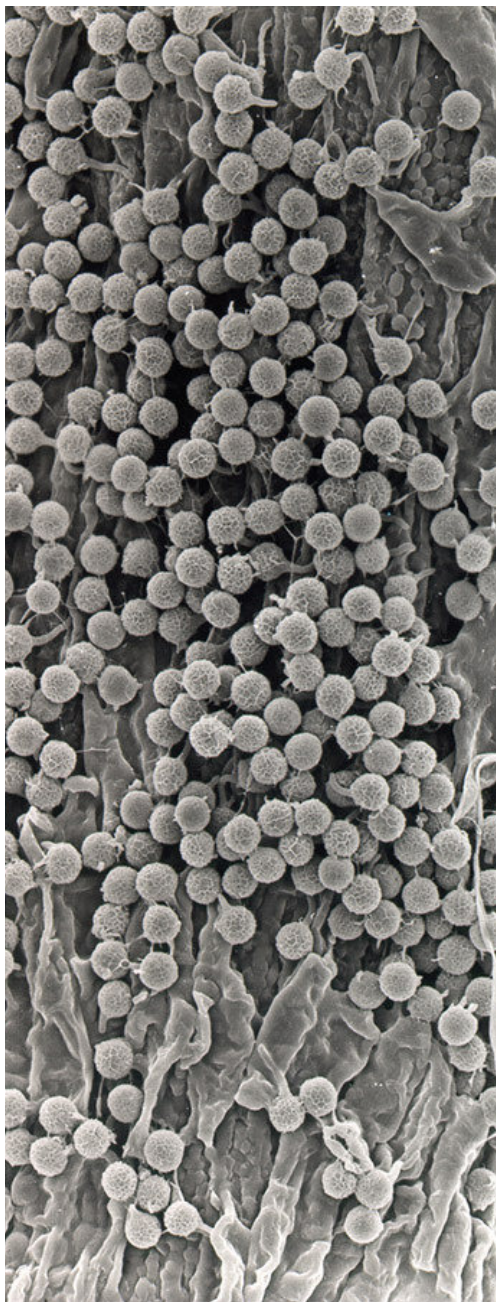


SIX SEASONS

Environment and Sustainability News from Shire of Mundaring

Spreading the Word, Not Dieback!



Phytophthora spores attacking plant roots.
Photo: Adrienne Hardham, Australian National University

The Shire has made a short video to help residents learn about dieback and simple ways to avoid it, so we can all protect our bushlands and gardens for the future.

Dieback is a devastating plant disease that can be spread by muddy boots, tools and tyres. It is caused by an introduced 'Phytophthora' water mould that lives in soil and rots plant roots. People used to call it 'Jarrah Dieback' but actually it can kill over 40% of the native trees and plant species in south-west WA, as well as roses and fruit trees.

While infected plants can be treated to help them survive, there is no way to get rid of the dieback - so it is vitally important to avoid spreading.

The video highlights 3 simple steps to follow to protect our plants:

- Enter Clean
- Tread Carefully
- Leave Clean!

To watch the video, visit our website www.mundaring.wa.gov.au and search 'dieback video' in the search bar (top of the page, on the right).



IN THIS EDITION
June 2021 • Issue 3

Creating Safer Gardens
Reaping Recycling Rewards
Kangaroo Paw Care
Illegal Firewood Harms Forests
Community news - we can all be ClimateClever
Landcare calendar
What's on



New signs provide information about Dieback and how to clean down when entering or leaving bushland reserves.



Makuru- June to July

The Noongar seasonal calendar includes six different seasons in a yearly cycle. Makuru is the coldest and wettest time of the year. Yellow flowers of Acacias will soon start to bloom and animals pair up in preparation for breeding in the next season.

Creating Safer Gardens



SAFER GARDENS
PLANT FLAMMABILITY & PLANNING FOR FIRE

LESLEY CORBETT



Safer Gardens: Plant Flammability & Planning for Fire by Lesley Corbett

Destructive bushfires are increasing in frequency and intensity around the world.

For people living in fire prone areas, it can be hard to find information about which plants have low flammability and which are frighteningly flammable.

Safer Gardens author Lesley Corbett has collated research on over 500 plants, based on her review of studies from around the world.

There are no 'fireproof' plants but this new book aims to help people choose plants that will create less flammable gardens.

There are still many gaps where more research is needed (especially in WA) but this is an important contribution from a local resident - written by a gardener for other gardeners.



Reaping Recycling Rewards

Since the launch in October 2020, Mundaring residents and ratepayers have been reaping the rewards of recycling drink containers through the Shire's Containers for Change (CfC) Refund Point.

The environment is winning too as containers are recycled into products such as aeroplane wings, hard hats and new drink containers, reducing the environmental impact of extracting and processing raw materials.

More than 2.1 million drink containers have already been processed at the Shire's CfC Refund Point located at the Coppin Road Community Recycling Centre. Over 50 local community groups, schools and businesses are already participating. It's easy to get started!

Step 1 – Sign up for your own scheme ID at:

www.containerforchange.com.au/wa/

Step 2 – Start collecting your eligible containers

Step 3 – Drop off your eligible containers to the Shires CfC refund point

Step 4 – The containers are counted and your refund is transferred electronically to your nominated bank account.

For more information about the Containers for Change scheme, check out www.mundaring.wa.gov.au.



Kangaroo Paw Care

Have you ever tried to grow Kangaroo Paws and had trouble? We asked David O'Brien, the Shire's Supervisor for Environment and Horticulture to share his knowledge.

David says, "My experience is that the cultivated Kangaroo Paws are more disease resistant and respond well to a hard cut back once a year after flowering. Having said that, I would be more likely to only cut back dead leaves and flower stalks on the native red and green *Anigozanthos manglesii*."

"Kangaroo Paws are best watered at ground level with something like drip irrigation rather than over the foliage via a sprinkler system. This will reduce the occurrence of fungal issues such as ink spot disease."

"The use of a slow release native fertiliser will also be beneficial to promote healthy growth. Kangaroo Paws are best grown in full sun or no more than dappled shade in soil with good drainage. Soil that holds too much moisture might cause the plant to rot and die."



Illegal firewood collection harms forests

Did you know the collection of firewood is regulated in WA? This helps to protect forests and critical habitat for wildlife. While most people do the right thing and source their firewood ethically and responsibly, there are still instances where wood is taken illegally from our national parks, forests and reserves.

Collecting firewood for personal use is permitted in some forest areas managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). Most areas designated for firewood collection are restricted to State forest located in DBCA's three forest regions, Swan (Perth Hills), South West and Warren.

Only collect firewood from areas shown on maps provided by DBCA (taking firewood from national parks and conservation parks is not allowed). When collecting, only take fallen timber - you cannot cut down any standing tree, either dead or alive, or cut or break off any part of a standing tree for firewood.



If you are buying firewood, ask the seller for a commercial license number and the source of the wood, and please report any suspicious activity to your nearest Parks and Wildlife Service office. To find out more and download information sheet 'Collecting firewood for personal use', visit www.dpaw.wa.gov.au.

We can all be ClimateClever

Want to do your bit to address climate change but not sure where to start? Shire of Mundaring has signed up as a local government partner with ClimateClever. This gives local schools, households and businesses up to 50% off ClimateClever registration, to make it easier and more affordable to reduce your carbon footprint. For households within the Shire it is now only \$15 per year, and you can easily save that off your power bill!

ClimateClever began as an initiative to help Perth schools log and lower their energy use and emissions, then extended with water and waste options. Participating schools also found they saved lots of money on their utility bills. Now it has grown into a fantastic resource and not-for-profit organisation that can help you save money as well as protect the planet. Find out more at www.climateclever.org or scan the QR code below.



Landcare Calendar - Tips for Makuru



- During winter, runoff can cause erosion of valuable topsoil, making it harder for native plants to thrive. For tips on controlling erosion, see our info sheet 'Erosion and Sediment Control' at www.mundaring.wa.gov.au (click on the Environment Services tab)
- Switch off your reticulation over winter
- Keep stock off waterlogged paddocks to prevent damage to pasture and soil compaction

Six Seasons has been prepared by the Environment and Sustainability team at Shire of Mundaring. For feedback, questions or to subscribe, email environment@mundaring.wa.gov.au

What's On



Millennium Kids Climate Forum in Boya Community Centre Wed 14 July (school holidays)

Young people concerned about climate change are invited to attend this youth-led event (9:30am - 4.00pm). How can we collectively tackle climate change in WA while supporting our places to thrive? What does this mean for the way we live, the places we live in and our environment?

To register or ask for more information, email Cathy: cathy@millenniumkids.com.au or www.millenniumkids.com.au

Tree planting morning at Lake Leschenaultia Sat 24 Jul, 10am to 12pm

Bring the family and help plant native trees and shrubs at the Lake! Morning tea and a sausage sizzle provided. Registration is essential as numbers are limited.

Please note that the planting area is quite steep so it will not be suitable for very young children. Enquiries and registration via email to: seedlings@mundaring.wa.gov.au

Creating FireWise Gardens talk with Lesley Corbett at Shire Administration Building Sat 21 Aug, 1pm to 3pm

Save the date! We are planning a great FireWise garden forum and will make registrations available soon via www.eventbrite.com.au