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Friday, December 3rd 2021

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THE PHOENIX



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Hon Mia DAVIES MLA

MEMBER FOR
CENTRAL WHEATBELT

LEADER OF THE
NATIONALS WA

LEADER OF
THE OPPOSITION

THE NATIONALS
for Regional WA



Prospector—Happy 50th Birthday

By JANE PATRONI, Chairperson
Merredin Railway Museum

Despite a forecast predicted of a hot 35 degrees, a crowd gathered at Merredin's Railway Station on Monday 29 November to welcome and celebrate 50 years of continuous and efficient service of the Prospector train.

Many guests included former railway employees for whom Merredin had been part of the advancement of their careers and home to their families.

The air was full of laughter and the regaling of tales as colleagues and friends rekindled friendships and recounted experiences of previous times. The oldest former railway employee to join the celebrations was local resident, Frank Playforth (95) who believed the days of steam, though hard, were unequalled.

Former district traffic superintendent Brian Gale recalled some of the happenings around Merredin that may best be left unreported! Many others had decided to take the opportunity to spend some extra time in Merredin and came a day earlier to catch up with friends.

The crossover of the two trains was timely, with TransWA driver Gavin, giving the assembled group a couple

of extra whistles.

Train crews were given a "goodie box" and passengers, a commemorative bookmark in recognition of the occasion. With the departure of the trains the official duties commenced. Jane Patroni (Chair) welcomed everyone, gave an Acknowledgement of Country and

introduced the speakers. Hon Darren West MLC outlined the developments occurring in passenger rail transport.

Ms Lindsey White (Operational Manager TransWA) acknowledged the importance of the Prospector

(Continued on page 3)



Hon Mia Davies MLA, Jane Patroni, Chair Railway Museum, Shire of Merredin President Mark McKenzie, Past President and Patron of Railway Museum, Gloria Banks, Lindsey White, TransWA and Hon Darren West MLC

COVID-19 WA Statistics

As at 29 November 2021

Tested 1,947,634

Confirmed Cases 1,121

Recovered 1,109

Deaths 9

Active cases in WA 3

COVID-19 in Australia

Vaccinations 39,201,853 (92.4%)

Fully Vaccinated 17,938,056 (87%)

WA—Cases 1,121—Deaths 9

ACT—Cases 2,124 —Deaths 14

NSW—Cases 81,499—Deaths 625

NT—Cases 288—Deaths 0

QLD—Cases 2,125—Deaths 7

SA—Cases 932—Deaths 4

TAS—Cases 239—Deaths 13

VIC—Cases 120,814—Deaths 1,325

We're all
in this
together.

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available

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Thursday
8.30am - 3pm Friday

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Fax: 08 9041 4888
Email: admin.mmc@westnet.com.au
Facebook: Merredin Medical Centre

Merredin Medical Centre



Dr Jonathan Ruiz MD, VGDWH,
MACEP, FPCEMAC



Dr Mirielsa Nufable-Ruiz MGGS,
DPPS, DCH, VGDWH, FRACGP



Dr Alan Roustami MD, AMC



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Merredin College P&C Association - C10349064

Merredin Community Garden Group Inc. (MCGG) - C10358700

Merredin Community Resource Centre - C10242783

Merredin Districts Lawn Tennis Club - C10322072

Merredin Hockey Club - C10330862

Merredin Railways Tennis Club - C10336486

Merredin Repertory Club - C1032349

Merredin Show - C10360791

Nangeenan Hall - C10481734

Parnana Pikurtu Wildlife Sanctuary - C10305338

St Mary's PS - C10323720



Send your community groups scheme ID to admin2@merredincrc.com or phone 9041 1041 so it can go in the next Phoenix

THE PHOENIX

Produced fortnightly

110 Barrack Street, Merredin
Ph: 9041 1041 Fax: 9041 1042

Deadlines **(A WEEK BEFORE ISSUE DATE)**

Articles: 5pm Wednesday

Adverts: Booking 5pm Thursday

Copy finalised 11am Friday

Classifieds: 10am Monday

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Upcoming Editions

17th December 2021

14th & 28th January 2022

(New format)

Available as an online subscription
www.phoenixnews.com.au

Currently distributing @ 600 copies to
Bencubbin, Bruce Rock, Corrigin,
Doodlakine, Kellerberrin, Merredin,
Moorine Rock, Mukinbudin,
Narembeen, Nungarin, Southern Cross,
Tammin, Trayning & Westonia.



Kylie Powell: Thumbs Up and huge thank you to whoever had the foresight years ago to plant Jacaranda trees along the highway and up the High School Road. It is a beautiful drive through town..



Jill Tennant: Thumbs Up and congratulations CRC! How kind to put on such a wonderful entertainment and delicious food (Seniors Luncheon).



Christine Carew-Hopkins: Thumbs Up to Merredin CRC, Merredin College Choir and Students and Elton John for the Seniors Luncheon.



Debbie Morris: Thumbs Up to Kellerberrin, the Christmas Trees along the main street, look fantastic.

Have your Say

What is your favourite Christmas tradition?

Jess Lloyd - Sitting around the pool all day .

Cheryl Price - Sitting around a festive table with family, sitting under the tree giving gifts.

Angel Wise - Eating with family.

Ellie Andrews - Drinking Baileys with loved ones.

Heather Giles - Family all together.



The Phoenix is distributed from 14 towns

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Bencubbin News & Post

Bruce Rock Newsagency

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Kellerberrin Pharmacy

Merredin CRC

Moorine Rock General Store

Mukinbudin Cafe

Mukinbudin Trading Post

Narembeen Post Office

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Puma Roadhouse, Merredin

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Tammin Post Office

Trayning Post Office

Two Dogs, Merredin

Wegners Rural, Nungarin

Westonia Co-op

Prospector—Happy 50th Birthday cont.

(Continued from page 1)

service to the people of the wheatbelt communities.

Mr Mark McKenzie (Shire President) stated the Shire's position on ensuring that a lobby for improved station facilities would be maintained.

Guests enjoyed a sumptuous morning tea prepared by the ever-capable CRC staff with the added bonus of the locally made, prize winning quiches, jelly cakes, scones and pikelets!

Without doubt, the coup of the event was the display of the original Prospector model, kindly on loan from Rail Heritage Bassendean. Local lady Kath Brown, gave a loud gasp (priceless!) when she saw it, evoking memories of her years as a stewardess on the train prior to meeting and marrying Chris. I'm sure she could tell a few stories if she chose! The model is currently housed in the Refreshment Room at the Museum. It is certainly worth a look.

The beautifully iced birthday cake was cut by Gloria Banks, former Merredin Shire President, Patron and former President of our Railway Museum. Both she and her husband

Joe were instrumental in lobbying for the preservation of the old Railway Station buildings which were set for demolition with the commencement of the standard gauge.

Rosemary and Jim Lambert were a welcome presence, both having done so much in the early days of the building restoration. The hard work and vision of those early committee members has resulted in a great historical tribute to railway history in Merredin which today is enjoyed both locally and globally.

After the official proceedings, guests were invited to visit the Railway Museum.

These success of these occasions does not happen without good community support. The members of the Merredin Railway Museum acknowledge and thank:

- Deb and her crew at the CRC for their assistance in planning and catering;
- The wonderful Men's Shed for organising equipment, setting/ packing up the outside venue;
- Karen and Mike at the Railway Station for giving us open access to the facility;

- Philippa Rogers (President Rail Heritage) for granting permission for the model to come to Merredin;
- Deb and Martin Morris for arranging and transporting the Prospector model from Rail Heritage Bassendean to Merredin and Louis Alberti for the use of his trailer;
- Shire of Merredin, TransWA, Hon Rita Safiotti (Minister for Transport, Planning and Ports);
- Hon Darren West MLC, Hon Mia Davies MLA;
- Karen Manning – for making the Birthday cake. It was delicious;
- All our wonderful community cooks who baked an array of goodies;
- Tracey McWilliam (Merredin Flowers and Gifts) who filled our helium balloons at no charge;
- Our guests and former railway workers/families who travelled to Merredin;
- Our great Merredin community who turned up to share the Birthday celebrations; and
- Finally our small but dedicated Railway Museum Team of Volunteers.

If anyone is interested in joining the Railway Museum group, please



East and West Prospectors crossing at Merredin



Prospector 50th Birthday Cake made by Karen Manning

CUMMINS THEATRE
The Heart of the Arts in the

Morning Melodies Concert Series

Friday 17th December 2021

Come along and 'deck the halls' as we wrap up the year with our special Christmas Morning melodies.

Featuring Justin & Katherine Freind!

Doors open at 10:30am for morning tea.
Concert starts at 11:00am - 12:00pm

Tickets are \$15* and include morning tea.
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Book at www.trybooking.com/BVMMC
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* transaction fees may apply

CUMMINS THEATRE SHIRE OF MERREDIN
HEART OF THE WHEATBELT



John Wearmouth, Philippa Rogers and Brian Williams from Rail Heritage



Past train drivers Aub Tompkin, Graeme Alp and Brian Gale

Court Report

15th November 2021

Perth Central Law Courts

Marcus Hayden appeared on a charge of common assault. He was remanded to appear in Perth on the 6th December 2021.

Kyle Brown appeared on charges of no authority to drive (disqualified from holding or obtaining), and reckless driving. He was remanded to appear in Perth on the 13th December 2021.

Joondalup Courthouse

Kevin Abbott plead not guilty on a charge of threats to injure, endanger or harm any person. He was remanded to appear in Joondalup on the 24th November 2021.

16th November 2021

Perth Courthouse

William Riley plead not guilty to charges of assault public officer, unlawfully assault and thereby did bodily harm with circumstances of aggravation, being armed or pretending to be armed in a way that may cause fear, criminal damage or destruction of property, and unlawful wounding. He was remanded to appear in Perth on the 7th December

2021.

18th November 2021

Bunbury Courthouse

Jimayne Williams plead not guilty to a charge of unlawfully assault and thereby did bodily harm with circumstances of aggravation. He was remanded to appear in Bunbury on the 29th November 2021.

19th November 2021

Midland Courthouse

Jayden Fanning plead guilty to charges of without lawful excuse trespassed on a place and stealing. He was remanded to appear in Midland on the 2nd June 2022.

Mandurah Courthouse

Reece Meekins was scheduled to appear. He failed to appear. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

22nd November 2021

Bunbury Courthouse

Sean Munns appeared on charges of burglary and commit, and stealing. He was remanded to appear in Bunbury on the 20th December 2021.

Northam Courthouse

Craig Thompson plead not guilty to a charge of common assault in circumstances of aggravation or racial aggravation, and two charges each of unlawfully assault and thereby did bodily harm with circumstances of aggravation, and breach of protective bail conditions. He was remanded to appear in Northam on the 29th November 2021.

David Hatch plead guilty to charges of gains benefit by fraud, and stealing as a public servant. He was remanded to appear in Northam on the 31st January 2022.

23rd November 2021

Merredin Courthouse

Michelle Abrahams plead not guilty to a charge of reckless driving. The matter was adjourned to appear in Merredin on the 21st December 2021.

Sharon Downes was convicted on charges of exceed 0.08g alcohol per 100ml of blood, and no authority to drive (expired). She had her licence suspended for 9 months, fined \$1450 and ordered to pay costs of \$259.30.

George Hahn was convicted on a charge of possess a prohibited drug (cannabis). He was fined \$600 and ordered to pay costs of \$259.30.

Yasmin Hayden appeared on a charge of common assault. She was remanded to appear in Merredin on the 7th December 2021.

Tamika Kickett was convicted on a charge of no authority to drive – suspended (other than fines suspension). She had her licence suspended for 9 months, fined \$400 and ordered to pay costs of \$259.30.

Dylan Kitson was scheduled to appear at Merredin Courthouse on charges of no authority to drive – cancelled, and did drive (or attempt to drive) a motor vehicle on a public road with a blood alcohol content exceeding 0.02g. He failed to appear and a warrant has been issued for his arrest.

Stevyn Lawrence was convicted on charges of possess a prohibited drug (cannabis), possessed drug paraphernalia in or on which there was a prohibited drug or plant, possessed a prohibited weapon, and possess a prohibited drug (MDMA). He was fined \$1200 and ordered to pay costs of \$259.30.

Benjamin Lee was convicted on a charge of drove a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol. He had his licence suspended for 10 months, was fined \$1700 and ordered to pay costs of \$259.30.

Jamie McCarthy appeared on a

charge of reckless driving. The matter was adjourned to appear in Merredin on the 7th December 2021.

Clinton Murray plead not guilty to charges of common assault in circumstances of aggravation or racial aggravation, breach of protective bail conditions, and impeded another person's normal breathing or blood circulation by applying pressure to neck. He was remanded to appear in Merredin on the 21st December 2021.

Julie Petersen was convicted on a charge of failed to comply with requirements made by a member of the police force. She had her licence suspended for 6 months, was fined \$600 and ordered to pay costs of \$251.50.

Alicia Regan was convicted on charges of stealing, cultivate a prohibited plant, and possessed drug paraphernalia in or on which there was a prohibited drug or plant. She was fined \$800 and ordered to pay costs of \$259.30.

Tevita Taumalolo was convicted on three charges of criminal damage or destruction of property, two charges of disorderly behaviour in public, and one charge of re-enter licensed premises within 24hrs. He received a 6 months suspended imprisonment order, suspended for 10 months, was fined \$1200 and ordered to pay costs of \$259.30.

Tremaine Ward was convicted on a charge of common assault. He received a 6 months community based order.

Robert Wynne appeared on five charges of possessed child exploitation material. He was remanded to appear in Merredin on the 21st December 2021.

Wayne Green was convicted on a charge of breach of protective bail conditions and plead not guilty to charges of threats to injure, endanger or harm any person, and impeded another person's normal breathing or blood circulation by applying pressure to neck, two counts of unlawfully assault and thereby did bodily harm with circumstances of aggravation, and three counts of common assault in circumstances of aggravation or racial aggravation. He was remanded to appear in Northam on the 7th January 2022.

Allan Hayden appeared on charges of assault occasioning bodily harm and unlawfully assault and thereby did bodily harm with circumstances of aggravation, plead guilty to 22 counts of breached a family violence restraining order, and convicted on a charge of breach of protective bail conditions. He was remanded to appear in Merredin on the 7 December 2021.



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30/34 Gamenya Avenue, Merredin

‘Chrissy Up Keller’

By JANINE JONES

Christmas came to Kellerberrin early last Friday night, 26th November. A four month campaign led by 2 local ladies, Jean Walker and Janine Jones, to “Chrissy Up Keller”, culminated in a Twilight Market held at Centenary Park in Leake Street, Kellerberrin.

During the week, Janine and Jean with the help of some of the local residents, decorated the main street of Kellerberrin with Christmas Trees decorated by the children at the local school. Many of these trees and decorations had been donated by the citizens of Kellerberrin, or purchased from fundraising events also held by the two ladies.

Leake Street was closed to local traffic from 3pm until 9pm so that residents and visitors could wander amongst the 30 plus stalls set up along the street. The park had been decorated with yet more Christmas Trees and lights with some of them spilling across the road to decorate “Roshana” Frail Aged Home, much to the delight of the residents there.

People who attended the Markets were treated to Live Music provided by Frank Morley, Peter Mitchell and Ben Chandler and an array of beautifully prepared food. Santa and Mrs Claus arrived on a beautiful sleigh and joined in the party at

around 7pm with loads of lollies for the kids and flowers for the Stall Holders and ladies.

They also visited the residents at “Roshana” as they left, leaving residents delighted with their unexpected visitors.



My Thoughts

Why is Christmas so commercial?!



Jessie Johnson

Deck the halls it's that time of year again. Christmas means something different to every person, and so it should, we are a multi-cultural and free thinking race.

I guess it depends on how we experienced Christmas as children, what we loved or hated about those old days of celebrating the special day shapes how we spread the cheer now.

I don't want to offend anyone with my thoughts on this however, year after year Jesus's birthday bash seems to take on more and more fanfare. The more I look around at the shops, at the under-the-pump stressed-out people and at the preparations that go into this one day, I just think why and when did Christmas become so bloody commercial?

This is not about the “right way” to celebrate Christmas – do you? This is about taking a deep breath, stepping back and asking ourselves, do we really need five different meats at Christmas lunch? Do all of our nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles need a haphazardly chosen token gift?

The Christmas cost (which is way more than a financial cost) is what I am calling into question. Why waste your time and hard earned money on gifts that will most probably become landfill? Secret Santa or IOUs are a fun way to keep gift giving around

but without a lot of expense and time. There are other ways to do things just think outside the box and be the laziest version of yourself.

My biggest issue with a contemporary Chrissy is the waste that it causes. Time poor people, cash poor people throw up your hands and revolt, you will be surprised how easily you can make changes to old traditions without causing all hell to break loose.

Everyone has their own traditions and Christmas specialties, if they make you happy and bring the family and friends together then that is the main thing. If you dread the arrival of December and all the preparations, shopping, cleaning and cooking that Christmas has become synonymous with, then pair it right back, buy one gift and share the cooking load around – also just a heads up we live in Australia and Christmas falls in summer where there is no snow and certainly no need for a full roast dinner spread – unless this is what you want!

I guess the gist is celebrate the day with all those that you love and dispense with the over the top present giving and commercialised crud.

Wishing everyone a safe and festive season (however this looks to you and yours!!)



Merredin Christmas Twilight Markets

By **ANASTASIA EASTWICK**,
Markets Coordinator, Merredin
CRC

Christmas came a little early this year at the Merredin Community Resource Centre.

Due to a range of other events on the scheduled 26 November date for the Merredin Markets, the CRC brought the Twilight Markets forward a week, to Friday 19 November.

The CRC came alive on night with heaps of stalls, a bar, sausage sizzle, donuts, Wheatbelt Coffee Time, Creamy Cow Soft Serve and MJ's Food Van which provided heaps of Christmas shopping bargains and a huge variety of what to have for dinner!

The crowds were entertained by the live music played by The Rat Rods, free face painting for the kids and kids at heart done by the very talented Sheree Lowe, fun train rides on the Merredin Men's Shed train,

Merredin St John Ambulance, Merredin Police and of course Santa and his helpers, who were very popular with the younger ones.

Christmas lights were put up to brighten up the pace and to get everyone in the festive spirit.

Stalls were set up inside the CRC and on the lawn. The variety of stalls was fantastic which gave people a great range of items to choose from and put in their orders for Christmas.

It was great to see all the regular stallholders including Scentsy, Arbonne, Nature Direct, Sow Seeds of Wellness, Lutum Designs, Grant

with his bottles, Geoff from Merredin Worm & Compost Farm, Annette with her crafts and cards, Pam and her knitted crafts, Pauline, Shona & Vicki with all their second-hand goods and plants.

We were very happy to invite some new stallholders, Simone's Homemade Candles and More, Boom Shanti, Raffles & Lucky Dips, Henty View Wines, Leasa & Corry. Both of Merredin's Schools had fundraising stalls, St Mary's School P & F selling show bags and Merredin College P & C selling their Funky Socks.

The Merredin CRC would like to say a huge thank you to the local business (Wheatbelt Tech Supplies, Two Dogs Home Hardware, Merredin Flowers and Gifts, Nextra Merredin, Go Mad Discount Store and Café 56) who donated items to the Market Raffles we were blown away with the support we received!

The Market Raffles help up raise money to continue building the markets bigger and better, and being able to pay for extra entertainment for the community such as the free face painting.

The lucky winners of the raffles were Sandra Pobke, Christine Crew-Hopkins, Debbie Morris and Kat White.

There was a guess the number of lollies in the Jar which was won by Tyler Westberg.

While on the topic of Raffles, the Merredin Show had a fire pit being raffled off on the night, which was made by Clayton Murray. It was very popular and the lucky winner

was Robyn Hutchings.

Overall it was a great night out, a night that would not have been possible without all the hard work put into it from all the staff and volunteers of the Merredin CRC.

Once again we have to thank the Merredin Men's Shed for the wonderful work they do setting up and packing up (and supporting the bar), the individual volunteers who take time out of their busy lives to help cook sausages, make donuts and serve at the CRC food stall.

Last of all Markets aren't Markets without stallholders and people, so another thank you goes to everyone who came to enjoy the night and helped to make the markets a success.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year at our next Twilight Market in February 2022.




Merredin CRC
Christmas & New Year Closing Dates

Friday 24th Dec 2021 Closed from 1pm
Monday 27th Dec 2021 Closed
Tuesday 28th Dec 2021 Closed
Wednesday 29th Dec 2021 Closed
Thursday 30th Dec 2021 Closed
Friday 31st Dec 2021 Closed
Monday 3rd Jan 2022 Closed
Reopening - Tuesday 4th Jan 2022 9am - 5pm

The committee, staff and volunteers of the Merredin CRC wish you all a happy and safe Christmas break!

Merredin Centrelink Agency
Christmas & New Year Closing Dates

Monday 27th Dec 2021 Closed
Tuesday 28th Dec 2021 Closed
Wednesday 29th Dec 2021 Closed
Thursday 30th Dec 2021 Closed
Friday 31st Dec 2021 Closed
Monday 3rd Jan 2022 Closed

Reopening - Tuesday 4th Jan 2022 9am - 1pm

Free DHS WIFI is available outside the Agency 24/7 to access MyGov




Tales from the Train

A modern take on travelling by train

By LADY RANTHAM

‘That Person’

This time, I was THAT PERSON! I called our local takeaway so it would be ready by the time my train arrives, and as I made our order, the bloke in front of me almost choked on his chewing gum. I really have to learn the relevant *number* for Habibi's order, so I never again have to shatter the cloistered silence of the late Friday afternoon train to utter the words "I want a Hot and Spicy Box"

‘The Defensive Donation.’

On any average work day, I walk a block to work. One city block. In reality, I have to successfully negotiate an obstacle course fraught with approximately 14 people who want my money. It is a socially accepted form of demanding money by menaces. The grown up attempt to get your lunch money. From the homeless, the "homeless", the opportunistic, to about four earnest backpackers with clipboards. And occasionally,

hidden amongst this densely packed jungle, the delicate blossom of a genuine charity. This morning, like many mornings, there were sincere looking people with tins and stickers. This is one of the good ones. You get a sticker as a sort of shield, to protect you from future attacks from other members of their herd. Imagine my dismay to find the too-perky-for-this-early of my Defensive Donation was out of stickers! So I faced the eternal conundrum of a tri-forked path. Do I simper at the unending crowd lining the street, constantly cringing and mouthing "I already gave!" to their disbelieving glares? Or do I find the nearest tin-brandisher WITH stickers and donate again? Or do I march my luckless captor over to their sticker-hoarding compatriot and demand my rightful protection? A conundrum indeed!

‘Really dude?’

If you feel the need to tactfully angle your screen away from me, you should not be watching that on the train dude. Seriously.

Narembeen Seniors Lunch

By VANESSA WITTSTOCK

On the 16th November the Narembeen CRC hosted the 2021 Seniors Luncheon as part of the monthly Morning Coffee Club activities.

Over 100 people from Narembeen as well as Bruce Rock, Kondinin, Corrigin, Nungarin and Hyden enjoyed the luncheon catered for by local lady Alex Holland.

Entertainment was international pianist Al Pither and the Diamond and Minelli Show.

This luncheon was proudly sponsored by the Department of Communities.

A big THANK YOU to everyone involved! A special thank you to my staff Georgia, Savannah and Susy

Padfield who spend till late Monday night setting up for the luncheon.

Thank you also to stall holders— Jordan Sprigg, Rachael from Changers Candles, Arbonne with Fabienne, Creations by Jane Drag, Three-0-Two and Holyoake for donating their time and providing some local Christmas shopping opportunities to all attendees.

Thank you to Three-0-Two and Fabienne from Arbonne for donating the door prizes for the day and to the Narembeen Club and their staff and committee members for letting us host the luncheon at the wonderful facilities free of charge and their help and support before and on the day.

It was a great day enjoyed by many!





NUNGARIN

Wheatbelt Markets

THIS SUNDAY 5th December

FREE

Train Rides, Lollies & Ice Creams for the Kids!

Christmas Raffle!

Mother & Father Christmas!

Merredin Bootscooters!

A GREAT DAY OUT!!


See you there!




Merredin

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Join us for a cocktail evening with a fabulous auction, canapes, live music and entertainment. Your support will be raising funds for Blue Light™ activities in Merredin and another charity close to the hearts of the local community.

Book your ticket today

Visit trybooking.com/BSHKR or scan the QR code below:



Saturday 19th February 2022
6.30pm – Midnight

📍 Cummins Theatre
31 Bates Street, Merredin WA 6415

🎫 **Early bird: \$75** Until 15th November
Regular: \$85

Ticket includes drink on entry.

Funds raised will benefit two local charities thanks to:


Platinum sponsors






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Merredin

NEW OPEN HOURS

9am - 1pm

Monday - Friday

Library Musings

By WENDY PORTER, Merredin Regional Librarian

If you were asked, could you list all that the Merredin Library has to offer?

Yes, we have adult and junior books, fiction and non-fiction, DVDs audiobooks, large print and young adult books, but did you know we had the following?

Languages Other than English (LOTE) are as they sound - items not in English. Presently, the Merredin Library has books in Afrikaans, Italian and Chinese.

Library staff can also supply books in Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Bosnian, Czech, Dutch, Egyptian,

French, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese and many more. Just ask staff for assistance. E-Books are also available in multiple languages.

Did you know that the Merredin Library has a number of old newspapers on microfilm?

The Australian National Library is digitalizing many old newspapers and making them searchable online through Trove, however, the Merredin Mercury is only available until 1954 online.

Whilst the film scanner cannot print an article, you can take a photo with your phone – or do the search here in Merredin and go to the State Library

in Perth to obtain a digital copy.

Do you play an instrument?

Did you know that the Merredin Library has a number of books of music scores?

We have a range of genres, from 1940's big band scores, to the best of ABBA, Bob Dylan, Broadway musicals, songs from movies including Disney, to greats such as Queen and Sesame Street.

There is music for piano, violin, and guitar. Come in today and have a look!

Library members have FREE access to a raft of e-resources, all available from home 24/7.

Whether you join as a full member or just as an e-member, membership is also free.

Library staff can even deliver books to Merredin residents who are home-bound. Call the Library for details.

The Library staff are always happy to help members find what they need.

If the Merredin Library doesn't have what you need, ask staff for help – or make a suggestion for something to be purchased for the library.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Grug!

By JAMES CORBY

It's a rare thing for an Australian to make it on Broadway - especially when that Australian happens to be a puppet. It's even rarer for a Broadway superstar to go on a whirlwind Western Australian regional tour.

But after touring the globe and performing to thousands on Broadway, where he was hailed as "the Elmo of downunder" by *The New York Times*, Ted Prior's beloved picture-book character Grug brought Cummins Theatre to life thanks to Windmill Theatre Company's magical stage adaptation.

A crowd of more than 160 people were entertained by Grug with students from Merredin College, St Mary's School, Bruce Rock District High School plus families from

across the region visiting Cummins Theatre to see the beloved character come to life before their very eyes, helping him as he built his burrow, tended to his garden, learned to dance, and tangled with his friend Cara the Carpet Snake.

Featuring an ingenious set by Windmill's resident designer Jonathon Oxlade, audiences were magically transported to Grug's world through expressive puppetry and Windmill's trademark storytelling for young audiences.

Grug and his cast brought tears of laughter and non-stop enjoyment to the crowd, with high-fives and smiles from the children in attendance as they left Cummins Theatre.

Grug will be doing a short run of dates in surrounding towns before jetting off to the Sydney Opera House for a strictly limited season.



FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND MONUMENTAL WORKS

MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

PHONE: 08 9041 1054 · MARK: 0438 050 692
TONI: 0401 481 561

EMAIL: MARK.TONI.MCKENZIE@GMAIL.COM
WEBSITE: MCKENZIEFAMILYFUNERALS.COM.AU
10 FIFTH STREET, MERREDIN WA 6415

f McKenzieFamilyFunerals @merredin_monumental

TA5747836

Associations Information Statement

BY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

Associations and clubs are required to submit an information statement to Consumer Protection every year. This statement confirms the association is still active, eligible to be incorporated and has held its Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Consumer Protection and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), have entered into a streamlined reporting arrangement from the 30 June 2020 reporting period.

Associations that are also charities registered with ACNC no longer need to report directly to Consumer Protection. This exemption is available where the association completes the ACNC's information statement and includes the following:

- the association's registration number (IARN) (referred to as incorporated association number);
- provides the date that its AGM was held; and
- confirms whether the association has more than six members with voting rights.

Associations still need to provide an

information statement directly to Consumer Protection if:

- one or more of the questions are not answered;
- the IARN is omitted or inaccurately reported.

Note: Associations who are part of a reporting group with the ACNC will still be required to lodge a separate information statement with Consumer Protection.

The exemption is not retrospective and associations will need to provide separate Information Statements to Consumer Protection and the ACNC for financial years ending before 30 June 2020.

Incorporated associations must also continue to notify Consumer Protection of any changes to its name, rules (also referred to as the constitution), status and contact addresses.

Information statements must be submitted within six (6) months after the end of an association's financial year. Associations and clubs can choose their own financial year so the due date for submitting the statement may differ between groups.

COMMUNITY CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

7.00 pm 12 December
Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre
lawn

Hear the Christmas Story retold for a modern world in story, drama, and song

Join in community singing of all your favourite Christmas Carols

With performances from Merredin College Choir, A Choired Taste, and The Perfect Gentlemen

Australia TOGETHER in CHRIST!
Merredin Churches Fraternal

Merredin Mayhem 2021

By BRAD ANDERSON

Saturday November 20 Cummins Theatre descended into Mayhem, visiting from Perth.

New Horizon Professional Wrestling took control and put on a show to remember. A seven-match card gave 3 hours of nonstop action with some familiar faces returning to Cummins along with some new ones.

The night kicked off with WAR-pro wrestler defeating TYE GRAYSON with a devastating power bomb. This was WAR's first appearance for the night returning later for a triple threat title match.

Second up was the crowd favorite Cannon Connors, unfortunately he was defeated by Orion James after a visit to the ring by Salem Sixx. His interference gave James the win by submission.

With our local hero yet to come, one of our southern neighbours, Corrigin's own Jack Carlisle made his appearance up against returning, Creek Murdoch. He survived some heavy hits. Murdoch's attention turned to local College Principal taunting him and his town. After this the Principal rallied the crowd and climbed up to the ropes. Murdoch falling for these

distractions got rolled up and pinned to give Jack a victory in front of family and friends.

Now for the heavy weights, Jedediah took on Tommihana Kaiser, impact after impact blow after blow these two hammered each other all over the room, into the barriers, steps it didn't matter. Finally ending in a double count out after the two were last seen battling to the backstage, where only Alice knows what ended up.

The final match of the night was between team members Rory Holms and Lena Cross. Lena thought she had this match all sorted but Rory changed the agreement and got an unexpected win infuriating Lena. With this the bad guys stormed to the ring from backstage to deal with Rory, with 7 to one it didn't look good. With that the cavalry arrived lead by TJ Maxx and Cannon Connors. They cleared the ring sending the angry mob packing.



After some words of thanks, the night was over.

A packed-out room was returned to its normal setting awaiting its next performance.

Many thanks to James Corby for helping with all things Cummins, Cynthia and her team from Dimensions Café for the evenings catering.

New Horizon Professional Wrestling would like to thank all its performers and the people of Merredin for making this happen.

With borders opening next year there is a chance they may be back sooner this time, 'like' their Facebook page for upcoming events, Merredin Mayhem 3,

To be continued



Eastern Wheatbelt Early Years Network Presents

CHRISTMAS POOL PARTY

10 DECEMBER | 10AM - 12PM | MERREDIN POOL
FREE EVENT | 0 - 5 YEARS

Join us for a fun morning of water activities, yummy fruit salad and games as we celebrate the end of the year!

Please RSVP by Wednesday, 8 December to 9041 1222. Bookings essential.

SUNSMART

Proudly Supported By

Government of Western Australia WA Country Health Service, belgravialeisure, reed, Merredin CRC, SHIRE OF MERREDIN, Amity, KindiLink, MERREDIN REGIONAL LIBRARY

Christmas Lights Participation Raffle

Everyone is welcome to enter
From one strand of lights to 100!

Spread the Christmas Cheer!

5 x \$100 vouchers for the house section
1 x \$100 voucher for the business section

Pick up entry forms from Merredin CRC
9041 1041 - merredin@crc.net.au - 110 Barrack Street
Raffles will be drawn at Gala Night
Thursday 16th December

Proudly supported by

merredin energy, Merredin Community Resource Centre

Merredin Senior Centre Receive \$500 Grant

By HEATHER GILES

Merredin Commonwealth Bank Manager Mr Pedro Cruz visited the Merredin Senior Centre morning tea on Thursday 25 November to present the Centre with a Community Grant cheque for \$500.

Margaret Dalton accepted the cheque on behalf of the Committee.

The funds will be used to enhance the centre - possibly with a Notice Board out the front for the Seniors be able to see what is on in the Centre and around town.

Everyone in attendance at morning tea showed their appreciation to Pedro and the Bank with a round of applause.



Commonwealth Bank Manager Pedro Cruz and Margaret Dalton from the Senior Centre

Drive carefully...



...we can wait



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Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Volunteering Opportunity: Local Manager Merredin State Emergency Service Unit

DFES has an exciting opportunity for the voluntary position of Local Manager with the Merredin State Emergency Service (SES). Continuing the great work of the current Local Manager, your primary role is to lead and manage a volunteer-based emergency service in the preparation, prevention, response and recovery to natural hazards emergencies within Western Australia.

What you need to bring to this role (Selection Criteria)

Simply put, to be successful in this role you will need to be a people person. A natural leader, you will have good communication, interpersonal, conflict management and facilitation skills.

You will also have the ability to work collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders including local government, police and others, and reside in the Merredin area.

How to Apply

To apply for this position, you will need to submit your resume and a cover letter introducing yourself and detailing how your skills will make you successful in this role.

Additional Information:

If you would like to discuss the role further, we encourage you to contact District Officer Matt Reimer by telephone on 0428 100 457 or email matthew.reimer@dfes.wa.gov.au

Applications should be marked "Confidential – Merredin Local Manager Opportunity" and emailed to: matthew.reimer@dfes.wa.gov.au by 4.00pm on Friday 10th December, 2021.

Carers Corner

By **JULIE TOWNROW**

It is with pleasure that I note we have a few more carers joining our little group, and how good our last get together was, with little bits of our stories shared and the learning and understanding that comes from listening to the stories others have to share, again I am amazed at the resilience and dedication of those who care for family members. For most of us, we have support from NDIS or from MyAgedCare, Home Care Packages.

Over the past couple of months, I have become very aware that there is a lack of information and or understanding of what help may be available if you are the person responsible for caring for a family member or friend who has a disability, or illness where personal care and or maintaining a reasonable standard of care in their home is not achievable, for a variety of reasons.

Depending on what services you require, a good place to start is by contacting Eastern Wheatbelt Primary Health Service WA Country Health Service – Wheatbelt Phone: (08) 9081 3222 Kitchener Road Merredin WA 6415. Ask to speak to

the, Social Worker, or Wheatbelt Community Care Service regarding in home help and Meals on Wheels.

These services would be beneficial as the precursor to starting the process for either NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) or HCP (Home Care Package, through MyAgedCare, and while there may be different ways to access these services, I believe the best place to start is with your family Doctor, who would give you a referral for an ACAT assessment (aged care assessment) which is an assessment organised by an Aged Care Assessment Team and is required for a person who needs to be approved for Government-funded services including: a nursing home (aged care home), home care, residential aged care, transition care or respite care.

If you are Computer Savvy, there is a plethora of information on line you can visit <https://www.myagedcare.gov.au> or <https://www.ndis.gov.au>

However, there is so much information and unless you know what precisely you are looking for you could be stuck at the desk for a week, trying to digest it all. Some of the information is written in what I refer to a 'Now-Speak', which bears

little or no resemblance to the language we remember from our days at school, and I seem to have to read an article several times before I have it in my head in understandable text, I find so much is ambiguous and can easily be misinterpreted. Unless you are proficient at today's written text, I would still recommend the Family Doctor is the best place to ask for a referral for an ACAT assessment or Medical records which are required to commence the NDIS journey.

Because the two systems, NDIS and MyAgedCare are quite different in their application, with NDIS an outcome based system where programmes are set and measured in anticipation of stimulation and improved beneficial outcomes for the client, hoping to ultimately achieve integration into the community by upskilling, while this is not always possible, and the service is not perfect, it is a step in the right direction, providing a greater understanding of some of the limitations when dealing with disabilities, I would rather refer to as special needs, because in some instances, where it is by birth right, some people don't consider they are disabled, rather they have needs that are different. An annual budget is submitted for consideration and based on approved needs is funded according to needs, as assessed.

MyAgedCare, as it suggests is for people over 65,(or 50+ for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people) who find their diminished capacity limits their ability to do the things needed to remain safe living at home, unlike NDIS which is based on individual care needs. Through My Aged Care, Home Care Packages are available from level one, mild care needs, up to a Level four for High Care needs. The client has many choices in how they arrange their care needs which may include but are not limited to in home personal care, showering, meal preparation, cleaning plus. community support, transport to medical appointments, shopping, outings. garden help. equipment provision, some medical supply provision and some home modification to allow a safe home environment. Funds are allocated monthly and HCP recipients are unable to "spend" more than their monthly allocation, but are able to accumulate funds in the HCP

account to purchase, for instance mobility equipment.

Once a funding package is allocated (either NDIS or HCP), there are many providers to sift through to find the 'service' that best suits you. There are differing 'cost of doing business' issues, and some fees are charged differently, however, there would be no denying that every provider will need to recoup the cost of Employment, Insurance, Transport, Office and Administration costs. Some providers only offer Personal home and community support, while others provide equipment and modification support.

While it is great to say we have a choice, there are times that we are so close to the 'coal front' that the time it takes to sort through all the choices can be daunting. This is where I find great value in the Carer Group get together, where we all know a little bit, and when we put each bit together, we learn quite a lot. I find there is a wealth of knowledge in the room when we get together and since we are all in the same boat, it is great to share. It's a bit like throwing out a lifeline from time to time.

As a Group, we have chosen to meet on the third TUESDAY of each month, as that day accommodates more people, if you are able to join us, please do. We meet at Dimensions Cafe at 10am and generally wind up at around 11.30, a beverage is provided for each Carer registered with Carers WA.

If anyone has any questions about seeking services, I do understand a fair amount of how the system works and where you need to go to get the help you need, so if you are finding it all a bit confusing and you are not sure where to turn, I am available most times to offer some assistance, please ask as I have access to the web and would be happy to provide printed information if you require it.

Carers can find support at Carergateway.gov.au or by calling 1800 422 737 Monday to Friday 8am -5pm. Or for a point in the right direction phone me on 0429411377, leave me a message as I don't often answer if I don't recognise the number in case it is another scammer trying to get something from me that is not their business to have.

TURBODRUM
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CNH MIDWEST ETC MORE GREAT RESULTS

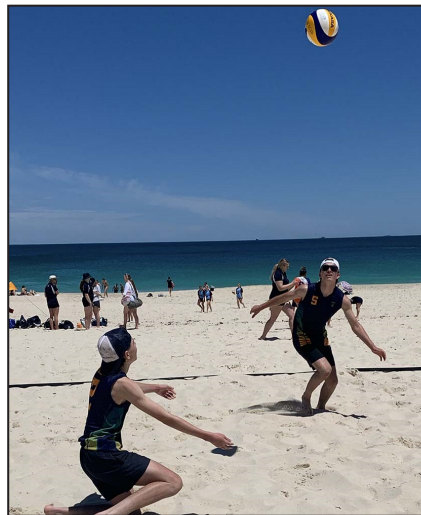
PLEASE CALL PHILLBOURNE FOR LATEST PRICES
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E: phillbournes@wn.com.au

TAS409304

Countdown to Christmas
22 days



Secondary Volleyball Specialist Teams Compete in Beach Volleyball Cup!!



Pre-primary Rewards day was 'To be Principal for a day'



Students made their own ties for the occasion, had a special meeting in the board room to discuss 'Are donuts better than cupcakes?' and everyone got to sit at the Principal's desk!!



From the History Room

By ANITA METCALF, Merredin Library

The following snippets appeared in the local DECEMBER newspapers of the time.

10th, 1953: Tomorrow's "Guest of the Week" on 6MD's Merredin Radio Magazine will be the winner of the Swimming Pool Queen Contest, Miss Merle Locke.

The program airs at 12.15pm.

27th, 1962: Gribbles specials – 6oz Vegemite 2/9 (\$0.28), Bushells Tea 2/9 (\$0.28), 14oz Milo Tonic Food 4/3 (\$0.43), 16oz Heinz Baked Beans 1/8 (\$0.17), 2oz Instant Nescafe Coffee 3/9 (\$0.38), 3lb Sunshine Milk 11/3 (\$1.12).

27th, 1962: Merredin's Golf Club's new commodious and well-appointed clubhouse, was officially opened by Mr G.F. Telfer on Saturday afternoon, is an acquisition to the town's architecture.

12th, 1979: Back to Collgar Tennis Club reunion on December 8 was a scene of activity after a silence of 7 years when 80 ex-players and residents of Collgar came together.

17th, 1980: A minor tremor was felt in Cadoux last Wednesday registering 4.7 on the Richter Scale.

24th, 1980: Category 2 of the Tidy Towns Competition, town with population below 1,000, was won by Koolyanobbing on 89 points, followed by Koorda equal second on 88 points with Gingin.

24th, 1980: Telfer & Carson Limited Offer - \$650 off Commodore Vacationer!

Normal price: Sedan \$9,814, Wagon \$10,230, Vacationer Special Sedan \$9,164.

Price includes mudflaps, freight and delivery costs in Merredin.

19th, 1990: Two way CB radios which were a rare sight in the bush 10 years ago are now seen by many farmers as an essential piece of farm equipment.

80% of farmers said they were important for day-to-day operations, safety and general convenience.



Council Meeting Dates 2022

Ordinary meetings of Council in 2022 will be held in the Council Chambers commencing at 4.00 pm, on the following dates –

Meeting dates 2022

- Wednesday 16 February 2022
- Wednesday 20 April 2022
- Wednesday 15 June 2022
- Wednesday 17 August 2022
- Wednesday 19 October 2022
- Wednesday 14 December 2022
- Wednesday 16 March 2022
- Wednesday 18 May 2022
- Wednesday 20 July 2022
- Wednesday 21 September 2022
- Wednesday 16 November 2022

NB: There may be a variation in start time for the May or June meeting to set the annual budget.

Any variations to start times or dates will be published on the Shire of Trayning Website, Shire of Trayning Facebook page and in the Ninghan News.

Leanne Parola
Chief Executive Officer

Long Exposure Camera Club Meeting

By GRANT STAINER

“Long exposure” was the theme for the November meeting of the Merredin Camera Club, and there were a range of different ideas and styles that were used. Long exposure photos are where the shutter is open for a longer period of time and it is therefore not possible to handhold the camera.

Fourteen photos filled the theme section this month, and another 14 photos filled the open section. The judge this month was Veana Scott.

In the theme section, Ms Scott awarded gold to Karen Slater’s “Hiding Moon” and “Brisbane at Christmas” photos. Silver was awarded to Kate Caughey’s “Mouldboard” and “Busso lightning” photos as well as Julie Alvaro’s “Grand old farm house”. Bronze was awarded to Glen Riethmuller’s “Windmill and dog” and Grant Stainer’s “Milky Way”.

In the open section, gold was awarded to Julie Alvaro’s “Freshly baled”. Silver was awarded to Karen Slater’s “Rainy afternoon” and Julie Alvaro’s “Windy day at Hart’s”. Bronze was awarded to Karen Slater’s “Kalbarri surfer”, Lorraine Ryan’s “Gum tree”, Kate Caughey’s “Lavender”, and Glen Riethmuller’s “Gotta go love” and “Railway station”.

Ms Scott highlighted the importance of cropping photos properly to improve composition.

Club members voted somewhat similarly to the judge in both the theme and open sections.

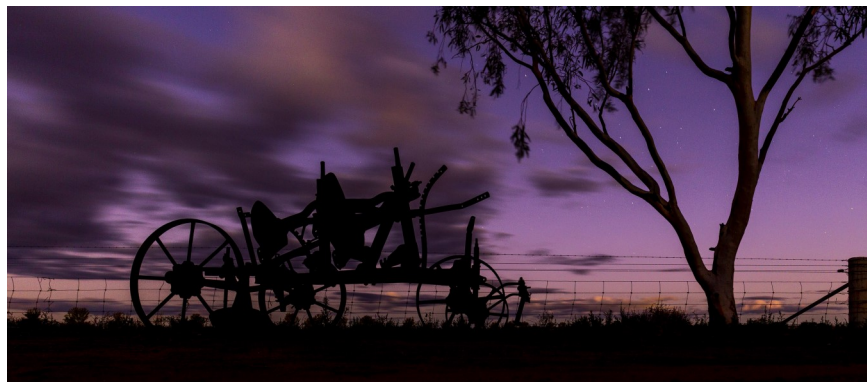
In the theme section, first place went to Kate Caughey’s “Mouldboard”. Second place went to Kate Caughey’s “Busso lightning” and third place went to Karen Slater’s “Hiding Moon”.

In the club member’s open section voting, first place went to Karen Slater’s “Kalbarri surfer”.

Equal second place went to Glen Riethmuller’s “Gotta go love” and Julie Alvaro’s “Freshly baled”. Equal third place went to Karen Slater’s “Rainy afternoon” and Kate Caughey’s “Lavender”.

The next meeting is scheduled for December, where the subject will be “symmetry”, which should be an interesting subject.

The Merredin Camera Club welcomes new members. For more information about the Merredin Camera Club, please email Kate Caughey at merredincameraclub@yahoo.com.au



Mouldboard Photo by Kate Caughey



Freshly Baled Photo by Julie Alvaro



Hiding Moon Photo by Karen Slater



Gotta go love Photo by Glen Riethmuller

Cancer Council

CORRECT SUNSCREEN APPLICATION

Every purchase goes towards cancer research and services.

Apply sunscreen at least **20 minutes** before sun exposure

7 teaspoons = 5 mL
One teaspoon is equal to 5mL of sunscreen

You need at least **7 teaspoons** for a full body application. One for each arm, each leg, your front, your back, face, neck and ears.

This means a full body application* is **35mL of sunscreen**

*35mL equals one full body:
• Front of body
• Back of body
• Face, neck and ears
• Arms and legs

For a Cancer Council 150mL tube, this is approx. 3 full body applications.

Always read the label. Use only as directed.

Every **2 hrs**

Reapply sunscreen after **2 hours, or sooner** if you've been swimming, sweating or towel drying.

Do a test if it's a first time use, or if you're applying to sensitive skin. If irritation occurs, discontinue use.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS POOL PARTY

PLUS AN ULTIMATE INFLATABLE OBSTACLE COURSE FOR EVERYONE

OBSTACLE COURSE 16 METRES OF MADNESS

SANTA'S VISIT
GIANT GARDEN GAMES
WATER INFLATABLE
BOUNCY CASTLE
HAMBURGERS

FREE EVENT
3.30PM
NAREMBEEN POOL
FRIDAY, 17 DECEMBER

Children under 10 must be supervised by an adult at all times

Narembeen Community Resource Centre
Your local connection

RAMELIUS RESOURCES
RAMELIUS RESOURCES & SHIRE OF NAREMBEEN COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND



Feet With Flair

Summer Collection of Shoes,
Sneakers, Sandals & Accessories
Pop Up Shop
Atkinson's, Merredin
Tuesday 7th Dec 11.00-5.00
Wednesday 8th Dec 9.00-4.30

Buddy Reading

Our Year Two and Kindergarten students have been meeting regularly this term to share the love of reading with each other.



Wheatbelt fly-in therapy service

Therapy Focus has launched a unique way of delivering therapy services to those living in remote areas of Western Australia.

Our Flight Squad service will see us fly-in for fortnightly* day trips to Merredin to deliver much needed therapy services to NDIS and private customers.

- Physiotherapy
- Speech pathology
- Occupational therapy
- Continence management
- Home modifications
- Assistive technology



☎ 1300 135 373
🌐 therapyfocus.org.au

(*subject to availability and customer needs)



SHIRE OF MERREDIN



COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

CALLING ALL YOUTH OVER 8

FREE EVENT!

Games Day

FRIDAY, 17 DECEMBER
MRCLC COURTS
10AM - 1PM

Activities include 3x3 basketball, 3 point shoot off, wellness tent, doughnut eating, games & much more! Free Sausage Sizzle included!
For more information, contact Darcie at the Shire on 9041 1611.

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
Avon Community Services

Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review

The Shire of Merredin is now inviting submissions from the public on the DRAFT Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA).

The LEMA refers to the collection of all emergency management documentation, processes and agreements which affect the local government district. It provides a community focused, coordinated approach to the management of potential emergencies that may occur within the Shire.

The LEMA Plan can be viewed on the Shire website via the following link; bit.ly/LEMARReview. A hard copy of the plan is also available at the Shire Administration Building.

Submissions can be sent through to eso@merredin.wa.gov.au and will close at 12.00pm Friday, 24 December 2021.

For more information, please visit bit.ly/MerEmergencyManagement.

Community Citizen of the Year Nominees

We would like to extend congratulations to the following people and groups for being nominated for a Community Citizen of the Year Award; Maddie Earle-Sadder, Tyler Winter, Chesney Maloney, Margaret Dolton, Merredin Youth Committee, and Petticoat Lane Op Shop. Judging for the awards will take place in mid December with the winners to be announced at the 2022 Australia Day Breakfast to be held on Wednesday, 26 January 2022.

CBD Project Update

In addition to the 2.1 million dollars in funding received through the Building Better Regions Fund, the Shire of Merredin has now secured a further 1.6 million dollars from the Federal Government through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program. The total funding of 3.7 million has been allocated to the CBD Project including the creation of a town square and the upgrade of Apex Park.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 November 2021, Council made the decision to allocate additional funds to the town square project to ensure continued progress towards the construction stage. The Shire is expected to move forward to tender for the project once the final pieces of design are worked through with the project team.

At the same Council Meeting, Council nominated 1.1 million dollars of the Federal Government funding to go towards Apex Park, which has been identified as a top priority for the Merredin community. The plans for Apex Park will continue to be worked on over the coming months, with information to be released to the public once available.

Council have also approved the creation of a project manager position, which will ensure both of the above projects will continue to move forward as quickly as possible. Once this person is in place, we expect significant progress to be made.

We encourage locals to regularly check in on the Shire website, or sign up to receive our monthly newsletter, to keep up to date with all our latest news and updates regarding our projects.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 14 December 2021 at 4:00pm, at the Shire Administration Building on the Cnr of King and Barrack Streets in the Council Chambers. The Agenda will be available for viewing online on Friday, 10 December. All members of the public are welcome to attend. Questions may be submitted up until 2pm on the day of the Council Meeting.

GALA NIGHT

16 DECEMBER

BARRACK & BATES STREETS **6PM - 9PM**

late night shopping
amusements & games
market stalls
yummy food
santa
live entertainment

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
lotterywest supported
COLLGAR WIND FARM



COMMUNITY CALENDAR proudly sponsored by Collgar Community Fund

Find out more about the Collgar Community Fund by visiting www.collgarwindfarm.com.au

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>4 Dec</p> <p>Merredin Seventh Day Adventist Church - Sabbath School 9:30am and Church 11am 0429 770 331. St Mary's Catholic Church - Mass 6:30pm. Father Andrew Bowron 9041 1118. Merredin Fine Arts Society 9am-12pm Check out their Facebook page for further details Westonia Thank-a-Volunteer Day 5.30pm at the Stadium Southern Cross Skate Park Official Opening 4-6pm free sausage sizzle</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Merredin Merredin Church of Christ 10am. Uniting Church 9am 0428 125 613. St Mary's Catholic Church Mass 10:30am 9041 1118. All Saints Morning Prayer at 10am Community Garden. 8:30am 0427 701 655. A Choired Taste 1pm Workshop with Bill McCallister at the meeting room rear of Merredin Library Nungarin Markets 8am-12pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Merredin A Choired Taste - No audition required, 7pm - 9pm at the meeting room rear of Merredin Library 22 Coronation street 0487 351 167. Bootscooting, 7pm at Cummins Theatre 9041 3005. Narembreen Narembreen Seniors Movie 1-3pm at CRC</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Merredin Zumba! By Sharee Cook, 6pm - 7pm at the Cummins Theatre, call 0458 429 072.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Merredin Seniors Craft Group Senior Centre 10am. Seniors Gentle Gym 2pm Senior Centre.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Merredin Community Garden. 8:30am 0427 701 655. Senior Centre morning tea 10am. Online Shopping assistance Merredin CRC 2pm - 4pm. 9041 1041. Men's Shed 2pm - 5pm 0427831024 Merredin Fine Arts Society 9am-2pm Check out their Facebook page for further details. Westonia Seniors Activities at the CRC 1-4pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Merredin Kids Club - K - Year 6, 3:15pm - 5pm at the Church of Christ 17 Throssell Rd. Games, songs, stories, crafts & More! Afternoon tea provided, gold coin donation. Eastern Wheatbelt Early Years Network Christmas Pool Party 0-5 years, 10am - 12pm bookings essential RSVP by 8 Dec 90411222 Nungarin Nungarin Christmas Party at Nungarin Swimming Pool Entry and Spit Roast Dinner FREE</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Merredin Seventh Day Adventist Church - Sabbath School 9:30am and Church 11am 0429 770 331. St Mary's Catholic Church - Mass 6:30pm. Father Andrew Bowron 9041 1118. Merredin Fine Arts Society 9am-12pm Check out their Facebook page for further details Tammin Markets 9am-12pm Cunderdin Christmas in the Park FREE 5pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Merredin Merredin Church of Christ 10am. Uniting Church 9am 0428 125 613. St Mary's Catholic Church Mass 10:30am 9041 1118. Community Garden. 8:30am 0427 701 655. A Choired Taste 2-4pm rehearsal @ Merredin Library Carols by Candlelight 7pm on the lawn at the Visitors Centre Kellerberrin People's Baptist Church 11am 0435 284 796. St Joseph's Catholic Church - Mass 8am. 9041 1118. Tammin Markets 9am-12pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Merredin A Choired Taste - No audition required, 7pm - 9pm at the meeting room rear of Merredin Library 22 Coronation street 0487 351 167. Bootscooting, 7pm at Cummins Theatre 9041 3005. Narembreen Christmas Rhyme Time—ages 0-3 years 10.30am at the library</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Merredin Zumba! By Sharee Cook, 6pm - 7pm at the Cummins Theatre, call 0458 429 072. Seniors Gentle Gym 2pm Senior Centre.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Merredin Seniors Craft Group Senior Centre 10am. Narembreen Morning Coffee Club 10.30am at the CRC</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Merredin Community Garden. 8:30am 0427 701 655. Senior Centre morning tea 10am Online Shopping assistance Merredin CRC 2pm - 4pm 9041 1041. Men's Shed 2pm-5pm 0427 831 024. Merredin Fine Arts Society 9am-2pm Check out their Facebook page for further details Gala Night 6-9pm Westonia Seniors Activities at the CRC 1-4pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Merredin Kids Club - K - Year 6, 3:15pm - 5pm at the Church of Christ 17 Throssell Rd. Games, songs, stories, crafts & More! Afternoon tea provided, gold coin donation. Narembreen Community Christmas Pool Party 3.30pm Mukinbudin Christmas Street Festival Southern Cross Carols by Candlelight 7pm at Southern Cross Senior Citizen's Centre</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Merredin Seventh Day Adventist Church - Sabbath School 9:30am and Church 11am 0429 770 331. St Mary's Catholic Church - Mass 6:30pm. Father Andrew Bowron 9041 1118. Merredin Fine Arts Society 9am-12pm Check out their Facebook page for further details</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Merredin Merredin Church of Christ 10am. Uniting Church 9am 0428 125 613. St Mary's Catholic Church Mass 10:30am 9041 1118. All Saints Morning Prayer at 10am Community Garden. 8:30am 0427 701 655. Southern Cross Community Christmas Tree & Volunteer Thank-you BBQ 5.30pm at Rotary Park</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Merredin Bootscooting, 7pm at Cummins Theatre 9041 3005.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Merredin Zumba! By Sharee Cook, 6pm - 7pm at the Cummins Theatre, call 0458 429 072. Carer's WA Social Support 10-11.30am at Dimensions Cafe 1300227377 socialsupport@carerswa.asn.au</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Merredin Seniors Craft Group Senior Centre 10am.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Merredin Community Garden. 8:30am 0427 701 655. Senior Centre morning tea 10am. Online Shopping assistance Merredin CRC 2pm - 4pm. 9041 1041. Men's Shed 2pm - 5pm 0427 831 024. Merredin Fine Arts Society 9am-2pm Check out their Facebook page for further details</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Merredin Kids Club - K - Year 6, 3:15pm - 5pm at the Church of Christ 17 Throssell Rd. Games, songs, stories, crafts & More! Afternoon tea provided, gold coin donation.</p>
<p>If you would like your community notice included. Email it to administration3@merredincrc.com</p>						

FOR SALE	AVAILABLE RENTALS
<div style="text-align: center;">    </div> <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 20px;"> For Sale - \$435,000 89 Cunningham Street </p> <p style="font-size: small;"> This large 4x2 modern home is just walking distance from the Merredin High School, Hospital and local Colleges. It truly is a credit to the owner with every detail they have placed within this home to make any family jump at the chance to secure this property for themselves. </p> <p style="font-size: x-small;"> A fully functional open plan kitchen/dining area that is equipped with the best stainless steel appliances, fresh white kitchen cabinetry and plenty of bench and cupboard space. </p> <p style="font-size: x-small;"> The master bedroom is a show stopper. Not only does it have an ensuite which is great in size and also finished with modern details and a his and her section, the master also consists of a walk in wardrobe with plenty of shelf space to store whatever your heart desires. The other 3x bedrooms are carpeted and offer a fresh, open and inviting feel. With built in wardrobes, you will ever have to worry about cluttering up your spaces. </p> <p style="font-size: x-small;"> You do not want to miss out on this amazing property fresh to the market. Get in quick before its too late! </p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;"> For viewings please call Sharon Johnson on 0427 959 331 to arrange an appointment. </p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">4 Bedroom 1 Bathroom</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Fully Furnished</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">\$400/ week</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">This is our last available rental so get in quick</p>  </div> <hr/> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">FOR SALE</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">6 Whitfield Way- \$65,000</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">1.24 Acres and priced to sell</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;"> This block corners Whitfield and Maiolo Way and has an uninterrupted view of native bushland across the road. With 5039m2 (1.24 acres) to build on, there is room for everyone's ideas and projects. Power and water located at boundary. For all enquiries please call Sharon Johnson on 0427 949 331. </p>  </div> <hr/> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">FOR SALE</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">31 Cunningham Street - \$225,000</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Modern 3 bedroom home in a great location!!</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;"> Renovated 3 bedroom home with a 6m x 6m shed. This property represents great value. </p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Do yourself a favour and contact the Sales Rep Sharon Johnson on 0448 108 545.</p>  </div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin-top: 10px;"> Before you view any of our available rental properties or addresses are made available, you are required to complete a pre-application form and provide us with your identification verification details, rental reference details and employment details. To access a pre-application, please contact the office on 9574 2917 </p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">  <div style="float: right; font-size: x-small;"> Tony Maddox Real Estate Phone: 0427 949 331 info@asktonym.com.au 66 Barrack Street, Merredin </div> </div>

Have Your Say on Faulty Caravans

By Bouyden McKenzie, Senior Regional Officer, Consumer Protection

Caravan holidays are experiencing a resurgence in WA, as ongoing travel restrictions have convinced us to spend more time exploring our own backyard.

If you've recently purchased a new recreational vehicle, hopefully you were able to hit the open-road with minimal fuss.

But if not, you're being urged to provide feedback on possible consumer law issues in the industry. Consumer Protection has received at least 296 complaints about the purchase of new caravans and

camper trailers over the last five years, with most issues related to unsatisfactory products, defective goods and warranties.

National figures are significantly higher, with upwards of 1,300 complaints received by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) over the same period, with common complaints involving retailers selling new caravans that do not meet consumer guarantees, as well as faults leading to disputes between manufacturers and retailers about which party is responsible for the cost of repairs.

The ACCC is inviting consumers and industry members to participate

in a 15-minute survey about the issues they have had with their caravans and their experience in trying to get their concerns fixed.

The feedback will help inform the ACCC's future work, including possible enforcement action.

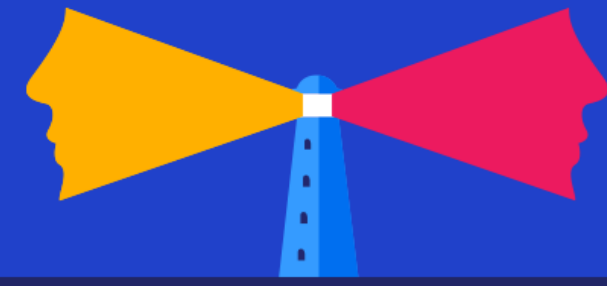
The purchaser survey focuses on the sales process and whether consumers had any subsequent faults with their caravans, and, if so, whether they were able to have these resolved under the manufacturer's warranty or the Australian Consumer Law (ACL) consumer guarantees.

The importance of customers receiving accurate information about their consumer rights was

highlighted in the Federal Court earlier this year, when caravan manufacturer Jayco was fined \$75,000 for misleading a customer about their entitlement to a remedy.


As a result of the ACCC-instigated proceedings, the court found a consumer had been misled when they were told they could only have their caravan repaired, when in fact they were entitled to a refund or replacement under the ACL.


The 15-minute purchaser and retailer surveys are available at the ACCC consultation hub at www.consultation.accc.gov.au and will remain open until 10 December 2021.





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 Jacqui Burton 0498 457 539
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 jacqui.burton@elders.com.au

PRICE: \$325,000,000
AGENT: Elders Real Estate Merredin
CONTACT: Will Morris 0448 415 537
Elders Property ID: 23300021

30 Mitchell Street, MERREDIN

30 Mitchell Street is a large character style family home centrally located to all of towns amenities. Full quarter acre (1012m2) title with two road frontages and passing rear lane-way. Loaded with character features the original 1930's home has been extended and renovated retaining its style. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, formal lounge, large galley style kitchen including original wood fired meters stove opening onto dining. Ducted evaporative A/C cooling and built in wood fire to lounge. Neat gardens and yards. Timber deck front ramp and veranda. French doors opening to full length paved rear gabled patio with ceiling fans. Single garage shed plus garden shed and chook run. Currently running as a successful B & B business (ABBY's) the property could be used as the same or just as a private residence.



Viewings by appointment only. All inquires to exclusive selling agents - Elders Real Estate phone local specialists Jacqui Burton 0498 457 539 or Will Morris 0448 415 537.



4 Beds 2 Bath 2 Parking



1 Morton Street, MERREDIN
\$280,000 - WEB ID 23300646

This is the perfect family home on a large corner block with a fenced back yard and access from two road frontages. The main bedroom has it's own ensuite and separate lounge room/parents retreat opening onto the large paved rear patio while all the other bedrooms are ample in size with built in robes. The main lounge room is huge with a built in wood fire and floor to ceiling windows. The kitchen overlooks the dining room separated by a breakfast bar and the dining room opens onto the rear entertaining area. School for the kids is a safe and simple walk across the road.



77 Whitfield Way, MERREDIN
\$600,000 - WEB ID 23307113

Situated on almost 3 acres in the prestigious semi rural Whitfield Way this family home has so much to offer. Built in 2009 with 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms plus a study or 5th bedroom and home theatre. The well appointed kitchen with 900mm cooker is enormous and overlooks the equally large lounge and dining rooms. Jarrah flooring to living areas, fully ducted reverse cycle refrigerated air conditioning and a 5.2KW twin inverter solar PV system to keep the bills down. Large 64m2 gable patio for outdoor entertaining and 6m x 9m colourbond shed. Well fenced boundary and back yard.



5 Kendall Street, MERREDIN
\$150,000 - WEB ID 23306595

Ideal buying for investors or first home buyers. Currently has long term tenant. Well located close to St Mary's Primary School. Solid home of fibro and zincalume being re-roofed in past years. Paved driveway to freestanding carport parking and side gates for rear yard access. 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, lounge, eat in kitchen, internal laundry and 2nd WC. Has wood fire, ducted evap A/C cooling plus two reverse cycle split systems. Well fenced yards and large 1012m2 quarter acre block. Rear enclosed patio area, two poly rainwater tanks.



30 Hart Street, MERREDIN
\$205,000 - WEB ID 18230249

****Price Reduced **** Located close to schools, with a park and town swimming pool close by. This character home is currently rented on 12 month term returning \$280 per week. Ideal for a savvy investor wanting a solid home with good return. Consisting of 3 bedrooms, nursery or study, eat in kitchen plus pantry, formal lounge, spacious laundry, separate WC and bathroom with shower over bath. Timber front verandas all round. Large paved back patio overlooking the rear yard. Modern workshop garage shed with roller door to back lane-way, concrete floor, power and lights.



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WA Country Health Service

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- Aboriginal Health Driver (two days a week).
- Aboriginal Health Worker (full time).
- Allied Health Assistant (full time).
- Clinical Midwife (four days a week).
- Child and Community Health Nurse (part time).
- Physiotherapist (full time).
- School Health Nurse (part time).
- Speech Pathologist (full time).
- Senior Speech Pathologist (two days a week).

For more information and how to apply call (08) 9081 3222 or pop into Merredin Health Service.

Get in touch

Eastern Wheatbelt Primary Health Service
WA Country Health Service – Wheatbelt
Phone: (08) 9081 3222
Kitchener Road Merredin WA 6415



Wheatbelt Aboriginal Health Service
WA Country Health Service Eastern Wheatbelt

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Horoscopes



ARIES 21 March—19 April

It is an intensely emotional time for you, but you can draw on your inner strength and intuition to get you through. It is also a time of restructuring which can come about if you broaden your horizons.



TAURUS 20 April—20 May

You are currently pondering your life. Upon reflection you may need to change or redefine your goals and possibly even drop something that is becoming too much for you to handle.



GEMINI 21 May—20 June

Travel and social interests are taking precedent in your life for a while. You are happy to move outside your comfort zone to try new things especially if it keeps a loved one interested.



CANCER 21 June—22 July

It is all about work and career for you right now. Cooperation with experienced colleagues, delegation, and managing from a structured overview rather than micromanaging will ensure success.



LEO 23 July—22 August

Life can become a social whirl. It is a great time to connect with friends, to enjoy some love and romance, and to start celebrating the Christmas season. It's party time, so enjoy the fun!



VIRGO 23 August—22 September

Now is a good time to focus on family and making plans with loved ones. Relationships are in a positive phase, including those at work where your zeal and creativity is appreciated.



LIBRA 23 September—22 October

Family responsibilities weigh heavily on you for the next month or two. There are some things you can't get out of but, there are others you could consider delegating to others to help lighten your load.



SCORPIO 23 October—21 November

Someone close to you may be going through a challenging time and will benefit from assistance that you can give them. It may be beneficial to pull back on your opinions as your intensity could put others off-side.



SAGITTARIUS 22 November—21 December

On the work front, managers and colleagues are genuinely interested in assisting you with projects. You have been working hard to create a network of like-minded people and your efforts are now coming to fruition.



CAPRICORN 22 December—19 January

Hidden issues will come to light, but it is important that you remember to appreciate others. There may be some changes at work, and you will be asked to help associates through the changes.



AQUARIUS 20 January—18 February

You are quite a sociable person, and coming into a time of interesting developments with friends or social groups. New ideas will be dreamed up, but it will be up to you to remain neutral in any decision making.



PISCES 19 February—20 March

It could be an intense time at work as others vie for positions of control or a change. Any developments will likely be favourable to you so it would be wise to stay out of any conflicts.

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Positions Vacant



Receival Point Operators Merredin

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We are an equal opportunity employer, committed to providing a safe and rewarding working environment for our people, with a strong culture of developing and enhancing our employees' capabilities. We invite you to become part of a dynamic, diverse organisation with a bright future.

The Role

We are seeking motivated and safety conscious individuals to come join our team as Receival Point Operators (RPO).

As an RPO, you will be responsible for:

- Safely receiving, storing and outloading grain;
- Sampling and assessing the grain;
- Identifying contaminated grain;
- Maintaining the condition of grain within the storage system through hygiene activities; and
- Operating and maintaining equipment in a safe and hygienic manner.

While the office is based in Merredin, the receival sites are in Warralakin, Nungarin, Hines Hill, Burracoppin, Carrabin, Bodallin, Moorine Rock, Southern Cross and Koonadgin and you may be required at any one of these sites.

The successful candidates will:

- Exhibit a strong dedication to working safely;
- Excel in a team orientated environment and communicate professionally;
- Be deemed physically fit in accordance with the CBH operational worker pre-employment medical;
- Be able to work at heights, in confined spaces and in areas with high grain dust concentrations;
- Possess basic computer skills; and
- Hold an unrestricted and valid driver's licence.

What we offer

CBH offers competitive remuneration and a range of benefits to encourage a healthy work life balance, including:

- Flexible rostering options to accommodate work life balance;
- Ongoing training and professional development to support your growth and help you achieve your goals;
- 13-weeks paid parental leave that can be taken in a flexible way to suit unique family needs;
- Employee assistance program;
- Corporate employee discounts including travel, health insurance funds and financial services; and
- Salary sacrifice scheme.

We'd love to hear from you

If this opportunity sounds exciting and you meet the requirements, we encourage you to submit your application.

To find out more about working with CBH visit <http://careers.cbh.com.au/> or our LinkedIn. Alternatively, to speak to a member of our People and Culture team, please contact us on (08) 9237 9600.



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| Store Persons | Mechanical Trade Assistants |

Local applications encouraged. Perth based candidates also welcomed (accommodation and meals provided).

If you have the right attitude and want to join a great team with great pay rates, please express your interest by sending your resume to Boris boris.b@brucerockengineering.com.au or 0499 229 754



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About us-

MDH Transport are a family owned and operated company, established over 10 years ago. We have a diverse fleet of Earthmoving and Transport Equipment, which services both the Mining and Agricultural industries in Western Australia. Our Business is expanding, and we are looking for motivated MC Truck Drivers to join our team.

The Role-

MDH Transport requires experienced and professional operators to join our team to cart bulk Stockfeed and grains.

Essential Criteria-

- Current MC License
- Minimum 2 years continuous experience of MC driving and End tipping with Grain
- Must be able to confidently reverse two trailers
- Road Train / Multi combination experience
- A positive and professional attitude
- Must have current online fatigue management certificate for drivers/be able to complete (TLIF2010 Apply Fatigue Management Strategies)
- Must have Commercial Driver's Medical or be able to complete
- Safe & Reliable Operator
- Must be able to work Monday - Friday with regular
- Weekend work available
- Be willing to complete regular drug and alcohol screening

If you have a HC/HR license for road ranger and would like to upskill training will be provided.

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Please email your resume through to Matt Henderson – matt@mdht.com.au



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- Good written and verbal communication
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- Willingness to adapt and learn
- Friendly and approachable

For further details please contact Brenda Goulter at Elders Real Estate on 9041 6508 or Brenda.goulter@elders.com.au

Public Notices

As of December 31st 2021 I will be closing my business, **ANDO's BP** (Anderson's Mechanical Repairs).

I would like to thank the many loyal customers who have supported my local business for the last 35 years, both the Mechanical Repairs and the Fuel Station.

Any outstanding vouchers must be used by December 31st 2021 please.

Rosalie Anderson



WTF 3rd —16th December 2021

Date/Planet	Sun ☉	Moon ☾	Mercury ☿	Venus ♀	Mars ♂	Jupiter ♃	Saturn ♄	Uranus ♅
Fri 3	04:54am-06:59pm	04:33am-05:52pm 1%	05:02am-07:11pm 99%	07:45am-10:00pm 26%	03:49am-05:29pm 99%	10:30am-11:47pm	09:11am-10:54pm	04:29pm-03:18am
Sat 4	04:54am-06:59pm	05:26am-07:06pm 0%	05:04am-07:15pm 99%	07:44am-09:57pm 25%	03:46am-05:28pm 98%	10:27am-11:43pm	09:07am-10:50pm	04:25pm-03:14am
Sun 5	04:54am-07:00pm	06:28am-08:19pm 2%	05:06am-07:18pm 99%	07:42am-09:55pm 24%	03:46am-05:28pm 98%	10:23am-11:40pm	09:04am-10:47pm	04:21pm-03:10am
Mon 6	04:54am-07:01pm	07:35am-09:26pm 7%	05:08am-07:22pm 99%	07:41am-09:52pm 24%	03:44am-05:27pm 98%	10:20am-11:36pm	09:00am-10:43pm	04:17pm-03:06am
Tue 7	04:54am-07:02pm	08:45am-10:23pm 15%	05:10am-07:25pm 99%	07:39am-09:50pm 23%	03:42am-05:27pm 98%	10:17am-11:33pm	08:57am-10:39pm	04:13pm-03:01am
Wed 8	04:54am-07:03pm	09:53am-11:11pm 24%	05:13am-07:29pm 98%	07:37am-09:47pm 22%	03:41am-05:26pm 98%	10:14am-11:29pm	08:53am-10:36pm	04:09pm-02:57am
Thu 9	04:54am-07:03pm	10:58am-11:51pm 35%	05:15am-07:32pm 98%	07:36am-09:44pm 21%	03:39am-05:26pm 98%	10:11am-11:26pm	08:50am-10:32pm	04:05pm-02:53am
Fri 10	04:54am-07:04pm	11:59am-12:25am 46%	05:18am-07:36pm 98%	07:34am-09:40pm 20%	03:38am-05:25pm 98%	10:07am-11:22pm	08:46am-10:28pm	04:01pm-02:49am
Sat 11	04:54am-07:05pm	12:57pm-12:55am 56%	05:20am-07:39pm 98%	07:31am-09:37pm 19%	03:36am-05:24pm 98%	10:04am-11:19pm	08:43am-10:25pm	03:57pm-02:45am
Sun 12	04:55am-07:05pm	12:57pm-01:23am 66%	05:23am-07:42pm 97%	07:29am-09:34pm 18%	03:35am-05:24pm 98%	10:01am-11:15pm	08:39am-10:21pm	03:52pm-02:41am
Mon 13	04:55am-07:06pm	01:53pm-01:51am 75%	05:26am-07:46pm 97%	07:27am-09:30pm 17%	03:33am-05:23pm 98%	09:58am-11:12pm	08:36am-10:18pm	03:48pm-02:37am
Tue 14	04:55am-07:07pm	02:48pm-02:19am 83%	05:29am-07:49pm 97%	07:24am-09:26pm 16%	03:32am-05:23pm 98%	09:55am-11:08pm	08:32am-10:14pm	03:44pm-02:33am
Wed 15	04:56am-07:07pm	03:44pm-02:49am 90%	05:32am-07:52pm 96%	07:21am-09:22pm 15%	03:30am-05:22pm 98%	09:52am-11:05pm	08:29am-10:10pm	03:40pm-02:29am
Thu 16	04:56am-07:08pm	04:39pm-03:21am 95%	05:35am-07:55pm 96%	07:18am-09:18pm 14%	03:29am-05:21pm 98%	09:48am-11:01pm	08:25am-10:07pm	03:36pm-02:25am

By PETER BARRETT

Skywatching this fortnight should be very pleasant indeed as the evenings become more conducive to outdoor activities.

For the more intrepid and for my fellow insomniacs I can report that a comet has been spotted heading our way and is expected to be visible just before dawn next Sunday the 12th almost due East. At magnitude +4 you should be able to make it out with the naked eye as a bit of fluff. Mars will be visible, rising nearby further around to the South close to the head of the Scorpion.

Comet Leonard was discovered by senior research specialist Greg Leonard back in January as part of his work on the Catalina Sky Survey, a project based in Tucson Arizona dedicated to tracking and cataloguing all the Near Earth Objects large enough to pose a potential impact threat. Greg quickly determined there is no risk of his eponymous comet colliding with Earth, coming no closer than 35 million kilometres.

It is particularly fast, as comets go, and is expected to race around the sun between the 13th and the 15th and become visible again very close

to Venus on the 17th, when the next edition of the Phoenix will be on sale. This is the day on which comet Leonard is expected to be at its very best. All indications are that Leonard will be still well placed for viewing on Christmas Day and into the new year as it moves obliquely upward towards Fomalhaut, although it will be moving away from us by then and beginning to fade.

I don't include Neptune and Pluto in my chart because they are extremely dim but I would like to mention that Pluto is currently in close alignment with Venus. You will need some formidable equipment indeed to discern it from the blinding glare of the third-brightest object in the sky but it's nice to know where it is sometimes.

The Geminids meteor shower is another feature of this fortnight's WTF, and is expected to peak Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th. This is typically a very spectacular show with over 130 meteors per hour on average. The meteors seem to shoot from the twins Castor and Pollux which are high in the Northern sky after midnight on those dates. Remember that after midnight is shooting star time.

Notice also that Mercury is once again making its way into the early evening sky. The three planets Venus, Saturn and Jupiter now lie almost perfectly on the ecliptic thus forming a dead straight line and you can follow this line toward the horizon to find Mercury.

So much to look up to this fortnight. Hopefully your banana lounge is now well established in your favorite viewing spot and the mosquito

repellent is close at hand. A strategically placed cache of refreshments and your trusty binoculars complete the scenario.

For added value have your mobile handy with a sky mapping app open such as Sky Safari, Nightshift or KStars, and a good satellite tracking app like ISS Detector.

I warn you: Getting this close to Heaven is highly addictive!

Don't forget to Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide!



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CLASS INSTRUCTOR SHAREE COOK

Primary Care—What is it? Where does it start?

By OWEN and The Team,
Regional Men's Health

Primary Care is about developing a culture of caring for each other. It's not about being an expert but being able to listen and express some empathy when someone is dealing with a difficult life issue. By de-medicalising the effect that "situational distress" can have on our mental health, it gives permission and empowers ordinary people to act and value the care they can give alongside specialised mental health services and support options.

Research shows that around 90% of suffering through traumatic experiences in our lives can be resolved by having a cuppa, a hug and a talk to a caring friend or other ordinary human being, who knows how to listen. It is worth remembering "a problem shared is a problem halved." Is this something all of us can do?

The rural climate always provides ongoing and varying challenges for farmers, agribusiness and agri-link industries, which in turn can create pressure in other areas of our personal, professional and community life.

We think the most effective care always starts from the "bottom up". Around regional WA there are numerous community champions from individuals to shires, CRCs and community groups that arrange breakfasts, sundowners and BBQ's that provide a "safe place" for people to meet, catch up and talk over life on the land.

There are many other grass-roots events that we attend which are a great basis for primary care. These gatherings can occur when people are at a crossroad in their life. People in the bush have always faced tough times, and now is no different.

The benefits of an event at the grass-roots level are many, some of which are:

- a sense of mateship and to remind you that you are not out there on your own;
- maintains important social contact to keep the body, mind and spirit in good health;
- it's blokes talking about bloke's stuff.

I would like to quote a snippet from

Albert Facey's book "A Fortunate Life"

"He wrote about his life as if it were a journey. Along his route, crossroads offered crucial choices - in some cases his survival was at stake - and the tracks he followed led to learning, pain and enrichment."

What a story, I thoroughly recommend it, it is a fantastic read for all.

The important message is this, start to talk about some of the pain in your life, don't suffer alone. Remember ...before it all gets too much... **Talk to a Mate!!** or Talk it Over 1300 789 978 Mensline Australia.

We always acknowledge the important role women play in Primary Care; they are often the conduit for men seeking help. But also remember to look after yourself first, as well as your family.

For more men's health and wellbeing information check out our website www.regionalmenshealth.com.au

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Warnings famous wildflowers could disappear from Wheatbelt verges from over clearing

ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt:
Chris Lewis

Wheatbelt shires risk losing wildflowers as their main tourist attraction if they keep clearing roadside vegetation, according to an organisation aimed at protecting Western Australia's unique flora.

Key points:

- Wildflower Society warns of loss of key tourist drawcard if clearing of wildflowers continues

- It said clearing poses a biodiversity risk as native vegetation declines

Wheatbelt Shire said it has strictly told contractors not to clear important flora during roadworks

Wildflower Society vice president Brett Loney said some shires have just three per cent of natural vegetation left because of what he called excess clearing and some of it is being done without permits.

He acknowledged some of the clearing did not require a permit.

"Roadsides are really the shop windows if you like to the native flora and fauna within our state," Mr

Loney said.

"Invariably once that vegetation is taken out you get an invasion of weeds and other plants, seeds that have blown off adjacent paddocks and they never recover."

"Where they may have an exemption (to clear) is where they are doing road maintenance."

Roadworks blamed

"It is not just road maintenance that is being done, it is road widening," Mr Loney said.

He said the society's conservation committee, which he chairs, was concerned about recent clearing of roadside vegetation in Dowerin, 150 kilometres north-east of Perth.

In a statement, a spokesperson for the Shire of Dowerin said storms and flooding in February last year had damaged 18 roads and these were now being repaired, but denied they were being widened at the same time.

"It is the understanding of the Shire of Dowerin that no clearing permits were required for this project," the statement read.

Among the instructions given to the contractors were that clearing could not be done "in mapped environmental sensitive areas or areas where threatened and priority flora is mapped, even if the vegetation encroaches on the road/drains," the spokesperson said.

Members of the Wildflower Society in WA say many Wheatbelt verges have been 'overcleared' of native vegetation impacting animals and threatening future wildflower seasons.

Biodiversity risk

"Road verges within the Shire of Dowerin which have previously been

cleared, usually contain a seed bank within the topsoil, and wildflowers and other understorey fully recovers within a five-to-10-year time frame," the statement continued.

They said community concerns had been raised with staff in Dowerin and the contractors told them "road repair activities had been contained within the maintenance corridor."

Mr Loney said the problem is not with one shire and the society was also concerned about clearing on farmland because of the impact on biodiversity.



Keep Your Kids Safe—New Button Battery Standards

By CONSUMER PROTECTION,
Western Australia

Button batteries are a hidden hazard in homes, powering many everyday household items such as noise-making or light up toys. Worryingly, every week in Australia 20 children are taken to hospital after swallowing or inserting button batteries.

The Australian Government has introduced four new mandatory standards for button batteries and products containing button batteries. The reason for the new standards is to reduce the risk of death and injury associated with button batteries.

What do the new standards mean?

- Secure battery compartments on products that contain button batteries.
- Compliance testing to demonstrate the batteries are secure.
- Child-resistant packaging.
- Warnings and information on packaging.

All businesses that supply button batteries or products containing button batteries in Australia must comply with the new standards by 22 June 2022. Button batteries can be found in a broad range of household products. Examples include novelty toys, remote controls, remote control car keys, digital kitchen and bathroom scales, watches, cameras,

calculators, torches, fitness devices and musical greeting cards.

We encourage all parents and caregivers to become familiar with the new standard. This includes grandparents, babysitters and daycare providers. Visit the Product Safety Australia website for more information about button batteries, risks and tips for safe use.

Check all battery operated items

Check all button battery powered items supplied to or used by children. Ensure battery compartments are secured and that batteries cannot be easily dislodged, for example the battery compartment becomes unsecured after the item is

dropped.

Risks and injuries

Button batteries pose a severe injury risk, particularly in children aged 0–5 years. Young children are at the greatest risk due to their narrower oesophagus, as well as the tendency to place small objects into their mouths, ears and noses.

What to do in an emergency

If you suspect your child has swallowed or inserted a button battery, call the Poisons Information Centre immediately on 13 11 26 for 24/7 fast, expert advice. If your child is having any difficulty breathing, contact 000.

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- Muscle Strength
- Wellbeing
Tailored exercise plans will help manage chronic conditions.
Classes are on twice a week.
Tuesday - 11 am & Friday - 11 am
Contact us for more information about the program.



Basketball

18th November 2021

Under 12 Girls

Red (34) d. White (6)

Gold (26) d. Grey (8)

Under 12 Boys

Black (16) d. Blue/Gold (14)

White (22) d. Gold (13)

Blue (22) d. Maroon (12)

Under 16 Girls

Yellow (51) d. Green (24)

White (46) d. Red (22)

Under 16 Boys

Blue (29) d. Blue/Gold (28)

Green (22) d. Black (16)

Navy (31) d. Purple (16)

Yellow (59) d. Maroon (35)

Mens

Burracoppin Ballers (36) d. Topline

Wogs (15)

Merredin Magic (38) d. Bulls (35)

Thunder ** Forfeited to Warriors

** Thunder have now withdrawn from the competition

Womens

Mystics (25) d. Fury (21)

Sonics (13) d. Sharks (9)

Black Pearls (32) d. Opals (21)

25th November 2021

Mens

Lakers (35) d. Bulls (30)

Warriors (56) d. Topline Wogs (39)

Burracoppin Ballers forfeited to Merredin Magic

Womens

Black Pearls (26) d. Sharks (23)

Mystics (30) d. Sonics (17)

Fury (18) d. Opals (17)

Bowls

Civic Bowling Club

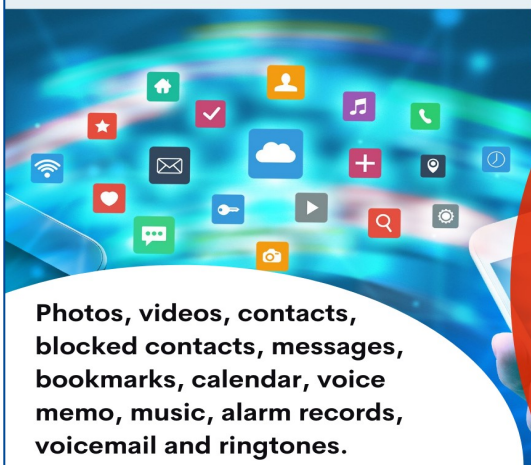
By DEBBIE HEINRICH

The Merredin Civic Bowling Club held their Ladies Merredin Civic Pairs Championships on Wednesday 24th November for the 2021/2022 Season.

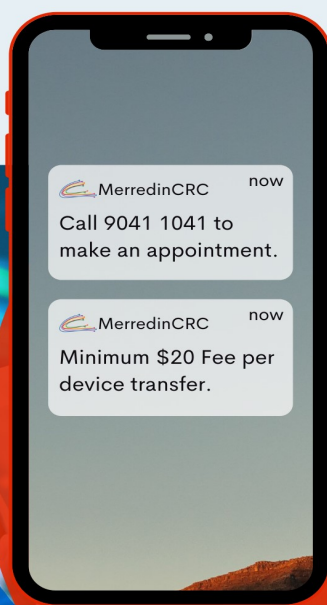
Winners were Anna Wallace and Norma Henderson and runners-up were Debbie Heinrich and Kay Bush.



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110 Barrack Street,
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Juniors Tennis Tournament

By MEG GETHIN

Out of the box November heat caused a headache for organisers of the annual Merredin Districts Lawn Tennis Club Two Dogs Junior Tennis Tournament on Sunday 28th November.

The tournament has been going continuously since 1968 and traditionally consists of singles matches in the morning followed by doubles in the afternoon. This year with the extreme heat, organisers had to scramble to create a draw that condensed all the matches into just half the time.

With 34 entrants from local clubs and the wider zone (Northam, Meckering, York, Kondinin and Toodyay), 60 individual matches of tennis were completed by midday.

The MDLTC wishes to thank all the players and parents who travelled and made the day a great success as well as all the club members who helped with set up, lunches and most importantly umpiring. For some children, it was their first proper tennis tournament.

A massive thanks also goes to Mark & Chesney Maloney at Two Dogs

Merredin for once again being the generous trophy sponsors.

Results:

Yr 3 & Under boys singles: Patrick O'Neill (winner), Zac Crees (r/up)

Yr 5 & Under boys BLUE singles: Matthew Ashworth (winner), Charlie Growden (r/up)

Yr 5 & Under GREEN singles: Liam Leeson (winner), Joseph Leeson (r/up)

Yr 5 & Under RED singles: Charlie Kudas (winner), Joshua S (r/up)

Yr 5 & Under girls singles: Ellie

Atkinson (winner), Sadie Draper (r/up)

Yr 8 & Under boys singles: Jayden Oliver (winner), Archie Gethin (r/up)

Yr 3 & Under girls doubles: Greta Gethin & Ruby Smith (winners), Kate Growden and Milla Dolton (r/up)

Yr 3 & Under boys doubles: Patrick O'Neill & Zac Crees (winners), Thomas Billing & Andrew Wilson (r/up)

Yr 5 & Under boys doubles: Matthew Ashworth & Zac Draper (winners), Charlie Growden & Charlie Kudas (r/up)

Yr 5 & Under girls doubles: Sadie Draper & Amelia Penny (winners), Ellie Atkinson & Skye Wilson (r/up)

Yr 8 & Under boys doubles: Jayden Oliver & Connor Oliver (winners), Jacob Billing & Jim Lee (r/up)

There is one more junior tennis tournament in the zone for 2021 (Cunderdin) but plenty more to come in the second half of the season starting in February.

For all things tennis, check out the Merredin Districts Lawn Tennis Club and Central Districts Tennis Association Facebook pages.



Festive Operating Hours

THURSDAY DEC 23	12.00PM TO 5.00PM
FRIDAY DEC 24	CLOSED
SATURDAY DEC 25	CLOSED
SUNDAY DEC 26	CLOSED
MONDAY DEC 27	CLOSED
TUESDAY DEC 28	CLOSED
WEDNESDAY DEC 29	12.00PM TO 5.00PM
THURSDAY DEC 30	12.00PM TO 5.00PM
FRIDAY DEC 31	12.00PM TO 5.00PM
SATURDAY JAN 1	CLOSED

The team at Wheatbelt Cash for Containers wishes you a safe and happy festive season!

Thank you for your participation during 2021. Together we're making a real difference in our environment and community.

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