



Premier Mark McGowan Visits Merredin

The Hon. Mark McGowan MLA, Premier of Western Australia, was welcomed to town by the Merredin Shire Council and Staff in the Shire Administration Building on Tuesday, 27 July.

The Premier was quick to introduce himself and shake everyone's hand before Shire President Julie Flockart formally greeted him and said a few words.

The Shire President commended Premier McGowan on his exceptional leadership of Western Australia throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and over the past four years in office, before acknowledging the fantastic work the State Government was doing in the Wheatbelt region.



Cont. Page 2 ->

In This Issue

Page 2...NAIDOC Week Celebrations

Page 2...Avon Waste Notice

Page 3...Shire Successful for Grant Funding

Page 3...New Cards at the CWVC

Page 3...New Community Standpipe

Page 4...Library Notices

Page 4...Local Government Elections

Page 4...Appointment of new CEO

Page 4...Long Tan Day

Page 5...Fire Safety

Page 5...Public Toilet Vandalism

Page 5...Notice of Intention to Issue Differential Rates 2021-22

Page 6...Gateway Merredin Information

Page 8...Arty Farty Party

Page 8...Comedy Gold

Page 8...Morning Melodies

August Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 17 August 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, 13 August. Public questions can be submitted by 2.00pm on the day of the council meeting by completing the form here: www.merredin.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/



Premier McGowan then began his speech by thanking everyone for the warm welcome and noted how green the wheatbelt was driving here. He then spoke about the Gateway Merredin Festival, themed around Troops, Trains and Treasures, and acknowledged the fantastic war history of not only the Wheatbelt, but the Merredin area too.

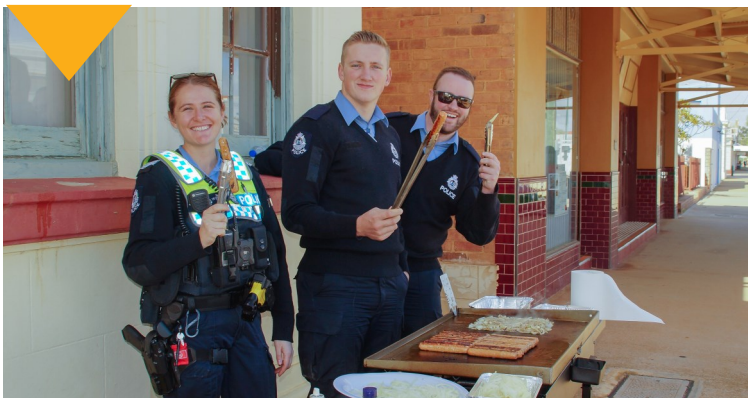
Once he completed his speech, Premier McGowan along with Jude and Shaun Morton from Nextra Merredin, presented a cheque on behalf of Lotterywest for \$25,000 to Shire President Flockart. The Shire was successful in securing the grant funding from Lotterywest toward the Gateway Merredin Festival.

Gateway Merredin is WA's newest regional festival to be held right here in Merredin from 24 – 26 September 2021, proudly supported by the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Lotterywest, and the Shire of Merredin.



NAIDOC Week Celebration in Merredin

NAIDOC Week was celebrated around Australia from 4 - 11 July, 2021, with this year's theme being Heal Country, which calls for stronger measures to recognise, protect and maintain all aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage.



To celebrate this year's NAIDOC Week, there was a window display created at the Visitor Centre which included a sea of hands that were designed by various students at St Mary's Primary, images and resources from Merredin College and the Merredin Library. The display caught many eyes of people walking past, and will stay in the window until Friday, 6 August.

Also part of the NAIDOC Week celebrations, a free 'Art and Yarn' session open to all members of the public was held at the Avon Youth Community Centre. The event was a great opportunity for the community to come together, make new friends, and paint boomerangs while learning about Indigenous symbols. There was even a delicious sausage sizzle for attendees which was cooked by the Merredin Police!

The day was very successful, with all 30 boomerangs painted with additional paintings created on paper and canvas to display at the Visitor Centre. It was wonderful to see the Youth Centre activated and in full capacity alongside Njaki Njaki Elders popping into the Art and Yarn session. Many thanks go out to Avon Youth Community Services, Merredin Police and the Merredin Youth Committee for their efforts.

Further community NAIDOC Week celebrations will be celebrated at Merredin College from 2 - 6 August. This will involve a week's worth of activities which are also open to the community to attend.



Avon Waste Notice

The Shire have recently received several complaints from residents in Merredin regarding bins not being emptied. The Shire have since contacted Avon Waste who have followed up the complaints. Avon Waste would like to advise residents that if they are disposing cardboard in their kerb side recycling bin, they will need to break it down into small pieces to stop it from getting jammed when the bin is emptied. Should they attempt to empty your bin and it is jammed with cardboard, they will no longer be returning at a later time to try again.

Shire of Merredin Successful for Grant Funding

The Shire of Merredin has successfully secured \$25,000 from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries through the Every Club Grant Scheme for the 2021/22 financial year.

The Shire of Merredin is one of ten successful local governments sharing in more than \$200,000 worth of funding to better support sporting and recreation clubs meet the needs of local communities.

This Shires grant money will go towards supporting the development and implementation of a Club Development Plan and assist community sport and active recreation clubs to improve their governance, planning and management practices.

Sport and Recreation Minister Tony Buti said, "The Every Club grant scheme is continuing to support sport and recreation clubs across Western Australia to build their governance, planning and management practices.

"Sport and recreation clubs play a vital role bringing local communities together.

"The Every Club grant scheme will support clubs and their communities now and into the future.

"The positive outcomes of this funding will be felt long after the projects are completed."

New Cards the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre!

We have a wide range of gift cards in stock including cards by talented locals Strange Image Photography, Val Curtis and Jessie Spring depicting wheatbelt wildflowers and landscapes. Prices range from \$3.50 to \$6.50. Pop in to browse our range!



Engineering

Hubeck Road Standpipe

The Shire of Merredin has installed a new standpipe controller on the standpipe located in Hubeck road. From the beginning of August this will be made available for public and commercial use for those that apply for access with the Shire. This replaces the commercial standpipe currently located in the Shire Depot, with the Hubeck road standpipe providing better pressure, access out of Depot operating hours, and at a reduced cost per kilolitre.

To apply for access please contact the Shire of Merredin on (08) 9041 1611 or attend the Shire of Merredin's administration office. Access to the standpipe will require the purchase of a swipecard at \$18.15 (inc GST) each. The current cost of water will be \$5.936 per kilolitre for the 2021/2022 financial year.

The Shire of Merredin is also opening up an additional community standpipe at the Koonadgin and Burracoppin South Road intersection. This in addition to the existing community standpipe located on Bullshead and Booran South road will assist those in the region without access to scheme water services of their own.

Users of the community standpipes are asked to fill in logbooks that will be located onsite to appropriately track and allocate water usage. Water from either community standpipe will be charged at \$3.002 per kilolitre in the 2021/2022 financial year. In order to continue to provide access to these standpipes we request that people do not misuse or underreport their usage.

For any enquiries please contact the Shire Administration via admin@merredin.wa.gov.au.





Library Updates

New Display

The Merredin Library has some new additions! The Department of Parks and Wildlife have placed some animals in the library in a semi-permanent nature display. They include a Regal Parrot, a Western Quoll, a Phascogale, a red-tailed Black Cockatoo and a Barn Owl. Also included in the display are fact sheets, books from the library, as well as forms for people to fill in if they have seen any of these in the wild. Stay tuned for more animals in the future!



Stand for Council
Nominations open 2 — 9 September 2021



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

Appointment of Chief Executive Officer

The Shire of Merredin is pleased to announce the appointment of new Chief Executive Officer Ms Lisa Clack for a five-year term.

Council approved Ms Clack's appointment earlier in the month in a unanimous decision, which was then finalised at the Special Council Meeting on 27 July.

Ms Clack is the current Executive Manager of Customer and Community Services at the Shire of East Pilbara; and when called upon has undertaken an Acting CEO role.

"The appointment marks a new chapter for Merredin, and we look forward to welcoming Lisa," Shire President Julie Flockart said.

"We are confident that Lisa has the qualities and values Council are seeking and look forward to working with her."

Mr Mark Dacombe will continue to act as Temporary Chief Executive Officer until Ms Clack's arrival in Merredin to take up the post on 1 November.

Cr Julie Flockart

Shire President

COMMEMORATING OUR **VIETNAM VETERANS**
55 YEARS ON FROM THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN

LONG TAN DAY

Let Us Forget

WEDNESDAY, 18 AUGUST
REFLECTION POND, ROY LITTLE PARK
PLEASE ARRIVE BY 3.45PM FOR A 4PM SERVICE

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT





Fire Safety

Losing your home to fire is a devastating experience with huge emotional and financial costs.

By installing smoke alarms throughout your home and preparing an escape plan, you can help protect your family and property.

You can reduce your risk and improve your safety by taking these simple steps:

- ▶ Install mains powered smoke alarms
- ▶ Develop and practice an Escape Plan with household members
- ▶ Be alert when cooking and never leave food unattended
- ▶ Never leave lit cigarettes to burn unattended
- ▶ Stay warm safely by keeping all items at least one metre from a heat source
- ▶ Clean chimneys and flues regularly from built-up ash and soot
- ▶ Always stay alert when using anything that may catch alight or start a fire
- ▶ Never leave children unattended with candles, matches and lighters
- ▶ Don't overload power boards, keep them free of dust and don't put items on top of them

If a fire starts in your home, leave immediately and call **000**.

Remember, do not re-enter a burning house under any circumstances.

Public Toilet Vandalism

The Shire are currently facing an on-going issue with repeated vandalism of the Apex and Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre public toilets. Due to this, we are having difficulties with the upkeep of these toilets given the level of use and abuse.

We ask that members of the public consider others when using these public facilities. Should you notice any issues with the toilets, please use Snap Send Solve to lodge a request with the Shire.

Notice of Intention to Issue Differential Rates

2021-22

In accordance with Section 6.36 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, notice is hereby given of the intention of the Shire of Merredin to levy the following differential rates on Unimproved Values for each rating category for the 2021-22 financial year.

Details of the proposed rates are as follows:

Unimproved Values	Minimum Rate	Rate in \$
UV1 - Rural	\$1,130	0.01963
UV2 - Urban Rural	\$1,130	0.03163
UV3 - Mining	\$205	0.03743
UV4 - Special Zone Power	\$1,130	0.0374
UV5 - Special Use Airstrip	\$1,130	0.03743

The objectives and reasons for these differential rates may be inspected at:

- ▶ The Shire Administration Office, corner of King and Barrack Streets Merredin between the hours of 8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday to Friday;
- ▶ By clicking the following link—bit.ly/3x6YfEU

The Shire invites feedback on this proposal. Submissions must be in writing and can be sent to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 42, Merredin WA 6415 or emailed to admin@merredin.wa.gov.au.

The closing date for submissions is **4:00pm, Friday, 20 August 2021**.

Please note that all submissions will become a public record. However, the Shire will not release your personal details if a written request to withhold these details is received.

Once Council has considered the submissions, the Differential Rates and the 2021-22 Budget (with or without change) will be adopted by Council.

Mark Dacombe

TEMPORARY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

GATEWAY MERREDIN INFORMATION

Welcome to Gateway Merredin—WA's newest regional festival!

Born from our community's passion to showcase Merredin's unique history and hidden treasures, the inaugural Gateway Merredin festival will be one to remember this 24—26 September.

With a program jam packed with illumination projections, unique historic tours, live entertainment, and the State's newest public art trail, our 2021 "Troops, Trains & Treasures" program offers something for everyone!

"Merredin is inviting you to dust off your boots, roll up your swag and head out yonder!"

Sponsorships

The Shire of Merredin is committed to creating long lasting partnerships with its business community. Becoming a sponsor of Gateway Merredin will allow your business to stand out amongst the crowd, in the lead up to and during the event, as you display your support to the Merredin community and the surrounding region.

This is a not-for-profit event. All proceeds raised through sponsorship, funding and ticket sales, will directly benefit the local community groups delivering the event with any surplus to be reinvested into next year's festival.

If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor, please contact Andrina at the Shire of Merredin on (08) 9041 1611.

Thank you to our Principal Sponsors, Hutton and Northey Sales and Merredin Freightlines.

Community Partners

The inaugural Gateway Merredin Festival can only be successful with the assistance of community groups and volunteers.

To ensure this event is run smoothly and to a standard which will be spoken of for months to come, volunteer teams will be required. Opportunities are available to fundraise for your local club or community group. Volunteer teams are required for assistance with set-up, pack down, event styling, cleaning, visitor servicing, bus driving and many other tasks over the course of the weekend.

If your club/group would like to offer a team of volunteers to help with a specific event, please get in contact.

Stallholders, Food Vans, and Buskers!

As part of the Festival program of events, there will be a 'Buy from the Bush' market day held on Saturday, 25 September from 10.00am until 2.00pm. During the market, there will also be an opportunity for buskers to perform.

Street Eats will be held on Bates Street from 4.00pm onwards on Saturday, 25 September.

We are now inviting stallholder and food van expressions of interest for the Market Day and Street Eats. For more information or to apply, please email us via the following info@gatewaymerredin.com.au.

Retro Parade

Calling all vintage and retro vehicles, cars and parade floats! Join the parade on Sunday, 26 September from 10.00am – 10.30am commencing at Cummins Theatre, and wind up at Roy Little Park for a show and tell session over a free community morning tea! If you are interested in taking part, please get in contact!

"Dust off your boots, roll up your swag and head out yonder!"



Brought to you by



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATEEST

lotterywest
supported



Government of Western Australia
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development



CALLING ALL FOOD TRUCKS!



25.09.2021
4PM ONWARDS, BATES STREET, MERREDIN

BE PART OF WA'S **NEWEST** REGIONAL FESTIVAL



TO APPLY OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL [INFO@GATEWAYMERREDIN.COM.AU](mailto:info@gatewaymerredin.com.au)



CALLING ALL RETRO VINTAGE VEHICLES, CARS AND FLOATS



26.09.2021
10AM PARADE COMMENCING CUMMINS THEATRE

BE PART OF WA'S **NEWEST** REGIONAL FESTIVAL



FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL [INFO@GATEWAYMERREDIN.COM.AU](mailto:info@gatewaymerredin.com.au)



GATEWAY MERREDIN FESTIVAL
 24TH - 26TH SEPTEMBER 2021

CALLING ALL BUSKERS

Are you a local/regional muso or band?
 Ever thought of Busking?
 Well, then we want to hear to you!

As part of the Gateway Merredin Festival weekend, we will be holding an outdoor market day on Sat 25th Sept - 10am-2pm.

If you are interested in busking please email us at info@gatewaymerredin.com.au




CALLING ALL MARKET STALLS!



25.09.2021
10.30AM-2.00PM, BATES STREET, MERREDIN

BE PART OF WA'S **NEWEST** REGIONAL FESTIVAL



TO APPLY OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL [INFO@GATEWAYMERREDIN.COM.AU](mailto:info@gatewaymerredin.com.au)

ARTY FARTY PARTY

Family Night

FRIDAY, 13 AUGUST
CUMMINS THEATRE
\$30 ADULT | \$25 CHILD

FREE NIBBLES & BAR OPEN
DOORS OPEN 5.30PM
PAINTING STARTS 6.00PM

NO PAINTING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE! BOOK NOW AT trybooking.com/BSYKC



CUMMINS THEATRE



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

ARTY FARTY PARTY

Adult Night

SATURDAY, 14 AUGUST
CUMMINS THEATRE
\$30 PER PERSON

FREE NIBBLES & BAR OPEN
DOORS OPEN 6:00PM
PAINTING STARTS 6:30PM

NO PAINTING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE! BOOK NOW AT trybooking.com/BSYKC



CUMMINS THEATRE



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT



CUMMINS THEATRE



Georgie Carol



Ben Knight



Pony



Amos Gill

**COMEDY
GOLD!**

EARLY BIRD TIX
\$25

SUNDAY 22 AUGUST 2020 • CUMMINS THEATRE
Tickets \$30 - 6-30pm - BYO nibbles - Bar Open
Tickets available at www.cumminstheatre.com.au
or at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

CUMMINS THEATRE
The Heart of the Arts in the Wheatbelt

Morning Melodies Concert Series

**Friday 27th
August 2021**

Come and join us for our first
Morning Melodies concert for 2021.
'A great place to catch up with old
friends and even make new ones'

Featuring Perth guitarist - Don Neander

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.cumminstheatre.com.au
or at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

*transaction fees may apply



CUMMINS THEATRE



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
HEART OF THE WHEATBELT