



Merry Christmas

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

DECEMBER 2020

NAIDOC Week 2020

NAIDOC Week was held from Sunday, 8 November, until Sunday, 15 November with the theme Always Was, Always Will Be. This year, the community celebrations were combined with Merredin College events which kicked off with an opening ceremony at an assembly on Monday morning. The assembly included a Welcome to Country by Ambrose McGrath, as well as traditional music and dancing performed by Merredin College Aboriginal students.

After the ceremony concluded, Aboriginal Elders, guests, staff and community members enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by Dimensions Café and Wild Poppy Café.

Later in the day, a sea of painted hands were placed in the ground on the Visitor Centre lawn. These hands were painted by many local community members to celebrate NAIDOC Week.

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December Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 15 December 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, 11 December. 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/>



An early start Tuesday was needed for the tour of Njaki Njaki Reserve. Community members and students from the College immersed themselves in Aboriginal culture through multiple activities including a smoking ceremony, storytelling, painting, dancing, and cooking.

Celebrations concluded on Friday, with a sand art mural designed by Marika Hayden completed at the College. Community members and students helped Marika with the completion of the mural by the placement of grains of sand. Once the mural was finished, Aboriginal girls who attended the College danced on the mural.

The Shire would like to thank all community members, groups, and organisations who were involved in the delivery of the NAIDOC Week celebrations. It was certainly one to remember!



Photo: Merredin College Facebook Page

WORKS UPDATES

Kerb Painting

The outside crew have been working hard to beautify the CBD by updating the kerb paint along Barrack and Bates Streets. Approximately 1000m of kerb was painted during the course of this project. The Shire would like to thank the community and local businesses for their positive feedback about the painting, and the outside crew for their efforts—it looks fantastic!

Roads

The outside crew have also been spending their time on a number of projects including Summer Grading, and the construction of Burke Road. Work has also recently commenced on Clarke Road in the South Burracoppin area.

Secondary Freight Route

The Shire of Merredin will receive \$1.5million this year via the Secondary Freight Route Network model, with additional funding over the next 4-5 years, for the upgrade of the Merredin-Narembeen Road. This year approximately 4.5kms of work will be undertaken at the Narembeen end of the road.

Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre Lawn

The lawn at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre has been receiving some TLC over the last few weeks. The engineering team has been out on the lawn from 6:00am fertilising the grass and watering it to ensure it is healthy and vibrant.

Welcoming the new staff to the Shire of Merredin

A big welcome to the new faces at the Shire of Merredin administration building — Ashleigh Brice, the new EA to CEO, and Liam Bland, the new Finance Support Officer.

A message from Ashleigh

"I am very excited to join the great team at the Shire of Merredin. I'm looking forward to getting to know the community and exploring the beautiful region. Don't be afraid to say hello if you see me out and about!"

A message from Liam

"I am really enjoying the new role and I look forward to the many challenges I will face in the future. I'm thankful to be a part of the Shire team as everyone has made me feel so welcome. I'm also looking forward to learning about the local community and surrounding areas while working with the Shire."



Remembrance Day

On Wednesday, 11 November 2020, at 10:40am, the community came together on the Visitor Centre Lawn for the annual Remembrance Day Service. The service was led by Councillor Mark McKenzie, while the Ode was spoken by Aub Tompkin. The Merredin College choir attended to sing the national anthems of Australia and New Zealand.

We would like to thank all those that attended this important service and the lunch afterwards. It was fantastic to see so many red poppies in the crowd and around the town!



2021 SKETCHBOOK PROJECT

Have you heard of the Sketchbook Project? Each year, Propel sends sketchbooks to participants across WA and encourages them to fill the books with designs, stories or drawings. The sketchbooks can be cut, painted or inked – anything creative goes. The youth of WA are invited to tell their own stories, in their own way using the sketchbook.

All the sketchbooks received will be displayed in the State Library of WA as part of Youth Week WA KickstART Festival. After the festival the sketchbooks become part of a travelling show visiting regional and suburban libraries.

Anyone, aged from 12 to 26, who wishes to participate should go to the Propel website <https://www.propel.org.au> to register. Select Merredin Library as your hub. You will be notified by email or text when your sketchbook is ready for collection – this should be in mid-January.

Fill your sketchbook however you like. Can't paint or draw? Maybe write a poem, or an intricate math formula – anything goes. You can share your progress online to help inspire others. Once you are finished return and submit your sketchbook, either directly to Propel or by 15 March to Merredin Library so it can be sent off to Perth in time.

The Travelling Sketchbook Exhibition will be on tour from June 2021 to January 2022. In February 2022, all Sketchbooks will be returned to their creators.

Check out <https://www.propel.org.au> for more details.



Fight the Bite!

In Western Australia, mosquitoes can transmit Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus, Kunjin virus and the potentially fatal Murray Valley encephalitis virus. There is currently no cure and no vaccine for any mosquito-borne disease acquired in WA. The only way to prevent infection is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes.

Tips to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes:

- Cover Up – wear long, loose-fitting, light coloured clothing, covering as much of the body as you can;
- Repel – When outdoors and mosquitoes are present, apply insect repellent containing DEET (diethyltoluamide) or picaridin evenly to exposed skin; and
- Clean Up – simple changes around your home can reduce mosquito breeding. Remove, empty or cover water-holding containers.

Mosquitoes can breed around your home. They will lay their eggs in fresh or salty water, and often in containers that hold water. Common breeding sites include pot plant drip trays, gutters, ponds, pet water bowls, old tyres, rubbish, containers and pools that are not well maintained.

Tips to stop mosquitoes breeding around your home by following these simple steps:

- Empty out or discard containers and rubbish that may hold water;
- Clean out roof gutters to prevent water from pooling;
- Empty, clean and refill bird baths, stock troughs and pet water bowls at least once a week;
- Keep swimming pools properly maintained and free of debris;
- Empty wading pools at the end of each day;
- Stock backyard ponds with fish to eat mosquito larvae;
- Cover rainwater and septic tank openings, wells or other large water containers with mosquito-proof mesh; and
- Keep edges of ponds clear of vegetation.

For more information about the Fight the Bite campaign, head to the Department of Health website below.

www2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Fight-the-Bite-campaign



TOGETHER in COMMUNITY
Merredin Churches Fraternal

MERREDIN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

When: Sunday 13th December 6.30pm

Where: Visitor Centre Lawn (centre of town)

Featuring local talents: Achoired Taste & Merredin College Choir

Free event

Special surprises for all

EMPLOYMENT VACANCY

Tourism Officer

Commencing: Immediately

Position Status: Full Time—Fixed Term (7 Months)

Location: Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre

An exciting job opportunity has emerged at the Shire of Merredin through the position of Tourism Officer at the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre (CWVC).

The position is Full Time - Fixed Term (7 months), with an immediate start, with the opportunity to extend further.

The main responsibilities will include:

- Visitor servicing including face-to-face and digital communications via website, Facebook and Instagram
- Daily operations of the CWVC
- Update and maintain the CWVC website
- Answer visitor queries via phone and email
- Update a regional Calendar of Events as event notices come in
- Plan and maintain displays of local and regional event flyers for visitor information for notice boards and electronic sign
- Compile a monthly e-Events newsletter in Mail Chimp

The candidate will have strong social media and website skills, as well as essential computer skills. Local knowledge of the Shire of Merredin and the wider Wheatbelt region is highly desirable.

Applications are to include a CV and a covering letter (max 2 pages) indicating your ability to meet the role requirements.

Please visit the Shire website for the full Position Description.

Applications are to be marked "Private and Confidential" and sent via post to PO Box 42 Merredin WA 6415 or emailed through to visitor@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute

On Tuesday, 17 November at 2:00pm, the Shire of Merredin held a short unveiling ceremony for the new Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute water refill station on the Visitor Centre lawn. Shire President Julie Flockart, along with Councillors, Shire staff, students, teachers, and parents, attended the unveiling.

The picture design of the station was run as the Keep Australia Beautiful Poster Competition in a Year 3/4 class at Merredin College. The selection panel for the competition consisted of the class teacher and the CDO at the Shire, with the winners being chosen as Reuben Davies and Mila Walker.

The Shire President spoke to the students and congratulated the winners for their wonderful designs. Students were then able to go and fill their own bottles from the station before enjoying a fruit snack.

The Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute water station was grant funded through the Keep Australia Beautiful fund in 2019.

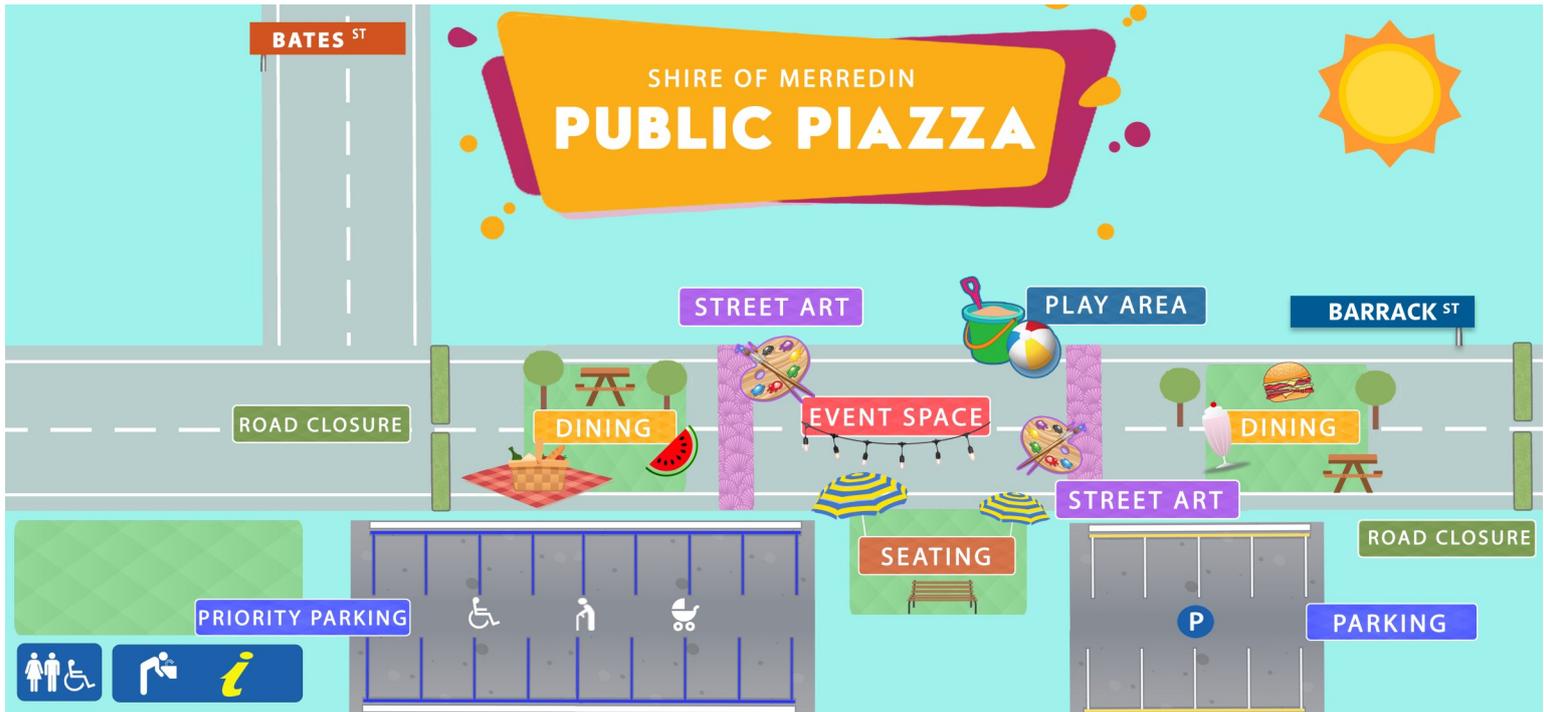
The Shire would like to congratulate the Year 3/4 class, as well as winners Reuben and Mila, for their colourful designs. We think the refill station looks absolutely wonderful!



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.





Shire of Merredin Successful for RAC Grant Funding

The Shire of Merredin and RAC are partnering to deliver a Public Piazza Pilot Project as part of RAC's Reconnect WA initiative. The project will see a four-month closure of part of Barrack Street in Merredin to create a 'public piazza' with features including:

- Parklets which include dining and public seating areas;
- Vibrant street art;
- Catenary/Festoon lighting;
- Greenery including sensory gardens;
- Play and event spaces; and
- Umbrella's and other shading.

The purpose of this pilot piazza is to act as a catalyst for the imminent future improvements to our CBD and test ideas and options for the final CBD redevelopment design.

"The Shire Team has been working incredibly hard on the new Strategic Community Plan, including pursuing projects that the community indicated were a priority during the RESET. RECOVER. REGENERATE. engagement workshops," Shire President Julie Flockart said.

"The [piazza] project aims to inspire collaboration within the community and support our local business community by increasing flow of pedestrians down our main street."

RAC's Reconnect WA initiative was created to help revitalise streets and public spaces to better connect people and places. Merredin is one of eight successful Local Government's chosen for the first round of funding.

Temporary CEO Mark Dacombe said, "Our team is really excited to bring a taste of the CBD improvements to come. We are keen to monitor any changes in activity and interaction that this vibrant transformation will bring to our CBD."

"We're very excited to be partnering with local governments across WA to breathe new life into our communities and create vibrant places for Western Australians to interact and reconnect with one another and their local areas," said RAC Executive General Manager Advocacy and Members Patrick Walker.

Tree Removal Update

On Tuesday, 1 December, the rotten tree identified between the Military and Railway Museums was removed. The tree had significant rot making it too dangerous to remain in place due to the risk of a falling limb injuring pedestrians using the pathway.

The timber from the tree will be used by the outside crew for mulching, as well as in a sensory garden in the Public Piazza.

This financial year, the Shire will be planting an additional 360 trees.



Christmas Rubbish Collection

There will be **NO CHANGE** to the rubbish collection service for this Christmas period.

All services will be as normal for the New Year Week.

All Christmas run information will be posted on the Avon Waste website here: www.avonwaste.com.au



2021 Council Meeting Dates

Ordinary Council Meetings for 2021 will be held in the Council Chambers at the Shire Administration Building at 4.00pm on the following dates;

19 January, 16 February, 16 March, 20 April, 18 May, 15 June, 20 July, 17 August, 21 September, 19 October, 16 November, and 14 December.

| Christmas Office Hours | Administration | Visitors Centre | Cummins Theatre (Closed until 17 Jan) | Library | Swimming Pool** | Landfill Site |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Mon 21 Dec | 8.30am - 4.30pm | 8.30am - 4.30pm | 9.00am - 3.00pm | 10.00am - 5.00pm | 12.00pm - 6.00pm | 8.00am - 4.00pm |
| Tues 22 Dec | 8.30am - 4.30pm | 8.30am - 4.30pm | 9.00am - 3.00pm | 10.00am - 5.00pm | 12.00pm - 6.00pm | 8.00am - 4.00pm |
| Wed 23 Dec | 8.30am - 4.30pm | 8.30am - 4.30pm | 9.00am - 3.00pm | 10.00am - 5.00pm | 12.00pm - 6.00pm | 8.00am - 4.00pm |
| Thur 24 Dec | 8.30am - 12.00pm | 8.30am - 12.00pm | 9.00am - 12.00pm | 10.00am - 12.00pm | 12.00pm - 6.00pm | 8.00am - 4.00pm |
| Fri 25 Dec | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED |
| Sat 26 Dec | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | 2.00pm—6.00pm | 10.00am - 3.00pm |
| Sun 27 Dec | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | 12.00pm - 6.00pm | 10.00am - 3.00pm |
| Mon 28 Dec | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | 12.00pm - 6.00pm | 8.00am - 4.00pm |
| Tue 29 Dec | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | 12.00pm - 6.00pm | 8.00am - 4.00pm |
| Wed 30 Dec | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | 12.00pm - 6.00pm | 8.00am - 4.00pm |
| Thur 31 Dec | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | 12.00pm - 6.00pm | 8.00am - 4.00pm |
| Fri 1 Jan | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | 12.00pm - 6.00pm | CLOSED |
| Sat 2 Jan | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | 12.00pm - 6.00pm | 10.00am - 3.00pm |
| Sun 3 Jan | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | CLOSED | 12.00pm - 6.00pm | 10.00am - 3.00pm |
| Mon 4 Jan | 8.30am - 4.30pm | 8.30am - 4.30pm | CLOSED | 10.00am - 5.00pm | 12.00pm - 6.00pm | 8.00am - 4.00pm |

** There will be no early morning swimming from Friday, 18 December until Monday, 4 January. The pool also has a new phone number - 6140 1257.

Gala Night

17 DEC | 6 PM
BARRACK & BATES STREET

Late Night Shopping • Santa Marketplace • Face Painting • Rides
Live Entertainment • Bouncy Castle Stalls • Food & more!

lotterywest supported | SHIRE OF MERREDIN | COLLGAR WIND FARM | risen solar technology

Gala Night 2020

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 & entertainment for all to enjoy.

Would you like to be a part of Merredin's 2020 Gala Night? It's not too late to get your stallholder applications in!

Stallholder Application Forms can be downloaded here <https://bit.ly/GalaApplicationForm> or hard copies are available to be picked up from the Shire Administration Office.

Completed Application Forms can be handed in to the Shire Admin Office or emailed through to the Community Development Officer via cdo@merredin.wa.gov.au.

There will also be a raffle on the night. If any local businesses would like to donate a prize for the raffle, please contact Darcie on (08) 9041 1611.

Keep up to date with all the latest Gala Night news and snippets of what the night will have to offer by heading to our Facebook event page below:

<https://bit.ly/MerredinGalaNight>

CUMMINS THEATRE
The Heart of the Arts in the

Morning Melodies Concert Series

Friday 18th December 2020

Come along and 'deck the halls' as we wrap up the year with our special Christmas Morning melodies.

Christmas Carols - Fruit mince pies - and more

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/BIWDM
or at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

* transaction fees may apply

CUMMINS THEATRE | SHIRE OF MERREDIN HEART OF THE WHEATBELT

Eastern Wheatbelt Early Years Network Presents

CHRISTMAS POOL PARTY

11 DECEMBER | 10AM - 12PM | MERREDIN POOL
FREE EVENT | 0 - 5 YEARS

Join us for a fun morning of water activities, yummy fruit salad and games as we celebrate the end of the year!

Please RSVP by Tuesday 8 December to 90411222. Bookings essential.

SUNSMART

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