

SHIRE OF MERREDIN COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION



Gala Night 2016

What a fantastic Gala Night! Many of the local residents took advantage of the perfect weather throughout the evening to catch up with friends and family, do some last minute Christmas shopping, enjoying a casual dinner and take part in some of the many activities.

The petting zoo was certainly a popular spot with people meeting the young alpacas, emus, chickens and more. There were plenty of smiling faces on the miniature train driven by the Men's Shed members, and still more faces were covered in colourful paint designs. It seemed to get dark very quickly; one minute it was light and the next staff were scrambling to get the light towers running. Many thanks to CBH and SES for the loan of the lighting towers which did make a difference but still highlighted the need for a better solution next year. The parade was led by one of the local police vehicles with its red and blue lights flashing. Following on were the colourful boot scooters and the big man himself, Santa in the Fire Brigade truck. He had a following of children in pursuit. Lots of parents and children lined up to have their picture taken with Santa. The night was such a wonderful success thanks to the efforts of many community members, groups and local businesses.

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January Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building, in Council Chambers, on Tuesday 17 January 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 16 January 2017.

Council Meeting Dates 2017

Council Meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of every month at the Shire Administration Building. Due to Easter the April Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 April 2017. Meetings commence at 3:00pm and continue until all items in the Agenda and any Late Items are addressed. Public Question Time is near the start of each meeting where members of the public can ask questions of Council. Anyone wishing to direct a question to Council that may require research is encouraged to give prior notice so that the answer is available at the meeting.

Tuesday 17 January 2017

Tuesday 18 July 2017

Tuesday 21 February 2017

Tuesday 15 August 2017

Tuesday 21 March 2017

Tuesday 19 September 2017

Wednesday 19 April 2017

Tuesday 17 October 2017

Tuesday 16 May 2017

Tuesday 21 November 2017

Tuesday 20 June 2017

Tuesday 19 December 2017

January School Holiday Activities

Need some help to keep the kids occupied these school holidays? Merredin Library is hosting several craft activities, as well as board games and console games. Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre is planning a mixture of sports and active games for kids to play including Taekwondo, bubble ball suits, indoor soccer, dodgeball and more. Cummins Theatre is planning an exciting disco! Holiday activity programs are available from the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre. Contact the Rec Centre on 9041 3033, the Library on 9041 1222 or Cummins Theatre on 9041 3295 for more information on these activities.



Current and Future Projects

Shire of Merredin produces a Corporate Business Plan which outlines progress of key projects in alignment with strategic initiatives identified in the Strategic Community Plan. The Corporate Business Plan reflects our commitment to fulfil the community's visions, goals and aspirations. It is reviewed annually in conjunction with the annual budget and all actions are responsibly resourced, with revenue streams, expenditure, staff and time requirements accounted for.

It is important for the Shire to be able to measure and monitor progress of these initiatives to ensure the organisation is aligning its priorities and delivering on its commitments. A progress report is delivered every quarter to the Council and community. In its December Council meeting, the progress report was presented to Council and the Report is available to download from our website: www.merredin.wa.gov.au

Recycling Plastic Bags

The question about recycling/reusing plastic bags was raised on social media recently. How can we recycle or reuse plastic bags? With Australian's using and discarding nearly 4 billion plastic bags each year, it is important that we understand what we can do to reuse and recycle. A clear choice for reducing the amount of plastic bags we use is to purchase reusable material shopping bags. Sometimes, however, it is not convenient or simply unavoidable. On social media the community had plenty of suggestions for reusing the plastic bags including giving them to organisations such as Petticoat Lane, Merredin Hospital, MADCAPS and Two Dogs Home Hardware.

Where can we recycle plastic bags?

It is apparent that not many residents were aware that plastic bags can be put in their household recycling (yellow-topped) bin for recycling. While the vast majority of Councils cannot accept plastic bags in the recycle bin, however, residents within the Shire of Merredin are able to do so. Plastic bags should be empty and tied in a knot (to prevent other recyclables from getting caught in the bag) and placed in the yellow-topped bin. It is important to remember not to put anything in the bags; this results in the entire bag and contents being removed from recycling and thrown into landfill.



Infant Swim and Aquafit

Enrolments are now open for the next series of Infant Swimming and Aquafit classes at Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre. Classes will begin in early-mid January and bookings are essential. Contact MRCLC on 9041 3033 to register your interest.

New Merredin Trading Hours

At its July meeting, Council resolved to support in principle an application for the extension of trading hours within the bounds of the Shire of Merredin after receiving the request from a local business. Following a successful application, the Department of Commerce accepted the new trading hours for the General Retail sector of the Shire of Merredin. These hours took effect on 17 December 2016. The new trading hours are as follows:

Monday	7:00am - 8:00pm
Tuesday	7:00am - 8:00pm
Wednesday	7:00am - 8:00pm
Thursday	7:00am - 9:00pm
Friday	7:00am - 8:00pm
Saturday	7:00am - 8:00pm
Sunday & Public Holidays	9:00am - 6:00pm
Closures	Christmas Day, ANZAC Day and Good Friday

Your Q&A

Q. With the recent requirements for residents to clean up their yards for bush fire season, why are there still Council properties overgrown fire hazards?

A. Every year Shire of Merredin notifies its residents of the requirements of the Bush Fire Act well in advance of, and leading up to, bush fire season. The Act requires that all properties, both Shire owned and privately owned, be well maintained to reduce fire loads and prevent the spread of fires. The Shire of Merredin has implemented a fire minimisation regime with respect to Shire owned land, and the majority of residents have maintained their

Meeting and Event Rooms Available

Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre have plenty of spacious rooms available for hire for meetings, conferences or events such as parties and workshops. There is a fully stocked bar and kitchen available for catering purposes. Contact the Centre on **9041 3033** for bookings or more information.

Harvest and Fire Bans

Throughout summer there may be Total Fire Bans and Harvest Bans imposed to prevent the ignition or spread of bushfires during high risk weather conditions. The Shire of Merredin has a hotline and SMS notification system available to notify residents of bans in place. To be added to the notification list please contact 9041 1611. The Harvest Ban hotline number is 9041 2999.

Australia Day 2017

What's happening this Australia Day? Merredin Community Resource Centre will be holding a breakfast for the community in the morning. Lunch and dinner, as well as games and activities will be hosted by the Recreation Centre. Merredin District Olympic Pool will be open if you would like a swim, or you could catch up on the latest new releases at Orana Cinema.

PetSafe and SportDOG Collars Alert

Radio Systems Australia is alerting customers to a serious safety issue with the plug insert on power adaptors for PetSafe and SportDOG brand products dated 2009 to 2016. This include training and anti-bark collars.

If you believe you have one of the affected products, Radio Systems are urging you to contact **1800 786 608** immediately or visit www.petplugrecall.com.au for a list of all impacted products.

properties to the required standard.

Why then, are there properties in Merredin that are still overgrown and at risk of spreading fires? This is a very reasonable question for Merredin residents to ask, especially when it is not always clear to the community which authority is responsible. We have compiled a detailed article on our website that provides answers to these questions to help our residents understand the situation and become aware of Council's efforts in finding a long term solution. The article can be found here: www.merredin.wa.gov.au/news/1062/crown-land-a-fire-hazard

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



Paper Bag Puppets

Create cute and fun puppets from paper bags and crafts

Free - Merredin Library
10:30am - 11:30am

Tuesday 10 January



Games & Sports

Ages 5-8: 9:00am-12:00pm
All Ages: 12:00pm-1:00pm
Ages 9-12: 1:00pm-4:00pm

\$10ea - Recreation Centre

Wednesday 11 January



Sand Painting

Make fun pictures from coloured sand

Free - Merredin Library
10:30am - 11:30am

Thursday 12 January



Games & Sports

Ages 5-8: 9:00am-12:00pm
All Ages: 12:00pm-1:00pm
Ages 9-12: 1:00pm-4:00pm

\$10ea - Recreation Centre

Friday 13 January



Craftapalooza

Let your imagination run wild with our craft supplies

Free - Merredin Library
10:30am - 11:30am

Tuesday 17 January



Games & Sports

Ages 5-8: 9:00am-12:00pm
All Ages: 12:00pm-1:00pm
Ages 9-12: 1:00pm-4:00pm

\$10ea - Recreation Centre

Wednesday 18 January



Board Games

Escape the heat and play board games with your friends

Free - Merredin Library
10:30am - 4:00pm

Thursday 19 January



Games & Sports

Ages 5-8: 9:00am-12:00pm
All Ages: 12:00pm-1:00pm
Ages 9-12: 1:00pm-4:00pm

\$10ea - Recreation Centre

Friday 20 January



Wii & Playstation

Play wii and Playstation games (All games are G rated)

Free - Merredin Library
10:30am - 4:00pm

Tuesday 24 January

** Pictures are for illustration purposes only and activities may vary. Contact Library or Rec Centre for more information*

Merredin Library
9041 1222

Shire of Merredin
9041 1611

Recreation Centre
9041 3033