



Release Date: 21 December 2016

MEDIA RELEASE

Please attribute the below information to Shire President, Cr David Roe

Shire of Gingin to Receive Youth Development Traineeship and Scholarship Program Funding

The Shire of Gingin is pleased to announce it has received funding through the Department of Local Government and Communities – Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) for a Youth Development Traineeship and a Youth Development Scholarship.

The **Traineeship Program** provides support to young people, aged 24 years or under, to enable them to develop long-term employment skills and expose them to future employment opportunities and networks. It will provide them with hands-on experience and develop their confidence to undertake ongoing employment.

The **Scholarship Program** provides funding for country local government employees, aged 30 years and under, to participate in nationally accredited training to build their knowledge, skills and leadership capacity.

Funding to the amount of \$16,500 (\$15,000 toward wages and \$1,500 for trainee course fees) has been approved for the Shire to offer a Building Maintenance Youth Development Traineeship, which is currently being advertised. The Shire of Gingin and the Bendigo Bank have formed a partnership and agreed to contribute \$10,000 each toward the balance of costs associated with the 12 month traineeship.

Funding to the amount of \$2,560 has also been approved for the Shire to provide a Youth Development Scholarship for the undertaking of a Certificate IV in Local Government Administration by Olivia Edwards, Customer Service/ Administration Officer.

Both these funding opportunities support “*Improving the capacity of the workforce to better meet and service future needs*” strategy of the Shire’s Workforce Plan 2016. This includes developing working relationships with training providers to encourage employment of apprentices and trainees in specific disciplines, and to continually develop traineeship programs. It also supports the Plan’s succession planning strategy by continuing to provide appropriate training and development for staff.

“One of the many community focus points of the past 15 years from the Gingin and Lancelin Community Banks has been the development of youth, and to provide the young people from the Gingin Shire greater opportunities for their future,” said Bendigo Bank Chairperson, Stephen Beckwith.

“Some examples of this include the continued support to the Year 7 and 9 Canberra Camp tour group from Gingin and Lancelin Schools, the recent commitment to Sponsor the Gingin CRC to



support their Trainee Program, and the implementation of the Bendigo Community Bank Scholarship for students entering Tertiary studies.

“The newly developed Youth Traineeship Program, in conjunction with the Shire of Gingin, is a result of an idea developed with the Shire to offer opportunities to those youth interested in pursuing a trade. The Gingin and Lancelin Community Bank continues to support these initiatives and will continue to develop more opportunities for our youth. Being able to support these projects financially is a result of the banking business we receive, and the more the business and support grows, the more the community benefits.”

This is an exciting investment for the Shire of Gingin and the Bendigo Bank into the future of young people in the Shire. Not only will this initiative enable participants to gain valuable skills through real life experience, it will enable them to stay living in their local community through the provision of local job options.

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For further media details contact:

Mr Jeremy Edwards
Chief Executive Officer
T: 08 9575 2211

