

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

HARMONY FEST 2026: A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE AND CONNECTION

As the late afternoon sun cast a warm glow across Merredin's Town Centre on Saturday 21 March 2026, the community came together to celebrate Harmony Week in a vibrant display of culture, creativity and connection.

From 4:00pm, the space quickly came alive with laughter and activity. Children immersed themselves in hands-on experiences, from Chinese paper cutting and Japanese origami, to colouring mandala bookmarks and adding bright handprints to the Harmony Hand Tree. Nearby, friendship bracelets were carefully woven, and faces transformed through traditional African face painting, each activity offering a glimpse into cultures from around the world.

By 5:00pm, the air was filled with the rich aromas of delicious food, drawing a crowd eager to sample a selection of 28 dishes representing 17 cultures. The Shire extends a sincere thank you to the dedicated cooking volunteers who generously shared their time, family recipes and cultural traditions with the community.

The evening's entertainment brought colour and energy to the Town Centre, beginning with local children weaving through the crowd in vibrant dragon costumes as they rung hand bells. A captivating belly dancing performance followed, before a poetry reading. The crowd was then invited to experience the spirit of Māori culture, featuring poi demonstrations, the power of a traditional Haka, and beautiful waiata (songs). The evening's entertainment concluded with the belly dancer offering interactive roving performances that invited the crowd to join in. Children, in particular, embraced the

opportunity to learn new dance moves and engage with the props.

As the sun set, the celebration continued with the Merredin Highland Games, where community members of all ages embraced the spirit of fun and friendly competition. The Caber Toss proved a crowd favourite, with many stepping forward to test their strength and skill.

Harmony Fest was a true celebration of Merredin's diverse and connected community. The Shire extends its sincere thanks to event sponsors Collgar Renewables and Merredin CRC for their valued support in bringing Harmony Fest to life, as well as to the volunteers and Shire staff who assisted in the event planning, cooking and serving the food, and set up and pack down.

To view the event photo gallery, please visit the following link: bit.ly/merredinharmonyfest



APRIL COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 28 April 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 for more information.

SPORT AND RECREATION UPDATES

MRCLC INDOOR COURTS

We are pleased to announce that works to resurface the indoor courts at the Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre commenced on Monday 23 March 2026.

The project is progressing well with the sub-floor, Helsinki flooring, and skirting now installed. The electronic winch system has been delivered, and we are currently finalising contractor availability for its installation alongside the new indoor netting, which is due for delivery shortly. Quotes for painting the seating area are under review, with all remaining works, including the installation of new scoreboards and shot clocks, expected to be finished in the coming weeks.

The indoor court revitalisation project is expected to be completed by 9 May 2026, subject to any delays outside of our control.

This project wouldn't be possible without the election commitment pledge from the Labor Government and the generous contributions from our local sporting groups and associations.



MERREDIN POOL INVESTIGATION

The Shire have engaged BEC Consulting to undertake a Forensic Inspection of the Merredin Districts Olympic Swimming Pool in the off season. The purpose of this is to have a comprehensive assessment undertaken of the concrete pool shells to identify any defects, estimate the remaining serviceable life, and provide recommendations for rectification works to extend the pools serviceability.

BEC will be on site Thursday 2 April 2026 to commence the inspection, starting with the Water Loss Test, which consists of:

- Dye test on the pool shell to detect any leaks
- Dye test on the balance tank to detect any leaks
- Water loss / drop test in channel gutter

MEET THE NEW MRCLC ADMIN OFFICER

Join us in welcoming Jorja, who will be stepping into Nicola's position while she is away on maternity leave. She will be the new face welcoming you as you walk into the MRCLC.

Jorja has a strong background in administration and social media/marketing after working for a dance studio in Rockingham for the past four years. She recently moved to Merredin with her family in October last year and looks forward to getting to know the community!



HYDROTHERAPY POOL

We are pleased to announce the Hydrotherapy Pool located at the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre will be fully operational from Tuesday 7 April 2026.

The staff at the MRCLC will be in contact with regular customers, as well as those on the wait list, in the coming days. We anticipate a high demand for bookings in the coming weeks, and we kindly ask for the community's patience with our staff and the booking system as we manage this busy period.

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday | 9:00am to 4:00pm

Bookings: We will be accepting new bookings from Tuesday 7 April onwards. Please Call (08) 9041 3033 to secure your spot.

Admission Fees: bit.ly/MRCLChydropool

We encourage parents to monitor the Sport and Recreation Facebook page for information regarding registration for the Mini Swimmers Program.

Thank you to the community for your patience while the pool was closed to allow for essential repairs to be completed. Special thanks are also extended to the contractors who undertook the repairs.

NEW SOFTFALL FOR MRCLC PLAYGROUND

We are excited to announce that the softfall surface replacement at the Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre is officially complete. The new surface has finished curing, and the playground has now been reopened for our community to enjoy!

These important upgrades were necessary to address significant wear and tear, as well as the holes in the previous surface caused by persistent corella damage. The brand-new softfall provides a much safer and durable environment for our local children to play.



MINISTER WINTON VISITS MERREDIN

On Thursday 26 March 2026, Shire President Donna Crook and CEO Craig Watts welcomed the Hon. Sabine Winton MLA, Minister for Education; Early Childhood; and the Wheatbelt, to Merredin.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the key priorities and challenges facing our community. Topping the agenda were two of our most critical focus areas:

- **Childcare Expansion:** Exploring sustainable methods to increase local placements, supporting working families; and
- **Housing Availability:** Addressing the urgent need for diverse housing to accommodate our town's growth and ensure every resident has a place to call home.

Productive sessions like these ensure that Merredin's voice is heard clearly at the State level. We are committed to working closely with our State and Federal representatives to build a stronger, more sustainable future for all our residents.



WHAT'S ON AT THE LIBRARY

Premier's Reading Challenge Returns for 2026

This year's challenge runs from Monday 23 March until Friday 12 June and is open to all Western Australian students from Kindergarten to Year 12. There are 12 weeks of fantastic prizes and engagement opportunities to encourage students to get involved and explore the joys of reading. Prizes include a Nintendo Switch, Yeti bottles, and various gift cards!

Register at www.premiersreadingchallenge.wa.edu.au and log your books each week for a chance to win.

The Golden Feather Hunt

From 3 March to 8 May 2026, the Golden Feather Hunt is swooping back into libraries across WA, and it's going to be bigger, better, and more feather-tastic than ever! All you have to do is visit your local library, check out a book, and start flipping through the pages. Hidden inside, you might just find a special feather-shaped bookmark which is key to unlocking amazing prizes.

The competition is for Western Australian children and young people aged up to 18 years. Entries close 8 May.



COMMUNITY — FUNDING PROGRAM — ANNUAL GRANT



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

The Shire of Merredin is pleased to announce that applications for the Annual Grant are now open for 2026/27. This grant is for projects/events seeking cash funding, in-kind contributions, or fee waivers up to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST) per financial year.

Open: Wednesday 1 April 2026

Close: 12:00pm Wednesday 13 May 2026

For more information, or to discuss your application, please contact the Community and Culture team on cumminstheatre@merredin.wa.gov.au or call 9041 3295.

The application package, including information about who can apply, eligibility and criteria, are available via bit.ly/communityfundingprogram or by scanning the QR Code provided above.



END OF POOL SEASON

The Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool will be closing for winter from Tuesday 7 April 2026 onwards, with the last day of operation being Monday 6 April 2026.

The team at Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool would like to thank all of the patrons for an amazing season.

The Pool's Aquatic Coordinator, Sharni, would also like to share her appreciation. "Thank you all for the support! Whether you came for a jump on the worm inflatable, attended Swim Club, participated in Department of Education swimming lessons, got involved in our brand-new Swim School, or simply visited to beat the heat, I hope you all enjoyed the 2025/26 season."

We look forward to welcoming you back to the pool later in the year for the 2026/27 Pool Season.



MERREDIN SOUVENIR PLATES

Exciting news! The Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre is excited to reveal Merredin's first-ever souvenir number plate. The CWVC team has been working hard to bring this design to life, and it's finally here! Ready to grab yours? They are available now at the Visitor Centre in the Merredin Train Station, or you can skip the wait and order online here bit.ly/merredinsouvenirplate.



NEW RESIDENT PACK

New to Merredin? We've got you covered with our FREE New Resident Pack.

Packed with local information, essential contacts, business directories, and insider tips about your new community - everything you need to feel at home from day one.

Pop into the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre to grab your complimentary pack and let us help you discover all the wonderful things your new region has to offer!



Save the Date

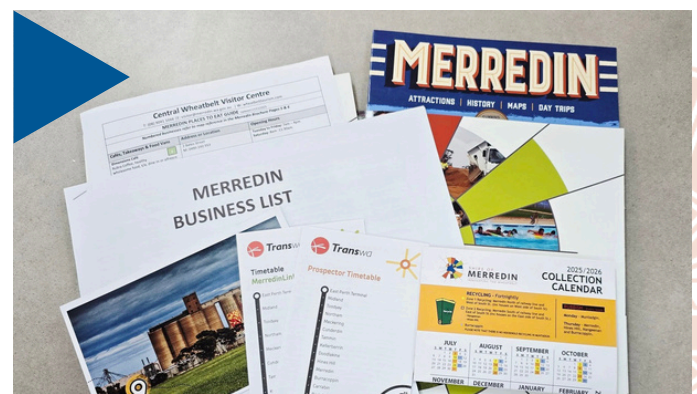
27 May 2026
6:00PM

Function Centre, Shire Admin
Cnr King & Barrack Streets

Join us for our next Business After Hours Sundowner – an engaging evening for local businesses to connect, collaborate, and share insights.

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

Please RSVP by 15 May 2026 by scanning the QR code or emailing ea@merredin.wa.gov.au.



CARAVAN AND CAMPING SHOW

The Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre Coordinator, Carina, had a fantastic time connecting with travellers at the Perth Caravan & Camping Show last month at Claremont Showgrounds!

Represented on the Wheatbelt stand within Australia's Golden Outback exhibit, the Visitor Centre was proud to be part of the display that secured the 2026 Best Tourism Display award.

The Show provided the perfect opportunity to highlight our stunning self-drive trails, hidden gem camping spots, and vibrant wildflower season. Carina met plenty of first-time caravan owners looking for easy getaways near Perth, as well as travellers looking for reliable alternatives to northern routes. With fuel concerns top of mind for many, the Wheatbelt's 3-5 day itineraries proved to be the 'just right' solution for those wanting to explore more while staying closer to home.

Photo: Carina with Linda Vernon from the Wheatbelt Way



EASTER IN THE PARK PHOTO GALLERY





SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- 7 APR** **CLAY FUN | 10:30AM - 11:30AM**
Make multi coloured clay creatures or fun clay animals.
- 9 APR** **JIGDRAWS | 10:30AM - 11:30AM**
Put your art on a jigsaw blank.
- 14 APR** **SIMPLE BASKET WEAVING | 10:30AM - 11:30AM**
Weave baskets with cardboard and string.
- 16 APR** **PAPER BAG PUPPETS | 10:30AM - 11:30AM**
Make puppets out of paper bags.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!

**LIMITED TO 40 PARTICIPANTS
NO WALK-INS**
PARENTAL SUPERVISION REQUIRED FOR ALL CHILDREN UNDER 10.
COME DRESSED FOR FUN - SEE YOU THERE!



ALL SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES ARE \$2 PER PARTICIPANT

Book your place by contacting Wendy at the Library
Telephone: (08) 9041 1222
library@merredin.wa.gov.au
www.merredin.wa.gov.au
facebook/merredinregionallibrary



ACTIVITIES

- Outdoor Games
- Kite Flying
- Music
- Fruit

ACTIVITIES IN THE PARK

Thursday, 9 April 2026
11 am - 2 pm

APEX PARK - DANJOO WAABININY BOODJA

FREE!

ACTIVE YOUTH

5 - 17 YEARS
Parental supervision required for children under 10.

Wednesday
8 APRIL 2026
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- BASKETBALL CHALLENGE**
- TABLE TENNIS CHALLENGE**
- SOCCER CHALLENGE**
- PICKLE BALL CHALLENGE**

OUTDOOR COURTS
MERREDIN REGIONAL COMMUNITY & LEISURE CENTRE

MOVIE UNDER THE STARS

Bring your beanbags and blankets. Enjoy a movie under the stars with your family and friends.

All ages welcome!

APRIL 10
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

TOWN CENTRE, BARRACK & BATES STREET

FREE POPCORN AND PIZZA (Limited)

CIRCUS AND MAGIC FOR ALL AGES




THE QUIZZICAL MR JEFF

"SUPER FUN SHOW FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY" - EVENTALIDE







MONDAY 13 APRIL 2026
CUMMINS THEATRE | 7:00 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.CUMMINSTHEATRE.COM.AU OR
 IN PERSON AT THE CENTRAL WHEATBELT VISITOR CENTRE




15 APRIL 2026

MARKET STALLS <small>BRING CASH</small>	12-3 PM
GIANT MAZE	2-7 PM
SAUSAGE SIZZLE	1-2 PM
CREATIVE ART STATION	2-5 PM
FRUIT	2-4 PM
ICE CREAM VAN <small>LIMITED TO YOUTH ATTENDEES</small>	3-5 PM
PIZZA <small>LIMITED TO YOUTH ATTENDEES</small>	6-7 PM
FACE PAINTING	5-8 PM

.. PLUS MUCH MORE ..

**EVERYONE WELCOME
 THOUGH
 PARTICIPATION: 10 - 25 YEARS**



**APEX PARK/
 DANJOO WAABININY BOODJA**



ANZAC Day

SATURDAY 25 APRIL 2026

<p>Dawn Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 MERREDIN CENOTAPH 🕒 5:45AM - PARADE 6:00AM - SERVICE 	<p>Mid-Morning Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 CUMMINS THEATRE 🕒 11:00AM
<p>Sunfire Breakfast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 TIVOLI ROOM 🕒 7:00AM 	<p>Light lunch to follow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 TIVOLI ROOM 🕒 12:00PM

- Lest We Forget -




Morning Melodies

TUESDAY 12 MAY



FEATURING RUPERT GUNTHER

🕒 10:30AM 📍 CUMMINS THEATRE

🎫 \$15 INCLUDING MORNING TEA

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED IN PERSON AT THE CENTRAL WHEATBELT VISITOR CENTRE OR ONLINE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE.



CUMMINS THEATRE