

COUNCIL TO COMMUNITY

This edition of the Shire of Gingin's 'Council to Community' is brought to you by:

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"The secret's out on this hidden gem! CU@Park is a small cafe/restaurant situated in Gingin with a gift shop full of treasures. Pop in for a hearty meal, coffee and cake or a drink by the fire – all next to the beautiful Granville Park."

Thank you to CU@Park for sponsoring the 2019 Rates Incentive Prize Night.

Our Community News

Open Again For Business

With the announcement of the easing of COVID-19 restrictions by WA Premier Mark McGowan on Sunday, 10 May 2020, the Shire of Gingin has reopened/continued the following services:

- **Front desk** – the Shire's front desk at its Administration Centre in Gingin and its Office in Lancelin are now open to the public again. Maximum capacities apply given that the 1 person per 4m² rule still remains in effect.
- **Libraries** – the Shire operated Gingin and Lancelin Libraries are open again to the public. Maximum capacities still apply given that the 1 person per 4m² rule remains in effect.
- **Lancelin Off-road Vehicle Area** – this recreational area in the sand dunes at Lancelin is now also open.
- **Granville Centre** – the Centre is once again available for hire although maximum capacities still apply given that the 1 person per 4m² rule remains in effect and cleaning procedures have been implemented to be undertaken if you hire the hall.

Some services/facilities still remain unavailable to the public for the time being until further restrictions are relaxed. Namely this includes:

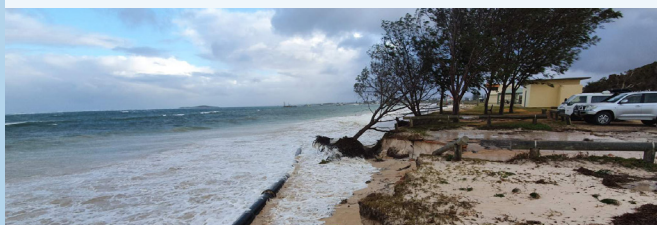
- **Skate Parks & Playgrounds** – these public facilities still remain closed.
- **Council Meetings** – still remain closed to the Public. The public can still submit questions for Public Question Time though if they would like. Please visit the Shire's website (www.gingin.wa.gov.au) for further information on how to do this.
- **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.

Our success in WA to slow the spread of COVID-19 has been extraordinary and all communities across the state are to be congratulated for adhering to restrictions thus far. However, it is important that we do not get complacent which is why the Shire requests that where you can, please continue to uphold basic hygiene recommendations.

Our Community News

Coastal Erosion



The weather on 24-25 May saw severe wind gusts blast our coastline once more. Initial inspections of our coastal communities have revealed some damage, particularly in Lancelin, but ultimately our coastline fared relatively well under the onslaught.

This was in large part due to sand re-nourishment undertaken at Grace Darling Park by the Shire in December 2019 in addition to the recent dredging works by the Department of Transport in the same area. Sand renourishment installs a gentler slope leading up the beach when undertaken and consequently, the waves expend much of their energy by breaking further out as opposed to against the shoreline. Although a short term strategy, this method is relatively inexpensive and grants the Shire time to continue ongoing discussions with the State Government in addition to further research into a more long term solution.

Dredging works will continue in Lancelin into early June with approximately 5,000m³ of sand already deposited. The dredging contractors will continue to renourish between Hopkins St and the toilet block at Grace Darling Park and then into the Edward Island track area if time and resources permit.

Other erosion issues after the recent weather includes identification of breach points via an access track adjacent to the Caravan Park, at the end of Hopkins St and beach access points at Ledge Point. The Shire will investigate to address this issue. Erosion of approximately 10m also occurred at Hinchcliffe Point and at Ledge Point for the entire length of the beach. The seawall in Seabird held up relatively well with only some minor erosion occurring off the North end.

Coastal erosion, as the Shire has previously stated, is a complex issue involving many facets. However, the Shire will endeavour to keep the community informed on this matter and to continue working hard to develop a long term strategy for implementation. Community members who have any queries about this process may contact the Shire for further information on (08) 9575 5100.

Our Community News

Mitigation Works – Ledge Point

Mitigation works have recently been carried out in several of the Shire's communities including Lancelin, Ocean Farm, Seaview Park, Gingin and Ledge Point. These works were able to be carried out thanks to funding received under the Mitigation Activity Fund which falls under Royalties for Regions from the Department of Fire & Emergency Services.

The following photograph show some of this work recently undertaken around the look out at Ledge Point.



The Shire is in the process of applying for further funding to carry out more works around other communities in our Shire prior to the next bush fire season.

Plan to Burn “Smart” to Protect Your Property and Community

The following article is being communicated on behalf of the Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES).

‘A new guide giving private landholders the tools to plan and Burn SMART on their properties is aiming to dramatically reduce the number of escaped burns that threaten the community.

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.

Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm AFSM said Burn SMART focuses on the actions landholders need to take before, during and after conducting a burn.

“We live in a State that is over 90% bush fire prone so having the tools under our belt for best burning practice is beneficial for both landholders and their local community because it can help save lives and homes,” Commissioner Klemm said.

Commissioner Klemm said the wrong conditions could cause a fire to quickly get out of control.

Our Community News

“Planned burning is vital to reduce the risk of bush fires, but people are often unaware of the personal responsibility that comes with lighting and extinguishing one,” he said.

“I urge all landholders who want to undertake mitigation work on their properties to Plan Smart and Burn SMART to help protect their properties ahead of the next bush fire season.”

A digital and radio campaign to promote the new resources coincides with the two-year anniversary of more than 150 escaped burns reported in the South West and Great Southern over a five-day period in May 2018.

The escaped burns sparked several bushfires and put immense pressure on emergency services.

Burn SMART is the first public resource created by the Bushfire Centre of Excellence, which harnesses and shares valuable bushfire knowledge and experience that will benefit the community.

Before conducting a planned burn, people should contact their Local Government to confirm what burning restrictions may apply to their area.

To view and download Burn SMART resources visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning.

With the Unrestricted Burning Period commencing from 1 June, Fire Permits will no longer be required. However, undertaking any burn should be done with caution and these new resources from DFES are an excellent tool for community members to utilise.

Orange Springs Road Upgrade



Work continues to progress with the upgrade of Orange Springs Road which is expected to be completed in approximately August 2020.

This \$5.2million project consists of united funding from the State Government and the upgrade will ensure the road remains up to task to handle the high volume of heavy haulage traffic which readily makes use of it.

The contractors are currently working on boxed out areas of the works. These works are being incorporated into the design to reduce the road footprint so as to reduce the amount of clearing required.

The contractors have also started to cement stabilise the 280mm thick limestone sub-base. The gravel base course is currently being dropped onsite for Shire staff to progress with.

Any questions relating to this project can be directed to Frank Vallentine on (08) 9575 5100.