

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

BASS BANANA BRINGS THE BOUNCE TO CUMMINS THEATRE

Merredin's youngest music fans turned out in force on Friday July 17th, as local mystery DJ Bass Banana took over Cummins Theatre for a high-energy Kids Dance Party, presented by the Shire of Merredin. The identity behind the sunglasses-clad banana costume remains a closely guarded community secret, but that didn't stop him from having the historic venue thumping with beats built for little feet, drawing a crowd of over 100 people.

The event ran across two sessions to suit different age groups: a 4pm slot for children up to 12, followed by a 6pm session for the 13–17 crowd. With just \$2 entry and free admission for accompanying parents, it was an accessible night out for Wheatbelt families, though supervision was required for children under 10.

After the music wrapped up, Bass Banana stuck around to meet his young fans, posing for photos with kids eager to dance alongside their new favourite fruit. It's the kind of low-cost, high-energy community event Cummins Theatre has become known for, proving Merredin doesn't need a big name to throw a great party.

Keep an eye out for Bass Banana's next appearance — he's tipped to make a comeback at Cummins Theatre these upcoming school holidays!



AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 25 August 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.

NEW HIGHWAY SIGNS

If you've recently driven to Merredin down Great Eastern Highway, either from the East or West, you may have noticed some shiny new signs. Replacing the old, cracked signage that welcomed travellers for over a decade, these vibrant additions give the town's main entry points a much-needed refresh. Designed to showcase the very best of the region, the eye-catching displays serve as an open invitation for passersby to pull over and experience the rich adventure, wonder, and history that Merredin has to offer.

The project was led by the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre Coordinator, while the modern design was crafted in-house by the Shire of Merredin's Media and Communications Officer. Whether you are returning home or visiting for the first time, these modern entryway signs offer a warm welcome for your journey into the heart of the Wheatbelt.



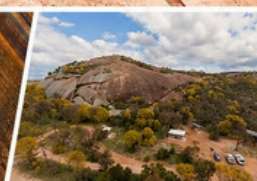
WE ARE HIRING



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER

Lead and strengthen emergency management and community resilience across the Shires of Bruce Rock, Merredin and Narembeen.

APPLY NOW



Selection Criteria and Job Description available:
www.bruce-rock.wa.gov.au

Applications Close:
4:00pm Wednesday 5 August 2026



For enquiries, contact:
Mark Furr
mark.furr@bruce-rock.wa.gov.au
(08) 9061 1377

A GIANT'S EYE VIEW OF A CLASSIC TALE

Everyone knows the story of Jack and the Beanstalk — but what about the giant? That question was at the heart of *Beanstalk*, a playful retelling of the fairy tale staged at Cummins Theatre on Sunday 5 July, presented by Spare Parts Puppet Theatre.

Rather than the familiar bone-crunching version, the show welcomed audiences into the kitchen of Brian the giant, where clouds were cooked up alongside carrots and broccoli, and Jack appeared not as a boy but as a very expressive loaf of bread. It was a warm, funny reimagining that flipped the usual hero-and-villain roles on their head.

Performed with charm and inventive puppetry, *Beanstalk* has picked up glowing reviews throughout its national tour, praised for writing sharp enough to keep parents laughing right alongside their kids. Critics have highlighted its clever visual gags — including a memorable cast of vegetable "villagers" — and its knack for blending silliness with genuine heart.

The performance was followed by a relaxed Q&A with great questions from the young audience — a favourite being one little lad who put it plainly: "Are you going to tidy up that mess?" Suited to ages five and up, the show offered plenty for grown-ups too, with families turning out at the historic Cummins Theatre for a morning of laughs.



WHEATBELT MILITARY HISTORY TOUR

Looking for a Unique Two-Day Escape?

Step beyond the city and into the heart of Western Australia's wartime history on this immersive two-day guided experience where history comes alive through authentic places, exclusive locations, passionate local guides and remarkable military collections.

From the impressive vehicle collection at the Nungarin Army and Heritage Machinery Museum, to the broader historical context showcased at the Merredin Military Museum, this tour brings history to life through expert storytelling and curated access. Whether you're a history enthusiast or simply looking for a unique short break in regional Western Australia, this is an experience unlike any other.

Available Tours

- 13 to 14 August 2026

bit.ly/WheatbeltMilitaryAugustTour

- 10 to 11 September 2026

bit.ly/WheatbeltMilitarySeptemeberTour

Cost (per person): \$245, which includes entry to the Nungarin Army and Heritage Machinery Museum and the Merredin Military Museum, bus transport from Merredin to Nungarin and return with onboard commentary, access to exclusive military locations not open to the public, 2 x Lunch and 1 x Morning & Afternoon Tea



We know how important our hydrotherapy pool is to our community, which is why we want to keep you in the loop on what's happening behind the scenes.

Following the thorough investigations carried out during our earlier closure this year, our team identified ongoing issues with the pool's heating system. Unfortunately, the pump, which is a discontinued model, is no longer able to reliably maintain the warm temperatures required for hydrotherapy.

To ensure we can continue offering a reliable and high-quality service to our community for years to come, the hydrotherapy pool will remain closed until further notice while Council formally considers future options at the July Ordinary Council Meeting next week, including the potential purchase of a brand-new heat pump system.

We know closures are frustrating, and we appreciate your patience while we work towards a permanent solution. We'll keep you updated as soon as decisions are finalised and a timeline is set.



HYDRO POOL UPDATE



PUBLIC NOTICES

2026/27 Fees and Charges

The Shire of Merredin wishes to advise that the 2026/27 Annual Budget was adopted at the July Ordinary Council Meeting, held on Tuesday 28 July 2026.

This includes the 2026/27 Schedule of Fees and Charges, which will be applicable from 3 August 2026 onwards.

You can view the updated Fees and Charges by visiting bit.ly/merredinfeesandcharges2627

Craig Watts
Chief Executive Officer

30 July 2026

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Notice of Public Advertisement of Planning Proposal

Planning and Development Act 2005
Shire of Merredin

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

- Lot No: 155 Street: Marley Close Suburb: Nangeenan

Proposal: Works associated with Nangeenan Hall incorporating extensions to the northeast side of the Nangeenan Hall, including;

- 1 x ablution unit
- 1 x kitchen unit
- 2 x sea containers
- Pergola
- Deck for proposed ablution unit and kitchen unit
- Access for persons with disability

Details of the proposal are available to the public at the Shire of Merredin Administration Building located on Cnr Barrack Street and King Street in Merredin, or from its website via the following link:
bit.ly/publicnoticenangeenan

Submissions may be made on the proposal in the period ending on the 17th day of August 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

30 July 2026



LEGO CLUB!
WHAT CREATIONS WILL YOU BUILD?

LAST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
3:30PM - 5PM
MERREDIN LIBRARY

FOR BUILDERS AGED 5 - 14 YEARS
WE KINDLY ASK THAT A PARENT OR GUARDIAN ACCOMPANY ANYONE UNDER 10 TO THE SESSIONS
FUN THEMES EACH MONTH & FRIENDLY COMPETITIONS

THIS IS A FREE PROGRAM RUN BY THE MERREDIN LIBRARY!

For more information please contact Wendy at the Library
Telephone: (08) 9041 1222
library@merredin.wa.gov.au
www.merredin.wa.gov.au
facebook.com/merredinregionallibrary

MERREDIN REGIONAL LIBRARY

JOIN THE LIBRARY'S CODING CLUB!

The Merredin Library Coding Club is looking for new members aged 8 - 14 years to join the fun this term! We are diving into game design and creating an action-packed zombie survival game complete with power-ups and lightning strikes.

You don't need to know anything about programming to jump right in, as we will guide you through the basics using Scratch in a relaxed, supportive environment. We even have a few spare laptops available if you need one, so all you have to bring is your creativity.

Give us a call at 9041 1222 or send an email to library@merredin.wa.gov.au to register.

Come give it a go, we would love to see you there!



Creative Bytes

MERREDIN HUNT EXTRAVAGANZA WINNERS

The July school holidays were packed with teamwork and friendly competition as local youth took on the Merredin Hunt Extravaganza challenge!

The activity put participants' problem-solving and creative skills to the test in an epic local scavenger hunt. Teams were given clues leading them to specific locations around town. Once they cracked the clue and arrived at their destination, they had to tackle photo and video challenges, as well as answer location-based trivia to earn points. There was 18 total missions scattered across Merredin.

We'd like to give a massive shoutout to everyone who teamed up and took on the challenge, and congratulate our top point scorers:

- 1st Place: Hayden Moort
 - Team: Darcy, Maarliah, and Violet
 - Stats: Completed 15 missions | 295 points
- 2nd Place: Tung Tung Gods
 - Team: Bane, Jed, Hamish, Lera & Jax
 - Stats: Completed 14 missions | 230 points
- 3rd Place: Emily Smith
 - Stats: Completed 7 missions | 120 points

A big thank you again to all the participants and supporters who helped bring the Merredin Hunt Extravaganza to life. Keep an eye out for our next youth adventure!



OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MRCLC INDOOR COURTS

On Saturday 18 July, the Merredin community gathered to celebrate the official opening of the revitalised indoor courts at the Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre. The highlight of the upgraded facility is the new Helsinki flooring, which provides local athletes with a high-performance playing surface built for competition and safety. This major transformation was made possible through a generous \$300,000 election commitment from the Labor Government, delivered via the Wheatbelt Development Commission, alongside support from the Merredin Basketball Association,

Merredin Netball Association, Burracoppin Netball Club, and Nukarni Netball Club.

In addition to the impressive new floor, the facility has undergone a full suite of modern upgrades designed to elevate the game-day experience for players and supporters. The courts now feature brand-new scoreboards incorporating shot clocks, automatic winches for the basketball backboards, and new nets. To improve overall comfort and aesthetics, the venue also received spectator seating enhancements, new louvers for improved ventilation, and a fresh coat of paint across the walls.



INCLUSIVE PREPAREDNESS

As the weather starts to warm up with it getting just a little closer to spring, its time to start thinking about preparing for fire season and how you can support others in their preparation. A key part of this is supporting those in your family, and the community, who need a little help in preparing.

What is Inclusive Preparedness and why is it important?

Inclusive preparedness means helping everyone prepare for emergencies in a way that works for them. Everyone should be able to access emergency information and understand what to do.

People have different needs, abilities, supports, languages, and life circumstances. So being prepared looks different for everyone, and plans should reflect those individual needs. Preparing early can help people stay safer, make informed decisions, and get the support they need during an emergency. Inclusive preparedness helps ensure that no one is left behind.

Planning for Your Needs

Preparedness starts with thinking about what you and your household rely on each day and how those needs could change during an emergency. Take five minutes to consider:

1. Who are the people who support you and who do you support?
2. What medications or medical equipment do you use? Can your regular medication be easily replaced in an emergency or does your medical equipment need electricity to run?
3. How do you get emergency information?
4. What transport may you need?
5. Do you have any pets or animals in your care?

Based off these thoughts create or review your [emergency plan](#) in [Emergency WA](#).

Supporting each other and Helping Others Prepare

Once you have planned for what you and your household, the next step is to see what you can do to support your friends, family and neighbours. Preparing for emergencies together can help everyone stay safer. Some small steps you can take to help support your friends, family and neighbours is to:

- Talk with them about the risk.
- Share emergency information and preparedness resources.
- Make a plan for how you will stay in touch during an emergency.
- Check if someone you know might need extra support to prepare.

Small conversations today can make a big difference during an emergency.

Want to do more? Become a P-CEP Facilitator

A Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) approach is one of the best ways to support inclusive preparedness. It focusses on each person's strengths and recognises that people know their own needs and support networks best.

As a P-CEP Facilitator, you can help people create their own emergency plans by through supportive conversations in your organisation or community.

Learn more about the [Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness \(P-CEP\) Online Certificate Course](#).

Take Action this Month

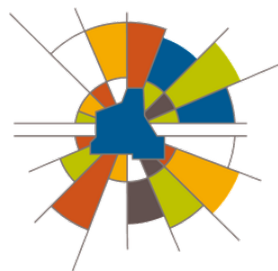
- Create or review your [emergency plan](#) in [Emergency WA](#);
- Think about the people, equipment, medication, and information you rely on each day, and include them in your emergency plan;
- Share your plan with people you trust; and
- Check you can access emergency information. This can be through:
 - Your local ABC Radio stations 531 AM or 107.3 FM,
 - The [Emergency WA](#) app which includes accessibility features and live ABC emergency broadcasts, or
 - The [National Relay Service](#) which provides communication support for people who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech communication difficulties.

Helpful Resources

- [Emergency Plan](#): A free tool available on the Emergency WA website and app to help you create a personalised emergency plan.
- [Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness home page](#).
- [P-CEP Tools](#) including the all-hazard P-CEP Workbook and capability wheel.

Information in different formats

- [Easy English resources](#) for bushfire and lithium-ion batteries.
- [Translated hazard and language support information](#) in 23 languages including Auslan videos.
- Information and planning support for [people and communities at higher risk](#), such as hard copies of the Be Safe and Leave Early Plan.



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, 24 September 2026 in the Shire of Merredin to fill the following vacancy:

District

1 Councillor

Expiry of term: 16 October 2027

Nominations Open on Tuesday, 4 August 2026

Nominations Close at 4.00pm Tuesday, 11 August 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, 11 August 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 0484 776 244 or the Western Australian Electoral Commission on 13 63 06.

DENNIS O'REILLY
ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER
13 63 06



ABBA EXTRAVAGANZA



THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC

SATURDAY 8 AUGUST | ONE NIGHT ONLY
CUMMINS THEATRE

TICKETS \$40 | SHOW STARTS 7.30PM
Tickets available at www.eventbrite.com.au

HONOURING VIETNAM VETERANS 60 YEARS ON
FROM THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN

LONG TAN DAY

Lest We Forget

TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 2026
REFLECTION POND - ROY LITTLE PARK

PLEASE ARRIVE BY 3:45PM FOR A 4:00PM START

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT



CUMMINS THEATRE PRESENTS

CONSTRUCTING AUSTRALIA: PIPE DREAMS

COMING THURSDAY 20 AUGUST 2026

TIME: 3:00PM ADDRESS: 31 BATES STREET, MERREDIN
COST: \$2 PER PERSON

CUMMINS THEATRE

PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE
CONTAINS MILD THEMES
PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED

COMMUNITY GROUPS *After Hours* SUNDOWNER



Save the Date

 26 August 2026
6:00PM

 Function Centre, Shire Admin
Cnr King & Barrack Streets

Join us for our Community Group Sundowner – an engaging evening for representatives from local Community Groups to connect, collaborate, share insights, and ask questions.

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

Please RSVP by 19 August by scanning the QR code or emailing Martina at ea@merredin.wa.gov.au.

SCAN ME!

