



BPW NEWS UPDATE - AUGUST, 2026



33rd Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards 2026
Nominate yourself, or another deserving WA small business in the 33rd Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards to recognise and celebrate achievements in the small business sector. There are 22 Award categories open to Western Australian small businesses, individuals, and organisations in Belmont, Perth metropolitan area and anywhere across regional Western Australia. Gain exposure for you and your business! **FREE ENTRY**, submission assistance available.

[AWARDS MEDIA RELEASE](#) [AWARDS ENTRY FORM](#)
[AWARDS HELPLINE](#)



22nd designedge innovation FESTIVAL 2026 is now up and running with over 150 webinars, forums workshops and networking being staged in Perth Western Australia, nationally and globally ONLINE. Topics include export trade opportunities, cyber security experts, business advisors, innovators, designers, creatives, global women entrepreneurs, industry and trade networks. All events are **FREE** to Members of BEC and TCF.

[FESTIVAL EVENTS FLYER](#)
[MEDIA RELEASE](#)



You are invited BEC WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT FORUM

Wed, 12th August 5-7pm, [BOOKINGS](#)

Great Speakers include Shoma Mittra, Aneta Wnek, Samantha Di Lena, Daniel Shore, Carol Hanlon & Networking

VENUE: Firehouse Restaurant, 249-263 Grt Eastern Hwy, Belmont

FREE ENTRY: Door Prizes, Nibbles Provided, Happy Hour Drinks



Belmont Business 'Ask an Expert' Sundowner

Wed, 26th August, 5pm-7pm, [BOOKINGS](#)

Promote your business, export trade opportunities and business contacts and gain new opportunities. **Great Speakers include Jessica Ballard, Rashmi Watel, Kapila De Silva, Kaye Lirio & Networking**

VENUE: Firehouse Restaurant, 249-263 Great Eastern Hwy, Belmont

FREE ENTRY: Door Prizes, Nibbles, Happy Hour Drinks, Bar Prices.



Expanding your Sales into Global Markets

BEC NATIONAL EXPORT PROJECT

FREE WEBINARS - Thursday, 27th August, AWST (Perth Time)

[BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL](#)

1) Introduction to Exporting: 9.30-11.30am [BOOK](#)

2) Export Guide for Small Business: 12-2pm [BOOK](#)

3) Writing your Export Marketing Plan: 2.30-4.30pm [BOOK](#)

Can't make the date? [Request a Recording](#)

Register for [FREE ONLINE Export Mentor](#)



CAN YOU HELP? Freight Sponsorship or Freight Donations needed
TCF & BEC is calling for freight sponsorship or donations to get donated sewing machines, textiles, haberdashery to our two latest women's sewing projects: **20ft container sewing goods to BPW Port Moresby, PNG & 20ft container sewing goods Indigenous Womens Sewing Project, Nth WA.** Contact [Carol Hanlon](#) if you can assist with freight support



Quote of the month

"Happiness does not come from doing easy work but from the afterglow of satisfaction that comes after the achievement of a difficult task that demanded our best."

Theodore Isaac Rubin (1923-2019) - American psychiatrist and author



How to deal with difficult customers as a small business owner

Dealing with difficult customers is an age-old challenge in business. You've most likely heard the saying, "The customer is always right," but that might not always be the case. Regardless, making sure every customer leaves satisfied is key to your business's success. So, how do small business owners navigate these issues without losing their composure or, even worse, losing customers? There are many reasons why pushing through with difficult customers is worth it, and this will give you customer service strategies to use. [Article](#).



4 reasons why your small business is not growing

Many small businesses start strong but hit a plateau within the first few years. Growth slows, and scaling seems out of reach. Sustainable growth doesn't just happen; it requires deliberate planning, strong financial management, and adaptability. Four common reasons why growth stalls and how you can get back on track are [here](#).



Tax time: Beware of scammers

Imagine opening your inbox or answering a call only to see or hear messages promising lucrative tax refunds or a warning that you have a tax debt. If you are being asked for personal or financial details, slam on the brakes! You're likely caught in a scammer's web. Be aware ... click [here](#).



Welcome to BEC members - Kathleen R Lirio, Oh How Kind
BENEFITS OF BEC MEMBERSHIP - Members can access 30-60mins free advisory with an accountant; lawyer; HR specialist; or IP Attorney to discuss your issues. Members also receive free webinars during the designedge innovation festival, free business sundowners, buying mission opportunities, access to mentoring at discounted rates, supply chain linkages. Bronze, Silver & Gold Levels available. Membership is tax deductible. [Join](#)

BEC invites its network to link with its Social Media pages

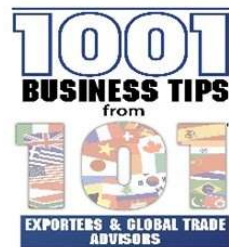
BEC FaceBook [Link](#)

BEC LinkedIn [Link](#)



Belmont BEC & BEC Global Business Advisors, Mentors

Discuss your business issues and concerns with your confidential advisor and develop your action plan for success. **By the Hour: Online or Phone Face - Phone** www.belmontbec.com/mentoring



Are you an exporter or global trade advisor?

1001 Business Tips from 101™ Exporters and Global Trade Advisor Experts

Would you like to be featured in our new eBook with your 10 tips for Exporters and Global Trade Advisors? Each expert will be allocated two pages. Participation includes additional promotional opportunities as an expert and you may also be invited as a presenter in future 1001 Business Tips Online Forums. Interested to share your expertise and gain exposure? **Contact** [Carol Hanlon](#)



AGHA Melbourne Gift Fair, Victoria, 8-12 August

Be first to explore products you've never seen before - and your customers will soon be asking for them. The AGHA Melbourne Gift Fair 2026 is the premier destination where wholesalers and retailers unite to source the most original, in-demand products shaping tomorrow's shelves. Thousands of retail buyers will visit the AGHA Melbourne Gift Fair looking for innovative brands, fresh products and new suppliers. If you're not there, someone else will be. [Website](#).



Global Business Summit, New Delhi, India, 18-19 September

The ICC Global Business Summit carries forward a legacy of over 100 years, connecting business leaders from around the world. In 2025, the conference attracted delegations from more than 25 countries, fostering international exchange of ideas and collaboration. The goal is to create a platform where aspiring entrepreneurs and established leaders can share insights, tackle global challenges, and innovate for the future. Celebrate a century of excellence in business innovation and growth! [Website](#).



UP International Trade Show, Greater Noida, India, 25-29 Sept

As one of India's top exporting states, UPITS 4.0 aims to provide buyers with an unparalleled opportunity to explore high-quality products and services across diverse sectors. This year, we introduce a strategic three-dimensional approach, categorising buyers into three key segments: International Buyers, Domestic B2B Buyers, and Domestic B2C Buyers. This structure ensures a targeted, efficient, and rewarding experience for every participant, making UPITS 4.0 a powerhouse of trade and commerce. [Website](#).



62nd IHGF Delhi Fair, India, 13-17 October

Autumn edition presents a comprehensive collection of Home, Lifestyle, Fashion, Furnishings, Furniture, Gifts, and Interior products for the season ahead from over 3000+ manufacturers and exporters. Held at the plush India Expo Centre, Delhi-NCR, India, the IHGF Delhi Fair exhibits over 2000+ new product expressions and more than 300 design developments across 16 product categories. This is a one-stop sourcing destination for retailers, importers, wholesalers and design professionals. [Details](#).



From runway to retail: how trends will influence fashion collections

The fashion industry does not wait. By the time a season reaches retail floors, the decisions behind it were made months earlier, inside design studios, trade events, and forecasting sessions. This blog breaks down the key directions shaping SS27, what they mean for product development, and how brands using a structured B2B fashion platform can translate runway intelligence into confirmed retail orders. [Here](#).



Fashion trends forecast top styles, colours and consumer trends

Fashion is constantly evolving, bringing a fresh wave of bold colours, sustainable materials, AI-driven design, and Gen Z-inspired aesthetics. As social media platforms like TikTok and Instagram continue to influence consumer preferences, fashion trends are emerging and spreading faster than ever before. Brands can no longer rely on traditional forecasting methods alone; they need real-time insights to understand what styles, colours, and products consumers will want next. [Learn more](#).



Grants and assistance programs in Australia

Find grants, funding, and support programs from across government to help YOUR business grow and succeed! When searching for funding, keep in mind that you'll generally need to meet certain criteria to be eligible, and that, aside from funding assistance, many programs can help your business by building your skills and knowledge. [Do you qualify?](#)



Australasian Institute of Business and Enterprise Facilitators

Are you a business advisor, coach, mentor, facilitator or consultant. AIBEF provides accreditations for your skills and expertise. View www.aibef.org.au



The Cyber Sushi

(serving up the cold facts, with some phish bytes)

Including: When official isn't official. Woven wisdom: Building cultural understanding through learning. The guide to new and trending scams. What are Passkeys, and are they better than passwords? [Here](#).



Supporting women-owned businesses

Women-owned businesses are, quite simply, a better bet, according to the Boston Consulting Group. Despite this, the business playing field is far from level. In Australia, two-thirds of small businesses that started in the decade to 2019 were led by women, with 38% of small businesses now owned by women. However, women worldwide access only one per cent of the \$11 trillion global procurement market and received just 1.9 per cent of venture capital funding last year – down from 2.4% in 2021. [More](#).



BPW network - taking action for women's equality

BPW (Business & Professional Women) members advocate for issues that affect women around the world today. BPW operates in over 120 countries globally and has consultative status with United Nations Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC). If you wish to connect with like-minded women in Australia visit www.bpw.com.au or globally visit BPW International www.bpw-international.org or contact [Carol Hanlon](#).



Small Business Cyber Security Guide

For a small business, even a minor cybersecurity incident can have devastating effects. This guide includes basic security measures to help protect your business against common cybersecurity threats. Cybercriminals may try to scam your business through email, text messages, phone calls and social media. They will often pretend to be a person or organisation you trust. [Guide](#).



Another tip by Mathew Ford -from the now published -

'1001 Business Tips from 101™ Cyber Security Experts

Ensure your websites are protected. Sometimes it pays to add an additional layer of security. I recommend all my clients use a web application firewall to help protect their website from malicious traffic, malware, brute force attacks and known threats. There are many different types of software available, with varying degrees of protection and quality - so be sure to do your research or have a chat with your website developer. [Visit](#)



On your Windows computer

Create a new folder on your desktop – Ctrl, Shift and N. Then give it a name.

Create your name into a 3D screensaver – right-click on the desktop / personalise / lock screen / screen saver settings / choose 3D text / settings / custom text (type what you want) / adjust the various settings and rotation / OK / preview / apply / OK.

Windows recovery – Hold down Shift and click Restart, wait for options to fix.



Unsolicited business name renewal & company review notices

ASIC is alerting companies and business name holders to unsolicited letters, emails and notices from third-party service providers about company annual reviews or business name renewals. ASIC is aware that these materials may cause confusion as being authorised or sent by ASIC. [Learn more](#).



Inside Small Business Winter 2026 Newsletter

Articles include – Impact of the Budget on small businesses. How to build your brand without breaking the bank. Building a happy team in the workplace. Scaling back, not scaling up, can increase your profit margins - and more [here](#).



SMS Sender ID Register

The way businesses and organisations send branded text messages is changing. From 1 July 2026, new rules mean texts sent with an organisation's name at the top of a message (known as a branded sender ID) will need to have the sender ID registered. [Learn more](#).



Quick tips using Microsoft Word

Create a new folder on your desktop – Ctrl, Shift and N. Then give it a name.

Create your name into a 3D screensaver – right-click on the desktop / personalise / lock screen / screen saver settings / choose 3D text / settings / custom text (type what you want) / adjust the various settings and rotation / OK / preview / apply / OK.

Windows recovery – Hold down Shift and click Restart, wait for options to fix.



Build strong data foundations for agentic AI at scale

Join senior enterprise leaders and Amazon Web Services (AWS) and discover how to build resilient, scalable data foundations for enterprise AI. Learn practical strategies to build modern data architectures and production-ready AI agents, turning your data into a long-term competitive advantage. [Here](#).



Websites that you may find useful

FREE AI Image Upscaler - Enlarge and enhance your low-resolution images in seconds with AI. Just upload, process, and upscale. [Here](#).

Remove photo image background - automatically and free. [Here](#).

Free tools for PDF, video, image and online tools to make your life easier. [Here](#).

AI presentation tool converts any source into a professional PPT in seconds. Just input a prompt and get ready-to-use AI presentations. [Here](#).



Record-keeping evaluation tool

Use this record-keeping evaluation tool to help you assess how well you are keeping your business records. The link for the ATO tool is [here](#).



A word from the Ombudsman – Lynda McAlary-Smith

As we begin a new financial year, it is a timely opportunity to reflect, reset and plan. We know many small businesses continue to face challenging conditions, including rising costs and changing operating environments. Despite this, we see strong resilience across the sector, with businesses adapting, innovating and engaging early to address issues. Read the full newsletter [here](#).



Proposed trust tax changes risk hitting hundreds of thousands of small, family businesses

Small business owners have told the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia they fear proposed trust tax changes could leave them paying thousands of dollars more in tax each year, placing additional pressure on businesses already facing rising costs and challenging trading conditions. [More](#).



Password problems?

Do you have trouble remembering all those passwords that you were told had to be complex and unique? A simple solution to solve that problem once and for all is [here](#).



Some Excel tips you may find useful

Did you know that your Excel has a camera? Right-click on Quick Access, the top toolbar (hyphen with a down arrow underneath it). Find 'More Commands'. Then All commands. Scroll down to the camera. Add OK. The camera logo now shows in the toolbar. Highlight what you want to copy. Click on the camera. Paste. DONE!

To quickly create several worksheets, click on the Quick Access icon at the top of the screen / More commands / General / enter the number of sheets required / OK / Ctrl N.



Application security evaluation guide

Download this free guide from Amazon Web Services (AWS) and SANS Institute to evaluate your AppSec strategy and get actionable steps to protect your data, operations, and reputation.....[here](#)



STORAGE KING PERTH AIRPORT – special % offer

Past Winner - Facility of the Year Award

15% off storage boxes and 50% off the first 2 months of storage. Storage King can ship your parcels to anywhere in the world. Storage King arrange the booking and email consentment notes for clients to attach to their deliveries. We offer a wide range of self-storage options, from lockers to vehicle storage.

[Phone](#) [Email](#) [W: storageking.com.au](#)

Our special thanks to Storage King Perth Airport for their great support in sponsoring storage of textiles and sewing machines donated for our next community village sewing projects.



FOR HIRE - Training and Meeting Rooms at Belmont BEC

Fully equipped training room, catering and refreshments available. Unit 3, 216 Belmont Ave., Cloverdale - [Contact Belmont BEC](#)

Business Skills 'On Demand' Sessions



Live and Recorded Webinar for Online - Anytime - Fast Track your Training

Members receive FREE webinar below during **August** - [Contact us](#)
www.belmontbec.com/webinars

- [Writing Your Business Plan](#)
- [Pricing, Costing and Cashflow](#)
- [Starting Your New Business](#)
- [Understanding the Australian Privacy Changes](#)
- [Credit Management And Debt Collection](#)
- [How To Write A Tender Or Grant Submission](#)
- [Tips on Building a Successful Business](#)
- [Preparing For A Fashion Trade Show](#)
- [How To Start A Fashion Label](#)
- [Quality Control In The Fashion Industry](#)
- [Importing and Exporting](#)
- [Get Noticed By The Media](#)
- [How To Brief Your Website Developer](#)
- [TESTEX – Textile Accreditation and Labelling](#)

- [Avoiding Manufacturing Pitfalls](#)
- [Marketing On A Budget](#)
- [Strategies for Off Shore Outsourcing](#)
- [Sourcing in Asia via HK](#)
- [Sourcing Textiles & Apparel in India](#)
- [Buying Or Selling A Business](#)
- [Fashioning Sustainability Diverse Perspectives](#)
- [Balancing Work And Life](#)
- [Credit Management And Debt Collection](#)
- [How To Write A Tender Or Grant Submission](#)
- [Tips on Building a Successful Business](#)
- [Connect your Business to the Women's Empowerment Principles](#)
- [How To Grow Your Fashion Business](#)
- [Understanding your Intellectual Property – Trademarks, Designs, Patents](#)
- [Ethical Fashion and the Triple Bottom Line](#)
- [Italian Fashion Media](#)
- [Preparing a Business for Sale](#)
- [Global Platform for Sourcing From Women Vendors](#)
- [Tips on Using Social Media in your Business](#)
- [Make Customer Experience Your Competitive Edge](#)
- [Understanding Freight Logistics of Importing and Exporting](#)
- [How To Grow Your Business](#)
- [Strategies for Off Shore Sourcing](#)
- [Establishing Your Label in the USA](#)
- [What Buyers Are Looking For](#)
- [Specification Sheets for Apparel Manufacturing](#)
- [Marketing for Small Fashion Business](#)

The information featured in this newsletter is published in good faith in an endeavour to disseminate a wide range of business-related content. While we endeavour to verify the comments and advice, we cannot make any warranties regarding the accuracy of data from other sources, or the relevance to individuals' circumstances. Any actions you may consider are dependent on your individual choice and circumstances and are strictly of your own volition; consequently, we are not liable for any resulting consequences. We have no control over the content of any links to other websites and are not liable for any resultant actions taken by readers.

Sponsor's Links



Belmont Business Enterprise Centre
Inc.

You're receiving this Newsletter because you are part of our Belmont
BEC Network.

Edit your subscription or Unsubscribe

PO Box 370
Cloverdale WA 6985
Ph. 08 9479 3777
www.belmontbec.com