



# Council to Community

January

#WeAreInThisTogether

GINGIN | GUILDERTON | LANCELIN | LEDGE POINT | SEABIRD

## Red Gully & Yeal Bush Fires



Welcome to 2021! Whilst we'd like to say we're off to a great start, the first week of the New Year has probably left a number of us feeling a bit like "I'd like to cancel my subscription to 2021! I've experienced the free 7-day trial and I'm not interested."

All kidding aside, the Shire of Gingin Council and staff would like to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the fire fighters, support staff and the many others who have worked so hard to protect the lives and properties of residents in the Shires of Gingin and Dandaragan this past week. Your efforts are appreciated and recognised as being well and above the call of duty.

It was humbling to witness the professionalism and willingness of all of the various agencies that worked collaboratively and shared resources to overcome first the Red Gully Fire and then the Yeal Fire. This included the Department of Fire & Emergency Services, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions, the Department of Communities, WA Police, Main Roads WA, Western Power, St Johns Ambulance, The Salvation Army, local bush fire brigades and local fire & rescue brigades, brigades from other local governments and many others.

Their commitment to protect our communities will not quickly be forgotten. Bush fires of this magnitude require significant coordination and those that saw the Incident Command Centre in Gingin would understand the level of stakeholder involvement. To all of the Incident Controllers and their professional teams – well done and thank you.

For our part, the Shire of Gingin's staff and Councillors assisted with relaying communications from emergency services to the community, advised on local resources and provided earth moving equipment driven by Shire staff to support the fire-fighting effort. Staff also provided administrative support, worked at the Evacuation Centre in Guilderton, ran messages/errands and assisted with patrols or donned a firefighting uniform themselves if they were a member with any of the local brigades.

Overall the community was very supportive of emergency personnel as they strove to protect our communities. Of course there were frustrations but fighting a bush fire is a very complicated and dangerous process and emergency personnel will always seek to place the safety of the public above all else. We acknowledge the inconvenience caused and thank you for your support and cooperation during these trying times.

Whilst this threat is mostly passed, the bush fire season is far from over. Please stay safe and if you don't yet have a bush fire plan for your property, then we suggest you find some time to sit down with your family for a "Fire Chat". For further resources (templates, etc.) visit <https://mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au/>.

## New Outdoor Activity Space Works Commenced 4 Jan 2021



The Shire of Gingin has commenced construction of the Gingin Outdoor Activity Space (GOAS) as of 4 January 2021.

This exciting project (situated adjacent to the Granville Civic Centre) is a community based initiative and has been predominantly driven by the Gingin Outdoor Activity Space group (formerly Gingin Interactive Space Group), a community working group who came together to initiate and progress the development of a new outdoor activity space within the Gingin town site. The working group was independently formed in 2018 and is made up of several community members representing different demographics and/or interests in the community.

This project (formerly known as the Gingin Regional Playground) was instigated by the community given the aging and limited playground equipment in the Gingin town site. The original 'Gingin Regional Playground' project was to potentially relocate, renew and add to existing playground equipment for children. However, the project evolved over time given the need for an outdoor space that supported inclusion and engagement of all ages. The Working Group's vision 'is for a cohesive, accessible multigenerational outdoor recreational space within the centre of Gingin town.'

The Working Group has actively worked with the Shire at all stages of this project to ensure their vision is achieved. This has included independently undertaking fundraising activities and sourcing sponsorships (\$50,000), obtaining in-kind works and contributions (\$35,000) and securing \$150,000 in partnership with the Gingin CRC through a successful Bendigo Bank grant application. The Working Group also contributed to acquiring Federal funding with Hon. Christian Porter's support by meeting with him and discussing the project, the community's needs and the Working Group's role.

The Working Group continues to drive this project together with the Shire. The official launch of the Gingin Outdoor Activity Space is expected to coincide with Gingin's Sesquicentenary (150th Anniversary) which will take place 9 October 2021.

## Upcoming Roadworks

The following roadworks are in progress for the next month:

- Construction of Orange Springs Road \$5.2 million upgrade is predominantly completed with only line marking left to be undertaken.
- Repair work on Wannamal South Road, Dingo Road, Mimegarra Road & Nilgen Road following the Red Gully Bush Fire
- Reconstruction of Cowalla Road for 2.5km from Mimegarra Road heading towards Cowalla Bridge
- Re-sealing on Red Gully Rd
- Road patching as required

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

## Music in the Park 2021

Despite a hectic week with a couple of major bush fires, Music in the Park 2021 wasn't about to be stopped following a year of COVID-19 and event cancellations left, right and centre.

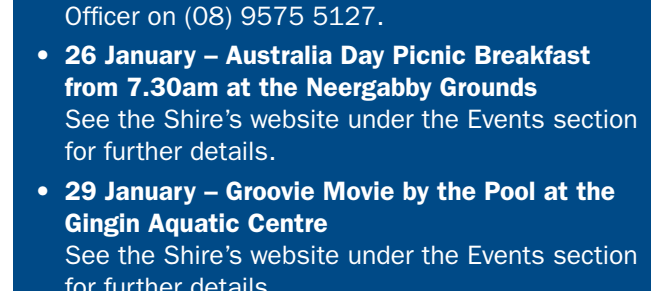
This great event returned to Guilderton on Saturday, 9 January. An annual attraction, Music in the Park saw its biggest number of attendees ever this year. Families and friends trickled in the Gabbadah Park, which is something of a natural amphitheatre, to enjoy 4 hours of the great sounds of the 1950s from Johnny Law & the Pistol Packin Daddies. The Perth band's styles included Americana, Rockabilly, Country and Rock and Roll. It created plenty of grooving and jiving with one couple jumping up to show the rest how it's done early on in the evening.

A sausage sizzle was provided by the Redfield Park Community Association with a coffee van also in attendance. The kids had plenty to choose from including a bouncy castle, a bucking bull and face painting.

St John Ambulance were in attendance with Lancelin Police also stopping by for to mingle with event attendees under the festoon lights and native trees.

This free event is the first event for the year which forms part of the Shire of Gingin's Summer Suite of Events. The next event will be the Australia Day Breakfast Picnic which will be held at the Neergabby Grounds on 26 January.

This event was sponsored in partnership with Bendigo Bank - Gingin Community Bank Branch & Lancelin Branch.



## SAVE THE DATES!

- **19 January – 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.
- **26 January – Australia Day Picnic Breakfast from 7.30am at the Neergabby Grounds**  
See the Shire's website under the Events section for further details.
- **29 January – Groovie Movie by the Pool at the Gingin Aquatic Centre**  
See the Shire's website under the Events section for further details.