

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

April 2019

Photos from around our Shire | Totadgin Rock WA

MEDICAL STUDENTS HIT MERREDIN!

On 11 March a group of 26 students travelled to the Merredin as part of the 2019 Wheatbelt Medical Students Immersion program. The program was reinstated by the Wheatbelt Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (WEROC) several years ago in conjunction with Rural Health West and is designed to provide students with the opportunity to experience life in the country and to gain a greater understanding of rural life and healthcare.

The students consisted of first year students from Notre Dame and second year students from Curtin University. Between the 26 students they had a range of different backgrounds and levels of experience. There were qualified paramedics, engineers and physiotherapists that hailed from Goomalling, Perth, the Eastern states and internationally.

Over the week that they were in Merredin the students visited both medical centres, schools and the hospital. They explored the Military Museum and had a guided tour of the Railway Museum. On Thursday they travelled to a local farm where they had a barbeque breakfast after a 'safety' tour. This was followed by a visit to Collgar Wind Farm before another barbeque at the pool. After a few more visits to various community groups and agencies, they and their host families were then treated to dinner at Cummins Theatre - surprise, another barbeque! If a barbecue for breakfast, lunch and dinner doesn't display true country hospitality then who knows what does!

At every stop the students were curious and eager to learn about country life which was displayed by the plethora of questions asked of Merredin's locals. The benefit of the program was evidently twofold: the students were able to learn and experience a way of life that they had perhaps never considered while Merredin and Wheatbelt locals had the opportunity to share their realities and tell their stories to a captive audience.

The Wheatbelt Medical Students Immersion program is an important initiative that seeks to attract 'home grown' doctors back to rural communities. Rural

Health West acknowledges that 'although many of the students will end up practising in City areas, the program will have provided them with firsthand knowledge of the tests and limitations facing rural patients, which will benefit treatment plans and patient care.'

A program of this magnitude wouldn't be possible without the various community members and volunteers that offered their time and assistance. Firstly to Dave Hendriks who donated his time, fuel and knowledge of the area over three days to transport the students around on his bus. Secondly to the community groups and members who volunteered their time: Jim Flockart and the Men's Shed, John Simmons and the Merredin Pool, Heather Garlett, Mal and Rochelle Willis, Avon Community Services, Merredin Military Museum, Merredin Railway Museum, St John Ambulance, Merredin College, St Mary's, Karis Medical, Merredin Medical Centre, Merredin Regional Library, Cummins Theatre and staff at the Shire. Thirdly to Helen Westcott from WEROC who gave up most of her week and finally to the wonderful billet families - we hope you enjoyed having the students as much as they enjoyed their visit!

Billeting students is an enriching opportunity for both the student and the billeting family. If anyone is interested in billeting next year's medical students please contact Hannah at the Shire - 9041 1611.



REPORT IT!

Spotted an issue around town? Report it to the Shire via the FREE Snap, Send, Solve app (compatible with iPhone and Google Play phones) and get it sorted ASAP. Just snap a photo, input the location and any details and send it through to us. We can then get right on resolving it.



NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, 16 April 2019 at 3:00pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend. The Agenda will be available to view on Council's website on Monday, 15 April 2019.



YOUTH & EVENT FUNDING

Recently the Shire of Merredin has been fortunate to receive notification that it has been successful in obtaining several funding grants. The Shire is very grateful to receive these grants as they will support many ventures in Merredin during 2019 including:

Wheatbelt Youth Council Program

- Collgar - \$9,571
- Lotterywest - \$11,326

Community Events

- Collgar - \$9,850
- Lotterywest - \$16,100

Cummins Theatre Shows

- Lotterywest - \$80,000
- Circuitwest - \$15,000
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Creative Industries - \$16,000

The Lotterywest and Circuitwest grants will be used to bring several shows to Merredin in 2019 including 'The Divine Miss Bette' (5 April), 'Whoosh!', 'Morning Melodies', 'My Robot', 'Children's Stinky', 'Picasso & his Dog' and much more!

The grant received from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Creative Industries has already been used to purchase a new digital piano, LED lights, new headset microphones, a new lighting desk and a few other pieces.

ELECTRIC CAR CHARGE POINT INSTALLED AT VISITOR CENTRE

If you have been wondering what the new unit installed behind the visitor centre is then it might surprise you to learn that it is an electric vehicle (EV) charging station for Tesla EVs.

Tesla have kindly supplied and installed these 2 EV chargers. The Shire supported this project with the installation of a purpose built concrete island, paving, EV parking bays and signage. Visitors with Tesla EVs will be able to charge their vehicle during the visitor centre's opening hours which are Monday to Friday, 8.30am - 4.30pm. Visitors to Merredin with non-Tesla EVs or hybrid EVs have access to a suitable 24 hour EV charging point at the Merredin Leisure Centre on Bates St for their vehicles.



APEX PARK REDEVELOPMENT

Contained within the 2018/19 Budget is an amount of \$150,000 for Apex Park Play Equipment. This amount was allocated in the budget to repair and effect minor upgrades of the existing playground equipment.

It was felt Merredin could benefit from more extensive upgrades being undertaken in Apex Park and subsequently formed an informal committee of Councillors which looked at preparing a concept plan for a more comprehensive upgrade to the park by re-grouping the existing equipment, installing new equipment, constructing a half-court basketball court and a driver training circuit for children.

At its last meeting, Council voted unanimously to accept the Concept Plan in principle with an indicative costing between \$450,000-\$550,000 for the redevelopment of Apex Park subject to community consultation being undertaken. The preferred option for funding the Concept Plan is that Council will use its own resources for 50% of the cost and seek grant funding for the remaining 50%.

Council now invites comments from the community on the redevelopment of Apex Park for the next three weeks commencing from Friday, 29 March 2019. Comments received from the community will be referred back to Council following the consultation period.

Please email your comments to media@merredin.wa.gov.au prior to close of business on Friday, 19 April 2019. Queries about the redevelopment plan should be directed to the CEO on 9041 1611. To view the proposed equipment to be installed, please visit the Shire's Facebook page. Further details are also available from the minutes of Council's meeting on the Shire's website - www.merredin.wa.gov.au.

YOUTH SURVEY

Are you a parent or a young person in Merredin?
If so then you can help to form the
Shire's Youth Strategy for Merredin's youth

**Just complete the short survey & go
into the draw for a \$50 voucher!
There are 2 up for grabs**

Survey for Parents (mainly for parents with children under 12)
www.surveymonkey.com/r/KQQZJWV

Survey for Merredin's Youth (mainly for 12+)
www.surveymonkey.com/r/5YCSYVQ

Questions? Call Hannah on 9041 1611



NEIL GOODING PRODUCTIONS & TENACIOUS C PRESENT
CATHERINE ALCORN in

THE
DIVINE
Miss Bette

"See this diva before she's on Broadway!"

THEATRE ALIVE
FRIDAY 5th APRIL
Cummins Theatre - Merredin

BOOK NOW - WWW.CUMMINSTHEATRE.COM.AU OR IN PERSON AT CENTRAL WHEATBELT VISITORS CENTRE



BOOK YOUR TICKETS!
PERTHSYMPHONY.COM

PLAY
DISCOVER
EXCITE
LEARN
SHINE

PERTH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PERFORMS
BAROQUE
BY CANDLELIGHT

LIVE
SHOW!

PRESENTED BY
 CUMMINS THEATRE

THURSDAY, 11 APRIL 2019
CUMMINS THEATRE, MERREDIN
EVENING PERFORMANCE, 7PM

PERTH
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

FUNDING PARTNERS



CITY OF
MERREDIN
HEART OF THE WHEATBELT



ORCHESTRA PARTNER



FOUNDATION PARTNER



The Big
HOO-HAA!

Improv Comedy gold!

WED 24th APRIL 2019

Tivoli Room - Cummins Theatre - Merredin
Doors 6:30pm Show 7:00pm

Book now at www.cumminstheatre.com.au or in person
at the theatre or Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre.

Pre-purchase tickets and \$AVE



LIMITED TICKETS

www.thebighooaaa.com.au



**MERREDIN REGIONAL
LIBRARY**
22 Coronation St, Merredin - 9041 1222

AUTHOR VISIT
Fleur McDonald

WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2019, 2PM

Come and meet Fleur McDonald
and discuss her latest book,
'Without a Doubt'. If you're a keen
writer yourself you may even pick
up some writing tips!

Afternoon tea will be provided.
RSVP by Monday, 15 April 2019
for catering purposes by calling
Wendy & the team on 9041 1222.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Fleur McDonald has lived and worked on farms for much of her life. After growing
up in the small town of Orroroo in South Australia, she became a jillaroo before
spending twenty years farming 8000 acres, east of Esperance, WA.

Fleur likes to write about strong women overcoming adversity, drawing
inspiration from her own experiences in rural Australia. She is the
best-selling author of Red Dust, Blue Skies, Suddenly One Summer,
Fool's Gold and many more, which began the story of the popular
Det. Dave Burrows. Fleur currently lives in Esperance with her
two children, an energetic kelpie and a Jack Russell terrier.



Easter

in the Park

APEX PARK ~ 5 APRIL ~ 9.30-11.30am
FREE event for 0-5 years ~ ALL WELCOME

Yummy food, crafts and activities with a special visitor to help hunt for eggs! The winner of our colouring competition will be announced too. To compete pick up your colouring page from any of the below organisations. Winners will be awarded for 0-2 yrs & 2-5 yrs. Entries close 29 March and must include your name and contact number.

Did you know the Eastern Wheatbelt Early Years Network (EWEYN) is on Facebook? Like us to follow our events and more!



MASTERS

NETBALL MATCH

OVER 35s FACEOFF

6PM, FRIDAY, 5 APRIL - \$5 PER PLAYER
MERREDIN LEISURE CENTRE

REGISTER WITH THE FRIENDLY STAFF AT MRCLC - 9041 3033



**MERREDIN REGIONAL
 COMMUNITY & LEISURE CENTRE**

**CALLING ALL
 YOUNG PEOPLE
 AGED 11-17 YRS
 FREE EVENT!**

Youth Fest

MERREDIN 2019

13 APRIL

11am-3pm

Merredin Leisure Centre Oval

Activities will include Bubble Soccer, DJ, Henna, Bucking Bull, Chill Out Zone and heaps more! Ryan Trooth Samuels will MC. Questions? Call 9041 1611



ANZAC DAY

Lest We Forget

THURSDAY, 25 APRIL 2019

- 5:45am** Parade from the Post Office to Cenotaph
- 6:00am** Dawn Service at the Cenotaph
- 10:30am** Parade from the Post Office to Cummins Theatre
- 11:00am** Service at Cummins Theatre

Please contact Hannah on 9041 1611 should you have any queries. A copy of the day's program will be made available during the event to attendees.

