



COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

MAY 2021

ANZAC Day 2021

On the morning of the 25 April 2021, the community came together at the Merredin Cenotaph for a very special ANZAC Day service. Though COVID-19 restrictions came into place in the Perth and Peel regions before the long weekend and many ANZAC Day services had to be cancelled, Merredin was unaffected by the lockdown which allowed the ANZAC working group to go ahead with the event.

At 5.45am, a proud parade procession marched its way down Barrack Street from the post office down to the Cenotaph where an array of black soldier silhouettes and white crosses stood. Veterans, community members, and other important guests gathered at this central point in front of the cenotaph waiting for the dawn service to commence at 6.00am.



Photo taken by Councillor Mal Willis.

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May Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 18 May 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, 14 May. Public questions can be submitted by 2.00pm on the day of the council meeting by completing the form here: www.merredin.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/



Cummins Theatre Manager Justin Freind set up a livestream for those in the community who were unable to attend in person. People from all over Australia, including previous Officer in Charge at Merredin Police Station, Senior Sergeant Mark Tobiassen, tuned in to the livestream, which had a total of more than 800 views, reaching as far as Sydney, Australia and Auckland, New Zealand.

Deputy Shire President Mal Willis was the speaker for the morning, and at two minutes past six he took his post at the lectern, just as he had done 12 months prior during COVID-19 lockdown. The atmosphere had a noticeably different feel – the eery silence heard last year had turned to eager foot steps and chatty voices as the crowds built up around him.

Councillor Willis welcomed the veterans and extended gratitude to them, as well as the community members and thanked everyone for their attendance, before beginning his speech.

“We gather here at this early hour on this day every year, to honour the memory of those gallant men and women who willingly sacrificed and risked their lives in the fight for safety and freedom for their beloved homelands of Australia and New Zealand.”

The service continued with Pastor Lomani Tiesa Uilou leading the Lord’s Prayer before representatives from local organisations came forward to lay wreathes including WWII Veterans, Wheatbelt Vietnam Veterans, Hon. Melissa Price, Hon. Mia Davies, Shire of Merredin, Merredin Police, Njaki Njaki, WA Country Health Service Merredin Hospital, St Johns Ambulance (Merredin Subbranch), Merredin Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, Merredin Churches Fraternal, Merredin College, St Mary’s School, Military Museum, Military Cadets and the Wheatbelt Driving School. Other members of the community also came forward to lay their own wreathes.

Councillor Willis then invited Veteran Aubrey Tompkin to the lectern to read the Ode, which was then followed by The Last Post, One Minute’s Silence, and Reveille. Local singer Jade Healy – Ratima sung both the Australian and New Zealand National Anthems before the service concluded with attendees welcomed back to Cummins Theatre for a ‘gunfire’ breakfast.

Another service was held later in the day at 11.00am at Cummins Theatre. The proceedings mimicked those of the dawn service, with the addition of guest speaker Acting Sergeant Tyler Winter from Merredin Police stepping in for Acting Inspector Heath Soutar who was absent due to the COVID-19 restrictions.



Hymns, songs and the national anthems were then performed by A Choired Taste.

The Shire would like to thank the following sponsors for their contributions towards ANZAC Day including Collgar Wind Farm, Lotterywest, and Merredin IGA.

A special thank you is extended also to the ANZAC Day working party – Aubrey Tompkin, Mal Willis, Rob Endersbee, and Su Riley, and to Brad Atkinson at Desert Eagle Helicopters for doing a fly over during the Mid-Morning service.

Public Notices

1. WASTE FACILITY HOURS

Please be advised that the Merredin Waste Facility operating hours will be changing from Tuesday, 1 June 2021.

The new hours are reflected in the new tip sign below;



MERREDIN WASTE FACILITY
CHANDLER ROAD | PH: 0499 233 044

OPENING HOURS

WEEKDAYS	7.30AM - 12.00PM 12.30PM - 3.30PM
SATURDAY / SUNDAY & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS	10.00AM - 12.00PM 12.30PM - 3.00PM

WASTE FACILITY CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY, BOXING DAY & NEW YEARS DAY

TIP PASSES MUST BE PRESENTED AT SITE OFFICE.
DISPOSAL OF WASTE BY PATRONS FROM OUTSIDE OF MERREDIN SHIRE ARE NOT PERMITTED WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL. DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. PLEASE CALL THE SHIRE ON (08) 9041 1611.

2. SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING DATE CHANGE

Pursuant to the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 the Council of the Shire of Merredin gives notice of the change of date of the September Council Meeting from 21 September to 14 September 2021.

Shire Acquisition Prize Awarded

A watercolour landscape by Jessie Spring has been awarded the Shire's long standing annual Art Acquisition Prize at the Merredin Fine Arts Society's exhibition on Saturday, 27 March 2021.

The painting, "Totadgin Rain," was selected by a panel of Shire representatives including Shire President Julie Flockart, Councillor Leah Boehme, and Temporary CEO Mark Dacombe.

Shire President Julie Flockart praised the Fine Arts Society for the quality of work on display.

"The Shire would like to first congratulate the Merredin Fine Arts Society for delivering another fantastic exhibition, and the artists for their incredible work they had on display."

"There is no doubt that the standard of entrants was very high, making the decision a challenging one.

"The winner 'Totadgin Rain' by Jessie Spring stood out as being very ecoactive of the Shire of Merredin, and we will proudly display the painting in one of the Shire Buildings for many years to come."

FROM THE ARTIST—JESSIE SPRING

"As a watercolour artist I am drawn to the atmosphere, colour, light and reflections created from a rainy day.

One rainy day I was exploring the base of a granite outcrop, located at Totadgin Conservation Park. Within the misty rain I sketched open air studies and captured photographs.

For this watercolour study I was particularly interested in capturing the reflections of light and trees, mirrored upon the muddy puddles left by the rain. The light breaking through the grey clouds created an atmospheric beauty. To create movement and interest I decided to add some small detail, suggestive of Red-Tailed Black Cockatoos circling the sky, in celebration of the rain."



Vacant Positions at the Shire of Merredin

RECORDS OFFICER

The Shire of Merredin is seeking an experienced person to join our Administration Team. The successful applicant should have well developed communications, time management, and developed numeracy and reconciliation skills.

Applications close on Sunday, 2 May 2021.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION (CASUAL POOL)

The Shire of Merredin is seeking candidates with customer service experience and who would fit in well with our multi-skilled, busy environment on a casual relief basis. Successful candidates may be called on to help in Administration, the Visitors' Centre or Cummins Theatre depending on their skills, experience, interests, and availability.

Applications for this position will remain open until a suitable pool of candidates is received.

GARDENER

The Shire of Merredin is seeking an experienced person to join our Parks and Gardens Team. The successful applicant should have well-developed gardening and landscaping skills, including pruning, fertilizing, mowing, as well as sound knowledge of horticulture, parks and gardens and maintenance techniques.

Applications close 4.00pm on Friday, 14 May 2021.

PLANT OPERATOR

The Shire of Merredin is seeking an experienced person to join our Roads and Construction Crew. The successful applicant should have a well-developed knowledge of operating loaders, backhoes, skid steers and rollers, as well as possess skills relating to roads and construction such as bitumen spraying and sealing.

Applications close 4.00pm on Friday, 14 May 2021.

How to Apply:

More information, as well as the position descriptions for each of the above jobs, are available on the Shire of Merredin website here: bit.ly/MerredinShireEmployment

Please forward your resume and covering letter for any of the above positions to careers@merredin.wa.gov.au.

The Shire of Merredin is an equal opportunity employer

New Australian Citizens Celebrated

The Shire of Merredin welcomed 13 new Australian citizens at the citizenship ceremony held on Tuesday, 20 April 2021. The ceremony was held at 6.00pm in the function room located at the Shire Administration Building, with Shire President Julie Flockart conducting the formalities and reading the ministers message.

Family and friends gathered and listened on as each citizen recited the pledge and received their certificates and citizenship packs which included an Australian flag and a koala toy! Congratulations are extended to all of our new Australian citizens.



CBD Redevelopment

Stage 1 Merredin CBD redevelopment plans are centred around the creation of a vibrant town square, including features such as a shaded events structure, artwork, and a new playground centred around early years. Please note, there are no road closures planned in the CBD redevelopment.

Digital copies of the plans are available on the Shire website here: bit.ly/MerredinCBDPlans. Alternatively, hard copies of the plans are available for viewing at the Merredin Regional Library, Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre, and the Shire Administration Building,

Feedback on the plans can be addressed to the CEO and sent to PO Box 42, Merredin, WA 6415. There is also an online form that can be completed and submitted through the Shire website here: bit.ly/CBDFeedbackForm

We also welcome feedback to Council Officers responsible for the plans via appointment. Please call the Shire on (08) 9041 1611 to arrange an appointment time.



Engineering Services

South Avenue Upgrade Project

Stage 1 of upgrade works along South Avenue have now commenced with the preliminary works of footpath construction underway as of 28 April 2021. This stage will see approximately 440m of new footpaths constructed, the removal of 140 trees, as well as the planting of 340 new trees.

The Shire's outside work crew and local contractors, along with professional horticulturalist advice, will begin the tree removal process on 17 May 2021. The trees that are due to be removed are not suitable to be close to roads, footpaths and kerbing as their roots cause an enormous amount of damage, which can be observed along South Avenue. Most of the current trees are rotting, and in some cases, are also dying.

The Shire will be planting native West Australian *Eucalyptus Victrix*, commonly known as Coolibah trees, in order to create an avenue for the southern entrance into town. The trees will be watered with 20-25L of water per week for the next 12 months to ensure continued and sustained growth.

The planting process will commence the week of 24 May 2021 and will take approximately two weeks to complete.

COOLIBAH TREE FACT FILE

The Coolibah tree is an iconic small ornamental tree, that is suitable for most soil types. This tree was selected for the following reasons;

- Top water wise rating
- Non-invasive roots
- Responds well to pruning



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.



- Typically only reach 4m high
- Leaves are green all year round
- Can tolerate periods of dryness once established

STAGE 2 UPGRADES

Stage 2 of this project will include repairing surface defects and resealing the road. The surface correction schedule is currently reliant on Main Roads WA, who are responsible for 10m of carriageway, while the Shire is responsible for 4m. These works must be completed at the same time.

There will also be rekerbing of both edges of the carriageway, with the project expected to be completed by June 2022.

FUNDING

The upgrades to South Avenue are part of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Federal Funding Program which is providing \$282,000 to this project.



Celebrating 13 Years of Community Singing

Hosting 11 Choirs 180 singers from around the State of WA

Professional Workshop Saturday 15 May 2021 8.45am
Barrack Street Performances Saturday Morning 1030 am

CUMMINS THEATRE

Saturday 15th Concert Extravaganza 6.30 pm Tickets \$15.50 / Con \$12.50
Sunday 16 May Songs of Praise Merredin 10.00 am **FREE**

Must Book for COVID19 Government Registration

Tickets though Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/BIGVP>

Find us on Facebook search @achoiredtastemerredin





A Fun Day Out for Merredin Youth

This year, Youth Week was held across Western Australia from 9 – 16 April, and in Merredin we celebrated by holding an Amazing Race!

On Friday, 16 April, 32 enthusiastic individuals gathered at the Merredin Rec Centre ready to embark on an adventure of a lifetime – the Amazing Race, Merredin style! The race was organised by the company Great Race, who travelled from Perth, bringing with them fun challenges and team building activities

The event kicked off at 12.00pm with face painting by local artist Sheree Lowe from Paint the Town, before the attendees were split into five teams.

The first check point was located on the Merredin Rec Centre oval, with activities such as twig towers, shape making, and problem solving. Other check points included Tim Tam Slams at Roy Little Park, pattern following at the Merredin Cinema, chance cards at Apex Park, and an origami challenge.



Bonus challenges were offered throughout the race, just like the reality show Amazing Race! The youth could complete conga line dancing, taking pictures of certain items, finding old buildings, and a stage performance at Cummins Theatre.

The race concluded back at the Merredin Rec Centre, where the youth were greeted with a delicious lunch in the form of party food boxes.

After lunch, WA Primary Health, Regional Men’s Health and Holyoake ran workshops and activities on and healthy relationships, the effects of smoking, and many other health topics, with some great giveaway prizes.

The day ended on a high and colourful note, with a surprise colour fight for the Youth!



The Shire would like to thank all of the sponsors who made this event possible including Lotterywest, Merredin Blue Light, Wheatbelt Aboriginal Health Service, Department of Local Government, Sports and Communities and WA Country Health Service.

What's your favourite thing about Merredin?

15th May

Celebrate with us on Barrack Street



This project was part funded by the Shire of Merredin and in collaboration with local businesses in Merredin.

Want to Spoil Mum this Mother's Day?

The central wheatbelt visitors centre has you covered with a variety of gifts that every mum will love.

Look at some of our best sellers like our sandalwood products that vary from amenity packs, relaxation kits and even some delicious sandalwood snacks.



Our fabulous resin designed serving boards that come in all different shapes and sizes.



And our beautiful jewellery range with products from our locals as well as products from Australia Gold.



CUMMINS THEATRE
The Heart of the Arts in the Wheatbelt

Morning Melodies Concert Series

Friday 28th
 May 2021

Come and join us for our Morning Melodies concert for 2021. 'A great place to catch up with old friends and even make new ones'

Featuring the **Aardvark Jazz Band**

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



MARGARET FULTON THE MUSICAL

JULY
ENTERTAINMENT



Tickets
\$20-\$35
*booking fee may apply

Adapted from the book "I Sang for my Supper" by Margaret Fulton

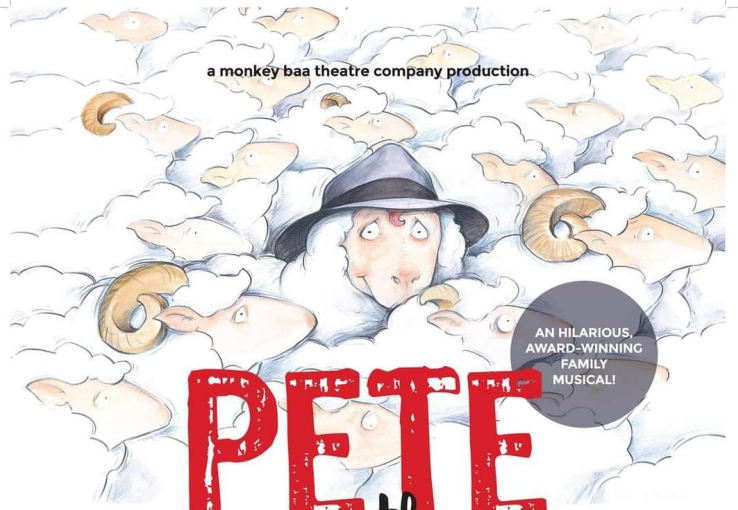
Book & Lyrics by Doug Macleod | Music by Yuri Worontschak | Directed by Aarne Neeme

Cummins Theatre - Merredin

18th May 2021 @ 7:30pm

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

a monkey baa theatre company production



AN HILARIOUS
AWARD-WINNING
FAMILY
MUSICAL!

PETE the Sheep

based on the book
by jackie french + bruce whatley

adapted for the stage by eva di cesare, sandie eldridge + tim mcgarry
Jonathan biggins, director + phil scott, composer & lyricist

Cummins Theatre
31 Bates St, Merredin WA

26th May 2021 @ 10:00am & 1:30pm

SUITABLE FOR AGES 4+ | DURATION 45MINS



www.cumminstheatre.com.au

ARTY FARTY PARTY

Family Night

FRIDAY 11TH JUNE
CUMMINS THEATRE
\$25 ADULT - \$20 CHILD

FREE NIBBLES & BAR OPEN
DOORS OPEN 5:30PM
PAINTING STARTS 6:00PM

NO PAINTING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE! BOOK NOW AT trybooking.com/BQYVD

ARTY FARTY PARTY

Adult Night

SATURDAY 12TH JUNE
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/BQYVG