

COUNCIL TO COMMUNITY

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

VEGETATION

M.R. MULCHING
Mike Regan
0400 852 477

CONTRACTOR

"For all your slashing and fire break needs in Ocean Farm and Seaview Park – contact Mike at M.R. Mulching today!"

0400 852 477

Thank you to M.R. Mulching for sponsoring the 2019 Rates Incentive Prize Night.

Our Community News

2020/21 Rates Freeze

In recent months many in the community would have heard discussion in the media in relation to a rates freeze for 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Like many Councils across WA, the Shire of Gingin will be freezing rates for the 2020/21 financial year and will only collect the same amount of rates revenue as last year. This will allow the Shire to continue supplying our usual services to the community whilst some large one-off projects will be set aside for the next little while until the community has had a chance to recover further from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

However, your rates may still go up or down as a result of the valuation process undertaken by the State Valuer General. This is because rates are calculated by multiplying the rate in the dollar (calculated by the Shire) by your property valuation (set by the Valuer General). If your home's potential rental return increases faster than your neighbours, you will pay a higher share of rates - while the total rates revenue remains unchanged. This changes from year to year which is why sometimes your rates may go up or down or stay the same.

WHAT YOU PAY



MULTIPLY
the rate in the
dollar

BY YOUR
property's value as set by
the Valuer General – either
Gross Rental Value (GRV)
or Unimproved Value (UV)

TO
CALCULATE
your rates for
the year

Further information about how your rates are calculated and the rates freeze for this year is available online from <https://walga.asn.au/About-Local-Government/Rates>. Alternatively, contact the Shire's Rates department on (08) 9575 5100 – option 2.

Our Community News

Phase 4 Easing of Restrictions

With the pushback of Phase 5 to 15 August in WA, community members should note that Phase 4 easing of COVID-19 restrictions still remain in place. This means the following Shire services have reopened/been continued:

- **Libraries** – open again. Rhyme & Story Time has restarted as of 17 June. Maximum capacities still apply given that the 1 person per 2m² rule remains in effect.
- **Front desk** – open again in both our office locations (Gingin & Lancelin). Maximum capacities apply given that the 1 person per 2m² rule still remains in effect.
- **Granville Civic Centre (Gingin)** – available for hire again. Cleaning procedures and maximum capacities apply.
- **Sound Shell (Gingin)** – available for hire again for events – limit of 500 people per event.
- **Skate Parks & Playgrounds** – reopened for public use as of 6 June.
- **Council Meetings** – open to the Public but limited numbers only due to 1 person per 2m² rule still being in place (this will likely change for the August Council Meeting if Phase 5 goes ahead as planned on 15 August). Contact the Governance Support Officer (9575 5127) in advance to register to attend the July Council Meeting. Submit questions for Public Question Time in advance of the meeting. Please visit the Shire's website (www.gingin.wa.gov.au) for further information on how to do this.

Some services/facilities still remain unavailable to the public for the time being until further restrictions are relaxed. Namely this includes:

- **Community Bus** – bookings for this Shire service and facility remain unavailable for the time being.

Please Remember: social distancing measures still remain in place if you visit our facilities. Please maintain 1.5m between yourself and the nearest person. We encourage you to make use of hand sanitiser which is available when you visit our facilities. Most importantly though, if you are unwell please stay home.

AUGUST

#WeAreInThisTogether

Our Community News

Annual Rates Mail Out

It's that time of year once more where you can expect to receive your Rates Notice in the post within the next few weeks following the adoption of the Shire's Budget on 28 July. Rate payers this year can expect to receive 3 separate mail outs from the Shire.

The following documents **highlighted in red all Ratepayers should keep** as these documents you may be required to action or they may be necessary information for you to read and retain. Documents not highlighted in red are provided as a courtesy to Ratepayers. They contain information on topics that the Shire would like to communicate this year but Ratepayers are not required to retain this information if they don't wish to.

- Rates Notice
- Tip Pass
- Parking Permit
- Budget Bulletin
- ESL Levy
- Fire Break Orders
- Recycling Calendar
- Asset Protection Zone Fact Sheet
- Fuel Loading Fact Sheet
- Green Waste Kerbside Collection (keep if you desire to participate)

If you would like any further information on the documents you are required to keep or action, please contact the Shire.

Citrus Gall Wasp

Citrus Gall Wasp, a pest of citrus trees in commercial orchards and home gardens, arrived in WA in 2013 and is spreading rapidly. This wasp poses a threat to the citrus industry in WA.

Residents are encouraged to check their trees and use the Department of Primary Industry & Regional Development's MyPestGuide Reporter app (www.mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au/reporter) to report its presence or absence.

These reports help the Department to keep track of the spread of the wasps. The wasp could move into your area on infested trees from the Perth Metropolitan area. It is important to keep a close eye on any recently purchased or relocated trees and act quickly if galls appear.

For more information visit www.agric.wa.gov.au/citrus/citrus-gall-wasp-western-australia.

Save the Date!

18 August – Ordinary Council Meeting at 3pm, Shire Administration Centre, Gingin – physical attendance at Council meetings by members of the public is restricted. Please check in advance with the Shire if you plan to attend the meeting as COVID-19 restrictions may have changed by then. Contact the Shire's Governance Support Officer on (08) 9575 5127.

Our Community News

Green Waste Collections



- Green waste is uncontaminated
- Tree branches/limbs are less than 150mm in diameter
- Prunings are laid out with the ends facing the street

The Shire of Gingin will soon be providing its green waste kerbside collection service for 2020.

It has been scheduled to follow Queen's Birthday long weekend at the end of September.

Residents wishing to take advantage of this service are required to have their green waste placed on the verge no later than Monday, 28 September 2020.

As part of this service, there are a number of conditions as to what can be placed on the verge. Some material is inappropriate for collection as it can cause damage to the machinery trying to process it or even cause a serious injury to the operator. A flyer with these conditions will be circulated in the coming weeks and residents are urged to please read this flyer thoroughly and ensure to put out only appropriate green waste material for collection.

Free Dress Friday Fundraiser

Have you ever noticed that Shire staff don't seem to wear uniform on Fridays when you visit the Gingin Administration Centre? Well this is because staff participate in 'Free Dress Friday' to raise money for worthy causes within and outside of the local community.

Since commencing the program in June 2012, staff have raised over \$8,300. Donations have been made to various community groups including Chittering-Gingin St John Ambulance, Lancelin and Coastal Districts St John Ambulance, Gingin Red Cross and the Gingin Men's Shed. Funds have also been contributed to several local community members experiencing times of hardship, and other notable charity organisations such as Drought Angels, RFDS, Queensland Floods Appeal and the Cancer Council.