

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

MERREDIN COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR ANNUAL CELEBRATION

On Thursday, 18 December 2026, Merredin was alive with festive cheer at the annual Festive Night Out celebration. Residents and visitors, including many who travelled from as far as Perth, enjoyed a vibrant evening that showcased the best of Merredin's community and town centre.

The event was strongly supported by local groups and businesses, with a wide range of market stalls on offer throughout the evening. These included local first responders, arts and crafts, plants and community organisations. Cafés, restaurants and retailers across the Town Centre stayed open late, keeping festivalgoers well fed, while pop-up vendors provided an array of sweet and savoury options for those looking to try something a little different.

With the warm Summer sun adding to the festive atmosphere, there were plenty of ways for families to stay cool. Inflatables, a splash zone, foam pit and water slide were a hit with children, while the bubble zone, face painting fairies and sand pit kept young festivalgoers entertained for hours. Adults and families alike enjoyed a slower pace with donkey and cart rides, and the petting zoo proved popular as cuddly animals soaked up plenty of attention.

The fun didn't stop there! People were getting active with dodgeball, basketball, and mini golf, and the bravest festivalgoers tried their luck on the bucking bull. Everyone was mesmerised by the performers, including dancers and gymnasts with colourful costumes, lights and streamers. Festivalgoers were also treated to a boot scooting performance and live music from roving musicians, plus performers at the Commercial Hotel and on the main stage. Of course, the star of the show was Santa, with everyone lining up to get their happy snap with our famous man in red.

It was wonderful to see the community come together to celebrate life in Merredin. From everyone at the Shire, we'd like to thank our event co-hosts the Merredin CRC, all the financial sponsors (including Collgar Renewables, Atmos Renewables, Merredin Energy, Merredin IGA, Harcher, Merredin Legal, AFGRI, Nutrien Ag Solutions, HOLCIM, Lachlan Hunter MP, Merredin Motel and Gumtree Apartments, Merredin SES, Minimbah Concreting and Fencing, and Narembeen and Bruce Rock Darts Association), raffle sponsors, the event volunteers, and all the wonderful stallholders and entertainment. We'd also like to give a special shoutout to the Festive Night Out Committee, who put a large number of volunteer hours into planning and delivering a wonderful event!



JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 27 January 2026 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.

COUNCILLOR CORNER - DEPUTY SHIRE PRESIDENT RENEE MANNING

Welcome to Councillor Corner

This new segment of the Shire's monthly community newsletter is a space for our Councillors to share their insights on what they have currently been working on, recent achievements, and looking ahead. Each month, one of the community's elected representatives will provide an update straight from Council. Today's entry is from Deputy Shire President Renee Manning.

Greetings!

Hello and Happy New Year to my fellow Merredin residents. This marks my sixth year as a Shire of Merredin Councillor. In 2025, I was honoured to be re-elected as Deputy President. I look forward to continuing to serve the Merredin community over the next two years alongside Shire President Donna Crook, my fellow Councillors, including our newly elected Councillors, Paul Boehme and Peter Madigan.

What We Have Been Working On

Merredin has seen a lot of change since I was first elected in 2019. Despite navigating a pandemic, changes in CEOs, and shifts around the Council table, we've managed to secure funding and deliver several significant projects. These include the Water Tower restoration, the Town Centre and Apex Park | Danjoo Waabiny Boodja projects, the community desalination pilot, the Crooks Road upgrade, the MRCLC sports resurfacing works, and Local Planning Strategy and Scheme amendments.

We've also kicked off a Business After-Hours series, welcomed new businesses into the CBD, seen trade and rural businesses grow into larger premises in Merredin's industrial area, including CBH's expansion and MacIntosh and Sons new premises. We have seen CEACA fully occupied with Merritville coming back to the Shire, and have undertaken a housing analysis to better understand local needs, and saw the Lumen University Centre Hub open. Our recreation and cultural facilities are being well used all year round, and the farming community continues to deliver record harvests, the backbone of our local economy.

Since I started on Council, my focus has been on making sure Merredin stays firmly on the radar as an important sub-regional centre. My fellow Councillors will attest that I get excited about strategic conversations on what is driving our town and broader region, and what is required to position it well for the future.

Looking Ahead

I'm optimistic about Merredin's future, but positioning the town to take advantage of opportunities means tackling some big questions. Council continues to work through how we maintain and upgrade community infrastructure, support liveability and business growth, while also advocating for better infrastructure and services such as roads, telecommunications, health, education, and childcare. These aren't easy conversations, and they often lead to robust, yet respectful discussions around the Council table.

How Will We Achieve This

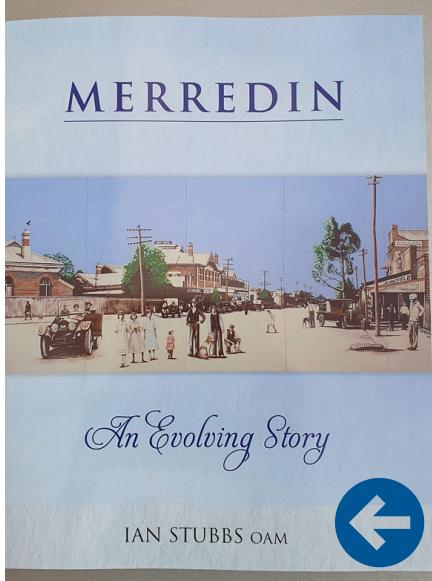
Having our vision and goals written down is critical to keeping our eye on the prize and to help us advocate with confidence. Our new Council Plan sets out several key initiatives, including the development of a Projects and Issues Advocacy Prospectus to support cohesive and evidence-based conversations with investors and State and Federal government agencies. We recently hosted the Director General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and have met with Water Corporation, Western Power, Nomad Energy, Collgar Wind Farm, and Main Roads in recent months to discuss these issues. I strongly believe that having a clear narrative is critical in advocating for our community and wider region.

I'm particularly keen to explore how Merredin can maximise the benefits of large-scale projects being planned, including the Tandegin Wind Farm and the Ngaank Boodja Battery and Solar Farm. Our recently adopted Community Enhancement Policy will help support these projects to deliver real value — not just small community projects (that are important), but potentially training opportunities, local jobs, and supply opportunities for local businesses.

I'm genuinely excited about what lies ahead for Merredin, though there is also a lot of work to do to get us in the best position for those opportunities. I am humbled and privileged to sit at the Council table and be supported by an excellent administration (for at least the next two years).



NEW PUBLICATION AT THE CWVC



Merredin: An Evolving Story by Ian Stubbs OAM

This story traces Merredin's journey through time; its triumphs, turning points, and the enduring spirit of its people.

This publication is now available for purchase for \$55.00. You can pick up your copy in person at the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre or online via this link: bit.ly/cwvcshop

Pop into the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre to see what other publications and gifts are on offer.

We are open Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 4:30PM.

NEW STAFF PROFILE

Join us in welcoming Gabbi to the Shire of Merredin team in her new role as the Executive Support Officer! Gabbi brings more than 10 years' experience across administration, customer service and marketing, gained within the hospitality and quick-service industries. We're pleased to have her on board and look forward to the skills and expertise she brings to the team.

A Message from Gabbi

"I moved to Merredin from New Zealand with my husband and our two beautiful children at the beginning of 2025. Over the past year, I have really enjoyed attending community events and playgroups. I am happy to have joined the Shire team and excited to contribute to the community that has welcomed my family."

5 - 17 YEARS



ACTIVITY Day

Join us for a day filled with board games, jewellery making activities, and endless laughter!

16 JANUARY 2026

10:00am - 1:00pm Cummins Theatre

Free fruit and sausage sizzle available.
Please bring your water bottle.



10:00am - 1:00pm

Cummins Theatre

Free fruit and sausage sizzle available.

Please bring your water bottle.



\$2 ENTRY



Something need fixing? Just Snap, Send, Solve it.



Download app to Snap!



SHIRE UPDATES

Hydro Pool Update

In November, a contractor was engaged to address issues with the hydrotherapy pool heating system.

Just prior to Christmas, the Shire was informed that a required part for the water heating pump is a non-standard size and is not readily available in Australia. As a result, the part must be custom-manufactured overseas.

Moving forward, the Shire will be proceeding with the manufacture of this part, which is expected to take approximately 8-12 weeks, plus delivery and installation time. Due to this, the Mini Swimmers Program (0-4 Years Swimming Lessons) will be suspended until further notice.

In addition to this, the Shire will also be engaging a contractor to undertake a comprehensive diagnostic review of the hydrotherapy pool's heating, pump, and chlorination systems to identify any underlying issues.

Historically, when issues have arisen, short-term or "band-aid" repairs have been implemented to restore operation as quickly as possible; however, these approaches have not proven practical or sustainable in the long term.

With the heater pump being offline, this presents an opportunity to undertake a thorough review of the system and identify sustainable, long-term solutions rather than continuing with temporary fixes.

Further updates will be provided once the pump part has been received and expected completion timeframes are confirmed.

New Sports and Recreation Newsletter

Did you know you can subscribe to receive a newsletter from our Sports and Recreation facilities? Packed with information about sports fixtures, pool activities, events and more! Stay up to date now by subscribing via the following website: merredinsportandrecreation.com.au

Grant Funding for Age-Friendly Initiative

In the Shire of Merredin, we believe in supporting our community at every stage of life. We are among 18 Western Australian organisations and local governments to share in \$232,000 of funding to deliver programs aimed at promoting positive aging.

With this Age-friendly Communities Connectivity grant, we established Tea & Tech; a fortnightly program where tech-savvy individuals help our senior citizens understand how to make the most of technology and stay safe while using electronic devices. These sessions aim to strengthen connections within our community, and support independent living. We'd like to express our gratitude to the Department of Communities for helping to make this initiative possible.

Parks & Gardens

Our Reticulation Team has been diligently testing lines and adding extra water to other areas, such as the MRCLC front lawn, in anticipation of the dry months ahead. To combat damage caused to the reticulation around the tennis and hockey club, the team is hand watering with the fire trailer and a hose sprinkler. A plumber has also been actioned to undertake essential valve work at multiple sites, including near the Community Resource Centre.

Due to the age of some infrastructure, we've seen a rapid decline in wiring integrity at several locations in recent months, including the Merredin Cemetery, which has impacted our reticulation systems. Repairs are expected to take place across January, with the exploration of wireless options and taller sprinklers also underway.

After our successful Community Planting Day to install a Native Garden at Roy Little Park, a portion of reticulation was disconnected to remove another section of grass in preparation for re-planting with more natives. Other grassed areas still recovering from weed spraying will be treated with fertilizer and wetting agents once the weather starts to cool.

Thank you to our hard-working Reticulation Team for facing the rising outdoor temperatures with persistence to tackle these challenging issues.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of 2024/25 Annual Report

Pursuant to section 5.55 of the Local Government Act 1995, public notice is hereby given that the Shire of Merredin's 2024/25 Annual Report has been adopted by the Council and is available to access by the public on the Shire's website or at the Administration Building on the corner of King and Barrack Streets.

View the 2024/25 Annual Report by visiting bit.ly/merredinannualreport2425.

For further information, please contact the Shire on (08) 9041 1611.

Craig Watts
Chief Executive Officer

2026 Council Meeting and Audit Meeting Dates

The Shire of Merredin welcomes ratepayers and members of the community to Council Meetings and Audit Committee Meetings that are open to the public on the following dates for 2026.

All Council Meetings will be held at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers, Corner King and Barrack Streets, Merredin on the following dates:

27 January 2026
24 February 2026
24 March 2026
28 April 2026
26 May 2026
23 June 2026
28 July 2026
25 August 2026
22 September 2026
27 October 2026
24 November 2026
15 December 2026

All Audit Committee Meetings will be at 2:30pm in the Council Chambers, Corner King and Barrack Streets, Merredin on the following dates:

24 February 2026
26 May 2026
25 August 2026
24 November 2026

Craig Watts
Chief Executive Officer



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.

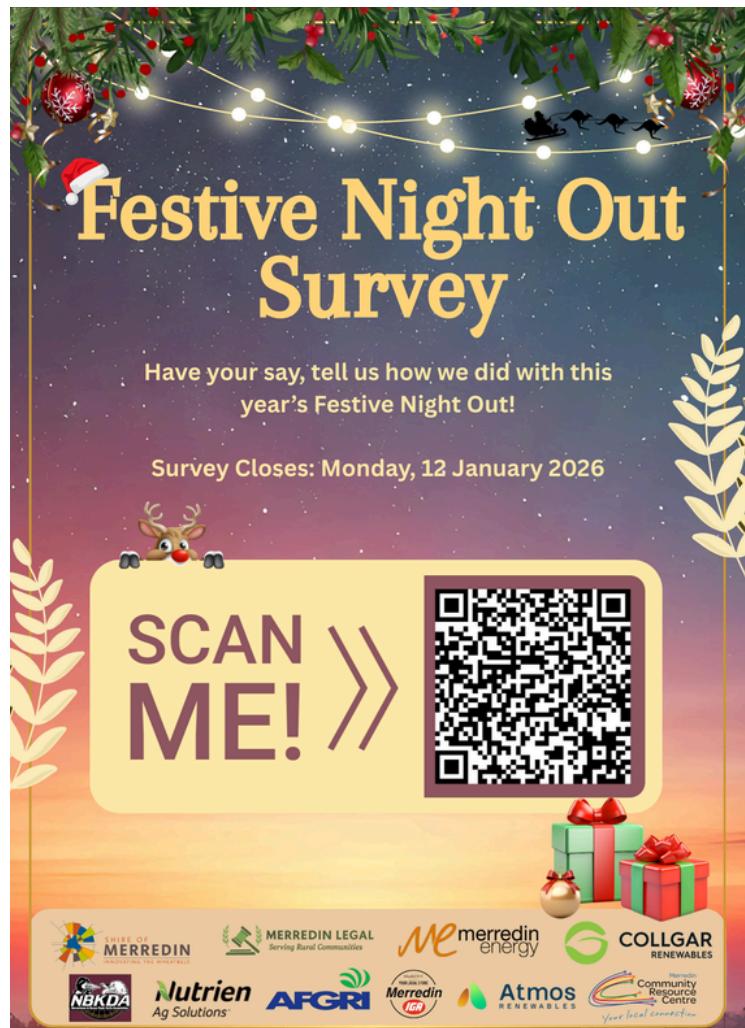
Location: Cummins Theatre 31 Bates Street, Merredin

Frequency: Fortnightly - Wednesday (from 21 January 2026)

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Supported by: Department of Communities

Shire of Merredin Logo: Innovating the Wheatbelt



Festive Night Out Survey

Have your say, tell us how we did with this year's Festive Night Out!

Survey Closes: Monday, 12 January 2026

SCAN ME! >>

Shire of Merredin Logos: Innovating the Wheatbelt, NBKDA, Nutrien Ag Solutions, APGRI, Merredin Legal, Atmos Renewables, Collgar Renewables, Merredin Community Resource Centre.

ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING



TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2026



COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Cnr King Street and Barrack Street



6:00PM

What is an Annual Electors Meeting? Great question! The Annual Electors Meeting is an opportunity for ALL of our residents to come together and speak with Councillors, ask questions, and provide feedback on matters that are important to you and our community.

It's also a great opportunity to learn more about the Shire's achievements, current projects, and financial performance over the past year through the Annual Report.

Everyone is welcome to attend, and we encourage you to get involved. If you would like to submit a question in advance, read the Annual Report, or RSVP your attendance, please scan the QR Code below or visit bit.ly/merredinAEM.



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT



FIRE SAFETY ON HOLIDAY - PART TWO

Last month we talked about different ways to maintain awareness about bushfire risk when you're away from home. This month we'll talk about ways to keep safe if you find yourself in an emergency situation away from home.

Pack a bushfire emergency kit

If you're going on a road trip, or expect to be driving frequently in bushfire prone areas during the high threat period, it's a good idea to pack a bushfire emergency kit. Your kit should include items such as:

 AM/FM portable radio	 Drinking water
 Spare batteries	 Sturdy shoes
 First aid kit	 Full-coverage woollen or cotton clothing
 Woollen blankets	 Detailed printed map of the area you'll be travelling

Leave early

Bushfires move fast and are unpredictable. Trying to leave when it's too late is extremely dangerous. Leaving early is the safest way for you and your family to survive a bushfire.

Encountering a bushfire while driving

DFES offers the below advice if you become trapped by fire in your car:

If you see signs of a bushfire in the distance, like smoke or flames, carefully pull over to the side of the road to assess the situation and call triple zero. If it is safe to do so, turn around and leave the area immediately.

If you become trapped by a fire:

- Find an area off the roadway with little or no vegetation where you can park your car. Don't park too close to other cars.
- Face your car towards the oncoming fire.
- Stay in your car. The engine may be left running so the headlights can operate and not flatten the battery.
- Turn headlights and hazard warning lights on.
- Close all doors and windows, shut air vents and turn off air conditioning.
- Get down below window level and cover your body with any woollen or cotton blankets or clothes.
- As the fire front approaches, the intensity of the heat will increase along with smoke and embers.
- Smoke gradually gets inside the car, and fumes will be released from the interior of the car. Stay close to the floor to minimise inhalation.
- Stay in the car until the fire front has passed and the temperature has dropped outside.
- Once the fire front has passed and the temperature has dropped, cautiously exit the vehicle.
- Move to a safe area, e.g. an area that has already burnt.
- Stay covered in woollen blankets and await assistance.

Staying up to date

During an emergency, stay up to date by:

- Phoning the DFES information line on **13 33 37**, or, for people with hearing impairments, the National Relay Service on **1800 555 630**
- Visiting Emergency WA here: www.emergency.wa.gov.au
- Following DFES on Facebook here: www.facebook.com/dfeswa
- Listening to the local ABC radio station
- Downloading the Emergency WA App. Assistance can be found here: bit.ly/DFESAppHowTo

For more information, visit: bit.ly/HazardInformation

AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

IN THE TOWN CENTRE!



26TH JANUARY
8 AM - 10 AM

Proudly
Sponsored by:



Australia Day POOL party

JANUARY 26 12:00 PM

MERREDIN DISTRICT OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL

FREE Sausage Sizzle
12:30pm to 3:30pm
(or until food finished)

Inflatables, Games, and DJ Scottie

FREE Ice Pops & Watermelon
(300 ice pops with vouchers at kiosk)

FREE ENTRY

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

Australia Day
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Cummins Theatre



THE JOURNEY OF IRELAND

SCAN ME



MUSIC, SONG, DANCE

Saturday, 31 January 2026
Show Starts 7:30 PM

FREE ENTRY
KIDS UNDER 15
Thanks to **COLLGAR RENEWABLES**

OUR TOWN OUR STORIES

The Bendigo Bank 2026
Merredin & Districts Agricultural Show

Community Bank Mukinbudin
Bendigo Bank

Saturday 28th March

Young Farmers Challenge

Free Entertainment

Exhibition

Animal Displays

Writing Competition

Community Displays

Gates open at 10 am

Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre
Tickets through MegaTix or at the Gate

