

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

Hello everyone. My name is Craig Watts, and I'm excited and privileged to be taking on the role of your CEO at the Shire of Merredin. I have close to 30 years experience in Local Government, in both outer metropolitan and regional settings starting off as an Environmental Health Officer, with my last role being Director of Regulatory Services at the Town of Port Hedland. Given this background, I believe that Local Government should be there to support its local community, deliver good customer services, and provide facilities that can be accessed by everyone. My first impressions are that this is a beautiful town that is clean, green, feels safe, and has an engaged community. It's a far cry from the dust, heat, and Spinifex of the Pilbara that has been home for the past 15 years.

I have spent my first weeks in Merredin meeting with a number of stakeholders, community groups, and Councillors to learn the culture of the Shire, understand what people like about the area, and hear their aspirations for the Town. Everyone is impressed with the Town Centre works and revitalisation of Apex Park, which are coming along well both in terms of being on time and on budget. I see these as game-changers for the Shire, both as a fantastic place for young and young-at-heart locals to explore and meet, but as an attractant for travellers on the highway to stop and recharge, and utilise the services of our local businesses and supporting economic development. Speaking of businesses, I would like to thank the local business owners in the Town Centre for their patience and support while we effect these changes, including the 8-week road closure along Barrack Street. Many of them see the longer-term vision for the area and understand that we needed this short-term disruption to build something better.

In my spare time, I volunteer with Fire and Rescue Services having developed skills, capabilities, and experiences over 25 years of service. I have already joined with Phil and the crew at Merredin VFRS and look forward to serving the community in that capacity

moving forward. Volunteering within a local community is a great way of giving back, and I recommend anyone join an emergency service, community organisation, or sporting group as a means to meet new people and gain new skills. I'm a person who believes that you only get out, what you put into something and it's a great way to relieve stress and maintain your mental health.

Moving on from the works around Apex Park and the Town Centre, I will be working with our Engineering team to upgrade our local road network to improve interconnectivity and safety within the network. In addition, we will be progressing the works to the Water Tower to improve its longevity and retain this as an icon within our community. All of this cannot be completed without good fiscal and governance policies, together with the support of Council to provide funding and resources to these and other projects within the Shire. I see this as a shared responsibility between the Shire Administration and our Elected Members to continue to progress Merredin as a central hub within the broader Wheatbelt area.

I look forward to working with the Shire President, Councillors, and Shire staff to continue to provide well-maintained and well-used parks, facilities, and infrastructure, maintaining financial stability, providing good governance, and most importantly, delivering quality customer service to you our community.

Craig Watts
Chief Executive Officer



COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 20 August 2024 at 4:00pm. This meeting will be held at the Shire Admin 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. Public questions can be submitted by 2:00pm on the day of the council meeting by completing the form on the Shire website.



CBD REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE



In a testament to community spirit, the official opening of the new park took place on Wednesday, 7 August 2024, despite heavy rain, drawing a large crowd of enthusiastic residents. Apex Park | Danjoo Waabininy Boodja was opened by Shire President Mark McKenzie and the Hon. Darren West MLC in front of a crowd of approximately 200 people, including representatives from Lotterywest, the students from St. Mary's School, past councillors, Shire staff, local businesses and community groups, and numerous community members.

There are still minor works scheduled to be completed in the coming weeks;

- Lighting poles will be installed once they arrive
- We are still awaiting further advice on the Ninja Warrior Course, which will be a dynamic addition to the park.
- We anticipate that electricity will be connected to the park by late September. We recognise that this delay is unfortunate but it is unavoidable, and we are committed to ensuring the park is fully operational as soon as possible.



Significant progress has been made this month with the intersection now complete and now open to the public, with minor finishing touches such as line marking and paving subsidence still to be addressed. Landscaping efforts are underway, with mulch being applied and trees being planted to enhance the greenery in the Town Centre, alongside additional rock work. The playground has seen the installation of a slide, providing a new play feature for children. Work is also progressing on leveling the main gathering area in preparation for grass installation. Additionally, bollards have been installed to improve safety and regulate traffic flow within the center.

EMERGENCY SERVICES - WINTER SAFETY

During the cooler months, we all turn on electric blankets, pull out our trusty heaters, light our fires, and revert back to using our clothes dryers instead of the washing line. Did you know that all of these activities can increase the risk of house fires at this time of year?

House fires are devastating, and can lead to a loss of life – but they are often preventable.

The Department of Fire & Emergency Services recommends four simple steps we can all take to reduce our risk of a house fire:

1. **Smoke Alarms:** Have mains-powered smoke alarms installed by a qualified electrician, which are maintained and tested regularly.
2. **Heat Sources:** Never leave heat sources such as candles, fireplaces, or stoves unattended.
3. **Escape Plan:** Prepare an escape plan, and make sure everyone in the household knows what to do. Make sure everyone, including children, can identify two or more ways to exit a room. Agree a pre-determined “muster point” on or just outside your property where everyone knows to meet up if you need to evacuate the house.
4. **Get down low and go!** If a fire does break out in the home, get as close to the ground as possible, get out as quickly as possible, and call 000 as soon as possible after you are safe outside. The air temperature can be hundreds of degrees hotter at ceiling height than floor height, and the smoke will naturally rise – your chances of seeing and surviving are better if you keep close to the ground as you exit.

The Department of Fire & Emergency Services has a 3D walkthrough showing the devastating damage caused in a house fire, with prevention advice. You can view it at bit.ly/fireinhome. You can also access more specific house fire safety tips via this link.



GALA NIGHT WORKING GROUP

Calling all passionate individuals in our community! The Shire of Merredin's highly anticipated Gala Night is fast approaching, and we want YOU to be part of the magic. This is your chance to help create an unforgettable evening that showcases the heart and spirit of Merredin.

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals, local stakeholders, businesses, and organisations to bring ideas, energy, and passion to the table, and join our 2024 Gala Night Working Group.

Submit an Expression of Interest by completing the form on the Shire website via the following link: bit.ly/galanightworkinggroup. For more information, please contact Leanne Bryant on (08) 9041 3295 or email mcc@merredin.wa.gov.au.

WILDFLOWER SEASON IS HERE!



As the winter rains continue to nourish the Wheatbelt region, the landscape is transforming into a vibrant tapestry of colour. With the added touch of sunshine in recent weeks, we anticipate the peak wildflower season to arrive around late August to early September, promising an awe-inspiring display of nature's beauty.

Currently, the Winter Orchids are in full bloom, gracing the usual hotspots around granite outcrops and reserves throughout the Wheatbelt. Everlastings are beginning to bud, hinting at the spectacular array of colors that will soon blanket the area.

In the Merredin townsite, reserves like Tamma Parkland and Merredin Peak are prime locations for those eager to explore the region's natural beauty.

To fully experience the region's wildflower offerings, consider following the Wildflower Trail, a 120km loop that guides you to key wildflower hotspots. Trail maps are available in the Merredin Brochure, and for more information, you can contact the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre on (08) 9041 1666.

DOWERIN FIELD DAY LAUNCH

The Shire of Merredin was thrilled to be a part of the Bringing Dowerin Downtown Lunch in Perth on Friday, 26 July 2024.

Our CEO Craig Watts, along with Shire Councillors Hayley Billing, Renee Manning, and Donna Crook, proudly hosted a table at the event featuring local businesses. We were delighted to have representatives from Nomad Energy, Collgar Renewables, Afgri, Nutrien, and Merredin Farms join us.

This launch was a fantastic opportunity for networking, gaining important insights, and initiating conversations about the future of farming in the Wheatbelt. It was inspiring to see so many passionate individuals and businesses come together to discuss innovative solutions and collaborative efforts for our region's growth and sustainability.



CULVERT INSPECTIONS

The Shire's Asset Management Officer is currently in the process of conducting culvert inspections, which will continue over the next two months.

Residents and motorists may notice a Ford Ranger with its hazard lights activated during this period. Please be assured that this vehicle is not experiencing a breakdown - the activated hazard lights are only to indicate to passing traffic that the Shire Officer is currently engaged in an inspection of one of the culverts in our network. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we carry out these essential inspections.



KERB REPLACEMENT WORKS

The Shire of Merredin is committed to enhancing community infrastructure, exemplified by recent upgrades to kerbing and drainage systems within the townsite last month.

Recent projects on Maiolo Way included desilting to improve stormwater management, while the rejuvenation of kerbing on Coronation Street, Haig Road, and Hobbs Road has improved functionality and enhanced the aesthetic appeal of these areas.

These improvements reflect our ongoing commitment to maintaining and enhancing the urban environment of Merredin.





SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

RESTRICTED BURNING

16 SEPTEMBER 2024 - 31 OCTOBER 2024

& 18 FEBRUARY 2025 - 16 MARCH 2025

(PERMITS REQUIRED)

PROHIBITED BURNING

1 NOVEMBER 2024 - 17 FEBRUARY 2025

(NO BURNING)

**TO REPORT A FIRE
PLEASE CALL**

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JOB VACANCIES

Administration Officer - Corporate Services

Commencing: Immediately

Position Status: Full-Time

*Salary: Level 6/7 range of \$62,136 - \$67,300**

*Please note: Wages are currently being reviewed and an increase will be applicable from 1 July 2024 once budget adoption occurs.

Applications are invited for the position of Administration Officer – Corporate Services. The successful candidate will provide confidential and effective administrative support for the Shire of Merredin and the efficient and courteous delivery of customer services.

You will be working in the Corporate Services directorate which delivers Financial, Human Resources, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Procurement, Risk, WHS, and Customer Service activities for the Shire. In addition to the general administration and customer services responsibilities of this role, it is anticipated that over time you will develop skills in the administration of payroll, payment of creditors, and other financial tasks, alongside recordkeeping and administration.

We are a small team and are looking forward to welcoming a new team member. Ideally, we are looking for someone who is experienced working in a similar environment, however, your ability to adapt and quickly gain the necessary knowledge and skills will be highly regarded.

If you would like further information about this position please contact Leah Boehme, Executive Manager Corporate Services on (08) 9041 1611 during office hours. If you require information on how to apply, please email careers@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Applications are to be received by no later than **4:00pm, Monday, 19 August 2024**, and should be marked "Private and Confidential" and emailed to careers@merredin.wa.gov.au or sent via post to PO Box 42 Merredin WA 6415.

Casual Cleaner

Commencing: Immediately

Position Status: Casual

Salary: Level 3 between \$33.68- \$34.08 p/h (inclusive of casual loading)

Applications are invited for the position of Casual Cleaner with the Shire. This role will provide casual cleaning services at Shire of Merredin facilities, community buildings, and public amenities when required.

In this role, you will be responsible for maintaining immediate cleanliness and routine cleaning to ensure facilities are maintained and well-presented during hours of operation through adherence to cleaning roster duties.

Working in conjunction with other Shire staff, this position is key to ensuring the facilities are clean and well maintained to meet the expectations of patrons when usual cleaning staff are unavailable. Ideally, we are looking for someone who takes pride in their work, is flexible with working hours, is available at short notice, and has some experience in commercial cleaning.

Applications are to include a CV, and a Cover Letter (max 2 pages), outlining your ability to meet the role requirements. A position description, containing the Selection Criteria can be obtained online on the Shire of Merredin's website, or via email at careers@merredin.wa.gov.au.

This casual pool will remain open until **4:00pm, Friday, 20 December 2024**. Applications are to be marked "Private and Confidential" and emailed through to careers@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Note: The Shire reserves the right to assess applications and interview candidates prior to the closing date.

The Merredin Shire Council is an equal opportunity employer.

RATES

Electronic rates notices have been distributed to all individuals who signed up. If you registered to receive your rates notice via email and have not yet received it, please check your spam or junk folder. If the notice is not there, kindly contact the Shire at 9041 1611 for assistance.

Hard-copy notices are due to be posted out later in the week.

BARRACK & BATES ST INTERSECTION

In an effort to enhance pedestrian safety, the speed limit at the newly constructed raised intersection in the Town Centre has been reduced to 20km/h. This change aims to protect residents and visitors, ensuring a safer environment for everyone navigating the area.

Motorists are urged to adhere to the new speed limit and remain vigilant as they approach the intersection, contributing to a safer, more pedestrian-friendly town centre.



DESALINATION WORKSHOP

The Shire is excited to invite the community to a workshop on Thursday, 19 September 2024 at 1:00 PM. This event will be held at the Merredin RO Plant on Gabo Avenue.

Thanks to our collaborative effort with Murdoch University, Moerk Solutions, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, and Water Corporation, we are proud to present this informative workshop. We aim to explore the benefits of desalination technology for both the community and local farmers and to discuss how alternative water supplies can enhance environmental sustainability within the Shire.

The workshop will run for approximately one hour and will feature presentations from our partners. They will share their insights on how their contributions have shaped this project and explain how desalination can improve community well-being and support sustainable practices.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions and tour the desalination plant's internal components to gain a deeper understanding of how this process works.

If you have any questions, please contact the Shire on (08) 9041 1611 during business hours or email admin@merredin.wa.gov.au.

We look forward to your participation and hope to see you there!

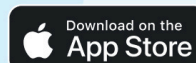
Report local issues in a Snap!

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ANTHONY LAMOND PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS

STAND-UP COMEDY GOLD

FRIDAY
16TH AUGUST

FEATURING






CHRIS SCHINN EMILY O'LOUGHLIN CRAIG QUARTERMAIN JARRYD GOURNEY

Cummins Theatre

Doors: 6:30pm | Show: 7:00pm Adult: \$35 | Concession: \$30

Book online at cumminstheatre.com.au or in person at Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre

MERREDIN Show Rating 15+ contains some strong language & sexual connotations

HONOURING VIETNAM VETERANS 58 YEARS ON
FROM THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN

LONG TAN DAY

Lest We Forget

SUNDAY, 18 AUGUST 2024
REFLECTION POND - ROY LITTLE PARK

PLEASE ARRIVE BY 3:45PM FOR A 4:00PM START

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

RSM

COMMUNITY GROUP SESSION

Financial Guidance

PRESENTER:
MUGOVE MUNAMATI
RSM MERREDIN

HOSTED BY THE SHIRE OF MERREDIN

WORKSHOP DETAILS

DATE: Wednesday, 21 August 2024

TIME: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

VENUE: Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre

ABOUT: This session is to support Secretary/Treasurers understand their roles and responsibilities around the current requirements with BAS / ATO and receive generalised financial guidance for their day to day operations.

RSVP

RSVPs are essential. Please ensure you let us know if you will be attending by 14 August 2024 by either scanning the below QR Code or visiting bit.ly/communitygroupsessionfinancialguidance

(08) 9041 1611 admin@merredin.wa.gov.au

FOR AGES 5 - 14 YEARS

LEGO CLUB

LAST MONDAY OF THE MONTH DURING SCHOOL TERM

4:00PM - 5:00PM

MERREDIN LIBRARY

FUN THEMES EACH MONTH | FRIENDLY COMPETITIONS

For our younger builders aged under 10, we kindly ask that a parent or guardian accompanies them to the sessions.

THIS IS A FREE PROGRAM RUN BY THE MERREDIN LIBRARY!

For more information please contact Wendy at the Library
Telephone: (08) 9041 1222
library@merredin.wa.gov.au
www.merredin.wa.gov.au
facebook/merredinregionallibrary

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LIBRARY**