



SHIRE OF  
**MERREDIN**  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

# COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

OCTOBER 2021

## Inaugural Gateway Merredin Draws Travellers from all over WA!

Hundreds of travellers from all around the state set their maps destination to Merredin for the inaugural Gateway Merredin Festival, held during the September long weekend from September 24 – 26. Campervans by the dozens rolled into town Friday morning ready for a weekend of festivities, while four-wheel drives lined the streets, their owners making a quick stop at the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre before heading to their accommodation.

The event kicked off on Friday with the community sausage sizzle which was generously cooked by Merredin's Men Shed and served by local Volunteers. Many people took the opportunity to grab a feed and chat with mates down in the Bates Street Basecamp across from Cummins Theatre. An hour later, VIPs, sponsors, and special guests joined the celebrations for the official opening on the steps of the Tivoli. Triple M Breakfast announcer Terry Siva



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## October Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 19 October 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, 15 October. 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/)



hosted the evening, with Shire President Julie Flockart opening the formalities and Hon. Darren West MLC speaking on behalf of the Premier and State Government. Guests were then Welcomed to Country by Mick Hayden, accompanied with a didgeridoo performance by Michael Hayden.

Later that evening, the sensational illumination art was premiered on the TJ Middleton Building in front of a huge crowd! There were several loud 'oos' and 'wows' echoing the illumination lounge, with people of all ages mesmerized by the moving pictures and creative storytelling created by illuminart. Straight after, more than 160 people ushered into the historical Cummins Theatre for a powerful performance by the Western Australian Youth Jazz Orchestra (WAYJO).



Festival goers were up bright and early on Saturday to hop on the Collgar Community Bus, ready for the Buy from the Bush Market and Kids Zone activities. Crowds rolled through the event zone continuously throughout the day, with others spreading themselves between the artist workshop, bus tours, helicopter flights, the Philippa Rogers talk, public art mural and art trail, and at the Military and Railway Museums.

At 2pm 'Swingin' at the Savoy entertained afternoon crowds with their glamorous and entertaining rendition of music from the Roaring 20's in front of the Cummins Theatre, before the Hutton and Northey Game Day tent was opened up for AFL fans to grab a seat in front of the big screen.

At 4pm food trucks served up a delicious array of foods at the Merredin Freightlines Street Eats, with burgers, fish and chips, different flavoured spuds, curries, and ice cream and slushies for dessert. After the excitement of the AFL Grand Final, Cummins Theatre opened its doors for a rock'n'roll performance by The Australia AC/DC Experience. Attendees danced the night away to the classic hits including 'TNT',

'Thunderstruck', 'It's a Long Way to the Top', and 'You Shook Me All Night Long.'

Sunday morning began with a Church service hosted by Merredin Churches Fraternal before a parade of army and vintage vehicles took place down the main street of Merredin. More than 20 vehicles joined the succession lead by the Merredin Police that eventually finished at the carpark across from Merredin Community Resource Centre (CRC). Here, the crowds were able to get up close and personal with the military vehicles (including a tank!), with kids taking the opportunity to jump in the vehicles and pose for photos. Across the road, the Merredin CRC hosted a morning tea, using the festival theme; Troops, Trains and Treasures, as inspiration behind the dishes. Attendees were able to make a hot cuppa, grab a plate of food, and relax on the grass by the roaring fire pits, before heading over to the Merredin Fine Arts Gallery to view the poster trail.

Events on Sunday continued with the Water Colour Workshop run by local artist Jessie Spring, a walking tour of the CBD with the Merredin Historical Society, and a war themed movie night at Cummins Theatre hosted by the Merredin Military Museum.

The Shire of Merredin would like to express their gratitude to those who attended the Gateway Merredin festival, as well as the staff, community groups, and volunteers who gave their time over the weekend to ensure a smooth and successful event. Thank you also to the festival funding bodies, Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and Lotterywest, for their support of the inaugural regional festival, as well as our Principal Sponsors Hutton and Northey Sales, Merredin Freightlines, and Collgar Wind Farm.

To the major sponsors, Great Southern Fuel Suppliers, Merredin Energy, MDN Electrical Contractors, Liberty Rural, McKenzie Family Funerals and Monumental Works, Eastway, and Risen Energy, we thank you also for your support during the inaugural year.

### Help us Improve for 2022!

We'd love to hear your feedback about the inaugural Gateway Merredin Festival! Those that complete the survey and provide a valid email address will also go in the draw to win a teeth whitening kit from AIM Dental, valued at \$180!

Complete the survey today by heading to the following web address — [bit.ly/GatewayMerredinSurvey](https://bit.ly/GatewayMerredinSurvey)

## It's not too late to Nominate!

The Shire of Merredin are calling out to the community for nominations for the 2022 Community Citizen of the Year Awards! Nominations may be submitted for outstanding contribution and community services in areas including;

- ▶ Education
- ▶ Health
- ▶ Fund-Raising
- ▶ Charitable and Voluntary Services
- ▶ Business
- ▶ Sport
- ▶ Arts
- ▶ Environment
- ▶ Social Inclusion
- ▶ Any other area that contributes to the advancement and wellbeing of the community.

There are four award categories including Citizen of the Year, Youth Citizen of the Year (Under 25), Senior Citizen of the Year (Over 65) and Active Citizenship for a group or event.

For more information or to submit a nomination, please head to [bit.ly/MerredinAwards](https://bit.ly/MerredinAwards). Nomination forms can also be printed and submitted at the Shire Administration Office.

Nominations close on **Sunday, 31 October 2021**, with the winners to be announced at the 2022 Australia Day breakfast.

## Local Government Elections

The Shire of Merredin is holding an election by postal vote on Saturday, 16 October 2021 to fill 4 Councillor vacancies.

Postal voting election packages have now been sent out to all electors. The postal voting package contains;

- ▶ Voting instructions
- ▶ Candidate profiles
- ▶ A ballot paper
- ▶ A ballot paper envelope
- ▶ An electors certificate
- ▶ A pre-paid envelope for return of the papers to the returning officer

Replacement packages can be obtained from the Shire of Merredin, Cnr King and Barrack Streets, during business hours prior to election day, or between 8am to 6pm on election day, Saturday 16 October 2021.

You may also choose to deliver your election package to an electoral officer at the Shire of Merredin during business hours prior to election day.

The count of votes will commence at 6.00pm at the Shire of Merredin Council Chambers, on election day.

For more information, please head to [bit.ly/MerredinElection](https://bit.ly/MerredinElection)



Local Government Elections  
16 October 2021



Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries



## Local VFRS Lieutenant makes WA Headlines

Merredin volunteer firefighter Sheree Lowe has been making headlines all around the state this month after winning the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Award at the 2021 WA Fire and Emergency Service Awards on Saturday, 11 September 2021.

Lieutenant Lowe, who has been a part of the Merredin Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service for seven years, was recognised for her outstanding efforts to break down the barriers for women who want to become firefighters by introducing initiatives including Ladies Day and the Childminding service.



When asked about the inspiration behind Ladies Day, Lieutenant Lowe said, “I found it really frustrating that the brigade was so often referred to as ‘the boys’ or ‘the blokes,’ when it wasn’t true – with two of the three highest ranking officers in charge of the brigade being female.”

“The core of ‘Ladies’ Day’ was to showcase an all-female car cutting demo. The ladies who attended could watch an all-female crew rip apart a car, which was hugely impactful in terms of redefining what they believed they could be capable of.”

“After the car cutting demo, we let them [the attendees] have a go with the hoses and hydraulic tools in an emotionally safe environment, where they could try and stuff up, try again and experiment with trying something different.”

From Ladies Day, held on International Women’s Day in 2021, four new active firefighters signed up, as well as 1 support member.

The second initiative implemented by Lieutenant Lowe was the Childminder Programme, which she said was to allow women who felt their parenting responsibilities were the reason they couldn’t sign up to be a firefighter, the chance to

attend call outs by minding their kids or picking them up from school.

“There are so many awesome women in Merredin who would make great volunteer firefighters, and one of the reasons they feel they can’t join up is because of parenting responsibilities,” she said.

“Parenting responsibilities are never given as a reason why fathers can’t volunteer, and I didn’t want it to be a reason why mothers couldn’t volunteer if they wanted to, so I wanted to do what I could to level that particular playing field.”

Merredin VFRS now has 9 out of our 20 active firefighters as female, with an additional 3 out of 6 support members as female, for a total of 12 female out of 26 members.

## Welcoming the Shires New EMES!

This month we welcomed Lindon Mellor to the Shire as the new Executive Manager Engineering Services. Lindon has joined us from the Shire of East Pilbara!

### *A message from Lindon*

“I have moved down from the Pilbara with my wife, dog and cat. I am excited to be working alongside a great team of people and I am looking forward to getting into some of the upcoming projects including Apex park upgrades and the Town redevelopment.

Merredin has got such a great community culture and I am looking forward to being a part of it.”



## Parking on Footpaths

A friendly reminder to the community that parking on or obstructing a footpath is not permitted in the Shire of Merredin.

It is the driver's responsibility to know and comply with the Shire's Local Laws. For more information about Local Law No. 8 Parking and Parking Facilities, please head to [bit.ly/LocalLawNo8](https://bit.ly/LocalLawNo8).

The Shire of Merredin ranger will be actively patrolling and monitoring the townsite and handing out the below cards as a reminder to those who are found to be parking on footpaths. If cars are not relocated after receiving the footpath obstruction notice, a modified penalty may apply.

Should you have any questions regarding the below notice, please contact the Ranger on 0400 240 787.



**SHIRE OF MERREDIN**  
MUNICIPALITY OF THE MOUNTAIN RANGES

### FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTION

DEAR OWNER / DRIVER OF VEHICLE

This is a friendly reminder that parking on or obstructing a footpath is not permitted in the Shire of Merredin and may be subject to a fine.

It is the driver's responsibility to know and comply with the Shire's Local Laws. For more information about Local Law No. 8 Parking and Parking Facilities, please head to [bit.ly/LocalLawNo8](https://bit.ly/LocalLawNo8).

Please note, the Shire of Merredin Ranger is monitoring the issue and may be in contact to follow up. The Ranger can be contacted during business hours on 0400 240 787.

**LOCAL LAW NO. 8 - PARKING AND PARKING FACILITIES**  
3.5 General prohibitions on parking  
(2) A person shall not park a vehicle so that any portion of the vehicle is -  
(f) on any footpath or pedestrian crossing;



## New Products at the CWVC!

Our new sandalwood jewellery "One Wild Seed" is made locally in the Wheatbelt by Chelsea McDonald, and is luxury handcrafted jewellery made from sustainably resourced, under licence, Australian Sandalwood from our wheatbelt. We have bracelets, necklaces, earrings and oil for sale!

We also have 500ml bottles of Extra Virgin Olive oil, Chilli & Garlic Infused, Garlic Infused and Lemongrass & Ginger Infused from award winning family run The Sathya Olive Company.



## A Surprise for School Holidays!

Children attending the holiday activities in the Merredin Library were surprised with a special guest on Tuesday, 28 September. Red the Super Reading Kangaroo stopped in to let the children know how important reading is!

Paint the Town REaD is a program that encourages everyone to read, talk, sing and rhyme with children from birth to help them get ready for reading and writing at school. Just reading with a baby or child, for even 5 minutes a day, improves language and communication, and helps a baby's brain develop. Reading rhymes with children helps with pattern recognition, giving them a head start with reading. But most of all – it is just fun!!

Come in to Merredin Library to find out more!



## Rates Reminder!

A reminder that rate payments are due in full by **Friday, 15 October 2021**.

If you have elected to pay in installments, 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 difficult making the payment dates, please contact Leticia the Senior Finance Officer at the Shire Office on (08) 9041 1611.



## FIRE SAFETY

### Restricted Burning and the Firebreak Deadline

We are now well into the restricted burning period (16 September – 31 October). This means that permits are required in order to burn, and must be obtained from a Fire Control Officer. They will only be issued for the purpose of reducing fire hazard on a property where no alternative method exists to reduce the hazard, particularly as we get closer to the end of October and the weather heats up.

### What are land occupiers' obligations under the Bush Fires Act?

For properties in town under 2000sqm, your land must be cleared of flammable materials; for properties over 2000sqm, you must install a firebreak 3m wide, completely clear of flammable materials to a height of 4m.

For all town properties, all grass must be no higher than 5cm, and you must ensure all roofs, gutters and walls of buildings are free of flammable matter.

These conditions must be in place by 31 October 2021, and maintained until 16 March 2022.

For more information or a copy of the Firebreaks Notice, contact the Shire on 9041 1611, or visit the Shire's website at [www.merredin.wa.gov.au](http://www.merredin.wa.gov.au).



### Pet Registrations Due

All dogs within the Shire of Merredin over the age of three months, and all cats over the age of six months, must be registered. Registration is carried out at the Shire offices during normal office hours and is available for 1 year, 3 years and lifetime periods, commencing on 1 November each year.

Payments for registration renewal have now been posted out to pet owners within the Shire, with payments due in full by 31 October 2021.

Registration Prices are as follows;

#### STERALISED

1 Year	\$20.00
3 Years	\$42.50
Lifetime	\$100.00

#### NOT STERALISED

1 Year	\$50.00
3 Years	\$120.00
Lifetime	\$250.00

Please note\*\*

- ▶ Pensioner Concession Card holders are eligible to receive a 50% concession off the above fees
- ▶ Working dogs are 25% of the above fees.

For more information, or to download registration forms, head to the Shire website [bit.ly/ShireRangerServices](http://bit.ly/ShireRangerServices)



## Are you interested in the biosecurity of Western Australia's agricultural industries?

Western Australian producers and other stakeholders in the dairy, beef, grain/seed, hay, sheep and/or goat industries and respective supply chains are invited to apply for positions on Industry Funding Scheme Management Committees.

Industry Funding Schemes enable agricultural industries to raise funds to address priority pests and diseases at a whole-of-industry level.

The schemes are industry-driven and overseen by a Management Committee made up of producers and others with appropriate industry knowledge and expertise.

The Minister for Agriculture and Food will appoint members for a period of up to three years commencing 1 July 2022. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development provides support to the schemes and committees.

From 1 July 2022, there will be vacancies on the following Management Committees:

- ▶ Cattle Industry Funding Scheme (4 vacancies)
- ▶ Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Funding Scheme (3 vacancies)
- ▶ Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme (3 vacancies)

The Management Committees meet quarterly on dates agreed by members, and members are remunerated, including sitting fees and travel expenses.

Expressions of interest can be made online at <https://agric.smartygrants.com.au/IFSEOI>. Alternatively, you can submit your expression of interest by email. This should include a three-page letter addressing the selection criteria and a current resume of a maximum of two pages.

Online applications are the preferred method for submitting an expression of interest. Emailed applications can be sent to Rebecca Heath. Expressions of interest close on **31 October 2021**.

More information, including the terms of reference and selection criteria, is available on the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development website at [agric.wa.gov.au](http://agric.wa.gov.au). Search for 'Committee membership EOIs'.

### Contact

Rebecca Heath  
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development  
+61 (0)8 9690 2171  
[rebecca.heath@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:rebecca.heath@dpird.wa.gov.au)

## Arty Farty Party Returns this October!

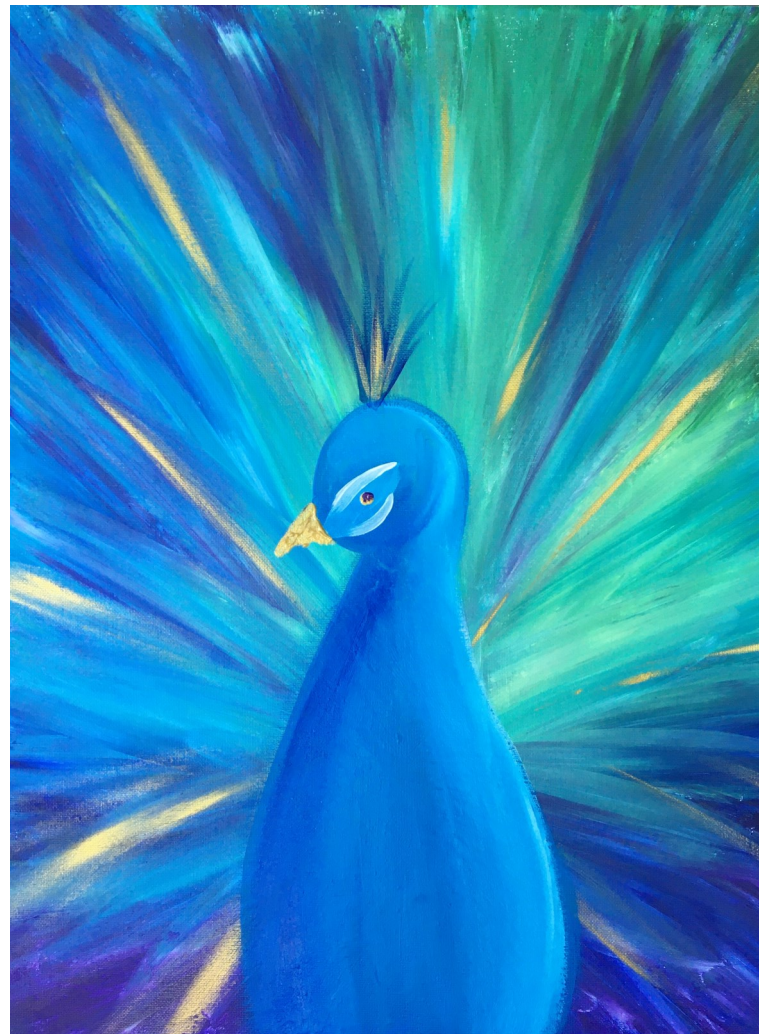
Your favourite painting party with local artist Sheree Lowe will be returning to Cummins Theatre this October, with three classes offered across three days!

Come along and create your own artistic masterpiece, where you will learn to paint a peacock (shown below). There will once again be a Family Night held on Friday, 15 October from 5.30pm onwards, as well as a Family Day held on Sunday, 17 October from 1.30pm.

The Adult Night will be held on Saturday, 16 October at 6pm, with the bar open for all sessions. Nibbles will also be included in your ticket price!

Ticket prices are \$30 for adults and \$25 for children. You can purchase tickets online via Trybooking through the following link - [trybooking.com/BTPSP](http://trybooking.com/BTPSP), or purchased in person at the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre.

Aprons will be provided on the night, as well as the canvas, paints, and painting brushes. No painting experience is necessary and all you need to bring to the class is yourself!



"IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO LAUGH"  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

# Menopause The Musical®

# CANCELLED



#1 LADIES  
NIGHT OUT!  
MEN LOVE  
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The Hilarious Celebration  
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[menopausethemusical.com.au](http://menopausethemusical.com.au)

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

# Morning Melodies Concert Series



## Friday 15th October 2021

Come and join us for our October  
Morning Melodies concert!

'A great place to catch up with old  
friends and even make new ones'

Featuring Don and Rhonda Perrin  
Country Music Duo

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 [cumminstheatre.com.au](http://cumminstheatre.com.au)  
or at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

\*transaction fees may apply



CUMMINS THEATRE



SHIRE OF  
MERREDIN  
HEART OF THE WHEATBELT

# BEATLES+ROLLING STONES Double Headline Concert! LIVE IN MERREDIN!

## THE AUSTRALIAN BEATLES



International Beatles Tribute

# THURS 28<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2021 7:30PM CUMMINS THEATRE

TICKETS FROM: CENTRAL WHEATBELT VISITORS CENTRE  
[www.cumminstheatre.com.au](http://www.cumminstheatre.com.au)

Merredin  
Blue Light™  
Unit presents



# HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Dress up for Halloween  
and join us for an evening  
of music, dancing and prizes!

**WHEN** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October  
6.00 – 8.30pm

**WHERE** Merredin Residential College  
Gym (entry off Woolgar Ave)

**ENTRY** Gold coin donation



» Range of food and drink  
options provided and some  
for purchase



» Prize for best dressed!



» Games and giveaways

Children under school age must be  
accompanied by a parent or guardian

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