

SIX SEASONS

Environment and Sustainability News from Shire of Mundaring

Applications now open for Seedlings for Landcare program

Shire of Mundaring is calling for schools, community groups and rural landholders to register their interest in the 2021 Seedlings for Landcare Program.

The Program aims to assist the community to undertake environmental restoration projects such as revegetating creek lines and wetlands, providing habitat for wildlife and enhancing biodiversity in rural areas.

20,000 free native seedlings will be available to eligible applicants.

Expressions of Interest opened on 12 February and will close on 26 March.

Expression of Interest online forms are available on the Shire website at www.mundaring.wa.gov.au. For more information, contact the Coordinator on 9290 6666 or email seedlings@mundaring.wa.gov.au.



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The Shire's Environmental team offers a site inspection service for residents to identify and map key environmental assets on their property.

If you are considering earthworks, building or other development near a creek line, significant trees, native vegetation or a granite outcrop, it is a good idea to request a site visit before you lodge a planning application.

The natural environment is protected under the Shire's Local Planning Scheme No.4 (LPS4) and State

environmental legislation.

Environmental Officers can help you identify key environmental assets and issues that will need to be taken into account from the beginning, before you invest more time and money into plans for the property.

Proposed developments that impact on natural areas may need to be approved by the Shire, and may require changes or additional works to reduce environmental impacts.

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Bunuru - February to March

The Noongar seasonal calendar includes six different seasons in a yearly cycle. Bunuru (second summer) is hot and the land is very dry. It is also a time of white flowers - Marri trees are in full bloom.



Inspection service helps residents identify environmental assets

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The service, known as an Environment Asset Inspection (EAI), is also available for those looking to purchase a new property and can help you decide if the property will suit your lifestyle and future plans before you sign on the dotted line!

The EAI is offered for a fee of \$100, which includes a site inspection and report.

For more information, or to book an EAI, call 9290 6666 and ask to speak to an Environmental Officer.



Cool your home for less

Did you know you can cool your home in summer without relying on costly air conditioners? With creative and clever use of house orientation, ventilation, shading and insulation, you can make a big difference in your indoor temperature without breaking the budget!

For information based on our local climate, download the Passive Solar Building Design information sheet from the Shire's website. For additional resources, visit www.yourhome.gov.au/passive-design/passive-cooling.

Basic Wildlife First Aid brochure is packed with great tips for helping local fauna



Quenda photo courtesy of Jesse Steele.

Survival can be a tough gig for our local wildlife as they contend with drought, fire, limited availability of food and water and the ever present risk of injury and death from pets and vehicles.

If you find injured or sick wildlife, will you know what to do?

Shire of Mundaring has produced a Basic First Aid for Wildlife brochure to help you to know what to do and who to call.

The free brochure will help you recognise the signs of a distressed animal and how to safely approach and handle different kinds of wildlife. The brochure is an essential addition to your vehicle glovebox!

It contains tips to help residents become more aware of wildlife and prevent injury and sickness, including how to watch for animals when driving and ways to create a wildlife friendly garden.

There is also a handy list of basic wildlife first aid items that you can keep in your car and home.

The brochure is available from the Shire Administration Building or you can download a copy from the Shire website.

If in doubt, the Wildcare Helpline can provide advice and connect you to the nearest vet or wildlife rehabilitator wherever you are in WA. Phone 9474 9055.



Identify weeds in a snap with free booklet

Controlling weeds can be a frustrating and daunting task, especially after all your efforts, they grow back again!

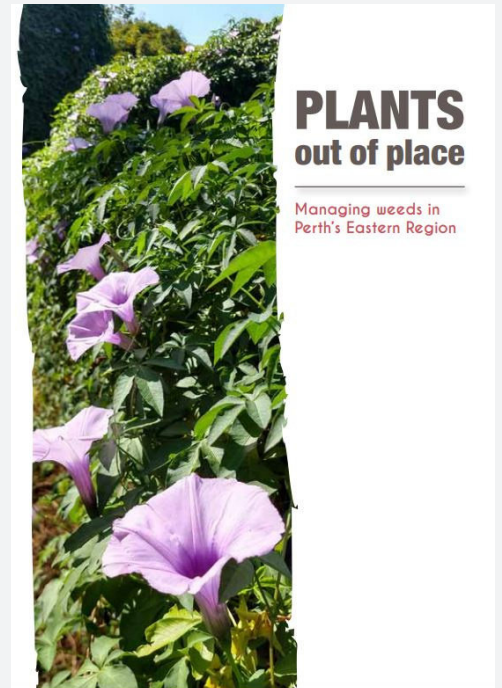
Although most of Australia's weeds have been introduced from other countries, Australian native plants can also become weeds.

Eastern States Wattles such as Golden Wattles (*Acacia pycnantha*) can quickly dominate degraded bushland, outcompeting local species.

Weeds can also increase fire risk, as they die off and dry out. The Shire has recently updated its *Plants Out of Place* booklet to help residents more easily identify weeds and choose the correct control method.

This handy little booklet will help you save time, effort and money in the long term. Hard copies of the booklet are available free from Shire Administration Building or download a copy from our website.

There is also an info sheet you can download to help you identify the different types of Eastern States Wattles in Mundaring.



A helping hand for our wildlife after a fire

The recent Wooroloo fire swept through thousands of hectares despite heroic efforts from firefighters, and our hearts go out to those who lost everything in the fire.

For wildlife in or near the area, finding food and water will be much harder - especially if they are suffering from heat stress, smoke inhalation, burns or other injuries.

Leaving out some water could make the difference between life and death for some animals. Placing water containers around your yard or property in safe areas is a great start. Ensure water containers are shallow and won't cause drowning by adding rocks, sticks or other objects that allow animals to escape if they fall in.

While feeding wildlife is usually not recommended, it may be necessary after a bushfire when food sources have gone. Contact the Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055 for advice (as the wrong food can be harmful or fatal).

Wildlife acting 'docile' and letting you approach them can mean they are hurt or sick, even if you can't see visible injuries. Place small injured animals in a ventilated secure container in a cool place and transport them to a vet or wildlife carer as soon as possible. Do not wrap heat stressed animals or submerge them in water.



Remember, your own safety has to be the first consideration. Use great caution if approaching kangaroos as they can cause serious injury with their hind legs.

It can also be dangerous (or illegal) to enter properties or bushland after a fire. Always check with the landowner and emergency authorities to ensure it is safe to do so.

For more information, pick up or download a copy of our free Wildlife First Aid Brochure.

Introducing the Friends of Glen Forrest Superblock Coordinator, Francesca Flynn



Francesca has recently taken over as Coordinator of the group.

Francesca is a local resident, business owner and environmental scientist.

She is passionate about preserving our beautiful bushland and has been learning the ropes from the group's former Coordinator, Kathy Wood.

If you are interested in joining this group, or forming your own Friends Group, contact the Shire on 9290 6666.



Landcare Calendar - Tips for Bunuru



- If you planted native seedlings last winter, check them regularly as they may need a drink once or twice a week
- Add mulch to your garden to reduce evaporation and maximise soil moisture
- Provide water for insects, birds and other animals in saucers or install a bird bath (make sure critters can't fall in and drown by adding sticks and rocks)

Six Seasons has been prepared by the Environment and Sustainability team at Shire of Mundaring. For comments, feedback or questions call 9290 6740.

What's On



Birds in Your Garden Workshop Sat 20 Feb, 9am to 12pm

*Civic Room,
Shire Administration Building*

Learn to identify local birds by sight and bird calls and how to attract them to your garden and keep them coming back!

Register for this FREE workshop at www.eventbrite.com.au by searching for 'Birds in Your Garden Workshop'.

Blue Sky Festival

Sat 20 March,

Hub of the Hills (talks)

Sun 21 March,

Sculpture Park (displays)

The Festival is an opportunity for hills' residents to celebrate and understand how they can ensure a positive and sustainable future through living responsibly and with care in their local community and natural environment. For more information see the Blue Sky Festival Facebook page.

The Great Cocky Count

Sun 28 March,

sunset, at a cockatoo 'night roost' near you!

Help Birdlife Australia carry out its annual survey of cocky numbers across WA to gain a better understanding of these unique and threatened species. It's simple, fun and every survey counts. Registrations close on Sunday 7 March.

To register as a 'cocky counter' see <https://forms.gle/rwaocc7PTBW5Ejhm8>.