

SHIRE OF MERREDIN COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION



CEACA Update - Senior Housing

The Shire of Merredin is pleased to advise a further update on the CEACA Inc Senior's Housing Project with works having commenced on the Merredin site from 24 May. Construction of the first units is set to commence around mid-end of July 2018. While no firm completion date can be given at this time please continue to 'watch this space' and we'll update you again when further information becomes available.

The project will see 72 Independent Living Units built across the Central East Wheatbelt to provide ageing-in-place housing for senior residents living in the region. 26 units are to be built in Merredin.

The Central East Wheatbelt region includes the Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Koorda, Merredin, Mt Marshall, Mukinbudin, Nungarin, Trayning, Westonia, Wyalkatchem and Yilgarn. The 11 regional councils form the membership of CEACA Inc, which is a registered not-for-profit organisation formed in 2012 to address the significant under-resourcing of housing, health care beds and other age-appropriate related resources for senior residents living in the Central East Wheatbelt.

If you haven't already registered an interest in either purchasing or renting one of the units or you would like to be kept up to date with the project, please contact Vanessa on 9041 1611 / ea@merredin.wa.gov.au.

The CEACA Independent Living Units site on Coronation St - construction gradually getting underway 5 June 2018



In This Issue

- ▶ CEACA Update—Senior Housing
- ▶ Report It! Snap, Send, Solve App
- ▶ June Council Meeting - 19 June
- ▶ Community Forum - 19 June
- ▶ Banners in the Terrace Competition
- ▶ Rates in Merredin
- ▶ 'Share It - Blare It'
- ▶ Visitor Centre Update
- ▶ Upcoming Road Works/Garden Work
- ▶ MRCLC - Let's Get Active Merredin Do You Do Zuu? Round 2
- ▶ Tables, Tales & Tucker at the Theatre

Report It!

Spotted an issue around town? Report it to the Shire via the FREE Snap, Send, Solve app (compatible with iPhone and Google Play phones) and get it sorted ASAP. Just snap a photo, input the location and any details and send it through to us. We can then get right on resolving it.



June Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, 19 June 2018 at 3:00pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend. The Agenda will be available to view on Council's website on Monday, 18 June 2018.



Banners in the Terrace Competition

The local governments have a love affair with art, more so the Banners in the Terrace competition which not only showcases an individual region but also its artists and which creates a sense of belonging to the community and its culture.

'Innovating the Wheatbelt' is the title in this year's entrance banner from the Merredin Fine Arts Society which has been painted by Jessie Spring.

Jessie's inspiration for the design of the banner comes from her connection with living in a small country town. "Originally Merredin is a railway town which connects other smaller towns in the region" Jessie explained. "The positive vibes that come from community members whom embrace changes and ideas helps it to retain our way of life in Merredin."

The banner will be showcased during the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) convention in Local Government Week from the 1-3 August along St Georges Terrace in the City. It will stand amongst other banners of different categories from many local governments.

This type of community art project plays a role in regenerating ideas of identity, culture, tradition and the value of working together at a local level. We encourage each year that a different community group paint the banner for the WALGA convention.

Our sincere thanks goes to Jessie Spring and the support from the members of the Fine Arts Society for putting together this amazing artwork. We are hugely grateful to their commitment to it in between their own projects. Be sure to keep an eye out for it on St George's Terrace in August.



Above Left - Artist Jessie Spring, Merredin Fine Arts Society

Above Right - Adim Hajat, Community Liaison Officer, Shire of Merredin, with the banner painted by Jessie to be entered in the 'Banners in the Terrace' competition

Join us for a gasbag

at the Shire of Merredin



No Agenda, no topic off limits. Rock up and have a chat with your Councillors

6pm | Council Chambers
ALL WELCOME!

Questions? Contact Vanessa on 9041 1611

Community Forum - 19 June

Council holds much anticipation in regards to holding its annual open forum on Tuesday, 19 June. The forum is being held in the Council Chambers post the monthly Council Meeting. It gets underway at 6:00pm.

It's a great opportunity for members of the public to come along and have a chat to your local Councillor about any issues around the Merredin Shire (that's not just in town but in the whole of the Shire!).

It's easy to jump on Facebook at anytime and make a comment on your chosen topic but your Council was elected expressly to represent you, the Merredin community and more often than not, nothing beats a good old fashioned gas bag with Merredin's Council team. It's a chance to discuss a variety of topics in a relaxed atmosphere without the worry of correctly communicating your point via the written word on social media or in an email to the Shire.

So come along, have a chat and enjoy some good old fashioned problem solving around the table.

#YourSayMerredin

Rates in Merredin

On 25 May the Shire of Merredin placed a notice in the Phoenix which publically advertised the Shire’s proposal to apply ‘differential rates’ on Unimproved Values (UVs) for rates in the 2018/19 financial year. Submissions were invited in relation to the information placed in the notice. However, the Shire has had a number of enquires in relation to what differential rates are and why do we need them. With the 30th June rapidly approaching, the Shire felt it was timely to remind the community how our rates work in Merredin.

Why do we have Rates?

Rates are an annual payment made by residents for living in a Local Government area.

We have rates because they are a simple and effective way of paying for the delivery of vital community services and infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, parks, libraries and leisure centres – just to name a few.

How do Rates work?

The amount you pay in rates each year depends on the basis of valuation applied to your property. This valuation is determined by the Valuer General’s Office, an independent State Government organisation.

The basis of valuation is either Gross Rental Value (GRV) or Unimproved Valuation (UV). For non-rural properties the Gross Rental Value (GRV) is used and for rural properties the Unimproved Value (UV) is used. The GRV is an estimate of the rent a property could earn in a year. The UV refers to the site value of the property. GRV’s and UV’s are reassessed every third year and annually, respectively.

Based on valuation, rates are calculated each year and an annual rate notice is issued to you. You’ll usually receive your notice in July of each year. More detailed information about property valuations is available from Landgate.

What are Differential Rates? Why do we employ them?

Differential Rates have actually been in place in Merredin for a number of years but as per the Local Government Act 1995, the Shire is required to give public notice each year and call for submissions.

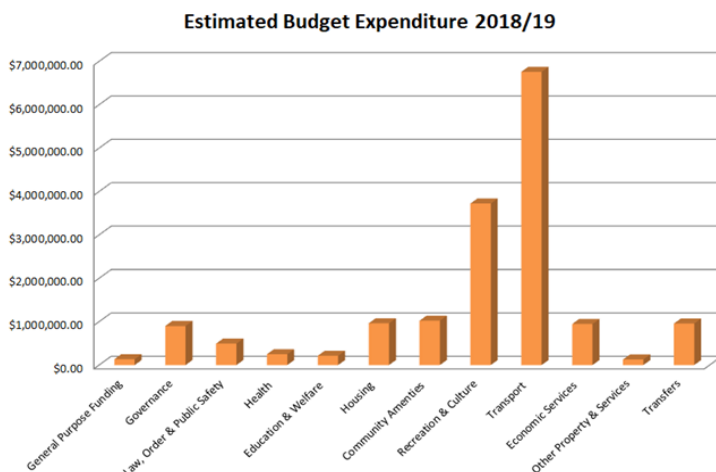
Council has adopted a differential rating approach in an

attempt to ensure that rate revenue is collected on an equitable basis. It is only applied to UV (rural properties) because of the diversity we have in our rural zone properties which are categorised as Rural, Urban Rural, Mining, Special Zone Wind Farm, Special Use Airstrip and Merredin Power.

Further information about the Shire’s ‘Objectives & Reasons for the Proposed Differential Rates for 2018/19’ can be found on the Shire’s website - <http://www.merredin.wa.gov.au/documents/594/objectives-and-reasons-for-proposed-differential-rates-for-the-year-ending-30-june-2019>

What will my Rates be spent on for 2018/19?

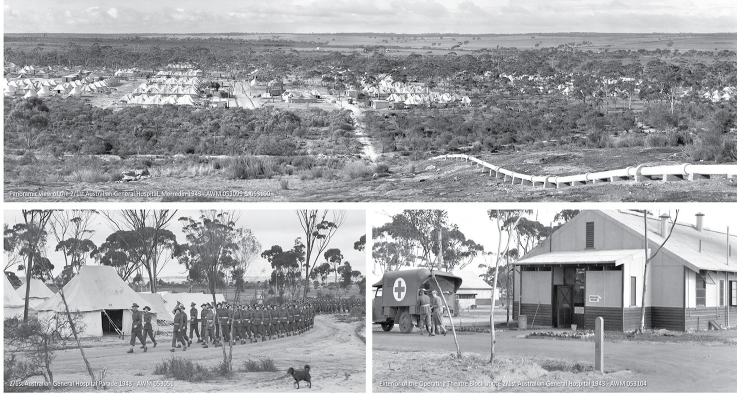
The draft budget is yet to go to Council for adoption (this will occur at Council’s ordinary meeting scheduled for 17 July) but the following graph provides an approximation of how much Council will spend on the various services it provides to the community.



In Merredin it has remained best practice for a number of years to increase rates annually by 3% - no more, no less. This is regardless of the CPI and rate of inflation which have remained steady in recent years around 1.5 – 3% annually. The Shire is able to comfortably continue to provide the same level of services that our rate payers have come to expect.

Rates however, are a complicated topic so for further information please contact Charlie Brown (Executive Manager Corporate Services) on 9041 1611 or email emcs@merredin.wa.gov.au. Charlie handles the compilation of the draft Budget to present to Council and is more than happy to answer questions from community members around the budget process and rates in general.

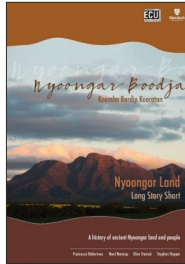
Visitor Centre Update



Have you seen our new window decal (above)? We have sourced images of the 2/1st Australian General Hospital when it was located at Merredin Peak during 1942-1943 from the Australian War Memorial. This project was made possible thanks to funding through Royalties for Regions Regional Visitor Centre Sustainability Grant Program (RVCSGP).

IN STOCK - Illustrated history of Nyoongar people and land from the Dreamtime to approximately 7,000 years ago. This work collates Nyoongar stories with geology and climate history.

Get it in store today - 'Nyoongar Boodja: Koomba Bardip Kooratan' – Francesca Robertson, Noel Nannup, Glen Stasiuk, Stephen Hopper \$20



Upcoming Road Works/Garden Work

The Shire is pleased to announce that at Council's meeting on Tuesday, 15 May, it voted to award Gearing Construction the tender to undertake footpath installation works for a number of streets in town. The works will include Morton Street, MacDonald Street and Growden Street between Bates Street and Fifth Street. A new footpath is currently being installed from Pioneer Park past the Visitor Centre and westward along the South side of Barrack Street to conclude opposite the crossing in front of Comfort Style.



These works (above) compliment the upgrades to the CBD and recent resal works around town. For further information regarding the works which have already commenced, please contact the Shire on 9041 1611 during office hours.

LET'S GET ACTIVE MERREDIN ROUND 2

FREE COMMUNITY DAY

WHAT
WHERE
WHEN
HOW

High Intensity, Low Impact Interval Training
Primal Movement Patterns for all Fitness Levels
Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre
(MRCLC) Bates Street, Merredin
Saturday, 9 June 2018, 11:00am

Register at the MRCLC - phone 9041 3033



DO YOU DO ZUU?



Tables, Tales & Tucker at the Theatre

You'd have 'gasped in surprise and delight' if you attended the Tables, Tales & Tucker Luncheon at Cummins Theatre on Thursday, 31 May. The event was held as part of celebrations for the Theatre's 90th year. Posters from bygone productions that have graced Cummins Theatre decorated pin up boards around the main hall. There were plenty of excerpts shared by those who attended and they were able to enjoy a lavish lunch of homemade pizza and other tasty morsels while Greg Shea dazzled them with the history of the theatre and other interesting tales. Keep an eye out for more events celebrating the longevity of the theatre in the near future.

