



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

MAY 2023

Merredin Community honour Veterans on ANZAC Day

The 25th of April is a solemn occasion that holds significant importance for many Australians and New Zealanders. It's a day we honour the ANZACs who fought at Gallipoli and in the first World War, as well as those who have since worn our country's uniform in service.

Hundreds of people, young and old, braved the cold winter morning to gather at the Merredin Cenotaph for the ANZAC Day Dawn Service. At 5.45am a parade marched down Barrack Street from the Post Office to where the crowds waited patiently to welcome them. Bagpipes sounded throughout the streets as the procession reached the Cenotaph where the service was due to commence at 6am.

Mal Willis took to the lectern to welcome those in attendance, before commencing his opening speech. "We gather here at this early hour on this day, every year to honour the gallant memory of those men and women who willingly sacrificed and risked their lives in the fight for safety and freedom," he said.

Following the Opening Welcome of Service, Reverend David de Kock from the Churches Fraternal was invited to lead the ANZAC and Lord's Prayers, before community groups, organisations and individuals were invited forward to lay a wreath or a sprig of rosemary as a symbol of commemoration and a sign of respect.

Vietnam Veteran Aub Tompkin came forward to recite the Ode. He stood tall, his chest adorned with medals. His voice, raw with emotion, lingered as he recited the words that have become synonymous with Anzac Day....

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To sign up to receive hard copies of the Shire's newsletter, please email media@merredin.wa.gov.au with your name and postal address. Alternatively, if you would like to sign up for the E-newsletter, please head to the Shire website at merredin.wa.gov.au and complete the form located at the bottom of the home page.

May Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 23 May 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/



As the first light of dawn began to break through the sky, a lone bugle sounded. The haunting notes of The Last Post echoed through the crisp air, a reminder of the sacrifice made by those who had served their country. The crowd then stood in silence for a minute, paying their respects to the fallen soldiers and reflecting on the significance of their sacrifice.

The crowd was then treated to the incredible voice of Jade Healey-Ratima, as she proudly sung the Australian and New Zealand National Anthems, before Mal Willis returned to the lectern to conclude the service. Those in attendance were invited to the Cummins Theatre for a Gunfire Breakfast, kindly sponsored by Collgar Renewables.

The Shire would like to thank the Commemorative Committee – Aubrey Tompkin, Mal Willis, Rob Endersbee, Ross Duffield, and Su Riley for their commitment to the working group and efforts to plan this event every year. It is greatly appreciated by all the community.



COMMUNITY — **FUNDING PROGRAM**



Each year, the Shire of Merredin makes an allocation in its Annual Budget to provide funding to community groups for a variety of projects.

There are currently two grant categories to apply for;

Annual Grant:

This grant is for projects seeking cash funding, in-kind contributions or fee waivers up to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST) per financial year.

The Shire of Merredin is pleased to announce that applications for the Annual Grant are now open for 2023/24.

Open: 24 April 2023

Close: 5:00pm, 2 June 2023

For more information regarding eligibility, application criteria, and how to apply, please visit the following link: bit.ly/merredinannualgrant

Quick Grant:

Commencing 1 July 2023

The Quick Grant is for projects seeking cash funding, in-kind contributions or fee waivers up to the value of \$2,500 (ex GST) per financial year.

Applicants can receive multiple Quick Grants per year, but to a cumulative total of \$2,500 (ex GST) per financial year.

The Quick Grant will be open all year round, and applications will be assessed within 20 working days.

The Shire will be accepting applications for the Quick Grant from 12 June 2023.

For more information regarding eligibility, application criteria, and how to apply, please visit the following link: bit.ly/merredinquickgrant



ENGINEERING

Merredin-Narembeen Road Works

Reconstruction works on Merredin-Narembeen Road recently commenced on Thursday, 27 April 2023.

Traffic management will be in place for the duration of the project, and we ask that you follow all directional signage and allow for longer drive times.

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

Amendment to Tender Submission Date

Please be advised that the deadline for the Merredin Water Tower Conservation Works Tender has been extended until 10:00am on Friday, 19 May 2023. The extension is to allow extra time for respondents to develop tender submissions with sufficient detail.

Tip Shop

The Merredin Tip Shop will be open to the public again on Saturday, 10 June 2023. This will be the third time the shop has operated, after the first two successful events diverted approximately 63 cubic metres of recycling from landfill.

The Shop is in the process of being restocked and there are a number of bargains already waiting to be found!

If you would like to contribute your unwanted recyclable items to the Tip Shop, please drop them down during the Tip operating hours.

Holiday fun at the Merredin Library

More than 70 children attended the various activities held at the Merredin Library during the April School Holidays.

In the second week of holidays, there was a continued focus on STEM activities with kids attempting to make a geodesic dome using pipe-cleaners and paper straws (see below).

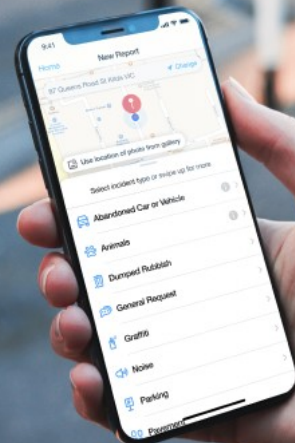
There was also an opportunity to make sand art presents for Mother's Day. The children attending were even treated to a live stream of the total solar eclipse, and were also able to watch the solar eclipse directly using pinhole cameras.



Reporting local issues is a

SNAP

Snap
Send
Solve





VISITOR CENTRE

Mother's Day Gifts Inspo

Need some gift inspiration for this upcoming Mother's Day on Sunday, 14 May? Look no further! The Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre have a wide range of gift ideas to treat mum to something special including platters, giftsets and pamper products ranging from \$8 to \$45.

Pop in to browse our full range to suit all budgets!



MRCLC Operational Management Review

The MRCLC Operational Management Review commenced in September 2022, and consisted of a 3-month consultation period with the community. Consultation included an online survey, as well as face to face workshops.

We have now entered the next phase of the Review, which includes NAJA, the consultant, defining a clear level of proposed service for the MRCLC for Council consideration.

During this process, NAJA will be considering how to best meet the outcomes from the public consultation, whilst also delivering an affordable level of service.

For more information, or to sign up to receive updates regarding the Review, please visit the following link;

->bit.ly/mrclcreview



FIRE SAFETY

Lithium-ion Batteries

By Sheree Lowe, Emergency Services Officer

An increasing number of fires around the state are being caused by lithium-ion batteries. Even out here in Merredin, fire brigades have attended multiple fires in the last couple of years where lithium-ion batteries are known to have been the culprit, or are suspected to have been.

Lithium-ion batteries are incredibly useful – so they're everywhere! There is no real way to simply stop using them, so instead we must be aware of the risk factors associated with their use.

Just about anything you can recharge will contain a lithium-ion battery. This includes phones, tablets, power banks, laptops, cordless tools and appliances, toys and e-bikes, and even scooters. Our top 5 tips for safely using lithium-ion batteries are:

1. Avoid overcharging your devices.
2. Avoid charging your devices on flammable surfaces.
3. Ensure batteries for cordless tools are securely stowed if you regularly transport them, don't let them float around in a bag or in the back of your ute – dropping, crushing or piercing lithium-ion batteries can cause the kind of damage that results in the batteries catching fire or exploding.
4. If your device or battery is overheating, swollen or bulging, leaking, or shows physical signs of damage, dispose of them safely at a Household Hazard Waste collection facility. For household batteries (such as AA, AAA etc), these can be disposed of in the collection bin at IGA.
5. Only use chargers supplied with the device, or a certified, compatible third-party charging equipment. Using chargers with incorrect voltage or current can cause the kind of damage that leads to fires.

For more information on lithium-ion batteries including the dangers, how to safely store and use them, and how to safely dispose of them, please visit the below link.

www.dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/fire-in-the-home/lithium-ion-batteries



Merredin network upgrade

The Merredin community is set to experience improved power reliability following the network upgrade and maintenance work including replacement of 159 poles and 12kms of overhead powerlines in the Merredin Townsite.



Pole replacements

- Ageing wood poles will be replaced to maintain safety and reliability.
- Old reclosers will be replaced with electronic reclosers to enable remote switching and monitoring by network control.

Overhead line replacement

Sections of overhead wires will be replaced with covered Aerial Bundle Cable, which has improved service life due to covered aluminium conductors and clamps. This is less susceptible to environmental factors which will improve power reliability for the town.

LED streetlights

Streetlights in the parts of the town will be upgraded to LED. These energy efficient replacements have a longer life than standard fittings and will provide a consistent warm light throughout the town.

Timeframe

Construction is set to be completed in two stages:

- **Stage 1 – October to December 2022**
We completed 130 poles and 4.5Kms of power lines during stage 1.
- **Stage 2 – April 2023 to June 2023**
Stage 2 involves replacement of remaining 20% of poles and 60% of overhead power lines.

Power outages

In order to complete the work safely, the work needs to be carried out on de-energised lines. This means that power outages will be required and given the volume of work, unfortunately some customers will be impacted by multiple outages.

You'll receive notification of any required outage in advance. These notifications are sent to the primary account holder only. Please forward to anyone else who may be impacted by the planned outage, such as tenants.

Have your say

We appreciate hearing any feedback, queries or concerns you may have.

Get in touch with our Community Engagement team on **9326 4850** during business hours, or email communityenquiries@westernpower.com.au.

Feature Story: **Twice Blessed**

Chesney Maloney's life has been a testament to the power of organ donation and the resilience of the human spirit. At just 3 years old, she has already been through more medical procedures than most people go through in a lifetime.

At the age of 20, Chesney received her first transplant from her mum who courageously gave her a kidney, and a second chance at life. "I always say my mum gave me life three times - first at birth, second with a kidney, and third when I was able to have my beautiful daughter [thanks to her gift]," she said.

When Chesney fell ill again at the age of 33, she had to go on the transplant list. During the long and enduring wait for a kidney, Chesney was placed on peritoneal dialysis (PD). PD is a treatment used for kidney failure that removes excess fluid, corrects electrolyte issues, and remove toxins in the body. Chesney had to do this treatment four times a day - sometimes at work, or while she was driving her daughter to her dance classes in Toodyay. When travelling interstate, her dialysis equipment would even have to be sent in advance to the state she was going to.

For nine months, this was her life. It wasn't until the third call that she finally received her life saving kidney transplant from an unknown donor who she refers to as 'Dan'. "I am so very thankful to the young man that saved my life. He has given me so many opportunities in life, I would do anything to thank his family," she said.

Through her sickness, Chesney had to give up a lot of the community work she was involved with, and her husband Mark had to run their business and take care of their home. Their then five-year-old daughter, Olivia, even pitched in to help her mum. Chesney describes her as the strongest and most inspiring little girl she knows. "She [Olivia] would get herself ready for school, she would hold my hair in the morning while I was sick, she would get me a bucket in the afternoon when I would come home from work and collapse being sick," Chesney explained.

When Chesney received the gift of life through organ donation for a second time, it meant that she and her loved ones could finally do more things together and live a more normal life as a family.

Chesney's story highlights the need for organ donation, as in Australia alone, there are currently 1,800 people waitlisted for a life-saving transplant and a further 14,000 people on dialysis who may benefit from a kidney transplant. Despite the majority of Australians supporting organ donation, only 36 per cent are registered to be a donor. This highlights the need to promote organ donation and encourage people across the world to register as donors.

Chesney's message for those who want to become an organ donor is, "please share your wishes with your family as they are the final decision [makers]."

Tackling the World Stage

The World Transplant Games is an international sporting event held every two years for people who have undergone organ transplantation, whether it be through donation or as a recipient. First held in Portsmouth in the UK in 1978, the Games have since grown to become the world's largest awareness event for organ donation, with the key purpose to celebrate a second chance at life and promote health and fitness of post-transplant patients.

The 24th World Transplant Games took place in Perth from April 15 – 21, featuring 17 different sports and attracting more than 1500 people from across 46 countries. For Merredin local Chesney, it was her first time donning the Aussie uniform, after learning about the Games through a fellow transplant patient. The decision to participate in the Games was easy for her, as she jumped at the opportunity to honour both of her donors, as well as thank her specialists, doctors and nurses that had helped her during her transplant journeys.

Despite not signing up as a competitor until late and only being able to participate in a few of the training camps, Chesney was able to win three medals for Australia – bronze in volleyball, silver in the 100m breaststroke, and silver in the basketball. She rounded out her events with a valiant 4th in the 50m backstroke.



Although her basketball team had never trained together before, Chesney said they all 'clicked' and worked well together. Chesney said, "A comment was made from another country – 'you Aussies are amazing, you don't train together but come out and win'. I think most Australians once they hit the court are very competitive and quickly realise each other's strengths. Our coach was amazing, she could just

read the game and know where we would all fit in.”

Chesney was quick to give praise to the event, saying it was the atmosphere that was the standout highlight for her. Every person she met from each country that had been through the transplant process was so grateful for their second chance, and it was easy to connect with them because they had been through similar things.

“After this we spoke about different things we had been through [with our transplants], it was nice to sit down and talk with other people just like me. I am very blessed to have so much support from family and friends but now I have more friends to help me through difficult times,” she said.

Chesney explained there were also special moments throughout the Games that will stay with her forever, such as athletes from different countries cheering each other on. She said there was even an Australian athlete who missed his event due to being in hospital, and the USA athlete who won the event visited him at his hotel after and gave him his Gold Medal.

“To hear the young athletes laughing and giggling was the best sound, I know what they have been through and able to talk and laugh with others like them was wonderful to watch,” she said.

The 25th World Transplant Games are due to be held in Germany in 2025, and Chesney is already planning her trip overseas, and has even commenced her training.

We look forward to cheering her on all the way from Merredin as she hits the world stage for a second time!



MERREDIN REGIONAL LIBRARY

Presents

A SPOTLIGHT ON

..... Local Events

Photographs from the Barbara Hall and Bob Abell Collection, and the local history collection of the Merredin Library

MERREDIN SHOW

GALA NIGHT

AUSTRALIA DAY

CAR RALLIES

OPENINGS & MORE

Help us put names to faces

ON DISPLAY
DURING MAY!

We're Hiring!

Executive Manager Engineering Services

The Executive Manager Engineering Services 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 infrastructure and engineering services functions such as road construction and parks and gardens, however, your background means you will bring to the table a broader organisational leadership capability - working collaboratively with the Executive and Council to lead the development of our CBD redevelopment project and a number of new sustainability initiatives.

A position description containing the Selection Criteria can be obtained online on the Shire of Merredin website, or via email hr@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Applications are to be received by no later than 5.00pm, Tuesday, 16 May 2023. Applications are to be marked "Private and Confidential" and emailed to hr@merredin.wa.gov.au.

For more information, visit bit.ly/merredinemployment



A CHOURED TASTE MERREDIN
PRESENTS:



SONGFEST MERREDIN

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MERREDIN**

MAY 19-21, 2023



**CHORAL CONCERT
SATURDAY NIGHT**

Visiting singers from a range of
Western Australian Choirs will be
performing at an open concert.

Tickets on sale now - \$10

[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CHNMR](https://www.trybooking.com/CHNMR)

Contact: achouredtastemdn@gmail.com



Morning Melodies

Featuring Sophie Jane

**Cummins Theatre
Friday June 9th**

Morning Tea at 10.30

Concert starts 11am

**Bookings Essential
\$15**

Morning Tea is included in ticket price

Get Tickets at Cumminstheatre.com.au
or Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

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Saturday 10th June 2023

CUMMINS THEATRE, MERREDIN

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

CUMMINSTHEATRE.COM.AU

OR
CENTRAL WHEATBELT VISITOR CENTRE



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
or Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre