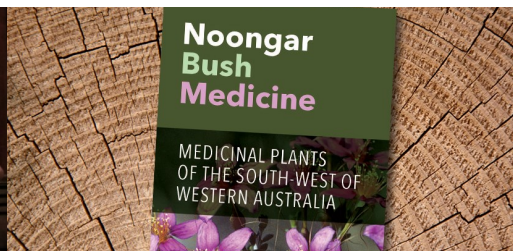
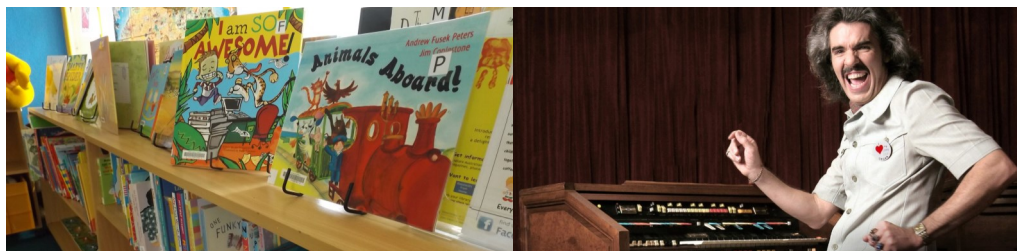


SHIRE OF MERREDIN COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION



Regional Arts Fund Recipients Announced

Member for Durack Melissa Price has announced the latest round of projects to receive funding through the Regional Arts Fund.

“Cummins Theatre Merredin has received \$10,700 for Small Voices through the same program. This project will engage professional community artist Alex Desebrock to allow those in the Merredin community who have the smallest voices – children – to be heard by a wider audience.” says Melissa. “Through a series of multi-disciplinary arts workshops with visiting and local artists, participants will explore their thoughts for the future, and how they see their world. The project will culminate in a public exhibition of work which will be accessible to the greater community in a variety of local venues, and aims to start discussions about what it means to be a part of the Merredin community today and into the future.”

The Australian Government provides assistance through a number of programs in addition to the Regional Arts Fund to support the creation and delivery of high-quality and creative work for Australians living in regional and remote areas to enjoy. Each financial year approximately \$3.3 4 million is provided to the Regional Arts Fund to support sustainable cultural development in regional and remote Australia.

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February Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building, in Council Chambers, on Tuesday 21 February 2017 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 20 February 2017.

Community Funding 2017/18

Each year Council invites requests from local community groups for financial support through the Shire of Merredin's Community Funding Program. Eligible groups include incorporated not-for-profit organisations based in the Shire of Merredin undertaking projects for the benefits of the Shire of Merredin's residents and whose primary aim is the improvement of the quality of life of the community. Unincorporated organisations under the auspices of an incorporated organisation are also invited to apply.

An application form can be obtained from the Shire of Merredin administration building, or from Council's website:

www.merredin.wa.gov.au/community-funding.aspx

For further information please contact Rebecca McCall, Deputy Chief Executive Officer on **9041 1611** or email dceo@merredin.wa.gov.au

Annual Electors Meeting 2017

The Shire of Merredin's Annual Report 2015/16 is now available for viewing online or in hard copy format.

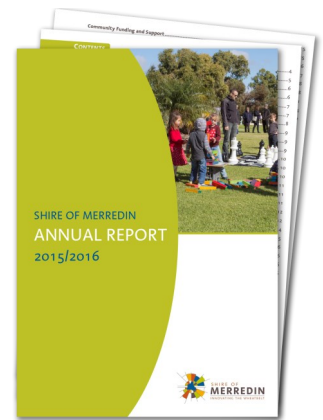
The report will be presented at an Annual Electors Meeting to be held at Shire's Administration Centre, Cnr King & Barrack Streets, Merredin on Tuesday 7 February 2017 commencing at 6.00pm.

The Annual Report, as well as providing important financial data on Council's financial position, is an insight into activity undertaken by the Shire of Merredin on behalf of its community during the past financial year.

Members of the public are invited to attend and questions from the public should be in writing and are to be received at the Shire Office by no later than 4pm, Wednesday 1 February 2017.

Email: admin@merredin.wa.gov.au
Post: PO Box 42, Merredin WA 6415

All other questions will be at the President's discretion.



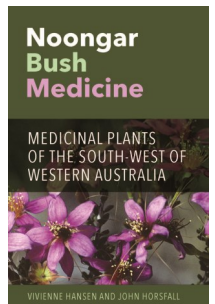
New Website for Visitor Centre

The Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre website has received a much needed face lift. The fresh, modern appearance of the new website combined with improved usability and mobile responsive layout will allow website visitors to access tourism information more easily.

To see the new look website visit:
www.wheatbelttourism.com

New Book: Noongar Bush Medicine

A fascinating new book has been released detailing the use of plants for alternative treatments and protection from common ailments. Written by Noongar elder Vivienne Hansen and retired nurse educator John Horsfall. Noongar Bush Medicine is based on knowledge passed on by Noongar elders and covers over 90 different plant species. It is available from the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre on Barrack street.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Every Tuesday	10:30am	Story-time at the Library (Resumes 14 February)	Library	Free
4 February	7:30pm	WA Opera in the Park (Simulcast)	Cummins Theatre	Free
5 February	4:00pm	The Wine Bluffs	Cummins Theatre	\$20-\$30
10 February	12:00pm	Barry Morgan - Lunchtime Escapes	Cummins Theatre	\$15
10 February	7:30pm	Barry Morgan	Cummins Theatre	\$15-\$20
21 February	3:00pm	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	Nil
26 February	9:00am	Merredin Markets (Merredin CRC)	Visitor Centre	Free



Story Time for Children

Looking to get out of the house with your little ones? Merredin Regional Library holds free story-time sessions every Tuesday for children up to 4 years of age. Each session takes approximately half an hour and incorporates fun activities and songs as well as book readings. These story-time sessions provide entertainment for the kids, but also give parents new ideas on how to read to their children and different activities suitable for their age group. It is also an opportunity for kids to socialise and for parents to meet other parents with children of similar age.

Story-time is held at the Merredin Library on Coronation Street at 10:30am every Tuesday (except during school holidays). Sessions are free to attend and bookings are not required. Contact the Library on 9041 1222 for more information. Story-time resumes on 14 February 2017.

New Theatre Office Hours

Cummins Theatre has reviewed its office hours in order to improve the efficiency of the Theatre and ensure the office is open when needed. The new office hours are as follows:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9:00am - 12:00pm
Wednesday	9:00am - 12:00pm
Thursday	9:00am - 12:00pm
Friday	9:00am - 12:00pm
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed

Your Q&A

Q. Why are drivers of caravans and trailers being fined for parking in the wrong spot in the CBD when there is no signage to show them where to park?

A. Caravans, trailers, horse floats and similar long vehicles are permitted to park along the back section of the car park adjacent to Merredin CRC and the train station. However, Shire staff acknowledge that the designated long-vehicle parking area in the CBD is not as easily visible as it should be. Staff plan to rectify the lack of signage (as well as improvements to the road surface) in the near future to

Electoral Commission Employment

With the 2017 State Elections fast approaching, the Western Australian Electoral Commission are seeking enthusiastic people to assist with the March 2017 Election. Casual employment opportunities include:

- Work in a polling place on election day, Saturday 11 March 2017;
- Being part of a mobile polling team leading up to election day; or
- Work in a vote processing/count centre in the weeks before and after election night

To register your interest in one of these positions, visit the elections website: www.elections.wa.gov.au.

Free After Hours GP Phone Service

A free after hours GP advice service has been made available for people in the Mid-West, South-West, Wheatbelt and Goldfields. The 1800-CALL-A-DOC service is being trialled in country WA over summer to help with increased demand for medical services over the holiday season.

The service is for people who can't get to a doctor at night or on weekends. Experienced, Australian-based GP's can provide advice, diagnosis and prescriptions for a range of telehealth-suitable conditions such as fever, vomiting, dehydration, cold and flu, pain and certain infections.

Acting Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls said the service was now live and available outside the greater Perth metropolitan area, in the five southern WA Country Health Service regions of the Mid-West, South-West, Great Southern, Wheatbelt and Goldfields.

The 1800-CALL-A-DOC trial is a partnership between Telstra's ReadyCare health arm, the WA Primary Health Alliance and the WA Country Health Service.

For more information call **1800 225 523** or visit www.1800calladoc.com.au

ensure designated parking areas are clearly visible. No parking fines have been issued recently. The Shire Ranger has approached several drivers regarding incorrect parking and issued warnings to increase awareness on the designated areas to park. The warning period will end following the installation of signage and completion of road works.



What's On: Cummins Theatre

Cummins Theatre are set to bring you an exciting year of entertainment with a packed schedule of shows suited to just about everybody.

WA Opera in the Park

The first theatre event in February is brought to you by West Australian Opera who will be presenting the City of Perth's **Opera in the Park**. While the concert is performed in Perth, Cummins Theatre will be hosting a live simulcast of the concert for locals to enjoy.

The simulcast is a free event at Cummins Theatre on Friday 4 February. The Tivoli Bar will open at 7:30pm and the concert will commence at 8:15pm.

The Wine Bluffs

Time for a comedy? Well-cellared comedians Damian Callinan and Paul Calleja have been decanting comedy for countless vintages and have decided it's time to open the good stuff! **The Wine Bluffs** are performing their cellar door masterclass with a comedic twist.

The performance will be accompanied by a complimentary wine tasting from Lancaster Winery in the Tivoli Garden before guests settle in for the show with a complimentary glass of their favourite red or white to enjoy during the show. Please note: This show is an 18+ only event.

The show is on Sunday 5 February commencing at 4:00pm. Tickets cost \$20 for show only or dinner and show is \$30.

Barry Morgan

He puts the Boss in Bossa Nova, the Yes in Polyester, he's the patron saint of the safari suit: he's Barry Morgan, and is the celebrity organ salesman who is wooing audiences with the golden syrup sounds of his vintage 1980s, Hammond Aurora Classic.



Barry is bringing you two shows in Merredin on Friday 10 February. The lunch time show will commence at 12:00pm and tickets cost \$15. The evening show will commence at 7:30pm and tickets cost \$20 each, or \$15 for concession.

For more information on any of these events contact Cummins Theatre on **9041 3295** or cumminstheatre@merredin.wa.gov.au. Tickets can be purchased from the Theatre, Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre or on the Theatre's website.

What's On: Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre

Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre are hosting an array of sports, games and social activities this February. With activities suited to all ages and fitness levels, getting active and social has never been easier.

Kids and Parents with Babies

AustSwim qualified instructors will be holding classes to help you and your child learn water safety and important swimming skills. These classes are aimed at 0-5 year old children and are accompanied by their parents. Outside of the water, parents and their children can keep active with Kinder Exercise or Movement to Music programs.

The bigger kids won't be left out with plenty of sports and games throughout the month including Sunday morning soccer, swimming lessons (kids ages 9-12) and Taekwondo sessions



for kids aged 4-8years.

Family Activities

Friday nights are for family at the Centre with assorted games and sports every week. Join in for casual T-ball, Volleyball, Tennis or maybe even a Frisbee challenge!

Adults

Searching for a low impact and fun way to exercise? Join an Aquafit class in the warm hydrotherapy pool. Mums might be interested in the social netball morning sessions which, of course, end with coffee, cake and a good dose of gossip! Have you ever tried Bingo? Give it a go on Thursday nights in the bar.

Just for Seniors

Super seniors sure know how to have fun! The Centre will host mixed activities such as dancing, cards, cooking and games. Held on Mondays from 1pm to 3pm.

For more information on any of these programs contact the Centre on **9041 3033** or merredin@belgravialeisure.com.au