

# COUNCIL TO COMMUNITY

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

## VEGETATION

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

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*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.

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.

### 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.

## Our Community News

### Phase 4 Easing of Restrictions

With the pushback of Phase 5 to 1 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 2m<sup>2</sup> rule remains in effect.
- **Front desk** – open again in both our office locations (Gingin & Lancelin). Maximum capacities apply given that the 1 person per 2m<sup>2</sup> 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 2m<sup>2</sup> rule still being in place (this will likely change for the August Council Meeting if Phase 5 goes ahead as planned on 1 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](http://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

### Welcome to Emily



The Shire hopes that the community will extend a very warm welcome to Emily Agnew, our newest member of staff, who was successfully

appointed as the Shire's Ranger Trainee.

This is a new position created in collaboration with Bendigo Bank which allows Emily to undertake a Certificate IV in Regulatory Services whilst undertaking all the practical duties of a community Ranger.

An accomplished horse rider from a farming background, the young Gingin local impressed the selection panel with her outstanding application and interview. We are lucky to have Emily on board with the Shire and we hope she will enjoy her time serving the Shire's various communities.

### 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](http://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](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/citrus/citrus-gall-wasp-western-australia).

### Still Trying to Call Us on 9575 2211?

If you're trying to call us and you are hearing a message saying 'this number has been disconnected' then please don't worry – we haven't blocked you! We've just changed our phone number to 9575 5100.

This change occurred last year and we advertised it near and far for 6 months but we get it – phone numbers get saved in phones and other places and it's hard to update everywhere at once.

Please update your contact details for us to 9575 5100 and contact us on this aforementioned new number if you have any queries.

## 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.

## Save the Dates!

- **18 August – Ordinary Council Meeting at 3pm, Shire Administration Centre**, – physical attendance at Council meetings by members of the public may still be restricted to 5 members of the public at a time when the August Council Meeting takes place. Please check in advance with the Shire if you plan to attend the meeting as COVID-19 restrictions may have changed by then.

