

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES SUNDOWNER - NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

On Friday, 23 May 2025, the Merredin Community Resource Centre proudly hosted a heartwarming evening to celebrate National Volunteer Week, under the theme "Connecting Communities". Despite the cold and chilly weather, the community spirit was burning bright at the event, bringing people together to recognise the invaluable contribution volunteers make to the region.

Held in the heart of Merredin, the event was buzzing with energy as locals gathered to show appreciation for the many volunteers who generously give their time to support others. A special guest stole the show – St John Ambulance's mascot bear, who danced the night away, delighting children and adults alike. The lively tunes of *Brother and I* set the perfect atmosphere for the bundled-up crowd.

A warm sausage sizzle, expertly cooked by Corinne and Leanne, was a welcome treat on the brisk evening. The smell of sizzling sausages and the sound of laughter filled the air as families and friends enjoyed a night of fun and connection.

A special congratulations is needed for the Merredin Men's Shed, who were awarded \$500 from the Merredin Community Resource Centre in recognition of their generous support and ongoing contributions to the centre and the wider community. Their dedication and effort embody the spirit of community service.

The event was generously sponsored by the Merredin Community Resource Centre, Merredin Energy, and the Shire of Merredin, with Community Development Officer Rebekah attending to celebrate and personally thank the incredible volunteers who are the heartbeat of the community. From local clubs and emergency services to care groups and event helpers, volunteers play a crucial role in making Merredin a welcoming and vibrant place to live.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who made the event possible and to every volunteer who dedicates their time and energy to bettering the community. Your work does not go unnoticed, and National Volunteer Week is just one way we can all come together to say: thank you.

Together, we truly are connecting communities.



JUNE COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 24 June 2025 at 4:00pm. This meeting will be held at the Shire Admin Building on the Cnr of King and Barrack Streets in the Council Chambers. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The Agenda will be available to view on the Shire of Merredin's website prior to the meeting. Public questions can be submitted by 2:00pm on the day of the council meeting by completing the form on the Shire website.

Visit bit.ly/merredinmeetings for more information.

FAREWELL, ANKE!

After a wonderful tenure at the Shire of Merredin, Governance & HR Officer Anke will be off on a new adventure.

Anke brought a unique sense of humour to the office and a willingness to help anyone and everyone. She also shared a smattering of South African sayings to keep us on our toes.

On behalf of everyone at the Shire, we thank Anke for being part of the team and wish her all the best in her next chapter.

PUBLIC NOTICE: DIFFERENTIAL RATING OBJECTS & REASONS 2025/26

**In accordance with Local Government Act 1995,
Financial Management Part 6, Rates and Service
Charges Division**

The Shire is seeking feedback on the proposed differential rates objects and reasons 2025/26. In arriving at the proposed rates in the dollar the Council has attempted to balance the need for revenue to fund essential services, facilities and infrastructure to the entire community with the lowest impact on ratepayers.

The following are the proposed Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for the Shire for the 2025/26 financial year, to be effective from 1 July 2025.

Unimproved Value	Minimum Rate	Rate in \$
GRV	\$960.00	0.117150
UV1 – Rural	\$1,190.00	0.011940
UV2 – Urban Rural	\$1,190.00	0.023880
UV3 – Mining	\$200.00	0.023870
UV4 – Special Use Power Generation	\$1,190.00	0.023150
UV5 – Special Use Airstrip	\$1,190.00	0.021315

For more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/3FwxbsK>.

Any submissions by electors or ratepayers in respect of the proposed Differential Rates and Minimum Payments can be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Merredin, PO Box 42, Merredin WA 6415, or by email admin@merredin.wa.gov.au prior to 12:00pm on Friday, 20 June 2024.

Ratepayers are welcome to contact the Shire Administration Department regarding the differential rating categories on (08) 9041 1611 or email admin@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Craig Watts, Chief Executive Officer - 29 May 2025

MEN'S SHED CROP LEASE AWARDED

The Shire is thrilled to announce the Merredin Men's Shed has been awarded another 5 years of crop lease. The renewed lease recognises the value this initiative brings to the members of the Men's Shed and the broader community.

Not only does this bolster funding for the Men's Shed, allowing more opportunities for development and minimising their reliance on Council funding, it's also a promotion of health and wellbeing.

This is a unique celebration of our primary industry and farmers' ongoing place within the community. We are so pleased to find the Wheatbelt spirit is thriving, even in retirement, and can't wait to see what the next 5 years will bring.

WATER TOWER UPDATE



During a recent visit up the Water Tower, the timber work for the roof was in the final stages of completion, and the contractors were finalising the top bracing works.

The access framework has also now been installed within the water tank. The roof sheeting was postponed due to wet weather, with the intention to be commenced this week.

After the roof is completed, the bottom bracing works will begin as a reinforcement of the tower. This includes the installation of rods to link the bottom and top bracing to ensure the longevity of these restoration works.

NEW STAFF PROFILE



Meet Brian!

We're excited to welcome Brian to the Shire of Merredin. With over 35 years of experience in local government in regional and metropolitan areas throughout WA and the NT, he now brings his expertise to the role of Executive Manager Infrastructure Services (previously, Engineering Services).

A Message From Brian

"After my most recent contract concluded, I was eager to return to Local Government. I'm particularly passionate about supporting local businesses and the broader community to help deliver effective and sustainable outcomes for the region. While I'm not a Merredin local, I'm no stranger to rural life. I grew up on farms in both York and Toodyay and have always felt a connection to country living. Merredin's strong sense of community and excellent facilities made the town an appealing place to live and work. I enjoy water skiing and have a 16-year-old daughter still at home who keeps me young. I also have 10 wonderful grandchildren."

Mary Street Footpath

The Shire is proud to share that the Mary Street footpath works have now been completed. These improvements have significantly enhanced the safety and appearance of this thoroughfare. Come take a stroll down Mary Street to see for yourself!



NEW ROLE



Re-introducing Lawrie!

Lawrie was our Acting Executive Manager Engineering Services for over 5 months. He is excited to now take up the role as our Works and Services Manager.

A Message From Lawrie

"After taking tenure in my new role, I am looking forward to developing both programs and people, to bring proactive results. I have served the Merredin community over the last 3 and a half years, as both a Finance Officer and Asset Management Officer. I am extremely keen to continue to serve as the Works and Services Manager for the Shire."

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

Grading and Curve Profiling on Merredin-Narembeen Rd

The Shire of Merredin has undertaken grading and curve profiling of the shoulders and drainage channels along Merredin-Narembeen Road.

These upgrades form part of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network project and are due for completion at the end of the month (subject to weather).

This upgrade enhances road safety and contributes to the long-term resilience of local infrastructure.



PUBLIC NOTICES

LEASE OF 108-110 BARRACK ST, MERREDIN TO THE MERREDIN COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE INC

The Shire of Merredin is intending to enter into a lease arrangement for the property located at 108- 110 Barrack Street, Merredin comprising the Old Council Chambers Building and Women's Rest Centre with the Merredin Community Resource Centre Inc for the purpose of providing support services to the Merredin community, as per the provisions of Section 3.58 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Disposal of the property will be via a lease arrangement with the Community Resource Centre for a period of two (2) years, with three (3) further terms of one (1) year by agreement. Proposed rent for the Old Council Chambers Building is \$1155 (plus GST) and for the Women's Rest Centre \$550 (plus GST).

Submission relating to this disposal via a lease will close at 4pm on Friday, 20 June 2025 and are to be submitted in writing addressed to the Chief Executive Officer. They can be posted to PO Box 42, Merredin WA 6415, emailed to tenders@merredin.wa.gov.au or hand delivered to the Shire Administration, Cnr King & Barrack Streets, Merredin during business hours.

Submissions received will be presented to Council's June 2025 meeting for consideration. Canvassing of Councillors or staff will disqualify.

Craig Watts Chief Executive Officer - 28 May 2025

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY OFFER NO: D03-2025

The Shire of Merredin invites offers for disposal of the following property:
Lot 217 (19) Carrington Way, Merredin, WA, 6415, Deposit Plan 63739, Certificate of Title Volume 2718, Folio 432.

Further information is available by contacting Leah Boehme, Executive Manager Corporate Services on (08) 9041 1611 or emcs@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Offers are to be marked "Private and Confidential – Disposal of property D03-2025," addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, and will be received up to 4:00pm WST on Wednesday, 18 June 2025.

Offers are to be submitted via email to admin@merredin.wa.gov.au (preferred), posted to PO Box 42, Merredin, WA, 6415, or hand delivered to the Shire Administration Office, corner of King and Barrack Streets, Merredin, WA, 6415, during ordinary business hours. Late offers will not be accepted.

Craig Watts, Chief Executive Officer - 29 May 2025

DOGS AMENDMENT LOCAL LAW 2025

Pursuant to Section 3.12(6)(a)(b)(c) of the Local Government Act 1995, notice is hereby given that the Shire of Merredin has adopted the Shire of Merredin Dogs Amendment Local Law 2025.

Purpose of the Dogs Amendment Local Law 2025:

To amend the Shire of Merredin Dogs Local Law 2002 to reflect current provisions contained in the Dog Act 1976 and its associated regulations regarding the designation of areas where dogs are prohibited from being, and areas where dogs may be exercised off lead.

Effect of the Dogs Amendment Local Law 2025:

The designation of areas where dogs are prohibited from being, and areas where dogs may be exercised off lead, are removed from the local law.

The Shire of Merredin Dogs Amendment Local Law 2025 comes into effect on Saturday, 31 May 2025. The Shire of Merredin Dogs Amendment Local Law 2025 is published on the Shire of Merredin website at www.merredin.wa.gov.au and copies of the Shire of Merredin Dogs Amendment Local Law 2025 may be inspected or obtained at the Shire of Merredin administration building, corner of King & Barrack Streets, Merredin WA 6415, during normal business hours. For further information, please contact Peter Zenni on (08) 9041 1611 or emds@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Craig Watts, Chief Executive Officer - 23 May 2025

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Development Services Officer

Commencing: Immediately

Position Status: Full Time

(Part Time considered for the right applicant)

*Salary: \$64,311 - \$65,199 per annum**

**pro rata for part time*

An exciting opportunity has emerged at the Shire of Merredin for a Development Services Officer to join our team. This role will sit within the Infrastructure Services Directorate and will support the Executive Manager Infrastructure Services to achieve strategic outcomes relative to the department.

The Development Services Officer will be responsible for providing support, primarily in relation to planning and building submissions, and be a key point of contact for the community, developers, builders and other stakeholders.

This position will provide initial advice and receipt of development applications and building permits, including demolition permits, and be the main point of contact with Town Planning Contractors and Building Surveyors engaged to process these applications.

This position offers excellent benefits for an enthusiastic and driven individual who in return will be offered:

- A fantastic work life balance
- A small, personable team environment
- Training and development opportunities
- Access to additional superannuation through the Shire's co-contribution program
- Salary sacrifice options
- A great employee Health and Wellbeing Program including flu shots, skin cancer screens and an Employee Assistance Program.

The ideal candidate will have great verbal and written communication skills, well-developed problem-solving skills, and excellent time management. They will also have a sound knowledge of Workplace Health and Safety and Risk Management in this field. This position would also suit applicants who are currently unqualified but looking to progress a career or qualification in this area.

Applications are to include a CV and covering letter (max 2 pages) addressing the selection criteria and indicating your ability to meet the role requirements. A position description, which includes the selection criteria, can be obtained on the Shire's website or requested via email: careers@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Applications are to be received by no later than **4.00pm, Thursday 12 June 2025**. Applications are to be marked "Private and Confidential" and emailed to careers@merredin.wa.gov.au or sent via post to PO Box 42, Merredin WA 6415.

If you are interested in the role and would like more information, please contact Craig Watts, Chief Executive Officer on (08) 9041 1611.

Craig Watts
Chief Executive Officer

The Shire of Merredin is an equal opportunity employer. We promote the principles of merit and fairness in our employment practices and select the best person for the job.

CORELLA MANAGEMENT

Please be aware there is an air cannon in use at the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre to aid the management of the corella flock. This method of moving the corellas must unfortunately occur at random intervals, so the cannon will fire periodically on weekdays between 7am and midday.

Due to significant ongoing damage caused by the birds, this is an issue with no easy solution. The recent firearms regulations have also made it harder to engage the culling service employed back in January. We have spoken with WA Police Firearms who have provided some alternatives for the Shire to explore.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we endeavour to protect our community's infrastructure.



Government of Western Australia
North Metropolitan Health Service



Have a **FREE** screening mammogram every two years. **Once is not enough.**



Women 40 years and over with no symptoms are eligible for a **FREE** screening mammogram.
BreastScreen WA's mobile will be at:

Merredin

Merredin Town Centre , Barrack Street
18/06/2025 - 10/07/2025

Dates may be subject to change. If visit dates are not suitable, participants are welcome to book at the clinic in a different town or at any of our **permanent clinics**.

Book online

www.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au
or call 13 20 50

NEW PRODUCTS AT THE VISITOR CENTRE

The Visitor Centre has received some lovely tile products by Christy Brennan. The perfect gift for a loved one or your own home.

The range includes:

- Assorted picture tiles
- Wood tile key hangers
- Tin mugs
- Wooden bookmarks.

The collection has an Australian rural flair, with prices ranging from \$10 to \$39. Pop into the Visitor Centre to browse these wonderful new pieces. Opening hours are Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm.





WINTER HOME FIRE SAFETY - PART ONE

As the weather continues to cool down and we start looking for more ways to warm up, we enter the higher risk time of year for fires in the home. A small fire can engulf a room in a couple of minutes, and your house can be beyond saving before the fire brigade can even get there. Most home fires are preventable though, and here are some of our best tips for doing so.

Install and maintain smoke alarms

In April, we talked about smoke alarms, and how to test and maintain them. A working smoke alarm will alert you if a fire starts in your home, giving you time to escape. It's important to check your alarms, even in winter.

Home fire escape plan

A home fire escape plan is vital for everyone in your home, but is especially important if you have children. It's really simple to make a home fire safety plan, and practising it with your kids will make sure everyone knows what to do instinctively – most of us don't think well in a crisis!

The DFES website has more information on developing a home fire escape plan, but the key steps to keep in mind are:

- 🔥 Identifying all the exits in your home, and more than one way out of each room (including windows).
- 🔥 Ensuring all windows and doors can be easily opened from the inside. If they're locked with keys, make sure your keys are kept close by.
- 🔥 Identifying a meeting place outside the house (like a letterbox, a big tree, etc.), and making sure everyone in the house knows to go there if they need to evacuate.

Make sure everyone knows what to do in the event of a fire:

- Evacuate via the nearest exit
- Crawl low under smoke
- Go to your safe meeting place
- **Call 000** and wait for the fire brigade to arrive (they will want information from you to help them, including how and where the fire started, whether all members of the household are accounted for, and the layout of your house – so make sure they can find you easily when they arrive)
- Do not re-enter a burning house for any reason.

Practise this with everyone in your household (especially your kids) to make sure everyone knows what to do in the event of fire.

Lithium-ion batteries

Lithium-ion batteries are a major cause of house fires in WA. We talked about this in more detail last month, but the main things to remember are that it's important to never overcharge your rechargeable devices; never charge your devices on a soft or flammable surface; only use the correct charger for the device you're charging; and never use damaged chargers, batteries or devices.

For more information on anything contained in this article, please visit <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/fire-in-the-home/preventing>



Impact Café: From Issue to Impact

Join Lotterywest for a hands-on, community workshop series where you'll grab a cuppa and learn to turn ideas into real-world change. We'll work through defining outcomes, designing strong initiatives, and using simple measurement tools so you can tell your impact story with confidence.

Supported by the Shire of Merredin (refreshments provided)

Date: Thursday 19 June

Time: 1-4pm

Location: Shire Administration Building, King Street, Merredin

You'll walk away with:

- A clear project purpose and community need
- A simple logic model or theory of change
- Practical measurement tools for grants and reporting

Scan to register your free ticket or visit the Community Impact Hub here:
<https://communityimpacthub.wa.gov.au/learn-from-others/learning-opportunities>



MRCLC MINI MOVERS PROGRAM

0-5 YEARS

Designed to offer a variety of soft play setup, encouraging children to climb, crawl, roll and explore in a safe and stimulating environment. Also creates a great atmosphere for both children & parents to socialise and interact.

TUESDAYS
10AM - 12PM

\$7.60 per session, per child

No registration needed

Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre - Indoor Courts

Parental supervision required at all times



For more information please contact Nicola Beck on 9041 3033



CUMMINS THEATRE
WEDNESDAY 23 JULY
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