

SIX SEASONS

Environment and Sustainability News from Shire of Mundaring

Water for Birds at Sculpture Park



A brand-new watering station for our feathered friends has just been installed at Sculpture Park, thanks to the generous support of ABM Landscapes!

This wonderful addition is more than just a landscape feature—it's a lifeline for local birdlife, offering a much-needed water source in our increasingly dry climate. As temperatures rise, this thoughtful donation will help ease stress and dehydration for birds, ensuring they continue to thrive even during the hottest months. The Shire is also planning to install two more stations, with locations currently under consideration.

We can all do our bit to make a difference too! Providing water for wildlife around your home could save lives, especially during heatwaves. Place containers of water in shaded areas, and keep them clean by changing the water at least twice a week. Don't forget to add some rocks or sticks to help small creatures climb out safely.

Shire of
MUNDARING

Oct 2024 • Issue 5

IN THIS EDITION

Rewards for Residents and Businesses

Do You Care to Re-Wear?

Rabbit Survey Results

Aussie Bird Count

Community News

What's On

Landcare Calendar



Small Beetle - Big Problem!

Join us for an information session to find out about the beetle that is threatening our urban canopy. Learn about its potential impacts, which trees are at risk, and the signs and symptoms to look for. See the **What's On** page for more information.



Kambarang - October to November

The Noongar seasonal calendar includes six different seasons in a yearly cycle. During Kambarang, rains are ending and days are warming. Bobtail lizards and snakes emerge to find sunny spots. Wildflowers such as Blue Leschenaultias bloom in colourful displays.

Rewards for Residents and Businesses



The Switch Your Thinking Program is here to help residents and businesses in member Council areas become more sustainable!

By partnering with local suppliers, the program offers discounts on a wide range of products designed to reduce waste, energy, and water consumption.

If you live or run a business in the Shire of Mundaring, you can take advantage of these discounts to lower your energy use, cut greenhouse gas emissions, save water, and minimise waste. Some of the discounted products include:

- Bikes and E-Bikes
- Bokashi, Composting, and Worm Farms
- DC Ceiling Fans
- Electric Vehicle Chargers
- Home Scorecard Assessments
- Hot Water Systems
- Insulation
- LED Lighting
- Natural Cleaning Products
- NatHERS Assessments
- Pool Covers
- Smart Plugs and Sockets
- Solar Battery Storage
- Solar Panel Systems
- Window Coverings
- Soil Testing and Consultations
- Refrigerants

Switch Your Thinking is always on the lookout for local businesses interested in joining forces to offer more sustainable goods and services at a discount. Want to learn more or get involved? Visit the website at www.switchyourthinking.com.

Do You Care to Re-wear?



Each year, millions of tons of clothing end up in landfills around the world, contributing to one of the fastest-growing waste streams. In fact, it's estimated that globally, over 92 million tons of textile waste is generated annually, with a significant portion of this being clothing.

The fast fashion industry, which encourages consumers to buy and discard clothes at a rapid pace, plays a major role in this growing problem. In many places, clothing is discarded after only a few uses, adding to the burden on landfills where synthetic fibres can take hundreds of years to break down. This process also releases harmful chemicals and greenhouse gases into the environment.

Recycling clothes offers a powerful solution to this waste crisis. By donating, reselling, or recycling old garments, we can significantly reduce the amount of textile waste that goes to landfill. When clothes are reused or repurposed, it not only keeps valuable materials out of the trash but also lessens the demand for the energy, water, and raw materials needed to produce new clothing.

Additionally, choosing to recycle clothing supports a circular economy, where resources are continually reused instead of being thrown away. This can create new jobs in recycling industries and reduce the harmful environmental effects associated with overproduction. Whether it's donating to thrift stores, participating in clothing swaps, or opting for sustainable fashion brands, recycling clothes is a simple but impactful way to fight textile waste and promote a healthier planet.

If you'd like take part in some recycling fun, join us for a fabulous 'Clothes Swap Care to Re-wear' event designed to refresh your wardrobe and connect with your community! See the 'What's On' page for more information.

Rabbit Survey Results

Rabbits are recognised as a significant pest across Australia, posing challenges for effective management. In March, the Shire conducted a survey to assess current rabbit populations, their impact on local properties, and the effectiveness of any control measures undertaken.

Over 200 Shire residents participated in the survey, with the majority from Parkerville, Stoneville, Mundaring, Glen Forrest, Darlington, and Mt Helena. We extend our thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. Key findings included:

- 63% observed more than 20 rabbits on their property in the previous two months
- 35% reported sightings of 10 to 20 rabbits on their property within the same period
- 80% indicated that the primary impact was damage to gardens, lawns and native vegetation
- 75% had not attempted any rabbit control, while 25% of properties had previously undertaken control measures.

Among the control methods tried, respondents reported that trapping and baiting were largely ineffective and posed risks to non-target species. Only two landholders had attempted the release of the rabbit virus, with mixed results: one resident reported the virus was ineffective due to improper refrigeration, while another believed it successfully reduced rabbit numbers.

A significant portion of respondents (83%) expressed willingness to engage in future rabbit control efforts, and 78% indicated interest in learning more and participating in a rabbit control trial. The Shire is committed to supporting landholders with advice on effective rabbit control options. While we are unable to directly manage rabbit control on individual properties, we're excited to explore a potential rabbit control trial in 2025.

This trial would involve working with interested landholders to release the rabbit calicivirus as part of a coordinated effort. If you'd like to be part of this initiative, please reach out to us at environment@mundaring.wa.gov.au.

For more information on rabbit control options, visit the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's website at www.agric.wa.gov.au.



Aussie Bird Count

Celebrate National Bird Week with Birdlife Australia by joining one of Australia's largest citizen science events—the Aussie Bird Count!

Each year, tens of thousands of Australians come together to observe and count the birds around them, whether in backyards, parks, or local spots.

In 2023, over 60,500 people counted an incredible 3.6 million birds, and Birdlife is aiming even higher this year!

The 2024 count takes place between **14 to 20 October**. To join in, simply:

1. Register as a counter today at aussiebirdcount.org.au
2. Download the free Aussie Bird Count app (you can find it on [Google Play](#) or the [Apple Store](#))
3. Pick a spot – you can count in your own backyard, local park or favourite outdoor space, or even from the comfort of your own home!
4. Enter your location in the app and get counting by recording the name and number of each species you see in a 20-minute period, and
5. Submit your count using the app or our handy web form.

Just by counting for 20 minutes, you'll not only help Birdlife collect important data on bird populations, you'll also go into the running to win great prizes!

BoorYul-Bah-Bilya - A New River Health Initiative



BoorYul-Bah-Bilya is an exciting initiative from Bibbul Ngarma Aboriginal Association (BNAA) designed to tackle the global issue of declining river health by creating a new community catchment plan.

The first focus is on the Mandoon Bilya (Helena River), which flows through the Shire of Mundaring, with hopes that the plan can be applied to other rivers as well. Flowing through six local government areas, including Mundaring, Swan, and York, the Mandoon Bilya joins the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) in Guildford.

The BoorYul-Bah-Bilya plan will be part of the 2029 Perth Bicentenary, offering a chance to reflect on the effects of colonisation and address the challenges of climate change and population growth.

BNAA invites you to share your thoughts on the river by completing a community survey: <https://www.jotform.com/form/242238241169051>.

For more information, visit the BNAA website at www.bibbul.org.

Landcare Calendar - Tips for Kambarang

- **Late planting opportunities:** as water levels drop in waterlogged zones consider planting sedges and rushes. These don't just beautify watercourse, but also create wildlife habitat while fighting erosion.
- **Fight fire with readiness:** get ready for the upcoming fire season, guided by the Shire's Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice. The 'asset protection zone' area around your house is critical for fire safety. Reduce fuel loads, but you don't need to aim for bare soil – a little leaf litter can benefit plants, insects and fungi.
- **Battling the weed invasion:** Tackle drying weeds and seeds now to thwart their return next year. It's all about getting ahead and safeguarding your property's beauty and vitality.



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 at our events!

Small Beetle - Big Problem!

Date: Wed, 2 Oct

Time: 10am to 11.30am

Venue: Boya Community Centre

The Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) is an invasive beetle affecting urban trees. Learn about its impacts, trees at risk, signs and symptoms to look for and how to report suspect borer activity. The session will be filmed and available to view on the Shire website. Register at eventbrite.com.au and type the event name in the search box.

Clothes Swap - Care to ReWear

Date: Sat, 5 Oct

Time: 1.30pm to 4pm

Venue: Mundaring Hall

Don't miss this eco-friendly fashion event hosted by the Shire of Mundaring and the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council. Swap clean, gently-used clothing, accessories and shoes in a fun and relaxed setting. Register at eventbrite.com.au and type in the event title in the search box.

Landcare in Action: Property Tour

Date: Sun, 20 Oct

Time: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Venue: Bailup, Shire of Mundaring

Join Shire of Mundaring and Perth NRM at a local property in the Shire of Mundaring, where Landcare Expert Chris Ferreira will share practical tips to boost your property's potential with better soil and water management, revegetation, weed control, stock management and more! Register at events.humanitix.com and type the event name in the search box.

Fauna Habitat Creations

Date: Sat 26 Oct

Time: 9.30am to 11.30am

Venue: Broz Park, Helena Valley

Join local wildlife ecologists Mike and Mandy Bamford for a hands-on workshop where you'll discover fun ways to invite wildlife into your garden and property! Learn how to create insect hotels, frog bogs, and more. Build your own creature creation to take home! Register at eventbrite.com.au and type the event name in the search box.