



COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

MERREDIN SERVES UP SUPPORT AT 'R U OK?' COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Merredin Town Centre became a hub of community connection as locals gathered for the R U OK? BBQ Lunch on Thursday 28 May. Hosted by the travelling R U OK? Conversation Convoy, the event commenced at 11:30am, drawing community members young and old together to focus on the importance of meaningful conversations and mutual support.

Attendees were treated to a free sausage sizzle lunch, kindly cooked by the Conversation Convoy team, then were able to enjoy an array of lawn games including giant Jenga and cornhole, alongside dedicated checkers and chess tables. These activities offered a welcoming space for residents to pause their daily routines, connect with one another, and reduce the stigma surrounding mental health discussions.

The 43 local residents in attendance gained valuable insight into the specific mental health services available within the Wheatbelt region. Free resources and practical toolkits were distributed, equipping attendees with the confidence and knowledge to effectively check in on family, friends, and colleagues.

The exceptional turnout reflected strongly on the local community. The R U OK? Conversation Convoy team extended their sincere gratitude to the people of Merredin, noting that this gathering was one of the best-attended weekday events they have hosted on their tour. This impressive participation is a credit to the local residents, demonstrating Merredin's commitment to community wellbeing.

Thank you to the R U OK? team for bringing these essential resources to the region, and to the community members who supported the initiative.



JUNE COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 23 June 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.

DIGITAL LITERACY BOOST FOR LOCAL SENIORS

The weekly Seniors Tea and Tech Program continues to make a meaningful impact within the community, providing local seniors with the opportunity to build confidence and skills in using modern technology in a supportive and welcoming environment.

The program has been proudly supported through the Age-Friendly Communities Connectivity Grants Program, funded by the Department of Communities. This financial support has enabled the delivery of practical and engaging technology sessions tailored specifically to the needs of local seniors.

Throughout the program, participants have taken part in a range of informative sessions designed to improve digital confidence and everyday accessibility. Topics included cyber security awareness and scam prevention, navigating the Emergency WA app, using the online IGA shopping app, accessing and navigating various aspects of the Shire website, and learning how to book tickets and register for events online using QR codes and website links.

In addition to group sessions, the program has also provided individual one-on-one support, allowing participants to receive assistance with personal devices, applications, and online tasks at their own pace.

Attendance numbers and ongoing community feedback have clearly demonstrated that this program has been highly valued and greatly needed by locals. Many participants have reported increased confidence in using technology, improved access to online services, and a stronger sense of connection with both community information and family networks.



GET YOUR WILDFLOWERS SEEDS NOW!

Have you ever looked at our stunning seasonal wildflower displays and wished you could take a piece of that magic home? Well, you can — and right now is the absolute perfect time to plant!

Wildflower Packets (\$4.95): Perfect for small garden beds, pots, or adding a pop of native colour to your yard.

Everlastings 10g (\$12.00): Create your very own pink and white wildflower carpet.

Pop into the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre, grab a packet (or three!), and let's get planting.

Only water once on your rostered watering days



WATER
CORPORATION

Sprinkler rosters are in place across WA to help make sure we're using water wisely in our dry climate. Unsure of your watering days? Check here: bit.ly/wawateringdays

PUBLIC NOTICES

Differential Rating Objects and Reasons 2026/27

The Shire is seeking feedback on the proposed differential rates objects and reasons 2026/27.

In arriving at the proposed rates in the dollar the Council has attempted to balance the need for revenue to fund essential services, facilities and infrastructure to the entire community with the lowest impact on ratepayers.

The following are the proposed Differential Rates and Minimum Payments for the Shire for the 2026/27 financial year, to be effective from 1 July 2026. View the Statement here: bit.ly/statementofobjectsandreasons

Unimproved Value	Minimum Rate	Rate in \$
GRV	\$960.00	0.123853
UV1 – Rural	\$1,190	0.010194
UV2 – Urban Rural	\$200	0.020300
UV3 – Mining	\$1,190	0.020000
UV4 – Special Use Power Generation	\$1,190	0.020388
UV5 – Special Use Airstrip	\$1,190	0.018491

Any submissions by electors or ratepayers in respect of the proposed Differential Rates and Minimum Payments can be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Merredin, PO Box 42, Merredin WA 6415, or by email admin@merredin.wa.gov.au prior to 2:00pm on Friday 19 June 2026.

Please note that all submissions will become a public record. However, the Shire will not release your personal details if a written request to withhold these details is received. Ratepayers are welcome to contact the Shire Administration Department regarding the differential rating categories on (08) 9041 1611 or email admin@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Craig Watts
Chief Executive Officer
29 May 2026

Notice of Public Advertisement of Planning Proposal - Planning and Development Act 2005

The local government has received an application to use and develop land for the following purpose, and public comments are invited.

Lot No: 19107 Street: Allsop Road Suburb: Tandegin

Proposal: A 160-metre lightweight galvanised steel mast framework (Wind Monitoring Tower) with guy wires and buried anchor footings, weather monitoring sensors mounted on booms at various heights.

Details of the proposal are available to the public at the Shire of Merredin administration building Cnr Barrack Street and King Road, Merredin, or from its website via the following link: bit.ly/tandegindevelopmentapplication

Submissions may be made on the proposal in the period ending on the 15th day of June 2026.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted to the local government in writing on or before that day, to the Chief Executive Officer via email admin@merredin.wa.gov.au or may be delivered to the Shire Administration Building.

Craig Watts
Chief Executive Officer
29 May 2026

For and on behalf of the Shire of Merredin

HIRE THE CUMMINS THEATRE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT

Looking for a venue with a bit of character? The Cummins Theatre is available for hire and suited to just about any occasion.

This heritage-listed building in the heart of the Wheatbelt is a flexible, multipurpose space. The beautiful main auditorium can seat up to 422 — ideal for concerts, performances, balls, weddings, and large community gatherings. For smaller occasions, the Tivoli Room is perfect for workshops, meetings, conferences, and intimate functions.

The venue also includes a fully equipped commercial kitchen and a licensed bar that can be hired for your event. Staff are happy to recommend local Merredin caterers, and basic technical support is available. You're welcome to bring your own qualified technician or ask the team to source one for you.

Whether you're planning a corporate meeting, a celebration, or a stage production, the Cummins Theatre offers a unique setting with on-site and rear parking, including ACROD and bus access.

To check availability or make a booking, contact the Cummins Theatre team on (08) 9041 3295, email cumminstheatre@merredin.wa.gov.au, or visit www.cumminstheatre.com.au.



NEW STAFF PROFILE

Join us in welcoming Kate to the Shire team as the new HR Advisor! With almost 10 years of experience in Human Resources across the banking and education sectors, Kate brings a strong passion for integrity and positive workplace culture to local government. Her curiosity about human behaviour and workplace wellbeing recently led her to complete her Master's degree in 2025.

A Message from Kate

"As I continue to grow in my career, I aspire to create positive change and contribute to psychologically safe and supportive workplaces.

I am thrilled to be working alongside the wonderful and passionate team at the Shire of Merredin and look forward to learning from everyone. Merredin already feels like home! Glad to be here."



SHIRE PROJECT UPDATES

King Street Bridge Closure

Please be advised that the King Street bridge (located between Duff Street and Growden Street) is closed until further notice due to structural foundation damage.

While the Shire has been closely monitoring the bridge, it has now reached a point where a closure is necessary as a precautionary measure to ensure public safety.

Our infrastructure team is currently sourcing quotes from contractors to begin remediation works as quickly as possible. In the meantime, motorists are kindly asked to seek alternative routes. We appreciate your patience and cooperation.

Road Updates

The roads crew has completed the widening and resurfacing project on Chandler-Merredin Road, and is also nearing completion of the resurfacing of St Mary's carpark. Attention has now moved to the Crooks Road works, with the construction team completing final grading and road works in preparation for surface stabilisation and laying of bitumen in the coming weeks. Once this is completed, we will move on to our winter grading program on the unsealed road network.

ASBESTOS DISPOSAL

The Shire of Merredin has strict rules aligned with WorkSafe and the Department of Environment Regulation to keep our community safe. Here is what you need to know before you dispose of it.

Do I Need a Licence?

- Under 10m² (Non-friable): You can remove it yourself without a licence, but you must follow all wrapping and disposal rules.
- Over 10m² (Non-friable): You must hire a licensed professional or hold a Class B WorkSafe licence.
- Friable Asbestos: (Crumbles easily, like insulation). This always requires a Class A licence.

When and Where can I Dispose of Asbestos?

Disposal is permitted exclusively on Thursdays at the Merredin Landfill Site. You must book an appointment in advance by calling the Shire Office on (08) 9041 1611, and all relevant disposal fees must be paid for your load to be accepted.

More Info: www.merredin.wa.gov.au/asbestos.aspx

MERREDIN BUSINESS OWNERS

In addition to the upcoming Business After Hours Sundowner which is proudly supported by the Wheatbelt Development Commission, Craig Holland will be in town on Thursday 4 June 2026 to provide business advisory sessions to local businesses.



Free 1:1 Business Advisory Sessions

Thursday, 4 June 2026
Merredin, Western Australia

I'll be in the Merredin area and would love to support your business with advice tailored to your needs and goals. If you'd like to chat in more detail or book an appointment, please contact me by phone or email. I look forward to meeting you!

Craig Holland ☎ 0438 909 019 ✉ craig.holland@ipsau.com.au
Business Advisor | IPS Management Consultants



Small Business
Development Corporation
Regional



Native Flora Talks & Bus Tour
Sunday 28th June 2026 **FREE EVENT**

Tivoli Room
8:30am to 12pm

Talks By: Morning Tea provided and Book sales available

Richard McDowell – WNG

- Nursery Tales: the dynamics of starting a nursery in the Wheatbelt

Ursina (Sina) Gringer – Published Author

- From the Swiss Alps to the Australian Bush

Malcolm French OAM – Eucalypt Taxonomist

- The very special Eucalypts of the Merredin region

Bookings Essential visit or contact the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre (08) 9041 1666

0-5 YEARS



BUBS ON THE MOVE

FRIDAY 19 JUNE 2026

TIME: 9:30AM - 11:00AM

LOCATION: MRCLC - OLD PEAK AND PLAY ROOM
(PLEASE ENTER FROM THE BOWLING GREEN ENTRANCE)

Enjoy a coffee from Wheatbelt Coffee Time and learn all about gross motor skills while your little ones enjoy free activities!

OBSTACLE COURSE STORY TIME YUMMY FRUIT SONGS

Please RSVP to Lauren Steel by emailing lsteel@amityhealth.com.au



Official OPENING

JUNE 26 1:00PM
FRIDAY 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/nativegardensrvp

SCAN ME



Supported by



BEANSTALK

Everyone knows Jack's story, but what about the giant's?

SUNDAY 5 JULY 2026

CUMMINS THEATRE | 11AM

\$25 GENERAL ADMISSION | \$85 FAMILY (4)

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

SCAN ME

JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM 2026

<p>TUESDAY - 7 JULY Fantastic Flying Things Make different flying things - a plane, a whirligig and a bat plane</p>	<p>THURSDAY - 9 JULY Australia Craft Make Aussie Animal Hangers and boomerangs</p>
<p>TUESDAY - 14 JULY Masks Make masks for disguise and fun!</p>	<p>THURSDAY - 16 JULY Sandcastles & Gargoyles Making with paper plates and craft sand.</p>

Sessions run from 10:30am to 11:30am at the Merredin Library. Parental supervision required for children under 10. Come dressed for fun - see you there!

ALL SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES ARE \$2 PER PARTICIPANT

HOW TO BOOK
Bookings essential. Limited to 40 participants - No walk ins. Book your place by contacting Wendy at the Library
Telephone: (08) 9041 1222
Email: library@merredin.wa.gov.au
facebook.com/merredinregionallibrary

MERREDIN REGIONAL LIBRARY