

SHIRE OF MERREDIN COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION



Festa Italiana

Plans for an exciting event celebrating Merredin's Italian families and their heritage are underway. 'Festa Italiana' events will take place on the 14th, 15th and 16th of October. The three day events will include family activities such as the Elder's Golden Sausage competition, dinner and show, games, sports and lots of delicious food!

An important element of the festival will be the celebration of the Italian families in our community and sharing the stories of the family's heritage, traditions and significant life moments.

We are calling on all Italian families to share their stories with us and the community by contacting Marilyn Sayers on 9041 1611

JUNE EVENTS

EVERY MONDAY

Tales of Times Past | Senior Centre

EVERY TUESDAY

Storytime at the Library | 10:30am | Free

JUNE EVENTS

- 12th June** Melbourne Comedy Festival Roadshow
Cummins Theatre | \$20-\$25 | 7:30pm - 9:00pm
- 17th June** Repertory Club Show commences
- 26th June** Merredin Markets | Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre Lawn
- 27th June** Fun with Shakespeare Workshop | Cummins Theatre | From 27th June | Cost TBA

Festa Italiana

OCTOBER 2016

CELEBRATING MERREDIN'S ITALIAN FAMILIES

Council Meeting

The next ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building, in Council Chambers, on Tuesday 21st June 2016 and will commence at 3:00pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The agenda will be available to view on the Council website on Monday 20th June 2016

Broadband speeds to Merredin

In October 2015 nbn™ launched the Sky Muster™ satellite into space, signifying a leap forward in their quest to provide Australian homes and businesses with fast and reliable broadband access, including those who have never had it before. Three nbn™ fixed wireless towers were switched on in the Wheatbelt region in early May 2016 which means approximately 195 premises around Merredin (surrounds only) are now able to connect to the wireless nbn™ network. Homes and businesses in and around Nungarin and Dalwallinu are also able to connect. At this stage, only Merredin residents and businesses out of the town site can connect. The construction of fixed line technology in the town site of Merredin is expected to commence in the first half of 2016.

To find out if your home or business is eligible to connect; visit www.nbn.com.au and enter your address or alternatively, you can contact your internet service provider to conduct a check for you.

Toddy - The Recycling Sheep

We are currently working on a project involving the construction and installation of a monumental recycling structure in Apex Park, one of the litter hotspots in town. In April 2016 the team at Karni Engineering, designed and constructed a recycling receptacle in the form of a sheep. Standing at almost 2 metres high, Toddy (as we have affectionately named him) is ready to help us battle the litter problem. The community will be able to deposit empty beverage containers such as cans and bottles into the sheep, where they will be emptied and sent to a Materials Recycling Facility for sorting and processing. Toddy will be installed in June 2016



Invitation for Public Comment

In accordance with Section 6.36 of the Local Government Act 1995 the Shire of Merredin proposes to apply differential rates on Unimproved Values for the financial year 2016/17. Details of the proposed rates shown in the table to the right.

The objectives and reasons for these differential rates may be inspected at the Shire Administration Office, The Merredin Regional Library or online at www.merredin.wa.gov.au

The Shire invites feedback on this proposal. Submissions must be in writing and can be addressed to Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 42, Merredin WA 6415, faxed to 9041 2379 or emailed to admin@merredin.wa.gov.au

Unimproved Value	Minimum Rate	Rate in \$
UV1 – Rural	\$1,010	0.019871
UV2 – Urban Rural	\$1,010	0.026388
UV3 – Mining	\$200	0.039583
UV4 - Special Zone Wind Farm	\$1,010	0.039583
UV5 – Special Use Airstrip	\$1,010	0.039583
UV6 – Merredin Power	\$1,010	0.039583

The closing date for submissions is 4:00pm on 20th June 2016.

Please note that all submission will become a public record. However, the Shire will not release your personal details if a written request to withhold these details is received.

Farming Family Histories - Stage 2

The Wool Bale Planters have been constructed and the flowers are growing. Now it is time for Stage 2 of the Wool Bale Planter Project where information will be gathered and compiled to share the stories and history of Merredin's local farming families.

If you are interested in displaying your family's wool brand and farm history please contact Marilyn Sayers on 9041 1611 or project1@merredin.wa.gov.au



Merredin moves forward after community consultation

In the second half of 2015 the Shire of Merredin engaged a diverse range of people in the community during the 'Around the Table Series' community consultation program. This included service providers, the general community, local businesses, seniors and young people. Some 267 residents participated in either community workshops, group morning teas, online engagement, one-on-one conversations or surveys.

Following the consultations, community feedback was collated and workshopped with Council to develop key priorities for the Draft Strategic Community Plan 2016-2026. Council also gave consideration to anticipated service delivery expectations as well as key economic and environmental drivers. State and Federal policy and planning was also considered. The Plan aspires to recognise the needs of the community and to enable the development of infrastructure and services to meet those needs. The Plan reflects the collaboration of the community to discuss what they value, what they are looking for in the future and what needs to be done to succeed.

A copy of the Strategic Community Plan is available on Council's website www.merredin.wa.gov.au.

Some of the aspirations identified throughout the consultation series were able to be implemented within the 2015/16 budget. The status of some of the projects include:

ASPIRATIONS IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMUNITY		
ASPIRATIONS	PROJECT	WHAT'S NEXT
Proactive Promotion of Merredin	1. Rebranding of the Shire 2. Development of video promoting Merredin's liveability	1. Continue implementing new brand 2. Promotional video launched
Further Development of Local Tourism	1. Development, promotion and implementation of Tourism Packages 2. Town Entry Statements 3. Strengthening partnership with the museums	1. Promotion of senior tourism packages 2. Expected installation June 2016 3. Ongoing consultation with museums
Town Enhancement	1. Wool Bale Planter Boxes for Barrack Street 2. Banner Poles for Barrack and King Streets 3. Shade and Seating at Roy Little Park	1. Expected installation June 2016 2. Expected installation June 2016 3. Expected installation June 2016
Economic Development	1. Spirulina Project – completion of feasibility study	1. Development of business case
Independent Living for the Aged	1. CEACA Project – funding granted for land assembly	1. Seeking funding for the construction of units
Caring for the Community	1. Investigate the opportunity to obtain a community bus	1. First Community Consultation held and action plan developed

SOME OF OUR STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR 2016-17 <i>NOTE - PROJECTS SUBJECT TO EXTERNAL FUNDING*</i>		
STRATEGY	ACTION	
Proactive Promotion of Merredin	1. Development and implementation of a marketing plan to attract potential business, industry and residents to Merredin 2. Hosting of Festa Italiana (Italian Festival) on 15th and 16th of October	
Further Development of Local Tourism	1. Development of a shade structure incorporating interpretative panels to depict Merredin's heritage and culture at the Visitor Centre precinct 2. Installation of tourism attraction signage at each entrance into Merredin	
Town Enhancement	1. Development and installation of planter boxes in Bates Street* 2. Enhancement of some existing garden beds 3. Installation of seating and shade along main walking routes into the CBD	
Economic Development	1. Consideration of the Spirulina Business Case 2. Implementation of the CDB redevelopment project Stage 1* 3. Investigate the feasibility of developing a desalination plant in Merredin 4. Investigate opportunities associated with NBN	
Support Medical Facilities & Services	1. Assist with the development and publication of a local community and medical services directory	
Key Assets	1. Advocate the option to install a pedestrian crossing on the GNH 2. Develop business case for Stage 2 of the North Merredin Primary School Redevelopment 3. Upgrade of technical facilities at Cummins Theatre (Stage 2*)	
Recreational Facilities and Services	1. Review, implementation and rationalisation options for recreational and community facilities and services 2. Develop cycle park in Apex Park*	
Efficient Energy & Water Usage	1. Progressively upgrade Merredin's independent water scheme	

Destination Merredin in Pictures

The Destination Merredin events made for a Mother's Day weekend full of family fun, entertainment and laughter. It all began at Cummins Theatre on the Friday night with the premiere screening of the music videos produced by Cummins Kids. The Theatre was roaring with excited laughter from kids who planned, produced and starred in the films. I think there were plenty of giggles coming from the parents as well! Saturday night saw a fancy cocktail party at the Phil Doncon opening night art exhibition. More than 60 people attended the exhibition and were treated to two live art performances by Phil Doncon. One show was presented alongside Brian Goddard playing the piano. On Mother's Day, the community came together at Roy Little Park for a combined church service and white dove release courtesy of Wheatbelt White Doves, followed by a day of games and the Heritage Markets. Highlights of the day included two live art performances by Phil Doncon, family photo booth run by the lovely girls from Amity Health, and a surprise visit by Elmo thanks to Crazy Fun Amusement Hire. The Merredin Army Cadets worked hard to assist in the setup up and pack down of the event.

The Destination Merredin crew would like to thank all of the individuals, community groups and businesses who contributed to make the weekend a wonderful event for the community.



From left to right, top to bottom: Art Exhibition and Cocktail Night; Phil Doncon performing; Brian Goddard plays the piano; Community watching Phil Doncon at Roy Little Park, Elmo on the ActiveSmart Juice Bike; Children playing Jenga; Amity Health craft table; Audience watching the Live Art Performance; Suzette with her girls, Lianie and Reze; Malcolm Robartson from the Men's Shed; Cadets playing totem tennis; Phil Doncon during his energetic performance.