



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

MARCH 2023

CARMEN Lotterywest Livestream

On Friday, 24 February at 7.30pm, Cummins Theatre hosted a free livestream of Western Australia (WA) Opera’s CARMEN, live from the WACA Ground in Perth.

CARMEN is an opera written in 1875 by French composer Georges Bizet. Set in southern Spain to the backdrop of the 1820 Spanish revolution, CARMEN tells the story of a charismatic woman who charms those around her with her assertive and fiery nature; and Don José, a naïve soldier who falls in love with Carmen, and abandons everything to run away with her.

When their love turns sour, and Carmen leaves him for the wealthy and engaging toreador Escamillo, Don José turns bitter and jealous, and in the final tragic moments of the Opera, begs Carmen to come back to him. She tells him their affair is over, and that she was born free and free she will die. The opera concludes with Don José stabbing Carmen, as the crowd cheers for a bull fight in the distance.

WA Opera brought the tragic story to life on a stage with more than 150 performers, including some of Australia’s finest singers, as well as tremendous local talent from the Western Australian Opera Chorus, the WAO Children’s Chorus and the full might of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. It was truly a spectacular show with fireworks and all, and the magic was not lost on screen.

It was a wonderful night out for all who attended. Many thanks to WA Opera and Lotterywest for facilitating the regional livestream and making this event at Cummins Theatre possible.

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March Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 28 March 2023 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 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/



Ward and Representation Review Outcomes

In July 2022, the Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Local Government, advised of the next steps in the reform process including the requirements for local governments to conduct a Ward and Representation Review, and to reduce the number of elected members based on population. In response, the Shire of Merredin commenced a review in December 2022. As part of this, a Discussion Paper was released to the public for a consultation period of seven weeks, in which community input was sought regarding the preferred number of elected members and communities of interest, while comments regarding ward systems were also invited.

Representation: Of the 14 submissions received, the preference for the number of Councillors was 7, which was supported by 86% of respondents. A large portion of the comments indicated that 5 elected members would not be enough to represent the diversity within the Shire, while also posing too high a workload on individuals due to the requirement for committee representation, as well as meeting and briefing attendance.

Community of Interest: Four people indicated that they thought the Shire had communities of interest. Two responses spoke of senior citizens, a third mentioned satellite towns, with the fourth respondent not providing a comment. The Discussion Paper also noted that the Shire considered if there was a way for Councillor representation to include at least 1 of the anticipated 7 Councillor positions to be held for traditional owners within the area, but no legally appropriate instrument was found to enable this to occur.

Wards: Half of the respondents to the survey said that they would be supportive of a ward system with comments indicating that the outlying farming communities within the Shire would be able to be represented more appropriately if there were wards in place. Despite the interest from the community, the Reform does not allow for Band 3 local governments to have a ward structure, and as such the Shire were unable to consider and further investigate this as a feasible option.

On consideration of the submissions received during the consultation period, Council endorsed the number of elected members be reduced from 9 to 7, while also maintaining a no ward structure. The Shire has since submitted a report to the Local Government Advisory Board detailing the findings from the review and offering a recommendation for consideration. Should this recommendation be accepted by the Minister, the reduction in councillors will be implemented over the next 2 election cycles in 2023 and 2025.

Notice of Meeting – Bush Fire Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting

The Bush Fire Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting of the Shire of Merredin will be held on Thursday, 23 March 2023 at the Council Chambers located on the Cnr King and Barrack Streets.

The meeting will commence at 3pm.

Lisa Clack
Chief Executive Officer



Working with Children Check -
Changes are coming!

Changes to the Working with Children Check are coming, and so are we!

The amendments to the Working with Children legislation will come into effect on 1 July 2023.

To help you understand your rights and obligations, the Working with Children Screening Unit is hitting the road.

The team will be in the Wheatbelt on 28 and 29 March to provide you with information on the changes and how they might impact you.

Come and join us:

28 March, 6pm Kondinin Community Resource Centre

29 March, 9.30am Hyden Community Resource Centre

29 March, 2pm Merredin Community Resource Centre



Visit Working with Children Check Screening Unit's Eventbrite page or scan the QR code for details and to reserve your place at one of the public sessions.
bit.ly/wwcevents2023

For more information about the amendments to the Working with Children legislation visit the Working with Children website - workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au or contact the team on WWCEvents@communities.wa.gov.au

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.





ENGINEERING

Merredin Tip Shop Opening

The Merredin Tip Shop was officially opened to the public on Saturday, 11 February 2023, with many eager locals coming down to the Landfill Site to grab a bargain!

Approximately 50 cubic metres of recycling was diverted from landfill as a result of the grand opening event, a fantastic achievement for the community.

We encourage everyone to bring their unwanted items to the tip shop during Landfill operating hours, to help us continue to build sustainable recycling practices.

New EV Chargers Installed

The Shire is pleased to inform the community that two new Tesla EV chargers have now been installed at the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre. For non – Tesla vehicles, standard chargers continue to be available at the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre, adjacent to the tennis courts.

Road Works - Goldfields Road

The Shire have now commenced the second portion of reconstruction works on Goldfields Road (see map below).

The road will be closed on several occasions during the works period, from the intersection of Merredin-Nungarin Road through to Crooks Road from 6.30am until 4.30pm (Monday – Saturday) until late April. Access will be provided for local traffic during any closures.

For more information or to discuss any concerns, please contact Lindon Mellor, Executive Manager Engineering Services at the Shire, on (08) 9041 1611 or via email at emes@merredin.wa.gov.au.

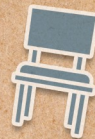


MERREDIN'S TIP SHOP



MERREDIN LANDFILL SITE
CHANDLER-MERREDIN ROAD

EFTPOS ONLY
PRICES UP TO \$150



OPENING DATES & TIMES

11 FEBRUARY

8 APRIL

10 JUNE

12 AUGUST

14 OCTOBER

9 DECEMBER

10:00AM – 12:00PM & 12:30PM – 3:00PM



CONTACT

For more information regarding Merredin's Tip Shop, please contact the Shire on 9041 1611 or email mp@merredin.wa.gov.au.



Please be advised that the Water Corporation will be completing sewer relining works in Merredin from March 2023 onwards.

An authorised contractor will soon commence work to refurbish ageing wastewater pipes in the townsite. Sewer relining uses trenchless technology to clean and refurbish existing wastewater pipes. It reduces the likelihood of blockages and extends the life of this important infrastructure by at least 30 years.

Work is scheduled to be completed by late July 2023. During this period, the contractors will generally work from Monday to Saturday between 7:00am and 5:00pm.

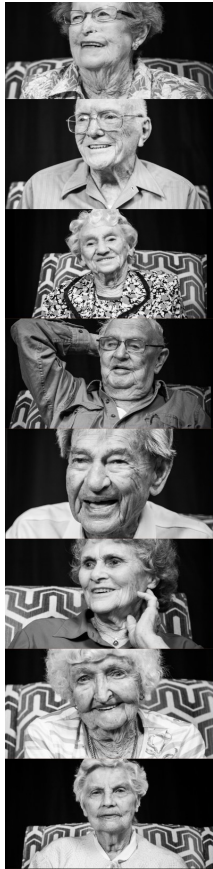
Night works may occasionally be required, and in this case, the Water Corporation will notify impacted residents in advance.

For more information, please visit bit.ly/watercorpworks.





CUMMINS THEATRE



A special addition to
Morning Melodies

SEASONS OF CHANGE

8 short videos capturing the extraordinary stories of eight extraordinary Merredin residents.

Cummins Theatre
Friday, 10 March 2023

Morning Tea at 10:30am

Concert starts 11am

Bookings Essential

\$15

Morning Tea is included in ticket price

Tickets available at cumminstheatre.com.au
or Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre



CUMMINS THEATRE



About the Morning Melodies Artist—Richie Pavledis

Richie Pavledis came to Western Australia while in his teens, and began honing his drumming skills with a number of local bands including Prayer Wheel, Buckshot, Slave and Barrelhouse.

The 70s gave way to the 80s, by which time he had worked the blues circuit with the likes of the Dave Hole band, and the country scene with Alby Pool's No City Limits, and of course the Hot Biscuit Band. Over time Richie found a blend of styles that suited him, and he has now released eight albums.

His focus nowadays is mostly on his solo career and working overseas. Richie's songs are currently being played on many radio stations all over the world, and for some songs such as "Long Distance Dream," he has even won a WAM Blues Award!

To see what the special addition to Morning Melodies is in March, check the back page!



JOB VACANCY

Executive Manager Strategy and Community

The Executive Manager Strategy and Community (EMSC) is a member of the Shire of Merredin's Executive Team and reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer.

In this role you will lead all the traditional community service essentials, however, your background means you will bring to the table a broader organisational leadership capability - working collaboratively to lead the development of key corporate planning documents with Council. This will include the facilitation of the development of our Strategic Community Plan, as part of the Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IPR).

The organisation is entering an exciting period of growth, and this role will be critical to our success. We are seeking someone that can lead significant engagement both internally and externally to the organisation.

Applicants should have a demonstrated track record of success in strategic planning or community services, preferably in the Government sector. If you feel you don't quite meet the criteria, but have transferrable skills, please reach out for a confidential conversation.

Applications are to include a comprehensive CV, and a separate cover letter generally addressing the Selection Criteria (max 3 pages), indicating your ability to meet the role requirements.

The competencies required in this role, as well as the Selection Criteria, can be found in the position description which can be obtained online on the Shire of Merredin website here: bit.ly/merredinemployment or via emailing hr@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Applications are to be received by no later than **5.00pm, Monday, 13 March 2023**. Applications are to be marked "Private and Confidential" and emailed to hr@merredin.wa.gov.au.

For a confidential discussion or further information, please contact me on 0417 183 991.

Lisa Clack

Chief Executive Officer



Finucane & Smith's Travelling Dance Hall!

Australia's globetrotting legends of cabaret, variety and burlesque, Finucane & Smith, are chasing COVID cobwebs away with a national tour of their smash-hit, sell-out celebration Finucane & Smith's Grande Dance Hall.

This show is packed with world famous songbirds and showgirls, disco divas and dancing stars, local legends, burlesque twirlers and go-go groovers. From glittering Indian dance to breathtaking opera, Dance Hall has something for everyone.

Fifty communities from the Pilbara to Darwin, Hobart to Karratha have put up their hands to join the fun, celebration, eye popping acts and twinkling lights of Dance Hall!

Finucane & Smith's cabarets are known world over for their provocation and entertainment; a lush mix of riveting artists, artforms, cultures, influences and irresistible music that have garnered acclaim in 15 countries, winning 13 awards.

New date TBC. For more information about the event, please visit bit.ly/dancehallevnt.

VISITOR CENTRE

Product of the Month

Pop down to the Visitor Centre and browse our lovely range of handcrafted glass products (pictured below) by Pamela Jays from Karlgarin. Glass magnets are \$12, Suncatchers range from \$29 - \$39 and Glass pendants from \$39 - \$65.

Are you a local crafter and looking for an outlet to sell your products on consignment? The Visitor Centre is looking for new handmade products or produce unique to the Wheatbelt for our retail shop.

Bring in your product or produce and have to chat to Robyn or Carina for further information!



Rate Instalments Due

A reminder that the 4th instalments of rate payments are due by Friday, 31 March 2023.

Should you have any questions or queries about your Rates Notice or if you are having difficulty making the payment date, please contact Leticia the Senior Finance Officer at the Shire Office on (08) 9041 1611.



FIRE SAFETY

With the end of the Restricted Burning period on the 16 March, all Shire of Merredin residents are permitted to begin freely burning garden waste again. However, it is important to remember that burning releases toxins into the air we breathe.

As the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation advises, "Wood smoke is similar to tobacco smoke in composition and has known health impacts. These include:

- ▶ Eye, nose and throat irritation
- ▶ Increased asthma and respiratory problems
- ▶ Headaches, nausea and dizziness
- ▶ Aggravation of chronic heart and lung conditions."

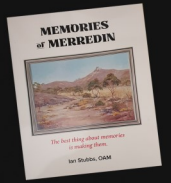
There is no such thing as non-toxic smoke, even if you think you're only burning harmless garden waste, so if you're choosing to burn, please consider the following tips to burn as safely as possible.

1. **Recycle, compost or mulch as much as you can.** Far better to inject the goodness of green waste back into your garden!
2. **Only burn organic matter such as green waste, paper or cardboard.** Burning synthetic fabric or plastic releases particularly harmful toxins into the air
3. **Follow fire safe practices** such as:
 - Ensure your garden hose can reach all boundaries of your garden – and have two hoses (connected to running water) if possible.
 - Burn multiple smaller piles rather than one large pile.
 - Have a minimum of two able bodied adults overseeing the burn.
 - Ensure there is a fire break completely surrounding the area you'll be burning.
 - Notify your neighbours that you'll be burning so that they have the opportunity to close their windows and bring their laundry in.
 - Avoid burning if the wind speed is over 15km/hour (or anything stronger than a gentle breeze).
 - Ensure that you are present for the entire burn, and that the fire is completely extinguished before you leave.

MEMORIES OF MERREDIN

BY IAN STUBBS

Book Launch



WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH 2023

10.30AM - 11.30AM | MERREDIN LIBRARY

ENTERTAINING AUTHOR TALK
FREE MORNING TEA
COPIES OF THE BOOK FOR SALE



PLEASE RSVP BY TUESDAY, 14 MARCH 2023 FOR CATERING PURPOSES - (08) 9041 1222

For more information please contact Wendy at the Library

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



MERREDIN REGIONAL LIBRARY

Merredin Library hosts A Spotlight on Emergency Services

From the photographic collection of
Barbara Hall and Bob Abell.

**Fires, Floods, Train wrecks
Police, Ambulance, Fire Brigade, Nurses**



shutterstock.com · 1386115223

Throughout March 2023

Can you accommodate a couple of medical students for three nights??



Wheatbelt Medical Student Immersion Program

TUESDAY 14 TO FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2023

Share what living in the Wheatbelt is like with doctors of the future

One hundred medical students will be coming to the Wheatbelt in March 2023. During their stay, they will visit local farms, industry, general practices, hospitals and schools, and participate in community activities.

We need you to provide real-life experiences that will give them an understanding of what it is like to live in the Wheatbelt and perhaps inspire them to become rural doctors.

The students will visit the following towns:

- Bruce Rock
- Merredin
- Westonia
- Kellerberrin/Tammin
- Southern Cross
- Narrogin

As a host, we will ask you to provide accommodation for two or more students, be able to assist with transporting them to/from town, and share what it is like to live in your town with the students. You are invited to come along to a Thank You dinner with the students on the Thursday night.

Why host?

Even if you need the students to roll out a swag in the living room, we want to hear from you if you can host.

This is a life-changing experience for the students, with many having no previous exposure to rural life or the Wheatbelt.

By providing these rural immersion opportunities early in their degree, it has been proven that students are more likely to explore rural career opportunities.

Some students continue to keep in touch and visit their host families, some return to do seasonal work and placements, others have joined mentoring programs, some have inspired host family members to pursue tertiary studies in health and medicine, and some students are now doctors in the Wheatbelt and other parts of rural/remote WA and Australia.

For further information, contact **Betony Dawson:**

T 08 6389 4567 | E betony.dawson@ruralhw.com.au



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
AUSTRALIA



0 - 5 YEARS

9.30AM - 11.30AM | APEX PARK
EASTER
in the
PARK

30 March 2023
 9.30AM - 11.30AM | APEX PARK, MERREDIN

WHEATBELT COFFEE VAN | FOOD CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES | COLOURING COMP WINNERS

PICK UP YOUR COLOURING SHEETS FROM ANY OF THE BELOW ORGANISATIONS

SHIRE OF MERREDIN, belgravialeisure, reed, Amity, KindiLink, Government of Western Australia WA Country Health Service, Merredin

PLEASE RSVP TO THE MERREDIN LIBRARY ON 9041 1222 BY 28 MARCH

MERREDIN TWILIGHT
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

24 MARCH | 6PM ~ 8PM
 CUMMINS THEATRE

Save the Date

THIS IS A FREE FAMILY EVENT HOSTED BY THE SHIRE OF MERREDIN!

For more information please contact Michelle at the Shire
 Telephone: (08) 9041 3295
 ccd@merredin.wa.gov.au
 www.merredin.wa.gov.au
 facebook.com/shireofmerredin

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
 INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

CELTIC ILLUSION
 THE MAGIC RETURNS

7.30PM, 3RD APRIL 2023
 CUMMINS THEATRE, MERREDIN

Memphis Rockers

Present
The American Rock and Roll Experience
 - The Early Years -
 Playing the HITS from the 50's and 60's
 Featuring Special Guest - Alix Jordan as Dusty Springfield

CUMMINS THEATRE- MERREDIN
SATURDAY 13TH MAY 2023 7PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
 CENTRAL WHEATBELT VISITORS CENTRE
 OR CUMMINSTHEATRE.COM.AU

GREAT MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT
 Hits From All The Legends Of Rock and Roll

NOT TO BE MISSED • ONE SHOW ONLY
 HURRY GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY
 KMA ENTERTAINMENT INC