

GINGIN BUZZ

FREE for all the Community

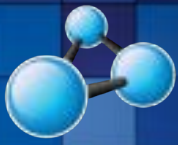
February 2024



Gingin-Bindoon Fires

A heartfelt thanks

Details on page 6



MS TEAMS ESSENTIALS

Mobile MOUSE
Unit 1 / 41 Action Rd
Malaga WA 6090
(08) 9404 7041
mobilemouse.com.au

COURSE OVERVIEW



ABOUT THIS COURSE

Learn how to use Teams, the Microsoft cloud based collaboration platform. Teams integrates Microsoft Office tools into a single location, accessible from most devices. Teams includes key functionality such as Instant Messaging, Calls, Video Meetings and Conferencing, File Sharing, Calendars and SharePoint integration.



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This Microsoft Teams half day course is aimed at corporate staff who need to get up to speed quickly with the Microsoft Teams Environment. This course concentrates on the topics outlined below.

- **DURATION:** 1/2 day (Practical and Hands-On)
- **VENUE:** Gingin Community Resource Centre
- **DELIVERY:** Face-To-Face Instructor Led Training

Course Date

16 February 2024

PROPOSED COURSE CONTENT AND OUTLINE

PART 1 - GETTING STARTED WITH TEAMS

- Benefits of using Microsoft Teams
- Signing in and Setting up Microsoft Teams
- Navigating the Interface

PART 2 - CREATING TEAMS

- Understanding what a Team creates
- Creating and Joining Private or Public Teams
- Deleting a Team
- Accessing a Teams' SharePoint Site
- Viewing and Arranging Teams
- Managing Team Settings, Members & Channels

PART 3 - WORKING WITH TEAMS

- Creating and Deleting Channels
- Working with Tabs in Channels
- Creating, Formatting and Attaching Posts
- @mentioning and using replies
- Liking, Save and Access important messages
- Communicating via email to a channel
- Working with Files in Channels
- Adding other Channel Tabs to a Channel
- Understanding Connectors and Bots
- Notification Settings

PART 4 - CHATS AND ACTIVITY

- One to One / Group Chat Activity Threads
- Creating a Group Chat
- Navigating the Tabs within Chats
- Activity / Notifications

PART 5 - CALENDAR AND MEETINGS

- Accessing a Teams Calendar (Teams & Outlook)
- Scheduling (Calendar / Teams / Outlook / Chat)
- Meeting Options, Notes and Sharing
- Meetings Recording and Transcription
- Accessing recordings from Teams or Stream

PART 5 - QUICK PLANNER OVERVIEW

- Basic Planner Overview
- Creating Buckets and Tasks
- Viewing tasks within Planner
- Integrate Planner & Outlook Tasks with To-Do

\$295

Course Price

Book Now: crc-service@gingin.net

Call Us: (08) 9575 1253



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MICROSOFT TEAMS ESSENTIALS



GINGIN BUZZ

**February 2024
Issue 58**

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MARCH ISSUE CUTOFF

Thursday 22nd of
February 2024



Editorial Team & Notes



Carrie Edwards
Manager



Alison McVee
Assistant Manager



Naomi Brown
Community Service
Officer Thurs - Fri



Lauren Samata
Community Service
Officer Mon - Thurs



Tasma Rush-Harvey
Centre Trainee

Welcome to 2024 everyone and a great big welcome to our new CRC staff. We are delighted to announce we recently commenced Tasma as our new Business Trainee and Lauren as our next Community Service Officer. More on them inside. Heather is showing Tasma the ropes and Bronte and Naomi and enlightening Lauren. Both Heather and Bronte leave the first week in February so pop in to say goodbye and meet the newcomers.

Staff are currently coordinating the Easter Event (which is 31st March this year) and the Art Exhibition and Rock 'N Arts event (16th March). We were considering some changes to the structure of the Easter event but SurveyMonkey feedback in 2023 told us that the children enjoy navigating the hardcopy map, collecting objects around the park and the physical activities involved, like carrot tossing. Naturally we take all of this onboard going forward. So, thanks to those who responded.

We also have casual Community Cuppa this Friday. Great for anyone new (or old) to town. Pop in and have a chat and one of our famous sausage rolls.

We also have numerous, subsidised Personal Carer workshops on offer at the moment. This is great for our Mable community workers and those they help out. Our Staying in Place program is growing and many locals have been helped, which is wonderful. We do need to keep sourcing Mable staff however as each new client can need up to 4 people to assist them in various capacities, plus when a carer may require annual or personal leave. Mable is a very flexible, local work option with as much or as little work as you like, when you like. If you are considering at all please pop in and see me.

As always we hope to see you soon!

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.

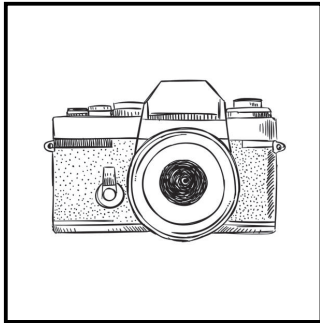
2024. FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 *COMMUNITY CUPPA 10AM-12NOON - GINGIN CRC 	3
4	5 *STORY TIME AT CRC 9.30AM *GINGIN MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING 10AM @ GINGIN CRC *GINGIN DISTRICT HIGHSCHOOL P&C 6PM ROOM 12 (DAWST)	6 *ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS 5PM @ GRANVILLR CIVIC CENTRE	7	8	9	10
11	12 *STORY TIME AT CRC 9.30AM *GINGIN SCOUT GROUP 4.30PM @ GRANVILLE PARK	13	14 *VALENTINES DAY 	15 *COMMUNITY RECOVERY SUNDOWNER 6PM-8PM EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING, WELD STREET	16 *MS TEAMS ESSENTIALS - GINGIN CRC	17 *GINGIN HOCKEY CLUB - GENERAL MEETING 2PM BENDIGO SPORTS GINGIN
18	19 *STORY TIME AT CRC 9.30AM	20	21	22	23	24 *VIRTUAL SWIM TO ROTTNES @ GINGIN AQUATIC CENTRE
25	26 *STORY TIME AT CRC 9.30AM	27	28	29		

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Social Notes



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 Thursday, 22nd February 2024.

Release Date: 24 January 2024

Please attribute information below to Shire President, Wayne Fewster

Heartfelt Thanks for Bushfire Efforts

The Shire of Gingin would like to thank and acknowledge the efforts of everyone involved in containing the recent Gingin-Bindoon fires.

“On behalf of the Shire I’d like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the recent fire containment efforts at Gingin and Bindoon,” said Shire President Wayne Fewster. “Unfortunately, two houses and nine outbuildings were lost, several others were damaged, and 5,500 hectares were burnt, however 54 homes were saved thanks to the joint efforts of many individuals and agencies.

“We are extremely thankful for the support of DFES, SES, Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions, WA Police, St John Ambulance, Dept of Communities, Western Power, and all other agencies who were involved in this incident.

“The Shire of Gingin has a close working relationship with Metro North Coastal region of DFES with fire management issues particularly, and the professionalism of the DFES team and all the other support agencies was integral to the successful containment of and recovery from the fires.

“I would like to extend our deepest thanks to all the incredible local and regional volunteer bush fire brigade members and Volunteer Fire and Rescue teams who came from all over the State and bravely attended the fires in very trying conditions. Your efforts are appreciated more than words can express.”

The Shire would also like to praise the way in which the whole community responded to the emergency.

“Our thanks also go out to the private contractors who provided heavy machinery and water carting to assist with the firefighting, and the local businesses and community groups who all played a crucial role in helping our towns to get through the bushfire emergency and recovery process. We cannot thank you enough.

“Our thoughts continue to be with everyone who lost homes and property, and the Shire is committed to doing what we can to assist with recovery.”

The Shire would like to remind everyone that there are still a few more months of unpredictable dry, hot weather ahead and to be vigilant with keeping your properties and townsites fire safe, particularly with maintaining firebreaks.

Shire of Gingin media contact:

Meredith Taylor
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING OFFICER
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E: meredith.taylor@gingin.wa.gov.au



Photo credits to James Morton and Nikki Woods



The Gingin Community Resource Centre would like to make contact with a local **Occupational Therapist** in regards to working with us on the Gingin Staying in Place project.

Please make contact with the CRC Manager Carrie Edwards on 9575 1253 or crc@gingin.net if you would like to be involved in this wonderful community initiative.



World Day Of Prayer 2024



Palestine

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!



Date & Time: Friday, 1st of March, 10am

Location: Gingin Uniting Church

Contact Person: Sharon 0428 557 057

LANCELIN PRIMARY SCHOOL PRESENTS OUR 2024

MONSTER FETE

MARCH LONG WEEKEND
SUNDAY 3RD 9AM - 1PM

MARKET STALLS
ENTERTAINMENT
FRESH PRODUCE
WATER SLIDES
DUNK TANK
FACE PAINTING/HAIR BRAIDING
HOT DONUTS, CAKE STALL,
SLUSHIES, FAIRY FLOSS,
COFFEE VAN, ICE CREAMS
SHOW BAGS

HEAD TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE LATEST UPDATES AND OUR STALL APPLICATION LINK IF YOUR LINK TO BE PART OF THE FETE. ALTERNATELY PLEASE STOP BY OUR SCHOOL. <https://www.facebook.com/lanclinschool>

Logos: Lions Club, Bendigo Bank, GINGIN LOCAL GROCE, COASTAL COURIER, Endeavour Tavern

JIGGLE AND JAM

Join us at Gingin Playgroup

Join us for a morning of music and dance. Children can dance about and play along using musical instruments!

Every Monday - 10:30am

6 Constable St, Gingin

Bronte and Heather's Farewell

As some of you may be aware, I will be finishing up in the role as the Community Customer Service Officer at the Gingin Community Centre in February and I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude to everyone who has been involved in my journey here.

It's been an absolute pleasure working at the CRC and within this community. Whether it was finding the perfect book, editing the Buzz or helping with the organisation of community events, everyday has brought new challenges and friendly faces.

While I'm moving on from this position, I won't be far away, you will still see me around town. So, here's to crossing paths again soon!

Bronte

As I take my leave, I want everyone to know that it has been a pleasure meeting new people as I work at the Gingin Community Resource Centre. I've enjoyed every moment, from the laughs to the hard work.

While I embark on a new adventure, please know that I carry with me cherished memories of our time together. Thank you for making every moment memorable and I wish everyone the best for the future!

Heather



Lauren and Tasma Welcome

Hello, my name is Lauren, most people know me as Loz from Gingin Playgroup.

I grew up in the UK and have been in Australia for 12 years now. I will be taking over from Bronte here at the CRC. I have a background in hospitality management, construction and accounting along with volunteering to run Gingin Playgroup so look forward to bringing my experience to the role at the CRC.

I moved to Gingin back in 2019 when I started my family with my husband, we share two children together and are enjoying raising them here in Gingin



Hello, my name is Tasma, I'm from Bindoon, but grew up in Port Hedland.

I have been toiling my time away in cafes until now, where I am ecstatic to have received the opportunity to receive the traineeship that Gingin CRC offers each year.

I graduated from Swan Christian College in 2019, where I did the bulk of my high school education. In my free time I enjoy exploring different artistic mediums, such as acrylic and oil painting, I also get involved with the Ellenbrook community through the Ellenbrook Mile.

I look forward to meeting the friendly faces of Gingin and am also excited for the year ahead.



Community Groups

Wannamal Long Table

Beneath a glorious setting sun, over 120 people once again enjoyed the welcoming Wannamal hospitality for the annual Long Table Dinner in celebration of Australia Day. A beautiful warm summer's evening, with twinkling fairy lights, provided the perfect setting for the evening.

The opportunity to sit back and have a leisurely catch up with friends and neighbours in a true Aussie bush setting, with children running around is a real delight. The delicious homemade, mouth watering food is greatly anticipated and enjoyed, with the presentation of sweets this year captivating all the children. The Wannamal Long Table Dinner in its ninth year; is run with financial support from the Shire of Chittering of Shire. This unique event celebrates Australia Day and recognizing and acknowledging the Australia Day Award winners from the Shires of Chittering, Gingin and Victoria Plains. Coordinated by an enthusiastic committee and supported by volunteers in the

Wannamal community, along with donations of produce and baking, all combine to create a superb evening of good food and good company.

As darkness fell and the night sky lit up with stars, the 2024 winner of the Cowara Shield was announced. The Cowara Shield was generously donated by the late Malcolm Taylor and is awarded to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the Wannamal Community. This year's recipient was the energetic Skye Smith, who was recognised for her invaluable contribution to the Wannamal Community Centre and Wannamal Tennis Club. In a very special week for Skye, she was also acknowledged as The Citizen of the Year (Youth) in the Chittering Shire.

A very surprised Errol Howard was also recognized on the night with a Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade 35 year Long Service Award.

Written by Annette Howard



Nic Smith, Skye Smith, Brenden Howard and Harry Smith with the Cowara Award.



Presented by Marty Aldridge and Allister Butcher, Errol Howard and his award.



Skye Smith, Bronte Maloney, Nic Smith, Ashlee Howard, Jenny Harris and Frankie Stampalia.

Gingin Brook Catchment Group

Do you know February 12th is International Darwin Day?

Darwin Day is a celebration to commemorate the birthday of Charles Darwin on 12 February 1809. The day is used to highlight Darwin's contributions to science and to promote science in general. Darwin Day started in the United States in the 1980s and is now celebrated world-wide.

Charles Darwin was an English naturalist, geologist & biologist. He sailed on the second voyage of the "Beagle" leaving Plymouth in December 1831 for South America with his primary role being as geologist. Extensive surveys of the geology were carried out but Darwin also studied and collected plants and animals. On the Galapagos Islands Darwin noted the unique plants and animals on the islands. He was particularly interested in the finches and made detailed studies of the differences in the beaks of birds from different islands in the group. This was the initial inspiration for his theory of evolution by natural selection.

After completing their work in South America, the ship headed for home via New Zealand, Sydney, Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania) and King George Sound (Albany). In Australia he saw other unusual plants and animals which added to his interest in natural selection as a theory of evolution. On his return to England in October 1836 he arranged to have his collected specimens classified by experts. His journal from the "Beagle" voyage was his first publication in 1839.

Following further research, in 1859 his book "On the Origin of Species" was published. In 1871 he published "The Descent of Man" which discussed the evolution of the human race. He also published and wrote several other books

including about insectivorous plants, cross and self-fertilisation in vegetables, and movement in plants.

At the time of his death in April 1882, although most scientists were convinced of evolution, many did not agree that natural selection was the main means of modification. He was buried at Westminster Abbey after public and parliamentary petitioning instigated by his colleagues. His funeral was attended by thousands of people.

Darwin is commemorated in Australia by Darwin Harbour. It was named after him by a former shipmate who sailed with him on the second voyage of "HMS Beagle" and was also on the "Beagle" on its third voyage, which visited northern Australia in 1839.

In Western Australia Charles Darwin Reserve is named after him. This was formerly known as White Wells Station and after the lease was returned to the State, the property was purchased in 2003 by Bush Heritage Australia with the aid of a large donation from Chris Darwin, Charles Darwin's great great grandson. The reserve is 68,600 Ha and is located about 60km west of Perenjori between Wubin and Paynes Find. It straddles the Southwest and the Eremaean botanical provinces and is home to 230 animal and over 680 plant species and is managed for conservation.

The Gingin Brook Catchment Group's next meeting will be held at the Gingin CRC 9am on Monday 5th February.

Contact us via our webpage www.gingin-catchment.org.au or email us info@gingin-catchment.org.au.

You can also find us on Facebook.

Gingin Brook Catchment Group.

Gardening Group

Garden group's final day for 2023 was a gathering at the bowling club to decorate the grapevine wreaths we made at our winter outing to Yuckich's vineyard in the Swan. Everyone brought various flowers and foliage fresh and dried and many other items to share for creating our masterpieces. Such an inspiring day with so many different ideas and style's coming together, and the result was amazing. This busy and creative afternoon of beauty was followed up by a sundowner at Jane and Lachy McTaggart's in Beermullah at their relaxed green and expansive garden with an elevated view to the darling range.

Enjoyed by all as usual, sharing food wine and great company. Another year done with so many wonderful outings organised by our one and only Irene Neville, we all really appreciate what she does for the group and are very thankful.

Our club has grown this last year and I hope our new members have enjoyed the group. Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and bright New Year, looking forward to the coming year and making more memories with all. Stay safe and be kind to one another. Enjoy your gardens.
C.P



Red Cross

The Gingin Red Cross monthly morning Tea will resume on **Friday the 9th** of February. This year we will always come together on the **2nd Friday** of the month. We meet up at the Lions den 3 Horan Street at **10am**. Come along and meet new people and find friendship, fun and have a scrumptious snack. We will be planning some outings and events and playing games.

Save the date and come down to join us.

We would love to see you.

Kind Regards,
Felicity Scott

Secretary, Gingin Red Cross



Gingin Produce and Plant Swap/Trade

Gingin Produce and Plants Swap/Trade Facebook page was a small group created by another beautiful lady who intended it to be used to help minimize food wastage. Unfortunately, she was unable to give it the time she wanted so I was grateful to take it over in 2022. Fast forward to now, our page has over 300 beautiful members.

The members of the group are not just small-town gardeners, but all come from incredible backgrounds. From people who live completely off grid, to café owners who pride themselves in sustainability, to commercial farmers, to chefs who have a passion for cooking locally grown produce, and some who have an incredible knowledge base on medicinal uses of home-grown food and herbs.

We share things from fruit and veggies to homemade jams, meat, and even face creams. Not only do we share produce, but we share knowledge and bring the

community together.

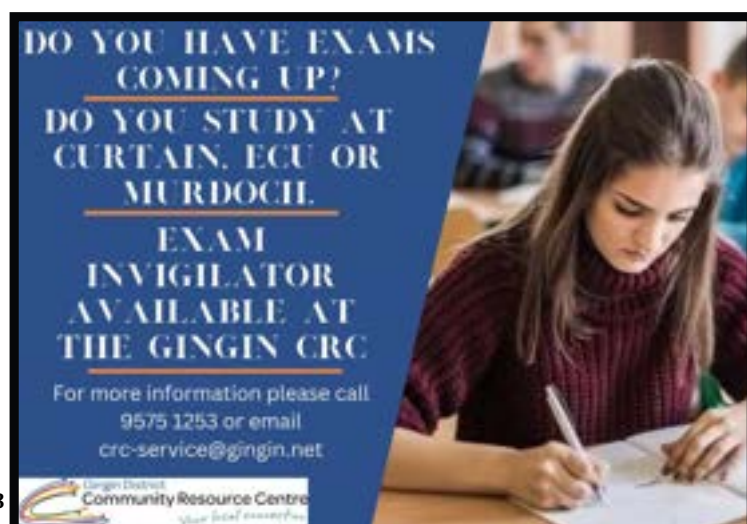
I was asked a few months ago about organizing a meet and swap, unfortunately the logistics of this really didn't make it possible at the time so this idea was left on the back burner. Fast forward to July 2023, our page was given the proposal to hold meets every fortnight at the Homestead Garden Nursery in Beermullah. The incredible owner Vic opens her doors for the page members every second Sunday where we can get together, chat (not just about gardens), and swap/trade produce.

I am very grateful for all our members, I knew the group had great potential and I am so excited to be a part of this great community.

I encourage everyone to grow and share.

Happy Gardening,

Gingin Produce and Plants Swap/Trade



Gingin Playgroup

Last month Gingin Playgroup kicked off the new year with a fund raiser quiz night organised by Treasurer Lauren, held at the Gingin Recreation Centre.

Playgroup runs off of fundraising and grants so this event was a great start to the year to ensure Playgroup can continue to grow and support our families in town. Last year we had over 35 children enrolled so we are expecting a high enrolment again this year as more and more families are moving into Gingin.

The night was a great success with Secretary Anna-lyse and Treasurer Lauren behind the bar serving drinks throughout the night and Playgroup member Bree stepping up and being the quiz master for the night. Plus the children of Anna-lyse and Bree also helped to set-up all the tables and chairs for the event too.

We had 60 members of the community

attend the evening with plenty of fun had by all, and have received excellent feedback from everyone, saying they look forward to the next one! So watch this space for our next fund raising community event!

Fund raising events of course couldn't be successful without our sponsors and attendees so we are extremely grateful for all the support we receive from the Gingin community.

Playgroup is now back up and running again in Term time with sessions as follows;
Monday Jingle and Jam: 10.30am
Wednesday: 9.30am

For any membership enquiries please email us at ginginplaygroupinc@gmail.com and one of the team will get back to you.

Happy New Year everyone!



Gingin Chittering Lions Club

Gingin Chittering Lions club is an active service club. We start each year by making breakfast at Neergabby for Australia Day and finish with providing a sausage sizzle at the Christmas carols. In between there are activities at Easter and you will almost certainly see our colourful Lions train at most of the spring fairs in the district.

We can be seen on hand at clearing sales, we man the gates at the Avon decent and Neergabby fireworks and we were even at the 2023 bed races in Moora. All this fun enables us to help with funding school activities, like camps and awards for the Dux and we assist the school chaplain with funds each year.

Last year the Lion's Hearing bus and the Skin Cancer bus came to town, this turned into luck for 4 who had life threatening

lesions unchecked and our hope all was resolved for them.

We supply the Emergency booklets you keep on the fridge for ambulance officers, which are also available from the chemist. We also support the Lions Ability Center, Save Sight, Children's Cord Blood and Cancer Research, and Help to Hear.

Our meetings are on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Lion's Den, located at 3 Horan Street Gingin at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Members bring a plate to share for our dinner and we socialize and prepare for the upcoming events.

We would love nothing better than to get some new members so come along on the 12th of February. For more details call Colin on 0411 231 985 Find us on Facebook at; <https://www.facebook.com/GinginLions>



LIBBY BOOK CLUB FOR WA
FEATURING LAURIE STEED
In-person at the State Library of Western Australia
Wednesday 15 Feb - 6.00PM AWST

LOVE, DAD
CONFESIONS OF AN ANXIOUS FATHER

Libby.
The library reading app

David Allan-Petale
Interviews Laurie Steed,
author of *Confessions of an Anxious Dad*
Register with *Trybook*

OverDrive

Volunteer Service Awards
nominations open

2024
WA Volunteer Service Awards

Gingin Museum and Historical Society

With funding now available, with thanks to both the Shire of Gingin and the Gingin Recreation Group, the society is now taking the next step with the creation of a Virtual Museum.

The website is being compiled by a local identity and should be constructed and ready to receive content around the end of February into March and beyond.

We have taken on the responsibility to preserve and make accessible the history and culture of the Shire of Gingin in all its forms. The intention of the Virtual Museum is to collect and reveal content from the past that has impacted upon our communities, families, and individuals.

The society acknowledges the need to respond sensitively and appropriately to any material destined for the Virtual Museum as it may be confronting to certain visitors to the website.

In addition to a home page, the website will be divided into several major

components i.e; Historical Timeline, People, Places, Social History and Virtual Museum. Numerous sub-sections will branch out from the main headings to ensure inclusiveness and easy access for the website visitor.

Over the past few years, we have accumulated a substantial amount of content and this will be incorporated into the website on day one but we need assistance from the community to grow the historical contents, therefore if you have any suggestions or hold any information, documentation, photographs etc. that have some historical significance and associated with the Shire of Gingin we will be pleased to hear from you.

It is our aim that the Virtual Museum be established for the community benefit, for learning, inspiration and for enjoyment.

Contacts

Debbie Bandy ctts13@bigpond.com

Kerry Fewster kuyan@iinet.net.au

Wannamal Community Life Member

During the Wannamal Christmas tree celebrations, Julie Taylor was awarded Life Membership at the Wannamal Community Centre. Presented by Donna Cocking, a close friend and fellow life member, this prestigious honour recognizes Julie's longstanding dedication to the community.

Julie's roles comprise of both Treasurer and Secretary at the Wannamal Community Centre highlight her administrative prowess, but her true impact lies in the countless social and fundraising events she has organized, fostering a tight-knit community spirit.

Since joining the Wannamal Tennis Club in 1989, Julie has been a cornerstone of its success, serving as secretary, captain, and organizing tournaments for juniors and seniors. Her recent contributions to the court upgrades demonstrate a

commitment to providing top-quality facilities for the community's enjoyment.

A significant achievement is Julie's role in orchestrating the 100th-year celebrations of the Wannamal Tennis Club, a testament to her passion for preserving the club's rich history. Julie Taylor's Life Membership is a well-deserved recognition of her enduring contributions, inspiring others to follow in her footsteps and contribute meaningfully to the Wannamal community.



Seabird Progress and Sports Association Summer Splash

Seabird held their Summer Splash event on Saturday 13th January 2024.

This was a free community event organized by the Seabird Progress and Sports Association and supported by the Shire of Gingin.

Held on the Seabird oval, this free water slide event was a big success with high attendance numbers of 600-800 approx people, with many families coming together to enjoy the entertainment. Many travelling for the first time to Seabird realized how close Seabird is for a day trip from Perth. A small survey conducted on the day showed travelers from as far South as Rockingham and East from Lesmurdie. This promotes local communities and their business' as these people return to our town within the Shire of Gingin and spread the word.

Attractions included a Mega waterslide, a kiddie's waterslide and a dunk tank. The dunk tank was the most popular on such a hot day of 40 degrees. Face painting, RAC rescue helicopter experience & the iNSTRUKTA Truck, cutting edge educational trucking experience as well as the local Volunteer Fire Brigade.

We had a great DJ and a 'rolling raffle' was conducted with prizes every half hour. Thanks to all who donated the wonderful prizes. Seabird Thai Massage for their vouchers; Pegasus Plumbing & Gas

for the voucher to Leapfrogs Restaurant; Bags by Petrina for the handmade handbag and purse; Quilted Alchemy for a Handbag; Celebrations, Two Rocks for the Gift basket from and many locals also donating goods for further prizes.

Cold drinks and alcohol were available to enjoy under the shade of the pine trees and marquee. The hall was set up as an airconditioned cool zone. This was well received and needed on such a hot day.

Stalls were varied and included Quilted Alchemy bags, E and M Creations resin artwork, Ange's Aromatics, Perfectly Pawsome, Envirobag and crochet, Swan River Distillery, Donna's jewels and accessories, Barking Mad Bandanas & Hair braiding & Outer Spices.

Food trucks included The Juicy Box, Fire truck Pizza, Fairy pop fun foods, Little Phap, Smokey trails, Only Cotton Candy, Osakaya Japanese pancakes, Ice cream van, Spunky spud and Indian food from Nidevs food Factory. All who were surveyed reported good trading for the day.

The oval was a great venue and feedback has been very positive with vendors stating they are very keen to attend future events in Seabird.



South 32 Rottnest Channel Virtual Swim



The South 32 Rottnest Channel Virtual Swim is back for another year at the Gingin Aquatic Centre!

Whether you are new to swimming or a seasoned pro, we would love to see you get in the water and have a go!

Join us at 8am on Saturday 24 February 2024 to take part in the Swim.

A sausage sizzle fundraising event for the Gingin Aquatic Super Seals will be available from 12:30pm.

For more information and to register your interest, contact Beck on her email; r.foulkes-taylor@gingin.wa.gov.au

Rottnest Virtual Swim

Time: 8am, Saturday 24th of February

The South 32 Rottnest Channel Virtual Swim is back for another year at the Gingin Aquatic Centre!

Whether you are new to swimming or a seasoned pro, we would love to see you get in the water and have a go!

A sausage sizzle fundraiser for Gingin Aquatic Super Seals will be available from 12:30pm.

For more information & to register contact Beck on: r.foulkes-taylor@gingin.wa.gov.au

Join the Virtual Swim!



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 SCOUT GROUP

Welcome Back 2024

Term One Starts
Monday 12th February
Fun Activities in the Park

All sections meet at Granville Park
4.30pm till 6.30pm

Also
Registration and Information Day

Any new members are welcome to come along
and join in the scouting fun.
(Bring a towel)

Joeys: Age 5 (attending Pre Primary) - 8
Cubs: Age 8 - 11
Scouts: Age 11 - 14

Enquiries: Gloria Hynes - 0409 103 700
Debbie Bandy - 0409 379 818




Gingin Football club would like to introduce our new 2024 committee, agreed at our AGM in January 2024.

President - Brian Hills
Vice President - Chris Richards
Treasurer - William Roe
Secretary - Adam Trinder

Regular committee members
Craig Ellar
Leigh McCallum
Robert Kestel
Jonas Mattingly - New
Chase Edwards - New
Lewis Roe - New

A special mention to Rob Kestel as standing down President, thank you for all the hard work and countless hours you contribute to the club.

We would like to thank our parting committee members for all their work whilst on the committee, it's hard work and much appreciated by our whole club;
Xavier Martinez
Andrew Fewster
Jack Watson
Jarryd Phillips

Our committee will be working behind the scenes over the coming months to have everything ready for you all in season 2024 training starts 1st February.



Gingin Hockey Club

General Meeting

Time: 2pm, Saturday 17th of February
Place: Bendigo Complex

Welcome to bring or borrow a stick and have a hit around and fill out EOI form if you'd like to join our teams.

Looking at fieldings Senior and Junior side with our 1st game Sunday 21st April.

EOI for a Senior & Junior coach

Seniors
Boys maximum age: under 15 years by 1st July
Minimum Age for senior competition: 12 years old by July

Juniors
Girls maximum age: under 16 years by 1st July of the playing year
Boys maximum age: allowed to play until under 14 years by 1st July

Follow us @Gingin Eagles Hockey Club on Facebook.
Join our player app TeamReach & enter code: GGHC24

Install TeamReach on iPhone: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/teamreach-team-management/id1101253705>

Install TeamReach on Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.teamreach.app>

Or email ginginhockeyclub@yahoo.com.au




Past Gingin News

Gingin News – December 1987 Issue No:31

Thoroughbred Sales at Gingin in the 1930's
by Mr Norman Fewster.

For as long as I can remember, Gingin has been able to produce good riding horses and there are many stories told of what these horses meant to our early settlers in times of emergency. Perhaps one day I will record the ride Mr Hughie King made from the Junction to Guildford to get medical aid for a member of his family.

Early in the century, a Turf Club was formed at Gingin and the Club set about developing a Race Course which was used for many years. Following the establishment of the racetrack at Gingin, clubs were also formed at Bindoon and Muchea. So a lot of top racing horses were bred from around the Gingin area.

During the 1920's, the lovely old property of Cheriton changed hands, with Mr and Mrs Fred Farquahar being the new owners. Fred carried on with the raising of beef cattle and fat lambs, but we were soon to see some well-bred horses running on his irrigated flats. He then purchased a thoroughbred stallion named "Olympion" and later on another called "Camel Hair". Very soon, horse breeding grew from being a sideline to playing a major part in the running of Cheriton.

There were three children in the Farquahar family. Their son Bob, took very little interest in the horses and worked mainly with the cattle and sheep, but the two daughters, Mary and Pat, were great lovers of horses and took over the management of the thoroughbred stock.

After a few years of selling their horses through ordinary channels, Mr Farquahar decided to run his own sale at Cheriton. The sale was generally held in April and a lot of preparation and thought was put into it. The horse stables and yards were

situated to the back of the two-storey house, but Fred decided that the actual sale would be on one of the big lawns at the front of the house.

The round sale ring was quite a size. Posts were used, well roped in and on one end a platform was raised for the Auctioneer and his staff (there were no loudspeakers in those days). At the other end a small, raised seating area like a miniature grandstand was erected. This was used as seating for the buyers. Around the ring, near the enclosure, bags of chaff were placed for seating and the rest of the crowd sat or stood wherever they could, as the sale always brought a crowd of people from far and wide, including Moora and Toodyay. However, most buyers came from the Metropolitan Area. Most of the Gingin folk came for a good day out and to see the great prices paid for these thoroughbreds.

The sale commenced at 2.00pm and the horses were brought down by one of the stable hands at approximately six minute intervals. The yearlings were then handed to Pat or Mary Farquahar, led into the ring and paraded in front of the buyers.

After the Auctioneer had given all the details of the animal's breeding, the bidding commenced. Four of five hundred guineas was considered a good price, but I can remember that at one sale an outstanding yearling brought the price of 1,000 guineas.

The sale would usually end at about 4.00pm, when afternoon tea was served. The Gingin P&C at that time needed finance and Mr Farquahar paid them a good price to cater for the event.

The sales were carried on for a number of years, until the property was sold. However, even today it still produces some great thoroughbreds.

(NOTE: A guinea in Australia pre decimalisation was worth 1 pound 1 shilling or £1-1s-0d or £1/1/-)

Letters to the editor

After the Fires.....Curds and whey
Some substances at medium temperature
remain smooth and creamy.

Under high temperature they separate into
Curds and Whey..... Firm, solid pieces,
and liquid runny fluid.

Gingin has gone through a sudden increase
in temperature.....Big fires!!!!

It has produced some amazing examples of
solid pieces.....the courage of many
residents in very difficult personal
circumstances, the miraculous work of the
crews who saved the houses in Crest view,
the dogged courage and determination of
the Firies who battled the terrain of Teatree
Rd, the courage of all the pilots flying through
smoke and wind, the families of all the fire
fighters who lived their
lives without their strong
family member, not really knowing if
they would come home, the people in
authority....fire and local Government
who had the responsibility of keeping 2
whole towns and the farms in between,
safe, the neighbours who helped other
people to safety, when they themselves
were very unwell.....and all the other
unseen solid pieces in people and in the

community.

But where there are curds, there is always
whey..... the runny bit.

When it is all over, there needs to be tears,
personal withdrawal, outbursts of anger,
someone "not being themselves", lack of
concentration, "weakness", all sorts of
things that are not the smooth creamy
substance of normal heat.

We all need to recognise that this is
normal after extreme heat and be patient with
others and ourselves.

We got through it. Our community is
strong as we pull together. We don't need
criticism and negativity to sour the
aftermath. Look after each other and
ourselves, and we will be all the stronger
for this horror experience.

Please don't suffer in silence and alone.
If is tough, let someone know. There are
many people in this community willing to
lend a hand. We just need to know one is
needed!!!!!!

Sylvia Kelly
Gingin Care Group

Annual Events



Neergabby Star Party Organiser: Gingin Gravity Discovery Centre	Virtual Rottnest Swim 24th February 2024 Organiser: Gingin Aquatic Centre
Arts in The Park 15th & 16th of March 2024 Organiser: Gingin CRC	ANZAC Day Dawn Service 25th of April Organiser: Lindsay Conway
British Car Day Third Sunday of May Organiser: Gingin CRC	Gingin CRC Easter Hunt Easter Sunday Organiser: Gingin CRC
Neergabby Fireworks Last sunday of September Organiser: Denise Kowalk	

COUNCIL TO COMMUNITY

Moolabeenee Road Reconstruction Project

The Shire's Operations construction crew has commenced the next phase of the reconstruction work on Moolabeenee Road.

The project is expected to take 2-3 months to complete and delays may be expected while the works are in progress.

Traffic management is in place and we ask road users to take care when travelling on Moolabeenee Road during this time, and to please respect safety direction and signage.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation while we get the work done.



Community Funding Opening Soon!

The Shire's annual Community Funding Program will be opening for applications on **1 February 2024** for projects in the 2024/25 Financial Year.

If you have a new project/event or your project includes any upgrades to Shire owned facilities or construction on Shire owned land, please make sure you have a chat to our Community Development & Services team as soon as possible to ensure the necessary approvals are in place to allow you to submit your grant application.

Contact Amy via grants@gingin.wa.gov.au or on 9575 5162.

To find out more visit: gingin.wa.gov.au/funding-and-grants.



Council Decisions

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

- Shire of Gingin 2022/2023 Annual Report - *Adopted*.
- Proclamation of Lot 361 Brockman Street and Lot 346 Cairn Crescent, Gingin as a Cemetery - *Adopted*.
- Statutory review of Policy 1.33 Continuing Professional Development - Council Members - *Adopted*.
- Determination of Date for 2023/2024 Annual General Meeting of Electors to be Tuesday, 6 February 2024 - *Adopted*.

In addition, 2 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.

Protocols for Public Statement Time Trial

Commencing at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 20 February 2024, Council will trial the inclusion of Public Statement Time at Council meetings.

Currently all Council meetings include provisions for Public Question Time, which is a requirement under the Local Government Act 1995. However Public Question Time is reserved for questions only and does not allow for members of the public to make statements on matters of interest unless they are a brief preface to provide context to a question. For that reason, Council has agreed to include a period of time for public statements at Council meetings on a trial basis.

Protocols have been established for Public Statement Time and these are available on the Council Meetings page of the Shire's website.

Advice for Pet Owners - Dead Blowfish on Beaches

DPIRD has advised that high temperatures, low tides, shallow water, and decomposing sea wrack may have resulted in low dissolved oxygen levels, leading to blowfish deaths on local beaches within the Shire.

Pet owners should take particular care to prevent pets from eating the washed-up blowfish. Blowfish toxicity can be life-threatening to pets, therefore immediate veterinary attention should be sought if you notice your pet having contact with or eating a blowfish.

Please immediately report fish kills to DPIRD via the FishWatch 24/7





Firebreak Maintenance Reminder

In view of the recent fires throughout the Shire, property owners are reminded that firebreaks need to be maintained until 31 May annually as per the Shire's Firebreak Orders.

During the busy summer months, it is essential to keep an eye on your firebreaks and continue maintaining them throughout the hot, dry months of the Prohibited and Restricted Burning Periods.

If you need assistance with maintaining your firebreaks, you can find a list of firebreak contractors in your Fire Break Orders which were posted out with your Rates in October 2023. Alternatively, you can download a copy from our website gingin.wa.gov.au.



Music in the Park

On Saturday, 6 January 2024 the Shire held its annual Music in the Park event which forms part of the Summer Suite of Events. It was lovely to enjoy the sunset and cooling coastal breeze, with great tunes from the Summer Club Band and tasty treats from Red Dirt Catering and Back 2 The Grind.

Thank you to Bendigo Community Bank Gingin and Lancelin for supporting the Summer Suite of Events and making this great family event possible once again.



Save the Dates!

South 32 Rottneest Channel Virtual Swim - Saturday, 24 February 2024, 8:00am - 6:00pm, Gingin Aquatic Centre.

Annual Meeting of Electors - Tuesday, 6 February 2024, commencing at 5pm, Granville Civic Centre, Weld St, Gingin.

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 at cdo@gingin.wa.gov.au and we will include it on our Events Calendar and promote it on our Facebook page.

Sponsor in Focus - VIMG Lancelin South

Thank you for supporting the Shire's Early Rates Incentive Scheme

VIMG is an Australian-based property development and real estate investment company principally engaged in the development and sale of properties, and real estate investment including trading and leasing of land or properties in Australia.

VIMG's property development projects include the development and sale of residential or retail units which are spread across the CBDs and surrounding areas of targeted Australian capital cities for the Group, such as Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. One of VIMG's largest on-going projects is at Lancelin where 680 ha of land will be reimagined into a community coastal town full of activities.

LANCELIN SOUTH



Annual Meeting of Electors

Notice is given that the Annual Meeting of Electors of the Shire of Gingin will be held on Tuesday, 6 February 2024 commencing at 5pm.

The venue for the meeting will be the Granville Civic Centre, Weld Street, Gingin.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss:

1. The contents of the 2022/23 Annual Report for the Shire of Gingin; and
2. Any other general business.

The 2022/23 Annual Report is available from the Shire's website gingin.wa.gov.au and hard copies can be obtained upon request from the Shire's Gingin Administration Centre and Lancelin Office.



(08) 9575 5100
mail@gingin.wa.gov.au
 PO Box 510, Gingin WA 6503
www.gingin.wa.gov.au

Vale Pam Kennar 1939-2023

Pam formerly lived in Constable Street, arriving in Gingin some 40 years ago with her husband, as part of a working holiday around Australia.

Pam was one of the group of “girls” who planted the original vines at the Moondah Brook Estate on Mooliabeenee Road and she worked there for many years.

Her husband, Tony, became the property manager at Moondah and predeceased her.

Pam made several trips to China with Tony when he was looking at the possibility of establishing a market for wine in the early days of the vineyard.

Pam left Gingin some 2 years ago to live in Cowra, New South Wales where she could be closer to her family. In her younger days Pam “broke in” horses and was a keen horsewoman, and the many thrills and spills over the years caught with her in the form of chronic back pain that required ongoing surgery, management and the

support of her extended family of children, grand children and great grandchildren.

Although not well known in the local community through Club and organizational membership, Pam had a close group of local friends whom she maintained phone contact with following her departure, with some visiting her on their own holidays in NSW.

Pam also continued to take a keen interest in the local community news through reading the Buzz and the Northern Valley News which were sent to her every month.

Rest in Peace dear Pam, your quiet contributions are remembered.



Vale Maureen Shirley

Whilst many of our members knew of Maureen not everyone had met her but her many life adventures were conveyed to us via her partner. There is no doubt that she will be missed within the Gingin community and her battle throughout the last stages of her life should be an inspiration to us all. The President and members of the Gingin Golf Club extend our sympathy to Dominic, Duncan and the extended family on the passing of this dear lady.



Vale Alistair (SID) Mclean

In a tight-knit community where connections run deep, the recent passing of Alistair 'Sid' Mclean has left a void that will be felt for years to come. Known as a devoted father, loving husband to Simone, and a cherished member of the community, Sid's presence brought warmth and positivity to everyone he encountered. Reflecting on the vibrant life he lived, Simone, Sid's wife, fondly remembered him as "One of the best - a loving, adventurous, kind, generous, and fun-loving bloke to all that knew him. He had an impact on so many, being involved in each community he lived in. We were blessed to have you as a wonderful husband, father, son, brother, uncle, cousin, nephew, and friend. Forever grateful for all the adventures and laughs we shared."

The sentiment echoed by Sid's family further emphasized the depth of his impact. "You lived life to the full, and your passion for food, fishing, and footy was inspiring to all. You made our lives what they are today, and you will live on in your boys. We will cherish memories of you forever," they said.

Sid's life was celebrated on January 25th at Gingin Park, with the community assisting with the set up and catered for the service, creating a warm ambiance where shared memories of Sid were exchanged. The collective effort showcased the community's

unity, resilience, and deep appreciation for the positive impact Sid had on their lives. As we mourn the loss of a beloved community member, let us also remember Sid McLean for the joy he brought into our lives and the positive influence he had on the world around him. His legacy lives on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know him, and the values he exemplified continue to inspire acts of kindness within our community.



Happy 60th Larry

Happy Birthday, Larry!

They say age is just a number, but in your case, it's the number of perfect margaritas you've shaken up! Here's to the guy who turns lemons into liquid gold and can outmix any bartender in town.

Hope your birthday was as smooth as your tequila pours and as sweet as the memories you create with your grandkids.

Cheers to you, the Margarita Maestro and Pah-extraordinaire! May your year be filled with laughter, love, and maybe just a splash of salt (rimmed glass, of course)!"



COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM 2024/25

Does Your Community Group Need Funding for a Project or Event in 2024/25?

We are pleased to announce that the Shire's Grants Funding Round for 2024/25 is once again available to our community.

Applications open **1 February 2024** and close on **31 March 2024**.

TO APPLY

Please see the **Funding & Grants** page on the Shire's website
www.gingin.wa.gov.au/funding-and-grants

QUESTIONS?

For more information contact
on 9575 5162 or grants@gingin.wa.gov.au





Did the Shire of Gingin fires or storm impact you?

Community Recovery Sundowner

If you were impacted in anyway by or volunteered at the recent fires and storm in the Shire of Gingin we are inviting you to attend our **Community Recovery Sundowner** to say thank you to those that assisted and to make sure that if you were affected you are doing OK.

The community would also like to let you know we are all thinking about you.

This is a great opportunity to come together and support one another. Enjoying a free sausage sizzle and refreshing drink while engaging in conversations with others who were involved in the recent fires and storm can foster a sense of community and provide a platform for sharing experiences and offering support.

When Thursday 15th February 2024

Time 6 pm - 8 pm

Where at the back of the Emergency Services Building Weld Street, Gingin

RSVP whilst **RSVP isn't compulsory** it would be nice to make sure we cater for the right amount of people. Contact Linda on 95751560 or email: linda.balcombe@bendigoadelaide.com.au if you or your group are attending

We would like to thank the following local businesses and people who are supporting this event:

Community Bank Gingin and Lancelin
Gingin Community Resource Centre
Gingin Butcher
The Treasure Trove @ Gingin
IGA Local Grocer Gingin
Cellarbrations Gingin
Andrea Vis and Mike Regan M. R Mulching
Shire of Gingin

CU@ PARK TEMPORARY CLOSURE

The Shire advises that CU@Park Café in Gingin will be closed from 4.00pm, Tuesday 30 January 2024 for approximately six weeks so that remedial works to the inside flooring and walls can be undertaken.

An alternate venue for breakfast and lunch is the Trakside Railway Café on Jones Street in Gingin which is open six days a week, Tuesday to Sunday from 8.00am – 3.00pm. Contact Teresa on 0424 917 330 for menu information, bookings, and pre-orders, or visit the Trakside Railway Cafe and Station Facebook page.

In addition, the Gingin Hotel on Jones

Street is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, and lunches are available from Gingin IGA on Brockman St, and Gull Gingin on Weld St (who are also open during the breakfast period).

We will issue another update once works have been completed and CU@Park Café is open again for business.



CALL FOR MORE COMMUNITY CARERS!



Looking for work?



Want to set your own work hours and days?



Are you community minded and like helping people?

JOIN US!

Gingin CRC is in need of additional Mable personnel to meet the demands of our growing number of clients.

If you believe this opportunity aligns with you, feel free to drop by and discuss how you can be part of the team!



9575 1253

sipcc@gingin.net

1a Lily King Place, Gingin

Mable.com.au



MIND & MOTION

Exercise Therapy

My name is Ruth Coolican. I am an Exercise Physiologist based at Gingin Medical Centre. I am the owner of Mind and Motion Exercise Therapy. As an Exercise Physiologist and mental health nurse, I manage conditions by assessing and providing exercise intervention to assist in the following area.

- Musculoskeletal injuries
- Chronic diseases
- Mental health
- Health promotion and health education
- Increase quality of life by minimising falls

Mind and Motion Exercise Therapy provides a high-quality service to restore optimal physical and mental health.

Contact Ruth on 0439033235

Fresh off the Press New books added to our Library Collection

Crime

A SHADOW AT THE DOOR by Jo Dixon

From the bestselling author of *The House of Now and Then* comes a vividly portrayed story that reveals the darkness of greed and desire where people will stop at nothing to get what they want. No matter the cost ...



General Fiction

NOT HERE TO MAKE FRIENDS By Jodi McAlister

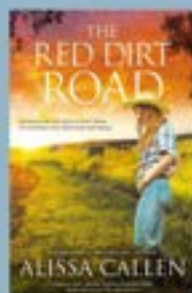
She's the reality TV villain everyone will love to hate. He's the producer tasked with making it happen. What could go wrong? A hilarious, heartfelt rom-com from Australia's leading romance expert.



General Fiction

THE RED DIRT ROAD By Alissa Callen

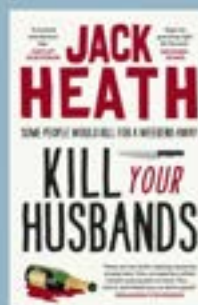
After losing a patient, Dr Fliss Knight returns to small town Woodlea and buys a rundown farm, her confidence and city career in tatters. She intends to live a solitary life and hopes that the slow country pace will help her heal.



Mystery/ Thriller

KILL YOUR HUSBAND by Jack Heath

Three couples, friends since the university athletics team, travel to a house in the mountains for an unplugged weekend of drinking and bushwalking. No internet, no phones, no stress. On the first night, the topic of partner-swapping comes up. It's a joke - at first.



Junior Fiction

The Bother With The Bonkilyknock Beast: Miss Mary-Kate Martin's Guide To Monsters 3

Mary-Kate and her granny are going to stay at a very quiet castle near a very quiet Loch in the Scottish village of Bonkilyknock. The perfect destination for reading beside fireplaces, going for long walks in galoshes and drinking cups of tea with Granny's old friends. At least, that's what Mary-Kate thinks.



Children's

The AU in Dinosaur by Judith Barker

This is the story of the AU. The AU in the Dinosaur is a fun Australian-themed phoneme story that teaches young readers about the vowel sound AU and where they can find it in different words. Beautifully illustrated by Janie Frith, the rich colours and vibrant use of multi-media enhance the magical experience. The book is about the journey of several young Australians on a time travel ride back to see real dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures.



Footprints in the Snow

Alan Gent

“When I was small, and Christmas trees were tall...”

I really liked being the first one out in the snow. I'd take a detour on my way to school just so that I could leave those deep footprints in the snow across the field. I could look right back and see where I'd come from, and I was the only one! I could make believe that I was the only person in the whole world. Sometimes, if I was late, somebody else had beaten me to it, and it wasn't the same. Mum couldn't understand my hurry to get to school just after an overnight snow fall. The snow would make a crunching sound under my wellingtons, and I'd lift my feet up high so that the impressions were just my feet.

I suppose that these days there would be all sorts of worries about little boys walking alone to school, but the world seemed more innocent then, and those were happy times.

One sunny winter morning I'd rushed out to the fresh snow-laden landscape, crunched down the path and all the way to the end of the road before I saw other prints. It didn't worry me; most of the other children would walk to school a different way, and didn't get the singular honour of being the first across the field. I headed straight for the gap in the fence and was most dismayed to see another set of prints all the way across the field to the fence the other side exactly where I would have gone. Despite my disappointment, I was intrigued. I tried my boots in the prints. They were smaller than mine, and I continued across the field claiming some sort of victory as I placed my boots in exactly the same holes in the snow. I wondered who this small-footed trespasser was.

When I got to school, and old Mr. Baldock, the 'lollypop man' in modern day parlance, had seen me across the road, I joined

the other boys and girls in the cloakroom hanging up our winter garb and changing out of our boots.

There was a bit of a commotion because a new pupil had started school and there was the usual fuss to sort out 'friends' of the new person. It wasn't a large school, and we soon dispersed to our various classes. It was assembly first, being a Monday, and we had prayers, a hymn, and the Headmistress told us all the news and welcomed us back from the weekend. Then she said: “Now we have a very special announcement. We have a new pupil! Some of you have met her already. I want all of you to make her really welcome. Her name is Elizabeth, but she likes to be called 'Liz'”.

We were then dismissed. My first class was English, with Miss Farrington. The new girl, Liz, was there. When she smiled at me, I had that weird sensation of falling, and somehow the room seemed to light up. I had a dry taste in my mouth that felt like sandpaper. If I tried to speak, I know I couldn't. When she looked at me, I just knew she could see how I felt.

I suppose I hit it off with Liz from that first class. I found that she liked to walk in the snow just after the first winter fall, as I did, and that it was her little feet that had 'trespassed' on my special field. Suddenly it didn't matter. We walked to school together every day, the snow turned to slush, the Sun came up earlier, and Summer came around. I helped her with her arithmetic and she helped me with my English. We went on long walks together in the brilliant sunshine, and sometimes under umbrellas in the pouring rain. It was idyllic.

Of course, all good things come to an end, as they say, but when you're young it doesn't seem possible. One day, as we walked to school, she seemed very quiet, and I asked her what was wrong. When she turned to look at me, I could see she'd been crying. “It's Dad,” she said, “He's got a new job in Leeds and we're having to move.”

"I was crestfallen, to say the least. "When?" I asked. "In about two weeks. We're only renting our house, so he can start his new job next month."

We walked on, and I couldn't find anything to say. Then: "Will you write to me? We can still keep in touch, can't we?" "Of course," she said, "maybe we can phone..."

So that was it. Liz moved. I tried harder in English and arithmetic, and got really good results. I went to a Grammar school. Liz wrote long letters at first, and I wrote back. Then the letters seemed longer coming. Then Liz told me about this really nice boy she'd met in Leeds, that said he was going to be a Mechanical Engineer. Finally, we lost touch completely, and my letters bore the message: "Return to Sender".

I went from Grammar school to university and managed to get a first-class Honours degree in Physics. I met girls, of course, and had a good time, but I never forgot Liz and the way she smiled at me. I tried to find her face in every girl I met. Later I got onto social websites in case I could find her there. I never really gave up until I got married to a wonderful girl. We had children, I lectured at the University where I got my degree and studied for a PhD. The children grew up, and my wife Shay and I were very proud of them. Then, even this good thing came to an end. Shay contracted cancer and died quite suddenly about three weeks after the diagnosis. Our three children came to the funeral with their wives all but Charlie, who never married. Life went on.

I accepted a Principal Lecturing job at Edinburgh University. I'd been there three weeks when the first snow fell. I saw the fresh, new landscape, and something told me I just had to be the first! People probably thought I was silly walking through the park, lifting my feet up high. I didn't care.

Suddenly, cutting across my path I saw fresh tracks, smaller than mine. Once again, something whispered to me that I had to follow them, so I did. I was back in the field

as a little boy again, a growing feeling of excitement creeping over me as I almost ran in the other prints. I was so engrossed in making my feet land in the right place I ran headlong into a very attractive woman who'd stopped and was staring in my direction. We both tumbled over in the snow.

"I'm so terribly sorry." I said, "You must think I'm an idiot!" I helped her up and she just stood there with her mouth open. She smiled.

I don't know why these things happen. Perhaps our destinies are written by some unforeseen entity and we really don't have much choice in the matter. The fact is, my mouth went dry, like sandpaper, the winter Sun shone brighter, and Liz and I stood hugging one another for long minutes.

We both started talking at once. She told me she was no longer married, that her husband had 'not been very nice' and that she had been living in Edinburgh for only three days. She also had a teaching job at one of the big High schools teaching mathematics. She said the help I gave her at Primary school was what sparked her interest.

The rest, as they say, is history. Liz and I are once again inseparable. We got married within a month of that first meeting and our collective five children came to the wedding. We bought a little cottage just outside the city and have a wonderful life together. We never discussed why we lost touch with one another. I suppose we were both young and recognised that life had to go on in some form.

We both enjoy walking together after the first snow fall of winter, with our two pairs of feet making those deep footprints in the snow.

PUZZLE *fun*



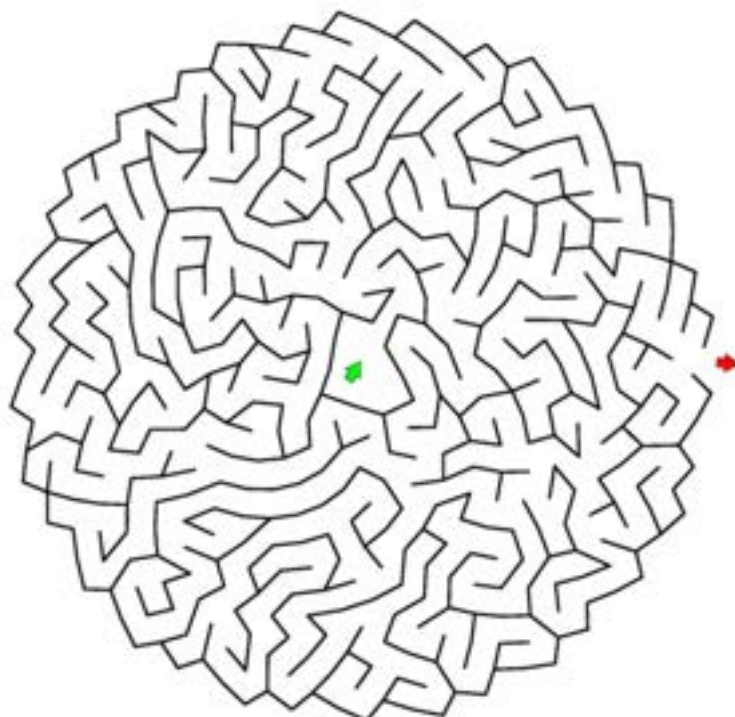
Across

2. The O in XOXO
6. A color typically associated with Valentine's Day
7. Famous gangster who organized the St. Valentine's Day massacre
8. Number of places in the world named Valentine
10. Mythological god of love
13. Love hormone
14. The X in XOXO
15. Yellow roses signify this
16. Date of Valentine's Day
18. Chocolate covered fruit popular Valentine's
19. Shakespeare play that reference Day

Down

1. Sweet candy
3. Kissed the girls and made them cry
4. U.S. state that produces the most chocolate
5. Month of Valentine's Day
9. Roman goddess of love and beauty
11. Rose color that symbolizes purity
12. Flower associated with Valentine's Day
15. Valentine's gift full of color
17. Symbol for Valentine's Day

				1	7		9
		3			6		
		5			3	7	
1				4			6
			1	3	2		
2				6			7
		9	6			4	
			8			9	
	6			2			



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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

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Community caring for its own



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Can you commit to approximately one day per month?

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GINGIN




14/07/2007

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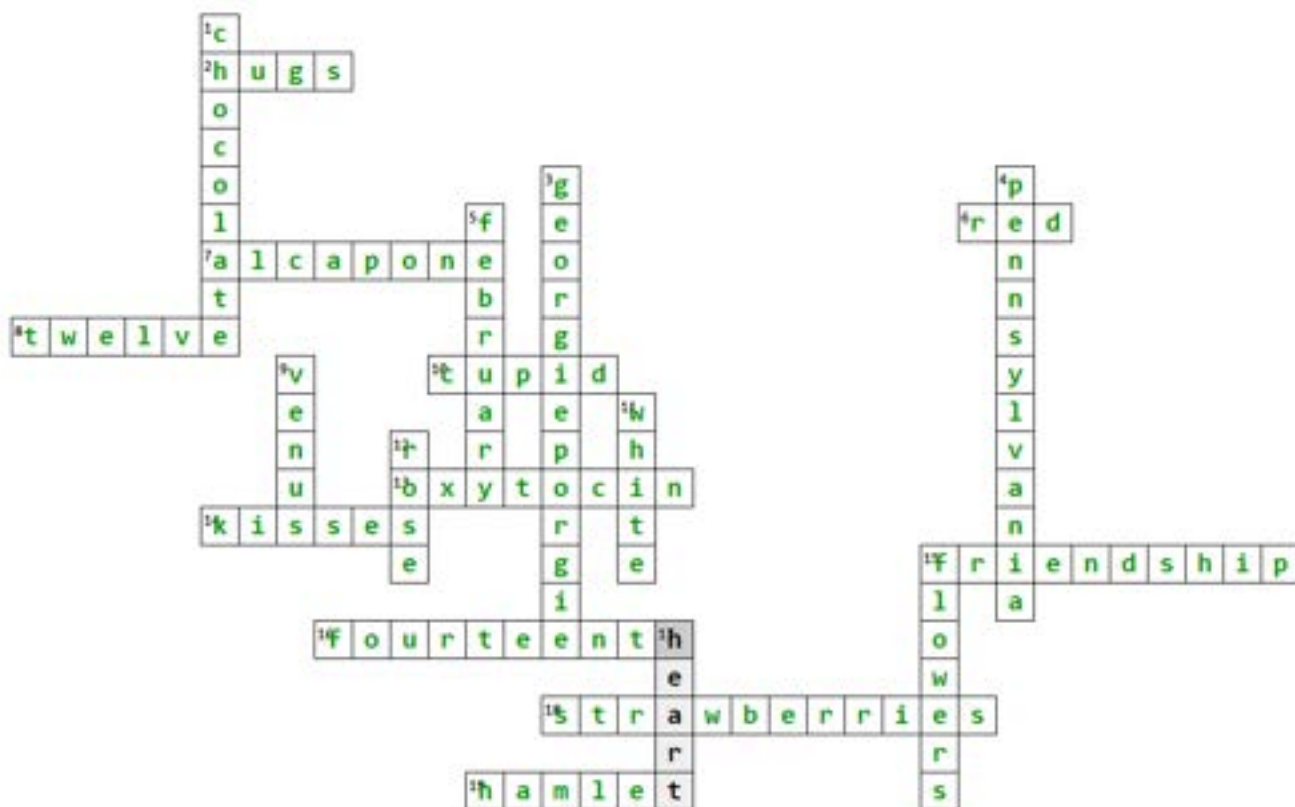
GINGIN COMMUNITY PANTRY


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.




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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

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Enquires Sylvia Kelly - 0438 575 254



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service



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- Assist with referrals to other health care providers

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