



SHIRE OF  
**MERREDIN**  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

# COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

JUNE 2021

## Leading the Regions to Gold

The Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool has been officially recognised as a Gold Waterwise Aquatic Centre at the Waterwise Recognition Breakfast held at Perth Convention Centre on Wednesday, 12 May 2021.

Swimming Pool Manager, John “Simmo” Simmonds, attended the ceremony on behalf of the Shire to accept the award from the Minister for Water, Hon Dave Kelly BA MLA.

“This achievement is a reflection of not only a huge team effort from Shire staff, but also of the community for making sure taps are turned off, and reporting issues when they see them,” Simmo said.

“We have been working exceptionally hard over the last 10 years to get to this position, first becoming Waterwise and then to get gold is a huge pat on the back.



Minister for Water, Hon Dave Keely CD MLA and Pool Manager Simmo

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## June Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 15 June 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, 11 June. 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/](http://www.merredin.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/)



“A special thank you must go to Dylan Copeland our Natural Resource Management Officer for putting together our application for submission. Also to John Gearing who has assisted us throughout the years to stop the leaks, and to Dave Watson, our Retic man who is quick to fix any issues with the reticulation as soon as they pop up.”

Merredin was one of just 15 New Gold Waterwise Aquatic Centres around WA awarded with Gold Status for demonstrating best practice water management in an aquatic centre, and the only regional town to receive the recognition.



To achieve gold recognition, endorsed Waterwise Councils must have a Water Corporation approved waterwise verge policy; all aquatic centres within their local government area endorsed as Waterwise Aquatic Centres, and an established Water Management Team within the council.

The Waterwise Award will be on display in the Shire Administration Building until the pool re-opens in Summer.

Shire of Merredin CEO Mark Dacombe commented, “A fine team effort from a very dedicated group of Shire officers working with a very water conscious community in this dry zone.”



## Hit WA Breakfast Show comes to Merredin!

Hit WA’s Breakfast Show Allan and Michelle set off on their Wheatbelt Wander thanks to Act Belong Commit, on the Monday, 10 of May, Every day they held a poll for their listeners to vote on, and Merredin beat out York, 58% to 42%!

Allan and Michelle arrived in Merredin on the afternoon of 10 May and were quick to immerse themselves in the history of the town. Ross Duffield offered a guided tour of the Railway Museum, while Rob Endersbee also showed them around the Military Museum, before they headed to the historical Cummins Theatre.

The next day, Allan and Michelle broadcast their Breakfast Show live from the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre front lawn from 6am—9am. Shire President Julie Flockart spoke to the duo briefly about the Water Tower, and the wonderful things on offer in Merredin,

Thank you to the Hit WA team for coming to Merredin and we can’t wait to see them back in town again in the future!



## RANGER NOTICES

### WA Contract Ranger Services

Please be advised that the Shire of Merredin has engaged WA Contract Rangers to provide Ranger services for the Shire of Merredin. Ranger Matt and his team will be able to be contacted at all times on the Shire Ranger number, 0400 240 787.

### Dog and Cat Registrations

Under the provisions of the *Dog Act 1976*, all dogs within the Shire of Merredin over the age of three months must be registered. Registration is carried out at the Shire Administration Office during business hours and is available for 1 year, 3 year and lifetime periods, commencing on 1 November each year.

Under the provisions of the *Cat Act 2011*, all cats within the Shire of Merredin over the age of six months must be registered and microchipped. The owner of a cat that has reached six months of age must also ensure that the cat is sterilised by a veterinarian, unless the cat is exempt from sterilisation.

The Shire Rangers will be conducting inspections over the coming weeks to ensure all animals are registered. Penalties may apply for non compliance with legislation.

### Bark Cards

Bark Cards have now been in circulation within the Merredin Shire for the past 12 months. This initiative was implemented to allow individuals to alert their neighbours when their dog was barking, allowing for the owner to take action without having to involve the Ranger.

More Bark Cards have now been printed and are available for collection from the Shire Administration Office and from the Shire Ranger. If you receive a Bark Card and would like to discuss with the Shire ranger, please contact them on 0400 240 787.



#### 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

## Engineering Services

The Shire's outside crew have been busy completing a number of works projects within the Merredin townsite and surrounding areas.

On Monday, 17 May 2021, works on Stage 1 of the South Avenue upgrades commenced with the removal of 140 trees. 130 new trees are now in the process of being planted, with the first stage expected to be completed by the end of the financial year.

Cement stabilisation works have been on-going on the Merredin—Narembeen over the month of April. The works span more than 7kms, with the Shire outside crew working closely with contractors to complete the project. Cement stabilisation works have also been completed on 1.5kms of Goldfields road.



Contractors completing the Merredin—Narembeen Road



Contractors completing the Nukarni West Road

### Burning Periods 2021/22

The Restricted Burning Period will commence on **Thursday, 16 September 2021**, and will continue until **Sunday, 14 November 2021** and from **Thursday, 17 February 2022** until **Wednesday, 16 March 2020** (permits required).

The Prohibited Burning Period will commence on **Monday, 15 November 2021**, and will continue until **Thursday, 17 February 2022** (no burning).



# MERREDIN WASTE FACILITY

CHANDLER ROAD | PH: 0499 233 044

## OPENING HOURS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>WEEKDAYS</b>                                    | <b>7.30AM - 12.00PM<br/>12.30PM - 3.30PM</b>  |
| <b>SATURDAY / SUNDAY<br/>&amp; PUBLIC HOLIDAYS</b> | <b>10.00AM - 12.00PM<br/>12.30PM - 3.00PM</b> |

**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.**

### CBD Re-development

Feedback on the CBD Re-Development Plans is still open!

A reminder that digital copies of the plans are available on the Shire website here: [bit.ly/MerredinCBDPlans](http://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](http://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.

Please note, the CBD Redevelopment is subject to the approval of a Federal Grant Application due to be announced in June/July 2021. There are also FAQ's available on the Shire website that answer a number of community questions raised throughout the consultation.

### Activities in the Merredin Library

The library held 2 activities for Over 50's in May.

The Belgravia Gold Club ladies spent an interesting afternoon in the library, pitting their knowledge about Merredin and the 1970's against each other. The ladies tried to put prices to items, taken out of the Merredin Mercury just like the Price is Right.

There was also another Bingo afternoon. Once again only the ladies were brave enough to attend, winning prizes such as egg timers, beanies, magnifiers and, of course, chocolates. The ladies spent almost as much time laughing at the calls of the Librarian as they did playing Bingo.

A fun time was had by all.



## Merredin Dubbed Wildflower Friendly Town

The Shire of Merredin is one of only two Local Governments to achieve wildflower friendly status through the State Government's Wildflower Friendliness Award Scheme for 2020/21.

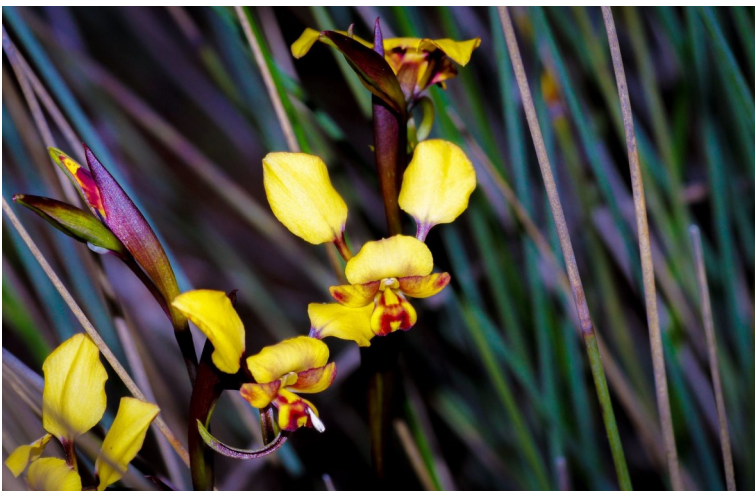
The scheme is designed to increase nature-based tourism in Western Australia by encouraging local governments to protect valuable wildflowers and native vegetation along roads and in nature reserves for the enjoyment of locals and visitors.

Tourism Officer at the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre, Carina McDonald said the wildflower season is one of the eastern Wheatbelts' most precious natural treasures attracting visitors and special interest groups to Merredin annually.

"Woodlands come alive following significant winter rain as trees and shrubs produce a spectacle of colour and scent," she said.

Over 980 species of wildflower have been recorded in the Shire of Merredin alone. Species of acacia and eucalypt make up the majority, but also included is some 47 species of orchids and numerous species of hakea, grevillea, verticordia and other varieties of heath land plants.

"The wildflower season is our busiest time of year at the centre, where we see an increase in visitors to Merredin and the Wheatbelt, particularly during the peak of the season in



*Donkey Orchid found at the Caw Street Reserve*

August and September."

"We not only see an increase in visitors to the Visitor Centre, but also email and phone enquiries as to how the season is progressing and what is blooming and where.

Key spots in Merredin to see wildflowers include, Merredin Peak, Tamma Parkland, Caw Street, Scott Road, Totadgin Conservation Park and corner of Merredin Chandler and Talgomine Reserve Roads. The visitor centre produces a wildflower guide each season detailing what is currently flowering and where. We also have a wide selection of handy books to purchase to help you identify species out in the field.



*Sun Orchid found on Merredin Peak*

"The rains we have received so far this year indicate a promising upcoming season. We look forward welcoming visitors to Merredin and assisting them in their wildflower hunt."

The Shire will receive marketing support from Tourism WA in the lead-up to the upcoming wildflower season, with promotion through the Tourism WA website, wildflower map, across social media and in email newsletter content.

For more information about Wildflowers in Merredin, head to the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre website here: [www.wheatbelttourism.com/wildflowers/](http://www.wheatbelttourism.com/wildflowers/), call (08) 9041 1666 or email [visitor@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto:visitor@merredin.wa.gov.au).

Wildflower books and pamphlets are also available be purchased at the Visitor Centre.

## 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.





## Development Services

### Stop the Mozzies in their Tracks!

Western Australia is home to more than 100 species of mosquito, of which a number are carriers of harmful diseases such as malaria, Ross River, and Zika virus, just to name a few. Due to this, it is essential to have a Mosquito Management Plan to minimise the risk to and impact on public health.

Following on from the rainfall earlier in the month, mosquito breeding activity is on the rise within the region. Recent inspections of larger water bodies have identified a number of mosquito breeding grounds, which have now been treated and will continue to be monitored.

Mosquitoes lay their eggs on the surface of water, preferring still and stagnant. While hot and humid conditions are optimal for mosquito breeding, they will also breed in dry or cool conditions. To avoid your property becoming a Mosquito breeding ground, there are a number of steps you can take;

1. Empty out or discard containers and rubbish that may hold water, remembering that as little as one teaspoon or bottle cap of water standing for only one week is enough for mosquitoes to breed
2. Clean out roof gutters to prevent water from pooling
3. Empty, clean and refill stock troughs and pet water bowls at least once a week
4. Keep swimming pools properly maintained and free of debris
5. Empty wading pools at the end of each day.
6. Stock garden ponds with fish to eat mosquito larvae
7. Cover rainwater and septic tank openings, wells or other large water containers with mosquito-proof mesh.
8. Keep edges of dams and ponds clear of vegetation.

Mosquitoes are most active early in the morning and in the evenings. Precautions such as mosquito repellents and nets can be used to reduce mosquito bites and removing potential breeding areas will help to minimise the amount of mosquitoes on your property

If mosquito breeding continues to be a persistent problem in your household, you can contact the Shire's Environmental Health Officer for further advice.



## Community Services

### Dancing the Night Away at the Blue Light Disco

On Saturday, 22 May, a line queued up outside the Cummins Theatre, full of eager kids and parents for the long awaited Blue Light Disco. Doors opened at 5pm and over 150 kids flocked into the theatre to give a gold coin donation, receive their wrist band, and then enter a room of pumping disco music ready to dance the night away. Parents were invited to stay for some light refreshments in the Tivoli room while the kids had a ball on the dancefloor.

During the disco, those who attended had a range of food available to them; pizza, sausage rolls, party pies, fruit platters and fairy bread. There was also a canteen menu for kids to purchase some sweet treats. As the night continued there were many games played which included limbo, musical bobs, and musical statues. Prizes were given out to winners and participants of the activities, alongside some of the best dancers throughout the night.

Many thanks go out to the Blue Light Unit, Merredin Police, Two Dogs Home hardware and Avon Community Services for the organisations and smooth running of the event.





Government of Western Australia  
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



### Advertised Vacancy

Volunteering Opportunity: Local Manager Merredin State Emergency Service Unit

Do you love fostering great working relationships?  
Can you work with people from diverse backgrounds helping the community?



DFES has an exciting opportunity for the voluntary position of Local Manager with the Merredin State Emergency Service (SES). Continuing the great work of the current Local Manager, your primary role is to lead and manage a volunteer-based emergency service in the preparation, prevention, response and recovery to natural hazards emergencies within Western Australia.

#### What you need to bring to this role (Selection Criteria)

Simply put, to be successful in this role you will need to be a people person. A natural leader, you will have good communication, interpersonal, conflict management and facilitation skills.

You will also have the ability to work collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders including local government, police and others, and reside in the Merredin area.

#### How to Apply

To apply for this position, you will need to submit your resume and a cover letter introducing yourself and detailing how your skills will make you successful in this role.

#### Additional Information:

If you would like to discuss the role further we encourage you to contact District Officer Matt Reimer by telephone on 0428 100 457 or email [matthew.reimer@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:matthew.reimer@dfes.wa.gov.au)

Applications should be marked "Confidential - Merredin Local Manager Opportunity" and emailed to: [matthew.reimer@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:matthew.reimer@dfes.wa.gov.au) by 4.00pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.

**GATEWAY MERREDIN**  
Festival

**SAVE — the — DATE**

**GATEWAY MERREDIN**  
Festival

Icon: Helicopter, Train, Windmill

**TROOPS TRAINS TREASURES**

**24 - 26**  
**SEPTEMBER**  
2021

**CONCERTS • TOURS • MARKETS**  
**OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT**  
**ILLUMINATION ART • WORKSHOPS**



SHIRE OF  
**MERREDIN**  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT



Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries  
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

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### Coffee with a Councillor

Some of the Shire's Councillors and the CEO will be at Dimensions Cafe - Friday 4 June 2021.

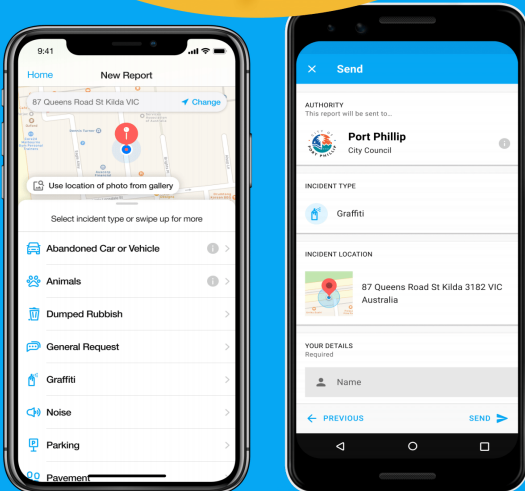
If you have a Shire related matter you'd like to have a chat about over a coffee, please stop by between 10 - 11:15 am

The shire will be holding more of these sessions in the future, so keep an eye out for further dates.



# Reporting local issues is now a

# SNAP



Snap  
Send  
Solve

For the benefit of  
communities, everywhere



# the LITTLE PRINCE

BASED ON THE CLASSIC BOOK  
BY ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY



3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2021 - 11:00AM & 1:30PM

BOOK NOW AT [WWW.CUMMINSTHEATRE.COM.AU](http://WWW.CUMMINSTHEATRE.COM.AU)

OR IN PERSON AT THE CENTRAL WHEATBELT VISITORS CENTRE



CUMMINS THEATRE



# 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](http://trybooking.com/BQYVD)



CUMMINS THEATRE



SHIRE OF MERREDIN  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

# 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](http://trybooking.com/BQYVG)



CUMMINS THEATRE



# BLUEY'S BIG PLAY

**FOR REAL LIFE!**

**THE STAGE SHOW**

**JUNE 19 - 20**  
**CUMMINS THEATRE, MERREDIN**  
**[WWW.CUMMINSTHEATRE.COM.AU](http://WWW.CUMMINSTHEATRE.COM.AU)**

presented by BBC Studios and Andrew Kay in association with GPAC's Out of The Box and Windmill Theatre Co

[BLUEYLIVE.COM](http://BLUEYLIVE.COM)  
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BBC hvk

OUT OF THE BOX

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As seen on **KIDS**