

Council to Community



GOT QUESTIONS? WE'VE GOT ANSWERS!

Local government is more than just roads, rates and rubbish – in today's modern world we handle a wide range of services and issues right across the Shire of Gingin.

We'll continue working hard to keep you informed and up-to-date with the latest

happenings throughout the Shire however sometimes you may have a question on a topic we haven't talked about in a while or perhaps you want to report an issue you've noticed. In this case we more than welcome your questions, feedback and reports!

Contact the Shire on (08) 9575 5100 / mail@gingin.wa.gov.au or drop us a line on our Facebook page.

New Summer Suite Line Up For 2021!

The Shire is excited to announce a brand new line up of events for the Shire's Summer Suite of Events 2021.

It's been a long year with few social engagements thanks to COVID-19 with the Gingin Triathlon as one of the first casualties. However, 2021 is a brand new year and the Shire has a great line up sure to entertain many.

Things will kick off on 9 January with an old favourite – **Music in the Park** in Gabbadah. Second on the list is the **Australia Day Picnic Breakfast** at Neergabby on 26 January which joins the Shire's Summer Suite of Events this year. Previously this event was held separately. The third event will be the much anticipated return of the **Gingin Triathlon** and coming in April will be a brand new event – an **Arts Festival** to be held in Lancelin.

Going forwards the Shire will only run 1 x triathlon per year in either Gingin or Lancelin. In 2022 the triathlon will therefore take place in Lancelin. In the year that either town is not hosting the event, an alternate event will take place instead which is consequently why Lancelin will host an Arts Festival in 2021.

The Party in the Park event (Lancelin) and the Music & Melody in the Park event (Ledge Point) have been retired from the Summer Suite of Events with the Shire keen to refresh the Summer Suite of Events program. Attendance has also been steadily declining at these two events in recent years.

All of the events are **FREE** to attend except for the Gingin Triathlon which has a participation fee. The Shire's Summer Suite of Events is brought to you by the Shire of Gingin in partnership with Bendigo Bank - Gingin Community Bank Branch & Lancelin Branch.

Enquiries

Contact the Shire's Events Team – (08) 9575 5162 / events@gingin.wa.gov.au.

North Link Extension between Gingin & Chittering

The State Government is proposing to extend the new North Link (Tonkin Highway) even further north to create the Great Northern Highway Bindoon Bypass (GNHBB). The Bypass will pass along the boundary line between the Shire of Gingin and the Shire of Chittering to connect to the upgraded New Norcia bypass. It will be 66km in total length including construction of 61.6km of new highway and 4.4km of improvements to the existing highway.

The proposed Bindoon Bypass will reduce vehicle kilometres travelled by enabling triple road trains to travel along the entire length of the corridor (which they currently can't do), thereby avoiding the need to stop and decouple at Wubin.

There is strategic merit for the project given the importance of the Great Northern Highway as a freight link between Perth's metropolitan area and Australia's north-west.

The majority of the project's benefits are vehicle operating cost savings. There will also be travel-time savings, reduced environmental

emissions and safety benefits through the removal of trucks from Bindoon's town centre.

At this point in time it is proposed that the road construction works will commence in 1 – 2 years.

Further information about the proposed bypass is available



from the Australian Government's Infrastructure Australia website - www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/map/bindoon-bypass. Alternatively visit the MainroadsWA website - www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/projects-initiatives/projects/regional/Great-northern-highway-muchea/.

November

#WeAreInThisTogether

Bushfire Cadets Program

Since late July the Year 10 students at Gingin District High School (Gingin DHS) have been learning some important new skills as part of a cadetship program being run by the Shire of Gingin in conjunction with the Department Fire & Emergency Services (DFES). This program gives the students great insight into what it is like to be a local volunteer fire fighter and a valuable member of the community.

The Gingin Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service (Gingin VFRS) are also participating in this program as the host brigade and they have been actively involved under Captain Nikki Woods in assisting with the practical training of the students. On completion of the program some of the students may potentially go on to be members of the Gingin VFRS whilst others may choose to join their local bushfire brigade.

This program was born from a desire to raise awareness and build capacity within the community to handle bushfire and other fire related emergencies. Discussions by Shire representatives with Gingin DHS Deputy Principal, Andrea Vis and DFES Youth Support, led to the establishment of the Cadet Program at the school. Upon completion of the program, the students will be qualified as Volunteer Bushfire Firefighters.

The program is being run by Shire and DFES employees, Phil Barrett (Chief Bushfire Control Officer/Community Emergency Services Manager) and David Wilson (Bushfire Risk Management Planning Coordinator). Under the State Government's Hazard Plan for Fire, those local governments identified as having significant bushfire risk (which the Gingin district has) are required to have a Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP).

In recent months Phil, David, Shire staff and volunteers have engaged in mitigation works around the Shire together with DFES and the Department of Parks & Wildlife as part of achieving the aims of the Shire's BRMP. However, there is still more to be achieved and other components have called for increasing bushfire awareness, building the Shire's response capability and engaging with local communities on a range of activities relating to bushfire awareness, preparation and mitigation. The creation of the Cadets Program of one such aim of the Shire's BRMP.

"Seeing so many cadets coming through this program has been immensely rewarding for all involved and this program will potentially play a massive role in the recruitment of members for the Shire's Volunteer Fire Brigades," Nikki Woods commented.

Natalie Davidson, a representative for DFES said "this program is a great way of future proofing our brigades."

Phil Barrett agrees, adding "I would love to see this continuing for many years to come. Watching the confidence grow in these cadets week by week has been great and we can see a lot of potential in all of them."

The program will run for a total of 16 weeks with 2 different Year 10 student cohorts – one group on Tuesdays and another on Thursdays.



Photo Courtesy of Gingin DHS



Upcoming Roadworks

The following roadworks are in progress for the next month:

- Ongoing construction of the Orange Springs Road \$5.2 million upgrade
- Re-sheeting works for Coonabidgee, Strickland and Warren Road
- Road patching as required
- Installation of guideposts
- Undertaking fire breaks on Shire blocks

Further enquires about these works may be directed to the Shire's Operations team on (08) 9575 5100, option 7.

SAVE THE DATES!

31 October – Nominations close for the 2021 Australia Day Community Citizen of the Year Awards

If you know an amazing person or group that have done great things in our community over the past 12 months then nominate them now for the 2021 Australia Day Community Citizen of the Year Awards! Visit www.citizenshipawards.com.au/nominate.

1 November – Fire Break inspections commence

17 November – Ordinary Council Meeting at 3pm at the Shire Administration Centre, Gingin

Physical attendance at Council meetings by members of the public is restricted (unless COVID-19 restrictions have changed by then). Please register to attend Council Meetings by contacting the Shire's Governance Support Officer on (08) 9575 5127.

22 November – the Prohibited Burning Period commences

30 November – Submissions close for Food & Beverage Capability Guide

This **FREE** guide allows you to showcase your food and beverage product range to wider audience of consumers and buyers. Visit www.gingin.wa.gov.au/central-coast-wheatbelt-food-capability-guide.aspx to apply now!