



Merredin Celebrates Outstanding Citizens

The Community Citizen Awards nominees and winners were announced at the Australia Day breakfast on Tuesday, 26 January 2021. All of our nominees are brilliant role models and determined to help their community and fellow Australians and make Australia a wonderful place for all.

The winners are chosen each year based on their level of engagement within our local community and any significant contributions and value they have added to our community.

The nominees for Citizen of the Year announced included;

Tyler Winter
Debbie Morris
Yvonne Gray
Mark Briggs
Julie Nicoletti

while The nominees for Senior Citizen of the Year included;

Mal Harper
Kerry Brown

and the nominees for the Active Citizenship Award included;

Merredin Community Resource Centre
A Choired Taste

The Shire of Merredin would like to congratulate the award winners, Yvonne Gray (Citizen of the Year), Mal Harper (Senior Citizen of the Year), and A Choired Taste (Active Citizenship).

Cont Page 2 ->

In This Issue

- ▶ Page 1...Citizen of the Year Awards
- ▶ Page 2...Australia Day in Merredin
- ▶ Page 3...Merredin Welcomes New Citizens
- ▶ Page 3...Cooking Volunteers Wanted
- ▶ Page 4...Works Updates
- ▶ Page 4...Gala Night 2021 Working Group
- ▶ Page 5...Perth Hills Fire
- ▶ Page 6...Merredin's New Roundabout
- ▶ Page 6...Blind Date with a Book
- ▶ Page 6...Burning Notice Reminder
- ▶ Page 7...New at the CWVC
- ▶ Page 7...Merredin Library Photograph Tree
- ▶ Page 7...Pop-up Public Piazza Survey
- ▶ Page 8...International Food Festival
- ▶ Page 8...Upcoming Theatre Events

February Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 16 February 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 February. 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/>





Front Row: Mark Dacombe, Debbie Morris, Yvonne Gray, Roy Butler (representing A Chaired Taste), and Shire President Julie Flockart.

Back Row: Kerry Brown, Tyler Winter, Romolo Patroni (representing the Merredin CRC), Julie Nicoletti, and Mal Harper.

Merredin Celebrates Australia Day

Celebrations kicked off at the Merredin Community Resource Centre for the annual Australia Day Breakfast on the morning on Tuesday, 26 January 2021. Approximately 200 community members attended from 8.00am and enjoyed a delicious bacon and egg breakfast cooked by the Merredin CRC staff and volunteers.

During the event, Merredin CRC Chairperson Romolo Patroni welcomed those in attendance and acted as MC for the morning.



Photo: Councillor Renee Manning gives a thumbs up for the delicious breakfast!

Later in the morning, Shire President Julie Flockart was welcomed to the stage to present the 2021 Community

Citizen of the Year Awards. Speaking briefly about the importance of the awards, Councillor Flockart went on to announce the nominees and winners, who were all presented with a certificate by the Shire President and Temporary Chief Executive Officer Mark Dacombe. A citizenship ceremony then followed after.

The Australia Day pool party commenced later in the day at 12:00pm at the Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool. All community members were granted free entry all day, and a free sausage sizzle for lunch. Both the kids and the adults enjoyed the giant inflatable slide and obstacle course brought down by the Merredin Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, as well as the PCYC disco provided by the Merredin Police.



Over the six hours, approximately 300 people attended the pool party, enjoying activities such as thong skimming, and coin tossing, while others enjoyed the crystal blue pool water and the big water slide. Lots of fun was had taking a snap in the Australia Day selfie screen!



Australia Day celebrations in Merredin wrapped up with a Sundowner in the Pop-Up public piazza on Barrack Street. From 6.30pm, families, friends, and individuals arrived at the event to dance in Merredin Police's Blue Light Disco, enjoy a picnic dinner from one of our local eateries or the PCYC Blue

Light Canteen fundraiser, and have a drink at the Pop-up bar courtesy of the Sports Council sponsored by Belgravia Leisure.

Activities ran late into the night, with adults and teens enjoying the bean bags, pallet furniture, and the parklets, and the kids had giant Jenga, chess, and a chalk zone to keep them occupied throughout the night. The night finished after 10.00pm, with the adults enjoying some late night dancing with the kids at the PCYC disco—the police even got involved with the Nut Bush and Macarena!

The Shire of Merredin would like to thank event sponsors the Australia Day Council, and also the Merredin Police, as well as the Merredin VFRS.



Merredin Welcomes New Citizens

The Shire of Merredin welcomed three new citizens at the Australia Day citizenship ceremony on Tuesday, 26 January 2021. This was the first citizenship ceremony since COVID-19 restrictions came into place in March 2020.

Congratulations to the following on making the pledge (in order from left to right);

Rebecca Nunesca

Jennifer Reed

Stephanie Gregory



Cooking Volunteers Wanted

Do you have a passion for cooking? Want to share some of your favourite recipes with the Merredin community? Then Merredin's Twilight International Food Festival is for you!

The festival will take place on Friday, 19 March 2021 and we are seeking people from different cultures to whip up some tasty treats from their home country.

Last year the community got to try a delicious range of recipes from French macarons, to Japanese Sushi, Chinese Tofu, American Slaw Burgers, and much more!

Ingredients are supplied for free when you participate, and you are required to make approximately 100 tasting portions of your dish.

Hard copy registration forms are available at the Shire Administration Office, Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre, and the Library. Electronic copies can be downloaded from the Shire website here: <http://bit.ly/InternationalFoodFest>

For more information, please contact Darcie at the Shire on (08) 9041 1611. Completed registration forms can be emailed through to cdo@merredin.wa.gov.au.



UPCOMING WORKS

1. Cemetery Upgrades

The Shire have been successful in securing two grants to assist with upgrades to the Merredin Cemetery. These grants include the Community Water Supply Project from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for \$85,874, and the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Federal Funding Program for \$107,000. Council contribution to this project is \$47,160.

The upgrades to the cemetery include new laneways, an upgrade to the exterior boundary fence, and a new front entrance. The Shire will also be resealing existing laneways.

The Community Water Supply grant will include bringing water to the cemetery for upkeep purposes, removing it from the local scheme water.

2. Coverguard on Dams

As part of the Community Water Supply Project, the Shire will also be applying a polymer to Dams 1 and 2 to reduce evaporation. In total there will be three applications, three weeks apart. We will be monitoring how effective the Coverguard is over the next nine weeks.



3. Upgrade and Revitalisation of Southern Entrance into Merredin

The upgrades to South Avenue are also part of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Federal Funding Program which is providing \$282,000 to this project. The upgrades will be rolled out in two stages;

Stage 1 will be completed in 2021 and includes replacing kerbing on the island, removing 140 trees, and planting 340 new trees. There will also be 440m of new footpaths.

Stage 2 includes repairing surface defects and resealing the road. Main Roads WA is responsible for 10km of carriageway, while the Shire is responsible for 4km, and this will be done at

the same time as the Main Roads works. There will also be also be rekerbing of both edges of the carriageway, with the project to be completed in the 2022 financial year.

4. Merredin Peak Toilets

Also part of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Federal Funding Program, \$20,600 has been allocated to the upgrade of the Merredin Peak toilets. These upgrades include installing a septic system, including the installation of a tank for water. The Shire will be maintaining the toilets and filling the tank when required.

5. Secondary Freight Route

The Shire have secured approximately 5 million dollars over five years through the Secondary Freight Route Network funding model for the maintenance of the Merredin—Narembeen Road. \$1.5 million of that funding is for this year, which will see 7km of the south end of the Merredin—Narembeen Road repaired to fix failures.

6. Footpath program

The 2020/21 footpath program includes works on South Avenue, Cohn Street, Hay Street, Throssell Street and Woolgar Avenue.

7. Resealing program

Included in the resealing program this year is 3km of Nukarni West, 3.1km of Nukarni East and 3km of Burracoppin South.

Gala Night Working Group—Expressions of Interest

The Shire of Merredin's annual Gala Night is one of the biggest events on Merredin's calendar, drawing locals and our surrounding wheatbelt community to celebrate the years end. It is where Merredin comes together to showcase the best of what our businesses and community have to offer as we collectively host a, once a year only, late night shopping experience with fun, food and entertainment for all the family.

Would you like to be a part of planning and delivering Merredin's Annual Christmas event to held on Thursday, 16 December 2021?

The Shire of Merredin would like to invite local stakeholders, business groups, organisations, and individuals to nominate to be involved in the Gala Night 2021 working group. If you are interested in nominating, please complete the registration form on the Shire website.

Merredin Brigade Trucks Deployed to Perth Hills Fire

Two Merredin fire brigade vehicles were deployed to the fire ground in the Perth Hills last week.

The Collgar light tanker unit was utilised by volunteers from the Merredin VFRS, while the Korbekka 2.4 brigade truck was used by members of the Korbekka bush fire brigade on Wednesday, 3 February.



Photo: John Flockart

Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer John Flockart was deployed to the fire Wednesday morning, 3 February, as part of a strike team called sector Alpha which contained Wheatbelt volunteers, with the main task of asset protection, and to watch the interface between the burnt and unburnt areas.

“It is extremely difficult conditions to fight fires in. The interface is extremely steep and often not accessible by ground crews, meaning most of the firefighting is done by aerial,” Mr Flockart said.

“The conditions become further complicated due to a strong sea breeze from the South West, and a strong land breeze from the South East. These two winds are co-lingering at the top of the escarpment and can cause the fire direction to

change.”

Logistically fires like these are difficult to manage for DFES, and there is a heavy reliance on volunteers to assist in the operation..

“They are very grateful to have support [from volunteers]. Many people gave us thumbs up and said thank you to us.”



Photo: John Flockart

The Shire of Merredin would like to acknowledge and thank those volunteers who are working long hours actively fighting the fires and defending people’s homes and properties.

Our thoughts are with everyone in the Perth Hills at this difficult time, and those who have lost their homes, and their livelihoods.

For up-to-date information regarding the Fires in the Shire’s of Mundaring, Chittering, and Northam, and the City of Swan, please visit the DFES website.



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.



Merredin Receives New Roundabout

Shire of Merredin President Julie Flockart

Early in 2020 the Shire of Merredin commissioned an independent road safety audit of some of the intersections in the Merredin Townsite. The resulting report confirmed the safety issues at the intersection of Woolgar Avenue and Throssell Road caused by the misalignment of the roads.

The report indicated that the Shire should consider reconfiguring the intersection opposite Merredin College as a roundabout. When I spoke to Merredin College Principal Leigh Nelson, he said the way the roads were set up and the way the kids exited the school was quite dangerous.

“It is terrific that we are here at the end of January and [the roundabout] is nearly completed. It is going to be a lot safer because this complicated intersection with the dual carriage way and the island in the middle of the street —I think its complex for people in a car and for adults, so for the kids to be able to navigate this is a fantastic outcome,” he said.

The roundabout that you can see being built now is the result of proactive decision making by Council. The total budget for this project is \$156,000 which has been allocated by Council through the Local Roads Community Infrastructure Federal Funding program.

The project includes the construction of the roundabout and 550m of footpaths, which will address the safety concerns through providing a safe flow of vehicle and pedestrian traffic. The asphaltting of the roundabout and the construction of the new footpaths will be incorporated in the Shire’s Asphaltting and Footpath program.

A thank you is extended to Melissa Price, MP, Member of Durack for her continuous support of regional areas. Thank you to the Merredin community for your patience during the construction of the new roundabout.



Blind Date with a Book

To celebrate Library Lovers Day, the Merredin Library will once again be running ‘Blind Date with a book’!

From 13-20 February come in and select a book from the display - don’t judge a book by its cover.

All the books have wrappings – you can’t see what you are getting. Enjoy the mystery! You may end up with a new favourite author. Just remember, you are only borrowing the book not paying for it, so if it turns out you don’t like it at least now you know and can return it.

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy at the Library on (08) 9041 1222.



BURNING NOTICE REMINDER

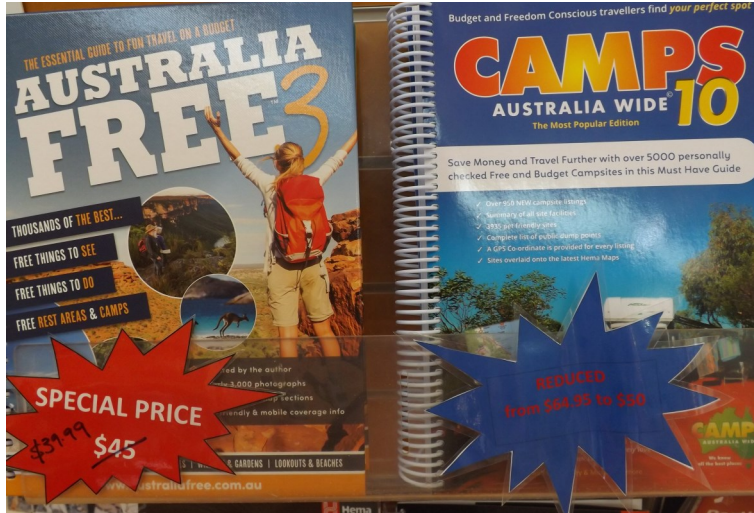
The Prohibited Burning Period will be ending on Wednesday, 17 February 2021. As such, burning will be permitted with a permit from Thursday, 18 February onwards. Applying for Burning Permits is now available on the Shire of Merredin website.

Please **note**, burning is not permitted on Sundays or public holidays.

Fire Control Officers are not obliged to issue permits and they may advise on alternatives to burning. Please remember Fire Control Officers are volunteers and their availability to issue permits may vary.

New in at the CWVC

We have a limited number of the WA and Australia Travel Guides in stock all at a reduced price—so be quick before they sell out!



The new Merredin resident packs are now available for free — call in and pick up a pack at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre to have all the information you need about Merredin.



New Tree to Showcase Photos at Merredin Library

The Merredin Library has a new 'tree' painted on the wall. This particular tree doesn't sprout leaves, but it will be showcasing some of the library's growing photograph collection.

The photographs will be changed on a monthly basis and will reflect a new theme that they could be anything from iconic buildings, events, people, even old school photos.

Maybe you can see yourself in the past? Come in and have a look at the tree!



Merredin Pop-Up Public Piazza Survey

Scan the QR code to the left to complete the survey online. There will also be hard copy forms available for collection at the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre, Library, and Shire Administration Office. We are encouraging community members to have their say before March 2021.

Hard copy forms may be dropped off to the Shire Administration Building, Library, Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre, or mailed to PO Box 42 Merredin WA 6415.

The Shire of Merredin, in partnership with RAC, are delivering this pop-up public piazza as part of RAC's Reconnect WA initiative, of which Merredin is one of eight successful local governments to receive funding.

ARTY PARTY PARTY

Adult Night

SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY
CUMMINS THEATRE
\$25 PER PERSON

FREE NIBBLES & BAR OPEN
 DOORS OPEN 6:00PM
 PAINTING STARTS 6:30PM

NO PAINTING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE! **BOOK NOW** AT trybooking.com/BOEQQ

~ MERREDIN TWILIGHT ~ INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, 19 MARCH
CUMMINS THEATRE | 6PM - 8PM

LIVE COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS
 TRY EXOTIC FOOD
 EXPERIENCE NEW CULTURES

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

THIS IS A **FREE** FAMILY EVENT HOSTED BY THE SHIRE OF MERREDIN!

For more information please contact Darcie at the Shire
 Telephone: (08) 9041 1611
cd@merredin.wa.gov.au
www.merredin.wa.gov.au
facebook.com/ShireofMerredin

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
 INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

COLLGAR
 WIND FARM

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



CUMMINS THEATRE
The Heart of the Arts in the Wheatbelt

Morning Melodies Concert Series

Friday 12th February 2021

CANCELLED

Featuring performer - Justin Freind

Doors open at 10:30am for morning tea.
 Concert starts at 11:00am - 12:00pm

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

Book at www.cumminstheatre.com.au
 or at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

*transaction fees may apply

CUMMINS THEATRE SHIRE OF MERREDIN
 HEART OF THE WHEATBELT

REGIONAL TOUR FEB 6 - MAR 27

CUMMINS THEATRE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THEATRE180 & CINEMASTAGE
 PRESENT THE AWARD-WINNING AUSTRALIAN CLASSIC

A.B. Facey's A Fortunate Life

IMMERSIVE LIVE THEATRE PERFORMANCE IN CINEMAS
 ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY JENNY DAVIS & STUART HALUSZ

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Cummins Theatre - Merredin
Saturday 20th February 2021

Doors open @ 6:30pm / Show starts @ 7:00pm / Tickets \$10 - \$15

Book online @ www.cumminstheatre.com.au
 or in person at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
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CINEMASTAGE
 IMMERSIVE STORYTELLING