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Merbein Centenary Parade

Floating Streets Ahead

Merbein Centenary Committee is gearing up for a street parade as a part of their centenary celebrations.

In August the streets of Merbein will again be filled with colour and excitement as floats, bands, animals and school children participate in the Fishers Supermarkets Merbein Centenary Street Parade. In 1959 Merbein had a street parade to celebrate its fiftieth birthday. Community groups banded together and put in such entries as the Old Woman in the Shoe float, Marching Girls, children riding decorated bikes and brass bands. The 2009 parade will feature stilt walkers, as did the 1959 parade

Richard Wells, parade coordinator says "We've had some fantastic interest from all sectors of the community. For example some people who were children in 1959 participated in the parade on a horse. They're keen to come back and be in the parade again. We're also expecting five hundred school children from the local schools to take part."

All locals are encouraged to enter the parade. Expressions of interest can be registered through submission of a form. Forms can be picked up at the Merbein Information Office or downloaded from the web at www.merbeincentenary.com.au Mr Wells says "It's important to get the expressions of interest that we can make sure that everyone's noted in the parade program."

Entrants are encouraged to base their entries on the following themes of Townships and Traders, Irrigation and Crop Production, Cultural Diversity, Schools, Sport and Recreation, Salt Bush Country and Merbein today.

Mr Wells says that "We'll also have some great examples of manual equipment used in the area. This will be followed by mechanical equipment, which will lead through examples of modern day sustainable and environmentally efficient equipment."

The parade will start at Kenny Park Merbein and will end at Chaffey Park, where prizes will be given for parade entries. This will be followed by a night full of fun and families will be able to feast on BBQ food. The parade will climax with the Merbein Sawmill Centenary Fireworks. Other activities during the evening will include face painting, balloons and performances of bands.

The parade will be on the afternoon of Friday August 21. For any further enquiries regarding the parade please contact parade coordinator, Richard Wells on 0429 437 726.

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