

SHIRE OF MERREDIN COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION



CEACA - Senior's Housing Development

At Council's May 2017 meeting the development application for the CEACA Inc. senior's housing development was approved. The development will see 28 2 bedroom independent living units (ILUs) located on the western part of the old North Merredin Primary School site. The ILUs will be built to contemporary universal friendly design, meet the Gold or Platinum level requirements of the Liveable Housing Design Requirements and feature Dementia Enabling Environment Principles. The ILUs are single story with 3 alternate floor plans available.

The development endeavoured to create a central communal open space that could be used by residents for gardening, BBQs and gatherings. This central space connects to the entrance of the existing buildings on site which may be used for further community uses in the future. One of the key priorities in setting out the site layout was retaining as many of the existing trees on site as possible.

On behalf of CEACA Inc. the Shire of Merredin is seeking expressions of interest from residents who may be interested in either renting or purchasing an ILU. To register your interest or for more information on the development please contact Vanessa at the Shire on 9041 1611 or ea@merredin.wa.gov.au, or call into the Shire Administration during office hours.

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June Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building, in Council Chambers, on Tuesday 20 June 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 19 June 2017.

Positive Feedback for Councillors

On the evening of Tuesday 16 May Shire of Merredin Councillors met with local residents for an informal public forum. The forum's purpose was to provide the opportunity for residents to raise and discuss any issues or ideas with Councillors. It was a positive meeting, with 5 adults and 2 children from the community attending.

Topics that were discussed include footpaths on Morton Street (works are included in the 2017/18 Budget), sea containers used as buildings in town, and a motor sports venue. Positive feedback was provided relating to the 24hr RV stop, with reports of the area being frequently used and attracting positive visitor experiences and benefiting the town. Other issues raised were concerned with local shopping, parking and the public toilets near the Visitor Centre. Comments were made on whether another similar public forum would be held. If there is public demand for another forum, Councillors and staff may schedule another in October following the Local Government elections.

Dog and Cat Owners

Pet owners are reminded that it is a requirement under the Cat Act and Dog Act that all cats and dogs must be microchipped and registered with their local Council (dogs from 3 months of age, cats from 6 months). Not only is this a legal requirement, but it also assists Council staff in reuniting pets with their owners faster in the event that they are lost. Residents are also reminded that no more than two (2) dogs and/or two (2) cats can be kept. If an owner wishes to keep more than two dogs or two cats, they must first seek permission from their local Council.

Whitfield Way Stage 2 Lots Available

In March 2017 Shire of Merredin proposed to sell by Public Tender properties in Whitfield Way Stage 2. Some of these properties have been sold, however there are still some properties available.

Further information on the above land can be found in the tender specifications available by contacting Vanessa Green on 9041 1611 or tenders@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Thank You

Shire of Merredin would like to thank Ms Jo Heppleston from WISH Animal Rescue for her generous donation of dog food for our pound.



New Highway Signs

Recently installed on Great Eastern Highway are 8 new signs welcoming travellers to Merredin and enticing them off the highway. The key messages on the signs provide a call to action for our visitors to 'Experience....Our History', 'Enjoy... A Live Show or Local Event', 'Explore... Our Hidden Treasures' and 'Escape... on Our Trails'.

These signs were made possible through Royalties for Regions Regional Visitor Centre Sustainability Grant Program and is the last of Round 1 projects to be completed.

We are currently working on three information panels to add to the shade shelter and seating area near the Visitor Centre, which will show Merredin's development through the years.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Every Tuesday	10:30am	Story Time	Library	Free
9 - 18 June	Various	Happy Campers (Repertory Club Show)	Cummins Theatre	\$20pp
13 June	1:00pm	Archery, Frisbee Golf & Remote Cars	MRCLC	TBA
20 June	3:00pm	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	NIL
24 June	6:00pm	Rumour Has It (Life and Songs of Adele)	Cummins Theatre	\$25 - \$55pp
25 June	9:00am	Merredin Markets	Merredin CRC	Free

Vibrant New Art for Skate Park

Friday 19 May saw a number of youth at Avon Youth Centre working with two artists, Dan and Daz, on designs for the Merredin Skate Park.

On the following Saturday and Sunday they helped Dan and Daz transfer the design outlines onto the Skate Park and commenced the “colouring in”. It was fantastic to see that it was not only youth involved, but all age groups.

Congratulations to all involved on a wonderful team effort; Shamus from Avon Youth, Dan and Daz, Emma and Ben from Cummins Theatre, Merredin depot staff for all the preparation work, Tracey Weiss for capturing the event on film as well as the community members, both young and old, who contributed to the project.



Destination Merredin 2017

Destination Merredin 2017 was held over the Mother’s Day weekend and was a great time for families to come together for an enjoyable weekend.

On Saturday 13 May, the gentlemen from the Men’s Shed hosted a Big Sale and BBQ for the community. Meanwhile the Fine Arts Society were busy welcoming visitors to the Fine Arts Exhibition held at Merredin Railway Museum.

On Sunday 14 May, families came together at Roy Little Park to enjoy a day of browsing through the hand-made market stalls, playing recycled musical instruments, watching the magnificent kite displays, and enjoying fresh foods provided by some of our local community and sporting groups. Merredin Church Fraternal provided a lovely church service. Ben and Emma from Cummins Theatre introduced visitors to The Small Voices Project, and

the Men’s Shed were creating memories for kids on the mini train. Guests had the opportunity to plant a tree in Roy Little Park for their mother or grandmother, a project started by ‘Trees for Mum’. Sheree from Paint the Town put colour and smiles on the faces of kids with her gorgeous face painting, and after tirelessly helping us set up for the event, the local Army Cadets provided us with demonstrations of their equipment.

Despite the weather being a bit on the cool side, visitors had a wonderful time enjoying what our very creative community has to offer.

The Destination Merredin crew would like to thank all of the individuals, community groups, and businesses that contributed to the event, making it an enjoyable weekend for our community.



Extension of Malleefowl Habitat

The Shire’s Natural Resource Management Consultant is searching for landholders adjacent to Malleefowl habitat who are interested in revegetating to extend areas of suitable habitat.

The Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) is a ground dwelling bird known for the large mounds in which they nest. The Malleefowl is classified as vulnerable, with its rapid decline due to habitat clearance and invasive predators such as the European Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cat (*Felis catus*). There are several locations around the Wheatbelt where Malleefowl occur, and Merredin is fortunate enough to be one of those areas. Revegetating adjacent areas will provide future generations of Malleefowl with breeding and feeding sites, which will in turn help to preserve their population.

To register your interest in revegetating land for Malleefowl, please contact Dylan Copeland on 0488 471 727 or nrmo@icloud.com.



Overcoming Barriers to Baiting

‘Overcoming Barriers to Baiting in the Eastern Wheatbelt’ is a project aiming to assist landholders gain accreditation and permits for 1080 baiting of feral pest as well as providing financial assistance towards their feral pest control programs. This program helps in 3 ways:

- 1080 accreditation workshops to help landowners become accredited in handling 1080 and submit their application;
- Financial contributions towards the permit fee; and
- Assistance in purchasing baits for qualified landholders.

This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government’s State NRM Program, supported by Royalties for Regions.

To register your interest in this project, or for more information please contact Dylan Copeland, Natural Resource Management Consultant, on 0488 471 727 or nrmo@icloud.com

Free Seedlings: EOI

Are you interested in revegetating an area and/or fencing remnant bushland on your property? We need your help to secure funding to provide eligible landholders with free seedlings, and amounts for fencing and baiting. Shire of Merredin proposes to apply to the Community Action Grants Programme from State Natural Resource Management Office for funding to provide interested and eligible landholders with free seedlings, and amounts for fencing and baiting.

If you are interested in revegetating and/or fencing remnant bushland please contact Dylan Copeland on 0488 471 727 or nrmo@icloud.com for more information.

Feedback on Differential Rates

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 2017/18. Details of the proposed rates are as follows:

Unimproved Value	Minimum Rate	Rate in \$
UV1 – Rural	\$1,040	0.020467
UV2 – Urban Rural	\$1,040	0.029149
UV3 – Mining	\$200	0.040770
UV4 - Special Zone Wind Farm	\$1,040	0.040770
UV5 – Special Use Airstrip	\$1,040	0.040770
UV6 – Merredin Power	\$1,040	0.040770

The objectives and reasons for these differential rates may be inspected at:

- the Shire Administration Office, corner of King and Barrack Streets Merredin between the 8:30am - 4:30pm Monday to Friday;
- the Merredin Regional Library, Coronation Street, Merredin between 10:00am - 5:00pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday; between 10:00am-6:00pm Tuesday and Thursday; and 10:00am - 12:00pm Saturday; or
- online at Council’s website at www.merredin.wa.gov.au.

The Shire invites feedback on this proposal. Submissions must be in writing and can be sent to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 42, Merredin WA 6415, faxed to 9041 2379 or emailed to admin@merredin.wa.gov.au. The closing date for submissions is 4:00pm on Monday 19 June 2017.

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