



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 2021

Long Tan Day 2021

August 18, 2021, marked 55 years since the Battle of Long Tan. On this day in 1966, in the rubber plantations near the village of Long Tan, soldiers fought a fierce battle. In a terrible 3-hour battle that began at 4pm, many soldiers fought in wet and muddy conditions during a heavy tropical downpour.

The battle of Long Tan was a significant moment in Australia's War in Vietnam. We continue to remember all Veterans, from all conflicts and honour them for their service. We pause and reflect on the bravery, teamwork, and endurance that all Australians displayed throughout the war. Vietnam Veterans Day, also known as Long Tan Day, is a day where communities come together and recognise all who served in Vietnam.

We honour and remember all Veterans who lost lives during battle, returned home wounded, ill or injured, lost their lives in the years since they returned home and those who still carry the physical and emotional scars from their service. We also pause to reflect on the impact of service on our veterans' families.



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September Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 14 September 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, 10 September. 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/



On August 18 at 4pm, Veterans and 44 community members gathered at the Reflection Pond for a short but exceptional service as a thank you to our Veterans. The service included a warm and wholehearted introduction by Mal Willis, honouring the Veterans and Battle of Long Tan. Wreath laying was completed by the Vietnam Veterans, Shire of Merredin, Merredin Churches Fraternal and Merredin College, followed by the Ode, presented by Aubrey Tompkin with the Australian and New Zealand anthem concluding the service. In tradition, port and chocolate were shared by those in attendance prior to the conclusion of the service.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the commemoration and contributed wreaths. The Shire would also like to give special mention to the working group members for this event, Aubrey Tompkin, Mal Willis, Rob Endersbee and Su Riley. All their efforts are greatly appreciated and recognised.



**FIRE CONTROL OFFICER APPOINTMENT
BUSH FIRES ACT 1954
Shire of Merredin
APPOINTMENTS**

Notice is hereby given that the following person has been appointed to the designated position for the Shire of Merredin in accordance with section 38(1) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

Bush Fire Control Officer – Ms Shreee Lowe

By order of the Council, MARK DACOMBE, Temporary Chief Executive Officer

2021-22 Rates Notices

The 2021-22 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 **15 October 2021**.

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

First Instalment	15 October 2021
Second Instalment	17 December 2021
Third Instalment	18 February 2022
Fourth Instalment	22 April 2022

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



Community Citizen Awards 2022

The Shire of Merredin are calling out for nominations for the 2022 Community Citizen of the Year Awards.

Outstanding contribution and community service includes areas such as; education, health, fund-raising, charitable and voluntary services, business, sport, arts, the environment, social inclusion or any other area that contributes to the advancement and wellbeing of a community.

There are four award categories that you may nominate a community member or group / event which include;

- **Citizen of the Year**- a person you believe has delivered outstanding service to his or her community
- **Youth Citizen of the Year** (under 25 as of 26 January 2022) - a young person you believe has delivered outstanding service to his or her community
- **Senior Citizen of the Year** (over 65 as of 26 January 2022) - an older person you believe has delivered outstanding service to his or her community
- **Active Citizenship** (group or event) - a group doing outstanding work or for an event staged in the community during the past year.

Nominations close on Sunday, 31 October 2021 with the winners announced at the 2022 Australia Day Breakfast. Hard copy nomination forms can be picked up from the following locations;

- Shire Administration Office
- Merredin Library
- Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre

Completed forms must be returned to the Shire Administration Office before the closing date.

To find out more or to nominate online, simply visit the following website: bit.ly/MerredinAwards



Giant Games for the Library

Library staff have been busy creating a giant Scrabble set and a giant Boggle set for play within the library.

The Scrabble set is magnetic and has letter tiles twice the normal size. The Boggle set has dice more than twice the normal size.

The sets are temporary to test interest in the games... Come in and have a go and let us know what you think!



SEPT - OCT SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN!

28 SEPT

SHADOW PAINTING

Paint a scene with black foreground and coloured background.



30 SEPT

DREAM CATCHERS

Make colourful fun dream catchers to ensure peaceful dreams.



5 OCT

CLAY FUN

Make multi-coloured clay creatures or fun clay animals.



7 OCT

X-MAS DECORATIONS

Get a head start for x-mas by making cards and decorations!



Parental supervision required for all children under 10

Bookings essential, limit of 40 participants, no walk-ins
Sessions will run from 10.30am - 11.30am - Come dressed for fun!

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE \$2 PER PARTICIPANT

BOOK YOUR PLACE BY CALLING THE LIBRARY ON (08) 9041 1222

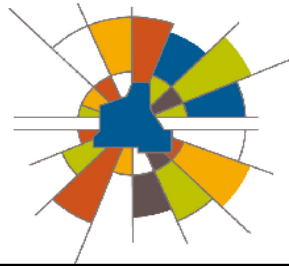
For more information please contact the Library

Telephone: (08) 9041 1222
library@merredin.wa.gov.au
www.merredin.wa.gov.au
facebook.com/ShireofMerredin



MERREDIN REGIONAL LIBRARY





SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDINARY ELECTION
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
Shire of Merredin**

An Ordinary Postal Election will be held on Saturday, 16 October 2021 in the Shire of Merredin to fill the following vacancies:

District

4 Councillors

4 year terms

Nominations Open on Thursday, 2 September 2021

Nominations Close at 4:00 PM Thursday, 9 September 2021

Nominations must be lodged with the Returning Officer:

- at any time during the above period by arrangement; or
- between 2:00pm and 4:00 PM Thursday, 9 September 2021 (close of nominations) at the Shire of Merredin, Cnr King & Barrack Streets, MERREDIN.

Nominations Requirements

Candidates are required to lodge with the Returning Officer:

- a completed nomination in the prescribed form, signed and witnessed. This form is available from the Returning Officer or the Western Australian Electoral Commission(www.elections.wa.gov.au);
- a single A4 page profile of not more than 800 characters (including spaces) containing information about the candidate;
- a nomination deposit of \$80 (cash, bank cheque or postal order);
- (optional) a recent passport-sized photograph of the candidate's head, or head and shoulders; and
- every candidate must have completed the online course titled *Induction for prospective candidates*, available at www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au, prior to nominating.

The Commission has developed an online system called Nomination Builder to assist candidates to complete their nomination form which includes the candidate profile. This is the preferred method of completing the nomination form and profile for elections conducted by the Commission. Candidates complete their nomination details and profile, print the completed form which has a reference number allocated and lodge it with the Returning Officer. The nomination builder can be accessed via www.elections.wa.gov.au.

Where an agent lodges a nomination on a candidate's behalf, it must be in the prescribed form with a written authorisation signed by the candidate.

The documents may be hand delivered or posted to the Returning Officer and must be received by the close of nominations.

Information

Full details about eligibility and nomination procedures for prospective candidates can be obtained by contacting the Returning Officer, **Wendy PORTER** on 0437 857 408 or the Western Australian Electoral Commission on 13 63 06.

ROBERT KENNEDY
ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING – BFAC PRE-SEASON MEETING

The annual BFAC Pre-Season meeting is due to be held on Thursday, 14 October 2021 from 4pm – 6pm, Room 9 in the old North Merredin Primary School precinct.

M Dacombe
Temporary Chief Executive Officer

SNAP TEMBER



A Chance to Win this September!

We're partnering with Snap Send Solve to bring you SNAPtember! Win \$500 each week of September by reporting the issue of the week with the Snap Send Solve app.

Each week will consist of a different theme;

Week 1: Dumped Rubbish

Week 2: Graffiti

Week 3: Overgrown Vegetation

Week 4: Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

Every time you report the issue of the week, you will go in the running to win \$500.

Find out more -> bit.ly/SNAPtemberWebsite

What is Snap Send Solve?

Snap Send Solve is a free app that allows you to quickly and easily report issues and provide feedback to local council and Shire. It only takes 30 seconds and a push of a button!

Report issues with roads and signage, dumped rubbish, abandoned trolleys, noise, parking and cards, power, trees or water.

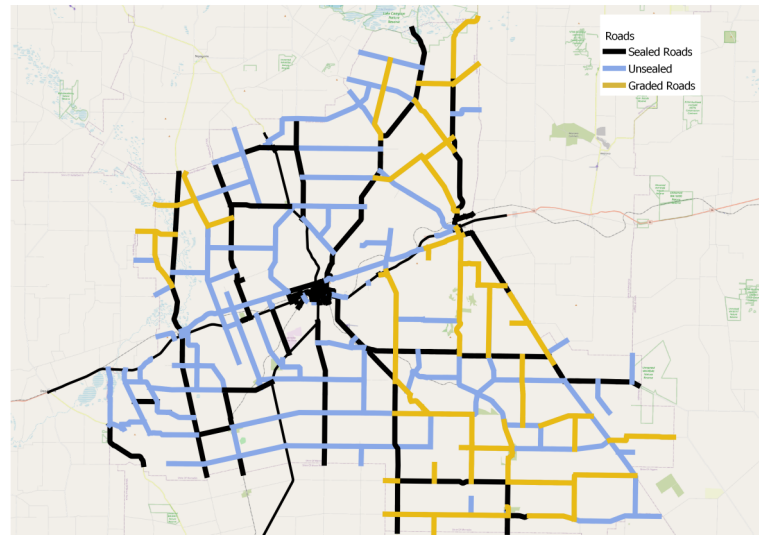
Download the app on the Google and Apple stores today!

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. Grading is especially important to ensure the safety of motorists using the roads.

As of August 2021, we have 4 graders currently in operation around the Shire. Approximately 310km of roads have been graded as part of the winter grading, with a further 570km left to be completed this year.

Below indicates a map of the roads that have been graded so far (in yellow), and also shows the roads that will be included in the grading program (blue).



Roll Up for WA!

It's now more important than ever to roll up your sleeve and get vaccinated against COVID-19. All Western Australians aged 16 years and over are now eligible for the free COVID-19 vaccinations, with over 12 becoming eligible as of 13 September 2021.

Bookings can be made at Metropolitan or Regional vaccination clinics, participating GPs or GP respiratory clinics, pharmacies and Aboriginal Medical Services.

Bookings for vaccinations can be made by calling 13 COVID (13 268 43) or register online via the below link -> vaccinatewa.health.wa.gov.au/s/login/SelfRegister

Currently, vaccinations are being offered at both Merredin at Karis Medical Centre and Merredin Medical Centre. Please contact the GPs directly for more information or to book an appointment.

For more information, head to healthywa.wa.gov.au.

Tree Planting Day

On Thursday, 5 August, three Shire staff along with five community volunteers completed a tree planting day along the Burracoppin—Campion Road in the Shire of Merredin.

This tree planting day was held as part of the Shire's Recovering Roadside Conservation Values Pilot Project, which is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.

The group met at Apex Park at 9am for morning tea and a coffee before setting off on a 45-minute bus ride to the outskirts of the Shire.

Here, volunteers and staff were Welcomed to Country by Njaki Njaki elder Mick Hayden, before the Shire's Natural Resource Management Officer, Dylan Copeland, briefed the group about the tree planters they would be using and where they would be planting.

Approximately 1000 trees were planted along the roadside, including salmon gum, tan wattle, jam trees, native apricots, boree and salt bush.

Burracoppin—Campion Road was selected as the location of this project because of its low amount of vegetation, its proximity to existing remnants of vegetation, and the relatively low use of the road by traffic meant it was a safe place for volunteers to plant.

Mr Copeland said, "Roadside vegetation faces a lot of threats, which is a shame because it is the most accessible way to view the wide range of species that exist in the Shire of Merredin.

"In a highly cleared and fragmented landscape, roadsides are important areas of biodiversity that can perform important ecological functions."

The Shire would like to thank the volunteers on the day, Roy Butler, Mal Harper, Kerry Brown, Mick Hayden, and Glen Buder for their contributions to the project.



SKATE SCULPTURE
TIM YUEN

**TUESDAY
7 SEPTEMBER
APEX PARK
3.30PM**

**BRING YOUR SKATEBOARDS & SCOOTERS!
LET TIM KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE
IN OUR UPGRADED SKATE PARK!**



WHO ARE SKATE SCULPTURE?

Skate Sculpture are a WA owned and operated specialty skatepark design and construction company, who have been engaged to assist with the Apex Park upgrade. Founded by Perth skateboarders Tim Yuen and Mat de Koning in 2010, Skate Sculpture is closely connected with the WA skateboarding community and active in advocacy of skateboarding to local councils throughout Australia!

Calling all Skating Superstars!

Do your kids love riding skateboards and scooters? The we want to hear from them! Bring them down to meet with the Tim Yuen from Skate Sculpture who will be putting together the concepts for the Apex Park Skate Park revamp.

We want to hear their great ideas about what they would like to see in their skate park!



FIRE SAFETY

Smoke Alarm Maintenance

Last month we discussed simple steps to keep yourself safe in the event of a house fire – including smoke alarms.

Only working smoke alarms can provide the critical early warning needed to save lives, so be sure to make these easy maintenance tasks part of your regular routine.

How do I test and clean my smoke alarm?

Monthly: Test by holding down the test button until you hear a loud alert tone, then release. Use a broom handle if you cannot reach but be careful you do not damage the smoke alarm.

Yearly: Vacuum around your smoke alarm vents with a soft brush attachment. This will remove a build-up of dust and cobwebs.

Yearly: Use a surface insect spray around the smoke alarm to prevent insects nesting inside. Do not spray inside the smoke alarm.

Yearly: Replace your 9 volt battery each year on 1 April. All smoke alarms – including mains powered alarms – have batteries. If your alarm has a 9 volt user-replaceable battery, you will need to replace the battery each year.



VISITOR CENTRE

Gift Ideas for Dad

We have a wide selection of gift ideas for Dad, this father's day. From history books, handcrafted pens to yummy nougat and wooden platters we've got you covered. Pop in to browse our range!

Wildflower Season—Weekend Opening Hours

After a wonderful wet winter, this wildflower season is shaping up to be the best in years with an abundance of wildflowers. The visitor centre is now open on weekends from 9am - 1pm to serve visitors to Merredin on their wildflower hunt. I'm sure you will have seen an increase in caravans in town, if you spot visitor, say hi and welcome them to Merredin.



SEPTEMBER LONG WEEKEND FRI • SAT • SUN



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



Hutton & Northey Sales

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gatewaymerredin.com.au

CUMMINS THEATRE

An epic story of displacement, loss and adapting to different worlds.

7th September 2021

Cummins Theatre, Merredin

Ages 10+

by Duncan Graham

Amphibian

A Windmill Theatre Production
presented in association with Cummins Theatre

lotterywest supported

Tickets available at CUMMINSTHEATRE.COM.AU or in person at the CENTRAL WHEATBELT VISITORS CENTRE

WINDMILL THEATRECO

Department of Regional Development, Sport and Cultural Industries

SOUTH

Australian Council on the Arts

18+

DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM

R RATED COMEDY
NEARLY POLITICALLY CORRECT

SATURDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

Doors open 8:00pm - \$30pp *Booking fee may apply

The Tivoli Room

Cummins Theatre - Merredin

BOOK NOW - www.cumminstheatre.com.au

FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT

WAYJO will take you back to an age when big bands were top of the pops.

Celebrating the Creats

wayjo

24th SEPT 2021
7:30pm

CUMMINS THEATRE
31 BATES ST - MERREDIN

GATEWAYMERREDIN.COM.AU

GATEWAY MERREDIN

healthway

The WAYJO Education Program is supported by Healthway promoting the Act Belong Commit message

Department of Regional Development, Sport and Cultural Industries

lotterywest

ST JOHN OF GOD Health-Care

MinterEllison

MINERDIO FOUNDATION

THE AUSTRALIAN

AC/DC

EXPERIENCE

25TH SEPT 2021

CUMMINS THEATRE

The Australian AC/DC Experience is heading to the Cummins Theatre with their larger-than-life show as part of the Gateway Merredin Festival

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WWW.GATEWAYMERREDIN.COM.AU

GATEWAY MERREDIN