



ANZAC Day in Merredin

On the morning of the 25th April 2020, the community came together in front of their devices in their homes and on their driveways and tuned in to a special ANZAC Day service. This year there could be no public attendance at the Cenotaph due to the COVID-19 restrictions placed on gatherings, but despite the cold, and wet dawn here in Merredin, the Service went on with only two people.

The morning was still, the only noise to be heard the patter of raindrops as they splashed on the pavement below. At 5.58am the stream went live on the Shire of Merredin Facebook page and before long nearly 200 households were watching together online, waiting in silence and looking out at the familiar white crosses and soldier silhouettes.



The Service was situated at the Merredin Cenotaph.

The clock ticked over to 6.00am and Councillor Mal Willis took the podium. He welcomed and thanked those in attendance, and began, "We are present here at this early hour on this day to honour the memory of those gallant men and women who willingly sacrificed and risked their lives in the fight for the safety and freedom of their beloved homelands of Australia and New Zealand." **(CONT.NEXT PAGE ->)**

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Next Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 19 May, 2020 at 4:00pm. This meeting will be held as a webinar teleconference via the platform Zoom. A link to the live stream will be posted on the Shire's Facebook page and website, and members of the public are welcome to watch. Questions may be submitted prior to the meeting by emailing Melissa at ea@merredin.wa.gov.au or filling out the online Form at <https://www.merredin.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/>



The Service continued as planned, with Councillor Willis laying a wreath on behalf of the Shire of Merredin, and Cummins Theatre Manager Justin Freind also laying wreaths on behalf of Wheatbelt Vietnam Veterans, Hon. Mia Davies MLA, Njaki Njaki Aboriginal Group, St Mary's School, Merredin College, Merredin Police, Merredin Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service, and St John Ambulance.

The anthems of New Zealand and Australia then echoed loudly through the streets, as those in their driveways, at crossroads, and at home joined proudly in song. The Service concluded moments later at 6.22am, with Councillor Willis signing off by thanking everyone for staying at home and commemorating the ANZACs together. The video was then posted to Facebook and viewed more than 2,800 times by people from all over WA, even reaching Sydney!



Ambulance Volunteers Stacey & Jasmin standing in the driveway at St Johns.

Special thanks are extended to the following members of the ANZAC Day working group; Councillor Malcom Willis – Shire of Merredin, Justin Freind – Shire of Merredin, Rob Endersbee – Military Museum and Merredin Cadets, Su Riley – Churches Fraternal, and Aub Tompkin – Wheatbelt Vietnam Veterans.

The Shire of Merredin and ANZAC Day Working Group would also like to thank Jade Healey-Ratima for her beautiful renditions of both the New Zealand and Australian national anthems. It was an emotional performance that made Merredin so incredibly proud!

If you missed the Service, it is still available for viewing on the Shire of Merredin Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ShireofMerredin/videos/234267364339407/



1. NOTICE OF CHANGE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Regulation 12(2) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 the Council of the Shire of Merredin gives notice that its Ordinary Council meetings scheduled for 19 May 2020 will be held by video conference in accordance with Regulation 14D and 14E of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996.

The meeting will commence at 4.00 pm and will be broadcast live to the Shire's Facebook page.

Members of the public may submit questions to the Council by email to ea@merredin.wa.gov.au up to 2.00 pm on the day of the Council meeting.

2. RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD

The restricted burning period for the Shire of Merredin has ended, as of Thursday 30 April, 2020. Burning is now permitted without a permit.

3. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Shire of Merredin are open for restricted appointments for Department of Transport transactions from 1.15pm to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday.

These appointments will be for any dealings that **cannot** be performed online or over the phone. Only drivers licence renewals that need a photograph taken can be made by making an appointment at the Shire of Merredin.

Vehicle or drivers licence renewals that **are not** able to be paid online, and that **do not** need a Photograph taken, can be paid at the Merredin Australia Post Office.

For any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the shire on 90411 611.

4. CORELLA RELOCATION PROGRAM RETURNING

The Shire of Merredin have recommenced using a non-lethal gas cannon to scare away the Corellas that have recently returned to the Merredin townsite.

Please be advised that you may hear loud "bangs" from the gas cannon around town when there are flocks of the Corellas in the area.

DIY EASTER BUNNY COMPETITION

As part of the Easter festivities in Merredin, the Shire ran a DIY Easter Bunny Competition which finished on the 9th of April. The competition was to make an outdoor Easter Bunny decoration using materials found around home or in the back yard. Families from around the Shire eagerly used their time in isolation to create projects using materials such as tyres, cardboard, tin, paper, and even shoes, to create their competition entries! Colourful creations of all shapes and sizes lined the streets of Merredin leading into Easter, with everyone in the running to win a fantastic prize.

The winner of the competition was personally chosen by the Easter Bunny, who had received a special egg-emption to enter WA and deliver Easter eggs. The Easter Bunny hopped around Merredin searching for a winner on Saturday April 11th at night, notifying Shire President Julie Flockart who then made an announcement on Easter Sunday stating that the winner of the competition was Lisa Sandercock and family, while the runner up was Renee Pursell and family.

Congratulations to all entrants who took the time to make their very own DIY Bunny project. We can't wait to see what everyone creates next year!



REPORT IT WITH SNAP, SEND, SOLVE!

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.



COVID-19 UPDATE

WA Restrictions Easing

COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings have now been relaxed by State Government. Indoor and outdoor gatherings for up to **TEN** people are now permitted including weddings, outdoor personal training, and open house or display village inspections. Everyone should continue to practise appropriate social distancing and stay home except for:

- shopping for what you need, such as food or other necessary supplies;
- medical or health care needs, including compassionate requirements;
- exercise, including outdoor personal training without shared equipment;
- training or university study, where remote learning is unavailable;
- childcare or school;
- work;
- non-contact recreational activities such as private picnics in the park, fishing, boating, hiking and camping - all in compliance with travel restrictions and the 10-person rule;
- home opens and display village openings, with appropriate record keeping and hygiene practices in place, and in compliance with the 10-person rule.

Shire Update & Recovery

The Shire continues to monitor the Federal and State Government COVID-19 restrictions closely. In response to some of the recent easing of restrictions, we have made some changes to our services (as at 4th May 2020):

- The Merredin Library has introduced a 'call and collect' service. Please refer to the specific guidelines around this service on page 6.
- The Cummins Theatre is now livestreaming Morning Melodies fortnightly so that you can enjoy this entertainment from the comfort of your living room. Please refer to page 5 for instructions on how to access this.
- Department of Transport services are now available at the administration centre, via appointment. Please refer to page 2 on how to book an appointment.
- Camping is back on the schedule! Please don't hesitate

to call Robyn or Carina at the Visitor Centre on 9041 1666 for all your central wheatbelt camping information.

- For the time being, our public playgrounds remain shut.
- At the LEMC meeting, it was agreed to form two sub-committees— Community Support and Recovery with an economic development focus, for the remainder of the COVID-19 pandemic. These committees will comprise of representatives from various key agencies in our community and supported by Shire of Merredin Councillors and Staff.

Please continue to monitor our website or call our office to check-in on any updated changes to our services. Our friendly staff are still available over the phone to assist you with your queries or to take over the phone payments as required.

SIGN UP FOR COVID-19 SMS NOTIFICATIONS



Would you like to join our SMS notifications list to receive regular updates about COVID-19 regulations and information about the Shire's response? Simply email your phone number to media@merredin.wa.gov.au or call the Shire Administration Staff on 9041 1611.



Vulnerable Persons List

Thank you to everyone in the community who has assisted with the creation of the Vulnerable Persons List. It is vital that we continue to build up this list to ensure everyone who needs help during COVID-19 will receive it. It is important to remind the community that this list is not only for a specific group of people, such as the elderly. You can add yourself to the list if, for example, someone in your household is receiving medical treatment, or if you are predisposed to Flu/ COVID-19 and are self isolating. If you would like to be on the list, please contact Wendy on 9041 1222 or email library@merredin.wa.gov.au. There are a number of volunteers ready to help you with a range of services!

Mother's Day in Merredin

Mother's Day Gifts Now Available at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre!

Our doors may be closed, but you can still purchase your Mothers Day gifts from the Visitor Centre! Simply contact us on 9041 1666 to place your order and we will arrange collection at a time convenient for you. Payments can be made via EFTPOS over the phone ONLY. If you have any questions or queries, please email us via visitor@merredin.wa.gov.au or send us a Facebook message and we will get back to you.



CUMMINS THEATRE - FREE LIVE STREAM EVENT

Morning Melodies Concert Series

Save the dates for your diary!

Friday 8th and 22nd May - 11:00am

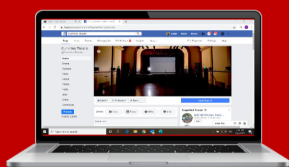
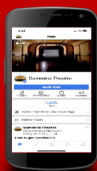
Friday 12th and 26th June - 11:00am

Friday 10th and 24th July - 11:00am

These FREE online Morning Melodies Concert will run for 30 minutes, so make a cuppa, grab a sweet treat, then sit back, relax and enjoy the music.

**Artists will be confirmed for each date.

Make sure you 'like' the Cummins Theatre Facebook page so you can watch the live concert.



Be Part of the Mother's Day Video!

Mother's Day is just around the corner... and you know what that means! It's time to showcase some of the Shire of Merredin's best mums and grandmothers!

The Shire are putting together a special Mother's Day video to share across our social media with messages from families in the community. Would you like to submit a recording for the video?

Answer the question "My favourite thing about my mum is" and submit before Friday 8th May 2020.

Video's must adhere to the following conditions:

- Filmed in landscape position
- No longer than 10 - 15 seconds
- Email to media@merredin.wa.gov.au via WeTransfer

#ShopLocal



Would you like your business details listed on the Shire of Merredin #ShopLocal website database? Simply fill in the online form on the website with your name, contact details, business operating hours, and the COVID-19 measures your business currently has in place to be listed. It is now more important than ever to Shop Local and support Merredin businesses through this incredibly difficult time.

Fill in the registration form here:

www.merredin.wa.gov.au/register-your-business-for-the-covid-19-database.aspx





CALL AND COLLECT

Library members can now contact the library to book their call and collect service where they will have the opportunity to select a mystery pack of:

- genre specific collection
- author specific collection
- mixed selection

Members can collect their selection between the hours of **10am – 12pm**, Mon, Wed, and Fri (you will be allocated a time block when you call).

All books will be quarantined once returned so selection may be limited, pending demand.

Please note - there is strictly no entry to the library. You will need to present at the front door by queuing on the crossed markings to collect your pack.

To book the service, please call Wendy at the Library on **9041 1222**

****Donated books will also be available for non-members****



NATURE STILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Merredin has an array of nature bush walks and trails to get you off the couch and into the fresh air! See below for May's featured trail.

Featured Trail: Roy Little Park

Distance: 1.4km (loop)



Roy Little Park is located adjacent to King Street (behind the Shire Administration Office) and has a large central water feature. The area is home to the local Merredin duck family and other water birds also inhabit the area. The park provides a paved walking or cycle trail, picnic tables and seats, and breathtaking views the whole family will enjoy!



NEW SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT LOCAL WHEATBELT TOURISM

#awindowinthewheatbelt aims to inspire people to take a road trip to the Wheatbelt once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and it is safe to do so.

Wheatbelt Local Tourism Groups of NEWTRAVEL, RoeTourism and the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre are asking locals during the month of May to support the regions tourism industry by putting photos taken from their windows on social media to remind everyone of what they're missing - and inspire them to travel once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Wheatbelt locals are invited to take a picture of a view from their property and post it on social media using the hashtag #awindowinthewheatbelt and their location, such as #Dowerin, #Merredin, #Kulin.

Inspired by this initiative in Scotland by VisitScotland, we hope this campaign will also offer Western Australian Wheatbelt tourism businesses and communities an outlet to showcase their own views of the Wheatbelt and inspire visitors to see them for themselves when they can in the future.



Are you Missing Story Time at the Merredin Library?

Why not try Story Box Library! This is a website where the wonderful world of Australian Children's Literature is on permanent exhibit in an online 'reading room'.

Story Box Library offers a vibrant, interactive experience for children through a diverse range of storytellers, each sharing past and present book titles.

You don't need to register, just login with your library membership barcode. If you are not already a Library member, sign up for an E-Membership today and gain access to Story Box Library and much more!

-> Sign up for E-Membership: <https://bit.ly/2UBkKle>

-> Story Box Library <https://bit.ly/2RZQijc>

