October 2026

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

Issue 10

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

SHIRE OF MERREDIN APPOINTS BRAD ATKINSON TO VACANT COUNCILLOR POSITION



The Shire of Merredin Council has appointed local farmer and business owner Brad Atkinson to fill the vacant councillor position, following a report to the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2026.

The position became vacant following the resignation of Renee Manning in February 2026. After two unsuccessful extraordinary elections, the Shire sought nominations through an expression of interest process, receiving eight (8) applications over a two-week period.

Councillor-elect Atkinson will be officially sworn in at the briefing session on Tuesday 13 October 2026. His term will conclude in October 2027.

Statement from Shire President Donna Crook

"On behalf of Council, I would like to thank all the applicants who expressed an interest in filling the vacant councillor position. The calibre of candidates was high which made Council decision a very difficult one. We greatly appreciate the willingness of all applicants to contribute to the future of our community through local government.

Though only one appointment could be made on this occasion, we encourage all applicants to consider nominating in the 2027 Local Government Elections and to continue their involvement in supporting and strengthening our community."

Statement from Deputy Shire President Phil Van Der Merwe

"We had a good number of members of the public put their name forward to become a councillor this time, which was good to see. I'd like to congratulate Brad, and looking forward to working with him on Council."



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OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 27 October 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.

STATEMENT - MERREDIN DAYCARE EXPANSION

The Shire of Merredin (the Shire) would like to congratulate Regional Early Education and Development (REED) on securing funding through the Australian Government's Building Early Education Fund to expand the Merredin Daycare service.

REED was selected as one of four successful grant applicants nationwide, receiving $3.3 million in federal funding. Fully funded by the Australian Government, this vital project will create an additional 35 places, effectively doubling the service's current capacity to 71 places.

Access to quality early childhood education was highlighted as an urgent priority during the Shire's Council Plan consultations, and the Shire is incredibly excited to see this key initiative come to fruition for local families.

Construction is scheduled to commence in early 2027, with the expanded facility expected to open its doors later that year.



The Shire has actively supported REED throughout this application process and intends to supply the additional land required to facilitate the expansion, reinforcing our commitment to supporting regional families and community growth.

ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA AWARDS

Shire President Donna Crook and CEO Craig Watts were delighted to represent the Shire of Merredin (the Shire) at the Engineers Australia Awards at Optus Stadium on Thursday 10 September 2026, joined by representatives from Airey Taylor Consulting Engineers and Scientists, Rezitech, and Hi Constructions (Australia).

The Shire were incredibly proud to see the Merredin Water Tower restoration nominated for Project of the Year alongside some truly impressive, large-scale developments. While the project didn't take home the win, it did earn Outstanding nominee, confirming what we've known all along: this restoration is an incredible achievement in engineering and heritage preservation.

The iconic 40,000 gallon Water Tower is a key part of the Merredin landscape, now standing as a fully restored monument to Western Australia's history that will welcome visitors for generations to come.

A huge thank you to Airey Taylor Consulting Engineers and Scientists for taking on an immensely complex challenge and delivering the master drawings and structural remediation design that made saving the water tower possible. We also extend our sincere thanks to Hi Constructions for their exceptional regional heritage craftsmanship in bringing those designs to life on-site, and to Rezitech for supplying the Belzona product to the project.

Judges' citation: The project team for the Merredin Water Tower Restoration changed the dialogue from demolition to restoration and, in the process, supported Engineers Australia's purpose while retaining an historical icon for the community and tourists. The outcome produced a cost-effective and sustainable solution, which retained much of the existing structure. The tank now proudly stands as an accessible tourist site and is a testament to superb engineering in the past and present.







FIREBREAKS DUE 31 OCTOBER



It is almost that time of year again! Firebreak season is right around the corner, and the Shire of Merredin is reminding all land owners and occupiers to get their properties prepared by 31 October. Keeping your properties well-maintained until 16 March helps keep our whole community safe and prevents the spread of bushfires. If you have recently purchased property during this time, you will have fourteen days from settlement to get everything sorted.

While you are getting getting your yard into shape, don't forget about your verge! Under the Shire's local laws, owners and occupiers are responsible for keeping adjoining verges tidy, safe, and free from obstructions so that footpaths and roads stay clear and accessible for everyone.

If you find that you cannot meet any of the firebreak requirements this year, you can apply for a variation. Just be sure to send your request in writing to the Shire by 16 October, along with details of your proposed alternative arrangements. Please keep in mind that standard rules apply unless you receive written approval from the Shire.

If you need a hand getting your yard or verge cleaned up, be sure to check out the local business directory on the Shire website to find a local business that can lend a hand - www.merredin.wa.gov.au/listings/business

For all the details on firebreak guidelines, take a look at the 2026/27 Burning Notice via the following link: bit.ly/merredinfirebreaknotice

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2027

The Shire of Merredin welcomes ratepayers and members of the community to Council Meetings that are open to the public on the following dates for 2027.

All Council Meetings will be held at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers, Corner King and Barrack Streets, Merredin on the following dates:

TUESDAY, 23 FEBURARY 2027
TUESDAY, 23 MARCH 2027
TUESDAY, 27 APRIL 2027
TUESDAY, 25 MAY 2027
TUESDAY, 22 JUNE 2027
TUESDAY, 27 JULY 2027
TUESDAY, 24 AUGUST 2027
TUESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2027
TUESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2027
TUESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2027
TUESDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2027

WELCOMING ALEX WILSON

The Shires of Bruce Rock, Merredin and Narembeen are pleased to announce the appointment of Alex Wilson as the region's new Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM), commencing 29 September 2026. Alex will work closely with our local communities, volunteer bushfire brigades, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and the three Shires to help build a safer, stronger and more prepared region.

The CESM role is an important one for our communities. CESMs work in partnership with DFES and local governments to support emergency services compliance requirements, while also helping to develop the capability and capacity of local volunteer bushfire brigades.

For our communities, this means supporting the people who volunteer their time to protect their neighbours, families, farms and local towns.

Alex will work alongside brigade members and local government staff to support training, planning, preparedness, equipment and compliance, as well as identifying opportunities to strengthen the capacity of our volunteer brigades into the future.

ROCK SPOTLIGHT: TOTADGIN

Just a short 14km drive south of Merredin along Bruce Rock Road, you will find a stunning granite rock outcrop set within a peaceful natural woodland. As a featured site on the Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail, this reserve offers a seamless blend of rich local history and natural beauty.

Visitors can explore one of early surveyor Charles Hunt's historic hand-built stone wells, complete with National Trust interpretive signage, or follow the walking trails to discover an impressive mini 'wave rock' formation. During spring, the surrounding bushland comes alive with vibrant wildflowers, creating a picturesque backdrop for a day trip.

The site is equipped with barbecue facilities and a shaded picnic shelter featuring wheelchair access from one of the two car park entries. Because this is a protected Parks and Wildlife Conservation Reserve, please remember to leave your four-legged friends at home. Pack a lunch, fire up the barbie, and enjoy one of the Wheatbelt's most charming stops!







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

Australia Day
Community Citizen of the Year Awards
SHIRE OF MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT



Presented by
auspire Inspiring Australians
Australia Day Council of Western Australia

Principal Partner
Pharmacy 777

Media Partners
9 NEWS
WAtoday
News you need to know today

Fulfillment Partner
westcare

Nominate now

If you know someone, or a group, doing great things in our community, nominate them for a 2027 Community Citizen of the Year Award, in our four categories.

- Citizen of the Year
- Youth Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year
- Active Citizenship (Group or Event)

citizenshipawards.com.au
Closing Date: 31 October 2026

Local Government Recognising Community Champions.

JOB VACANCIES

Pool Assistant

Commencing: October/November

Position Status: Casual

Salary: Level 2/3 $19.20 to $36.69 per hour (including casual loading) dependent on age and qualifications

The Shire is seeking experienced and enthusiastic people to join our team as Pool Assistants at the Merredin District Olympic Pool. The successful applicants will be responsible for supervision that provides a safe environment for patrons of the pool facility and assist the Aquatic Coordinator in the management of daily operations including ensuring that the facility is clean and well presented.

This position offers great benefits, including:

- A fantastic work life balance;
- A small, personable team environment; and
- A great employee Health and Wellbeing Program including an Employee Assistance Program.

Conditions of employment are in accordance with the Local Government Industry Award (LGIA) 2020, a registered Agreement with the WA State Industrial Commission (01/01/2023).

If you would like further information about this position, please contact Mana-Rae King via email (pool@merredin.wa.gov.au). 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 if off at the Shire Administration Building, no later than 4:00 PM, Tuesday, 13 October 2026.

Please note: The Shire reserves the right to assess applications and interview candidates as they are received and may appoint a suitable candidate prior to the advertised closing date.

Craig Watts
Chief Executive Officer

Lifeguard

Commencing: October/November

Position Status: Casual

Salary: Level 2/3 $19.20 to $36.69 per hour (including casual loading) dependent on age and qualifications

The Shire is seeking experienced and enthusiastic people to join our team as Lifeguards at the Merredin District Olympic Pool. The successful applicants will be responsible for supervision that provides a safe environment for patrons of the pool facility.

To work as a lifeguard at the Pool, applicants must have the following qualifications:

- First Aid – HLTAID009, 010 & 011 (Provide First Aid)
- Pool Lifeguard – SISSS00133
- Western Australian Working with Children Check (WWCC)

This position offers great benefits, including:

- A fantastic work life balance;
- A small, personable team environment; and
- A great employee Health and Wellbeing Program including flu shots, skin cancer checks and an Employee Assistance Program.

Conditions of employment are in accordance with the Local Government Industry Award (LGIA) 2020, a registered Agreement with the WA State Industrial Commission (01/01/2023).

If you would like further information about this position, please contact Mana-Rae King via email (pool@merredin.wa.gov.au). 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 if off at the Shire Administration Building, no later than 4:00 PM, Tuesday, 13 October 2026.

Please note: The Shire reserves the right to assess applications and interview candidates as they are received and may appoint a suitable candidate prior to the advertised closing date.

Craig Watts
Chief Executive Officer

JOB VACANCIES CONT.

Junior Kiosk Attendant

Commencing: October/November | Position Status: Casual | Salary: Level 1 $18.59 to $34.69 per hour (including casual loading) dependent on age and qualifications

The Shire is seeking enthusiastic young people to join our team as Junior Kiosk Attendants at the Merredin District Olympic Pool. The successful applicants will provide friendly and efficient customer service to the general public, community members and visitors who attend the Merredin Pool and assist the Aquatic Coordinator in the management of daily operations including ensuring that the facility is clean and well presented, with a focus on safety.

The main role of this position will be the serving of food and drinks from the kiosk and this will require applicants to hold an 'I'M ALERT' food safety certificate, which can be obtained online for free.

Conditions of employment are in accordance with the Local Government Industry Award (LGIA) 2020, a registered Agreement with the WA State Industrial Commission (01/01/2023).

If you would like further information about this position, please contact Mana-Rae King via email (pool@merredin.wa.gov.au). If you require information on how to apply, please email careers@merredin.wa.gov.au.

To apply, send your resume and responses to the attached questions to careers@merredin.wa.gov.au or drop if off at the Shire Administration Building, no later than 4:00 PM, Tuesday, 13 October 2026.

Please note: The Shire reserves the right to assess applications and interview candidates as they are received and may appoint a suitable candidate prior to the advertised closing date.

Craig Watts
Chief Executive Officer

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The Shire of Merredin is an equal opportunity employer. We promote the principles of merit and fairness in our employment practices and select the best person for the job.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Development Assessment Panel Application DAP/26/03200

(The Application will be determined by the Regional Development Assessment Panel)

The Shire of Merredin has received the following development application proposal, which has been sent to the Regional Development Assessment Panel and is open for community input.

- **Address of Proposal:** Multiple locations through the localities of Tandegin and Norpa, Please refer to the table located at bit.ly/dapapplication
- **Proposal Type:** Wind farm

Details of the proposal are available for inspection at the Shire of Merredin Administration Office located on the corner of King & Barrack Streets, Merredin, during normal office hours or from its website via the following link: bit.ly/dapapplication

Submissions about the proposal must be made in writing and should be addressed to the Shire of Merredin Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 42, Merredin, WA 6415, on or before **4:00pm** on **Friday 16 October 2026.**

Craig Watts
Chief Executive Officer

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!




SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT
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

RISING SOUND WA PRESENTS

MERREDIN Pre-Harvest HOEDOWN



COUNTRY MUSIC CLASSICS PERFORMED BY THE STUMBLERS
BOOT SCOOTING · BUSH DANCE · GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

CUMMINS THEATRE,
BATES ST, MERREDIN WA

SAT OCT 17
6PM-11PM

SHIRE OF MERREDIN · COLLGAR RENEWABLES · RISING SOUND WA · BOYUP BROOK COUNTRY MUSIC MUSTER 2027 · Country Music Club



FREE

- Connect with friends and neighbours
- Assisting you to keep living independently

Seniors Tea & Tech Session

TOPIC: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Morning tea provided, just bring yourself and your technology devices.

Cummins Theatre
31 Bates Street, Merredin

Wednesday 21 October 2026

10:00am to 12:00pm

Good Things · Australian Government · Be Connected — Every Australian online.

SHIRE OF MERREDIN — INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT · Merredin Community Resource Centre — Your local connection · Government of Western Australia · Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

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 · CIRCUIT WEST · GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA · lotterywest · CUMMINS THEATRE

Morning Melodies

Cliff Richards Tribute Show

SCAN ME!

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER



FEATURING RON FISHER

10:30AM - MORNING TEA
11:00AM - SHOW

CUMMINS THEATRE

$15 (INCLUDING MORNING TEA)

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

CUMMINS THEATRE