

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

SHIRE OF MERREDIN RECEIVES STATEWIDE RECOGNITION FROM DFES

The Shire of Merredin is one of 3 local governments that were honoured at the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) 2025 Volunteer Employer Recognition Awards (VERA) held on Friday 7 November 2025. DFES presents the VERA annually to acknowledge the employers and self-employed volunteers who provide vital support to emergency service groups across Western Australia.

Chief Executive Officer Craig Watts attended the ceremony at Perth's ANZAC Club on behalf of the Shire to accept the award. "We're proud to offer the support and flexibility needed for our first-responder staff to attend local emergencies and keep our community safe," Mr Watts said.

In recent years, the Shire has implemented a model to streamline the delivery of critical emergency services and introduced policies to formalise our commitment to providing machinery and support for first responders, including paid leave and honorarium arrangements. This assistance also extends to committee meetings and leadership training to further strengthen our emergency response capabilities.

Shire President Donna Crook said Council believes it's important to support Shire employees who are first responders, as well as the colleagues and family members who shoulder their other capacities during incidents, such as helping with childcare or work responsibilities. "We're honoured to accept this award alongside the other recipients across the State and would like to extend our congratulations to RSM Australia, Merredin who were also recognised with this award," she said.

Shire of Merredin employees make up 2.3% of the Merredin population but currently account for more than one third of the 17 active members in the Merredin Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS). As well as this, of the 50 incidents during the 2024/25 period, 17 occurred during normal working hours. Without Shire staff, Merredin VFRS would have only been able to attend 2 of those incidents with a full crew.

VFRS Lieutenant Sheree Lowe, who is also the Shire's Emergency Services Officer, said Merredin as a regional community relies on the tireless efforts and sacrifices of local volunteers and their families. "The Shire's support makes a difference to the Merredin VFRS's ability to service the community during working hours," she said.

The full list of the 2025 recipients, as well as the photo gallery from the awards ceremony, can be viewed on the DFES website.



DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 16 December 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.

SHIRE PRESIDENT CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As the festive season approaches, I would like to reflect on yet another incredible year for our Shire. 2025 has seen many of our long-term plans come to fruition, and I am incredibly proud of the achievements we've made as a team.

From the Grand Opening of our completed CBD Redevelopment Project, to Merredin's finalist placement in the Top Tourism Town Awards, to our National Volunteer Week community sausage sizzle, we've had many reasons to celebrate throughout 2025. We were treated to big-name performers such as Pete Murray and Diesel, and we hosted the Wheatbelt Trails Forum to celebrate our natural wonders and the newly established Merredin Peak parkrun.

We were proud to welcome His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, and his wife, Mrs Darrilyn Dawson, with a tour of Merredin and an afternoon tea with local emergency service representatives. Our Shire earned acknowledgement in the DFES 2025 Volunteer Employer Recognition Awards and 4 stars in the Wildflower Excellence Rating Scheme with the Western Australian Wildflower Society. This award included 200 native plants which were used to establish a Native Garden at Roy Little Park through a community planting day.

This year saw the restoration of the Merredin Water Tower, an iconic piece of history now saved for generations to come, and the successful resurfacing of the bowling green at the MRCLC. We continued to provide our Business Sundowners, including an evening tailored to local community groups and associations, and supported local events.

After extensive consultation between the community, Shire Administration and Council, we developed and adopted our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and our Council Plan 2025–2035. These documents reflect a shared vision and will shape the future of our community by guiding the decision-making processes of the Shire and Council.

We now turn our focus to 2026, with the goal of building upon the successes of 2025 to continue delivering outstanding outcomes for our Shire. Projects include the completion of the Crooks Road safety upgrades, the indoor court resurfacing at the MRCLC, and our conversion to a new Enterprise Resource Planning system.

I would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the Shire of Merredin staff who have been integral to the progress we've made this year. Whether behind the scenes or out in challenging weather conditions, every team member has played a vital role in the maintenance of our infrastructure and public facilities. Their unwavering efforts and dedication do not go unnoticed.

I would also like to thank our community for your continued support in driving our important projects forward. As your Shire President, I deeply appreciate your commitment to making our Shire a wonderful place to live, work, and visit.

This festive season is a time to relax, recharge, and spend quality time with loved ones. On behalf of the Shire of Merredin Council, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**May the New Year bring you
joy, health, and success.**

Donna Crook
Shire President





Festive Night Out

THURSDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2025



4:00PM - 8:00PM



MERREDIN TOWN CENTRE

WHAT'S ON

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT | BUCKING BULL | SANTA
SPLASH ZONE | FOAM PIT | TASTY FOOD | CRAFT ACTIVITIES
BUBBLE FUN | TRAIN RIDES | MINI GOLF | DODGEBALL
FACE PAINTING | INFLATABLE TUG OF WAR | BASKETBALL
BALLOON TWISTER | WATER SLIDE | INFLATABLES



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT



MERREDIN LEGAL
Serving Rural Communities

me merredin
energy



COLLGAR
RENEWABLES



Nutrien
Ag Solutions™



Atmos
RENEWABLES





STALL HOLDER CALL OUT

Stall holders needed for 2025 Festive Night Out.
If you are interested in having a stall at this year's Festive
Night Out event, please contact Jan via email at
coordinator@merredincrc.com
Booking forms can also be collected from the Merredin
CRC @ 110 Barrack Street, Merredin.

VOLUNTEER CALL OUT

Set up and pack down event volunteers are needed for
2025 Festive Night Out at the following times:
8:00am - 4:00pm
8:00pm - 10:00pm

If you are available to assist during any of the times
above, please contact Rebekah via email at
cdo@meredin.wa.gov.au.

FESTIVE NIGHT OUT SURVEY

SCAN
ME! >>>



SHIRE CHRISTMAS UPDATES

The Shire would like the community to be aware of several important notices relevant to the upcoming holiday season.

Prohibited Burning

Until 17 February 2026, the Shire of Merredin is in the Prohibited Burning period, which means all burning is not allowed, including garden refuse. Notices of a Total Fire Ban, which includes the use of barbeques and certain equipment, will be provided as required. We would like to remind residents that clean uncontaminated green waste can be disposed of at the Shire's landfill for free. Contaminated green waste can be disposed of with a tip pass visit or applicable fee.

Harvest, Vehicle/Machinery Movement, and Hot Works Bans

Across Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day there will be a Harvest and Vehicle/Machinery Movement Ban (including a Hot Works Ban) in place to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires on these days. Notices of additional bans will be provided as required. You can sign up to receive SMS notifications of Bans via the Shire website.

Reduced Services

Shire facilities will have reduced services across the Christmas and New Year period. Further information on the opening hours of each facility are provided on the next page. In an emergency, please call 000.












Rubbish Collection

Avon Waste has advised that the regular rubbish collection service due on Christmas Day, Thursday 25 December, will be moved to Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24 December. For any questions, please contact the Avon Waste office on (08) 9641 1318.

Please see the next page (page 6) for the opening hours of Shire facilities across the festive season. We thank the community for your understanding during these closures.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS AT THE VISITOR CENTRE

At the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre, we have a great range of locally crafted products and produce, the ideal gift for that someone special.

-  Honey by the Cheesemans
-  Jams and preserves by Devon Delights
-  Soaps, diffusers, candles, and earrings by Sheree Lowe
-  Hanging tile and key holder tiles by Christy Brennan
-  Pottery by Barbara Greaves
-  Cards, artwork, and copper wall Scenes by Jessie Spring
-  Wooden pens by Ian Stubbs
-  Assorted jewellery by Vanessa Australia, Pamela Jays, and Joe Goedart
-  Woven baskets by Glenda Blyth
-  Wooden products by Ken & Anita Metcalf
-  2026 Calendars
-  Assorted local history books



Pop in to browse our range and find the perfect gift for a loved one, friend, or colleague before these stunning local items fly off the shelves.

Start your Christmas holidays with us! The CWVC is open Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm.



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

Shire Facility Christmas Hours 2025

Christmas Office Hours	Administration	Visitors Centre	Cummins Theatre (Closed 17 Dec to 12 Jan)	Library	Swimming Pool	Landfill Site	Merredin Rec Centre
Monday 22 Dec	8.30am - 4.30pm	8.30am - 4.30pm	CLOSED	10.00am - 5.00pm	6.00am - 7.30am 2.00pm - 7.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm	8.30am - 4.30pm
Tuesday 23 Dec	8.30am - 4.30pm	8.30am - 4.30pm	CLOSED	10.00am - 5.00pm	12.00pm - 7.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm	8.30am - 4.30pm
Wednesday 24 Dec	8.30am - 12.00pm	8.30am - 12.00pm	CLOSED	10.00am - 12.00pm	CLOSED	7.30am - 12.00pm	8.30am - 12.00pm
Thursday 25 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Friday 26 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Saturday 27 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	10.00am - 3.00pm	CLOSED
Sunday 28 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	10.00am - 3.00pm	CLOSED
Monday 29 Dec	CLOSED	9.00am - 1.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm	CLOSED
Tuesday 30 Dec	CLOSED	9.00am - 1.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm	CLOSED
Wednesday 31 Dec	CLOSED	9.00am - 1.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm	CLOSED
Thursday 1 Jan	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
Friday 2 Jan	CLOSED	9.00am - 1.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm	CLOSED
Saturday 3 Jan	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	10.00am - 3.00pm	CLOSED
Sunday 4 Jan	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12.00pm - 6.00pm	10.00am - 3.00pm	CLOSED
Monday 5 Jan	8.30am - 4.30pm	8.30am - 4.30pm	CLOSED	10.00am - 2.00pm	6.00am - 7.30am 2.00pm - 7.00pm	7.30am - 12.00pm 12.30pm - 3.30pm	8.30am - 4.30pm

Please note, the Hydrotherapy pool will be CLOSED from 24 December onwards and will re-open mid January

BURNING PERIODS 2025/26

OPEN PERIOD

17 March - 15 September
Burning Permitted

RESTRICTED BURNING

16 September - 31 October
Permit Required to Burn

PROHIBITED BURNING

1 November - 17 February
Burning Prohibited

RESTRICTED BURNING

18 February - 16 March
Permit Required to Burn

Merredin Churches Fraternal invites you to

A Silhouette of Christmas

Presented by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church



2025 Community Carols
SUNDAY, 7 DECEMBER at 7.30pm
BYO chair and picnic rug to the town centre.
Sausage sizzle from 6pm-7.30pm

TOGETHER in CHRIST!



Saturday 29th November
Sunday 30th November
Friday 5th December
Saturday 6th December

Doors open half hour before show
and bar available

Tickets
Regular \$20 Concession \$15
Under 5yrs FREE

Fri/Sat 7:30pm - BYO Supper
Sun 2pm - Afternoon tea available

Tickets available at <https://events.humanitix.com/dear-santa>, in person at the Merredin CRC and always at the door



presents the 2026
**Merredin & Districts
Agricultural Show**

**Saturday
28th March
10am**



Writing Competition

Celebrate the stories, voices, and creativity of our community! Enter the Merredin Show Writing Competition and share your unique perspective on life in our town and district.

Age Groups

- Junior Primary (Years 1-3)
- Upper Primary (Years 4-6)
- Lower Secondary (Years 7-9)
- Upper Secondary (Years 10-12)
- Open/Adult (18+)

Entry Categories

- Poetry
- Memoir
- Fiction
- Creative Non-Fiction
- Picture Book
- Photo Story

Prizes include cash, publication in the program and more!

For submissions scan the QR code.
For more info go to:



<https://www.merredinshow.com/writing-competition>

Judging Panel includes:

Children's author
James Foley

YA and Children's author
Meg McKinlay

Journalist and Novelist
David Allan-Petale

Children's author
Norman Jorgensen

University Lecturer and Novelist
Deborah Hunn

Local Librarian
Wendy Porter



CHRISTMAS
POOL
PARTY

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2025 | 10AM - 12PM
@ MERREDIN DISTRICT OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL

POOL TIME • FRESH FRUIT • STORY TIME

SUN SMART

ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGED 0 - 5 YEARS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS FUN EVENT! FREE ENTRY FOR KIDS UNDER 5 AND PARENTS / CAREGIVERS.

PLEASE RSVP BY CALLING THE LIBRARY ON 9041 1222



**THANK YOU
TO OUR SPONSORS!**



SPREAD THE CHEER - TRANSFORM YOUR PLACE INTO A CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

**Christmas
LIGHTS**

PARTICIPATION RAFFLE

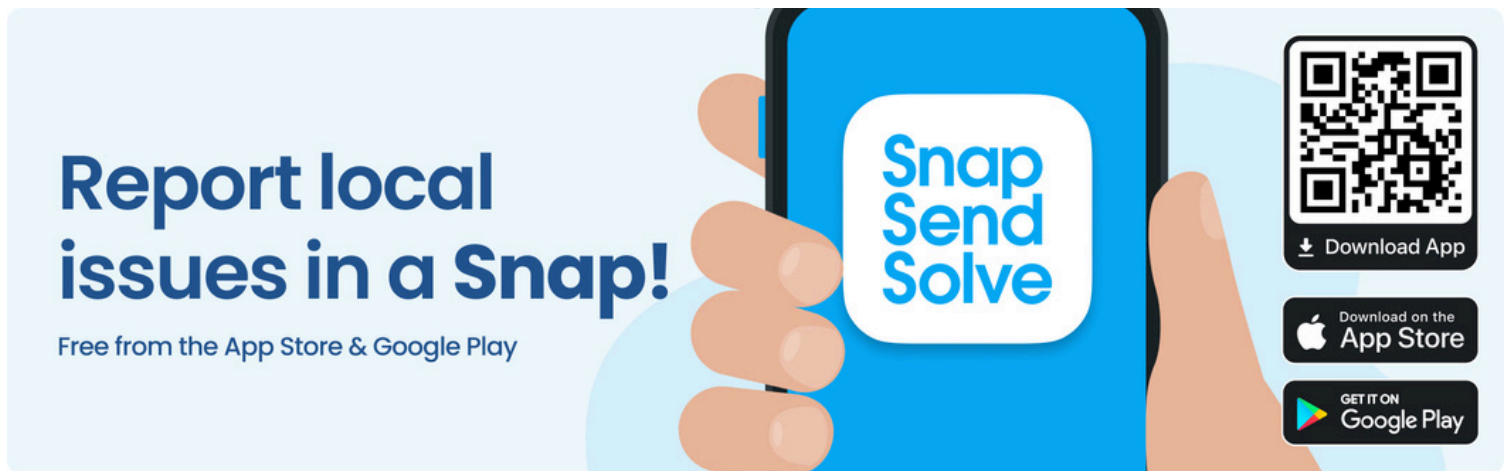
CHANCE TO WIN \$100 PRIZE MONEY
WE ENCOURAGE HOUSEHOLDS AND BUSINESSES TO PARTICIPATE!

How to Enter: Entry forms from Merredin CRC
110 Barrack St
Email: info@merredincrc.com

Draw Date: Raffle to be drawn at the Festive Night Out Thursday 18th December 2025

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:

merredin energy **Merredin Community Resource Centre**



Report local issues in a Snap!

Free from the App Store & Google Play

Snap Send Solve

Download App

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

2025/26 RATES REMINDER

This is a reminder that the second instalments for ratepayers on the payment plan are due on 5 December 2025.

If you have elected to pay in instalments, an interest rate of 5.5% will be imposed with the due dates provided in the table to the right.

Second Instalment:	5 December 2025
Third Instalment	6 February 2026
Fourth Instalment	10 April 2026

Please contact the Shire if you are having difficulty making the payment dates. If you do not, an interest rate of 8% will be imposed and legal action may be taken if payments are not made on time.

PUBLIC NOTICE

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY OFFER NO: D04-2025

The Shire invites offers for disposal of the following properties:

- Lot 507 (30) Macdonald Street, Merredin, WA, 6415, Deposit Plan 148611, Certificate of Title Volume 21592, Folio 590. Current market valuation \$50,000 - \$65,000.
- Lot 105 (25) Maiolo Way, Merredin, WA, 6415, Deposit Plan 72476, Certificate of Title Volume 2808, Folio 491. Current market valuation \$70,000 - \$80,000.

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 D04-2025" addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, and will be received up to 12:00 noon WST, Monday 15 December 2025. Offers are to be submitted via email to ceo@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 - 1 December 2025

Public Notice

Mains water supply cannot be guaranteed during a bushfire

Water Corporation is prepared for bushfire season. However, we cannot guarantee that water pressure or water supply will be maintained in the event of a bushfire. Extreme demand, fire damage and power cuts can all result in a total loss of water.

If you plan to stay and defend your property during a bushfire, you must have your own independent water supply and pumping capability. You cannot rely on mains water.

Details and resources about how to prepare for bushfire season can be found at **mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au**. For warnings and advice visit **emergency.wa.gov.au**.

watercorporation.com.au

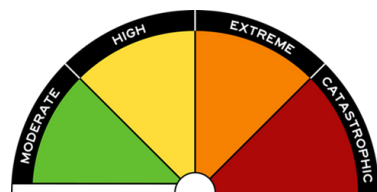


FIRE SAFETY ON HOLIDAY - PART ONE

Over 90% of WA is considered bushfire prone. Large scale bushfires can and do happen at all of our favourite holiday spots, and as many of us will be heading out of town for Christmas or after harvest, it's important to take some time to consider what we need to plan for in the event of a fire where we're holidaying.

Bushfire Season

For WA, south of about Coral Bay and Newman, bushfire risk is at its highest between October and April, whereas to the north the bushfire risk is at its highest between June and October. A bushfire will be at its most dangerous when it's hot, dry and windy. If you're travelling during these weather conditions, plan to stay near towns and cities and out of the bush.



Fire Danger Ratings

The Fire Danger Rating (FDR) gives an indication of how dangerous a fire would be if one started. It is updated daily and is different for different areas. It is recommended that you be aware of the FDR for the location you're travelling to/through. You can find out the FDR by visiting the Emergency WA website and clicking the FDR icon (pictured left) at the top of the page, and then select "map view".

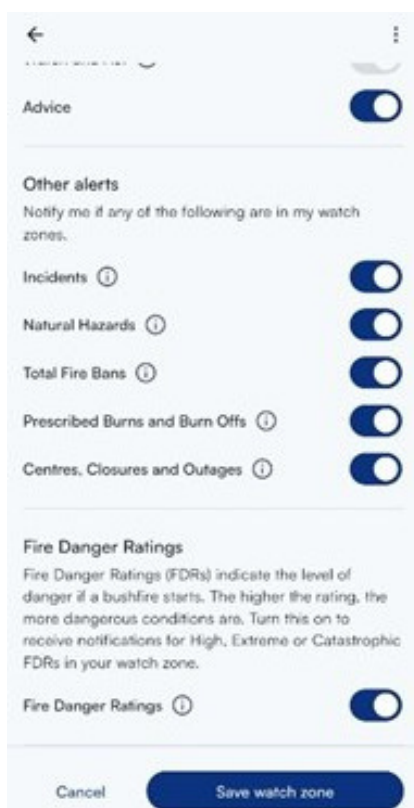
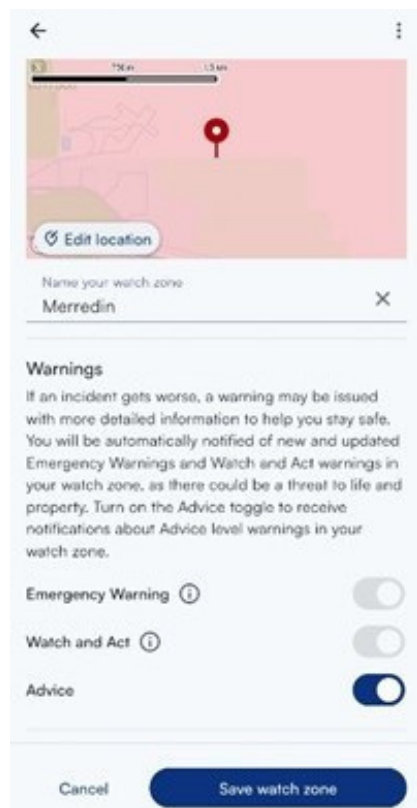
Total Fire Bans

You can also use the Emergency WA website to check if there is a Total Fire Ban (TFB) in your area – next to the FDR symbol is the TFB symbol (pictured right). TFBs will impact whether it's legal for you to do things like have a barbeque, light a campfire or drive off road. Specific information about what you can and can't do during a TFB can be found here: bit.ly/TotalFireBans



Harvest Bans and Restricted/Prohibited Burning

Harvest Bans (HVMB) and whether the Restricted (RBP) or Prohibited Burning Period (PBP) are in effect are also going to impact whether you can have a barbeque, light a campfire, or do certain other holiday activities. Both of these are set by the Local Government, so you'll have to contact the relevant Local Government to find out whether a Harvest Ban has been called (and what it specifically bans in that particular Local Government area). Most Local Governments will list their Restricted and Prohibited Burning Periods on their website.



Download the Emergency WA App

The Emergency WA app allows you to set "watch zones". You can set your current location (or any areas you may be driving through to or from your holiday destination) as a watch zone.

This allows you to receive emergency alerts impacting that area, including notices of emergency incidents taking place and any storm warnings. You can have access to the Fire Danger Rating for that area and be alerted when Total Fire Bans are called if you turn on these settings (see images on left).

You can find more information on using the app here: bit.ly/DFESAppHowTo
For more information on managing your risk in a bushfire, visit: bit.ly/HazardInformation



Disability Inclusion Day

Wednesday, 3 December 2025
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool

- Water Inflatables
- Free Sausage Sizzle
- Pool Games
- Canteen Open For Purchases

Don't miss your chance to beat the heat and celebrate our inclusive community

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

FREE ENTRY
FREE ENTRY
FREE ENTRY

International Day of People with Disability

Celebrating our Unity 2025



SCAN ME

CircuitWest & THEATRE 180, in association with WA Museum, present a Shows on the Go tour of

TAKING LIBERTY

by Ingle Knight

Saturday, 13 December 2025

Doors open 6.30 pm | Show Starts 7.00 pm
General \$25 | Concession \$20 | Under 18s \$15

Scan the QR code to purchase tickets, or pop in to the visitor centre to book in person

CUMMINS THEATRE

CIRCUITWEST
Shows on the go

THEATRE 180

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Merredin Arts Society

presents

Little Treasures & Big Bargains

An exhibition of new & small works
Plus a variety of discounted works, just in time for Christmas

MFAS Gallery
5 Queen Street
Merredin

13 & 14 December
9am - 4pm



Australia Day POOL party

JANUARY 26 TIME TBC

MERREDIN DISTRICT OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL

SAVE THE DATE

MORE DETAILS TO COME!

FREE ENTRY
FREE ENTRY
FREE ENTRY

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

Australia Day
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



FREE

- Connect with friends and neighbours
- Assisting you to keep living independently

Senior's Tea & Tech Sessions

Morning tea provided, just bring yourself and your technology devices and learn how to use them your way.

 Cummins Theatre 31 Bates Street, Merredin

 Fortnightly - Wednesday's, starting 26 November 2025

 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

 **SHIRE OF MERREDIN**
INNOVATING THE WHEATEARLY

Supported by the Department of Communities



MERREDIN CROQUET CLUB



WE MEET EVERY SATURDAY
23 CORONATION STREET MERREDIN

CONTACT HANNA ON
0447 587 636

IT'S A FUN LOW IMPACT SOCIAL SPORT FOR ALL AGES



MERREDIN POOL OPENING HOURS

Monday	6.00am - 7.30am 2.00pm - 7.00pm
Tuesday	12.00pm - 7.00pm
Wednesday	6.00am - 10.00am 2.00pm - 7.00pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday	6.00am - 7.30am 2.00pm - 7.00pm
Weekends	12.00pm - 6.00pm
Public Holidays	12.00pm - 6.00pm

Contact details
6140 1257 (during opening hours)
pool@merredin.wa.gov.au




Merredin Youth Centre

 **Avon Community Services**
Ages 12-25 Yrs

Programs
Mondays & Wednesdays
Basketball games, topics for conversation (drugs, alcohol, wellbeing, and more)
snacks and drinks
rec centre outdoor courts
3:30pm - 6:30pm

Drop In
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Friday
Afterschool drop-in from 3.15pm - 5pm

Mentoring
Ongoing Mentoring Program. Contact staff for more details.

YOUTH IS THE FUTURE

33 BATES ST MERREDIN
AJILEN(AJ): 0436 297 370