



COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

JUNE 2020

Bunnings Warehouse Donations

Last week the senior and vulnerable community members within the Shire of Merredin received a very generous donation from Bunnings Warehouse. The donation, a range of woodwork kits and craft packs were transported, packed, and delivered through a collaborative effort by Merredin Farms, Shire of Merredin, and CEACA.

Our residents have begun to receive the packs which comprised of materials and instructions to build and create their very own crafts. The projects included making windowsill planters, decorative Christmas trees, tablet holders, garden caddies, and small trucks.



Picture by Merredin CRC — The packs available for collection
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Next Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 16 June 2020 at 4:00pm. This meeting will be held at the **Shire Administration Building on the Cnr of King and Barrack Streets in the Council Chambers**. Members of the public are welcome to attend. The Agenda will be available to view on the Shire of Merredin's website on Friday, 12 June 2020. Public questions can be submitted by 2.00pm on the day of the council meeting by completing the form here: <https://www.merredin.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/>



The Shire of Merredin would like to particularly thank Bunnings and Merredin Farms and all those who have assisted in the distribution of the packs.

There are still some craft kits and wood packs available to be collected from the Merredin CRC and the Merredin Library. If you are aged over 65 or are a member of the Shire's Vulnerable List, you are eligible to receive a pack. Please call Wendy at the Library on 9041 1222 or Debbie at the CRC on 9041 1041.

Please send in any photos of your projects so we can show off your incredible works of art to Bunnings!

admin@merredin.wa.gov.au



Merredin Farms collecting the delivery from Bunnings

#ShopLocal

Are you familiar with the Business Directory listed on the Shire Website? We now have businesses listed throughout the Shire of Merredin in one easily accessible location.

Each business has their contact details listed, whether they are open or closed, their operating hours, and **physical distancing or other COVID-19 Safety plan measures**.

Do you own a business in Merredin and would like to join the Business Directory?

Join now by filling out the Registration Form here:

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



May Ordinary Council Meeting

The May Ordinary Council Meeting was held via Zoom on Tuesday, 18 May 2020 at 4.00pm. At this meeting, Council resolved the following;

1. Grant development approval for a Farm Stay located on Last Road, Nukarni;
2. Provide financial support for the following community organisations;
 - A) Avon Community Services for \$2,108,
 - B) Merredin Community Resource Centre Incorporated for \$6,308,
 - C) Merredin SES for \$4,011,
 - D) Wheatbelt Agcare Community Support Services Incorporated for \$1,000;
3. Provide support of a further \$16,573 for a second round of community submissions;
4. Adopt policy 1.19 regarding Public Question Time;
5. Return to holding subsequent Council Meetings in 2020 in person at the Council Chambers located on the Cnr of King and Barrack Street.

Eastern Wheatbelt Visitors Guide

The new edition of Eastern Wheatbelt Visitors Guide, our 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 when exploring the area. Call into the Visitor Centre to grab your FREE copy, or view the guide on our website.

Make sure you continue to share your photos on social media using the hashtag #awindowinthewheatbelt to show everyone what they are missing out on!



Celebrating the Volunteers in our Community!

National Volunteer Week was held from Monday, 18 May 2020, to Sunday, 24 May 2020. In celebration of the volunteers within the Shire of Merredin, the Shire ran a week-long social media campaign dubbed #CheerstoourVolunteers which acknowledged, inspired, and encouraged the volunteers in the community. A number of Volunteer groups participated in the campaign including Merredin CRC and committee, Merredin Playgroup, Merredin VFRS, SES, St Johns Ambulance, and the Merredin Sports Council (all pictured below). The Shire would like to thank those groups who participated, and invite other volunteer groups to join in our on-going campaign which will see a focus on a new group each fortnight. Please email media@merredin.wa.gov.au if you are interested in getting involved!



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

1. Shire Facilities Open

Shire Administration Building

The Shire Administration building is open Monday to Friday, 8.30am – 4.30pm. To ensure that we can attend to you efficiently and without delay, we recommend that you call and make an appointment for planning, building and health enquiries, and all Department of Transport Services.

Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

The Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre is open to the public for visitor servicing, travel advice, and TransWA bookings from Monday to Friday 8:30am – 12.00pm & 1.00pm – 4.00pm. All visitors are kindly asked to sanitise their hands upon entry into the building.

Merredin Library

The Merredin Library is open to the public under reduced operating hours. The reduced opening hours are as follows:

Monday – 10.00am – 2.00pm

Tuesday – 10.00am – 2.00pm

Wednesday – 1.00pm – 5.00pm

Thursday – 10.00am – 2.00pm

Friday – 10.00am – 2.00pm

Saturday – 10.00am – 12.00pm (noon)

The Call and Collect service is still available, simply contact the Library to place your book order on (08) 9041 1222.

Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre

Open to the public. For more updates regarding the Rec Centre, please contact the MRCLC by calling (08) 9041 3033.

2. Shire Facilities Closed

Cummins Theatre

Cummins Theatre remains closed to the public. Staff continue to be contactable during office hours from Monday - Friday, 9am - 3pm. You can contact the Theatre by calling 9041 3295 or emailing cumminstheatre@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Playgrounds

Apex Park playground and skatepark, MRCLC Playground, French Ave Playgrounds, and the South Ave Playground remain closed to the public until Saturday, 6 June 2020.

Have you had your 'Flu Jab'?

The Shire of Merredin would like to congratulate you all on the monumental effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 through social distancing, good hand hygiene, and getting the Flu vaccine.

As a result, WA has now recorded its lowest levels of the Flu with just 20 confirmed cases in the last month, compared to 548 cases this time last year.

It is important that we continue to protect the vulnerable people in our community during this Flu season. If you haven't already done so, we encourage all of you to visit your local GP and get your 'Flu Jab' before we head into the colder months.

A reminder that Flu vaccinations are being provided for free to primary-aged children.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health



HealthyWA
Health information for Western Australians



COVID-19 Snapshot

To get a better understanding of any COVID-19 that may be in the community, we're inviting people who have **no symptoms** of the virus from selected employment groups and aged over 18 to come forward for free, voluntary testing.

To participate in the DETECT Snapshot program, you must be a:

- healthcare worker
- WA Police staff member
- meat worker
- retail employee
- hospitality worker.

**Call 9888 2288
to book your test
in the Wheatbelt**

Testing is available from Thursday 28th May to Wednesday 10th June 2020 (inclusive) at selected locations. For further information and locations, visit www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/DETECTSnapshot

Any member of the community who has symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, or flu like symptoms including coughing, sore throat and/or difficulty breathing should be tested at a designated COVID-19 clinic. Information is available at www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Coronavirus

healthywa.wa.gov.au/DETECTSnapshot

13 COVID (13 26843)

Behind the Gavel

By Shire President Julie Flockart

Over the past few months, Council has been meeting online for briefing sessions and Local Emergency Management meetings to discuss the impact of COVID-19, restrictions, and future planning. The April and May Ordinary meetings were also held online, and for the first time ever members of the public had the opportunity to tune into a live-stream.

As COVID-19 restrictions are beginning to be eased, a semblance of normality is returning to the Shire, and councillors are now attending meetings face to face. Over the next few weeks, the focus of our meetings will be centred around strategic planning and the 2020/2021 budget.

The recent Wesfarmers announcement that the Merredin Target Country store will be closing early 2021 is disappointing to our community, especially during these unprecedented times of COVID-19. The Shire will be looking at all possible avenues and opportunities in regard to the closure of the Store and the impact this has on the community and the region.

I encourage everyone in the Community to buy local and support our businesses.

Who is Nanna Nemi?

Cummins Theatre have been running weekly "Storytime with Nanna Nemi" videos on their Facebook page every Sunday, and what a hit it has been! Who is Nanna Nemi you may ask? We caught up with Theatre Manager Justin Friend to find out more.

"Nanna Nemi's real name is Neroli Sweetman and she is my mother-in-law. Neroli has been involved in theatre from a young age and has also directed theatre for many years. A number of people will remember Neroli from when she came up and helped with Elf the Musical Jr in December 2019. As she has been involved with a number of youth productions with Bel Canto Performing Arts and other companies she has always been affectionately known to the younger cast as 'Nanna'....!"

During the Covid-19 restrictions so many children haven't been able to see their grandparents, so this was a way of bringing a 'rent-a-Nanna' into their homes. Everyone, whether old or young, remembers being read to by a grandparent so I was so glad Neroli said yes to doing them."

Bark Cards Now Available For Collection

The Shire of Merredin will be implementing the new Bark Card over the coming months. The idea behind this initiative is to alert your neighbours when their dog is barking by placing the below in their mail box. This card allows you to indicate if the dog is barking, howling, or crying, and what time of day this is occurring. These cards are now available to be collected from the Shire Administration Office or directly from the Ranger.



BARK CARD

DEAR NEIGHBOUR / DOG OWNER

This is a notification that your dog is causing concern in your neighbourhood due to:

- Barking Howling Crying

which mainly occurs:

- Night Day When no-one is home

Comment: _____

The Shire of Merredin Ranger is monitoring the issue and may be in contact to follow up. The Ranger can be contacted on 0400 240 787.



WHY DO DOGS BARK?

Protective Barking: barking in response to people or other animals encroaching on their territory.

Alarm Barking: barking in response to noises and sights.

Attention-Seeking Barking: used to gain attention or rewards, like food or playtime.

Greeting Barking: a bark to say "hello!"

Response Barking: when a dog barks excessively only when they hear another dog bark.

Frustration-Induced Barking: barking in response to being confined or being separated from other dogs or people

TIPS TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY BARKING

- Restrict the dog's vision through fencing and gates
- Increase the amount of exercise your dog is getting
- Provide adequate shelter, food, and water
- Consider training / retraining
- Seek advice from your vet



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 during the Library opening hours Monday - Saturday.

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

Please note - the Library is now open to the public. You will need to abide by the social distancing measures while inside the building.

To book the service, please call Wendy at the Library on 9041 1222 or email library@merredin.wa.gov.au

****Donated books are available for non-members****



MERREDIN REGIONAL LIBRARY

CUMMINS THEATRE - FREE LIVE STREAM EVENT

Morning Melodies Concert Series

Save the dates for your diary!

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

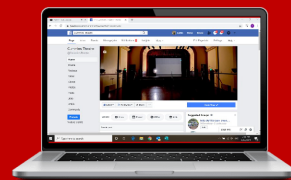
Friday 12th and 26th June - 11:00am

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.



ARTY FARTY PARTY

FRIDAY, 12TH JUNE 2020

@ CUMMINS THEATRE

Doors 6pm, Painting begins 6.30pm

\$20 PER PERSON

Join us for a fun social painting class!

Free nibbles provided, bar open.

BYO apron. Paint, brushes and canvas provided!

NO PAINTING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

Book your tickets here:
www.trybooking.com/BJVNH

****Please note there are limited spots available, so get in quickly!****



CUMMINS THEATRE



SHIRE OF MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

BUILD YOUR OWN INSECT HOTEL

Thursday 28th May - Thursday 2nd July

Every Thursday from 3:30 - 7:30pm

@ Avon Youth Centre

If you are interested in participating, contact Kelly at Avon Community Services on 0407 142 697

****Maximum 15 youth allowed to attend****

