



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

OCTOBER 2020

Merredin Peak Tour a Huge Success!

It was wonderful to see a large group attend the Merredin Peak Cultural Tour and Seed Collecting Education event on Tuesday, 29 September 2020. Attendees enjoyed a pre-tour morning tea filled with sandwiches, party pies, sausage rolls, cakes and slices before heading to the Merredin Peak reserve for a talk about native Merredin plants.

The three hour integrated cultural and seed tour provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about Aboriginal history, and also allowed for attendees to try an array of bush berries and plants including the salt bush.

The tour concluded with a trek up Merredin Peak and back down to Railway Dam, where the ice-cream van was awaiting our arrival with delicious ice-cream and slushies.

The Shire would like to say a special thank you to Mick Hayden from Njaki Njaki Aboriginal Cultural Tours, and Steve Fry from Santeluca Forestry, for their wonderful guidance and knowledge throughout the day.

This event was held as part of the Shire's Recovering Roadside Conservation Values Pilot Project. This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.



In This Issue

- ▶ Page 1... Merredin Peak Tour
- ▶ Page 2... Citizen of the Year Nominations
- ▶ Page 2... Gala Night EOI
- ▶ Page 3... Bush Fire Training Exercise
- ▶ Page 3... Curtin Volunteers Visit Merredin
- ▶ Page 4... Employment Vacancies
- ▶ Page 4... Carers WA Pop-Up Session
- ▶ Page 5... Burlesque heading to Cummins
- ▶ Page 6... Household Hazards
- ▶ Page 6... Amendment to Rate Instalments
- ▶ Page 7... Djuki Mala is coming to town!
- ▶ Page 7... Firebreak and Burning Reminder
- ▶ Page 8... Spring in the Garden
- ▶ Page 8... Upcoming Theatre Events
- ▶ Page 8... Night Sports 2.0

October Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 20 October at 4:00pm. This meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building on the Cnr of King and Barrack Streets in the Council Chambers. Members of the public are welcome to attend. The Agenda will be available to view on the Shire of Merredin's website on Friday, 16 October. Public questions can be submitted by 2.00pm on the day of the council meeting by completing the form here: <https://www.merredin.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/>





Citizen of the Year Nominations Now Open!

Australia Day 2021 is set to be bigger and better than ever. The Shire of Merredin is seeking nominations for community members who have stepped up and performed admirably within our community. There are four award categories that you may nominate a community member or group/event within which include;

- **Citizen of the Year** - a person you believe has delivered outstanding service to his or her community
- **Youth Citizen of the Year** (under 25 as of 26 January 2021) - a young person you believe has delivered outstanding service to his or her community
- **Senior Citizen of the Year** (over 65 as of 26 January 2021) - an older person you believe has delivered outstanding service to his or her community
- **Active Citizenship** (group or event) - a group doing outstanding work or for an event staged in the community during the past year

Nominations close on Saturday, 31 October 2020 with the winners announced at the 2021 Australia Day Breakfast.

Hard copy nomination forms can be picked up from the following locations;

- Shire Administration Office
- Merredin Library
- Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

Completed forms must be returned to the Shire Admin Office before the closing date. To find out more or to nominate online, simply head to the Shire website here: <https://bit.ly/2GwWXy7>

Expressions of Interest—Gala Night

The Shire of Merredin's annual Gala Night is one of the biggest events on Merredin's calendar, drawing locals and our surrounding wheatbelt community to celebrate the years end. It is where Merredin comes together to showcase the best of what our businesses and community have to offer as we collectively host a, once a year only, late night shopping experience with fun, food and entertainment for all the family.

The Shire recognises the difficult year that 2020 has been for most. With this in mind, we are delighted to announce that the 2020 Merredin Gala Night will be focused on showcasing our locals in a family friendly and BUY LOCAL event. Buying locally supports businesses in your community, helping the local economy thrive.

Would you like to be a part of planning and delivering Merredin's Annual Christmas event to held on Thursday, 17 December 2020?

The Shire of Merredin would like to invite local stakeholders, business groups, organisations, and individuals to nominate to be involved in the Gala Night 2020 working group.

We would also like to hear from those who want to get involved with Gala Night as a sponsor, stallholder, entertainment, or volunteer on the day.

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact Darcie Jolly - Shire of Merredin Events Manager – by emailing clo@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Let's come together to create an event that celebrates the end of a big year and projects our confidence for an even bigger 2021.



Bush Fire Training Exercise

Did you notice the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) incident control unit in town last month?

On Friday, 18 September, the Shire's Bush Fire Brigades, along with local authorities and Shire staff, participated in a Bush Fire Training exercise which simulated a major bush fire that was quickly approaching town. The simulation was of a scale that required the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer to call in DFES to take control of the incident.

While the simulation allowed for practice for local volunteers and the Shire, the DFES crew also had the chance to trial set up and response times for the local brigades and to familiarise themselves with the hand over process for major fires.



Curtin Volunteers Visit Merredin

On Friday, 2 October 2020, 16 students from Curtin University departed from the Bentley Campus to make their way to Merredin. After the three-and-a-half-hour drive, the students eagerly arrived in town and were greeted with a catered lunch, before making themselves at home at their accommodation. Shortly after arriving, the volunteers visited Merredin Rec Centre where they assisted with preparations for the Games Day. They set up the activities and spread themselves out across each of the games, supervising the stations to ensure everything ran smoothly. They delivered a fun filled afternoon of activities to the 30 youth in attendance.

The students returned to their accommodation at 4:30pm to relax, set up beds, and await a pizza night feast. Saturday morning the students were up early to enjoy breakfast at local café Dimensions, before heading to the Railway Museum where they spent a few hours touring, weeding, and tending to the gardens. The students then participated in a Njaki Njaki Aboriginal Cultural Tour around Merredin Peak with local Mick Hayden. The volunteers had a very educational experience and expressed that they couldn't wait to come back and do the other tours that Mick offers.

For dinner on Saturday, the volunteers were able to experience a farm visit with the Willis family. They were overwhelmed by how delicious the food was, the vast space, and the very sweet animals on the farm. The volunteers often say this is the best part of their trip to Merredin.

Sunday came around with a relaxing sleep in and an in-house catered breakfast before heading down to the Community Garden, where they carried out activities including planting, weeding, moving wood, and making garden beds. After all their hard work the students enjoyed a hearty home-made morning tea catered by the Community Garden.

The Curtin volunteers were very thankful and cherished the experiences and networks they made in Merredin during their John Curtin Weekend. They are eager to come back and continue helping the various community groups. The Shire of Merredin would like to thank all the community groups and businesses that assisted in the smooth running of this weekend and especially for giving these students a glimpse of our wonderful wheatbelt lifestyle.



Photo: The volunteers helping with the gardening

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

Gardener – Parks and Gardens

Engineering Services

Commencing: Immediately

Position Status: Full Time

The Shire of Merredin is seeking an experienced person to join our Parks and Gardens Team. The successful applicant should have well-developed gardening and landscaping skills, including pruning, fertilizing, mowing, as well as sound knowledge of horticulture, parks and gardens and maintenance techniques

Conditions of employment will be in accordance with the Shire of Merredin Operational Works Crew Collective Agreement 2016 with the current salary being Level 3 plus industry allowance.

A position description is available on our website: www.merredin.wa.gov.au. Please forward your resume and covering letter to sfo@merredin.wa.gov.au. Applications close 4pm on Friday, 23 October 2020.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Calvin Shotter on 9041 1611.

Plant Operator – Roads and Construction

Engineering Services

Commencing: Immediately

Position Status: Full Time

The Shire of Merredin is seeking an experienced person to join our Roads and Construction Crew. The successful applicant should have a well-developed knowledge of operating loaders, backhoes, skid steers and rollers, as well as possess skills relating to roads and construction such as bitumen spraying and sealing.

Conditions of employment will be in accordance with the Shire of Merredin Operational Works Crew Collective Agreement 2016 with the current salary being Level 4 plus industry allowance.

A position description is available on our website: www.merredin.wa.gov.au. Please forward your resume and covering letter to sfo@merredin.wa.gov.au. Applications close 4pm on Friday, 23 October 2020.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Calvin Shotter on 9041 1611.

Finance Support Officer

Corporate Services

Commencing: Immediately

Position Status: Full Time

The Shire of Merredin is seeking an experienced person to join our Administration Team. The successful applicant should have well developed communications, time management, and developed numeracy and reconciliation skills.

Conditions of employment will be in accordance with the Local Government Industry (WA) Award 2010 with the current salary being (Level 7) \$53,995 per annum plus superannuation.

A position description is available on our website: www.merredin.wa.gov.au. Please forward your resume and covering letter to emcs@merredin.wa.gov.au. Applications close 4pm on Friday, 9 October 2020.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Charlie Brown on 9041 1611.

Carers WA, Pop Up Info Session

Do you provide unpaid care and support to family members or friends who have disability, mental illness, chronic condition, terminal illness, an alcohol or other drug issue, or who are frail aged?

If so, please come and have an informal chat about how we can help, and the services we provide.

Where: Grassed area at the Visitor Centre

85 Barrack st, Merredin

Date: October 29th 2020

Time: 10am – 3pm

Free sausage sizzle between 12:30 – 1:30

There will be fun and games and a free sausage sizzle provided by the Shire of Merredin

This is an alcohol free, smoke free and drug free event.

Please contact [Deb Rankin](mailto:Deb.Rankin@carerswa.asn.au), 08 9228 7402 for further information

T: 1 300 CARERS (1 300 227 377) | E: info@carerswa.asn.au | W: www.carerswa.asn.au
© Carers WA



Burlesque is heading to the Cummins...

by Jessica Anne Gough – Owner/Director

What is burlesque?

Is it just a fancy word for striptease?

Luckily for word enthusiasts, burlesque derives from a rich tradition and meaning... The word derives from the Italian burlesco, which, in turn, is derived from the word burla: “a joke or parody”.

Aka - Burlesque is a performance intended for laughter and celebration!

Burlesque was started as a social movement, a ‘punch-up’ parody back in the 1800’s for women’s rights against social expectations – but you know, in a super fun and glamorous way!!

We added an element of the ‘art of tease’ in the 1930’s, then the neo rise (and rise) happened in the 1990’s and still continues today.

We’ve seen the art form laden with feminine showgirls, but burlesque welcomes all and is every ‘body’ celebrated – if there’s ever a place you should feel fabulous for exactly who you are, it’s at a burlesque show!

And guess what??

Western Australia has it’s very own BURLESQUE FESTIVAL...!!

Run by Western Australian local Jessica Anne Gough of Tease Industries, the 7th Annual Perth International Burlesque Festival is on again this year from Thursday, 22 October to Tuesday, 3 November.

REPORT IT WITH SNAP, SEND, SOLVE!

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 to resolving it.



FREE

DROP OFF DAY FOR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



TEMPORARY COLLECTION DAY

There are a number of hazardous items in your home which must not go in your waste or recycling bin. Safely dispose of your unwanted household chemicals and hazardous materials for free at the Household Hazardous Waste Temporary Collection Day.

THESE ITEMS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Batteries
- ✓ Flammable liquids
- ✓ Fluorescent tubes
- ✓ Gas bottles
- ✓ Household and garden chemicals
- ✓ Paint
- ✓ Pesticides and herbicides
- ✓ Poisons
- ✓ Pool chemicals

DATE: Saturday 10 October 2020

TIME: 10:00am - 12:00pm

VENUE:

**Shire of Merredin Depot
Telfer Avenue, Merredin**



What can be disposed of at the Temporary Collection Day?



ACCEPTED MATERIALS:

- Acids and alkalis
- Aerosols
- Batteries (household)
- Engine coolants and glycols
- Fire extinguishers - Non halon (red) only
- Flammables
- Flares
- Fluorescent lamps and tubes (CFLs)
- Gas cylinders (small household)
- Household chemicals (e.g. cleaners)
- Paint
- Pesticides/herbicides
- Poisons/toxics
- Pool chemicals
- Smoke detectors
- Unknown chemicals must be in sealed, chemical resistant containers.

Only domestic waste will be accepted.
Limit 20kg or litres per material type.



MATERIALS NOT ACCEPTED:

- Asbestos
- Commercial and industrial waste
- Electronic waste
- EPIRBs and PLBs
- Explosives, ammunition and firearms
- Fire extinguishers - Halon (yellow)
- Medications and pharmaceuticals
- Mobile phones
- Motor oil and cooking oil
- Printer cartridges/toners
- Sharps and needles
- Tyres

For more advice on disposal options for these items, please call the Shire of Merredin on (08) 9041 1611.



For more info please visit
www.wastenet.net.au/hhw

Amendment to Rates Instalment Due Dates

At the September Ordinary Council Meeting, Council adopted the following;

“That the due date for the 2020/2021 rates be amended to the 25th September 2020 with instalments becoming due on the 26th November 2020 (2nd Instalment), 27th January 2021 (3rd Instalment), and the 30th March 2021 (4th Instalment).”

The amendment to the due dates comes after it was found that one box of rates notices delivered to the post office was set aside and inadvertently missed when the bulk of notices were processed by them.



Don't miss the show of the year... Djuki Mala is coming to town!

Djuki Mala have played 700+ live performances to over 500,000 people in 73 cities and towns, in 27 different countries across 11 years. Now it's regional Western Australia that will experience their landmark theatrical show in 2020 for the first time.

Djuki Mala (Djuki meaning 'bird' with a Yolngu accent and Mala meaning 'mob') have been thrilling audiences and touring extensively, both nationally and internationally - an amazing achievement for performers coming from one of Australia's most remote communities.

Djuki Mala's highly energized dancers present their re-interpretation of pop culture, dance and story-telling, juxtaposing traditional dances with contemporary Yolngu culture. By embracing a variety of styles, Djuka Mala pay tribute to Motown, Bollywood, techno, hip-hop, breakdance, krumping and classic numbers. There's a salute with umbrellas, to *Singing in the Rain* against the backdrop of their spectacularly beautiful island home. Michael Jackson's black suit and spangled glove are slipped into a Billie Jean routine, all done with a hefty dose of heart and soul.

Interspersed with multimedia, this retrospective and autobiographical show, is a marvel of timing, comedy and clowning and offers a rare and insightful view into Aboriginal Australia, leaving the audience feeling genuinely happy!

Direct from Elcho Island, North East Arnhem Land, Djuki Mala's extraordinarily humble journey started twelve years ago. Beginning in 2007 Frank Djirrimbilwuy uploaded a video clip of the group dancing an exuberant interpretation of 'Zorba the Greek' at Ramingining Festival.

Frank's daughter was cared for by a woman of Greek heritage in Darwin, the dance showcased how two strong cultures could come together. The clip was an overnight success and went viral with currently over 2.8 million views.

Djuki Mala have performed in the movie *Bran Nue Dae*, ABC TV's *You Can't Ask That*, *Secret River*, *Move It Mob Style*, Network Ten's *Totally Wild*, Kids WB and at major festivals and events throughout Australia, UK, China, the Pacific, US, Canada, Taiwan, Europe, and the Middle East including Lebanon, Egypt and Cyprus, attracting massive media interest and winning multiple awards and nominations.

Over thirty young men have danced in the troupe and members have performed alongside high profile Australian artists including: John Butler, Jessica Mauboy, Baker Boy, Kate Miller Heidke, Yothu Yindi and Blue King Brown to name a few.

Dancers include: Baykali Ganambarr, Yalyalwuy Gondarra, Tibian Wyles and Watjarr Garmu.

"There is no better offering at this year's Perth Fringe Festival...tremendous fun." **THE WEST AUSTRALIAN** ★★★★★

The show runs for 70 minutes and is suitable for all ages 5+.

Tickets for the 20 October show are available on the Theatre website here: www.cumminstheatre.com.au or in person at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre.

FIREBREAK AND BURNING NOTICE REMINDER

A reminder that we are now in the restricted burning period, and as such, no fires may take place without a permit being issued. Permits may be obtained from a Fire Control Officer (FCO) in your area. For a full list of the FCO's in the Shire of Merredin, head to the Shire website.

Firebreaks are due to be completed on or before Saturday, 31 October 2020, or within 14 days of the date of becoming the owner or occupier of the land, should this be after 31 October 2020. All works issued in the Shire's firebreak notice must then be obtained up to and including Tuesday, 16 March 2021.

Should you have any questions or queries relating to burning permits or firebreaks, please contact the Shire on 9041 1611.

Spring in the Garden

Evening Wheatbelt Early Year Award

FRIDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2020

MERREDIN COMMUNITY GARDEN

9.30AM - 11.30AM

All families with children aged 0-5 years are welcome to attend this fun FREE event! Come forage through the flowers and see what yummy food can be found. Lots of activities and a goodie bag to take home.

Limited numbers - please RSVP to the Library on 9041 1222 or library@merredin.wa.gov.au by Thursday, 22 October 2020

This is a free event brought to you by:

CUMMINS THEATRE
The Heart of the Arts in the Wheatbelt

Morning Melodies Concert Series

Friday 16th October 2020

Come and join us for our next Morning Melodies concert. A great place to catch up with old friends and even make some new ones.

Featuring Theatre Manager - Justin Freind

Doors open at 10:30am for morning tea. Concert starts at 11:00am - 12:00pm

Tickets are \$15* and include morning tea. (Bookings essential for catering purposes)

Book at www.trybooking.com/BIWCO or at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

* transaction fees may apply

Tease Industries presents
PERTH INTERNATIONAL BURLESQUE FESTIVAL

CLUB BURLESQUE

PERTHBURLESQUEFESTIVAL.COM

30th October 2020

Cummins Theatre
31 Bates St - Merredin

The best of the best in the West is on tour! Join the **Perth International Burlesque Festival** as they take their unapologetically fabulous show across our sunburnt state.

Doors open 6:15pm - Show starts 7:00pm

Tickets \$40-\$45
*booking fee may apply

Tickets available at www.cumminstheatre.com.au or at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

Age restriction 18+. Event contains Nudity - Swearing - Adult Themes.

NIGHT SPORTS 2.0

**AFL • SOCCER • NETBALL • VOLLEYBALL
BOXING • BASKETBALL**

16 OCTOBER - 20 NOVEMBER

6PM - 9PM | AGES 12 - 18 | MRCLC

FREE EVENT EVERY FRIDAY. DINNER PROVIDED AND BUS DROP OFF IN MERREDIN TOWNSITE

For more information, contact Darcie at the Shire on 9041 1611.