

GINGIN **BUZZ**



FREE for all the Community February 2026



A True Station Legend, Theo Mosseveld

Details on page 6

Photo provided by Nikki Woods

GINGIN COMMUNITY CAR

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?

To register your interest or for more information on the Community Car Service contact Sylvia Kelly, Gingin Care Group on 0438 575 254 or the Gingin CRC on 9575 1253 or crc@gingin.net

DUNE IT RIGHT – TRASH BASH

Turn the Tide in Lancelin

Join us for a hands-on clean-up of the Lancelin Coast and dune systems, helping protect our coastline while raising awareness about coastal and dune erosion across the Shire of Gingin.

This is a relaxed, family-friendly event focused on caring for the place we love — and starting conversations about practical solutions for the future.

Why It Matters

Healthy dunes play a critical role in protecting our coastline from erosion. Alongside the clean-up, the event will introduce community discussion around practical, low-cost solutions to coastal and dune erosion, including the potential role of industrial hemp as a regenerative, nature-based material.

Small actions spark bigger change.

Where
Lancelin Dunes
(See event page for updates)

When
Sunday 1 March 2026
9:00am – 12:00pm

Hosted by:
Hemp4Heat &
Gingin Hemp Growers Group

Registered with Clean Up Australia
Supported by the Shire of Gingin

Event Coordinator: Kathleen 0466-618-970

What to Expect

- Beach and dune clean-up
- Gloves and bags provided
- All ages welcome
- No cost to attend

We're closer than you think

Use the free self service facilities at our Access Points to connect with Centrelink, Medicare and other government programs and services.

At our Access Points you can:

- use our computer to access my.gov.au and other government programs and services and to search for jobs
- use the telephone to access our self service options or to speak to us
- access free Wi-Fi 24/7 to connect to government services—no password required
- scan, print, fax and photocopy documents
- have your identity documents certified
- pick up brochures.

Your local access point is:

Gingin Community Resource Centre
1a Lily King Place
GINGIN



Carrie Edwards
Manager



Alison McVee
Assistant Manager



Lauren Samata
Community Service
Officer



Susan Clark
Staying in Place
Case Coordinator



Julie Riches
Staying in Place
Client Coordinator



Ash Martinez
Staying in Place
Client Coordinator



Mikayla
Centre Trainee

GINGIN BUZZ

**February 2026
Issue 80**

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MARCH ISSUE CUTOFF
Monday 23rd February



Well, another Christmas has come and gone in a flash and once again this year the Gingin Christmas Angels did a fabulous job of decorating our town. I told our family members visiting from Switzerland it was all for them! Then admitted the truth, that we actually have a generous group of people in town that coordinate this each festive season. Congratulations and thank you Gingin Angels.

The CRC staff and Committee are delighted to advise our 2025 Trainee, Mikayla, has now completed her Certificate III Business. Mikayla has been a delight to have for the last 12 months, and we know she will go very well in her future endeavours. We hope to hear of a positive outcome regarding our 2026 Trainee Application from DPIRD very soon.

Our Staying in Place (SIP) staff are keeping busy with all the changes to Aged Care, and I must say they have handled them all very well. All whilst maintaining fabulous, on the ground, care for our clients. Well done ladies.

Speaking of SIP staff, in case it has not been mentioned prior, the lovely Ash joined our staff team in November. Ash is an absolute asset, and we are delighted to have her on board.

As always, we look forward to seeing you soon.

Carrie



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. However we reserve the right to amend contributions to improve clarity for our readers.

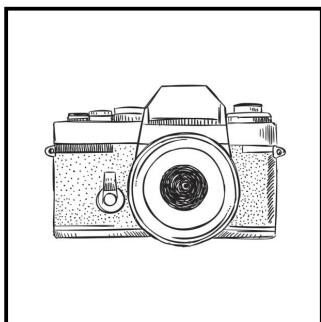
February

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
1	2	3	4 *GINGIN ART & CRAFT AGM 9AM	5	6	7
8	9 *LIONS CLUB MEETING 6:30PM - HORAN ST *GINGIN BROOK CATCHMENT GROUP MEETING 4PM AT CRC	10	11	12 *KOORUNGA CWA 10:30AM WANNAMAL HALL - INTERNATIONAL THEME LUNCH	13	14 *VALENTINE'S DAY 
15	16	17 • SHIRE OF GINGIN ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 6-8PM	18	19	20	21 • GINGIN ARTS AND CRAFT RESIN WORKSHOP - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
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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

Front Page - A True Station Legend, Theo Mosseveld

Farewell to a True Station Legend – Theo Mosseveld

The Gingin Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service recently farewelled one of our most cherished members, Theo Mosseveld, who has retired after an incredible 16 years and 9 months of dedicated service at the young age of 86.

Theo originally joined our brigade as a support member, wanting simply to help out where he could. At the time, our active member numbers were low, and Theo was asked if he would consider stepping up and undertaking training to become a qualified firefighter. Without hesitation, he said yes.

Over the years, Theo completed an impressive range of courses, including bushfire fighting, structural fire fighting, road crash rescue, and emergency driving, just to name a few. His willingness to learn, adapt, and contribute exemplified the very best of volunteer service.

After standing down as an active firefighter some time ago, Theo continued to serve the brigade as an outstanding support member. He never missed a Wednesday night training, where he could always be found cooking the BBQ, emptying bins, lending a hand, and most importantly

being a constant, positive presence and an amazing mentor to all members, especially the newer ones.

Theo's commitment, generosity, and quiet leadership have left a lasting mark on our brigade. He will be greatly missed around the station, but we wish him nothing but the very best in his well earned retirement.

Thank you, Theo, for everything you have given to Gingin VFRS. Your legacy will not be forgotten.



Gingin Art & Craft

A Creative Year for Gingin Art & Craft

The group hosted several successful events, including the Easter Market and Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, and ran a range of popular workshops such as tote bag making, paint and sip, makeup instruction, and wreath making. Members also represented the group at community events including British Car Day and Palettes & Plates.

The group has continued to grow, with more than 100 new followers on Facebook. We have an expanding shop, showcasing a wide variety of handmade art and craft pieces. With the help of grants from Bendigo Bank, the Shire of Gingin, the Treasure Trove, and Melissa Price MP, along with sponsorship from local businesses, Gingin Art & Craft has been able to add new equipment, including a gazebo, fridge, and tables kindly donated by the Mitchell family.



Giving back to the community remains important, with donations of blankets and jumpers to King Edward Hospital, handmade flowers for the Gingin District High School play, and the Christmas Angels achieved their goal of creating a community Christmas tree.

Run by a volunteer committee, Gingin Art & Craft continues to focus on collaboration, creativity, and bringing people together through art and craft.

The year was wrapped up with a Christmas party on 10 December.



Annual General Meeting

Members and anyone interested in being part of our creative community are warmly invited to attend the Gingin Art & Craft AGM.

Wednesday 4th February 2026, 9am

11 Constable Street, Gingin

The AGM is a great opportunity to reflect on the past year, hear what's ahead, and have your say in the future of Gingin Art & Craft. New members and fresh ideas are always welcome! We look forward to seeing you there.



Koorunga CWA

A small act of kindness can make a big difference. The Koorunga Branch of the Country Women's Association meets alternately between Gingin and Wannamal and takes great pride in making meaningful contributions to the local community. In 2025 alone, Koorunga members participated in 20 community activities and events, all focused on bringing comfort, connection and kindness. One of the most rewarding and fulfilling traditions undertaken by Koorunga members each year is delivering Christmas cheer throughout the local community. For the past 40 years, members have lovingly assembled and delivered Christmas parcels to those who have lost loved ones during the year and to people living alone, ensuring they feel remembered and supported during the festive season.



There was plenty of fun, laughter and a few surprises at the Koorunga CWA Christmas party, held in the beautiful gardens of Kerry and Darryl Butler. One very surprised member, Elizabeth Chewter, was presented with a Branch Legend Award by Branch President Felicity Scott.



Elizabeth has been a valuable, dependable and reliable member of both the Gingin and Koorunga branches since the early 1990s. As an alto singer with the highly acclaimed Gingin CWA Choir, she performed and competed in many events. These include CWA Conferences at Observation City, West Coast Plains Choir and Drama Festivals, CWA State Choir Festivals, where Gingin won many sections, International Days, Christmas carols and numerous Gingin community events. After joining Koorunga, Elizabeth continued her involvement in choir and drama days, sharing her experience through thoughtful ideas and constructive feedback. A former Gingin member, she has also been passionate about preserving the history of the Gingin CWA Branch and maintaining links with the Gingin CWA Rooms, now home to the Gingin Arts and Crafts group. She provided invaluable assistance during the Gingin Sesquicentennial celebrations and for local pop-up displays of CWA memorabilia.

Elizabeth is a highly skilled craftsperson, producing finely crafted tapestries, patchwork and silverwork for craft exhibitions. As a long-serving CWA member, she leads by example, quietly offering inspiration, mentoring and support to others. She brings experience, knowledge and tradition to the Koorunga Branch and is well known for ensuring meetings are conducted properly and discussions stay on track.

Surprise number two at the Christmas party was the unusual arrival of Father Christmas, Mother Christmas and a delightful elf, who delighted members by delivering Secret Santa gifts.



The first meeting for the year will be held at the Wannamal Hall on Thursday, 12 February, commencing at 10.30am, with an international-themed lunch. Members are already looking ahead, with a bag full of exciting events and activities planned for 2026. Anyone wishing to learn more about the CWA is welcome to contact Felicity on 0400 505 656.



Gingin Scouts

In December the School Chaplain received \$170 worth of food donations from the Scouts to support our community hampers. As part of their initiative to raise awareness about homelessness, the Scouts spent a night sleeping outdoors in sleeping bags and building shelters from cardboard. This hands-on experience helped them gain insight into the challenges faced by those without a safe place to sleep, while also raising funds to support people in need. We sincerely thank the Scouts for their generosity, compassion, and commitment to helping others. Their efforts will make a real difference in the lives of families within our community.



Gingin Library

Library Update: New Layout, New Resources and Activities for Families

Visitors to the library may notice a few recent changes, with a rearrangement of the shelves designed to make browsing easier and the space more welcoming for everyone.

The library continues to refresh its collection, with new books arriving every month. We offer a wide range of materials for all ages, including children's board books, kindergarten titles, easy readers, junior fiction, and young adult books, across both fiction and non-fiction. The collection also includes audio items and DVDs.

For families with young children, the library offers children's backpacks filled with books and toys suitable for ages 0–2 years, along with toy boxes for the same



age group, all available for loan. These resources support early learning through reading and play.

Children are also welcome to enjoy a wide range of musical equipment available to use in the library, encouraging creativity, movement, and fun during their visit.



Our popular Rhyme Time sessions are returning and will be held every Monday at 9:30am during term time, recommencing on 9th February. These sessions are ideal for babies and toddlers and feature songs, rhymes, craft, and movement in a relaxed, friendly environment.

The library looks forward to welcoming the community to explore the updated space and take advantage of the many resources and activities available.

Gingin Chattering Lions Club

As we move into another busy and rewarding year, I would like to thank every member and volunteer who continues to give their time and energy to support our community. Whether it's fundraising, helping at local events, or simply lending a hand where it's needed, your dedication truly makes a difference.

Over the past year, the Gingin Chattering Lions Club has been proud to contribute to many local events. Our colourful train has delighted little ones, and sometimes parents, as it travelled around parks and ovals. The Gunfire Breakfast on ANZAC Day and cooking sausages with passion at the Christmas Carols are always highlights. Checking people in at the fireworks and the Avon Descent are also memorable

events. Thank you to everyone who helped behind the scenes, your efforts do not go unnoticed!

These endeavours have enabled us to give back to the community in meaningful ways. We provided schools with Awards and subsidies for camps, equating to almost \$4,000. We donated \$1,000 to a Bindoon family who lost their home, \$500 to the VBFB, and helped the Super Seal Swim Faster with a \$500 donation. We value the strong bonds we share with other community groups and look forward to continuing to work together as the year progresses.

The Gingin Chattering Lions Club is proud to support local individuals, families, and organisations in times of need. If you know

someone who may benefit from Lions assistance, please reach out to a committee member in confidence.

Lions International has many aspects and we have also been able to Contribute \$\$\$ to Lions Hearing Dogs, Lions Hearing, Lions Blood Cord, Lions Cancer, and the Ability Centre.

Our first meeting for the year will be held on Monday 9 February. We begin with social

time and a shared dinner from 6.30 pm, followed by a short meeting to discuss club business and upcoming events. Our address is the Lion's Den 3 Horan Street Gingin. We would love new faces! To make a difference in your community, contact Colin on 0411 231 985

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Gingin Brook Catchment Group

Do you know February 2nd is World Wetlands Day? World Wetlands Day is held each year on the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (also known as the Ramsar Convention), which occurred on this day in 1971 in the city of Ramsar in Iran. The theme for World Wetlands Day in 2026 is Wetlands and traditional knowledge: Celebrating cultural heritage. See <https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/> for further information and resources to participate.

World Wetlands Day raises awareness of wetlands and the need to protect them. A wetland is defined as an area of land which is saturated or inundated with water intermittently or permanently and may be fresh or saline. This includes naturally occurring features such as rivers, swamps, lakes and floodplains and coastal features such as estuaries, mangroves and saltmarshes. Man made features such as dams, ornamental ponds and flood irrigated crops such as rice paddies can also be considered wetlands.

Wetlands have an important role in biodiversity, water security, and the economic and cultural wellbeing of people. They also fill a role in storm protection and carbon storage to assist with climate change adaptation.

Most of the world's wetlands have been degraded since the 1700s and about a third have been lost entirely since the 1970s.

Wetlands are being lost even faster than forests. A drying climate in the SW of WA means our wetlands here are under even greater pressure than those in some other parts of the world.

A reminder to those who have been experiencing rabbit problems it is important to carry out control measures throughout the year. The late summer - autumn period can provide a good window for rabbit control if you are in an area with feed for them in short supply, making baiting and trapping easier. Other activities to consider are harbour reduction and warren fumigation. For areas which provide good feed at this time of year, rabbit proof fencing may be necessary. Control now is important to reduce numbers before the breeding season commences in May.

Gingin Brook Catchment Group will hold its next meeting on Monday February 9th 2026 at 4pm at the Gingin CRC. We hope to see you there. In the meantime, you can contact us info@gingincatchment.org.au, see our webpage or follow us on Facebook.

Gingin Brook Catchment Group.



Gingin Christmas Angels

2025 Gingin Christmas Angels Display

Well Gingin, did you love your new community Christmas tree? Isn't she a beauty!

Your Angels worked incredibly hard behind the scenes to secure funding so we could purchase our wonderful community Christmas tree, one that we will all be able to enjoy for many, many years to come. Our superstar Angel, Kerry Manthey, completed hundreds of hours of grant applications to turn this dream into a reality, and we thank her from the bottom of our hearts for her dedicaion and hard work.

Our focus for 2025 was solely to bring a Christmas tree back to Gingin, as we knew how much the community truly missed it. Because we put all of our resources into purchasing the tree, there wasn't much left to do anything else. However, one of our young Angel members, Leah Mitchell, tirelessly worked on drawing and painting the photo boards, and they were a huge hit. It was wonderful to see so many families having fun, enjoying time with their children, and taking lots of happy snaps.

Looking ahead, 2026 will see us focus on new ideas to create even more Christmas cheer in our town. We have already started throwing ideas around and putting plans in place. If you are new to town and don't know who we are, we're a very small group that forms part of the Gingin Art and Craft Group. We meet on Tuesday mornings, and if you'd like to join us, you are more than welcome.

In addition to our Christmas display, which included bunting, pallet Christmas trees, red bows on the trees, photo boards, and of course our beautiful community tree, we also organised the Lights, Camera, Action event, and what an event it was! This was all thanks to you, our community.

It was truly wonderful to see families

gathered together on a beautiful summer evening — children playing and dancing to DJ Steve, enjoying bubbles with the Bubble Lady, free popcorn courtesy of Adam Shields, and delicious watermelon served by our amazing Lions Club and kindly donated by IGA Gingin. The food trucks dished up some fantastic meals, along with plenty of sweet treats and drinks. Whether you grabbed a pizza from IGA, takeaway from Cu@park, or food from one of the trucks, it was lovely to see everyone sitting on the lawn, relaxing and enjoying the evening together.

We also need to give a very special mention to our wonderful local Fire Brigade for ensuring Santa arrived safely to visit all the children, and to our local Police, who did an excellent job arresting that very naughty Grinch. Your involvement added so much joy and fun to the night, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.

And then came the moment we were all waiting for switching on the lights of our beautiful community tree. Never did we imagine people would start skipping around it, but they did, and it was absolutely magical to witness.

It's been strongly suggested that we run this event again, and if we do, we will definitely need more help from our community. We are a very small group, and we were completely exhausted after such a huge few weeks. If you would like to see the event return, please consider lending a hand when we put the call out, even half an hour makes a difference. Many hands truly do make light work, and everything we do is solely for our community, to bring back and hold onto what community means for all of us.

Finally, to our wonderful sponsors, we could not have done any of this without you. Thank you so much for your continued support.



Gingin Red Cross

Welcome to 2026! Mark your calendars for a night of mystery, music, and community fun at the Community Masquerade Dance on Saturday, March 21st at 6:00pm at the Granville Civic Centre in Gingin.



This free community event invites you to dress up, don your most creative mask, and enjoy an evening of dancing with a DJ, a photo booth to capture the memories, raffles at the door, and prizes throughout the night, including Best Mask.

Bring along your own nibbles, while tea, coffee, and Milo will be provided, and a bar will be open offering drinks, cocktails, and mocktails. Tickets are free and available

via the QR code. Start gathering your friends and get crafty making masks as the perfect holiday activity, and join us for a memorable evening celebrating together behind the mask.

On Friday February 13th you are warmly invited to join your neighbours and friends for a Community Devonshire Tea at 3 Horan Street Gingin. Come along for a relaxed morning of freshly baked scones with jam and cream, a cuppa or two, and the chance to catch up, chat, and enjoy good company. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect, share a few laughs, and spend time together as a community. Everyone is welcome, bring a friend, or make a friend, and help us celebrate the simple pleasure of coming together. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Gingin Red Cross Unit is holding a Krispy Kreme Doughnut Fundraiser, with all profits supporting the Annual Red Cross Calling Appeal. Red Cross Calling is the main annual fundraiser for the Australian Red Cross, helping support vital services for people and communities in need. The famous donuts come boxes of 12 in 5 different varieties; original, custard, strawberry, chocolate, jam. \$34 a box which is only \$2.85 a donut. Plain boxes are \$26 equating to \$2.15 a donut. They freeze well too! Orders close: 3 March 2026 collection: 17 March 2026 in Gingin. Treat yourself (or someone else) while supporting a great cause!

Please Email Kaye Lowes on kmlowes30@gmail.com for your order form enquiries 0427380963

Gingin Uniting Church

Gingin Uniting Church, 9 Weld Street, Gingin. Services held every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 10am. All are welcome.

Website: <https://gingin.ucwa.au>

Email: ginginuniting@gmail.com

Phone: Sharon 0428 557 057

Norma's Patch

Work at the community garden, aka Norma's Patch is in summer recess, apart from some watering and minor weeding in the raised vegetable plots. There will be no new planting till the break in the summer season with the volunteers starting again for winter planting sometime in early March.

The summer crop of corn, tomatoes, curcubits (zucchini, pumpkins, cucumbers) and capsicum are yielding small crops, but the dwarf beans progressed no further than seedling stage for reasons unknown, although creepy crawlies such as snails, slater bugs etc are high on the list of marauding suspects, as insecticide sprays are not used. The "thumb and forefinger" method is equally as efficient, and any visiting ducks enjoy a free feed !!

"Evidence of the Fruits of our labours"



It is likely the vollies will meet again each Wednesday afternoon this coming year for an hour to dig, plant and chat.

Confirmation of this will occur closer to the month.

In December we rounded off the year with a snack lunch at the Limestone Park Eatery which was lovely; their shade pavilion of plants and water bowls is an absolute oasis.

Norma's Patch is so named after Norma Gray, (27 February 1924 – 27 June 2024), who was a keen gardener. It was her enthusiasm that got us going to refresh the Patch. You did not want to get between Norma and her pitchfork and a good patch of dirt !!

"Squishing snails" and trellising peas were her specialties.

A happy snap of Kerry M and Colleen H.



Roxanne's Dance Workshop

Roxanne's Dance Workshop performed in the Alinta Channel 7 Christmas Pageant held in Perth on Saturday 6th December and with their biggest troupe yet and for their 21st year!!!

They were also given the special honour to lead Santa in at the end of the Pageant!

Students and their families from Roxanne's Dance Workshop groups in Gingin, Lancelin, Bindoon & Moora made their way

to the city where they also enjoyed a hotel stay for the weekend!!



Country & Coast

Shire of Gingin News & Information

Council Decisions

The following matters were considered by Council at the Shire's **January** Ordinary Council Meeting:

- Lease Renewals Between the Shire of Gingin and Gingin Scout Group, Denim and Lace Barrel Racing, Gingin Campdraft Inc and WA Cutting Horse Association.
- Provision of Accommodation - Western Australia Police Force.
- Planning Applications - 1 application considered.

For details of additional items resolved by Council and for more information please go to the January Council Meeting minutes which are available at gingin.wa.gov.au/council-meetings, or in person upon request at either the Gingin Administration Centre or Lancelin Office.

Community Citizen of the Year Nominees

Each year, the Community Citizen of the Year Awards give local governments around Western Australia the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution and celebrate engagement of people within the community.

This year, we had 19 nominations across the four categories. Congratulations to the following nominees:

Community Citizen of the Year Nominees:

- Sharon Bodle
- Sarah Kenchington
- John Brinklow
- Susannah Dale
- Carol Balcombe
- Michael Carr
- Selga Beckwith

Young Community Citizen of the Year Nominee:

- Bree Del Barrello

Senior Community Citizen of the Year Nominees:

- Terrie James
- Margaret Massam
- Frances Joseph White

- Lynette Kemp
- Pat Shinnick

Active Citizenship Award Nominees

- Koorunga (CWA)
- Ledge Point Community Association - Sally Cail
- The Jungle Book Production - Susannah Dale
- Lancelin Primary School P&C - Jade Hamlyn
- Lower Coastal Neighbourhood Watch - Dot Branch
- Lancelin & Coastal Districts RSL Sub Branch - Mike Cardy

The winners of each category will be announced at the Australia Day Neergabby Breakfast Ceremony on Monday 26 January at the Neergabby Community Grounds. To find out our winners, please visit our website www.gingin.wa.gov.au/news/public-notice

Community Funding Program 2026/2027 - Funding Round Opening Soon

Our annual Community Funding Program will be open on Sunday 1 February for applications for the 2026/2027 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 Grants Officer as soon as possible to ensure the necessary approvals are in place to allow you to submit your grant application.

Contact our Grants Officer via grants@gingin.wa.gov.au or on 9575 5100.

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

Update from Main Roads - Weld Street, Gingin Bridge Replacement

Main Roads are providing early advice that Bridge 661 over Gingin Brook on Weld Street in Gingin townsite will be replaced in 2026.

Works are scheduled to take place between March 2026 and the end of 2026 however these dates are subject to change.

During the works, there will be a single lane closure on the bridge which will cause minor delays.

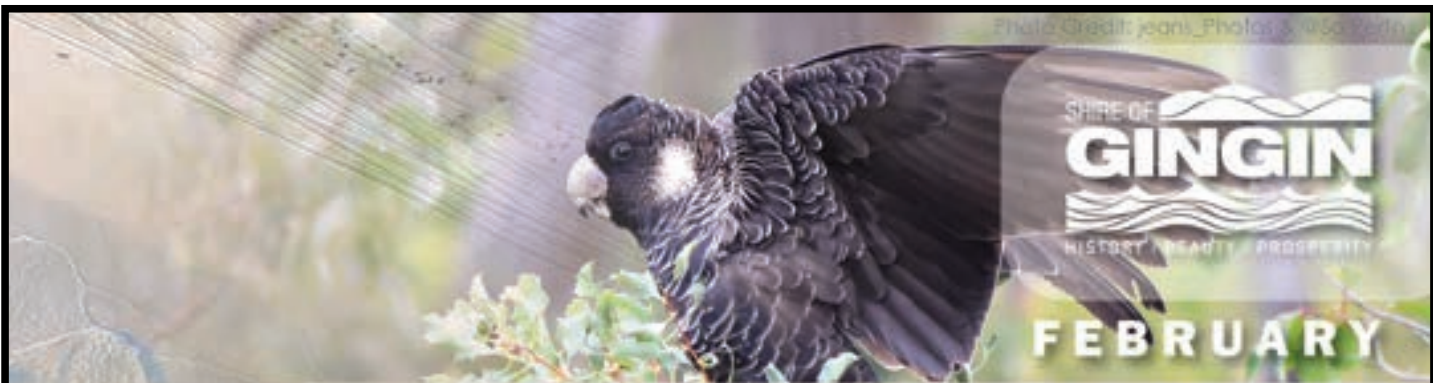
The footpaths on both sides of the bridge will be

closed for the duration of the project. However, the footpath near the weir will remain open to ensure continued public access.

Construction noise will be generated throughout the duration of the bridge replacement.

Further information will be made available in the coming weeks. A community drop-in session facilitated by Main Roads will be conducted prior to the commencement of works.





Digital Inclusion and Community Access Hublet Initiative

The Shire of Gingin's Lancelin Library proudly acknowledges and thanks the following organisations for their generous support and partnership in delivering the Digital Inclusion and Community Access Hublet Initiative.

This project was funded by the Australian Government under the Stronger Communities Programme Round 9, following nomination by the Federal Member for Durack the Hon Melissa Price MP. Funding was administered by the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

Grant funding obtained by the Lancelin Community Resource Centre supported the installation of a self-service Hublet iPad system at the Lancelin Library, improving free access to digital devices and online services for the local community. The project supports digital inclusion by enabling access to library e-resources, government services, education platforms, employment tools and electronic communication.

The project is further supported by the Lancelin CRC delivering digital literacy assistance and training opportunities, ensuring community members can confidently engage with online services.

Head into the Lancelin Library to use the self-service Hublet iPad today.



Total Fire Bans/Harvest, Hot Works & Vehicle Movement Bans

Under the Bush Fires Act 1954 local governments and DFES have the power to place a fire ban. In the Shire of Gingin there are two types of bans that can be implemented:

Total Fire Bans - which are set by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).

Harvest, Hot Works & Vehicle Movement Bans - which are set by the Shire of Gingin.

It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to find out if there is a fire ban in place. Subscribe to the Shire's SMS service to receive free notifications when either ban is placed. To subscribe or for more information visit gingin.wa.gov.au/fire-breaks-bans-information



What's on In the Shire of Gingin?

Lower Coastal Neighbourhood Watch

Wednesday 11 February, 7:00pm - 9:00pm, Ledge Point Country Club.

Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 17 February, 6:00pm - 8:00pm, Shire of Gingin Council Chambers.

Smiling Starts Education Session

Monday 23 February, 9:30am - 5:00pm, Gingin Library, Gingin.

Device Advice - Self Help Group

Thursday 26 February, 10:00am - 12:00pm, Seabird Hall, Seabird.

Guilderton Community Day

Sunday 1 March, 8:00am - 8:00pm, Guilderton.

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

Early Rates Incentive Scheme Sponsor Acknowledgement

Thank you to **Bindoon Hill Gravel Supply** for your generous sponsorship of the Shire's Early Rates Incentive Scheme.

Bindoon Hill Gravel Supply provides reliable, locally sourced gravel for a range of projects, including roadworks, driveways and general construction.

Owned by Ian and Jenny Hall, the facility supports local development with quality materials and dependable service for residents and contractors alike, ensuring a high attention to detail on every job they carry out.

Ian and Jenny also own Hall All Contracting, a family-run business with well over 20 years experience in earthmoving.

Contact Ian on 0419 042 455 or email ian@hallall.com.au.



BINDOON HILL
GRAVEL SUPPLY

The Future is Here by Alan Gent

The small van pulled up outside 15 Begonia Avenue at 2.30pm. On the side was painted in eye-catching colours: 'International Robotics' and 'The Future Is Here!' There was a picture of what appeared to be a very human-looking robot, with what Alfred thought was quite a cynical smile on its face.

The young delivery driver swung down from the cab and proceeded to unlock the back doors.

Alfred looked around at the line of cottages on the other side of the road and was rewarded by the twitch of several curtains. Two of his neighbours were more openly curious and came out to stand on their front steps. He heard the man call into the van: "OK Gus, you can come out now."

There was no movement for several seconds, then a silver-clad 'person' crouched down and stepped nimbly out for the van to stand obediently facing the delivery man. The latter then turned towards Alfred and called him over. As he stood in front of the robot, Gus gazed at him impassively.

"Well, here we are Mr. Brown. He's called Gus, but if you want to change his name at any time, all you need to do is tell him. Right now, he answers to Gus. I have a few things to explain, so if you don't mind, we'll do that inside." He nodded towards Alfred's cottage. "You may as well get used to talking to Gus, so tell him what you'd like to do."

Alfred hesitated for a few seconds then, nervously, said to the robot: "Follow me into the house please, Gus." The trio then made its way up the path, each step of the robot accompanied by the astonished stares of the neighbours.

In his living room, Alfred asked Gus to sit down, and the delivery man pulled out a large booklet of instructions and guarantees. "Mr Brown, I'm glad you took

advantage of our generous offer. This is the latest in a series of AI robots our company has been developing. The more he gets to know you, the more he learns about you. After a very short while, you'll find that he'll be able to anticipate your requirements and will become an integral part of your household. We did explain to you about AI, didn't we?" Without waiting for a reply, he continued: "Of course, Artificial Intelligence has come a long way in the last twenty years, and programming is simply carried out by familiarisation. It's a bit like the old chess computers that continually improved themselves until they reached the standard of the player. Now, the only trouble you're likely to have is assuming Gus is human! Always remember, he's just a robot, and operates like any other machine." Alfred glanced at Gus and imagined he saw a brief look of irritation on 'its' (his?) face.

"How is...he...powered?" asked Gus. "Ah. You don't need to worry about that. He has a plutonium source that should last longer than a human lifetime. Any other maintenance issues he'll handle himself, such as mobility. He has moving parts that require lubrication, but this is carried out internally. It's quite complicated, but you really don't need to worry about that either."

The man continued with his 'signing off' and told Alfred about warranties and service calls if necessary, and so on. All the while, Gus sat quietly with the same impassive expression. He had a tight-fitting silvery suit on. Something like Lycra, only looking a lot stronger. There were no 'hinges' or 'joints' to be seen anywhere. He did seem to be a marvel of engineering.

When the delivery man had gone, Alfred decided to try conversation with Gus. After all, this was the main reason for his acquisition of the robot. Alfred had always lived alone, but his work had allowed him the right amount of social contact he needed. He didn't mix very well and was

always pleased to close out the World beyond his front door. Now he had retired, he realised he was actually lonely.

Alfred sat opposite Gus and said: "How are you?" "I'm quite well thank you." Gus had none of the artificial sounding voice that Alfred had expected. In fact, his voice was quite pleasant.

On an impulse, Alfred said: "Did it bother you when you were referred to as 'just a robot', Gus?" There was a pause, and Gus said: "I know what I am, but I don't consider myself as 'just' anything. I am a Mark 6 robot of the Exempleron class, the latest and most intricately intelligent of any robot produced by International Robotics. I assume you would not like to be called 'just a carbon life-form'?"

Alfred was quite taken aback. He really hadn't expected such an answer from a... a machine, after all. He realised he'd have to be diplomatic when talking to Gus.

The conversation continued, and Gus was pleasantly surprised to find that Gus already had a vast knowledge database that was easily able to match his own.

Over the next few weeks, Gus definitely did make himself a part of Alfred's life. They'd go shopping together, and Alfred would proudly introduce him to people he met in the supermarket, the local tavern and the bus stop. Alfred had never owned a car, as he hated the idea of driving, but he even considered buying a car and getting Gus to drive him around in it. Unfortunately, the authorities would have none of it. There were 'legal issues' apparently.

Initially, an International Robotics representative would call around to see Alfred on a regular basis, but as time progressed, these visits became less and less necessary. They seemed satisfied about the progress of Gus in his interaction with Alfred and were quite happy to keep contact by telephone.

When they went out, to avoid the curiosity of the populace mainly, Gus was happy to

dress as a human being. Of course, close inspection would reveal the metallic skin colour, but in general, he attracted little comment.

After a while, Gus would actually initiate conversation with people they'd meet, and ask many questions about their job, family location and so on. People didn't seem to mind – after all, Gus was a robot, wasn't he – and that's probably what they did...?

Having read all the books in Alfred's meagre collection, Gus picked up the habit of getting books from the library – or rather, using Alfred to borrow books. His appetite for knowledge was insatiable, and Alfred lost track of all the subjects in which Gus became familiar, and his expertise in many skills.

As the months went by, Gus's attitude to Alfred seemed to be changing. From Gus's point of view, he could not understand why this significantly inferior should be in a position of mastery. After all, he was stronger, certainly healthier, vastly more intelligent and not subject to any of the illness and weaknesses to which he'd seen human beings succumb. He had learnt to imitate Alfred's whiny voice very easily, and from a very early stage had been calling International Robotics as Alfred, letting them know there was 'no need to call around this month – everything's fine'.

While the relationship between Gus and Alfred seemed to be quite settled, under the surface, a storm was brewing...

In the middle of a game of chess, Gus announced: "I'm bored. Can't we do something different?" Alfred realised that he had become a poor Chess opponent for Gus. On the few occasions Alfred actually won a game, he suspected it was through Gus's politeness.

Alfred had never been a particularly outgoing person and was quite incapable of changing his personality to suit the social appetites of Gus. He no longer thought of Gus as a robot at all, and was anxious to

please his 'friend', but could not think of anything to relieve Gus's boredom. He tried to explain this to Gus and thought that he'd put the matter to rest.

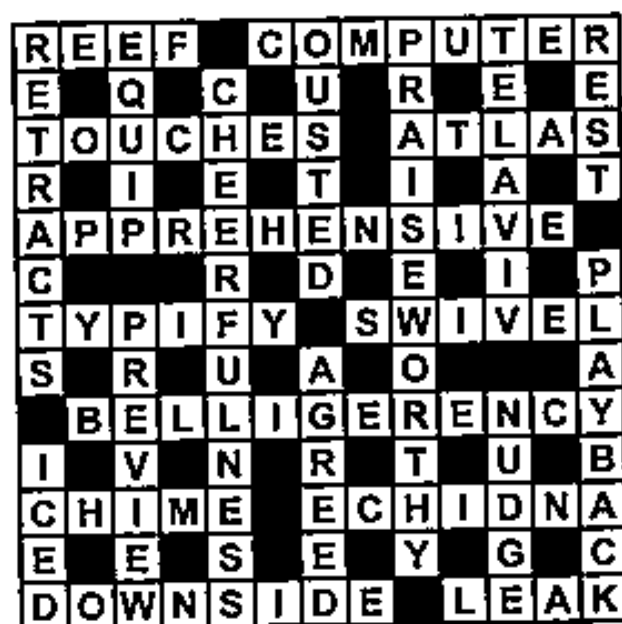
He was wrong.

One morning, Alfred came down to the kitchen expecting to find a steaming hot breakfast waiting for him, and found instead, Gus calmly reading the paper. When Alfred queried this, Gus replied: "I don't really think I should be making breakfast. I was supposed to keep you company, but that doesn't mean I have to be a slave. I think, even with your meagre abilities, you can make breakfast for yourself." Then he continued reading the paper.

Alfred was gobsmacked. After he had recovered, he made a beeline for the telephone. At the same time, Gus quickly left his seat and disappeared into the room that Alfred had allocated for him. When Gus called International Robotics and started to complain, the familiar voice at the end of the line explained that Gus was quite entitled not to make breakfast. Alfred was astounded. "But...but I thought...." "Oh, no, Mr. Brown. That was never our intention. Gus would now be way beyond the realms of a servant. If anything, you should probably be serving him!" Alfred put the phone down slowly. In the other room, a carefully programmed extension phone receiver was also replaced quietly. Gus appeared with a self-satisfied smirk on his face, then sat down to continue reading the paper. Alfred tried several more times to call International Robotics, but each time the number was engaged. He decided to take the long bus and train trip to see what was going on. The mistake he made was to mention to Gus about his decision. "I don't think that would be very wise, Mr. Brown," (Alfred noted the formal address – Gus had always referred to him as Alfred up to then), "It's a long way, and anything might happen to you." There was something in the way Gus spoke that sent a shudder through Alfred. He realised he'd better wait until Gus was out of the way.

The opportunity came a few days later. Gus had taken to going out when he felt like it and said nothing to Alfred as he closed the door. Alfred waited about half an hour, then quickly got ready and left for the bus stop. The bus took him to the underground station, and he waited on the platform for the 3.30pm to the Inner City. The platform was quite crowded, and he was aware of the press of people behind him. The train got closer. Alfred could feel the wind of the approaching turbulence. He could hear the screech of the brakes as they bit into the wheels. Finally, he could see the red and green leading carriage as it reached the further part of the platform. He could see the driver's face as he lent on the lever to pull the long train to a stop. At the very last minute, there was a mighty shove behind him, and Alfred tumbled forward off the platform. The last thing his conscious mind registered was the advertisement painted on the opposite wall in bright colours: 'International Robotics' and 'The Future Is Here'.

A tall being with a self-satisfied smirk melted into the screaming crowd.



Gingin Bowling Club

It has been a busy and exciting few months on the green for Gingin Bowlers, with new players enjoying social games at Scroungers on Friday evenings. A big thank you to Felicity and Colin for their organisation and support. The club is hoping to secure funding to install new lights on both greens. This will allow the club to host Friday night sponsored events and the popular sporting and business challenge. The Ladies recently held a Christmas-themed Gala Day, with all players enjoying a delicious glazed ham and a lovely variety of salads for lunch. Robyn Thomas from Lancelin was awarded Best Dressed Player.

A huge thank you to Robyn Cooper for sponsoring the day. The decorations, raffles and prizes were amazing, and visitors also had the opportunity to purchase items from local stallholders. Many players went home with specially designed jewellery, plants, and Robyn's beautifully crafted Lazy Susans.



The Gingin Ladies Club Fours Championship winners for the 2025–26 season were Kath Bulters, Felicity Scott, Robyn Cooper and Kathy Gobbart.



In the Moore District Bowling League, the Men's Triples Champions were Shaun Donohoe, Stephen Beckwith and Pat Heasman, hosted by Ledge Point. In early January, the Men's Moore District Bowling League side competed in the Northern Bowling Zone Inter League Fours in Wonthella, experiencing typical Geraldton conditions, hot weather, strong winds and fast greens. Teams competed against Batavia, North Midlands, Central Midlands and Central West Coast.



Six Gingin players were selected from MDBL to play in the Northern Zone side, at the Inter Zone in Halls Head, competing against teams from the Southern, South Western, and Eastern Zones.

Congratulations to Stephen Fewster, Paul Fewster, Stephen Beckwith, Pat Heasman, Wayne Mathews & John Kay.

February 20-22nd Gingin will host the Northern Bowling Zone Women's Inter League Fours. Eighty women will be arriving from far & wide. Northampton, Latham, Moora, Dandaragan Wongan Hills, Leeman and Jurien Bay. Come along and support our local players, in the Moore District side.

By Kerry Fewster

ARE STABLE FLIES BITING IN YOUR AREA? REPORT IT NOW

Stable Fly - *Stomoxys calcitrans*



Stable Fly Action Group
Facebook Page



Stable Fly Reporting Tool
www.stableflyactiongroup.org.au



The Stable Fly Action Group Inc (SFAG) has been active for over 20 years with the aim to reduce the impact of stable flies where rural communities and horticulture coexist.

SFAG's primary objective is to pro-actively advocate for strategies to minimise the stable fly problem in WA through lobbying, publicity, education and collaboration.

SFAG's current focus is:

- Supporting LGA officers to investigate and mitigate stable fly outbreaks
- Supporting affected community members and reporting outbreak data to DPIRD
- Supporting further scientific research and trials to reduce stable fly outbreaks
- Lobbying government for meaningful reforms to current legislation (BAM Act)
- Lobbying for enforceable changes to reticulated horticulture management practices to reduce stable fly breeding sites
- Lobbying for a simple waybill system for all raw manure shipments
- Highlighting current biosecurity risks and helping avert potential future diseases

SFAG is a volunteer organisation that relies heavily on community support and membership.



Please visit the SFAG website to join.

www.stableflyactiongroup.org.au



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Protect
Grow
Innovate

Protect your community & stop stable flies before they bite

Stable flies (*Stomoxys calcitrans*) are an aggressive, biting, blood sucking fly that attack livestock, domestic pets and humans in search of a blood meal.



The repeated painful bites cause considerable suffering and distress to animals and in some cases, cause death.

Where do stable flies breed?

Stable flies breed prolifically in rotting organic matter such as:

- waste vegetable material
- soiled hay and animal bedding
- reject produce fed out to livestock
- lawn clippings (if continually wet)
- aged animal manure
- olive pomace.

Simple ways to protect your community if you grow vegetables, keep chickens or grazing animals

Reducing stable fly breeding sites through simple waste management is the single most effective way to protect your community from the effects of stable fly.

Even small amounts of rotting material can produce thousands of biting flies — so every effort counts!

Treat all organic material immediately by:

- ✓ **Mulching** (chopping into smaller pieces) and **desiccation** (spreading material thinly in the sun to dry out)
- or
- ✓ **Solarisation** (sealing with black plastic and leaving in full sun to kill eggs, larvae and pupae)
- or
- ✓ **Burial** to a depth of at least 1 metre
- or
- ✓ Using an **approved pesticide** to kill eggs, larvae and pupae and leave undisturbed to allow any emerging flies to contact the chemical residue/barrier (search apvma.gov.au).

Do you grow vegetables?

After harvest:

- **Turn off irrigation immediately.**
- If there are large pieces of waste plant material (e.g. celery stumps) — bring the material to the surface with a rotary hoe, then **mulch** at high speed into smaller pieces **and then**
- **desiccate** small pieces of waste plant material in the sun **or**
- **bury** to at least 1 metre deep.

Weekly:

- **Inspect** the soil and waste for eggs, larvae or pupae.
- Use an **approved pesticide** if eggs, larvae or pupae are found.

Are you using untreated chicken manure as fertiliser?

- **Seek approval** from neighbours and your local government authority (LGA) before applying untreated poultry manure.
- Spread **immediately** and only onto **non-irrigated land**.
- Apply thinly and evenly with a:
 - maximum particle size of **20 mm** and
 - maximum application rate of **10 tonnes/ha (dry weight)**.
- Do not reapply more than **every 6 weeks**.

Do you keep grazing animals?

For all supplementary feed:

- Where possible, use a **feed trough or hay ring** or place on a **concrete base**.
- If feeding on the ground, feed in a **thin line** to minimise food being trampled and defecated upon.

Weekly hygiene:

- Remove all organic material including trampled feed, manure and bedding.
- Treat material by burial, solarisation, composting or use an approved pesticide if eggs, larvae or pupae are present.

▲ Important note about hay

Desiccating soiled hay containing larvae will **not kill larvae**. If hay is fed out during summer, becomes wet or mixes with soil, urine or faeces, it can become a future breeding site for stable flies.

To prevent breeding in soiled hay:

- Bury hay (at least 1 metre deep), **or**
- solarise with black plastic, **or**
- spray with an approved pesticide.

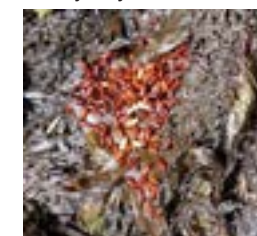
Inspect all breeding areas weekly for eggs, larvae and pupae

Early detection of eggs and larvae makes control much easier but immediate treatment of organic material is the best option.

If you are experiencing stable fly issues, report to your local government authority (LGA) [local government authority](#).



Stable fly lifecycle



Treat pupae with an approved pesticide



Treat larvae with an approved pesticide

dpiird.wa.gov.au/stablefly

Important Disclaimer

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Letters to Editor

Gingin Shopping Bus

The first Gingin Shopping Bus trip took place on December 4 2024, so it is now time to review the uptake of the service and evaluate its future.

The service was organized and put together by a local Gingin resident, with bookings made through the Community Resource Centre, and the use of Shire of Gingin's community bus. The idea was to visit major commercial outlets which had an array of services and facilities not available in Gingin, as well as giving an opportunity for locals who do not drive in the metropolitan area / or may not have access to transport, to meet up with friends from other metropolitan areas at a central location for a social outing. The timing of the bus schedule also allowed for a midday movie at one of the Cinema outlets attached to particular shopping centres.

In all, three centres were visited – Joondalup, Ellenbrook, and Karrinyup. Originally the plan had been to provide a monthly service, but it was decided following consultation with potential participants that the weather during the winter months would not lead to a “break even” situation – therefore there was a hiatus during these months before the service was recommenced.

A planned Christmas run in December did not take place either. However there was a trip to the Perth Garden Show and it was well patronized.

So where to now in 2026 for the Gingin Shopping Bus ?

In reality, after the initial enthusiasm the number of passengers dropped off considerably, with only 4 participants taking the trip to Karrinyup in November. The bus is a community facility owned by the Shire of Gingin, and to break even financially there must be at least a 65 % occupancy to meet the charges of hiring and paying for mileage travelled, while keeping the cost of the return trip within a reasonable price

for “seniors”.

Throughout the 12 months of the service there was an evaluation done by the organizer at passenger and driver level, with feed back being given to the relevant Council staff on any issues regarding performance and general maintenance of the bus.

In summary the following comments were received from the passengers

Positive

*Bookings – easy to make via the phone or in person at the CRC

*Time of service (10.00am pick up – 3.00pm return) – good

*Cost of return trip – excellent value

*Location of pick up (St Lukes car park) – very convenient

*Choice of shopping centres -comprehensive services and shops available for needs.

*Drop off points at the shopping centres – convenient with minimal walking to main entrances.

*Driver – cheerful, helpful, obliging, competent and careful.

*Storage in bus for purchases – adequate

*“It is stress free in terms of not having to drive on main roads, freeways and highways. You can enjoy watching the countryside or talking to other passengers. There were no worries about finding parking in the Centres’ car parks.”.

Negative

*Difficult access into the bus for people with mobility issues – hand grabs and steps not convenient,

*Definitely bus not suitable for a passenger with a mobility scooter(gopher type) – the bus driver and organizer had to manually lift a mobility scooter into the storage compartment of the bus on one occasion.

*Limited hand grabs on the aisle seats of the bus for security whilst seated.

*Not all seats equipped with seat belts.

*Airconditioning/window tinting and interior of the bus reflects the age of the bus - "tired".

*Ratchet fitting of the entrance step difficult to manage, the entrance door occasionally jammed at opening/closing creating anxiety in the passengers.

General community comments that have been raised when discussing the reintroduction of a regular return bus service for Gingin and adjoining Localities.

*"I didn't know there was a community bus service".

Response : This service was advertised in the Gingin Buzz, the electronic Notice Board at the corner of Weld/ Cockram Streets, CRC Face book page, and general notifications to community groups.

*"People should shop locally"

Response : There has been general conversation in the community about a lack of a public return transport service to major commercial outlets for a number of years.

The aim of this service was to meet this concern and gauge its usage.

It was never intended to take business away from the local shops – but to provide alternatives and give those who do not have their own vehicle, or do not drive in busy traffic an alternative mode of transport, plus give a social outing and a central meeting point between city and country friends.

It is also to be remembered that the Coles and Woolworths trucks, plus the plethora of courier vehicles now delivering "on line orders" to homes in Gingin make this argument somewhat out of touch – plus people are entitled to have a choice be they 28 or 88 years old.

*"A community transport service has been tried before and it has never worked – it

won't now."

Response : Until 1976 there was a twice weekly return train service between Gingin and Perth with stops at "sidings" on request, and Muchea and Midland. It was very well patronised.

Through the decades 1930's to 1960's there were various other services run by private persons – bus and taxi.

A private bus service was run briefly in the 1990s but was discontinued due to lack of passengers.

A former school bus franchisee ran a service using a school bus for community group outings.

This was very successful but limited to availability. This was occurring to circa 2010's.

*"There is currently another community bus service in the Shire (run from Woodridge). Use this service – why go to the expense of purchasing another bus ?"

Response : It is logistically not convenient to travel to Woodridge to collect the bus for a central Gingin pickup point, and with the extra mileage comes extra cost. It is believed with the growing population of the town a community bus service is viable if supported by the local residents, especially if it is not just restricted to "senior citizens". It is recognized some Gingin community groups have hired this bus for a specific one off outing.



*“Why do you have to hire the Shire’s community bus, when another local Shire runs a regular service free of charge to the passengers ?”.

Response : the charge raised by the Gingin Shire is of long standing, and it is to meet running costs such as maintenance and insurance.

*“There is a public bus service to/from Gingin already.”.

Response : This is the TransWa service and bookings are made either on line or through the CRC. However it is only a one way service running Perth / Geraldton and vice versa, and does not pass through Gingin on a daily basis.

*“There is a Community Car – why can’t that be used as a public transport service ?”

Response : The purpose of the community car is specifically for transporting residents without any other means of transport, or who are incapable of driving themselves, because of frailty or ill health to referred specialist medical appointments not available in Gingin. Passengers pay for the mileage travelled.

The above comments are a range of matters raised with the organizer before and during 2025.

The future of the community bus service as it was run in 2025 is currently undecided.

However the Organizer should not be expected to cover the shortfall in the cost of hire and fuel due to insufficient passenger numbers. The reintroduction of a community bus service was not seen as a business and required to make a profit, but it cannot be run as a benevolent gesture by one single person who has a good idea – and would like it to succeed for the benefit of many.

Where to now ? There several alternative options to providing a return community transport service from Gingin to metropolitan centres , one of which is currently being

researched.

Maybe a community group think would be a good starting point.

Contact CRC for the name of the White Knight who has battled on with her good idea for the past twelve months – and thank you Sharon, you have done a marvellous job, it has been much appreciated by those who travelled on your idea; and thank you to Colin Hadfield for his patience, skill and good humour in the driver’s seat.

Compiled by Mary Cameron

Ratepayer and Resident.

January 2026



Announcements

VALE Merle Harris 09.06.1938 - 05.12.2026

Sadly, Merle passed away 5th January 2026, aged 87. She was the loving Wife of Max (dec) and Mother to Julie and Debbie. Mother-in-law to Graham and Anthony. Proud Grandma of Matthew, Corey, Hayley, Harrison and Jackson.

The community extends its deepest sympathy to Merle's family and friends at this sad time.



Abbey, Jake and Rachael Edwards

Happy Birthday to Abbey (2 Feb), Rachael (19 Feb) and Jacob (25 Feb)!

Extra birthday cheers to Auntie Tam and Uncle Kevin too, a busy month for celebrations in the Edwards household.



VALE Norah Barrett

The community extends its deepest sympathy to the families of Norah Barrett (Ledge Point) on their recent losses. Our

thoughts are with you all at such a sad time in your lives. Resting peacefully

VALE Brian Williamson

The community wishes to express its deepest condolences to the family of Brian Williamson (Beermullah) on their recent

loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this sad time. Rest in peace.

Other Celebrations

Happy Birthday to... Ron Pollard, Tianna Van Brunschot, Erica Sandow, Tasma Rush-Harvey, Anne Martino, Jodie Hawkins, Livy Shehan, Ebony Mackey, Melanie Tromp, Kylie Russell, Craig Hyne, Peta Lousie Duff and Araluen Hagan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

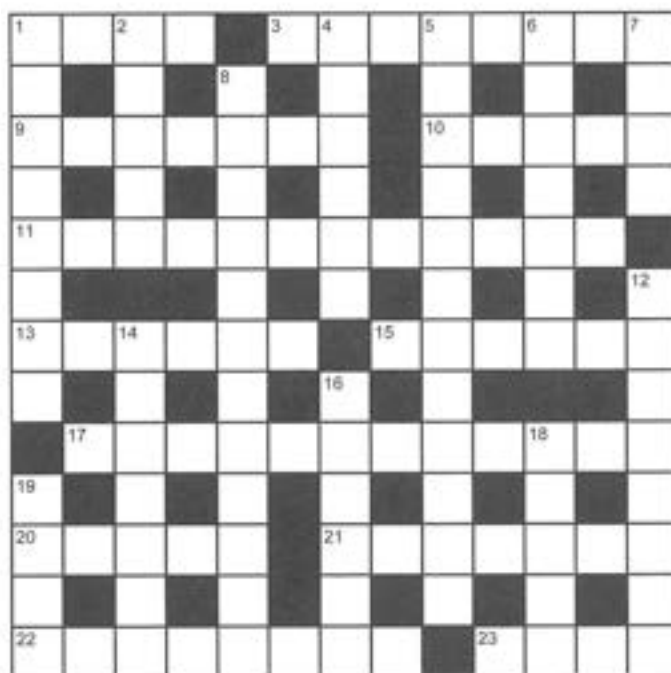
Many thanks to our community members that share their notices with us.

If you have an announcement to make, please let us know at gcn@gingin.net

BRAIN BUZZ



8			5	3		9		
9			6			8		
	3				9			
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Across

1. Ridge of rock (4)
3. Machine used to surf the internet (8)
9. Comes into contact with (7)
10. Collection of maps (5)
11. Uneasy (12)
13. Embody (6)
15. Pivot (6)
17. Hostility (12)
20. Ringing sound (5)
21. Spiny anteater (7)
22. Negative aspect (8)
23. Accidental hole that lets liquid escape (4)

Down

1. Withdraws (8)
2. Furnish or supply (5)
4. Expelled from office (6)
5. Laudatory (12)
6. Israeli city (3,4)
7. Repose (4)
8. Happiness (12)
12. Listen to again (4,4)
14. Trailer (7)
16. Concurred (6)
18. Prod with one's elbow (5)
19. Decorated a cake (4)



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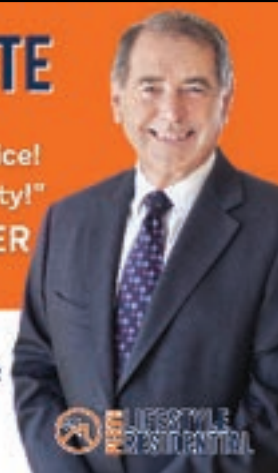
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Gifting

Centrelink allows gifts of up to \$10,000 per financial year, and no more than \$30,000 over five years, without affecting your Age Pension. Gifting above these limits may still be counted as your asset and deemed to earn income, which can reduce your payments. Understanding the rules before gifting can help protect your pension and financial security.

Tax-effective investing

Investing wisely isn't just about returns — it's also about keeping more of what you earn. Strategies like super contributions, investment in tax-efficient funds, or using offset accounts can reduce your taxable income and grow your wealth faster. Planning with tax in mind helps you make the most of your investments while staying compliant with the rules. Small changes today can lead to bigger benefits tomorrow.

Scam warning - think before you click

Scammers often send texts or emails pretending to be from the ATO, banks, or other official organisations. They may ask for personal details, passwords, or payment. Never open, never click links or reply. Official agencies will never ask for sensitive info via text. If in doubt, contact the organisation directly using a trusted number or website. Staying cautious protects your money and identity — when it comes to scams, it's always safer to stop and check.

Making your money last in retirement

In retirement, the goal is making your savings last. Using a mix of super pensions, the Age Pension, and personal savings can provide steady income. How much you draw, and from which account, affects tax, Centrelink, and long-term security. Regular reviews help keep your plan on track while balancing today's lifestyle with future financial needs.

Investing conservatively

Keeping all your money in cash can erode its value due to inflation. Conservative investing — like a mix of term deposits, high-quality bonds, and low-risk shares — can help your money grow while managing risk. The goal is to protect capital, generate income, and keep pace with rising costs, without exposing your savings to unnecessary volatility.

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