



DECEMBER | 2018

# SHIRE OF MERREDIN COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

## COMMUNITY FORUM - ACTIONS CARRIED OUT

Back in June 2018 Council conducted an informal community forum to allow community members to discuss whatever relevant topics they wished in a more informal setting. Council was pleasantly surprised at the turnout to the forum with around 30 members of the public wishing to speak on a wide range of topics.

Following the forum a list of actions was compiled which was presented to Council at its next Council Meeting in July. Nearly six months on from this, the Shire thought it would be pertinent to report back to the community on the progress made towards the requests that Council is able to undertake action on.

TOPIC & REQUEST	PROGRESS TO BE/THAT HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN
Merredin District Olympic Pool - it was requested that the pool be open for longer on evenings that are very hot (i.e. until 8pm when the day's maximum has reached 40°C.	Longer hours on days of extreme temperatures is currently practiced by the Pool Manager at his discretion. This will continue to be the practice for the 2018/19 season but only in the event that there are a number of patrons still utilising the pool at the original closing time. Otherwise the pool will close on time as usual. The Pool Manager will be consulted at the end of the 2018/19 season (since the budget is already set for 2018/19) if he feels that the current arrangement should be modified and if so, then the budget for 2019/20 can be modified accordingly.
Seniors Centre - parking at the centre was being used by hospital staff and contract works whilst the hospital was undergoing renovations despite repeated requests from the Shire for this not to occur.	The prime contractor's cooperation was sought by the Shire relating to this matter. As no further complaints have been received this seems to have been resolved.
Throssell Road - water was pooling at the northern end of the road due to the placement of the kerb.	Backfilling has since occurred and prior to the spring rains starting in 2019, planting will occur.
South Merredin Primary School - concerns were raised about the conditions of the premises with the suggestion that people were squatting there.	The Shire notified Merredin Police about the trespassing and the police published a report on it in their submission to the Phoenix a number of months ago. They already patrol past the site regularly. Additionally, the Shire has issued building orders as per the Building Act 2011. As a result, the window pane glass appears to have all been removed. The window and door openings have yet to be sealed by the building owners.

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Rudy is visiting his friends in Merredin again! Pick up a form from the CWVC and try to find him everyday around town. See the Shire's Facebook page for details.

## December Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, 18 December 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, 17 December 2018.

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TOPIC & REQUEST	PROGRESS TO BE/THAT HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN
Woolgar Ave/Merredin College - concern was expressed regarding motorists speeding in front of the college despite signage advising it is a school zone, etc.	The Shire has started reminding the public via social media when school is about to go back each term. Additionally, correspondence was sent to staff at the school requesting that parents and students be reminded to use crossings and to take care when doing so. The Shire also asked Merredin Police to patrol the area.
Burracoppin Culvert - a complaint was made regarding the time taken to complete the culvert and the quality of work.	The Shire President agreed that the work should not have taken so long although noted that it is now complete. The Shire will continue to undertake general maintenance on the culvert and should it prove necessary, will upgrade the culvert.
Cummins Theatre - a large amount of praise for various shows was given but many expressed concern over the future direction of the theatre.	Council has managed to recruit a wonderful manager with a great deal of experience to replace the previous manager who was highly regarded amongst the community. Justin Freind is proving to be an asset thus far and Council has no plans to change the way in which the theatre has been run in any major way into the future. It hopes to continue providing a wide variety of shows and performances which will appeal to many different community sectors.
Merredin CRC - many expressed concern about the state government's funding cuts and what this would mean for the future of the CRC.	Fortunately the state government has reversed its proposal to cut funding to CRCs so for the time being, the Shire continues to monitor the situation and collaborate with the CRC for community events when requested.
School Bus Stop (Nangeenan) - 2-300m of Rutter Rd is not listed on the School Bus Network road system and the bus operated is currently not covered by insurance.	The matter is still being investigated and actioned.
School Bus Stop (Burracoppin) - it was asked if a load of dirt/gravel could be dumped in the area near White & Hunt Streets so the hole can be filled in.	This has been actioned by the Works Depot crew.
Apex Park/Roy Little Park - the Shire was asked whether there were any plans to install any new equipment at either of these parks for older kids.	The Shire had already received feedback about this during its March 2018 review of the Strategic Community Plan so this was listed as an action. The Shire has had an initial design completed and is currently looking into costings and planning how to implement the stages for the upgrades.
Community Awards for Australia Day - the Shire was asked if it had any plans to conduct these awards going forwards.	Shire staff applied to become part of the awards program run by the National Australia Day Council which is supported by the state and federal governments. A nomination period for the awards occurred during October 2018 and the recipients of the awards will receive theirs on Australia Day in 2019.
Bates St Wildflower Native Garden - it was suggested the garden area be cleaned up.	The Works Depot crew has carried this out. No further action required.
Bruce Rock Road entrance to town - it was requested that the dead hanging trees be cleaned up and the road reserve mowed.	As the road is under the jurisdiction on Main Roads WA, there Shire is limited in what action it can undertake. However, the road verge was sprayed during September/October.
Potholes - large potholes were reported on Totadgin Hall Rd and Collgar West Rd.	These potholes have been repaired by the Depot Crew. No further action required.

## DOG PARK - COMING IN 2019

The Shire reported some months ago now that it had applied for funding for the construction of a dog park at the North Merredin Primary School site where the Independent Living Units are being constructed and the Library currently resides. The Shire was successful in obtaining the additional funding and construction has commenced in the area where the dog park will be on the corner of the site next to Bates and Duff St. Construction is expected to conclude around March 2019. The Shire hopes to hold a 'Dog's Day Out' type of event at the newly opened park around that time. Keep an eye out for details in the near future.



## AUSTRALIA DAY 2019

26 January 2019 is Australia Day. Next year at the annual community breakfast run by the Merredin CRC the Shire will be presenting Merredin's Australia Day awards.

Look out for official advertising details relating to the event in early January 2019. The Shire will also hold its annual 'Pool Fun Day' at the swimming pool so look out for those details too.

The Australia Day ceremony will now include 'Citizen of the Year' awards. Council has received numerous nominations for 'Citizen of the Year' as well as 'Senior Citizen of the Year'. Council would like to thank the community for taking part in this nomination process. A selection panel of three has been established and will decide on the award recipients.

The winners will be chosen based on the following parameters:

- Significant contribution to the local community
- Demonstrated leadership
- A significant initiative that has brought about positive change and added value to community life
- Inspiring qualities as a role model for the community

*\*Recipients will be notified in due course*

We hope to see you at the awards ceremony on 26 January 2019 at the Merredin CRC Australia Day Breakfast.



## PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM MOSQUITOS THIS SUMMER

It's a beautiful summer evening. We're sitting out on the back veranda enjoying a meal and drinks with family and/or friends when all of a sudden we're beset by the painful sting which signals a mosquito bite.

Mosquitoes can breed around your home. They will lay eggs in fresh or salty water and often in containers that hold water. Common breeding sites include pot plant drip trays, ponds, pet bowls, old tyres and rubbish that may collect water.

Stop mosquitoes breeding around your home by following these simple steps:

- Empty out or discard containers and rubbish that may hold water.
- Clean out roof gutters to prevent water from pooling.
- Empty, clean and refill bird baths, stock troughs and pet water bowls at least once a week.
- Keep swimming pools properly maintained and free of debris.
- Empty wading pools at the end of each day.
- Stock garden ponds with fish to eat mosquito larvae.
- Cover rainwater and septic tank openings, wells or other large water containers with mosquito-proof mesh.
- Keep edges of dams and ponds clear of vegetation.

If mosquitoes continue to be a problem around your home, contact the Shire of Merredin's Environmental Health Officer or the Department of Health for further advice.

## PLENTY AT THE CWVC FOR CHRISTMAS!

The Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre has a wide range of local history, natural history and children's books in store currently. Consider them the perfect gift idea for those hard to buy relatives. The Visitor Centre will be open on Gala Night too so pop in to have a browse. They will also be operating on reduced hours over the Christmas break so please see the back page of this newsletter for details. Bookings will need to be made in advance with Transwa.

## A TRIP TO ARABIA WITH HAREM SCAREM

If a genie appeared from a bottle and promised you three wishes then what would you wish for? Laughter? A marvelous night out? A trip to Arabia? Then the Merredin Repertory Club (MRC) might just be the genie to grant your wishes!

Harem Scarem, performed by the MRC, is a musical that has taken the audience to the heart of Arabia with a story about a virginal princess trying to escape from her palace and protective parents. Standing in her way of freedom is a eunuch and a dreaded curse.

The humorous whines of Queen Itchymutt and Clarence of Arabia are made even more hysterically entertaining by the local jokes relatable to Merredin locals. Between takes of the stellar cast delivering an outstanding play is the colourful chorus that brings the stage to life. It is hard not to sing along with the beautiful voices accompanied by the smooth sound of the piano.

If you haven't had a chance to watch the show yet then get in quickly before you miss something spectacular! See [cumminstheatre.com.au/events](http://cumminstheatre.com.au/events) for the final upcoming shows.

## SWIMMING LEASONS UNDERWAY

In Australia with our hot summers and plenty of us heading to the beach, it has always been a priority to ensure that our children undertake swimming lessons from a young age.

Swimming lessons are currently underway at the Merredin District Swimming Pool with instructors Kirsty Jarvis, Erica Carlson, Megan Simmonds, Samantha Marshall, Mark Irvin and Judy Jefferies (absent from photo).

If you have enrolled your child in extra Vacswim swimming lessons during the summer holiday period then a reminder that Program 1 runs from 15-21 December. Program 2 runs from 14-25 January 2019. *\*Note - enrolments close the day prior to the lessons starting. Contact Megan at the Pool on 9041 1147 to enrol your child/ren.*



## COUNCIL MEETING DATES IN 2019

Ordinary Council Meetings for 2019 will be held at the Shire Administration Centre, cnr King & Barrack Streets, Merredin.

**22 JANUARY 2019 at 3.00pm**

**19 FEBRUARY 2019 at 3.00pm**

**19 MARCH 2019 at 5.30pm**

*(the later time for March is a trial run based on feedback that the community would like meetings at a later time so they can attend)*

**16 APRIL 2019 at 3.00pm**

**21 MAY 2019 at 3.00pm**

**18 JUNE 2019 at 3.00pm**

**16 JULY 2019 at 3.00pm**

**20 AUGUST 2019 at 3.00pm**

**17 SEPTEMBER 2019 at 3.00pm**

**22 OCTOBER 2019 at 3.00pm**

**19 NOVEMBER 2019 at 3.00pm**

**17 DECEMBER 2019 at 3.00pm**



(08) 9041 1611



[www.merredin.wa.gov.au](http://www.merredin.wa.gov.au)

**SHIRE OF MERREDIN CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR BREAK TRADING HOURS**

	Administration	Visitor Centre	Cummins Theatre	Library	Swimming Pool	Landfill Site
Friday 21 Dec	8.30am - 12.00pm	8.30am - 4.30pm	10.00am - 3.00pm	10.00am - 5.00pm	12.00pm - 6.00pm	8.00am - 4.00pm
Saturday 22 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	10.00am - 3.00pm
Sunday 23 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	10.00am - 3.00pm
Monday 24 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	8.00am - 4.00pm
Christmas Day	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Boxing Day	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	1.00pm - 6.00pm	CLOSED
Thursday 27 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	8.00am - 4.00pm
Friday 28 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	8.00am - 4.00pm
Saturday 29 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	10.00am - 3.00pm
Sunday 30 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	10.00am - 3.00pm
New Year's Eve	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	8.00am - 4.00pm
New Year's Day	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	CLOSED
Wednesday 2 Jan	8.30am - 4.30pm	8.30am - 4.30pm	CLOSED	10.00am - 2.00pm	12.00pm - 6.00pm	8.00am - 4.00pm

**LIBRARY REDUCED HOURS IN JANUARY**

The Library will operate on reduced hours post the Christmas break until 25 January 2019. They will be:

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 10.00am – 2.00pm
- Wednesday from 1.00pm - 5.00pm
- Saturday from 10.00am - 12.00pm
- **CLOSED** 26 January & 28 January for Australia Day



*Merry Christmas Merredin*

The Shire of Merredin Councillors and Staff would like to wish all of our community members a wonderful and safe festive season with family and friends. Stay safe on our roads and we will see you in 2019.

**Gala Night 2018**

**13 Dec • 4.30pm • Barrack & Bates St**

See Santa • Late Night Shopping  
 Fire & Ambulance Demos • Food & Market Stalls  
 Face Painting • Train Rides • Bouncy Castles

**#ShopLocal & support Merredin Businesses**

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