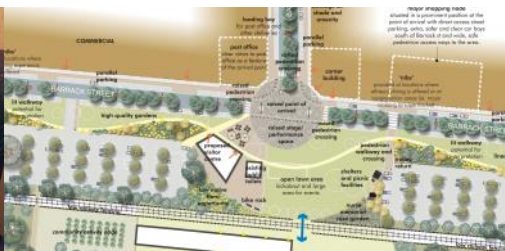


SHIRE OF MERREDIN COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION



Merredin CBD Roadworks

The roads around Merredin's CBD received a facelift throughout April.

Barrack Street, Bates Street, Mitchell Street, and Fifth Avenue were some of the roads to be resurfaced, and the Barrack Street car park also received some attention. With high vehicle, foot and trolley traffic in the vicinity of Merredin IGA, the adjacent car park has been reinforced to ensure it can cope with greater usage.

Locals have provided some positive feedback about the contractors, "They've been getting the job done really quickly and effectively. I haven't even noticed that it's been going on. Been planned, executed and publicised well."

This CBD redevelopment project is administered by the Wheatbelt Development Commission through the Royalties for Regions Wheatbelt Regional Grants Scheme with support from the Shire of Merredin.

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May Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building, in Council Chambers, on Tuesday 16 May 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 15 May 2017.

Seeking Your Support for CBD Upgrade

Shire of Merredin is currently developing a business case for funding towards the Merredin CBD Revitalisation Project. We are seeking help from our community in showing their support for the project and how it will benefit them.

This project is part of a broader program of enhancing the CBD's of 4 Wheatbelt Regional Centres and also includes Jurien Bay, Narrogin and Northam. The proposed renewal of Merredin's CBD seeks to build upon Merredin as the key regional centre in the eastern Wheatbelt. It will enhance visitor experience along the Great Eastern Highway as well as create a vibrant economic centre along the nationally significant corridor.

Benefits to the community, businesses and organisations include:

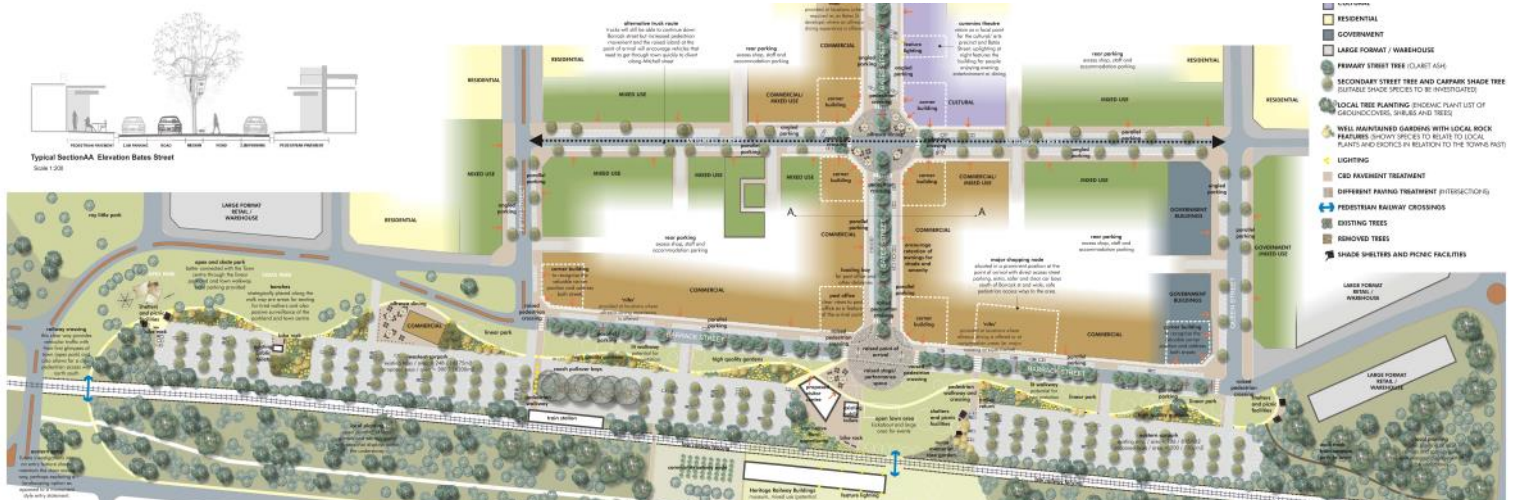
- Improved infrastructure capacity
- Replacement of ageing infrastructure
- Provision of pedestrian friendly open spaces
- Facilitating increased space for community purposes
- Stimulating private investment
- Enhancing business profitability

As part of our business case process, we are seeking Letters of Support from individuals, businesses and community organisations. These Letters of Support will show funding bodies how the revitalisation of Merredin's CBD will benefit our community and will greatly enhance our chances of securing funding.

We have created a template that will make submitting your Letter of Support a quick and easy process. All you need to do is personalise sections of the content to reflect how the revitalisation plans will positively affect you or your business or organisation. The letter can then be signed and sent to our staff. A copy of the letter template can be obtained from the Shire office.

The visual plan of the project can be viewed on Council's website www.merredin.wa.gov.au. The Plan was adopted in 2009, and while it is currently in review, it is expected that there will not be many changes.

Your Letter of Support can be sent to ea@merredin.wa.gov.au. Alternatively, you can drop your letter into the Shire Administration building. Any further queries can be answered by Vanessa, Executive Assistant to the CEO on 9041 1611 or ea@merredin.wa.gov.au.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Every Tuesday	10:30am	Story-time at the Library	Library	Free
2 May	6:00pm	Special Council Meeting	Council Chambers	NIL
3 May	10:00am	High Tea	Merredin CRC	Free
13 May	TBA	Big Sale Raffle	Men's Shed	Free
14 May	9:00am	Destination Merredin Mother's Day Markets	Roy Little Park	Free
16 May	3:00pm	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	NIL
19 May	4:00pm	National Families Week - Big Family Night Out	Cummins Theatre	\$5 pp
22 May	11:00am	A Leading Lady in Waiting - Lunchtime Escapes	Cummins Theatre	\$15pp
28 May	9:00am	Community Markets	Merredin CRC	Free

Photography Fun at the Theatre

The Cummins Theatre was a hive of activity these school holidays as visiting artists Jacqueline Warwick and Sarah Lando of Camera Story worked alongside local children in a series of Photography Workshops. The workshops form part of the larger Small Voices Project currently taking place in Merredin which seeks to find out how young people see their world.

Over three days, twenty children learned the skills needed to take photographs that told a story. They learned about framing, how to take the perfect shot, lighting, posing techniques, and camera care.

"It was so much fun. I learned about photography and I got to have fun with my friends while exploring what is important to me." - A young participant in the photography workshops.

As well as learning how to take photographs, the young participants took the opportunity to go out into the Merredin community to take photographs of their world as they see it. These photographs will be seen by the wider community as part of the Destination Merredin weekend of events.

The Small Voices Project was made possible by the Australian Government's Regional Arts Program, the Regional Arts Fund, which gives all Australians better access to opportunities to practise and experience the arts. The Regional Arts Fund is administered in Western Australia by Country Arts WA.



Toddy's Bottles and Dirty Nappies

It has been 10 months since Toddy, the 2 metre high red sheep, was installed in Apex Park. His purpose was to encourage the community to recycle their beverage containers into a unique and quirky receptacle. Toddy has been collecting recyclable bottles every single day while he watches over families enjoying a picnic, or kids playing in the park. We are really pleased to report that most members of the public are using him properly and are disposing of their bottles and cans into the receptacle ready for recycling.

Household Recycling

Members of our staff who empty Toddy on a regular basis report that they are seeing members of the public bringing bags full of household recycling for deposit into Toddy. While it is great to see active recycling, it raises two questions: Do some residents not have a recycle bin to use? Do residents use Toddy because they believe their household recycle bin just goes to the tip? Let's solve these problems:

"I don't have a recycle bin"

Shire of Merredin provides its residents with the yellow-topped recycle bin. If you don't have one on your property simply give the Shire office a call on 9041 1611 to arrange one.

"I was told our recycling just goes to the tip"

Are some residents recycling in Toddy because they have

heard that their household recycle bin contents are just dumped at the tip? We have heard that rumour too. Be assured that your household recycling does get recycled. Avon Waste collect the contents of your recycle bin, takes it to their facility for sorting into categories, and disperses it to specialised centres for reuse.

Toddy Doesn't Like Dirty Nappies

Let's face it, no one likes a dirty nappy. Unfortunately, some Apex Park users decide they will change their babies and dump the dirty nappy right into poor Toddy instead of the general waste bins provided. This doesn't make for a fun job for Shire staff who have to empty Toddy. Please be considerate and dispose of dirty nappies in the rubbish bin and encourage others to do the same.

To make it easier for park users to do the right thing, the Shire is planning on installing a general waste bin closer to Toddy for items that don't belong in a recycling sheep.





From War to Remembrance

The Merredin Regional Library will be hosting the Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated (RSLWA) From War to Remembrance - A Living History of the RSL. This travelling exhibition was created to celebrate the formation, purpose and the many and varied activities of the RSL throughout WA.

Visitors to the travelling exhibition can read about the history of the organisation, the RSL's involvement in supporting veterans and their dependents, and role within the local community. The exhibition features photographs from the archives of the RSL and the State Library of Western Australia.

The exhibition will be in the library until 20th May 2017 during library opening hours and entry is free.

Special Council Meeting

Council will conduct a Special Council Meeting on Tuesday 2 May 2017 commencing at 6.00pm.

The purpose of the meeting will be to consider any submissions received in relation to the Merredin Solar Farm Proposal.

The Meeting will be held in Council Chambers, Cnr King & Barrack Streets, Merredin WA 6415. Members of the public are welcome to attend. The agenda will be available on Council's website from Monday 1 May 2017.

New Publications Available

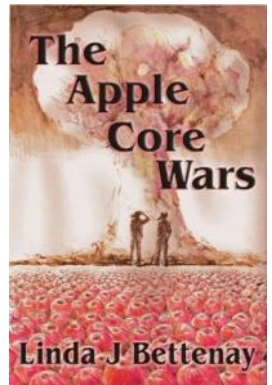
Two new publications are now available at the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre:

Like Nothing on this Earth – A Literary History of the Wheatbelt - Tony Hughes-d'Aeth

Tony Hughes-d'Aeth examines the creation of the Wheatbelt through its creative writing. Some of Australia's most well-known and significant writers – Albert Facey, Peter Cowan, Dorothy Hewett, Jack Davis, Elizabeth Jolley, and John Kinsella – wrote about their experience of the Wheatbelt. Each gives insight into the human and environmental effects of this massive-scale agriculture.

The Apple Core Wars – Linda Bettenay

The Apple Core Wars is based on the astounding war experiences of Charlie Parkin, one of seven brothers to serve during WW2. Charlie's boyhood enemy Jacky Bellamy from nearby Karragullen. Their rivalry and childhood dislike, morph into mateship as they become POWs and face unspeakable ordeals. By the end of the war, Jackie and Charlie had found that they had more in common than divides them.



Destination Merredin

Saturday 13 May & Sunday 14 May 2017



Saturday 13 May 2017

- The Soap Box - Interviews
- Big Sale Raffle – Men's Shed

Sunday 14 May 2017

Roy Little Park - 9:00am to 1:00pm

- Church services
- Welcome to Country
- Mother's Day Markets
- The Small Voices Project
- Tales of Times Past
- Local author storytelling
- Recycled musical instruments




For more information contact Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre on 9041 1611 or visit www.destinationmerredin.com

Q & A - Road Works

Q. The CBD had road works done to it, when is my street going to get attention?

A. Maintaining the roads within the Shire of Merredin to our residents' satisfaction is a big priority for us. Road maintenance is planned in advance, and is dependent on funding. If you would like to enquire about a specific road, or to report damage to a road you can contact the Shire office in person, by telephone on 9041 1611 or by email admin@merredin.wa.gov.au.

