November 2026

SHIRE OF MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

Issue 11

COMMUNITY NEWS & INFORMATION

2026/27 POOL SEASON OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY!

The Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool officially kicked off the 26/27 season with a spooktacular celebration on Saturday 31 October 2026. It was wonderful to see our community come together, with more than 160 people joining in the Halloween Pool Party fun. Attendees soaked up the festive atmosphere, enjoying a fun dance party, creepy-cool Halloween decorations, and plenty of exciting games and prizes throughout the day. Local youth were especially thrilled to take the refurbished pool slide for its very first run of the season!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along, dressed up, and helped make the opening event a success.

Whether you're looking to swim laps, play on the slide, or cool off with family and friends, check out our current opening hours and admission fees below to plan your next visit!

Opening Hours

Monday	6:00am - 8:00am & 2:00pm - 7:00pm
Tuesday	12:00pm - 7:00pm
Wednesday	6:00am - 10:00am & 2:00pm - 7:00pm
Thursday	CLOSED
Friday	6:00am - 8:00am & 2:00pm - 7:00pm
Weekends	12:00pm - 6:00pm
Public Holidays	12:00pm - 6:00pm

Admission Fees

Adult	$4.50	**Child*/Senior**	$3.50	**Spectators**	$1.50

*Children must be currently attending school to qualify for children's rates. Children under 5 are free

Season Pass

Adult	$144.20	**Child*/Senior**	$103.00	**Family**	$273.00



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NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 24 November 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.

SHIRE OF MERREDIN WELCOMES BRAD ATKINSON TO COUNCIL

Councillor Brad Atkinson was officially sworn in during a Council briefing session on Tuesday 13 October 2026.

As a fourth-generation local, Brad has lived and farmed in Merredin all his life. Beyond his deep roots in agriculture, he is a dedicated family man with a wife and three teenage children, as well as a businessman with interests in farming, aviation, grain handling, freight, and other sectors. Through his extensive commercial background, Brad brings valuable hands-on experience in strategic decision-making, managing risk, and long-term investment.

Brad is particularly passionate about attracting new business, investment, and families to the district, leveraging Merredin's affordable land and strong infrastructure to boost local employment, housing, schools, and services.





ROCK SPOTLIGHT: MERREDIN PEAK

Located just 1.5 kilometers outside of town, Merredin Peak is a breathtaking granite monolith; a single massive rock exposed by millions of years of erosion. Beyond its impressive geological scale, the peak is a rich cultural reserve deeply significant to the local Njaki Njaki Aboriginal people.

It also offers a captivating glimpse into Australia's pioneering engineering history. Here, historic stone contour walls, a rock channel, and a spillway flowing into the Railway Dam highlight the early Water Catchment Scheme, fully interpreted via the National Trust (WA) Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail.

Today, travellers can stay in this beautiful woodland setting, which features a 72-hour parking site for fully self-contained RVs. Off-leash dogs are welcome to enjoy the area, though open fires are strictly prohibited to preserve the surrounding natural environment.

PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEY

During the month of November we are asking for your help creating a new Public Health & Wellbeing Plan for our Shire.

This is your opportunity to tell us what good health and wellbeing means to you, and any difficulties you face in achieving it. Your feedback will help identify our community needs, and areas for action and campaigning so we can improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for everyone who lives, works, and plays in our town, now and into the future.

Have your say now, by completing the survey and adding any extra ideas or suggestions in the comments fields.

This Survey closes at 5:00pm on Wednesday 18 November 2026. To complete the survey, please visit the below link or scan the QR Code.

🔗 www.surveymonkey.com/r/Merredin-PHP-2026

SCAN ME!





SHIRE STAFF EMBARK ON MASSIVE WEROC PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

In a collaborative push to showcase the vibrant landscape of the region, the Shire of Merredin Media Officer and Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre (CWVC) Coordinator recently embarked on a massive three-day photography initiative to update the tourism image gallery for the Eastern Wheatbelt Self-Drive Trail on behalf of Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils (WEROC).

Recognising that current social media platforms, print advertising, and promotional materials feature outdated imagery that no longer reflects the region's growing tourism experiences, the small team of two set out to create a high-quality, modern asset library.

Across three dedicated shoot days - 25 August, 17 September, and 24 September, the team travelled the Eastern Wheatbelt Self-Drive Trail. The extensive project captured fresh photography of key attractions and towns along the route, including Meckering, Cunderdin, Quairading, Tammin, Kellerberrin, Bruce Rock, Merredin, Westonia, and Southern Cross.



Once editing is complete, the photo collection will be distributed to WEROC and all participating Shires for regional promotional activities. Additionally, the CWVC will utilise the images to revamp its website and drive marketing campaigns for the Eastern Wheatbelt Self-Drive Trail across social media.



HON. MELISSA PRICE MP VISITS MERREDIN

On 21 October 2026, Federal Member for Durack, Hon. Melissa Price MP, visited Merredin for a productive discussion regarding the town's future development and key local priorities.

During her visit, Ms Price met with Shire of Merredin representatives including Chief Executive Officer Craig Watts, Shire President Donna Crook, and Deputy Shire President Phil Van Der Merwe. The meeting provided an invaluable opportunity to engage directly on issues impacting the local community, as well as infrastructure needs and regional economic growth.

During the catch up, the Shire representatives were also able to present Ms Price with Merredin's new Investment Prospectus. Aligned with the priorities outlined in the Council Plan, the document highlights strategic areas for development, growth opportunities, and key projects designed to enhance liveability, boost local services, and drive sustainable economic investment across Merredin.



MEET THE NEW FACES AT THE SHIRE OF MERREDIN

MANAGER COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

We're excited to welcome Fleur as the new Manager Community and Culture. Originally from New Zealand, Fleur has a versatile background across security, events, operations, and camp management spanning the government, education, aviation, and mining sectors. She is passionate about collaborating with people, delivering practical solutions, and bringing community ideas to life.

A Message from Fleur

"I'm excited to be part of the Merredin community and to work alongside our team, local group and schools. I'm looking forward to building on what's already here and helping create activities, events and opportunities for people of all ages to get involved. Im still getting to know everyone, so please come say hello. Don't mind my security stance, I am harmless!"



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Join us in giving a warm welcome to Tnaya, our new Community Development Officer. Tnaya brings experience in event planning and community involvement, having previously operated her own event coordination business and volunteered across various local and sporting events such as Festive Night Out.

A Message from Tnaya

"I have spent most of my life in Merredin and call it home. My kids and I love it here and particularly enjoy the winter sports season here as Burracoppin Cats through and through.

I am looking forward to seeing how I can make an impact on our Community and build stronger relationships throughout Merredin."



AQUATIC COORDINATOR

While Mana is already a familiar face at the Shire of Merredin, he has recently transitioned from his role as MRCLC Facility Officer to become our new Aquatic Coordinator at the Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool! Mana first joined the Shire several years ago as a lifeguard, during which time he also earned his Pool Manager certificate. We are thrilled to support Mana in this next chapter and excited to have him leading the team at one of our community's most loved facilities.

A Message from Mana

"I'm super excited to be part of the Merredin Pool team!

I'm looking forward to being a part of the community and providing a safe, fun, and happy environment for everyone."



JOIN OUR SWIMMING POOL TEAM!

Relief Aquatic Coordinator

Commencing: 26/27 Pool Season
Position Status: Casual
Salary: $42.73* per hour to $45.49* per hour
****inclusive of casual loading***

The Shire is seeking a suitably qualified and enthusiastic person to join our team as Relief Aquatic Coordinator. The successful applicant will coordinate the day-to-day management, programming and technical operation of the Merredin Swimming Pool when required and ensure a safe and attractive environment is maintained.

To be considered for this role you must possess a current Aquatic Technical Operator qualification.
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.

Your commencement salary will depend on your level of qualifications, skills, and experience.

If you would like further information about this position, please contact Mana-Rae King, Aquatic Coordinator on 0400 240 787 during office hours. If you require information on how to apply, please email careers@merredin.wa.gov.au.

How 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, Monday 14 December 2026.

Craig Watts
Chief Executive Officer

Lifeguard

Commencing: 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.

How 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 4:00pm on Monday 14 December 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 VACANCY - CUMMINS THEATRE

Theatre Coordinator

Commencing: Immediately

Position Status: Full Time

Salary: Level 8/9 range of $72,659 - $83,292

Applications are invited for the position of Theatre Coordinator for the Shire of Merredin. The successful candidate will be responsible for the competent and efficient management of the Cummins Theatre, ensuring high-quality operations, programming, and facility maintenance. The role will actively encourage, support, and promote cultural, artistic, and community-based activities across the Shire.

The Theatre Coordinator will foster inclusive participation, develop partnerships with local groups, schools, and artists, and deliver programs and events that strengthen community engagement, celebrate local identity, and enhance access to diverse arts and cultural experiences.

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);
- Opportunities for training and career development; and
- A comprehensive employee Health and Wellbeing Program including flu vaccinations, skin cancer checks and an Employee Assistance Program.

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

How 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, Wednesday 11 November 2026.

Craig Watts
Chief Executive Officer

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF THE SWIMMING POOL

The Shire of Merredin is seeking community feedback to help shape the future of our swimming pool precinct.

After undertaking a comprehensive analysis and testing of the current pool structure, it has been determined that the most cost-effective long-term outcome is to build a new aquatic facility.

As we plan for the development of a new aquatic facility, we want to hear from our community about what matters most and what facilities you would like to see.

It is important to note that the development of a new aquatic facility is not yet confirmed, and will be subject to securing appropriate funding, Council consideration and approval.

To complete the survey, please scan the QR Code, or visit bit.ly/merredinpoolsurvey

This survey will remain open until 12 February 2027.

MERREDIN BIG BATTERY TOUR

Councillors and Shire staff had the opportunity to tour the newly constructed Merredin Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility on Thursday 22 October 2026.

During the visit, our team were able to ask questions and gain valuable insight into both the construction and operation of the battery project. Councillors also gained a greater understanding of the BESS's importance in stabalising energy within the South West Interconnected System to ensure consistent flow of energy to residential and commercial users.



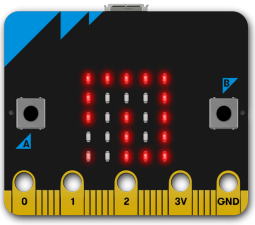
WHAT'S ON AT MERREDIN LIBRARY

CODING CLUB

Are you ready to bring mini robots to life? The library's Coding Club is back for Term 4, offering local youth (boys and girls!) a hands-on introduction to coding and creativity.

For kids aged 7 to 14 years, the club will be programming micro:bit mini robots using familiar Scratch block-based coding. Whether you want to make your robot flash bright lights, play custom sounds, react to claps and loud noises, or build mini-games, the possibilities are endless.

Never used Scratch before? No problem! The friendly library staff will be close by to guide beginners every step of the way.



Coding Club Details

- When: Every Thursday from 3:30pm (running for about an hour each week until 10 December 2026).

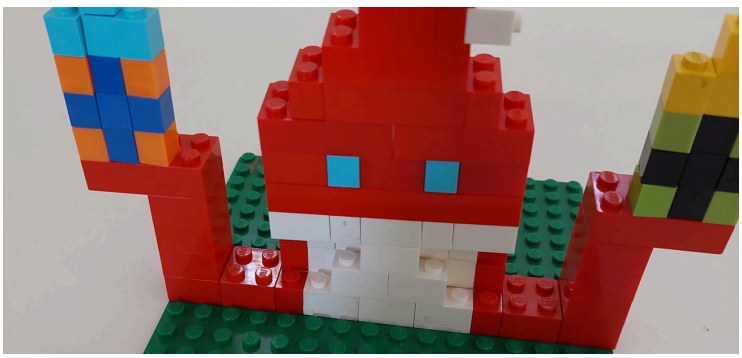
(Note: The club kicked off on Thursday, 29 October, but you don't need to attend every session!)

- Cost: Free
- What to Bring: If you have a laptop, please bring it along. A limited number of library laptops will also be available for use if needed.

LEGO CLUB

Join us for our final Lego Club session of the year on Monday 30 November at 3:30pm! Designed for boys and girls aged 5 to 14, this special festive session will focus on Christmas builds.

It is completely free to attend and there is no need to book, so just come along on the day. We have plenty to build with including Lego, micro-Lego, and Duplo. If you are under 10 years old, please bring an adult or an older sibling along to join in the fun and tackle a challenge together. Bring your imagination and discover what festive creations you can bring to life!



OVER 50'S BINGO

The last Over 50s Bingo session for the year takes place on Friday, 27 November 2026 at 1:30 PM, and we are celebrating with a fun Christmas theme. Everyone is invited to dress in their most festive outfit or simply pop a piece of tinsel in their hair.

Entry is completely free for Over 50s, and while there are no cash prizes, you can look forward to plenty of silly gifts and holiday cheer. Feel free to also bring along a plate of munchies to share with the group.

If you have not attended before, please let one of our friendly Library staff know by 9041 1222 or emailing library@merredin.wa.gov.au.



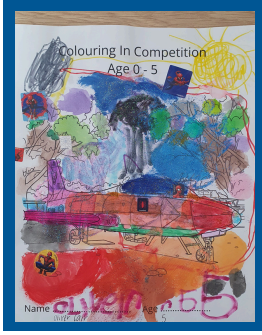
SCHOOL HOLIDAY COLOURING COMP WINNERS

The Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre held a colouring in competition during the October School Holidays, featuring some of Merredin's biggest icons! After the judge reviewed a fantastic collection of entries across all age categories, the winners have officially been crowned as:

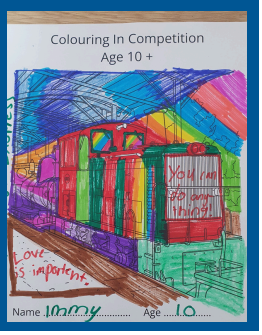


- Age 0–5 Category: Oliver (Age 5)
- Age 6–9 Category: Lucia Jay (Age 9)
- Age 10+ Category: Immy (Age 10)

The team at the CWVC would like to congratulate Oliver, Lucia Jay and Immy for their beautiful artwork, and thank everyone who participated in the competition.







EMERGENCY SERVICES

CONNECT, PREPARE AND SUPPORT

Prepared communities start with connection, local knowledge and small actions taken before an emergency happens. Understanding your local risks, knowing where to find trusted information and checking in with people who may need support are simple ways to prepare.

Connect with people who can help you prepare

Local volunteers, community groups, emergency services and local government can help you better understand the risks in your area and how to prepare for them.

Look for local preparedness events, information sessions and community activities where you can meet others, ask questions and learn more about staying safe during emergencies

Create Your Emergency Plan

Having a plan is one of the most important steps you can take to prepare for emergencies. My Emergency Plan on Emergency WA website or app helps you:

- Identify local risks.
- Record important contact details.
- Plan for pets and family members.
- Document evacuation and meeting arrangements.
- Keep preparedness information in one place.

After creating your plan, you may be invited to attend an online or face-to-face preparedness session delivered in partnership by DFES, WA Police Force (WAPOL), State Emergency Service (SES), and Australian Red Cross, to learn more.

Start the Conversation

Preparedness conversations can happen anywhere. Try starting with the people and groups you already know, such as:

- Neighbours
- Friends and family
- Sporting clubs
- Community groups
- Schools and workplaces

Small conversations can help people feel more prepared and connected.

Preparing Together

Everyone has a role in helping their community prepare. Households can make a plan, know their local risks and check in with the people around them. Community groups and local organisations can help share trusted information and connect people to support. Emergency services and local government can support communities with local knowledge, resources and preparedness advice. Prepared communities start with connection. When we understand our local risks, talk to the people around us and take small actions together, we help build a safer and more prepared community.

So take action this month:

1. Download the **Emergency WA** app and complete your My Emergency Plan so your important information is ready.
2. Explore DFES hazard information and preparedness publications to gain a greater understanding of local risks and what to do before an emergency.
3. Look for local preparedness events through your local government, community groups, or emergency services so you can ask questions about your area.
4. Share trusted preparedness information so family, friends and community groups can take simple steps to prepare.
5. Start a "How to be Prepared" conversation so the people around you know what they can do to prepare, too.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF ARIC MEETING DATE

The Shire of Merredin wishes to advise that the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) Meeting to be held at 2:30pm on Tuesday, 24 November 2026, has been rescheduled.

The new date for the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting is as follows;

- **Tuesday, 15 December 2026 at 2:30pm**

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Council Chambers located on the corner of King and Barrack Streets.

For further information, please contact Meg Wyatt, Executive Officer at the Shire of Merredin, on (08) 9041 1611 or by email at ea@merredin.wa.gov.au.

Craig Watts
Chief Executive Officer

5 November 2026

Department of Health
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Stay On Your Feet WA

No Falls November

Word search

I	B	H	Y	T	E	A	C	H	B	A	C	K	H
N	L	M	C	X	B	B	E	T	B	B	W	N	G
C	O	T	O	A	J	V	U	W	I	M	W	P	H
O	O	P	G	W	A	P	Z	O	U	N	E	H	M
N	D	R	N	A	E	D	S	B	R	T	K	N	A
T	P	E	I	R	D	Q	R	B	H	I	J	L	D
I	R	V	T	E	U	B	A	L	G	X	S	D	E
N	E	E	I	N	C	B	A	Y	V	Y	V	K	L
E	S	N	O	E	A	D	M	L	A	P	K	N	I
N	S	T	N	S	T	S	U	H	A	V	V	V	R
C	U	I	Y	S	I	U	O	V	B	N	L	G	I
E	R	O	O	N	O	I	F	A	L	L	C	X	U
J	E	N	C	C	N	K	D	D	P	J	Q	E	M
W	I	L	L	W	D	I	Z	Z	I	N	E	S	S

Word List

- Fall
- Teachback
- Tinkle
- Cognition
- Blood pressure
- Risk
- Incontinence
- Awareness
- Prevention
- Education
- Dizziness
- Delirium





Event supported by
Merredin Community Resource Centre
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
SHIRE OF MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT





Save the Date

25 November 2026
6:00PM

Lumen Study Hub
22 Coronation St, Merredin

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 11 November 2026 by scanning the QR code or emailing ea@merredin.wa.gov.au.

SCAN ME!