

COUNCIL TO COMMUNITY

Did you know the Shire has a COVID-19 page on our website? This page contains lots of information, useful links, copies of our COVID-19 Community Newsletters and more. Visit www.gingin.wa.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx.

This edition of the Shire of Gingin's 'Council to Community' is brought to you by:



ANSPACH AG

"We specialise in transport, earth moving and plant hire plus Agricultural Contracting. We also supply agricultural and earthmoving products plus bulk goods. Anspach Ag is a privately owned business established in 1992 which services all areas of Western Australia."

(08) 9655 7074

www.anspachag.com.au

Thank you to Anspach Ag for sponsoring the 2019 Rates Incentive Prize Night.

Our Community News

Displaced Persons, Financial Hardship, Employment & Accommodation Options

Have you been displaced by the COVID-19 Pandemic? Are you a backpacker or unemployed individual? Are you having trouble finding work? How is your accommodation situation right now?

If you're in this situation, these are some of the issues you might have recently been trying to resolve. COVID-19 has impacted Australia's economy in ways that haven't been seen since war times or the Great Depression. If you need financial assistance or you're not sure about where to look for employment or accommodation right now then there are some options.

Financial Hardship

If you are a displaced person in our Shire currently experiencing financial hardship, then the Shire **strongly encourages** you to please register with our **Vulnerable Persons Register** via the Shire's website - www.gingin.wa.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx. Alternatively please contact Cher Groves, the Shire's coordinator for the register, on (08) 9575 5138 between the hours of 7am – 7pm.

We can facilitate the provision of assistance if you need it but only if you let us know that you are in need of some help. We're all in this together and we want to make sure that everyone gets through this.

Employment

With so many now unemployed in Australia due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, it has become increasingly difficult to secure employment. However, there are now a number of government and private agencies facilitating work opportunities (mainly in the agriculture sector) if you're finding it tough to get employment right now. Please note that the following is not a comprehensive list and it is provided as a courtesy. The Shire of Gingin does not endorse any particular agency.

- Jobs in WA Food & Ag – Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development and WA Farmers and other members of the informal Food Alliance WA www.jobsinwafoodandag.com
- Aussie Jobs – private agency www.aussijobs.com.au
- Work Stay – private agency www.workstay.com.au

- Work Stay – private agency www.workstay.com.au
- Backpacker Job Board – private agency www.backpackerjobboard.com.au/jobs-in/western-australia
- The Job Shop – private agency www.thejobshop.com.au
- Agri Labour Australia – private agency www.agrilabour.com.au/backpacker-jobs

Accommodation

If you are a displaced person (i.e. backpacker or grey nomad, etc.) in our Shire currently with no fixed abode and you are seeking accommodation, the following options are available:

- **Windsurfer Beach Chalets**, 1 Hopkins St, Lancelin. Contact: 9655 1454, www.lancelinaccommodation.com.au
- **Country Values Holiday Homes** – Various locations. Contact: 9575 2566, www.cvhh.com.au
- **Back to Nature Caravan Park**, 1800 Cowalla Rd, Wanerie. Contact: 9655 3025, www.backtonaturecaravanpark.com.au
- **Guilderton Caravan Park**, 2 Dewar St, Guilderton. Contact: 9577 1021, www.guildertoncaravanpark.com.au
- **Ledge Point Caravan Park**, 742 Ledge Point Road, Ledge Point. Contact: 9655 2870, www.ledgepointholidaypark.com
- **Experience Lancelin Holiday Park**, Hopkins St, Lancelin. Contact: 9655 1056, www.lancelincaravanpark.com.au

Under the WA State Government's implemented restrictions, accommodation such as caravan parks, hotels, etc. are allowed to remain open to those with no fixed abode, i.e. displaced persons isolated in WA regions following the implementation of travel restrictions. If you are a legal accommodation provider in the Shire of Gingin and would like to be included on the list above, please contact the Shire via mail@gingin.wa.gov.au.

APRIL

#WeAreInThisTogether



Our Community News

Fire Permits – Agricultural, Gardens and BBQs

Many of the Shire's Fire Control Offices (FCOs) who volunteer their time to undertake this role are currently being inundated with requests from community members for fire permits to burn.

The good news is that with the recent cooler weather, FCOs are now able to issue fire permits for barbecues and burning small piles of leaves in your garden. This in addition to the existing availability of fire permits for agricultural purposes.

Community members are reminded that whilst the weather has cooled, conditions still remain dry with minimal rainfall received so far this year. Please take care to follow the directions issued on your fire permit by the FCO.

Further, it should be noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, any fire a volunteer firefighter has to attend means it is difficult for them to maintain appropriate social distancing from their fellow volunteers and community members so please take extra care to make sure you keep any fires you light under control. Permits for burning bush blocks still remain unavailable.

If you are refused a permit by your local FCO, please do not take it personally. By not issuing permits until it is considered safe to do so, FCOs are protecting you (the permit holder) from the risk of prosecution should a controlled burn escape. Please be patient and treat your local FCO with kindness. They are volunteers and take on this role as a service to the community in addition to many also having full time work, family schedules to work around, etc. The appropriate time to contact your local FCO to ask for a permit is between 7am and 7pm daily.

Queries regarding the above may be directed to Phil Barrett, Chief Bush Fire Control Office, on 0408 943 576 during office hours.

New Travel App for WA Check Points

On 20 April 2020 the State Government launched a new app to assist in processing those people with an exemption through WAs borders and checkpoints.

The G2G Pass App has been developed as an efficient tool for freight, transport and other key industries to travel through the borders, reducing time and interaction at checkpoints.

Businesses or individuals can now apply for approval to travel if they fall under an exempt category. People can still use the existing paper-based process or help police at checkpoints by providing documentation to support their approved travel. If approved, a 'QR' code is issued to their phone via the G2G app or can be printed out for presentation at a checkpoint.

Further details regarding travel restrictions and exemptions is available on the State Government's website - www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-regional-travel-restrictions.

Alternatively, please call the **WA COVID-19 Hotline on 132 68 43**.

Our Community News

Weekly Covid-19 Community Newsletter

The Shire has commenced producing a newsletter which contains information relating to what activities the Shire of Gingin is undertaking to combat the spread of COVID-19, how it may affect our dealings with the community, useful links for further information, plus plenty more.

To subscribe, visit www.gingin.wa.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx and scroll down the page to submit your subscription request. Alternatively, please contact the Shire's Communications & Marketing Officer on (08) 9575 5150 during office hours.

#Caremongering

"It's all just a bit out of control at the moment" so the Shire of Gingin thought we'd create the form on the left for community members to be able to offer your services (if you would like) to your neighbours during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

This form compliments the Shire's **VULNERABLE PERSON REGISTER** and **CAN I HELP REGISTER** which we have commenced - sign up via the Shire's website - www.gingin.wa.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx.

You can download a copy of this form to print off from our website or alternatively paper copies have been circulated to CRCs and Post Offices around the Shire of Gingin.

A person may be considered vulnerable if they:

- Are frail (single or couple)
- Have mobility issues
- Are aged and live alone
- Are not aged but have significant barriers, no local support or they live alone

Other considerations may include:

- People who have recently moved to the area and have not yet established community connections
- Households with disabled family members
- Stranded Interstate and International travellers

Current Home Delivery Services and Shopping for Groceries

The Shire has observed lately that many of our community members are highly concerned about getting groceries now that the new regional travel restrictions are in place. We do understand that for those of you who formally did most of your shopping in Perth, it has been a bit of a tough adjustment.

If you've been struggling to source groceries, the Shire has compiled a list of local sources, many of whom also do deliveries. Please visit our website to view this list - www.gingin.wa.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx.

Save the Dates!

- **19 May – Ordinary Council Meeting at 3pm, Shire Administration Centre, Gingin.** Physical attendance at Council meetings by members of the public has been cancelled until further notice as part of COVID-19 measures implemented by the Shire. However, questions for consideration during Public Question Time may be submitted prior to the meeting using the Public Question Time form available from the Shire's website.