

# SIX SEASONS

Environment and Sustainability News from Shire of Mundaring

## *Owl Friendly Shire of Mundaring*



Shire of Mundaring recently launched its 'Owl Friendly' campaign aimed at raising awareness of the detrimental effects to owls from secondary poisoning caused by rodent baits. Secondary poisoning is a growing concern and affects not only the vulnerable owl population, but also poses risks to pets and other wildlife. Sadly, many owls die through consuming rodents that have ingested toxic baits. It's also very difficult for vets to save pets and other wildlife exposed to secondary poisoning when some types of rodenticide baits are used.

Being Owl Friendly means choosing less harmful alternatives for rodent control. This includes removing rats' food sources and using lower-risk baits or traps. In places with lots of wildlife, live-catch traps are better so you can identify what you've caught before it is harmed.

On Saturday 2 December, the Shire kicked off the campaign with a free 'Hoo Want's to Be Owl Friendly?' information session to help raise awareness in owl-friendly practices that safeguard our vulnerable wildlife. Forty five residents attended the session and also collected their free 'Owl Friendly Mundaring' bumper sticker. Residents can help promote the campaign by collecting a free bumper sticker from the Shire Administration Centre.

To learn more about owl friendly rodent and pest control, visit the 'Local Native Birds' webpage on the Shire's website.



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### IN THIS EDITION

*Water for Wildlife*

*Reducing Plastic at*

*Christmas*

*A Master of Camouflage*

*Hollow Search Call Out*

*Community News*

*What's On*



**Collect your FREE Owl Friendly Mundaring bumper sticker from the Shire reception!**

### ***Birak - December to January***

The Noongar seasonal calendar includes six different seasons in a yearly cycle. During Birak, the hot easterly wind begins to blow and many fledgling animals venture out of their nests. Reptiles are more active and start to shed their skin, and baby frogs mature into adulthood.



## Water for wildlife



Many residents provide water for wildlife through the warmer months or have birdbaths in their gardens. This helps our wildlife survive through the hotter and drier summer months.

If you want to install (or relocate) a birdbath, be sure to think about how you will change the water once or twice a week to keep it clean and stop mosquitoes from breeding.

Try to use shallow containers with gently sloping edges to prevent smaller animals from drowning (or use sticks and rocks to help them climb out). Adding perches at different heights near the water can also help different species approach safely.

If you find distressed or injured wildlife and are not sure what to do, contact the Wildcare Helpline



## Reducing plastic at Christmas



The festive season is a time of joy, celebration, and, unfortunately, often excessive plastic waste. From gift wrapping to decorations and packaging, the environmental toll can be significant. Here's some simple and effective ways to make your Christmas more sustainable and reduce plastic usage:

- Consider eco-friendly gift-wrapping alternatives such as reusable fabric or paper wrapping, or get creative with newspaper, old maps, or even cloth scarves or scraps. Not only does this reduce plastic waste, but it adds a personal touch to your gifts. Embrace the art of Furoshiki, a Japanese method of fabric wrapping, for an elegant and environmentally friendly presentation. There are plenty of YouTube videos on how to do Furoshiki!
- Choose decorations that are reusable and made from sustainable materials. Avoid single-use plastic ornaments and invest in timeless pieces that can be cherished and reused for years to come. Alternatively, consider crafting decorations from recycled materials for a personalised and eco-conscious touch.
- Bring your own reusable bags when hitting the stores and seek out products with minimal or compostable packaging. Consider gifting experiences or homemade treats, which not only reduce plastic waste but also add a thoughtful and personal element to your presents.
- Lastly, opt for reusable plates, cutlery, and cups to minimise single-use plastic waste. If hosting a large gathering, consider using real dishes or encourage guests to bring their own reusable utensils.

By incorporating these simple practices into your holiday traditions, you can contribute to a greener Christmas and hopefully inspire others to do the same!

# A Master of Camouflage

Ever heard of (or seen) a Death Adder? The Death Adder (*Acanthophis antarcticus*) is a fascinating, yet seldom-seen snake that lurks in leaf litter around the Perth Hills, captivating the attention of bushwalkers and locals alike.

Sporting a broad triangular head, a distinctive reddish hue, unique stripes, and an ability to seamlessly blend into our bushland, these cryptic creatures measure between 40 to 100cm long. They also boast the longest fangs among Australian snakes, clocking in at an impressive six to 8mm long!

They occur in the northern Darling Range region between Jarrahdale and Mundaring as well as the Central Wheatbelt. Their preferred habitat is woodland adjacent to granite outcrops and along creeks, where they shelter amongst leaf litter and at the base of low vegetation.

Despite their venomous nature, Death Adders aren't the aggressive type - they prefer the allure of elusiveness, choosing to vanish into shrubs and leaf litter when disturbed. They rely on camouflage both to avoid detection by predators and to secure their prey. Their specially modified tail tip is used as a lure and is wriggled convulsively to attract prey such as small mammals, birds and lizards.

If you happen to stumble upon one of these striking snakes, first count yourself lucky to see one! And secondly, take care not to approach or provoke them - instead, calmly and carefully make your retreat, and chances are they'll also slither away to find a quieter spot!



*Perth reptile*

Death Adders can blend in easily amongst undergrowth and leaf litter. Photo kindly supplied by Adam Firstenberg from Perth Hills Reptile Removal.



## Hollow Search Call Out

**Join BirdLife WA in the crucial mission to locate suitable tree hollows for breeding endangered Black Cockatoo species in southwest WA. With limited data on hollow locations, your help is vital to ensure the future protection of these majestic birds.**

Spot a tree hollow spacious enough for a Black Cockatoo? Now, you can make a real difference by using a user-friendly app, available for download on Google or Apple Store. Simply record the location and snap a photo whenever you encounter a potential breeding site.

Even if you come across a tree hollow occupied by a Corella, you can contribute to Birdlife's invasive species project by reporting it. Understanding the competition for hollows between Corellas and Black Cockatoos is crucial information. Getting involved is easy:

1. Download the ArcGIS Survey123 app to your phone from the Google or Apple store
2. Then scan the QR code below with your camera and the survey form will open in the app
3. Fill in the form and click 'submit' when you have finished.
4. Whether you're online or offline, you can open the app at any time to fill in the survey when you discover a hollow.



Don't miss your chance to be part of this important initiative!

## Grant for Climate Change Interest Group



Shire of Mundaring recently provided the Perth Hills Climate Change Interest Group (PHCCIG) with a grant to purchase promotional material including a dynamic pull-up banner and four eye-catching corflute signs. These will help enhance the visibility of PHCCIG at local markets such as Mundaring Rotary and Kalamunda.

PHCCIG is a non-aligned, not-for-profit organisation, that actively pursues a sustainable, carbon-neutral, and positive future. With a positive, respectful, hopeful, and collaborative approach, their key objectives encompass supporting activities for a sustainable future, promoting climate emergency policies, fostering low-carbon initiatives, informing and educating about climate change, advocating for climate action, and collaborating with like-minded organisations and leaders.

These engaging materials serve as beacons of awareness, reflecting the commitment of both the Shire of Mundaring and PHCCIG to champion a brighter, more sustainable tomorrow.

## Landcare Calendar - Tips for Kambarang

- You might need to water newly established native seedlings through their first summer, until their roots are well established
- Heavy, occasional watering two to three times a week is best (light, frequent watering can result in shallow roots and low drought tolerance)
- At each watering, wet at least the whole depth of the root zone
- Using mulch will keep more water in the soil
- Check wildlife, pet and stock water supplies daily (placing water supplies such as birdbaths and troughs in a shady spot will reduce evaporation)



*Six Seasons* has been prepared by the Shire of Mundaring's Environment and Sustainability team.  
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## Engage with nature and a sustainability in December and the New Year!

### Switch Your Thinking Events for Christmas and the New Year

Looking for more ways to make your lifestyle more sustainable? There are so many ways to switch your thinking and lifestyle! Switch Your Thinking helps residents to live and work to meet their needs without jeopardising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Check out the Switch Your Thinking website for inspiration and free events on sustainable living in December and January (including school holiday activities).

Get in early as events book out fast!  
For more information visit [www.switchyourthinking.com](http://www.switchyourthinking.com)

### 'Making Your Hectare Count Empowering Peri-Urban Landholders to Practice Regeneration ' Workshops and events for small landholders in 2024

Perth Natural Resource Management will be providing on-farm workshops and field days focusing on regenerative natural resource management practices.

Topics will include soil health and testing, pasture management, protection of remnant vegetation and composting. The workshops will answer questions about land management and provide you with practical tips to start implementing on your property straight away.

You will also join a group of like-minded people working towards improving wildlife corridors and waterways - creating a healthy environment for future generations.

So if you own or lease a small rural property and would like to upskill on the topics listed above, visit <https://bit.ly/3NfFw4Q> to register your interest in participating.