

SIX SEASONS

Environmental Sustainability News from Shire of Mundaring

Spidery Secrets Beneath the Soil



Research scientists Dr Saul Cowen and Dr Rowan Lymbery from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions have been keeping a close eye on spider populations in the Perth Hills — and their recent findings are enough to give any arachnologist a thrill.

During a field survey at Alps Street Reserve with Andrea Piccinini, a PhD student from UWA, the team discovered the burrow of a trapdoor spider, *Idiosoma raphiduca* — a species native to south-west Australia. These spiders inhabit open forest habitats stretching from the Darling Scarp south to Bunbury. Using a borescope camera, the team captured a striking image of this elusive species nestled deep within its burrow (photo on right).

What's even more intriguing is that *Idiosoma raphiduca* may not be a single species at all. Current research suggests it could represent as many as eight distinct species, highlighting just how much remains to be discovered beneath our feet!

Read more about our local trapdoor spiders in this edition!

Shire of
MUNDARING

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What's On



Makuru - June to July

The Noongar seasonal calendar includes six different seasons in a yearly cycle. Makuru is the coldest and wettest time of the year. Yellow flowers of Acacias will soon start to bloom and animals pair up in preparation for breeding in the next season.



From FOGO to Garden Compost



When you place food scraps and garden clippings into your green-lidded FOGO bin, you're helping turn waste into a valuable resource.

At the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council's (EMRC) Red Hill facility, household FOGO and shredded green waste are transformed into a high-quality composted soil conditioner.

This nutrient-rich compost supports healthier gardens by boosting soil with nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and other essential elements. It improves water retention, encourages beneficial soil microbes, and enhances soil structure—making gardens more resilient to drought and erosion.

Using this soil improver not only reduces landfill but also closes the loop on organic waste, supporting a circular economy. The process is a key part of the EMRC's Waste Management Strategy, keeping valuable organic material in use for as long as possible.

EMRC gifted the Shire eighty 25L bags, which we gave out to 80 lucky residents at the recent Seedlings for Landcare collection weekend.

For further information and availability, contact the Red Hill Waste Management Facility on 08 9574 6235.

Reusable Products Rebates for Residents



Many households are embracing ways to reduce waste and live more sustainably. Switching to reusable products like cloth nappies and low-waste menstrual items is a simple yet impactful step. By making the switch, you not only shrink your environmental footprint but also contribute to a cleaner, greener community.

Modern cloth nappies are a safe, hygienic, and eco-friendly alternative to disposables. They generate significantly less waste and can also save families around \$2,100 per child. For tips on getting started, explore the helpful guide to modern cloth nappies by Switch Your Thinking.

Cloth Nappy Rebate

Shire of Mundaring residents can apply for a one-time 50% rebate of up to \$100 for the purchase or hire of modern cloth nappies. To qualify, residents must attend a Cloth Nappy Workshop hosted by the Shire. These sessions provide the guidance and support needed for a successful transition. Workshop dates will be announced soon.

Reusable Menstrual Products

Residents can also claim a one-off 50% rebate of up to \$50 on the purchase of reusable menstrual products, helping reduce waste while saving money.

Nappy Bin Disposal Systems

The Shire understands that new families may need a little extra support when adapting to the fortnightly general waste collection. To help ease the transition, a subsidy of up to \$50 is available during the 2024/25 financial year for advanced nappy bin disposal systems and refills purchased on or after 1 July 2024. For full details, visit our Cloth nappy and reusable hygiene product rebate webpage at www.mundaring.wa.gov.au.

Land for Wildlife News



Are you ready to be inspired, informed, and immersed in nature with the 2025 Land for Wildlife events program?

Designed especially for property owners and nature enthusiasts, these informative workshops will help you create safe, thriving spaces for local wildlife—right in your own backyard.

The year began with a bang, as **Wildlife After Dark** (Friday, 21 March) and **Frogs and Their Bogs** (Saturday, 12 April) both sold out! Attendees explored the magic of nocturnal wildlife at Black Cockatoo Reserve and learned how to build frog-friendly habitats at Lake Leschenaultia—proof that our community is wild about wildlife!

And there's plenty more to come:

How to Make Wildlife Homes (Wed 6 Aug, 9am–12pm)

Learn how to craft and install nest boxes to welcome birds, bats, and more!

Wattle We Do in the Bush (Sat 23 Aug, 9:30–11:30am)

Enjoy a wildflower walk, learn to identify native wattles versus weedy wattles, and brush up on birdwatching.

Wildlife Friendly, Fire Smart Properties (Sat 4 Oct, 9.30 to 11.30am)

Discover ways to manage fire risk while keeping wildlife safe—essential info for every landholder.

Water for Wildlife (Sat 6 Dec, 9am to 10.30am)

Find out how to provide life-saving water for animals during the scorching summer months.

These fun and interactive sessions feature local legend Simon Cherriman, a wildlife ecologist and ornithologist whose entertaining style delights all ages. Spots are limited and fill fast—register now to be part of this fantastic, free program! **For more details or to register your interest in attending an event, email the Shire at environment@mundaring.wa.gov.au.**

Spidery secrets

Continued from front page...

These remarkable spiders are master burrowers, capable of digging tunnels up to 32 centimetres deep, where temperatures remain stable year-round. Lined with silk and hidden by a camouflaged lid, the burrow is surrounded by silken trip-lines. When an unsuspecting ant, beetle, cockroach, millipede, or moth triggers the lines, the spider springs into action—actively charging from its shelter to capture its prey.

Males roam in search of mates, and reproduction occurs in the female's burrow, where she lays eggs in late spring. Spiderlings hatch by mid-summer and remain hidden until early winter when humid conditions invite them to explore beyond.

Dr Cowen and Dr Lymbery plan to revisit Alps Street Reserve soon to continue their investigations. There are also plans for a community event to share these exciting discoveries and offer locals a chance to learn more about the mysterious spiders living silently beneath our bushland. While this project is being led by DBCA scientists, it is in collaboration with other experts from the Western Australian Museum, Queensland Museum, Alcoa, University of Western Australia and Edith Cowan University.

Stay tuned — the secret lives of spiders are only just beginning to surface.



Seedlings for Landcare: Thousands of Natives for Local Biodiversity



The recent Seedlings for Landcare giveaway, held on 24–25 May, was a blooming success, with over 350 residents collecting approximately 16,000 native seedlings from the Shire of Mundaring.

The program supports local landowners, schools and community groups to enhance biodiversity and the health of the environment. Seedlings for Landcare provides eligible residents with free native plants suited to their area, helping to restore natural habitats, prevent erosion, and support local wildlife. The enthusiastic community response highlights a growing passion for sustainability and land stewardship across the region.

Residents are encouraged to prepare early, as **the next round of applications opens in July 2025**. With limited seedlings available, it's the perfect opportunity to plan your planting projects and make a lasting impact on our local environment.

To learn more about eligibility for free seedlings and how to apply, visit the Shire's website at www.mundaring.wa.gov.au and search for the "Seedlings for Landcare" page.

Landcare Calendar - Tips for Makuru

- Switch off reticulation over winter
- Winter run-off can cause erosion of valuable topsoil, making it harder for native plants to thrive. For tips on controlling erosion, see our info sheet '[Erosion and Sediment Control](#)' at www.mundaring.wa.gov.au (click on the Environment Services tab)
- Protect your newly planted seedlings from rabbits and kangaroos and keep weeds in check



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

What's On

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

Creating a Habitat Garden

Saturday 7 June (1 to 3pm)

Octagonal Hall, Glen Forrest

Join Mandy and Mike Bamford and learn how to create a garden that will be attractive to birds, bees, butterflies, insects and reptiles. Hosted by the Eastern Hills Branch of the Wildflower Society. Fee is \$15 members, \$25 non-members. Bookings essential, at: [//events.humanitix.com/creating-a-habitat-garden-a8c2n752](https://events.humanitix.com/creating-a-habitat-garden-a8c2n752).

Pruning Natives and Using the Right Tool

Saturday 14 June (1 to 3pm)

Octagonal Hall, Glen Forrest

Join Noel Carter, a local horticulturist, to learn about when, how and why to prune natives. There will be practical demonstrations and you can have a go at pruning. Includes a session on pruning tools, what to use and how to look after them. Hosted by the Eastern Hills Branch of the Wildflower Society. Fee is \$10 per person. Bookings are essential at: [//events.humanitix.com/pruning-natives-and-using-the-right-tool](https://events.humanitix.com/pruning-natives-and-using-the-right-tool).

How to Make Wildlife Homes

Civic Area, Shire of Mundaring

Wednesday 6 Aug (9am to 12pm)

Join award-winning environmental educator Simon Cherriman for an inspiring, hands-on workshop that will teach you how to build durable, wildlife-friendly nest boxes for local birds and mammals. Whether you're a nature lover, a backyard gardener, or simply curious about supporting biodiversity at home, this workshop is your gateway to making a meaningful difference—right from your own yard!

Numbers are limited for this FREE event. Book at eventbrite.com.au (search for 'How to Make Wildlife Homes').