

SIX SEASONS

Environment and Sustainability News from Shire of Mundaring

Going electric for a greener future



Exciting news for the Shire of Mundaring! Thanks to recent federal funding, we're gearing up for a greener future with a lower emissions local government fleet.

Shire of Mundaring will benefit from the recent announcement of federal funding to help move towards a lower emissions local government fleet. The Shire is one of 22 Local Governments to receive funding to join the growing shift towards electric vehicles.

Working collaboratively under the leadership of the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA), the Shire joined other Local Governments to submit a joint funding proposal.

This initiative has resulted in a funding boost of \$3.51 million from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), which will cover the costs for installing fleet charging infrastructure and necessary energy system upgrades for local governments across Western Australia.

Funding will cover the costs of installing six electric vehicle charging stations by the end of 2024, which will enable replacement of some petrol and diesel vehicles with electric vehicles. We look forward to driving towards a cleaner, and more sustainable future!

Shire of
MUNDARING

Feb 2024 • Issue 2

IN THIS EDITION

*2024 Sustainable House
Day Tours*

Do You Recycle Right?

Frogs in Your Garden

*'How to Be Owl Friendly'
Video*

Community News

What's On

Updates...

Wildlife of Perth Hills booklet

We've been having a wild time putting together the booklet, which we hope will be available on our website in the next month! We'll keep you posted.

Landholder Rabbit Survey

Over 200 residents completed our online survey, which closed on Friday 29 March. Thanks to all who participated - we'll be sharing the results and next steps soon!

Djeran - April to May

The Noongar seasonal calendar includes six different seasons in a yearly cycle. Djeran (ant season) brings cooler nights and dew in the early mornings. Banksia flowers start to blossom, providing nectar for mammals, birds and insects.

2024 Sustainable House Day Tours



If you've ever wanted to know how to build or retrofit your home to become more energy-efficient and sustainable, Sustainable House Day offers something for everyone.

The program features over 150 homes on the website and open home tours across the country allowing visitors to see a diverse range of properties, from straw bale houses to bushfire-resilient houses.

House profiles including virtual tours are now live on the Sustainable House Day website. In addition, you'll have the opportunity to visit houses in-person on Sunday 21 April.

WA will feature 17 house tours, including 'Farrier Lane House', an all-electric owner-designed home in Fremantle with reduced operational and embodied carbon in design and construction.

Located on a small, subdivided lot, it makes the most of its outlook whilst also maximising the northern orientation of the site. It also provides a healthy and comfortable environment for a young family.

In-person tours of this house (and others) will be on Sunday 21 April.

To find out more about the program or to book a tour visit: sustainablehouseday.com.

Do You Recycle Right?

Recycling can sometimes feel like navigating a maze, with the constant question of what goes where. But fear not! Shire of Mundaring has prepared a handy online guide, 'How to Use Your Bins', available on the Shire's website.

Your yellow-top bin is a gateway to a greener future, as its contents are sorted and sold to various markets. Cleanliness is key to ensuring contents can be properly recycled - this means making sure all items are rinsed, loose and lids off when placed in the bin. Items for recycling fit into five categories, summarised in the infographic below:



So what about items that don't belong in your general waste bin or recycling bin? Enter 'Recycle Right', a free online resource to help you figure out what to do with them. With its user-friendly website and mobile phone app, Recycle Right lets you search for the item in question, and voila! You'll receive guidance on proper disposal or recycling methods. To find out more visit recycleright.wa.gov.au.

Onto organic waste - did you know that up to half the contents of the general waste bin is organic material that ends up in landfill! It's a staggering figure, but change is on the horizon. The WA State Government requires all local governments in Perth and Peel to move to the new FOGO system by 2025.

From 1 July 2024, we're introducing the Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) system to divert organic waste away from landfills - and the less we send to landfill, the better it is for our environment! of

The FOGO service includes weekly collection of food scraps and garden organics. We'll have more details in the next edition, or you can find out more at a drop-in session.

To find out more about FOGO, we invite you to join us at one of our drop-in sessions running from April to June. Check out the 'What's On' section on the back page for April's session times and locations.

Frogs in Your Garden

Curious About Garden Sounds? It Might Be Frogs!

Ever wondered about the croaking, moaning, squelching sounds in your garden? You might just be lucky enough to have frogs hanging out in your backyard.

Our native frogs, known as Kyooya in Noongar, are more than just fascinating creatures. They're environmental indicators, thriving in healthy ecosystems. These amphibians typically favor moist environments like ponds, creeks, and wetlands, often with native vegetation nearby.

While some species inhabit drier areas, many frogs play a vital role in insect control around wetlands, keeping mosquito numbers in check and feeding on small invertebrates and algae.

Frogs can be elusive, but their unique calls are a giveaway to their presence. With winter and spring being prime mating seasons, listening to their calls can help identify the frog species in your area.

You can even join the conservation effort by recording and identifying frog calls through the Frog ID app, developed by scientists at the Australian Museum.

To support frog populations on your property, consider simple actions like planting native vegetation, building frog ponds or damplands, and keeping cats indoors to protect these valuable amphibians.

For more tips on creating frog-friendly habitats, visit the ReWild Perth webpage at rewildperth.com.au. Let's hop to it and welcome these delightful garden guests!

Western Banjo Frogs can be found buried in sandy soils a great distance from water. Image by Simon Cherriman.



How to be Owl Friendly Video

Owl Friendly Mundaring is a Shire initiative to raise awareness about the impact of rodenticides (mice and rat poisons) on owls and other wildlife.

We are thrilled to launch our new short video 'How to Be Owl Friendly' to provide residents with safer alternatives to second generation rodenticides when controlling rats and mice.

The video features staff and volunteers at Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, who sadly see far too many owls and possums die from rodenticide poisoning.

You can find the video on the Shire's website at mundaring.wa.gov.au (look for the 'Local Native Birds' webpage).

Boobook Owls are very vulnerable to secondary poisoning if they eat rats and mice that have ingested baits. Image by Simon Cherriman.



Heavenly Hectares is Back!



Get ready for an exciting event coming your way! Shire of Mundaring, City of Kalamunda, The Forever Project, and Perth Natural Resource Management are thrilled to announce the return of the much-loved Heavenly Hectares event on Saturday, 4 May.

Join us for a half-day workshop led by landcare and sustainable gardens expert, Chris Ferreira. Get ready to dive into valuable insights on managing your property sustainably. This is your chance to ask questions, connect with experts, and mingle with fellow landholders.

Plus, there's fantastic prizes worth over \$200 waiting to be won. During the workshop, we'll cover a range of topics including improving soil health and water quality, protecting and enhancing bushland and native vegetation, managing stock, and tackling threats to your property such as weeds, pests, dieback, and fire. The aim is to help you on your journey towards creating a productive, sustainable and resilient property.

Places are limited so don't miss out on this opportunity! Check out the What's On page for more details about the event and secure your spot today.

Landcare Calendar - Tips for Djeran

- Prepare for planting and revegetation by undertaking weed control where you are planning to establish native plants. You may need to do this more than once if weeds re-appear after rain!
- For great tips on preparing the soil for planting, watch our 'Planting for Success' video, presented by landscape architect and radio personality Sue McDougall at www.mundaring.wa.gov.au



Six Seasons has been prepared by the Shire of Mundaring's Environment and Sustainability team
To subscribe email shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au

What's On



Engage with nature and sustainability, learn and meet like-minded people!

Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) Information Seminars

Monday 8 April, 9am to 12noon

Wednesday 10 April, 12noon to 3pm

Boya Community Centre

From Monday 1 July 2024, the new FOGO household waste management system will improve the Shire's existing two-bin arrangement by diverting organic waste such as kitchen scraps into your new bin with a lime-green lid. All residents are welcome to drop in at Boya Library to learn more about the new FOGO system and how to use the new green lidded bin.

Roving Rehabilitators Workday

Monday 15 April, 9am to 12noon

Railway Reserve Heritage Trail, Parkerville

The workday will continue efforts to remove small woody weeds along a section of the trail. Morning tea is provided. For more information and to register, email the Shire's Community Landcare Officer Kathryn Johnson at: KathrynJohnson@mundaring.wa.gov.au or call 9290 6774.

Heavenly Hectares Workshop

Saturday 4 May, 1pm to 4pm

Kalamunda Community Centre

This workshop is for small landholders wanting to improve their land management knowledge and skills. Landcare and sustainable gardens expert Chris Ferreira and others will provide practical tips on property planning, revegetation, soil improvement, stock management and more! Presented by Shire of Mundaring, City of Kalamunda and Perth NRM. Tickets are available online at Humanitix (search for 'Heavenly Hectares') or scan the QR code here.

