



Merredin's Power Boxes Receive Face Lift From Local Youth

By Hannah Martin

The youth in Merredin have embarked on a three-day long project to paint Western Power Boxes around town. The project was a collaboration between the Shire of Merredin and Avon Community Services. One box was painted each day, and took around 2-4 hours to finish, depending on the design. The vibrant artworks were designed by Merredin College Students with AIEO Chrissi Smith and Chaplain Bronwyn Mckane. The painting workshops were run by artist Brandon Watson. Brandon also lead the workshop for the Drug Aware Mural in Apex park last January.

Western Power encourages the boxes to be painted, in order to mitigate the impacts of vandalism in the community. The concept behind this is that by providing a blank canvas for youth and artists to express their creativity they are less likely to tag or graffiti.

Keep an eye out for the 3 painted boxes, which you can find located near the Cummins Theatre, Newfield's Car Park and at Merredin College. There are still more Western Power Boxes to be painted, so if you are interested in participating in this project next time, listen out for more information.

The Shire of Merredin would like to thank the sponsors Collgar and Lotterywest for their ongoing contribution to Youth Programs.

In This Issue

- ▶ Page 2...Australia Day
- ▶ Page 3...Cooking Volunteers Wanted
- ▶ Page 3...Lovers Day at the Library
- ▶ Page 3...What's new at the CWVC
- ▶ Page 4...Ranger Notices
- ▶ Page 4...Billet Families Still Wanted
- ▶ Page 4...Rates Instalments Due
- ▶ Page 5...Council Update
- ▶ Page 5...Library Lovers Day
- ▶ Page 6...Snap Send Solva
- ▶ Page 6...Australia Welcomes New Citizen
- ▶ Page 7... Shire of Merredin New Staff
- ▶ Page 7...Rules for Portable Pools
- ▶ Page 8... What's on in Merredin



February Council Meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Shire Administration Building on the Cnr of King and Barrack Streets in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, 18 February 2020 at 4:00pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend. The Agenda will be available to view on the Shire of Merredin's website on Friday, 14 February 2020.



Australia Day in Merredin

By Kohdee Hall

Celebrations for Australia Day kicked off at the Merredin CRC front lawn for the annual Australia Day breakfast. Community members gathered together in celebration of our Nation and its people. As part of the Australia Day Breakfast, the Shire of Merredin also conducted the Citizen and Senior Citizen of the Year Awards.

Shire President Julie Flockart, along with Acting Chief Executive Officer Mark Dacombe, presented the awards on the main stage. The nominees for Citizen of the Year were announced as Donna Crook, Gemma Romeo, Daina Sutherland, and Malcolm Willis. The nominees were presented with their certificates and stood standing next to the stage while the Shire President announced the winner of the 2020 Citizen of the Year Award as Donna Crook.

Donna was awarded Citizen of the Year due to her passion for the people of Merredin and the time she has spent giving back to the community in various ways, whether it be through attending committee meetings, driving the ambulance, or coaching the local Basketball team.

Next, the nominees for Senior Citizen of the Year were announced as Irene Bain and Roy Butler. Both nominees made their way to the stage and collected their certificates from the Shire President. The winner was announced as Irene Bain.

Irene was awarded Senior Citizen of the Year because she helps her peers in numerous ways, whether it be taking them shopping, to a doctor's appointment, or their pet to a vet. Irene is always there offering advice and a helping hand to those who need.



From left: Shire of Merredin Acting CEO Mark Dacombe, Donna Crook, Irene Bain and Shire President Julie Flockart.

The Australia Day celebrations continued into the afternoon at the Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool. From 12.00pm onwards the pool was open and free entry was granted to everyone who wanted to come and join in the pool party. A sausage sizzle lunch was provided for free, as well as face painting, games, and fun activities. Approximately 330 people came through the gate with more than 350 sausages eaten, as kids and their families enjoyed the cool water under the hot sun.



Families play in the water at the Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool annual Australia Day Pool Party.

At 2.00pm, Cummins Theatre opened its doors for Fringe World's Circus Spectacular. 80+ people enjoyed acts from Magician Jon Madd, and YUCK Circus (see pictured below), while the event was hosted by Consensual Connie. Everyone had a fantastic time being wowed by the incredible performances. This event was part of Tour 1 of FRINGE WORLD's Outer Fringe Tour, a selection of shows on the road to four regional towns across WA in January and February.



Cooking Volunteers Wanted!

Do you love to cook? Merredin's International Food Festival is a great opportunity to show off your favourite recipes and test out different flavours of the world! The festival will take place on 20th March 2020 and we are seeking people from different nationalities to whip up some tasty morsels from their home country.

Last year the community got to try a delicious range of recipes from Italian biscuits, Babotie and Yellow Rice from South Africa, stew and soda bread courtesy of Ireland! We look forward to making this year's festival bigger, better and just as delicious!

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Carina at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre on 9041 1666 or email visitor2@merredin.wa.gov.au.



New at the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre

Merredin Shire Souvenir Coins

New in stock are the Merredin Souvenir Coins featuring the iconic Cummins Theatre. There are 105 coins to collect on your travels throughout Western Australia. Coins are \$2 or coin in capsule is \$4, we also have Coin Collectors albums for \$19.95.



Resident Packs

Are you new to town? Don't know your way around Merredin? No problem! Call into the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre and grab your new resident pack! The folder is jam packed with all things Merredin, including maps, information on the town, guides with community groups and organisation contacts.



RANGER NOTICES

Ranger Services

Please be advised that the Shire of Merredin has engaged WA Contract Rangers for the next 4-6 weeks while the Shire is actively recruiting a new Ranger. Rangers Matt and Stacey will be in Merredin 2 days a week, including the following dates*;

Wednesday 5th February and Thursday 7th February
Wednesday 12th February and Thursday 13th February
Thursday 18th February and Friday 19th February
Thursday 26th February and Friday 27th February
*Please note these dates are subject to changes

The Shire of Merredin Ranger phone will also be answered by WA Contract Ranger Services at all times. The Shire Ranger phone number is 0400 240 787.

Dog & Cat Ownership

Please be reminded that under the *Cat Act 2011* and *Dog Act 1976* all cats and dogs must be microchipped and registered with their local Shire. Cats and dogs can be microchipped from 6 weeks of age. Dogs must be registered from 3 months of age, and cats from 6 months. This is not only a legal requirement but also assists staff in reuniting lost pets with their owners.

Please also be reminded that no more than two dogs and/or two cats can be kept at one time. Please see the Shire of Merredin staff should you wish to apply for an exemption to have more than two dogs and/or cats on your property.

It is a legal requirement that any cat/kitten or dog/puppy must be microchipped prior to sale or being given away. Heavy fines apply for the sale/giving of non-microchipped animals.



Attracting future doctors to rural practice

Billet Families Still Wanted

MARCH 10 — MARCH 13

The Shire of Merredin are still seeking 4 more billet families for the Curtin and Notre Dame medical students that will be arriving in Merredin on Tuesday 10th March 2020. Students will be billeted with local residents who can provide them with valuable first-hand experience of rural life and issues.

If you live within the Merredin Shire, would like to be involved in this unique and rewarding program, and are able to accept 2 or more students for 3 nights, please contact Carina at the Visitors Centre on (08) 9041 1666 or email visitor2@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Rates Instalments Due

Notice of payment for the final rates instalment (if applicable to you) for ratepayers for the 2019/20 financial year were issued on the 31st of January 2020 with payment due by the 6th of March 2020. Ratepayers who have not paid one or all of their instalments by the due date will accrue interest.

As per Council Policy 3.2, ratepayers who are experiencing difficulty in meeting their rate payments may contact the Shire (prior to the 6th of March), and provided you can demonstrate that you are experiencing financial hardship, alternative arrangements can be made. As per Section 6.51 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, interest will be charged as part of the alternative arrangement.

Ratepayers should note that no arrangement will be entered into if such an agreement will not result in current rates owing being paid by the close of the 2019/20 financial year.

January Council Meeting Update

2019/2020 Asphalt Program

At the latest Ordinary Council Meeting (held on Tuesday 21 January 2020) the Council awarded the Shire of Merredin 2019/20 Asphalt Program to Roads 2000. The Shire will be upgrading the following roads;

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| ▶ Barrack Street | ▶ Watson Road |
| ▶ Cohn Street | ▶ King Street |
| ▶ Fifth Street | ▶ Coronation Street |
| ▶ Golf Road | ▶ Hawker Way |
| ▶ George Street | ▶ Eaton Way |
| ▶ Duff Street | ▶ Gabo Road |
| ▶ Robartson Road | ▶ Nolan Way |

Honorary Freeman of the Shire of Merredin Policy

Council adopted a new Policy to provide guidelines for the granting of the title, Honorary Freeman of the Shire of Merredin. This policy sets out the circumstances under which the Shire of Merredin Council may bestow the title of "Honorary Freeman of the Shire of Merredin" upon individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the Shire or community.

Provisions of the Honour:

1. The conferring of the honour of the Freeman of the Shire of Merredin will occur only in rare and exceptional circumstances to maintain both the significance and prestige of the title.
2. The nominee must have given extensive and distinguished service to the Shire or community in a largely voluntary capacity. The nominee must have made an outstanding contribution to the Shire or community such that the nominee's contribution can be seen to stand above the contributions made by most other people.
3. Bestowing the title of Honorary Freeman of the Shire will only be by an absolute majority decision of the Council and in accordance with this policy.

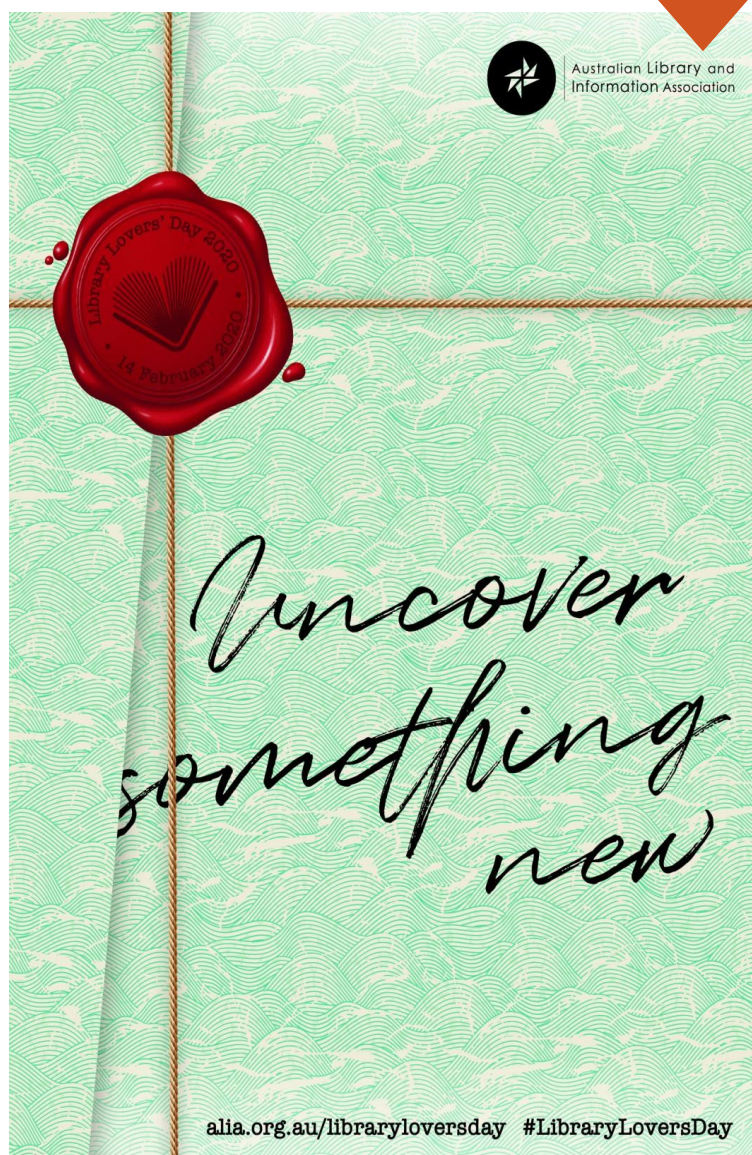
This policy also outlines that at any one time, a maximum of four living persons only (unless otherwise decided by an Absolute Majority decision of the Council, may hold the title 'Freeman of the Shire of Merredin'. Formal nominations for the honour may only be made by a Councillor of the Shire of Merredin.

Library Lovers Day at Merredin Library

Did you know that 14 February is not only Valentine's day but Library Lovers' Day as well? This year the theme is 'Uncover something new'.

The Merredin Library is once again hosting "Blind date with a Book". A selection of books have been covered with brown paper. The only clue to the book is a hint about who the author writes like. Take a chance. You may end up with a new favourite author. Just remember, you are only borrowing the book not paying for it, so if it turns out you don't like it at least now you know.

Do you have a favourite book? How about filling in a card to let others know about it. Who knows you may introduce someone else to a new favourite.



REPORT IT!

Spotted an issue around town? Report it to the Shire via Snap, Send, Solve (compatible with iPhone and Google Play phones) and get it sorted ASAP. Snap Send Solve is a free app that allows you to quickly and easily report issues and provide feedback to local council and Shire.



HOW IT WORKS...

SNAP:

Use your phone to snap a photo of the issue you want to report to your local Shire.

SEND:

Send your picture, location and any additional details of the issue directly to the local Shire. Make sure you have confirmed the right location!

SOLVE:

The report will be reviewed by the Shire and prioritised for action. You may be contacted for further details.

WHAT CAN I REPORT?

Snap Send Solve allows the community to report issues with the following topics:

- Abandoned Trolleys
- Animals and Related Issues
- Feedback
- General Requests
- Graffiti & Vandalism
- Noise
- Pollution
- Parking & Cars
- Parks
- Council Facilities
- Pavement & Footpaths
- Pit & Equipment
- Poles & Signage
- Roads and potholes
- Rubbish & Bins
- Trees
- Water & Sewer



Australia Welcomes New Citizen

The Shire of Merredin would like to welcome Australia's newest citizen, Eugene Loginov. Mr Loginov was celebrated with a ceremony at the Shire Administration Centre on the 17th of December 2019. Shire President Julie Flockart presented Eugene with his Citizenship pack including an Australian flag and a toy Koala!



Image: Eugene Loginov with Shire President Julie Flockart

Prohibited Burning Times:

1 November 2019 - 17 February 2020

Restricted Burning Period:

18 February 2019 - 16 March 2020
(permits required)

Important Contacts:

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Stephen Crook - 0429 411 429

Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer
John Flockart - 0428 469

**Please note, the restricted burning periods
are subject to change.**

Meet the Shire of Merredin New Staff

A big welcome to the new faces at the Shire of Merredin administration building — Brooke the new Environmental Health Officer, and Andrina the new Executive Manager of Community Services / Deputy Chief Executive Officer.



A note from the new Deputy Chief Executive Officer:

'My family and I are thrilled to have the opportunity to move to Merredin. We are keen to see Merredin continue to thrive and look forward to getting to know many of you as we become an active part of your community. Please do say hello if you see us about town!'



A note from the new Environmental Health Officer:

'After growing up within a semi-rural community in Western Australia, I am excited to be a part of the Merredin community. I look forward to meeting the local people and calling Merredin home.'

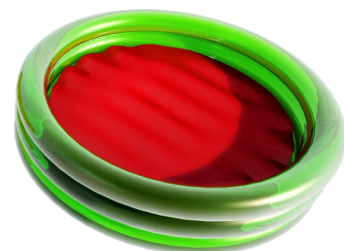
Rules for Portable Pools

Young children can drown in portable pools in a matter of seconds if unsupervised. Any pool that is designed for swimming, wading and paddling that contains water more than 30cm deep, must be enclosed by an effective safety barrier that complies with the laws (see below).

Does your safety barrier tick all the boxes?

- ☐ Does the pool gate close by itself from any open position?
- ☐ Does the gate have a self-latching device?
- ☐ Does the gate open away from the pool?
- ☐ Is the latch release mechanism at least 1.5 metres above the ground?
- ☐ Is the fence fixed securely in place?
- ☐ Is the outside of the fence at least 1.2 metres high?
- ☐ Are all vertical uprights in the fence spaced less than 10cm apart? Is there at least 90cm between handholds and foot-holds?
- ☐ Is the bottom of the fence 10cm or less from the ground?
- ☐ Is the surface directly beneath the fence stable and not easily eroded?
- ☐ If a boundary fence forms part of the pool safety barrier, is it at least 1.8 metres high?
- ☐ Is the pool area clear of any items that would assist a child to climb over the fence or reach the latch on the gate that provides access to the pool area?
- ☐ Is the openable portion of a window that forms part of a safety barrier permanently restricted to open no more than 10cm by a device that requires the use of a tool to remove it? or
- ☐ covered by bars or a metal screen, fixed in place by a device that requires the use of a tool to remove it?
- ☐ Doors with direct access to the pool area require local government approval.
- ☐ Pet doors are not permitted.

For more information, please visit:
www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/portable-pools





Morning Melodies Concert Series

Cummins Theatre

Friday 7th February 2020

Come along and join us for our Morning Melodies concert. Catch up with old friends or make some new friends as you chat over morning tea at 10:30am then sit back and enjoy a concert from 11am – 12pm.

Book your ticket at the theatre or in person at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre.
Door sales available*

\$15 includes morning tea

*bookings in advance preferred for catering purposes.



MARCH
7



MERREDIN POLICE OPEN DAY

Saturday 7 March 2020
11am - 2 pm

Come behind the scenes and see what really happens with the WA Police Force. Guided Tours, Forensic Demonstrations, Vehicle displays, Police K9, Mounted Section and much more from the Merredin Emergency Services!

Free Sausage Sizzle, so grab the family and head on down!

The official opening of the Sgt JONES Monument at the front of the station will start at 11am.



International Women's Day 2020

SATURDAY MARCH 7 | 1115 AM

Cummins Theatre

3 Course luncheon with champagne on arrival
Tickets \$80 PP | Group Bookings 10+ \$70 PP

GUEST SPEAKERS

Natasha Atkinson - CEO, Fremantle Markets
Holly-Ann Martin - Managing Director, Safe4Kids

Limited Tickets | Bookings by 21 FEBRUARY

Online Bookings <https://www.trybooking.com/BHUNR>



Major Sponsors




YEAR OF THE RAT

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Saturday, 8th February 2020

11.30am - 2.00pm
Lunch at Jimmy's Merredin Palace Chinese Restaurant
Contact Jimmy for bookings on 0456 175 411

2.00pm - onwards
FREE Lion Dance at Cummins Theatre