

SIX SEASONS

Environment and Sustainability News from Shire of Mundaring

Frog and Reptile Bingo Bonanza!

Discover the wildlife in your backyard with our new Frog and Reptile 'Bingo' sheet. Perfect for school holidays when kids are looking for adventure and learning!

Embark on a backyard adventure with our fun [Frog and Reptile 'Bingo'](#) sheet! Featuring 26 unique frog and reptile species, this activity is perfect for curious minds of all ages. Grab your free copy from our website at www.mundaring.wa.gov.au or swing by the Shire administration Centre, Boya, or Mundaring Library to pick one up. Let the wildlife exploration begin! 🐸🦎

Shire of
MUNDARING

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Wildlife of The Perth Hills is now online!

In 2023, Shire of Mundaring held a fauna photo contest, gathering hundreds of stunning wildlife images from residents. Now, these captivating shots grace our new online booklet, "[Wildlife of the Perth Hills](#)." A printed version is planned soon!

Explore common local species, learn about their habitats, and discover ways to boost backyard biodiversity. Dive in and get wild at www.mundaring.wa.gov.au



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.

Winter energy saving tips



Heating your house in winter can send energy bills soaring, but a few simple steps can help keep costs down.

- Start by sealing drafts around doors and windows to prevent heat loss
- Turn down your heater (set between 18°C and 20°C)
- Encourage family members to dress warmly indoors to reduce the need for high thermostat settings
- Heating your hot water can account for over 20% of your household energy use! Try to avoid the temptation of using the shower to get warm. Aim for a 4 minute shower.
- Use rugs or carpets on bare floors to help insulate rooms
- Close off unused rooms to avoid wasting heat in those areas
- Use ceiling fans in reverse mode to circulate warm air downwards
- Invest in thermal curtains or drapes to further insulate windows and keep warmth inside
- Let sunlight in during the day to warm up the house (and close blinds and curtains in the evening to keep that warmth in). Consider installing using window insulation film to minimise heat loss.

For more tips on winter energy savings for households visit www.energy.gov.au (search for 'winter energy savings').

Transitioning to an All-Electric Home: A Smart, Sustainable Choice

Across Australia, more and more households are embracing the switch to all-electric living as their gas appliances reach the end of their lifespans. This transition reduces carbon footprints and indoor air pollution but also presents challenges, especially in areas with regular power supply interruptions from fires, storms, and fallen trees.

While a gas barbecue can be handy during blackouts, many are opting for battery storage systems to store solar energy and keep essentials running. As electric vehicles become more common, they can also serve as a power backup with the right setup.

Ready to Make the Switch? Start Small and Smart!

If you're thinking about transitioning to an all-electric home, you can start with simple steps and thoughtful choices. Here are some key upgrades to consider:

Switching to Electric Hot Water Heating

- **Efficiency:** Electric heat pumps are over 300 percent efficient, making them the most efficient hot water systems
- **Variety:** Numerous models cater to different household sizes
- **Cost-Effective:** They offer the lowest yearly running costs
- **Easy Installation:** Installation by a qualified tradesperson is usually quick
- **Key considerations:**
 - Ensure the system operates efficiently in low temperatures
 - Check if it relies on a booster during winter, which can increase heating costs
 - Choose a storage tank size that suits your household's needs

Switching to Electric or Induction Cooking

- **Variety:** There are many options to fit most budgets
- **Safety:** Electric and induction cooktops are safer than gas, with no exposed flames or gas leakage risks
- **Convenience:** They are easier to clean with flat glass surfaces
- **Compatibility:** Typically, they fit in the same space as old gas ovens but measure carefully before buying, and check if you might need any electrical upgrades

Considering Rooftop Solar Panels?

A rooftop solar system allows your home to generate its own renewable electricity, cutting down energy bills. On average, a 6.6kW solar system can save households \$1,000 to \$1,500 annually. Larger households with higher capacity systems can save even more.

Want to learn more? Come to our free event "Planning Your Electrification Transition" workshop. We'll map out a roadmap for your transition from fossil fuels to clean electricity, giving you the lowdown on the perks and how to make it happen over the next 5 to 10 years. To find out more or to register, see the 'What's On' section in this newsletter.

12 Tips for Successful Revegetation

Makuru is the time to get our hands dirty and restore the landscape to its former glory! We've got 12 top tips to ensure your revegetation project is a success!

1. **Set Your Goals:** Decide what you want to achieve - is it to stop erosion, improve biodiversity, enhance wildlife corridors? Knowing what you want to create will help you make the right decisions the first time around and avoid costly mistakes!
2. **Craft a Plan:** Plan ahead to combat common threats like drought, waterlogging, weed invasion, nutrient deficiency, and grazing. Be ready to tackle it all!
3. **Choose the right plants:** Planting local native species will provide the most suitable food and habitat for local native wildlife. They also stand the best chance of survival as they are well-adapted to local soil, rainfall and weather conditions.
4. **Time it right:** Plant those seedlings when the rain arrives and creeks start to flow. For wetlands and waterlogged areas, wait until water levels subside.
5. **Prep the Site:** Before you begin, prep the site for victory. Set the stage for healthy growth that can outcompete grasses and weeds, and boost soil moisture.
6. **Dig the Perfect Hole:** Deep and loose, the ideal hole ensures roots find moisture during hot summers. Dig wide and twice as deep as the container.
7. **Be A Weed Warrior:** Don't let pesky weeds steal from your seedlings. Clear the competition before, during, and after revegetation. Give your plants room to shine!
8. **Supercharge the Soil:** Fertilise and mulch like a pro. Keep moisture in, nourish the soil, suppress weeds, and lower soil temperature in summer. Your soil and plants will thank you!
9. **Shield and Protect:** Guard your seedlings from trampling and grazing. Get creative with milk carton protectors or opt for plastic or mesh guards. Defend your little green warriors!
10. **Don't forget the water:** Quench their thirst! Give your plants a good drink before and after planting. Make sure they're well-watered right after—hydration is key!
11. **Prevent Dieback:** Beat Phytophthora Dieback! Choose seedlings from accredited nurseries and keep vehicles, tools, and equipment clean when entering or exiting the revegetation area.
12. **Keep Watch:** The ultimate step for success! Monitor your plants regularly to catch any issues early on. Stay vigilant, and nip problems in the bud!



For more information on revegetation tips, watch our YouTube video 'Planting for Success' starring Landscape Architect and local gardening legend Sue McDougall.

For more information, download a copy of our [12 Tips for Successful Revegetation](#) from the Shire website at www.mundaring.gov.au.

Heavenly Hectares Event



Over 60 landholders from Shire of Mundaring and City of Kalamunda joined award winning landcare and sustainability expert Chris Ferreira for a fun and informative workshop to learn how to sustainably manage small acreage.

Participants learned the importance of preparing a step-by-step approach to property improvement, including how to divide the property into units that make it easier to manage. Topics such as how to plan and prioritise on-ground work, improving soil health, tackling weeds, growing pasture, revegetation, fencing and reducing fire risk were covered.

Afterwards, participants networked over a delicious afternoon tea comprising of native bushfoods. Many have already signed up for field walks on local properties that will provide more detailed, one-on-one advice that will help them get started and stay on track!

The event was supported by Perth Natural Resource Management, Shire of Mundaring and hosted by City of Kalamunda.

Planning Your Electrification Transition Workshop

Sat 22 Jun, 10am to 11.30am
Civic Area, Shire of Mundaring,

Whether you're itching to go full-on renewable or just curious about your options, our FREE Planning Your Electrification Transition workshop has you covered. We'll map out a roadmap for your transition from fossil fuels to clean electricity, giving you the lowdown on the perks and how to make it happen over the next 5 to 10 years. To find out more and register visit www.eventbrite.com.au and

search for 'Planning Your Electrification Transition' or scan the QR code opposite.



Small Property Landcare Tours

Various dates in June and July

Register your interest now!

If you are interested in seeing landcare in action, join us for a morning stroll (and morning tea!) at local small properties. We'll be discussing and demonstrating a range of topics such as weed control, revegetation, managing stock, soil and pasture improvement and more! Numbers are limited on these field walks so be sure to register your interest and be the first to find out when and where they are happening! Register your interest by emailing the Shire at: environment@mundaring.wa.gov.au.

How To Attract Birds to Your Garden

14 June, 11am to 13.30pm

Kalamunda Library

Cost \$5.50 per ticket

Unlock the secrets to creating a vibrant oasis for garden birds with Rachel Green, a local habitat gardener and passionate bird watcher. Join Rachel to learn about the essential plants, diverse food sources and safety measures that attract and support a variety of bird species.

For more information and to register visit www.trybooking.com and search for the event title in the search bar.

Landcare Calendar - Tips for Makuru



- Switch off reticulation over winter
- Winter run-off 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)
- Keep vehicles and 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. To subscribe email the team at environment@mundaring.wa.gov.au