

Council to Community

December
#WeAreInThisTogether

GINGIN | GUILDERTON | LANCELIN | LEDGE POINT | SEABIRD

Rates Incentive Prize Night - Congrats to Winners & Thank You to Sponsors

On 10 November 2021 the Shire conducted its annual Early Rates Incentive Prize Night.

This is the 8th year that the Shire has conducted an Early Rates Incentive competition. This year rates paid by the 31 October totalled 67.32% which is well over half the total expected rates revenue.

Rates are a vital source of revenue for the Shire and early payment of them helps us deliver our core services, as well as a capital works program which – for the 2021-22 financial year – has been set at \$13.06 million. The community's rates will be used to develop and maintain important infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, community centres, sporting facilities and foreshores, to name a few.

When we developed our first Strategic Community Plan in 2013, our community voiced its wish to include 'local business' as one of a number of focus areas for a sustainable future. From this, one of the Shire's objectives for this focus area has been to facilitate local businesses to be prosperous and innovative through the development of local networks.

While this continues to be a work in progress for us, the Early Rates Incentive Scheme is one way that the Shire is able to promote our local businesses. The prizes supplied by the generous sponsorship of a number of local businesses provides incentive for the community to pay their rates early and, as a result, the Shire benefits, the community benefits and our sponsor's benefit. It's a win-win for everyone.

The Shire would like to congratulate the following ten ratepayers selected to go into the draw for the Early Rates Incentive Prize Night with prizes varying from \$850 to \$4,600 – a total combined prize pool of \$13,250.

- Neale Dodwell Browne (Top prize winner!)
- Malcolm Harrington
- David Van Leen
- Dianne Jodrell
- Mark Whitfield
- Antoni Kepinski
- Ralph Thompson
- Christopher Collette
- Kym McIntyre
- Moondah Springs Pty Ltd



This event would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship of many local businesses. Thank you very much to all of the sponsors who contributed to this year's Rates Incentive Prize Night including:

- Bendigo Bank – Gingin
- Community Bank Branch and Lancelin Branch
- Avon Waste
- CU@Park
- Lancelin Sands
- Want Plumbing
- Natural Area Coastal Management Services
- McIntosh & Son
- Moore Demo & Civil
- Bitutek
- Lancelin Trade & Rural Supplies
- Midwest Building WA
- West Australian Symphony Orchestra
- Tony Pisconeri Waste Management
- J.R. & A. Hersey
- Gingin Tree Services, and
- Heritage Intelligence WA

Special thanks must also go to Sylvia Kelly (Gingin Florist) and Justina Mettam (West Coast Honey) who made time in their busy schedules to supply flowers and honey packs for the prize packages. Thank you also to Renee Stokes and her team at CU@Park Café for catering this wonderful event for us this year.

The Shire looks forward to running the Early Rates Incentive Prize Night again in 2022.

Road Verge Slashing

It has been brought to the Shire's attention that there is some confusion around the slashing of road verges and who's responsibility it is. The Shire of Gingin can clarify the following:

- Residents are not liable for their own verges and will not be prosecuted if the verge isn't maintained.
- For safety reasons the Shire will slash one mower row width from the edge of seal as a minimum and may slash to the fence line if time and resources permit and if practical.
- Residents are encouraged to mow/slash/maintain their verges for added fire safety (but do so at own risk, e.g. it is important to wear personal protective equipment, be traffic aware, etc. while undertaking any work).
- The only liability to a landowner is if they do not install and maintain their fire breaks in accordance with the Shire's Fire Break Orders.

The Shire is under no obligation to slash any verges within its district and it is not possible to do to the fence line for over 923km of roads throughout the district. However, for ease of line of sight and other safety reasons, the Shire will undertake as much verge side slashing as it is capable of doing annually prior to the commencement of the fire season. The Shire may also vary where it does slash annually dependent upon the fuel load levels within the verge. It should further be noted that:

- Roads act as 7m wide fire breaks. With the addition of 1m slashing either side of the road, this then becomes 9m.
- Vegetation in verges is also important for providing shelter for local wildlife and to create windbreaks which protects against wind erosion.

For any queries in relation to your obligations (or the Shire's) please contact the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer on 0408 943 576.

'Have Fun – Play Safe' in Off-road Vehicle Areas

Whether you're a 4WD enthusiast or you're mad about motor bikes, it's important to be safe when travelling off-road. It's also important to be considerate of your neighbours and to make sure that you're allowed to drive in the area you are visiting.

The Shire of Gingin Rangers have developed a video (to watch see link below) to help visitors to understand how to use the Shire's local off-road vehicle areas safely, especially the Lancelin sand dunes which has seen a large number of serious accidents and even deaths occur there in the past.

REMEMBER – NO REGO = NO RIDE

In order to visit a designated off-road vehicle area you must have either a 'road registered' and 'off-road registered' vehicle. Restrictions in relation to age limits, safety equipment and noise apply as per the *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978* and the Shire's Control of Vehicles (Off-road Vehicles) Local Laws 2021.

Rangers regularly patrol both the Lancelin and Ledge Point (temporarily closed) off-road vehicle areas which are free to enter. Please ensure that you 'play safely'. You enter these areas at your own risk and it is highly recommended that you

take out personal insurance against death or injury while undertaking any activity in these areas.

If you would like to register a vehicle for off-road use, please contact the Department of Transport (13 11 56) or visit their website (www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/visit-a-licensing-centre-or-agent.asp) for a list of locations where you can register. Fees are applicable.

TO WATCH THE VIDEO & LEARN MORE

Visit the Shire's website (www.gingin.wa.gov.au/off-road-vehicle-information) or contact the Shire's Rangers on (08) 9575 5140.

Three Bridges Reopened

During the Gingin Brook Fire on 3 May 2021, the Three Bridges were severely damaged and became unsafe to access.

Now however, they have been fully repaired and have been reopened to the public!



Pedestrians are free to access and the bridges have now been appropriately strengthened so that in an emergency, fire vehicles can drive across to access the other side of the brook. This vehicle access remains exclusive to emergency vehicles only during emergency events. Private vehicles are not permitted access to cross the bridges at any time.

Gingin Brook Water Wheel Repairs

For some time now the water wheel on the Gingin Brook in Granville Park has stopped spinning intermittently and has required repairs by staff.

A more serious excavation has been undertaken as of 25 November of the flow to the water wheel with the discovery of the accumulation of quite a bit of debris over many years.

The wheel is now spinning both well and rapidly however the area around it is still unsafe. It has been fenced off but the public is asked to please avoid the area for the time being until works have concluded.

ENQUIRIES

Contact the Operations Department on (08) 9575 5100.

SAVE THE DATES!

- **21 December - Ordinary Council Meeting** at 3pm at the Shire Administration Centre, Gingin
- **25 December - 3 January - Shire Admin Centre & Lancelin Office closed for Christmas Break. Re-opening 4 January**
- **8 January 2022 - Music in the Park, 5 - 10pm** in Gabbadah Park, Guilderton. **FREE Event. BYO permitted**
More info - visit the Shire's website/Facebook page
- **26 January 2022 - Australia Day Picnic Breakfast, 7.30am** in Neergabby. **FREE Event.**
More info - visit the Shire's website/Facebook page

Want to receive news from us in a monthly newsletter? SUBSCRIBE NOW (email or post) - call (08) 9575 5150