

Council to Community

Contacting FCOs for Fire Permit Please be kind and patient

The Shire has unfortunately been notified that local Fire Control Officers (FCOs) are occasionally receiving abusive phone calls and text and voice messages from members of the public looking to apply for a fire permit. Many are also having their phones flooded with calls with no message left. If you don't leave a message then you will not be called back.

We would like to reiterate that abuse of our FCOs is not (and never will be) acceptable. Our FCOs are volunteers who often have full time jobs and a life outside of their volunteer role. If you are not hearing back then it could be that if they're a fulltime worker or business owner they won't be able to return your call whilst they're at work. Alternatively they may be away on holiday and not currently issuing permits which can result in any remaining FCOs for that area being inundated with fire permit requests which means it can take longer again to get back to you.

Be that as it may, we understand that it can be frustrating trying to get a permit when the process is taking longer than expected. However, there are alternative steps that can be taken rather than calling back multiple times.

If you have contacted your all of your local FCOs for your area and left a message and then you have not heard back at all from any of them in 48 hours, then you are more than welcome to contact any of the Shire's

other FCOs. They do not have to be specific to your area at this point. The reason the public is asked to contact your area FCO first is because they need to be able to inspect your planned burn area if you cannot send a photo so it is much easier for a local FCO to undertake this as opposed to an FCO from the opposite end of the Shire.

Thank you to those members of the public that have been patient thus far. This time of year with Easter and ANZAC Day gets exceedingly busy for all of us including FCOs. Please continue to exercise patience and if you need to contact another FCO after 48 hours then refer to your Fire Break Orders for the list of other contactable FCOs (<https://tinyurl.com/r6dustx> - refer pg 23).

Safe use of Commercial Garden Soils

Cases of Legionnaires' Disease commonly increase during Autumn and Spring as gardeners get back outside and start using packaged potting mixes and bulk soil supplies. This disease can be deadly for the elderly or people with a weakened immune systems.

The Shire promotes the safe use of commercial garden soils and encourages the community to follow health advice in their use, particularly by our elderly residents.

Further information is available on the Department of Health's website - www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/J_M/Minimising-the-risk-of-a-Legionella-infection-at-home.

Have you changed your name or address?

If you move home, change your name or a family member has recently become deceased, please let us know promptly by updating your contact details with us including if you have any pets (dogs, cats, etc.) that have moved location with you.

By not telling us you may miss out on receiving notices from the Shire which could result in the issuing of an infringement. Other scenarios include not being able to contact you to return your pet or livestock if lost and impounded by Shire Rangers.

If you have changed your name don't forget that not only do you need to update your details with us but you will also need to ensure that your details have been updated on the Certificate of Title for your property with Landgate (www.landgate.wa.gov.au).

To update your details download the online form on our website from www.gingin.wa.gov.au/rates.

PLEASE REMEMBER WHEN APPLYING FOR A PERMIT

- **Contact your local FCOs first**
- **Leave a message if you don't receive an answer. No message = no call back**
- **Be polite** - rude/abusive phone calls, messages & texts will be declined by the FCO
- **If you can't get one local FCO, try another local one.** They may be at work or on holidays if you don't hear back in 48 hours
- **If after that point you still haven't heard back, call any other FCO in the Shire.** Refer to the list in your Fire Break Orders

FCOs ARE VOLUNTEERS - PLEASE BE KIND ❤️



May

#WeAreInThisTogether

Is your soil really safe? Test it today

The benefits of growing produce in your own backyard are well recognised. However, less well known is the effect soil contaminants can have on backyard produce and human health.

Macquarie University is focusing in on potential metal contaminants in garden soils through their soil testing program VegeSafe. VegeSafe provides Australians the opportunity to submit soil samples for analysis and get advice for remedial action if contamination is present at unacceptable levels.

For more information (including how to get involved) visit the VegeSafe website - www.360dustanalysis.com.



Health Star Ratings for Packaged Foods

New changes are coming to the Health Star Rating System (www.healthstarrating.gov.au), making it easier for consumers to choose healthier packaged foods. These changes include adjustments to the star rating calculation for certain foods and drinks. Less healthy nutrients, such as sodium (salt) and sugar, will reduce a star rating more significantly, and dairy foods will be adjusted according to the type of dairy product (e.g. dairy-based desserts). To help consumers understand all the changes, a new consumer fact sheet has been released (<https://tinyurl.com/mtdzuxwv>).

The front-of-pack labelling system rates the overall healthiness of products and assigns a rating from a half star to 5 stars based on the nutritional profile of a product, weighing up the nutrients and ingredients you want more of compared to ones you should limit.

For any specific questions, contact frontofpack@health.gov.au.

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

CU@PARK

www.facebook.com/cu.at.park.gingin
(08) 9575 1338

Thank you to Avon Waste for sponsoring the 2021 Rates Incentive Prize Night.

Youth Week 2022 - Gingin & Lancelin

Youth Week returned again for 2022 - this time in Lancelin (13th April) and Gingin (14th April) respectively and what a great turn out! Both Mixtape Zone events were free and attracted a variety of children of different ages.

All the activities on offer were a hit with the kids. Lancelin Police provided demonstrations with their gear and a look inside a Police car in addition to an overview of what it takes to be a police officer.

Both events featured a demonstration thanks to Roadwise Safety using a set of "beer goggles". This educational invention allows the wearer to experience what it's like to drive drunk or when impaired.

Other activities included a dance workshop at Gingin with Roxanne's Dance Workshop with all ages getting involved. At both Gingin and Lancelin there were skate board workshops with Freestyle Now which proved very popular in addition to DJ workshops provided by Focus Music.

The new Gingin Outdoor Activity Space (where the event was held) proved very popular with all attendees whilst in Lancelin a number of visitors to town from further afield took the opportunity to join in with the free event.

The Shire would like to thank Roadwise Safety and the WA Police Force for their support for both of these events. Additionally a big thank you to the Lions Club who undertook the sausage sizzle in Gingin and Have A Chat General Store in Lancelin, both IGA X-Press in Gingin and Lancelin and Gingin Premium Meats for the donation of food and drinks towards both events.

Overall the event attendees reported having had a great time and it was fantastic to see so much activity in both the GOAS and Wangaree Park.



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SUBSCRIBE NOW (email or post) - call (08) 9575 5150

SAVE THE DATES!

- **29 April 2022 - Submission period closes at 4pm for proposed Woodridge Roadhouse.**

To make a submission visit www.gingin.wa.gov.au/news/public-community-invited-for-proposed-roadhouse-in-woodridge/289

- **17 May 2022 - Ordinary Council Meeting at 3pm at the Shire Administration Centre, Gingin**