

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

March 2019

Photos from around our Shire | Merredin Energy WA

GARDEN WATER LEVELS LOW

With a dry summer this year the levels in the dams supplying the water for the public parks and gardens in Merredin have fallen very low. Currently the Shire is monitoring these levels closely and in the near future may have to scale back the watering of these areas. Unfortunately this means that these public gardens will start to look very dry if this occurs. The areas that would be affected will be Roy Little Park, Apex Park, Barrack St garden beds and the Great Eastern Highway garden beds. In the event that this occurs the Shire will manage the situation as best as it is able to. Any garden beds that dry out will have to wait for rain before regular watering can resume.

If the community has any concerns or questions about this then please contact the Shire on 9041 1611.

MERREDIN SNAPCHAT FILTER

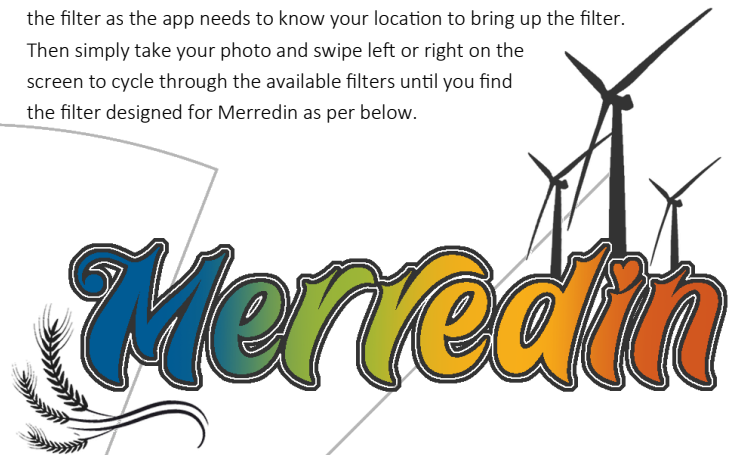


The Shire has recently designed and implemented a Snapchat filter for Merredin. It's available right across the town site of Merredin and even as far out as CBH.

If you're not familiar with Snapchat, it's an app available on your phone which is very popular with the younger generation. The Shire decided to create the filter because it is a bit of fun, great for passing travellers and visitors who want to take a 'selfie' when they visit Merredin and also a good way to engage with Merredin's youth from Millennials through to Gen Z.

The Shire hopes to design more filters in future, especially for events *hint, hint - Twilight Festival! - hint, hint*. Filters give visitors to Merredin and locals the opportunity to say 'here we are in Merredin enjoying these great events, the town, etc. with friends and family'.

To use the filter: make sure you have the wi-fi on your phone turned on to use the filter as the app needs to know your location to bring up the filter. Then simply take your photo and swipe left or right on the screen to cycle through the available filters until you find the filter designed for Merredin as per below.



SPRAY SEAL & ASPHALT PROGRAMS

At Council's meeting on Tuesday, 19 February, Council voted to award the spray seal and asphalt programs for 2018/19. These programs will see Merredin's road infrastructure receive important upgrades to ensure their longevity.

Both programs are a continuation of ongoing works commenced last financial year. The roads set to receive asphaltting as part of the budget program this financial year will include the Barrack St spur (in front of Petticoat Lane), Caridi Cl, Cassia St, Council Ave, Dolton Way, Todd St, Hay St and Mary St.

The roads set to receive spray seal upgrades this financial year will include Nokanning West Rd, Burracoppin Champion Rd, Hines Hill North Rd and Hines Hill South Rd.

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.



FAULTY STREET LIGHTS

Did you know that Western Power has a great website where you can report faulty street lights within Merredin down to the exact pole?

Visit westernpower.com.au and from the 'Power Outages' button on the menu, select 'Report a Faulty Street Light'.



ERIC HIND MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Late in 2018 Council advertised that it would be accepting applications for the annual Eric Hind Scholarship that it awards.

Unfortunately Council only received one application. Low numbers have been a trend in recent years. Council decided to review the policy and widen the scope for applicants who may apply such as widening the age bracket from 11-19 years to 7-19 years for example.

Council is now seeking submissions again for the Eric Hind Music Scholarship. Applications must be received by 4pm, 11 March 2019.

To apply please visit the Shire website - www.merredin.wa.gov.au/community-funding.aspx.



NEW TO TOWN?

Make the Visitor Centre your first stop for local information. We have some New Resident packs with all the information you need to settle in including maps of the area, town and business information and train timetables.

Grab your Australian Adventure Passport and get stamping around Australia. Passports are \$10 and include an Aussie dictionary, fun facts and travel games to keep you entertained on the road.

Already have a passport? Pop in and see Carina and Robyn at the Visitor Centre to get stamped and add to your collection!

Right:
Australian
Adventure
Passport

Far Right:
New Residents
Packs



TWILIGHT FESTIVAL STILL LOOKING FOR COOKS!

The Twilight Food Festival has now been going for several years and each year the Festival is bigger and better than the previous year.

In 2019 however, we are a little low on registered cooks so far. With the Festival set for Friday, 8 March at Cummins Theatre, we'd really like to see more people register.

Did we mention that all the ingredients are supplied FREE of charge if you cook for the Twilight International Food Festival?

The festival can't happen without wonderful cooks. We'd love registered cooks to cook a special family recipe from their home country. If you're Australian born and bred you can cook something Australian or something from your heritage. However if none of that's your preference then it's okay to cook something from anywhere in the world too!

Visit <http://goo.gl/qfAPpN> to sign up and get involved. Questions? Contact Hannah on 9041 1611.



MARCH COUNCIL MEETING

SPECIAL TIME

Annually Council holds twelve Council Meetings on average (sometimes Council will hold an extra meeting or two known as a Special Meeting if it needs to address an urgent item or for another valid reason). Usually they are held once per month in the third week on Tuesday commencing at 3pm.

When setting the meeting dates for 2019, Council agreed to trial a later start time for those community members who found it difficult to attend Council meetings given that they are held during working hours.

Consequently, Council decided that it's March Council meeting would be held on 19 March at 5.30pm.

Attendees to Council meetings have the opportunity to ask Council any questions they have during public question time. For information on submitting a question to Council, please visit www.merredin.wa.gov.au/council-meetings.aspx.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chinese New Year is a two week long celebration of family, prosperity and good fortune. Celebrations for 2019's 'Year of the Pig' started on 5 February – the date of the first new moon in the Chinese Lunar Calendar.

Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre combined with the Shire and community to celebrate the occasion with a lion dance and traditional Chinese dinner cooked by local favourite, Jimmy. The lion dance brought nothing short of a festive atmosphere as the 2017 traditional lion dance winners, Yaolin Kung Fu Association took to the stage. The group performed a traditional lion dance which brings prosperity and good fortune.

The high energy performance took the audience on a Chinese journey with traditional gongs, cymbals and drums. The lions chased around a lettuce that was strung and hanging from the ceiling before gobbling it up, chewing it and spitting it back out at the audience. The performance was followed by an interactive workshop, which demonstrated how they manoeuvre the costumes in to create different kinds of emotions. Both children and adults were involved as the performers learnt some Kung Fu techniques and had a turn navigating the dragon head themselves.

After a fun filled performance and workshop, community members filled their bellies with Chinese cuisine including everything from sweet and sour pork to honey chicken and Mongolian lamb.

Thank you to all of those who came and celebrated. It was such a fantastic and memorable way to bring in the 'Year of the Pig.'

Photography courtesy of Karen Slater





BADMINTON Competition

Starts 8 March

\$5 per person per game
Fixtures available from 15 March

Come on down and hit that shuttlecock from 6pm Friday nights
 Any queries call the friendly staff at MRCLC - 9041 3033

MERREDIN REGIONAL COMMUNITY & LEISURE CENTRE 



★ Merredin Twilight ★ International Food Festival

Hosted by the Shire of Merredin

This Harmony Week Merredin residents will celebrate the wonderful diversity in our town

Enjoy exotic and familiar flavours from all over the world

From France and Scotland, through to Malaysia and Japan, savour the taste right here in your home town



Friday, 8 March 2019 ~ 6:00pm
Cummins Theatre

Proudly supported by

For more information contact Hannah Martin on 9041 1611 or clo@merredin.wa.gov.au



2019/20 COMMUNITY FUNDING GRANTS

DOES YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP DESIRE FUNDING FOR A PROJECT?

Applications are now open for the Shire of Merredin's 2019 Community Funding Grants until 4pm, 31 March 2019

Further information and Application Forms are available from www.merredin.wa.gov.au/community-funding.aspx

Questions? Contact Kellie Bartley, DCEO
 9041 1611 / dceo@merredin.wa.gov.au

#InnovatingtheWheatbelt



CLOSING 31 MARCH!



Easter in the Park

APEX PARK ~ 5 APRIL ~ 9.30-11.30am
FREE event for 0-5 years ~ ALL WELCOME

Yummy food, crafts and activities with a special visitor to help hunt for eggs! The winner of our colouring competition will be announced too.

To compete pick up your colouring page from any of the below organisations. Winners will be awarded for 0-2 yrs & 2-5 yrs. Entries close 29 March and must include your name and contact number.

Did you know the Eastern Wheatbelt Early Years Network (EWEYN) is on Facebook? Like us to follow our events and more!

