

SIX SEASONS

Environmental Sustainability News from Shire of Mundaring

ReHabitat Pods Protect Wildlife



After completing a hazard reduction burn in one of its reserves in June, the Shire of Mundaring became the first local government in Western Australia to trial ReHabitat Pods—innovative portable wildlife shelters developed by wildlife ecologists in Queensland.

ReHabitat Pods provide temporary refuge for native fauna, offering safe shelter for small mammals, reptiles, and birds while natural habitat regenerates after fire. Their lightweight design makes them easy to install and relocate as needed, giving vulnerable wildlife an immediate place to hide and recover. Best of all, the pods naturally biodegrade over about 12 months, leaving no trace or negative impact on the environment.

The trial has already shown promise, and the Shire will continue using the pods across local reserves to support wildlife during habitat recovery. You can view a ReHabitat Pod at Mundaring or Boya library.

To celebrate the launch of the pods, we're giving the community a chance to be part of the action—**10 ReHabitat Pods will be given away** as prizes for participants in the **October Spring Quenda Count**.

For details on how to join the Spring Quenda Count, visit our website mundaring.wa.gov.au and click on the **October Spring Quenda Count** webpage. To learn more about ReHabitat Pods, visit www.rehabitat.au.



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ReHabitat pods are flat-pack biodegradable cardboard habitat units that can be rapidly deployed to provide temporary refuge for ground-dwelling wildlife after bushfires and floods. Think of them as emergency pop-up shelters for wildlife!



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.

Weedy Wattles



Weedy wattles may look harmless, but they are a serious threat to our bushland and a major fire hazard.

Fast-growing and highly flammable, weedy wattles are invasive shrubs from the Acacia genus that outcompete local native plants, reduce habitat for wildlife, and add to fuel loads in bushland.

Each mature plant can produce thousands of seeds annually, and unlike in the Eastern States, Western Australia lacks natural seed-eating insects to keep populations under control.

Fire disturbance makes the issue worse—heat triggers mass germination, leading to even denser infestations after bushfires. With summer approaching, now is the ideal time to act. Removing young wattles early helps prevent seed set and lowers fire risk. Larger removals are best done in autumn and winter, when plants are less likely to carry seed.

Before removing wattles, always check that it is an introduced species and not a local native. By working together, we can reduce fire hazards, protect biodiversity, and make our bushland more resilient.

For more information and identification tips, visit the Shire's [Weed Identification and Control](#) webpage.

Welcome to the Lizard Lounge!



Blue-tongues basking in the driveway, tiny skinks darting through mulch, or a gecko clinging to the outside light — lizards are some of the most fascinating garden visitors.

They're also hard-working pest controllers, quietly helping to keep insect numbers down. Sadly, their numbers are dropping in many urban areas, mostly due to the loss of safe, lizard-friendly habitat. The good news? You can turn your backyard into a "Lizard Lounge" with a few simple tweaks and some odds and ends you probably already have.

Building a Lizard Lounge

Lizards need safe hideaways to rest, sleep and escape predators (including pets). Natural materials make perfect shelters: piles of rocks, hollow logs, old terracotta pots, or even broken bricks. Be mindful when shifting rocks, as residents may already be tucked underneath.

Because they're cold-blooded, lizards also need sunny spots to bask. A flat rock or brick in a sunny patch makes the perfect heat pad. Rough surfaces like logs or textured rocks help with shedding, while a shallow water dish adds the finishing touch.

Plants that Lizards Love

Plants play a big role in creating lizard habitat — they provide both shelter and food. Dense shrubs, groundcovers and tussock grasses are especially useful for shade, hiding and attracting insects.

The Lizard Lounge pictured above took just 15 minutes to build around an old stump in a bare area of garden. Using a few rocks, pavers, sticks and leaf litter, we created a network of hidey holes with multiple entrances and exits — giving lizards quick escape routes if a predator comes by. Next on the list: planting some native shrubs and adding a water dish and an old terracotta water pipe to complete the lounge!

If you want a thriving backyard full of lizards and other critters, steer clear of chemical fertilisers, snail pellets, herbicides and pesticides. They can poison the insects and invertebrates that lizards rely on — and in turn, harm the lizards themselves.

With a bit of shelter, some sunny basking spots, and the right plants, your garden can become a safe haven for these gentle, scaly pest controllers. All that's left to do is sit back, enjoy a cuppa in the sun, and wait for your first lizard guest to move in.

Land for Wildlife News

Wattle We Do in the Bush – Walking with Wattles!

On Saturday 23 August, 33 people joined ecologist and storyteller Simon Cherriman for Wattle We Do in the Bush — a guided walk at Owen Road Reserve, Parkerville.

Simon led participants through the reserve, sharing his deep knowledge of the local environment and helping us tune into the bush with fresh eyes (and ears!). A highlight was learning how to tell the difference between native and introduced wattles, along with practical tips on the best ways to control invasive species.

Participants also enjoyed bonus lessons on identifying birds by their calls, adding an extra dimension to the walk. Feedback from the day was overwhelmingly positive, with many participants commenting on how much more confident they now feel about recognising and managing weedy wattles in their own backyards and local reserves.

A big thank you to Simon for his passion and knowledge, and to everyone who came along to make this event such a success. **Don't forget—we have more free events coming up! See the What's On page in this newsletter for details and to book your spot.**

Join the Shire's Land for Wildlife Program!

Over 50 properties in the Shire of Mundaring have already signed up to the Land for Wildlife program, helping to protect and enhance local habitat for native plants and animals—and now it's your turn!

When you join, you'll receive a Land for Wildlife Welcome Pack full of information on maintaining and improving wildlife habitat on your property. You'll also get a free property visit from our Land for Wildlife officer, who can provide tailored advice and support.

Plus, you can borrow a Wildlife Camera to record visiting wildlife. Last but not least, you'll gain access to exclusive Land for Wildlife events and citizen science programs. **To apply to join the program, fill in the application form on the [Land for Wildlife](#) page on the Shire's website or email the environment team at environment@mundaring.wa.gov.au.**



Tegan and Matt Hooper, from Wooroloo, are doing an incredible job on their Land for Wildlife property. They're actively revegetating their watercourse, managing weeds, and even installing nest boxes to support local wildlife. Tegan is also propagating her own seedlings to help restore native vegetation. Fantastic work, Tegan and Matt—we love seeing your commitment to creating a thriving habitat for wildlife!

Count Quenda this Spring and win a ReHabitat Pod



This October, the Shire of Mundaring is launching an exciting new citizen science program — the Spring Quenda Count — and we need your help!

We're calling on all Shire residents to observe and record Quenda activity in their gardens over a one-week period in October. Your sightings will contribute to real science - the data collected will feed directly into population monitoring efforts led by the WA Gould League and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), helping to guide future conservation actions.

Also known as the southern brown bandicoot, the Quenda is a small, ground-dwelling marsupial that plays a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. Unfortunately, it's also a vulnerable species, under threat from habitat loss, predation and disease.

By keeping an eye out in your own backyard, you can make a real difference to their survival. We're thrilled to be working with Dr Amanda Kristancic, a leading local wildlife ecologist, to help develop and deliver the program.

Join us to shine a spotlight on these special locals and protect them for generations to come. To participate in the Spring Quenda Count, visit the [October Spring Quenda Count](#) page on the Shire's website. All our Quenda Counters will go in the draw to win one of 10 ReHabitat Pods!

Ecological Burning at Mardo Reserve



A recent hazard reduction burn at Mardo Reserve in Mundaring has been successfully completed by the Shire Fire Protection Officers, with support from local Volunteer Fire Brigades.

The carefully planned burn, covering around two hectares, was carried out to reduce fire risk and fuel loads while protecting the reserve's unique ecological values.

Mardo Reserve, located next to Mundaring Primary School, is named after the Mardo (Yellow-footed Antechinus), a small native carnivorous marsupial. The reserve is an important site for community-led conservation projects, including native vegetation replanting, nest box installation, and habitat monitoring to support local wildlife and encourage the return of the Mardo.

Staff and volunteers take great care during burns to protect important habitat features. They rake around habitat trees, grass trees, and other sensitive areas to safeguard resident wildlife. Some patches are deliberately left unburnt to preserve habitat diversity. At Mardo Reserve, a natural shelter known to support quenda and possums was carefully retained.

The burn is part of the ongoing work to manage bushland safely while maintaining healthy habitats. Together with efforts from students and environmental groups, Mardo Reserve continues to play a vital role in supporting biodiversity and reconnecting the community.

Landcare Calendar - Tips for Kambarang

- **Late planting opportunities:** as water levels drop in waterlogged zones consider planting sedges and rushes.
- **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.



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

14

These are **FREE** events brought to you by the Shire's Land for Wildlife Program.

Wildlife Friendly, Fire Smart Properties

17 Sat 4 Oct | 9.30am – 11.30am

Learn practical strategies to reduce fire risk while creating a haven for local wildlife. From habitat-friendly fuel management to plant selection and property layout, this session is packed with tips every landholder should know. Led by Dr Simon Cherriman—wildlife ecologist and ornithologist who brings science to life! Register at eventbrite.com.au and search for 'Wildlife Friendly, Fire Smart Properties.'

Mandoon Bilya Bioblitz Festival

17 Sat 18 Oct | 10.00am – 3.00pm

Mundaring Sculpture Park

Bibbul Ngarma Aboriginal Association Inc are hosting a free community festival with guest speakers, free family activities, giveaways, face painting, community stalls and delicious food trucks. Learn about local projects to Care for Country and how to get involved with citizen science. The festival is part of Booryul Bah Bilya, which is all about restoring ecosystems, reinvigorating cultural heritage, and reconnecting communities with rivers.

Discover the Birds of Broz Park

17 Sat 15 Nov | 10.00am – 12.00pm

Broz Park, Helena Valley

Take a stroll through Broz Park's beautiful wetland with bird enthusiasts and photographers Rachel and Mike Green and meet the amazing native birds that call this place home. We'll also be celebrating the launch of their brand-new Guide to the Birds of Broz Park – and the best bit? Everyone gets a free copy to take home! Register at eventbrite.com.au and search for 'Discover the Birds of Broz Park Nature Walk.'

Water for Wildlife

17 Sat 6 Dec | 9am – 10.30am

Civic Area, Shire of Mundaring

Summer in WA can be brutal for our native animals. Discover cheap, simple and effective ways to provide safe, life-saving water sources during the hottest months—helping wildlife survive and thrive. Also led by Dr Simon Cherriman. Register at eventbrite.com.au and search for 'Water for Wildlife.'

For more information, contact us at:

✉ **Email the Environment Team:**
environment@mundaring.wa.gov.au