

COUNCIL TO COMMUNITY

July

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.

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Our Community News

Phase 4 Easing of Restrictions

Now that WA has entered Phase 4 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 2m² rule remains in effect.
- **Front desk** – open again in both our office locations (Gingin & Lancelin). Maximum capacities apply given that the 1 person per 2m² rule still remains in effect.
- **Granville Civic Centre (Gingin)** – available for hire again. Cleaning procedures apply and the 1 person per 2m² remains in effect.
- **Sound Shell (Gingin)** – available for hire again for events – limit of 500 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 2m² 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) for further information on how to do this.

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.

Assets – Upper Coastal Maintenance



The Shire's small upper coastal maintenance team have been very busy the past few months getting our coastal towns looking very neat and tidy before the post COVID-19 crowds start rolling back into the Shire.

They have been cleaning up after the stormy weather and digging out drains before the rain sets in again. Their efforts so far have proved beneficial with improvement made to the water drainage around the area. A large amount of mowing has been undertaken during the intermittent sunny weather and plenty of backpack spraying, entailing many kilometres of walking by staff, has also been undertaken.

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

Welcome to Emily



The Shire hopes that the community will extend a very warm welcome to Emily Agnew, our newest member of staff, who was successfully appointed as the Shire's Ranger Trainee.

This is a new position created in collaboration with Bendigo Bank which allows Emily to undertake a Certificate IV in Regulatory Services whilst undertaking all the practical duties of a community Ranger.

An accomplished horse rider from a farming background, the young Gingin local impressed the selection panel with her outstanding application and interview. We are lucky to have Emily on board with the Shire and we hope she will enjoy her time serving the Shire's various communities.

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.

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.

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.

Save the Dates!

- **21 July – Ordinary Council Meeting at 3pm, Shire Administration Centre, Gingin** – physical attendance at Council meetings by members of the public is restricted. Please check in advance with the Shire if you plan to attend the meeting as COVID-19 restrictions may have changed by then. Contact the Shire's Governance Support Officer on (08) 9575 5127.