

SHIRE OF MERREDIN COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION



No 4 Pump Station - How Can We Use It?

Members of the community are invited to attend a community consultation meeting to discuss the conservation and adaptive re-use of No 4 Pump Station. The National Trust of Western Australia is preparing an update to the conservation plans of GWSS No 3, No 4 and No 8 Pump stations and is traveling to Merredin to discuss conservation policies for No 4 Pump Station with the local community.

This pump station was built in 1902 as one of 8 stations used to pump water from Mundaring Weir to the Goldfields. The station closed in 1960 and is now jointly managed by the National Trust of Western Australia and Shire of Merredin.

The meeting will be held at Merredin Regional Library on 20 March 2017 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Please RSVP to Michelle Marks on 0428 131 766 or media@merredin.wa.gov.au by 10 March.

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March Council Meeting

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



Field of Poppies: The Revival

Some of the poor flowers from Merredin’s Field of Poppies have lost their sparkle! In 2015 Merredin residents collectively created over 6600 hand-made poppies that were planted in several locations around Merredin in honour of those affected by war. The following year, 2016 the community came together again to create a further 3000 poppies which helped us come close to our target of 10,000 poppies! After battling the weather for two years, some of the poppies had to be retired. We are calling on our crafty town to pick up the paint brushes, scissors and knitting needles once again to handcraft more vibrant poppies.

Poppies can be dropped off to Lee at the Shire office at any time before April.

Banner Repair: Volunteers Needed

Some of the community-made banners that were on display in Apex Park during Christmas 2015 and 2016 are damaged after exposure to winds. We would like to repair these banners before they are hung up around Christmas 2017. We are seeking help from anyone handy with a sewing machine that can assist in repairing and reinforcing the stitching. If you can assist, please contact Lee Holben on 9041 1611 or clo@merredin.wa.gov.au

Show Off Your Country’s Flavour!

Do you love to cook? Merredin’s Twilight Food Festival is a great opportunity to show off your favourite recipes and test out different flavours of the world! The festival will take place on 24 March, and we are seeking people from different nationalities to whip up some tasty morsels from their home country.



You might like to cook Moqueca from Brazil, Southern Pork Ribs from America or perhaps Steak au poivre from France. Last year the community got to try a delicious range of recipes from Cantonese noodles, Toad-in-a-hole from England and Guinness Pies courtesy of Ireland! There were so many delicious foods to try and no one left hungry. We look forward to making this year’s festival bigger, better and just as delicious!

To register your interest in cooking for the March Twilight Food Festival please contact Lee Holben, Community Liaison Officer on 9041 1611 or clo@merredin.wa.gov.au

Annual Electors Meeting Summary

Every year the Shire of Merredin holds the Annual Electors Meeting which is attended by the Council as well as the CEO, Deputy CEO, Executive Managers and Community Development staff. This makes the meeting a perfect opportunity to share your concerns, raise issues, or suggest ideas to improve our town. This year’s meeting was held on 7 February and was attended by 7 members of the community. 5 topics were raised by members of the public including gates on O’Connor Street, CEACA Independent Living Units, redevelopment of Merredin Pool, improvements to visitor facilities and an issue of cats eyes at the entrance to the airport.

The Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting can be viewed on Council’s website: www.merredin.wa.gov.au

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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|---------------|---------|--|-------------------|-------------|
| Every Tuesday | 10:30am | Story-time at the Library | Library | Free |
| 10 March | 12:00pm | International Women’s Day Luncheon | Cummins Theatre | \$8opp |
| 20 March | 4:00pm | No 4 Pump Station Consultation Meeting | Library | Nil |
| 21 March | 3:00pm | Council Meeting | Council Chambers | Nil |
| 23 March | 7:30pm | Everybody Loves Lucy | Cummins Theatre | \$25 |
| 25 March | 9:30am | Merredin Show | Recreation Centre | \$10 adults |
| 26 March | 9:00am | Merredin Markets | Visitor Centre | Free |

Last Call for Farming Families

Merredin's main street has been adorned with new planter boxes and colourful flowers thanks to the teams at Merredin Community Men's Shed and Merredin Community Garden. The planters have been designed to replicate 'wool bales' and acknowledge our many farming families with their wool type and brand marked on the planter.

If you haven't already provided your wool brand then this is your opportunity. The final round of stencilling will be completed in March allowing for the boxes to be sealed before winter. If your family would like to have their brand on one of the planters please drop your farm brand into the Shire Administration Centre as soon as possible.

The second stage of the project is to record each family history, which will be included in the projects interpretive signage. If you provided a stencil but have not completed the questionnaire please contact us to receive a new form. If you have provided a farm brand don't forget to fill in the questionnaire so your farm history can be included on the interpretive signage and relevant brochures.

Please contact Lee Holben, Community Liaison Officer on 9041 1611 or clo@merredin.wa.gov.au

ANZAC Day Services

A Dawn Service and Mid-Morning Service will be held in Merredin for ANZAC Day on 25 April.

The Dawn Service will begin with a parade departing from the Post Office at 5:45am followed by the Service at the Cenotaph/War Memorial commencing at 6:00am.

The Mid-Morning Service parade will depart from the Post Office at 10:45am and the Service will commence at Cummins Theatre at 11:00am.

If you would like to be a part of the organising committee or be part of the parade or service please contact Lee Holben on 9041 1611 or clo@merredin.wa.gov.au

Your Q&A

Q. What happens to the dogs and cats in the pound when you can't find the owners?

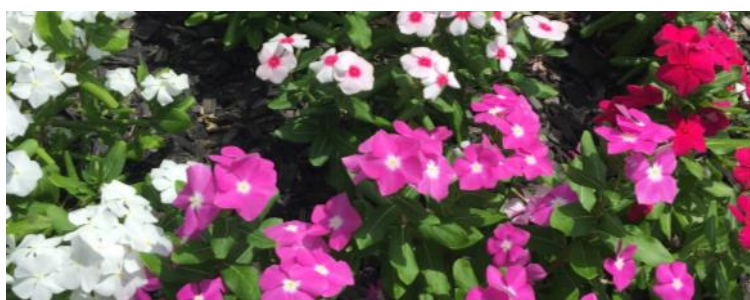
A. While our Ranger successfully reunites many lost dogs and cats with their owners there are occasions where the owner cannot be found or does not come forward. When a dog or cat is collected by the Ranger he uses various methods to contact the owner including scanning for microchips and registration, reviewing reports, word of mouth and social media. Most of the time, the owners are

Thank you!

The Shire of Merredin community development team would like to extend their thanks to the following businesses who have been assisting with watering and fertilising the flowers in the wool bale planters along Barrack Street:

- Merredin French Hot Bread
- Café 56
- Neka Accessories
- Atkinson's of Merredin
- Merredin Supa IGA
- Savings Plus Chemist

Thanks to Merredin Community Garden volunteers who have been growing colourful vincas that will go into the planters soon.



Call for Stallholders

Destination Merredin is an annual event celebrated on Mother's Day and is a great opportunity to bring the family together for some entertainment, markets and a family picnic. It also presents a chance for local community and sporting groups to raise money by hosting stalls selling food and drinks or handmade products to the visitors. Other community members are also welcome to register their interest in holding a stall to sell handmade products on the day.

If your group would like to hold a stall please register your interest by contacting Lee Holben, Community Liaison Officer on 9041 1611 or clo@merredin.wa.gov.au

found within a few hours or days. On the odd occasion that the owner cannot be located by any methods used and the pet has been in care for over 7 days the Ranger organises for the animal to be rehomed. In most situations they are sent to a pet rehoming organisation closer to Perth. They are not rehomed in Merredin in order to prevent potential conflict between old and new owners. A common concern held by residents is the fate of the animal if no owners are found. We **do not** euthanise dogs or cats if owners do not come forward.

Merredin Launches Push for Innovative Agrifood Industry

The Wheatbelt centre of Merredin is accelerating plans to develop a fully serviced hub for commercial-scale greenhouses and other innovative agrifood production technologies.

Merredin, 260 kilometres east of Perth, has a successful record in harvesting and recycling water for public parks and gardens and now wants to establish a shovel-ready platform for agrifood proponents with capital and market outlets.

To stimulate private interest the Shire of Merredin has established a community reference group to promote the town's advantages including strategic location, services, and off-scheme water sources to future agrifood developers.

The reference group, chaired by Member for Agriculture Region Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, includes strong government agency involvement to provide potential investors with accurate and timely guidance on sustainable water supply options, technologies and agronomics.

Shire President Ken Hooper said Merredin had the land and water assets, transport logistics and essential services which could be utilised to place the community at the forefront of high-value agricultural production.

"The Shire has strategic industrial and other land that could accommodate a future horticultural hub and we are looking at linking our off-scheme water pipelines from the various water sources into an integrated water supply. This could also see some form of desalination to increase the amount of water available," Mr Hooper said.

"An agrifood industry can help us to diversify Merredin's economic base and create new training and career opportunities. What we achieve here could be a demonstration model for other hinterland communities," he said.

The reference group includes Merredin Shire Councillors John Flockart and Matt Crisafio, Shire CEO Greg Powell and representatives from the Department of Water (Water for Food), Department of Agriculture and Food, Water Corporation and the Wheatbelt Development Commission.

Chairman Mr Aldridge said an investment document would be produced to highlight to potential agrifood proponents the opportunity that Merredin offered.

"Merredin is located on Great Eastern Highway and has a great base for agrifood investment with its outstanding agricultural services, transport logistics, education facilities," Mr Aldridge said.

"Other communities around Australia are capitalising on agrifood opportunities including Stawell, a mining town in Victoria which has attracted an \$80 million staged greenhouse development by Nectar Farms to produce cucumbers for the Melbourne market."

"Another example is a commercial-scale greenhouse development in Geraldton where owners 4 Ways Fresh harvest and store rainwater from greenhouse canopies to supplement scheme water."

Innovation Vouchers Program

WA innovators are able to apply for up to \$20,000 in professional services vouchers over a maximum period of 12 months to develop their ideas, thereby facilitating opportunities for those ideas to be commercialised.

The Innovation Vouchers Program (IVP) is a competitive funding program. It has been expanded to include those companies that wish to undertake the required service in-house. It also provides an opportunity for companies to undertake proof-of-market analysis. Collaboration with research/academia is encouraged.

Applications are now open and must be received by the Innovation Centre of Western Australia by email to innovationvouchers@gcio.wa.gov.au by 12:00pm on Friday 31 March 2017.

For all enquiries regarding the IVP, contact the Innovation Centre of WA (ICWA) via telephone (08) 6251 2526 or email innovationvouchers@gcio.wa.gov.au

Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday 5th March is Clean Up Australia Day. What started as one man making a difference in his own backyard in 1989 is now Australia's largest community-based environmental clean-up day.

Shire of Merredin is encouraging its local community to come together to help clean up Merredin. All you need to do is gather some friends, family, work colleagues or community group and pick a spot in Merredin you would like to clean. Let us know which area you have chosen as well as how many people in your group. We will supply your group with gloves and rubbish bags. On the day, clear up as much rubbish as you can, have fun and don't forget to take photos! Leave the full rubbish bags in a visual spot and Shire staff will come and collect and dispose of it.

To register your interest please contact Lee Holben, Community Liaison Officer on 9041 1611 or clo@merredin.wa.gov.au