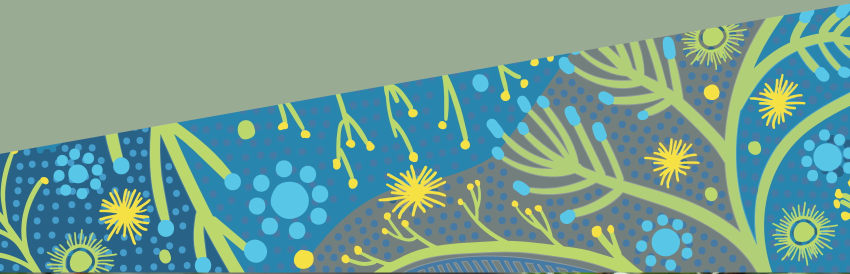
Shire of
MUNDARING

Six Seasons

Environment and Sustainability



Kaya and welcome to Djeran

The Noongar season of Djeran runs from April to May and brings cooler days, longer nights and dew in the air. The flying ants emerge, signalling the shift from summer heat to the gentler, rainy season ahead. Our banksias begin flowering, and migratory birds such as cuckoos return, filling the woodlands with colour and song.

Landcare checklist for Djeran

Living with possums in the Perth Hills

Living in the Perth Hills means sharing our environment with native wildlife – including possums. Whilst cute, curious and adaptable, they can be a little noisy if they decide your roof space is the perfect place to sleep. If this nocturnal neighbour decides to take up residence in your roof, it's important to remember that possums are protected and cannot be harmed or relocated without approval.

With natural tree hollows becoming increasingly scarce, possums are simply adapting to the habitats available. The key is to encourage coexistence by providing alternative shelter. Installing a nest box in your garden or nearby bushland can give possums a safe place to move to and many will relocate on their own once a suitable option is available.

If possums are in your roof, a staged approach is recommended as follows:

- Provide an alternative shelter such as a nest box
- Carefully seal any entry points to your roof once the animal has left at night
- Consider pruning any limbs that are in contact with your house to limit future access.

This humane method prevents harm and reduces the chance of another possum moving in. Read about Shire resident Ben’s success in adopting this approach to tackle the persistent possums in his home.

Learn more and read Ben’s story

THE GREAT UNWASTE
FIRST IN, FIRST OUT.
THE GREAT UNWASTE
USE IT UP TAPE
UNWASTE ME
FIRST IN, FIRST OUT
FIRST IN, FIRST OUT
OZHARVEST
THE GREAT UNWASTE

We’ve joined The Great Unwaste!

As part of our goal to create a more sustainable community, Shire of Mundaring has officially joined The Great Unwaste.

Led by End Food Waste Australia, The Great Unwaste aims to rally Australians across the country to make simple changes that can have a big impact on reducing the amount they throw away, saving money and creating a more sustainable future for the country.

Food waste has a significant environmental and financial impact, with Australian households throwing away around 2.5 million tonnes each year. By making small changes at home, residents can help reduce the amount of edible food ending up in the bin.

By joining The Great Unwaste, the Shire is encouraging the community to take simple steps that collectively make a big difference. Check out The Great Unwaste’s website for free tools and resources to help reduce your food waste.

Free tools and resources here

Safer choices for our native wildlife

Shire of Mundaring is proud to support the Owl Friendly initiative, encouraging residents to take action to help protect our local wildlife and natural environment.

Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs), commonly used as rat poisons, pose a serious threat to native wildlife. These highly toxic substances move through the food chain, meaning owls as well as other native animals and birds of prey can be fatally poisoned after consuming affected rodents.

Community advocacy has been growing, with calls for safer alternatives and stronger regulation. Encouragingly, recent developments show real progress. Some major retailers, including Bunnings, have now agreed to remove SGARs from their shelves following increased awareness and regulatory pressure around the risks to wildlife.

This is a significant step forward for protecting native species across Australia, including in the Perth Hills. Native wildlife like owls play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance by naturally controlling rodent populations, and reducing exposure to harmful poisons helps safeguard the broader ecosystem.

The Shire's support for the Owl Friendly initiative forms part of a wider commitment to environmental stewardship and biodiversity protection. By choosing safer pest control options and staying informed, residents can play an important role in protecting local wildlife and preserving the unique natural environment of the Hills.

Read the latest

Working together to reduce rabbits

European rabbits are an ongoing challenge across the Shire of Mundaring, with their grazing and burrowing causing damage to native vegetation, contributing to soil erosion and impacting rural properties. Left unmanaged, rabbit populations can quickly increase, making early and coordinated control essential.

Residents can play an important role by maintaining fencing, treating warrens early and working with neighbours to manage rabbits across property boundaries. Taking action before numbers grow is key to reducing long-term impacts.

A simple and effective way to help is by using FeralScan, a community reporting tool that tracks rabbit activity across the Shire. By recording sightings, warrens, damage and control efforts, residents help build a clearer picture of where action is needed most—leading to more targeted and effective management.

For best practice advice, including the Rabbit Control Glovebox Guide, visit the PestSmart website.

Visit the PestSmart website

Fauna in focus: Cuckoos in the hills

As the we settle into the season of Djeran in Shire of Mundaring, one of the first signs of the changing season is not something you see, but something you hear. The unmistakable calls of cuckoos will soon echo through the Perth Hills, marking their return to South-West Western Australia.

Several cuckoo species visit the region, including the Fan-tailed cuckoo, Pallid cuckoo, Horsfield’s bronze-cuckoo and Shining bronze-cuckoo. While they may be elusive, they play a fascinating role in the ecosystem, particularly through their unique breeding behaviour.

Cuckoos are known as “brood parasites,” meaning they lay their eggs in the nests of other bird species. The host birds then raise the cuckoo chick as their own. While this behaviour can seem unusual, it is a natural part of the balance within local ecosystems.

Cuckoos are also beneficial in controlling insect populations, feeding on caterpillars and other invertebrates, including species that many other birds avoid.

Keep an ear out for their calls when you’re out walking in the bush. You may not spot them, but you’ll likely know they’re there.

Flora in focus: Habitat trees

Across the Shire, habitat trees play a vital role in supporting local wildlife and maintaining a healthy natural environment. These are typically older, mature trees that contain hollows, cracks or loose bark. These features provide shelter, nesting sites and protection for a wide range of species.

In areas like the Perth Hills, natural tree hollows can take more than a century to form. As a result, habitat trees are incredibly valuable for birds, mammals and reptiles that rely on them for survival. Species such as parrots, cockatoos, possums and microbats all depend on these spaces to rest, breed and raise their young.

Protecting existing habitat trees is one of the most effective ways to support biodiversity. Where it's safe to do so, retaining mature trees – even those that are no longer living – can make a significant difference.

Residents can also help by planting native species for the future and installing nest boxes to supplement natural hollows.

By recognising the importance of habitat trees, we can help ensure the Perth Hills continue to provide a home for the many species that make this area unique.

Upcoming Shire Workshops and Events

12 April

Wildflower photography workshop for teens

2pm • Octagonal Hall

Sophie Xiang has accumulated incredible skills using her phone to take wildflower photos. Now she is willing to share what she has learnt so that you too can take better photos too.

Book Now

18 April

Visible Mending

2pm • Shire of Mundaring

Learn to extend the life of your clothing by incorporating hand stitching techniques like appliqué, embroidery, and sashiko into repairs.

Register here

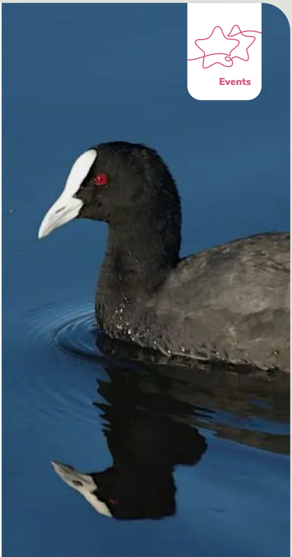
2 May

Discover the Birds of Broz Park Nature Walk

10am • Broz Park

Discover the number one bird hot spot (by size) in the Helena Valley and learn all about the birds you might see there from local bird enthusiasts, Rachel and Mike Green.

Register here



2 May

Saving power in your home

1pm • Shire of Mundaring

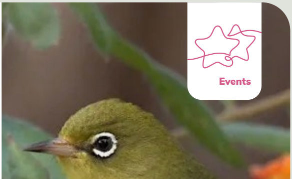
In this interactive workshop, Shani and Tim from Ecoburbia will teach you about the principles of basic solar passive design and how you can use those principles to save gas and electricity in your home.

Register here

3 May

Gardening for wildlife

2pm • Octagonal Hall



Join us for a special Gardening for Wildlife event designed to inspire and support local residents in creating thriving, wildlife-friendly gardens.

Register here

23 May

Get Your Winter Wardrobe Ready - the Sustainable Way

1pm • Boya Community Centre

Join us for a relaxed and inspiring eco-friendly fashion event in the Hills, starting with an interactive workshop and followed by a Care to Rewear clothes swap, where style meets sustainability.

Register here

What’s on in the community

11 April – 10 May

WA Tree Festival

12 April

Great Cocky Count

April 13 – 20

International Dark Sky Week

22 April

Earth Day

May 3 – 9

International Compost

17 May

Sustainable House Day

Awareness Week

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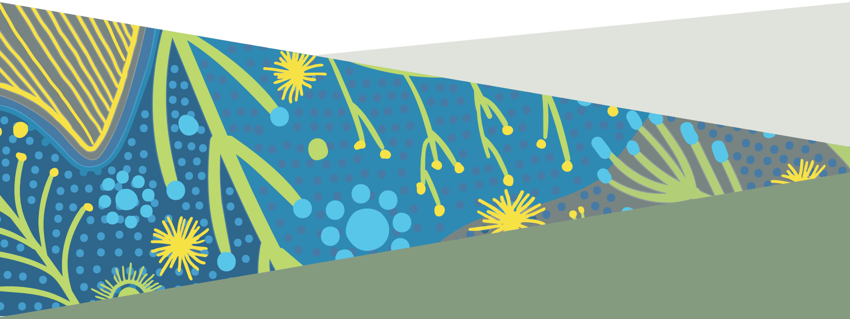

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