

# COUNCIL TO COMMUNITY

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



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*Thank you to Lancelin Trade & Rural Supplies for sponsoring the 2019 Rates Incentive Prize Night.*

## Our Community News

### Phase 3 Easing of Restrictions

Now that WA has entered Phase 3 of the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, the Shire has reopened/continued the following services:

- **Libraries (Gingin & Lancelin)** – open again. Rhyme & Story Time have 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 100 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. 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.

**Note:** If Phase 4 restrictions are implemented prior to the July Council Meeting then Council Meetings may return to normal operation.

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.

## Our Community News

### Good Samaritans



*Dear Council folks,*

*I witnessed local heroes today Sunday, 31 May doing spontaneous volunteer work cleaning up Moore River with their own equipment and motivation.*

*Young Nick (I did not get his last name) and his two young buddies could have been doing other young man stuff, however at 9:45am they saw all the plastic wraps and trash accumulating on the north bank after storms. They went home for a pool scoop and large bin and without recognition, began trash collection. I had just returned from paddling upstream of Barragoon landing where cow and agri chemical effluent cause algal blooms and to see these youths doing such noble works, well it made my day.*

*Please submit this photo of Nick and his team of River heroes to the local gazette/s because the whole Gingin community need to celebrate these fellas.*

*Cheers,*

*Paul Robinson*

*Guilderton, FOMRE Member*

### 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. It was widely advertised but we understand that not everybody may have updated their contact details for the Shire yet.

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

### Plan to **Burn SMART** to Protect Your Property & Community

The Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) has produced a new guide which aims to give private landholders the tools to plan and **Burn SMART** on their properties.

Every year thousands of burns are successfully undertaken on private properties, however a small number escape. Nearly 75 percent of all escaped burns in Western Australia over the past three years started on private properties.

The Shire of Gingin has in recent years been working hard to undertake mitigation work (clearing, spraying, burning, etc.) throughout the district and many property owners wish to do the same, especially given last summer's bushfires experienced both in our own Shire and also in the eastern states. This guide will provide community members with a comprehensive understanding about how to conduct a burn safely and retain control of it.

Planned burning is vital to reduce the risk of bush fires and unfortunately inexperienced property owners are often unaware of the personal responsibility that comes with lighting and extinguishing a fire.

Before conducting any planned burn, property owners should contact the Shire to confirm if any burning restrictions may apply to your area. It is also up to the property owners to confirm that there is not a Total Fire Ban (applied by DFES) or any other sort of ban in place. A ban can be placed at any time of the year (even in the Unrestricted Burning Period although this is rare) and it is the **PROPERTY OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY** to check prior that there is not a ban in place prior to lighting any burn. Lighting a fire during a Total Fire Ban can result in the issuing of an infringement (\$1,000) with a maximum penalty of \$25,000 or 1 year's imprisonment.

To view and download **Burn SMART** resources visit [www.dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning).

The Unrestricted Burning Period has commenced in the Shire of Gingin as of 1 June. Fire Permits are no longer required to burn, however undertaking any burn should be done with caution and you should advise the DFES Communications Centre (9395 9209) in advance of your burn.

## Save the Dates!

- **21 July – 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 July 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.

## Our Community News

### Coastal Erosion Update



Since June last year the Shire has been providing regular updates about coastal erosion to the community via videos constructed and shared on our Facebook page. We've reached our 9th update which was recently shared on 5 June after an extended hiatus due to COVID-19 which has kept staff busy with other tasks.

Our latest update includes the following information:

- The Inundation Study has finally been received for our coastal towns from the independent consultants. The Shire is currently reviewing it prior to finalisation.
- Dredging works, which were commenced by the Department of Transport in Lancelin in March 2020 around the Lancelin Jetty, were extended by another few weeks into early June. They have recently been wrapped up.
- Damage sustained to the Shire's coastline during the recent storm activity in late May was much less than expected with sand nourishment works recently carried out mitigating much of the damage in Lancelin.
- Inundation points (where the water from storm surges gets into low lying areas inland behind sand dunes) have been identified in Lancelin and Ledge Point. The Lancelin points are via an access track adjacent to the caravan park and at the end of Hopkins Street. Several beach access points were identified at Ledge Point. The Shire will investigate to address these breach points.
- The track to access Edward Island Point was damaged during the severe weather and will remain closed.

Ultimately the Shire's coastline fared very well despite the rough weather. Sand nourishment works continue to do their job protecting our coastline in the interim until such time as a long term strategy is ready to be implemented.

If community members have any questions on the progress being made to address coastal erosion then please feel free to contact the Shire on 9575 5100. Alternatively, please refer to the Shire's information page on our website which contains additional information on coastal erosion within our Shire including FAQs, history, etc. Visit [www.gingin.wa.gov.au/services/coastal-erosion.aspx](http://www.gingin.wa.gov.au/services/coastal-erosion.aspx).