



BPW NEWS UPDATE - JANUARY, 2026



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

wishing good health, happiness and success in your business

Setting Your Goals for 2026

develop a clear plan - achievable - realistic - ethical
challenging - attainable - time-bound - environmentally sound
measurable - agreed action - final success worthwhile

"Approach the New Year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day" - Michael Josephson



What's big for business in 2026?

As we enter 2026, business owners face a landscape that's more intelligent, data-driven, and human-focused than ever. Technology continues to evolve, but so do customer expectations. To succeed this year, business owners must blend strategy, authentic branding, and efficient systems. This article breaks down the biggest business trends of 2026 and shows how to apply them to your brand, website, and marketing strategy. [Like this.](#)



THINKING ABOUT SELLING GLOBALLY?

FREE EXPORT ASSISTANCE for you and your staff!

BEC NATIONAL EXPORT ONLINE Training & Mentoring Project

We are here to assist you with no cost support

FREE WEBINARS - Thurs, 29th Jan - all times 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](#)

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27 best tools for small businesses in 2026

Effective technology solutions can streamline operations, strengthen collaboration, and free up time to focus on strategic and creative priorities rather than routine administrative tasks. Learn how to evaluate and select the best tools for your small business in 2026. Also see a list of specific tools to consider across a range of categories, such as project management, hiring and human resources, communication, and more. [Here.](#)



Quote of the month

Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities!

Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers, you cannot be successful or happy.

Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993), author of The Power of Positive Thinking



How to stay compliant, profitable and future-ready in 2026

Australian business owners are entering a period of rapid change. From evolving compliance rules to new technology and rising customer expectations, 2026 is shaping up to be a year where adaptability will separate the businesses that thrive from those that merely survive. The good news? With the right strategies, you can stay not only compliant but also profitable, and set your business up to be truly future-ready. [How?](#)



United Nations Commission Status of Women (CSW70)

Proud to announce TCF Global, BPW Business Incubator & Belmont BEC will be hosting our annual CSW NGO Forum New York on March 10th.

Topic: Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs, Gender Equality, and the Sustainable Development Goals

Carol Hanlon, Founder/CEO, TCF Global, Belmont BEC Inc & BPW Business Incubator will be hosting our NGO Forum in New York, UN CSW70. Global speakers from USA, Sth Korea, Iran and Australia will provide insights into NGOs and projects that support women and the SDG's. **If you and/or NGO would like to be considered to present or attend our CSW Forum contact [Carol Hanlon](#)** Like to know more about CSW visit www.ngocsw.org



Welcome to BEC members - Roli Aggarwal, HR Bridge; Arlene Quinn, People Performance Plus and Matthew White, RHS Solutions

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 designed 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](#)

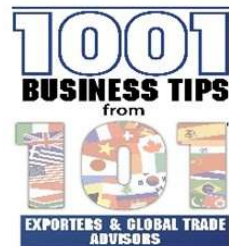
BEC invites its network to link with its Social Media pages

BEC FaceBook [Link](#)

BEC LinkedIn [Link](#)



Belmont BEC & BEC Global Business Advisors, Mentors, Business Coaches - 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 [Bookings](#)**



Are you an exporter or global trade advisor?

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

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](#)**



10 essential time management tips for small business owners

As a small business owner, managing your time effectively is crucial for your success. Implementing fundamental strategies can help you maximise productivity and streamline your operations. Organising your workspace can reduce distractions and improve focus. [Tips here.](#)



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?](#)



How long businesses survive and why they fail

What determines which companies thrive while others fade? From resilient farms to the volatile tech startups, survival rates reveal a story of grit, adaptation, and sometimes, sheer luck. This article covers the numbers behind business lifespans and why half vanish within five years, why some industries outlast others, and what separates the casualties from the champions. [Here.](#)



Protecting your well-being as a small business owner

As any business owner could tell you, running your own business requires high levels of physical, emotional, mental and financial commitment. Business owners often need to work long hours, feel a high sense of responsibility for their family and employees, and may not have anyone to talk to about their worries. This can make it difficult to maintain a healthy work-life balance and look after your mental health, especially when your business is facing challenges such as rising expenses, cashflow concerns, staffing issues or sheer busyness.

[Learn how.](#)



Sponsorship Opportunity

33rd Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards 2026

Join us to sponsor a category in the 33rd Annual Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards in 2026 providing recognition to small businesses across WA. Launching June and running through to October. Gain extensive promotion and marketing opportunities for your business.

[View 2025 winners & sponsors](#) Further info contact [Carol Hanlon](#)

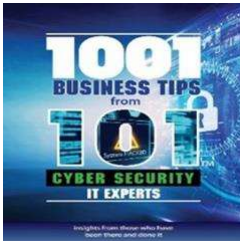


Are you a Speaker or Presenter?

Like to present during 22nd designedge Innovation Festival?

BEC, TCF & BPW Members are invited to register interest in being a presenter or speaker during our 22nd designedge Innovation festival which will run 4 months June to September to our national & global network. Speakers can run LIVE or recorded ONLINE. [View 2025](#)

[Festival Sponsor Opportunities also available.](#) Contact [Carol Hanlon](#)



1001 Business Tips from 101™ Cyber Security IT Experts

FREE eBook for small business with tips from 101 global cyber security experts to assist small business owners and their staff to remain cybersafe. www.mybusinessincubator.com.au/1001

1001 Business Tips eBook was developed by MY Business Incubator® Cyber Security Training & Mentoring Project, a national project delivered by Belmont BEC Inc.



Combating inflation's effects on Australian small businesses

Inflation can hit small businesses in Australia pretty hard, leading to higher costs for everything and making customers think twice about spending. When you're a small business owner, you watch every dollar, so understanding how to fight back against inflation is key to staying afloat and even growing. [Ideas.](#)



Reed Gift Fairs Sydney 14-17 February 2026

Kick off the season with a visit to Reed Gift Fairs, conveniently located at ICC Sydney, Darling Harbour, where attendees can explore the largest variety of giftware products in Sydney for Gift & Lifestyle, Home & Décor, Fashion & Accessories, Kids & Family, Beauty & Wellness and Garden & Outdoor Living. Reed Gift Fairs Sydney stands as Australia's leading retail buying event, offering retailers and designers access to hundreds of premium and emerging wholesale brands - all under one roof. It's an opportunity to discover the latest products, connect with industry experts and source unique products that will set retail businesses apart. [Website.](#)



6 tips to get your business ready for summer

If you're a business owner – particularly a bricks-and-mortar retailer – chances are the winter months have meant a quieter period for foot traffic and sales. Which means now's the perfect time to get your business in shape for summer to ensure you can hit the ground running when things ramp up. [Tips.](#)



Why do many strong SMEs still struggle to make a profit?

A full order book and steady revenue should mean healthy profits; however, many small and medium-sized businesses find themselves working harder than ever for thinner margins. The problem is rarely effort or demand, rather the quiet, invisible habits that distort financial clarity and slowly drain cash. Strong businesses don't fail for lack of ideas or effort; they sometimes could falter when profit or cash flow hides in the noise. [Tips.](#)



The top cyber threats SMEs should be aware of in 2026

Whether you're managing customer data, handling online payments, or simply relying on email to communicate, understanding the risks ahead is essential to keeping your business and its data safe. The top five cyber threats small businesses should be aware of in 2026, and how to stay protected, are [here](#).



Top small business trends for 2026: smart tech you need to know

Every year, hundreds of small and medium businesses (SMBs), just like yours, start with high hopes of making it in a tough market, despite facing many challenges. Technology is advancing rapidly. In fact, 76% of small businesses that are jumping on smart technology trends are growing. It's a clear sign that artificial intelligence (AI) technology is key to small business success. [How?](#)



The 2026 Fashion Trends that you need to know

There are a lot of 2026 fashion trends hurtling toward us, but these are the fashion trends you need to know about ... cutting all the boring ones and focusing on the fashion trends that are wearable or unavoidable, as well as some smaller fashion trends that will grow in popularity. This video talks you through the good, the bad and the 'prepare yourself' fashion trends that we will be seeing more of in 2026. Video.



How does greenwashing affect small sustainable businesses?

The pursuit of ecological responsibility has long ceased being a niche concern, transforming into a significant force shaping consumer choices and business strategies. This shift has given rise to a market where the word "sustainable" holds considerable sway, prompting a surge in products and services marketed with an environmental halo. Yet, within this promising landscape, a shadow lengthens: the practice of greenwashing. [Like this](#).



The FBI recommends several key steps to reduce the risk of cookie-theft attacks:

Regularly clear cookies and browsing data from your internet browser. Avoid using the "Remember this device" option when logging into accounts.

Only access secure websites that begin with HTTPS.

Review your account's login activity frequently for suspicious access.



Another tip by Chioma Chigozie-okwum -from the now published -

'1001 Business Tips from 101™ Cyber Security Experts

Ensure all payment terminals are foolproof - Point of sales terminals are usually a target point in small - and medium-scale enterprises, it is therefore very important that all payment terminals are monitored and secured to ensure that they are not hacked into and customers' details are not harvested through them, and to avoid any resulting loss of enterprise reputation.



Top 10 e-commerce trends 2026 (and how to stay ahead)

The e-commerce world is changing fast, and if you want to stay competitive in 2026 and beyond, it's time to future-proof your online store. From smarter AI tools to TikTok-powered shopping, the way to buy online is evolving. Whether you're just getting started or already running an online business, here are the top ecommerce trends set to shape the market in 2026 - plus what you can do now to take full advantage. [Like this](#).



How to choose the right cloud storage for your small business

Choosing the right cloud storage solution can feel a bit like standing in front of an all-you-can-eat buffet with endless options- so many choices, each promising to be the best. Making the wrong decision can lead to wasted money, compromised data, or even a productivity bottleneck. For small business owners, the stakes couldn't be higher. Whether you're dipping your toes into cloud storage for the first time or you're a seasoned pro looking to optimise your current setup, this will walk you through a comprehensive guide to help you confidently select a cloud storage solution tailored to your business's unique needs. [Here](#)



30 small business ideas to start in 2026

Starting a business is exciting but knowing where to begin can feel overwhelming. One thing is the rise of AI. It's made it easier than ever to launch certain businesses, and it's created brand new opportunities that didn't even exist a few years ago. If you want to go full-time or just try something alongside your job, here are 30 small business ideas we expect to see a lot more of going into 2026.... [here](#).



How to advertise and sell fairly during holiday sales

As we approach the busy holiday season, it's important to remember what your business can and can't do when advertising and selling goods and services. These rules apply to claims made in-store and online, such as testimonials on your website or social media pages. Some reminders to help your business comply with the law are [here](#).



Do you work with more than one workspace on your desktop?

To create a new workspace - click on Windows and Tab / click on 'New desktop' to add a fresh workspace / to switch between desktops: press Windows plus Ctrl and right or left arrows to switch between.

To underline text – highlight text and: Ctrl + Shift + D for double underline / Ctrl + U for single underline / Ctrl + Shift + W to underline, to leave a space between the words.



Tip: When using Word

To change font size incrementally – Highlight the text, hold Ctrl and Shift, and use the right arrow to increase and the left arrow to decrease.



Quick tricks in Excel

To auto-fit content in columns – right click on the sheet number at the foot of the page / select 'View Code' / switch from General to Worksheet / enter the code - Columns.AutoFit. Go back to the worksheet, and the column width will adjust to fit whatever you type.

To add check boxes – highlight the appropriate cells. Hold Alt and type N C B. Done. To tick a box, just click on it ... easy!



Australasian Institute of Business and Enterprise Facilitators (AIBEF) AIBEF Membership Scholarships

Are you a business advisor, mentor or coach? Like accreditation for your past expertise. Members can utilise post nominals providing accreditation and recognition for skills and expertise. **SPECIAL OFFER:** BEC, TCF and BPW Volunteer Mentors can apply for AIBEF Membership Scholarship. [AIBEF Contact Carol Hanlon](#)



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](#).



National Women's Conference - February 25-26, 2026

Join us for a day filled with concurrent sessions, breakfast, and lunch. Be part of an all-star lineup of speakers, ranging from female executives and entrepreneurs to financial experts. Nominate a deserving candidate for the Top 100 Women in Business Award. [Website](#).



11 employee engagement initiatives to implement in 2026

Companies need targeted employee engagement initiatives to ensure favourable outcomes for both their employees and their business. Disengaged employees affect productivity, morale, and business results as they're more likely to make mistakes and miss deadlines. Engaged staff, on the other hand, are more motivated, innovative, and productive, driving growth and elevating organisational reputation. This article discusses the different types of employee engagement initiatives you can implement to benefit your company and its workforce. [Targets](#).



ATO warning for 'freeloading' tax dodgers

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has blasted "freeloading" individuals and businesses who are dodging their tax obligations. The tax office receives nearly 1,000 tips-offs each week about tax avoidance and has warned it will discover if you are doing the wrong thing. They hit a major milestone of more than 300,000 tip-offs from the community about tax avoidance and dishonest behaviours since July 2019. Most of these are related to shadow economy activity, such as demanding cash payment for work or incorrectly claiming business expenses [Article](#).



Windows 10 expired? Get another 12 months of free updates.

Hold the Windows key + I.
Go to Settings / Update & Security / Enrol now / Next / Enrol – done.

Fix My Speakers Pro

Accidentally dropped your mobile phone in water

Fix My Speaker

If your phone gets wet and water gets trapped in the speaker, use this free App. Remove the water in 3 easy steps using the Fix My Speaker tool. [Here](#).



What is the correct hourly rate to pay my staff?

The Fair Work Ombudsman is committed to ensuring that information available through this tool, including data, is accurate and incorporates changes to minimum rates of pay, allowances and penalty rates and selected minimum entitlements in the National Employment Standards as soon as they come into effect. Including a 'pay calculator' - [here](#).



Websites that you may find useful

A range of free software - <https://filecr.com/us-en/>

A range of free Apps - <https://getintopc.com/>

The ultimate library of tools - Find anything you need, organised, reviewed by category. Websites, Mobile apps, content creation tools, AI miracles. [All here](#). **This site offers** PDF, video, image, and a wide range of other online free tools to make your life easier – [here](#).



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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.



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- [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](#)
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- [Sourcing in Asia via HK](#)
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- [Preparing a Business for Sale](#)
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