

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

ANZAC DAY 2026

As the first light of dawn broke over Merredin on Saturday 25 April 2026, approximately 400 community members and travellers stood side by side at the Cenotaph. They gathered not only to honour the ANZACs, but to pay tribute to everyone who has fought for our country. The morning began with a parade down Barrack Street, led by veterans and emergency service volunteers to the resonant sounds of Reagan Jones on the bagpipes.

Deputy Shire President Phil Van Der Merwe opened the 6:00am service, reflecting on how the Gallipoli landings forged a legacy of courage among the 417,000 Australians who enlisted. Following prayers led by Joel Hammen, a record number of attendees laid sprigs of rosemary before Aub Tompkin recited the Ode.

As the sun continued to rise over the horizon, Natalie Warnock's trumpet echoed through the streets as she performed the Last Post which was followed by one minute's silence. The national anthems of Australia and New Zealand were sung by talented local singer Jade Healey-Ratima.

The morning concluded with a Gunfire Breakfast proudly sponsored by Collgar Renewables and kindly cooked by the Merredin Men's Shed.

The commemorations continued at 11:00am at the Cummins Theatre with approximately 100 people in attendance. Deputy Shire President Phil Van Der Merwe, again serving as MC, opened the service with a deeply moving tribute to the families left behind. He spoke of the agonising silence that once filled Australian

homes - the long, heavy months spent waiting for any word from a loved one at war. In a moment that touched everyone present, he reflected on the ultimate cruelty of war: the cherished, hand-written letters that would sometimes arrive on a doorstep only after the family had received the dreaded pink telegram.

Following these reflections, Father Philip Perreau led the prayers, and A Choired Taste performed a beautiful rendition of the hymn Amazing Grace.

The guest speaker this year was Mr. Lachlan Hunter MLA; Member for Central Wheatbelt, Shadow Minister for Agriculture & Food, Racing & Gaming. Mr. Hunter paid tribute to the courage of all who have served, sharing personal stories of his own Wheatbelt ancestors, William Davies and George Moore, which brought the sacrifice of war close to home.

The service continued with a wreath-laying accompanied by the bagpipes, the Ode read by Mr. Hunter, and the Last Post. After A Choired Taste led the national anthems and a stirring performance of My Country, the day ended with a community lunch provided by Collgar Renewables and kindly prepared by the Merredin Croquet Club.

The Shire would like to thank our sponsors Collgar Renewables and Merredin IGA for their continued support of Anzac Day. We're also incredibly grateful to everyone who volunteered their time, whether you were part of the services or helped out behind the scenes. Finally, we would like to extend our gratitude to the Shire staff for all their hard work in making sure everything ran smoothly on the day.

MAY COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 26 May 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.

SAFELY PASSING OUR GRADERS

Our road maintenance crews are working hard on our local network, and we want to make sure everyone stays safe while they get the job done. To keep things moving smoothly, we have a few tips for sharing the road with our heavy machinery:

Let us Know You're There

If you happen to come up behind one of our graders, please jump on Channel 38 and let our team know you are there. These machines are large and have significant blind spots; a quick radio call ensures our team is aware of your location so you can pass safely.

Slow Down and Stay Back

Please remember to reduce your speed when approaching or overtaking a grader. Flying gravel and dust can reduce visibility and cause damage to your vehicle, and ours! Staying back at a safe distance until you're able to pass keeps everyone out of harm's way.

Protect the Crown

Once the grader has finished a section of road, we need your help to keep it in good shape. Please avoid driving directly on the crown (the highest point in the centre) of the road. Driving on the crown flattens the peak and creates indents that hold water. When water pools in the centre instead of draining off the sides, it softens the road base, leading to potholes. This undoes all the hard work our crews just put in and leads to more frequent road closures for repairs.



COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM

We are less than two weeks away from the application deadline for the 2026/27 Community Funding Program - Annual Grant.

Whether you're planning a local event, a community project, or a new initiative, now is the time to finalise those details and get your application in!

Applications Close: 12:00pm on Wednesday 13 May 2026.

Need help? If you have questions about your project's eligibility or need a hand with the application process, reach out to the Shire's Community and Culture team by emailing cumminstheatre@merredin.wa.gov.au or calling (08) 9041 3295.

Download the Application Form from the Shire website via the following link, or scan the QR Code.

→ bit.ly/communityfundingprogram



COMMUNITY —
**FUNDING
PROGRAM**
— ANNUAL GRANT



FINAL CHANCE TO APPLY

BECOME A FIELD OFFICER FOR THE 2026 CENSUS

Have you heard the news? Field Officer jobs are now available in locations all over Australia, including our capital cities, regional towns and remote areas. The best part? No prior experience is required.

As a Field Officer, you'll be the local face of the Census. You'll deliver Census letters and forms, answer questions from the public and follow up households that haven't yet responded.

Field Officer jobs are temporary and suit a variety of schedules, from students to part-time workers and retirees. You can earn extra money and work flexibly across weekdays, weekends and evenings.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is looking for a broad range of people to apply to reflect the diversity of Australian communities.

Get your application in by Monday 18 May 2026 to be considered in the first round of recruitment in your local area.

Join the Census team and help collect the data that informs local services for your community. To apply and see all Census job opportunities, visit census.abs.gov.au/jobs.

Become a Field Officer



Census

- ✓ Deliver Census letters and forms
- ✓ Earn extra money close to home
- ✓ No experience necessary

Temporary, casual jobs with flexible hours are available all over Australia.



Apply now
census.abs.gov.au/jobs



POOL BOWL INVESTIGATION UPDATE

If you've recently driven past the Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool, you may have noticed it's currently empty. This is part of the detailed "health check" currently being undertaken to better understand the condition of the pool. So far, two key steps have been completed:

Step 1: Water Loss Test - During the season, a diver conducted dye testing in the pool bowl and balance tanks to check for leaks, along with a drop test in the channel gutter.

Step 2: Core Sampling - Sections of the pool have been drilled and removed to allow for a close inspection of the concrete in order to assess the overall condition of the pool structure.

Our team will continue to share updates as more information becomes available.

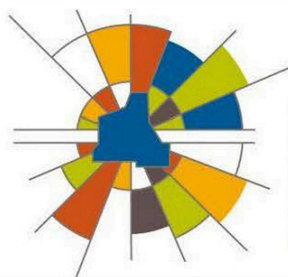
ROADS UPDATE

The final phase of the Chandler-Merredin Road sealing project is set to begin on Monday 11 May 2026, with works expected to span approximately two weeks. In addition, the contractors will also be sealing a 500-metre section of Goldfields Road while they are in Merredin.

Progress continues on Crooks Road with a surveyor re-

pegging the profile of the road last week. The outdoor crew is scheduled to begin reclaiming material shortly, which will be utilised to build the profile above the culverts. Once the Chandler-Merredin Road works are finalised, the crew will transition to Crooks Road to begin stabilisation and sealing.

Keep an eye on the Shire website for more updates.



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXTRAORDINARY ELECTION
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
Shire of Merredin**

An Extraordinary Postal Election will be held on Thursday, 25 June 2026 in the Shire of Merredin to fill the following vacancy:

District

1 Councillor

Expiry of term: 16 October 2027

Nominations Open on Tuesday, 5 May 2026

Nominations Close at 4.00pm Tuesday, 12 May 2026

Nominations must be lodged with the Returning Officer:

- at any time during the above period by arrangement; or
- between 2.00pm and 4.00pm Tuesday, 12 May 2026 (close of nominations) at the Shire of Merredin, corner King and Barrack Streets, MERREDIN.

Nominations Requirements

Candidates are required to lodge with the Returning Officer:

- The Commission's preferred method for candidates to nominate is through the Commissions Nomination Builder. This tool assists candidates in completing their nomination form, including their profile and additional information. The Nomination Builder can be accessed via www.lgportal.waec.wa.gov.au/noms. Candidates can complete their nomination details and profile, print the completed form with the allocated nomination ID, and lodge it with the Returning Officer. Alternatively, a copy of the prescribed nomination form is available from the Returning Officer or via www.elections.wa.gov.au/Candidate-Information
- a single A4 page profile of not more than 1,000 characters (including spaces) containing information about the candidate;
- a nomination deposit of \$100 (cash, EFT, bank cheque or postal order);
- a recent passport-sized photograph (optional);
- every candidate must complete the online course titled *Local Government Candidate Induction*, available at [Induction for Prospective candidates | LGIRS candidates](#), prior to nominating and provide the course code on the nomination form; and
- in addition to the candidates A4 profile, Candidate can provide additional information that they consider to be relevant to their candidature. This written statement cannot be more than 2,000 characters (including spaces), must be in the English language and is for publication on the local government's official website only. (optional)

Please Note:

Where an agent lodges a nomination on a candidate's behalf, it must be in the prescribed form with a written authorisation signed by the candidate. The documents may be hand delivered or posted to the Returning Officer and must be received by the close of nominations.

Information

Full details about eligibility and nomination procedures for prospective candidates can be obtained by contacting the Returning Officer, Wendy PORTER on 0461 383 901 or the Western Australian Electoral Commission on 13 63 06.

DENNIS O'REILLY
ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER
13 63 06

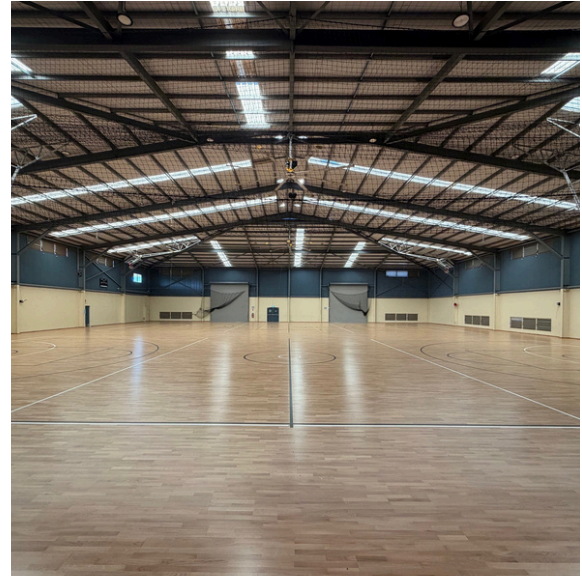


SOFT OPENING OF NEW MRCLC INDOOR COURTS

We are thrilled to announce that the MRCLC indoor courts are officially ready for a soft opening on 9 May 2026! We are especially excited that this milestone aligns perfectly with the Burracoppin vs. Nukarni Derby, giving our local players the very first opportunity to take to the new courts.

As this is a soft opening, we are still putting the final touches on the revitalisation project. Spectators and players will notice a few outstanding jobs yet to be completed, such as the installation of our new scoreboards and the final painting of the court walls. This means that for next weekend's fixture, we will continue to use our current scoring system.

We appreciate the community's patience and support as we cross the finish line on this project. We can't wait to see you all for Derby Day!



A WHIRLWIND OF FUN: RECAPPING THE APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The recent school holidays were a whirlwind of activity, kicking off on 4 April with Easter in the Park at Apex Park | Danjoo Waabininy Boodja. Sponsored by Merredin IGA, the morning was filled with crafts, fresh fruit, and an engaging hunt for golden eggs. The fun continued at the Cummins Theatre on 7 April with a day of puzzles and kite making, followed by a high-energy sports day on 8 April at MRCLC where kids competed in basketball, table tennis, soccer, and pickleball. By 9 April, the community returned to the park to fly their handmade kites, blow bubbles, and weave friendship bracelets.

Even a 45-minute Wheatbelt power outage couldn't stop the Movie Under the Stars on 10 April, where families enjoyed pizza, popcorn, and a special screening of *Over the Hedge*.

The second week brought the whimsy of the Quizzical Mr Jeff circus act to the theatre, followed by the massive Youth Fest proudly sponsored by Collgar Renewables. This highlight featured a giant inflatable maze, markets, and plenty of free pizza for attendees. Throughout the break, the Library remained a hub of activity with craft sessions across four days, and everything wrapped up on 17 April with a skateboard workshop at the skate park where kids mastered their balance and learned new tricks.

The Shire extends its thanks to everyone who joined in our school holiday fun, as well as the dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, from the early planning stages to the setup and hands-on support during each event.





COMMUNITY SHOUT OUT!

The Shire of Merredin would like to extend a huge thank you to the Merredin Pathfinder Club! These hardworking young people spent their school holidays cleaning up litter around town, showing incredible community spirit. We truly appreciate your dedication to keeping our environment beautiful and our town looking its absolute best!

TOURISM SUPPORT OFFICER

Position Status: Part Time

Salary: \$29.01 - \$30.91 per hour

An exciting opportunity has emerged at the Shire of Merredin for a Tourism Support Officer to join our team. This role will sit within the Strategy and Community Directorate and will support the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre (CWVC) Team to achieve strategic outcomes relative to the department.

The Tourism Support Officer will provide quality and professional customer service to locals and visitors in the areas of visitor servicing, Transwa bookings, Merredin tourism and Eastern Wheatbelt regional tourism, and provide administrative support to the CWVC Coordinator.

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; and
- A great employee Health and Wellbeing Program including flu shots, skin cancer screens and an Employee Assistance Program.

The ideal candidate will have local knowledge of Merredin and the Central Wheatbelt region, have good communication and customer service skills and the ability to work in a small team. The position will require some flexible hours including weekends during wildflower season.

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, Monday 18 May 2026**. Applications are to be marked "Private and Confidential" and emailed to careers@merredin.wa.gov.au, delivered to the Shire Administration Building during office hours 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 Carina Macdonald on (08) 9041 1666.

Craig Watts
Chief Executive Officer



INFANT SWIMMING REGISTRATION

Merredin Mini Swimmers is coming back for Term 2!

Register now to be part of the fun!

JOIN OUR 6 WEEK PROGRAM

FRIDAYS

22 MAY to 26 JUNE

LEARN, GROW, SOCIALISE

REGISTRATIONS DUE 12NOON 6 MAY



For more information or to retrieve a registration form, please contact the Team on 9041 3033 or email mrcic@merredin.wa.gov.au www.merredinsportandrecreation.com.au

Have your say on Merredin's future

Help shape local services, programs and community priorities

Why complete a scorecard?

- Improve local services and facilities
- Help shape future programs and priorities
- Make sure your voice is heard

Who can take part?

- All community members aged 14+ years
- Ratepayers
- Local businesses and community groups
- Customers and visitors

How to have your say

Visit

catalyse.com.au/studies

Snap the QR code




Closing date

15 May 2026

Morning Melodies

TUESDAY 12 MAY

SCAN ME!




FEATURING RUPERT GUENTHER

🕒 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

BINGO!

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH	MERREDIN LIBRARY, 22 CORONATION STREET	1:30PM - 3:00PM

FREE OVER 50'S EVENT
FEEL FREE TO BRING ALONG SOME NIIBBLES
TEA AND COFFEE PROVIDED

FUN, WACKY PRIZES FOR WINNERS!

MERREDIN REGIONAL LIBRARY



BUSINESS After Hours SUNDOWNER



📅 3 June 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.

SCAN ME!



SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

Wheatbelt Development Commission

Official OPENING

FRIDAY **JUNE 26** 1:00PM 2026



The Shire of Merredin invites you to the Grand Opening of the Merredin Native Garden. Located at Roy Little Park, this garden celebrates our local flora, featuring tube stock earned through the Shire's 2024 Wildflower Excellence Rating Scheme. Come along and enjoy afternoon tea while exploring the Native Garden!

Please RSVP by **Wednesday 17 June 2026** to the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre on 9041 1666, scan the QR Code or visit bit.ly/nativegardensvp

SCAN ME



Supported by

WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT