as part of the Parent Pathways program, the event brought local mums together in a supportive environment, with sleep specialists Ngala attending as guest speakers to talk sleep schedules, rocking rhythm and white noise.

"We want to empower people to get set up for life, and that help is often needed in a range of ways," said the Regional Manager for Training Alliance Group's Parent Pathways Kara Thompson.

"For example, this workshop with Ngala and Mums Collective has provided Northam mums with access locally to sleep advice, whether they are part of Parent Pathways or not. Anyone who has had kids knows how hard those early years can be, and even a little bit of support and community can make a big difference to the wellbeing of both mum and baby."

Across the wider Northam region, Kara said the Parent Pathways program is working with a number of local parents to help them take the next step in life.

"We're helping those parents with young children get their ducks sorted, whatever that might look like for them," Kara said.

"That can be by helping people get back into work through training or study, or connecting them to services they might need. We are here to help them overcome whatever barriers that might stop them from heading in a direction they want to take."

Delivered locally by Training Alliance Group, the Parent Pathways program provides up to \$1250 each year to eligible participants, supporting costs such as training, transport, driver's licences and technology.

The program also connects participants to health, wellbeing and community services, alongside mentoring to help them map out their future.

The program is open to parents or primary carers, including dads or grandparents who are not working and are receiving parenting payments.

"When you're overwhelmed and tired as a parent with young children, it can be hard to just Google and work it out. We've already done that work and we know what services are out there, so we can direct people in the right direction," Kara said.

"We help parents get referrals for experts and other support services they might need for themselves or their children, including finding them the right contacts, and filling out forms."

Training Alliance Group also assists parents find new career paths through a wide range of employment and training opportunities.

"We've helped parents train and get work as teachers, traffic control, start their own businesses in cleaning or cake-making, hairdressing, care support workers and even photography. We also provide support with the purchase of essential work equipment that they need.

"It's incredibly rewarding seeing these parents, with a bit of support, take on a whole new direction for them and their kids," Kara said.

Northam local Sheree is one of those participants. With her youngest nearly five, she has received mentoring, financial support and connections through Parent Pathways to complete her food safety supervisor certificate, first aid training and a barista course at the local TAFE.

The program has also assisted with practical support including a printer, phone, fuel and food vouchers, helping the mum of three towards a new career pathway.

"My older son has bought a coffee van, and with the qualifications I've now got, I can run it when he's away up north for work," Sheree said.

"I've been able to juggle my study with looking after the kids, and it's work that's doable around looking after my kids, with some help from my parents. We've already had the van at Optus Stadium for the footy and it was really good fun, and I'm excited by it."

Sheree said as well as providing support for her work options, the program has also helped connect her with services for her younger child.



Find out more about Parent Pathways

Parent Pathways is available to regional areas east and north of Perth, with offices in Northam, Toodyay and York. To find out more and apply, go to:

trainingalliance.com.au/parent-pathways

To be eligible you must be:

- The primary carer of a child under the age of 6 (this is based on the youngest child in your care)
- Not in paid employment
- Live in an area where there is a Parent Pathways provider

Additionally you must be receiving:

- Parenting payment (partnered or single), or
- Carers payment, or
- Special benefit

If you are not receiving a Centrelink payment, you may still be eligible if you are:

- Under 22 years old
- An early school leaver (meaning you don't have a year 12 qualification)
- A First Nations Australian parent or carer

"They've also helped me manage things I needed with my kids, linking me to the child health nurse, referrals for assessment and the school to get more support.

"Being able to reach out, and get help finding these services, has been amazing."

To find out about upcoming parenting events being run by the Mum Collective, visit their website: themumcollective.com.au.

Training Alliance Group delivers Parent Pathways locally, with a team and office in Northam. The organisation also supports people with disabilities into employment, building skills, confidence and meaningful career pathways. Visit their website: trainingalliance.com.au/parent-pathways.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

YOUTH... ON COUNTRY DAY

PCYC
Police & Community Youth Centres

In collaboration with **Ballardong** Shire of Ballardong

INFO
Join us as we visit Wandoo National Park with the Ballardong Marlek Rangers. Food and transport will be provided. Please wear enclosed shoes and bring a water bottle.

Meet at PCYC at 9.30am
Depart at 10.00am
Back at PCYC by 3.30pm

WHEN Wednesday 8th April 2026
9.30am - 3.30pm

WHO Ages 12 - 17

REGISTER THROUGH THE QR CODE

Or drop in and register with our friendly team at PCYC (133 Wellington St) or ACS (371 Fitzgerald St)

CONTACT 0498 285 473
northampcyc@wpcyc.com.au

YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS!

Youth Festival

**BUCKING BULL - MUSIC - ART
FACE PAINTING - FOOD**

AT BERNARD PARK 10 AM - 2 PM

15 APRIL STALLS, ACTIVITIES, BBQ LUNCH, COFFEE VAN, FOOD TRUCK, ICE CREAM VAN

YOUTH WEEK 2026 - STRENGTH IN OUR STORIES

headspace Northam WAPHA PCYC WHEATBELT

Easter Movie

and Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 5 April from 4pm
Movies start from 5pm

Join us to share in the incorrigible antics of Peter and his friends for **Peter Rabbit 1 (PG)** and **Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway (G)**

Info: (08) 6608 0310
events@northam.wa.gov.au
www.northam.wa.gov.au



Northam Comedy Night

Northam’s much-loved comedy night is making a highly anticipated return in 2026, after last year’s event sold out in just four days!

This year’s event, titled “Fast & Hilarious 2: Volunteer Drift,” will celebrate the vital contribution volunteers make to the Northam community. Organisers have confirmed new funding success, with thanks to VolunteeringWA and Lotterywest for supporting the initiative.

The comedy night is a collaboration between AVAS, Northam Town Team, Northam Theatre Group and Northam Regional Gym as funded partners

The 2026 event will take place on Saturday, 23 May, with two performances scheduled at 6pm and 8pm to meet expected demand. Building on the overwhelming response in 2025, organisers are encouraging comedy fans to plan ahead to avoid missing out.

Designed as both a celebration and a thank you, the event will bring together volunteers from a wide range of local organisations for an evening of connection and entertainment.

An early ticket release will be offered to those on the Northam Town Team mailing list. Community members are encouraged to register their interest by emailing northamtownteam@gmail.com to receive notification when tickets become available.

With strong demand already anticipated, “Fast & Hilarious 2: Volunteer Drift” is expected to once again be one of Northam’s standout community event.



UPCOMING EVENTS

APR 1&2

STANDARD MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID
Course participants learn about the signs and symptoms of common mental health problems in adults. Bookings free through Eventbrite. Wed 1st- 9am, Thurs 2nd- 4pm.

APR 1

COUNCIL REVIEW PLAN
The Shire of Northam is reviewing its Council Plan and inviting community members to have their say. Northam Rec Centre, 9.15am and 6.00pm. Refreshment served.

APR 03

PJ PARTY- KARAOKE NIGHT
Get comfy and come along for a fun night of karaoke! Wear your best pyjamas and sing your heart out. Prizes for the best dressed! 6pm til late.

APR 05

EASTER MOVIE AND EASTER EGG HUNT
Hop on over to Bernard Park this Easter Sunday from 4pm for an exciting chocolate egg hunt. Then join us from 5pm for the movies Peter Rabbit (PG) and Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway. (G) Coffee and ice cream will be available to purchase.

APR 15

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AUSKICK
Henry Street Oval: Auskick (Ages 5-7) Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Introduction to football skills, fun drills, and small-sided games. Superkick (Ages 8-12) Time: 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM, Cost: \$71.50 per participant. Book on playerrhq.

APR 15

YOUTH FESTIVAL
Join us for a fun-filled day with a bucking bull, music, interactive art activities, face painting and food! Bernard Park- 10am-4pm. Free event.

APR 17

WUNDOWIE MOVIES & MARKETS
Wundowie Hockey Oval - access via Banksia. 6pm until 10pm, GO! (PG)- WA movie followed by Gran Turismo (M) Free ice cream to first 200 customers

APR 25

ANZAC DAY PARADE
Hosted By Northam RSL Sub-Branch Location: Fitzgerald Street, Northam. Time: April 25th, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Traditional community march and service

APR 26

NORTHAM MOTOR SPORT FESTIVAL
Join us for a day of stunning cars, racing fun and so many amazing attractions that will keep the whole family entertained. Starts 9am, Free event. Local Band "Another Fine Mess" at the Bernard Park Soundshell from 5:30pm - 8pm

APR 27

MOUNT OMMANEY HILL CLIMB
Bring your family & friends along to the high-speed excitement coming your way. Starts at 9am. Free event.

Sponsored by:





Update from Chris Antonio, Shire of Northam President

It's great to see a number of both Shire-led and community events happening over the next couple of months. During April there is the chance to pay respects to all servicemen and women in a number of ANZAC Day ceremonies held right across the Shire. Following ANZAC Day over the same weekend, there will be the 2026 Northam Motorsport Festival. Keep an eye out for all of the great activities over the two-day event. I encourage all groups to advise the Shire of their event so that it's included on the Shire's upcoming events website and social pages, and to ensure that all necessary approvals are in place.

As we head into the Easter school holidays, this is a time to reflect on road safety, especially with the potential of more of our children enjoying the milder weather outdoors. Drive safely and to road conditions at all times.

We are currently in the restricted burning period. Please pay attention to what current burning period is advised by the Shire, and even when it becomes unrestricted, be aware of current conditions. If you see an emergency, dial Triple Zero (000) in the first instance. For all emergencies and updates, the central place of information is the Emergency WA App or website.

If you want to keep up to date with recent events, follow me on Instagram at the shire_of_northam_president page.

Northam Motor Sport Festival

The Northam Motor Sport Festival is back for 2026 and it's going to be bigger, better, and louder than ever!

Sunday 26th April | Northam CBD

Northam CBD will come alive with the sound of engines as vintage cars take over the streets for a thrilling series of races throughout the day.

If you are looking for even more action-packed fun, we've got you covered. Don't miss:

- Shannon's Show'n'Shine car show at Bernard Park
- Harley Davidson stunt performances throughout the day. Stunts at 10am next to the Village Green, main performance at 12:30pm on Minson Avenue, and again at 3pm next to the Village Green
- Carnival rides (rides incur a fee) in the Bernard Park car park
- Bouncy Castle at Bernard Park
- Arcade Alley in the Northam Boulevard
- Face Painting and crafting activities courtesy of AVAS and Bunnings
- Market stalls and local businesses open for trade
- Food trucks and local restaurants serving delicious food all day
- Another Fine Mess delivering the best tunes at the Bernard Park Sound Shell from 5:30pm until 8pm

Monday 27th April (Public Holiday) | Mount Ommanney

The annual Hill Climb at Mount Ommanney begins at 10am, presented by the Triumph Sports Owners Association of WA. Brace yourself for some intense moments as drivers tackle the challenging 2km course.

This historic event truly has something for everyone, so mark this long weekend in your calendars, and join us for a wild ride!

For full event details, follow @northammotorsportfestival on Facebook.

Upcoming Road Closures

Various road closures will be in place between 25th -27th April to accommodate ANZAC Services and the Northam Motor Sport Festival. For a full list of planned closures, please visit our website.

Easter Movie & Egg Hunt

Hop on over to Bernard Park on Easter Sunday from 4pm for an exciting chocolate egg hunt, where the Easter Bunny has hidden sweet surprises!

Then join us from 5pm to share in the incorrigible antics of Peter and his friends in Peter Rabbit (PG) and Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway (G).

Coffee and ice cream will be available to purchase, so bring your blankets, your chairs or beanbags, and enjoy the community atmosphere.

Wundowie Movies & Markets

Join us on 17th April from 6pm at Wundowie Hockey Oval (access via Banksia Avenue) for 2 action-packed movies and a chance to browse the markets.

Movies shown will be:

GO! (PG) - WA movie

Gran Turismo (M) *Please note - this movie is rated M so recommended for persons 15+

Free ice cream for the first 200 customers.

ANZAC Day Services

Services have been planned in various locations around the Shire, including a dawn service in Northam. For full details on all services, visit our events calendar.

Council Plan Review

We are currently undertaking a review of our Council Plan, and are inviting community members to have their say. The Council Plan guides the Shire's priorities, services and projects over the coming years. Your feedback will help us understand what matters most to our community and ensure the Plan continues to reflect local needs, aspirations and ideas.

Sessions are being held on 31st March and 1st April in Northam and Bakers Hill (details on our website), and feedback gathered in these sessions will be used in conjunction with results from the Shire's recent community survey to dictate the direction of the plan.





**PROTECT YOUR SKIN
BOOK YOUR CHECK TODAY**

**ALL SKIN CHECKS AND
EXCISIONS WILL BE
BULK BILLED**

**Biopsies may incur a fee*

BOOK IN ANYTIME



BOOK NOW



**Livingston Medical Cunderdin | 55 Lundy Ave
www.livingstonmedical.com.au | 6244 3279**

All Good Bro? Northam's First Shaka Project Ambassadors



Photo: Lucas and Ebony in Northam

Northam locals, mother and son Ebony and Lucas Cleveland have officially been named ambassadors for The Shaka Project, becoming the first and only ambassadors in Northam. In another significant milestone, Lucas is also the youngest ambassador the organisation has ever appointed.

The Shaka Project is a mental health initiative that encourages open conversations about mental wellbeing, connection and suicide prevention. As ambassadors, Ebony and Lucas help share the organisation's message within their community, encourage important conversations around mental health, and help connect people with the support and resources they may need.

The journey began several years ago following on social media, but early last year the pair first met The Shaka Project founder Sean during a visit to Perth. Lucas was deeply moved by Sean's message about crushing the stigma, being there for your mates and your own mental health.

Wanting as many people as possible in the community to hear the powerful message, with the support from Avon Valley Toyota, Ebony organised for Sean to travel to Northam to present his story in September last year. The presentation resonated strongly with those who attended, sparking meaningful conversations and positive feedback from the community.

Following that response, Ebony and Lucas are now working together to bring Sean back to Northam for another presentation, giving even more people the opportunity to experience the message firsthand, or to listen again.

The upcoming event will be held on Monday, 11 May 2026 at 6pm at the Northam Recreation Centre. The presentation is free to attend, with registrations available via Humanitix.

The session is suitable for a wide range of community members, including teachers, senior high school students, Elders, coaches, team members, employers, employees, parents and grandparents, with the aim of equipping attendees with tools to better support your family, friends and community.

By stepping into their roles as ambassadors, Lucas and Ebony hope to continue building a stronger, more supportive community where conversations about mental health and suicide awareness are welcomed and encouraged.

To save 10% off merchandise, use the promo code "Lucas" at theshakaproject.com. All funds raised help to deliver free presentations across Australia.

The pair would like to thank The Shire of Northam and Northam Town Team for their assistance in the event.

you're. Invited



SEAN PHILLIP, FOUNDER OF THE SHAKA PROJECT IS COMING TO NORTHAM AND YOU'RE INVITED

This FREE event is open to men, women, Elders, educators, players, coaches, umpires, volunteers, or anyone in our community you think can benefit from attending. This powerful & important presentation is focused on mental health awareness & suicide prevention.



MONDAY 11 MAY 2026

NORTHAM RECREATIONAL CENTRE 6:00PM

RSVP FOR PLANNING PURPOSES VIA HUMANITIX

[HTTPS://EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/THE-SHAKA-PROJECT-FREE](https://events.humanitix.com/the-shaka-project-free)



Bring a mate - or a few. The more people we can reach, the bigger impact we can make. Let's make a difference together.

16years & over event

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



#allgoodbro

YOUR WHEATBELT SUPPORT PROVIDER

**PERSONALISED, PROFESSIONAL
CARE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY**

OUR SERVICES

**NDIS SUPPORT AND COORDINATION
PSYCHOSOCIAL RECOVERY COACHING
AOD COUSSELLING AND MENTORING
CHILD ACCESS AND VISITATION**

LEARN MORE

**WWW.CRAWFORDCARE.COM.AU
INFO@CRAWFORDCARE.COM.AU
PH: 0497 173 963**



We
ndis

BIG NAME DESIGNER SALE

Any pair for
\$149



Scan to book
an appointment



Specsavers

Northam

Northam Boulevard Shopping Centre
(Next to Sports Power) Tel 9670 3666

In store for all prescriptions and online for +/-6. Available with any frame purchase. Extra Thin + Light and UCSC included with the \$399 range and MiyoSmart. Discount applies to additional lens options purchased. Excludes safety eyewear and reglazes. Both pairs for same person. Use with other offers restricted. Offer valid 1 March to 28 March.

Sun Safety – Looking After Our Skin



Us West Aussies love nothing more than getting outdoors and enjoying the abundance of sunshine that lathers our great state. A small amount of incidental exposure to sunlight, around a few minutes each day, is important for maintaining adequate levels of Vitamin D needed for strong bones, muscles and overall good health. Too much exposure however, places us at great risk of damage from Ultraviolet (UV) radiation which potentially could lead to the development of skin cancer. We need to get the balance right!

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world mainly due to our very high UV levels. According to the Cancer Council WA, at least two in every three people will develop some type of skin cancer before they reach the age of 70.

Of the three main types of skin cancer most of these people will develop a basal cell carcinoma which is usually a small, slow growing abnormal growth found mainly on the upper body, head and neck. They don't usually spread far but if left can result in facial and body disfigurement. The next most common is the squamous cell carcinoma

often found on the lips, ears and scalp. These grow quicker and if left can potentially spread into the lymph nodes of the neck and then to other parts of the body.

The last and most dangerous type is the melanoma which accounts for about one to two percent of all skin cancers. It can be found anywhere on the body but is mainly on the upper back of men and lower legs of women. It is an aggressive type and if left untreated can spread quickly to other parts of the body and potentially be fatal! It was estimated that this year alone there will be over 14,000 new cases nationally of melanoma skin cancer detected, with over 8,500 of those men.

By spending more time in the sun, we inevitably place ourselves at an increased risk of skin damage and potential skin cancer. Taking measures to be sun safe should be part of our daily routine especially if we are involved in outdoor work! It is important to remember that the UV levels can still be high even on a cool and cloudy day. Following these simple tips will get us well on the way to being sun safe...

- Cover up with appropriate clothes
- Use sunscreen (don't forget to re-apply often)
- Wear a hat (the broader the better)
- Seek out shade
- Wear sunnies to protect your eyes

Early detection is always the key. Check your skin regularly all over for any unusual spots or growths (get your partner to help). You can visit the Cancer Council WA website for information about what exactly to look for and don't hesitate to get anything of concern looked at by your doctor. An annual skin check with your GP or at a reputable skin clinic is also a good way to keep track of any changes or developments.

The Regional Men's Health Initiative

P: (08) 6314 1436

E: menshealth@4blokes.com.au



The Link Between Frozen Shoulder and Menopause

Many women in their perimenopause stage of life, also experience a disorder known as frozen shoulder in which the shoulder joint becomes still and painful and their range of movement is greatly reduced.

When perimenopause starts, there is a drop in estrogen levels, estrogen has anti-inflammatory effects and plays an important role in the collagen metabolism in connective tissue. This, in turn, affects the structure and function of the shoulder joint.

A woman may have an existing, long-standing imbalance in Vata (an Ayurvedic term for the bodily 'intelligence' responsible for neurological and neuromuscular actions in the body). This imbalance can result in depletion, degeneration, dryness, roughness, poor circulation in various tissues in the body.

Frozen shoulder occurs when there is degeneration of the bone quality. Excess Vata dryness also affects the lubrication in the joint. When metabolic strength in the tissue layers is not optimal, the digesting of fats and sugars in the blood is incomplete. This causes chronic inflammation throughout. The weakened shoulder joint is where the inflammation accumulates and creates the dysfunction.

This can be healed with dietary changes which bring Vata back to balance, oil treatments, and herbal medicines to correct the hormonal imbalance and restore proper metabolism in the tissues therefore returning good lubrication to the joint and improving bone strength.

Increased Vata is a natural part of aging, so your diet must change with it to include more Kapha type foods.

For more information and treatment, contact Jane on 0411 864 041. tulaayurveda.com.au



HEALTH & WELLBEING DIRECTORY

BEAUTY

Northam Skin & Body Care



- IPL
- Tans
- Massage
- Tinting
- Waxing
- Facials
- Nails, Hands & Feet

Ella Baché

154 Fitzgerald St, Northam Ph : 9622 3334

COUNSELLOR

MCS MOBILE COUNSELLING SOLUTIONS

Need to talk?
Understanding and confidential

Brent Daglish
Counsellor

PH: 0431 526 270



Brent



CHIROPRACTOR



NORTHAM NATURAL HEALTH STUDIO
&
NORTHAM CHIROPRACTIC

Dr Scott Lieschke
(Chiropractor)

TUESDAY - FRIDAY (BY APPOINTMENT)

9622 5312

9 Wellington St Northam

CHIROPRACTOR



WHEATBELT
CHIROPRACTIC &
HEALTHCARE

NEED CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES?

Dr Emily Dowinton is available
Tuesday 8:30 to 11:30
Friday 1:00 to 5:00

Contact Us

9622 2282

hansenchiroreception@gmail.com
chirohealth.cliniko.com/bookings



Visit Us

130 Fitzgerald St, Northam
entry via Minson Ave

BOOK ONLINE

COUNSELLING

THE RURAL COACHING CO.
integrated counselling and coaching

For help with relationship, workplace, issues
ACT, CBT, Narrative Therapy

Tuesday - Bridgley Community Centre
Other Weekdays - Online

0488 692 983
rebekah@ruralcoachingco.com
www.ruralcoachingco.com

 **Wattle Tree Counselling**

Trauma Informed Counselling
Grief and Loss
Life Transitions
General Counselling

Tracy Smith
Registered Counsellor **0491 308 825**

www.wattletreecounselling.com.au
9 Wellington Street, Northam - By Appointment

HOLISTIC HEALTH SERVICES

 **Tula Healing**
An Ayurvedic Practice

**Focus on Frozen Shoulder
plus other joint and
muscular pain**

Use natural ancient methods to heal
your body from within by a qualified
practitioner.

Book your
consultation now
Jane Leeming
0411 864 041



tulaayurveda.com.au

**ADVERTISE
HERE**

\$27 PER MONTH

Send enquiries to jodie@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au

MASSAGE

CIM
MASSAGE THERAPY



- Remedial
- Deep Tissue
- Acupressure
- Sports Massage
- Trigger Point Therapy
- Relaxation
- Aromatouch
- Aromatherapy
- Manual Lymphatic Drainage (MLD)

Health fund claiming available

Located at Northam Chiropractic
9 Wellington Street

Colleen Ivatts-Miles
0401 872 814



NUTRITIONIST

 **NutriBalance Clinic**
Enhancing Wellness with Nutrition

Personalised Nutrition for Real Results by a Certified
Clinical Nutritionist for help with:

- Burnout & Fatigue
- Weight management
- Hormone & Thyroid Balance
- Digestive Health
- Sports Performance
- DNA, Blood, Allergy & Parasite testing

Telehealth appointments available Monday to
Saturday and in clinic on Tuesdays and Thursdays
at Wellness Unleashed in Midland

Karen Skordas
Ph: 0477 00 6575
E: karen@nutribalanceclinic.com.au
W: nutribalanceclinic.com.au



OPTOMETRIST

 **northam optical**

138 Fitzgerald St
Northam WA 6401
PH 9621 1131

Local • contact lenses • over 1000 frames
and sunglasses • safety glasses • pension
and seniors subsidy (T&C's apply) • Bulk
Billing to Medicare • HBF Preferred provider

www.northamoptical.com.au

 **Specsavers**

**Should've gone
to Specsavers**

Specsavers Northam
Northam Boulevard Shopping Centre (Next to Sports Power)
Tel 9670 3666

OPTOMETRIST

Simply Spectacles 

*BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
BUY ONE PAIR GET ANOTHER PAIR FREE*
But **ONLY** for the month of...well...**FOREVER**



2 PAIRS \$199*

- Bulk Billing for Health Funds
- On-site Repairs Available
- Eye test Bulk Billed to Medicare

*CONDITIONS APPLY - SEE IN STORE  

FOR APPOINTMENTS PHONE
9621 1211
or book online at www.simplyspectacles.com.au

PHARMACY

 **WHEATBELT
health centre
PHARMACY**

Conveniently located in the
Wheatbelt GP Superclinic

OPENING HOURS

Monday - Friday
8.30am - 5.30pm

Saturday
8.30am - 1.00pm

Sunday
Closed

08 9622 7905
25 Holfreter Avenue, Northam

WATER FILTERS

 **Westoz**
WATER FILTERS

**GET A
FREE
QUOTE**

Water Filter Systems:

- Whole House
- Under Sink
- Countertop
- Caravan/Motorhome



SERVICING REGIONAL WA

08 6256 5288
info@westozwaterfilters.com.au

Rob & Mavis Carruthers

westozwaterfilters.com.au

Holiday home owners prepare for tax changes

Many farming families purchase a holiday home as an off-farm investment that they can sometimes retreat to.

When the farm schedule permits, your family can visit to unwind and enjoy quality time together, away from the constant demands of life on the land. For the majority of the time, when you're busy on the farm, it's a steady stream of passive income.

In recent years, the thriving short-stay rental market has made holiday homes an increasingly attractive investment. The tax savings associated with negative gearing also play a role. By allowing interest and other costs to offset rental income, it is much more feasible for farmers to purchase properties in competitive coastal markets.

Unfortunately for current and prospective holiday-home-owners, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has updated its stance on the taxation of these properties.

Historically, owners of investment properties could claim deductions for periods when their property was genuinely available for rent at market rate. If the property was used by the owner, their family, or rented below market rates, deductions were reduced for those

periods to match the income earned. Most considered this approach to be fair and straightforward.

However, in recent years, the ATO has ramped up audits and reviews, paying close attention to owners who report losses from short-term rentals.

The ATO is particularly concerned with arrangements where owners take actions that limit the property's commercial earning potential, such as:

- Blocking out peak holiday periods for personal use.
- Discouraging bookings by restricting access to parts of the property.
- Setting rental prices well above market rates.
- Renting to family and friends below market value.

These actions reduce earning potential and raise questions about whether the property is genuinely available for rent as a commercial investment.

Now, the ATO has classified some holiday homes as a 'leisure facility', which brings a new set of tax implications for owners.

Tax treatment will now depend on the property's main use. If generating rental income is prioritised over personal use, the previous tax rules will continue to apply. However, if the property is mainly for personal use and therefore not mainly used to generate rental income, the property will be classified as a 'leisure facility', meaning any rent received is still taxable, but ownership expenses like interest, insurance, rates, and other holding costs will no longer be deductible.

The ATO's new position represents a significant change in the tax treatment of holiday home investments and will apply from 12 November 2025 to all new arrangements and from 1 July 2026 for arrangements entered into prior to 12 November 2025.

Determining the main use of the property under the ATO's new ruling can be complicated. Holiday home owners are strongly encouraged to seek professional advice to help ensure they structure their arrangements such that their deductions remain valid and that the advantages of holding a holiday home are preserved.

To understand how these ATO changes may affect your holiday home, contact your local RSM agribusiness specialist today.

Gulf crisis to make sharp drop in business confidence even worse

Long-term business confidence in Western Australia has seen its sharpest decline since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, with labour shortages and interest rate rises weighing heavily on WA businesses.

CCIWA's Business Confidence survey of almost 400 WA businesses was conducted in February, before the Gulf conflict erupted, with confidence likely to have fallen even further since that time.

Only around two in five (44%) of WA businesses expected conditions to improve in the next 12 months, a drop of 24 percentage points since December.

Short-term confidence is also down, with just over two in five (43%) expecting stronger conditions in the next three months, down six percentage points from December.

Rising costs emerged as a major barrier to growth for WA businesses in the March quarter, identified by seven in ten (68%) of WA businesses surveyed, up 16 percentage points since December.

CCIWA's Chief Economist, Dr Daniel Kiely, said a further downturn in confidence was a likely result of the Gulf crisis, which has been compounded by this week's interest rate hike.

"WA businesses were struggling with cost pressures before this conflict started, so we're coming into the crisis in an environment where business confidence was

already going down," he said.

"We expect confidence to take a further hit as a result of the conflict, driven by the increased cost of fuel, which impacts virtually every business in some way.

"There are also widespread concerns about potential supply chain issues for sectors like agriculture, which rely on the Strait of Hormuz to transport goods like fertilisers and petrochemicals.

"Aside from those direct impacts, businesses in WA can expect all other inputs to increase in line with inflation."

Dr Kiely said the prospect of costs for businesses rising even higher made CCIWA's ongoing call for payroll tax relief more relevant than ever.

"Businesses are being squeezed from every direction, and payroll tax is one area the State Government has the power to do something about," he said.

"When you consider payroll tax kicks in at a \$1 million annual wages bill, it's capturing more small and medium-sized businesses than ever thanks to rising labour costs."

Dr Kiely said skills shortages emerged as a major drag on confidence in the first three months of 2026.

"The employment market in WA is extremely tight, with seven in ten (69%) businesses telling us that labour shortages are their number one barrier to growth," he said.

"We've seen labour shortages become most prevalent in the construction sector, where 82% of businesses reported it as a barrier.

"The skills crunch is also hitting agriculture, forestry and fishing (81%), resources (76%) and health care and social assistance services (67%)."

Dr Kiely said skilled migration and better support for apprenticeships, traineeships and other work-based learning played a crucial role in shoring up WA's workforce for the future.

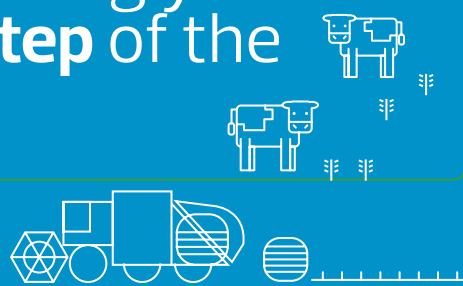
"Federal incentives for employers who take on apprentices and trainees have been slashed, and we've seen an overall decline in the number of people starting apprenticeships and traineeships," he said.

"It's vital that both the State and Federal Government make skills training a priority and take a longer-term approach to ensuring there's a pipeline of workers for WA industries."

Housing shortages also remain a key barrier to business growth in WA, with almost one in three (27%) businesses identifying it as a barrier – up six percentage points from December.

"Housing supply impacts the attractiveness of WA as a place to work and live and in turn effects business competitiveness," Dr Kiely said.

Empowering you
every step of the
way.



Speak to our experts today to find out how we can help you with:

- ③ Self-managed superannuation funds
- ③ Succession planning
- ③ Business planning
- ③ Taxation preparation and planning
- ③ Cloud accounting

RSM

WE KNOW THAT RUNNING A FARM OR BUSINESS WELL TAKES A LOT OF HARD WORK, INTUITION AND OBJECTIVITY. THE CHALLENGES ARE ENDLESS.

RSM

210 Fitzgerald Street Northam WA 6401

T 08 9622 2822

rsm.com.au/Northam

Trent Frost

E trent.frost@rsm.com.au

T 08 9622 2822

THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD
AUDIT | TAX | CONSULTING

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

RAISE THE BAR

THU 23 APRIL, 2026 | 4.30PM - 7.30PM
(ARRIVE BY 4.15PM)

THE TEMPERANCE BAR
(DOME NORTHAM),
112 FITZGERALD ST E, NORTHAM

> \$50 PER PERSON INC GST

> ATTENDEES MUST BE AGED 18+

- Do you work in the hospitality industry and have your RSA?
- 3-4 hrs non-accredited training session where participants learn to make up to six popular cocktails and signature drinks and practice the art of pouring and presenting a variety of boutique beverages.
- Gain a greater understanding of working in a fast-paced hospitality environment; learn the art of accurate pouring to avoid spills and waste; familiarisation of popular cocktails and signature drinks for an enhanced visitor experience.

The Workforce Development Program
is brought to you by:



TOURISM

&

HOSPITALITY

WHERE ADVENTURE & OPPORTUNITY MEET

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BOOK
NOW:



<https://wheatbeltbusinessnetwork.com.au/twa/>



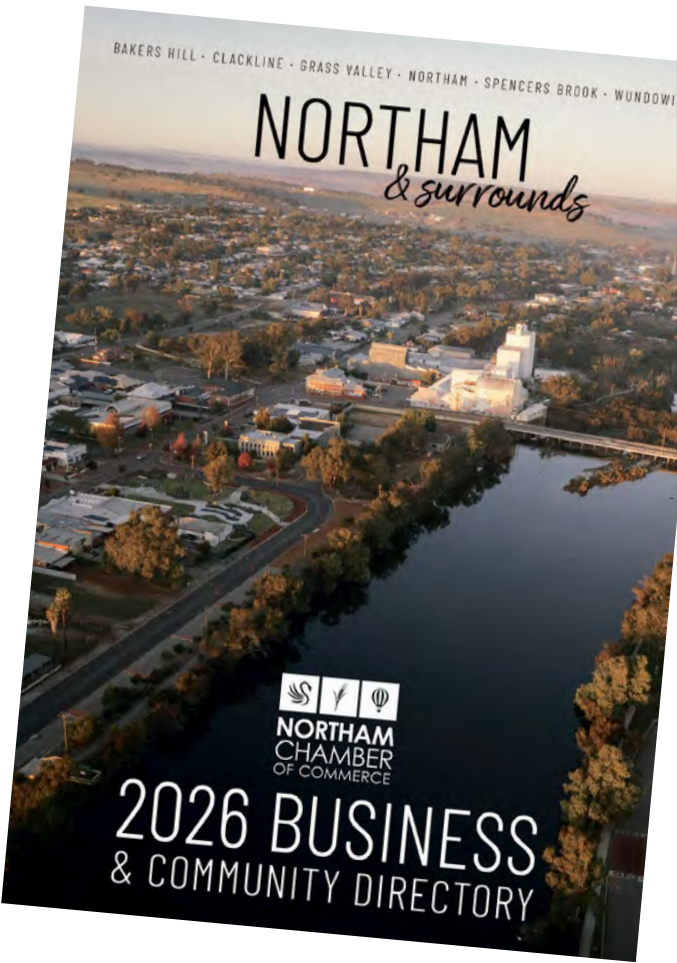
NORTHAM
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

2026 Northam & Surrounds Business & Community Directory

Get involved in the inaugural Northam & Surrounds Business & Community Directory produced locally by the Northam Chamber of Commerce.

This directory will feature a FREE business listing for all businesses operating within the Shire of Northam. There are also options to have a display advert to further promote your business.

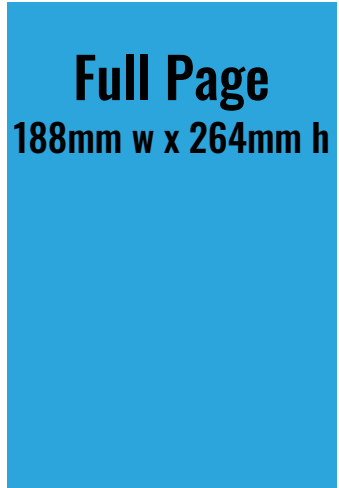
SECURE your spot NOW!



Northam Chamber of Commerce Members save **20%** off full advertising rates

ADVERT BOOKING OPTIONS

Full Page
188mm w x 264mm h



Standard Price
\$1200+GST

NCC Member Price
\$960+GST
SAVE \$240

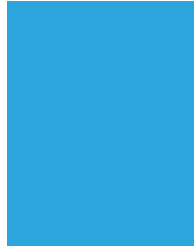
1/2 Page
188mm w x 124mm h



Standard Price
\$750+GST

NCC Member Price
\$600+GST
SAVE \$150

1/4 Page
91.5mm w x 124mm h



Standard Price
\$550+GST

NCC Member Price
\$440+GST
SAVE \$110

Business Card
91.5mm w x 55mm h



Standard Price
\$300+GST

NCC Member Price
\$240+GST
SAVE \$60

Limited premium page positions available - contact Jodie Longmire (directory@northamchamber.com.au) for more details

BOOKING DEADLINE
30th April 2026

ALL BOOKINGS TO BE MADE THROUGH:
northamchamber.com.au/2026nbd

The Family Trust Factor - Financial and Emotional Capital

by Dr Catherine Bowen, Professional Mediator

Some years ago, I mediated for a family business which had been handed over to two sons while their parents went into semi-retirement. The older son increasingly excluded his brother from any role in management, until, after a series of reckless decisions, the business began to show signs of serious debt. As the emotional trauma escalated between the brothers, communication broke down. After four or five years, the younger brother gained his parents' support to sell the business while there was still something left to sell.

Referring to his older brother, the younger man sadly commented:

"We used to be good friends. He is still my brother but he is no longer my friend. I can no longer work with him – I simply can't trust him at all." The loss of trust ultimately cost this family their business.

Communication breakdown is a constant issue in the world of family business. However, an important indicator lies in that small word 'trust', an underrated gem in the family business matrix. Over the years, I have seen enough to know that once the 'trust' factor suffers a fracture, it rarely completely heals; there will

always be an element of caution and doubt associated with that person, that relationship.

Family businesses (FBs) invest in both financial and emotional capital and while the latter contains levels of subtle vulnerability, it can also be a source of amazing strength. FBs contain a myriad of complex relationship structures, which contribute to our core sense of identity and belonging. If someone from within that structure acts to disrupt our sense of well-being, our levels of trust in that person can falter. Potentially, the whole family and business may suffer.

Sound levels of trust in family business develop best via good communication systems and healthy interactions on family, ownership and business matters. If a growing unease, or a need to scrutinise the behaviour of a member becomes prevalent, trust is becoming an issue and it needs to be addressed. That is the job of leadership because emerging distrust is something of a canker that quietly eats away at the family business relationships, affecting the ability of people to communicate and work together effectively.

So what can you do to nurture healthy trust levels and a well-functioning family business team?

Some tips may include:

- Ensure your communication systems are structured, formal, regular and inclusive (family meetings).
- Role clarity determines boundaries; people know who they are and what their role is.
- Functional governance structures for decision-making processes for family, ownership and business decisions.
- Business communication must be objective and consistent with agreed reporting sequences allowing for information to be communicated to the other family / business members.
- A culture of accountability. Recognise and reward to encourage this.

Trust is a fragile thing and ignoring early signs of disharmony won't help anyone – communicate!

Families who work together need their communication systems to be as transparent as possible in order to build and maintain and share sound levels of trust. Handled with integrity, trust can be a source of great strength and resilience – a precious resource to draw on in tough times.

Don't overlook this valuable gem in your family business – polish, treasure and protect.

NCC CEO Update

by Theresa Lee

As we move through another busy and rewarding month in the Avon Valley, it's a pleasure to share an update on the achievements, collaborations, and conversations shaping our local business community.

We were absolutely thrilled to receive the news that three of our Avon Valley Business Award winners have been named finalists in the state round of the WA Regional Business Excellence Awards, run by Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry WA (RCCIWA). Congratulations to Roam Distillery, The Wheatbelt Celebrant, and Zax & Co on this outstanding recognition. These businesses exemplify the innovation, resilience, and entrepreneurial spirit that define our region. We look forward to celebrating alongside them at the gala event on 18 April in Perth.

Amid the daily challenges of owning and running a small business, moments like this matter. The acknowledgement and credibility that come through the awards process have the potential to elevate a business profile far beyond its local footprint. It's an opportunity to showcase what makes our region unique and to put our businesses on the map for a much wider audience.

Closer to home, it was fantastic to see such strong support for the recent Northam Women in Business breakfast event, held in collaboration with the RRR Network to celebrate International Women's Day. Hosted at the Northam Country Club on 20 March, the event explored this year's theme, 'Balance the Scales', and delivered a truly inspiring and thought-provoking program.

Northam Women in Business Vice President Eliza Bidstrup expertly guided attendees through an engaging two hours. We were privileged to hear from guest speaker Susannah Hill, Senior Corporate Lawyer at CBH Group, who shared her personal journey through male-dominated industries and offered candid insights into the barriers women continue to face in senior executive roles, particularly when balancing career progression with family responsibilities.

Adding another layer of depth to the discussion was an 'interrogation' led by NWIB Executive Member Enrika Grogan, featuring local WA Police officers Kym Mead and Erin Carr. Their honest reflections on managing the demands of policing alongside home life highlighted



Left to right: Enrika Grogan, Erin Carr, Susannah Hill, Kym Mead and Eliza Bidstrup. Photo by Angie Roe Photography

some confronting realities and reinforced the importance of ongoing conversations around equity and support.

On the regional collaboration front, I recently had the pleasure of connecting with the newly formed Bullwinkel Alliance—a collective of chambers and business networks spanning the Avon Valley, Perth Hills, and foothills. Our latest meeting, hosted in Toodyay by the Wheatbelt Business Network, provided a valuable opportunity to share challenges, exchange insights, and strengthen our collective voice when advocating to government.

Following the Alliance meeting, we were joined by shire representatives from Northam, Toodyay, and York, along with Members of Parliament Lachlan Hunter (Central Wheatbelt) and Adam Hort (Kalamunda), and a range of local business owners and stakeholders. Among the many important topics discussed was the current fuel crisis and the potential impact on our region's most significant economic contributor—agriculture and the flow-on to all levels of business across the region.

While the path forward remains uncertain, it is clear that this evolving global situation will have local consequences. If your business is experiencing impacts, I strongly encourage you to reach out via info@northamchamber.com.au. Your input is critical in ensuring we can present real, on-the-ground insights to decision-makers as they work toward solutions that support our region.

On a lighter and more celebratory note, I had the

pleasure of attending the 2025 graduate ceremony for Central Regional TAFE at the end of March. The Northam Town Hall was beautifully transformed for the occasion, and it is always heartening to see local people gaining qualifications that enable them to build meaningful careers within their own communities.

A special mention goes to Delia Pascua-McGlew, Director of Business Development and Strategic Partnerships, who concluded an impressive 24+ year career with the college as the event's MC. We thank Delia for her remarkable contribution and wish her every success in her next chapter.

Looking ahead, we are excited to collaborate with Esther Bliss and the Town Team Movement as she rolls out a series of game-changing workshops for business owners and community groups, funded through the Act Local program. These workshops provide practical tools and strategies across topics such as succession planning, grant and award application writing, and volunteer recruitment/retention. Explore the full program details on our website under 'Events'. Both in-person and online options are available to ensure accessibility for all.

If you'd like to have a conversation about being part of a well-connected and supportive business community that actively engages in the dialogue shaping our town and region, I warmly encourage you to reach out to me at the Chamber on 0427 472 729 or info@northamchamber.com.au.



Enrika Grogan interviewing Erin Carr and Kym Mead. Photo by Angie Roe Photography

Global Politics, Local Consequences

by Naomi Sherrington

Editor's note: This is a rapidly evolving situation, which presents challenges for a monthly publication. However, I have chosen to report on it because the potential consequences for our region are too significant to ignore, and I am committed to ensuring the voices of this community are heard. Information current at the time of writing may change before publication, but the issues raised here remain critical.

For many Wheatbelt residents, conflict in the Middle East can feel distant. But in recent weeks, that distance has narrowed. Global disruption to energy markets is now affecting fuel availability, with flow-on impacts for farm operations and costs across the Avon Valley.

The Federal Government has responded by releasing part of Australia's fuel reserves and urging calm, with Energy Minister Chris Bowen insisting the country's supply remains secure. However, new developments suggest the situation may be more fragile than initially presented – reinforcing concerns that were already emerging among Wheatbelt farmers.

Since initial assurances that supply remained stable, further developments have added to concerns about the resilience of the system. Energy Minister Chris Bowen has admitted there will be “bumps” in supply, and that “the flow of oil to Asian refineries has slowed, and that has downward impacts on us”.

Mr Bowen confirmed that six fuel shipments bound for Australia have been cancelled or deferred, citing disruptions to oil flows into Asian refineries – the same refineries that supply the majority of Australia's fuel. While some shipments may be replaced, the delays highlight the country's exposure to global supply chains.

The Federal Government maintains that there is no immediate need for rationing and that supply remains adequate in the short term. However, it has also acknowledged that the international situation is “challenged” and that disruptions are likely to cause “bumps” in availability.

Australia is understood to hold several weeks' worth of fuel under current conditions, but that buffer relies on continued imports and stable global supply. Any further disruption could place additional pressure on an already strained distribution system – particularly in regional areas.

While the government maintains there is no immediate need for rationing, Australia remains heavily dependent on imports, with around 90 per cent of fuel sourced overseas, leaving it exposed to global instability.

A system under pressure

The government has consistently framed the issue as one of logistics rather than supply. But on the ground, the distinction matters little. What matters is that farmers have enough diesel to operate machinery when the narrow seeding window opens, because even a few days' delay can compromise the entire crop.

Across regional Australia, including parts of the Wheatbelt, fuel has already been rationed, with some service stations running dry and others limiting purchases.

Local farmers report that fuel is not consistently available when and where it is needed. Independent suppliers appear to be receiving stock later than larger operators, raising concerns about long-term impacts on regional fuel distribution.

Federal authorities have released a portion of fuel reserves – estimated at hundreds of millions of litres – but even these measures are constrained by the realities of a large and complex supply chain.

The importance of diesel

For Wheatbelt farmers, the issue is not simply access – it is timing and cost.

March marks the lead-up to seeding, a narrow window that largely determines the success of the entire cropping

season. At this stage, farmers must commit significant capital to fuel, fertiliser and other inputs before any income is realised.

When diesel prices rise sharply, working capital is absorbed by fuel costs at precisely the moment growers need liquidity to get crops in the ground.

One local farmer estimated that fuel price increases alone had added around \$24,000 to operational costs this season. Another reported that the cost of spreading lime had already risen by approximately \$10 per hectare, reflecting the flow-on effects of higher diesel prices.

Flow-on effects across the farm

The impact is not limited to fuel. Global energy disruption is also affecting fertiliser markets. Nitrogen fertilisers such as urea are produced using natural gas, meaning instability in global energy supply can lead to shortages or price increases.

One Wheatbelt grower described being forced to switch from granular urea to liquid fertiliser due to supply constraints, requiring the purchase of a boom sprayer at a cost of around \$50,000 – what he described as something at the cheaper end of the spectrum. Modern machines can cost several hundred thousand dollars, raising the prospect of far greater capital outlays for other farmers facing the same shift.

In a season already marked by economic uncertainty, such forced capital investment mid-crisis adds another layer of financial pressure. The same grower recalled purchasing diesel without even checking the receipt. “It's not irrelevant,” he said, “but it's not a choice – diesel costs what it costs, and we just have to pay it”.

At a time when farmers are already committing substantial capital, such adjustments add further financial pressure.

And unlike many other sectors, farmers have limited ability to pass those costs on. As primary producers at the base of the supply chain, they are largely price takers, not price setters, meaning rising input costs are often absorbed rather than transferred – tightening margins and increasing financial risk across the season.

More than a supply problem

Taken together, the issue extends beyond whether fuel exists within the system.

Evidence from farmers, industry reporting and recent developments suggests a combination of uneven distribution, rising prices, timing pressure, and limited access at the local level. This creates a situation where fuel may be available nationally, but not necessarily accessible or affordable when needed.

As one Wheatbelt farmer put it, the economic consequences are “far more serious than people realise”, warning that the ripple effects of rising input costs are likely to extend well beyond the farm gate.

A question of priority

The situation also raises broader questions about how fuel is used during periods of disruption.

Economists describe the “tragedy of the commons”, where individual actions – such as topping up fuel tanks – can collectively place pressure on shared resources.

But not all fuel use carries the same consequences.

In the Wheatbelt, diesel is essential to food production. It powers the machinery that seeds, sprays and harvests crops. Without it, production cannot occur.

During discussions with Federal MPs Trish Cook and Patrick Gorman, The Northam Advertiser – reflecting concerns raised by local farmers – put forward the question of whether fuel should be prioritised for essential sectors such as agriculture during times of constraint. Both acknowledged this is an issue the government should consider.

The broader economic risk

The potential consequences extend beyond agriculture.

Farming remains a cornerstone of Western Australia's economy, supporting export income, regional communities and national food supply. Disruptions at the production stage can lead to reduced yields, higher food prices, and broader inflation.

Unlike consumer-driven inflation, these pressures are driven by essential inputs – costs that farmers cannot avoid. Fuel, fertiliser and freight are not discretionary expenses; they are fundamental to production.

As a result, rising input costs flow directly into the cost of producing food, placing pressure on farm margins in the short term and, ultimately, on prices in the broader economy.

Unlike demand-driven inflation, these pressures cannot be easily addressed through interest rate increases or reduced consumer spending. Instead, they represent a structural cost shock – one that is absorbed first by farmers, but is likely to be felt more widely over time.

There is also concern that prolonged cost pressures could threaten the viability of smaller farming operations, with long-term implications for the structure of the industry and rural communities.

A growing disconnect

Perhaps most striking is the perceived gap between official messaging and lived experience.

While the government continues to emphasise supply stability, farmers describe a system already under strain – one where fuel is rationed, costs are rising, and critical decisions must be made under uncertainty.

With seeding fast approaching, the coming weeks will be critical.

Because in the Wheatbelt, the consequences of global conflict are not abstract. They are measured in hectares planted, costs absorbed – and ultimately, the food that reaches Australian tables.

Have your say

How is the current fuel situation affecting you or your business?

We'd like to hear from Wheatbelt residents at editor@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au



GUESS WHAT!

Where am I?
Buildings of Northam



Who am I?
Prominent Identities



Win a Coffee voucher

Send your guess to jodie@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au

Last month's answers:

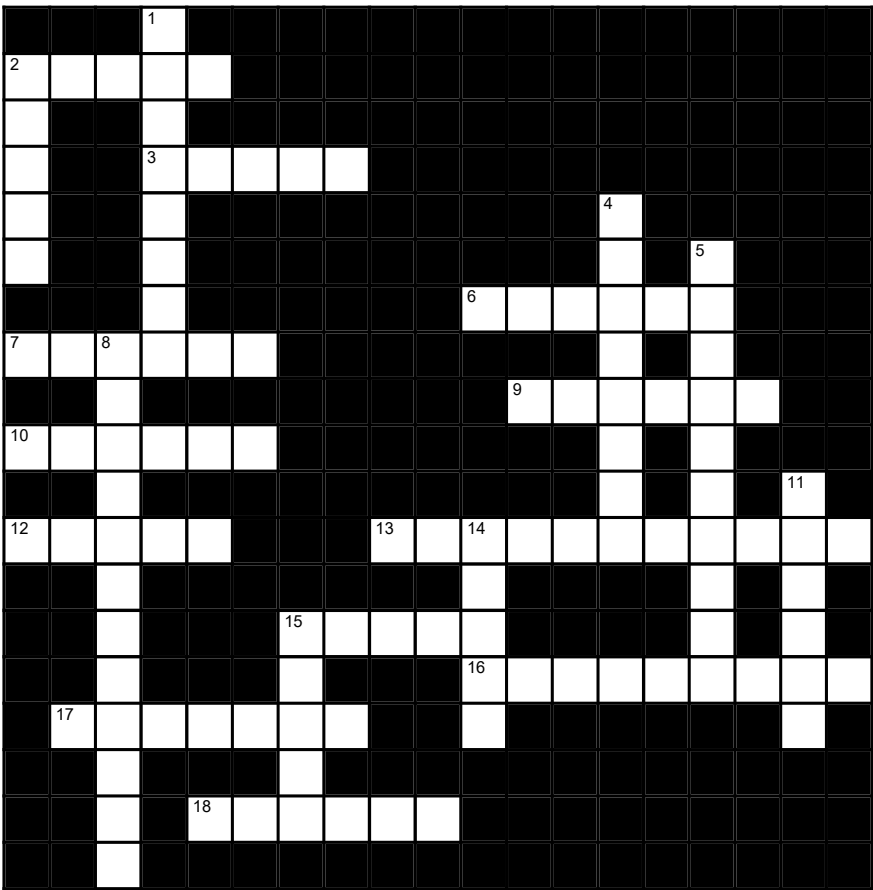
Where am I? Lake Leschenaultia
Winner: No winner

Who am I? – Shane Hayward-Waller
Winner: Luke Brennan

SUDOKU

			7	1				
5						9		
	3				9	8	2	
9			8				3	4
			6					
	4						7	
		4		2			1	
		1				5		9
		7		6				

CROSSWORD

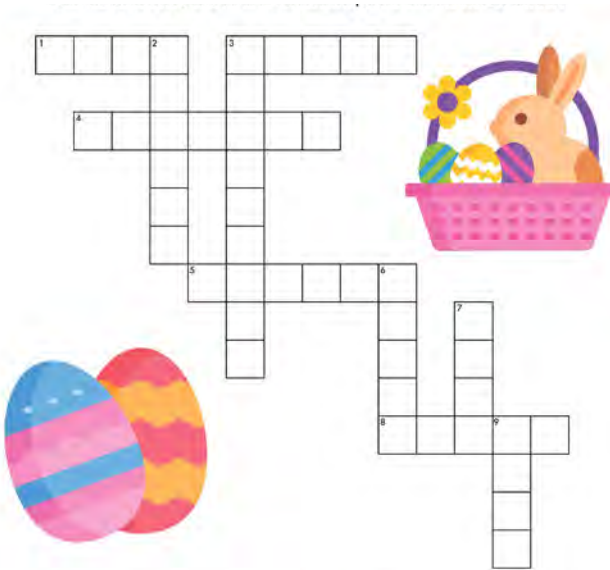


Across

- 2 Synthetic material developed during WWII shortages (5)
3 Beach code-named for US landings on D-Day (5)
6 Western Front country heavily fought over in WWI (6)
7 Fuel derived from petroleum powering military vehicles (6)
9 Australian territory targeted during WWII (6)
10 The German code machine deciphered by the Allies (6)
12 Island invaded by Germany in 1941 (5)
13 Narrow strait linking the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara (11)
15 Beach code-named for British landings on D-Day (5)
16 Alloy used extensively in aircraft construction (9)
17 The scientist credited with discovering penicillin (7)
18 Country where Gallipoli is located (6)

Down

- 1 Early computing machine used to break wartime codes (8)
2 Sea where the Battle of Jutland took place (5)
4 The scientist who contributed to early rocket technology in Germany (8)
5 Antibiotic mass-produced during WWII, saving millions (10)
8 The study of disease spread, critical in wartime (12)
11 Forest battlefield in France, site of prolonged WWI fighting (6)
14 Technology used to detect aircraft in WWII (5)
15 The use of sound waves to detect submarines (5)



ACROSS

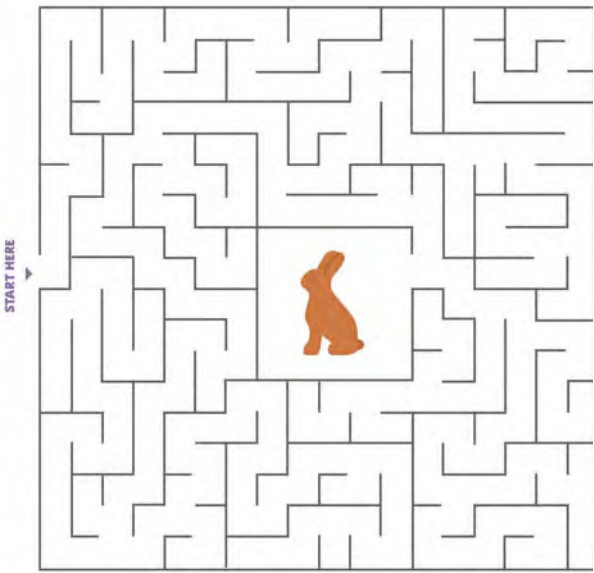
1. How a bunny gets around.
3. A small yellow bird.
4. What a rabbit likes to eat.
5. You can put Easter eggs in this.
8. _____ Cottontail.

DOWN

2. The season that Easter is celebrated in.
3. Something you can fill Easter eggs with.
6. A type of Spring flower.
7. Easter egg _____
9. The Easter Bunny hides these.

Find your way through the maze to reach the chocolate bunny in the center.

Happy Easter!



BASKET
BOUQUET
BUNNY
CHICK
CHOCOLATE

DECORATE
EASTER
EGGS
FLOWERS
HIDE

JELLYBEANS
RABBIT
SPRING
SUNDAY
TRADITION



Thinking of buying an electric vehicle? Here's what to know before making the switch

by Hussein Dia

Soaring petrol prices are once again making many Australians think seriously about switching to an electric vehicle.

As politicians warn Australians not to resort to panic buying, finding constructive ways to reduce your petrol costs and cut carbon emissions has become increasingly appealing.

The strikes on Iran have seen prices of Brent crude — the global oil benchmark — trade around US\$104 (\$150) per barrel, up from roughly US\$68 (\$96) a few weeks earlier. There is no clear end in sight for the current crisis.

The good news is buying and owning an electric car is becoming much easier as more models arrive in Australia and charging networks expand. But there are still a few things worth considering before making the switch.

What should you look for when choosing an EV?

Choosing an EV is not very different from choosing any other car. Size, price and safety features still matter.

But there are a few additional things worth checking.

The first is driving range, which is how far the vehicle can travel on a full battery. Most new EVs sold in Australia offer between 300 and 500kms of range, which is more than enough for typical daily driving.

It is also worth looking at charging capability. Some vehicles can accept faster charging speeds than others, meaning they can recharge more quickly when using high-power public chargers. This can make a difference on long trips.

Finally, check the battery warranty. Most manufacturers offer warranties of eight years or around 160,000km,

providing reassurance about long-term battery performance.

Check how much you drive

An important question to ask when choosing an EV is: how far do you usually drive each day?

Most Australians drive far less than they think. Car passenger kilometres per person have reduced from a peak of 13,184 in 2004 to 10,238 in 2024–25.

In practice, many EV owners simply plug their car in at home overnight once or twice a week.

Do you need to install a charger at home?

Many people assume installing a home charger is essential, but that is not always the case.

EVs can be charged from a standard household power point. This is the slowest method, but it can still add 10 to 15km of range per hour of charging. At that rate, a 12-hour overnight charge could give you up to 180km.

Many owners choose to install a dedicated wall charger instead. These typically cost \$1,000 to \$2,000 plus installation. These charge much faster, allowing most vehicles to fully recharge overnight.

How much should you charge the battery?

Another common question is whether EV batteries should always be charged to 100 per cent.

For everyday driving, many manufacturers recommend keeping the battery between 20 per cent and 80 per cent most of the time. This helps maximise long-term battery health.

A fully charged battery is generally under more stress. However, charging to 100 per cent shortly before a long trip is fine. Modern EV battery management systems are designed to protect the battery automatically.

In practice, drivers quickly develop simple routines, often charging overnight a few times per week.

How much could you save on fuel?

One of the main reasons drivers consider switching to an EV is the potential saving on running costs.

Electric cars are typically cheaper to run because electricity costs less than petrol and electric motors are far more energy efficient than combustion engines.

Home charging is also the cheapest way to run an EV. Electricity for overnight charging typically costs 20 to 30c per kilowatt-hour, which can translate to around \$3 to \$5 per 100km of driving.

By comparison, fuel-efficient petrol cars typically consume 6–8 litres per 100km and cost \$14–18 to drive that distance at current fuel prices.

That difference can add up quickly over a year. Online tools, such as our public EV payback calculator, allow drivers to compare different vehicles and test how savings change depending on electricity prices, fuel costs and driving distance.

Where next?

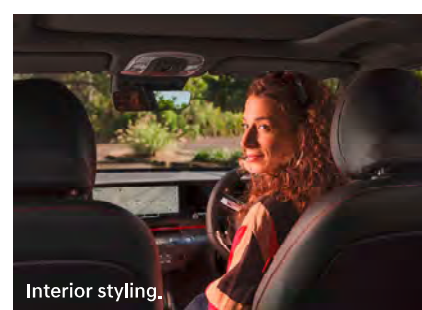
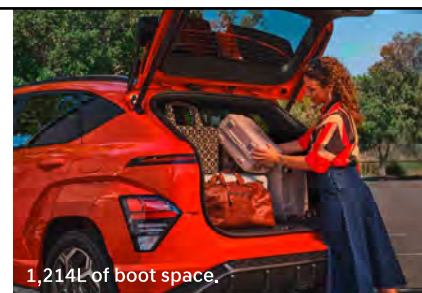
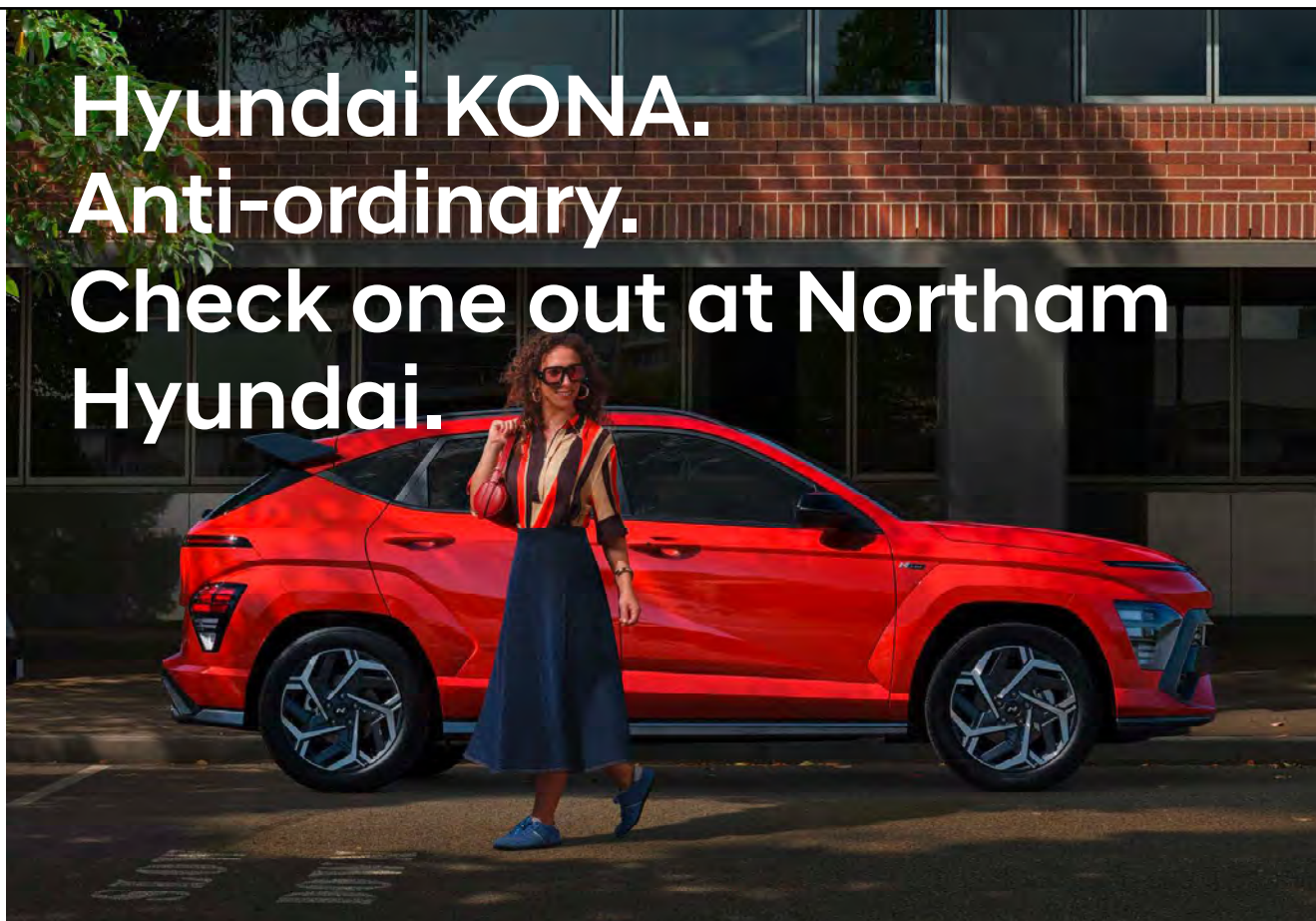
The decision to switch to an EV has never been more straightforward. Ranges are longer, models are more affordable, charging networks are expanding and running costs are lower than ever.

As petrol prices remind Australians of their exposure to global oil markets, the case for making the switch gets stronger.

For most drivers, the question is no longer whether an EV could work for them — it is simply a matter of when.

Article taken from www.sbs.com.au/news/article/electric-vehicles-what-to-know/4ti4tck9a

Hyundai KONA. Anti-ordinary. Check one out at Northam Hyundai.



Northam Hyundai - 37 Fitzgerald Street, Northam WA
Phone (08) 9622 5588, www.northamhyundai.com.au
DL29398

www.hyundai.com.au

 **HYUNDAI**



In addition to the 5 Year Standard New Car Warranty, Hyundai provides an extended warranty for up to a further 2 years, when all servicing is with Hyundai, on passenger vehicles first registered from 1 June 2025. Maximum warranty is 7 years from date of first registration, on the condition that all scheduled services are completed within the specified service intervals at an authorised Hyundai dealer. Excludes Hybrid & EV drive batteries, which are warranted for 8 years/160,000km (whichever occurs first) from the date of first registration, and vehicles used for "commercial application", as detailed in the warranty policy. Terms, conditions and exclusions apply, visit hyundai.com.au/warranty.

Home of Hybrid Vehicles

Haval H6 Lux 2.0L Turbo Petrol 9 Speed DCT

DRIVE AWAY **\$33,990**



Haval Jolion Lux Hybrid

DRIVE AWAY **\$34,485**



Cannon Premium Single Cab Chassis 4x2

DRIVE AWAY **\$35,490**



Cannon Dual Cab Chassis 2.4L Turbo Diesel 9 speed Auto

DRIVE AWAY **\$41,490**



Haval H7 Vanta HEV 1.5L Turbo Hybrid

DRIVE AWAY **\$45,485**



Cannon Alpha Lux PHEV 2.0L Turbo Plug in Hybrid 9 Speed Auto

DRIVE AWAY **\$51,490**



Haval H6 GT PHEV

DRIVE AWAY **\$52,485**



Tank 300 Lux 2.0L Turbo Hybrid PHEV

DRIVE AWAY **\$56,585**



Haval Jolion Premium

1.5 Turbo Petrol 7 Speed DCT

DRIVE AWAY **\$24,990**



Haval Jolion Lux

1.5 Turbo Petrol 7 Speed DCT

DRIVE AWAY **\$28,485**

8 Year Unlimited KM Battery Pack Warranty

5 Year Roadside Assist

7 Year Unlimited KM Warranty

5 Year Capped Price Servicing

NORTHAM GWM

A good deal closer

1 Oliver Street Northam

northamgwm.com.au | 9622 1188

Dealer Lic: 23965



GWM

Focus on Farming by Chris Antonio

Fuel, Fertiliser, Inputs, Diesel

Suddenly, due to world events, all agribusiness entities, and the wider public, have not only had to focus on the rapidly rising costs of their inputs, but also about securing supply in the first place. There continue to be wide reports of farming businesses not being able to obtain diesel from their independent suppliers, and price per litre at the bowser is hovering around \$2.90, with reports of it being over \$3.00 at various retail locations. Securing appropriate diesel supplies for seeding and beyond is a continuing concern for every agribusiness.

Fertiliser supplies also took a sudden left turn. Following the start of the conflict there were input supply ships stuck from bringing required ingredients for manufacturing of fertiliser inputs. Those with existing contracts were faced with the option of getting reduced supply or switching out to alternative products. The 'force majeure' clause was enacted by fertiliser companies. A force majeure is a contract provision that excuses a party (fertiliser supplier in this case) from performing their obligations due to unforeseeable, uncontrollable events – such as natural disasters, war, or pandemics. Fertiliser prices have also risen sharply. Urea is an example of this, with many businesses opting to switch to liquid fertiliser, such as UAN.

A reminder to business entities affected by the live sheep export pending ban, that the 2nd round of grants for the WA sheep industry supply chain capacity opened on the 27th of February. Details of grants can be found via this link dpiird.wa.gov.au/supply-chain-capacity-program.

With sudden and volatile changes for all of our agribusinesses, remember to engage with your professional business partners to assist in making prudent decisions.

\$1 million in grants for WA research program to boost 'water smart' farms

The Cook Government is offering \$1 million in grants for farmers to improve on-farm water options, water security and resilience in drying climates as part of the latest WaterSmart Farms research initiative.

Farmers in the Wheatbelt and Great Southern, who are planning to drill for water, can apply for up to \$20,000 to take part in the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and Curtin University research initiative which will use magnetic surveys to find water in underground bedrock.

The research team will work with up to 50 eligible farmers, and specialist companies in ground based geophysical surveys and drilling to develop fit-for-purpose groundwater exploration services.

"Supporting further exploration in this area through these grants will continue to build scientific understanding to support our farmers to make informed decisions and build confidence in our drying climate," said Minister Jackie Jarvis.

The grants will build on DPIRD's early research, which involved a small number of farms where researchers found water at more than half the exploration sites.

This phase of research will work with more farmers across a larger area with the aim of improving landholder understanding of water supply options on their land and increasing access to excess ground water.

The research is part of the broader WaterSmart Farms program, established in 2021, to conduct research on water supply options for Wheatbelt agribusinesses and communities.

Applications close 30 April 2026, with more information available at the DPIRD website.

Mouse numbers on the rise in Western Australia

Mouse activity continues to rise in Western Australia, according to the latest Mouse Forecast.

Issued by the CSIRO and Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), the March Mouse Forecast has relegated the WA regions of Geraldton, the Central Wheatbelt and Esperance to "Prepare to Act at Sowing" status.

CSIRO says in WA, it has received concerning reports of very high mouse numbers, suggesting outbreaks could be under way across the Mid West coast around Geraldton, Central Wheatbelt around Merredin, and Esperance region on the south coast.

Management recommendations include:

1. Monitor mouse activity by walking through paddocks and searching for active burrows (chew cards could also be used). Two or three active burrows per 100 square metres is cause for concern prior to sowing.
2. Where high mouse activity is identified, consider applying mouse bait at seeding to prevent damage to the freshly sown crop. Monitor mouse activity following baiting after application to assess effectiveness of the application. ZnP25 is the only currently registered bait available - use it in accordance with the label instructions and report any adverse effects (including a lack of efficacy) via the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority website.
3. Reduce available mouse food (for example, spilt grain) where possible. High rates of background food directly reduces the effectiveness of poison baiting (as mice are less likely to consume the baits).

Article taken from farmingahead.com.au/cropping/news-in-brief/4529039/mouse-rise-western-australia-south-australia

Elders
ELDERS
NORTHAM
FOR EXPERT
AGRIBUSINESS
ADVICE

**Supporting Northam and the Avon Valley
with specialist knowledge, experience and
advice in all areas of agribusiness.**

Real Estate
Agromony
Insurance

Finance
Livestock
Wool

Rural Products
Grain
Seed

Scan here to
find your local
Specialist



Elders Northam
(08) 9622 6000
northam@elders.com.au
15 Peel Terrace, Northam WA 6401

Elders Northam Expands to Provide In-House Financial Services

Elders Northam is proud to announce the expansion of its financial service offering with a dedicated in-house capability designed to better support clients across the Wheatbelt and surrounding rural communities. This initiative reinforces Elders' commitment to providing practical, accessible financial solutions to regional Australians by offering a broad suite of lending, deposit and agribusiness finance products to customers across rural and regional Australia — not just farmers.

Through Elders Finance's partnership with Auswide Bank, Elders Northam now provides a bespoke range of deposit products, including farm management deposits, everyday savings accounts, term deposits and cash management accounts, offering secure and flexible ways to manage your money.

Christina Knight, based in the Elders Northam branch, is your first point of contact for all finance enquiries across a wide range of financial solutions, including deposits, personal and home lending, equipment finance and general banking products. Clients can expect personalised, one-on-one service from an experienced finance professional passionate about supporting local families and enterprises.

Alongside Christina, Sam Cobley serves as Agri Finance Relationship Manager, working with farming enterprises and commercial businesses across the Central Wheatbelt and surrounding districts. With an agricultural background and more than 20 years of banking experience, Sam supports clients through Elders' relationship-focused broker model. Unlike

traditional banks, Elders Finance operates as a broker, working with various lenders to secure suitable financing options. Sam provides access to more than 60 lenders and can assist with agribusiness loans (seasonal and term), commercial lending, equipment finance and livestock funding.

This strengthened financial services offering at Elders Northam ensures that clients continue to receive locally accessible support — particularly important

as regional banking services continue to decline. Elders Finance exists to bridge this gap by providing practical, personalised guidance through a growing network of specialists who genuinely understand the realities of farming and regional business.

Whether you are managing seasonal cash flow, upgrading equipment or looking to finance your next property purchase, Christina Knight and Sam Cobley are here to help you find the financial solution you need — visit Elders Northam, contact the branch (08 9622 6000), or head to eldersfinance.com.au.

****To celebrate this expanded service offering, the first five Farm Management Deposits opened from April at Elders Northam will receive a small gift****

Financial Services Disclaimer: Elders Rural Services Australia Limited ABN 72 004 045 121 Australian Financial Services Licence 237757 (Elders) has entered an arrangement to distribute banking products issued by Auswide Bank, a division of MyState Bank Limited ABN 89 067 729 195 Australian Financial Services Licence 240896, a wholly owned subsidiary of MyState Limited ABN 26 133 623 962. This information is general in nature and does not consider your personal objectives, financial situation or needs. Before deciding whether to apply for a financial product, you should seek professional advice and consider the relevant Terms and Conditions which is available on the Elders website www.eldersfinance.com.au. A target market determination can be obtained at www.eldersfinance.com.au/tmd. Elders may receive a commission from Auswide Bank if you successfully apply for a financial product through Elders. For more information on Elders' relationship with Auswide Bank, please read the Elders Financial Services Guide which is available here: eldersfinance.com.au/efsg



Photo: Sam Cobley and Christina Knight

Thank you

Chalice would like to express our gratitude to the many volunteer brigades who worked tirelessly to keep all our homes, farms and hollows safe during the bushfire season.

Research cameras showed how 'close to home' a December fire was to our Carnaby family at the Gonneville Project. We are thrilled to report the freshly hatched baby is flourishing and our feathered family is thriving.



Contact us
0487 371 961
community@chalicemining.com
Check our Facebook page for updates

What's coming up



See you in Northam
Friday 1st May

Chalice is excited to support this event and hear what lies ahead for our industry colleagues and regional neighbours.



CARPET CLEANING

The **Natural** Way
to **Cleaner** Carpets™
Superior Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

Chem-Dry Betta Finish
Jason Lilleyman
08 9622 5205
bettafinish@wn.com.au
Servicing the Local Area
Carpet, Upholstery and Hard Floor Cleaning



EXCAVATION

AMC EARTHWORKS
PTY LTD

- Dam Construction
- Dam Cleanout & Resealing
- Paddock & Bush Clearing
- Driveway & Farm Road
- Constructions
- Pad Constructions - House, Shed, Silo's etc
- Stone Pitching to Batters for Erosion Control
- Horse Arenas

0448 651 963
amcearthworks@bigpond.com

GARAGE DOORS

- NEW SECTIONAL & ROLLER DOORS INSTALLED
- SERVICE & REPAIRS TO ALL DOORS & MOTORS
- MOTORS FITTED TO EXISTING GARAGE DOORS
- INDUSTRIAL DOORS SUPPLIED & INSTALLED
- FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

Servicing, Toodyay, Northam, Goomalling
Wongan Hills, York, Quairading,
Merredin & Surrounds

SALES • SERVICE • REPAIRS

Shane Andrew
0409 089 994
allstrong.outdoors@bigpond.com




CIVIL ENGINEERING

NASH
Bros.
MINING & CIVIL EQUIPMENT RENTAL

Ph: 9622 9750
www.nashbros.com.au

COLOUR FLASH
— WELDING & CIVIL —

EARTHMOVING SERVICES

- General Earthworks
- Land / Site Clearing
- Trenching
- Pipe Laying
- Storm Water Drainage
- Gravel Carting
- Fire Breaks

AS/NZS 4801
BUREAU VERITAS
Certification

0448 338 556
colourflashwelding.com.au





FENCING

EASTERN HILLS FENCING

- Colourbond
- Pine Post & Rail
- Chainmesh
- Glass & Aluminium Pool Fencing

Custom Gates made to order

9574 0221

Eastern Hills Fencing
E: admin@easternhillsfencing.com.au
W: easternhillsfencing.com





COMPUTERS

Quality, friendly & professional IT services
0417 177 683

NEW COMPUTERS, UPGRADES & REPAIRS.

Classic IT Support

wobm
Wheatbelt Office & Business Machines

248 Fitzgerald St, Northam
Ph: 9622 5531

sales@wobm.com.au
www.wobm.com.au

Computers & Laptops
Hardware & Software
Repairs & Upgrades
Internet Security
Broadband Internet
Business Phone Systems

Multifunction Devices
Printers
Photocopiers
Inks & Toners
Printer Paper
Business Cards

FUJIFILM
FUJIFILM BUSINESS INNOVATION
Authorised Dealer

ELECTRICAL

GTS GLOBAL TESTING SERVICES
HIGH VOLTAGE SPECIALISTS

OUR SERVICES:

- High & Low Voltage Installations and maintenance
- Earth Testing Services
- High Voltage Testing & Commissioning
- Electrical Testing Equipment Hire
- Transformer Refurbishment
- Transformer Maintenance & Oil Filtration

(08) 9456 7700
36 Bannick Court, Canningvale, WA
www.globaltest.com.au

RBC
EARTHMOVING & CARTAGE

- EARTHMOVING
- EXCAVATION
- TRANSPORT
- BULLDOZER

0427 718 090

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TESTING

AVON ARC TEST 'N' TAG
FIRE EXTINGUISHER TESTING

Based in York and covering the region
Using the latest test equipment, we are accredited to test and attach the necessary tags to your Fire equipment.

Mark
0407 278 272
Ingrid
0427 619 983

Fire: S5250/245



GAS

Keep it local with Nutrien Northam

16 Yilgarn Avenue, Northam
Call 9621 2900

Kleenheat
kleenheat.com.au



HOME BUILDERS

EVOKE LIVING HOMES

Steel-Framed Modular Homes
Built in Northam | Delivered Across WA

- ✓ Locally Owned, Family Business
- ✓ Over 40 Years of Experience
- ✓ 12-Week Construction Timeline

61 Old York Road, Northam | 1300 138 635 | evokelivinghomes.com.au



ELECTRICAL

Verlindens Established 1960
Electrical Service (WA)

FOR ALL ELECTRICAL WORK

- Industrial • Commercial • Domestic • Rural
- Installation & Maintenance
- Ditchwork for hire • Mini excavator
- Elevated work platform for hire
- Data and communications

18 VERLINDEN ROAD NORTHAM
verlindens@westnet.com.au

9622 1238

Keep your family safe
Use registered professionals





GLASS

NORTHAM & DISTRICTS GLASS

Professional Service & Friendly Advice
We Specialise In

- 24hr Emergency Glass Repairs Domestic & Commercial
- Windscreen Replacements & Calibrations
- Security Doors & Flyscreens
- Shower Screens



08 9622 1067 0408 956 955
admin@northamglass.com.au
34 Yilgarn Avenue, Northam

LEGAL ADVICE



We specialise in assisting parties in conflict to deal with their legal matters.

EXPERIENCED LEGAL PRACTITIONERS
SPECIALISING IN FAMILY LAW

Phone: (08) 9621 1073 |
E: reception@vicelegal.com.au | Web: vicelegal.com.au

LIQUOR STORE

Join today
and be
rewarded



Online Store
CLICK + COLLECT

cellarbrations.com.au

Cellarbrations
Good shout!

50 Forrest St, Northam
9622 1539

MACHINERY HIRE

MACHINERY DRY HIRE TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS



Excavator - Wheel Loader
Track Loader/Posi
Multiple Attachment Options
Short or Long Term Hire

Call Brenton
0429 147 691
E: B2machinery@outlook.com

MORTGAGE BROKER



Elise Hackett

Owner Manager

m 0480 477 132
e elise.hackett@mortgagechoice.com.au
w MortgageChoice.com.au/elise.hackett

Franchise Owned & Operated by EH & TB Pty Ltd 28 689 556 698
Mortgage Choice Pty Ltd Australian Credit Licence 382869



MUSIC LESSONS

Playing for
enjoyment!

0401 686 023



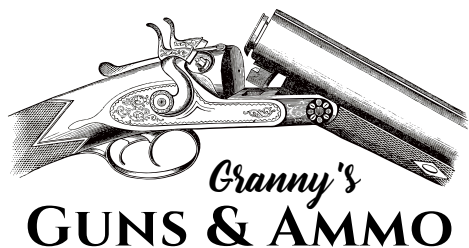
PAINTER

Licence -PC102142

GET IT GLOSSY
PAINTING

Michael McLaughlin
MOB: 0428301108
mbmclaughlin@bigpond.com

GUNS & AMMUNITION

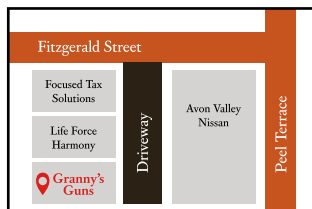


- New & Used Firearms
- Ammunition
- Firearm related Accessories
- We provide assistance with all aspects of firearm licensing applications

OPENING HOURS Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm
Saturday by appointment

0417 357 357
55 Fitzgerald St,
Northam
(behind Focused Tax Solutions)

DL: 09993732



HOME IMPROVEMENT

AVON HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTRE

HOME MAINTENANCE 7 Elizabeth Place, Northam
TILES & ACCESSORIES ahic7@westnet.com.au
WALLS & CEILINGS
MATERIALS PH 9622 3300

LEGAL ADVICE



9305 9529

204 Fitzgerald St, Northam
lotuslegalperth.com.au

- Conveyancing
- Family Law
- Property Law
- Estate Planning
- Employment Law
- Deceased Estates

Trusted legal advice for life's big decisions

MARRIAGE CELEBRANT

Marriage Celebrant
Nola Chamberlain

- Naming Ceremonies
- Reaffirmation of Vows
- House Blessings
- Funerals

nola@congruentlifecelbrancy.com.au
0417 991 515 9622 5684

MOBILE PHONES & IT

Same location for 8 years

BEST SERVICE &
DEALS GUARANTEED

JS Technology and Digital Northam

Director:
James Jiang

Tel: 08-96228805 Facebook: JS Technology and Digital
E-mail: jstechdigital@gmail.com 224 Fitzgerald St Northam

- Mobile/Tablet phone repairs
- Mobile Phone selling
- Mobile/Tablet accessories selling
- Computer/Gaming devices repair

PET STORE

Spud Jax

Pet shop
Pamper your pets!
and Support each other!

A local wheatbelt business
with amazing products,
fantastic prices and
FREE AU SHIPPING!



www.spudjax.com.au

PEST CONTROL

COUNTRYSIDE PEST CONTROL

INSPECT | TREAT | PROTECT

YOUR LOCAL PEST CONTROL
EXPERTS



SPECIALISING IN:

- ✓ Ant Control
- ✓ Spider & General Insect Control
- ✓ Rodent Control
- ✓ Bees & Wasps
- ✓ Cockroach Control
- ✓ Termite Elimination
- ✓ Timber Pest Inspections
- ✓ Pre Purchase Timber Pest Inspections & More!

"Family Run & Owned Since 1999"

08 9622 7221

admin@countrysidepestcontrol.com.au
countrysidepestcontrol.com.au



REG #513

PEST CONTROL



MORRIS
PEST & WEED CONTROL

Your Regional Pest & Weed Management Specialists



- Termite Control
- Pre-Purchase Inspections
- Bee removal & Relocation Service
- Cockroaches, Ants, Spiders, Rodents & Other General Pests
- Complete Weed Control
- Commercial
- Mining
- Domestic
- Government Contracts

admin@morrispest.com.au
Call 0456 865 026 or 0417 934 885

PLUMBING

DARRY'S
PLUMBING & GAS

Commercial - Domestic - Gas Backflow - Hot Water - Aircon

Excavator, Truck & Bobcat Hire

PL7393 BF1723 GF010323

www.darrys.com.au 0418 903 777

POOLS



AVON VALLEY
POOLS

0418 903 777

- Servicing the Avon Valley Region, Wheatbelt Regions and up to and including Kalgoorlie
- Supplier of Riverina Fiberglass pools, manufactured in Perth
- We handle everything from quotes, shire approval and installation of your pool
- Enjoy a hassle-free brand-new beautiful pool this summer

Avon Valley Pools is a family-owned business located in York

REAL ESTATE



firstnational REAL ESTATE | HOLLETT & LAWRENCE



WE PUT YOU FIRST

- ✓ Buying
- ✓ Selling
- ✓ Leasing
- ✓ Investing



08 9622 5766
enquiries@northamrealestate.com.au

PHOTOGRAPHER



Angie Roe Photography

Natural, emotive, storytelling

0428179375
www.angieroephoto.com.au



ROOM HIRE



Bridgeley
Community Centre

ROOM HIRE
All sizes

Training, regional meetings, workshops, interviews, small meetings or counselling sessions

AV equipment & Wifi
Tea and Coffee and catering available

9622 3981
91-93 Wellington St, Northam 6401
reception@bridgeley.org.au



TEST AND TAG

AVON ARC TEST 'N' TAG

ELECTRICAL TEST & TAGGING

Based in York and servicing the region

Infrared Switchboard Imaging
(to meet with Insurance Requirement)

RCD compliance testing
Portable Electrical Equipment Testing & Tagging
Microwave leakage tests

Mark Ingrid Licence No. 2857497
0407 278 272 0427 619 983

PLUMBING



Blackwell
PLUMBING & GAS

COMMERCIAL, DOMESTIC & MAINTENANCE
Your Gas & Hot Water Specialists

Ph: 9622 2235
2 Yilgarn Avenue - Northam
admin@blackwells.com.au



TA5758474

REAL ESTATE

BOB DAVEY
Real Estate

150 Fitzgerald Street Northam
PO Box 412 Northam 6401
Web: askbob.com.au

Northam Office
08 9622 8499

admin@askbob.com.au



TEST AND TAG



STEVE
0457 254 224

FIRST ATTACK
TEST & TAG
FIRE PROTECTION
EMERGENCY LIGHTING TESTING

Hannagan's **Hearth House**

PLUMBING
HEATING & COOLING

2 Gordon St Northam 9622 1462

We sell & service Cool Breeze Air Conditioners
Masport Heating Products
Regency Heating Products

PL 1987 GF 001857

- Gasfitter & Installer
- Gas Service & Maintenance
- Sewerage Plumber
- General Plumbing

AGENTS FOR BONAIRE
9622 1462 or 9622 3468
2 GORDON ST, NORTHAM
Email: makin1@wn.com.au

the **Northam** advertiser

Your FREE community paper

Read the latest news online at
thenorthamadvertiser.com.au

jodie@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au
editor@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au
160 Fitzgerald Street Northam



TREE LOPPING



SERVICES:

- Target pruning
- Deyooding
- Cut and leave options
- Full service removals
- Owner operator 16m cherry picker
- Fully insured

0412 918 689

TYRES

GOODYEAR
AUTOCARE *Good to go*
NORTHAM

Simon Wooding
Owner

Ph: 6383 9871

OPEN 8am-5pm
Monday - Friday

2 Yilgarn Ave Northam
northam@goodyear.com.au
goodyearautocare.com.au



WELDING



COLOUR FLASH
— WELDING & CIVIL —

WELDING SERVICES

- Onsite Welding & Fabrication
- Pipeline Welding & Installations
- Maintenance Shutdowns
- Steel Fabrication
- Shed Erection
- Modification & Repair of Heavy Machinery



0448 338 556

colourflashwelding.com.au

CLASSIFIEDS

March 2026

Church Services

Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist

11 Wellington Street, Northam
Tel: 9622 1016

E:anglicanparishofnortham@gmail.com

Services at 10.00am every Sunday throughout the year.



Bridgeley
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bridgeley Church of Christ

Sunday Service 9:30am.

Church online: youtube.com/
BridgeleyChurchofChrist

For more information on other programs or activities contact Bridgeley Reception 9622 3981.

Employment

RECEPTIONIST VACANCY

Toodyay Medical Group is a privately owned Practice operating in Toodyay. We employ and engage with General Practitioners, Practice Nurses (both Registered and Enrolled) visiting Physicians, Allied Health Professionals and administration staff.

The Receptionist is a part time role, TMG is flexible to casual or part time hours for interested individuals.

Applicants to be familiar with Microsoft Outlook and Best Practice software would be an advantage. Criteria Essential:

- Current Police check
- Current Working with Children check
- Current CPR certificate, or the willingness to achieve the certificate
- Continuing Professional development

If you are interested please contact the Practice on 08 9545 7101 or email: practicemanager@toodyaymedicalgroup.com.au

For Sale



Shoprider Rainrider

Secondhand Shoprider - Injection Blue. Max. user weight:160kg, fully enclosed cabin with double sided doors. Good working order.

0499 643 318

Obituary



Elizabeth Jean Edith Carter
01.03.1936 - 09.02.2026

My family and I wish to pass on our most sincere thanks to the staff at Purslowe Tinetti funerals, Commonwealth Bank Northam plus the Wound Clinic staff at Northam hospital for their professional expertise and assistance over the past months. The help and assistance given to my wife of 71 years was very much appreciated, we thank you again.

Jean loved gardening, encouraging and watching small birds twittering around the plants helping her eradicate insects, loved knitting and crocheting rugs for the underprivileged.

The family thank and appreciate everybody for the condolence cards, assistance and help given in this time of our loss. Again we thank you.

Yours with all sincerity, Donald F Carter.

Obituary



Acknowledgement of the Passing of Former Councillor John Proud

Council acknowledges with sadness the passing of former Councillor John Proud on 9 March 2026.

John served the Shire of Northam as an elected Council Member from 2015 to 2019. During this time he contributed to an important period of growth and development for the Shire, supporting initiatives that helped shape Northam's future, including the planning of the Northam Aquatic Facility, the construction of the Bilya Koort Boodja Centre, and a period of significant private sector investment and development within the district.

John was well known locally through his role as editor of the Avon Valley Advocate. In that position he worked to represent and promote the communities of the Avon Valley. With a professional background in the official reporting of parliamentary debates and in managing regional newspapers, he approached his work with a strong sense of responsibility to public discourse and community representation.

Reflecting on his time on Council, John noted that Northam had long been regarded as being "on the verge" of something significant, and he took pride in being part of a Council that helped the Shire move beyond that point during a period of major development led by both government and the private sector.

John also served the community through the Anglican Parish, including in the role of Warden.

On behalf of the Council and the community of Northam, we acknowledge John's service and contribution to our Shire and extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends and all who knew him. His commitment to the Northam community will be remembered with appreciation.

CLASSIFIEDS

Have something you want listed in the classifieds?

the Northam
advertiser

Send your listing through to Jodie:

jodie@thenorthamadvertiser.com.au

More than \$1500 has been donated to Northam Men's Shed



Photo: from left: Scott Ballantyne (Golf WA); Andrew Quinn (Northam GC); Steve Dragtstra (Northam Men's Shed); Chadd Hunt (Northam GC)

More than \$1500 has been donated to Northam Men's Shed thanks to funds raised at last year's Aglime State Sand Greens Championship.

Given the regional roots of the event and many of its competitors, the Sand Greens Championship has a strong focus on highlighting regional men's mental health issues.

Each host venue is invited to select a local men's mental health initiative to support, with funds raised during the championship through player donations and purchases of limited-edition golf items — in this case, blue golf towels.

Northam Golf Club hosted the 2025 State Sand Greens and chose the local men's shed to be the

beneficiary, with the money officially handed over in late January.

Northam Golf Club's President Chadd Hunt said it was an easy choice to raise funds for such a good cause.

"The men's sheds do an important job throughout WA, not only just in Northam, but our local group that do great work in the community and they've created some artworks for us around the course and clubhouse, so we're very pleased to be able to give back to them," he said.

"State Stands is a men's event, and men's mental health is a big issue in the Wheatbelt. Men aren't always very good at talking about their problems, which is why the men's shed is so important.

"They can go there, get together and just have a chat about different things with other men. It's certainly relatable to what goes on the golf course."

Steve Dragtstra from the Northam Men's Shed was delighted to accept the donation, which he says will allow the local group to enhance their own offering while also potentially boosting other nearby branches.

"We've got an excellent relationship with Northam Country Club and we're very grateful to them for thinking of us," he said.

"We'll be able to get some new wood-working and metal-working equipment with the money, and that will allow us to pass on some of our older gear to another men's shed if they need it."

Thinking Hybrid but not sure where to start?



Meet the GWM Haval H6 in HEV & PHEV

Smart powertrains designed to slash fuel spend, cut running costs, and keep every drive smooth and quiet without giving up space or capability.

HEV: self-charging hybrid that helps you use less fuel in everyday traffic.

PHEV: plug in at home, do short trips on electric power, and visit the servo far less.

More kilometres. Fewer fuel stops. Real savings you'll feel week to week.

Call 96221188 and Book a Test drive at Northam GWM and Go far with more

View our Hybrid and PHEV range here: northamgwm.com.au | Or see the team at 1 Oliver Street, Northam

Are you ready for some karate action?



The students at Avon Valley Shotokan definitely are, with a group of 23 currently on their way to Japan for the 24th Universal Shotokan Karate Union (USKU) Karate Championships with others to follow soon.

The trip will include training with students all around the world, seminars led by some of the world's best karate instructors and competing in kata, team kata and kumite events at the tournament.

This year, we even have two adult teams competing in the team kata event as well as our teams of younger students which is a first for our club.

Excitingly, we have many students who have chosen to participate in family home stays, where they will be able to live, sightsee and train with Japanese karate students and their families.

Our club hosted last year's championships, making lots of new friends from around the world, so the students are looking forward to seeing their international friends again.

This adventure would not be possible without the generous support of our wonderful community.

We would like to extend an enormous thank you from everyone at Avon Valley Shotokan to our amazing sponsors; Toodyay Op shop, White Rose Civil and Earthworks, Lisa and Des Biglin, Earth to AG Diesel,

Arise Coffee, The Rec, Tony Maddox, Roam Distillery, ASB skip bins, Complete Building Supplies WA, EAG Electrical and Toodyay Tyre and Exhaust.

Also, a special mention and thank you to the many local superstars who have given private personal donations to support our students.

Opportunities like this are incredibly important for students of all ages but are often out of reach financially.

Your support has allowed us to double the number of students able to attend the USKU Karate Championship, seminars and participate in homestay and cultural exchange in Japan compared to the trip in 2024 and this is such a blessing.

For anyone keen to follow the action, the USKU Japan website and Facebook page are updated regularly and feature lots of photos and videos to enjoy, so they are well worth a visit.

In the meantime, classes on Monday (in Clackline) and Wednesday (in the Toodyay Youth Hall) are still running as normal. Friday classes are cancelled for the term.

Sensei Lincoln has volunteered to teach the lessons while Shihan and Sensei Kylie are away (thank you Sensei) so we hope to see you there.

Northam Golf Open Day in April



Photo: A fun filled closing day was held for the ladies in Season 2025

Northam Golf Club's Opening Day for the 2026 season is on Saturday, April 18, with tee off at 12:00 pm.

Winter Scroungers starts Wednesday, April 22, and players can enjoy either 9 or 18-hole competitions, while the ladies season begins Tuesday, May 5, teeing off at 11:30am.

The club will once again run its junior coaching program starting June 4, along with ladies coaching and private lessons, all led by PGA professional Brayden McCubbing.

Northam Golf Club is proud to support the community, having recently donated over \$1,500 to the Northam Men's Shed, raised during the 2025 Aglime State Sand Greens Championship.

The club is based at the Northam Country Club, 15 Wood Drive, and warmly welcomes new members. For more information, call 9622 1050, email northamgolfclub@gmail.com, or drop in. Come along, have fun on the greens, make new friends, and enjoy a fantastic season of golf!

Northam Touch Football

The Northam Touch Football Association is pleased to report that it has had a successful season with some minor growth in interest and numbers throughout Term 1 (Summer) to March.

"The Committee will be seeking new players, participants and sponsors ready to begin again in October," says Brett Inglis, president of the association.

"The lights and new format of playing at night at Bert Hawke Reserve has helped us to avoid the oppressive heat so we are grateful for the additional support from the Shire of Northam," Brett added.

If you wish to be involved look us up on 'Northam Touch Football' on Facebook or contact us via email at northamtouchfootball@gmail.com.



Helena
Avon Valley Shotokan

Has been with our club for over 5 years. She is actively stepping up into leadership roles, volunteering to assist younger students throughout the junior classes. She volunteers her time on weekends to collect rubbish for our club as well as helping out with all fund-raisers. She is encouraging to other members who may be struggling with self motivation. She has been selected the travel internationally to represent Australia in March. She attended all holiday training, running laps on the oval and doing drills to improve fitness in preparation for her competition in March.
Well done Helena.



Our Junior Club Champ of the month gets a Shop Northam \$25 Eftpos Card thanks to Hon Steve Martin MLC



HON STEVE MARTIN MLC
MEMBER FOR AGRICULTURAL REGION



ADVERTISEMENT



what's on

OPEN ALL LONG WEEKEND



EASTER AT THE REC

FRI 3 - MON 6 APRIL

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS
ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



Disney FAMILY QUIZ

THUR 16 APRIL
FROM 6PM

RESERVE YOUR TABLE NOW: [THEREC.COM.AU/NORTHAM](https://therec.com.au/northam)



PYJAMA PARTY

KARAOKE NIGHT

FRIDAY 3 APRIL @ 6PM

BOOK NOW [THEREC.COM.AU/NORTHAM](https://therec.com.au/northam)



Mother's Day

SPOIL YOUR MUM
AT THE REC

SUNDAY 10 MAY 2026



STEAK NIGHT

From \$27



TUESDAYS FROM 5PM

RIB NIGHT

From \$27



WEDNESDAYS FROM 5PM

PARMI NIGHT

From \$27



THURSDAYS FROM 5PM

PIZZA NIGHT

From \$22



FRIDAYS FROM 5PM

CURRY NIGHT

From \$27

197 DUKE ST, NORTHAM WA 6401
[WWW.THERECNORTHAM.COM.AU](https://www.therecnortham.com.au)

TERRA MARE

KIDS EAT FREE

EVERY FRI & SAT

2 GREY STREET, NORTHAM
[TERRA-MARE.COM.AU](https://terra-mare.com.au)
(08) 9615 5582

FROM 5PM. KIDS UNDER 12.
1 KIDS MEAL WITH ANY ADULT MEAL.



NABA Shines at BWA Country Championships



Photo: Mark Bowler from Valley Ford (centre) with the NABA Country Championships teams

The Northam Amateur Basketball Association (NABA) proudly sent 11 teams to this year's BWA Country Championships over the month of February, and our players truly rose to the challenge. Facing some of the toughest competition in the state, our kids played hard, supported each other, and stood up to the test with determination and heart.

Of the 11 teams, six advanced to the finals, and three came away as grand final winners the Under 12 Girls, Under 13 Girls, and Under 15 Boys. Along the way, our teams produced three MVPs, Aariah deBlecourt Under 12 Girls, Mia Parker Under 13 Girls and Justin Sandrini Under 15 Boys. This year saw numerous players hitting the top scorer charts, highlighting the incredible talent across the association.

Country Championships remains one of the most significant fixtures on the regional basketball calendar, bringing together associations from across Western Australia for a week of high-level competition. For many players, it represents the pinnacle of junior

representative basketball and an opportunity to test themselves against the best country talent in the state.

The Country Championships are more than just basketball. They bring a jump in skill levels, new friendships, and plenty of laughs. For many of our players, it's a chance to push their game, meet new competitors, and create memories that last well beyond the courts.

For Northam, the 2026 campaign signals more than just a single strong result. The combination of a grand final appearance, competitive performances across multiple age groups, and positive reports from throughout the week points to a program that is continuing to build and strengthen.

This year, NABA extends a heartfelt thank you to Mark Bowler at Avon Valley Ford. His support helped kit out the players with new training shirts and bags, ensuring that the squads could compete confidently alongside the bigger clubs. Thanks to this generosity, NABA made a huge presence on and off the court, showing that our small community has big talent, big hearts, and big determination.

As the 2026 season winds up with Grand Finals on the horizon the association is excited to see these players continue to grow, learn, and inspire the next generation of basketball stars in Northam.



Photo: left to right, Mark Bowler from Valley Ford with MVP winners Aariah deBlecourt, Mia Parker and Justin Sandrini



Scan QR code
to apply

More mates wanted

Working with your mates. That's what makes it Macca's Northam. Apply now!

