

GINGIN BUZZ

FREE for all the Community

December 2023



Christmas Lights Competition

Spread Some Joy this Festive Season

Details on page 6

2023 / 24 Summer Suite of Events



SAVE THE DATES

NOV **10** **LONG TABLE DINNER**
TICKETED EVENT

NOV **11** **FLAVOURS OF GINGIN**
FREE EVENT

JAN **06** **MUSIC IN THE PARK**
FREE EVENT

JAN **26** **AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST**
FREE EVENT

APRIL **06** **LANCELIN ARTS FESTIVAL**
FREE EVENT

ENQUIRIES - CONTACT THE SHIRE'S EVENTS TEAM

(08) 9575 5139 / events@gingin.wa.gov.au

GINGIN BUZZ

**December 2023
Issue 57**

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**FEBRUARY ISSUE CUTOFF
Wednesday 24th of
January 2024**



Editorial Team



Carrie Edwards
Manager



Alison McVee
Assistant Manager



Bronte Maloney
Community Service
Officer: Mon/Tues/Wed



Naomi Brown
Community Service
Officer: Thurs/Fri

Editor's Note

Jenny from RSM recently joined us to provide a 'Working for Yourself as a Social Worker' workshop, covering the key steps to working for yourself from initial start-up, organising your business and managing your customers information. This very informative workshop was another part of our continued commitment to the Gingin Staying in Place project. For anyone who missed this course and would like to receive it next please make contact with us as we have started a subsequent course list.

Also, in November we hosted a 'Cuppa with Fleur' (McDonald) Fleur is Australia's leading rural literature author and she entertained us with tales of her interesting life and various writing experiences while we sipped tea and nibbled scones. We purchased 2 copies of Fleur's latest book 'Voices in the dark' for the library and if you would like your name to be

added to the next to loan list we have just let us know.

We are also delighted to announce we were successful in a recent state library Technology grant and have now purchased 2 iPads for use in the library. Let us know if you would like to book a session for self-use or with some iPad support from a staff member.

We have had a wonderful response to the Community Giving Tree in the Centre and our community members have shown great care to support those with less. We should all should feel very proud of what we have.

We wish all of our community a very Merry Christmas and we hope you spend time with those you love most. Take care and see you all in 2024.



Heather Hukin
Centre Trainee

Disclaimer:

The information contained in the Gingin Buzz is for general information purposes only. The Gingin CRC assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions in the content in the articles published, particularly those provided from various contributors.

2023 . December

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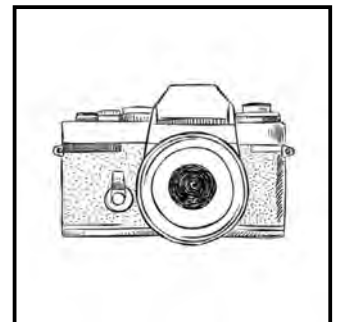
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GINGIN BUZZ



Do you have a story or advert you would like to share?

Perhaps you know of a special anniversary or birthday.

If you would like to submit an article, story or advertisement in the next edition of the Buzz, please email gcn@gingin.net by 24th January 2024..

Christmas Lights

Trail and Competition

2023

Share your dazzling Christmas decorations by registering them with the Gingin CRC by December 15th!

By doing so, you will have a chance to win a delightful hamper of goods!

Cast a vote for your favourite enchanting display and access the electronic map through the QR code!

Phone: 9575 1253

Email: crc-service@gingin.net



1 December 2023

One less seat for regional Western Australia under the hands of Labor

Opposition and Nationals WA Leader Shane Love has expressed his deep disappointment with changes to the state's electoral boundaries, branding them a loss of fair representation for regional voters.

District boundaries are reviewed every four years to maintain similar populations in each electoral seat with the WA Electoral Commission considering communities of interest, land use patterns, Local Government boundaries, means of travel and distance from Perth.

Mr Love, also the Member for Moore, said the changes by the Commission, which amalgamate the seats of Moore and parts of North West Central into a giant seat of Mid West to make way for an additional metropolitan seat, Oakford, is a move that undermines regional voices.

"These changes, which take effect at the 2025 election, compound Labor's attacks on regional representation," Mr Love said.

"In a massive blow to regional communities, the 547 objections to the planned changes have today been set aside, with the Commission handing a win to WA Labor's blatant attacks on regional democracy."

Today's devastating result comes just two years after the WA Labor Government stripped 18 regional members from the Parliament when it abolished the upper house regions in 2021 and four months after they refused to support an amendment to the Electoral Reform Act 1907 to increase the Large District Allowance from 1.5 percent to three percent, which would have had the effect of retaining the current number of regional electorates.

Mr Love said the changes follow WA Labor's submission to the commission, which outlined their plan to abolish another regional voice, making it infeasible for equal representation. "Regional West Australians are suffocating under the hands of Labor," Mr Love said.

"Mid West is a huge electoral seat that will stretch from Muchea to Meekatharra, leaving communities voiceless to make way for yet another metro seat in Perth.

"This giant seat covers 420,000km² – more than five times the current seat Moore, double the size of Victoria and half the size of New South Wales.

"WA Labor have now stripped 19 members from the regions, botched cultural heritage laws, failed to support logging jobs and cowered behind the Federal Labor Government's live export ban.

"Today's changes mean when regional West Australians go to the ballot box, the voices of local schools, hospitals, councils and communities will be lost under Labor."

Music in the Park

FREE EVENT



SATURDAY 06 JAN 2024

**Live music by Summer Club Band
Bouncy castle & bucking bull
Food and drinks available
BYO alcohol permitted
5pm - 10pm**

GABBADAH PARK, GUILDERTON

**ENQUIRIES - CONTACT THE SHIRE'S EVENTS TEAM
(08) 9575 5139 / events@gingin.wa.gov.au**

AUSTRALIA DAY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS



FREE EVENT

Australia Day

FRIDAY **26** JAN 2024 **NEERGABBY COMMUNITY
GROUNDS**



Free cooked breakfast and barista coffee.

Official program from 9am.

Giant water slide, live music, citizenship ceremony, community citizenship awards.

ENQUIRIES - CONTACT THE SHIRE'S EVENTS TEAM
(08) 9575 5139 / events@gingin.wa.gov.au

Community Groups

Gingin Playgroup

It has been a terrific year once again at Gingin Playgroup. We have welcomed many new faces, enjoyed our wonderful weekly catch ups and celebrated together, some special events throughout the year. We also successfully completed some great projects and updates around the centre.

We look forward to seeing our members back again for 2024 and would love to welcome any new parents or residents to our group.

Our last playgroup day for 2023 will be Wednesday, 13th December.

We will be reopening in Term 1, in line with the start of the school year. Be sure to stay updated via our Facebook page for

more information.

Also, don't forget to organise a team and get onboard for our Quiz Night on Saturday, 20th January! It is sure to be an awesome night! More details below.

Wishing all our committee, members and the community a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Committee
Gingin Playgroup Inc.



**GINGIN PLAYGROUP
QUIZ NIGHT**

Prizes to be won
throughout the
night!!

**\$15 per
person.
Up to 4 in
a team**

Saturday 20th January 2024
Gingin Recreation Centre
6Pm-11pm

Purchase tickets online or by emailing
ginginplaygroupinc@gmail.com
Pre order food via Tiffany's Catering
tiffpolette@gmail.com

DRESS UP & Sparkle



**Tiffany's Catering
Gingin Playgroup
Quiz Night Menu**

Grazing platter
Single serve \$10
To serve 4 \$40

Chicken Wings bbq or buffalo \$10 per serve
Satay sticks \$10 per serve
Spring rolls \$10 per serve
Burger sliders \$12 per serve
Pulled pork sliders \$12 per serve
Smoked salmon bruschetta \$12 per serve
Tomato bruschetta \$10 per serve
Mini cob loaf \$10
Arancini balls \$10 per serve

Hot chips \$6
Wedges \$7

Assorted dessert tray \$15

Contact Tiffany to
preorder
tiffpolette@gmail.com

Koorunga CWA

In partnership with the Gingin Fire & Rescue, Koorunga CWA hosted a very successful Fire Awareness morning attended by 30 people. Know your bushfire risk and hands on activities using a fire blanket and fire extinguishers were of great value. A baby sitting crèche for seven lively young people was greatly appreciated. Two take away messages shared over a delicious CWA morning tea were – the surprise that embers can travel so far, and that fire extinguishers need regular turning. Huge thanks to Nikki and Ian Woods and Marty Aldridge for delivering the information and skills.

Armed with specially cooked cakes, carefully arranged flowers, crafts of the highest standard, jams that had a pleasant taste, aroma and colour, kitchen items pre-1970's and beautifully pressed tablecloths and doilies from bygone days, CWA members overtook the Cervantes Community Hall for the annual Home and Garden competitions. When it all comes down to one point, the style of presentation can make a huge difference. CWA branches from Jurien Bay,

Moora, Lancelin, Badgingarra, Koorunga and Cervantes set a hectic pace to assemble and present their items in time for judging.

Raffles, a quiz and entertainment of a toe tapping, body swaying tribute to Patsy Cline, kept the extensive audience engaged while the judges were challenged to find the best entries. The very high standard of entries was certainly to be commended. Koorunga CWA members were delighted to be announced winners of the coveted Parker Halse Trophy for 3 Distinct Crafts. An outstanding oil painting of a possum, a delightful miniature teddy made from recycled materials and a sterling silver necklace were the three items to win this award. The competition was fierce for the best sponge cake, the creativity for the best flower arrangement depicting a song title was spectacular along with the attention to detail in the handmade cards. Koorunga Branch won the day overall, with Jurien Bay coming a very close second.



Gingin Scouts

Food is always a winner with scouts. Add a challenge, some teamwork and fun, and you are sure to have a great activity.

Oozing chocolate and soft squishy marshmallows were the results of a solar cooking program with Gingin Joey and Cub Scouts. Working in small groups, great teamwork was required to master the rolls of alfoil, turn the cardboard boxes into solar ovens, decide which angle would get the best amount of sun and then create

their s'mores. There were plenty of happy faces as they celebrated their achievement.

The scouts were challenged to create reflector ovens using heat beads.

Materials and instructions were provided, again working in small groups, with trial and error, they built their reflector oven, then all successfully cooked pizza of their choice and s'mores. Beechboro scouts travelled to Gingin to join in this activity.



TOP L-R - Cub scout Ebony Harris enjoying her cooking.
Joey scout Will Clark impressed with his cooking.
Girls enjoying their pizza.
Creating a reflector oven.
Building a solar oven and making sure the solar lids are at the correct angle.

Red Cross

Margaret Vallentine was a life member of the Red Cross having served for more than 80 years. Her journey started as a five-year-old, collecting milk bottle lids for the war effort. Margaret was an ideas lady and would fundraise to help those in need. There was many a time that she would go out in the night to tend to needy people be

they strangers or locals.

When the police needed help with the blue light disco, the Red Cross did the decorations and Margaret made the job safer by supplying a step ladder. Margaret was instrumental in the process of establishing the Red Cross building in Gingin as well as setting up the op shop.

Margaret also set up the school Medallion system, an annual community award. It will now be known as the Margaret Vallentine memorial award. She spent many hours assisting with school issues and helping children who needed a boost in confidence. There have been many families who have felt relief from her helping hand.

Margaret was a Red Cross board member, a regional rep and also an emergency vol-

unteer with LEMAC. We thank Margaret for her enormous contribution during her long and fruitful life.

The Gingin Red Cross meets at the Lion's Den, 3 Horan Street Gingin, at 9am on the first Wednesday of the month.

We will be having a Christmas lunch on Wednesday, December 20th.

Please phone Felicity on 0400 505 656 if you would like to attend.

Gingin Brook Catchment Group

Have you heard of Amazon Frogbit?

Amazon Frogbit (*Limnobium laevigatum*) is



also known as South American Sponge-plant due to the sponge-like bulge on the underside of the young leaves which float flat on the water surface. Adult leaves may be held above the water and the bulge is often

less distinct on these leaves. It is a floating aquatic plant native to South and Central America and promoted as an easy-care pond and aquarium plant.

However, in Australia, if it gets into the environment, it is a serious weed of fresh water wetlands and waterways. Research by the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare indicates the plants are also able to live in brackish water and when shaded by other plants. It reproduces by seed and also by vegetative division. Floating plants produce stolons, the ends of which develop into a new plant. This habit can quickly result in a dense mat. These mats can clog waterways, displace native species and impact water quality and wildlife habitat. Seed and small plants are easily transported in flowing water and on animals.

An infestation was first found in WA in 2013, with many isolated occurrences being found since. All infestations are thought to have been the result of unwanted pond or aquarium contents being disposed of into wetlands or stormwater drains. An infestation was detected in the Gingin Brook in the Neergabby area in November this year. If you find anything you think might be Amazon Frogbit please report to [mypest-guide.agric.wa.gov.au/reporter](https://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au/reporter) or on the MyPestGuide Reporter app.

You can help prevent the spread of this and other aquatic pest plants or animals by ensuring any unwanted pond or aquarium contents are disposed of appropriately and not into any wetland, waterway, stormwater drain or bushland.

The Gingin Catchment Group webpage www.gingincatchment.org.au is up and running, with access to old documents available. The new part is still a work in progress so bear with us while we add new information and develop its new look.

Our email address is info@gingincatchment.org.au and you can also find us on Facebook.

The groups next meeting will be Monday 5th Feb 2024 at 9 am at the Gingin CRC.

Gingin Museum and Historical Society

It was a massive week in the lead up to the "Flavours of Gingin" event held in November. We had many volunteers (pictured below) spend a huge amount of time setting up our extensive display. Thank you to everyone who donated items or their time to ensure our display was successful and well represented.

We also announced the winner of our re-

cent competition and would like to again congratulate Alison McVee for submitting the winning design.

We are always looking for new members. If anyone is interested in becoming a member, please complete the membership application below and return to us via post or email.



c/- P O Box 66 Gingin WA 6503
email: kuyan@iinet.net.au



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name:

Address:

Ph No:

Email address:

Membership: \$5.50

EFT: BSB 633 000 ACC:160474896

Ref: Your name please.

Received by:

Signature:

Date:

Release Date: 24 November 2023

Please attribute information below to Shire CEO, Aaron Cook.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Congratulations to Our Early Rates Incentive Prize Winners!

On Wednesday 15 November, the Shire held its annual Early Rates Incentive Prize Night at CU@Park Restaurant in Gingin where 10 lucky early ratepayers participated in a fun 'mystery' prize presentation and social networking event.

The prizes, which were made up from cash and in-kind sponsorship from local and regional businesses, ranged in value from \$1,000 to \$5,000 with a total value of \$19,200.

This is the 10th year the Shire has conducted an Early Rates Incentive Scheme and this year 65% of rates paid on or before 10 October, which is an increase over previous years and is well over half of total expected rates revenue – so a big thank you to everyone who paid their rates early.

We would like to congratulate the following winners:

- John & Margaret Goodacre – major prize winners
- Henry & Margaret Morris
- Humfrey & Co Pty Ltd – represented by proxy Tom Cabassi
- Mark Ladny – represented by Richard & June Ladny
- Adrienne Pellegrini
- Newton Heights Pty Ltd – represented by Michael & Maria Skender
- Giovanni & Anna Deceglie
- Stephen & Elizabeth Ferguson
- Douglas McFarlane & Ashe Brewer
- Kim Gravenall

Winner Roy Humfrey of Humfrey & Co donated his prize of \$1,500 to West Australian Shalom Group which was an unexpected and very generous gesture.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the following local and regional businesses who sponsored this year's Early Rates Incentive Scheme:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VIMG Lancelin South • Lancelin Sands • Country Heights Estate • WANT Plumbing Services • M.R. Mulching • Bendigo Bank • Bindoon Hill Gravel Supply • Avon Waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midwest Building WA • Western Stablisers • Gingin Tree Services • AMP Waste Facilities • Moore Demo & Civil • Asset Financial Accounting • Bitutek Pty Ltd • Hersey's Safety |
|--|---|

Deserving special acknowledgement are long-time sponsors Bendigo Bank and Avon Waste who have sponsored the Early Rates Incentive Scheme every single year since 2014.

Page 1

"Both Bendigo Bank and Avon Waste have been incredibly supportive of the Shire of Gingin community and I'd like to thank them very much for their continuing commitment to our Early Rates Incentive Scheme," said Shire President Wayne Fewster.

We would also like to thank our local florist Sylvia Kelly for the beautiful flower bouquets, Regan's Ridge Olives for the gift packs, and Renae Stokes from CU@Park for hosting and catering the event once again.

A photo gallery of the evening can be found on the Shire's Facebook page.

-Ends-

Shire of Gingin media contact:

Meredith Taylor
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING OFFICER
T: (08) 9575 5150
E: meredith.taylor@gingin.wa.gov.au



Pictured above: Winners and sponsors of the Shire of Gingin Early Rates Incentive Scheme 2023.

Page 2



INVITE YOU TO

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE PARK

- SANTA
- NATIVITY PERFORMANCE
- CHOIR
- FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE
- TEA & COFFEE

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER
5:30PM – 8:00PM
GRANVILLE PARK – GINGIN

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT BY
GINGIN-CHITTERING LIONS CLUB

CALL PAT – 0427 954 759
FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Harvest Bowl

The recent Harvest Bowl at Gingin Bowling Club was again a very successful event, despite facing unpredictable weather. There were a total 24 teams fighting it out on the green, a thunderstorm and an inch of rain, meaning the 3rd game was unable to be played.

The success of the Harvest Bowl is attributed to the invaluable support of the sponsors whose contributions and donations make the day a huge success. With donations of honey, fruit and vegetables, meat, wine and more all coming from local businesses and farmers showcasing the amazing produce our region has to offer, (see full list of sponsors below). Equally invaluable are the dedicated volunteers whose efforts ensure the smooth running of the day, keeping everything running seamlessly.

Kelli Wray, Founder, Director, and CEO of

Bowls and Wellness reflections emphasized the true essence of the event, noting, "Playing bowls is not always about winning but more so the new people you meet, the old friendships you reconnect with, and more so the fun you have." Her advice, laced with a hint of humour, also included a practical tip for future attendees: "I highly recommend, from the below photos and video, to have a big car or trailer when you go to this event as you will need it when you win a raffle or place in the event."

Her words encapsulated the community spirit, the joy of the sport, and the camaraderie that makes the Harvest Bowl more than just a competition.

Congratulations goes to the winners, Kathy Gobbart, Shaun Donohue, Joann Falconer, Roy Humphry!



ABOVE - Bowlers in action.
ABOVE RIGHT - Sponers Flyer
RIGHT - Winners Kathy Gobbart,
Shaun Donohue, Joann Falconer and
Roy Humphry



Gingin Bowling Club
HARVEST BOWL
2023



THANKYOU to the following sponsors:

<p>Almondeo Berry Sweet Bogdanich Farms Borrello Beef Brad Gresle Brad & Shari Turner Brendan Fewster Brookrise Produce Costa Berries Gingin Cellarbrations Gingin Centre West Exports Golden Eggs Growers Agrishop Hamilton Family Hieu & Son</p>	<p>Almonds Strawberries Vegetables Cattle processing Honey Wine Honey Gourmet Lettuce Blueberries Wine Carrots Eggs Strawberries & Tomatoes Vegies Vegetables</p>	<p>Humfrey and Co John and Kerry Fewster Koorian Loose Leaf Lettuce Moora Citrus Paul Fewster Real Good Honey Sumich Swan Valley Eggs TC Do & Son The Gingin Butcher Tony Galati Trandos Farms Western Berries</p>	<p>Potatoes Cattle Agistment Avocadoes Gourmet Lettuce Cool Room Truck Oranges Honey Extra Virgin Olive Oil Eggs Vegies Meat Pack Preparation Potatoes Beans & Corn Blueberries</p>
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THANK YOU to Tony Colotti and members who helped collect and deliver the prizes
THANK YOU to all members who help make this such a successful and prestigious day
THANK YOU TO ALL THE TEAMS COMPETING AND GOOD LUCK!





**APPLY
NOW**

Community Bank
Gingin and Lancelin

Need help with the costs of study?

Applications are invited from eligible students who require assistance with educational costs in 2024.

Applications open Friday 1 December 2023 and close on 2 February 2024.
Please call the branch on 9575 1560 for more information.

bendigobank.com.au/scholarships



Community Enterprise
Foundation™

Community Bank Scholarships will be funded from management accounts of the Community Enterprise Charitable Fund ABN 12 102 649 968 (the Fund), The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. Sandhurst Trustees Limited ABN 16 004 030 737 AFSL 237906, a subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL 237879, is the trustee of the Fund. OUT_33209875, 23/11/2023

Gingin District High School News

Creating a positive, uplifting community where students succeed!

KINDY – WALK-ABOUT-TOWN

Our beautiful Kindergarten students just had their Walk-About-Town excursion! They got to visit the library, police station and the fire trucks. The children all had fun testing the sirens in the police cars and the water hoses of the fire truck.



SHEENA'S MASTERCLASS

Our amazing Canteen Manager, Sheena, came to both Year 9/10 and Year 8 Home Economics classes recently to give a Masterclass on using knives. She demonstrated safe ways to cut those tricky vegetables such as onions, carrots and potatoes as well as the best way to chop fresh herbs. Many thanks Sheena for sharing your expertise with us!



GINGIN DHS P&C - COLOUR BLAST FUN RUN

On Friday 10th November, the Gingin DHS P&C held a Colour Blast Fun Run fundraising event for the whole school.

The students had a BLAST running through the spray of colourful rainbow, all while making memories and getting active at the same time!



SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS 2024

These scholarships are open for application from students and parents for the 2024 school year:

James and Rose Coombe Scholarships

Valued at \$1,000 (minimum). Applications open Thursday 12 October 2023 and close on Thursday 7th December 2023 at 5:30 pm.

This scholarship supports attendance at a regional public school in Western Australia. Applicants must attend a Western Australian public secondary school located further than 65 kilometres from Perth. Students currently finishing primary school or attending secondary school can apply.

Application forms at:

[JAMES AND ROSE COOMBE SCHOLARSHIPS 2023-2024 - Formstack](#)

Elaine Walker Scholarship

Students must be:

- attending a metropolitan or regional public secondary school
- completing Year 10 in the year they apply
- intending to continue towards The Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) at a public school.
- Australian citizens or permanent residents.

Students are assessed on academic performance, attendance and behaviour, as well as economic need.

Application forms at:

[ELAINE WALKER SCHOLARSHIP 2023-2024 - Formstack](#)

SCHOOL BOARD PARENT VACANCY

Our School Board is seeking nominations from parents to a vacancy on our Board. The vacancy is for a three-year term, commencing at the start of the 2024 school year.

The School Board provides strategic governance for the school and is involved in providing advice to the Principal on matters affecting the school.

Nominations for the Parent Representative position should be sent with the title 'School Board nomination' via email to: Kevin.brady@education.wa.edu.au

Nominations close Wednesday, 6th December at 3.00 p.m.

Successful applicants will need to undertake a National Police Screening Check.

Gingin District High School

KINDERGARTEN

ENROLMENTS

Now open for 2024

Please telephone or email the School Office or visit the school website to download enrolment forms.

Birth Certificate & Immunisation History Statements required.

T: 9575 5300

E: gingin.dhs@education.wa.edu.au



Where Are They Now... And Their Contributions to the Community - Part 2 - Continues on page 24

The question is often asked “I wonder where.....is now?” after a long-term local resident is no longer seen at the local shops or has gone into hospital for acute care and has never returned to his or her home.

The following is a little bit about the contribution and life of former Gingin residents and where they are living now.

Margaret Mighall



Margaret lived in Weld Street, having moved there with her husband Des in 1995. However, they arrived in the district in 1985, living initially in the localities of Wannamal and Beermullah, prior to which they ran a business in Calingiri.

Margaret was a quiet homemaker who loved her garden, books and poetry. She had a remarkable memory and could readily recite the poems learned during school days – particularly those of Banjo Patterson.

Margaret and Des were both members of the local Lions Club and St. John Ambulance and acted as phone despatchers for Ambulance call outs.

Regretfully in the later years of Margaret's life, her eyesight began to deteriorate, and she no longer could drive – which meant she was more confined to her home and garden, other than when taken on outings by her family and community groups.

Son Michael and his partner Debbie live

in Gingin and were of great assistance to Margaret, and along with “home care”, Margaret was able to stay in her beloved home despite increasing frailty. Following a period of time in hospital due to a series of falls and general ill health, Margaret and her family, decided she needed access to 24-hour onsite assistance if required.

Margaret now lives in **Buckley Care Centre, part of the Amaroo Home Group in Gosnells**, which is in easy travelling distance of one of her daughters.

Margaret celebrated her 90th birthday in June this year with many of her family at a venue in Darlington. She would welcome contact from her former Gingin friends.

(Interestingly the Mighall and Vallentine families had a 75-year connection through Des and Russ Vallentine playing hockey together in their younger days, and the contact and friendship remained over the years).

Norma Gray

Norma needs no introduction to Gingin. She



was born in 1924 and has lived her whole life in Beermullah, Bindoon and latterly in Gingin. She moved back to Gingin in 2002 following the death of her husband Cyril and the sale of the family farm in Bindoon, living initially in Fewster Street.

Norma has always been involved in the community by way of her sporting prowess – she was a champion golfer and was

made a Life Member of the Gingin Golf Club – and was a very good lawn bowler. In her early 90's she took up croquet and was a very handy croquet player, despite starting to struggle with her eyesight.

Norma was a keen gardener and cook and she combined both these skills in the form of fund raisers. Her morning teas and garden parties were hugely successful and over the years she raised thousands of dollars for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the Heart Foundation and the Cancer Council. She also contributed to many local causes, inclusive of paying for the cost and laying of a plaque to mark the location of the Beermullah School, and more recently the growing of daffodils in pots that were sold at a street stall in September. The monies raised were donated for use by the Breakfast Club at the local High School.

Regretfully, Norma's ongoing failing eyesight meant living on her own was becoming increasingly problematic and she shifted into private accommodation within the town for a period of time as of late last year. However, she kept up a lively interest in gardening through her pot plants and reinvigorating several of the raised beds in the Gingin Community Garden with the help of a local resident. Norma did much of the work – digging, planting, weeding and finally harvesting.

Norma has a very practical turn of mind and everything she did had to be of use and value. "Normas Patch" was no different.

In 2018, Norma was awarded Gingin's "Senior Citizen of the Year" and an Oral History, and a Biography of her Life have been published and both can be found in the local library.

Norma has been marvellously supported throughout these last few years by the local community and her extended family. She

has been able to benefit from the Community Car, and local friends have read to her and prepared meals for her. Norma is not only practical but organized – and she has been determined to be ready for her Centenary Birthday Celebrations in 2024 – she has booked the Hall, prepared the guest list, organized and booked the menu and caterer and has started to make some of the table decorations.

Regretfully, despite Norma's determination to be fully independent, her failing eyesight created increasing problems with scrapes and grazes and the potential for serious falls. This has meant the need for daily support for general care through a part time carer, friends and family.

A recent severe chest infection meant a trip to hospital and following some five weeks in hospital and in discussion with all involved, Norma transferred from hospital to "live in" assisted care.

Currently she is living at **Aegis Care Home in Bayswater**. This is interim accommodation until a permanent home has been finalized. Norma's son lives in the northern suburbs, and it is hoped she will relocate closer to him. Norma also has grandchildren, great grandchildren and members of her extended family living in the metropolitan area. Norma is contactable by phone and visitors are welcome, or she can be taken for outings as she wishes.

Local friends are already visiting her – and have remarked she is enjoying the good food, and its preparation continues to be high on Norma's list of priorities, as it has been throughout her life.

Footnote - Continues on pg 24

It is **advisable to ring all Assisted Care Homes** to find out their current policy on Covid and Influenza (Flu) vaccinations **prior** to visiting.



COUNCIL TO COMMUNITY *Wishing our community*

Flavours of Gingin

It was our pleasure to deliver the inaugural Flavours of Gingin and showcase the history, beauty and prosperity of our special Shire, especially with all the great food our region has to offer. Making these events possible has been the wonderful support and sponsorship of the following local and regional businesses, to whom we extend our sincerest appreciation:

Flavours of Gingin

- Borrello Beef
- Image Resources
- FRRR
- Avon Waste
- Howard & Sons Pyrotechnics
- Community Bank Gingin and Lancelin

Long Table Dinner

- The Gingin Butcher
- Australian Black Limes
- Wakedale Farm
- Borrello Beef
- The Loose Leaf Lettuce Company
- Trandos Farms - West Australian Corn Growers
- Local Goat
- Littlefoot Local

We would also like to thank all the volunteers, community groups, stall holders, local producers, and businesses who supported both events - and of course everyone who attended.

Shire Office & Library Closures

The Gingin and Lancelin Shire Offices and Public Libraries will be closed Monday 25 December to Monday 1 January for the Christmas/New Year period, reopening for business on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Shire Rangers are contactable during this time on 9575 5140.



Schedule of Council Meeting Dates

At its meeting on 21 November, Council agreed to set the following dates for Ordinary Council Meetings in 2024:

16 January 2024	20 February 2024	19 March 2024
16 April 2024	21 May 2024	18 June 2024
16 July 2024	20 August 2024	17 September 2024
15 October 2024	19 November 2024	17 December 2024

Unless otherwise advertised, all meetings for 2024 will be held at the Shire of Gingin Council Chambers, 7 Brockman St, Gingin at 3:00pm.

Congratulations to Early Rates Prize Winners!

On Wednesday 15 November, the Shire held its annual Early Rates Incentive Prize Night at CU@Park Restaurant in Gingin where 10 lucky early ratepayers participated in a fun 'mystery' prize presentation and social networking event. The prizes, which were made up from cash and in-kind sponsorship from local and regional businesses, ranged in value from \$1,000 to \$5,000 with a total value of \$19,200. This is the 10th year the Shire has conducted an Early Rates Incentive Scheme and this year 65% of rates were paid on or before 10 October, which is an increase over previous years and is well over half of total expected rates revenue - so a big thank you to everyone who paid their rates early.

We would like to congratulate the following winners:

- John & Margaret Goodacre - major prize winners
- Henry & Margaret Morris
- Humfrey & Co Pty Ltd - represented by proxy Tom Cabassi
- Mark Ladny - represented by Richard & June Ladny
- Adrienne Pellegrini
- Newton Heights Pty Ltd - represented by Michael & Maria Skender
- Giovanni & Anna Deceglie
- Stephen & Elizabeth Ferguson
- Douglas McFarlane & Ashe Brewer
- Kim Gravenall

Winner Roy Humfrey of Humfrey & Co donated his prize of \$1,500 to West Australian Shalom Group which was an unexpected and very generous gesture. A photo gallery of the evening can be found on the Shire's Facebook page.



Council Decisions

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

- Council Meeting Dates - *adopted*
- Application for Development Approval - Short Stay (Camping Facility) on Lot 1001 (51) Boobabbie Road, Guilderton - *approved*.
- Calling of Tenders - Disposition of Property Lot 125 (20) Brockman Street Gingin - *adopted*
- Report of Review of Local Planning Scheme No. 9 for WA Planning Commission - *approved*
- Application for Development Approval - Proposed Deck on Lot 136 (4) Robinson Street, Gingin (Gingin Bowling Club) - *adopted*

In addition, 11 other items were presented to/deliberated by Council.

More information on the decisions from this Council meeting can be found in the Meeting Minutes which are available for viewing at gingin.wa.gov.au/council-meetings, or in person upon request at either the Gingin Administration Centre or Lancelin Office.



community a wonderful and safe festive season!

Thanks to Our Sponsors



The Shire of Gingin gratefully acknowledges the following businesses for their generous sponsorship of this year's Early Rates Incentive Scheme:



PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



Project Updates

Our Operations teams will be undertaking the following works and projects in the next couple of months.

- Repairs to the Gingin Equestrian Centre including removal and replacement of the Asbestos roof.
- Replacement of floor coverings in the Gingin Medical Centre.
- Mooliabeenee Road capital roadworks.
- Todman Road completion of roadworks.

Save the Dates!

Christmas Carols in the Park - Saturday 16 December 2023, 4:00pm - 8:00pm, Gabbadah Park, Guilderton.

Christmas Carols in the Park - Sunday 17 December 2023, 5:30pm - 8:00pm, Granville Park, Gingin.

Music in the Park - Saturday 6 January 2024, 5:00pm - 10:00pm, Gabbadah Park, Guilderton.

Seabird Summer Splash - Saturday, 13 January 2024, 11:30am - 4:30pm, Seabird Oval, Chalon Ave, Seabird.

Gingin Playgroup Quiz Night - Saturday, 20 January 2024, 6:00pm - 11:00pm, Gingin Recreation Centre, Gingin.

Australia Day Picnic Breakfast - Friday 26 January 2024, 9:00am - 12:00pm, Neergabby Community Grounds.

For more information on events in the Shire, please go to the Events Calendar on gingin.wa.gov.au.

If you have a community event to promote in the Shire, please email our Community Development Officer, Amy Gibbs at cdo@gingin.wa.gov.au and we will include it on our Events Calendar and promote it on our Facebook page.

Prohibited Burning Period & Personal Preparedness

As most people would be aware, the Shire of Gingin was one of 13 local governments identified by DFES for entering the Prohibited Burning Period early on 10 November due to continuing dry weather conditions.

With bushfires already occurring in and around Perth and surrounding rural regions, we strongly encourage everyone to make your own hazard and emergency plan for the summer months ahead. To assist with personal preparedness, DFES has created a number of plans, including a Bushfire Survival Plan and Storm Preparation Plan, which are available at dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information.

If you haven't already done so, please take 15 minutes to prepare your emergency plan and, if you can, assist any community members with disability for whom emergency planning can be particularly challenging.



(08) 9575 5100

mail@gingin.wa.gov.au

PO Box 510, Gingin WA 6503

www.gingin.wa.gov.au



Where Are They Now... And Their Contributions to the Community - Part 2 - Continued from page 21

There is no consistent policy for all the Homes. In general, mandatory Covid vaccination is not required, but this is not the case for the “Flu” vaccine. Obviously, you should not be visiting if you are unwell.

Where there is “Covid” within the Home this will be clearly stated – posted on a Flyer to the Entrance Door, through a Social Media format or with phone contact. Some organizations have a complete Lock Down policy if there is Covid amongst its residents, others are more flexible. The latter, if you wish to continue with the visit, are likely to ask visitors to wear a mask and other

protective clothing within the building, irrespective of whether the person you are visiting has Covid.

However, this does not prevent you from maintaining contact. Many care homes have independent phone connections available within the bedrooms, or have a handset that can be taken to, and used by the resident, or the resident may have use of their own mobile phone.

*Written by M. Cameron
October 2023*

**Help Make This Christmas Extra Special For Less
Fortunate Families In Our Local Community!**

The Giving Tree

**Deliver donations to the
Gingin Community Resource Centre**

1a Lily King Place, Gingin

Accepting Wrapped Gifts for All Age Groups!
A tag will be provided to write gender and age

Donations accepted until 4pm Friday, 22nd of December

For more information please contact the CRC on 9575 1253 or email: crc-service@gingin.net



Shane LOVE MLA

Your State Member for Moore

**WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
A SAFE CHRISTMAS AND A
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**

T: (08) 9927 2333 | E: MooreElectorate@mp.wa.gov.au

 [ShaneLoveMLA](#) | www.shanelove.com



Community Coffee

with your new Council

Would you like to meet your new Council?
Got a question you'd like to ask?
Join us at CU@Park for a free coffee!

TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER

10:00-10:45AM

CU@PARK RESTAURANT
WELD ST, GINGIN



'NO DONATIONS PLEASE'

A Christmas holiday request from the volunteers of The Treasure Trove @ Gingin.

Please, please don't leave anything in the drop bin, by the drop bin or anywhere around the shop because the shop will be shut while the volunteers are taking a well-earned break over the Christmas holiday period.

Donations left outside will quickly look unsightly, annoy our neighbours, may attract vermin and could get vandalised.

The Op Shop will be closed from 12.00 Friday 22nd Dec 2023 until 9.00 Monday 15th January 2024.

It's Time to Take a Break

We love your donations we really do,
And we appreciate all of you.
Without your help we have no shop.
But sometimes, we wish you would just – **stop!**



Please take a break this Christmas holiday,
Catch your breath, we all need to play.
It's just a pause, no big deal.
But mountains of 'stuff' would be unreal.
So simply store those marvellous donations
Until we are back at our workstations –



On **Monday 15th Jan**, sorting, cleaning, welcoming our donors & customers and maybe drinking coffee & eating left over cake!

Happy holidays - we look forward to seeing you in 2024

Vale Margaret Vallentine

Margaret Vallentine was an active and enthusiastic member of Koorunga, Gingin and Chittering Bindoon Branches for over a period of 32 years. Margaret's happy smile, cheerful nature and positive approach always made a difference at our meetings and activities. Margaret contributed outstandingly to the local community and CWA; she had compassion for those in need in the community, always encouraged and supported new members, constantly demonstrated the value in open communication and used her great writing skills to assist many (writing one of our winning Clarice Rudduck entries for the CWA branch that exhibits the finest community effort). Her passionate involvement in Choir

and Drama days gave so much laughter, always dressing up, always inspiring and motivating others to participate and always having fun. She received a CWA Loyal Service Badge in 2012.

Margaret gave her all to the district of Gingin in her capacity as a qualified nursing sister, always ready to offer support and advice to those any time they needed her nursing opinion. She gave many hours of service to Red Cross, the Chittering Gingin St John Ambulance service and Gingin District High School.

A truly valued member of our Gingin Community, who will be greatly missed. Now at peace with her beloved Russell.

Photos Courtesy of Koorunga CWA



A Fitting Farewell for Russell and Margaret Vallentine

A Memorial Service celebrating the lives of Margaret (11 August 1935 - 24 October 2023) and Russell Vallentine (28 June 1924 - 26 April 2023) was held at St Lukes Anglican Church, Gingin, 11 November 2023.

The service was led by Revd. Julie Barrett-Lennard and included a minute's silence at 11.00am in recognition of Remembrance Day - a fitting gesture as Russell was a returned soldier who saw service in Darwin during the second bombing raid of the city and served in New Britain until World War II ended.

Both Margaret and Russell contributed much to the town and Shire over many years.

Margaret in her role as a local nurse and member of St Lukes, the Red Cross, St Johns Ambulance and the CWA; and Russ as a Foreman Linesman with the PMG (Now Aus. Post/ Telstra).

Russ was a Foundation Member of the Gingin Lions Club and was also well known for his remarkable collection of historical memorabilia which he generously lent on occasions for local display.

A large gathering was in attendance, inclusive of the State President of the Red Cross. The service was followed by a morning tea and pictorial display of their lives.

Two lives well lived.

Vale Terry Grocke

A Memorial Service celebrating the life of Terrence Richard Grocke, formerly of Jylland Vineyard and Winery, Ashby Road, Gingin was held at the Barrett Lane Function Centre, Herne Hill on 26 October.

Family and friends gathered to reminisce, share cherished memories and pay tribute

to Terry and his remarkable life.

Terry, and his wife Edel, planted the vineyard and established a restaurant in the early 1990's, and lived at Jylland until the early 2020's

Deepest Sympathy to Edel and his daughters.

Happy Birthday Barb Cocking

Approximately 25 people gathered to catch up with Barb to celebrate her 90th Birthday at a lunch at Cu@Park on Wednesday November 8.

Organized by Barb's daughter in law, Donna Cocking, it was a "who's who" of former Gingin residents, family and local friends. Greetings and chat lasted well into the afternoon.



Past Gingin News

Mr Norman Fewster was a very well-known and respected member of the Gingin community who during his lifetime, kept a journal of his day-to-day pursuits and was very much interested in our area's history. On the 30 May 1979 he was made an Honorary Freeman of the Municipality of the Shire of Gingin. Very few residents have been given this honour. Mr Fewster served a total of 32 years 5 months on the Gingin Roads Board which later became the Gingin Shire Council. Within that period of service, he was President for 16. Mr Fewster passed away in 1997.

Mr Fewster, it feels wrong to say Norman, wrote a book "Muchea Memories" and contributed articles to the Gingin News in the 1980's. The articles, that I am aware of, have never been published beyond the "News".

With the permission of his eldest son Mr Max Fewster, the "Buzz" will reproduce these articles that give insights to life in Gingin from times gone by.

The article in this edition is based on his reminiscing of the community's involvement at Bambun Lake.

Gingin News – Edition No: 28 December 1986

BAMBUN LAKE by N. T. FEWSTER

Summer is once more upon us and when the real hot days come, my mind turns back to Bambun Lake and the pleasure it gave to so many people from Muchea, Bindoon, Gingin and Mooliabeenee in the Nineteen Twenty and Thirty eras.

There are now very few people living in the Gingin Shire that have seen the Lake or know very much about it.

Situated about six miles south of the town and off the Brand Highway between Gingin and Muchea - you will see the sign Bambun

Road (No Through Road).

In those early days a cart track was cleared and situated on the side of the Lake was an old homestead. This particular area was selected in the early development of our district.

My first memories of this place were the ruins of the old building and a big fig tree growing nearby. On the tree there were hundreds of initials carved on the trunk and larger branches. Names of many of the early settlers who came there to get a bag of wild ducks. They were in their hundreds – along with the many other birds who had made the Lake their home. There were swans, ibis, brown birds known as bitterns, waterfowl, dab chicks and the shags. This lake always seemed to have an abundance of food for these birds.

The fish that were caught in the Lake were two varieties – cobble and carp – these pink and brown fish were introduced by some of the earlier settlers.

Mr McKenzie of Muchea may have been responsible for them being there because in the early days in that district, he endeavoured to establish a small fish breeding farm, but with very little success. Lake Chandala was also full of these fish.

Bambun Lake itself was oval in shape – the area of water would have covered approximately 130 acres with a dense thicket of paper bark trees, especially on the norther part of the Lake where the water from the Lennards Brook ran into it. This Brook that we see when we cross the bridge two miles south of Gingin entered the Lake on the North-Eastern side and the overflow water made its get-away on the North-West side, running towards the Gingin Brook and joining up where the Nolan Homestead is, now owned by Mr Hugh Harris.

Most of the perimeter of this Lake was sur-

rounded by a thicket of paper bark trees, Bluegums a little further away, but on the northern end of the Lake, there was a jungle! An area of about 20 acres, similar to our Scenic Walk named after Jim Gordon VC. The paper barks were of all shapes and sizes, and when My brother and I tried to walk around the Lake, we had to climb along these trees and through their branches.

The water was fresh, good stock water, but very brown in colour, similar to the water at the Scenic Pool but it was a great place to cool off in the hot days of summer. New Years Day was the big event of the year - families came from surrounding districts to join in Trucks, Cars, fully loaded horse and carts and some on horseback. A few of us locals, together with the storekeeper Mr Cyril Riley organised transport, a supply of soft drinks and containers of ice-cream.

Ice-cream came up on the Railway in heavy metal containers holding about three gallons. These containers were packed in canvas bags full of ice and straw. When we reached Bambun Lake, the ice-cream containers and many bottles of soft drink were placed in the old fashioned bathtubs full of large pieces of ice – some of the hundred-weight that was taken to the lake.

When all families were settled down for lunch, an announcement would come over Mr Oscar Dewar's loudspeaker system that ice-cream, (which I might add was a luxury item in those days) was available. A liberal supply was rationed out to each family for five shillings. Ice-cream and soft drinks were only sold to defray expenses and any drinks that were left over, Mr Riley would take back to his shop – these items made the picnic a little bit special.

Mr Oscar Dewar also brought down his record player and lot of the old favourite songs, popular at the time, were enjoyed along with swimming, diving, cricket, rounder and the

day always finished with a variety of foot races, sack races, three-legged race and in order to provide some small cash prizes for the children, quite a generous amount of money was thrown into a container by the spectators. It was yearly event enjoyed by young and old with very little organising.

During the many heatwaves in summer, many families from Gingin found their way down to the Lake for a cool off. Our truck used to leave about six o'clock – all families taking their tea and a couple of pleasant hours were spent at the Lake.

As the roads in the district improved and better cars arrived, the Moore River, now called Guilderton, seemed a lot closer and people moved out there for their fishing and swimming and the old Bambun Lake became less popular.

From “inherit – Our heritage places - <https://inherit.dplh.wa.gov.au/public/inventory/printsinglerecord/47d7a8db-7b13-4df2-8d9d-98fbae474f13>

“Bambun Lake - History

The first land surveyed near Gingin was SL 96 of 643 acres. This was a series of zigzagging blocks up along Lennard's Brook and was selected by E.B. Lennard in 1831, who never used the land. In 1853, 10 acres, being SL135 on the east side of Bambun Lake, was granted to Robert J. Brockman. He is believed to have built a mud bat house and lived there with his family. It was originally a beautiful lake with a little sandy beach and plenty of green grass and shady trees. It was a favourite place for picnics and sports meetings for Gingin people during the years 1900 to the 1950's. A boating accident occurred in January 1910 when a punt capsized, and a young woman drowned. Efforts by the Local Authority to resume land on the eastern side of the Lake for public recreation have always failed. It is not accessible to the public. A reserve, R22831, does not reach the lakeside.”

PERFECT XMAS GIFT

2024

HOT ITEM!

DESIGNED BY GINGIN ARTIST

KOSMIC SONAR ARTWORK PRESENTS

WWW.KOSMICSONAR.ART

unbelievably cute!!!

March November May

LIMITED STOCK

2024 Wall Calendar

In Local Stores Now!

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS



lionsaustralia
we serve



New Members always welcome at the
Lions Club Gingin -Chittering

Lions Christmas Cakes and Puddings

Pudding: \$16 Cake: \$20



Available Now At:

- CU @ Park
- Gingin CRC
- Gingin Trading
- Shire Of Gingin
- Gingin Post Office
- The Gingin Butcher

By Purchasing these cakes you are helping local organisations and individuals in times of hardship



STAYING IN PLACE GINGIN

- OUR SERVICE :**
- ✓ Locally coordinated home care packages.
 - ✓ Local workforce
 - ✓ Advocacy by a local team to ensure you receive the maximum from your home care package.



We are pleased to unveil an innovative collaboration that is set to transform aged care in the Shire of Gingin. Mable and InCasa, in partnership with the Gingin Community Resource Centre Inc. (CRC), are proud to introduce the program 'Staying in Place'. This innovative initiative, developed in the town of Pingelly, is now being brought to our community, ensuring that as you age, you can continue to reside in the comfort of your own home while receiving the support you deserve. For more information or to explore partnership opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact us at cc@gingin.net. Let us embark on this inspiring journey together, as we make 'Staying in Place' a hallmark of the Gingin Shire.



CONTACT US
9575 1253
IF YOU HAVE ANY ENQUIRIES

GINGIN ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP

CURRENTLY MEETING EACH
WEDNESDAY

9:30AM - 12:30PM

GINGIN GRANVILLE CIVIC CENTRE
IN THE DINING ROOM AREA NEXT TO
THE KITCHEN

ALL WELCOME!

CALL 0480 448 389 FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



GINGIN COMMUNITY PANTRY

Located on the back veranda of
the Gingin Community Resource
Centre

Food is a human right and is an immediate and tangible way to help someone. Every donation of food helps. We accept donations of non-perishable food in jars, cans and sealed packets. We recommend sauces, soups, beans, vegetables in cans or jars, honey, peanut butter, boxed juices, long-life milk, coconut cream, fish in oil, baby products and pet essentials.



A community initiative by the
community for the community.
Take what you need, give what you can.

Available to purchase at the CRC

These books are a great Aussie Rhyming book, with beautiful hand drawn coloured artwork by Australian Artists.

“Mrs Magpie will protect her nest, to many people she is a pest. Just when you think it’s safe to stay, she’ll swoop and peck you on your way...”



Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety



Consumer Watch

Consumer Protection 50-52 Durlacher Street, Geraldton WA 6530
Tel: (08) 9920 9800
Email: candice.evans@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Know your rechargeable battery risks

If you have a mobile phone, laptop, electric toothbrush, e-scooter, e-bike, any power tools, or solar power backup storage, you need to know how to reduce potentially deadly fire risks lurking in their batteries.

These common household items use rechargeable lithium-ion batteries which can be highly flammable. If these batteries are used incorrectly, or are damaged, they can overheat, explode and cause fires that can be dangerous and difficult to extinguish.

House fires, burns, chemical exposure, smoke inhalation and property damage have all been reported in connection with lithium-ion battery charging. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) saw a 92% increase in reported lithium-ion battery-related incidents in 2022 compared to 2020.

But you can take simple steps to reduce the risks, such as only using the charger recommended for the battery, unplugging products when they're fully charged, and charging batteries in a cool and dry place out of direct sunlight and away from combustible materials like beds, lounges or carpets.

If your batteries overheat, appear to be swelling, or leak or vent gas, stop using them immediately, and never use damaged charging cables.

Disposal of these batteries also poses problems because the batteries can catch fire if they're crushed, or exposed to heat or moisture in rubbish trucks, household rubbish, or waste facilities. [Recycle Right](https://www.recyclelight.wa.gov.au) at [recyclelight.wa.gov.au](https://www.recyclelight.wa.gov.au) can help you find your closest drop-off point to dispose of lithium-ion batteries safely.

Lithium-ion batteries play a vital role in helping to achieve Australia's transition to net zero emissions. But the safety of those using these batteries is paramount. The ACCC is recommending national regulations around testing, labelling and storage of these batteries to better protect consumers.

In the meantime, you can increase your safety by following Product Safety Australia's easy and [practical guide](https://www.productsafety.gov.au) to understanding and managing the risks of lithium-ion battery fires at [productsafety.gov.au](https://www.productsafety.gov.au)



Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety



Consumer Watch

Consumer Protection 50-52 Durlacher Street, Geraldton WA 6530
Tel: (08) 9920 9800
Email: candice.evans@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Shut the door on real estate and rental scammers

Buying or renting a residential property involves significant financial transactions which, increasingly, are targets for scammers.

Over the last 12 months, WA ScamNet received 129 complaints of real estate and rental scams that left 74 West Australians almost one million dollars, in total, out of pocket.

Rental and real estate scammers try to trick you out of your money when you need to transfer payments or make deposits to banks, real estate & settlement agents or landlords.

Real estate scammers often impersonate businesses, such as a settlement agent or bank, by using an email address similar to the real one. They can redirect your payments into their fraudulent accounts by persuading you to download software that gives them access to your computer, or by obtaining a one-time bank verification code from you, enabling your payment to be 're-directed' – to the scammer.

Rental scammers often advertise scam properties on Gumtree or Facebook that feature appealing property photographs. They give you an address to drive by the property, but make excuses about why you can't go inside for an inspection. They then ask you for a bond or rent payment upfront, when that advertised property might already be rented, up for sale, or not even exist.

Retrieving your money paid to fraudulent accounts is difficult, so stay alert to prevent being scammed. If you're buying property, never provide a verification code for your bank account to someone over the phone, always call your settlement agent or bank to confirm details before transferring or paying money, and never give anyone remote access to your computer.

You can outsmart rental scammers by dealing only with landlords or licenced real estate property managers who you can meet in-person, inspecting properties before signing any agreements or paying any money, and requiring a copy of the signed lease agreement, and the property's keys, in exchange for any money you agree to pay.

If you suspect a real estate or rental scam, let WA ScamNet know by calling 1300 30 40 54 or via the [website](https://www.scamnet.wa.gov.au) at www.scamnet.wa.gov.au, where you can also sign up for alerts to keep informed about current scams.

If you've suffered financial loss from a scam, be vigilant for 'follow up' scams where scammers pretend to be online investigators wanting to retrieve your stolen money for a fee.

I Like to Help

Alan Gent

I think I'm a rational person. I mean, I'm not really given to wild fantasy, superstition or supposition. What I'm going to tell you really did happen, but you'll probably think I'm demented, mad or worse. Never mind, I can live with that. I know what I know, and that's the end of it.

I used to be the manager of a large department store in... Never mind, it's not important. We were one week from Christmas, and everything was starting to crank up. The customers were rolling in the doors from opening time, with lots of excited little ankle biters, touching everything. Isn't it funny how children can't just *look*. They've got to *feel*. The store Santa was due at 10am, and the queues were starting to form. I wandered out from my office to look down the escalator well. I could just see the edge of the 'Santa's Grotto' display we'd put up two weeks ago. I've got to admit, I was quite proud of it. It was worth taking the trouble and a little more of the budget than I was supposed to. There was a large sleigh display and reindeer—all six of them, including Rudolph, with his trade-mark red nose. The children would climb up into the sleigh with Santa and Mum would watch as the littlies would tell the great man exactly what they wanted. A few discreet nods or shakes of the head from Mum, and things would be sorted out, most of the time. Trouble was, not all the kiddies were happy on Christmas Day, judging by some of the requests!

Ten minutes to go, and I peered down again, expecting to see Gus in his usual unflustered way, getting ready. Nothing. I waited. He'd probably been held up. We were lucky to have Gus. He'd been with us for over ten years. Already fat and bearded, with a cheery avuncular nature that immediately endeared him to all the Mums and Dads, not

to mention the kiddies. He'd turn up without fail, rain or shine. He even managed to get in when he'd fallen over the weekend before and cracked a bone in his foot. Somehow, we managed over that Christmas. It would have been nearly impossible to get a replacement, so one of 'Santa's Helpers' would help him to his spot. It was easier then—the sleigh idea was new.

At five past, it was clear there was something wrong. There'd been no reply from his house, and nobody had seen him coming down the street or waiting for the bus at the end of his road, as he usually did.

I rang his number from my speed-dial, and a female voice answered.

"Pop had a stroke last night. He can't talk. I'm sorry, but we're all over the place here, what with getting him to hospital and all. Who did you say you were?"

I told her again, and said how sorry I was – that I hoped he'd get better. Before I rang off, I said that he was the best Santa we'd ever had.

I found out the ward and other details and resolved to visit him as soon as I could get away that day.

"We'll manage!" I'd said. But how? A Santa at short notice was almost impossible to find. I looked down at the queue. They were getting restless, as they sensed something was up.

I searched back through the files to see if I could find another Santa, and desperately rang a few numbers. I drew a resounding blank. I was racking my brains. Perhaps a staff member.... Of course, it was the busiest time, and nobody – even me – could be spared.

What should I do? I was beginning to panic. Because Gus had been with us for so long, he'd never had to use padding for the suit

we kept. My slim body wouldn't look anything like a rotund Santa anyway. Perhaps if I used a pillow....

I deliberated the consequences of having no Santa. Our store would be a laughing stock. I would too. Mums and children wouldn't forget. Our sales would tumble – and not just over Christmas. I *had* to solve the problem. But how?

Then, as I watched, the queue started moving forward. I rubbed my eyes, scarcely believing what I saw. There was a 'Santa' on the sleigh, and had a child on his knee. How could this be? I thought Higgins from Toys must have somehow pulled the switch, but he'd never shown any initiative before. I'd have to sort it out, but meanwhile I'd take a closer look at this new Santa.

I got down to the 'Grotto' just in time to hear two of the Mums talking as they walked away. "He's the best Santa Claus I've ever seen, Betty. Don't the kids love him!"

"Not just the kids, Maud, he told me I'd get what I wanted as well."

"Not the washing machine!"

"No. Not stuff like that. It was, you know, to do with Henry."

The two women exchanged knowing looks.

"How would he know about Henry?"

"Don't know. He just...*knew*."

"I don't think even Santa Claus could make Henry change that much. He must have been having you on."

"No, I really believe him for some reason...." I hung around the exit way and heard similar conversations from the parents. The children always seemed to have happy smiles on their faces. Always the question: "What did you ask for, Jimmy?" And the same answer: "Santa says it's our secret, and I shouldn't tell you, otherwise it might

not happen."

I wondered what happened to the usual "Game Boy", "Super-Robot" or "Nurse Barbie" requests. There seemed to be no mention of toys. Perhaps our mystery Santa didn't realise he was supposed to be working for the store, and increasing sales! I decided to remind him of this in the lunch break.

Lunchtime came, and I patiently waited for our new Santa to appear in the cafeteria queue. Not a sign. On an impulse I went down to the Grotto, and there he was, still happily engaged in the business of looking after the customers. The line of people had diminished somewhat, but they were taking no notice of the hours Santa was supposed to work. It didn't look as though he had any intention of stopping. I decided to take matters into my own hands. I went to the head of the queue, and quietly pointed out that it was now Santa's lunch-time, and he'd be back, as shown on the notice, at 1.30pm. 'Santa' finished with his charge, and stepped down off the sleigh.

As he approached me, I could see that he didn't appear to be as old as he looked. He had a sprightly bounce to his step and quite a youthful demeanour.

He held out his hand and fixed me with an amused gaze. Before I had a chance to speak, he said: "I'd completely forgotten I was supposed to stop for lunch. When I'm having fun, I simply lose all track of time. I suppose you want to talk to me?"

I told him how glad I was that he'd been able to step into the breach left by Gus, but that I really needed to get some details for 'the files'.

In my office I got my secretary to bring us lunch, and while he was eating, I started to learn a bit of his history. He listed all sorts of excellent references from stores as far away as London and New York. "You can

call them if you like" he said. He told me his name was Stan Shicalino. He hadn't got a permanent address in town, but had settled into a little hotel not far up the road. He'd heard about Gus, and said: "I like to help."

With these words, and the easy way he answered my questions, all my misgivings evaporated, and he'd left the office for his post for the afternoon before I realised I'd completely forgotten to ask him about promoting our toy sales. "Oh well", I thought, "it'll keep until I catch up with him again." Somehow, it didn't seem that important. After all, the parents and children were happier than I'd ever seen them, and the Christmas spirit seemed to be alive and well in the store. During our lunchtime conversation, I realised I'd told him more about myself than I'd learnt about him. I'd even mentioned how nice it would be if my daughter Lacie came home. I hadn't seen her for over five years. Why on earth I brought that up, I'll never know. He'd actually said: "I'll see what I can do." I remember laughing at that, and saying something like: "Even a *real* Santa Claus couldn't do that!" I found myself looking forward to Christmas for the first time for years. I began to realise what the Mums had felt after he'd seen them in the Grotto. I felt like a little kid.

The following day the whole store seemed to be buzzing with the news of the 'New Santa'. A huge queue had formed, but nobody was grumbling. The children, normally impatient and mischievous, were quiet, and smiling in eager anticipation.

The word had got out.

Our sales went through the roof! Not just in toys, but in every department. The Mums and Dads who'd seen Santa seemed to want to give something themselves. I must admit, I really felt the same way. I even bought a little bottle of perfume for Aunt Doris, who'd

never had a good word to say about me after Sheila walked out. I remember thinking: "Wouldn't it be nice if Sheila came back even for a short while. What a Christmas that would be!" I looked up. I'd wandered down to the Grotto again, and was watching Santa. Just as my thought of Sheila had crossed my mind, he looked up and gave just the slightest nod in my direction. I looked around. He must have seen somebody he knew. When I looked back, he was busily engaged in listening to a small red-haired child with a huge mole on his cheek. "Poor kid," I thought, "I bet he'd like to get rid of that for Christmas."

Well, that whole mad week passed in a blur. Before I knew it, it was Christmas Eve, and I hadn't even had chance to say goodbye to Stan. Just as I was about to leave the office, three of the warehouse staff came in to wish me a 'Happy Christmas'. They'd never done that before, then it was some girls from lay-by, then the team from electrical, then.... Anyway, just about the whole store, it seemed, wanted to wish me well, and to thank me for organising the new Santa. I tried to tell them it was nothing to do with me, but they all seemed so happy about it, I was quite inarticulate.

I got down to the Grotto, but Stan had already left. He must have had some shopping of his own to do, I supposed.

Christmas Day. The 'phone rang. It was Lacie! I just couldn't believe it. She was at the station, and could I pick her up!

"I'll be there as soon as I get some clothes on!" I told her.

"I've got someone with me," she said.

A new boyfriend I thought. Just when I thought I'd have Lacie all to myself for a while!

At the station I parked in a ten-minute zone

and walked along the concourse. A family group was chattering excitedly in the morning crowd. I recognised the small red-headed boy I'd seen in the store, only this time he was different. He didn't have that disfiguring mole on his face! I hadn't quite got over the shock of this when a voice hailed me.

"Dad!"

It was Lacie. I ran over to her, and gave her a huge hug.

"I've really missed you," she said, "We want to come home to stay."

"Of...course," I started to say, "But who...." I stopped dead. It was Sheila. I'd been so taken up with Lacie I hadn't seen her in the background.

Well, that's my story. I don't care if you don't believe me, but it's true. I really did get what I wanted for Christmas. Oh, and by the way, I couldn't help wondering about Stan's name. I checked his 'references' and nobody had heard of him. Finally, I mentioned it to Sheila, and she said: "Well, somebody's having you on. Try rearranging the letters."


It took me a minute or two – Sheila was always good with anagrams – but I finally got it. It was "Saint Nicholas".

To everyone who has donated to the
Community Pantry this year...


Thank You

We are so grateful for your generosity
and are again reminded of the
wonderful community we live in.

We wish you all a very Merry
Christmas and a happy and safe New
Years.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety



Consumer Watch Column

Consumer Protection 50-52 Durlacher Street, Geraldton WA 6530
Tel: (08) 9920 9800
Email: candice.evans@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Keep your Christmas cheer in check

The pressures and temptations to spend too much over Christmas can create financial stress and debt that linger long after the Christmas cheer has gone.

Despite increasing costs of living, including higher mortgage interest rates, a report by Australian Consumer and Retail Studies at Monash Business School shows people are planning to spend an average of \$1,088 on Christmas presents, with 65 per cent intending to spend a further \$370 at post-Christmas sales.

The report reveals that people are budgeting to spend 40 per cent more for electronics compared to last year, and 16 per cent more for household goods, clothing, footwear and accessories.

Consumer Protection says there are ways to spend wisely to avoid a post-Christmas credit crunch, including sticking to a strict budget, and buying direct from shops, rather than paying extra for postal or delivery fees for online purchases.


Be careful if you choose to use 'buy now, pay later' schemes which allow payment by instalments, instead of paying the full amount upfront. These schemes enable fast and easy purchases, and prove popular around Christmas time, but repayments can add up for multiple purchases, or for late payments and account-keeping fees.

The [MoneySMART website](https://www.moneySMART.com.au) offers helpful tips to manage a 'buy now, pay later' service, including:

- Ensure repayments suit your budget and financial commitments.
- Link your 'buy now, pay later' account to your debit card instead of your credit card – so you use your own money and avoid extra debts or interest.
- Set and stick to a spending limit, and only have one 'buy now, pay later' at a time.
- Contact your provider immediately if you're having trouble making repayments.

Financial stress is affecting more and more Australians, with 130,000 calls received by the National Debt Helpline annually. The Government is boosting access to financial counselling by requiring the big banks and financial services industry, including the buy now, pay later sector and gambling outlets, to contribute \$30 million over the next three years to enable more Australians to get help to manage their debts.

Details of your nearest financial counsellor can be found at Financial Counsellors' Association of WA (FCAWA) [online](https://www.fcawa.org) at www.fcawa.org

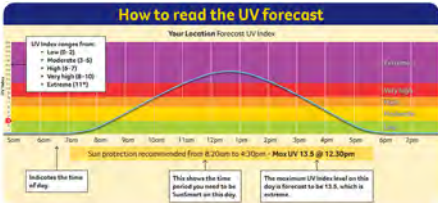


Kaylor Andrews
Wheatbelt Regional Education Officer
Cancer Council Western Australia
Kaylor.Andrews@cancerwa.asn.au
cancerwa.asn.au

How to be SunSmart

Australia is the skin cancer capital of the world. Two in three Australians will develop skin cancer in their lifetime, and every year around 2,000 people die from this disease. The good news is that skin cancer is largely preventable by minimising exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. Being SunSmart is a simple and effective way to reduce your risk of developing skin cancer.

How to read the UV forecast



Find Skin Cancer Early

Common skin cancer symptoms:

- A new spot or mole on your skin that is red, pale or pearly in colour
- A spot that is different from other spots on your skin
- Any crusty or non-healing sores
- Any spots, freckles or any moles changing in size (width), thickness (height), colour, or shape

Get to know your skin and what's normal for you, particularly if you're over 40 years of age. If you notice any of these symptoms or any other unusual changes tell your doctor without delay.

If it's skin cancer, the earlier it's found, the greater the chance of successful treatment.

Visit <https://www.findcancerearly.com.au/cancer-symptoms/skin-cancer/> for more information.

There's more to sun protection than sunscreen. Protect yourself in five ways:

- Slip** on sun-protective clothing
- Stop** at 10:30 for highest protection
- Slap** on a broad-brimmed hat
- Seek** shade
- Slide** on wrap-around sunglasses

When UV is 3 or above be SunSmart

But how do you know when?

Use the free SunSmart Global UV App!

The SunSmart Global UV App is a free app that allows you to check the UV index in your location. The app also provides information on how to protect yourself from UV radiation.

Download the app or go to myUV.com.au

NEW TRADING HOURS

OPENING TIMES

MONDAY – 3PM

TUESDAY – 3PM

WEDNESDAY – 3PM

THURSDAY – 11AM

FRIDAY – 11AM

SATURDAY – 11AM

SUNDAY – 11AM



MEALS

MONDAY – DINNER

TUESDAY – DINNER

WEDNESDAY – DINNER

THURSDAY – LUNCH & DINNER

FRIDAY – LUNCH & DINNER

SATURDAY – LUNCH & DINNER

SUNDAY – LUNCH & DINNER



Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Backyard Buddies

Your monthly guide to pests, weeds and diseases

All the Christmas trappings

December 2023




European wasps feeding from raspberry cake (© Adobe stock) and European wasp surveillance trap hung in a tree.

The 2023-24 season has started!

In time for Christmas, a 3000+ trap array has been set across Perth and regional sites in WA. Their purpose? To detect the invasive European wasp (*Vespula germanica*); one of the world's worst insect pests.

These gluttonous wasps swarm picnics, parties, cafés, and breweries, feeding on all things; drinks, sweets, and savories. Watch them close enough and you'll see their jaws skillfully carve a piece from your meal and take it to go. This behaviour makes them unique amongst wasp species and a social nuisance and safety concern.

European wasps also forage on fruit crops, impacting home gardeners and commercial producers, and their predation of insects can impact local biodiversity and beehives. When it comes to destructive pests, they take the cake.

The Department-lead European wasp surveillance and eradication program, has to date, prevented the permanent establishment of this species. However, every year fertilised queens hitchhike into WA on vehicles or in freight and cargo from interstate. If undetected, they will leave their mode of transport and make a nest, which is predominantly underground.

Manually searching for a nest, is like looking for a needle in a haystack. The traps help us locate where in this haystack we need to look.

The traps are simple, but cleverly designed. Composed of a clear plastic, lidded jar, wire hook, a yellow label, and four specially designed yellow cones. A trap typically adorns a tree, and the decorative yellow appeals to the wasp, drawing them to the cones. The cones funnel the wasp inside and make it difficult to escape.

Capitalising on the wasps' unique attraction to protein, present inside the trap is a small cube of raw fish. It's this fish that lures the wasp to the trap. If a trap doesn't contain the fish, it's just a plastic ornament.

Traps are strategically placed in the highest risk areas of the state by surveillance staff or hung in home gardens, parks or schools by community or government participants of the 'Adopt-a-trap' program. If diligently lured with fish (fortnightly) and checked for wasps, we'll detect them, find them, and eradicate them.

For more information about the eradication program, how to identify European wasps, or to adopt your own surveillance trap, see agric.wa.gov.au/wasps or contact our Pest and Disease Information Service.



Report your observations

MyPestGuide® Reporter via app or online mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au

Pest and Disease Information Service (08) 9368 3080 | padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

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Community caring for its own

DO YOU NEED TRANSPORT TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS?

A community volunteer initiative run by community members, designed to meet the needs of Shire residents who need medical treatment but have no way to get there.



How do I book?

Contact the Gingin CRC on 9575 1253 or crc@gingin.net

For further information on the Community Car Service contact the Gingin CRC on 9575 1253 or Sylvia Kelly – Gingin Care Group on 0438 575 254



Gingin Community Car

BECOME A VOLUNTEER DRIVER

Community caring for its own



Are you a caring community member?

Can you commit to approximately one day per month?

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Transwa



Reservations are essential on all services and can be made up to three months in advance.

Bookings can be made from anywhere in Australia on 1300 662 205 (Local call cost) from 6.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday 6.30am to 5.30pm Saturday and 7.30am to 5.30pm on Sunday (WST) or at Trans WA booking centres or accredited agents.

Bookings can be made online at www.transwa.wa.gov.au. Concession fares cannot be booked online.

Bookings from Gingin **MUST** be made at least 24 HOURS in advance.

Please call at Gingin Community Resource Centre Inc. for further information or phone 9575 1253

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Government of Western Australia
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-HDPE (ice coffee etc)

-Liquid Paper Board (LPB juicy box, flavoured milk etc)

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