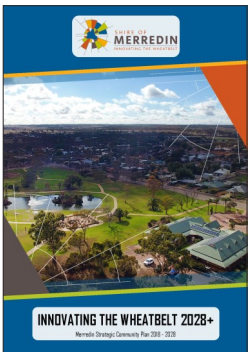


SHIRE OF MERREDIN COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION



STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN LAUNCHED

As part of legislation requirements under the *Local Government Act 1995*, all local governments in WA are required to work with their local community to create a ten year plan. This plan is known as the Strategic Community Plan and is reviewed on a minor basis every two years and on a major basis every four years.

In March 2018 the Shire commenced the process to conduct a major review of the plan which is essentially a 'living document'. Feedback was sought from the community via a number of

avenues being 2 x forums at the library, a booth at the Merredin Show, a survey with the high school students at Merredin College, liaison by WBN on the Shire's behalf with local businesses and an online forum.

All the feedback collected was channelled into the creation of the plan which forms a broad overview of where Merredin would like to go over the next ten years. More specific goals based on the community's feedback have been written into the Corporate Business Plan (4 years) which is also a requirement of strategic planning as per the *Local Government Act 1995* and was recently reviewed in conjunction with the Strategic Community Plan.

The feedback has been channelled into 6 'Key Zones' which together form the 'Merredin Sphere Zone' (see right). They are titled 'Zone 1 - Community & Culture', 'Zone 2 - Economy & Growth', 'Zone 3 - Environment & Sustainability', 'Zone 4 - Communication & Leadership', 'Zone 5 - Places & Spaces' and 'Zone 6 - Transport & Links'. Under each of these Key Zones there are a number of 'Key Priorities'. These 'Key Priorities' feed into the Corporate Business Plan which sets out specific 'Key Actions' under each of the 'Key Priorities' with a scheduled timeline to achieve each action over the next four years. The first year of 'Key Actions' has been filtered down into the Annual Budget for 2018/19, thus ensuring that both the 'Key Actions' of the Corporate Business Plan and the 'Key Priorities' of the Strategic Community Plan will be completed.

Copies of the Strategic Community Plan are available on the home page of the Shire's website or may be collected from the front counter of the Administration Office.



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Report It!

Spotted an issue around town? Report it to the Shire via the FREE Snap, Send, Solve app (available for download on your respective brand of Smart phone) 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 onto resolving it.



August Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, 21 August 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, 20 August 2018.

New Pump for Storm Water Network

Recently the Shire works crew has installed a new pump to more efficiently collect water from the Merredin town site's stormwater network. As part of this project VSDs (Variable Speed Drives) were also installed to make the town's irrigation pumps more energy efficient. This part of the project was made possible thanks to funding from the Wheatbelt Development Commission supported by Royalties for Regions.

After recent rainfall events it has been calculated that the new pump moved an extra 4,104,000L (4,104kL) of water into Merredin's irrigation network in 30 hours.

The water collected from Merredin's storm water networks is water the Shire doesn't need to source from the scheme system and is consequently used to water the oval at the Leisure Centre and other areas of vegetation around town.

Below - Landcare Officer, Dylan Copeland, with the newly installed pump.



Annual Budget 2018/19

The Annual Budget for 2018/19 was approved by Council at its July meeting. Copies are available for viewing online on the Shire's website under 'Public Documents' ► 'Budgets & Fees'.

New Staff



Some of the Shire's staff have recently chosen to move on for personal reasons or a career change. Whilst we are sad to see them go, the Shire is pleased to welcome their replacements.

Mrs Kellie Bartley will commence at the end of August as the new Executive Manager Community Services / Deputy CEO. Kellie comes from the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.

Emily Alberti has been appointed the new Rates Officer. She will commence 6 August.

Cummins Theatre also has some changes in the works with recent interviews conducted for two new positions being an Engagement Officer and an Events Officer. A new Manager for the theatre is still being advertised and it is expected that the position will be appointed around the third week of August.

We welcome all our new appointees and trust the Merredin community will also make them feel welcome. We wish those who have departed the best of luck in the next chapter of their lives.

Don't Flush Wet Wipes

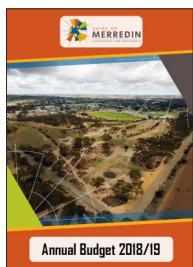
They're cheap to buy and there's now a wipe for every conceivable use but this kind of convenience comes at a high price. Wet wipes in fact, are a major cause of sewer blockages. So in order to avoid that particular headache, please don't flush them.

The number of wipes that are bought and flushed every year in Australia has rocketed. The result is costing householders high amounts in order to fix blocked drains and clogged pipes.

While toilet paper starts breaking down almost immediately, the woven fabric of wet wipes doesn't. As they move through the system they collect fat, grease and other food debris. Eventually they bind together creating blockages in household pipes and sewer mains resulting in overflows to the surrounding environment.

Although some wipes are labelled 'flushable' it doesn't mean that they should be flushed. The only thing that should go down the toilet is human waste and toilet paper. Anything else should go in the bin.

Wet wipes: please don't flush them!





Demo Derby Cars Progress

On 19 July Merredin Police, in partnership with the Shire and Merredin College, commenced work stripping down two cars to prepare them for a rebuild and entry into the Kellerberrin Demolition Derby.

There is plenty of work still to be done but police officer, Ben Ferris and the students are looking forward to the end result.

New Panels add Colour to Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre

Through funding from the 'Royalties for Regions Regional Visitor Centre Sustainability Grant Program' (RVCSGP) the visitor centre has undergone a transformation. 6 Interpretation Panels have been designed and installed. Panel themes include the Rabbit Proof Fence, the Golden Pipeline, Military History, Railway History, Enterprise and Pastoral Pioneering and Development. The centre's aim is to educate and raise awareness to visitors and the local community of Merredin's development and to entice them to spend longer in town exploring.

With the same funding Wi-Fi has also recently had installed. Visitors can obtain a ticket from staff to login to the network and obtain 30 minutes of free Wi-Fi which allows them to connect with their family and friends while travelling.



Drone Technology Advancing Shire Asset Management

In recent weeks the Shire has commenced the momentous task of mapping the entire Merredin Shire's road network. It is not however, being mapped in the traditional manner with pen and paper or even a computer but rather with drone technology.

The advent of drones has meant many new ways in which to accomplish a variety of tasks and one of them is mapping roads which the Shire plans to conduct annually. The footage allows for a different angle of the Shire's road network and to see defects from a new perspective. Eg: see left where with the overhead perspective, it is easy to identify that not enough allowance has been made in the road's construction for turning trucks so that they do not cross over onto the wrong side of the road at this intersection.

Over time the annual drone mapping will allow for identification of trends such as which areas of roads suffer ongoing issues in the same places.



(08) 9041 1611



www.merredin.wa.gov.au

ANTHONY LAMOND PRODUCTIONS



PRESENTS
COMEDY GOLD
SUNDAY, AUGUST 26TH

RORY LOWE



JOSH WARRIOR

BOB FRANKLIN



LINDSAY WEBB

CUMMINS THEATRE, MERREDIN
DOORS OPEN 4:30PM, SHOW STARTS 6:00PM
TICKETS: \$20PP, MEALS FROM \$15.
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE CENTRAL WHEATBELT VISITORS CENTRE
OR ONLINE AT WWW.CUMMINSTHEATRE.COM.AU

VOLLEYBALL CLINIC

Hosted by Volleyball WA

Monday, 6 August | 6PM

This clinic is being held for the community with 2 coaches from Volleyball WA running the clinic

Register at the MRCLC on 9041 3033 before Friday, 3 August

EVERYONE WELCOME



Rates Notices for Merredin Residents

Rates notices for 2018/19 will have started appearing in your letterboxes Merredin. If you have any queries about your notice/s or how to go about paying your notice/s, please don't hesitate to contact the Senior Finance Officer, Leticia Richards, at the Shire Office on 9041 1611.

Some useful documents have been included with your notices which you should take care to hang onto. Should you lose any of these 3 documents, copies are available on the Shire website for download. Alternatively, please contact the Shire.

The first is your Rubbish Collection Calendar for 2018/19. This has a handy magnet on the back of it so that you can stick it on your fridge.

The second is a 'Quick Reference' Guide'. This A5 booklet (below left) has lots of useful information about paying your rates and other Shire services in it. Please note that your guide has a typo in that Cr Brad Anderson's contact details have not been included on the reverse page with all of Merredin's councillors. Local councillors can be contacted by anyone living in the Shire of Merredin should you have any queries. Cr Anderson's missing details are phone 0427 415 801 or email cranderson@merredin.wa.gov.au.

The third document is your 'Firebreak Order for 2018/19' (below right). **EVERYONE** in Merredin is responsible for making sure your property is prepared for the bushfire season as per the *Bushfires Act 1954*. Care should be taken to retain this document and follow its instructions. Failure to comply will result in the issuing of a fine by the Senior Ranger should your property be found to be in breach.

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

SHIRE INFORMATION
QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

YOUR RATES	What You Pay		
In 2018/19 Council resolved to adopt a rating system as follows ----->	Gross Rental Value (Town Site)	Minimum Rate	Rate In \$
	No differential rating	\$865	0.104754
	Unimproved Value (Rural)		
	UV1 - Rural	\$1,071	0.018700
	UV2 - Urban Rural	\$1,071	0.030179
	UV3 - Mining	\$200	0.035700
UV4 - Power Generation	\$1,071	0.035700	
UV5 - Special Use Airstrip	\$1,071	0.035700	

YOUR RATES	When to Pay		
The 2018/19 rates are due by 31 August 2018 if paying in full. Alternatively, if you have arranged with us to pay in instalments, those due dates are as follows ----->	First Instalment	31 August 2018	
	Second Instalment	2 November 2018	
	Third Instalment	4 January 2019	
	Fourth Instalment	8 March 2019	

*Please contact the Shire to arrange instalments or if you are having difficulty making the payment dates. An interest rate of 11% will be imposed and legal action may be taken if your instalments are not paid by the due date.

YOUR RATES	How to Pay
	You can pay your rates in person, over the phone, electronically with BPAY, by cheque or by making a direct transfer into our account.
	Full details can be found on your rates notice.

*Eligible pensioners and seniors who wish to avail themselves of the Government's pensioner rate rebates scheme must apply to do so within 35 days from the issue of the rates notice and must pay the balance of the rates within the particular year the rates were levied.

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

FIRE BREAK ORDER
2018/19

Restricted Burning Periods
17 September 2018 - 31 October 2018
18 February 2019 - 16 March 2019

BURNING PERMITS REQUIRED

Prohibited Burning Period
1 November 2018 - 17 February 2019

STRICTLY NO BURNING

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES - DIAL 000