

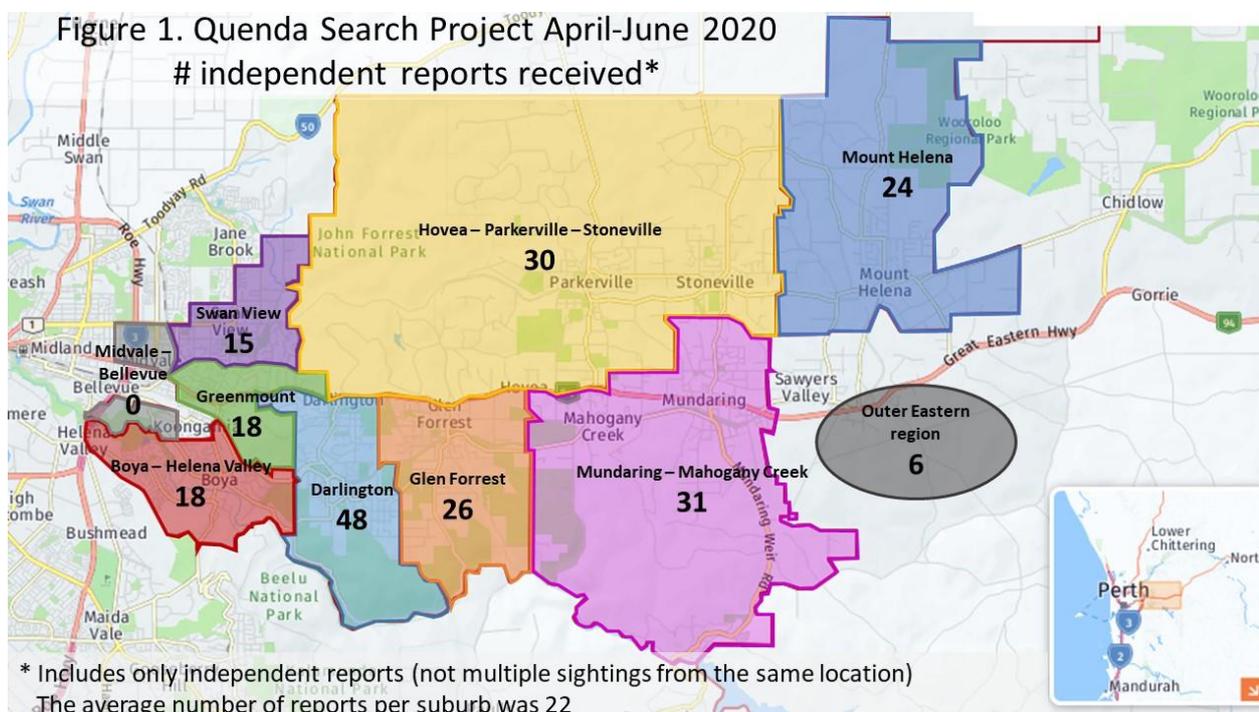
Quenda Search project: Summary of findings

The Quenda Search Team have collated the information our wonderful community provided around quenda sightings in the Shire of Mundaring. This was the Quenda Search community project which began during the COVID19 lockdown. Reports were submitted from the beginning of April until the end of June, 2020.

So, here's a summary of our local project data:

Where were quenda reported?

- We received more than 300 reports of quenda sightings, some of which were repeat sightings from the same residents. There were 216 independent reports of quenda sightings within the Shire of Mundaring; that is, after excluding repeat reports from the same location. This was a fantastic response!

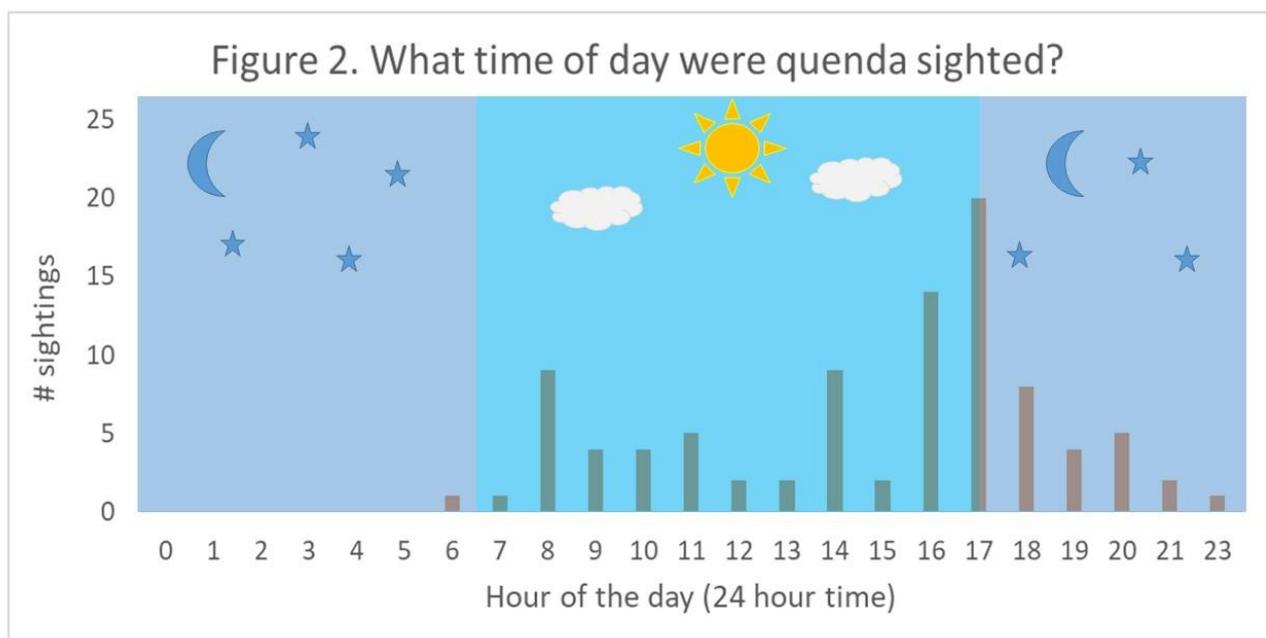


- We received reports of quenda sightings from all regions of the Shire of Mundaring, except Midvale-Bellevue (Figure 1.). The average number of independent reports per region was 22, and ranged from no reports from Midvale-Bellevue to 48 reports from Darlington.
- Regions with a below-average number of reports included the Outer Eastern Regions, Swan View, Greenmount, and Boya-Helena Valley.
- Regions for which the number of reports was above average included Mount Helena, Glen Forrest, Hovea-Stoneville-Parkerville, Mundaring-Mahogany Creek and Darlington.

- A high number of reports may have occurred in certain regions simply because some regions have more residents. When we adjusted for the number of residents in each region, the broad patterns remained the same (data not shown).
- Darlington stands out as a hotspot for reports of quenda sightings!
- Midvale-Bellevue has the lowest human population size of any region, which may go some way to explaining why we received no reports from this area. There is also a lot of industrial area here, so there may be less quenda as there is less suitable habitat. If you've seen a quenda in Midvale-Bellevue, please let us know!
- We were surprised not to get more reports from the Outer Eastern region, where there are a lot of residents spread over a large area. We expected there to be good number of quenda in these areas due to the remnant bushland and large properties, but received just 6 reports from this region.
- The number of reports received from each region does not necessarily reflect differences in the quenda population size in each region.
- Regions from which we received high numbers of reports may have larger numbers of quenda, quenda may be more active or visible in these regions for a variety of reasons, or residents in these regions may simply have been more likely to take part in this project and to encourage others in their community to take part.

What time of day were quenda sighted?

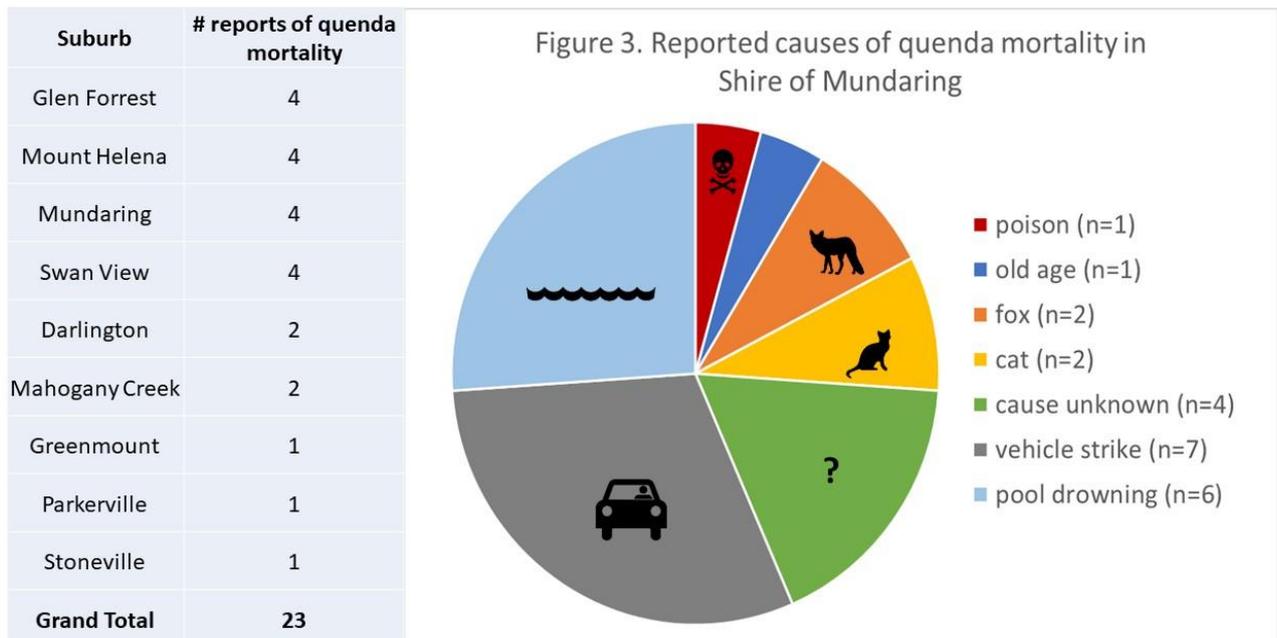
- We received 116 reports of specific quenda sightings that included a date and time of day. These reports make it clear that in the Shire of Mundaring, at least in proximity to people's homes (where most reports came from), quenda are out and about during the day, and are certainly not nocturnal (Figure 2.).



- However, we expect that these sighting times say more about when people are out and active, rather than when quenda are out and active! The “peaks” occur around 8am and 5pm, around the time that many people are leaving to go to school or work, or coming home.
- It is unlikely that quenda were not out and about between midnight and dawn, even though no sightings were reported during this time; the humans were probably just tucked up in bed, and not out looking at quenda! Many people who reported sightings during this project commented that their lawn or garden was often full of holes in the morning, indicating that quenda had indeed been busy during the night.

Possible threats to quenda in the Shire of Mundaring

- We did not ask people to report cases of quenda mortality (death), but received 23 reports of quenda mortality from 9 different suburbs (Figure 3.).



- The highest numbers of reports of mortality came from Glen Forrest, Mount Helena, Mundaring, and Swan View.
- The most commonly reported causes of mortality were vehicle strike (being killed on the road), and drowning in swimming pools. Other suspected causes of mortality included foxes, cats, poison, and old age.

A big thanks to all who took part. It is clear that people in the Shire of Mundaring care a lot about their quenda! This project has brought some interesting observations to light, worthwhile of more investigation.

