



COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

Behind the Gavel *Julie Flockart, Shire President*

During these unprecedented times, it is important to take a moment to acknowledge the monumental commitment from everyone within the Shire of Merredin community to stop the spread of COVID-19. I understand the frustration involved with not being able to leave the house, or visit with your friends, or even hold birthday parties, but by following social distancing regulations, you ARE doing your part to keep our community safe.

Although the number of confirmed cases in WA is dropping, this is no time to become complacent or start ignoring the advice of the State Government. COVID-19 restrictions are expected to be in place for at least the next 4 weeks as we come to the end of the suppression stage of the virus. Until we enter the recovery stage, it is essential that we continue to stay home unless absolutely necessary and maintain a distance of 1.5m should you need to leave your house for an essential reason.

The Shire and other key services in Merredin will continue to support the community and local businesses through a number of initiatives and projects over the coming months. Council announced at the Special April Council Meeting that there will be a freeze on rates for 2020/21, and that Council would be streamlining the tender process and reinforcing support of local and regional suppliers. As part of the Buy Local initiative, the Shire has compiled a business database on their website which lists opening hours, contact details, links to social media, and the social distancing measures that local businesses have in place. Business owners are able to register for this database through the Shire of Merredin website here: <https://www.merredin.wa.gov.au/register-your-business-for-the-covid-19-database.aspx>.

The Shire is actively engaging with the community through a number of initiatives, including the pairing of community volunteers with those recognized in our community as being more vulnerable or susceptible to being exposed to COVID-19. We have also introduced the Red and Green signs to encourage neighbours to keep an eye on each other. Our team has also been working hard behind the scenes to bring the community a number of events via online live streaming including Morning Melodies and the ANZAC Day Service.

For now, our skate parks, playgrounds, campsites, and other community facilities will remain closed, however we are constantly monitoring the advice released by the State and Federal Government and will update you if anything changes. Our customer service staff continue to be available to assist with your queries and payments over the phone and our DOT services have re-commenced by appointment only. Shire staff are available to help you during work hours 8.30am – 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. Information regarding COVID-19 and the Shire’s response will be updated across the Shire of Merredin website and Facebook page, and SMS notifications will be released for important updates.

Vulnerable Persons List

Thank you to everyone who has assisted in creating the Vulnerable Persons List for those in the Shire of Merredin who may need an extra helping hand during COVID-19. It is important to remind the community that this list is not only for those who are (elderly) seniors, but anyone who might be at risk. If, for example, someone in your household is receiving medical treatment or there is another reason you or your family member/s may be predisposed to Flu/COVID-19 and are self-isolating, you can add yourself to the list and our volunteers will be able to assist you. Please don’t be anxious during this time – your community has volunteers who are ready and willing to help. To join the list, email library@merredin.wa.gov.au or call 9041 1222.

ANZAC DAY
— Lest We Forget —
SATURDAY APRIL 25 2020

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN
AND IN THE MORNING,
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

**ANZAC DAY SERVICE
FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM**

6.00am

REGULATIONS PROHIBIT PUBLIC GATHERINGS SO
THERE CAN BE NO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

PENALTIES FOR BREACHES OF THE REGULATIONS ARE SEVERE

www.facebook.com/ShireofMerredin/

YOU DO NOT REQUIRE A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT
TO VIEW THE LIVE STREAM

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

SIGN UP FOR COVID-19 SMS NOTIFICATIONS

Would you like to join our SMS notifications list to receive regular updates about COVID-19 and information about the Shire’s response? Simply email your phone number to media@merredin.wa.gov.au or call the Shire Administration Staff on 9041 1611.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 19 May 2020 at 4:00pm. This meeting will be held as a webinar teleconference via the platform Zoom. A link to the live stream will be posted on the Shire’s Facebook page and website, and members of the public are welcome to watch. Questions may be submitted prior to the meeting by emailing Melissa at ea@merredin.wa.gov.au or filling out the online form here: <https://www.merredin.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/>

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.