



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

AUGUST 2020

CEACA Units opened in Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The 27 independent living unit Central East Aged Care Alliance (CEACA) development in Merredin was officially opened in a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, 24 July 2020. The ceremony was attended by a number of state politicians, and representatives from the Shire of Merredin and other Local Governments from around the Wheatbelt, as well as CEACA residents and Merredin community members.

The ceremony was opened by Shire President Julie Flockart who welcomed those in attendance before calling upon Marika Hayden to perform the Welcome to Country. Councillor Flockart then introduced the Chair of CEACA, Hon Tuck Waldron, to the podium.



Residents gathered outside of Unit 2 for the Official Ceremony

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August Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 18 August 2020 at 4:30pm. 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, 14 August 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/>



Mr Waldron spoke on behalf of CEACA CEO Nicholas Hopkin, who was unable to attend the ceremony, and acknowledged the success of the project and the quality of the unit development.



Hon Tuck Waldron, Chair of CEACA speaking at the ceremony.

Mr Waldron then welcomed the Minister for Regional Development, Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC who gave a speech and performed the cutting of the ribbon. Honoured guests, residents, and elected members gathered in front of the CEACA unit and posed for a group photo before being invited inside Unit 2 on Margaret Lane for afternoon tea.



Hon Tuck Waldron and Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC

The Merredin CEACA units were completed in 2019 as part of the CEACA Senior Housing Project which has seen the construction of 71 independent living units over 11 Wheatbelt Shires. The units are located at the old North Merredin Primary School precinct adjacent to the Merredin Regional Library.



The completion of this high-quality housing project will assist in enabling many of our towns ageing community members to remain in close proximity to local connections, services and support.



CEACA Residents pose for a photo outside of Unit 2

Community Grants—Round 2!

The Shire of Merredin is delighted to announce a second round of applications for its Community Funding Program.

In light of the disruptions caused to many in our community as a result of COVID-19, the round 2 application process is now open.

The application form and checklist are available on the Shire’s website. Special Consideration will be given to applicants that provide additional justification which addresses the project/events ability to support the resilience and/or economic development of the local community or specific hardship endured as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Applications must be received by 4.00pm on 28th August 2020.

For further information please contact Andrina Prnich, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, on (08) 9041 1611.



Night Sports Return to Merredin

The Shire of Merredin's Night Sports returned to the community on Friday, 24 July 2020, at the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre from 6pm – 9pm. More than 35 youth aged between 12 and 18 attended the first session, which is part of a six-week program being funded by the Community Crime Prevention Fund.

This program aims to engage youth with activities within the community, creating networks and positive engagement at times where youth offending is at its peak in Merredin. Night Sports ultimately acts as a prevention strategy, with the end goal being to create a friendly and inclusive community.

The Shire's Night Sports program has been co-ordinated by a Notre Dame Bachelor of Sport and Recreation Management student, who has been undertaking her practicum placement with the Shire.

The Night Sports program, which runs every Friday night, includes educational workshops and presentations, followed by a healthy dinner and then a variety of drills, skills, and game play. The first three sports included basketball, AFL and netball, with, boxing, volleyball, and soccer still to come.

The basketball session was conducted by Merredin local, Cooper Creek, who spoke to the youth about his journey to playing college basketball in America, while the AFL session was run by the Merredin Police who addressed the dangers of online predators.

The sessions concluded at 9pm with a safe bus ride home. The youth loved the workshops, dinner, game tournaments, and even received some great tips to remember for the future! We hope to see everyone back again and some new faces this Friday night for a fun night full of Volleyball



Winter Grading Program

The Shire conducts annual grading of unsealed gravel roads within the Merredin Shire with the purpose of restoring the driving surface and redistributing the gravel. This process helps eliminate pot holes and irregularities in the road. Grading is especially important to ensure the safety of motorists using the roads.

As of July 2020, just over 500kms of road grading has been completed, with 380kms of road left to be completed this year.



The Shire's crew are currently grading Springwell Valley Road.

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 to resolving it.



2020/21 Rates Notices

The 2020/21 Rates Notice, Rates Newsletter, Firebreak Notice, and Waste calendar packages have now been sent out to ratepayers within the Shire of Merredin. The rates newsletter includes information relating to your rates, fire control, roads, waste management, animals, as well as the contact information for all Councillors.

A reminder that rates are due in full by **4 September 2020**.

If you have elected to pay in instalments, the due dates are as follows:

First Instalment	4 September 2020
Second Instalment	6 November 2020
Third Instalment	15 January 2021
Fourth Instalment	19 March 2021

Should you have any questions or queries about your Rates Notice or if you are having difficulty making the payment dates, please contact the Senior Finance Officer, Leticia Richards, at the Shire Office on 9041 1611.

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

SHIRE OF MERREDIN FIREBREAK BURNING & NOTICE 2020 - 2021

RESTRICTED BURNING TIMES (PERMITS):
16 SEPTEMBER 2020 - 31 OCTOBER 2020
18 FEBRUARY 2021 - 16 MARCH 2021

PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES (NO BURNING):
1 NOVEMBER 2020 - 17 FEBRUARY 2021

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. SHOULD THIS OCCUR, IT WILL BE ADVERTISED IN THE PHOENIX AND ON THE SHIRE OF MERREDIN WEBSITE

TO REPORT A FIRE PLEASE CALL 000

Avon Youth Insect Hotels Delivered to Merredin Community Garden

On Wednesday, 8 July 2020, the youth of Merredin delivered their insect hotel sculptures to a new home at the community garden. Insect hotels are wooden structures made to provide shelter for bugs and other insects.

The sculptures were created as part of a six-week program which included workshops with professional Shackleton sculptor Steve Van den Ende. These interactive workshops included a number of activities such as sawing wood, and selecting, measuring, and cutting piping and other materials for the inside of the hotels.

The sculptures were nailed together, painted, and then decorated by community youth. In total, one large and 10 smaller insect hotels were created. Painted wooden plaques were also crafted to be displayed around the garden with the sculptures.



The insect hotels were well received by the volunteer members of the community garden, who helped the youth choose the areas to display the sculptures. The afternoon continued with a lovely afternoon tea followed by a presentation about the worm farm.

Thank you to Lotterywest, Shire of Merredin, and Avon Community Services for sponsoring this project.



2020/21 Roads Program

The Shire will continue it's planned roads program in 2020/21. The roads that will be upgraded include:

- Coronation Street
- Duff Street
- King Street
- Growden Street
- Hart Street
- Jellicoe Road
- Hay Street
- Colin Street



Shire of Merredin Adopts New Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

The Shire of Merredin has adopted the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2020 – 2025. The DAIP furthers the principles and objectives of the Western Australian Disability Services Act 1993 and is a document that outlines the Shire's commitment to addressing the issues that prevent access to services, facilities and events.

An electronic copy of the DAIP can be found on the Shire of Merredin website here: <https://bit.ly/2BXueAU>

A hard copy, in standard or large print, can be obtained at the Shire's Administration Building and is available upon request in other formats such as in audio format on a cassette or compact disc.

If you have any questions regarding the newly adopted DAIP, please contact the Shire.



Merredin Library Opening Hours

Please be advised that as of Monday, 10 August 2020, the Merredin Library has now returned to normal opening hours (Look for the "WE ARE OPEN" sign!)

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 10am—5pm

Thursday: 10am—6pm

Saturday: 10am—12pm

Sunday: CLOSED

Numbers for activities in the library are still restricted, and physical distancing rules still apply.

2020/21 Budget - Zero % Increase in the rate in the \$

On Tuesday, 28 July 2020, Council adopted the new budget for the 2020/21 financial year. The preparation for the budget was undertaken alongside the extensive engagement with the community on the strategic direction for the Shire. The budget for 2020/21 will effectively become year one of the next strategic cycle and the Council was able to reflect some of the early indications coming out of the community engagement in the programs and activities incorporated for this year.

The Council was very mindful of the stress the community is under as we work through the impacts of the COVID 19 emergency and back in April committed to a zero increase in rates for 2020/21. At the same time, local governments have been encouraged by both the State and Federal Governments to play a central role in supporting local economies and leading recovery. The Council has responded to this by identifying a number of possible projects that could be undertaken if funding became available from external sources.

As well as providing physical amenities and infrastructure these projects, if they proceed, would provide significant injections of work and money into the business community including a range of trades. The projects are only broadly defined at this time and the next steps are to work towards them being “shovel” and grant ready by undertaking the necessary planning. The broad categories are:

Roads and Bridges – an accelerated road reconstruction program;

Parks and footpaths – Redevelopment of Apex Park and the development of minor parks, upgrade of secondary playgrounds in Merredin, Burracoppin and Muntadgin, acceleration of the footpath extension program;

Merredin CBD Redevelopment – creation of a vibrant and attractive town centre that will encourage and support private sector investment and create a space for locals and visitors to enjoy;

Buildings – the Shire owns civic, community and residential properties that could be upgraded and rationalized. Improvements are required to the Administration building and the housing stock will be reviewed;

A key feature of the budget is to ensure that local businesses have the best opportunity to provide the Shire’s requirements for goods and services.

Over the coming weeks the Shire will be reporting back to the community on the results of the strategic community engagement, and preparing and publishing the Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan.

School Holidays at Cummins Theatre

In the second week of the July school holidays, Bel Canto Performing Arts had the pleasure of running a Music Theatre workshop for the children of Merredin and the surrounding areas. Six participants attended pre classes via Zoom in the weeks leading up to the actual workshop, which were followed by five straight days of classes at the Cummins Theatre, culminating in an afternoon performance showcasing their incredible creativity and talent.

The workshop consisted of the children writing their own ‘Mini Musical’ which they did with much enthusiasm. Several dance and singing classes were also included, as well as monologue coaching. It was an absolute pleasure to be able to work with these kids aged between 6 – 16 and it was so rewarding to be able to see their pride and joy performing for their family and friends.





~ MERREDIN TWILIGHT ~
INTERNATIONAL
 ★ **FOOD** ★
FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2020
 CUMMINS THEATRE
 6PM - 7.30PM

Enjoy live cooking demonstrations and a range of exotic tastes from all around the world right here in Merredin!

If you would like to volunteer to cook, please contact the Shire on (08) 9041 1611.

Supported by:

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
 INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
 GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

COLLGAR
 WINE PARK

International Food Festival Returns!

Time to get excited! The Merredin Twilight International Food Festival has been rescheduled for Friday, 11 September 2020.

The Food Festival is a great opportunity to show off your favourite recipes and test out different flavours from all around the world, while also enjoying live cooking demonstrations. Ingredients are supplied for free when you participate in the Festival, and you are required to make 100 tasting portions of your dish for the public.

If you have a flare for cooking, please download and complete the Application Form located here: <https://bit.ly/305FRis>. Once you have completed your application form, please submit it to any of the following;

- Shire Admin Building
- Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre
- Email admin@merredin.wa.gov.au

If you have any questions or queries, please call the Shire on (08) 9041 1611. We look forward to seeing you there!

Main Roads Notice

Main Roads will be undertaking a significant amount of road and bridge works on the Great Eastern Highway from August 2020 to improve road safety and freight efficiency.

On Monday, 10 August 2020, works commenced to seal the shoulders between Kellerberrin and Walgoolan. Works between Merredin and Kellerberrin will be completed in the first half of the program and between Merredin and Westonia in the second half of the program. Works are due to be completed in October.

Widening works and construction of an overtaking lane between Carrabin and Bodallin will recommence in September 2020 and are due to be completed by the end of the year. This will involve three work sites with manned traffic lights during the day.

In early 2021, the works on Bridge 0629 in Walgoolan will commence. The new bridge will be constructed away from the road and there will be little impact on the highway until the end of the works. Bridge 0630A at Moorine Rock will also be widened at the same time. Works are due to be completed by early 2022.

In early 2021, works to replace bridges in Coates Gully between Chedaring Road and Coates Road in the Shire of Northam will commence. The works are planned to be completed by June 2021.

In March 2021, intersection improvements at Malabaine Road and Hoggarth Road in the Shire of Northam are planned to commence and be completed by May 2021.

For the safety of road users and road workers, there will be lane closures and speed restrictions. Road users are urged to slow down when approaching worksites, obey all signs and signals and show courtesy to other road users. We understand this will involve delays to travel and we appreciate the patience of road users.



The Cummins Theatre is proud to present the Stage Left Theatre Troupe in a production of

3RD ROCK

FROM THE SUN

Cummins Theatre

Saturday 29th August 2020
Matinee - 2pm Evening - 7pm

TICKETS
\$20-\$25

A stage play based on the award winning TV sitcom. Four aliens take up human form and live on Earth to observe us - the slightly incompetent visitors soon fall in love with our planet and people with hilarious results!

Book Now at www.trybooking.com/BKRZU
or in person at the Cummins Theatre or
Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre



*Booking fees may apply online. This is a community theatre production



Peter Rowsthorn

Emma Kause

Frankie

Cameron McLaren

COMEDY GOLD!

EARLY BIRD TIN \$20

AGE 15+

SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2020 • CUMMINS THEATRE
Tickets \$25. BYO nibbles - Bar Open
Tickets available at www.cumminstheatre.com.au
or at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

CUMMINS THEATRE - *The Heart of the Arts in the Wheatbelt*

Morning Melodies Concert Series

Friday 21st August 2020

Morning Tea - 10:30am. Concert - 11:00am

Back popular demand...the Aardvark Jazz Band are an acoustic jazz trio. Happy foot tapping trad and New Orleans style music you won't want to miss!



Tickets are \$15 and include morning tea.
(Bookings essential for catering purposes)

BOOK NOW at www.trybooking.com/BIWCL
or in person at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

NIGHT SPORTS

AFL • SOCCER • NETBALL • VOLLEYBALL
BOXING • BASKETBALL

24 JULY - 28 AUGUST

6PM - 9PM | AGES 12 - 18

FREE EVENT. DINNER PROVIDED AND BUS
DROP OFF IN MERREDIN TOWNSITE.

For more information, contact Hannah at the Shire on 9041 1611