

# COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION



## MERREDIN COMMEMORATES LONG TAN DAY

At 4:00pm on Sunday, 18 August 2024, community members gathered at Reflection Pond in Roy Little Park to honour Vietnam Veterans on Long Tan Day. The ceremony, attended by approximately 40 people, commemorated the 58th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan with solemnity and respect.

Mal Willis began the proceedings by reflecting on the historical significance of the Battle of Long Tan, before paying tribute to Jim Willcox, a local veteran who passed away in February 2024. Willis's emotional tribute highlighted the profound impact of Willcox's contributions on the Merredin community.

Wreaths were laid by representatives of the Wheatbelt Vietnam Veterans, the Shire of Merredin, and Churches Fraternal before Vietnam Veteran Aub Tompkin stepped forward to read the Ode. Aub's moving recitation added a deeply reflective element to the ceremony.

The Shire of Merredin extends heartfelt thanks to all who attended and contributed to making this event a meaningful and respectful tribute.

## COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 22 October 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.

Visit [bit.ly/merredinmeetings](https://bit.ly/merredinmeetings) for more information.

## CBD REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE



Lighting has now been installed in Apex Park | Danjoo Waabiny Boodja, while additional softfall has been added to the Exercise Equipment area and the Ninja Warrior Course. Minor rectification works are being carried out to ensure all elements meet the highest standards of quality and completion.



The Town Centre is due to be completed with in the next few weeks, with the last major element, the events structure, due to be completed by 30 September. The Barrack & Bates St intersection will be closed from Tuesday, 24 September - Friday, 27 September to allow rectification works to take place.

**New employment system just dropped!**

- ✓ Easier to access on your mobile
- ✓ Better job matches based on skills
- ✓ Simple registration process

Authorised by the Australian Electoral Commissioner, Canberra

The Australian Electoral Commission is actively seeking staff to work at the upcoming federal election, and they're calling for support from people all over WA. Whether you're looking to contribute or know someone who might be interested, this is a great opportunity to get involved!

Register your interest through the AEC's new, easy-to-use EmployMe portal. It's secure, simple, and designed to make the process smoother.

Visit [bit.ly/workingatelections](https://bit.ly/workingatelections) to sign up today. For more information about the types of jobs available, visit [bit.ly/aectypesofjobs](https://bit.ly/aectypesofjobs).

**WA PLASTICS BAN**  
Business Engagement Program

**New laws apply to disposable coffee cups and takeaway containers across WA in 2024.**

**Is your business ready?**  
Find out more at [plasticsbanwa.com.au](https://plasticsbanwa.com.au)

Plastic containers, bowls and trays used in eat-in or takeaway food services, and non-compostable produce bags for fresh fruit and vegetables, are now banned. In this instance, 'plastic' includes bio-based or compostable plastics in any amount or type, including paper items with plastic coatings or linings (limited exemptions apply for certified compostable items).

There are free support services available for businesses including a user-friendly website with downloadable factsheets and signage, a toll-free business hotline, online information sessions, and supplier communications. For more information, visit [plasticsbanwa.com.au](https://plasticsbanwa.com.au).

## REQUEST FOR QUOTES

**RFQ05 2024/25 Wet Hire - Dozer:** The Shire of Merredin is seeking quotes from suitably qualified and experienced contractors for the wet hire of suitable plant (dozer) to undertake earthmoving works at Merredin Waste Management Facility. The deadline for submissions is 2:00pm AWST, on Friday, 20 September 2024.

**RFQ07 2024/25 Vegetation Trimming – Chandler-Merredin Rd:** The Shire of Merredin is seeking quotes from suitably qualified and experienced contractors to undertake vegetation trimming on Chandler-Merredin Road. The deadline for submissions is 2:00pm AWST, on Friday, 20 September 2024.

**RFQ09 2024/25 Kerb and Footpath Concrete Works:** The Shire of Merredin is seeking quotes from suitably qualified and experienced contractors for concrete kerbing and footpath works on local roads within Merredin township in the 2024 - 25 financial year. The deadline for submissions is 2:00pm AWST, on Friday, 11 October 2024.

All submissions for the above RFQ's must be lodged electronically via [tenders@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto:tenders@merredin.wa.gov.au). Late submissions will NOT be accepted. The RFQ documents and General Conditions of Contract can be viewed on the Shire website here: [bit.ly/SoMTenders](https://bit.ly/SoMTenders)





Community  
Citizen of the  
year Awards



SHIRE OF  
**MERREDIN**  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT



WE'RE



ALL



PART



OF



THE



STORY

Presented by:



Australia Day  
Council of  
Western Australia

Principal Partner:



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Communities**

Media Partners:



**WA**today

News you need to know today

# Nominate now



If you know someone, or a group, doing great things in our community, nominate them for a 2025 Community Citizen of the Year Award, in our four categories.

- > Citizen of the Year
- > Youth Citizen of the Year
- > Senior Citizen of the Year
- > Active Citizenship (Group or Event)

[citizenshipawards.com.au](http://citizenshipawards.com.au) | Closing Date: 31 October 2024

Local Government Recognising Community Champions.

## MERREDIN UNVEILS REVITALISED PARK: A NEW HUB FOR COMMUNITY AND VISITORS

The Shire of Merredin is pleased to announce the official re-opening of Apex Park | Danjoo Waabininy Boodja, following an extensive six-month redevelopment. The beloved community space, which has served as a central gathering place for families and young people, has been transformed into a vibrant, multi-generational play and recreation area that celebrates Merredin's unique environment and rich natural history.

Commencing in February 2024 and completed in August 2024, the park's redevelopment culminated in a grand opening ceremony on Wednesday, 7 August 2024. Shire President Mark McKenzie and Hon. Darren West MLC had the honour of cutting the ribbon in front of hundreds of community members, including students, local business owners, Shire Councillors and staff, Merredin traditional owners, and representatives from Lotterywest and surrounding Wheatbelt Shires.

The redesigned park now features a brand-new skate park, half court, a variety of new play elements including a flying fox and slide tower, and the addition of wheelchair-accessible play equipment. Complementing these features are beautifully landscaped areas and enhanced amenities, all designed to increase the park's appeal to families and young people, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for everyone in the community.

Shire President Mark McKenzie expressed his enthusiasm for the park's reopening, stating, "Apex Park has long been a cherished space in our community, and this redevelopment ensures that it will continue to serve as a place of enjoyment, connection, and recreation for generations to come. We are proud to see how the park now reflects our community's vision and our commitment to providing high-quality, inclusive public spaces."

The park's opening follows the Council's decision to retain the name "Apex" as a tribute to the local APEX group who originally built the park. In addition, the Council has introduced the dual name "Danjoo Waabininy Boodja" to honour Merredin's Indigenous heritage. This name, meaning "Coming Together (community) Playground," symbolises respect for history, the celebration of diversity, and a commitment to inclusivity.

The new park, which has been in the pipeline for twenty years, now stands as a vibrant public space that will serve as a hub for recreation, relaxation, and community gatherings. It is also expected to provide significant social and economic benefits to Merredin and the surrounding Wheatbelt region, reinforcing Merredin's position as a key regional hub.

The transformation of the park was made possible through the generous contributions of Lotterywest, which provided \$2.1 million in support, and the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program, which contributed \$1.8 million. The Shire of Merredin extends its sincere gratitude to these partners for their support in bringing this project to life.

Lotterywest CEO Colin Smith said this grant supports the revitalisation of the park, which is an important space for the local community.

"Lotterywest is proud of its support of more than \$2.1 million to the Shire of Merredin, which has enabled the redevelopment of this much-loved community space," Mr Smith said.

"Places like Apex Park are important in building a stronger sense of belonging and participation, which aligns with Lotterywest's vision for a more connected community life."

While the major redevelopment works have been completed, some minor works within the park are still in progress.





*Lest We Forget*

# *Remembrance Day*



**11 NOVEMBER 2024**  
**10:30am | Merredin Town Centre**

*All welcome to attend*



SHIRE OF  
**MERREDIN**  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

## WESTERN POWER NOTICE

Providing a safe and reliable supply of energy is important to us, and so are you! We're carrying out essential maintenance and upgrades in your area as part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing network reliability and resilience to weather events.

Western Power is returning to Merredin to complete our maintenance program. The work will be concentrated in the Merredin townsite from Monday 7th of October to Friday 11th October 2024 (this timeline is subject to change for network emergencies, weather conditions, unplanned faults, or other technical reasons). The main carpark for IGA and the town shopping area will be impacted during this time. However, the IGA will be open for business.

We will need to schedule some power outages to do the work safely. If you are impacted, you'll receive notification of any required outage in advance. Please check your notification carefully. Outage related information, and tips for how to prepare, can also be found on our [website](https://www.westernpower.com.au). Search for planned outages at [westernpower.com.au](https://www.westernpower.com.au).

We understand that the planned work may cause some short-term inconvenience, but we expect that these upgrades will bring improvements to reliability of

power supply to the Merredin community. If you have any questions or feedback or would like to change your notification preference (email, SMS or letter) please contact us on 13 10 87 (7am-5pm). We thank you for being patient while we improve the network in your area.

## SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATION

The Shire of Merredin is pleased to announce that we have successfully secured a grant through Atmos Renewables and Nomad Energy's *Merredin Big Battery Community Fund*, in support of the 2024 Gala Night. During the Council's Briefing Session on Tuesday, 10 September 2024, the Shire was presented with a cheque for \$5,000 by Nomad Energy's Operations Director Mark McPartland.

As one of the most anticipated events in Merredin's calendar, Gala Night attracts not only local residents but also members of the broader Wheatbelt community. This annual celebration marks the end of the year, providing an opportunity for our community and businesses to shine.

We extend our sincere thanks to Atmos Renewables and Nomad Energy for their generous contribution and investment in Merredin.

## SHIRE STAFF TURN A NEAR MISS INTO A MIGHTY SAVE

Last month, Shire staff stepped in to help this stunning Peregrine Falcon, after it was struck by a car doing 110 km/h and became stuck in the grill. Despite the severity of the incident, the falcon miraculously survived. Quick-thinking staff members carefully extracted the bird from the car's grill and placed it in a cardboard box, where it was kept in a darkened meeting room to reduce stress. The local wildlife rescue organisation, Bluebush, was promptly contacted, and the falcon was handed over to them for further care.

Thanks to the swift actions of our team and the dedicated care provided by the local wildlife carer, the Peregrine Falcon is now on the mend. We are hopeful for a full recovery and grateful to everyone involved in giving this magnificent bird a second chance. If you come across injured wildlife, please contact your local wildlife rescue organization for assistance.







In a major boost to water safety education, the Cook Labor Government has announced free VacSwim lessons for children across Western Australia during the December and January school holidays. This initiative is part of a \$5.5 million investment in school swimming lessons and water safety programs, designed to ease financial pressure on families while providing essential skills for children.

Premier Cook said, "We want our kids to learn the importance of water safety, as it is incredibly important in Western Australia, which is why we have removed financial barriers to help drive increased participation."

It represents up to \$214 in savings for a family with two kids enrolled in a 10-day VacSwim program over the December and January school holidays."

VacSwim enrolments are open now and will close 16 October with more information available at [www.education.wa.gov.au/vacswim](http://www.education.wa.gov.au/vacswim)

## RFT02 2024/25 LEASE OF GRANDSTAND BAR & RESTAURANT

The Shire of Merredin is seeking to lease the Grandstand Bar and Restaurant, within the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre (MRCLC), to a suitable proponent to provide food and beverage services to sporting associations and members of the public who utilise the premises.

The deadline for submissions is 4:00pm AWST, on Friday, 4 October 2024. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Submissions are to be received via TenderLink (link below).

[portal.tenderlink.com/merredin](http://portal.tenderlink.com/merredin)

Canvassing of Councillors and Staff will disqualify the submission.

Craig Watts  
Chief Executive Officer

11 September 2024

A poster for a 'SKATEBOARD WORKSHOP'. The title is in large, bold letters. It features three photos of children skateboarding. The date and time '29 SEPTEMBER 2024 | 11:00AM' are prominently displayed. At the bottom, there are logos for the 'SHIRE OF MERREDIN', 'Blue LIGHT WA', 'BUILD UP', and 'MERREDIN YOUTH COMMITTEE'. A 'SAVE THE DATE' badge is in the top right corner.

## COMMUNITY REMINDER - NO DOGS ALLOWED ON REC CENTRE OVAL



The Shire would like to remind everyone that dogs are not permitted on the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre oval.

The Rec Centre Oval is a vital space for local events and sports, and maintaining its cleanliness and safety is crucial. Please help us by keeping dogs off the oval to ensure a pleasant experience for all users.



## RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD

We are now in the Restricted Burning period which means no burning will be able to take place unless you have been issued a permit.

Permits will typically only be extended to those on rural properties with no other practical way to reduce their fire fuel loads.

To apply for a permit, speak to the FCO in your area, or visit the Shire of Merredin website: [bit.ly/MerredinFireControl](https://bit.ly/MerredinFireControl)

### The Restricted Burning Periods are:

16th September 2024 – 31st October 2024  
18th February 2025 – 16th March 2025

### The Prohibited Burning Period is:

1st November 2024 – 17th February 2025

# LIFEGUARD



## MERREDIN DISTRICT OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL

**Casual Level 1-3 – \$17.26 - \$34.08 per hour\***  
*\*dependent on age and qualifications*

The Shire is seeking experienced and enthusiastic people to join our team as Lifeguards at the Merredin District Olympic Pool.

This position offers great benefits, including:

- A fantastic work-life balance;
- A small, personable team environment; and
- A great employee Health and Wellbeing Program including flu shots, skin cancer checks and an Employee Assistance Program.

Learn More >> [bit.ly/poollifeguardjob](https://bit.ly/poollifeguardjob)

**APPLY BY 4:00PM, 23 SEPTEMBER**





# SEPT/OCT SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!



**TUESDAY, 24 SEPT**

## **Tinkering**

STEM Action Station

**TUESDAY, 1 OCT**

## **Clay Fun**

Make multi coloured clay creatures  
or fun clay animals

**THURSDAY, 26 SEPT**

## **Mock Stain Glass Windows**

Make stained glass windows out of  
tissue paper and card

**THURSDAY, 3 OCT**

## **Peg Art**

Make Guatemalan worry dolls,  
flowers, animals, fish that eat fish

Parental supervision is required for all children under 10.

All sessions run from 10:30am to 11:30am | \$2 per participant | Come dressed for fun!



**MERREDIN REGIONAL  
LIBRARY**

**Book your place by contacting the Library**

Telephone: (08) 9041 1222  
library@merredin.wa.gov.au  
www.merredin.wa.gov.au



# THE FOUR SEASONS

## Vivaldi

Australian Baroque

Sunday, 22 September 2024

2.00pm

Cummins Theatre

Book your tickets by scanning the QR code  
or popping into the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre.



Children under 12 \$10 Adults \$15 Concession \$10



# CELTICA

A NEW ERA OF IRISH HERITAGE

## CUMMINS THEATRE

TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2024 @ 7.30PM

BOOK YOUR TICKETS BY SCANNING THE QR CODE, ONLINE AT  
<https://events.humanitix.com/celtica-celtic-illusion/tickets>, OR  
IN PERSON AT THE CENTRAL WHEATBELT VISITOR CENTRE

FEATURING  
JAY WESTON – ROY ORBISON/  
ELVIS TRIBUTE SHOW

CUMMINS THEATRE  
Friday, 4 October 2024  
10:30am doors open

SCAN ME

# Morning Melodies

TICKETS \$15 INCLUDES MORNING TEA  
Book your tickets online at  
<https://events.humanitix.com/morning-melodies-cummins-theatre>  
or scan the QR code above  
or head into the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre

# GALA NIGHT

SAVE THE DATE

FOOD • MUSIC • MARKETS

THURSDAY **12** DECEMBER

📍 MERREDIN

JOIN THE 2024 GALA NIGHT COMMITTEE TODAY!  
SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW OR VISIT THE SHIRE WEBSITE

SCAN ME!