

SHIRE OF MERREDIN COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION



International Food Festival Fun for All

What do you get when you combine mouth-watering international food and lots of fun and laughter? Merredin's annual Food Festival of course! Friday night's Twilight International Food Festival at Cummins Theatre was a great success, with around 200 guests coming to enjoy the food shared by their fellow community members.

Shire of Merredin would like to thank the following people, for without their contribution, the night could not have gone so smoothly. Firstly, thank you to our wonderful cooks Brid and Emma Fitzsimmons, Marie Bartlett, Marilyn Sayers, Merredin Men's Shed, Jimmy from Merredin Palace Chinese Restaurant, Michelle Gethin, Salzar and Firoza Rahman and Tracey Weiss. Claire Hannaford and the Shire's Community Development team volunteered their time to help with welcoming the guests and serving food. Thank you to our hosts Emma and Ben from Cummins Theatre for allowing us to use the kitchen and Tivoli Room and to the Repertory Club for opening the bar for the guests.

Merredin Twilight International Food Festival 2017 was proudly sponsored by Collgar Windfarm and Shire of Merredin.

If you would like to participate in the 2018 Twilight International Food Festival please contact Lee at the Shire on 9041 1611.

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April Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building, in Council Chambers, on Wednesday 19 April 2017 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 Tuesday 18 April 2017.

Young Entrepreneurs Get a Hand

Young people starting their own business will benefit thanks to new products made available by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

“With more young Australians going into small business, particularly in industries such as construction, transport, information technology and telecommunications, the ATO has made the process even easier to help young people have a go,” says Member for Durack, Melissa Price, “The Federal Government admires those who take a risk and have a go in starting their own small business, and this is especially for young Australians. They are bringing jobs and opportunities to communities throughout Durack and the Government is here to back them.”

Several government agencies including ATO and ASIC partnered to develop ASIC’s First Business App to provide new business owners with valuable information.



Mosquitoes Out in Force

Following the recent rains in the district mosquito breeding activity is on the rise. To combat this, the Shire of Merredin has commenced additional monitoring and treatment programs for some of the larger water bodies in the area.

Mosquitoes lay their eggs on the surface of water, preferring still and stagnant water. While hot and humid conditions are optimal for mosquito breeding, they will breed in dry or cool conditions. Mosquitoes can breed in bodies of water of any size, from marshes and ponds through to small bodies of water such as buckets and gutters.

Residents can assist with mosquito control by taking some time to minimise availability of breeding areas on their own properties. Ensure there is no standing water in receptacles such as buckets, pot plants, containers and tyres. Septic tank lids should be sealed and gutters should be cleared to prevent pooling of water. Standing water in gutters are suitable breeding areas, and if allowed to flow into rainwater tanks can introduce mosquito eggs and larvae into stored water.

Mosquitoes are most active early in the morning and in the evenings. Precautions such as mosquito repellents and nets can be used to reduce mosquito bites and removing potential breeding areas will help to minimise the amount of mosquitoes on your property.



ANZAC DAY SERVICES

25 APRIL 2017

DAWN PARADE & SERVICE

Parade departing Post Office at 5:45am

Dawn Service Commences at 6:00am

Memorial Garden Cenotaph (Opposite Orana Cinemas)

Followed by a Digger’s Breakfast

MORNING PARADE & SERVICE

Parade departing Post Office at 10:45am

Morning Service Commences at 11:00am

Cummins Theatre (Bates Street)

Followed by tea/coffee and finger food

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Every Tuesday	10:30am	Story-time at the Library (Excludes school holidays)	Library	Free
1 April	6:30pm	‘Yard Sale’ Repertory Club Show	Cummins Theatre	\$15pp
23 April	9:00am	Merredin Markets	Visitor Centre Lawn	Free
25 April	5:45am	ANZAC Day Dawn Service	Cenotaph	Free
25 April	10:45am	ANZAC Day Morning Service	Cummins Theatre	Free

Annual Review for Projects

Shire of Merredin produces a Corporate Business Plan which outlines progress of key projects in alignment with strategic initiative identified in the Strategic Community Plan. The Corporate Business Plan reflects our commitment to fulfil the community's visions, goals and aspirations. It is reviewed annually in conjunction with the annual budget and all actions are responsibly resourced, with revenue streams, expenditure, staff and time requirements accounted for.

It is important for the Shire to be able to measure and monitor progress of these initiatives to ensure the organisation is aligning its priorities and delivering on its commitments. A progress report is delivered every quarter to the Council and community. In its March Council meeting, the progress report was presented to Council and the Report is available to download on Council's website:

www.merredin.wa.gov.au/news



Photograph by Harley Kingston

Baiting Assistance for Landholders

'Overcoming Barriers to Baiting in the Eastern Wheatbelt' is a new project commencing in 2017. The project aims to assist landholders gain accreditation and permits for 1080 baiting of feral pest as well as providing financial assistance towards their feral pest control programs. This program helps in 3 ways:

- 1080 accreditation workshops to help landowners become accredited in handling 1080 and submit their application;
- Financial contributions towards the permit fee; and
- Assistance in purchasing baits for qualified landholders.

This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program, supported by Royalties for Regions.

To register your interest in this project, or for more information please contact Dylan Copeland, Natural Resource Management Consultant, on 0488 471 727 or nrmo@icloud.com

Quarantine Notice: Psyllid Pest

A tiny and seemingly insignificant bug is causing big problems in the greater Perth region. The Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) is urging home gardeners to help stop the spread of the tomato potato psyllid. The insect is a destructive pest which has been discovered in Australia for the first time. It feeds on a range of plants including potato, tomato, eggplant, capsicum, chilli, tamarillo and sweet potato. The majority of detections of this insect has been in Perth metropolitan area with a small number confirmed in regional areas.

DAFWA has introduced a Quarantine Area Notice in high risk areas including the metropolitan area, and a suppression zone extending to Northam. Merredin is not considered a high risk area, however residents need to be aware of this insect pest and should not purchase or be gifted these vegetables from friends or family within the quarantine areas. This psyllid does not pose a risk to human health.

Regional residents who suspect they may have tomato potato psyllid should send a photo to DAFWA via the MyPestGuide Reporter app or email photos to info@agric.wa.gov.au. Alternatively, call the Pest and Disease Information Service on 1800 084 881. More information about tomato potato psyllid can be found on the department's website: agric.wa.gov.au/tpp

Q & A - Recycling

Q. I have heard that our recycling just goes straight to the tip, is this true?

A. No, this is not true. Avon Waste collects the contents of your yellow-topped recycling bin and takes it to their York depot for sorting. Once there, the cardboard is removed, baled and sent to a cardboard recycling facility in Perth. The rest of the recyclables are sent to separate facility also in Perth.



As the content of your green general waste bin is sent to the tip, some recyclables may end up in landfill if they are disposed of with the general waste. To ensure that all of your recyclable materials go to the proper facility, make sure to put it in the correct bin.



CBD Redevelopment is Under Way

Shire of Merredin will commence redevelopments to Merredin CBD in early April as outlined in the Corporate Business Plan. The Corporate Business Plan produced by the Shire outlines progress of key projects in alignment with strategic initiative identified in the Strategic Community Plan. The Corporate Business Plan reflects our commitment to fulfil the community's visions, goals and aspirations as identified in community consultations.

The CBD redevelopment project is a staged plan that aims to improve the appearance and functionality of the Barrack and Bates Street shopping and business precinct. The project will include resealing or resurfacing of the roads and car parks, re-curbings and re-lining of parking spaces. Roads undergoing redevelopment include Barrack Street, Bates Street, Mitchell Street and Barrack Street East commencing Monday 3 April 2017.

This project is administered by the Wheatbelt Development Commission through the Royalties for Regions Wheatbelt Regional Grants Scheme with support from the Shire of Merredin.

To keep up to date with roadworks you can subscribe to our SMS road works notifications list by emailing your details to media@merredin.wa.gov.au

Caution for Rabbit Owners

A new 20-year national biocontrol plan for pest rabbits got under way in the first week of March 2017. The release of a new strain of the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus, called RHDV1 K5, commencing at 600 sites across Australia. In Western Australia there have been 135 release sites. Rabbits are one of Australia's most destructive agricultural and environmental pest animal, costing upwards of \$200 million in lost agricultural production annually, and this control plan is expected to slow down the increase in pest rabbit numbers.

Domestic rabbit owners are being advised to consult with their veterinarian on the use of protective measures to keep their rabbits safe from infection. The K5 strain poses no greater risk to domestic rabbits than the existing strain. Domestic rabbits that are up to date with vaccines are likely to be safe from the K5 strain.

Land owners are encouraged to carry out concurrent control for predators such as foxes that will search for alternative food sources in the absence of rabbits.

For more information visit the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia's website: www.agric.wa.gov.au/rhdv



Destination Merredin

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 May 2017

**Welcome to Country - Cocktail Party
Community Dance - Games
Homemade Market Stalls - Church Services**

**For more information contact Central Wheatbelt
Visitor Centre on 9041 1666**

