

Council to Community

October

#WeAreInThisTogether

GINGIN | GUILDERTON | LANCELIN | LEDGE POINT | SEABIRD

? 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 right 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.

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. On 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.

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"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.

New Shed for Lower Moore River Working Group

At its meeting held 15 September, Council voted unanimously to replace its shed in Guilderton which is utilised by the Lower Moore River Working Group. The condition of the shed had increasingly deteriorated in recent years and was considered to be quite poor.

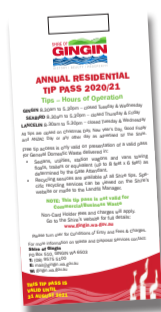
The group is a non-political working group which is focused on the Lower Moore River and its surroundings. The group undertakes a variety of activities throughout the region including management of weed infestations, revegetation, walking trails and boardwalks construction and/or maintenance, fishing platforms maintenance and management of erosion due to traffic.

Council hopes the new shed will prove of great use to the working group and the continuation of their work in the region.

Rates, Tip Pass & Parking Permit

Due to a printing error there was unfortunately a delay for some Rate Payers in receiving their Rates this year. **The first Rate payment instalment was due on 16 September so if you have yet to pay yours then please contact the Shire immediately on (08) 9575 5100, option 2.**

Tip Pass & Parking Permit



Due to the delay in rate payers receiving their Rates, last year's Tip Pass and Parking Permit have been allowed to be used in the interim. Recognising this delay, ratepayers were able to use their 2019/20 Tip Pass and Parking Permit pending receipt of their 2020/21 Rates notices envelope. As of 1 October you will need to use your 2020/21 Tip Pass and Parking Permit when parking in Guilderton or visiting one of the Shire's 3 landfill sites.

Your Fire Break Orders For 2020/21



Please be advised that there is a small typo on page 7 of this year's Fire Break Orders. The sentence "You must also maintain a water supply of 25,000L for every 5 ha of plantation or part thereof" should read 50 ha – not 5 ha.

This has been corrected in the copy of the Fire Break Orders available on the Shire's website – www.gingin.wa.gov.au.

Council Decisions

Council's primary role is to make decisions about what direction the Shire and its communities will take on numerous matters. Council strives to make these decisions in line with community expectations however also must ensure adherence to the relevant legislation and other factors such as State and Federal Government direction. The community is encouraged to read the Agendas and Minutes of Council. A snapshot of some of Council's decisions made at its **September** Ordinary Meeting can be viewed as follows:

- Waiver of hire fees for Arts in the Park 2021 events – Council agreed to waive as in-kind support for this community event.
- Draft Shire of Gingin Public Health Plan 2020-2023 – Council adopted this plan. Subject to final formatting being undertaken, this plan will be made available for public viewing in the near future.
- Dedication of Land as Road Reserve (Great Northern Highway Bindoon Bypass) – Lot 7776 Wannamal Road South, Mindarra – Council agreed to the dedication of land for the bypass.

More details on the above items of business and other decisions from this meeting can be found in the Council minutes which are available for viewing on the **Agenda & Minutes** page on the Shire's website www.gingin.wa.gov.au. Alternatively they can be viewed in person at either the Shire's Administration Centre, 7 Brockman Street, Gingin or Lancelin Office, 255 Vins Way, Lancelin.

Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 3pm and members of the public are welcome to attend.

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!

1 October – the Restricted Burning Period commences
Contact your local Fire Control Officer for a Permit to burn. Refer to your Fire Break Orders for their contact details.

16 October – the Gingin Aquatic Centre opens for the 2020/21 season!

20 October – Ordinary Council Meeting at 3pm at the Shire Administration Centre, Gingin

Physical attendance at Council meetings by members of the public is restricted. Please register to attend Council Meetings by contacting the Shire's Governance Support Officer on (08) 9575 5127.

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.