

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Shire of Merredin is seeking expressions of interest from eligible persons to fill a current Councillor vacancy. This is a fantastic opportunity for a local resident with a passion for community to play a role in shaping the Shire's strategic direction.

Under the Local Government Act 1995, as the Shire has held two unsuccessful Extraordinary Elections, the preferred candidate can now be selected and endorsed directly by Council as opposed to the formal election process.

Whilst a Councillor term is normally four years, as this vacancy was created by a mid-term resignation, this vacant Councillor term ends in October 2027.

Basic eligibility criteria includes:

- Over 18 years of age;
- An Australian citizen (or a British subject prior to 26 January 1984); and
- An elector for the district and has lived in the district for over one month (elector includes residents and owner/occupiers)

There are several eligibility exclusions, these can be found here: bit.ly/mercandidateinformation

Interested persons are encouraged to contact the Shire's Chief Executive Officer via (08) 9041 1611 or a current Councillor to discuss this opportunity further or visit bit.ly/dlgcsnominateforcouncil.

Expressions of interest will be received in writing by the Chief Executive Officer by 5:00pm on Friday 11 September 2026, with candidates encouraged to include a brief summation providing some background on themselves, their reasons for seeking to join Council and the skills, knowledge and experience they will bring to the role.

Written Expressions of Interest shall be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, titled "EOI – Shire of Merredin Vacant Councillor Position" and submitted via:

- In-person: Administration Building, Cnr King and Barrack Streets, Merredin
- Mail: PO Box 42, Merredin WA 6415
- Email: ceo@merredin.wa.gov.au



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SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 22 September 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.



UPDATE: MERREDIN DISTRICT OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL

Since its opening in 1956, the Merredin District Olympic Swimming has served as a vital hub for health, recreation, and social cohesion. However, as the facility nears 70 years of service, it is approaching an 'end of asset life' stage, displaying severe structural deterioration, corrosion, and plant failure risks.

You may be wondering, what does 'end of asset life' mean for a pool?

In short, it means it has reached the end of its intended operational lifespan, where ongoing maintenance, water replenishment, and chemical costs naturally begin to cost more and outweigh the value.

That is why we emptied the pool earlier this year; to undertake core sampling and structural testing – to give us a clear picture of the bowl's condition so we can plan accordingly for the future.

The report received confirmed that while the pool remains safe for use right now, it is showing its age and will be due for replacement over the next 5 to 10 years. Rather than temporary short-term patch jobs, Council's preference is to investigate constructing a new facility that offers a far more cost-effective solution over the long term.

We are currently undertaking preliminary research and exploring potential site options to inform our next steps. Once completed, we will be seeking community feedback as we are committed to involving our community regarding the future of the pool. We expect consultation with key stakeholders and residents to commence in late 2026 / early 2027.

In the meantime, it is business as usual! We will continue to maintain and operate the pool to ensure a safe, enjoyable environment for this season, and coming seasons too.



CAT AND DOG REGISTRATIONS



A friendly reminder to all pet owners that if your cat has reached 6 months or your dog has reached 3 months, they must be registered with the Shire of Merredin. A common misconception is that if your pet is microchipped, that means they are registered. This is incorrect; microchipping and Shire registration are two separate legal requirements.

Ensuring your furry friend is registered means that we can get them back to you ASAP if they ever end up in the pound.

Registrations start 1 November for 1-year, 3-year, or lifetime periods.

Prices for sterilised pets are:

1 Year: \$20

3 Years: \$42.50

Lifetime: \$100 (lifetime)

Prices for unsterilised pets are:

1 Year: \$50

3 Years: \$120

Lifetime: \$250

If you would like more information, please visit www.merredin.wa.gov.au/register-your-pet.aspx

RATES PAYMENTS DUE

Payments for the 2026/27 rates are due, either in full or the first instalment, by **Friday 11 September 2026**.

Payments can be made in any of the following ways:

- In person at the Shire Administration Building
- Over the phone by calling (08) 9041 1611
- Online via BPay - Biller Code: 848168

If you have, or believe you will have, difficulty in paying your rates, or you have not received your Rates Notice/s, please contact the Shire's Rates Officer on (08) 9041 1611.



2026

Eric Hind SCHOLARSHIP

The Eric Hind Scholarship is awarded by the Shire of Merredin annually to a young, talented performing arts student or resident.

Applications are now open for 2026. To apply, please scan the QR code.

Applications Close: 12:00pm Friday 30 October 2026

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- ✓ Applicant must be a resident or student in the Shire of Merredin.
- ✓ Must not have won the scholarship in the past five (5) years.
- ✓ Applicant must be at least seven (7) years of age and under 20 years of age.



SCAN

(08) 9041 3295 www.merredin.wa.gov.au cumminstheatre@merredin.wa.gov.au



\$10

Collgar Scenic Wildflower Bus Tour

Join us on a guided tour of Merredin's only Flora road. View the stunning array of native flora that grows in the Central Wheatbelt region.

Saturday, 12 September 2026

10am (9:30am registration) - 2pm

Leaving from the Merredin Branch Wildflower Society of WA at Merredin Regional Library

Light Lunch provided under the Salmon gums

Local wildflower experts onboard

Please book your seat on the Bus

Contact the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre on 9041 1666

Meet at
9:30AM



AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS - NOW OPEN!

Nominations for the annual Community Citizen of the Year Awards are officially open, providing an opportunity to acknowledge local legends who strengthen and enrich community life. Organised in partnership with local councils and Auspire – Australia Day Council of WA, these awards celebrate individuals and groups who demonstrate outstanding active citizenship.

Whether it is a dedicated volunteer, an inspiring youth leader, a tireless senior contributor, or a community event that brought people together, these awards ensure meaningful contributions do not go unnoticed.

As always, nominations can be submitted across four categories:

- Community Citizen of the Year
- Young Community Citizen of the Year (16 - 30 Years)
- Senior Community Citizen of the Year (65+ Years)
- Active Citizenship (Group or Event)

Nominations can be completed online through the official Citizen of the Year Awards portal: www.citizenshipawards.com.au/nominate/ Alternatively, hard copy forms can be collected from any Shire facility, and must be returned by 31 October 2026.



JOB VACANCIES

Facilities / Program Officer

Commencing: Immediately

Position Status: Part-Time

Salary: Level 7, \$67,548.48 - \$71,919.87

Applications are invited for the position of Facilities / Program Officer at the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre (MRCLC). The role involves managing and developing stakeholder relationships, implementing health and safety protocols when required, and supporting the planning and execution of facility programming. This role will work closely with external parties addressing any facility-related concerns promptly, while fostering a positive experience for members and visitors. This role will also cover assisting in implementing recreation activities, programs and events which make use of Shire facilities in consultation with relevant facility staff and in collaboration with the Sport & Recreation Coordinator.

The position will require a minimum of 6 hours per week, with a maximum of up to 30 hours per week, depending on events and activities. These hours will generally be worked afternoons, evenings and on weekends. If you are interested in this role but not sure whether you can meet all the requirements of the position description, reach out to us for a confidential discussion.

Working at the Shire offers excellent benefits, including;

- 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 vaccinations, skin checks and an Employee Assistance Program.

Your commencement salary will be within Level 7 and will depend on your level of qualifications, skills, and experience.

If you would like further information about this position please contact Codi Brindley-Mullen, Executive Manager Strategy and Community on (08) 9041 1611 during office hours. If you require information on how to apply, please email careers@merredin.wa.gov.au.

To apply, send your resume and cover letter addressing the selection criteria to careers@merredin.wa.gov.au or drop it off at the Shire Administration Building, no later than 4:00pm on Wednesday 16 September 2026.

Craig Watts, Chief Executive Officer

Community Development Officer

Commencing: Immediately

Position Status: Full-Time

Salary: Level 6, \$66,562.51 - \$67,481.95

The Shire of Merredin is currently seeking a suitably experienced person to join our team as a Community Development Officer. This position offers a challenging role for a creative, enthusiastic and driven individual who in return will be offered:

- A fantastic work life balance
- Opportunity to make a position your own and leave your mark
- A small, personable team environment
- Training and development opportunities, including study assistance

A great employee Health and Wellbeing Program including flu shots, hearing tests, skin cancer checks, free health assessments and an Employee Assistance Program (free counselling).

The Community Development Officer plays an integral role in the Shire of Merredin's Community Services team. In this position you will represent the Shire in various aspects of community life, from engaging with community groups and organisations, to event planning and liaison with other event organisers. You will be involved in the development of policy and strategies within the Community Services team and play a key role in the Shire's grant writing program.

Your commencement salary will be in the Level 6 range and will depend on your level of qualifications, skills, and experience.

If you would like further information about this position, please contact Codi Brindley-Mullen, Executive Manager Strategy & Community on (08) 9041 1611 during normal office hours. If you require information on how to apply, please email careers@merredin.wa.gov.au.

To apply, send your resume and cover letter addressing the selection criteria to careers@merredin.wa.gov.au or drop it off at the Shire Administration Building, no later than 4:00pm, Wednesday 16 September 2026.

Craig Watts, Chief Executive Officer

TO VIEW ADDITIONAL ROLES AT THE SHIRE, PLEASE VISIT WWW.MERREDIN.WA.GOV.AU/EMPLOYMENT

NEW STAFF PROFILE

Join us in giving a warm welcome to our new Ranger, Brendon, who has joined our team through WA Contract Rangers! Bringing more than 13 years of ranger experience across both Western Australia and Queensland, Brendon arrives with a wealth of knowledge and expertise. If you see him out and about, be sure to give him a friendly wave.

A Message from Brendon

"I started my Ranger journey as a Trainee back in 2008 in Port Hedland. From there it took me to Far North Queensland and now back to the Wheatbelt in WA.

I enjoy this type of work as it allows me an opportunity to maintain a safer and more enjoyable community for all and see some beautiful parts of our state."



NEW STAFF PROFILE

Join us in welcoming Helen to our Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre team! Helen brings a rich background in plant conservation and environmental study, developed through years of living, working, and traveling across diverse regions of Western Australia. Her extensive travels throughout the state give her a firsthand appreciation for WA's unique landscapes and regional communities.

A Message from Helen

"I like Merredin, it's a lovely town with a friendly community. Merredin has a lot to offer. It's also a wonderful part of the Wheatbelt, with lots in the area to explore. I like my role at the Visitor Centre as it furthers my interests in supporting, exploring, and getting to know the Merredin community and Wheatbelt area."



RESTRICTED BURNING



RESTRICTED BURNING
16 SEPTEMBER 2026 - 31 OCTOBER 2026
& 17 FEBRUARY 2027 - 16 MARCH 2027
(PERMITS REQUIRED)

PROHIBITED BURNING
1 NOVEMBER 2026 - 16 FEBRUARY 2027
(NO BURNING)

TO REPORT A FIRE PLEASE CALL **000**

The Restricted Burning Period officially begins on 16 September 2026. From this date, you **MUST** hold a valid Fire Permit before lighting any fires within the Shire of Merredin.

To apply for a permit, please contact the designated Fire Control Officer for your location, or complete the form on the Shire website.

- bit.ly/202627firecontrolofficers
- bit.ly/merredinburnpermit

For more information about burning, please visit the Shire's website here - bit.ly/burninginfo

COUNCIL MEETING ETIQUETTE

Council meetings in the Shire of Merredin follow a strict mandated procedure led by the Shire President to consider officer recommendations, manage formal motions, and make important decisions. While meetings are open to the public and allow community involvement through Public Question Time, petitions, and approved deputations, meeting observers must not disrupt the meeting.

Any member of the public addressing or observing the Council meeting is to extend due courtesy and respect to the Council and the processes under which they operate. Interrupting or interfering with proceedings may attract a penalty in line with Section 8.6 of the Shire's Standing Orders Local Law 2017.



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT



ASBESTOS DISPOSAL *Days*

The Shire is offering free asbestos waste disposal at the landfill for Shire of Merredin residents on the following days:

THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

Free disposal is limited to a maximum quantity of 10 square metres per entry per day (not commercial volumes). Please present all waste to the Administration Office for inspection.

REMOVAL *Tips*

- ✓ Prior to removing the material, gently use a spray mist to wet it to stop fibres from spreading in the air.
- ✗ Never use power tools to drill, cut, sand, or remove materials containing asbestos.
- ✗ Never use a high-pressure cleaner directly on asbestos, or to clean asbestos cement roofing or cladding.
- ✓ Wear protective clothing such as a respirator or mask.
- ✓ Place asbestos material in either heavy-duty polyethylene / plastic bags or plastic wrap that is at least 0.2 mm thick. Bags should be filled to no more than 50%.
- ✓ Seal bags by tightly twisting the bag opening, fold over and seal with duct tape.
- ✓ Place the bag containing asbestos inside another heavy-duty bag, so it is double bagged and tape again. If using plastic wrapping, double wrap, and tape again.
- ✓ Once you have bagged or wrapped it, please label it with "DANGER ASBESTOS WASTE."

EQUIPMENT



0.2mm thick
plastic
wrap/bags



Heavy duty
duct tape



Spray bottle
(or sponge)



Bucket (for
water)



Marker pen /
labels

**SCAN
ME!**



LONG TAN DAY

More than 50 community members gathered at Reflection Pond on Tuesday 18 August 2026, to honour the bravery and dedication of Australia's Vietnam Veterans on the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. Led by Councillor Peter Madigan, the service commemorated one of the most significant battles of the Vietnam War. Though fought over just a few hours, Long Tan has come to define Australia's decade-long involvement in the conflict.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Mal Willis for leading the Lord's Prayer, Aub Tompkin for reciting The Ode, Reece Gamble for his beautiful rendition of 'I was only 19', Su Riley for providing the sprigs of rosemary, and to the entire Commemorative Committee who assist with the service every year without fail.



COMMUNITY GROUP SUNDOWNER

Community groups gathered on Wednesday 26 August 2026 for the Shire's third After Hours Sundowner of the year, the first specifically dedicated to local community groups. The evening brought together approximately 15 participants representing 7 different groups, generating strong engagement and valuable collaboration.

Held quarterly, these sessions are designed to foster ongoing dialogue among local businesses, farmers, and community groups. They provide locals with a vital opportunity to share experiences, build networks, and strengthen community connections. The next sundowner will be held for local businesses on Wednesday 25 November 2026.



Merredin Peak Parkrun/walk



*A Health and Wellbeing
Community Initiative*

When: Every Saturday morning 8:00am

Where: Merredin Golf Course, Telfer Road, Merredin 6415 WA

Cost: Free

Who can participate: parkrun/walk is for everyone, volunteers, walkers, joggers, runners, prams, dogs (one dog per person must be on a lead)

What you need to do: Register with parkrun.com.au and receive your barcode, bring this along Saturday morning to get your results recorded. Registration is free

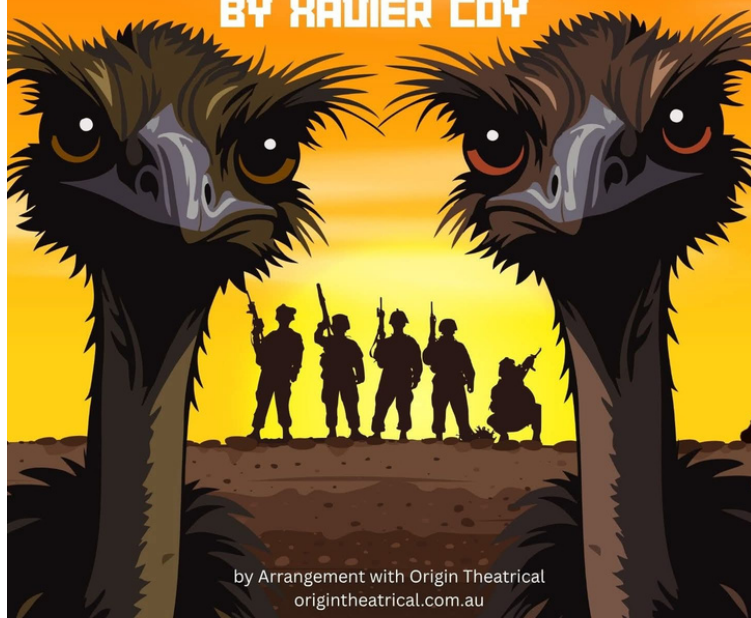


[Merredin Peak parkrun](https://www.facebook.com/MerredinPeakParkrun)

merredinpeak@parkrun.com



THE GREAT EMU WAR BY XAVIER COY



by Arrangement with Origin Theatrical
origintheatrical.com.au

Saturday	12th September	Tickets
Sunday	13th September	Regular \$20, Concession \$15 & Under 5yrs FREE
Friday	18th September	Fri/Sat 7:30pm - BYO Supper
Saturday	19th September	Sun 2pm - Afternoon tea available

Doors open half hour before show and bar available (no BYO drinks)

Tickets available at <https://events.humanitix.com/the-great-emu-war>, in person at the Merredin CRC and always at the door

Warning: For mature audiences only, this show contains strong language and adult themes.

FREE

SPRING *in the* GARDEN

Merredin
EARLY YEARS NETWORK

FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2026

📍 MERREDIN COMMUNITY GARDEN

🕒 9:30AM - 11:00AM

ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGED 0 - 5 YEARS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS FUN EVENT!

FUN ACTIVITIES • SONGS • FACE PAINTING • BALLOON ANIMALS
STORY TIME • FRUIT • VISIT FROM ST JOHNS

Garden

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



CUMMINS THEATRE PRESENTS

HENSON'S PLACE
THE MAN BEHIND THE PUPPETS

COMING FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER 2026

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

CUMMINS THEATRE

G GENERAL
CONTENT SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES

YUCK CIRCUS *Naughties*

SCAN ME

🕒 Friday 23 October | 7:30pm

📍 Cummins Theatre

🎫 GA \$30.00

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

supporting carbon neutral
Turn Emissions into Trees

CIRCUITWEST

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

lotterywest

CUMMINS THEATRE

SAVE THE DATE

MERREDIN *FESTIVE Night OUT*

📅 THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2026

📍 APEX PARK | DANJOO WAABININY BOODJA

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

Merredin Community Resource Centre
Your local connection

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA