

## COUNCIL TO COMMUNITY

### Why the Shire Disables Comments on Social Media

We've received queries from the public about why we disable comments on Shire Facebook posts.

Historically, the Shire of Gingin embraced social media as a useful two-way means of communication with our communities. However, in recent years we've had to deal with – as have most public service organisations – increasingly hostile, divisive, and unreasonable online interaction from the public, usually because of a decision or course of action the Shire has made that people don't like or agree with, which then results in lengthy and sometimes vicious diatribes on Facebook. This makes responding by Shire officers in a constructive and meaningful way almost impossible.

Also, local governments are bound to recordkeeping policies and regulations which apply to electronic media communication. We simply do not have the resources to monitor, moderate, respond to and record all the threads, comments, and posts on our Facebook page. For this reason, and in the interests of transparency, we do our best to 'share' our posts to the various community group Facebook pages in the region where members of the public can make whatever comment they wish.

In saying that, if you have read or heard something about the Shire that is of concern to you, we strongly encourage you to either give us a call on 9575 5100 or send us an email to [mail@gingin.wa.gov.au](mailto:mail@gingin.wa.gov.au) in the first instance so we can clarify our position and provide you with the facts. By doing so, you will help to shut down rumour mills that cause confusion and angst in your community.

While we respect everyone's right to their opinion, we also reserve the right to moderate social media communication in a way that we see fit and appropriate for our organisation.

### KW-Sappers Road Intersection Upgrade Complete



A total reconstruction of the KW-Sappers Road intersection is now complete. The project included widening of the intersection and turning circumference to safely accommodate road

trains and school buses, as well as a slip lane and asphalt renewal. The works were undertaken by the Shire's Operations team and took 4 weeks to complete. The project was funded by the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network.

#### Other completed projects:

- Seabird Oval – old fencing removed around oval and cricket nets.
- Seabird Hall – patio repaired.
- Bootine Road - floodway replaced.
- Lancelin Back Beach ablutions – roof and verandah replaced.
- Gingin Cattleyards – new stairs and safety railing installed.
- GOAS - timber fencing installed on east side of playground.
- Gingin Pioneer Park Pavilion – upgraded and painted.

### Save the Dates!

**Ledge Point Sandcastle Competition** – Sunday 5 March at 9.00am – 12noon, Swimming Beach between the Groynes.

**Annual Meeting of Electors** – Tuesday 7 March at 5.00pm, Granville Civic Centre.

**Lancelin Night Market** – 8 & 22 March at 4.30pm – 8.30pm, Wangaree Park.

**Bearing the Load Workshop** - Overcoming Challenges Faced by Office Bearers with Caroline Robinson from 150Square - Wednesday 8 March at 5.30pm-8.00pm, Woodridge Community Hall.

**Arts in the Park 2023** – Art Competition, Exhibition, Artisan Market & Family Concert – Friday 17 March to Saturday 17 March at Granville Park, Gingin.

**International Women's Day 2023 Networking Lunch** – Saturday 25 March at 11.00am – 3.00pm, Granville Civic Centre.

For more information on these events, please go to the **Events Calendar** on [gingin.wa.gov.au](http://gingin.wa.gov.au).

If you have a community event to promote in the Shire, please email Olivia at [cdo@gingin.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdo@gingin.wa.gov.au) and we will include it on our Events Calendar and promote it on our Facebook page.

### Council Decisions

The following decisions were made by Council at the Shire's **February** Ordinary Council Meeting:

- Renaming of Nilgen Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade to Cowalla Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade – *approved by Council.*
- Stage 2 upgrade of the Lancelin Skate and BMX Park tender – *approved by Council.*
- Upper Coastal Sporting Facilities Master Plan amendment of Stage 1 priorities – *approved by Council.*
- Amendment of Local Planning Policy 2.1 Residential Outbuildings – *approved by Council.*

In addition, 16 other items were presented to/ deliberated by Council.

More details on the above items of business and any other matters from this meeting can be found in the Meeting Minutes which are available for viewing at [gingin.wa.gov.au/council-meetings](http://gingin.wa.gov.au/council-meetings), or in person upon request at either the Gingin Administration Centre or Lancelin Office.

### Have Your Say! Surveys Open

#### Volunteering Survey



**Closing date: 10 March**

#### Wangaree Park Mural with Phil Doncon Survey



**Closing date: 17 March**

#### Youth Survey



**Closing date: 9 May**

To participate in any of these surveys and for more information, go to the **Community Consultation** area on the home page of the Shire's website [gingin.wa.gov.au](http://gingin.wa.gov.au).

### Expert Workshop for Community Groups

#### Bearing the Load - Overcoming Challenges Faced by Office Bearers with Caroline Robinson from 150Square

Wednesday 8 March at 5.30pm – 8.00pm  
Woodridge Community Hall



Caroline Robinson from 150Square will deliver a practical problem-solving workshop, where office bearers from non-profit groups and clubs can voice any challenges they are experiencing and then work with Caroline to create solutions on the spot.

Light refreshments provided. RSVP to [cdo@gingin.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdo@gingin.wa.gov.au) by 3 March 2023.

For more information on both workshops, please visit the **Events** page on [gingin.wa.gov.au](http://gingin.wa.gov.au).

### Bookings Required for Licensing Services

Please be advised that bookings need to be made with the Shire for the following licensing services:

- Overseas or interstate driver's licence transfer
- Learner's Permit
- Hazard Perception Test

These licensing services take up a lot of processing time for our Customer Service Officers and need to be scheduled.

If you have any queries or would like to book one of these services, please contact our Customer Service team on 9575 5100.

### Lancelin Skate Park Stage 2 Upgrade to Commence

Work is expected to start soon on the Stage 2 upgrade of the Lancelin Skate and BMX Park. Playspace designer PHASE 3 was the successful tenderer of the project which will include removal of the rusted metal ramps, upgrades to the quarterpipes, pimple, bowl and pump tracks, and resolving drainage issues. The approximate value of the project is \$440,000 including GST.

### Public Notices

**Local Planning Policy 2.1 – Residential Outbuildings**  
Council, at its Ordinary Council Meeting on 21 February 2023, adopted for public advertising the amended Local Planning Policy 2.1 – Residential Outbuildings. For more information on the amended policy and details on how to make a submission, please see the Public Notice area on the home page of the Shire's website [gingin.wa.gov.au](http://gingin.wa.gov.au). Submissions close 27 March.

**Annual Meeting of Electors**  
Notice is hereby given that the 2022/23 Annual Meeting of Electors of the Shire of Gingin will be held on **Tuesday, 7 March 2023** commencing at 5.00pm. The venue for the meeting will be the Granville Civic Centre, Weld St, Gingin.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss:

1. The contents of 2021/22 Annual Report for the Shire of Gingin; and
2. Any other general business.

The 2021/22 Annual Report is available on the Shire's website [gingin.wa.gov.au](http://gingin.wa.gov.au) and hard copies can be obtained upon request from the Shire's Gingin Administration Centre and Lancelin Office.

### Community Funding Program 2023/24

Does your community group need funding for a project or event? If so, there's still time to apply for a grant via the Shire's Community Funding Program - visit [gingin.wa.gov.au/funding-and-grants](http://gingin.wa.gov.au/funding-and-grants). Applications close 31 March.

