

# COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

## AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Australia Day celebrations in Merredin kicked off at 8:00am on Monday 26 January 2026, with the Town Centre coming alive for the annual free Community Breakfast hosted by the Merredin Community Resource Centre (Merredin CRC). For the first time in this vibrant new space, more than 100 locals and visitors gathered on the lawn in front of the stage to share breakfast, catch up with friends and family, and celebrate what it means to be Australian: our mateship, our resilience, and our diversity.



Attendees enjoyed a classic bacon and egg breakfast generously cooked by the Merredin Men's Shed, alongside delicious hot coffee from Brad at Wheatbelt Coffee Time, a perfect start to the day. Acting Chairperson of the CRC Committee Roy Butler officially welcomed the crowd just after 9:00am before members of the local Police Station participated in the flag raising ceremony. A slight technical difficulty with the music followed, leading to Emma Aitken taking to the stage and leading the community in the singing of the Australian

National Anthem. It was a moment that was well-received by everyone in attendance and reflected the strong community spirit of the day.

Shire President Donna Crook and Cr Paul Boehme (pictured below) then took to the stage to present the 2026 Auspire Community Citizen of the Year Awards with the recipients as follows:

**Citizen of the Year:** Jasmin Cockram

**Young Citizen of the Year:** Jacob Billing

**Senior Citizen of the Year:** Rob Endersbee

**Active Citizenship:** Merredin Churches Fraternal

*Read about the recipients on page 3*

Congratulations to the above individuals and groups, and we would like to thank them for the time, energy and care they give to make our community better. Nominations for these awards are now open year-round, making it easy to recognise outstanding contributions in our community. If you would like to nominate for the 2027 awards, please head to the Auspire website here: [www.citizenshipawards.com.au/nominate](http://www.citizenshipawards.com.au/nominate).



## FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 24 February 2026 at 5:00pm. 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](http://bit.ly/merredinmeetings) for more information.

## AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS CONT...

Following the award presentation, the Shire President concluded the event with the announcement of the 2026 Eric Hind Scholarship recipients as young musicians Lily Brunetti and Clancy Sutherland. Lily intends to purchase a piano stand and piano lessons, while Clancy will be applying his scholarship to piano lessons.



Caption: Shire President Donna Crook, Clancy Sutherland, Lily Brunetti and Cr Paul Boehme

Celebrations continued at midday at the Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool, where the Shire's Australia Day Pool Party attracted over 200 people for a fun-filled afternoon in the sun. Despite the cooler weather, attendees enjoyed pool inflatables, a live DJ, free ice creams, watermelon and water, along with a popular sausage sizzle.



The barbecue was generously cooked by Cr Peter Madigan and Cr Paul Boehme (pictured above), and Peter and Bek from the Shire, helping keep everyone energised throughout the afternoon.

The VFRS inflatable slide was a highlight activity for the afternoon, alongside pool activities such as diving for coins and the much-loved biggest splash competition, which drew plenty of laughs amongst the participants. Well done to the winners who received a pair of brand-new goggles and lollies.

The Shire would like to thank everyone who attended, volunteered, and contributed to making Australia Day a joyful and inclusive celebration this year.

If you would like to view the full photo gallery from the day, please head to [bit.ly/australiadayphotogallery](https://bit.ly/australiadayphotogallery).



### NEW STAFF PROFILE

We are thrilled to welcome Sam to the Shire's Corporate Services team! Sam has 10 years of experience in retail baking and has spent the past four years working across a range of administrative roles. Joining us as an Administration Officer, Sam will be one of the friendly faces ready to greet you at the Shire's Administration Building.

#### *A Message from Sam*

*"I moved to Merredin two years ago and am really enjoying the quieter pace and friendly community. I am excited for my new role at the Shire, everyone has been so welcoming, and I look forward to meeting more members of the community."*



## COMMUNITY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR WINNERS



### CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - JASMIN COCKRAM

Jasmin joined St John Merredin as a volunteer more than a decade ago and has since demonstrated extraordinary dedication and commitment to both the organisation and the community it serves. She has consistently applied herself to every training opportunity, progressed through the ranks, and held numerous committee and leadership roles, including contributing to the rebuilding of the Training Centre. Despite significant changes to volunteer staffing in recent years, Jasmin's commitment has never wavered. Her tireless service, often at considerable personal expense and without seeking recognition or reward, has made a profound difference to countless lives in Merredin.



### YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - JACOB BILLING

Jacob is an exceptional young person whose energy, dedication, and generosity have made a lasting impact on our community. Always willing to lend a hand, he has become a role model through his commitment to volunteering, sport, and leadership. Jacob volunteers as a tennis and volleyball coach, running weekly training sessions and supporting younger players to grow in confidence and skill - even travelling to Perth to coach his team - demonstrating his dedication to helping others succeed. He also serves as a basketball umpire, a vital role that keeps local sport thriving. Beyond sport, Jacob's kindness and inclusive nature are evident in his volunteer work at community events.



### SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - ROB ENDERSBEE

Rob has been a dedicated volunteer at the Merredin Military Museum since 1992 and is both a founding and life member. Over the years, he has played a vital role in organising bus tours of military sites across the district, contributing to ANZAC services, and supporting school visits to the museum. As curator, secretary, and researcher, Rob provides invaluable historical knowledge to the museum, the public, and visitors alike. He actively sources exhibits from across Australia and internationally, often travelling in his own time to collect military artifacts to enrich the museum's collection. Through his tireless efforts, Rob has become a remarkable ambassador for both the museum and the Merredin community.



### ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP (GROUP OR EVENT) - MERREDIN CHURCHES FRATERNAL

The Merredin Churches Fraternal plays a vital role in fostering community engagement and support throughout Merredin. They organise inclusive events such as the Carols and Light Shine Party, and provide essential charitable services, including emergency food hampers, crisis accommodation, Christmas hampers for those in need, and donated furniture. Committed to ensuring all community members can participate, they hold regular Sunday services at Moorditj Mia for those unable to attend church in person, as well as open prayer meetings for anyone who wishes to join. The group also oversees the annual Easter program, including the blessing of the roads and the Dawn Service.

## OUNCILLOR CORNER - CR PAUL BOEHME

### Welcome to the next edition of Councillor Corner

This segment of the Shire's monthly community newsletter is a space for our Councillors to share their insights into the role of Councillor. Each month, one of the community's elected representatives will be selected to provide an entry detailing a chosen topic. This week we caught up with new councillor Paul Boehme to chat about his experience since he was elected to Council during the 2025 Local Government Ordinary Elections in October last year.

#### About Cr Paul Boehme

Councillor Paul Boehme has called Merredin home for the past 20 years. For 18 of those years, he has been one of the friendly faces at Two Dogs Mitre 10, interacting with locals, visitors, and businesses alike. As well as this, he is a passionate member of the Merredin sporting community, holding various volunteer and committee roles across the Merredin Basketball Association, Merredin Falcon Colts, and most recently, the Merredin Netball Association.

#### Q. Is the Councillor role what you expected it to be?

Yes and no. I had a basic understanding of what to expect through my wife's experience as a Councillor; however, I am quickly finding that there is a lot to learn and take on board.

#### Q. Was there anything that surprised you?

I was surprised to learn about the diverse number of committees that councillors sit on as part of their role. I have taken on roles on the Audit, Risk, and Improvement Committee and the Development Assessment Panel, and I look forward to contributing to these in the future.

#### Q. What have you enjoyed so far about being a Councillor?

I have really enjoyed being able to share my thoughts and join in discussions that help guide the council's decisions. I feel fortunate to share the chamber with a great group of fellow councillors and shire staff who encourage asking questions and seeking answers. I have also enjoyed being able to attend shire events like the Business and Community After-Hours Sundowners, where we are fortunate to hear the thoughts of our local businesses and community groups. A highlight so far would be last week's Australia Day celebrations, where I had the privilege of assisting the Shire President with presenting the Auspire Community Citizen of the Year Awards and the Eric Hind Scholarship.



### HELP KEEP OUR TOILETS CLEAN



Our public toilets have only just been upgraded; however, a few individuals seem to think they are already in need of a bit of redecorating, leaving unpleasant and smelly artworks on the floors and walls.

A friendly reminder that our public toilet facilities are for using the toilet, not for leaving a mess behind.

Recently, our hardworking cleaning staff have had to deal with some very unpleasant situations, and it's simply not fair to put them in that position. They work hard to keep our facilities safe and clean for the whole community, and they deserve our respect.

So please use the toilets as intended: aim for the bowl and NOT the wall or floor, flush, wash your hands, and leave the "artwork" for home.

If you see any suspicious behaviour, please report it to the Shire by calling (08) 9041 1611.

**ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2026**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
Cnr King Street and Barrack Street

**6:00PM**

**SHIRE OF MERREDIN**  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

**SCAN ME!**

**QR CODE**

## SHIRE UPDATES

### Hydrotherapy Pool Heater Repair

We are pleased to provide a further update regarding the progress of the Hydrotherapy Pool repairs.

The custom part for the heater has now been manufactured and is expected to arrive by the end of this week. The Shire has engaged a contractor who will be fitting the part, but is awaiting a confirmed estimated timeline for installation.

In addition, a diagnostic review of the hydrotherapy pool's heating, pump, and chlorination systems has been completed, and the Shire has received a report identifying several issues. The next step will be to seek quotes for any necessary repairs outlined in the report.

It is expected that the Hydrotherapy Pool will be back up and running within the next six weeks. The MRLCL Admin Officer will be in touch with all clients with existing bookings, as well as those on the waitlist, to schedule new appointments closer to the reopening date.

The Shire would like to thank the community for their patience during these repair works and will endeavour to share another update in the coming weeks.



### Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool Slide Repair

Significant progress is being made on the pool waterslide repairs. The fibreglass works have now been completed, and repairs to the structure on the steel beams are also finished.

The pump is currently being manufactured by Malcolm Thompson Pumps, and the lint filter and required adapters are being sourced through a specialist contractor over east.

We'll continue to share updates as works progress, and appreciate everyone's patience while we work to get the slide back up and running for next season.

### MRLCL Indoor Court Replacement

Preparations are underway for the replacement of the indoor courts, with Aura Sports selected as the contractor for this project. Works are anticipated to commence from Monday 23 March 2026.

The project will include the installation of two sprung timber floors (Helsinki system). Court 1 will be delivered as a dedicated show court, featuring basketball and netball line markings only, while Court 2 will be designed for multi-purpose use, including volleyball and badminton.

We'll continue to provide updates as we move closer to the start date and throughout the installation.

### Future Planning

Core sampling of the Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool bowls will be undertaken at the end of the 2025/26 season by Built Environment Collective (BEC). This assessment will determine whether the existing pool bowls can be refurbished or if a new pool will be required. Once the assessment has been completed and outcomes are known, we will provide further information.

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



Download app to Snap!



Facebook

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## FIRE CONTROL OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

### Bush Fires Act 1954

#### Shire of Merredin – Appointments

Notice is hereby given that the following persons have been appointed to the designated positions within the Shire of Merredin for the 2025-26 fire season in accordance with section 38(1) of the Bush Fires Act 1954.

#### Fire Control Officers:

- Chris Barnett – Burracoppin
- Nigel Edgecombe – Burracoppin South
- Matt Barnett – Burracoppin South
- Brendan Crees – Burracoppin South
- Jeremy Dean – Burracoppin South
- Glenn Crees – Collgar (Chief Bush Fire Control Officer)
- Kael Crees – Collgar
- Stephen Crook – Collgar
- David Last – Collgar
- Cam Gethin – Hines Hill
- Luke Growden – Hines Hill
- Colin Miller – Hines Hill
- Leigh Dolton – Korbeka
- Sam Hooper – Korbeka
- Craig Last – Korbeka
- Darren Major – Muntadgin
- Paul Wanless – Muntadgin (Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer)
- Sean Brown – Muntadgin
- Michael Wanless – Muntadgin
- Michael Caughey – Nukarni/Nokaning
- Marshall Crook – Nukarni/Nokaning
- Daniel Giles – Nukarni/Nokaning
- Phil Gray – Nukarni/Nokaning
- Neil Smith – Nukarni/Nokaning
- Sheree Lowe – Shire of Merredin

#### Fire Weather Officers:

- Chris Barnett – North East
- Brendan Crees – South East
- Neil Smith – North
- Craig Last – South West
- Stephen Crook – Central
- Paul Wanless – South
- Cam Gethin – West
- 

These positions remain in effect until revoked. All previous appointments published and not listed above are hereby revoked.

**Craig Watts,**  
Chief Executive Officer

15 January 2026

## OFFER NO: D01-2026 DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

The Shire of Merredin invites offers for disposal of the following properties:

- Lot 110 (38) Whitfield Way, Merredin, WA, 6415, Deposit Plan 72476, Certificate of Title Volume 2808, Folio 496. Valuation \$60,000 - \$70,000.
- Lot 1327 Mackenzie Crescent, Merredin, WA, 6415, (Commercial Land) Deposit Plan 214662, Certificate of Title Volume 2574, Folio 362. Valuation \$90,000 - \$120,000.

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

Offers are to be marked “Private and Confidential – Disposal of property D01-2026,” addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, and will be received up to 12:00 noon WST, Thursday 19 February 2026. Offers are to be submitted via email to [admin@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto: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

2 February 2026

## REDUCED TRAIN FARES

Did you know all Transwa fares have just been slashed by 50%?! That means travelling across WA is now more affordable than ever.

### Merredin – East Perth

Adult: \$26.70 Concession/Child: \$13.35

### Merredin – Kalgoorlie

Adult: \$32.70 Concession/ Child: \$16.35

Head into the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre to book your train tickets today.



## EVENT TRAILER HIRE

Did you know that the Shire of Merredin has an Events Trailer available for community hire? It is the perfect solution for larger events such as fundraisers, weddings, or even community barbecues.

### Equipment

- 100 plastic white chairs
- 5 folding long trestle tables
- 9 long trestle tables
- 2 marquees 4m x 4m
- 5 marquee 3m x 3m
- 2 marquees 4m x 6m
- 1 BBQ (to be requested prior to trailer hire)

For more information, please contact Rebekah Natt at the Shire of Merredin on (08) 9041 1611 or email [cdo@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdo@merredin.wa.gov.au).



## JOB OPPORTUNITY - HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

**Commencing: Immediately**

**Salary: Level 10/11 range of \$84,736 - \$103,940 per annum**

**Position Status: Full Time**

**\*PLUS subsidised housing**

Applications are invited for the newly created position of Human Resources Manager. The successful candidate will be responsible for providing support and advice to Executive staff, Managers, Supervisors, Coordinators and other employees on HR matters. This includes assisting with recruitment, on and off boarding, employee relations, compliance, and HR policy enforcement. The HR Manager will ensure smooth HR operations across the organisation, promote a positive work environment, and help ensure the Shire's HR practices align with all relevant compliances. Ideally, we are looking for someone with formal HR qualifications, or significant experienced working in an equivalent role and similar environment.

This role will report directly to the Chief Executive Officer, but will work closely with the Executive Team.

Working at the Shire offers excellent benefits, including;

- Subsidised housing in a Shire house;
- Salary sacrifice options;
- A fantastic work-life balance;
- A small, personable team environment;
- Superannuation co-contributions (as per Shire policy);
- Training and development opportunities; and
- A great employee Health and Wellbeing Program including flu shots, skin checks and an Employee Assistance Program.

Your commencement salary will depend on your level of qualifications, skills, and experience. If you would like further information about this position, please contact Craig Watts, Chief Executive Officer on (08) 9041 1611 during office hours. If you require information on how to apply, please email [careers@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto:careers@merredin.wa.gov.au).

To apply, send your resume and cover letter addressing the selection criteria to [careers@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto:careers@merredin.wa.gov.au) or drop if off at the Shire Administration Building, no later than 4:00pm, Wednesday 18 February 2026.

**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.*

**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

**Events:**

- Wednesday, 28 January – Individual Tech Support
- Wednesday, 4 February – Online Webinar Cybersecurity Switched ON
- Wednesday, 11 February – Apps and Downloads
- Wednesday, 18 February – SRCWA Technology Assistance
- Wednesday, 4 March – Fall prevention Sufian Rana
- Wednesday, 18 March – SRCWA Technology Assistance

**Transport:**

- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Free Bus Service

**Details:**

- 9:30AM Merredin Seniors Centre
- 9:40AM Merrittville Community Room (Bates St)
- 9:50AM CEACA Units (Coronation st)
- Drop Off after Session Finishes

**Supported by the Department of Communities**

**SHIRE OF MERREDIN**  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

# KICKSTART POOL PARTY

7 FEBRUARY 2026

12:30pm - 4:00pm

ACTIVITIES | SAUSAGE SIZZLE | ICE CREAM

**Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool**

**SHIRE OF MERREDIN**  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

## FARMERS *After Hours* SUNDOWNER

*Save the Date*

**SHIRE OF MERREDIN**  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

**25 February 2026**  
**6:00PM**

**Function Centre, Shire Admin**  
**Cnr King & Barrack Streets**

Join us for our Farmers Sundowner – an engaging evening for local farmers to connect, collaborate, and share insights.

Max 2 people per farm to attend. Beer, wine or soft drink on arrival and light nibbles will also be provided.

Please RSVP by 18 February 2026 by scanning the QR code or emailing [ea@merredin.wa.gov.au](mailto:ea@merredin.wa.gov.au).

**SCAN  
ME!**



## HARMONY FEST

**SAVE THE DATE**

**MERREDIN TOWN CENTRE**

**SATURDAY**  
**21 MARCH**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING:**

- ✓ FOOD
- ✓ ENTERTAINMENT
- ✓ ACTIVITIES

**SHIRE OF MERREDIN**  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT