

# SHIRE OF MERREDIN COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION



## ODDYSEA AT CUMMINS THEATRE

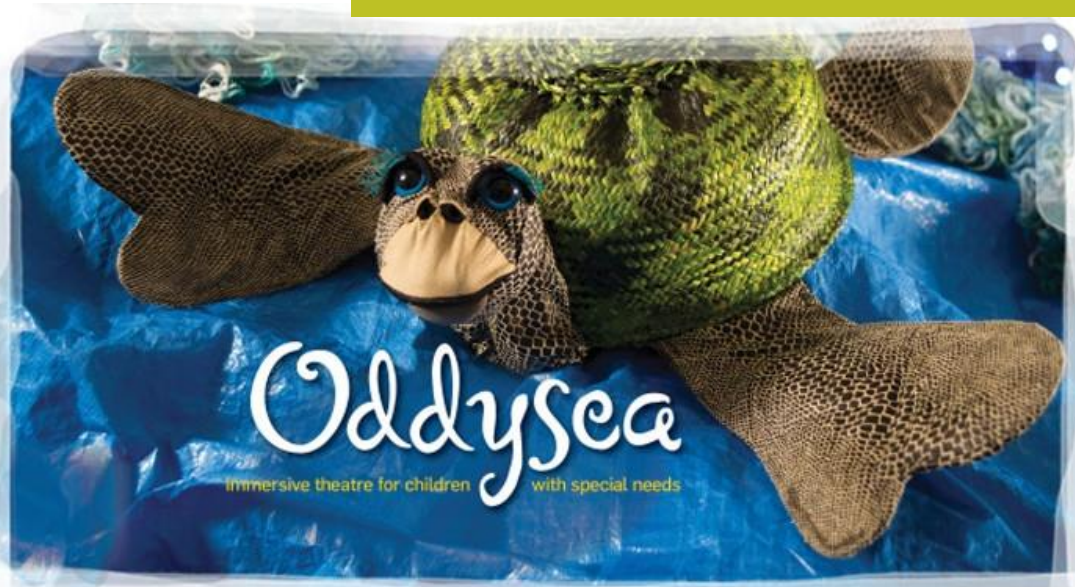
The Cummins Theatre has a very special program coming up in August. "Oddysea" is an interactive show and workshop designed specifically for children with disabilities and their families.

Set in a beautiful ocean installation, there's plenty for your child to see, hear, smell, touch and taste as the story unfolds around them. Sensorium Theatre create amazing experiences that cater for all children's needs, taking the whole family on an exciting journey beneath the sea!

The program has been supported by Lotterywest Grants and the WA Government and the program is taking place from 17 August - 20 August.

There are various options for attending the workshops and performances. Cummins Theatre staff will work with individuals to tailor a schedule that suits their needs.

If you or someone you know would be interested in attending this program please get in contact with the Cummins Theatre on 9041 3295.



## AUGUST EVENTS

### EVERY MONDAY

Tales of Times Past | Senior Centre

### EVERY TUESDAY

Storytime at the Library | 10:30am | Free

### AUGUST EVENTS

**10 AUG** Shadowboxing | Cummins Theatre | \$3 students \$5 adults | 11:00am - 12:00pm

**18 AUG** Vietnam Veterans Day | Roy Little Park | 4:00pm

**20 AUG** Oddysea | Cummins Theatre | \$20pp | 10:00am and 12:30pm session

**28 AUG** Merredin Markets | Visitor Centre Lawn | 9:00am - 1:00pm | Free

**1 SEPT** 0-4 Spring Playdate | Merredin Community Garden | 10:00-12:00 noon | Free

## COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building, in Council Chambers, on Tuesday 16 August 2016 and will commence at 3:00pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The agenda will be available to view on Council's website on Monday 15 August 2016.

## Census Night August

Census will take place on 9 August 2016 and must be completed by everyone in Australia. The Census provides the Australian Bureau of Statistics with important information about Australia's people. This information helps to estimate the population of Australia and to distribute government funds and plan services for the community.

From 1 August 2016, most households will receive a letter which will include your household's Census Login and instructions on how to complete the Census online. This letter will be addressed 'To the Resident'. Completing the Census online is fast, easy and secure, however if you would like to complete the paper form instead your letter will provide instructions on how to order one. You may or



**Census**  
**AUGUST 9**  
census.abs.gov.au

**OUR MOMENT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

may not receive a paper form in the mail.

The personal information that you provide on Census night will not be shared with any other government departments or agencies. Australian Bureau of Statistics are legally bound to protect your privacy, and will not release any information that will identify any individual or household.

## CEACA Housing Project Moves Forward

The CEACA Housing Project has reached stage 2 with recently announced funding of almost \$20m to service additional land and construct 75 Independent Living Units across the Wheatbelt, including 28 of those units in Merredin.

The Central East Aged Care Alliance (CEACA) formed in 2012 and formalised as an Incorporated Association in mid-2015. The association is a partnership of eleven Wheatbelt Shires, including Merredin. The CEACA Housing Project is a staged program to eventually construct up to 187 Independent Living Units across the eleven Shires. Currently, there is not enough appropriate housing to meet demand, and this program aims to provide age appropriate accommodation and services to fill the gap.

The Shire of Merredin has selected the old North Merredin

Primary School site as the location for the Independent Living Units. This lot was vested in the Shire in 2014 for the purpose of Aged Care and Community Purposes. In April 2014 Merredin Regional Library was relocated to the old North Merredin Primary School location.

CEACA was successful in obtaining funding of almost \$20m in addition to the \$2m as stage 1 from Royalties for Regions funding programs for the preparation and servicing of lots and construction of Independent Living units. Stage 2 of the project includes the construction of 28 Independent Living Units in Merredin. Conditions relating to the funding obtained from the Royalties for Regions programs required the Shire of Merredin to commit \$20,000 per Independent Living Unit. In its July 2016 meeting, Council resolved to commit to this \$20,000 per Independent Living Unit.

## Free Mulch Days

On the weekend of 27 and 28 August Merredin residents can obtain free mulch from the Merredin Refuse Site.

To be eligible to receive mulch at no charge, simply present your current tip pass to landfill staff on arrival. You will need to bring your ute or trailer.

If you do not have a tip pass, please contact the Shire Administration on 9041 1611 for instructions.

**Merredin Refuse Site**  
**Chandler Road, Merredin**  
**Free Mulch Days - 27 and 28 August 2016**  
**10:30am to 3:00pm**

## 2016/17 Tip Passes

Merredin residents are issued with one tip pass each year which entitles the recipient to unlimited free access to the Chandler Road landfill site, provided that they present their identification tag on entry and that loads are sorted into their designated areas. Your 2016/17 tip pass will be sent to you upon payment of 2016/17 rates.



Please note that if you do not present your tip pass, you will be charged for waste disposal. Additionally, if your load is unsorted, you will incur the appropriate fee. Commercial users do not have free access and will incur the appropriate fee.

## Vietnam Veterans Day Service

The Shire of Merredin will be holding a commemorative service to honour the men and women who served our nation throughout the Vietnam War. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the battle of Long Tan and Vietnam Veterans' Day and the community are invited to honour those soldiers who fought and to remember those affected by the war.



**Vietnam Veterans Day Service**  
**18 August 2016 at 4:00pm**  
**Reflection Pond**  
**Roy Little Park**

**Followed by a sun downer at**  
**Merredin Military Museum**

## Promoting Merredin

The 2015 community consultation series recognised the community's wish for Merredin to be better promoted to attract potential business, industry and residents. A number of initiatives have been planned and implemented to market Merredin more aggressively locally and regionally. The first project included the rollout of the new brand for the Shire of Merredin. The new brand is featuring on signage renewal within the shire boundaries and the townsite.

Newly installed entry statements introduces Merredin as a township. The statements are located on the east and west entries along the Great Eastern Highway. The project was co-funded through the Shire of Merredin and Tourism Western Australia through the Regional Visitor Centre Sustainability Grant Program.

As part of the beautification program, banner poles now provide colour and interest along a section of Barrack and King Streets. The banners depict Merredin's diverse social fabric and it is planned to develop additional banners in the near future to feature other facets of the community.



## Re-surface for Basketball and Netball

A successful grant application will enable the resurfacing of the outdoor basketball and netball courts located at the Merredin Regional and Community Leisure Centre.

The \$57,200 project is supported by the Department of Sport and Recreation through the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund. The fund is based around 1/3 contribution between the local authority, DSR and the sporting body. The Merredin Basketball and Netball Associations are the benefiting sporting bodies and have

successfully raised the necessary funds to cover their combined contribution.

The project will involve repairing the major cracks and correcting the low areas across the four courts. Plexipave will be laid to create the new playing surface. New reversible basketball and netball units will also be installed. It is expected that works will begin late August, aiming to finalise the project prior to the commencement of the 2016/17 basketball season.

## Relay for Life

Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre are calling for registrants for Relay For Life; a 24 hour relay to raise money for Cancer Council.



The event encourages fitness while nurturing friendships in an all day and night team relay. The relay begins at 11:00am on Saturday 25 September and will continue through the night, finishing at 11:00 on the Sunday. There will be market stalls to browse in between relay turns. To register your team visit: [www.relayforlife.org.au](http://www.relayforlife.org.au)

## Your Feedback

We encourage your feedback and ideas to help us make our community newsletter even better with every issue. There have been a few changes made to the layout of the newsletter to maximise space for information.

We have modified our distribution methods in order to meet the balance between community reach and cost efficiency. Any feedback can be directed to the Shire Administration on:

**(08) 9041 1611** or [media@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto:media@merredin.wa.gov.au)

## Attention Dog Lovers! Dogs Day Out

September will be an exciting month for dog lovers with planning underway for an event for dogs and their owners. Dogs Day Out will be held on Sunday 11 September from 10:00am to 3:00pm. The day will be a great opportunity for dog owners to meet with other owners as well as learn from experts in the field of dog behaviour, health and training. There will be opportunities for a bit of retail therapy, will several stall holders already booked to showcase their doggie products.



If you are interested in holding a stall please contact **Marilyn** on **9041 3033**.

## MKR Contestants to be at Festa Italiana

A group of enthusiastic community members are working alongside the Shire of Merredin planning Merredin's first Italian festival. Festa Italiana will bring the community together to recognise and celebrate Merredin's vast Italian heritage.

Showcasing at Festa Italiana will be WA's MKR contestants Stefania Muscara and Daniela Pirone. The girls will be showing two cooking demonstrations. Tickets for the cooking demonstrations are \$10 per person and will be sold prior to the event.

Festa Italiana kicks off on Friday, 14 October with the annual Elders Golden Sausage. Saturday's activities will be hosted at the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre featuring soccer, bocce, cards, automotive display, cooking demonstrations and family histories. An old

fashioned Italian dinner party will be held in the evening at Cummins Theatre. Dinner tickets are \$30 per person and must be pre-purchased. Sunday, 15 October will include town tours (bookings essential), church services and a light luncheon at the Tivoli.

Tickets can be purchased online at TryBooking or at the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre.



## New Regional App Under Construction

The Shire of Merredin, together with the Shire of Bruce Rock, Shire of Kalleberrin, Shire of Yilgarn and Shire of Westonia are collaboratively developing an app that will provide the residents and visitors with information on businesses, services, events and specials within these Shires. The app will be free to download and will be available for both iOS and Android devices.

The app's main purpose is to increase awareness by residents and tourists of local business, community groups, services and events as well as encourage more tourists to visit the region and stay longer.

Users of this app will be able to access complete and up to date information on the businesses, services and events even when out of range. When the app is first downloaded, the content is stored on the device, using minimal space thanks to the compression applied by the apps developer. Once the device comes back into range the app refreshes any new information that has been updated. This is an important feature of the app especially for our region

where mobile coverage is limited.

Locals who own businesses, provide services or are involved in community groups or clubs within these Shires are encouraged to list on this app. Listings are free, and provide your customers with the most up to date information right at their fingertips.

At present, the app is in development with the information already provided by some local businesses and groups being uploaded. The expected release date for the app is mid September 2016.

Want your business listed? Contact **Michelle** on **9041 1611** for forms.

