

# COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION



## MERREDIN CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

The Shire of Merredin has received the 10 Year Waterwise Councils Award at Water Corporation’s 2024 Waterwise Recognition Awards held on 8 May 2024. This accolade celebrates a decade of dedication to sustainable water practices, highlighting the Shire’s commitment to building a climate-resilient and waterwise community.

The Waterwise Council Program, a collaboration between Water Corporation and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, supports local governments in adopting waterwise strategies crucial for facing climate change and decreasing rainfall across WA.

Merredin is one of 57 waterwise aquatic centres in WA, which have collectively saved 1.59 billion litres of water since the program began.

## COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 25 June at 4:00pm. This meeting will be held at the Shire Admin 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 on the Shire website.



## CBD REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE



In Apex Park, the posts for the flying fox have been successfully installed, along with a number of play elements. Significant advancements have also been made on the skate park, with the concrete work around the top of the bowl now complete, as well as a number of ramps.

The set-out for the half-court has also been finalised and surfacing is scheduled to commence in the coming weeks. Additionally, we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the remaining play equipment, which should be in Merredin shortly.

The concrete pouring of footpaths has also been largely completed.



In the Town Centre, the underground electrical installations are approaching their final stages, ensuring improved infrastructure and reliability. The new toilet block has also been completed and includes two regular toilet stalls, two ambulant stalls and one disability-accessible stall, all of which are unisex.

Drainage works have been completed, and the footings for the event stage and retaining walls have also been finalised.

Over the coming weeks, we will be bringing in large amounts of soil which will ensure the lush greenery of new trees and plants are able to thrive.

## NEW STAFF PROFILES



### REBEKAH NATT

Join us in welcoming the new Community Development Officer to the Shire team! Rebekah has previously worked in employment services and has a great understanding of the communities needs.

#### *A message from Rebekah*

"I am excited to be part of the team at the Merredin Shire and look forward to working alongside everyone to support and grow our community."



### NICOLA BECK

We are excited to welcome our new Admin and Program Officer at the MRCLC. Nicola is a Merredin local, having grown up on a farm in South Burracoppin. She is heavily involved in sports, and enjoys being a part of committees and clubs.

#### *A message from Nicola*

"I am excited to combine my knowledge of the local sporting communities with my new training and knowledge of how the recreation space operates. I'm also very excited to work alongside Mel and the team at the MRCLC to create new programs and plan for the future of the centre."

## FIRE CONTROL OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

Bush Fires Act 1954  
Shire of Merredin - Appointments

Notice is hereby given that the following persons have been appointed to the designated positions within the Shire of Merredin for the 2023-24 fire season in accordance with section 38(1) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

**Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**  
Mr Michael Caughey

**Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**  
Mr Glenn Crees

### Fire Control Officers

Chris Barnett – Burracoppin  
Nigel Edgcombe – Burracoppin South  
Matt Barnett – Burracoppin South  
Glenn Crees – Collgar  
Kael Crees – Collgar  
Stephen Crook – Collgar  
David Last – Collgar  
Cam Gethin – Hines Hill  
Luke Growden – Hines Hill  
Colin Miller – Hines Hill  
John Flockart – Korbalka

Chris Hooper – Korbalka  
Sam Hooper – Korbalka  
Darren Major – Muntadgin  
Paul Wanless – Muntadgin  
Michael Caughey – Nukarni/Nokaning  
Marshall Crook – Nukarni/Nokaning  
Daniel Giles – Nukarni/Nokaning  
Phil Gray – Nukarni/Nokaning  
Neil Smith – Nukarni/Nokaning  
Sheree Lowe – Shire of Merredin

These positions remain in effect until revoked. All previous appointments published and not listed above are hereby revoked.

John Merrick,  
**T/Chief Executive Officer**

22 April 2024

## DIFFERENTIAL RATING OBJECTS & REASONS 2024/25

In accordance with Local Government Act 1995, Financial Management Part 6, Rates and Service Charges Division

The Shire is seeking feedback on the proposed differential rates objects and reasons 2024/25. In arriving at the proposed rates in the dollar the Council has attempted to balance the need for revenue to fund essential services, facilities and infrastructure to the entire community, with the lowest impact on ratepayers.

Unimproved Value	Minimum Rate	Rate in \$
GRV	\$940.00	0.109400
UV1 – Rural	\$1,160.00	0.013325
UV2 – Urban Rural	\$1,160.00	0.026650
UV3 – Mining	\$200.00	0.025875
UV4 – Special Use Power Generation	\$1,160.00	0.025800
UV5 – Special Use Airstrip	\$1,160.00	0.023971

For more information, please visit [bit.ly/objectsandreasons](http://bit.ly/objectsandreasons).

Any submissions by electors or ratepayers in respect of the proposed Differential Rates and Minimum Payments can be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Merredin, PO Box 42, Merredin WA 6415, or by email [admin@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto:admin@merredin.wa.gov.au) prior to 4:00pm on Thursday, 13 June 2024.

Ratepayers are welcome to contact the Shire Administration Department regarding the differential rating categories on (08) 9041 1611 or email [admin@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto:admin@merredin.wa.gov.au).

John Merrick, Temporary Chief Executive Officer





## NEW HOME FOR THE CWVC

The Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre (CWVC) has relocated to its new home at the Merredin Train Station, opening the doors at its new location on Monday, 13 May 2024. This was following an eight-week interim period at Cummins Theatre, to allow for the Train Station to undergo renovations. This move marks a significant milestone in enhancing our services and providing an improved visitor experience.

While the official opening is still to be confirmed, we encourage you to keep your eyes peeled for an official invitation to the community soon. It'll be your chance to check out the new space, chat to the friendly staff, and enjoy a bite to eat over morning tea.

## REVITALISATION OF APEX PARK ENTERS EXCITING NEW PHASE

The eagerly awaited transformation of Apex Park has reached an exciting milestone, as it enters its fourth month of construction. Substantial advancements have meant that the project has now entered the next phase of works, including the imminent completion of the highly anticipated Skate Park, as well as the installation of more than 20 play elements and extensive landscaping that will breathe new life into this highly valued community space.

Thanks to generous funding from Lotterywest, the Skate Park is currently undergoing a full rebuild. The revamped space will include features such as a learn to skate area, half pipe and a skate bowl, among other elements, offering a next-level skating experience.

Shire President Mark McKenzie expressed the sentiment shared by many in the Merredin community, highlighting the Skate Park's pivotal role in the park's redevelopment. "We can now see the design of the park, specifically the skate park, really coming to life, a testament to the collective vision and determination of our Council and community," remarked the Shire President.

"It's not just about ramps and rails; it's about creating a

vibrant hub where the community can come together, learn, and enjoy the space."

In addition to the skate park, the majority of the concrete footpaths have been poured this month, weaving seamlessly throughout the park to provide convenient access and connectivity for all. These pathways showcase sections of exposed aggregate, serving as distinctive visual accents that will mirror the aesthetic of the redeveloped Town Centre when complete.

Daniel Hay-Hendry, the Project Manager for the CBD Redevelopment, expressed his delight at the progress made despite the challenges posed over the last couple of years due to market fluctuations and the COVID-19 pandemic.

"After years of collaboration and planning, it's immensely gratifying to witness the fruition of a design that celebrates Merredin's unique natural history and beauty," commented Mr. Hay-Hendry.

Progress photos are now available for viewing on the Shire of Merredin website, offering a sneak peek behind the fencing into the evolving landscape of Apex Park.



## JOB VACANCIES

### Cleaner

*Commencing: Immediately*

*Position Status: Permanent, full time*

*Salary: Level 3 up to \$53,877 p/a*

*Applications are invited for the position of Cleaner with the Shire of Merredin. This role will provide cleaning services at various Shire of Merredin facilities, community buildings, and public amenities. Ordinary hours for this role can be worked between 5:00 am to 10:00 pm from Monday to Sunday, in accordance with the Local Government Industry Award 2020 (LGIA 2020).*

Reporting directly to the Executive Manager Development Services, and working in conjunction with other staff within the organisation, this role will be responsible for ensuring Shire facilities are clean, well maintained and presented, and meet the expectations of users.

Ideally, we are looking for someone that takes pride in their work, is flexible with working hours and has some experience in commercial cleaning. If you are interested in this role but are not sure whether you can meet all the requirements of the position description, please reach out for a confidential discussion.

Working at the Shire offers excellent benefits, including:

- A fantastic work life balance with flexible work arrangements considered;
- A small, personable team environment;
- Up to 15% superannuation contributions (as per Shire policy);
- Training and development opportunities; and
- A great employee Health and Wellbeing Program including flu shots, hearing tests and skin cancer checks and an Employee Assistance Program.

If you would like further information about this position please contact Peter Zenni, Executive Manager Development Services on (08) 9041 1611 during office hours.

Please send your application, marked Private and Confidential, to [careers@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto:careers@merredin.wa.gov.au), drop it off at the Shire Administration Office, or send via post to PO Box 42 Merredin WA 6415, by 4:00pm, 3 June 2024.

John Merrick  
Temporary Chief Executive Officer

### Grandstand Bar and Restaurant Casuals

*Commencing: Immediately*

*Position Status: Casual*

*\$33.68 - \$34.08/hr | Junior Rate: \$17.26 - \$29.82/hr (inclusive of casual loading)*

Are you passionate about delivering exceptional customer service and creating memorable experiences for guests? We are currently seeking dynamic and enthusiastic individuals to join our team as Grandstand Bar and Restaurant Casuals. If you thrive in a fast-paced environment and have a customer-centric mindset, we want to hear from you!

The Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre is a welcoming and vibrant local space where sports, leisure and recreation thrive together. Reporting to the Grandstand Bar and Restaurant Coordinator, you will play a crucial role in the seamless operation of the Grandstand Bar and Restaurant. Your responsibilities include providing exceptional bar service, ensuring a clean and organised kitchen and restaurant, and assisting with food preparation as required.

The ideal candidates for this position possess well-developed time management and organisational skills, ensuring efficient handling of tasks and responsibilities. Candidates should demonstrate initiative and enthusiasm, contributing to a positive team environment. A customer-centric mindset, coupled with a commitment to delivering outstanding service and a genuine passion for creating memorable experiences, is essential.

Applications are to include a comprehensive CV, and a separate Cover Letter (max 2 pages), outlining your ability to meet the role requirements.

A position description, containing the Selection Criteria can be obtained online on the Shire of Merredin's website, or via email at [careers@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto:careers@merredin.wa.gov.au).

Note: The Shire reserves the right to assess applications, interview candidates and make appointments prior to the closing date.

This casual pool will remain open until 4:00pm, Friday, 28 June 2024.

Applications are to be marked "Private and Confidential" and emailed to [careers@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto:careers@merredin.wa.gov.au).

John Merrick  
Temporary Chief Executive Officer





**BINGO!**

**LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

**1:30PM - 3:00PM | MERREDIN LIBRARY**

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

**FUN, WACKY PRIZES FOR WINNERS!**

**MERREDIN REGIONAL LIBRARY**

P: 9041 1222  
 E: library@merredin.wa.gov.au  
 22 Coronation St

## TIME CAPSULE

The time capsule that was removed from the Town Centre before the redevelopment works began, is now on display at the Merredin Library. This time capsule is set to be opened in 2029 to celebrate the state's 200th anniversary. Until then, it will be housed at the Merredin Library, offering a unique glimpse into the past. We invite everyone to visit and share in the anticipation of what lies within this remarkable piece of our history!



## CAT AND DOG REGISTRATIONS



Attention pet owners in the Shire of Merredin! Please remember to register your pets in compliance with local regulations.

Under the *Dog Act 1976*, all dogs over the age of three months must be registered. Registration can be completed at the Shire offices during normal office hours, and options are available for 1 year, 3 years, or a lifetime, starting from 1 November each year.

Similarly, the *Cat Act 2011* requires all cats over the age of six months to be registered and microchipped. Cats must also display registration tags in public places.

Ensure your pets are registered and comply with these provisions to help keep our community safe and responsible. For more information, please visit the Shire offices or our website here: [bit.ly/catanddoginfo](http://bit.ly/catanddoginfo)

## FOR AGES 5 - 14 YEARS



### 📅 LAST MONDAY OF THE MONTH DURING SCHOOL TERM

🕒 4:00PM - 5:00PM

📍 MERREDIN LIBRARY

FUN THEMES EACH MONTH | FRIENDLY COMPETITIONS

For our younger builders aged under 10, we kindly ask that a parent or guardian accompanies them to the sessions.

THIS IS A FREE PROGRAM RUN BY THE MERREDIN LIBRARY!

For more information please contact Wendy at the Library  
 Telephone: (08) 9041 1222  
 library@merredin.wa.gov.au  
 www.merredin.wa.gov.au  
 facebook/merredinregionallibrary



**MERREDIN REGIONAL LIBRARY**

Join us on Monday, 27 May 2024 for fun and creativity as young builders explore their imagination and construct amazing projects. It's the perfect way for kids to learn, play, and make new friends.

## ANZAC DAY 2024

On Thursday, 25 April 2024, just before the first light of dawn, hundreds of community members gathered to commemorate the sacrifices and bravery of the Australian and New Zealand Armed Forces. The morning proceedings commenced with an ANZAC Day March along Barrack Street starting at the Australia Post Office, and down to the Merredin Cenotaph with the inclusion of piper Reagan Jones. Once the clock ticked over to 6:00am, the Merredin Military Cadets left the procession and assumed their positions to proudly raise the flags.

Shire President, Mark McKenzie presided over the service, which commenced shortly after dawn. He began by welcoming and acknowledging the veterans in attendance, offering his gratitude for their service, sacrifice, and commitment to defending our freedoms, before thanking the community for braving the cold morning to pay tribute to our heroes.

The Shire President then paid a touching tribute to two local veterans who had recently passed away; Mr Eddie Johnston, WWII Veteran, and Mr. Jim Willcox, Vietnam Veteran. They were recognised for their unwavering dedication to serving the nation, and for their bravery and determination.

“They stood shoulder to shoulder with their comrades, facing the challenges of conflict with bravery and determination. As we reflect on their lives and their service, let us remember their courage, their sacrifice, and their devotion to duty. Though they may no longer be with us in person, their spirit lives on in the hearts and minds of all who knew them,” the Shire President said.

Following the tribute, Mark Beagle was invited forward to lead the Lord’s Prayer, before a beautiful display of wreaths was laid to honour those who sacrificed so much to fight for our country. This was then followed by the ODE recited by Aub Tompkin, The Last Post performed by Natalia Warnock from Merredin College, and the singing of both the Australian and New Zealand National Anthems by Jade Healey-Ratima.

The Dawn Service concluded shortly after, with the Shire President extending an invitation to all in attendance to attend a Gunfire Breakfast at the Tivoli, which was kindly prepared by the Merredin Men’s Shed.

Later in the day, a Mid-Morning Service was held at Cummins Theatre which also attracted a large crowd of community members who wished to pay their respects. This service was led once again by Shire President Mark McKenzie, with the proceedings mimicking much of the Dawn Service, with the addition of Benjamin Townson leading the Lord’s Prayer, A Choired Taste singing a beautiful rendition of the Hymn ‘Amazing Grace,’ and Guest Speaker Constable Cody Crisp, who filled the hearts and ears with memories he shared of his grandfather’s time of service.

The Mid-Morning service concluded after a performance of ‘Four Hundred Seasons,’ by A Choired Taste, which was followed by a light lunch in the Tivoli made possible by the generosity of Collgar Renewables.

The Shire of Merredin would like to thank the community for their engagement with, and continued support of, the ANZAC Day events in Merredin; it is a true reflection and demonstration of the ANZAC Spirit, which will continue to be remembered and honoured by future generations to come.





## SHIRE OF MERREDIN COUNCIL OPPOSE LIVE SHEEP EXPORT BAN: CALLS FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECONSIDERATION

Shire of Merredin Councillors have voiced profound concern regarding the recent decision by our Federal Government to phase out live sheep exports by 2028.

Amid extensive media coverage, it appears that our Federal representatives have prioritised the interests of a vocal, uninformed minority over those of our farmers, with seemingly little consideration for the devastating effects on rural communities.

Questions have been raised about the rationale behind this move, given the government's commitment to supporting Australian-made industries. The Shire is concerned that the decision may be influenced by the demographic distribution of certain advocacy groups, predominantly based in urban areas, which could have affected the decision-making process.

This decree jeopardises the livelihoods of countless generations of hard-working sheep farmers statewide, while also threatening the economic stability of rural towns reliant on servicing the agricultural sector.

Shire President Mark McKenzie has conveyed the disappointment of the Councillors regarding the decision. "We [Shire of Merredin Council] believe that prioritising the interests of a minority group may not be in the best interest of rural communities," he said.

"The Shire will be penning a letter to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator Murray Watt, urging the Federal Government to reconsider this decision and continue supporting the live export industry, which meets regulatory standards and contributes significantly to the Australian economy."

## WESTERN POWER WORKS & OUTAGES

Western Power is investing over \$1.2 million in infrastructure upgrades to enhance network resilience throughout Merredin.

These works will include the replacement of around 60 poles and 6.5kms of conductor, upgrading of streetlights and insulators, and other essential maintenance.

The work will be concentrated around the Merredin townsite, with the bulk of it scheduled to be completed in May and June, with minor works to follow in August to October.

Some planned power outages will be necessary to ensure the work is completed safely.

On Wednesday, 29 May 2024, there will be a power outage along Barrack Street. As such, the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre will be closed.



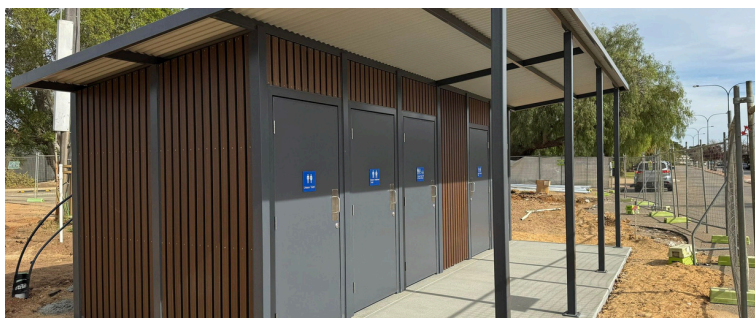
## NEW TOILET BLOCK

We are pleased to announce the nearing completion of the new toilet block in the Town Centre. Constructed with durable finishes, including mod-wood external panelling, this facility has been designed for longevity and security.

To enhance passive security and deter vandalism, the new toilet block has been strategically located closer to Barrack Street. This placement also provides easier access for community members and visitors due to its proximity to shops and other community amenities.

Please note that the proximity of the toilet block to the road will be adjusted upon the completion of the intersection works. The road will be raised and narrowed, bringing the kerb line approximately 5 meters from the toilet block. This design for the road serves as a traffic calming measure, significantly slowing traffic and improving pedestrian safety.

These enhancements will greatly improve accessibility and convenience for all users, ensuring a safer and more pleasant experience for the community. We appreciate your patience and support as we complete these important upgrades.





# SONGBIRD

Cummins Theatre | Friday 24 May, 7pm



WRITTEN BY SHAKARA WALLEY

Tickets Adult \$35 | Concession \$30

Book Online at [cumminstheatre.com.au](http://cumminstheatre.com.au) or at Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre

# SHANNON ★ NOLL

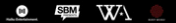


THAT'S  
WHAT I'M  
TALKING  
ABOUT

20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR 2024

SATURDAY MAY 25

CUMMINS THEATRE, MERREDIN  
SHANNONNOLL.COM SBMPRESENTS.COM



CUMMINS  
THEATRE

# Morning Melodies

Featuring Earl Cole - Rat Pack Tribute

Cummins Theatre  
Friday, 7 June 2024

Morning Tea at 10:30am

Concert starts 11:00am

Bookings Essential  
\$15

Morning Tea is included in ticket price

Get Tickets at [cumminstheatre.com.au](http://cumminstheatre.com.au)  
or Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!



AUSTRALIAN BAROQUE PRESENTS  
THE AWARD WINNING SHOW

# SPACE MUSIC

SUNDAY, 23 JUNE 2024

CUMMINS THEATRE 2:00PM

ADULT \$25 | CONCESSION \$20 | CHILDREN \$11 | UNDER 10 FREE

FEATURING  
VENUSIAN VOLCANOLOGIST  
DR ANTONY BRIAN,

FILM AND IMAGES FROM  
NASA

LIVE BAROQUE  
ORCHESTRA

