



SHIRE OF  
**MERREDIN**  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

# COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

APRIL 2023

## IPWEA WA Excellence Awards

The Shire of Merredin has won three awards at the annual Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia WA Excellence Awards held on Friday, 10 March 2023.

The IPWEA Awards showcase high calibre projects from both local government and public work sectors that demonstrate excellence in engineering and innovative practices.

The Shire received the Excellence in Innovation Award (Regional) for the Standalone Reuse Water Irrigation System – Merredin Cemetery, a Best Public Works Project less than \$2M (Regional) Highly Commended Award for the Pioneer Park Revitalisation, and the Emerging Young Leader Award which was presented to the Shire’s Executive Manager Engineering Services, Lindon Mellor.

This is a fantastic achievement for the Shire’s Engineering team who consistently demonstrate a hard work ethic, show a drive for innovation and sustainability, and are committed to delivering high standard projects for the Merredin community.



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## April Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 18 April 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/](http://www.merredin.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/)





## Harmony Week Celebrations

The Cummins Theatre hosted more than 180 people for the annual Merredin Twilight International Food Festival on Friday, 24 March 2023, which was held in celebration of Harmony Week.

The event opened with a Welcome to Country by Mick Hayden, followed by a speech by Shire President Mark McKenzie who spoke about the importance of coming together and celebrating our nations diversity.

“This year the key message of Harmony Week was ‘everyone belongs’, which is an important message to convey as Australia is one of the most multicultural places in the world. Here in Merredin, we are exceptionally lucky to have a diverse range of cultures and religions represented within our community,” he said.



After being cancelled in 2022 due to COVID-19, the International Food Festival returned with much success, with 16 volunteer cooks offering a taste of 21 delicious dishes. Dishes included Biryani and Samosas from India; Shakshuka from Morocco; Portuguese Tarts from Portugal; Pineapple and

Chicken Fried Rice from China; Koeksisters, Vetkoek and Mince, Melktert Shooters and Boerwors Sausage from South Africa; Tiramisu, Pumpkin Gnocchi, Ravioli and St Joseph’s Pastries from Italy; Tablet from Scotland; Sushi from Japan; Chilli from Mexico; Brownies from America; Kangaroo Kebabs and Rissoles, Damper, and a Sausage Sizzle to represent local Aussie’ cuisine.

Performances on the night included fantastic renditions of Disney’s Be Our Guest (from Beauty and the Beast) and the South African Zulu folk song Siyahamba by A Chaired Taste (pictured below), as well as a selection of Italian music by musicians Etta and Josh who performed throughout the evening.

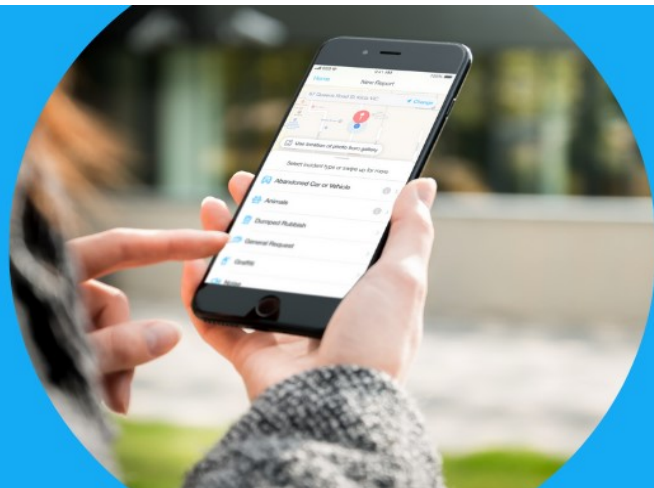


The Shire of Merredin would like to thank the wonderful community volunteers, including the Merredin’s Men Shed, the Yorga group, and the Merredin College, whom without this event would not be possible. Thank you also to the performers, and everyone else who contributed to making this event a success.

We would love to hear your feedback! For those who attended the event, please feel free to complete the post-event survey here: [bit.ly/merredinfoodfest](https://bit.ly/merredinfoodfest)

# REPORT LOCAL ISSUES IN A SNAP!

FREE FROM THE APP STORE & GOOGLE PLAY



Snap  
Send  
Solve



## ENGINEERING

### RFT 01 2022-23 Merredin Water Tower Conservation Works

The Shire of Merredin is seeking suitably qualified and experienced consultants to complete the detailed design and construction works associated with the conservation of the Merredin Water Tower.

The deadline for submissions is 10:00am AWST, on Tuesday, 2 May 2023. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Submissions are to be received via TenderLink.

### Underground Drain Cleaning

Underground drain cleaning around the Merredin CBD will be taking place this month, with the expected commencement date to be Monday, 17 April 2023.

These works will be completed in two stages; from 17 April 2023 until 21 April 2023, and from 1 May 2023 until 5 May 2023, however these dates may change depending on the weather conditions.

It is expected that there will be some noise and dust in the area while the drain cleaning is completed.

Traffic management will be in place for the duration of the works and motorists are asked to follow all directional signage.

### Road Works—Goldfields Road

The Shire of Merredin have now completed reconstruction works on Goldfields Road, which commenced in February 2023. These reconstruction works included a new seal, reconstructed cement stabilised pavement, and improved drainage.

These works are part of the Shire's on-going Regional Road Group funded program valued \$675k.

### Road Works—Merredin-Narembeen Road

The Shire of Merredin has now engaged a contractor to undertake the next portion of reconstruction and resealing works on Merredin-Narembeen Road.

These road works are part of the 5-year Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network project valued at \$5.7 million which will see a total of 24km of Merredin-Narembeen Road upgraded. This program commenced in 2021/22 with 7km completed, and we are now entering year 3.

This year will see an additional 8.3km of road upgraded, as well as the widening of the culvert bridge closest to the highway.

Information relating to traffic management will be provided closer to the date.

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 MARCH	10 JUNE
12 AUGUST	14 OCTOBER	9 DECEMBER

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

SHIRE OF MERREDIN  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

### AMENDMENT TO LANDFILL SITE 2022/23 FEES AND CHARGES

The Shire of Merredin wishes to advise that an amendment was made to the Landfill Site 2022/2023 Fees and Charges at the March Ordinary Council Meeting, held on 28 March 2023.

The fee amendment related to the disposal of small animals at the Landfill Site, to allow for up to 10 per charge.

The amendment will apply from 29 March 2023.

Lisa Clack  
Chief Executive Officer



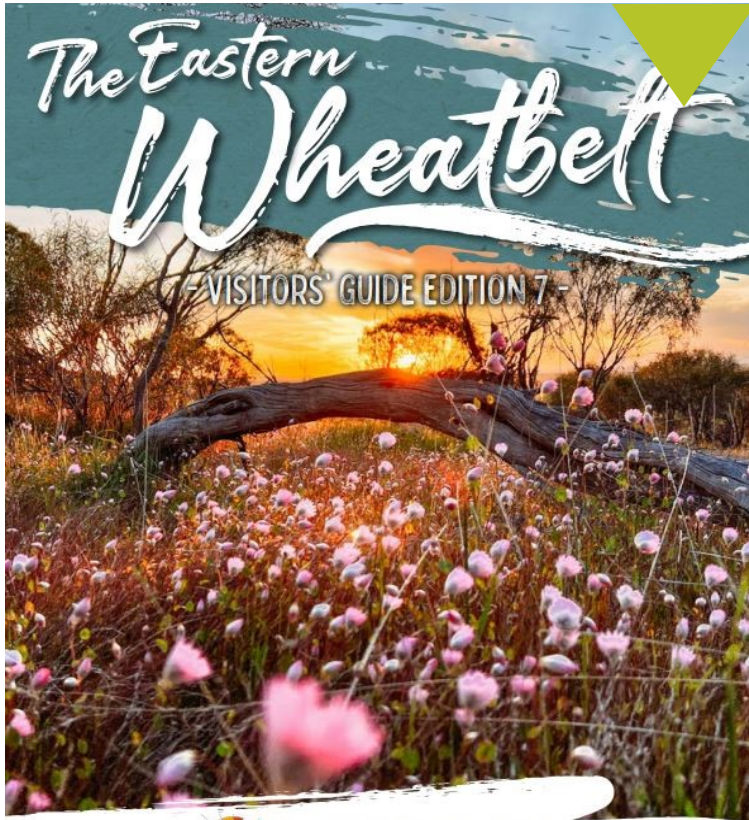


## VISITOR CENTRE

The Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre has now released Edition 7 of the Wheatbelt Holiday Visitors' Guide. This guide focuses on the 20 Shires of the Eastern Wheatbelt, and contains information regarding natural attractions, history, festivals and events. You can also find a list of self-drive trails and different activities that celebrate country hospitality.

This guide was printed in time to be distributed at the Perth Caravan & Camping Show from 24—25 March 2023. The event was attended by Tourism Officer Carina Macdonald, who represented the Shire of Merredin and the WEROC local governments.

This Annual Trade Show is a great marketing activity for the Wheatbelt tourism partners to participate together with the other AGO sub-regions and stakeholders. It is also a great opportunity for the Visitor Centre staff to talk face to face with prospective visitors to the region and assist in planning their future Wheatbelt visit.



CENTRAL WHEATBELT  
VISITOR CENTRE

[www.wheatbelttourism.com](http://www.wheatbelttourism.com)

Beacon | Bencubbin | Bruce Rock | Corrigin | Cunderdin | Dowerin | Hyden | Kellerberrin  
Kondinin | Koorda | Kulin | Lake Grace | Merredin | Meckering | Mukinbudin | Narembeen  
Nungarin | Quairading | Southern Cross | Tammin | Trayning | Westonia | Wyalkatchem

## Gift of Life Baton Arrives in Merredin

The Gift of Life Baton, an Olympic style torch that will be gifted to the World Transplant Games Federation following the 2023 World Transplant Games, arrived in Merredin on Thursday, 13 April after a 4300km journey from the Gold Coast.

The Baton was transported via motorbike by a team of four from Gold Coast charity The Pride of Bettermen and Lionesses, including altruistic donor Gordon Ruty.

The motorbike ride was held to promote the need for more Australians to register as organ and tissue donors while promoting the beauty and rawness of Australia to an international audience through the World Transplant Games.

The Baton symbolises the gift of life that is given from donor to recipient, and features the World Transplant Games logo, and is engraved with the words, "Thank You."

The convoy were welcomed to Merredin by Shire President Mark McKenzie, St John representatives Jay and Jasmin, Councillor Romolo Patroni, and Chesney Maloney (who will be competing in the Games for Australia) and her family.





# PATS process and forms have changed

(Patient Assisted Travel Scheme)

**Your GP no longer needs to sign your PATS application form**

## What is the new process?

- 1 You complete a PATS application form and include any requests for consideration outside the current guidelines.
- 2 You submit your PATS application form in person, by post, fax or email to your local PATS office.
- 3 Your application will be assessed internally by WACHS. Your GP may be contacted for additional information, as required to support the decision.



## Ready to get started?

Contact your local PATS team or scan the QR code to visit the PATS internet page.

### Wheatbelt Region

1800 728 792

[PATSWheatbelt@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:PATSWheatbelt@health.wa.gov.au)

## The Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) process and forms have changed.

*This information is being shared on behalf of the WA Country Health Service*

**Your GP no longer needs to sign your PATS application form.**

We've made accessing PATS easier.

If you live in the Wheatbelt Region you no longer need to have your PATS forms signed by your GP / referring practitioner. For more information please visit the following website.

[www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/Our-patients/Patient-Assisted-Travel-Scheme-PATS](http://www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/Our-patients/Patient-Assisted-Travel-Scheme-PATS)

## PATS Wheatbelt contact details

Northam Regional Hospital  
Robinson Street, Northam, WA, 6401  
Phone: 1800 728 792  
Fax: 9690 1317

# Community Immunisation Drop In Clinics

- Pfizer COVID-19 vaccinations for ages five years and above\* including Bivalent boosters.

\*Please note: Six month intervals are required between a COVID-19 immunisation and booster dose, or COVID-19 infection and either of the above.

Dates: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Time: 9:30am – 11:30am

Location: Merredin Hospital, Ambulatory Care

No appointment needed

## Get in touch

WA Country Health Service

Kitchener Road  
Merredin, Western Australia 6415  
Telephone: 9081 3222

Find us and like us on Facebook  
My Healthy Wheatbelt

To provide feedback on this publication email:  
[wachscms@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:wachscms@health.wa.gov.au). Alternative formats can be provided on request. © WA Country Health Service.



LUMEN  
WHEATBELT REGIONAL  
UNIVERSITY CENTRE

*Lumen Wheatbelt Regional University Centre is now open for student registrations at the Merredin, Narrogin, Wongan Hills and York study hubs!*

Lumen WRUC provides access to a study space, free access to internet, printing and IT equipment as well as a student support officer for Wheatbelt students. If you are studying online, on campus or a bit of both you are welcome to use our facility. We are here for students doing any course at any uni, TAFE or RTO in Australia!

All you need to do is check out the details of your closest study hub and register to access what ever meets your needs.

To register for free have your USI and course details handy and go to:

<https://lumenwruc.edu.au/register/>

If you have questions just get in touch.

[hello@lumenwruc.edu.au](mailto:hello@lumenwruc.edu.au)



[www.lumenwruc.edu.au](http://www.lumenwruc.edu.au)



# ANZAC DAY

TUESDAY, 25 APRIL 2023

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN  
AND IN THE MORNING,  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

<p><b>DAWN SERVICE</b></p> <p>MERREDIN CENOTAPH</p> <p><b>6AM</b></p>	<p><b>MID MORNING SERVICE</b></p> <p>CUMMINS THEATRE</p> <p><b>11AM</b></p>
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PARADE COMMENCES FROM POST OFFICE 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO EACH SERVICE

**GUNFIRE BREAKFAST**  
TIVOLI ROOM  
**7AM**

SHIRE OF  
**MERREDIN**  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

**COLLGAR**  
RENEWABLES

Contact: Leanne Bryant  
P: (08) 9041 3295  
E: [mcc@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto:mcc@merredin.wa.gov.au)

## FIRE SAFETY

By Sheree Lowe, Emergency Services Officer

The first of April is the day the Department of Fire and Emergency Services traditionally reminds us, “Don’t be a Fool, Check Your Smoke Alarm”, so let’s have a chat about smoke alarms.

Working smoke alarms save lives, there’s no two ways about it. A small fire only needs a few minutes to engulf a room, and a house can be beyond saving before the fire brigade can even get to the scene.

### 1. Does my house even have smoke alarms?

Hardwired smoke alarms are now required by law in all residential buildings prior to sale or rental, but if your house has been in your family for a long time, you may not have them. There are a good number of electricians in Merredin who will be able to install hardwired smoke alarms for a comparatively low outlay. If the budget can’t stretch that far at the moment, you can buy battery powered smoke alarms for less than the cost of a meal out for two.

### 2. How old are my smoke alarms?

Smoke alarms should be changed every 10 years. After this time, your smoke alarms won’t work as well due to dust, insects and corrosion of electrical circuits. If it’s been longer than 10 years since you’ve had your smoke alarms fitted or replaced, give one of our friendly local electricians a call about replacements.

### 3. How do I test my smoke alarms?

Hold down the test button on your smoke alarm until you hear the loud alert tone, and then release.

### 4. How do I clean and maintain my smoke alarms?

At least once a year make sure you:

- ▶ vacuum around your smoke alarm vents with a soft brush attachment to remove dust and cobwebs;
- ▶ use a surface spray around the smoke alarm (but do not spray inside the smoke alarm) to prevent insects nesting inside;
- ▶ replace the battery, if you have a 9-volt user-replaceable battery.

For more information on smoke alarms (the smartest places to install them, and smoke alarm recommendations for people with hearing, vision or mobility difficulties) visit the following link: [bit.ly/dfesssmokealarms](http://bit.ly/dfesssmokealarms)

EMILY & SMITHS TRAVELLING

# DANCE HALL

Everybody Dance

★★★★★ "Bursting at the seams with talent" THE AGE

★★★★★ "Magical" FARSA BUENOS AIRES

★★★★★ "exhilarating and uplifting" PLANET ARTS

★★★★★ "something to enthral all" TIME OUT

**CUMMINS THEATRE, MERREDIN**  
**EVENT POSTPONED**  
New date to be announced  
[cumminstheatre.com.au](http://cumminstheatre.com.au)



# Merredin Library hosts A Spotlight on the Military

From the photographic collection of  
Barbara Hall and Bob Abell and the Australian  
War Memorial.



Throughout April 2023



MERREDIN REGIONAL  
LIBRARY



FRIDAY, 28 APRIL  
1.30PM-3PM | MERREDIN LIBRARY

FREE OVER 50'S EVENT  
FEEL FREE TO BRING ALONG SOME NIBBLES!  
TEA AND COFFEE PROVIDED



FUN, WACKY PRIZES FOR WINNERS!

## APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN!

11 APRIL

### MARBLE RUN

Make your own recycled marble run!

12 APRIL

### AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

Join Any Health for three Autumn activities.

13 APRIL

### SPAGHETTI MARSHMALLOW TOWER

Make a tower out of spaghetti and see what it can hold.

18 APRIL

### GEODESIC DOME

Make your own geodesic dome!

20 APRIL

### SAND ART

Come and paint Mother's Day pictures with sand.



### School Holiday's at the Library

Holiday fun at the library looked a little different this year! Three activity sessions had a focus on STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. These activities were a fun way of introducing children to the sciences, without being in the classroom setting.

One of the activities enjoyed was making a tower platform from spaghetti and marshmallows. The challenge was to build an elevated platform that could balance at least one puppy beanbag. One inspiring participant manage to balance 3 before the fourth made it all tumble!



### PARENTAL SUPERVISION REQUIRED FOR ALL CHILDREN UNDER 10

Bookings essential | Limit of 40 participants | No walk-ins  
All sessions are 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 Wendy at the Library

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



MERREDIN REGIONAL  
LIBRARY







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**  
**7PM, 13TH MAY 2023**  
 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



**CUMMINS THEATRE**

*Morning Melodies*

DAVID SCHEEL IN...

**DON'T SHOOT ME,  
 I'M ONLY THE  
 PIANO PLAYER!**

A MORNING OF CLASSICAL  
 MUSIC AND COMEDY



**Cummins Theatre**  
**Friday, 4 August 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](http://Cumminstheatre.com.au)  
 or Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre

VEGAS USA Presents

**ELVISZACC**  
 IN

**ELVIS**  
**THE VEGAS YEARS**



**Saturday 10th June 2023**  
**CUMMINS THEATRE, MERREDIN**

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:  
[CUMMINSTHEATRE.COM.AU](http://CUMMINSTHEATRE.COM.AU)  
 OR  
 CENTRAL WHEATBELT VISITOR CENTRE