

SIX SEASONS

Environment and Sustainability News from Shire of Mundaring

2024 Environmental Art Project



Proud winners at the Award Ceremony

Congratulations to the 16 talented primary school students from the Shire of Mundaring who won the 2024 Environmental Art Project!

Inspired by this year's theme, 'Conservation and Protection of Local Waterways,' their incredible artworks have been transformed into banners now proudly displayed on Nichol Street near the Perth Hills Mundaring Visitor Centre.

A huge thankyou goes to the more than 600 students who participated, as well as the Mundaring Arts Centre for allowing the Shire to partner with them on this project. The level of talent was amazing, making judging incredibly tough! Special thanks to Paige McNeil, President of the Shire of Mundaring, and Karen Kagi from Water Corporation for presenting the winners with their prize packs.

There's still time to get involved! Explore the stunning winning pieces in the online gallery or in-person at Midland Junction Arts Centre. You can also vote for the People's Choice Award at enviroartproject.com.au.

Shire of
MUNDARING

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The Blue-Banded Bee Wins 2024 Australian Insect of the Year!

Evolving alongside Australia's unique native flowers over millions of years, blue-banded bees are not just beautiful but also among our most effective pollinators. A well-deserved spotlight for these incredible environmental champions!



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.

Keeping cool this summer

Summer can be brutal, especially in older homes with poor insulation. But staying cool without—or reducing reliance on—air conditioning is easier than you think. Here's how to beat the heat and save on energy bills:

1. Use Fans Strategically

Position fans near windows at night to draw in cooler air, or place a bowl of ice in front of a fan for a DIY air-chilling effect.

2. Block the Sun

Keep blinds or curtains closed during the hottest parts of the day to stop heat from entering your home. Blackout curtains or reflective window films work especially well.

3. Cool Yourself, Not the Room

Drink plenty of water and apply a damp cloth to your wrists, neck, and forehead. Wear light, breathable clothing made of cotton or linen to stay comfortable.

4. Create Cross-Breezes

Open windows on opposite sides of your home to encourage airflow. Use door stoppers to prop open interior doors and maximise circulation.

5. Keep the Heat Out

Avoid using heat-generating appliances like ovens during the day. Stick to cold meals or use a slow cooker or microwave instead.

6. Sleep Cooler

Switch to breathable bedding and freeze a hot water bottle to use as a cooling pack. Position your bed near a window for nighttime breezes.

7 tips for a waste free Christmas



The festive season is full of joy—but it can also generate a lot of waste. This Christmas, embrace creativity and sustainability by adopting these clever tips.

1. Rethink Gift Wrapping

Most wrapping paper ends up in landfill, especially glossy or glittery kinds. Instead, use recyclable craft paper, newspaper, scarves or fabric, or opt for reusable cloth gift bags.

2. Choose Thoughtful Gifts

Focus on experiences like concert tickets or a spa day, consumables like homemade treats, or eco-friendly items from sustainable brands. These gifts reduce waste and show thoughtfulness.

3. Decorate Sustainably

Skip single-use plastic decorations in favour of durable, timeless options. Get creative with natural materials like pinecones, dried citrus, or handmade crafts.

4. Plan Your Festive Feast

Avoid food waste by planning meals carefully, making a list and only buying what you need. Freezing leftovers is great for procuring easy meals on days when you don't feel like cooking.

5. Use Energy Efficiently

Switch to LED lights, set timers to reduce overnight use, or try solar-powered options for outdoor displays to cut down on energy consumption.

6. Minimise Packaging and Waste

Shop for minimally packaged gifts and groceries, bring your own bags, and choose locally made products to reduce your purchases' environmental footprint.

7. Recycle and Regift

Set up labelled recycling bins at gatherings to make sorting easy. Don't hesitate to regift unused items or repurpose old ones into creative presents.

Meet Koodjal

A Win for Conservation: Meet Koodjal, the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Chick!

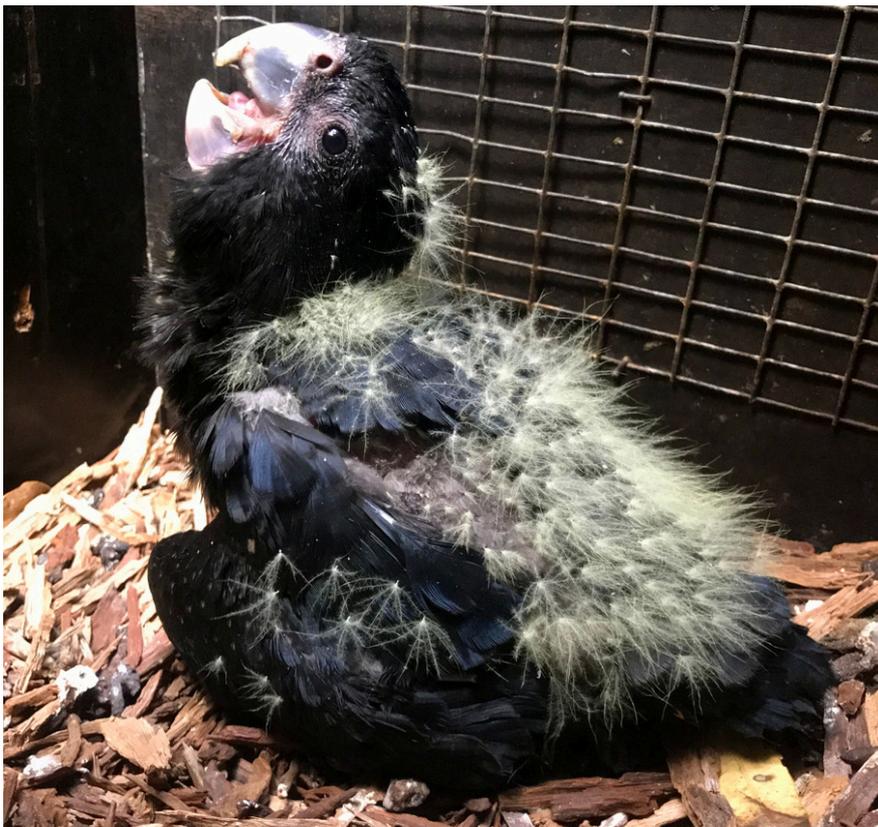
Wildlife Ecologist and Ornithologist Simon Cherriman recently celebrated the discovery of a healthy Kaarak (Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo or FRTBC) chick thriving in a Shire reserve. This five-week-old nestling, named Koodjal ("number 2" in Noongar) for his band number, 2222, is a vital addition to a threatened species in the Shire of Mundaring.

Listed as Vulnerable under the Federal EPBC Act 1999, FRTBCs are long-lived birds that rely on stable family groups and a specific forest area for food, water, and nesting. Habitat loss from development and deforestation continues to displace these birds, creating "cockatoo refugees" unable to relocate due to their deep connection to familiar resources.

The chick hatched in a large nest box installed nearly a decade ago as part of a Shire-funded project to restore habitat lost in the 2015 Parkerville/Stoneville wildfires. Nest boxes have proven crucial in countering habitat loss and providing safe nesting spaces for these endangered birds.

As part of a licensed research initiative by Boola Bardip / the Western Australian Museum, Koodjal was fitted with a uniquely numbered leg band to enable future identification. Keep your eyes out for banded cockatoos that might visit your trees or bird-bath!

Simon's work extends beyond reserve lands; he actively assists property owners in installing nest boxes on their properties, creating a network of safe havens for these stunning birds. His tireless efforts exemplify how collaboration between ecologists, local governments, and the community can make a tangible difference in wildlife conservation. Thankyou Simon!



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 or water dish, 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



Outfoxing the Fox Event



Foxes are a major threat in Australia, causing serious harm to native wildlife like ground-dwelling birds, small mammals, and reptiles, while also preying on poultry and young livestock, leading to costly losses for landholders.

On November 16, 25 landholders attended *Outfoxing the Fox – Smart Strategies for Landholders*, a free event hosted by the Shire of Mundaring and the Darling Range Regional Park Community Advisory Committee.

Eddie Juras from Feral Invasive Species Eradication Management (FISEM) shared expert insights into fox habits, effective control methods, and their devastating impact on native flora and fauna.

Attendees also learned how to monitor fox activity and report sightings to FeralScan. FeralScan is a purpose-built community website for recording sightings of feral animals including foxes, their impacts and control methods.

To find out more about fox control and download the FeralScan app, visit <https://www.feralscan.org.au>

Landcare Calendar - Tips for Birak

- You might need to water newly established native seedlings through their first summer, until their roots are well established
- Heavy, occasional watering 2 to 3 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 Environment and Sustainability team at Shire of Mundaring. For comments or to subscribe to our mailing list, email the team at shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au

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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

Thinking Green: Firewise Gardening

Date: December 10

Time: 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Where: Ethel Warren Bullsbrook Community Centre

You can have a wonderful garden to enjoy all year round and manage the bushfire risk to your home. Join keen gardener and City of Swan Community Fire and Emergency Management Officer, Debbie, to discuss firewise garden design, plant selection, tips for how to manage your garden through summer and more. Register for this free event at www.swan.wa.gov.au/explore-and-do/events/thinking-green-firewise-gardening.

The Environment and Sustainability Team wishes you a joyful and safe Christmas!

We can't wait to share more exciting Six Seasons news and events with you in 2025.