

SHIRE OF MERREDIN COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION



Christmas Wonderland at Cummins Theatre

The Cummins Theatre is being transformed into a Christmas Wonderland, but only for one week! Come along and enjoy a different activity every day in our Christmas themed workshops! The Christmas Wonderland will be open each afternoon from 1pm – 3pm to allow children and adults to explore the magic of Christmas in their own time.

\$5 per workshop / \$5 per entrance to Christmas Wonderland (adults do not need a ticket if accompanying a child. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times). Each workshop commences at 10am and concludes at 12pm. Due to the nature of the workshops late admissions will not be admitted. Children must arrive at 10am in order to participate in the workshops.

Contact **Cummins Theatre** for details on **9041 3295**.

Day 1 - Monday 19 December - Gingerbread Cookies

Children will learn to make, bake and decorate their own gingerbread cookies to take home.

Day 2 - Tuesday 20 December - Snow Globes

Children will be led through the step by step process of making a magical snow globe.

Day 3 - Wednesday 21 December - Interactive Story Time

A special Christmas story time where YOU get to be part of the story in a fun filled and interactive way.

Day 4 - Thursday 22 December - Christmas Candy

The Theatre will become Santa's candy factory and kids get to make their own candy to take home.

Day 5 - Friday 23 December - Christmas Tree Decorations

Children will make five different Christmas Tree decorations to hang on the family Christmas tree.



COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building, in Council Chambers, on Tuesday 20 December and will commence at 3:00pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The Agenda will be available to view on Council's website on Monday 19 December 2016.

Scheme Water: Not Enough During Bushfire

Residents living in or near bushland are reminded to not rely on public water supplies if they plan to stay and defend their homes during a bushfire.

If you plan to stay and defend your home you must have an **independent** water supply and pumping capability. Scheme water may not be available due to damaged infrastructure, extreme demand depleting supply and pressure, or a cut to power which is used to pump water.

DFES has made its own preparations for the 2016-17

bushfire season by readying equipment and systems to cope with extreme conditions. Despite these efforts, it is likely there will be a reduction in water pressure, and scheme water supply tanks may run empty in the event of fire.

For more information about preparing a bushfire survival plan and what you will need to actively defend your home, visit the **Department of Fire and Emergency Services** website:

www.emergency.wa.gov.au/prepare

Locust Control Assistance Scheme

The Australian Plague Locust Assistance Scheme has been established to offer financial assistance to help rural landowners control locusts. The scheme provides a contribution of \$5 per hectare for the control of locusts with an appropriate insecticide in pastures, crops or on public amenities like ovals.

The Scheme is targeted to shires with a high level of locust activity including Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Kulin, Lake Grace, Mukinbudin, Nungarin, Westonia and Yilgarn. The scheme may be extended to additional shires if the Department of Agriculture and Food survey teams identify areas experiencing a high level of locust activity.

Swarming locusts have the ability to cause severe and widespread damage to crops, pastures, grapevines, fruit trees and tree seedlings. The Department urges landowners to check their properties from early spring to monitor locust activity to determine if control is



necessary. Tighter control on locusts early in the breeding season helps to reduce the likelihood of swarms as well as reducing the number of egg laying adults in the following year.

Landowners interested in applying for the scheme are encouraged to visit the Department of Agriculture and Food website for information on how to apply. Applications for the scheme are open until 31 January 2017, although locust control should be undertaken before 31 December to receive the contribution.

Department of Agriculture and Food

www.agric.wa.gov.au/locusts

South Perth Head Office - 9368 3333

Merredin - 9081 3111

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Every Monday		Tales of Times Past	Senior Centre	Free
2 December	6:30pm	Lady Godiva - Dinner Show	Cummins Theatre	\$50
3 December	6:30pm	Lady Godiva - Show Only	Cummins Theatre	\$25
4 December	2:00pm	Lady Godiva - Matinee Show	Cummins Theatre	\$25/\$10 seniors
9 December	6:30pm	Lady Godiva - Dinner Show	Cummins Theatre	\$50
10 December	6:30pm	Lady Godiva - Show Only	Cummins Theatre	\$25
11 December	9:00am	Merredin Markets	Visitor Centre Lawn	Free
11 December	7:30pm	Christmas by Candlelight	Visitor Centre Lawn	Free
15 December	5:00pm	Gala Night	Barrack Street	Free
19-23 December	10:00am	Christmas Wonderland and Workshops	Cummins Theatre	\$5

Shade Shelter for Community Area

Following a successful funding application, the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre recently completed the installation of an all-weather shade shelter along the footpath next to the Centre's lawn in the CBD. The need was recognised to provide community groups, residents and visitors with a functional all weather shelter. This area is increasingly popular for community events such as markets, food festivals and the annual Destination Merredin festival.

Stage 2 of the project will commence in January with the installation of bench seating as well as interpretive panels displaying historical images of the town, its attractions and after-hours visitor information. This project was made possible by funding from the Regional Visitor Centre Sustainability Grant Funding Program.



Fencing Assistance Scheme

The Shire's Natural Resource Management Officer is seeking expressions of interest in landholders interested in financial assistance for fences constructed and maintained to protect remnant vegetation on their property.

Interested landowners can contact **Dylan Copeland** on **0488 471 727** for more information on this scheme.

Beware Scam Phone Calls

We have been made aware of several scam phone calls occurring over the last few days. The caller claims to be from the Government and requests information about your rates payments and requesting to visit your home. These calls **are not** authorised by the Shire of Merredin. Our staff will never ask for these types of information and we urge everyone to be diligent about which information you provide over the phone.

Christmas Opening Hours

Shire of Merredin staff and Councillors would like to wish the community a very Merry Christmas! 2016/17 Christmas and New Year Opening Hours for Shire of Merredin are as follows:

	Administration	Visitor Centre	Cummins Theatre	Library	Swimming Pool	Landfill Site
Fri 23 Dec	8:30am-12:00pm	8:30am-4:30pm	10:00am-12:00pm	10:00am-5:00pm	12:00pm-6:00pm	10:30am-4:30pm
Sat 24 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12:00pm-6:00pm	10:00am-3:00pm
Christmas Day	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Boxing Day	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	1:00pm-6:00pm	10:30am-4:30pm
Tue 27 Dec	CLOSED	10:00am-2:00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	12:00pm-6:00pm	10:30am-4:30pm
Wed 28 Dec	CLOSED	10:00am-2:00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	12:00pm-6:00pm	10:30am-4:30pm
Thur 29 Dec	CLOSED	10:00am-2:00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	12:00pm-6:00pm	10:30am-4:30pm
Fri 30 Dec	CLOSED	10:00am-2:00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	12:00pm-6:00pm	10:30am-4:30pm
New Years Eve	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12:00pm-6:00pm	10:00am-3:00pm
New Years Day	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12:00pm-6:00pm	CLOSED
Mon 2 Jan	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12:00pm-6:00pm	10:30am-4:30pm
Tue 3 Jan	8:30am-4:30pm	8:30am-4:30pm	CLOSED	10:00am-6:00pm	12:00pm-6:00pm	10:30am-4:30pm

Shire Welcomes New Community Liaison Officer and Administration Officer

The Shire recently welcomed two new members to the administration team, Tracey Weiss and Lee Holben. Tracey began in early November as an Administration Officer and comes to us all the way from South Africa. "I came to Merredin a few months ago, and loved it so much I decided to move here" Tracey says, "The community is warm and accommodating, the area is beautiful and the weather is lovely." Tracey's 30 years of administrative experience allowed her to settle into her new role quickly, "I am looking forward to providing an efficient and effective administration service to the Shire and its community for many years to come".

Lee, the new Community Liaison Officer, comes with a wealth of knowledge in community development having 30 years of experience in cultural, events and community based roles.

"Getting to know the community is my first priority, followed by finding out what has been done in the past and what is planned for the future and moving forward from there" says Lee, "I look forward to getting to know the Merredin community, learning



from them and sharing my knowledge."

Tracey and Lee's predecessors haven't left us altogether. With the commencement of Belgravia Leisure's management contract of the MRCLC in October, Marilyn and Robyn began working as Centre Manager and Administration Officer respectively.

You can drop by and say hello to Tracey and Lee at the Shire Administration building on corner of Barrack and King Street.

Lavender and Olive Gifts Available

Looking for beautiful home-made gifts for someone this Christmas? The Visitor Centre has a gorgeous display of gifts made locally.

The latest products on the shelves include Rivergum Valley's range of lavender based essential oils and spritzes and Eagle Vale Olive's and olive oils.



Have Your Say on Community Health

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) has launched its new online consultation hub, Primary Health Exchange. The online hub is designed to support and encourage people to get involved in the planning of local primary health care in the Wheatbelt (and other regional areas). The community can have their say on projects and express their ideas, opinions and experiences on primary health care.

To learn more and sign up please visit:
www.wapha.org.au/community/primary-health-exchange

Gala Night



Gala Night is an annual community event encouraging families, residents and business to gather together in celebration.

Buying locally supports business in your community, helping local economy thrive.

15 December 2016

Barrack & Bates St, Merredin

5:00pm - 9:00pm