



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

JANUARY 2022

Merredin's Christmas Gala Night

Hundreds of Merredin and Wheatbelt locals made their way down to the main streets for one of Merredin's biggest events of the year, Gala Night, held on Thursday, 16 December 2021. The event kicked off just before 6pm, with a demonstration by Merredin Youth Boxing, before Shire President Mark McKenzie officially opened the event on the main stage.

The streets were once again packed full with market stalls, entertainment, and amusements, and local businesses opened their doors for late night trading, welcoming customers until 9pm that night.

The electric atmosphere was ignited further by the wonderful local entertainment including Rural Dance, Merredin College Choir, Merredin Bootscooters, and Brother and I.

Children let loose in their designated silly string Leisure Zone, which returned to the program after being an absolute hit in 2020. Other activities included the shooting game, Pluck a Dino, Lucky Numbers, Mega Glow van, Burracoppin FC handball game, and the Dodgy Bros inflatable dodgeball arena (pictured below).



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January Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 25 January 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. 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/



At 7.15pm, Santa and Mrs Claus were welcomed to Merredin by a crowd of children and their parents, who lined up for the chance to meet them and receive a bag of lollies. Santa arrived on the back on a train driven by the Merredin Men's Shed, who kindly agreed to escort him from his Sleigh which was parked up at the Merredin CRC.



The adults only Chill Out Lounge with a pop up bar and seating area also returned this year, and was run by Northside Tavern in conjunction with the Merredin Sports Council.

It was fantastic to see so many people lining the street for Gala Night and supporting businesses in town by buying local!



Shire President Mark McKenzie and Deputy President Leah Boehme draw the Gala Night Raffles

The Shire would like to thank the following people, businesses and organisations for their contributions to the night.

Sponsors

Lotterywest

Collgar Wind Farm

Supporters

CBH

Merredin Farms

Merredin Playgroup

Combined Tyres

Merredin Police

Avon Youth

Working Party

Hayley Billing

Chesney Maloney

Maddie Earle-Sadler

Ebony Cleveland

Cynthia West

Business Raffle

Merredin Flowers and Gifts

Two Dogs

Merredin Panel and Paint

Leo's Urban Wear and Skate

Marie Bartlett Tupperware

Merredin Cinema and Café

Mini MAD

The Cutting Room on Bates

Edgecombe Jewellers

Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre

Wheatbelt Tech Supplies

IGA & IGA Variety

Dimensions Café

Wild Poppy Café

Hutton and Northey Sales

Merredin Aim Cosmetic and Wellness Centre

Merredin Harvest Fresh Food Market

Petticoat Lane

Cockies Ag

AIM Dental Merredin

Go MAD

Café 56

Subway

Noice Nails

Australia Post

Nextra

Nutrien Ag Solutions

Ron Bateman & Co

Elders Real Estate

Merredin Toyota

Inspire Merredin

Bizzy Scissors

Gala Night Survey

As part of the event debrief each year, the Shire conducts a survey to gain feedback from the community regarding their experiences at Gala Night. This data is valuable to the Shire's community team and ensures that the event continues to grow each year.

You can access the survey until 21 January 2022 by scanning the below QR code with a smartphone, or by visiting culturecounts.cc/s/5Neu2w.





ENGINEERING

CBD Redevelopment Project

The Shire has now appointed a new Manager of Projects, Daniel Hay - Hendry. Daniel will be designing and delivering a number of Merredin's key priority projects for the community, including the CBD Redevelopment. In this position he will be working closely with stakeholders and contractors to ensure that the Shire's works projects are delivered smoothly and within allocated timeframes.

The design plans for the Pioneer Park upgrade are currently being finalised, with construction tenders expected to be released over the coming months.

Roads

In late 2021, the Shire identified issues with the seals on the Merredin - Narembeen Road and Goldfields Road. The roads are currently stable, but are being closely monitored by the Engineering department. Long term repairs will be made once cooler weather conditions allow.

Merredin Peak Toilets

The restoration of the toilets located at the Merredin Peak Reserve has now been completed and they are now open to the public. The project included the installation of two new toilets and hand basins, replacement of the front cladding to the building, and installation a water tank to allow for flushing.



South Ave Works

The kerb removal along South Ave has now been completed by the Shire, in preparation for the upcoming road works to be undertaken by Main Roads WA.

The new kerbing will be installed once the Main Roads WA portion of the project has been completed.

The Shire would like to thank the public for their patience during these works.

Main Roads WA Notice

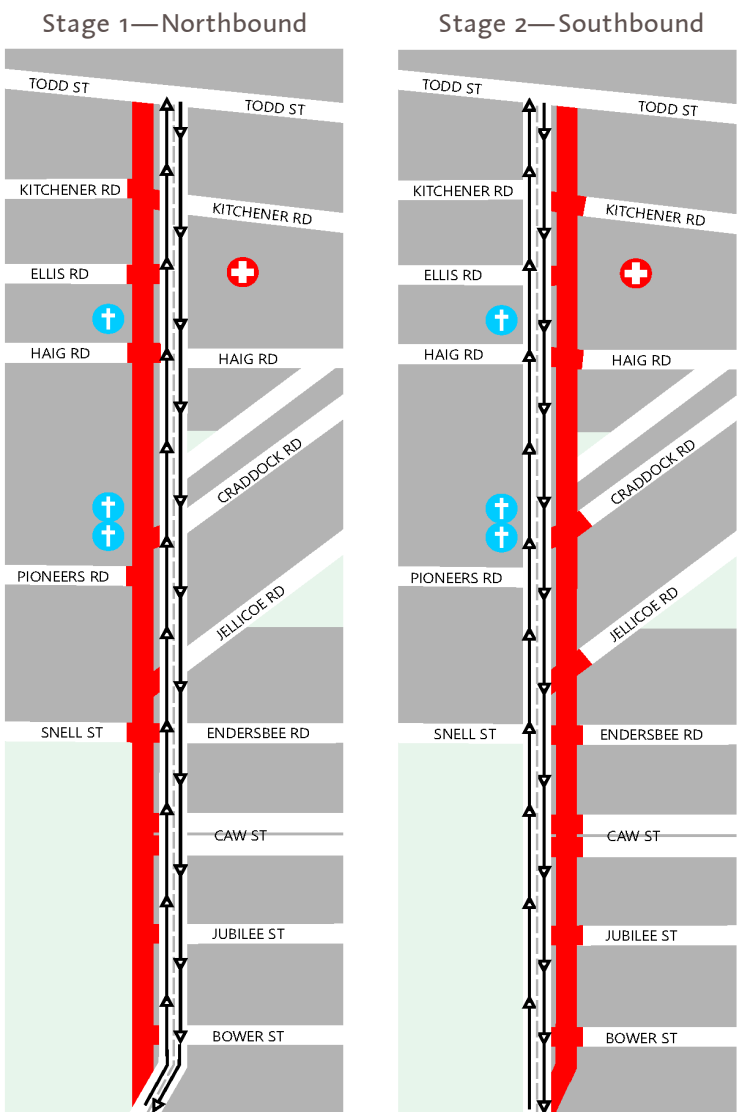
On Monday 17 January, Main Roads will commence roadworks on South Avenue between the Great Eastern Highway and O'Connor Street. Works will be ongoing until the end of March 2022.

The condition of the road will be improved and vehicle noise reduced.

The northbound lane (on the school side) will be completed first and traffic will travel in two directions in the other lane (see map attached below). Whilst works are on this side of the road, access to properties on this side of the road will need to be via side roads. Works will then transfer over to the southbound lane.

During the works, access to Lenihan Park on South Ave will be closed.

There will be dust and noise during the roadworks and we thank you for your patience.



Welcoming the Shire's new Events Officer

The Shire has recently welcomed Olivia Mellor to our team as the new Events Officer. Olivia will be with the Shire for the next 6 months, working on events including the Australia Day Pool Party and International Food Festival.

"I have recently relocated to Merredin with my husband, our 4 year old golden retriever and 18 year old cat. My background is in Local Government Business Coordination and I am very excited to be involved in coordinating events for the Shire."

Merredin is a beautiful town and I look forward to being involved and supporting the community here."



Welcoming the Shire's new Manager of Projects

Join us in welcoming the Shire's new Manager of Projects, Daniel Hay-Hendry! Daniel is an Environmental Engineer with a background in both Project and Waste Management. During his time here, Daniel will be overseeing the Shire's major projects including the CBD Redevelopment.

"I have moved down from Newman where I was working for the Shire of East Pilbara as the Manger Waste Services."

I am excited to be working at the Shire of Merredin given the diverse range of projects on offer, the community's promotion of sustainability, and the chance to be working with the Shire's current leadership team," Daniel said.



Meet the New Faces at the Theatre!

We are excited to announce the appointments of the new Cummins Theatre Manager—James Corby, and the new Cummins Theatre Administration and Engagement Officer Libby McCalman.

James has a career spanning 15 years working on major tourism initiatives and mass participation events across Western Australia, and has worked with world-class talents at venues including Optus Stadium. James said, *"Having been raised in the Wheatbelt, I am excited to relocate back to Merredin with my family and serve the needs of the community. Feel free to stop in and say hello if you're passing by the Cummins Theatre!"*

Meanwhile, Libby has more than 25 years background in media and communications, having working as a journalist in NSW before moving into the community services sector where she provided communications, media and marketing support for a number of child and family welfare organisations.

"I'm thrilled to be joining the Shire of Merredin as the Cummins Theatre Administration and Engagement Officer. I relish the opportunity of helping shine a light on this vibrant community facility, and am looking forward to working with schools across the Wheatbelt to ensure our children and young people have access to important cultural and artistic experiences," Libby said.



New Products at the Visitor Centre

New to the Visitor Centre this year are these beautifully handcrafted baskets made in Geraldton by Glenda the Basket Lady using locally sourced natural and recycled material that Glenda collects on her travels. These little baskets would make the perfect gift for any occasion. We have 6 in stock in all different sizes.



Also new to the Visitor Centre are these beautiful local handcrafted soaps, bath salts and balms made by Noeriin from Sow Seeds of Wellness. We have Australian pink clay soaps, lemongrass magnesium bath salts and magnesium balm, all handcrafted with natural and organic ingredients that nourish body mind and soul.



Burning Notice

A reminder that we are still in the Prohibited Burning Period until Thursday, 17 February 2022, and as such there is NO BURNING permitted.

Burning will be permitted with a permit from Friday, 18 February 2022 onwards. Applying for Burning Permits has now been made easy through the Shire of Merredin website via the following link—> bit.ly/BurningPermits

Please **note**, burning is not permitted on Sundays or public holidays during the Restricted Burning Period.



Get help with identification, fines and licensing business

Aboriginal Justice is holding an **Open Day "one-stop shop"** where you can get services to help you with identification, fines and driver's licence business.

Where: Merredin – Community Resource Centre

When: Tuesday 1 February 2022 – 9.00am – 3.00pm

What you can do at the Open Day

- **Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages** – Need identification? Want to check if you and your children's births are registered? **Free**
Apply for Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates: **\$53.00**, Change of Name: **\$185.00**
- **Sheriff/CDO** – For queries on fines and make arrangements for time-to-pay.
- **Department of Transport** – Apply for a driver's licence, WA Photo (ID) card, driving assessments, licence status queries and other information about licensing services.
Theory Test: **\$20.20** Learner's Permit: **\$117.80**, Log Book: **\$9.45**, WA Photo (ID) Card: **\$44.50**
- **Services Australia - Centrelink** – Identification requirements for licensing only
- **Community Services:** Wheatbelt Community Legal Service, Legal Aid WA, Aboriginal Legal Service, Directions Workforce Solutions Inc., Max Employment

To enable us to help you, please bring along as much of the following as you can:

- Birth Certificate
- Medicare Card
- Centrelink Card
- Bank Card
- Bank statement or official letter/bill from a Government agency or employer that has your address and is no more than 6 months old
- Either cash or credit card/debit card for payment

COVID-19 Prevention Measures:

Community safety is a priority of all service providers and we know that you understand the need to register with SafeWA on the day.

The following measures will be in place at Open Days to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Encourage the practice of good personal hygiene with use of personal protective equipment (PPE) if appropriate.
- A SafeWA sign-in will be provided to community members for COVID-19 tracing purposes.
- Hand sanitiser readily available for attendees and service providers.
- Appropriate social distancing where possible.
- Regular cleaning and disinfecting of venue surfaces and "high touchpoints".
- Encourage those people that are feeling unwell not to attend and stay home.

Note: This flyer was distributed while in Phase 5 of the WA Roadmap to ease restrictions. The required prevention measures will be taken at the time of the Open Day event in line with the State Government's advice.





LIBRARY

Reduced Operational Hours

From the 5 January – 29 January 2022, the Merredin Regional Library will be operating on reduced hours:

Monday	10am—2pm
Tuesday	10am—2pm
Wednesday	1pm—5pm
Thursday	10am—2pm
Friday	10am—2pm
Saturday	10am—12pm

Please note, the library will be closed on Wednesday, 26 January for Australia Day.

Summer Reading Quest

During the summer school holidays, Western Australian Public Libraries are running an exciting new Summer Reading Quest!

The Quest is open to children of all ages and runs from 18 December 2021 – 31 January 2022.

Children can participate in a number of ways:

- ▶ Adventure Cards (for ages 6 and up)
A range of different cards inspiring children to complete fun literacy activities
- ▶ Reading Log (for ages 6 and up)
A calendar-style reading log to record the number of days and time read over the holidays

- ▶ Summer Steps Card (for ages 5 and under)
A thirty day quest with fun literacy activities for little ones to do with family and friends.

How to participate:

1. Pick up a reading log or card from your local Library.
2. Collect rewards from the Merredin Library as you complete challenges.
3. Submit your entry by Friday, 11 February 2022.

Every card and log submitted goes into the draw to win amazing state-wide prizes.

No matter how you read, where you read, what you read or whether you're big or small, you can join this awesome quest!

Looking for hosts for medical students



Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program

TUESDAY 15 MARCH TO FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2022

Share what living in the Wheatbelt is like with future doctors

There are still 8 places required for the Wheatbelt Medical Immersion program this March. If you are able to billet two or more students, please contact Betony Dawson at Rural Health via betony.dawson@ruralhw.com.au.

Roll up for WA

COVID-19 Vaccination

Get your COVID-19 vaccinations at GP's, state-run clinics and pharmacies.



Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre Indoor Courts

Please be advised that the indoor courts located at the Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre will be unavailable until further notice as periodic maintenance is being conducted to address safety concerns.

The works being undertaken are primarily to address potential tripping hazards.

The Shire of Merredin is funding these works and will not include financial contributions from the sporting clubs.

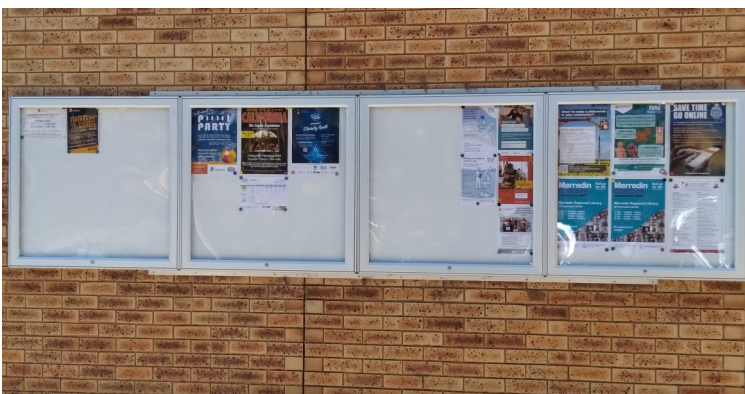
We apologise for any inconvenience caused during this time.



New Shire of Merredin Notice Boards

Four new Shire noticeboards have now been installed on the Westpac wall this week!

Community members will be able to visit this noticeboard to find community notices, upcoming events, shire public notices such as firebreaks and council meeting dates, and public information including COVID clinics and health advice.



Future Home Care Services Initiatives

CEACA Inc currently owns and manages 71 independent living units ("Units") across 11 shires in the Central East Wheatbelt region. These Units have proven to be very popular and they are fulfilling their original purpose of enabling the elderly or those living with a disability to remain living in their community, close to family and friends for longer, as well as assisting those on very low or low incomes to access affordable living options.

CEACA Members have formed a strategic plan for the future and one of the items is to look into the provision of home care services for not only our tenants, but those living in the community. The services that we are looking into include cleaning, gardening, shopping, transport, visits to family members, mobility solutions (e.g. handrails), occupational therapy and respite.

We are currently working with Catholic Homes and Baptistcare in relation to providing these services to the region. Both organisations have indicated a willingness to work with us on implementing new services or expanding on current ones. There are currently long wait times for accessing home care packages and the process can be very confusing and time consuming. This is why we recommend using a recognised home care provider to provide you with information and assist you through that process when you are ready to enter into a package.

There is no obligation to enter into an agreement with a home care provider if you do not feel you are ready or don't feel you need it, however being informed will prepare you for the future and avoid delays in accessing services when you need them. It is the right of every individual to choose the home care provider that best suits their needs and even if it is not one of the two organisations named above. Attending an information session will be beneficial for you to ask questions or to simply take notes.

If you or someone you know locally would be interested in attending an information session or speaking with a representative from either organisation, could we please ask that you register your interest by phone 0414 136 687 or email info@ceaca.org.au.

If the level of interest warrants more than one information session, we will plan for that and will advise community members of the details.

Merredin COVID-19 vaccination clinic

Roll up
for WA
COVID-19 Vaccination

Merredin Regional Library
22 Coronation Street

10 Jan 12:30pm - 5:00pm
11 Jan 10:00am - 6:00pm
12 Jan 8:30am - 4:30pm
13 Jan 8:00am - 12:00pm

No appointment
needed



We acknowledge the traditional owners
of the land and pay our respects to their
Elders, past, present and emerging.



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

Merredin COVID-19 vaccination clinic

Roll up
for WA
COVID-19 Vaccination

Merredin Regional Library
22 Coronation Street

17 Jan 12:30pm - 5:00pm
18 Jan 10:00am - 6:00pm
19 Jan 8:30am - 4:30pm
20 Jan 8:00am - 12:00pm

No appointment
needed



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Elders, past, present and emerging.



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

Australia Day POOL PARTY

26 JANUARY 2022
9 DISTRICT OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL
12 PM - 6 PM

FREE POOL ENTRY
SAUSAGE SIZZLE
FUN ACTIVITIES

THIS IS A **FREE** FAMILY EVENT!

For more information please
contact Olivia at the Shire

Telephone: (08) 9041 1611
events@merredin.wa.gov.au
www.merredin.wa.gov.au
facebook.com/ShireofMerredin

This event is proudly sponsored by



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MERREDIN
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★★★★ HOTEL ★★★★★ CALIFORNIA

The Eagles Experience
2021 AUSTRALIAN TOUR

New Date
2022

Friday 18th February 2022
Cummins Theatre - Merredin

With a stage full of show-stopping voices and musicians, relive
the beautiful country harmonies, the rockin' guitar solos and
the masterful songwriting in all its glory.

Tickets available at www.cumminstheatre.com.au or in person at the
Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre