

COUNCIL TO COMMUNITY

Gingin Guilderton Lancelin Ledge Point Seabird



A Message from the Shire President

As 2020 draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the year that has been which is probably best described as “a year like no other”.

This time last year who could have predicted that we would be heading into one of the most severe bush fires our communities would ever face?

The Yanchep Bush Fire will surely not be forgotten by any of us anytime soon, especially the residents of Woodridge, Shire staff, Bush Fire Brigade volunteer members, DFES staff and so many others involved in combatting the blaze.

Approximately 14,000ha of bush land was burnt across Two Rocks and the Shire of Gingin. 1 home was lost but fortunately thanks to the efforts of fire fighters, 6,000 homes were saved. I said this at the time but I will say it again: Council and I express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the amazing fire fighters, Shire staff and more who worked so hard to protect the lives and properties of the Shire of Gingin and City of Wanneroo residents. Your efforts are appreciated and recognised as being well and above the call of duty – thank you.

After such an incident, who could blame us for hoping for a bright year ahead in 2020? Unfortunately, COVID-19 (which became known to the world in November 2019), continued to gain in strength. A global pandemic? Not something any of us believed would happen but as January moved into February and then March, things began to look different. A State of Emergency and a Public Health State of Emergency was declared in Western Australia for the first time in its history and our borders were closed to the rest of our nation and the international world beyond. Throughout most of March to May, Shire staff worked long hours to implement the many changes required by the Pandemic which continued to evolve rapidly. The impacts felt upon the community and throughout the following months, have been many and varied in severity. From regional border lock downs which separated families and cut off access to our capital city to the cancellation of events, pressure put on local industries and the loss of jobs, isolation and much more – the effects of the Pandemic have all been felt by us in some way or another. I am sure they will continue to be felt for many more months – perhaps years – to come yet.

Closer to home, this year has also included several matters of high concern to the community including the resignation of Dr Conradie from the Gingin Medical Practice, the continuing issues caused by coastal erosion in Lancelin predominantly and the planning to streamline recreational services for the Upper Coastal Region amongst others.

For the Shire’s part, there has been much stress and pressure felt to resolve these issues whilst on the community’s part, it is clear that feelings of concern, frustration and even anger has been felt.

As ever, myself, Council, the CEO and staff continue to work with the community to resolve these matters and others as they arise. Whilst we understand not all of the community will agree with every action Council undertakes, we are 100% committed to our community and we will continue to work hard to be exemplary community leaders who listen to our community and work diligently towards achieving a better future.

Despite these matters of concern, I feel it important however, to also reflect on all the good that has occurred this year. In times of great upheaval, we have born witness to both the worst but also the best of humanity. It would be remiss of me not to note the generosity of the community during the Yanchep Bush Fire and throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. The kindness of people in our communities is a testament both to their character and to the

bonds that tie us all together as friends, family, neighbours, acquaintances and even just total strangers.

Whilst I do not wish to jinx it, Council, staff and I hope that 2021 will see more of a return to normalcy. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and staff for their hard work and dedication this year – it has not been easy but I feel you have delivered above and beyond. To the community, I thank you for your patience and for your feedback during what has been a very trying year for all of us. You have been vocal on many matters and rest assured I, Council and staff have heard you. You continue to ensure that we hold ourselves to a high standard and that we continue to strive to do better in future.

May I wish all the community on behalf of myself, Council and staff a very happy and safe festive season. If you’re travelling please take extra care as the roads are sure to be busier than usual this year.

I look forward to working hard with the community in 2021 and thank you to all once again for all your hard work and resilience during 2020.

Cr Wayne Fewster SHIRE PRESIDENT



Services available during the Break

**From all the Shire of Gingin Councillors and Staff,
we wish our community a very merry Christmas and
a happy, safe New Year!**

When the Shire’s Facilities are open over the break, they will be open as per their usual opening hours excluding the Aquatic Centre which will not be open in the morning on 1 January.

The dates that Shire Facilities are closed (see below) means that they will be closed all day.

- **CLOSED 25 Dec - RE-OPEN 4 Jan** - Gingin Admin Centre, Lancelin Office & Library & Gingin Library
- **CLOSED 24 Dec - RE-OPEN 4 Jan** - Gingin Medical Centre (i.e. the Medical Centre won’t be open on Christmas eve, the 24th)
- **CLOSED 25 Dec & in the morning on 1 Jan** - Gingin Aquatic Centre
- **CLOSED 23rd, 25th, 29th, 30th & 1st** - Gingin and Lancelin Refuse Disposal Sites
- **CLOSED 24th, 25th, 31st & 1st** - Seabird Refuse Disposal Site

RUBBISH BIN COLLECTION

Rubbish bin collection for the areas of Woodridge, Sovereign Hill, Redfield Park, Oceanfarm and Seaview Park will occur on Thursday, 24 December 2020 this year as opposed to Friday. Please put your bins out on the 24th. All other rubbish bin collection services will remain as per normal during the break.

SHIRE ENQUIRIES DURING THE BREAK

A skeleton crew of Depot staff (Allister - 0417 264 832 / Frank - 0439 396 338) and Rangers (9575 5140) will operate over the break.

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email or post! Contact the Shire on (08) 9575 5100**

JANUARY

#WeAreInThisTogether

Community Health Alert

Recreating in Moore River during from Dec 2020 - Mar 2021

Residents and visitors to Moore River are reminded to be aware of the potential health risks of natural waters. Natural waterways like Moore River can contain many forms of bacteria, algae and amoeba. Swimming and/or swallowing water contaminated with high levels of microbiological contamination can put you at risk of illness such as gastroenteritis, skin irritations or respiratory, ear and eye infections.

Bacteria, algae and amoeba can occur from a number of sources including farming activities, domestic animals and wildlife. The Shire of Gingin Environmental Health Service regularly tests the Moore River in Guilderton as part of the State Health Department's Recreational Water Sampling Program.

Thermophilic Naegleria

Thermophilic Naegleria refers to a group of microorganisms called amoebae which can tolerate water temperatures up to 42 °C. Naegleria Fowleri is an organism within this group that causes the particularly dangerous waterborne disease known as Amoebic Meningoencephalitis.

Thermophilic Naegleria has been identified in river water samples obtained from the Moore River in previous years. The Shire advises bathers who frequent or visit this area for recreational swimming that precautions should be taken to avoid this organism.

Please note that Naegleria Fowleri has not been identified in any recreational water bodies within the Shire of Gingin to date. However, Thermophilic Naegleria does get detected and is considered to be the pre-cursor to possible Naegleria Fowleri. Warning for Recreational Swimmers in the Moore River All visitors to the Moore River are urged to take precautions to ensure that you are not exposed to potentially fatal Amoebic Meningitis from Naegleria Fowleri.

Naegleria Fowleri is found in unchlorinated warm fresh water and soil. Any water supply that seasonally exceeds 30 °C or continually exceeds 25 °C may be a risk. This includes lakes, rivers, dams, bores, tanks, pipelines, natural hot waters/springs as well as spas and swimming pools that are poorly maintained, under-chlorinated or unchlorinated. Naegleria cannot survive in water that is clean, cool and adequately chlorinated.

How do you get infected?

A very rare but often fatal waterborne disease (Amoebic Meningitis or Meningoencephalitis) can occur if contaminated water goes up into the nose.

This may occur when people swim, dive or fall into warm unchlorinated water containing Naegleria or when children play under sprinklers or with hoses using this water or when infected water is inhaled to cleanse the nasal passages.

Children and young adults appear to be more susceptible to infections than adults. Infections usually occur when it is hot for prolonged periods of time, which results in higher water temperatures. You cannot get infected by swallowing water containing Naegleria.

How Do I Protect Myself and My Family?

When using, recreating and/or swimming in warm fresh water bodies such as the Moore River and/or thermal pools, reduce the risks to your health by following these simple rules:

- Look for posted warning signs and follow the advice on them.
- Do not jump or dive into the water (or force any water into the nose).

- Do not swim in water that looks murky or smells unpleasant.
- Avoid swallowing water or putting your head under water.
- Avoid swimming if you have an open wound or infection.

If you wish to access any more information disease and recreational waters, please go to the Department of Health's web page https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/How-safe-are-natural-waterways.

Alternatively, please contact the Shire's Environmental Health Services by emailing mail@gingin.wa.gov.au or calling (08) 9575 5134 if you have queries on the Shire's water testing program.

This information is provided for the safety and wellbeing of you and your families.

Upcoming Roadworks

The following roadworks are in progress for the next month:

- Orange Springs Rd upgrade – 10.4 km sealed
- Preparation works for bitumen resealing program underway
- Fire breaks completed across the Shire
- Slashing of regrowth verges continuing
- Gravel road maintenance grading continuing

Further enquires about these works may be directed to the Shire's Operations team on (08) 9575 5100, option 7.

Reporting Issues

To report potholes, damage to the Shire's road network, etc. please visit www.gingin.wa.gov.au/forms/?formid=14.

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To learn more visit www.gingin.wa.gov.au/central-coast-wheatbelt-food-capability-guide.aspx

Save the Dates!

- 15 December – Ordinary Council Meeting @ 3pm
- 25 December – Shire Office closed. Will reopen 4 January