

SHIRE OF MERREDIN COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION



Wool Bale Planter Boxes

Have you noticed the new planter boxes lining the main street of Merredin? The planter boxes were installed on the median strip along Barrack Street and are part of a CBD beautification project. They were constructed by the team from Merredin Men’s Shed and are designed to replicate wool bales. The significance of the wool bales is in recognition of sheep farming, one of the primary industries that played a vital role in Merredin’s past, and its present and future. As a tribute to our local farming families, each wool bale planter box is marked with their very own wool brand and type. Stage 2 of this project will see the histories of these families displayed throughout the town.

The planter boxes were installed on 17th and 18th August with a colourful array of pansies planted in each one thanks to the dedicated locals growing and nurturing the flowers.

If your family’s wool brand is not yet presented on the planter boxes you can contact **Marilyn** on **9041 3033** or project1@merredin.wa.gov.au



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Every Monday		Tales of Times Past	Senior Centre	Free
Every Tuesday	10:30am	Storytime at the Library	Merredin Regional Library	Free
1 September	10:00am	Spring Fun Day	Merredin Community Garden	Free
11 September	10:00am	Dogs Day Out	Merredin Recreation Centre	\$10pp (\$30 family pass)
18 September	12:00noon	Spring Fete	Merredin Community Garden	\$10 per family
19 September	7:30pm	Answers from the Other Side	Cummins Theatre	\$65pp
24/25 Sept	11:00am	Relay for Life	Merredin Recreation Centre	\$20 registration
25 September	9:00am	Merredin Markets	Visitor Centre Lawn	Free

COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building, in Council Chambers, on Tuesday 20 September 2016 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 19 September 2016.

Vietnam Veterans Day

Approximately 40 members of the community attended the Vietnam Veterans Day Service that was held at the Reflection Pond at Roy Little Park on 18 August 2016.

Vietnam Veterans Day is held on 18 August each year to remember the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who served our nation in the Vietnam War, in particular the Battle of Long Tan in 1966. The day was known as Long Tan Day, which was later adopted by Veterans as Vietnam Veterans Day. 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

The Merredin Army Cadet Unit initiated the Service, forming an honour guard for our Returned Servicemen, followed by the raising of the flags. Shire of Merredin



Councillor Mal Willis led the service and spoke of the Battle of Long Tan, honouring those who served, as well as acknowledging the people who were affected by the war, during and long after the day had passed.

All attendees were invited to the Merredin Military Museum for a sun downer following the service.

Computer School Available at Library

Are you having trouble using Windows 10? Microsoft Office, Ipad or Iphone? Merredin Regional Library members have free access to over 6000 tutorials or lessons online that they can access from home 24/7. Learn how to use Facebook, Twitter, Digital photography, how to stay safe online, computer basics and much more. Come into the library to get a password. Membership is free, so if you are



not yet a member you can join now. Remember to bring your current proof of address. Children under 18 need to have a parent or guardian sign for them.

Water Corporation to Remove Piping

The Water Corporation have advised us of a statewide project to remove and dispose of surplus asbestos/bituminous coated pipes from various locations throughout Western Australia. The removal of these pipes is scheduled to commence in September 2016 and will be carried out by contractor, Golder Associates. The removed piping will be

wrapped and transported to a dedicated facility in Perth. Water Corporation have assured that the project will be conducted in a safe and precautionary manner and the area will be cleared and treated to ensure there is no asbestos or other hazardous materials left at each site. Questions on this project should be directed to **Water Corporation, Goldfields and Agricultural Region** on **9622 4818**.

Relay for Life

Have you registered your team for Relay for Life? The fun and moving overnight experience raises vital funds for the Cancer Council's research, prevention, information and support services. The relay event is a chance for the Merredin community to recognise and celebrate local

cancer survivors, patients and their carers, to honour and remember loved ones lost to cancer and to raise money to help save more lives. 6 teams have registered so far, raising over \$3,000 towards Cancer Council, but we need more teams! Get your friends and family together to form a team and register today. Chat to **Courtney** on **9041 3033** for further information.

Skip Bin Expressions of Interest

The Shire of Merredin is seeking feedback and expression of interest from our residents. Would you and neighbours utilise a 4.5m³ skip bin placed at the end of your street for a week? What kind of things would you be throwing away or looking to get rid of? Would you have more than 4.5m³ worth of waste to get rid of as an individual household? Do

you believe that by providing the skip bins to residents it will have a beneficial impact on the overall look of the town? How else would you like to see a bulk waste collection adopted through the use of skip bins?

Please provide any feedback to the Shire of Merredin's **Environmental Health Officer** by 4:00pm 30 September 2016 eho@merredin.wa.gov.au or **9041 1611**.

Merredin Pool Waterwise Recognition

Merredin District Olympic Pool was one of 11 centres across the State recognised as Waterwise by the Water Corporation and the Leisure Institute of Western Australia (LIWA) at the LIWA State Conference on Monday 15 August. Water Minister Mia Davies congratulated the Shire of Merredin, which manages the pool, for its water saving efforts.

“The management of the Merredin District Olympic Pool has made an outstanding commitment to water efficiency by carrying out an extensive review of how they use water and developed a plan to achieve ongoing water saving,” Ms Davies said.

To be endorsed as waterwise, an aquatic centre must demonstrate a number of water saving measures. These include reading water meters daily, reporting and repairing any leaks detected, displaying water saving information for

patrons, installing minimum rates water-efficient fixtures and fitting, as well as minimising water use for operations such as backwashing and irrigation.

In addition to the minimum water saving measures, the Merredin District Olympic Pool conducted an irrigation distribution test to reduce the amount of water used in the landscaping, and optimised usage of their automatic vacuum cleaner to reduce backwashing frequency.

“I encourage aquatic centres across WA to become involved in the free Waterwise Aquatic Centre Program to demonstrate their commitment to conserving water where they can,” the Minister said.

The corporation has worked with LIWA to promote water efficiency in aquatic centres, which has helped the industry save more than 700 million litres since 2008 - which, in aquatic centre terms, is about 280 Olympic-sizes pools.

(Words courtesy Department of Sport and Recreation)

Declared Pest Rate to be Introduced

Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (EWBG) has been assisting Wheatbelt sheep farmers manage wild dog populations and reducing stock losses for over 10 years. Kulin farmer and founder of EWBG, Jim Sullivan, reports that with the control of wild dog populations stock losses have declined from over 1000 in 2008 down to 50 last year. Additionally, the group has noticed that with the removal of wild dogs (as well as cats and foxes) native fauna such as kangaroos, native marsupials and birds have returned to treated areas.

Previously, the EWBG wild dog control program was funded

by 50:50 contributions from the State Government and local shires. From September 2016 a rate on landholdings of 20ha and above will be introduced to assist the funding of the wild dog control program with contributions matched by the State Government.

EWBG are encouraging the community to learn more about the program and provide the opportunity to ask questions about the introduced declared pest rate. The next annual general meeting of Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group will be held in Merredin on 23 September in the DAFWA conference room and members of the community are welcome to attend. Interested members can contact **Lisa O’Neill** on ewbg@outlook.com.

Wildflowers are Blooming

Did you know that the Wheatbelt is a hotspot for wildflowers? Merredin welcomes tourists from all over Australia to witness its diversity in wildflowers.

August to October is the best time to see wildflowers in bloom. Take a stroll through our local reserves and you will be able to see the bright yellow Acacia and rich red Grevillea and Hakea. Look closer and you may spot delicate orchids like Spider Orchids, Donkey Orchids and Inland Hairy Stem Orchids (Snail Orchids). Pink Everlastings are in full bloom blanketing the bush with bright pink.

There are several reserves around Merredin with wildflowers in bloom; Merredin Peak Reserve is on Benson Road (near the Barrack Street industrial area) and Tamma Parkland is on South Avenue. Just a short drive out of town



will bring you to Totadgin Conservation Park (Bruce Rock-Merredin Road).

Wildflower sightings can be reported to **Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre** on **9041 1666**.

Excitement Builds for Festa Italiana

The Italian Festival in October is set to be one of the biggest events in Merredin this year. With only a month until the festivities begin, the Shire of Merredin community development team are working hard with some of Merredin's Italian families to bring you a weekend full of great Italian pastimes, delicious food and exciting entertainment.

The festival kicks off with two **movie, coffee and cake** sessions on Monday 10 October at Cummins Theatre (which also happens to be the Theatre's 87th Birthday!) Merredin Fine Art Society will hold their **Art Exhibition** at the Railway Museum from Thursday to Sunday.

With many Italian families set to visit Merredin for the festival the community is invited to welcome our visitors with **afternoon tea** on the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre lawn on Friday 14 October. Elders will be hosting their annual **Golden Sausage Event** later in the evening at the Tivoli Room. Do you have the best sausage? Register with Elders to find out!

Immerse yourself in some of Italy's favourite pastimes on Saturday 15 October. Football West will be holding a **Soccer Clinic** at 10am with a modified Soccer Competition starting at 11am. There will be **bocce** and **card games** as well all taking place at Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre.

Daniela and Stefania, two past contestants on My Kitchen Rules will be demonstrating their cooking skills at 11:30am and 2:00pm. Seats are filling up fast for these demonstrations so book now to avoid missing out!

Cummins Theatre is the place to be on Saturday night with delicious **Italian cuisine** on the dinner menu followed by a night of **entertainment**. Dinner is served at 7pm and entertainment starts at 8pm. Buon appetito!

After all the festivities you can wind down by attending a **Church Service** or **tour of the town** followed by a light luncheon.

If you are interested in participating in any of the Festa Italiana activities please contact the **Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre** on **9041 1666** for registrations and bookings.



Dogs Day Out Event Information

Merredin Rec Centre Oval | 11 September 2016 | 10:00am to 3:00pm

Event Program

- 10:00am** Gates open
- 10:30am** **Presentation:** Puppy and dog training with an introduction to dog communication and body language
- 11:30am** Meet and greet with dog behaviourists and use of agility course
- 12:30pm** **Presentation:** Healthy dog diets, natural supplements and losing extra doggie weight
- 1:00pm** **Competition:** Agility course
Trick training and positive reinforcement training
- 2:00pm** **Presentation:** Being more active with your dog
Camping and travelling with your dog

Come and celebrate all things dog in Merredin's **Dogs Day Out** on 11 September 2016. Gates open at 10:00am for you and your dog to explore the retail stalls, meet experts in the field of dog behaviour, training and nutrition. Join in the fun of dog competitions; is your dog the cutest, ugliest, smallest, biggest or best dressed? There will be presentations and demonstrations throughout the day, and there will also be the chance to test out your dog's fitness on the agility course.

We haven't forgotten about your two-legged family either! There will be face painting, food and drink as well as prizes for the colouring competition (pick up a colouring in sheet from the Shire, Rec Centre or Library)

Dogs on a leash are welcome to this event.

Tickets are \$10 (family of four pass \$30). Tickets available at the gate.



For more information contact Marilyn on 9041 3033.

Dogs Welcome!

\$10 pp
\$30 family

