

SIX SEASONS

Environment and Sustainability News from Shire of Mundaring

Seedlings for Landcare Program

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

Seedlings for Landcare assists the community to undertake environmental restoration including revegetating creeks, providing habitat for wildlife and increasing tree canopy cover in rural areas.

A total of 20,000 seedlings comprising 56 local species, including trees, shrubs, ground covers, herbs and rushes are available.

To apply online, search the 'Environment and Waste' page on the Shire website www.mundaring.wa.gov.au.

Expressions of Interest open Friday 4 February and close at 4pm Friday 18 March. Late applications will not be accepted so be sure to get in early!

For more information, please contact the Seedlings for Landcare Coordinator on 9290 6666 or email seedlings@mundaring.wa.gov.au.



Creek restoration is supported by the Seedlings for Landcare Program.

Habitat trees

A habitat tree is a native tree, dead or alive, with a hollow or substantial trunk diameter.

Large old trees can develop hollows which are critical shelter and breeding sites for many native animals.

Many trees with a diameter over 50cm are protected under state and federal legislation, as habitat for threatened species such as black cockatoos.

For more information, download our brochure 'Native Vegetation on Your Property'.



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Shire Environmental Officers assess and map a habitat tree.

Bunuru - February to March

The Noongar seasonal calendar includes six different seasons in a yearly cycle. Bunuru is the time of hot easterly winds that dry out the land. It is also a time of white flowers - with Marri trees and ghost gums in bloom.



Climate Clever Homes App

The free ClimateClever Homes App can help you save money AND reduce your impact on the planet!

- Easily track your household electricity, gas and water consumption
- Calculate your household carbon footprint
- Find clever ways to reduce household use with free and low cost actions from the ClimateClever community
- Suggest energy saving renovations and retrofits.

For more information and to download the App, visit www.climateclever.org/home

ReWild Resources

Perth Natural Resource Management (Perth NRM) has developed a unique online resource to help Perth home owners to bring nature to their backyards. ReWild Perth provides residents with advice on how to develop eye catching gardens with local wildlife in mind.

Being part of ReWild Perth is an immediate action to improve biodiversity across our city whilst beautifying your property. *To find out more, visit the Re-Wild website at www.rewildperth.com.au.*



Keep kitty inside and save our native fauna



As pets, cats are wonderful companion animals. Unfortunately, cats have also been responsible for the extinction of at least 20 Australian mammal species and the decline of many others.

The average pet cat kills 16 mammals, eight birds and eight reptiles a year according to an Australia-wide investigation. Even well-fed pet cats will instinctively hunt. In parts of Perth, the local decline in population of blue wrens has been attributed to domestic cats.

Studies suggest that domestic cats do more damage than feral cats in most urban areas. Cats are listed as a potential threat to the survival of at least 35 bird species, 36 mammal species, seven reptile species and three amphibian species.

Researchers at the University of Georgia and National Geographic found that pet cats only bring home about one in four of their kills.

Camera studies have observed cats catching and killing wildlife weighing up to four kilograms.

Responsible cat ownership means keeping pet cats indoors or outdoors in a dedicated outdoor area (it also keeps them safe from harm).

The RSPCA has produced a Guide to Keeping Your Cat Safe and Happy At Home, which has plenty of helpful information on what you need to provide for your cat inside, and how you can even offer your cat safe access to fresh air and the outdoors.

For more information visit www.safeandhappycats.com.au.

Rodent control poisons - bad news for birds

Did you know that common rodent poisons can harm our native animals? When owls and other birds of prey eat poisoned rats and mice, toxins can build up in their tissues and organs. This secondary poisoning can cause significant illness, suffering, and death.

The most harmful poisons are slow acting, Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs). When rodents consume them, they may not die for some time and they can eat multiple baits before dying. This is potentially deadly for pets and native predators such as owls, as they can eat slow moving, heavily poisoned rodents, and quickly become poisoned themselves. Death can be slow and painful from internal bleeding.

Studies in Australia have found SGARs in many dead birds of prey, including Southern Boobooks and Wedge-tailed Eagles. Other species that can be affected include falcons, kookaburras, magpies, and ravens. Larger reptiles such as goannas and pythons are also at risk.

If you think you have a rodent problem, ensure it's not young quenda or other native marsupials. If you must use bait, look for First Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide (FGAR) products that have active ingredients like Warfarin or Coumatetralyl. They work just as well as the SGARs but with lower risks for non-target species. Non toxic alternatives include the old fashioned snap or capture traps. It is also important not to leave food or water lying around that will attract rodents (such as leftover pet food, dropped fruit from fruit trees).

Information provided by [Birdlife Australia](https://www.birdlife.org.au/). For more information search the Pests and Vermin page on the Shire website www.mundaring.wa.gov.au.



Weeds on verges

Weeds are introduced plants that can have negative impacts on natural environments, bushfire fuel loads and amenity.

Weed control is a shared responsibility across all land owners and managers, including the Shire of Mundaring.

It is impossible to eradicate all weed species so Shire resources are directed towards weeds that have worse impacts (such as rapid spreading, or increased bushfire risk).

When it comes to verges, the high cost of traffic management can limit the amount of weed control work we do each year. Shire staff and contractors focus on target weed species, flora roads and verges adjacent to nature reserves.

The Shire provides instructions to contractors to ensure the careful use of herbicides on road reserves. Residents who are concerned about use of chemicals on their verges can undertake their own non-chemical weed control.

Shire staff or contractors undertaking spraying for priority weeds on verges will then not need to apply any treatment to your verge.

Information to help residents identify and remove weeds is available in our free Plants Out of Place booklet.



Community News

Thinking of keeping stock on your property?

Keeping livestock on your property can be an exciting prospect. However, if you don't have a property, it's important to find the right place that will suit your needs and the Shire's sustainable stock keeping requirements.

If you already own a property and are thinking of buying animals, you may need to get planning approval from the Shire. There are limits on how many you can keep without degrading the land. Some properties such as bush blocks are simply unsuited for keeping stock.

The Shire's Guidelines for Keeping Stock provides information about the stock keeping approval process and how the Shire expects stock and land to be managed.

Download the guidelines from the Shire website at www.mundaring.wa.gov.au



Purchasing a small rural property for keeping livestock

A handy guide entitled 'Purchasing a small rural property for keeping livestock' is a must read for anyone wanting to buy a property with the aim of keeping livestock such as sheep, horses, cows and alpacas.

The guide explains how land zoning, stocking rates, water availability, bushland, waterways, infrastructure and so on can affect how many animals you can keep without degrading the property and contravening state and local government regulations.

You can download Purchasing a Small Rural Property for Keeping Livestock from [Perth NRM](http://PerthNRM.com).

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



National Tree Day - Grants for Schools and Community Groups Applications close Friday 25 February 2022

Do you have a National Tree Day event planned that you need support with? Planet Ark is now accepting applications for grants from The Seedling Bank! Schools and community groups are welcome to apply. To apply visit [Planet Ark](http://PlanetArk.com).

Eco-Art Classes 10 week program starts Thursday 3 February 2022

Mundaring Adult Creative & Learning Centre

Join Demelza this term for a journey in art using nature as your palette. Each class explores something new using what nature has to offer. Design fabric earrings and mala necklaces from seeds, eco dye a shirt, create fine line botanical drawings, paint wildflowers with watercolours and more! To enrol phone the centre on 9295 1688.

The Great Cocky Count Sunset, at a cockatoo 'night roost' near you! Sun 3 April 2022

The Great Cocky Count is a long-term citizen science survey and the biggest single survey for black-cockatoos in Western Australia. 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 13 March.

To register as a 'cocky counter' visit [BirdLife](http://BirdLife.com).