

SHIRE OF MERREDIN

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

February 2019

Burracoppin WA

AUSTRALIA DAY 2019

Australia Day for 2019 featured perfect weather for the CRC's Australia Day Breakfast and the Shire's Pool Party. Well done to the CRC and the many volunteers who put together another excellent breakfast which was well attended by community members.

For 2019 the Shire and CRC together ran the Citizen of the Year awards who's patron is His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia. Four categories were open for the public to submit nominations under in September 2018.

Nominations were received for 8 people across 2 categories which were the 'Citizen of the Year' and the 'Senior Citizen of the Year'.

The Shire would like to congratulate Michelle (Meg) Gethin for being awarded the 'Citizen of the Year' award and Esther Robertson for being awarded the 'Senior Citizen of the Year'. Both ladies are very deserving award recipients who have made huge contributions to the Merredin community. Unfortunately both were not in attendance at the breakfast so they will be presented with their awards at Council's next meeting scheduled for 19 February.

Congratulations also to the nominees for the 'Citizen of the Year' award who were Asha Carr, David Pirovich, Gemma Romeo, Marilyn Sayers, Rebecca Ryan and Tash Chaplan.

Later that morning Abin Chenginimattam participated in a private Citizenship Ceremony at the CRC to become an Australian citizen. The Shire President, Cr Ken Hooper, conducted the ceremony. The Shire and all the community extend our congratulations to Abin.

Post lunch the Pool Party got underway at the Merredin District Swimming Pool. There were plenty of activities for the children including face painting, games and for everyone there was a big 'Aussie' barbecue. Thank you to the cooks and the many other volunteers who organised this event.



#YOUR SAY MERREDIN

Council's first community forum for 2019 is coming up! It's one of two Council holds annually and it is a great opportunity for members of the public to come along and have a chat to your local Council about any issues around the Merredin Shire (not just in town but in the whole of the Shire district).

Council is looking forward to the forum and hopes that many community members will be able to attend.

19 FEB
COMMUNITY
FORUM

Join us for a chat
at the Shire of Merredin

No Agenda, no topic off limits. Come along and have a chat with your Councillors

6pm | Council Chambers
ALL WELCOME!

Questions? Contact Vanessa on 9041 1611

PUBLIC ART SURVEY RESULTS

A very big thank you to the Merredin community for participating in the Shire's Public Art Survey which was run from mid-November through to December 2018. The survey was conducted as the Shire had received feedback earlier in the year from the community that it would like Merredin to have more public art. The survey essentially produced a result which stated that 'yes, Merredin would like more public art but to find an alternative funding source as opposed to raising rates by either 1%, 2% or 5%.' A summary of the results are detailed as follows:

- ▶ 194 community members completed the survey;
- ▶ 76.3% of people think that Merredin needs more public art;
- ▶ Of the respondents: 18% were 25 and under, 39.2% were 26-45, 31.4% were 46-65 and 11.3% were 66 and over;
- ▶ 72% of respondents would like to see more murals. 57.8% want more sculpted gardens and water features and 55.9% wanted more sculptures and statues. Some respondents provided their own ideas such as indigenous works, a dedicated graffiti area, coins/discs in the footpath and humorous art amongst others.
- ▶ 67.3% of respondents felt the theme for a public art piece should be local flora, fauna and geography. 52.7% said military and 47.9% said famous/important historical figures/groups from Merredin. Other suggestions from respondents included a John Rutherford statue, farming and agriculture and aboriginal art done by the local Njaki Njaki;
- ▶ 52.7% of respondents think that Merredin should have different precincts with a different theme for each;
- ▶ 69.2% of respondents think one of the precincts should be the Great Eastern Highway. 54.2% think the east end of Barrack St and 53.3% at the Apex/Skate Park area; and
- ▶ 62.3% of respondents do not want rates to be raised to pay for the public art. 25.8% of respondents didn't mind an increase of 1%, 6.7% didn't mind a 2% increase and 5.2% didn't mind a 5% increase.

Many respondents used the 'additional comments' question to either strongly express how much they disagreed with the prospect of raising rates or to make suggestions as to where inspiration could be sourced, to expand upon the type of art they would like to see or to suggest alternative funding sources. Many respondents also added that Merredin has plenty of local talent and it would be great to ask groups like the Fine Arts Society or Merredin College high school students to do some of the artwork.

SO WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Council discussed the results of the Public Art Survey at its Briefing Session held 18 December. Given that the community does not wish to use rates to pay for any public art, there is no need for a strategy for Public Art.

However, given the high number of responses to the survey and the valuable insight provided by the community into public art in Merredin, the contents of the survey will be utilised for any upcoming art projects that the Shire looks into should funding become available or a community group/individual steps forward wishing to complete an art project. Should a lengthy amount of time elapse (eg: more than 2 years post this survey) then new feedback will be sought from the community as opinions will likely change over time.

The Shire again thanks the community for its time in completing this valuable survey. The responses received will be a valuable asset to the Shire going forwards with public art projects in Merredin.

MERREDIN YOUTH GETS CREATIVE

The Shire of Merredin is honoured to have supported Constable Brooke Watson and Merredin Police in their latest creative project – a mural in Apex Park. Constable Watson joined forces with artist, Brandon Watson, to involve local youth in painting the Drug Aware mural.

The Shire collaborated with Merredin Police to see if we could support the project and supply a public location on which the mural could be located. The Shire was more than happy to facilitate this opportunity and the shed adjacent to the Skate Park was chosen. The project was completed on Friday, 18 January.

Congratulations to all the youth who were involved. Merredin is lucky to have a team of Police that are so dedicated to working with local youth. Thanks also to Country Arts WA and Drug Aware for supporting this project which aimed to raise awareness with Merredin's youth about avoiding drug use.



The Shire is still looking for volunteers to billet university medical students coming to Merredin from 11-15 March. Contact Hannah if you can help - 9041 1611.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, 19 February 2019 at 3:00pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend. The Agenda will be available to view on Council's website on Monday, 18 February 2019



REPORT IT!

Spotted an issue around town? Report it to the Shire via the FREE Snap, Send, Solve app (compatible with iPhone and Google Play phones) and get it sorted ASAP. Just snap a photo, input the location and any details and send it through to us. We can then get right on resolving it.



WALL OF FAME

Have you ever noticed a curved brick wall when walking through Pioneer Park that has plaques on it? A closer look would reveal the title 'The Merredin & Districts Wall of Fame'. This wall in fact, is a very special wall whose purpose is for the wider community to recognise the contribution that certain individuals (both past and present) have made which has contributed to making Merredin what it is today.

The Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre can actually arrange for the order of a bronze cast plaque to be placed on the 'Wall of Fame' upon request. The eligibility of each plaque will be determined by the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre and a subcommittee of the Merredin Tourism Group. Application forms are available from the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre if a community member believes that there is someone who should be commemorated on 'Wall of Fame'.



EASTERN WHEATBELT VISITORS GUIDE

The new edition of Eastern Wheatbelt Visitors Guide, the Wheatbelt's regional holiday brochure, has arrived. Jam packed with self-drive trails to follow, granite outcrops to explore and museums to visit, it is a must have guide for the area. Pop in to the Visitor Centre and to grab a free copy.



MERREDIN REVIEW

Well done Merredin! Living in the Merredin Shire it can seem some days like Merredin is no different to any other country town. However, the following review proves otherwise. The Shire would like to congratulate the community for their friendly attitude and the variety of business owners who provide wonderful service.

This review is not the first to be received by the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre commending Merredin and it's people and hopefully it will not be the last. Visitors to town who have a great experience will likely return again or recommend Merredin to friends and family. 'Word of mouth' is often the simplest way to attract more visitors to Merredin. Well done to the community.

"I stumbled across this place as I was driving through Merredin in December last year. It was tucked away but has lots to offer and great maps. During my visit the town was having its annual Christmas street party. It was really nice to see locals supporting each other. Must say country people are very friendly. There was so much to see and do, kids enjoying themselves, food trailers, stall markets, even live music. I purchased food from Mobile Munchies on the Go bright red food trailer. It was yummy food too. Merredin is definitely a place that has a lot to offer."

- Marilena Nottle



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

2019/20 COMMUNITY FUNDING GRANTS

DOES YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP DESIRE FUNDING FOR A PROJECT?

Applications are now open for the Shire of Merredin's 2019 Community Funding Grants until 4pm, 31 March 2019

Further information and Application Forms are available from www.merredin.wa.gov.au/community-funding.aspx

Questions? Contact Kellie Bartley, DCEO
9041 1611 / dceo@merredin.wa.gov.au

#InnovatingtheWheatbelt



CHINESE NEW YEAR

Celebrating 'Year of the Pig'
with the Yaolin Kung Fu Dragon & Lion Dance Association



Sunday, 17 February 2019

Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre

4pm - FREE Lion Dance | 4.30pm - FREE Lion Dance Workshop

6:00pm - Dinner | Bookings Essential - 9041 3033



Valentine's Day

THURSDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2019
GRANDSTAND BAR & RESTAURANT

FREE Dessert for every Main Meal sold ~ A Sweet for your Sweetie

Bookings or inquiries to our friendly staff at
Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre ~ 9041 3033

Joyous. Sexy. Heartbreaking. Take a dizzying ride through love's collision course.

A Critical Stages & The Good Room Production

I Want to Know What Love is

Created by Daniel Evans, Amy Ingram, Caroline Dunphy, Kieran Swann and Lauren Clelland
Director Daniel Evans
Designer Kieran Swann
Lighting Design Jason Glenwright
Composer & Sound Designer Lawrence English

"A crowd-sourced letter of love and loss; 60 technicolour minutes that will have you cringing, crying and singing along."
THE AUSTRALIAN

"Elegant, sophisticated, heartfelt, inspiring and uplifting. You don't want to miss this."
23 ENTERTAINMENT

Age Restriction 16+ due to adult content

CUMMINS THEATRE - MERREDIN
FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2019

Tickets: www.cumminstheatre.com.au
or in person at Cummins Theatre or the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

LIBRARY LOVERS DAY

*Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
Choose a story,
This Lover's Day.*

14 February is not only Valentine's Day but also Library Lover's Day. Help the Merredin Regional Library celebrate libraries, librarians, bookworms and library lovers by participating in Merredin's 'Library Lovers Day'.

Come in and have a 'Blind Date with a Book.' Instead of finding a book to read from the shelves, have a lucky dip. You may find a brand new author or fall in love with a new genre.

Alternatively, fill in a card with your favourite book and place it in one of the provided boxes. Then take a card from the other box and try someone else's favourite book.

If you haven't been in for a while come in and see what's different. Maybe ask staff about how to access free eResources so you never have to go without as long as you are a member of the library. Remember that library membership is free for all residents of the Shire.

LIBRARY LOVERS' DAY 2019 • 14 FEBRUARY 2019

LIBRARY LOVE STORIES

alia.org.au/libraryloversday #LibraryLoversDay

There was love to be found in the library...